

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

INTRODUCTION TO ADVENT



Imagine a crow's nest. A single sailor sits high atop the mast of the ship. He or she waits patiently. They are looking for land. When land first appears, it is far off on the horizon, hardly recognizable. But as the ship draws closer and closer, the land is seen more clearly, and the sailor grows excited with each passing day: What will we do when we finally arrive?

Such is the season of Advent. The prophet Isaiah tells us of a leader who will bring peace, hope, joy, and love into the world. In the beginning of Advent, our bodies adjust to shorter days and longer nights. And the promise of Christmas is but a faint echo. But as the season matures, the Christ Child seems close enough to touch. And we beam with excitement – What will the world look and feel like when he arrives? We busy ourselves in preparation.

This Advent season, we invite you to come and rest at Sardis. Yes, we will be busy in preparation. But we will also rest in the stillness of God, and in the certainty of the promise that awaits. Each week, we will explore a different theme of Advent through three lenses: story, song, and proclamation. We'll hear the voices of historical figures who exemplified peace, hope, joy, and love. We'll hear the songs of Broadway Show Tunes that express our emotions in ways that simple words cannot. And we'll listen to the words God speaks to us in the present.

The Christ Child is coming, y'all!!! Come join us as we ready ourselves to hear the ancient story anew.

ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent Sunday, November 27

Church-wide Breakfast, 9 AM
Hanging of the Greens, 10 AM
Worship, 11 AM

Performance of Hansel and Gretel Saturday, December 3, 7 PM

Second Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 4 Worship, 11 AM

Christmas Party & Room In The Inn Saturday, December 10, 6 PM

Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 11 Worship, 11 AM Advent Labyrinth Walk, 6 PM

Sardis Christmas Caroling Wednesday, December 14, 5 PM

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 18 Worship, 11 AM Drop-In at the Stillermans, 1-4 PM

Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24 Family Photos by Chrismon Tree, 5 PM Candlelight Service, 6 PM

Christmas Day Sunday, December 25 Worship, 11 AM (No Sunday School)

New Years Day Sunday, January 1 Worship, 11 AM (No Sunday School)

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

The holidays are busy! And in our busy-ness, it's not always easy to pause and offer thanksgiving – after all, there are turkeys to baste, and Christmas presents to buy, and lights to string up, and meetings to attend. During the month of November, Sardis members used Sardis Academy as a space to reflect on the theology of Thanksgiving. We considered Paul's letter to the Philippians; we wrote thank you notes and made goodie bags for behind-the-scenes Sardis workers; we discussed how and why we should pray; and we even wrote our own Mad-Lib style communal prayer of thanksgiving. (It's printed on the back cover of Signposts).



This month, we invite your family to write its own Mad-Lib prayer(s). It will only take moment, but perhaps this simple exercise will help remind you of the real reason for the season.

Part One:

- 1A. Name your favorite place to go on vacation.
- 1B. What is your favorite thing about this place? (A body of water, the time of day, the climate, etc.)
- 2A. What dish are you most looking forward to eating at Thanksgiving dinner?
- 2B. What is your favorite part of this dish? (How the cheese crackles, does it smell good, what your Mama makes best, etc.)
- 3A. What is your favorite food?
- 3B. How many helpings would you eat if you were really hungry. (Be honest! If you say one helping it isn't your favorite!)
- 4A. Name a person in your life that you are thankful for. Try to think of someone you haven't thought about in a long time. (An old teacher, a distant relative, an old co-worker, etc.)
- 4B. What is your relationship to this person?
- 4C. Why are you thankful for them?
5. Repeat 4A-4C
6. Name something you use every day that you are grateful for, but rarely remember to give thanks for (phone, car, etc.)
7. Name a simple convenience you are grateful for, but often take for granted. (running water, a roof, a warm coat, etc.)
8. Name one basic thing about your health that you are thankful for (breathing, walking, seeing, etc.) CONTINUED ON BACK

SARDIS PEOPLE ~ SARAH BOWLIN



"There's a snake in the house!" Of all the phone calls she received when working with Animal Control, this was the message Sarah Bowlin liked least. One of her favorite experiences with the department was finding a stolen dog and having the pleasure of reuniting the pet with his owner.

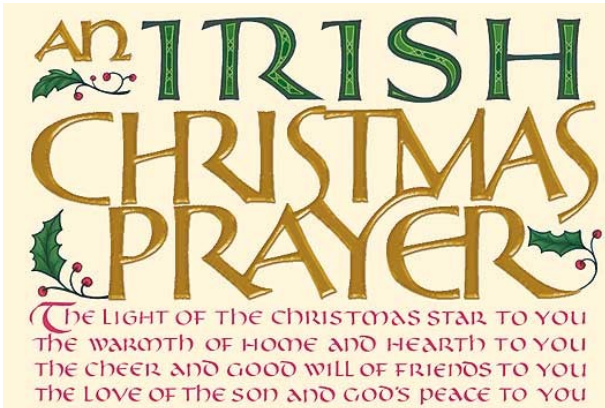
As an entrepreneur, Sarah has started her own pet and house sitting service. Her clients keep her busy enough that at times she even recruits her mother to help care for the pets.

Sarah has been a member of Sardis for 18 years. She first came with her mother, Melissa, as a child and has grown up here. She was always a faithful member of the youth group and has been of the church as a whole. She was away for a few years while studying at Mars Hill College, earning a B.S. in Business Administration in 2012.

Recently Sarah underwent surgery to repair an old soccer injury. Nerve damage from a knee injury led to a dropped foot, and she will learn in a few weeks if the surgery was successful in correcting that. Having progressed to wearing a boot on her foot, she will return to work the week after celebrating Thanksgiving.

Besides the exciting experiences of her job, Sarah is excited at living in her own home, which she purchased last year. She loves decorating it and is looking forward to making the whole house look like Christmas! She also enjoys hosting, so is quick to invite people over. A "people" person, Sarah loves the feeling of home she has at Sardis, knowing that she can always count on her church family.

Sardis Baptist Church



PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT

Melissa Bowlin
704.458.9773 ~ mbowlin@cmpd.org

Jourdan Askins and Family • Evelyn Beck •
Sarah Bowlin • Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips'
sister • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband •
Nelson Cooper, friend of Jonathan's • Elzene
Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mom • Charles
Cureton, Ruthye Cooley's brother • Nancy
Darnell • Betty Deason • Betsy & Don
DePaul • Don Hill • Irena Hramenkova •
Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson's mother • Jane
Jurney • Hudson Newbrough, great grand-
nephew of Janie Harris • Howell Peterson •
Mala Reynolds • Bill Sease, Becky Owen's
brother • June Ross • Teddy Walker, teacher
for Kreutzer kids • Betty Zimmerman,
friend of Hilary Kearns



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 have too many people to
thank for their participation in our November efforts!

Worship Care: Maria Elena Floren, Betty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy,
Kathryn Kreutzer, Valerie Rutherford, Jacqueline Stillerman,
and a special thank-you to Susan Phillips for planning and
leading our recent Worship Care Training Session.

Worship Leaders: Melissa Bowlin, Linda Cook, Ron Demme, Tillie
Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Blake Grubbs, Brooke Grubbs, Betty
Gunz, Larry Harrill, Kristin Jackson, Hilary Kearns, Erin Kennedy,
Madison Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, William Kruger, Jim Owen,
Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Brandon Rutherford, Hannah
Shepard-Moore, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman, Jacqueline
Stillerman, Jo Tiddy, Joe Wall

Fellowship: Janet Beltzhoover, Melissa Bowlin, Kathryn Kreutzer,
Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard

**Building & Groundskeepers (Workday Helpers, Planters, Mis-
cellaneous):** Melissa Bowlin, Linda Cook, Betty Gunz, Kathryn
Kreutzer, Madison Kreutzer, William Kruger, Jim Owen, Howell
Peterson, Danny Phillips, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard, John
Simpson, Bob Stillerman

Christmas Tree Helpers: Jim Owen, Joe Wall, Alcie Kreutzer,
David Kreutzer, Kaleb Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, John Simpson,
Bob Stillerman

Financial Duties: Linda Cook & Jim Owen

Weekly prayer

FOCUS
on our community

November 27—December 3rd: Luis & Olinda Floren

December 4th—December 10th: Luis Floren

December 11th—December 17th: Maria Elena Floren

December 18th—December 24th: Marge Fowler

December 25th—December 31st: Dana & Kelli Furgurson

DECEMBER 4th YOUTH EVENT

Our youth group has created a tradition in recent years of gathering at the home of Kristin & Jeff Jackson for a Christmas Party and gift exchange. Youth will gather at the meetinghouse at 4:30 PM on the afternoon of December 4th and caravan to the Jacksons'.

Each youth brings one unmarked gift for the exchange. Gifts for the event have included home-made baked goods, candy and other inexpensive items (\$10 or less). It is always amazing to see how creative our youth can be. Please make every effort for your youth to join us. Contact J Swizzle for more information.



CONGRATULATIONS JACKSON



Jackson Mosley-Mair was recently selected for the *ALL COUNTY HONORS ORCHESTRA*. Join us in congratulating him on such an impressive accomplishment! Jackson plays the cello.

SARDIS REUNION

Sardis hopes to be a community that comes together to worship and deepen our relationships with God and each other. It brings us great joy to see friendships continue, even even when families move to other places! Joy Kate and Nora Williams recently reunited with Blakely and Brooke Grubbs for a playdate while they were all in town. Thanks be to God for our friends and fellowship!



SKI RETREAT

Our youth ski retreat is January 20th-22nd in Ghent, West Virginia. Our kids will be skiing and snowboarding at Winterplace Ski Resort with other participants in this annual CBF retreat. Our group will leave in time on Friday to allow for some night skiing when they arrive, and the trip will include their lift ticket for skiing on Saturday.

This year's worship leader is Rev. Shari Madkins. She is a former social worker, youth minister and PassPort Camps pastor (some youth may have met her in years past). Music will be led by Paul & Courtney Dow, Jacob Blount and TJ Rodriguez.

Pastor Jonathan can share more details with you. This is a favorite youth activity! A reservation will make a wonderful Christmas present!

JANUARY 20-22

Sardis Baptist Church – Worship



ADVENT WORSHIP LEADERS

DECEMBER 4, 2016

Worship Care: Janette Grassi and Jacqueline Stillerman

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: Ron Demme

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

DECEMBER 11, 2016

Worship Care: Krista Sigmon and
Hannah Shepard-Moore

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: Marge Fowler

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

DECEMBER 18, 2016

Worship Care: Maria Byrd and Joey Byrd

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: Larry Harrill

Ushers: Larry Harrill, Erin Kennedy, Lisa Kennedy

CHRISTMAS EVE, 6 PM

**No Worship Care Today-
All Children Welcome In Worship!**

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: TBD

Ushers: David, Dylan & Kaleb Kreutzer

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

**No Worship Care Today-
All Children Welcome In Worship!**

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: William Kruger

Ushers: William Kruger, Maria Elena Floren,
Howell Peterson

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

HANSEL & GRETEL

In America, we have the Nutcracker ballet as a Christmas tradition. But in Germany during Christmastime, you're more likely to see the German opera *Hansel and Gretel* on stage. This opera by Engelbert Humperdinck has a long Christmas tradition and its own set of hits, like the *Gingerbread Waltz* and the *Witches' Ride*.

The Little Opera Company of Charlotte (LOCO) is a performing arts group that presents offbeat productions of classic operas. LOCO was founded on the belief that opera is for everyone! Sardis Baptist is hosting a performance of LOCO's *Hansel and Gretel* on Saturday, December 3rd at 7 PM. Our own minister of music, Hilary Kearns, has the lead role of Gretel. Adult tickets are \$10 at the door; children are free. We look forward to seeing you here!



If you are unable to make it on the 3rd, other performances will be held on Friday, December 2nd, 7 PM at Cool Springs United Methodist Church in Statesville and Sunday, December 4th, 3 PM at Epworth United Methodist Church in Concord.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Community Worship does not JUST happen on Sunday mornings! Join us at 5 PM on Wednesday, December 14th as we put worship into action. We'll caravan around town singing Christmas carols to friends and enjoying good eats and Christmas treats.



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 	3 Hansel & Gretel featuring Hilary Kearns 7:00 PM \$10 tickets
4 Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Youth Christmas Party 4:30 PM	5	6 Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM	7 Choir-7:45 PM	8	9 	10 Sardis Christmas Party & RITI 6:00 PM
11 Trustees Meeting- 8:00 AM @ Phil's Deli Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Deacon Meeting 12:15 PM Evening Worship: Labyrinth Walk 6:00 PM 	12	13 Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM	14 Christmas Caroling 5:00 PM 	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Communion Stillerman Drop-In 1:00-4:00 PM	19	20 Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM	21 Choir-7:45 PM	22	23 	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6:00 PM
25 No Sunday School Worship-11:00 AM 	26	27 No Adult Bible Study	28 Choir-7:45 PM	29	30 	31

Offering Report



We offer gratitude for your generosity, and ask that you continue to give thoughtful consideration to how much members of your household can give time, talents, and financial contributions to sustain the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church.

October Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 13,750.00
October Actual:	\$ 11,128.09
November Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 13,750.00
November Actual:	\$ 22,981.01
Budgeted Offerings (January — November 2016):	\$151,250.00
Actual Offerings (January — November 2016):	\$152,250.61

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
at all the times you can, to all the people
you can, as long as you ever can."*

~ John Wesley ~

2,056 LBS

Congratulations Sardis Baptist Church! With the coordination efforts and matching donations provided by William Kruger, our small church made a BIG impact on hunger in our community. Our total donations provided more than 2,500 pounds of food and dry goods for Loaves & Fishes.



SARDIS STAFF

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

Rev. Tillie Duncan, Pastor
sardistillie@yahoo.com / 704.562.6599

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

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

Irena Hramenkova, Pianist



Many Hands Lighten the Load! Where Could You Help?

The Board on Committees will soon send nomination forms for board positions opening in 2017, as well as making calls to fill stewardship positions. Please consider how your gifts can best serve others through Sardis.

Please note these email updates in your directory.

- **Janette Grassi:**
janettegrassi@att.net
- **Marvin & Kathie Jean:**
marvinjean@gmail.com
- **Jim Owen:**
jowen47@carolina.rr.com



Hanging of the Greens



*We share our
heartfelt condolences
with Howell Peterson
for the loss
of his mother,
Edna Peterson.*



A MAD-LIBS THANKSGIVING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

God,

There's a place called Yellowstone that makes my heart beat just a little bit faster. I know that you are part of creation when I see rugged beauty, and nature's wonders, and wildlife. Thank you!!!

And God, you have provided us with a full table: Turkey and Dressing makes every day better, especially when there is gravy! And don't get me started on Lobster. I know you've had a hand in both two-pounders I've eaten. It just gets better and better.

And God, have I mentioned all the people you've put in my life, people who bring light into the world.

There's Ira, my uncle, who showed me how to farm, and work, and build and fix and think.

And there's Ms. Houston, my best teacher ever, who is so sweet and loving. And how could I forget Aunt Vivian, who never gets frazzled, and always enjoys company.

For the many saints in our lives, living and past, we say thanks!!!

There's little things too, God, like radio and heat and orthopedic advances.

All these things we seem to take for granted. Forgive us God, when we seem too busy to pay attention. This evening, we want to tell you that we notice, God. And we are grateful.

Amen.

