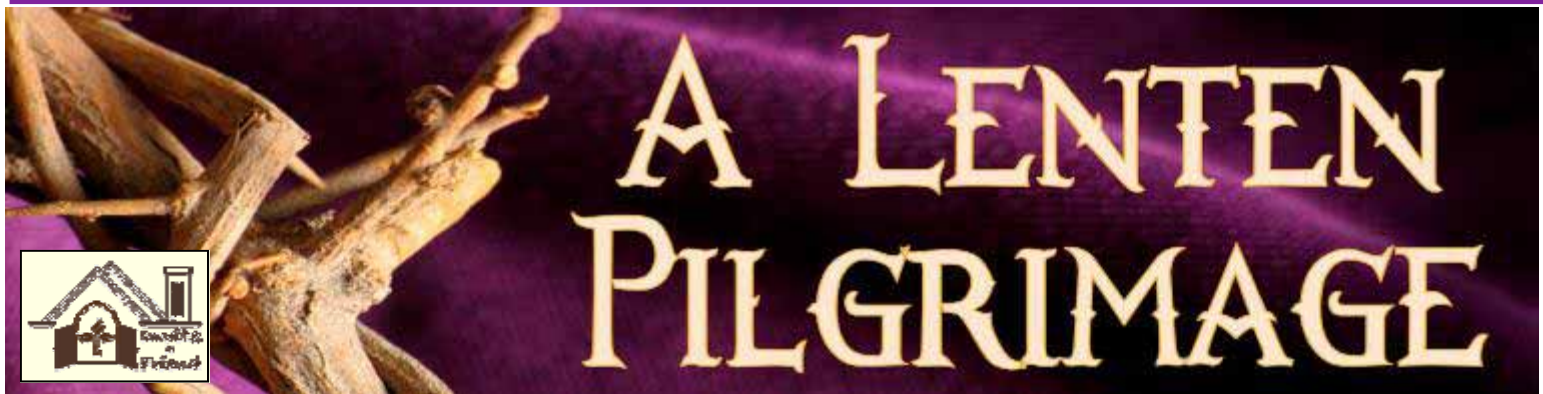


THE COMMUNICATOR

February 2012

Building God's Kingdom Through Worship • Service • Fellowship • Evangelism • Discipleship



Connect @ Sardis Lenten Study: February 29 - March 28

Dinner: 5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ~ Study: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

with

The Rev. Dr. Richard Boyce

Associate Professor of
Preaching and Pastoral Leadership
Union Presbyterian Seminary



The program for **Ash Wednesday, February 22**, will be a time of table fellowship, with sharing and preparation for Lent at each table. All are invited to join in this time of eating together and fellowship before the Ash Wednesday worship service.

Optional Dinner Served: 5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Programs: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Meal Costs

Adults: \$7.00 ~ Children: \$5.00

Meal and childcare reservations at Sardis.org by 10:00 a.m. Monday or by calling the Meal Reservation Line at (704) 926-1590 and the Childcare Reservation Line at (704) 926-1599.

NEW! Sunday School Class for Adults

On the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, a new Sunday School class will begin meeting on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

The class, "Contemporary Christian Issues," will examine issues of the day through the lens of the Biblical witness and the teachings of the church.

Wednesday Morning Breakfasts:

6:45 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. ~ Sardis House

Meal Cost: \$5

Reserve at Sardis.org

As we begin our Lenten journey, we will gather each Wednesday morning for breakfast, fellowship, song, and a morning devotional. We end the morning with prayer together.

Devotional Leaders

02/22: Tom Kort

02/29: Lucinda Myers

03/07: Holly Smith

03/14: Sallye Brown

03/21: Mark Vanderwel

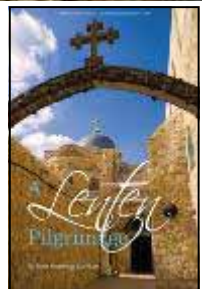
03/28: Tom Ondrof

04/04: Richard Ramsey



In this mailing:

A Lenten Pilgrimage
devotional book by
Ruth Huizenga Everhart



Session Highlights, December 2011

- Approved baptism of Walker James Pearsall, son of Cara and Travis Pearsall.
- Approved transfers of Dolly Windle to Hopewell Presbyterian, and Anne Irwin to Trinity Presbyterian.
- Approved reinstatement to active membership of Donna Ashcraft Pressley.
- Approved February 19, 2012 for Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Approved the 2012 Communion Schedule.
- Heard letter of thanks and appreciation from Andy Kort for extending him the hospitality of the pulpit on November 20, 2011.
- Received notes from consultants on small group discussions from November's Session meeting.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

YOUTH: Approved Jamaica 2012 Advisors: Katie Robbins and Mark Weber (in place of Peggy Aker).

CLERKS: Approved addition of members to Membership (John Nichols) and Congregational Life & Care (David Cauble).

MEMBERSHIP: Thirty-four people joined through New Member classes and 21 youth joined through Confirmation.

MISSION INTERPRETATION: Approved amended motion allowing the chair of MI to issue a letter on Sardis letterhead endorsing the project of member Claire Lucas to raise funds for a music project as part of her participation in the Sardis Haiti Mission Trip in February, 2012.

Due to The Communicator deadline schedule, the January highlights will appear in next month's issue.

Complete minutes for recent meetings are at www.Sardis.org, and also available along with archived minutes in the Library.

Diaconate Highlights, December 2011

Community Service

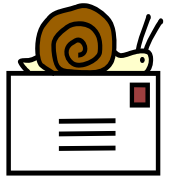
- Room in the Inn has started, is going very well, and has been well received by our visitors.
- The Salvation Army stocking program concluded with approximately 270 stockings filled for children in need.

Fellowship: The Christmas Dinner was held with approximately 360 people in attendance.

Food Service: Connect@Sardis will start for 2012 on Wednesday, January 11.

Sports and Recreation: Sardis will host basketball games in Fellowship Hall each Saturday for six weeks starting January 14, 2012.

SNAIL MAIL You may have noticed the delayed delivery of the Post Office bulk mail recently. Our newsletter is distributed through the bulk mail system so if you would like to avoid the possible delay in mail delivery, please contact the church office to request a copy of the *Communicator* via email. We will be happy to add you to the email distribution list.



Our Church Family

Our Christian Sympathy: To the family of Florence Chapman; to Janice Abluton upon the death of her mother, Dorothy Neely; to Mary Benard upon the death of her brother, William Brown, and her sister, Lois Porter; to Dianne Correll upon the death of her mother, Lib Correll; to Bettye Hutchison upon the death of her mother, Sarah Cullen; to Rev. Chris Herrin (former Sardis pastor) upon the death of her father, Damon Irby Wright; to Katie Spencer upon the death of her brother, David Smith; to the family of Dorothy Church; to Autumn Broome upon the death of her mother, Clara Shaffer; to the family of Donald Whiteman; to Sallye Brown upon the death of her aunt, Irene Brown; to Ed Shoaf upon the death of his father, Edwin Huss Shoaf, Sr.; to Todd Burkitt upon the death of his father, Henry Burkitt; and to the family of Bettie Lefevers.

Congratulations: To David and Diane Cauble upon the birth of a daughter, Ruby Quinn Cauble. She is the granddaughter of David and Alice Cauble. To Robert and Stephanie Vanderford upon the birth of a daughter, Greta Elisabeth Josephine Vanderford. She is the granddaughter of Tim and Carolyn Eichenbrenner. To Leon and Tracy Dean upon the birth of a son, Caleb Jackson Dean. He is the grandson of Beth Parrish.

Come Drive the Mini-Bus!


Please consider driving one of the Sunday mini-buses to pick up our church members who reside at Plantation Estates. By giving two to three hours of your time on a Sunday, you will be providing a very worthwhile service that is greatly appreciated by these church members.

No special driver’s license is required. Each driver is carefully trained to operate and become familiar with all aspects regarding the mini-buses before driving them for the church .

We ask that you commit to driving four Sundays during the year-one Sunday a quarter or four Sundays in a row, whichever fits your schedule.

For more information, contact Ron Abluton at 704-366-9346/cpaabluton@carolina.rr.com.

BLESSINGS FOR BAYONNAIS



Remember our mission team in prayer as they travel to Haiti.

February 15-20

Friendship Connection:

Tuesday, February 21

The Friendship Connection is a fellowship group for retirees and meets the third Tuesday of the month for a program and lunch.

The February program will be led by Rosanne Losee, librarian at the Matthews Branch Library. She will present a historical program outlining the decades of the 20th century.

The program begins at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch (\$7/person) at noon. **We will meet in the Sardis House Mission Hall this month.**

Reservations for lunch must be made by noon on **Friday, February 17.** To make your reservation, register online at www.Sardis.org, or call 704-926-1590.

Questions? Contact Dr. Jane Fobel, jane.fobel@Sardis.org/704-366-1854.

Looking ahead to March 20: Christian humorist, Harold Bales, “The Southern Fried Preacher.”

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”

Once again the Sardis family demonstrated a spirit of gratitude and generosity in their financial support of the mission and ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sardis House Campaign

In addition to the General Operating Budget, contributions to the Sardis House have been, in the words of Steve Camp, “Amazing.”

2010 Sardis House contributions received:	\$288,459
2011 Sardis House contributions received:	\$503,298
Total Sardis House receipts to date:	\$791,756

Once again, THANK YOU SARDIS! You are making a difference.

YEAR END 2011 FINANCIAL RESULTS		
	Operating Budget	Actual
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,241,500.00	\$ 2,229,914.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,241,500.00	\$ 2,220,729.00
NET		\$ 9,185.00



Look for an update of the 2012 Stewardship Campaign and General Operating Budget in the March issue of *The Communicator*.

Make a Resolution to Join a Choir!

As a new year begins, and hopes, dreams, and new resolutions form in our minds, why not consider serving our church through music? Sardis is full of a variety of musical opportunities to share your talents.

For those who enjoy our traditional approach, the Sanctuary Choir awaits you every Thursday evening from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. You will find a warm, welcoming, dedicated group of singers who are committed to providing Sunday morning anthems and occasionally a larger musical work.

For those who enjoy our contemporary music, Richard Ramsey, Director of Contemporary Music, invites adults to rehearsals of the Celebration Singers and Band on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth celebrate through music with Richard on Wednesday evenings during Collide. Contact Richard Ramsey at richard.ramsey@Sardis.org/704.366.1854.

Among the other adult choirs, we have two very fine handbell groups: the Alpha Bells, who meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and the evening group, Coventry Bells, who rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. We have a couple of openings especially in the Alphas. If you have some experience reading music, we will be happy to talk with you. Better yet, come visit a bell rehearsal and see for yourself what it's like!

Another great and fun-filled bell group includes youth from 6th – 12th grades, the Decibells, rehearsing on Sunday afternoons from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., just before the Youth Dinner and Fellowship. It is helpful to have some music reading ability, but we will train you "on the job." There are a couple of positions open and we would love to include you!

For children, come join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for Primary Choir (Grades K-2) and 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for Junior Choir (Grades 3-5). The Junior Choir alternates every other week with Crescendo Chimes (beginning bells). Both children's choirs join Renda Brinson alternately for a time of Children's Bible study and fun.

For more information, please contact Ken DeBoer, Director of Music Ministry, ken.deboer@Sardis.org/704-366-1854 or Sharon DeBoer, Associate Director of Music Ministry, sharon.deboer@Sardis.org/704-366-1854.

"Notes" From our Organist

As many of you have noticed in the past few weeks, we have a new opening to our 11:00 a.m. worship service, where the "Prelude" actually comes after the welcome and announcements. This was implemented so that worship may proceed uninterrupted in the spirit of reverence.

With Sunday School now dismissing at 10:45 a.m., there is often more noise of people arriving during the few minutes before 11:00 a.m. Our organist will now be playing hymns from 10:50 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., bringing the spirit of worship to those present.

When Is Communion?

John Calvin, the great reformer of the church, believed that the sacrament of Holy Communion should be served each week.



However, most Presbyterian churches do not serve communion on a weekly basis. Instead, the Session is given the responsibility to determine when and how often it will celebrate communion.

The basic understanding is that it should be observed frequently enough so that it is not seen as "something special" but as a part of the churches' ongoing worship experience.

At Sardis, we try to follow the liturgical year and schedule communion accordingly. The session has approved the following dates for communion in 2012.

2012 Communion Dates:

January 29
February 22: Ash Wednesday
March 11 Lenten Communion
April 5: Maundy Thursday
May 27: Pentecost
August 5: Summer Communion
October 7: World Communion
December 2: 1st Sunday of Advent
December 24: Christmas Eve

Extended Communion to the Homebound:

March 25
May 27
August 5
October 7


Chapel Communion:

April 1 and December 9
This service is especially designed for persons who have limitations that make it difficult to sit for an hour-long service.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 19

There will be an annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, February 19 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available February 5 in the Narthex.

 <p><i>Taizé Worship</i></p>	<p>Tuesday, February 7 7:00 p.m. ~ Chapel</p> <p>Questions? Contact Dr. Jane Fobel or Rev. Alice Johnson at 704-366-1854.</p>
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It's time for... GIRLS SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS SPRING 2012

You can sign up online at Sardis.org or in the Gathering Place on February 12 & 19.

There are opportunities for an Elementary School team (Grades 3-5), a Middle School team (Grade 6-8), and a High School team (Grades 9-11) depending on the demand, so if you are interested in playing **SIGN UP NOW and INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**

Season starts in Mid-March and runs through May. The registration fee is \$70 and check should be made to Sardis Presbyterian Church."

INTERESTED IN COACHING? We want to hear from you! Please contact Julius Torrence at jtorrencejr@carolina.rr.com for questions, concerns or interest in getting involved!

Boy Scout Troop 33 Annual BBQ February 3 & 4



Sardis' BSA Troop 33 will hold their annual BBQ on Friday, February 3 and Saturday, February 4 (Super Bowl weekend).

Bulk (\$10/pound) and Brunswick stew (\$9/quart) are available.

Volunteers to assist in the kitchen would be greatly appreciated.

Contact David Blackley, 704-366-0385/davidblackley@bellsouth.net to place an order or schedule a time to assist.

Come Support Sardis Youth Basketball February 4

The Sardis Sports and Recreation Ministry invites you to enjoy a day of youth basketball on Saturday, February 4th.

Sardis has sixteen teams with players ranging from kindergarten through high school age, and they will ALL be playing at Sardis that day.

Drop in anytime during the day to cheer on our youth and coaches!

8:30 AM	Both Sardis Boys 16 and Under
9:30 AM	Sardis Girls 16 and under v. New Birth Church
10:30 AM	Sardis Girls 14 and under v. Myers Park Presbyterian
11:30 AM	Sardis Girls 18 and under v. St. John's Baptist
12:45 PM	Both Sardis Girls 12 and under
1:45 PM	Both Sardis Boys 12 and under
2:45 PM	Both Sardis Boys 10 and under
3:45 PM	Sardis Girls 8 and under v. Sharon Presbyterian
4:15 PM	Both Sardis Boys 8 and under
5:00 PM	Both Sardis Co-Ed 6 and under

VBS
July 9-13



Babylon
 Daniel's Courage in Captivity

ZONE 45
 Sunday, February 26



Fun & Fellowship
 Zone 45
 4th & 5th Graders
Movie Night
 www.Sardis.org

It is time for the Zone 4/5

Please Join Zone 4/5 for Movie Night on Sunday, February 26 From 3:30 until 5:00 pm in the Youth Room.

RSVP: Lynn Cain at dawgtoo@windstream.net

SAVE THE DATE!
Family Friday ~ March 2

Sardis Weekday School Registration for 2012-2013 has begun!

We enroll children from 6 months–6 years.

For class information, visit
Sardis.org/Learn
 Questions? Contact
 Louise Lippi, Director:
louise.lippi@Sardis.org or 704-366-9681

The Grey Seal Puppets Wednesday, February 8 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Join the Sardis Weekday School children as they delight in a visit from Sardis member Drew Allison and his friends! All are welcome!



Louise Lippi cuddles with some three-year-old friends.

**Sardis Weekday School
 Spring & Summer
 Kids' & Teens'**



Consignment Sale
Saturday, March 24
 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Fellowship Hall

REGISTER AND VOLUNTEER
 AT
Sardis.org

NEWS FROM ROOM IN THE INN



“This place feels like a home.”
“It was so nice sleeping in a real bed.”
“Sardis has the best food of any place I’ve stayed.”
“I slept better last night than I have slept in months.”
“Thank you for all of your blessings.”

These are some of the spoken and written comments we have received from Neighbors that we have hosted at Room in the Inn this year.

Paul Hanneman, Program Director of the Urban Ministry Center reminded us in our coordinators' meeting that our primary purpose as a RITI host is to provide hospitality to our neighbors; caring volunteers to greet them and serve them a hearty meal, a warm, inviting place to relax, and a safe and comfortable place to sleep. These comments from our neighbors tell us that, just as we have in the past, we are fulfilling this purpose.

A big thanks to all who have answered the call to donate needed items. We're happy to say that we are fully stocked with socks, underwear, bath soap, shampoo, and body lotion. We are still in need of toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste, gloves (men's and women's), and wool caps, so please keep RITI in mind the next time you are at Target or Walmart. Items can be dropped off in the RITI collection bin in the hall near the church library.

MISSION INTERPRETATION MINISTRY

Look what blessings Sardis is able to convey with monies that you have generously given:

As a result of your concern for those who are ill and those who care for them:

From NC MedAssist: For many of our clients, the choice between food, bills or medicine is a vicious reality. Because of your generous donation, it no longer has to be. Over 67,700 prescriptions were dispensed at no cost to our low-income, uninsured neighbors last year.

From Care Ring: Thank you for your generous donation. Each day more and more people are turning to Care Ring because they cannot afford health insurance or the high cost of seeing a physician without it.

From Hospice & Palliative Care: Support from generous congregations like yours allows us to provide quality, compassionate end-of-life care to families throughout Charlotte and surrounding communities.

From Presbyterian Samaritan Counseling Center: Your contributions assist in helping our therapists serve members of the congregations of our supporting churches and other members of the community at large.

From Hospitality House of Charlotte: Your gift helps to make it possible to provide a low-cost, home-like environment for family members longing to stay close to their loved ones being treated at nearby hospitals.

As a result of your care for the homeless in our community :

From the YWCA Families Together program: Because of your support and confidence in us, YWCA Central Carolinas opened *Families Together* in April, 2008 and began changing lives of homeless families with children. Because of you, families have moved from homeless shelters and transient housing to safe, affordable housing.

From Urban Ministry Center: Your gift supports an inter-faith organization serving the poor, the homeless, and others in need through love, compassion, and practical help.

As a result of your desire to honor our ministers and help in the education of future ministers:

From Princeton Theological Seminary: Thank you for your generous gift to the J. Thomas Kort Scholarship Endowment Fund. Your gift helps prepare women and men to serve faithfully, bringing the “good news of great joy.”

From Union Theological Seminary and from Dr. Jane Fobel: Thank you so much for the donation you made in my honor. Many thanks also for the ways you support the mission of Christ – locally and around the world. Sardis' witness shines more brightly because of your work.

Indeed, we are blessed to be a blessing.....



**Community Service
Reminder:
February 5
Spaghetti Sauce Sunday**

February 5 Youth Events

Youth Sunday: "Sowing & Growing"

On Sunday, February 5, the youth of Sardis will lead both worship services.

Be sure to join us as Ashley Reid, Katie Porter, Matthew Bowen, Christina Scholz, Meredith Hunter and Elizabeth Aker share their faith.

Souper Bowl of Caring:

Since its inception, the Souper Bowl of Caring offering has collected \$81 million. Sardis has historically been a lead church in donations during this event, collecting \$3,836.88 last year.

With the current economic situation, our participation is more important than ever.

At both worship services Sunday, February 5, the Confirmation Class will stand at the church doors and collect donations in large soup pots. One hundred percent of funds collected will benefit St. Peter's Soup Kitchen at the Urban Ministry Center.

Questions? Contact Jason Robbins, jason.robbins@Sardis.org/704.366.1854.



Our Boy Scout Troops will be recognized during the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.



SILENT AUCTION: Sunday, February 26 *In support of our High School Youth Mission Trip*

In June, the High School Youth will be participating in a mission trip to Mandeville, Jamaica. We will be taking 25 youth and adult advisors to work with those in need. Because we have been blessed with many resources, we are called by God to serve others.

The congregation of Sardis has an opportunity to participate in this mission trip by attending a silent auction Sunday, February 26. The auction will run from noon until 2:00 p.m. when bids will close. Lunch will be served for a cost of \$6.

Items including vacation homes, restaurant gift certificates, babysitting services, and sporting events tickets are just a few of the things you may bid on to support this mission trip financially. Historically, this auction has been the largest fundraiser for youth mission trips, and we are looking to Sardis once again to help make this mission trip a wonderful, life-changing experience for our youth.

Mark your calendars to help our youth by bringing your checkbooks and getting some awesome items in return!

Have an item to donate?

Contact Georgia Pressly, presslyga@aol.com/704-364-9299.