

Friendly Messenger

January 2024

A *gentle* reminder to our three Confirmation class students that we will meet on Thursday, January 4, from 4:30 – 6:00. It is important that everyone be participating together on that afternoon.

Pastor Mary Louise would like to give a heartfelt and humble “thank you” to the people of Sardis who presented her with a most generous Christmas gift. After spending it ten different ways in her mind, she is wisely able to purchase new tires for her car. Hopefully, this will enable her to make many more trips up and down the mountain in the coming months. Many, many thanks for the gift shared with her.

Pastor Mary Louise will be on vacation January 14 – January 26. This break comes after the Christmas rush and ends as we near the beginning of Lent on February 14. SAM (synodically authorized minister) Wayne Giese will lead worship on the two Sundays of Mary Louise’s absence. Worship will be without Holy Communion until she returns. Please welcome Wayne and help him if he has questions.....and, remember, his last name is pronounced: Geezy!

From Pastor Mary Louise:

After a patient Advent season as we watched, waited, prepared and prayed, we celebrated Christmas Eve in a phenomenal manner (or, at least to me). The luminaries outside and many candles lit inside, the carols, music from handbells, choir and especially, Frank, created a sense of well-being even if for a little while.

As we prepare to welcome 2024, we are blessed at Sardis to look forward to calling a new pastor – a pastor whom God has already chosen. It’s taken a lot of effort, and some delays, to have our call committee prepared to begin the interview process with open hearts and minds.

Ash Wednesday is really early this year and Easter arrives on the last Sunday of March so we will journey to Jerusalem, the cross, the grave, and to the glorious resurrection together. This will be a time of personal reflection as well as worshiping together.

As the angels in the sky reminded the shepherds, “Do not be afraid!” Do not be afraid or anxious. God is leading us in the right direction – moving us forward – helping us to discern what our next steps will be. As Kristen Teague reminds us to be “KT Strong” in her fight against cancer, I will be bold to suggest we can be Sardis Strong as we enter this new year and continue to be led by the Star of Bethlehem. It’s a great time to be a faith community in this place. We have much to look forward to in the coming months and in the new year. Blessings to you, dear ones.

Blessings
Pastor Mary Louise

The spotlight to begin 2024 is focused on Bennie and Edna Van Horne thought their lives hadn't been exciting – just normal, everyday people doing ordinary things. However, I found them to be an interesting couple.

Bennie was baptized at Mt. Hebron in Hilderbran. He grew up on Yoder Farm Road, off of Highway 10. Edna grew up close to St. Peter's Lutheran church at the intersection of Springs Road and Highway 16. After her family moved close to Sardis, she and Bennie met at church. In fact, Bennie spotted Edna coming into church with her family and told Charles and Alfred Whitener to leave her alone – Bennie had his eye on her! And so, their love story began. This past November 18, they celebrated 62 years of marriage.

There were a few marriages at Sardis during this time. The year before Bennie and Edna married, Betty Sue and Charles Whitener, along with Joanne and Alfred Whitener were married on November 16. Ken and Margaret Propst were married in August following Bennie and Edna. All were married by Pastor Lawrence Yount.

Bennie and Edna have a daughter, Rebecca, who is married to Jeff Wilson. They have two grandchildren: Chase and Brenna.

They have worked hard over the years but enjoyed their employment. Bennie was an upholsterer for Hickory Leather and Southern Furniture. He was fortunate to work for these companies who cared for their employees.

Edna worked at Southern Furniture and was at MG Crouch Lumber Company for thirty-five years as a multi purpose office worker. Her first job there was to monitor the candy and soda machines. She still stays in touch with some of her co-workers.

They are different when it comes to what they like to do: Bennie collects old tools, mainly from Western North Carolina and Virginia. He finds them often at yard sales and has quite a collection. He likes to be outdoors and enjoys hiking. He does not like traveling but has become the driver of the family and says he really misses Edna not having a driving license!

Edna, on the other hand, is always ready for a day trip, especially those through the Fred T. Foard Seniors group. She crochets beautifully and keeps Sardis stocked with lovely prayer shawls. (If you would like one to give to a friend of family member, or even for yourself, there are many available in the pastor's office.) Edna also enjoys reading.

As a couple, both have been active in all aspects of congregational life at Sardis. Bennie has served on our Congregation Council and supported activities as needed. Edna served as WELCA secretary. Together, they were Youth Group leaders in their early married life. They worship regularly at Sardis and wish the pews were full each week.

Yes, they enjoy ordinary things but they are extraordinary people! They have made a happy home together and continue to be blessed in their life together. While Edna is out on her day trips, Bennie watches PBS on tv and loves tending to his grandchildren. Bennie's favorite food is breakfast food and he doesn't care for turnip greens. Edna, on the other hand, loves vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce but doesn't care for hominy.

Sardis is the place where they met – married – raised their daughter – and the place where they find a Spirit-filled faith community.



The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meet on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet in January on the 3rd at Wesley's Chapel. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Seniors

Foard alum Laney Craig named volleyball All-American

For the first time in the history of its volleyball program, a Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute student-athlete has been named an All-American

Cobra outside hitter Laney Craig was named National Junior College Athletic Association Division III First Team All-American on November 28, 2023.



Craig is a freshman from Hickory who played at Fred T. Foard High School. She totaled 465 kills for the season, the fourth best in the nation. Craig also averaged 4.27 kills per set and had a total of 1,310 attacks, both ranking third in the nation. Craig was responsible for 518 points for the season for Caldwell, which was fourth in the nation.

Craig helped lead Caldwell's volleyball team to a 23-7 record that included Region 10 and Mid-Atlantic District championships. The second-year program made an appearance in the NJCAA National Championship Tournament in November in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Cobras went 2-2 and finished 10th in the nation.

Laney is the daughter of Laura Jarrett Craig and granddaughter of Wayne and Elaine Jarrett.

If you have accomplishments you wish to share please notify Jane. We want to hear of our youth and all members family or personal successes.

Information for NL's and Bulletins

Committee meetings or events by the congregation should be communicated to Jane directly. This needs to be done in time for newsletters (Wednesday before the last Sunday in the month), or the bulletin (by Wednesday evening each week.)

Dear Sardis Family,

I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful Christmas cards, gifts, and wishes. Your thoughtfulness warms my heart.

I also want to thank all of those special people who join with me in the music ministry at Sardis; Chancel Choir, Handbell Ensemble, Children & Parents. Music at Sardis is alive because of your dedication.

God's blessings for your New Year,

Frank Griffin

FYI

All committees will meet at 4:00 PM on January 14th. Your presence is needed so your committee can make plans for 2024 and advise the Church Council what needs your committee will need assistance with. This meeting will not include budgeted items. We will reconvene in August to discuss what your committee will be needing for budget planning for 2025. Please be present to represent your committee(s).

A new year and a new start...Our meeting to present the annual report is always held the 1st Sunday in February. Council will be discussing at our January meeting meal plans and we will share afterwards. I urge you to get your committee and financial reports into me as soon as you can in January.

Blessings on a great Sardis 2024
Jane



Sardis Lutheran Church
Called Council Meeting after Worship Service
November 12, 2023

Members present: Mary Louise, Susan, Jane, Dwayne, Terry, April, Kristin, Ken, Nena, Ray, Gene.

Terry Bledsoe called the meeting to order with 10 members and the pastor present.

Terry gave a huge thank you for everyone's help in October and November. It was a very busy two months.

The October minutes and Financial Report's had been provided. Gene motioned to approve the minutes and financials, Ken seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report October 9 – November 12

Presided at Holy Communion and Worship services.

Made 2 hospital visits.

Made 9 home visits.

Made 2 care facility visits.

Prepared children's sermons.

Taught confirmation class.

Attended choir rehearsals.

Wrote NL articles.

Attended Fall Convo at Lutheridge.

Attended Golden Age Banquet.

Attended FTF seniors luncheon.

Attended Worship and music committee meeting.

Helped at Trinity Ridge.

Participated in Zoom Prayer group.

Nena brought a motion before the council from WELCA requesting the first Sunday in each month be designated to bring food for our Blessings Box. April seconded, and the motion carried.

Next Sunday, we will continue our Annual Meeting. Please try to be in attendance and encourage others to do the same.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Council meeting will be December 10th with all current council members and newly elected members present.

November 19, 2023 Continuation of Annual Congregational Meeting

Terry reopened the meeting from November 5th.

Dwayne discussed the 2024 Budget and asked questions from the congregation. None was offered and the Finance Committee motioned to accept the Budget as proposed, Dawn seconded, and the motion carried.

Ballots were handed out by the ushers which included the 2024 Budget, Church Council, Nominating Committee and Scholarship Fund.

Results of Annual Meeting Voting

2024 Budget: Passed

2024—2026 Church Council: Joe Biggerstaff, William Farnsworth, Jon Gladden, Rick Johnson

2024 Nominating Committee: Gene Biggerstaff, April Fulbright, Susan Jones, Mike Midgett, Phyllis Biggerstaff, Jill Bledsoe

2024-2026 Scholarship Committee: Donna Biggerstaff

Jon motioned to close the meeting, Dwayne seconded and the motion carried.



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

	1 Office Closed	2	3 12:00 FTF Sen- iors meet at Wesley's Chapel	4 4:30—6 Con- firmation NO Rehearsal	5	6
7 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commu- nion and FB Live 5:00 WELCA Pot Luck meet at Nena's spouses welcome.	8	9	10	11 6:00 Youth Plan- ning Meeting 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/FB Live 4:00 All Committees meet 5:00 Church Council	15 7:00 Prayer Group	16	17	18 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/FB Live	22	23	24 5:00 Articles due for February NL	25 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commu- nion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge Youth to assist 6:30 LMM	29. 7:00 Prayer Group 3:00 ARTICLES FOR THE AN- NUAL REPORT DEADLINE	30	31			

BIRTHDAYS

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

January

Ray Whitener

USHERS

Benny F., Zach S., Ralph S., Jill B.

1/3 Mildred Fulbright

1/4 Catherine Houser

Thomas Gregory
Smyre

1/8 Graysen Whitener

1/14 Dianne Nail

1/18 Bryon Hollar

1/24 Ralph Stallings

1/28 Kipton Jennings

1/29 Sharon Sigmon

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna B.

CLEAN-UP

Sherrie M.

**Anniversary:
Ralph & Sheila Ramsey 1-11**

<i>VOLUNTEER Jan.</i>	7th	14th	21st	28th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Catherine H.	Kathy W.	Ben & April F.	Carolyn H.
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	Keaton/Tryston	Marshall/Cayden	Hayden/Shuford	Marilyn/Rick
COMM. ASSISTANT	Ben W.	Ray W.	Jane M.	Zachary S.
GREETERS	Ken/Annette	Donna/Shuford	Austin/Marshall	Kay/Betty Sue
LAY READER	Joe B.	Marshall W.	Jennifer W.	Kathy W.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Nena B.	No Children's Church	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Zachary S.	Roger T.	Ralph S.	Darrell J.
OFFERING COUNTERS	Dwayne Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Dwayne, Tryston Kristin, Nena	Dwayne Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne, Tryston Sherrie, Mike
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER	Pre-K Jennifer EL Mike/Sherrie MD Kristin/Roger	Pre-K Jennifer EL Jane MD Rick	Pre-K Jennifer EL Phyllis/Jill MD Nena/Marilyn	Pre-K Nena EL Donna MD April
BACKPACK PROGRAM	11th Roger, Marilyn, Jane	18th Gene & Donna	25th Tim & Barbara	Feb. 1 Dwayne & Barbara
MEAL DEL.	13th Jill	20th no meal	27th Dawn	3rd no meal
Blessings Box	A Christmas Carol Class	Disciples of Christ	Church Council	LMM

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle
the names in
the grid. Look
for them in
all directions
including
backwards and
diagonally.

ASHER

BENJAMIN

DAN

GAD

ISSACHAR

JOSEPH

JUDAH

LEVI

NAPHTALI

REUBEN

SIMEON

ZEBULUN

Twelve Tribes of Israel

Q	N	K	Z	P	J	D	F	U	D	S	V	Z	N	X	J	Y
L	G	A	M	G	S	N	U	K	Q	R	T	Y	E	F	H	D
W	T	X	P	V	Y	Y	U	S	D	X	P	I	B	S	M	J
E	O	X	X	H	V	U	D	L	A	F	S	C	U	P	F	Z
L	B	A	Z	J	T	Z	O	Y	J	S	M	H	E	U	W	X
N	Z	F	I	I	C	A	O	Q	A	S	H	E	R	L	T	A
P	Y	O	B	V	F	L	L	C	K	V	N	W	J	W	G	G
Y	K	X	B	F	L	Q	H	I	Q	G	B	V	O	O	R	W
Q	I	T	L	D	E	A	W	Q	Q	F	M	M	S	D	V	E
N	F	I	Z	E	R	I	H	N	U	L	U	B	E	Z	E	J
F	D	D	H	S	S	H	X	Q	N	G	T	N	P	A	T	G
H	D	E	F	S	Z	G	H	U	A	K	O	F	H	Q	S	C
Z	Y	N	O	E	M	I	S	E	N	I	M	A	J	N	E	B
H	A	D	U	J	W	G	M	V	S	S	S	W	T	D	D	I
P	Y	T	I	Z	O	A	V	N	U	W	S	X	D	X	N	C
X	I	H	G	A	H	D	A	Z	M	U	T	R	N	H	M	T
U	V	I	V	E	L	D	J	T	Q	C	U	S	S	D	U	Q



Jacob Blessing his Sons, drawing, Adam van Noort.

OUR MISSION

Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church serves together as disciples of Christ, teaches the word to invite people into a life of knowing Jesus, encourages each other in faith and personal mission through reaching out to the needs of the community and individuals.

REMEMBER: you can find this NL, the weekly calendar and Sunday Sermons on the website: <https://sardislutheran.com/> mark it as a favorite and check it out often.

SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6103 W NC 10 HWY
HICKORY NC 28602



SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Interim Pastor: Rev. Mary Louise Sitton 423-367-6173 mlsitton50@hotmail.com

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, tfgriffin59@gmail.com

Council Chair: Terry Bledsoe (C) 828-455-4103 terrybledsoe@charter.net

Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Moretz, (C) 828-302-8458 secretary@sardislutheran.com