

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

**The Church Office will be closed  
on Monday, January 17  
in observance of  
Martin Luther King holiday.**



### **A Thank You note from our Prayer Concern List**

*Seldom in life do you meet people who have a true impact on your life. Please, relay my most sincere appreciation and gratitude to the caring friends I have at Fernwood Baptist Church - their thoughts and prayers are so important to me. I do believe that my faith and the faith of those praying for me carries me through.*

*Frank Simonetti*

### **A Thank You Note**

*Dearest Fernwood Members,  
Our family has been comforted and strengthened by your words, prayers and many other expressions of support. We offer our deepest thanks for your love and kindness during our greatest sadness. You have truly been family to us. Gerald was not shy about expressing his love for Fernwood. He was proud to belong to this body of believers. Thanks be to God for the gift of this church.*

*Sharon and Stephanie Keown, Allison Colapietro*



**Our Next Blood Drive, Sunday, January 30  
9am - 11:30am**

[https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/P3\\_eGift\\_Card\\_Give\\_Back\\_-\\_Temoor\\_No\\_Antibo-2-Fernwood-1.pdf](https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/P3_eGift_Card_Give_Back_-_Temoor_No_Antibo-2-Fernwood-1.pdf)



On Wednesday, January 5, the deacons made the decision to suspend in person Sunday School until COVID infection numbers in Spartanburg come down. According to the website Covid Act Now, the COVID risk level for Spartanburg County is currently rated "severe". You can find that information here:

[https://covidactnow.org/us/south\\_carolina-sc/county/spartanburg\\_county/?s=27751665](https://covidactnow.org/us/south_carolina-sc/county/spartanburg_county/?s=27751665)

We encourage you to find safe ways to continue to gather together for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. Many of our classes have used Zoom in the past. If you need help creating a Zoom meeting for your class, please contact Lee Anne Bailie. She will be contacting parents with information about a Zoom based Sunday School for our children. The weekly online adult Bible study will, of course, continue.

Worship will continue to be both in person and online. If you come in person, please continue to sit physically distanced and wear a mask. The deacons feel that the size of the sanctuary and the current average attendance allow us to continue to worship in person in a safe way. If you do not, however, feel comfortable attending in person, please feel free to worship online until the COVID infection numbers decrease. If you have a worship assignment over the next several weeks (praying, reading scripture, etc.) and do not feel comfortable coming in person, please contact Barbara Jean Callaway as soon as possible so she can find someone else to fill your position.

Thank you for continuing to be flexible and gracious with one another during this time. Whether we are gathered or scattered, we are the Body of Christ.

Matt

## **Our 63rd Church Anniversary was Tuesday, January 11, 2022.**



### **CBF December Global Mission Offering**

Our goal was \$1500.  
Congratulations, Fernwood members!  
We collected \$1652.

## From the Pastor's Desk...

### Family Systems Theory: Triangulation

As we continue to examine the concepts of Family Systems Theory (FST), we arrive this month at arguably the most important one: **“triangulation”**. Creating relationship triangles is perhaps the most common occurrence in any system. It happens all the time and to everyone. A system cannot survive without triangles. They are stabilizing mechanisms as well as vehicles for transferring anxiety.

Just as in architecture and engineering, a triangle is a strong shape for relationships. They can be helpful when two parties have a disagreement. If they **mutually agree** to bring in a third party **who is also involved in some way**, then it can create a stronger relationship connection that can hopefully find resolution. For instance, if two employees are having a disagreement about a work matter, they may go to their boss to help them work it out, clarify expectations, or provide additional information. This is a healthy relationship triangle.

Unfortunately, most triangles are unhealthy. We see it in churches all the time! It works like this: A (a church member) has a disagreement with B (the pastor). But instead of going directly to the pastor with it, they instead go to C (a deacon) in an attempt to get the deacon to take the responsibility for both telling the pastor and getting the problem solved. This is known as **“strangulation by triangulation”**.

No matter how much they feel like they want to help out, C will find themselves in a difficult position if they let this happen. It also puts B in a difficult position of trying to respond to a problem without knowing if they have a complete understanding of the issue. The only way to play this game and win is not to play. The burden of anxiety between A and B cannot be shifted onto C unless C accepts it. Suddenly C has all the stress of solving a problem that isn't even theirs!

The solution for unhealthy triangles is **De-triangulation**. De-triangulation might include saying the following to A:

“I'm sorry, this is a problem between you and the pastor. I hope you will take it to them.”

“This is a legitimate concern you have. While the pastor may not want to hear it, I think it is important that you say it to them.”

“If you are nervous about saying this to the pastor, I'd be happy to go with you to see them, so that you have some support while doing so. But this is really your issue with the pastor.”

“I'd be happy to have you 'practice' with me what you intend to say directly to the pastor, and if you like, I would be happy to give you some feedback.”

Such a strategy leaves the responsibility - and the anxiety - where it belongs (with A) and leaves C much less anxious.

**Can you think of a time when you experienced “Strangulation by Triangulation” and/or “Healthy De-Triangulation.”**

Matt Johnson  
Senior Pastor



## News from the Ministry Council..

The Ministry Council has some exciting activities planned for the next few months. Watch the newsletter for more specifics on Book Club, Blood donations, worship opportunities, and special outings.

We are currently looking for facilitators for the Hospitality Ministry Team as well as the Communications and Children's

Ministry Teams. If any of these teams sound like something you would be interested in joining, please let someone on the Ministry Council know. We will get you in touch with the appropriate team.

This is a great time to be a part of Fernwood Church!

Sabrina Myers  
Ministry Council Chair



## Coat and Blanket Giveaway

The January 23rd Giveaway has been postponed until a Sunday in February. Date to be determined.

We are still collecting for the coat and blanket giveaway. Most needed sizes are Children's (boy or girl) sizes 4 toddler through youth 16.

## News from the Deacons

The congregation approved the 2022 Ministry Plan as presented by the Finance Committee. This included the addition of a new staff position, Director of Family and Communication Ministries. The personnel committee has named Lee Anne Bailie to fill this important position, requiring Lee Anne to give up her position as a Deacon. Sara Gardner resigned as a deacon effective January 1, 2022 in order to care for Randy, her husband. Mary Phillips replaced Sara as a deacon, Penny Ginn has assumed the Chair position, and Lloyd Callaway was voted in as new Vice Chair of the Deacons. Lee Anne's deacon spot has not been filled.

In-person Sunday School classes are still suspended, but there will be an online adult lesson and zoom children/youth lesson each Sunday. In-person masked worship services will continue for those who are well and comfortable attending.

The water leak in the adult Sunday School Hall has been fixed. That hallway, along with the Children's Hall, is now open.

Penny Ginn  
Deacon Chair

## Children's Ministry Sale of 2022-23 Pocket Calendars

The Children's Ministry is offering 2022-23 (two year) Pocket Calendars for sale to raise money to purchase a storage system for our new "My Makerspace" on the children's hall. A makerspace is a collaborative workspace inside a school, library, or separate public/private facility for making, learning, exploring, and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools.



### Report from the Soup Kitchen

On **Sunday, December 19**, despite the miserable weather outside, we warmed the hearts of many of our fellow citizens. Eleven Fernwood folks and a few regular service workers prepared and served 168 meals today. Sixty of those were sent to the Opportunity Center to serve the folks gathered there.

We are blessed and feel that way each time we participate in this ministry.

Our next day of service is **February 20<sup>th</sup>**.

Clarence

### HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

Milton & Charlotte Thompson  
White Oak Estates, Apt. D-3-2  
400 Webber Road, Spartanburg, SC 29307

### Request to Congregation for help in selecting a Custodian for Fernwood

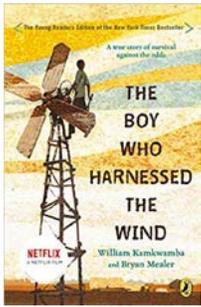
The Personnel Committee is seeking a person to replace the current Janitorial employment agency and to perform the duties of the Sexton position that was just added to the budget. We are beginning this search by asking the congregation to suggest someone who is reliable and dependable. This person is asked to maintain the cleanliness and orderliness of the church facilities and to setup rooms for special meetings and return the room afterward to its standard arrangement. This position will be salaried part-time, 21-25 hours per week, requiring 4 hours per day Monday-Thursday plus opening the church on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening when we have services. Extra hours and pay for special functions outside of normal hours, such as wedding, will be in addition to the normal hours.

Please respond to Clarence Batts at [email](#) or send resume' or other information to the church office.

### MASK REQUIRED

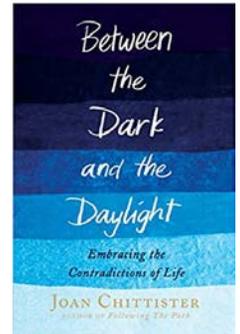
**Masks are required when in the church building, at all times.** even if you have been vaccinated. Due to the recent number of new Covid cases, we will be taking all precautions to protect everyone. There will be masks provided at each entrance of the Sanctuary lobby.

## Book Club News



The Book Group will resume **ZOOM meetings on Tues, Jan, 11, 2022 at 7 PM.** For Jan, 11, 18, 25, Nancy Easler will lead the group in the discussion of - *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kankwamba. Copies are \$9.00 in paperback at Barnes and Noble (online) and Amazon.

For the month of February, Barbara Conway will be leading the group in the study and discussion of - *Between the Dark and the Daylight* - by Joan Chittister. This study is set to run between **Feb. 1, 2022 at 7 PM through Feb. 22, 2022.** This title should also be available at the above two sources. If the cost of the books is detaining you, remember that the Public Library is a good source, and that Amazon offers used copies at lower prices.



Congratulations to Madison & Richard Wooten on the arrival of their new baby girl. **Bradley Grace Wooten.** The great grandparents are Bob & Norman Whaley.

# Newsletter

## 2022 Newsletter Publications

January 12 & 26  
(Mini News) February 9  
February 16  
March 2 & 16 & 30  
April 13 & 27  
May 11 & 25  
June 15 & 29  
July 13 & 27  
August 10 & 24  
September 14  
(Mini News) September 21  
October 12 & 26  
(Mini News) November 9  
November 16 & 30  
December 14 & 28  
(Mini News means just e-blast only. Not printed one)

FERNWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH  
 OPERATING FINANCIAL RESULTS  
 Year-To-Date December 2021

	Actual	Budget	Actual Better or (Worse) Than Budget
<b>OPERATING RECEIPTS</b>			
Contributions Received	\$590,888	\$386,000	\$204,888
Use of Building Receipts	\$5,838	\$0	\$5,838
Interest Income	\$175	\$0	\$175
Processing Fees	\$649	\$0	\$649
Other Income	\$196,735	\$0	\$196,735
Transfers	\$56	\$0	\$56
Total Operating Receipts	\$794,341	\$386,000	\$408,341
 <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>			
Total Personnel Related	\$180,477	\$183,110	\$2,633
Community Ministry	\$35,814	\$23,160	(\$12,654)
Children / Youth Ministry	\$1,328	\$1,850	\$522
Music Ministry	\$2,935	\$3,800	\$865
Educational Ministry	\$41	\$400	\$359
Evangelistic Ministry	\$1,272	\$3,500	\$2,228
Ministry Teams	\$1,770	\$2,300	\$530
State & World Missions	\$23,876	\$15,440	(\$8,436)
Operating Ministry	\$281,089	\$152,440	(\$128,649)
Total Operating Expenditures	\$528,602	\$386,000	(\$142,602)
 <b>OPERATING RECEIPTS MORE(LESS) THAN OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>			
	\$265,739	\$0	\$265,739

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

We are continuing our support of local mission with meals to **Hope Center for Children on about the third Wednesday of each month** and a meal to **St. Luke quarterly**.

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 between 5:00pm and 5:30pm at each location. St. Luke meals are delivered to its location between 4 and 4:30 pm.

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 Night Supper" on your check or choose "Family Night 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!

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Mon – Thurs: 8:30am to 4:30pm**  
**Please call ahead for availability.**

**(864) 582-7467**

FOOTSTEPS (USPS 456270)  
Published weekly except Christmas and New  
Years by Fernwood Baptist Church, P. O. Box 7058,  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
Periodicals Postage PAID, Spartanburg, SC  
Postmaster: send address changes to FOOTSTEPS,  
Fernwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 7058,  
Spartanburg, SC 29304 (864)582-7467

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**Dr. P. Randall Wright**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Sunday Schedule**

**Sunday School** online only live-stream **9:45 a.m.**  
**Worship** in-person and online **11:00 a.m.**

**Publication Notice**

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, January 26, 2022**. Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, January 25, 2022 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!