

# Friendly Messenger

**November 2023**

We have many things happening in our congregational life in November. As we move from October into November, the air is cooler and crisper (especially in the mornings); we begin thinking about how good soup and hot chocolate will taste in the longer nights due to changing our clocks back on November 5; and it seems like a good time to take a collective sigh. In Ecclesiastes, we read, “For everything there is a season, and a time and place for all matter under heaven.” That is so true, especially in the calendar of the church year. November is a transitional month. From All Saints’ Sunday on November 5, when we will remember and cherish the memories of those who passed into eternal life this passed year.....for the weeks following as we wind down the long season of Pentecost, focusing on the end times when Jesus will return in glory....to the last Sunday of our church year, Christ the King, on November 26.

Since May 1, you and I have had precious time together doing ministry as brothers and sisters in Christ. We have much to look forward to in the coming year, especially the calling of a new pastor for Sardis. Until that happens, we will be blessed to be God’s hands, faces and voices to many folks, whether we realize it or not. That’s the beauty of sharing what God has given to us: we don’t reach out in love and mercy to be able to pat ourselves on the back; we reach out in love and mercy because God has first done that for us and anything we accomplish is to God’s glory.

Are we ready? I know we are. In the sure and certain hope of resurrection, November 5 will be a special time as we remember Carolyn McGinnis, Margaret Whitener and other family members and friends of the congregation. The Sardis Men will lead worship on November 12. November 19 will be the Sunday for our annual congregational meeting. Thanksgiving Eve service will be at Wesley Chapel on November 22 (more information to come). And our New Year’s Eve for our church calendar will be celebrated on Sunday, November 26 – Christ the King Sunday. Whew!!!

Thank you, faith community of Sardis, for your love in Christ Jesus and your care for each other. Blessings to you in this month of thanks and giving.

Blessings  
Pastor Mary Louise



Since Mae and Bill have been married for 72 years, it seemed appropriate to speak to them as a couple. What an interesting conversation we had!

Mae Beth Shuford was from Cleveland county and grew up at Palm Tree Methodist Church in Fallston.

Billy Willard Whitener grew up on Greedy Road and attended Providence Baptist Church where he was baptized in a fish pond.

So.... How did a Cleveland county girl meet a Catawba county boy? Mae's sister was dating a man who lived in Fallston who also knew Bill. Mae's sister and boyfriend ask Mae and Bill to join them for dinner at the Fallston Grill. Bill drove 30 miles to meet his future wife! They dated for about 1.5 years, got married in Gaffney, SC, and then Bill became a soldier for two years. Over the years, Bill and Mae had four children: Jerry Mike, Ray and

Tim. (At the time, some of the family were hoping Tim would be a baby sister – but that didn't happen!)

Asking them to share a funny memory, they laughed and told this story: Bill and Mae, along with Mae's sister and her boyfriend, went up to the mountains for a picnic. Bill was eating some really good fried chicken when a yellow jacket flew by and bit him on the tongue! Funny now – not so funny then. Bill said his tongue was sore!!!!

Mae and Bill have traveled extensively over the years. They spend time at the beach with their family. They left at midnight one night to go to the beach and when they arrived around 4:00am, no motels were open so they parked the car and waited for the sun to come up and the motels to open.

Their first bus trip was with Christian Tours and they went to Disney World. They've also been to the Amish country in Ohio and Pennsylvania, Niagara Falls, Kentucky and other places where they always met friends and had a great time.

They both agreed that catfish is their favorite food and they eat it every Friday when family members pick it up at Harbor Inn and bring it home to them. Mae's not fond of turnip greens. Bill says he will eat anything that is put in front of him.

We all know that Mae and Bill have been active at Sardis for decades and are in worship almost every Sunday. Bill has served on Council, sang in the choir, supported projects by helping and even taught the Young Adult Sunday School class right after leaving the Service and moving back to Catawba County.

One of his tasks was being the Scout leader at Sardis. Jerry, Mike and Ray were in the troop. Sadly, for Tim, the troop disbanded a year before he was eligible to be in the troop. Tim had already memorized all the Boy Scout promises and creeds but when he was old enough, the troop was no longer there.

Bill was Scout Master and Ralph Rudisill was his assistant. One year, they took the troop to Lutheridge to camp. They arrived on Sunday and by Wednesday, Bill was so homesick he came home. Thankfully, Ralph was able to stay at Lutheridge and things worked out well.

Mae also has been involved in the activities of Sardis. She was a Sunday school teacher, and, along with Kathryn Bledsoe, started out in the nursery class; moved up to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades; then moved up to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades; and, finally, to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Ray, as a child, made the comment that he couldn't get away from his mama in Sunday School.

Mae and Bill have lived a good life with God and family as their center. They hope that Sardis can continue to grow and they have excitement about the fine children and teenagers who are already using their time and talents to be a part of Christ's body.

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 November on the 6th at Plateau Methodist Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



## **Last Sunday is November 5th to bring items for Packing Party**

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child is a valuable service project for our youth and children's program. On Nov. 5th at 6 pm, the children and youth of Sardis will participate in a packing party. They will pack supplies, pray over each box, and write letters to the recipients. We need the congregation's help to reach our goal of sending fifty boxes to children around the world.

Items collected for 5 weeks.

**Oct. 8-** Personal care items- Examples: Comb or brush, toothbrush, washcloth, fun adhesive bandages, reusable eating utensils, nail clipper and file, etc.

**Oct. 15-** School supplies- Examples: pencils, sharpener, pencil case, colored pencils, crayons, markers, notebooks, index cards, calculator, scissors, ruler, glue sticks, etc.

**Oct. 22-** Wow items! Examples: doll, soccer ball and pump, stuffed animal, musical instrument, small board games, interactive toys, frisbee, yo-yo, etc.

**Oct. 29-** Crafts and activities- Examples: small puzzles, dry watercolor sets, sketchpad, compass, binoculars, jump rope, etc.

**Nov. 5-** Clothing- Examples: Clothing and undergarments, flip-flops and shoes, hats, hair accessories, wristwatches or jewelry, sunglasses, bags, backpacks, or purses, flashlights, cold weather items, etc.

We will divide and label the boxes by gender and age (2-4/ 5-9/ 10-14) while we pack them.

**These items are not allowed:** Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Thank you for your generosity and support of this important ministry!

Sardis Youth

## **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.)**

## EVANGELISM NOTES

Last year we were able to get Wayne and Louiselle Hedgepath from Plateau to take us to see the McAdenville Christmas lights. we have not secured a date with them yet, but we are entertaining ideas for this year. If you have a suggestion for something different this year, or you would like to see the lights at McAdenville again, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you  
Ray Whitener

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## Evangelism

Christmas Party for Evangelism Committee Members and Spouses, and Sardis Shepherds and Spouses (or guest) will be at Parkhouse Family Restaurant on Monday night December 4th, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Drinks and dessert will be provided. I hope that everyone will be able to attend. Please let me know if you will *NOT* be able to come.

Thank you for being there this year and for doing your valuable work as a Shepherd for Sardis

Evangelism Chair  
Ray Whitener

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## ***Blessing Box Non-Perishables Needed***

The stocking of the Blessings Box continues to rotate weekly through the two adult Sunday School Classes, the Council and the Lutheran Men in Mission. Extra canned goods are stored in the last room on the left as you exit the fellowship hall. The “extras” are running low. As the Blessings Box says, “Take if you need and share if you have extra.” Please consider putting some canned goods in your grocery cart for those less fortunate. You can place the items in the Blessing Box if it is running low or place your donations in the designated room. Let’s continue to do all we can to prevent food insecurity in our community.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY AT WORK...

### *Whoo Hoo! Personal Care Kit Collection a Big Success*

Thanks to the generous donations of the Sardis Congregation, the Social Ministry Committee will deliver **25** Personal Care Kits to Zion for pick up by the Lutheran World Relief truck the first of November. Each kit had a towel, nail clippers, a comb or brush and two bars of soap. Just imagine how thankful you would be to get a kit if you had been displaced by a natural disaster or war and had not been able to “wash up” for days, weeks, or even months. Indeed, this is a blessing to be about God’s work through this ministry. The Social Ministry Committee continues to be grateful, even amazed at the generosity of this awesome congregation.

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### *Unhoused People Coat Drive Continues through November*

Thanks to all who have donated coats, jackets, hoodies and hats during October. Social Ministry will continue to collect through November. So far, we have collected women, men and a few children’s items. Please take a few minutes to check your closets to see if there is any cold weather gear you can donate. It is warm now, but we know the cold weather is coming and many people without housing will welcome sweaters, coats, jackets, hats, or even gloves if you have extra.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Matthew Teague, grandson of Roger and Marilyn Teague, will be graduating from Basic Training at Fort Jackson Army Training Center in Columbia, SC on November 7th. He will be reassigned to San Antonio, Tx to work in the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

Sardis Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes  
September 17, 2023

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

Terry Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 5:00, Dwayne had devotion.

The minutes from the August meeting were discussed.

No Corrections needed:

Dwayne made a motion to approve the minutes, Kristin seconded, and the motion carried.

Dwayne presented the treasurer's report from August. The Building Fund balance, \$5,754.28; Cemetery Fund balance, \$516.72; and General Fund balance \$7,431.28. Activity Statement was provided. Benevolence is paid through June of this year. Dwayne and the Finance Committee will be meeting in September to finalize the 2024 Budget. Ken made a motion to accept the financial report, Nena seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Mary Louise gave her report: August 21 – September 17

Presided at Holy Communion and worship Services.

Made 12 trips to Sardis

Made 6 Home visits.

Made 7 hospital visits.

Made 3 care facility visits.

Prepared children's sermons

Participated in ZOOM prayer group.

Attended choir rehearsals.

Attended the FTF Senior lunch.

Attended the WELCA Fall Gathering

Attended the Catawba Valley Lutheran Clergy meeting.

Picked up donated food for the FTF football meal.

Had conversations with area pastors concerning Confirmation.

I am attending the Fall Convo at Lutheridge for rostered leaders. I will be there Monday, Oct 16 – Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for the registration money.

I have had no response to my offer of a First Communion class.

Info on Confirmation class:

Mt. Olive and Zion are the only congregations doing Confirmation class this year. There are no classes at Beth-Eden, Old St. Paul's, or St. Paul, Startown

Mt. Olive is doing an activity-based program which includes attending Lutheridge four times a year for Faith Alive and also doing weekend service trips.

Zion is doing a program of activities that includes once a month class and service activities.



Council Min. cont.

Marshall told me his SS Class wants to go on a mission trip next summer. Daniel and Haley Whitener would like their son, Lee baptized at Sardis.

Blessings  
Mary Louise

No Old Business:  
No New Business:

Council meeting adjourned and the Call Committee was asked to join the council to go over the MSP. Changes were made and Kristin will present an updated profile to Terry, and Jennifer, Call Committee Chair; Ken motioned to vote on the MSP electronically, Dwayne seconded and the motion carried.

Next Council Meeting is October 8th at 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted  
Jane Moretz, Council Secretary

MSP approval  
Terry reported on October 2nd that council had 100% approved the MSP and Kristin is submitting it to the Synod.



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

			1 12:00 FTF Sen- iors at Plateau	2 4:30—6:00 Con- firmation 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 <b>Daylight Saving Time begins</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commun- ion and FB Live <b>Annual Congrega- tion Meeting</b> 12:00 Children's Choir 5:00 WELCA 6:00 Samaritan's Purse Packing Party	6 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM	7	8	9 No school Elem. only 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10 NO school all	11 
12 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commun- ion and FB Live 5:00 Church Council	13	14	15	16 NO rehearsals	17	18
19 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commun- ion and FB Live <b>Annual Meeting cont.</b>	20 7:00 Prayer Group via ZOOM 5:00 Articles due for December NL	21	22 Thanksgiving EVE Service at Wesley Chapel Sardis brings sandwiches NO school	23 NO rehearsals NO school 	24 NO school	25
26 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Ser- vice/Holy Commun- ion and FB Live 12:00 Children's Choir 3:00 Trinity Ridge 6:30 LMM	27	28	29	30 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal		

**\*\*NOTE\*\***

*If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Thank you.*



## BIRTHDAYS

### COUNCIL CONTACT

### ASSISTING MINISTER

11/16 Evan Lail  
 11/19 Rhiannon Farnsworth  
 11/20 Andy Ruggles  
 11/21 Rebecca J. Ritz  
 Ray Whitener  
 11/22 Tryston Sylvester  
 11/24 Osama Yousef  
 11/27 Tommy Hoyle  
 11/28 Megan Roseman  
 Roger Teague

Mike Midgett

### USHERS

Lutheran Men in Mission

### COMMUNION PREPARATION

Sharon Sigman

### CLEAN-UP

Kristin Teague

### Anniversaries

**Bennie & Edna Fulbright 11-18**

**Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff 11-23**

New Address  
 Monte Speagle RM 102  
 Gateway Rehab & Nursing  
 2030 Harper Ave NW  
 Lenoir NC 28645

<i><b>VOLUNTEER Nov.</b></i>	<b>5th</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>26th</b>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Rick & Rita L.	Ray W.	Joe R.	Mike & Felicia H.
<b>ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER</b>	Paisley/Hayden	Tryston/Cayden	Keaton/Rick	Marshall/Tryston
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Zachary S.	Marilyn T.	Nena B.	Gene B.
<b>GREETERS</b>	Kay/Betty Sue	Marilyn/Jill	Kristin/Roger	Felicia/Evelyn
<b>LAY READER</b>	Jennifer W.	Al K.	Jane M.	Dawn C.
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	Nena B.	No Children's Church	Jennifer W.	No Children's Church
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
<b>SECURITY</b>	Rick J.	Ralph S.	Darrell J.	Bruce S.
<b>OFFERING COUN- TERS</b>	Dwayne Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Dwayne Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Dwayne, Tryston, Kristin, Nena
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER/HELPER</b>	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Sherrie/Mike MD Rick	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Donna/Jane MD Kristin Roger	Pre-K Jennifer W. EL Phyllis/Jill MD April	Pre-K Nena B. EL Donna/Jane MD
<b>BACKPACK PROGRAM</b>	8th Roger, Marilyn, Jane	16th Gene, Donna	Thanksgiving week	30th Tim, Barbara
<b>MEAL DELIVERY</b>	11th no meal	18th Carolyn H.	25th no meal	12/2 Phyllis B.
<b>Blessings Box</b>	LMM	Pilgrims Progress	Disciples of Christ	Church Council

## 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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**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](mailto:mlsitton50@hotmail.com)

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

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

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