

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church  
601 Madison Avenue  
Kinston, NC 28501

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Kinston, NC  
Permit #221

# THE TIE

**Spilman Memorial Baptist Church**

*Our Mission is to ...*

*Worship God, Serve Him, and Serve Others*

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

### CHURCH STAFF

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Michell Sutton Eguez, Administrative Assistant  
Durward "Woody" McDonell, Interim Director of Music  
Melony Rasbury-Cobb, Pianist/Organist  
Michael and Vance Aldridge, Custodians  
Michelle Sutton, Finance Assistant  
Jerry Crisp, Security



SEPTEMBER 2022  
TIE NEWSLETTER

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### Church and Family

About five years ago, I experienced one of the most life changing experiences as a Pastor. I had been serving a church for 16 years and the church voted they no longer wanted me.



DR. H. POWELL  
DEW, JR.

I had felt for a long time that my salary had become a burden on the church and it was my desire to become a bi-vocational pastor, serving the church part-time while holding a full time secular job. From my perspective this would relieve the financial burden on the church while providing additional income and benefits for me and my family. I accepted a teaching position and the congregation rejected the idea of a bi-vocational pastor and voted me out.

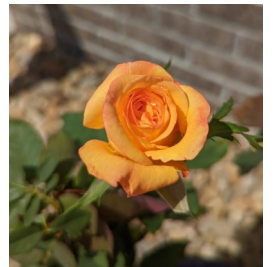
The shock of that vote, the rejection of so many people I had come to love so dearly, was almost too much to bear. I moved my items out of the church the next week. The church I loved so much no longer wanted me. They didn't call me, they didn't reach out to me. They didn't offer any severance for serving so long. They didn't even say goodbye.

But this traumatic transition didn't just affect me—it affected my family. It still affects Sharon to this day. Amber, David, Kaitlyn and James were present during the business meeting after the Sunday morning worship service. We all left hurt, abandoned, and rejected, by the church WE nurtured and loved.

Amber wrote an article about her experience as a PK (Preacher's Kid) and her road to recovery from it. I hope by sharing it with you, you can see when you call a Pastor, you call a family.

### Goodness of God

As I was changing out dead daisies in the front yard, I noticed that the roses were finally blooming again. A few weeks ago, David and I thought the roses were dead, not just "mostly dead, but all dead." (Thank you Miracle Max from "The Princess Bride") Our neighbor said she thought they could be saved, but we would have to water them a ton. So, I cut off the "all dead" parts, left the "mostly dead" parts, and started watering more often. When I saw the blooms, it reminded me of the last few years.



AMBER NICHOLE  
ARNOLD

Five years ago, life changed for me and affected me in ways I didn't think it would. Five years ago my own personal faith was tested and I struggled a lot. I saw the "ugly side" of the people that made up our church at the time. I grew up in church, literally, all my life. But when your dad becomes the pastor, it's a whole new level of church life. Being the pastor's kid can be tough. I earned the PK badge in 7th grade and had to navigate small town dynamics/politics, middle/high school drama, the illness and death of my mom, all while staying in the "spotlight" of being the pastor's daughter.

Five years ago, the pain of losing that church family was more than I thought I could bare. They were my rock, my family, the ones that saw me grow up, the ones that I thought had my back. Church hurt is real. That pain was real. That hurt almost made me walk away from all things organized religion as well as my personal walk with God. **(Cont. on inside)**

**September 2022**  
**Sunday School Lessons—**  
**The Cost of Discipleship**  
**Sept. 4 — Commitment — Luke 14:25-35**  
**Sept. 11 — Compassion — Luke 15:1-10**  
**Sept. 18 — Faithfulness — Luke 16:1-13**  
**Sept. 25 — Attention — Luke 16:19-31**

### Monthly Prayer Gathering

You are invited to join us in praying for Spilman Memorial Baptist Church on the first Wednesday each month at 11:00 am in the church library.



Prayer is a central part of a church seeking the will of God for their congregation. During our time we will focus on the prayer concerns in our congregation and for God's leadership and guidance as we seek God's will for Spilman.

If you are unable to attend in person, please set aside time to pray with us during this time!

Sunday Mornings  
In the Sanctuary  
10:25 am

**Call to Prayer**



**Deacon of the Month  
September 2022  
Johnnee Rice**



Johnnee Rice, a native of Hamlet, North Carolina came to Spilman as a college freshman in 1972 to serve as organist. She played the organ as well as directed adult, youth and children's choirs, and accompanied all these programs over the years. She has been a part of the Spilman handbell ringers and the Delta group since the beginning of these ministries. Johnnee retired as a Woodington Middle School music teacher after twenty years. She and her husband, Danny, have been actively involved at Spilman over the past four decades, raising their two sons, Jonathan and Carson (now of Burbank, CA), as part of the Spilman Family.

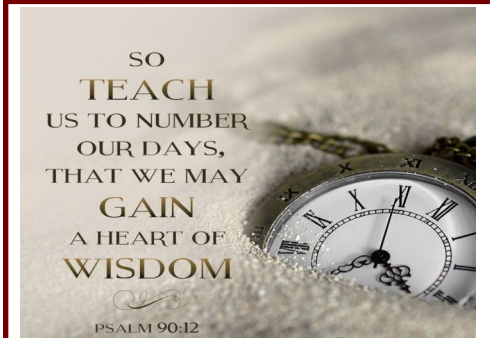


**September  
2022**

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Susan Conway       | 1  |
| Leon Deans         | 2  |
| Mary Ellen Collins | 6  |
| Brooks Owens       | 8  |
| John Wilkins       | 10 |
| Gerald Aman        | 11 |
| Nancy Bennett      | 13 |
| Ella Wade          | 13 |
| Jimmy Barlow       | 14 |
| Jeff Ellis         | 14 |
| Aveeno Grant       | 20 |
| Faye Sullivan      | 23 |
| Berry Pittman      | 26 |
| Sheryl Ellis       | 27 |
| Jimmy Powers       | 28 |
| Lewis Barwick      | 30 |
| Sandra Drum        | 30 |

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

|                      |                                                  |                 |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>SEPT 4 (SUN)</b>  | <b>DEACONS MEETING</b>                           | <b>8:00 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>                             | <b>9:15 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>WORSHIP SERVICE/<br/>THE LORDS SUPPER</b>     | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
|                      | <b>THE FAITH OF NOAH</b>                         |                 |
|                      | <b>HEBREWS 11:7</b>                              |                 |
|                      | <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>                            | <b>1:30 PM</b>  |
| <b>SEPT 5 (MON)</b>  | <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>                      |                 |
|                      | <b>LABOR DAY</b>                                 |                 |
| <b>SEPT 6 (TUE)</b>  | <b>LEADERSHIP MEETING</b>                        | <b>4:00 PM</b>  |
| <b>SEPT 7 (WED)</b>  | <b>MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST</b>                | <b>8:00 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>MONTHLY PRAYER GATHERING</b>                  | <b>11:00 AM</b> |
|                      | <b>WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY</b>                     | <b>6:00 PM</b>  |
| <b>SEPT 11 (SUN)</b> | <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>                             | <b>9:15 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>                           |                 |
|                      | <b>INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOR<br/>TO CHURCH</b>        | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
|                      | <b>THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM</b>                      |                 |
|                      | <b>HEBREWS 11:8-16</b>                           |                 |
|                      | <b>FELLOWSHIP MEAL</b>                           | <b>11:30 AM</b> |
|                      | <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>                            | <b>1:30 PM</b>  |
| <b>SEPT 14 (WED)</b> | <b>MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST</b>                | <b>8:00 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY</b>                     | <b>6:00 PM</b>  |
| <b>SEPT 18 (SUN)</b> | <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>                             | <b>9:15 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>                           | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
|                      | <b>THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC<br/>AND JACOB</b> |                 |
|                      | <b>HEBREWS 11: 17-22</b>                         |                 |
|                      | <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>                            | <b>1:30 PM</b>  |
| <b>SEPT 21 (WED)</b> | <b>MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST</b>                | <b>8:00 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY</b>                     | <b>6:00 PM</b>  |
| <b>SEPT 25 (SUN)</b> | <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>                             | <b>9:15 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>                           | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
|                      | <b>THE FAITH OF MOSES</b>                        |                 |
|                      | <b>HEBREWS 11:23-29</b>                          |                 |
|                      | <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b>                            | <b>1:30 PM</b>  |
| <b>SEPT 28 (WED)</b> | <b>MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST</b>                | <b>8:00 AM</b>  |
|                      | <b>WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY</b>                     | <b>6:00 PM</b>  |



**September 2022**

**SEPTEMBER**

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 - Ezekiel 21-23  |                 |
| 2 - Ezekiel 24-27  |                 |
| 3 - Ezekiel 28-30  | 4 - No Reading  |
| 5 - Ezekiel 31-34  |                 |
| 6 - Ezekiel 35-37  |                 |
| 7 - Ezekiel 38-41  |                 |
| 8 - Ezekiel 42-44  |                 |
| 9 - Ezekiel 45-48  |                 |
| 10 - Daniel 1-3    | 11 - No Reading |
| 12 - Daniel 4-8    |                 |
| 13 - Daniel 9-12   |                 |
| 14 - Hosea 1-3     |                 |
| 15 - Hosea 4-6     |                 |
| 16 - Hosea 7-10    |                 |
| 17 - Hosea 11-14   | 18 - No Reading |
| 19 - Joel 1-3      |                 |
| 20 - Amos 1-4      |                 |
| 21 - Amos 5-9      |                 |
| 22 - Obadiah 1     |                 |
| 23 - Jonah 1-4     |                 |
| 24 - Micah 1-3     | 25 - No Reading |
| 26 - Micah 4-7     |                 |
| 27 - Nahum 1-3     |                 |
| 28 - Habakkuk 1-3  |                 |
| 29 - Zephaniah 1-3 |                 |
| 30 - Haggai 1-2    |                 |

**Goodness of God (Cont. from front page)**

Over the last five years, I've had the opportunity to reflect on that experience, learn from it, and grow. David and I started attending a new church in Winterville back in November. One of the songs that they've sung that has stuck with me and turned into my own personal reminder of how far I've come is "Goodness of God."

**"Goodness of God" (Mainly these lyrics)**

And all my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

'Cause Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down  
I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
'Cause Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me

When I look back over my life, even in the darkest moments when I thought I was alone, He was there. Even in those painful moments, His goodness was there. Even when I was running away and didn't want anything to do with Him, His goodness was running after me. Even when the church hurt was too much, His love and His goodness was there.

Pruning back the "all dead" hurts. Pruning out the broken relationships, the negative people, the unsupportive friendships, and those that showed their true colors is tough. Taking care of the "mostly dead" parts and showing it love is hard. It's a slow process to recover and regrow. Recognizing that my relationship with God wasn't over and that He still loved me, desired a relationship with me, and wanted me to surrender all the "heavy stuff" over was hard. And to be honest, it's all still hard. Putting in the love, attention, and time to focus on healing and growing

isn't always easy, but oh so worth it. Finding a church home that feeds me spiritually, helps me grow in my faith, and reminds me that God will always be there for me has been amazing. This church has been exactly what I needed.

Pruning and being pruned is hard. Processing pain and church hurt is hard. Remembering that some things are "all dead" and need to go is hard. Deciding what is "mostly dead" and needs extra love and attention to thrive can be hard. Staying focused on the goodness of God even in the tough days is hard. Focusing on personal and spiritual growth and development can be hard.

But making it through all the "hard," leads to happier and healthier. New growth comes through pruning. New blooms come through watering daily. New beauty comes through the patience of trusting the process.

It is possible - we can all grow, bloom, and find beauty in a walk with Christ again - because His goodness is running after each of us and He has been and always will be faithful and good to us.