

# 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

***Once in a while, the Spirit calls us to explore unique ways to praise our maker. And that's exactly what we are going to do!***

EXPLORE CREATION AT CAMP SARDIS  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 10—12:30 PM

In tribute to Vacation Bible Schools of years past, and in full acknowledgement of the child-like imagination that dwells in each of us, we bring you *Camp Sardis*.



Join us for a morning of worshipful activities for every age. We will explore the theme of creation. There will be story-telling, and singing (lots of singing), and crafts, and a science experiment, and games, and SNACKS! Plan to dress in comfortable clothes, and plan to bring your energy and enthusiasm. Afterwards, we will go to lunch (Dutch Treat) at Salsarita's Cotswold.

COMMUNION BRUNCH SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 10:30—NOON

It's important for us to remember that communion is not just a five-minute ritual we take part in a few times a year. It's an act of hospitality, and in the earliest churches, it was a sharing of a common meal.

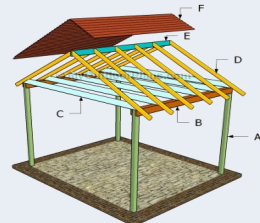
We invite you to join us for brunch in the sanctuary. As we eat, we'll also worship around a common table, remembering that worship is a conversation, and a community, and a gathering.

let's do  
BRUNCH

Breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, sweet breads, juice and coffee will be served. Vegan and gluten-free options will be available. Contact the church office if you would like to assist with setup and food preparations, 704.362.0811. We look forward to worshipping with you in August!

## MILLER PROPERTY

UPDATE



Our new picnic shelter is scheduled to be completed in mid August. The framing and roofing were finished this week. The next steps will be wiring for electric. Once the wiring and inspection process is complete, workers will install electrical outlets, lighting and ceiling fans, and trim out the ceiling and beams. Landscaping will begin the first week of August.

Once the shelter is complete, the Miller Property Committee will begin discussions about further enhancements to our grounds. We will dedicate the shelter with a brief ceremony and potluck lunch on August 28 following worship. Stay tuned for additional details.

The staff would like to offer thanks to the Miller Property Committee, Trustees, Deacons, and countless others who offered their support throughout this process. We'd also like to acknowledge Tim Moore and Joanie Williams for their guidance and vision in making a good idea a reality. They moved as much dirt as anyone! Thanks be to God!!!

## Olivia Dumez

### SARDIS PEOPLE



FanFiction is Olivia Dumez's favorite genre of reading material. For the uninitiated, FanFiction takes the characters from already recognized works of art (movies, TV, books, etc.) and places them in new situations. Sometimes the authors

combine characters from diverse genres. The new stories are then posted on-line for the enjoyment of FanFiction readers. It's a good pastime for someone who works at Barnes and Noble. In addition to reading, she enjoys singing (when no one else is around!) and meeting new people.

She grew up in Charlotte, graduating from Providence High School. She has 4 sisters and 2 brothers. Anyone who stops by the Arboretum shopping center during the week can find Olivia in the Barnes and Noble café.

Recently Olivia has been working on conquering her fear of heights so that she can now participate in rock climbing and the riding of roller coasters. She is also striving to see situations from different perspectives, a quality we all could work on.

"New people" were here at Sardis for Olivia to meet when she returned after some years of absence. But there were also old friends that she remembers from her childhood. The cute little blonde attended Sardis with her mother Inge when she was a preschooler. She had always thought about coming back to the place which held fond memories for her. Finally the weekend after last Christmas, she put feet to her thoughts, a delightful surprise for those who remembered her from all those years ago. Since returning, she has helped with some of our youth outings. Old friendships renewed bring a special joy. Welcome, home (Sardis), Olivia.

## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



Twelve months ago, I was on an evening walk around the neighborhood. My phone rang. On the other end were seven members of the Sardis Pastoral Search Committee. They put me on speaker, and they said, "We want you to be our pastor." How lucky I felt that night, and how lucky I STILL feel one year later!!!

Here's why. In this community, people matter. Two babies born (and one to come!). Three people have been baptized. Two married. Five buried. Six graduates. Two new staff members. Dozens of new grandparents, aunts and uncles. Dozens of new jobs, new homeowners, and new accomplishments. Dozens of surgeries, hospital stays, and bouts with "blah."

None of these events are deemed ordinary at Sardis. People are called by name. This is a community that invests itself in relationships. This is a community that celebrates and grieves, never perfectly, but always together. It's a place where people can be vulnerable. It's a place where people can let their guards down. It's a place where people can say what they think about the divine, even if it's different from their neighbors. It's a place where people are encouraged to ask questions. It's a place where all people are recognized as beloved children of God. And it's a place where my wife and I feel valued and loved. And there's no place else we'd rather be.

Jacqueline and I believe in Sardis. We believe that God is doing remarkable things in this place. And because we believe in this place, we seek to give of our time, of our talents, of our tithes, and most importantly, of our energy. And we ask that you would do the same.

(Continued on page 5 – Worship)

## Sardis Baptist Church



### Prayers of Celebration and Anticipation

- The Byrd Family -  
Maria, Joey, Isabella, Amaya Rose •
- Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman •

### Prayers for Comfort, Healing and Strength

- Jourdan Askins and Family • Evelyn Beck •
- Suzette Buchan, Danny's sister • Elzene Corbett,  
Janet's mom • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband •
- Charles Cureton, Ruthye's brother • Nancy  
Darnell • Betty Deason • Jonathan Eidson •
- Marge Fowler • Ginter Baptist Church • Alan  
Gordon, Kathryn's uncle • Don Hill • Irena Hra-  
menkova • Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson's mother •
- William Kruger • Lennox Manswell, Sandy's father •
- Jason Matthews & Sabrina Welly, friends of Kathryn •
- Pete McSwain, Tillie's brother-in-law • Michael  
Midgett, Mary-Jane's son-in-law • Ryan Midgett,  
Mary-Jane's grandson • Mala Reynolds • June  
Ross' daughters - Tonya, Dante, Dawn and Dusty •
- Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother •

## PRAYER FOCUS



- July 31st – August 6th: Evelyn Beck
- August 7th – August 13th: Beltzhoover Family  
Alex, Janet and Elizabeth
- August 14th – August 20th: Sheila Black
- August 21st – August 27th: Melissa Bowlin
- August 28th – Sept 3rd: Sarah Bowlin



Prayer Coordinator—Melissa Bowlin  
704.458.9773 / mbowlin@cmpd.org

The work of the church requires the efforts of many people! Sardis is a place for you to feel the love of God and also for you to offer God's love to others. We are thankful for all of you, and especially want to highlight the following for their support of Sardis' ministries and operations in July:

✿ Melissa Bowlin ✿ Linda Cook ✿ Ron Demme ✿ Tillie Duncan ✿ Janette Grassi ✿ Betty Gunz ✿ Kristin Jackson ✿ Kathy Jean ✿ Tatiana Karpova ✿ Hilary Kearns ✿ Lisa Kennedy ✿ Kathryn Kreutzer ✿ Madison Kreutzer ✿ William Kruger ✿ Chris Mair ✿ Elizabeth Mosley ✿ Mary Jane Osborne ✿ Jim Owen ✿ Howell Peterson ✿ Danny Phillips ✿ Susan Phillips ✿ Hannah and Michael Shepard-Moore ✿ Magay Shepard ✿ John Simpson ✿ Bob Stillerman ✿ Joe Wall



Welcome baby girl!

We love you little peanut!

We are pleased to welcome Amaya Rose Byrd to Sardis! She was born on July 14th to Maria and Joey Byrd, and welcomed by her big sister, Isabella! Amaya Rose weighed 7 lbs, 6 oz and was 22 inches long at birth.





## HE DID IT!

Jonathan Eidson will graduate from the Montessori Institute of Atlanta on August 5th. Through hard work and dedication over the last three years he has earned credentials as a master Montessori teacher. Congratulations Pastor Jonathan! We are proud of you!

## CBFNC FALL BEACH RETREAT



**Sardis Youth will join with other CBF churches from North Carolina for a weekend at the beach!**

Youth will head to the coast on Friday, October 7th and return on Sunday afternoon of the 9th. The retreat is being hosted at the NC Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. This is located on the eastern tip of Oak Island and occupies the site of a former civil war fort.

A trip highlight is sure to be CBFNC's 11th Annual Sand Sculpture contest. Kiddos, bring your beach tools, molds and creativity! There will be fellowship, worship, food, and plenty of free time on the beach.

Cost for the trip is \$100 per youth. Participants will need to bring money to pay for two meals on the road, a pillow and sleeping bag or linens for twin bed, bath towel and beach towel, toiletries, bathing suit, sunscreen, comfortable/casual clothes for two days and something a little spiffier for worship, bible, pen or pencil and a flashlight.

October may seem like it's ages away, but the early bird registration is fast approaching. Please let Hilary Kearns know as soon as possible whether you'll be attending.



Youth and Friends  
You are Invited to a Pool Party!

Sardis Swim & Racquet Club  
7400 Thermal Road  
Charlotte, NC 28211

Sunday, August 7th  
6 to 8 PM

RSVP to Hilary Kearns  
[sardishilary@yahoo.com](mailto:sardishilary@yahoo.com) / 704.517.4417



## Worship Volunteers



## Love - Grow - Serve

### August 7, 2016

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Larry Harrill**

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

**Worship Care—Chris Mair & Elizabeth Mosley**

### August 14, 2016

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Marge Fowler**

**Ushers—Marge Fowler, Magay Shepard  
and Michael Shepard-Moore**

**Worship Care—Valerie Rutherford and  
Tamara Priyemskiy**

### August 21, 2016

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—William Kruger**

**Ushers—William Kruger, Maria Elena Floren  
and Howell Peterson**

**Worship Care—Betty Gunz and Janet Beltzhoover**

### August 28, 2016

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Valerie Rutherford**

**Ushers—Valerie, Brandon and Summer Rutherford**

**Worship Care—Krista Sigmon and Helper (TBD)**

### Deacons

**Melissa Bowlin**

**704.458.9773, mbowlin@cmpd.org**

**Kristin Jackson**

**704.618.6213, kpj@carolina.rr.com**

**Kathryn Kreutzer**

**704.241.6927, kathrynkreutzer@gmail.com**

**John Simpson**

**704.591.0890, drjohnsimpson@yahoo.com**

## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

(continued from page 3)

Consider giving your time. You might not realize it, but the time you invest in writing a prayer, visiting a friend, being present (really present) in worship, or a committee meeting, or a theological discussion, or just a conversation – all of these investments make Sardis a richer, fuller community.

Consider investing your talents. We have singers (boy, do we have singers!), writers, book-keepers, organizers, artists, cooks, comics, philosophers, landscapers, handymen and handier-still-women. When you offer your talents, you enhance our worship, you beautify our campus, and you better the lives of all of our community members.

Consider giving financially. Money is not the only thing to give, but it is an important thing to give. When you give regularly, you ensure that our ministries can be sustained with well-maintained buildings, with support staff, with educational and recreational programming for all ages, with innovative worship, and you help us further social justice in Charlotte and beyond.

Finally, consider giving your energy. When you come to Sardis, we are delighted that you are taking part in our community. There's no need to be cool, only the need to be YOU. Let yourself be wrapped up in the spirit that permeates this place. What a gift that will be to God and others!!!

Let me make one more appeal. In 2016, two little girls have been born into this community (and another will be here soon). If we continue to invest in Sardis in the way it has invested in each of our lives, just imagine the possibilities God has in store for these young women. When we invest in this place, we have an opportunity to make God's Kingdom apparent and tangible to each of these children. And we have the chance to tell them a truth they will never doubt: God loves you. God loves you. God loves you. Always. Always. Always!!!

May It be so! And may it be soon!!!

## GOD LOVES YOU!

(Pass it on!)

# AUGUST 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM	3 Choir Practice Resumes 7:30 PM	4 	5	6
7 Camp Sardis 10:00 AM Youth Pool Party 6:00 PM 	8	9 No Adult Bible Study (resumes 9/6)	10 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	11	12  TEAM UP CLEAN UP	13 Saturday of Service Campus Cleanup 9:00 AM
14 Trustees Meeting 8:00 AM Communion Brunch 10:30 AM Deacon Meeting 12:15 PM 	15	16 No Adult Bible Study (resumes 9/6)	17 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	18 Baby Stillerman Anticipated Arrival! 	19 Food Truck Friday 6:00 PM	20
21 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Worship Development Committee Meeting 12:15 PM	22	23 No Adult Bible Study (resumes 9/6)	24 Choir Practice 7:30 PM		26	27
28 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Grand Opening of Picnic Shelter / Potluck Lunch / Blessing of Backpacks 12:00 PM	29 CMS Students Return to School 	30 No Adult Bible Study (resumes 9/6)	31 Choir Practice 7:30 PM	 <b>FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY</b> <b>August 19th</b> <b>Stumptown Park</b> <b>Matthews, NC</b> <b>6:00 PM</b>		



## INAUGURAL PET BLESSING

Plans are in the works for the first-ever Sardis animal blessing on Sunday, September 18 at 4:30 pm (rain date Sunday, September 25). If you love animals, or have an interest in helping to organize this event, please email Bob Stillerman ([bobstillerman77@gmail.com](mailto:bobstillerman77@gmail.com)). There will be a short informational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, August 14.

## Sardis Baptist Church — Business

# GIVING

### MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

We offer our gratitude for your generosity, and ask that you 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.

June 2016 Budgeted Offerings: \$ 13,750.00

June 2016 Actual Offerings: \$ 9,254.98

July 2016 Budgeted Offerings: \$ 13,750.00

\*July 2016 Actual Offering \$ 6,423.66

Budgeted Offerings (January—July 24, 2016):  
\$ 82,500.00

Actual Offerings (January—July 24, 2016):  
\$ 75,981.55

\* Report for July is incomplete; July offerings reflect giving from July 1st-24th.

### Saturday of Service



On Saturday, August 13, at 9 am, Sardis will host an internally-focused Saturday of Service. There are a number of needs to be addressed both in our buildings and around the grounds. Come ready to help clean and organize inside, or to help with clearing and landscaping outside.

More details to come.

## SARDIS STAFF

**Rev. Bob Stillerman, Pastor**  
[bobstillerman77@gmail.com](mailto:bobstillerman77@gmail.com) / 919.810.4044

**Rev. Tillie Duncan, Associate Pastor**  
[sardistillie@yahoo.com](mailto:sardistillie@yahoo.com) / 704.562.6599

**Rev. Jonathan Eidson, Associate Pastor**  
[sardisjonathan@yahoo.com](mailto:sardisjonathan@yahoo.com) / 704.622.9984

**Hilary Kearns, Music Director**  
[sardishilary@yahoo.com](mailto:sardishilary@yahoo.com) / 704.517.4417

**Irena Hramenkova, Pianist**

## SARDIS DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are currently in the process of updating the Sardis Baptist Church directory. Thank you

to those who have provided updated information. New directories are currently being printed.



## Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers.

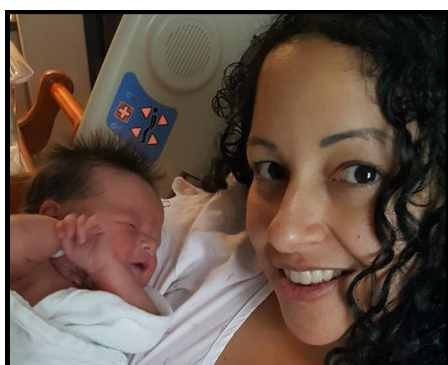
Anne Lamott



# JULY SNAPSHOTS



Sweet, Sweet, Amaya Rose  
with Mommy, Maria Byrd



- Sardis Night at the Americana -  
The entire crowd could not fit in the picture!



Sardis Youth at the US National Whitewater Center



Dear Good Cooks of Sardis,

During a time like this, we realize  
how much our friends mean to us...  
Your kind expression of sympathy  
will always be remembered.

Thanks to all who fed my friends  
and family for Jerry's celebration. I  
am so happy to be in this loving  
church.

Love,  
Marge



Dear Sardis Family,

We continue to be overwhelmed by the love and support you have shown us  
since our arrival in Charlotte. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for  
the wonderful shower you hosted for us last Sunday. Baby girl Stillerman is  
going to be greeted by an incredible church family.

Over the coming weeks, we intend to thank each of you personally for your  
kindness, but in the interim, we say a huge "WOW & THANK YOU" to each of you.

With love and hope,  
Jacqueline and Bob