

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church
601 Madison Avenue
Kinston, NC 28501

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AUGUST 2025
TIE NEWSLETTER

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THE TIE



Spilman Memorial Baptist Church

Our Mission is to ...

Worship God, Serve Him, and Serve Others

AUGUST 2025

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr., Senior Pastor
Carol Stevens, Administrative Assistant
Melony Rasbury-Cobb, Pianist/Organist
Michelle Sutton, Finance Assistant
Jerry Crisp, Security



Carol Stevens	3
Lisa Cromer	4
Kristin Burks	9
Nola Tyndall	9
Tom Shaver	14
Rosa Ann Chaney	16
Betty Tabb	18
Penny Howard	22
Brooks Bennett	22
Jay Koonce	28



Deacon of the Month Doug Blizzard August 2025

Doug has been a member of Spilman for 50 plus years. This is his fourth term serving on the diaconate. He has also served as a Spilman trustee twice. Doug has worked with the NC Baptist Men's Disaster Relief for several years as a communication specialist. This has included trips to Texas and New Jersey. Forty-six years ago, Doug married his high school sweetheart, Kay Allen. They have one daughter, Sarah Beth who lives in Vermont.



In Memory of Tom Epps Chaney

Jan. 13, 1935— Jun. 28, 2025

Collective Leadership Academy



I have had the opportunity to talk with Meg Pileggi over the past six months as her dream of beginning a unique Christian School has been taking shape. This school is an extension of the Collective Church located on the campus of Spilman Memorial Baptist Church. In our July newsletter we highlighted Cory and Meg's journey of faith in establishing a church plant in Kinston. The following conversation highlights the passion and purpose of this new school.



DR. H. POWELL DEW, JR.

What is your story?

"I'm a Marine Corps Officer veteran, foster mom of 10 years, and hold a Master's in Marriage and Family Counseling. My heart has always been one of service—whether through the military, walking alongside families in crisis, or advocating for vulnerable children. I've spent the last decade deeply rooted in my community, stepping in to meet needs as they arise. Founding Collective Leadership Academy is simply an extension of that same mission: to serve, equip, and raise up the next generation with purpose and resilience."



What inspired you to open a school?

"When my daughter—who is diagnosed with autism—began her school journey, I knew she would struggle to thrive in a traditional, factory-model system. She isn't a 'one size fits all' child. She's incredibly intelligent, animated, and full of potential, but I could see that the rigid structure of standardized education could suppress what she has to offer. I wanted to create a school where students like her could shine—a place where intelligence is recognized in many forms, and where growth is measured by character, curiosity, and real-world problem solving—not just test scores."

What does a typical week look like?

"Our weekly rhythm is intentionally designed to balance flexibility with deep, relational learning. Mondays and Tuesdays are for home-based learning or off-campus field studies (field trips that align with current studies), giving families space to learn together or explore the world beyond the classroom. Wednesdays through Fridays are spent on campus, where the environment is highly relational, group-oriented, and family-like. Students engage in multi-age learning groups, which allows older students to lead and mentor while younger students are inspired and stretched by their peers. This kind of learning environment mirrors real life—where people of all ages work together, solve problems, and build community. It encourages collaboration, empathy, leadership, and deeper social-emotional growth. Students don't just learn *from* a teacher—they learn *with* one another."

(Continued on next page)

Collective Leadership Academy (continued)

What model of education are you using?
“We’re rooted in Charlotte Mason’s relational philosophy, which sees education as the shaping of the whole child—not just the mind, but the heart, habits, and character. We pair that with a project management framework that gives students the opportunity to lead, problem-solve, and manage real-world tasks. At CLA, students don’t just sit and receive information—they engage with it. Specific examples include: drafting bylaws for a student-led nonprofit, running a campus/community garden, or planning a fundraiser for a student-led non-profit.”

What classes will be offered this year?
“Alongside core academic subjects, students at CLA will engage in a wide range of hands-on, skill-based courses designed to connect learning with real life. Classes include Hydroponics, Economics, Church History, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Life Skills, Project Management, and Young Marines Leadership Training. Each of these is intentionally selected to support our students' growth as problem-solvers and leaders.”

What skills do you want to instill in your students?
“I want our students to walk away from CLA with character, courage, and conviction, especially when no one is watching. Life is full of hard things, and I don’t want our kids to be afraid of them. I want them to be the kind of people who don’t shut down when life gets messy, but instead look for ways to serve, to lead, and to be a steady presence in the lives of others. Our goal isn’t just to teach kids how to pass a test, it’s to shape kids who can show up in the world when character, courage, and conviction are needed the most. My prayers are that our student graduates are the next generation of nonprofit and community leaders.”

What’s your connection to military leadership programs?
“I’m a veteran Marine Corps Officer, and leadership development has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Some of the most defining moments of my life happened while deployed overseas or serving at the Pentagon—those experiences shaped how I lead, how I respond in high-pressure situations, and how I stay grounded when things get hard. I’ve carried those lessons into every area of my life, and they’re woven into the fabric of Collective Leadership Academy. Through our partnership with the Young Marines, we’re helping students develop that same mental fortitude, discipline, and sense of service—so they can lead themselves and others well, even when life gets tough.”

Do you serve students with special needs?
“Yes. CLA was founded with neurodiverse learners in mind. We strive to create a supportive and flexible environment for all students—including those with intellectual/developmental disabilities and trauma backgrounds.”

- Tangible Needs**
- Chromebook laptops to support project management and life skills courses
 - Scholarship support for families who didn’t receive state funding, opportunity scholarships
 - Durable storage bins for our student-led foster closet project
 - Outdoor seating to help create a flexible, nature-based classroom environment
 - Maybe a washer/dryer if grant money doesn't come through

Meg’s Prayer Request
“Please pray for wisdom, unity, and strength as we lead our students and walk alongside their families. Pray for provision as we navigate the growing pains that come with launching something new, especially as we work to raise strong, capable leaders. Most of all, pray that the hearts of our students will be deeply shaped by the truth of the Gospel, and that our school would be a light in this community.”

Dr. Dew’s Prayer for the Collective Leadership Academy
“Lord, please open the doors you wish opened for this innovative school so the needs of its students may be met. Close the doors that need to be closed so that this school may thrive under your guidance. May you protect Meg and Cory Pileggi as they step out in faith to answer the urgent call for a Christian based, character education school in a world running headlong away from You. Amen.

Collective Leadership Academy Open House
August 5, 2025
5:30-7:00 PM



AUGUST 2025

AUG 3 (SUN)	DEACONS MEETING SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE—LORD’S SUPPER THE GOLDEN RULE—Matthew 7:12 DEACON NOMINATION BALLOTS DISTRIBUTION	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM
AUG 5 (TUES)	COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE	5:30—7 PM
AUG 6 (WED)	MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST MONTHLY PRAYER GATHERING SS CLASS AT SPRING ARBOR WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	8:00 AM 11:00 AM 2:30 PM 4:00 PM
AUG 10 (SUN)	SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE TWO WAYS—Matthew 7:13-29 DEACON NOMINATION BALLOTS COLLECTED	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
AUG 13 (WED)	MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST SS CLASS AT SPRING ARBOR WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	8:00 AM 2:30 PM 4:00 PM
AUG 17 (SUN)	SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE HOW A WISE MAN BUILDS HIS HOUSE Matthew 7:24-29 CHURCH CONFERENCE	9:15 AM 10:30 AM 3:00 PM
AUG 20 (WED)	MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST SS CLASS AT SPRING ARBOR WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	8:00 AM 2:30 PM 4:00 PM
AUG 24 (SUN)	SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE THE DIFFERENCE JESUS MAKES Matthew 10:32-33 DEACON ELECTION BALLOTS DISTRIBUTED	9:15 AM 10:30 AM
AUG 27 (WED)	MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST SS CLASS AT SPRING ARBOR WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	8:00 AM 2:30 PM 4:00 PM
AUG 31 (SUN)	SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF? Philippians 4:4-7	9:15 AM 10:30 AM



AUGUST 2025
BIBLE READING PLAN

- ☐ 1 Isaiah 37-40
- ☐ 2 Isaiah 41-43
- ☐ 3 Catch Up
- ☐ 4 Isaiah 44-47
- ☐ 5 Isaiah 48-51
- ☐ 6 Isaiah 52-57
- ☐ 7 Isaiah 58-62
- ☐ 8 Isaiah 63-66
- ☐ 9 Jeremiah 1-3
- ☐ 10 Catch Up
- ☐ 11 Jeremiah 4-6
- ☐ 12 Jeremiah 7-9
- ☐ 13 Jeremiah 10-13
- ☐ 14 Jeremiah 14-16
- ☐ 15 Jeremiah 17-20
- ☐ 16 Jeremiah 21-23
- ☐ 17 Catch Up
- ☐ 18 Jeremiah 24-26
- ☐ 19 Jeremiah 27-30
- ☐ 20 Jeremiah 31-32
- ☐ 21 Jeremiah 33-34
- ☐ 22 Jeremiah 35-37
- ☐ 23 Jeremiah 38-41
- ☐ 24 Catch Up
- ☐ 25 Jeremiah 42-44
- ☐ 26 Jeremiah 45-48
- ☐ 27 Jeremiah 49-50
- ☐ 28 Jeremiah 51-52
- ☐ 29 Lamentations 1-2
- ☐ 30 Lamentations 3-5; Ezekiel 1-2
- ☐ 31 Catch Up