

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church
601 Madison Avenue
Kinston, NC 28501

Non-Profit
Organization
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Kinston, NC
Permit #221

THE TIE



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

APRIL 2021

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr., Senior Pastor
Michell Sutton Eguez, Administrative Assistant
Clay Whittington, Director of Music and Organist
(Through April 4, 2021)
Michael Cowan, Director of Music and Organist
(Starting April 5, 2021)
Michael and Vance Aldridge, Custodians
Michelle Sutton, Finance Assistant

**APRIL 2021
TIE NEWSLETTER**

WELCOME—Michael Cowan—New Choir Director/Organist

I was born in Edenton, North Carolina on December 27, 1997. Twenty days shy of my third birthday, my family moved to Fayetteville, Tennessee. Some of my earliest memories are being at church — The West End Baptist Church of Fayetteville. I remember sitting two pews behind the piano. I was always enthralled with the wonderful music of my church. The church had a wonderful music team which included; a pianist, organist, lively congregational song leader, a choir director, and a 40 member choir. Later, I became absolutely fascinated by the organ.

At the age of five - after many months of pleading with my parents - I began taking formal lessons from a lady in town who was organist for the Huntsville Alabama Philharmonic. I was trained classically through the fourth grade. During this time, I never lost my love and adoration for songs and hymns of the church. I often begged my teacher to allow me to learn sacred music. After fourth grade, my mom and I moved back to North Carolina to be closer to family. This ended my formal lessons for several years due to us moving several times. This didn't stop my learning and love of music. I continued to teach myself from hymnals and sheet music.

Fast forward to the age of fourteen. I was approached by the pastor and choir director at my church in Swansboro, NC. I was asked to take over as choir pianist. Six months later, I was the head pianist. I accompanied all congregational and choral music for the church. After several years of doing this, our organist left, and I became the organist for a few months. Shortly after, our other pianist left. After the final pianist left, I went back to the piano. By the end of my six years at the church, I was music coordinator, pianist, and assistant choir director.

After much prayer, I decided to leave my position as pianist at Saint Luke UMC. I am excited for this next adventure at the beautiful Spilman Memorial Baptist Church. I am so thrilled to be the face of the music department. I look forward to growing the music program and being a vital and active part of this beautiful church. I have several years of experience in directing choirs and planning worship services. My sacred music styles are various. I love anything from the great hymns of the faith to more modern contemporary praise songs.

Some of my favorite hymns and praise songs include: *Victory in Jesus, To God Be the Glory, Shout to the Lord, I Stand Amazed in the Presence, In Christ Alone, Great is Thy Faithfulness, and When the Roll is Called Up Yonder.* I look forward to getting to know the friendly faces of Spilman, and I look forward to being your music director and organist for many, many years.



MICHAEL COWAN

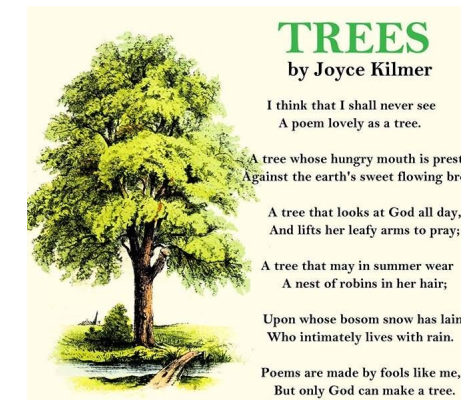
Springtime is for Lovers...of God

Every time I hear the word “lovers” I am reminded of the advertising slogan “Virginia is for lovers!” I don't think that Virginia has a monopoly on love, but it is a catchy slogan for today's culture that is obsessed with seeking and obtaining love.

As I think about the word “lovers” and add it with the word “spring,” I am reminded that this is a season where many couples begin making plans for a wedding. Often, it is their plan to have the “perfect” summer wedding.

The Town of Fremont has an annual “Daffodil Festival,” which is usually held on the last Saturday in March. While serving as a Pastor in the community, we would all closely watch the budding daffodils hoping they would hold off until the day of the festival. But, like most years, they would bloom early.

Spring time is a time for flowers lifting their blossoms heavenward, birds singing their love songs, and trees budding once again. Joyce Kilmer's poem entitled “Trees” reminds us that even nature is lifting its best heavenward.



Periodically we encounter a word in the Book of Psalms and Hebrew scholars are uncertain as to what it means. That word in Psalms is “*Selah.*” Some say it is a musical notation, while others think it may mean to “think on and mediate upon this truth in God's Word.”

As we go through our daily lives, maybe we need to mediate upon God in everything we see. As you take your morning walk and see the flowers and hear the birds, meditate upon God. As you cut your grass and wash away the yellow pollen of spring, mediate upon God. As you retire for the evening, lift your hands and hearts up in prayer.

In doing this, we breathe in a growing awareness of God and His presence in our lives. If you are not lifting your face towards God like flowers during the spring, why not? If you are not calling out words of praise like birds do in the morning, why not? If you are not lifting your hands and heart toward God as trees seem to do, why not?

It is God who is our maker; our response is to praise Him. In Psalm 86:11-12 we read, “*Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.*”

As we enter into spring, let us become better and more sincere “Lovers of God.” *Selah!*



DR. H. POWELL DEW, JR.

Personal Care Kits for Migrant Workers

It's time again to begin collecting personal care items for the men in the local migrant camps. Please note that all items purchased need to be products for MEN:



The Neuse Baptist Association is collecting 60 of the following items: Full-size bath towel; Bath cloth; Shampoo; Men's deodorant; Bar of soap; Toothpaste; Toothbrushes; Disposable razors; Shave cream; Chap Stick; Writing tablet; Ink pens; 8-oz Hand Sanitizer; Clorox/Lysol Disinfecting Wipes and enough Hard Candy for each man to receive 4-5 pcs in his kit. A Gospel tract and Bible, both in Spanish, will be added to each kit.

Please return these items to the Spilman church office during the month of April so we can deliver them to the Neuse Baptist Association Office by May 28th.

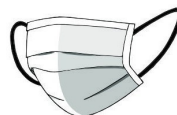


During our February Church Conference, we approved the formation of a Long-Range Planning Committee to help the congregation discern the vision and direction of Spilman in the years to come. This will involve looking at all the areas of ministry, property, finances, previous vision statements, and surveying 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	FEBRUARY 2021	Year-to-Date
General Budget Monthly Needs	\$21,378.75	\$42,757.50
General Offerings Received	\$18,892.50	\$36,643.50
Designated Offerings Received	\$510.00	\$3,325.00
Total Offerings Received	\$19,402.50	\$39,968.50
Total General Budget Expenses	\$18,248.79	\$37,478.45
Budget Giving was Over (Under) Budget by:	(\$2,486.25)	(\$6,114.00)
Net Budget Giving vs. Budget Exp.	\$643.71	(\$834.95)

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.

Personnel Committee by Danny Rice

The Personnel Committee would like to welcome Michael Cowan as our new Music Director effective, Monday, April 5th. Michael studied music at the University of Mount Olive and has several years of church music experience. He is a native of Washington, North Carolina.

We would also like to thank Clay Whittington for his outstanding music ministry to our church for the last several years and wish him the best at First United Methodist Church of Fuquay Varina.

APRIL 2021

APR 4 (SUN)	DEACON MEETING WORSHIP SERVICE —EASTER Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. HE IS ALIVE! — Matthew 28:1-9	9:00 AM 10:30 AM
APR 5 (MON)	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
APR 7 (WED)	“SUNDAY” SCHOOL	10:00 AM
APR 11 (SUN)	WORSHIP SERVICE Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. CHARACTER TRAITS OF A CHRISTIAN Part 1—Matthew 5:1-12 Lord's Supper Observed NBA Exec. Board Mtg.—Neuse Baptist	10:30 A.M. 6:00 P.M.
APR 13 (TUE)	CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETING	4:00 PM
APR 14 (WED)	“SUNDAY” SCHOOL	10:00 AM
APR 18 (SUN)	WORSHIP SERVICE Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. CHARACTER TRAITS OF A CHRISTIAN Part 2—Matthew 5:1-12	10:30 AM
APR 20 (WED)	“SUNDAY” SCHOOL	10:00 AM
APR 25 (SUN)	WORSHIP SERVICE Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. CHARACTER TRAITS OF A CHRISTIAN Part 3—Matthew 5:1-12	10:30 AM
APR 27 (WED)	“SUNDAY” SCHOOL	10:00 AM

2021 BIRTHDAYS



- 2 BETH CRISP
- 2 RAMONA G. HARPER
- 6 DANNY RICE
- 11 EDNA COLE
- 30 BECKY MILLER
- 30 LARRY WILLIAMS

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021

Deacons' Meeting— 9:00 AM
Worship Service—10:30 AM

COVID UPDATE From Donna Keith

Vaccinations are offered to everyone now. We have had a reduction in hospitalizations but still have cases coming in and getting outpatient therapy. We still have an average of 3-5 cases in CCU. There are still deaths.



NC has done well with vaccinations and we have seen a decrease in COVID and the flu. Wearing masks, washing your hands, and social distancing works! It has been a long year but 2021 is looking better. It is no time to become complacent. The medical staff are still working lots of hours at the hospital but we do feel somewhat relieved. I think we are skeptical and don't want to see an increase again. Stay safe!

Deacon of the Month Shirlene Koonce



Shirlene grew up as a “Preachers Kid” and loves her church family. She serves as a Deacon, on the nominating committee, on the personal care team, and the kitchen committee. Jay and Shirlene have been married almost 21 years and have one daughter, Amy Whitfield.