



*Our Vision is to be Christ to each other
and our community— doing
justice, loving mercy and
walking humbly with our God.*

Deacon Selection Results

Lee Anne Bailie (3 year term)

Lloyd Callaway (3 year term)

Conley Easler (3 year term)

Marcia Harris (3 year term)

Wayne Lyles (2 year term, filling out the balance of Jean Pruett's term)



FACEBOOK LIVE
Bible Study
every Wednesday Night at 6:00pm

Sunday Morning Worship Time

every Sunday at 11am online

**We will be uploading the video on our website each Sunday
and also will be on our Facebook page.**

JOIN THE PARADE

Ministry Council is organizing several mini parades to drive by the homes of some of our Fernwood family on ***Sunday afternoon, July 12***. We hope to wave and say hello to those who do not have internet access to all the virtual activities happening at Fernwood, and while we are out, drive by some of our other members' homes.

Would you be interested in joining us? Please contact the church office asap to sign up for this event so we can get the groups organized.

INFORMATION FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

[Constitution of Fernwood Baptist Church 6-11-20](https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CONSTITUTION-OF-FERNWOOD-BAPTIST-CHURCH-OF-SPARTANBURG-6-11-20.pdf)

<https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CONSTITUTION-OF-FERNWOOD-BAPTIST-CHURCH-OF-SPARTANBURG-6-11-20.pdf>

and

[Fernwood Baptist Church Procedures 6-11-20](https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Fernwood-BC-Procedures-June-11-2020-2.pdf)

<https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Fernwood-BC-Procedures-June-11-2020-2.pdf>

Above are links to our proposed Constitution and Church Procedures prepared by the ad hoc Committee appointed by the Deacons. The committee has received your questions, comments, and suggestions. We have made changes where we felt necessary and they are now ready to present the final documents via a ZOOM meeting on Sunday afternoon, July 19, at 3:00pm. Click on the zoom link, or call the number and enter the meeting ID.

Matt Johnson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Church Constitution Meeting

Time: Jul 19, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91908168670>

Call In: 1 929 205 6099 Enter Meeting ID: 919 0816 8670

You will be able to ask questions during the zoom meeting. If you are not able to join us for this presentation, a recording of the meeting will be sent out by eblast so you may view it at your convenience. We will set up a day and time to drive by and vote on these documents.

We would like to thank you for your willingness to conduct business in new and creative ways as we are being the Church during this time of physical distancing.



I got back to Spartanburg Monday evening from my first long distance trip since the onset of COVID-19. Clare and the kids are spending some time with Clare's family in Texas. So, we met Clare's parents in Alabama for the weekend. They all went back to Texas together and I came home. Traveling in a pandemic takes even more planning than usual. This was especially true given the fact that every state we were in (South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama) has seen COVID-19 cases rising rapidly! We packed all our food so we wouldn't have to go inside a restaurant.

We made sure we had masks and plenty of hand sanitizer. We tried to limit all contact with other people and the poor kids barely got out of the car.

That experience caused me to reflect on how different church life has become in these past few months. We have adapted to a "new normal": online worship, zoom meetings for church, drive through deacon nominations, pastoral care by phone call only. You have handled each and every change with dexterity and grace.

Tuesday morning, I woke up to an empty house for the first time in as long as I can remember. I worked on some home projects (Clare left me with a long list) and did some work for the church. I don't know if it was being alone or the quick turn-around of the trip, but I completely forgot what day it was, or what other obligations I had scheduled for that morning.

When I checked my phone, I realized it had been set on silent. I had several missed calls and texts. I completely forgot about two scheduled conversations I was supposed to have with folks from Fernwood that morning! When I called them back, full of embarrassment and apologies, they were both very kind. We rescheduled and moved forward. Dexterity and grace, again!

Being a church together requires a lot of dexterity and grace. We need to forgive one another. We need to adopt and adapt. That's especially true in these times, but a growing church always needs to practice dexterity and grace with one another, pandemic or not.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your willingness to find creative ways to be the church in these challenging days. Thank you for trying new things, not giving up, for being faithful. Thank you for your patience when something doesn't go right the first time. Most of all, thank you for understanding when I mess up.

In Romans 5:19, Paul writes, "*...when sin abounded, grace abounded much more...*" If I were to adapt that verse for these times, I would write, "When COVID-19 abounded, dexterity and grace abounded much more." Thank you, Fernwood, for being a church where dexterity and grace abound.

Matt

The Choral Corner

This past Sunday, our focus was on the window about Noah and the Ark, sometimes referred to as "The Flood," and I ask your indulgence for one week as I slip into the genre of opera. In 1958, the British composer Benjamin Britten presented a one-act opera on the Noah story called NOYE'S FLUDDE (old English for "Noah's Flood"), based on a revised medieval miracle play. This opera is one of three short works known as Britten's church parable operas, all of which he intended for church performances rather than theatrical productions. Britten wrote this opera specifically for young, amateur musicians, in fact, outside of Noah and his wife, all of the singers are scored for teen-aged children and younger, including all the animals in the ark. Britten even features instrumentation in the orchestra that is well suited to young musicians, including song flutes (recorders) and homemade percussion instruments such as sandpaper blocks and "slung mugs." Slung mugs are simple household coffee mugs that are suspended from a string and lightly struck with wooden spoons to create the sound of raindrops. Outside of a small nucleus of professional players, the entire orchestra is intended for beginner to intermediate level participants.

In the YouTube link below, the ark has been loaded with all the animals, which are played by children with animal headaddresses. As the music becomes foreboding, Noah exclaims, "Me thinks my boat removes!" As the water rises and the ark begins to float, the storm in the orchestra begins to rage. With building intensity, the animals become nervous, as do Noah and his family. As the storm reaches its climax, the entire company, including the animals, joins in singing the Navy hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." The final verse invites the congregation to sing as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97yiAYy6PWE>

If you enjoy this clip, you might enjoy the entire opera, which is less than an hour in length. This clip is labeled as "Noye's Fludde 6/9. You would simply search YouTube for the other segments...1/9, 2/9, 3/9, etc. The scene featuring the loading of the ark is fantastic, as well as the final scene as all the animals disembark. I hope you enjoy.

Stafford Turner

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Thurs: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Please call ahead for availability.
(864) 582-7467

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HEALTH & SAFETY NEWS...

All in-person activities at Fernwood Baptist Church are cancelled until further notice. We are also asking that if you are coming to the church to drop off your offering or to pick up something, please know that Angie or Mary Helen will meet you at the door to help you. We are asking that no one enter the building during this time to keep us all healthy and safe. Thanks for understanding in this matter.

CURRENT OFFICE HOURS ARE:

Monday: 9am until 1pm

Wednesday: 9am until 1pm

Publication Notice

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, July 15, 2020**. Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at Noon**.

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit your information via email (angie@fernwoodchurch.org) or through the church office. Please do not submit any information over the phone. Information submitted after the deadline will not be published until the following issue (no exceptions). Thank you for your understanding!