

# sardis signposts

baptist church

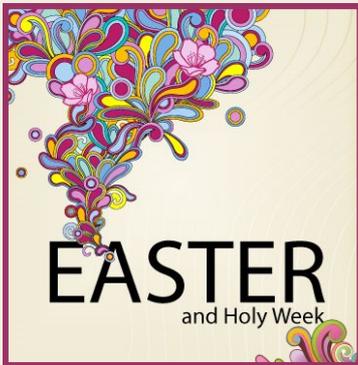
a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811  
sardisbaptistcharlotte.org

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 AM—  
Sunday School

11:00 AM—  
Morning Worship



Holy Week offers a variety of ways to celebrate the Easter season. Please make plans to join us on our journey from Jerusalem to Golgotha to Resurrection.

**Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 9, 11am**

Our Holy Week celebration will begin on Palm Sunday. We will participate in a parade of palms as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

**Maundy Thursday, Thursday, April 13, Dinner at 5:45 pm; Service to follow**

Maundy Thursday marks what many call the Last Supper. Jesus and the disciples shared a final meal together before Jesus was arrested by the authorities and brought to trial. This year, we'll think of this day as the "First Supper." We'll remember that meal, and how it shaped (and still shapes) the core of our community: Communion. Join us for a fellowship meal and short service.

**Good Friday, Friday, April 14, Noon @ St. Stephen United Methodist Church**

Sardis will join our partner churches Sardis Presbyterian and St. Stephen UMC for a Community Good Friday Service. Bob Stillerman will offer this year's homily. Please join us as we reflect on the dark events of Jesus' trial and crucifixion, and the light and life that are to follow on Sunday.

**Easter Sunday, Sunday April 16**

**Sunrise Service, 6:30 am; Breakfast at IHOP to follow**

**No Sunday School**

**Morning Worship, 11 am**

He is risen!!! Christ the Lord is risen indeed. Join us for a Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM. We will read the old, old story and sing hymns. And afterwards, we'll head to IHOP. Don't worry about how you look. Jeans are totally appropriate. Just roll out of bed and come! There will be no Sunday School. There will be a traditional worship service at 11 am.



Sardis friends have used this Lenten season as an opportunity to explore service to our community in a variety of ways. Saturdays (and a Sunday) during Lent, we have participated in missions that have connected us to our community in some way. Our first event was a different kind of service project—actually a learning project. A group of Sardis folks visited the **K(no)w Justice, K(no)w Peace** exhibit to reflect on the needs of ALL our neighbors, and prime us to be instruments of love and justice in our community. Next we visited homebound Sardis friends in assisted living and ministered to them through song! Then a group of people volunteered at the Habitat ReStore to support efforts to build homes, community and hope for neighbors in need. We have a couple more projects planned for April and we hope you'll join us.

**Saturday, April 1st, 9 AM to Noon  
Sardis Workday, Inside & Out**

**Saturday, April 8th  
CMPD Snacks and Department Tour**  
Tours at 1:00 or 1:45 PM. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Melissa Bowlin to reserve your space. Brings snacks to share with police and administrators.

## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

**A Season of Renewal** ~ You may not have noticed. I suppose it's been subtle. But there's an ongoing renewal at Sardis. It happens every year. Winter gives way to Spring. Blades of grass grow green and tall. Daffodils form neat little beds around our labyrinth. And Sardis oaks choose new suits to cover their bare limbs. You can see it in people, too. Daylight savings brings new energy. Sunday mornings don't seem so dark and dreary. Wednesday dinners just feel better while the sun is still up. And our lectionary brings more challenging topics. We're no longer talking only of the birth and promise of Jesus' ministry. We're talking about its work, and our part in such work.

April, and the season of Easter, offer us a chance for spiritual renewal. Too often, I think we view Christmas and Easter as one-day celebrations – we prepare for afternoon extravaganzas, whose successes are only judged on how well we cook the ham, or how perfect our centerpiece looks, or whether or not we sing our cantata in perfect pitch. But here's the real truth: Christmas and Easter are not lightning-strike events. They are seasons. This year, remember that Easter doesn't end just because Walgreen's has put the Cadbury eggs on clearance. It's actually the beginning of a fifty-day journey toward Pentecost and the birth of the Church as we know it. Just like the disciples, we have a chance to reflect and ponder what Christ's renewal – his new life (and OURS, too!) – means for us.

And a garden offers a fitting metaphor. When we plant new rose bushes, or install new turf in our lawn, or nurture a new sapling, we begin a process. If it's our first year of planting, we are amazed to see how these new elements bring fresh life to our garden. And as we soon find out, maintaining them is hard work! It requires dirty hands, and sweaty brows, and consistent care and attention. And there are times when we feel exhausted – didn't I just water, didn't I just weed, didn't I just mow, didn't I just fertilize? But then we smell the first rose that blooms, or roll in a thick, full bed of grass, or find shade in a sturdy tree. And we know new life.

Such is the story of Easter. It is a rose that blooms. And whether we see it for the first time or the fiftieth, its beauty restores and renews us. And there's even better news. Renewal is certain as the Spring – it comes calling year after year.



## Abby Shepard-Moore

Sardis Graduates:



Recognized as the top French student at East during her junior year, and inducted into the National French Honor Society, Abby Shepard-Moore continues her interest in the language. At present, she is reading – in French – *Le Sort du Titan*, a fantasy-adventure novel. Translated into English that is *The Titan's Curse* and is the third in Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series of books based on Greek mythology. She is a member of the French Club and serves as its president this year. Abby's honor-gathering ways are also evident in her inductions into The National Honor Society and in to the Science National Honor Society.

Abby joined with some of her peers at East to organize and present a TEDx event (TEDx stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design, and the x indicates that the event was independently organized). Last year she was part of a Global team which focused on the Middle East and partnered with a girl from Jordan. This year the focus was on immigration, and the students shared "Indivisible," a film about the real people at the heart of our nation's immigration debate.

Volleyball has been Abby's sport of choice; she has played on the varsity team for the last four years. Her activities outside school center around Sardis, where she is an active member of the youth group. She has also volunteered her time to help with Room in the Inn. In addition, she is serving as co-president of the Mecklenburg Youth Council.

After graduating from the IB program at East Mecklenburg High School, Abby is looking forward to attending university; no final decision has been made on where she will attend. *Bonne chance*, Abby!



**PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT**

**Melissa Bowlin**

**704.458.9773 ~ mbowlin@cmpd.org**

- Jahala & Charles Almond, Jacqueline's grandparents • Friends & Family of Evelyn Beck • Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband • Nelson Cooper, friend of Jonathan's • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mom • Nancy Darnell • Betty Deason • Betsy & Don DePaul • Chad Grubbs • Don Hill • Irena Hramenkova • Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson's mother • Tom Kennedy • William Kruger • Mala Reynolds • June Ross • Brantley Rutherford • Valerie Rutherford • Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother • Carson Sholin • Ken Smith, friend of Kreutzer's • Tony Starnes, friend of Danny & Susan • Adam & Tammy Taylor • Teddy Walker, teacher for Kreutzer kids • Friends & Family of Betty Zimmerman, friend of Hilary's •

**APRIL 2017 WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS**

**April 1st—7th: Hilary Kearns**

**April 8th—14th: Kennedy Family**

**April 15th—21st: Kreutzer Family**

**April 22nd—28th: William Kruger**

**April 29th to May 5th: Mosley-Mair Family**



**Worship Care:** Thanks to Joey & Maria Byrd, Betty Gunz and Jacqueline Stillerman for loving and caring for the youngest Sardis Peeps during Worship Care.

**Worship Leaders:** We are grateful to those who preach, teach, pray, read, serve as greeters and ushers – Melissa Bowlin, Jonathan Eidson, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Jeff Jackson, Kristin Jackson, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Dylan Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, William Kruger, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Valerie Rutherford, Magay Shepard, Abby Shepard-Moore, Michael Shepard-Moore, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman, Jo Tiddy, Joe Wall.

**Youth:** Thank you to Tim Moore and Magay Shepard for hosting our youth for supper following their March adventure to Inner Peaks Climbing Center! We are grateful to Jonathan Eidson and Bob Stillerman for leading our youth in Baptism Class.

**Fellowship Committee:** We enjoyed a delicious St. Patrick's Day meal thanks to our Fellowship crew – Janet Beltzhoover, Melissa Bowlin, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard.

**Missions:** Thanks to Jonathan Eidson, Kathryn Kreutzer, Susan Phillips and Bob Stillerman for leading Saturday of Service activities during the month of March.

**Flower & Decorating:** Janette Grassi and Susan Phillips are responsible for our beautiful worship displays.

**Building & Grounds:** Thank you Jim Owen, Howell Peterson Danny Phillips for keeping the lights on, the building warm (and cool), and working hard on cleaning the Sardis campus. Betty Gunz and Magay Shepard keep our flowers watered and beautiful!



## UNIDIVERSITY: TIME TO SIGN-UP

This summer our youth will head to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville for UniDiversity Camp. We arrive on campus on Monday, July 17 and leave for home on Saturday, July 22. The cost for this year's camp is \$250.

UniDiversity is a week-long Christian summer camp for teenagers. Camp is planned and led by church ministers (Many are friends of Pastor Bob and Pastor Jonathan) and adult volunteers who have a passion for connecting teens with Christ and with each other. UniDiversity is over 20 years old and uses college campuses in the south-east as home. The camp follows a collegiate theme and it takes full advantage of everything the campuses have to offer.

Churches from Missouri to the coast of South Carolina join in for the fun and fellowship of the camp. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our youth. See Pastor Jonathan for more information.

## JULY 17TH - 22ND

## LAKE WYLIE SLUMBER

May 19th – 20th is our annual event at the Shepard-Moore lake house at Lake Wylie. Stay tuned for more details.



## QC FAMILY TREE

Our youth event on Sunday, April 2nd is mission work at the Family Tree. We'll meet at the meetinghouse at 4:30 and return at 7:45 or shortly after.

Youth should wear something they don't mind getting dirty as we will be doing landscaping / gardening work. If possible, bring gloves and small lawn tools. Put your name on any item by writing it on masking tape stuck to it or write it on directly— unless you want to get rid of it!

We will eat supper at Pinky's Westside Grill after we work. Please bring \$15 to cover your meal cost.

Pastor Jonathan will gladly sign school community service forms at or after the event.

## GRADUATION BANQUET

We normally celebrate our graduates in worship and we'll do that this year too but we have such a large graduating group this year we decided to plan a May 13th celebration at Sardis. Please Mark the date on your calendar. More details will follow.

## MAY 13TH



# worshipleader

**APRIL 2, 2017**

**Worship Care:** Barbara Mosley and Mary Jane Osborne

**Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer:** Linda Cook

**Ushers:** Linda Cook, Betty Gunz, Joe Wall

**APRIL 9, 2017**

**Worship Care:** Valerie and Brandon Rutherford

**Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer:** Ron Demme

**Ushers:** Ron Demme, Abby and Hannah Shepard-Moore

**APRIL 16, 2017**

**Worship Care:** Janet Beltzhoover  
and Abby Shepard-Moore

**Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer:** Marge Fowler

**Ushers:** Janette Grassi, Magay Shepard and  
Michael Shepard-Moore

**APRIL 23, 2017**

**Worship Care:** Elizabeth Mosley and Chris Mair

**Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer:** Larry Harrill

**Ushers:** Larry Harrill, Lisa and Erin Kennedy

**APRIL 30, 2017**

**Worship Care:** Janette Grassi and Jacqueline Stillerman

**Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer:** William Kruger

**Ushers:** William Kruger, Maria Elena Floren, Howell Peterson

## DEACONS

**Melissa Bowlin**—704.458.9773, mbowlin@cmpd.org

**Marge Fowler**—704.552.2332, marjibear@gmail.com

**Kristin Jackson**—704.618.6213, kpj@carolina.rr.com

**John Simpson**—704.591.0890, drjohnsimpson@yahoo.com

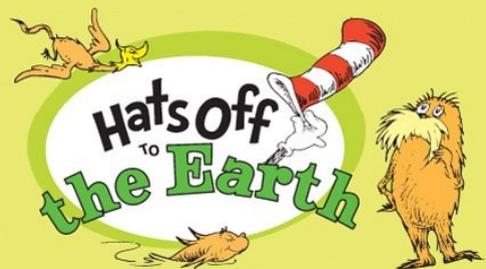


## INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE IN HYMN TEXTS

Have you ever taken the time to read the texts of your favorite hymns and wondered where the non-masculine pronouns are? Have you ever wondered why we skip certain verses in favor of others? Do you think our hymnal should include alternate texts that are more inclusive? Do you completely disagree with any of the previous statements? If you said yes to any of these, then please join your Minister of Music, Hilary Kearns, during the Sunday School on April 9th for a discussion on hymns in our modern church. Come ready to listen and share your opinions – all viewpoints are welcome and appreciated!

## April Sardis Academy

Wednesday, April 26 we'll gather together for a joint celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day! Weather permitting, the Fellowship Committee will serve supper in the Sardis picnic shelter at 5:45 PM. Then we'll share gratitude for God's multi-colored Earth and all it's growing things before we then get our hands dirty playing in the dirt! We hope you'll join us!



# APRIL 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Saturday of Service Sardis Campus
2 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  9:45 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Worship Communion/ Commissioning  12:30 PM Rev. Tillie Duncan  4:30 PM Youth / Family Tree	3 	4  1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	5  4:30 PM Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Choir Practice	6	7	8   Saturday of Service Snacks for CMPD Headquarter Tours 12:45 PM 1:30 PM
9 Palm Sunday  9:45 AM Second Sunday Hilary Kearns  11:00 AM Worship	10 	11  1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	12  7:30 PM Choir Practice	13 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM Communion Supper 	14 Good Friday  12:00 PM Worship at St. Stephens UMC Bob Preaching	15 
16 Easter  6:30 Sunrise Worship 7:30 Breakfast at IHOP 11:00 AM Worship	17 	18  1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	19  4:30 PM Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Choir Practice	20	21	22  Earth Day April 22
23 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	24	25  1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	26  7:30 PM Choir Practice	27	28 Arbor Day  Alliance Gathering Raleigh, NC	29  Alliance Gathering Raleigh, NC
30 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Quarterly Conference 12:30 PM Worship Development	 <p style="text-align: center;">OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES ARE WITH THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Evelyn Beck</i> &amp; <i>Betty Zimmerman</i></p> 					



## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

**Our 2nd Quarter Business**

**Conference is Sunday, April 30th following worship. Please plan to stay for the brief meeting.**

## MARCH GIVING REPORT

This financial data below includes contributions made to our general offering fund. This report does not include contributions made to designated funds, e.g. missions, benevolence, youth / children.

February 2017 Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 12,916.67
February 2017 Actual Offerings:	\$ 13,197.45
March 2017 Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 12,916.67
March 2017 Actual Offerings:	\$ 9,110.77
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 38,750.01
YTD Actual Offerings:	\$ 28,814.22

Please continue to give thoughtful consideration to how members of your household can give time, talents, and financial contributions to sustain the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church.

## SPRING AT SARDIS

We are grateful to all who dedicated time and energy for our Spring workday! This month our Building and Grounds stewards had several dead trees removed and have worked tirelessly to clear underbrush in natural areas. We had 20 people show up for the Spring workday they coordinated, and were able to spread 85 bales of pinestraw, a truckload of mulch and remove numerous piles of yard debris. Helpers who chose to work indoors worked on organizing the kitchen and the worship supply room. Our Building and Grounds stewards have also had other projects to attend to this month: repairing the HVAC in the Educational Building and replacing lightbulbs in hard-to-reach places.



## SARDIS STAFF

**Rev. Bob Stillerman, Pastor**  
bobstillerman77@gmail.com / 919.810.4044

**Rev. Jonathan Eidson, Pastor**  
sardisjonathan@yahoo.com / 704.622.9984

**Hilary Kearns, Minister of Music**  
sardishilary@yahoo.com / 704.517.4417

**Irena Hramenkova, Pianist**



Would you like to order an  
Easter Lily for display on  
Easter Sunday in honor  
or memory of someone special?  
Cost is \$12. Contact the church office:  
info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org  
704.362.0811





**SPRING  
WORKDAY  
AT  
SARDIS**

***Embracing  
God's Call to Justice  
and Love***

**Annual Gathering  
April 28-30, 2017  
Raleigh, N.C.**



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*April 2017 Volume 24, No. 4*