

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church  
601 Madison Avenue  
Kinston, NC 28501

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Kinston, NC  
Permit #221

# THE TIE



Connecting you with the body of Christ at  
*Spilman Memorial Baptist Church*

**MARCH 2021**

**CHURCH STAFF**

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Michell Sutton Eguez—Administrative Assistant  
Clay Whittington, Director of Music and Organist  
Michael and Vance Aldridge, Custodians  
Michelle Sutton, Finance Assistant

**MARCH 2021  
TIE NEWSLETTER**

## Have You Gotten Your Shot?

At almost every gathering I have had over the last month, people are asking each other, “Have you gotten your shot?” Then each person begins to share how difficult it was to get an appointment, what they experienced when they got theirs, and when they were going to get their second shot. I know both of my parents in Greenville have gotten both of their shots. Many people at Spilman have shared with me they have gotten either their first or second shot. It is declared with such pride that they are now inoculated – at least to some degree – to the COVID-19 virus.

Yet there are some that will not get this vaccine because they are uncertain about the science behind its development or they may have a preexisting condition that could make their health matters worse if they took it.

This global pandemic has shaken every area of life and created fear in the hearts of men and women like never seen before in our lifetime. We have limited our contact with family and friends. Stopped gathering at church and entertainment events. We have shut down businesses and restaurants. Online ordering of food, groceries, and clothes is at an all time high. Wearing masks, washing our hands frequently, and staying away from one another is now expected and accepted as normal.

March 14<sup>th</sup> will be the 52<sup>nd</sup> week, one year, since we voted as a church to close the church doors in response to this virus. Spilman partially opened, with a lot of restrictions on May 24<sup>th</sup>. While we continue to meet on Sunday mornings, we have not resumed our regular Wednesday night programs, choir practice, or Sunday morning Sunday school. Out of an abundance of caution, we proceeded in the way we thought best to protect our community of faith.

I would like to encourage each person to “purpose in their heart” how they will proceed in the future. Are you willing to put **Faith over Fear** and return to church? As a church, we will proceed cautiously in returning to normal schedule. We have begun church wide Sunday school on Wednesday mornings. We will begin in March adding Deacon participation in the Sunday morning worship services. Maybe soon we can begin adding a worship leader to assist in Sunday morning singing. Gradually, and carefully, we must return to the House of the Lord and worship Him in community and fellowship. Facebook Live is fine if you are physically unable to come, but nothing compares to gathering in person to see one another and encourage one another as we worship God corporately.

I am reminded in the Old Testament, Daniel “purposed in his heart” not to defile himself with the king’s food. (Daniel 1:8) In the New Testament, the Macedonians “purposed in their hearts” to set aside a financial gift each week. (2 Corinthians 9:7) Every person must make their own decision as to the course of action they will take.

It is from the heart we put in motion our plans. I want to encourage you to decide what your own marker event will be to allow you to have **Faith over Fear** and return once again to the sanctuary of the people as we worship God together. Maybe your marker event is receiving the second shot of the vaccine. It could be when the hospitalizations and death rate decline more. Whatever is keeping you away, it is my prayer you “purpose in your heart,” what you will do.

I want to encourage you to use March 14<sup>th</sup> as your **Faith over Fear** Sunday – and rejoin the gathered church in worship.



**DR. H. POWELL DEW, JR.**

## Thoughts on Grief by Jessica Watson



“The best way I can describe grieving over a child (parent, spouse, friend, or sibling) as the years go by is to say it’s similar to carrying a stone in your pocket.

When you walk, the stone brushes against your skin. You feel it. You always feel it. But depending on the way you stand or the way your body moves, the smooth edges might barely graze your body.

Sometimes you lean the wrong way or you turn too quickly and a sharp edge pokes you. Your eyes water and you rub your wound but you have to keep going because not everyone knows about your stone or if they do, they don’t realize it can still bring this much pain.

There are days you are simply happy now, smiling comes easy and you laugh without thinking. You slap your leg during that laughter and you feel your stone and aren’t sure whether you should be laughing still. The stone still hurts.

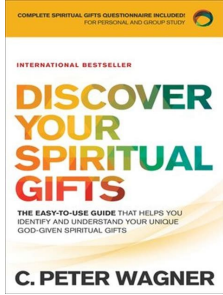
Once in a while you can’t take your hand off that stone. You run it over your fingers and roll it in your palm and are so preoccupied by it’s weight, you forget things like your car keys and home address. You try to leave it alone but you just can’t. You want to take a nap but it’s been so many years since you’ve called in “sad” you’re not sure anyone would understand anymore or if they ever did.

But most days you can take your hand in and out of your pocket, feel your stone and even smile at its unwavering presence. You’ve accepted this stone as your own, crossing your hands over it, saying “mine” as children do.

You rest more peacefully than you once did, you’ve learned to move forward the best you can. Some days you want to show the world what a beautiful memory you’re holding. But most days you twirl it through your fingers, smile and look to the sky. You squeeze your hands together and hope you are living in a way that honors the missing piece you carry, until your arms are full again.” © Jessica Watson



### Spiritual Gift Inventory – March 10<sup>th</sup>



Have you ever wondered what gifts and talents you may have and how can they be used for the Kingdom of God? In 1996, I took the Spiritual Gift Inventory by C. Peter Wagner. The results of that study and inventory were a defining moment in my life. It clearly identified several strengths and gifts in my life that lend themselves to serving as a Pastor.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, after our Sunday School lesson, I will distribute the Spiritual Gift Inventory Assessment for each person to take home and honestly answer these questions. When we come back on March 17<sup>th</sup>, I will give you the answer key that will help you know what your strengths and gifts are for ministry.

If you are unable to attend, please let me know and I will be glad to mail you one.— Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.

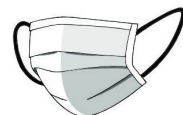


During our February Church Conference, we approved the formation of a Long-Range Planning Committee to help the congregation discern the vision and direction of Spilman in the years to come. This will involve looking at all the areas of ministry, property, finances, previous vision statements, and surveying the congregation.

If you would like to become a part of the discussion and vision for Spilman, please see Danny Rice, Chairman of the Nominating Committee or Dr. Dew to be included in these important planning sessions.

Spilman 2021 – Facts and Figures	JANUARY 2021	Year-to-Date
General Budget Monthly Needs	\$21,378.75	\$21,378.75
General Offerings Received	\$17,751.00	\$17,751.00
Designated Offerings Received	\$2,815.00	\$2,815.00
Total Offerings Received	\$20,566.00	\$20,566.00
Total General Budget Expenses	\$19,229.66	\$19,229.66
Budget Giving was Over (Under) Budget by:	(\$3,627.75)	(\$3,627.75)
Net Budget Giving vs. Budget Exp.	(\$1,478.66)	(\$1,478.66)

WEAR A MASK



PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS



### Columbarium Study Committee

During our February Church Conference, we approved the formation of a committee to study the feasibility of adding a columbarium on the Spilman church property. A columbarium is a self-contained structure that holds the cremated remains of a person.



Because cremation has become a more acceptable option for people over the last few years, the need for having a location to place those cremation urns has increased dramatically. Several people in Spilman have expressed interest and indicated they would like to participate in purchasing a niche if Spilman offered this.

Before proceeding with this project, the committee will formulate a recommendation to the congregation based on a survey of the congregation and estimates to complete the project.

If you would like to be a part of this committee, please see Danny Rice, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, or Dr. Dew.

### Property Committee

A special “Thanks” to the property committee for getting the exterior of the church property pressure washed and adding pine straw during the month of February. It looks fantastic!

They have also been working on the Fellowship Hall Building. A section of the roof needed to be replaced where some water damage occurred upstairs. They are in the process of getting it repaired and repainted. Thank you for taking care of these much-needed repairs.

If you see Jimmy Overton, Richard Moore, or Vance Aldridge, please let them know you appreciate their hard work.

### MARCH 2021

MAR 3 (WED)	“SUNDAY” SCHOOL	10:00 AM
MAR 7 (SUN)	DEACON MEETING WORSHIP SERVICE Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. “The Baptism of the King” (Matt. 3:13-17) Lord’s Supper Observed	9:00 AM 10:30 AM
MAR 9 (TUE)	CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETING	4:00 PM
MAR 10 (WED)	“SUNDAY” SCHOOL Spiritual Gift Inventory Distributed	10:00 AM
MAR 14 (SUN)	WORSHIP SERVICE Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. “Jesus Overcomes Temptation” (Matt. 4:1-11)	10:30 A.M.
MAR 17 (WED)	“SUNDAY” SCHOOL Spiritual Gift Inventory Discussion	10:00 AM
MAR 21 (SUN)	WORSHIP SERVICE Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. “The Condemnation of the King” (Matt. 26:57-68)	10:30 AM
MAR 24 (WED)	“SUNDAY” SCHOOL	10:00 AM
MAR 28 (SUN)	WORSHIP SERVICE—PALM SUNDAY Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. “The Via Dolorosa” (Matt. 21:1-11)	10:30 AM

- 1 TRUDY WOOTEN
- 2 DANIELLE F. HENRY
- 2 MELISSA HERRING
- 3 JONATHAN RICE
- 5 SHIRLENE KOONCE
- 7 SYLVIA WILLIAMS
- 10 NANCY JUSTICE
- 13 BRENDA BARLOW
- 15 JACKIE WOOTEN
- 18 MARJORIE TAYLOR
- 19 BOB GADDIS



- 21 JOSH LARKINS
- 24 BENJAMIN A. OVERTON
- 24 J. E. BLIZZARD
- 31 LANDON WHALEY

### SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

Deacons’ Meeting— 9:00 AM  
Worship Service—10:30 AM  
Lord’s Supper Observed



### Pastor’s Reading Corner

January  
*How to Be an Antiracist*  
by Ibram X. Kendi

February  
*Live Not By Lies*  
by Rod Dreher

March  
*Let Your Life Speak*  
by Parker J. Palmer



### Deacon of the Month Pat Moore

Pat Moore became a member of Spilman in November 2016. She retired from Lenoir Co. Public Schools in 2012 after working as the school bookkeeper at South Lenoir High School for 18 years.

Pat enjoys reading, doing jigsaw puzzles, and taking care of her new Schnauzer puppy, Bella. She now serves as a Deacon, and is a member of the Teller and Kitchen committees.