



Dr. Kort Begins Sabbatical June 6

Dear Sardis Family,

I will begin a sabbatical June 6 of this year, returning to the pulpit on September 11. During this time, our talented and wonderful pastoral staff will share the pulpit, as they have done in summers past. The difference this year is that I will literally “be away” from Sardis and the church office this entire time, in order to have a break from the day-to-day responsibilities of church life. Just imagine: no emails, calls, meetings or pastoral responsibilities.

Of course, you will be in good hands. Dr. Jane Fobel will be acting Head of Staff in my absence, and the entire staff has worked hard to arrange everyone’s schedule to ensure that pastoral care is always available to all of our members.

In case you are wondering, the word and concept of “sabbatical” has biblical roots. A sabbatical is an extended Sabbath, which provides for even greater productivity when it is over. The agrarian people of the early church understood this concept intuitively through looking to the example of their practice of rotating crops and leaving fields fallow so the earth can regenerate. The sabbatical is a time to take leave of one’s everyday work and for mind and soul to lay fallow; a time for spiritual enrichment, rest, and ultimately, regeneration.

The Presbytery of Charlotte now requires that the terms of call for new ministers include a sabbatical every seven years. This requirement was not in place when Alice Johnson and I both arrived at Sardis. Upon realizing this, your Personnel Ministry brought our terms of call into line with current Presbytery policies at this year’s Annual Congregational Meeting. This will be my second sabbatical since I came to Sardis 23 years ago. Alice Johnson is scheduled to take her sabbatical next year.

During my sabbatical I am looking forward to tackling some long-neglected projects around the house, doing some personal writing and reflection, traveling to see our new grandchildren, spending time at the beach and hopefully traveling abroad for a week to study and experience Renaissance art in the majestic city of Florence, Italy.

I am grateful for this opportunity to restore and refresh myself physically and spiritually. I look forward to returning to you in September, renewed, refreshed and ready to go!

Summer Preaching

June 5	Jason S. Robbins
June 12	Catherine E. Craley
<i>Communion</i>	
June 19	Alice Johnson
June 26	Jane B. Fobel
July 3	Alice A. Johnson
July 10	Jason S. Robbins
July 17	Catherine E. Craley
July 24	Jason S. Robbins
July 31	Jane B. Fobel
August 7	Jane B. Fobel
<i>Communion</i>	
August 14	Catherine E. Craley
August 21	Alice A. Johnson
August 28	Jane B. Fobel
September 4	Jason S. Robbins
September 11	J. Thomas Kort

Communications Ministry Launches New Sardis Website!

The Communications Ministry is excited to introduce a new website for Sardis. Work began in mid-2010 for a total redesign of www.Sardis.org, with the design contract being awarded to Rock Beats Paper of Greensboro, NC.

The new site launched April 26 with a new color scheme and enhanced features such as video, podcasts, and social media links.

Sardis would like to thank the 2010 and 2011 Communication Ministry for their hard work on a huge task. The ministry invites everyone to take a moment to explore the new website and to stay informed about all of the great things happening at Sardis.

Questions? Contact Donna Rogers, Communications Coordinator, donna.rogers@Sardis.org/704-366-1854.

www.Sardis.org



Session Highlights, March 2011

- Approved the baptisms of Lauren Elizabeth Newman, daughter of Alfred and Catherine Newman, March 20; Genevieve Christina Belle Atkinson, daughter of Rebecca and Douglas Atkinson, May 1; Reece Archer and Charles William Neal, sons of Brooke and Chris Neal, April 3.
- Approved the transfer of Brian Jeffrey Morrison to Matthews United Methodist Church.
- Approved a motion to allow VBS to increase the donation per child from \$10 to \$15 with a family cap of \$30 instead of \$25.
- Received presentation on the new Sardis.org website, tentatively set to be launched on Easter Monday, April 25, 2011.
- Approved motions for a Haiti Mission Trip Thursday, February 16, 2012 through Monday, February 20, 2012 and for funds currently in the designated account for "Peru Mission Trip" be designated for the "Haiti Mission Trip."
- Received report on the successful Consignment Sale of March 10-12. A check in the amount of \$250 was given to Mission Interpretation Ministry from the proceeds of the sale. Book Sale continues through April 1.
- Approved motion to rearrange the worship service on a selected Sunday between mid-October and mid-November for Stewardship activities, with Church School at 9:30 a.m. and with one worship service to follow at 10:30 a.m.

Due to The Communicator deadline schedule, the April Session highlights will appear in next month's issue. Complete minutes are at www.Sardis.org, and also available along with archived minutes in the Library.

Diaconate Highlights, April 2011

- Fellowship reported a successful Sardis House groundbreaking lunch with 350 attendees.
- Servant Ministry reported that it is dividing responsibilities to cover duties that the Director of Servant Ministries would have done.

It's time to start thinking about joining a Fall Mustard Seed Group!



Mustard Seed Groups are small groups that meet regularly to grow in faith and in Christ-centered community. There are 14 groups at Sardis, and they are always ready to welcome new members and new groups.

A Mustard Seed Group is a place where your brothers and sisters in Christ will encourage and support you in your own faith journey.

If you would like more information on joining a small group today or starting a group for the fall, contact Catherine Craley, catherine.craley@sardis.org / 704-366-1854.

Mustard Seed Group Spotlight: Reaching Out

On April 2 the Eichenbrenner/Davis Mustard Seed Group set out on a mission: to build a storage shed to help support the Urban Eagles Ministry located in Grier Heights. Our goals were to complete the shed in one day, do some good and increase the bond between the group—we did all of these.

The Charlotte Eagles are a soccer team whose mission is to spread the word of God through soccer. Sardis has been involved with this group by helping to support their summer camps, taking youth to the games and actually hosting players over the summer. Over the past year a group of these Eagles players have taken their calling a little farther and have moved into some neighborhoods of Charlotte where they could make the most impact. One of these is Grier Heights off Randolph Road. These Eagles players act not only as coaches to the neighborhood kids, but also mentors, tutors, bible study leaders and friends.

This past Fall one of these men, Ben Page, spoke to our Mustard Seed Group about his faith journey and how the team members feel called to help these kids. When asked how we could help, he said they really could use a storage shed to store donations, soccer equipment and yard supplies.

So, as the weather warmed we loaded up the lumber and some plans and headed to his house. Throughout the day the group worked to put together the shed, and as we did, we watched kids come and go as they interacted with Ben and the guys. The weather was perfect and we actually did build the shed in one day. The Eagles were amazed when they came back from a tournament with the kids to find a stack of wood had turned into an 8x10 foot storage shed. We were quite frankly a little amazed ourselves. It was a little thing, but it made a difference to these guys. I think it made one with us as well.



Our Church Family

Our Christian Sympathy: to Barney Parkey on the death of his mother, Patty Parkey; to Sue Jones on the death of her brother-in-law, Bob Nelson; to Sandy Carriker on the death of her aunt, Pauline Furr; to the family of Mildred Pharr; to the family of Laura Havener; to Brett Harris on the death of his grandmother, Elizabeth Harris; to Mark Woolf on the death of his mother, Ann Woolf, to Penny Strack on the death of her father, Bob Nichols, to Mary Lambeth on the death of her father-in-law, James Lambeth, to the family of Shirley Earle; and to Helen Denny on the death of her grandmother, Martha Coleman.

Congratulations: to Susan Kincaid Lopez and Ray Lopez on the birth of a son, Ethan Lopez. Ethan is the grandson of Elizabeth Kincaid. To Eric and Lisa Marie Brinson on the birth of a daughter, Anna Clara Brinson. Anna is the grandchild of Earl and Renda Brinson. To Hank and Katie Spencer on the birth of a son, Vaughn William Spencer. Vaughn is the grandson of Ed and Pam Tucker. To Michael and Jennifer Bragg on the birth of a son, James Ellis Bragg. James is the grandson of Ellis and Judy Bragg. To Greg and Shannon Chowning on the birth of a son, Jake Wheeler Chowning. Jake is the grandson of Sue Chowning and Richard Chowning and great-grandson of Gladys Wooden. To Chris and Sandra Taylor on the birth of a son, Chase Riley Taylor. Chase is the grandson of Bill and Marilyn Taylor.



SIGN UP FOR MEN'S SOFTBALL!

Sardis has a men's softball team? Did you know that last year's team played in the league championship game?

If you are looking for a fun, competitive, *inexpensive*, summer activity, come out and enjoy great fellowship on the softball field with other Sardis members.

Practice starts in May, with games on Monday and Friday nights in June, July, and August.

Interested? Contact Jeff Weston, jsweston323@gmail.com / 704.408.9474.



2010 Sardis Men's Softball Team



Graduation Parking

Please be aware that Friday, June 3 will be Graduation Day for Providence Day School. Sardis has agreed to allow PDS to use most of the church parking facilities that day.

Groups meeting in the morning that day need to be aware of the valet parking services using the church lots. The office parking lot will *not* be used by PDS, but will be protected by traffic officers, who will be turning cars away that try to park there. Therefore, your patience will be needed during the morning hours if you come to the church and the officers stop you and ask you questions.

New Member Class

Begins Sunday
May 1

Contact Rev. Alice Johnson if you would like information about joining Sardis:
[704.366.1854/alice.johnson@sardis.org](mailto:alice.johnson@sardis.org).

Fish & Fiddles



Fish Fry ~ Live Bluegrass ~ Fun!

Friday, May 20
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Bring your dancing shoes and a dessert to share!

Fish & Fiddles Reservation

Place in offering plate or return to church office by Monday, May 16.
You may also register at 704.926.1592 or www.Sardis.org.

Name: _____

Email or phone: _____

Do you require transportation from Plantation Estates? Yes

_____ Adults (\$7)

_____ Children Ages 3-10 (\$3)

_____ Children Under Age 3 (free)

* Hot Dogs also available. Payable at the door.

Fellowship Ministry ~ Sardis Presbyterian Church

Line Dancing

with Anne Sweeney & Cindy Smith



Wednesday Evenings

May 4, 11, 18 & 25

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Education Hall

FREE * Athletic shoes only, please! * FREE

Questions? Contact Anne Sweeney, 704-443-7063/annesween11@gmail.com

Fun ~ Fellowship ~ Exercise

MUSIC SUNDAY: MAY 15

May 15 is Music Sunday at Sardis, when we will worship with special music at both worship services. Dr. Kort will provide a meditation at both services.

In the 9:00 a.m. service, we'll combine prayers and poems with special music for a thoughtful and fresh expression of our worship.

The 11:00 a.m. worship service will be a Festival of Hymns and Praise. The service will feature well-known hymns presented by the Sanctuary Choir as well as for congregational participation. It is based on a service held last June at Coventry Cathedral, England as part of the International Church Music Festival in which several members of the Sanctuary Choir participated. The service was led by Paul Leddington Wright, who was here in January as part of our Artists' Series.

Make plans now to attend on this special Sunday.

Please Note: The Artist Series Concert scheduled for May 4 featuring organist Pierre DuPont has been canceled due to contractual obligations of Mr. DuPont's that made his appearance in Charlotte impossible.

Sardis House Groundbreaking: March 27, 2011



Sardis Presbyterian broke ground on the Sardis House Sunday, March 27. Breaking ground in the photo above are (left to right): Kristen Taylor, chairperson for the Community Service Ministry; Alma Jo Langston, chairperson for the Mission Interpretation Ministry, Steve Camp, Sardis House Cabinet Chairperson, Dr. Tom Kort, Grace Ann Owen, Ed Shoaf, chairperson of the Francis Property study group, Elizabeth Aker, and Davis Cotton.

At left, Dr. Kort celebrates with one of the honorary groundbreakers, Grace Ann Owen.

Friendship Connection: Tuesday, May 17

The Friendship Connection, a fellowship group for Retirees, will meet Tuesday, May 17, for a trip to **Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens**. There will be time for exploration of the orchid pavilion and all the gardens, followed by a picnic on the grounds.

Cost will be \$17 (\$10 for admission to the gardens and \$7 for lunch). We will depart from the Boy Scout parking lot at 9:30 a.m., returning by 2:00 p.m.

Reservations are required and need to be made by noon on Friday, May 13. To make a reservation go to www.Sardis.org, or call 704-926-1592.

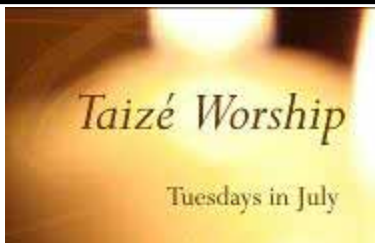


Taizé services will return every Tuesday evening in July at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

These are quiet worship experiences that will refresh and renew your spirit.

See next month's Communicator for more details.

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



WHO WILL KNOW?

Who will know about my problem if I talk to a Stephen Minister? Confidentiality is the cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. No one knows what is talked about in this caring relationship except for the person himself or herself and the Stephen Minister. If you have a burden you need to share, perhaps a Stephen Minister can help.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry or to receive a Stephen Minister's care, contact Rev. Alice Johnson: 704.366.1854/alice.johnson@Sardis.org.

Two Sardis Seminary Students to Graduate!

Sardis seminary students Diane Hunter and Carson Overstreet will graduate from Columbia Theological Seminary this month.

In thanksgiving and gratitude, Diane and Carson would like to invite the Sardis family to attend the Columbia Theological Seminary graduation for the class of 2011, Saturday May 14, at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held at Peachtree Presbyterian Church (3434 Roswell Rd, Atlanta, GA 30305). A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Below are notes received from Diane and Carson.

To Sardis,

A note of thanks to my friends at Sardis. I am incredibly grateful for your generosity and commitment in supporting me and my family during the past four years of seminary. Knowing you all were lifting me up in your prayers brought me comfort and peace while I studied, wrote papers, and read tons of books.

Thank you again for all your thoughts, prayers, and notes of encouragement over the years.

In Christ,
Diane Hunter

Dear Dr. Kort, Pastoral Staff, and Sardis family,

It seems like yesterday that Doug, the girls, and I were packing up our home in Matthews in preparations to begin a new journey at Columbia Theological Seminary. What an amazing journey these past three years have been.

Thank you for the many ways you all have supported us in this endeavor of faith with financial scholarship support, prayers, phone calls, cards, and emails. More than anything I appreciate the continued relationships we have maintained these past three years. Sardis' genuine ability to extend hospitality and grow relationships is what embraced my family and me into the Sardis church family as a home. That same gift that God has bestowed upon Sardis continues to inspire me in my vocational call and ministry.

God's Best,
Carson Overstreet

SPRING: A busy time for Rama Road Elementary School Volunteers...



Tutoring, preparing an appreciation luncheon for the staff, Grounds Day, egg hunts, and being treated by the Rama staff at the Volunteers' Luncheon.



For more information about this ministry and its service opportunities, visit www.Sardis.org or contact sardisrama@gmail.com.

The Community Service Ministry

Saving Lives: A special thanks to all of the Sardis Blood Drive participants who have done just that. By giving your time and donation of blood, you join one of the biggest volunteer teams in the world. Your 31 pints of blood from the April 17 blood drive can potentially save 93 lives. Mark your calendars now to join us again on July 24 for the next blood drive.

Family Promise will host homeless families at Sardis on May 8 – May 15, which is just around the corner. If you haven't signed up yet to help provide food or serve as a host during the evening, overnight, or on Saturday, **NOW IS THE TIME** to do so! You will be helping these families in the lovely setting of our Francis House.

You can sign up at www.Sardis.org or contact Stephanie Vanderford, 704-301-7789/stephanie.vanderford@providenceday.org (food) or Kristen Taylor, 704-577-2147/kristen.taylor@BSNmedical.com (host).

The household goods and foods listed below can be put in the donation bins in the hall across from the library in the Education Building. Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile ministry!

Bottles of water	Plastic wrap	Juice boxes	Aluminum foil
Laundry detergent (liquid)	Clorox	2 liter soft drinks (not diet)	Snacks
Capri Sun drinks	Zip lock sandwich bags	Cereal	Peanut butter and jelly



Habitat House: Nearing the Halfway Point!

Sardis Habitat House #13, "The Paul Kramer Memorial House," is nearing the midway point and construction has gone just as planned.

Thanks to the many volunteers that have helped to make this home a reality for future homeowner Doreen Similton and her three children. Despite working all night shifts at the hospital, Doreen has worked enthusiastically each Saturday and her spirit, attitude and personality are contagious!

With seven weeks left, much work remains. The workday begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes by 4:00 p.m.; however, if you can only work a portion of the day, that is not an issue. Any and all help and support is welcomed and very much needed!

To volunteer, sign up under MySardis at www.Sardis.org or by contacting Phil Kazer, pkkazer@aol.com/704-814-0533.

The Mission Interpretation Ministry

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

- "Please accept our sincerest appreciation for your most recent grant to **The Learning Collaborative, formerly Seigle Avenue Preschool Cooperative.** Your dollars are at work in our classrooms today by way of our outstanding teachers and their dedication to our youngest citizens. As you know, the children we serve would begin their education at a significant disadvantage without our preschool."
- **Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN)** gratefully acknowledges your generous contribution. We appreciate your generosity and support of our ministry to persons impacted by HIV and AIDS. May you continue to be a blessing that supports and sustains the work of **RAIN.**"
- "Thanks to your congregation for your generous gift to **the Men's Shelter of Charlotte.** Your support helps shelter over 500 men each night."

Indeed, we are blessed to be a blessing!

Community Service Reminders...

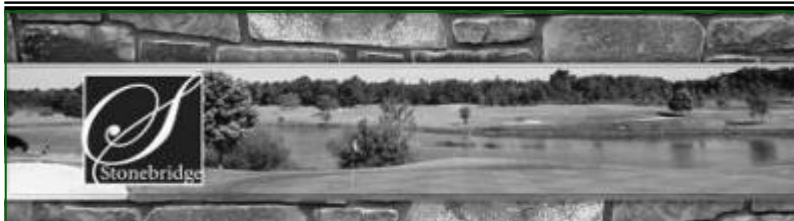
05/01 - 10-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING

05/01 - SPAGHETTI SAUCE SUNDAY

(April's total was 104 pounds!)

Me, An Evangelist?

Summer is almost here and that means VACATION! We can still be evangelists even if we are not in town. I would encourage you to pick up some of the Random Act of Kindness cards, available in the narthex or at the information desk in the gathering place, and take them with you. The perfect opportunity may present itself for you to be an evangelist on the road! Be safe in your travels.



Sardis Presbyterian Church Golf Tournament

Benefiting Sardis Presbyterian Youth Missions

Saturday, May 14 • Stonebridge Golf Club • Monroe, NC

Registration: 7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. ~ Shotgun Start: 8:00 a.m. ~ Lunch following play
18 holes of golf • Golf carts • Range balls • Leader Board Scoring Prizes for first three teams
Mulligans and "Gimme-string" for sale on day of tournament.

Registration & Sponsorship Form

_____ **Team Sponsor (\$400)** Includes lunch and entry fee for a four-person team and a Hole/Tee Sponsorship with a sign advertising your business or group on a Tee Box or Green. Fill out team information below.

_____ **Hole/Tee Sponsor (\$150)** A sign advertising your business or group on a Tee Box or Green. *This is tax-deductible, and 100% of your sponsorship goes directly to the Youth.*

_____ **Four-Player Team (\$300)** Includes lunch and entry fee for a four player team. Fill out information below.

_____ **Individual Player (\$75)** Includes lunch and entry. Complete Player One information below.

For Sponsorships: Please list sponsor name and business name as you would like it to appear on your sign:

Player One:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
HDCP: _____

Player Two:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
HDCP: _____

Player Three:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
HDCP: _____

Player Four:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
HDCP: _____

Make checks payable to Sardis Presbyterian Church, Memo: Golf Tournament

Information and registration also available at www.Sardis.org.
Questions?

Contact Troy Meeks, 704.321.3405/troy.meeks@carolina.rr.com or Jason Robbins, 704.366.1854/jason.robbins@Sardis.org

Registration deadline: Saturday, May 7

Remit to: Sardis Presbyterian Church, Golf Tournament, 6100 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270

Attention 2011 High School Graduates!

Sunday, June 5 at the 11:00 a.m. service is "Graduation/Robe Sunday." We don't want to miss recognizing any senior who is graduating, and we need your help!

Parents of graduates, please send the church office your child's full name and the name of their school. In addition, we would like to have at least four photos:

- Baby • Costume/dress up
- Funny/embarrassing • Senior portrait

Also, any Sardis group photos that anyone has taken through the years (preschool, old VBS, middle school, mission trips, etc.) would be great.

You can send photos and information to Donna Rogers, Communications Coordinator: donna.rogers@sardis.org, or turn in to the church office.

Seniors and their parents will also be honored that day during the Sunday School hour at a Senior's Brunch. Questions? Contact Jason Robbins: jason.robbins@sardis.org.

Below are names of those students who, according to our records, are graduating seniors. If this is incorrect, please call the church office and give us the correct information!



- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Griffin Benton | Christian Hubbard | Bill Sessler |
| Brittany Brown | Kyle Johnson | Allison Shaw |
| Natalie Burke | Clay Kepley | Claire Simpson |
| James Butler | Chip Kiefner | Rebecca Sisco |
| Laura Carroll | Elizabeth McCarty | William Smith |
| John Chamberlain | Michael Oldham | Mason Wallace |
| Sam Duyck | Jameson Ondrof | Kendell Washofsky |
| Tanner Fadero | Camilla Paramore | Stephanie Wood |
| Abigail Harris | Bobby Porter | Bradley Woolf |
| Virginia Harris | Madison Rhodes | |
| Katie Hodge | Mallory Rose | |

What's the best way to talk about how God is like a best friend? Head to Ben and Jerry's!

Enjoy this picture of our middle school youth.



Questions?

Contact Liz Alba:
lizalba@earthlink.net

Keep up with our Youth at www.SardisYouth.org!

SUMMER AT SARDIS: Make plans NOW!



Planning has begun and we are beginning to fill our volunteer positions.

If you want to be part of the leadership team, contact Renda Brinson: renda.brinson@sardis.org/704-366-1854.

It will be another fun year of learning with the children of our church and community.

Participant registration begins soon!



CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

September 16-18, 2011

Black Mountain, NC

Registration on first-come, first-serve basis beginning in May.



The LOGOS Children's Choir perform at the April 13 LOGOS Banquet.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP

Two programs for adults:

Back by Popular Demand



FAITH IN FILM

Wednesday evenings – 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Beginning June 15

This requested series will return with viewing and discussion of film clips and how we might address the messages as Christians today. We will have a light supper each week, fellowship and fun! Join us! We promise lively discussion as we use film to connect with the human experience. The group will have the opportunity to suggest films to discuss.

To reserve a meal, contact renda.brinson@sardis.org.

Child care will be provided with a reservation made by Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. to renda.brinson@sardis.org.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

June 15 – August 4
10:00- 11:30 a.m.

You have heard about the "Bad Girls of the Bible", now we give equal time to "Bad Boys of the New Testament."

This study will look at a different "Bad Boy" each week.

Come for discussion and fellowship – for all adults.

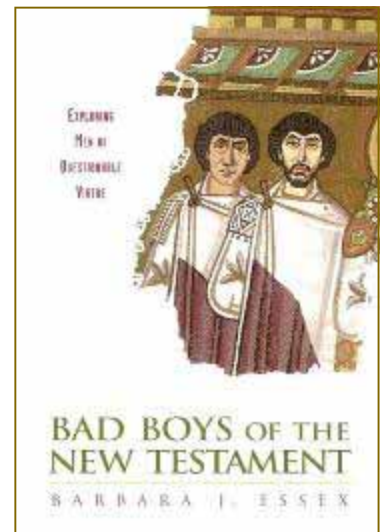
Reading assignments will be made available.

Questions: Renda Brinson

704-926-1585 or renda.brinson@sardis.org

Child care will be provided with a reservation made by

Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. to renda.brinson@sardis.org.



The Communicator

Published monthly by
Sardis Presbyterian Church
6100 Sardis Road
Charlotte, NC 28270

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Charlotte, NC
Permit #1059

Address Service Requested



Youth Missions Benefit!

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, May 14

Registration form on page 9 & www.Sardis.org