

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

## Staff Love Gift

Each year in December, we show our love to our staff by a special gift.

This year has been a very difficult year for all of us so let's combine our resources to express our appreciation of our staff at Fernwood.

Would you consider a "Love Offering" to our staff?

You may contribute via any of the following ways:

- Online - select Staff Love Gift
- Check - just put Staff Love Gift in the memo line on the check and either mail it to the church or bring it by the office.

All funds must be in the **office by December 21**, so you should **mail your checks** not later than **Friday, December 18** or complete your **on-line contribution by December 20**.

Thank you for being the caring people that you are.

**Personnel Committee**



## A Thank You Note...

Beth Smart would like to thank Fernwood for all their prayers, cards, and calls remembering her at her mother's death. Fernwood will always be special.

## Welcome New Member!

The Fernwood family would like to welcome, Cindy Thomas joining on statement of faith, on Sunday, December 6.

Welcome, Cindy!



## News from the Ministry Council

The Fernwood Ministry Council continues to be busy with the work of the church. Our council meets each month and discusses events on the calendar as well as the work of the ministry teams. Beginning this month, a link to the approved minutes of the previous month's meeting will be included in the newsletter.

The Belonging Ministry Teams continue to collect coats that Regenesys will distribute. One of the trees in front of the church will serve as a Blessing Tree for scarves, hats, mittens, etc.

The Worship Ministry Team is passing out Christmas Eve worship bags on Wednesday, December 16 from 4-6 pm. Please plan to pick up your bag, or set up an alternate time to pick up your bag at the church.

The Serving Ministry Teams, specifically the Missions Team, continues to coordinate the meals for The Hope Center for Children.

Although we meet virtually, there are still ways to serve in the ministry of Fernwood Baptist Church. Please contact me or the church office if you are looking for a way to serve.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021 to each of you!

**Sara Gardner**, Ministry Council Chair



### The Choral Corner

I'm sure that each of you at one time or another have expressed what you have missed about this year's preparation for and celebration of the birth of Christ. There are so many things that have changed in our lives this year with regard to how we must live our lives and how our customs have been forced to adapt. One thing that I will miss is the opportunity to catch a glimpse of a live nativity scene that would typically be presented about this time. They remind us of the simple innocence that was witnessed in Bethlehem the night Jesus was born.

In my search for this week's Choral Corner feature, I came across what I hope can serve as a virtual replacement for that live nativity scene experience that we will miss this year. It utilized the talents of over a thousand people to recreate that special event. The music itself is very familiar to us, but the arrangement of it is uniquely stirring. The project includes the solo voices of Peter Hollens and David Archuleta, the instrumental group known as The Piano Guys, and the choir of the Mormon Tabernacle. Since the video was created in 2014, it has been viewed nearly 40 million times. I hope it gives you a blessing... Merry Christmas!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5mdybeyLVc>

**Stafford Turner**

## **From the Deacons Bench**

As we come to the close of a very challenging year, as Deacon Chair I want to offer my gratitude to Matt, Stafford, Marcia, Becky, Lloyd, Angie, Mary Helen, and all who have gone well beyond the call of duty to enable Fernwood to be “church” in a meaningful way these many months of COVID. If you have not been closely connected to the work necessary to produce the virtual worship services, you would have no idea how many additional hours are required to produce the quality worship experience that is ours week after week. Gathering to video the various elements is only one step in a multi-step process which includes hours of editing and shaping the service so that what we see on a Sunday morning can have the impact it has. I hope you will show your appreciation to the staff by participating as generously as you can in the Staff Love Offering this Christmas season. We are truly blessed to have these gifted persons to lead us. If you have not noticed, we have been graced by the addition of nine new members during the months of this pandemic and while we have worshiped virtually. Fernwood is still a live and growing church and I am delighted to be a part of this congregation.

The Deacons have approved recommendations from the Building and Grounds Committee to proceed with repairs to the Nexus, to address the drainage issues which led to water damage to the Nexus, and to proceed with repairs to the Sunday School wing, some of which will be covered by insurance. These actions will be underway as soon as feasible and should be completed sometime early next year.

The Deacons have concluded that in-person worship will be delayed at least through the month of January. With the explosion of coronavirus cases nationwide, and with South Carolina no exception, we believe it would be foolhardy to ignore the dangers of creating a super spreader event by gathering to worship under these conditions.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to participate virtually in the Christmas Eve service. It is always a special time at Fernwood. Pray for our church, our community, our nation, and our world as we look hopefully toward the successful defeat of this virus and a move to a new normal.

***Gerald Keown***  
Deacon Chair



## **The Blood Bank**

Our next scheduled time with the Blood Connection is Sunday, January 10. To schedule your appointment please contact Penny Ginn at 864-923-0232 or pennyginn13@gmail.com

## A note from the Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee acknowledges the extra effort that each person of the worship team has given to provide a quality worship experience each week during this unusual year, by helping each other to present the Gospel to the congregation and the larger community. Special thanks goes to Matt, Stafford, Becky, Marcia, Sherami and Lloyd.

Stafford has led the music team by adjusting tasks to match individual skillsets to meet the demands caused by the Pandemic and changes in personnel.

Effective January 2021, Stafford will be our next Music Director. We are thrilled to have someone of Stafford's talent and love for music to lead us going forward.



**Thursday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

The Church Office will be closed.  
5pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Live-Stream Service

**Friday, December 25**

**Christmas Day**

The Church Office will be closed.

**Thursday, December 31**

**New Year's Eve**

9-Noon – Office open  
Noon – The Church Office will be closing to finish end of year procedures.

**Friday, January 1, 2021**

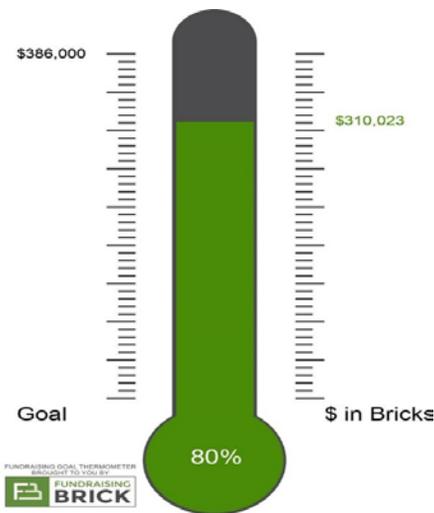
**New Year's Day**

The Church Office will be closed.

## 2021 Newsletter Publications

January 13 & 27  
February 10 & 24  
March 10 & 24  
April 14 & 28  
May 12 & 26  
June 16 & 30  
July 14 & 28  
August 11 & 25  
September 8 & 22  
October 13 & 27  
November 10 & 17  
December 1 & 15

### Fernwood Baptist 2020 Stewardship Goal



2020 has been a challenging year for Fernwood Baptist Church as well as for all of you. We are behind in reaching our ministry plan goal of \$386,000 for the year with current collections of \$310,023. Please consider a final year end gift so that we may move forward into 2021 on a positive note. Thanks so much for all you have done and will do for Fernwood Baptist Church.

Stewardship and Finance Team

### Proposed 2021 Ministry Plan Schedule

**Monday, December 21, 2020**

2021 Ministry Plan e-blast (Paper copy to those who still get paper newsletter)

**Wednesday, January 6, 2021**

Ministry Plan discussion time 6:15pm

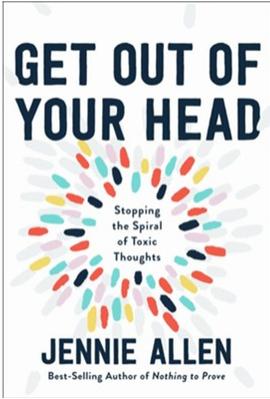
**Sunday, January 17, 2021**

CHURCH CONFERENCE to vote on Proposed 2021 Ministry Plan  
by E-blast ballot which will be sent out on January 7, 2021.

**Homebound Member**

Larry & Gerry Moore

White Oak Assisted Living, 400 Webber Rd., Room 208, Spartanburg, SC 29307



*Coming soon in January...*

<https://youtu.be/Se3TdLcvy6k>

A six session Bible study led by Lee Anne Bailie on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm starting January 13. Join in after the Wednesday night Between Two Fernwoods.

We will watch a video together on Zoom and have discussion. You will read and complete your workbook assignments during the week.

We will also keep in touch to support and encourage one another during the week in a private Facebook group. Wonderful study....great way to interact with others in this hybrid Bible study experience.

Register <https://forms.gle/tZBGbSce2kKsAyLW6>.

Here's what a recent participant said about the study:

*"Even if you feel like you are not dealing with anxiety or negative feelings, there is something in this study for you. You will learn very specific ways (what you can think and do), through Scripture, to combat thoughts and feelings of helplessness, unworthiness, self-doubt, and fear. The study encourages you to be honest with yourself, confront your challenges head-on, and learn how to help yourself using Scripture."*

-Jamie, educator and member of St. John's Lutheran

For more information, click <https://www.smores.com/8uj7x> or contact Lee Anne Bailie. Workbooks cost \$10 and can be purchased from Lee Anne through your registration form.

### **Family Night Supper Support - Will You Help?**

We are supporting a local mission with meals. The Hope Center for Children are excited and pleased to be receiving these meals. Tina will be preparing larger casserole type meals along with sides. They have 3 residential homes that she will be preparing for. These meals will be hot and fresh and delivered on Wednesday afternoon at 5:30pm at each location.

Are you willing to continue to pay for your meal, but allow it to be served to your neighbors? If you would like to help pay for some meals, you can write "Family Supper" on your check or choose "Family Supper" when you give online. Please give generously and help spread the word to others. Thank you to those of you who continue to support this important ministry!

# A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Eternal God, the hope of all humankind,  
you gave us the greatest gift of all in  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Son of God, you came as God's Light to  
shine brightly in the darkness of minds  
and hearts; bathe our world in your Light.

Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, make a way for the  
Good News of your Kingdom to reach every home,  
every heart, everywhere.

Protect and preserve the labourers who  
courageously declare the glory of your Gospel  
throughout the world. Provide for their every need  
and be their strength and joy.

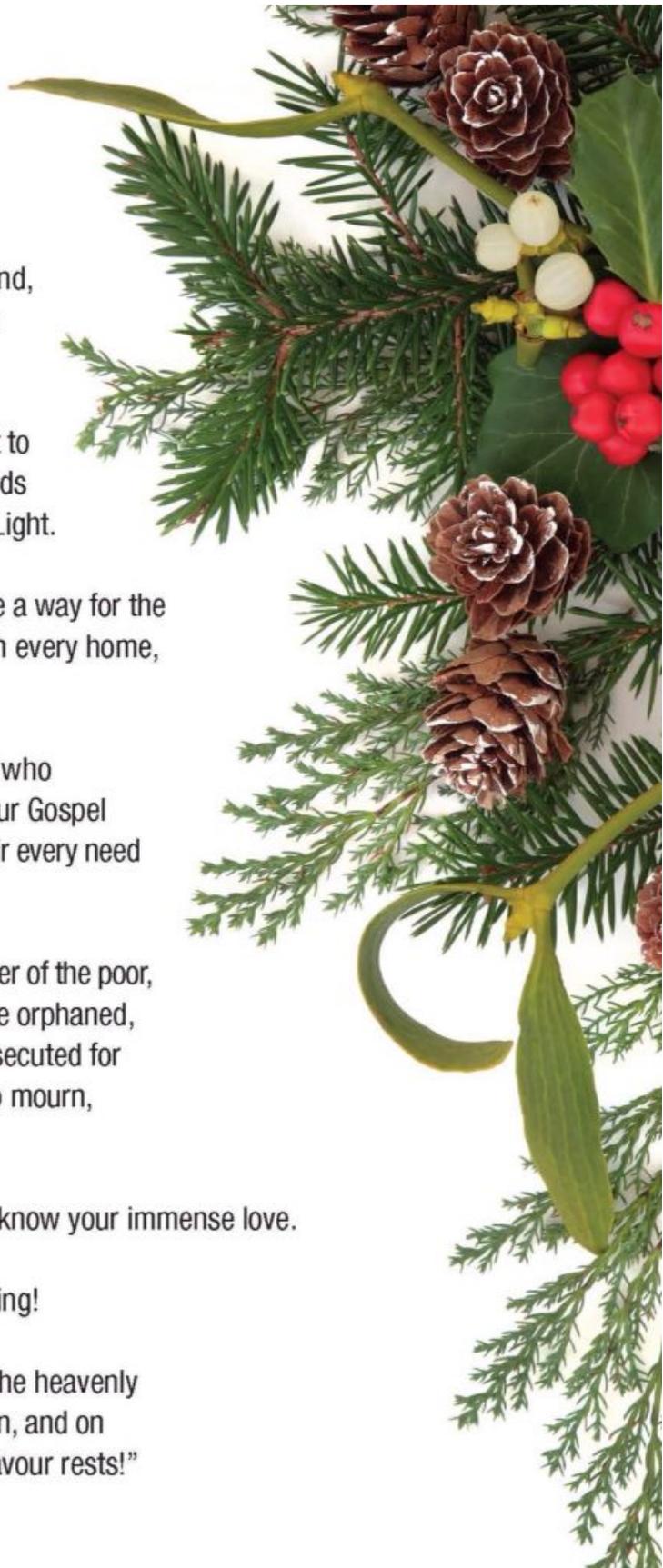
Be the comforter, defender and provider of the poor,  
the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the orphaned,  
the weary, the oppressed, those persecuted for  
their faith in you, the sick, those who mourn,  
the aged and the little children.

Reveal yourself to those who do not know your immense love.

Bless those who rejoice at your coming!

Glorious Lord, we join our voices to the heavenly  
host and say: "Glory to God in heaven, and on  
earth peace to those on whom His favour rests!"

**Amen.**



**Fernwood Baptist Church**  
**P. O. Box 7058**  
**Spartanburg, SC 29304**

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Mon – Wed: 9am to 1pm**  
**Please call ahead for availability.**  
**(864) 582-7467**

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**Publication Notice**

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, January 13, 2021**. Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at Noon**.

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit your information via email ([angie@fernwoodchurch.org](mailto: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!