

Friendly Messenger

May 2023

A Heart Full of Thanks!



Wow. This is my last newsletter article for the *Friendly Messenger*. I can't believe how this last month has flown, and the same goes for the past six and a half years! I have gotten to say many personal goodbyes and I have cherished each one.

As I leave on the 30th, I leave with a heart full of gratitude. Gratitude for each one of you, for the ministry of Sardis, and for the wonderful time we have shared. You're the best! Even as I feel good about sensing the Holy Spirit's message that it is time to move on and finish up my schooling, I will miss you deeply. It has truly been an honor and a joy to serve as your pastor.

I have learned so much in my time here. I have learned from you, and have been inspired by you. I have always been impressed with your ability to get things done! It is an outstanding trait of the character of this congregation. Everyone together, making a difference.

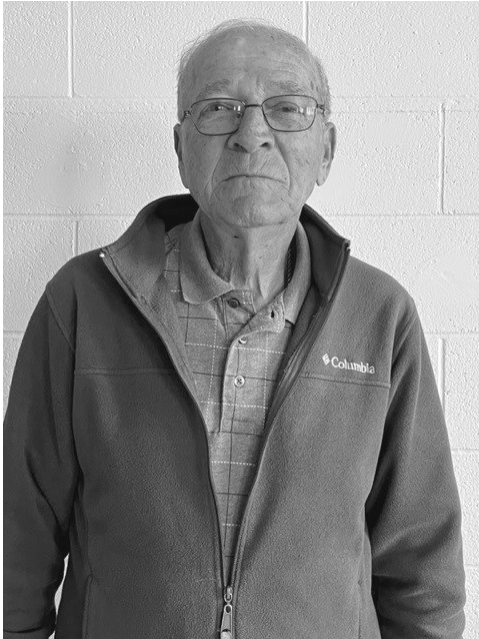
We have come through many celebrations, losses, and even a global pandemic together. God's faithfulness and your faithfulness has shown we can do all things in Christ who strengthens us!

Now, we move forward. I will be pursuing the next thing God is calling me to, and so will you. I am grateful to the North Carolina Synod staff and Pastor Mary Louise for making a familiar and smooth interim ministry possible for this time of transition and discernment. As I invite your prayers, I will most definitely keep you in mine!

Blessings and love you, brothers and sisters in Christ!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Adrienne



Full name: Johnny “Darrell” Jarrett

Birthdate: August 20, 1944

Born: Hickory Memorial Hospital

Favorite food: Chicken and dumplings, and seafood (Donna made wonderful homemade chicken and dumplings, just like his Mom!)

Least favorite food: Sugar peas

Darrell is a long time member of Sardis! Darrell is someone I admire for his easy-going spirit and wisdom! As we know him as Darrell, his birth name is Johnny, after his Grandad. He was known as “John” by his colleagues and co-workers at his long tenure at General Electric.

Darrell was born as the youngest of four children. He has an older brother Earl, an older sister named Colleen, and older brother David. He and David are only 18 months apart and when they

were little, David would sometimes take Darrell’s bottle out of the refrigerator and take it for himself!

Growing up, Darrell attended Banoak Elementary. After school, he gained rich experience in his work at Trendline Furniture and MDI. He also tried out truck driving and being a police officer for the City of Hickory for a time! All of these provided insight into the industries and were good skill-builders, but the career meant for him was the one at General Electric. He worked there for 27 years!

At GE, He started on third shift, but was able to work his way up to first shift after about a year. Darrell worked as a lacer. A lacer places packets of steel in a transformer. It might take 100 sheets or more to produce the right amount of electricity. It is a job that had high turn over because not many people could keep up with the complexity and difficulty of the task, and also because of the high production number that had to be met. Darrell, however, would often meet his daily quota with time to spare!

GE provided a good living which Darrell provided for his family. He met his wife, Donna Rufty, at Trendline Furniture when they both worked there. She worked in sanding and he brought up springs. Their paths crossed and the connection was made! They went to South Carolina to get married. They celebrated 47 years of wedded life until death parted them in 2019. Darrell is now a retired farmer.

He and Donna had a beautiful marriage together, and had one daughter, DeeDee. DeeDee has two children: Taylor, who is 26, and Cole, who is 22. They all deeply miss Donna as they were all so close!

Darrell has been a member of Sardis for many years. His favorite hymn is *Amazing Grace* and he has loved most how you get to know so many great people. On the other side of the coin, is the sadness of knowing all of those you have lost - all of those who have gone on. In the future, Darrell hopes that Sardis calls a new pastor who fits in well with the 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 May on the 3rd at Blackburn Baptist. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Seniors

Congregational Members:

Saying goodbye is never easy. Now that Pastor has left, we need to be reminded of appropriate behavior at the end of a pastoral call. We have been served faithfully, competently and compassionately by Pastor. We have full expectations we will be served in the same manner by our interim pastor and the next pastor we call. It is not appropriate or ethical for a former pastor to provide pastoral acts in a former congregation. If you were to ask Pastor to do so, they would appropriately respond "It is simply not proper for me to do that, I am not your pastor anymore." We need to recognize that the act of asking puts both our former pastor and our interim (new) pastor in a very awkward and uncomfortable position. So, don't ask. You may invite former pastors to attend events as a guest, if able, as your other friends do. But please show respect and regard for our new pastor by allowing them to perform their pastoral duties.

Council VP
Terry Bledsoe

SAVE THE DATE: EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Come enjoy an evening on the front lawn at Sardis. Bring your lounge chairs and relax to the music of WILLOWCREEK. Two of our own, Joe and Allen Biggerstaff will bring their own special musical abilities with the rest of their group to visit with us. The cost of the event will be free but we will be taking up a free-will offering to benefit Safe Harbor Women's Shelter in Hickory. Save the Date and mark your calendars for Saturday June 10th, 2023. The time will be at 6:30 pm. Go get your dinner early that Saturday and come prepared to see and hear a wonderful night of music. This event will be sponsored by The Evangelism Committee. If there is inclement weather, we will move the event inside. Let's fill the front yard full of people!

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.)

Social Ministry Collections

The Social Ministry Committee will continue collecting items for Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief during May. The simple items included in a personal care kit provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Items need for the kits are:

One light-weight towel (20" x 40" to 52" X 27") dark colors recommended

Two or three bath size bars of soap in original wrapping

One adult size toothbrush in original wrapping

One sturdy comb

One metal nail clipper

The Social Ministry Committee will send the kits to Lutheran World Relief for distribution.

Sardis Prayer Group

Our May meetings will be on the Second and Fourth Mondays. We welcome Pastor Mary Louise Sitton for prayer time on Zoom. If you would like to join us, give your email address to Nena Babb. If you prefer to call in you will be able to hear everyone and we will be able to hear you.

The phone number and passcode is **1-301-715-8592 ID: 879 8222 3055.**



We meet at 7pm for about 30 minutes. New prayer requests are noted and we discuss updates for those on our list. We pray for each person on our prayer list that appears in the Sunday bulletin. Prayers for our church and its ministries are also spoken. Please join us as we bring our petitions to God for his healing and blessing.

NOTE: Church Council did not meet in April to approve the March minutes. They will be in the June NL.

Daughters of God Banquet

It has been four years since the annual Daughters of God Banquet! We will really enjoy getting together again with our mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, grandmothers, even great-grandmothers, all by birth or by marriage, and even friends who are like sisters.

There are many of us who sadly will not be able to have our mother's company. Some of us had no children by birth, and some of us did not experience a loving mother's care. Pastor Anna Merritt realized this and encouraged us to rename our Mother Daughter banquet to Daughters of God. What a wise recommendation she had!

Since my daddy was born 20 years after his oldest brother, his mom was older and passed away before he was married. God blessed our family with FOUR grandmothers! My aunts Mildred, Essie, Ruth, and Thelma were like grandmas to us. We often stayed at Grandpa's house, but to me it was Aunt Thelma's and Aunt Ruth's house. Pop passed away when I was two and a half, so I don't remember him. None of my aunts had children by birth, but they had eight nieces and nephews to love on. And boy, they did! Staying at Ruth and Thelma's meant helping to make pies in our own small pans, eating yummy homemade bread with butter and jelly, hoeing the garden (not all was fun!), climbing up in the barn loft, picking flowers, sitting on the porch counting cars, learning to knit and crochet, taking a picnic down to the creek, and afternoon naps!

A real treat was spending the weekend with Aunt Mildred. She lived in Hickory across from the Fresh Air grocery store and beside the Burger Chef! We loved to go to town and ramble around the old two-story house, swing on the front porch, watch the fireworks from the fairgrounds that used to be where Hickory High is now, and get the occasional hamburger. She took us to downtown to get her hair fixed and usually a trip to Woolworth's for a few maple nut chews. She had Tang! And, on Saturday nights our treat was making Pillsbury flaky biscuits and eating them while watching TV. She also had a waffle maker, and we gave it a workout.

When Aunt Essie moved from Michigan when I was 10, she and Mildred loaded us up and took us to Myrtle Beach. We almost always stopped at the Darlington raceway and toured the Museum. Picnicking on the side of the road on the way down, we would stay in old two-story homes on the main drag that no longer exists. At nights we would walk to the amusement park to watch the organ play, ride the twister and scrambler and the swings, and make a stop at the Gay Dolphin gift shop. I'd always look for a nameplate that said Nena, but it never existed.

Other than just reminiscing about my youth, I just wanted to share how much my aunt's mothering made an impact on me and my siblings. We all have a chance to be a mother (or father) to many children in our lives. Especially at church, where we all promise to guide each child's Christian life when they are baptized. Teaching Sunday School, leading or serving meals or working with crafts at VBS, helping at fall & spring festivals, Egg hunts, or just giving a high-five or piece of gum/candy to the children at church makes them feel loved by the church family. You are making a big difference in their lives and I'm sure God is smiling down at your acts of love.

So!! Be here on Saturday May 13 at 6pm. Enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by the Sardis Men in Mission. Bring something to share with others that is a keepsake from a special woman in your life. Maybe a picture to display on the table, a unique piece of jewelry or hankie or apron...We'll take time to reminisce and share about the awesome women we love. There will be exceptional entertainment to enjoy!

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

	1	2 2-6 Blood Drive at Sardis	3 12:00 FTF Sen- iors at Black- burn Baptist	4 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commun- ion and FB Live 12:00 WELCA 12:00 Children's Choir	8 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	9	10	11 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commun- ion and FB Live 12:00 Children's Choir 7:00 Church Council, please be present to take photo.	15	16	17 6:30 VBS plan- ning meeting	18 Ascension of Our Lord 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:30 Sunday School Youth Practice 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commun- ion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge	22 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	23	24 5:00 Deadline for June NL arti- cles	25 6:00 Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 Pentecost 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commun- ion and FB Live 6:30 LMM	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			June 10th front yard concert. 'WILLOWCRE EK"

May

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

5/5 Andrew Ruggles, Jr.

Gene Biggerstaff

5/7 Lincoln Farnsworth

5/10 Mae Whitener

USHERS

Kallista McGinnis

Austin P., Darrell J., Roger T.

5/11 Annette Richard

5/12 Ferne Baker

5/20 Brenna Wilson

COMMUNION PREPARATION

CLEAN-UP

5/21 Ben Whitener

Donna Biggerstaff

Sharon Sigman

5/24 Randy Speagle

Logan Yow

Avery Yow

5/29 Renee' Ramsey

Clay Smyre

5/31 Carrie Yousef

Anniversaries:

Rick and Patsy Johnson 5- 12

Osama & Carrie Yousef 5-17

Andy and Anita Ruggles 5- 19

Terry & Jill Bledsoe 5-27

<i>VOLUNTEER May</i>	7th	14th	21st	28th
ALTAR FLOWERS	Roger & Marilyn T.	Greg & Kerby S.	Ralph & Wanda S.	Al & Sylvia K.
ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER	Marilyn/Hayden	Paisley/Bruce	Paisley/Cayden	Tryston/Austin
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Zachary S.	Jane M.	Mike M.	Roger T.
GREETERS	Kay W./Betty W.	Marilyn T./Jill B.	Kristin T./Roger T.	Marshall W./Evelyn F.
LAY READER	Joe B.	Marshall W.	Keaton F.	Kathy W.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Heather C.	No Children's Church	Nena B.	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe. Samu-	Terry, Ben, Joe. Samu-	Terry, Ben, Joe. Samu-	Terry, Ben, Joe. Samu-
SECURITY	Zachary S.	Roger T.	Darrell J.	Ralph S.
OFFERING COUNTERS	Dwayne, Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena	Dwayne, Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne, Tryston, Sherrie, Mike
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER/HELPER	EL Sherrie/Mike MD Kristin/Marilyn	EL Susan/Kerby MD April/Donna	EL Nena/Phyllis MD Rick/Roger	EL Cynthia/Robin MD Nena/Jane
BACKPACK	5/11 Gene & Donna	5/18 Tim & Barbara	5/25 Dwayne & Bar-	
MEAL DELIVERY	5/13 No Meal	5/20 Rita Lutz	5/27 No Meal	6/3 Dawn Covington
Blessings Box	Disciples of Christ Class	Church Council	LMM	Pilgrims Progress Class

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