

Friendly Messenger

APRIL 2019

Growth spurts

Do you remember growth spurts as a kid? While we are continually growing from infancy to adulthood, we periodically experience short periods of time when we grow dramatically. I have heard some parents say that they couldn't keep up with the rate at which their little ones needed new clothes and shoes because they are growing so fast! I remember one of my friends in middle school grew almost 6 inches in one year!

We are also built to grow in our spiritual lives. We may experience spiritual growth spurts at any age. Time, trial, effort, joy, and the sheer grace of God are all ways we may grow spiritually. We may mature in our faith as deepened knowledge of scripture, increased trust in God, greater awareness of God's redeeming activity in our lives, developing a spiritual practice or gift, or building on our unique individual and collective expressions of discipleship. This Lenten Season may be a good time to ask when you had your last growth spurt, and if you haven't had one for a while, to ask yourself why and consider what might be a life-giving change to make. In the same way, we may ask ourselves that as a congregation. As in our physical bodies, there are times in our spiritual lives that we may experience growth spurts. Wouldn't it be awesome if God rejoiced over how many new pairs of bigger "spiritual shoes" God saw that we needed?

I believe we may have such an opportunity. I am grateful for the new members we have welcomed over the years, the way we have expanded our response to God's call to care for each other and to serve in the community, and for the hopes we have down the road. I am grateful for each of you and our ministry together. I am grateful for all of the ways each of you serve in God's redeeming mission through Sardis.

I am also grateful for our leadership and the productive council retreat we had on Saturday, March 16th. We welcomed a NC Synod Certified Coach, the Rev. Greg Williams, to facilitate our time of dreaming and strategic planning. Our leaders are looking forward for how to keep Sardis on a strong path that enriches both Sardis and the community. It was valuable time to identify our gifts and our vision for where we would like to be in three to five years. What is so important is our listening and obedience to heed the direction to which God is calling us as disciples of Jesus Christ, as the ministry of the baptized.

By the end of our retreat, we had come up with lots of good ideas of how we can build on our strengths with the understanding that we may also want to make more room for these focused directions. We will be considering these at our next meetings. If you have some ideas, please feel invited to share them with a council member.

Our council retreat was a beautiful reflection of the practice of Lent as we look toward the joy of transformed life at the Resurrection of our Lord at Easter. We took stock of how we are bearing fruit as Christians and how God might be nurturing us to grow into Christ's likeness even more. A holy growth spurt! Let it be so!

Blessings

Pastor Adrienne

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Pastor, The Rev. Adrienne E. Martin (C) 469-243-5237 Pastor@sardislutheran.net

Council President, Dwayne Whitener (828) 441-2113, President@sardislutheran.net

Director of Music, Frank Griffin, Musician@sardislutheran.net

Secretary/Treasurer, Jane Moretz, Secretary@sardislutheran.net

Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes January 13, 2019 7 PM

Members Present

Dwayne, Jane, Ken, Sherrie, Rick, Joe, Becky, Nelson, Carolyn, Terry, Bruce, Tim, Pastor Adrienne

Dwayne called the meeting to order at 7pm. Pastor Adrienne had prayer to open the meeting. Terry read minutes from the December Council Meeting. Two corrections were made. One to change the month to November for the Pastors Report and two to reflect a stranger entered the building in Ken's report. Motion was made by Rick to accept the minutes as presented, Ken seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Dwayne; Jane motioned to accept the Treasure's Report, Becky seconded and the motion carried.

Pastor Adrienne gave her monthly report for December and upcoming events for Jan. and Feb.;

- 20 visits, Delivered Christmas gifts to family in Conover: Christmas Eve Service: Vacation Dec. 25th through Jan. 1st; Worship planning with Frank; Women of the ELCA; Vacation Bible School Planning (they will be submitting a grant for special funding; Memorial Service for Brenda Speagle. Upcoming: Ladies Night Out; Big Tent Gathering in Indianapolis: First Call Theological Educational Retreat at Camp Agape: Grant writing workshop in Mooresville: Women's Sunday Feb 17th.

Pastor Adrienne stated that Brian and Phyllis Hood along with Katherine, Caden, Paisley, and Maleah Duncan would like to become members. Ken motioned we accept them, Sherry seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

- Jane reported on the Pictorial Directory. It has gone to press for a proof copy. The proof will be back the 1st of February. We should receive in about three weeks after the final proof.
- Dwayne reported that the septic tank line would be replaced as soon as weather permitting.
- Dwayne reminder the Council to lock doors at all times during meetings being held at the church. Please remind members to do the same.

New Business

- Dwayne stated that the 2019 Committee Reports will be reviewed at the next meeting or at the Council Retreat. The goal of the reports is to look out 3 to 5 years and plan for that timeframe. The Council Retreat will be March 16th at the church starting at 9:00. The March Council meeting will follow the retreat activities.
- Dwayne asked if the Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve offering had been designated for a specific purpose. They had not. Ken made a motion that 1/2 be placed in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and 1/2 in the Church Discretionary Fund. Jane seconded, motion carried.
- Dwayne stated that the Annual Congregational Meeting will be February 3, 2019 after worship. We will be providing a lunch. Council decided to have Normans Café to cater the event. Terry is to arrange for the meal. Council is to help serve the meal. Dwayne distributed updated Council assignment and information sheets for 2019,
- Ken stated that the Property Committee agreed with the Council that the Narthex doors need to be replaced. The Council has a quote for steel doors for \$11,020 but the Council wanted to look at more attractive options. Terry is to look at options and pricing for the doors.
- Ken stated that the Welcome Committee has asked to place "Enter to Worship", "Exit to Serve" signs at the end of the driveway. They have also asked to reserve two parking spaces for visitors. Funding is already in the budget, the Welcome Committee is to handle this with the Property Committee.
- Ken stated that the Property Committee had decided to contract with Scottie Cook to fertilize, reseed and spray the lawn of a regular basis. Funding already approved. No action needed.
- Ken stated that the shrubbery on the lower side of the cemetery needed to be cut back. Dwayne stated there was money available to hire someone. Property Committee to handle.
- Ken reported that Rick Lutz was working on replacing the lights in the fellowship hall with LED lights. Anyone wanting the old lights are free to take them.
- Carolyn stated that there was not a handicap space at the front of the church for a wheelchair. This was referred back to the Property Committee

- Becky gave out a calendar for special worship dates for 2019. It is included in your Annual Directory Booklet.
- Jane stated the Tech Committee checked on the license to stream the Sunday Service live via Facebook and also put on the Website music options for funerals, weddings etc. Adding streaming to our current license would add 1/2 to the current cost for a total for about \$300. Jane made a motion to expand the license to cover streaming. Rick seconded , motion carried.

February Council Meeting, if needed, will be on the after the Congregational Meeting.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

February 3, 2019 Annual meeting and luncheon.

The Sardis congregation met on February 3rd immediately after Worship Service for its Annual Meeting. The luncheon was catered by Norman's Café and the council assisted in serving and clean up. Dwayne handed out the 2018 Annual Report. A copy was given to each family in attendance and additional copies can be picked up in the secretary's office. He briefly discussed the order of the report and advised the importance of everyone reading and keeping this report handy all year. Dwayne recognized Sheila Ramsey for her great job of putting the report together and her dedication to Sardis over the past years. She announced her resignation as Secretary/Treasurer to take a full time job. Becky Gladden acknowledged Pastor Adrienne and Frank for their greatness and dedication. Marilyn Teague acknowledged that Hayden Johnson was acolyte for the first time and did a fantastic job. Rick Johnson also mentioned a possible Blood Drive on March 3rd at Sardis.

Submitted Jane Moretz for Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary

February 15, 2019 Called Council Meeting

Terry called the meeting to order.

Ken Propst stated that there were cracks in the ceiling of the Pastor's office and the secretary's office that needed to be repaired. He stated that the property committee has explored several options and recommended the installation of a drop ceiling for \$982.48. Ken made a motion that we proceed with the drop ceiling. Rick seconded, motion carried.

Ken reported that the Lutheran Men in Mission was going to have Norman's Café cater the Easter breakfast for \$6.00 per person.

With no further business the meeting adjourned.

February 16, 2019 Emailed items from Pastor Martin to Council:

Pastor Martin reported that we have the opportunity to complete a Safe Gatherings training process that teaches about healthy boundaries. This will also strengthen us in our ability to minister to vulnerable people. Instructions were attached to the email.

Pastor Martin reported that our Council Retreat will be on Saturday, March 16th. We will meet from 9 am until 3 pm at the church. We have invited The Rev. Greg Williams as our facilitator for our time together. He is the pastor at Grace Lutheran in Hendersonville and is a trained coach with the NC Synod. He will lead us in a time to dream and vision.

Pastor Martin requested a vote for council's approval for the Holy Baptism of Gregory Thomas Smyre III. Kerby and Greg would like for him to be baptized on Sunday, February 24th. She also asked for the council to approve the membership of Greg Smyre. Motion carried by electronic vote.

Submitted: Terry Bledsoe, Council Secretary



The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meets on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet April 3rd at Sardis. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

Lenten Rotation Series: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Each Sunday evening, we gathered for a soup and sandwich meal at 6pm and then worship service at 7pm. This year our Lenten theme for our evening services is focused on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. This may be a familiar text for you; however, in this Lenten series, we will take it a step further to relate them to the events surrounding Christ's life, death and resurrection. In the process, the services will powerfully reveal that the cross itself is the ultimate sermon on the mount for our journey of faith in this sacred season.

We are participating in a Lenten rotation with Mt. Zion, and St. Paul churches. Pastors Scott Bollinger, Ralph Kraft, and Adrienne Martin each brought a Lenten message.

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
April 7	Built on Rock	Shared Service with Desserts after at Trinity Village 6:45pm

WELCA NEWS

EASTER LILIES for 2019

Sardis WELCA will be taking orders for Easter Lilies to adorn our chancel on Easter Sunday. The cost is \$10.00. Look for order blanks and information in your bulletins & on the table in the narthex.



GOODIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

WELCA will be packing goody bags for 7 college students this year. Please bring goodies to the church on or before April 20th at 9:30 am as this is when the bags will be packed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO COME JOIN US



Palm Sunday April 14th at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday April 18th at 7pm

Good Friday April 19th at 7pm



Easter Egg Hunt April 20th 1:30pm—3pm (ages up to 6th Grade)

FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS

Bring live flowers to put on the cross on Easter Sunday April 21st.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE—Sunday, April 21st 6:30am

Please stay for Easter breakfast after our Sunrise Service on April 21st. Norman's Café is catering the breakfast this year and it will be a feast! Invite your friends and family to join in too.



OPPORTUNITY SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH
The Hymn Choir will be singing

We welcome you to join us in the choir room at 10:15am on the second Sunday each month to prepare for worship. Hymn Choir is an open invitation to members of the congregation to be part of the Music Ministry without weekly commitment.

April's upcoming Sardis Sisters events.

Friday, April 5 – The Hickory Crawdads are sponsoring a free Family Movie Night at LP Frans Stadium from 5 – 8 o'clock. The family-friendly movie will begin on the stadium video board at 5:45pm.

Concessions and amusements will be open at reduced prices.

The Sardis Sisters hope all family members will attend.

There is not reserved seating, but the group plans to sit in the stands along the first base line, behind the visitor's dugout.

Tuesday, April 30th at 7:00. The group will go see the movie, BREAKTHROUGH. It was released at the first of the month and is showing at the Carmike Theatres in Hickory. This is a true story about faith and the power of prayer. Joyce (Christy Metz) gets the kind of call every parent dreads. Her basketball-star son, John, (Marcel Ruiz) has fallen through thin ice and a doctor tells her, "We've done all we can." John had been under water for 15 minutes and without a pulse for 45 minutes. Joyce and her husband, Brian, (John Lucas) maintain hope that God will bring their boy back to them. The movie showcases the family's journey of faith as they unite with the church, the school and the town in asking for a miracle. Be prepared to be uplifted by the power of God. *If you need a ride, please call the church or meet at the church at 6:15.*

Sardis to Host Spring Gathering of the Catawba Conference of Women of the ELCA

On Saturday, April 6th, the Women of the ELCA in Catawba County will meet at Sardis for their Spring Gathering.

The program is entitled "**Called to be Women in Mission**"

The gathering consists of the program and business of the conference, which includes electing a presider for a two-year term. Registration and social time are from 9:00 – 9:30 am, then the program and business meeting, with lunch following at 12:30 pm. Cost for lunch is \$8.

Your help is needed and appreciated. Could you lend a hand in assisting at the morning refreshment area or at lunch, or help in decorating the tables in the fellowship hall? The lunch will be catered. We will have more information in the bulletin as soon as it becomes available. At our monthly Women of the ELCA meeting on March 3, we will make final decisions. Please attend our meeting for the bible study, fellowship, and business meeting at 6pm. Meetings usually wrap up in an hour. If you can't make the meeting but would love to help, just let Dawn Covington, Nena Babb, Jill Bledsoe, or Sylvia King know. Thank you, women of Sardis, for your prayers and support.

FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Who loves to play Bingo? The Evangelism Committee will be having a Family Night Bingo Party on **Saturday, May 4th, 2019** at Sardis. Food and drinks will be provided, so come enjoy the fun.

There is not cost to play and prizes will be given to the winners. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit The Women's Safe Harbor Shelter. A spokesperson will be with us to briefly talk about the shelter. Come out and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

NOTE: We are in need of prizes; baked goods, crafts and other ideas will be appreciated.

Evangelism Committee launches “Welcome to the Sardis Community” effort

One of the most important things we do is to welcome new members and visitors. Last fall the Evangelism Committee created a “welcome” sub-committee to look at ways the members of the Sardis Congregation could enhance the welcome of new people into the church and help them find ways to be involved in God’s mission at Sardis. Ralph Stallings, Adrienne Martin, Meredith Gladden, Jill Bledsoe and Donna Biggerstaff were on the committee. Ideas came from other churches, the committee and from the Sardis congregation. The Church Council approved the plan and the enhancements will be implemented this year.

One idea from Tim Whitener, will be to begin our ideas in April and continue going forward. This idea is simply taking a plant to newcomers in the community with a brief note stating how glad the congregation is that the individual or family has moved into our community and the congregation welcomes them to the church. For this project “our community” has a broad definition of a five-mile radius from the church. In the future, any member of the congregation that knows of someone moving into the community should notify Ray Whitener, Evangelism Chair, or some member of the Evangelism Committee of the name and address of the newcomers and then the committee will take it from there. (Additionally, if any congregation member has neighbors, acquaintances, outside of the 5 mile radius that are moving and do not have a home church, he or she can supply the names and addresses to Ray or a member of the committee.)

This spring other outcomes from the Welcome Committee will be implemented with the support of the Property Committee, such as additional handicapped parking, visitor parking, a sign inviting people to “Stop, Play and Pray,” with a free-standing swing at our playground area. The Evangelism Committee will also be furnishing a Sardis Magnet for cars and working on a color brochure describing the evangelism outreaches that different groups within the church conduct, as well as a “Welcome to Sardis” goody bag for first time visitors. Inside this bag will be a pen, a cup and a note pad with the Sardis name in addition to the brochure.

Finally, the Welcome Committee wants to design an informational area in the narthex that has pictures of our Pastor, Music Director, Secretary, and Council Chair in addition to a brief description of the various outreach committees.

This is an exciting time as everyone gets involved in enriching our ability to help everyone be informed about the ministries of Sardis.

BIRTHDAYS

4/1 April Fulbright
 4/5 Marvin Kiser
 4/7 Rick Johnson
 James Ruggles
 4/8 Isaac Hollar
 Jane Moretz
 Hayden Johnson
 4/9 Cooper Carroll
 4/11 Jon Gladden
 Jeff Gladden
 Felicia Hollar
 4/12 Alma Fulbright
 Carolyn McGinnis
 4/20 Elaine Jarrett
 4/23 Greg Fulbright
 4/25 Marilyn Teague
 4/28 Tammy Richardson
 4/30 Chris Johnson
 Cynthia Purcelle

ANNIVERSARIES

Jon & Becky Gladden
 4-12
 Randy & Joyce Speagle
 4-13
 Marilyn & Roger Teague
 4-17
 Jeff & Rebecca Wilson
 4-17
 Richard & Dawn Covington
 4-21
 Ethan & Heather Carroll
 4-30

****NOTE****

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

Thank you

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER / COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Apr. 7th Nena Babb Ray Whitener Ray Whitener
Apr. 14th Kathy Weaver Roger Teague Gene Biggerstaff
Maundy Thursday Apr. 18th Samuel Biggerstaff Rick Johnson Joe Wyant
Apr. 21st Jane Moretz Tryston Sylvester Sandra Roseman
Torch Bearer's Donna Biggerstaff, Marilyn Teague
Bible Bearer Roger Teague
Apr. 28th Tryston Sylvester Marilyn Teague Dawn Covington

USHERS

Mike Midgett, Joe Biggerstaff, Wayne Jarrett, Darrell Jarrett

ALTAR FLOWERS

Apr. 7th Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff
Apr. 14th David & Rebecca Ritz
Apr. 21st Carolyn Truitt
Apr. 28th Ben & Jennifer Whitener

LAY READERS & GREETERS

Apr. 7th Dawn Covington Rita Lutz, Kristin Teague
Apr. 14th Carolyn Truitt Darrell & Donna Jarrett
Apr. 18th Maundy Thursday Lay Reader Sylvia King
Apr. 21st Becky Gladden Bruce & Sharon Sigman
Apr. 28th Kathy Weaver Leevada & Lexi Wood

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP AND PREPARATION

Marilyn Teague, Jane Moretz

COUNCIL CONTACT

Joe Biggerstaff

ASSISTING MINISTER

Zach Stuart

SATURDAY MEAL DELIVERY

April 6th Nena Babb **April 13th** No Meal Delivery
April 20th Carolyn Truitt **April 27th** No Meal Delivery

OFFERING COUNTERS

Apr. 7th Sherrie Midgett, Patsy Johnson, Dwayne Whitener
Apr. 14th Dwayne Whitener, Al King, Sylvia King
Apr. 21st Sherrie Midgett, Mike Midgett, Dwayne Whitener
Apr. 28th Susan Jones, Nena Babb, Sandra Roseman

SECURITY

April 7th Bruce Sigman **April 14th** Nelson Speagle
April 21st Kimmie Speagle **April 28th** Darrell Jarrett

Delivery Week

April 5th Dwayne & Barbara E. Whitener
April 12th Joe & Phyllis Biggerstaff
April 18th Dwan Covington, Carolyn Cruitt
April 25th No School

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Monthly Food Pickup

Warehouse
Joe Biggerstaff



From the Social Ministry Committee

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Cleanliness may not be actually next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting and the chance to regain dignity from uncertainty.

Include the following items in each Care Kit:

One light-weight bath-size towel (20 in. x 40 in. to 52 in x 27 in)

Two bath-size bar of soap, any brand, in original wrapping.

One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging.

One sturdy comb (no picks) or fine toothed combs.

One metal nail clippers, remove packaging.

All items must be new and in good condition.

HUGS INC.

The Social ministry Team is collecting new or gently used stuffed animals. These will be given to the Sheriff's and Fire Departments to carry in their vehicles. The stuffed animal would be given to console a child should any accident occur.

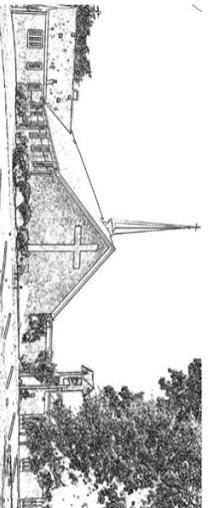


VBS 2019 - Bible Blast to the Past

Vacation Bible School 2019 will be "*Bible Blast to the Past*" at Plateau United Methodist Church.

June 16th-20th from 6:30pm -8:30 pm

There will be three stations: Bible Story, Craft and Science, Snacks and Games, as well as Opening and Closing. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to help at a station or be a crew leader. VBS Planning meetings will be April 15th at 6:30pm and on May 13th at 6:30pm at Plateau UMC. Please plan to attend these meetings if you are interested in helping or notify April Fulbright.



April 2019

Sardis Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday School@ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Shared Service at Trinity Ridge 6:45	8	9 Bible Study @ 10	10 Handbell Choir @ 6 Chancel Choir @ 7	11	12 Pastor Martin's Sabbath Day	13 Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering at Sardis 9am 12:30pm
14 Palm Sunday Sunday School @9:30 Hymn Choir @ 10:15 Worship @ 10:30 Confirmation at St Paul's Mission Property @ 3:00	15 VBS Planning Meet- ing at Plateau UMC 6:30pm	16 Bible Study @ 10	17 Handbell Choir @ 6 Chancel Choir @ 7	18 Maundy Thursday Service and Holy Communion 7pm	19 Good Friday Service 7pm	20 WELCA to pack Col- lege bags 9:30am Youth Easter Egg Hunt 1:30—3
21 EASTER SUNDAY Bring flowers for Cross Sunrise Service 6:30am Fellowship Breakfast No Sunday School	22 Pastor on Vacation Office Closed	23 Pastor on Vacation	24 Pastor on Vacation Handbell Choir @ 6 Chancel Choir @ 7 Information for May Newsletter due in Office	25 Pastor on Vacation	26 Pastor on Vacation	27 Pastor on Vacation
28 Pastor on Vacation Sunday School@ 9:30 Worship @ 10:30 Prayer Group @ 11:45 LMM 6:30pm Trinity Ridge @ 3:50 LMM 6:30pm	29	30 Bible Study @ 10 Sardis Sisters— Movie Night				