

A decorative branch with several brown leaves and a cluster of light green leaves at the top left corner.

Growing in Grace

Fall 2011



*Christian Education
at
Sardis Presbyterian Church*



Sardis Staff

The Rev. Dr. J. Thomas Kort, Pastor

The Rev. Catherine E. Craley, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Jane B. Fobel, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Alice A. Johnson, Associate Pastor

Jason S. Robbins, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Renda R. Brinson, Director of Christian Education Ministry

Heather T. Eddy, Assistant Director of Christian Education Ministry

Cynthia C. McLeod, Parish Aide

Kenneth A. DeBoer, Director of Music Ministry

Sharon J. DeBoer, Organist and Music Associate

Richard A. Ramsey, Director of Contemporary Music

Louise Lippi, Director of Sardis Weekday School

The apostle offered this prayer for the church at Ephesus:

“I pray that you may have the power to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:19

This prayer has always said three things to me:

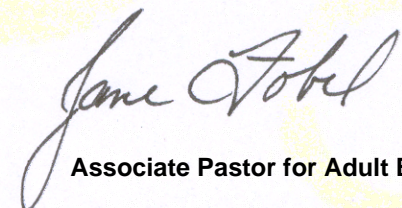
- God wants us to grow in our discipleship – in knowledge and especially in our awareness of God’s love for us in Christ.
- Growth as a disciple does not occur in solitude, it happens in fellowship and joint study with all the saints.
- None of us knows the fullness of God’s love by ourselves, but through mutual sharing one saint may teach us about the height of God’s love, another about the depth, and we might teach another about the breadth. In mutual sharing we experience the most accurate vision of God’s great love.

The prayer of the apostle to the church at Ephesus is my prayer for the saints at Sardis. May this fall be a time of renewing our commitment to grow in discipleship and to experience the fullness of God’s bountiful love.

In this fall Christian Education booklet, you will find information about growth opportunities on Sunday mornings through Sunday school, through midweek Bible studies during the mornings and evenings, and through Connect@Sardis - our new fellowship and study program on Wednesday evenings.

May God bless us and may we be filled with the fullness of the love of our God.

Blessings,


Associate Pastor for Adult Education



Sundays 10 AM BEGINNING AUGUST 28

Children & Youth

Preschool

Children's Wing

Babies & Toddlers: Loving arms and calming voices await our youngest attendees. Through care, stories and music, they will begin to learn that church is a place where they can learn of God's love for them.

Two-, Three- & Four-Year-Olds: Each age has an individual class using the curriculum *Wee Believe*, published by the PC(USA), and is designed for active, eager learners.

Elementary

Rooms 201, 202, 203, 207, 208, 209

G.R.A.C.E. Place

God Reaching All Children Everywhere
Kindergarten ~ Fifth Grade participate in the workshop rotation model featuring classrooms designed to be kid-pleasing and prepared for active learning. Groups of children rotate to one new workshop each week for the 3-6 week rotation period. During each rotation, students will be immersed in one Bible story or concept. This model allows all children to experience the way they prefer to learn.

Youth

Middle School Youth, grades 6-8 study the curriculum *Claim the Life*.

High School Youth, grades 10-12 study and discuss a multitude of topics and issues.
(*Ninth graders: Confirmation. See next page.*)

Rooms: 6th-104, 7th-105, 8th-106, 9th-107-108, 10th-12th-Chapel

Special Offerings

Worship Orientation: This class for first graders helps prepare children to worship with their families. Parents are involved throughout the course.
August 28 - November 6.

Rooms: 205-206

Confirmation: Ninth Graders begin a year-long course designed to help youth explore their faith. The course includes retreats, service hours, group and individual study.

Rooms: 107-108

FRIENDS: Attend Christian worship and fellowship while your specially-challenged child attends their own age-appropriate class with loving supervision. Our volunteers are trained to help children with all types of special needs, including mental challenges, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy and head injury.

New Members: Put down roots at Sardis! New Member Classes are held in the Dining Room beginning the first Sundays in September, November, January, March and May.
Interested? Contact Rev. Alice Johnson, 704-366-1854/alice.johnson@sardis.org.

**Questions about Sunday School?
Contact Renda Brinson,
Director of Christian Education
704-366-1854/
renda.brinson@sardis.org**

Special Offerings

Sunday
School

Sunday
School

Sundays 10 AM

BEGINNING AUGUST 28

WITH A JOINT CLASS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Adults

Sunday
School

Bible Study for Women: The Women's Bible Class offers a roundtable discussion format for Bible study as well as fellowship, prayer and support. All women, all ages.

Fall Study: I & II Corinthians

Teachers: Pat Campbell, Brent Scott, Barbara Lansche, and Alma Jo Langston substitute.)

Class Contact: Pat Campbell **Rooms** 111-112

Crossroads: This class focuses on Bible study through lecture and discussion. By developing a deeper understanding of God's word, class members hope to be better able to live out their faith at the "crossroads" that are encountered each day.

Fall Studies:

September to mid-October: The Book of James;
Mid-October to December: David in I & II Samuel

Teachers: Tim Eichenbrenner, Charlie Porter, Cynthia Harrison and Jan Rosser.

Class Contact: Vicky Hovis **Rooms:** 213-214

Discussing Bible, Books and Topics: This is a roundtable forum class combining Bible study and a discussion of issues related to our Christian faith and witness.

Fall Studies: *God Heard Their Cry* by Ray Vander Laan Five lessons that deal with the Passover in Egypt, *Fire on the Mountain* by Ray Vander Laan Six lessons that follow the Exodus from Egypt and lessons learned in the wilderness.

Teachers: Earl Brinson, Norm Schul, Mary Abernathy, and David Leonard.

Class Contact: Norm Schul **Room:** 219

JAVA: This class recognizes that Christian fellowship is one of the strongest bonds between people, and gathers for fellowship and great stand alone discussions. Each week the class is led by a peer and all class members walk away with a renewed spirit!

Fall Study: "A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith" by Brian D. McLaren

Teachers: Kristen Armstrong and Aric Beals

Class Contact: Kristen Armstrong **Room:** 210

Miller-Peoples: This long-standing class maintains its original high standards of Bible study, while enjoying fellowship and hymn singing, and offering support to its members. This class uses the Presbyterian curriculum, *The Present Word* in a lecture format. Ages 55 & up.

Fall Study: Proverbs

Teachers: Glen Pehl, Jane Gilbert, Moyer Ketchie, Jane Fobel, and Renda Brinson.

Class Contact: Anne Adams **Rooms:** 109-110

Open Door: This class follows a discussion/lecture format on issues and/or Biblical studies. An emphasis on service to others makes this class unique. All ages are welcome.

Fall Study: Modern Parables

Teachers: Les Ingles, Martha Ellen Ingles, Myra Mattingly, and Chuck McKay.

Class Contact: Les and Martha Ellen Ingles **Rooms** 211-212

Reading for Reformed Reflection: This class reads a common book and joins for discussion and reflection on the week's designated reading.

Fall Study: *Faithful Disagreement*, by Frances Taylor Gench. Each chapter explores a biblical passage from the Old or New Testament and its teaching about how to address tough issues agreeably in the church.

Teachers: Jane Fobel and Dale LeCount

Class Contact: Jane Fobel **Room:** 217

Robert Pharr Men's Class: This class studies topics of interest to men with a lecture/discussion format. Some guest speakers are used. Ages 40 & up.

Fall Study: Each class is stand-alone, with topics suggested by class members.

Teachers: Ed Harrison, John Schneider, Clay Thomas, and Art Bolz.

Class Contact: Bill Hester **Room:** 215



New winds are blowing on Wednesdays!

Music • Study • Creative Expression • Fellowship
Many Programs - All Ages

Times and names are changing! There will be engaging program options for adults, children and youth. Together, through many programs, we will all Connect@Sardis.

Wednesday Schedule (Beginning September 14)

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

All join for dinner in Fellowship Hall

Meal Cost:

Adults: \$7, Children (11 & under) \$5,
Kids' Cheese Sandwiches & Milk: Free

Reserve by 10 a.m. Mondays at www.Sardis.org
or by calling the meal reservation line: 704-926-1590

Childcare Reservations: 704-926-1599 or
www.Sardis.org

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Programs for all ages.



Questions about Connect@Sardis?

Dr. Jane Fobel, jane.fobel@Sardis.org

or

Renda Brinson, renda.brinson@Sardis.org

Preschoolers will have childcare and age-appropriate activities to fill their time together.

Elementary students (K-5) will spend half of their time in music:

- Kindergarten - Grade 2:
Choral music.
- Grades 3 - 5:
Choice of chimes or choral music.



The other half-hour will be spent with a story and discussion and/or activity.

The fall semester we will be using the video series, *The Fantastic World: Molly Pickens and the Rainy Day Castle*.

Each week we will follow the story and the fun!



Middle School students will find God and friends through a unique collision of music and Bible study hosted by Rev. Catherine Craley and Richard Ramsey, Director of Contemporary Music.



High School students meet in different homes Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for a time to dive deep into different scripture passages.



ADULTS

First Track:

Arts Enriching Worship

September 14: Richard Ramsey

Director of Contemporary Music

Part 1: The Art of Worship

September 21: Richard Ramsey

Director of Contemporary Music

Part 2: The Art of Worship

September 28: Gerry Clonaris

St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church

Iconography: Windows to Heaven

October 5: Robert Whitlow

Author

Spiritual Words/Writing as Worship

October 12: Chris & Kathy Madsen

Artists, Chalk Art Presentations

Drawing Others to Christ

October 19: Richard Ramsey

Director of Contemporary Music

Part 3: The Art of Worship

**Each week, adults may choose
from two engaging programs.**

(Dr. Kort will lead a special series in November.)

ADULTS

Second Track:

*It Takes a Village and a
Covenant Community*

September 14: Dr. Emily Engel

Psychologist, PSCC

Dealing with Bullying

September 21: Dr. Emily Engel

Psychologist, PSCC

Handling Academic Pressures

September 28: Joanne Stratton Tate

Dean of Community Life, Trinity Episcopal School

When to Discipline, When to Support?

October 5: Stacey Vanderwel

Registered Dietician

*Raising a Healthy Family:
10 Myths about Good Nutrition*

October 12: Renda Brinson

Director of Christian Education

How to Keep the Holidays Holy Days

October 19: Dr. Frank Gaskill, Ph.D

Southeast Psychology

*Helping Children and Adolescents
Navigate the Internet Safely*

November 2, 9, 16: Dr. Tom Kort

Pastor

What Happened to My Church?





Jesus in the Gospels

Tuesday Evenings 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

JESUS IN THE GOSPELS invites believers to look at Jesus in each of the four Gospels and ask the question, "Who is the Jesus that you see?" This study will deepen discipleship through better understanding of the biblical texts and their message.

Two questions frame this study: "Who is the Jesus you bring with you to this study?" and "Who is the Jesus you take with you from this study?" JESUS IN THE GOSPELS takes participants on a journey from one question to the other.

JESUS IN THE GOSPELS focuses on the portraits of Jesus found in the four Gospels —Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The word *in* used in the title signals that this study takes an approach different from the familiar "life and teaching of Jesus" approach of reading stories and accounts of what Jesus said and did in order to draw conclusions about their meaning and about who Jesus was.

This 30-week study begins Tuesday, August 30 with an introductory lesson.



Seekers Bible Study

Thursday Mornings 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Fall Study: The Prophet Isaiah
Beginning Thursday, September 15

Hebrews & I Peter

Thursday Mornings 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

These epistles are purposely paired because they have so much to say to us in our present world where holiness is not lifted up and sometimes even ridiculed, where finding absolute truth is harder and harder, where self-indulgence fills our newspapers and where proclamation of the Gospel seems to be more difficult.

HEBREWS & I PETER will deal with some very real issues and allow each participant to search their own understanding.

This 30-week study begins Thursday, September 1 with an introductory lesson.



If you have questions or wish to register for these studies, contact:

Jesus in the Gospels or Hebrews & I Peter

Renda Brinson, 704-926-1585/

renda.brinson@Sardis.org

or

Seekers

Dr. Jane Fobel, 704-366-1854/

jane.fobel@Sardis.org



Save the Dates!

September

11

Dr. Kort Returns. Sermon: "Not Home, Yet"

16

Congregational Retreat Begins

24

Sardis Weekday School Fall/Winter Consignment Sale

October

2

World Communion Sunday

16

CROP Hunger Walk

26

Halloween Hullabaloo

November

6

One Faith-One Church-One Family: 10:30 a.m. Worship

13

Dedication Sunday

23

Thanksgiving Service & Breakfast

Sardis Presbyterian Church

6100 Sardis Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28270
704.366.1854

www.Sardis.org



Sunday Worship Services

9:00 a.m. - Blended with Contemporary Music

11:00 a.m. - Traditional Music

Childcare is available at both services.

