

# Friendly Messenger

May 2021

## Our Building Is Re-opening!

The time has come! We are reopening! The Re-opening Committee has met and has set a date for re-opening the church building for Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>! I know it has been a long wait and I thank each one of you for your patience, faithfulness, and concern for each other. I am so grateful for how we have stayed cohesive and spiritually generous during this difficult time. With research and guidelines changing so frequently, we are doing our best to be attentive to them. The Reopening Committee is also doing its best to discern guidelines that promote an appropriate level of safety. At first, we will still have to make some changes, but hopefully we will eventually get to return to everything we enjoy doing during the worship service. We will certainly make that effort!

Our guiding principle during this pandemic has been focused on what theology calls “the other”. Wearing masks and other precautions have been to protect ourselves, but even more so for our neighbor. We may not feel like we need the protection, but someone else surely does. It is this perspective that I invite us to take as we make accommodations that are difficult.

Even though we have had to close our building, I would like to lift up that *we* have never really been closed. I suggest this because throughout all of this we have ardently continued in our call to share and show the good news of Jesus the Christ. And perhaps, I might venture to say, we have been a little bit even MORE open as we have had to figure out worship, ministry, and mission outside of our walls. As a result, we have had some really creative and fun events this year!

I invite us also be open to the ways the Holy Spirit is re-opening our minds and our ministry. When we are open to the movement and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible! During our ministry together, I have been amazed at how effectively we make things happen, and also, how God makes things happen through us! When we want something to happen, it happens! I have been so inspired by this quality of our congregation.



This time is a beautiful chance to consider our dreams together. What an exciting opportunity! As we slowly phase into meeting again, and as we strive to be flexible and patient with the new ways of doing things, I invite us to also continue to think outside of the box and our church walls. May we be rested from our Sabbath year and refreshed to start anew! While Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever, the beginning and the end, God is always doing a new thing!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Adrienne

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY, JUNE 3-5

Synod Assembly is going to be held online via Zoom this year. Pastor Adrienne, Gene Biggerstaff and Robin Stuart are our delegates.

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**A HUGE THANK YOU TO FULBRIGHT LUMBER CO. WHO DONATED ALL THE MULCH FOR THE CHURCH GROUNDS,** and to all the workers that came out to help on clean up day.

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## NEW POUND COUNT ON WELCA ECCCM FOOD DRIVE 981 POUNDS...

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Our Lenten Offerings were \$125.00 and have been distributed to designated facilities. Thank's to all that contributed!!

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### UPCOMING DRIVE-IN DATES

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:30 am

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 am (Pentecost with Holy Communion)

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### REOPENING COMMITTEE

The committee has met again and is setting temporary recommendations for the in person worship protocols. Please be patient with us, as we move forward to June 6th.

Ray Whitener, Marilyn Teague, Rick Johnson, April Fulbright, Ken Propst, Becky Gladden, Sherrie Midgett

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Sardis Lutheran  
Church Council Minutes  
March 15, 2021

## Members Present:

Pastor Adrienne, Bruce, Terry, Jon, Gene, Susan  
April, Tim, Ben, Mike, Kathy

## Members Absent:

Carolyn

Bruce called the meeting to order, the first in-person meeting of 2021, and then had devotions. Music and Worship Committee Chairman Becky Gladden presented recommendations for reopening, including a possible time change for Easter sunrise service. A subcommittee for reopening has been formed. The recommended time for drive in Easter service was 7am and was approved. With no additional questions for Becky she was thanked for her time and left the meeting.

The meeting continued with the reading of the minutes. Jon made a motion to accept the minutes as read the motion passed.

Bruce presented the Treasurer's report for Feb 2021 – Building Fund balance \$11,208; Cemetery Fund balance \$1,437; and the General Fund balance \$10,870. Jon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report Susan seconded and the motion was passed.

## Pastor's Report:

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

This Sunday marked a year since life before the pandemic (that we knew, at least!). March 7, 2020 was our last in-person service in the sanctuary. I know this has been a difficult year and I know we are all more than ready to get back.

We really have accomplished a lot and shown the true strength of our character. The people of Sardis have been resilient, patient, faithful, and creative. Sometimes we don't know the extent of our gifts, but difficult situations often reveal them as we do our best to make the most of it. We have made progress and as I have received my first vaccination, I pray that we are all able to soon.

This Season of Lent has been full. I hope our Lenten Series has been meaningful and insightful. I have learned a lot and felt renewed by the fresh perspectives of our preachers. I was recently reminded from one of Bishop Tim's synod reflections that we are filled with love for justice because of the Good News of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Our baptismal covenant does invite us to strive for peace and justice, however, it is faithful to remember that is our response to a loving and redeeming God.

Our Six Weeks on Money started on Ash Wednesday and has continued. We have lessons to complete and a 45-minute discussion on Tuesdays. It has provided some very interesting suggestions and "money moves" along with its unique framework. The group is highly diverse in terms of life stage and relationship with money, so it has been an interesting dialogue! I have enjoyed it very much so far.

Here is a summary of my activities and ministry:

## Summary:

- Transfiguration of our Lord, Sunday, February 14th
- Welcomed into Holy Baptism and Sardis membership the Farnsworth Family!
- Prepared and arranged for drive-thru pick up of ashes and Holy Communion element packets for Ash Wednesday Service.
- Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday, February 17th, Facebook Live
- Recording of first Lenten Service, Rev. Todd Byrd, Thursday, February 18th at 11:30 am
- First Lenten Service, Sunday, February 21st, Facebook
- First session of Six Weeks on Money, Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:30 pm
- Recording of second Lenten Service, Carolyn Thompson, Wednesday, February 24th at 5 pm
- Funeral for Dwight Gladden, February 27th
- Second Lenten Service, Sunday, February 28th, Facebook
- Second session of Six Weeks on Money, Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:30 pm
- ANGELS Zoom meeting with presentation on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Monday, March 1st at 7 pm

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- Palm Sunday Drive-in Service, March 28th at 10:30 am
  - Third Session of Six Weeks on Money, Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:30 pm
  - Rostered Ministers Zoom call on COVID19 guidelines, Wednesday, March 3 at 11 am
  - Recording of third Lenten Service, Rev. Dr. Kathy Wood, Sunday, March 7th at 2 pm
  - Third Lenten Service, Sunday, March 7th at 7 pm, Facebook
  - Recording of fourth Lenten Service, The Rev. Bill Garrard, Tuesday, March 9th at 1:30 pm
  - Fourth session of Six Weeks on Money, Tuesday, March 9th at 7:30 pm
  - ANGELS Zoom meeting follow-up, Wednesday, March 10th at 6:30 pm
  - Fourth Lenten Service, Sunday, March 14th at 7 pm, Facebook Upcoming:
  - Continuing Education\* Tuesday, March 16th at 12 noon
  - Six Weeks on Money, Tuesday, March 16th at 7:30 pm
  - Recording fifth Lenten service, Wednesday, March 17th at 2 pm
  - Continuing Education\* Tuesday, March 23rd at 12 noon
  - Six Weeks on Money, Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:30 pm
  - Last Lenten Service, Sunday, March 21, Facebook Live, 7 pm
  - Outside Workday, Saturday, March 27th
  - Holy Week
  - Maundy Thursday, April 1, Facebook Live 7 pm
  - Good Friday, April 2, Facebook Live 7 pm
  - Easter “Egged” Hunt, Saturday, March 27
  - The Resurrection of our Lord
  - Sunrise Drive-in Service
  - Vacation, April 5 through April 11 (?)
  - Synod Service for Second Sunday of Easter
  - ANGELS Christian Education Retreat, Saturday, April 24th 9 am - 12 noon Items for Discussion and
  - Action
  - Request of Frank Griffin to join Sardis!
- The request for Frank to join Sardis was presented to the Council, Jon made a motion to accept the request, Tim seconded, and the motion passed. Welcome to Frank as a Sardis member! He will be welcomed into the membership Easter Sunday.

## Old Business:

Steeple – The new steeple will be delivered on March 16<sup>th</sup> and will require some help in removing from delivery trailer. Bruce volunteered his tractor service to help unload with a few additional hands needed to help steady the load when moving. Steeple Jack are scheduled to be here on Monday March 21 (tentative to their schedule) to remove the old steeple and install the new one. The insurance company will reassess at that time and possibly resubmit our claim. Several suggestions have been made on how to dispose of the old steeple, but nothing decided yet.

Painting updates – The Property Committee are looking into painting the front doors, some railing and having the siding cleaned. Currently 2 estimates are forth coming. We are hoping for a quick turnaround once a company is chosen, but it does look like a late April time frame.

Sign Update – Tim provided an update. When installing the new letters on the sign it was realized the job was not as extensive as first believed and so did not cost as much. Tim suggested the leftover funds (\$394) be given to the Tech Committee to assist in the purchase of new equipment. Jon seconded and the motion passed.

Christian Education – An upcoming meeting is being planned and hopes to meet in person. April reported that a modified Egg Hunt for the children has been planned. Instead of having something at the church a surprise will be delivered to each child’s home.

## New Business:

Reopening Committee – Bruce presented a list of seven volunteers and a list of questions/suggestions for the committee to consider, along with any others they may come up with. April will be the Council contact. Kathy made a motion to accept this committee, Gene seconded, and the motion passed. No initial meeting date has been set.

- Clean Up Day – Scheduled for March 27, anyone interested in helping is welcome. It was decided to purchase 6 8-10 ft maples to replace trees that have been lost the past several years. Brian checked on

Cont. Council Minutes

pricing at Hawksridge and the total would be \$486 or about \$81 each. April made a motion to purchase the new trees with a second from Brian, the motion passed. The Pastor will present an option to the congregation to possibly purchase the trees in memory/honor of someone or again using Memorial funds.

Easter Service- A change in time from 6:30 to 7am was suggested due to having time for the outside setup. Ben made a motion to accept the time change, Brian seconded, and the motion passed. Bruce will contact Joe Biggerstaff about the time and equipment usage.

With no other business Jon made a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Weaver  
Council Secretary

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## *Music for Worship*

Most of us would agree that Music is an important part of our worship experience, and I want to thank all those who have given their voices and talents to this calling during the past 14 months of pandemic pandemonium. Worship has been greatly enriched by your gifts.

As we prepare to reopen in June, many things will likely be different for a while, and music will be one of those things. Here are some ways that I hope will bring the richness of music safely into the worship space. Hopefully, some of these measures will be very temporary, but maybe, something wonderful will grow from these experiences as we come back together.

Live singing continues to be risky for gatherings, especially indoors. Because of this, hymns will need to be few and pre-recorded at least for the time being.

Wednesday evenings will be used as recording sessions to record no more than 2 hymns for Sunday services. ***Anyone who would like to participate is welcome!*** This is not limited to choir members, includes all ages, family groups are great – get the generations together! We can use up to 6 participants per week, so reservations are a must! We will record in the fellowship hall which offers good ventilation, not to mention great acoustics. Don't be afraid to lend your voice. It will be like singing with a small congregation. *Give it a try, you may like it!*

In addition to pre-recorded hymns, we would like to enjoy one live song (solo for now with possible expansion as we gain experience). We are discussing ways to safely accomplish this. This song would most likely follow the sermon as Music for the Day.

Another opportunity is for all the instrumentalists in the congregation. No matter what instrument you play, get it out, dust it off, and let's find a place for it in worship. From time to time, we may play an instrumental setting of a hymn with words printed for the congregation to meditate on. *If your instrument is the piano or organ, we can plan for that too!*

Handbells is yet another possibility. I will be looking for pieces for small ensembles 3 to 6 players. More information to come on this, so stay tuned.

Anyone interested in participating in any of these opportunities, please contact Frank Griffin at 803-622-4264 or [tfgriffin59@gmail.com](mailto:tfgriffin59@gmail.com). *Please feel free to contact me even if you aren't sure. I'll be glad to talk with you about your interests and concerns. I want this to be a positive experience for all. You can always give it a try. You won't be judged!*

Let's fill the space with musical praise! God Is Good!

Frank

*You are invited to the book release of:*

**The Faith  
Of Our Fathers  
Still Lives!**

OLD ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating Over 250 Years of Sharing Christ  
1757 - 2010

**Laura Anne  
Campbell Harrison  
and  
Stephen R. Harrison**

*Sunday May 2, 2021*

*3:00 pm at the historic church*

*2035 Old Conover Startown Road Newton, NC 28658*

**May 2021**  
**Sardis Lutheran Church**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 Drive-in Worship Service, FB Live Stream 6:30 LMM meet at church	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live Stream	<b>10</b> 7:00 Church Council	11	<b>12</b>	13	14	15
16 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live Stream	17	18	19 1—5:30 Blood Drive	20	21	22
23 10:30 Drive-in Worship Service, FB Live Stream Holy Communion, WEAR RED	<b>24</b>	25	26 8:00am Information for June NL due	27	28	29
30 10:30 Worship Service, FB Live Stream	<b>31</b>					

**SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469-243-5237 [pastor@sardislutheran.com](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.com)

**Organist/Director of Music:** Frank Griffin, [tfgriffin59@gmail.com](mailto:tfgriffin59@gmail.com)

**Council Chair:** Bruce Sigman (C) 828-310-5851 [bruce.camping@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.camping@gmail.com)

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

**May**

5/3 Linda Wilson  
 5/5 Andrew Ruggles, Jr.  
 5/10 Kathleen Weaver  
 Mae Whitener  
 Kallista McGinnis  
 5/11 Annette Richard  
 5/12 Ferne Baker  
 5/20 Brenna Wilson  
 5/21 Ben Whitener  
 5/24 Randy Speagle  
 Logan Yow  
 Avery Yow  
 5/29 Renee' Ramsey  
 Clay Smyre  
 5/31 Carrie Yousef

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

May 2 Andy and Anita Ruggles  
 May 9 Roger and Marilyn Teague  
 May 16 Greg and Kerby Smyre  
 May 23 Ralph & Wanda Stallings  
 May 30 Al & Sylvia King

**COUNCIL CONTACT & ASSISTING MINISTER**

Gene Biggerstaff May 2 Ray Whitener  
 May 9 Gene Biggerstaff  
 May 16 Tim Whitener  
 May 23 Rick Johnson  
 May 30 Nena Babb

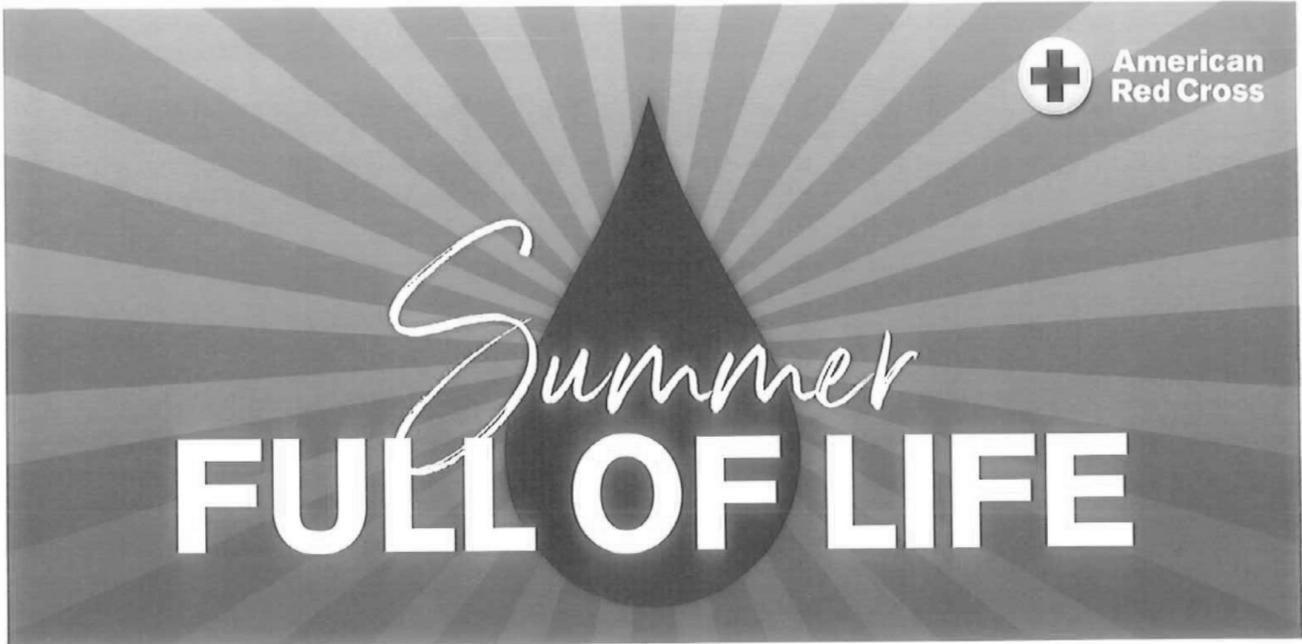
**SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY/IF COMFORTABLE  
DOING SO AT THIS TIME.****Anniversaries:**

**Rick and Patsy Johnson 5- 12**  
**Osama & Carrie Yousef 5-17**  
**Andy and Anita Ruggles 5- 19**  
**Terry & Jill Bledsoe 5-27**

May 1 Sylvia King  
 May 8 No Meal Delivery  
 May 15 April Fulbright  
 May 22 No Meal Delivery  
 May 29 Nena Babb

**MOVED please change Kay's address in your Directory**  
 Kay Whitener  
 3073 Short Rd Apt 105  
 Hickory NC 28602  
 828-612-4149

**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.**



**Blood Drive  
Sardis Lutheran Church**

**Fellowship Hall  
6103 NC Hwy 10 W  
Hickory, NC 28602**

**Wednesday, May 19th  
1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Sardis Lutheran to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to RapidPass

**Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.**



Scan to schedule an appointment.

**Share the vibe. Give blood to help save lives.**

Download the Blood Donor App | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Call 1-800-RED CROSS

## 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.**

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### Methods for Giving

Gifts may be made online by clicking on the green “Give” button on our NEW website [www.sardislutheran.com](http://www.sardislutheran.com) or our Facebook page.

or

Gifts may be mailed to:  
Sardis Lutheran Church  
6103 W. NC 10 Hwy.  
Hickory, NC 28602

or

You may bring your gifts by the church during office hours. Place your gift in the basket out front and ring the bell to alert the office of your gift.

*God bless you and keep you in his care.*

**SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6103 W NC 10 HWY  
HICKORY NC 28602**

