

# Friendly Messenger

September 2024

Beloved Sardis Family,

As we begin to notice the first hints of cooler weather, the gentle rustling of leaves, and the subtle changing colors of the landscape, we are reminded that the season of summer is drawing to a close. The long, sunny-days are gradually giving way to the crisp, refreshing air of autumn. It's a beautiful time, full of change, and it invites us to pause and reflect on the faithfulness of our living God.

Each season in life speaks to us of God's unending grace and provision. Summer, with its warmth and light, energy, and activity. It's a time of abundance, where the fruits of the earth allow us to enjoy the fullness of life. But as we transition into fall, we are reminded that life is not just about the busy of summer abundance, but also about the quiet, restorative work that prepares us for the future.

Autumn calls us to slow down, to take stock of what God has done in and through us during the busier seasons. Just as the trees shed their leaves, making way for new growth, we too are invited to let go of what is no longer needed, trusting in God's provision for what is to come. This is a season of reflection and gratitude, hoodies and bonfires, football games, and pumpkin spice, where we can see more clearly the hand of God in ALL things, guiding us, sustaining us, and preparing us for the seasons ahead of promised "life abundant" in Christ, no matter the changes we may encounter.

In every change, we can see a reflection of God's unchanging promise. God's love for us is constant, Grace all sufficient, and provision sure and certain. Just as God clothes the trees in their brilliant autumn colors, Christ covers us with His mercy and surrounds us with His presence. The cooler weather remind us that time is moving forward, and it's assurance that with each new season, God is, and will do something new in, and with us.

May this season be a time of deepening trust in Christ, of resting in His promises, and of sharing the fruits of our lives with others. Let us remember that God is preparing us for new growth, new opportunities, and new blessing.

May we walk together into this new season with hearts full of gratitude, excitement, and joy for the goodness of Christ Jesus and wonderful things He has in store for us through the love and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Always remembering, that God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Oscar Shepherd

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 September on the 4th at Laurel Hill Methodist Church. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



The Sardis Social Ministry Committee has been collecting small stuffed animals for the Catawba County Sheriff's Department. These toys will be used by law enforcement to give to children that may be in an accident or an abused situation to make them feel comfortable and secure during this difficult and confused time. Pastor Oscar is shown here presenting the toys to one of the Catawba County deputies. You cannot see, but the trunk is full of these special toys. Thank you to all that brought, and our very active Social Ministry Committee.



### **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.)**

## PENNIES PROJECT (COLLECTION SUNDAY— DECEMBER 1, 2024)



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!**

”Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), a non-profit dedicated to building beds for children in need, celebrates a major milestone: their 200,000th bed delivered.” From the website Home - [Sleep in Heavenly Peace \(shpbeds.org\)](https://shpbeds.org)

Each year the NC Women of the ELCA sponsor a project to help someone in need. You may remember the year we collected money for a water well to be constructed through ELCA Good Gifts. We raised a considerable amount with the help of the youth and their coin-collecting water bottles! This year the project is called “Sleep in Heavenly Peace”. Start saving your pennies so that we can make a difference in a child’s life.

### *HERE IS AN UPDATE!*

Handy with a saw or sanding wood? Join Nena Babb and many other volunteers in Mooresville on September 14th, Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Twin size beds will be constructed for children who have no bed to sleep in. Their goal is to build 100 beds. There is a job for everyone! You must sign up online at the Sleep in Heavenly Peace website. Shpbeds.org click on volunteer and search under Mooresville. Here is the actual link. <https://volunteer.shpbeds.org/opportunities/am7UWL5V1t>

Please let Nena know if you will be attending and hopefully we can carpool. Thank you for your interest in supporting this project!

### **What will you do with your one wild and precious life?**

A collection of ideas presented at the NC WELCA Annual Gathering by the keynote speaker Dr. Jacqueline Bussie gathered by Nena Babb.

### **Think of a goal that gives you goose bumps.**

**Bear witness to wonder.** pay Attention and be Astonished and Amazed! Marry your life to amazement.

**Compost your pain.** “Suffering denied is suffering unhealed.” Don’t bury or deny your pain. Talking about it makes your life flower and as it ages it turns to fertilizer (helping others grow and grieve.)

**Open nature’s mail.** There are over 400,000 species of flowering plants—God adores variety. 100 trillion neural connections go on in the human brain. Nature’s messages are from God.

**Wear the right name tag.** Maybe someone called you a name and it’s stuck with you, and it’s not favorable. Shred the wrong name and wear a sacred name. Examples: only child => Sister in Christ; unloved => welcomed

**Sit down at the well and drink deeply.** Jesus stops and rests at the well and drinks. Rest is not a reward, but a God-given right. We live in a “grind” culture, overworked, burned out. Our worth comes from God.

**Suggestions from group:** Laugh every day; play like a child; be a good listener; tell your stories; rescue an animal; encourage others; phone a friend; remember names of people you meet; give a compliment to someone; take an adventure!

## REMINDER

**"FULBRIGHT FAMILY"** Don't forget to mark your calendar for Sunday, September 15th 2024 for our Annual Reunion held in Sardis Fellowship Hall at 1:00pm. Looking forward to seeing the family there.



---

## YOUTH EVENTS

- ◇ **Rally Sunday – September 15th-** During Sunday school for Youth, Breakfast snacks and Outside fun (gaga pit, basketball, parachute), inside games if raining
- ◇ **Parent's Night Out** – Sat Sept 21 6 – 9 PM
- ◇ Parents bring youth (any age) to church for pizza, games, movies, activities at church while parents can leave and have date night. Parents, please let April Fulbright know how many children will be attending by Sunday Sept 15th
- ◇ **Volunteers Needed** – Could you donate 3 hours to spend time with our youth and learn about them? Please let April Fulbright know if you can help with this event
- ◇ **New Gaga Pit** is almost complete! Special thank you to William Farnsworth for the construction of the Gaga Pit and to an anonymous donor who donated funds for the building.

---

## SAVE THE DATE FTF FOOTBALL TEAM

### Foard Football Meal

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 4th. This is our date to prepare and serve the meal for the Foard Football Team. We would love to have you come and help. We can use assistance setting up and cooking, which usually begins around 11. Also, we need help serving. The team usually arrives around 2:45. We will also be asking for donations of cookies, brownies, and other bar type desserts. Please be on the lookout for bulletin announcements and signup sheets in the middle of September. See Dawn Covington if you have any questions.

1. The Holy Spirit 2. Jesus 3. Isaiah 4. The stomach 5. The tabernacle 6. The Nazaretes 7. A bishop 9. Gideon 10. Old wine 11. The sad or afflicted person 12. When the kingdom had come 13. Gideon's army 14. Six

## HOMECOMING 2024 SPEAKER

We welcome back the Reverend Denise Henry to speak at our Homecoming Service on Sunday, September 8th.

Rev. Denise was raised in SC and has been in NC since 1986 when she and her former husband, Rev. James White, was called to ministry at Sardis until 1990. She attended Columbia College for her bachelor's degree and received her Master's in Counselor Education from Lenoir Rhyne University and an Advanced Certificate in School Counseling from UNC-Greensboro. She served as a school counselor for 23 years, retiring in 2018.

Through the encouragement of the NC Women of the ELCA, as she served on the Board, she discerned the call to ordained ministry. She entered Luther Seminary in 2016 and graduated in 2021 with her Master's in Divinity. During her internship year at Mt Olive, Hickory, she discerned her calling to chaplaincy and applied to Atrium Health Wake Forest's chaplain residency program. She served as a Chaplain resident, graduating in 2022. During that time, she served as a part time interim at Christ Lutheran in Jonesville.

Rev. Denise serves as Chaplain for Lutheran Services Carolinas - Forsyth Campuses, specifically Trinity Elms Senior Care Community in Clemmons and Trinity Glen Senior Care Community in Winston-Salem. She has been there since January 2023 and was ordained on February 11, 2023.

Rev. Denise is married to Sam Bickley. They were married in May 2021. Together, they have four adult children: Joshua White, Katie Dunn, Justin and Jonathan Bickley; twin grandchildren: Scout and Gunnar (children of Katie), and one aging dog, Lilly. Sam and Rev. Denise live in Winston-Salem.

Please join us in giving a warm Sardis welcome to Pastor Denise and her family!

---

**AFTER OUR HOMECOMING DINNER THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE  
WILL BE PACKING 240 LUNCH BAGS FOR THE HICKORY AND NEWTON  
SOUP KITCHENS AND CORNER TABLES. COME HELP!!!  
GET A FREE T-SHIRT!**





## WELCA

**NC WELCA Fall Retreat:** Blowing Rock Conference Center September 27—29, 2024

“Threads of Faith”, with worship leader: Rev. Denise Henry. An in-depth advertisement is on the table in the Narthex. Please take one and consider attending this event.

\*\*\*\*\*

Save the date! Sunday October 20th will be the date for celebrating seniors in our congregation with a lunch after the church service. Everyone 75 years and older are invited to this special lunch. Make plans to join us!

---

### ***BIBLE TRIVIA***

*(answers page 4)*

- 1 What did Paul recommend as a substitute for wine?
- 2 Who was called a glutton and a wine guzzler?
- 3 What prophet spoke of God putting Israel into a winepress?
- 4 What part of the body did Paul recommend wine for?
- 5 Where was the one place the priest could not enter after drinking wine?
- 6 What group of Israelites was never supposed to drink wine?
- 7 According to Paul's advice, what church official must not be a wine drinker?
- 8 What was mingled with the wine Jesus was offered on the cross?
- 9 What judge threshed wheat by his winepress to hide from the Midianites?
- 10 According to Jesus, what do people prefer, old wine or new wine?
- 11 What kind of person, according to Proverbs, should be given wine?
- 12 According to what Jesus said at the Last Supper, when would he drink wine again with his disciples?
- 13 Who murdered the Midianite Zeeb at his winepress?
- 14 How many jars of water did Jesus turn into wine?

Council Minutes  
Sardis Lutheran Church  
July, 2024

Members were notified by Terry in an email that due to the Installation Service for Pastor Oscar we would not meet. If an issue comes up during the month a called meeting will be conducted.

Terry sent the June minutes, June Financial statements and the Pastor's report via email for acceptance. A change to the June minutes included that the Pastor arrived as the meeting was ending. The minutes and financials were accepted by council members via returned emails.

## **Pastor's Report.**

It always surprises me once we head into summer the notion that things are going to slow down because of vacations. That is never the case. We have had a busy season full of blessings and challenges. Abundant life at its finest. I have been blessed to start home communion and visits to our members. The new communion kit has been a blessing and well used.

I would like to say a special thank you to everyone who reached out to share with me about hospitalizations and medical procedures and your wishes around them. Speaking from experience, I would rather hear the same information a hundred times, then it be assumed that someone else told pastor and I don't know. So, thank you all for your open communication. Truly. And if you haven't received a visit and would like one, please do not hesitate to communicate this with me! We'll find that time to catch up and share joy and thanksgiving.

The Youth Gathering planning has been fast and focused. And I thank Jennifer and Pastor Andrew Miller for their faithful support and work in helping make this a reality for our youth. I also am grateful for the support from the congregation with the shirt sales and spaghetti lunch. I am excited for the experience and seeing what God will do in and with our young people of our Church. I look forward to sharing with you all the experience once we return.

I also want to thank the congregation for the many calls, and check in's to share and connect over the phone. I would also like to ask if you have not yet been able to put my number in your phone to please do so. I ask that so that you will recognize me when I call. My family gets our phones through Olivia's work so the name comes up on Caller-ID as the Business: Paul Barkley and Associates.

I am grateful for the support and understanding of the importance of vacation rest and renewal. Even if the timing is weird with getting a new call and pastor right before summer. Trust me, this reality has not been lost on me either. I continue to praise God for the excitement and joy we share in worship, ministry, being together, and for our future here at Sardis. The Holy Spirit is truly up to some amazing thing with us! Thank you for being the loving church that you are and as always, God loves you and so do I.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Oscar Shepherd

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted  
Jane Moretz, Secretary



---

## FIRST COMMUNION

Pastor Oscar will be having First Communion Classes October 13th and 20th during the Sunday School time. If you have a child interested in this instruction please let Pastor Oscar know. The First Communion will be given October 27th.







BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
PIEDMONT COUNCIL

August 7, 2024

Sardis Lutheran Church  
6103 Hwy 10  
Hickory, NC 28602

The Piedmont Council Boy Scouts of America has a strong tradition of providing young people with a quality Scouting program. One of the highlights of the Scouting year for most Scouts is summer camp. Since 1982 Camp Bud Schiele has given thousands of young men (and now women) the opportunity to experience everything Scouting has to offer in a fun-filled week of summer camp.

For many young people, summer camp is the first opportunity to build confidence and character by spending a week away from home and away from many of the distractions of modern life. By engaging with other youth and their adult mentors like your employee, they will be better prepared to be successful in life while creating memories that will last a lifetime. To some, a week at summer camp is simply that, but to our Scouts and volunteers, a week at summer camp is a life-changing experience.

That is where Oscar Shepherd plays a vital role in the success of our mission and goals. As you know, Oscar recently attended camp as a volunteer leader with their local troop. While others could have used their vacation time in any number of ways, Oscar chose to spend it at Scout Camp helping to fulfill the dreams of many young people from your community. Scouting is blessed to have leaders and parents who give their time and energy to make Scouting fun, not only during summer camp but also throughout the year.

The Piedmont Council understands the sacrifices that you and the Scout leaders make to ensure that the youth of our communities can participate in Scouting. Thank you for supporting our leaders as we strive to instill the values in youth that will allow them to become productive citizens and tomorrow's leaders!

Sincerely,

*Connie Bowes*

Connie Bowes  
Scout Executive, CEO

1222 East Franklin Boulevard  
PO Box 1059  
Gastonia, NC 28053  
Phone: 980.888.8649  
Fax: 980.888.8646  
[www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org](http://www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org)

**Prepared. For Life.™**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 WELCA	2 <b>LABOR DAY</b> Office closed	3	4 12:00 FTF Seniors at Laurel Hill Methodist Church	5 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 <b>HOME COMING SUNDAY</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 12:00 Pot-Luck Dinner in Fellowship Hall 1:00 "God's Work our Hands" pack lunch bags 7:00 Church Council	9 7:00 Prayer Group	10	11	12 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 9—4 Sleep in Heavenly Peace workshop Mooresville..see page 3 for more details.
15 9:30 Sunday School Rally Sunday –info in NL and Bulletin 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 1:00 Fulbright Reunion, Fellowship Hall	16	17	18	19 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21 6-9pm Parents Night Out. (se article Youth Events pg. 4)
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge, Youth participating	23 7:00 Prayer Group	24	25 5:00 Articles due for October NL	26 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 Pastor's Sabbath WELCA Fall Retreat 27—29 Blowing Rock	28
29 <b>NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 6:30 LMM	30	<p><b>**NOTE**</b></p> <p><i>If you have a birthday or anniversary and they are not listed please let the office know. Thank you.</i></p>				

## BIRTHDAYS

### COUNCIL CONTACT

### ASSISTING MINISTER

9/2 Dorothea Wyant  
Amy Jones

Jon Gladden

9/3 Faye Hoke

### USHERS

9/6 Ken Propst

Randy S., Austin P., Dawn C., Mike H.

9/8 Tim Whitener

### COMMUNION PREPARATION / CLEAN – UP

9/11 Nena Babb

9/17 Amanda Revetta

Lexie Wood

Donna B.

Sherrie M.

9/22 Jennifer M. Whitener

**Offering Counters:** Dwayne/Tryston

### **Anniversaries:**

**David & Mildred Fulbright 9-27**

**Ralph & Wanda Stallings 9-28**

<i><b>VOLUNTEER September</b></i>	<b>1st</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>29th</b>
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	Osama & Carrie Y.	Betty Sue W.	Ethan & Heather C.	Darrell J.	Bill & Mae W.
<b>ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER</b>	Ray/Cayden	Tryston/Ray	Keaton/Tryston	Rick/Hayden	Hayden/Keaton
<b>COMM. ASSISTANT</b>	Jon G.	Ray W.	Marilyn T.	Roger T.	Jennifer W.
<b>GREETERS</b>	Bruce & Sharon	Bennie & Edna	Ken/Dianne	Kay/Rita	Jill/Donna
<b>LAY READER</b>	Joe B.	Jane M.	Jon G.	Ray W.	Marilyn T.
<b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b>	Heather C.	No Children's Church	Nena B.	No Children's Church	No Children's Church
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	Terry/Ben/Joe/Samuel	Terry/Ben/Joe/Samuel	Terry/Ben/Joe/Samuel	Terry/Ben/Joe/Samuel	Terry/Ben/Joe/Samuel
<b>SECURITY</b>	Bruce S.	Zachary S.	Roger T.	Rick J.	Ralph S.
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER</b>	Pre-K Jennifer EL MH	Pre-K Jennifer EL MH	Pre-K Jennifer EL MH	Pre-K Nena EL MH	Combined Youth SS
<b>MEAL DEL.</b>	7th Carolyn	14th No Meal	21st Phyllis	28th No Meal	10/5 Nena
<b>Blessings Box</b>	LMM	Jon's Class	Disciples of Christ	Church Council	LMM

**If you are interested in joining our Backpack delivering group, please see Dwayne or Jane. So simple, pick food up from church on a Thursday morning and deliver to Banoak. We average 24—26 bags per week.**

## 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: Pastor Oscar (C) 828-228-3078 [pastor@sardislutheran.com](mailto:pastor@sardislutheran.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)