

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

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## FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

May 12, 2021

It is time once again to select deacons to replace those rotating off after their three-year term. According to our Constitution, anyone over the age of 21 who has been a member of Fernwood for at least a year is eligible to be selected as a deacon. Only one member from a given household may serve at the same time. Also, family members of employees or ministry staff are not eligible. This year, the normal number of four deacons are rotating off. The congregation will nominate up to four persons from the list of eligible person published in the newsletter.

On Wednesday, May 12, Angie will email a list of persons eligible for consideration. If your name appears on this list as eligible to serve and you do **not** wish to be considered, please notify the church office by Tuesday, May 18, of your decision. Next Wednesday, May 19, the congregation will receive a list of those eligible and willing to serve. From that list, you will have the opportunity to list up to four names and return those to the Church Office via our online ballot or, if you do not have email access, via USPS delivery or by calling the church office. You may also call the Church Office with your nominations. Nominations will be accepted through **Wednesday, June 2 by 1pm**. Once that deadline is past, the deacon chair and two other deacons appointed by the chair will tabulate the results. The four persons receiving the most nominations will be selected to serve as deacons for a three-year term beginning in September 2021.

It is both an honor and responsibility to serve in this important role in the life of Fernwood. Having served as Deacon Chair for this year, I can assure you that your diaconate has worked diligently to ensure the vitality of our life together as a congregation. I am confident that the long history of such dedicated service will continue as four new persons are added to the diaconate this year. Thank you for your careful consideration and participation in this important process.

*Gerald Keown, Deacon Chair*



Happy Mother's Day! Last Sunday we celebrated the most important women in our lives... our mothers. It was extra special as the pandemic is slowly beginning to fade, which has allowed us to make up a bit for all the missed time with our moms over the past year. As I searched for a feature work for this edition of the Choral Corner, I saw many fine presentations that honored our mothers, but the performance I landed on is an old favorite of mine, and it is quite a departure from the serious nature of videos that I tend to pass on to you. This one is simply just for fun. (Sanctuary Choir... forgive me for "regifting" this one. Hopefully you'll enjoy it as much this year as last!)

Today's clip is called The Mom Song. The performer took all the comments that she made in a typical day as a mom and condensed it into a 3-minute rant, set to Gioacchino Rossini's William Tell Overture. Hopefully, this will bring a few smiles to your face! Thanks Moms!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwV7vb6VPfM>

*Stafford*

**The Results from the Affirmation  
Voting  
of our New Members 4-5-21  
Yes - 69 No - 0**



### **Homebound Member of the Week**

Larry & Jerry Moore  
White Oak Assisted, Rm. 208  
400 Webber Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29307

### **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!



Some very exciting things are happening with Children's Ministry.

1. Pam Agudelo, one of our newest members, has choreographed and taught the children an interpretive dance that will be featured in our worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. We

can't wait to experience this new element in our service.

2. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, we had our first Children's Church session. It was a great morning and was a welcomed return to meeting in-person for our Fernwood Kids Sunday School group.

Here is our Children's Church plan:

- WHO: children ages 5 and up; we will include preschoolers as often as possible for music and crafts
- WHEN: 2nd-5th Sundays of the month after either the Children's Lesson or Hymn of Praise. Pastor Matt will announce for the children to move to the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of the hymn and they will be escorted by a CMT member to our session. First Sundays are communion Sundays and children will be included in the entire worship service in the sanctuary.
- WHERE: either the dining room or one of the larger children's classrooms (number of children will determine the location to enable adequate space for COVID safety).
- HOW: Children over 5 and teachers will wear masks. Clarence has purchased a sanitation station (mounted hands-free dispenser) for the children's hall. Nursery workers will complete additional sanitation and cleaning of the play areas and materials in their space.

3. We have received approval to begin installation of our new playground equipment. The former equipment had become damaged beyond repair due to age, wear and tear. The structures were deemed a hazard. We had to lockdown the playground per Building & Grounds. Over several months now, Building & Grounds and the Children's Ministry team have been negotiating the removal of the old equipment, grading of the surface, and replacement of the play structures and swings. Special thanks to Foster McLane and Clarence Batts for their time, contacts and hard work. We look forward to seeing happy, ACTIVE children utilizing our playground in the not-so-distant future.

## TOTAL Ministries

Current needs include: soups (all types), jelly, grits, oatmeal, canned fruit, applesauce, cake mix and frosting, one pound bags of dry beans, peanut butter, canned meats (such as Spam, salmon, tuna, beef stew), cereals, one pound bags of rice, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti sauce and noodles(pasta), all types of canned vegetables, and toiletries.

Collection containers are located in front of the church office.

The Ministry Council has continued to meet to ensure that our church programs, giving, worship and fellowship are planned for the benefit of all.

There are many things planned and many of them are listed here.

- A church wide fellowship in conjunction with the Young Adults Sunday School class is planned for May 22 from 3 to 5. There is a book themed baby shower planned for the Hicks' at this time.
- A book study has begun, a Saturday Bible Walk is starting and a Walk, Talk and Eat Activity is planned for Wednesday, June 23.
- As we venture back into the sanctuary for in person worship, plans for Children's sermon and time with the children is being planned.
- We are continuing to serve dinners at the Hope Center at least through June.
- It is the time of year that we look to all of you to serve on a ministry team. Facilitators will be contacting current members to ask them to return, but if you have a desire to serve in another capacity, please let someone know. We are planning to have additional sign ups later in the summer, but you can sign up now. There is a pamphlet with a list of teams and responsibilities if you are interested.
- We will vote for the Ministry Teams, Sunday School teachers and the standing committees on Sunday, June 27.



**Sabrina Myers**

Vice Chair Ministry Council



## **Baby Shower for Justin and Laura Hicks**

**This is during our monthly outdoor  
fellowship at the back of the chapel.**

**They are registered at Target.**

**FERNWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH  
OPERATING FINANCIAL RESULTS  
Year-To-Date April 2021**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Better or (Worse) Than Budget</u>
<b>OPERATING RECEIPTS</b>			
Contributions Received	\$120,772	\$128,667	(\$7,895)
Use of Building Receipts	\$150	\$0	\$150
Interest Income	\$51	\$0	\$51
Processing Fees	\$165	\$0	\$165
Other Income	\$196,735	\$0	\$196,735
Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>	<b>\$317,873</b>	<b>\$128,667</b>	<b>\$189,206</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>			
Total Personnel Related	\$57,047	\$61,036	\$3,989
Community Ministry Children / Youth	\$4,563	\$7,720	\$3,157
Ministry Music	\$279	\$617	\$338
Ministry Educational	\$1,282	\$1,267	(\$15)
Ministry Evangelistic	\$0	\$133	\$133
Ministry Teams	\$101	\$1,167	\$1,066
State & World Missions	\$233	\$767	\$534
Operating Ministry	\$4,839	\$5,147	\$308
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$47,476</b>	<b>\$50,813</b>	<b>\$3,337</b>
	<b>\$115,820</b>	<b>\$128,667</b>	<b>\$12,847</b>
<b>OPERATING RECEIPTS MORE(LESS) THAN OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>			
	<b>\$202,053</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$202,053</b>

**Prayers of the People Highlights**  
May 9-15

**Church Starters**

[www.cbf.net/church-starting](http://www.cbf.net/church-starting)

**Prayers of the People Highlights**  
May 16-22

**Butch & Nell Green**  
Houston, Texas

[www.cbf.net/green](http://www.cbf.net/green)



We have resumed in-person worship. That's great news! But, we should still continue to reflect on what we have learned over the past year, and we need to talk about what it means to be the church now in a post-pandemic world. I found that Karl Vaters's article, "Will the Congregation Come Back? Should Not Be Our

Biggest Concern" had six good questions that can focus our discussions over the future and during this time of transition.

Last month, the Ministry Council and Deacons discussed the second two questions and this month we discussed the final two questions:

**"How well are we serving our online members and visitors?"**

We are in a new era of church attendance and involvement. People are connecting with us online before they come in-person. Some never will come in person. How can we continue to connect with them? Is there someone in our church who could serve as an online host? Can we develop resources we can point people to for further help and information? If we identify people who haven't returned to in-person worship, should we contact them to ask why?

**"How are people hurting, and what can we do to help them?"**

People's problems will not be over when the pandemic ends. In fact, we are likely heading into years of crisis and recovery that will lead to divorces, bankruptcies, evictions, homelessness, mental health crises, joblessness, church closures, and pastoral resignations. There will be other issues we can't foresee now. What are we doing now, and what can we do or do better, to serve the people of our community, even if they never come through the doors of our church? Could we make a page on our website that clearly identifies community resources based on people's needs? Ministry needs to happen from the church, not just in the church.

**Matt**, Senior Pastor

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## May Birthdays

May 2	-	Wendy Case
May 3	-	Susan Plemmons
May 7	-	Madge Atkins
May 8	-	Reid Howard
May 9	-	Ruth Cate
May 12	-	Andrew Myers
May 12	-	Mac Johnson
May 15	-	James Bell
May 17	-	Kathy Hensley
May 19	-	Melissa Patton
May 19	-	Benjamin Vitale
May 21	-	Martha Ann Carter
May 21	-	Mary Phillips
May 26	-	Del Lockhart
May 29	-	Ann Haar
May 30	-	Ben Smart

## May Anniversaries

Conley & Nancy Easler  
May 11, 1974

Stuart & Laura Jones  
May 14, 1988

Bailie & Lee Anne Bailie  
May 14, 2005

Jim & Jean Pruett  
May 23, 1970

Randy & Sara Gardner  
May 26, 1974

**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, May 26, 2021**. Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, May 25, 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!