ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Azilee and Bill Tucker and Thelma Ellett by the Tucker family.

THE ROSES in the Sanctuary today are in honor of the births of Chase Benjamin Hovis, son of Ben and Megan Hovis, and Gabriel Aaron Brinson, son of Mark and Kristin Brinson.

BAPTISM TODAY at 9:00 a.m. of Janie Elliott Parker, daughter of Scott and Carrie Warwick Parker. The participating elder is Larry Haines.

ROOM IN THE INN: Anderson Team tonight; Cathey Team this Wednesday.

CROSSROADS CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS invites adults to join them this Sunday. A special class will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, led by Renda Brinson. The class will consider some of the spiritual lessons in the Christmas movie classic, “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

NEXT SUNDAY we will have one Worship service at 10:00 a.m. with guest preacher, Rev. Tom Winstead. Sunday School will be at 9:00 a.m.

JANUARY NEW MEMBER Classes begin January 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the dining room and meet for three Sundays thereafter also at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Rev. Alice A. Johnson at 704-366-1854.

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE by December 31 to Sardis Presbyterian may be tax deductible on your 2013 returns. All 2013 contributions must be postmarked by the post office no later than December 31, 2013. Any donations received with a postmark of January will be credited to 2014. Information about how to give gifts of stock is available in the church office or on the church website on the stewardship page. Thank you for your continued support of the work of our church!

CALENDAR

Today at Sardis:
- 9:00 AM Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Children’s Special Program
- 11:00 AM Worship Service
- 6:00 PM Room In The Inn

Monday, December 23
- 7:30 PM Coventry Ringers

Tuesday, December 24
- 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
- 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service - Communion
- 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service - Communion

Wednesday, December 25
- Christmas Day/Office closed
- 6:00 PM Room In The Inn

Thursday, December 26
- Christmas Holiday/Office closed

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

On weekends or holidays please call the church office and you will be directed to the phone number of the pastor on call.

Wouldn’t It Be Grand to be an Angel?

Wouldn’t it be grand to be an angel and have as your address “The Realms of the Glory of God”? And swing on rainbows, and gather stars in your pockets, winging in and out of earth in a flurry of moon dust with the messages of God? Comforting the distressed, warning the righteous, delivering the just, guarding little children? Of course, we can comfort and warn and deliver and guard. Maybe, if we get that right, we can swing on rainbows later.

—Ann Weems
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PLEASE SIGN the Friendship Register as it is passed. Feel free to take any of the materials in the Friendship Register to better acquaint yourself with the activities of Sardis Presbyterian Church.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS are available on racks in the hall on the parking lot side of the sanctuary building (near the Historical Room) and the narthex. Please return the bags to the designated basket by the rack. Any papers or disposables that are in the bag may go with the children; book marks, pencils, crayons, etc. are to be returned to the bag.


LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available. Please see an usher for assistance.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES with disposable ear coverings are available. Please speak with an usher and they will provide one for you.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY is provided in the main body of the Sanctuary, on the side aisles on the seventh pew, and in the transept area. Handicap unisex bathroom is located near the Historical Room.

A STEPHEN MINISTER is available in the Chapel, located behind the Sanctuary, immediately following our worship services to listen to and pray with you.

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WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH  Jane B. Fobel

PASSING OF THE PEACE  Jane B. Fobel

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you. People: And also with you.

EXHIBITING A WORD OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE CHIMES

Prelude: “Noel Grand Jeu et Duo” Claude d’Aquin

INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN  Jane Fobel

LIGHTING OF THE ANGEL’S CANDLE  Drew and Michael Heid

CHORAL INTROIT  “Veni Emmanuel” Gregorian Chant Men of the Sanctuary Choir

HYMN 23  “Angels We Have Heard On High” Gloria

INVOCATION  J. Thomas Kort

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  Alice A. Johnson

O Lord our God, amidst the bright colors that surround us this season, send the holy light of your Christ, that all that is good may be revealed more clearly and all that is wrong may be exposed and changed. Most of all, change us. Restore us and heal us and make us new through the stillness of your heavenly grace, as silently we confess our sin. (Time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE  Alice A. Johnson

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED  Alice A. Johnson

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER  Jane B. Fobel

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND OFFERING

Both members and visitors are asked to sign as the register is passed. Please place your Prayer Request Cards in the offering plate.

OFFERTORY  “Love Came Down at Christmas” John Rutter

DOXOLOGY  “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION  Katie Woodliff

Children five and younger are excused to the Narthex after the prayer.

HYMN 24  “Away in a Manger” Cradle Song

SCRIPTURE  Luke 2: 8-14 NT, pg. 58

Pastor: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON  “What Angels Love to Say” J. Thomas Kort

HYMN 29  “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” Go Tell It

BENEDICTION  J. Thomas Kort

RESPONSE  “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem” Kingsfold

RESPONSE

O sing a song of Bethlehem Of shepherds watching there And of the news that come to them From angels in the air The light that shone on Bethlehem Fills all the world today Of Jesus’ birth and peace on earth The angels sing alway.

POSTLUDE  “Carillon” Louis Vierne

MISSIONARIES

Brazil – Tim & Marta Carriker
Peru—Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson
México  – Andrés & Gloria García
Indonesia - Charlotte Blackburn

Welcome to Worship

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Childcare for Infants through four-year-olds is available during worship in the Preschool building. At both services the five-year-olds are excused after the Prayer of Dedication, met by adults in the Narthex, and escorted to the Preschool building, room 6. Children age six and above are encouraged to worship with their families.

Children’s Worship Bags are available on racks in the hall on the parking lot side of the sanctuary building (near the Historical Room) and the narthex. Please return the bags to the designated basket by the rack. Any papers or disposables that are in the bag may go with the children; book marks, pencils, crayons, etc. are to be returned to the bag.


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The Rev. Dr. Jane B. Fobel
Associate Pastor

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The Rev. Dr. E. Lee Stoffel
Pastor Emeritus

Jared Daugherty
Minister of Music

Robert Ivey
Interim Organist and Director of Handbells

Renda R. Brinson
Director of Christian Education

Heather T. Eddy
Asst. Director of Christian Education

Mark Slimer
Director of Facilities

Dean Bowen
Interim High School Youth Leader

Jeff Weston
Interim Middle School Youth Leader

Cynthia C. McLeod
Executive Assistant to Sr. Pastor

Robin Medlock
Director of Administration

Jessica A. Otto
Director of Communications

Nikki Livingston
Sylvia Zwic

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