

# Enterprise- Journal



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Biblical properties: Spring Beulah building 17,000 square foot church

*“And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.”*

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*Elder Eulis Brown Jr., left, and Deacon James Jenkins stand in the new sanctuary of Spring Beulah Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A., which is under construction. (Aaron Rhoads | Enterprise-Journal — Ezra 3:11*

By Ernest Herndon | Enterprise-Journal

Take Highway 570 east of Summit, turn right on D.P. Guy Road, and be prepared for a shock. On the hill where a modest rural church burned to the ground in 2004, a temple has risen — a 17,000-square-foot red brick building with soaring concrete pillars.

Spring Beulah Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. has emerged from the ashes in a most surprising way. A congregation with an average Sunday attendance of 50 to 60 is constructing a two-story church with a 700-seat sanctuary and a dozen classrooms — more than three times the size of the previous building.

“We’re not building it for the crowd we have,” said the pastor, Elder Eulis Brown Jr. of Jackson. “This church is built for ministry, and it’s built for growth.”

Volunteer crews are assisting local members and construction workers in the task, which is reminiscent of the rebuilding of the Jewish temple in the Old Testament book of Ezra.

The sun shines brightly over the large columns at the front entrance of Spring Beulah Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. (Aaron Rhoads | Enterprise-Journal)

Spring Beulah burned to the ground in January 2004, the cause never determined. But subsequent arson attempts — one at the parsonage, one at the construction site in February 2006 — convinced members someone was out to destroy the church.

Those fears were exacerbated recently when vandals toppled port-a-potties at the site.

The Pike County Sheriff’s Department, State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have all been investigating.

“It’s still considered an open file and they are still investigating,” Donna Cromeans of the fire marshal’s office said Friday.

“We are very much concerned, and the membership of the church kind of monitors,” Brown said.

Fear hasn’t dampened plans for the new church, though. The congregation currently meets in the fellowship hall, and Brown hopes to be finished with construction by next spring.

Brown, who became pastor in January, had a dream before he ever came to the church. In the dream he walked into an unfinished building where women and children were on their knees for some unknown reason.

When he actually arrived at Spring Beulah, he found women and children on their knees — cleaning the concrete slab floor.

“The men of this church and the women have worked tirelessly,” Brown said. “They gave up vacation. They gave up off days, evenings.”

Volunteer crews from other states have also been busy at the church, including a Methodist team from California this week and a Catholic crew from Illinois last week.

“I think it’s wonderful that Pastor Brown and the church organization think big,” said Andy Lareau of St. Isidore Catholic Church in Bloomingdale, Ill.

Lareau got involved with the National Coalition of Burned Churches after he “heard a voice that said, ‘Rebuild churches that had burned; rebuild black churches.’ ” Since then he’s worked on 19 churches, including Star Hill C.M.E. Church of Gloster.

Initially, the Spring Beulah congregation planned to build a 10,000 square foot building. Those plans grew along with plans for outreach ministry.

Brown said Spring Beulah will offer GED, computer literacy and other classes. “We want to minister to young men, young boys,” he said. “We want to teach them life skills. We want to teach them to give back.”

He isn’t daunted by the size of the new building.

“We wouldn’t need something this large if we were just concerned about ourselves,” he said. “We believe we were given this edifice by God to serve Him.”

Spring Beulah Church meets 11 a.m. Sundays and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. For more information on the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. denomination, visit the Web site [www.cochusa.com](http://www.cochusa.com).