

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

ADVENT 2017 AT SARDIS

Advent is here! This year at Sardis, we're offering lots of ways to prepare for the Christ child's arrival. We hope you can be part of the preparation:

Worship Theme— This year's Advent will have a little bit of everything: history, music, unique perspectives, bells, new sounds and sights, even a little Rock n' Roll! We'll think about a few of the places of Christmas in the Bible, and we'll explore what hope, peace, joy, and love looked like back then, and what they look like now. It's our sincere hope that these services will offer you a chance to reflect on how God's spirit is being birthed anew in each of our lives, and collectively at Sardis, in Charlotte, and among all the communities we're a part of.

Hanging of the Greens, Sunday 12/3, 9:30 a.m. — Join us for breakfast treats and coffee. After we're full, we'll decorate the Chrismon Tree and make ready the Meetinghouse for Advent.

Hansel and Gretel, Monday 12/4, 6:30 p.m. — The Little Opera Company of Charlotte will present its annual family-friendly performance of Hansel and Gretel. The show lasts approximately 45 minutes, and is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit. Tickets available at the door: \$10 Adults; Children free.

Sing S'More Songs, Saturday 12/9, 5:00 p.m. — Join us for Sardis' annual Christmas Party. We'll enjoy a pot-luck soup supper together in the Meetinghouse. Bring a crockpot full of your favorite recipe, as well as your appetite, and sample a smorgasbord of soups. After supper, we'll enjoy a Christmas concert from Queen City Groove. After the concert, we'll adjourn to the picnic shelter where we'll enjoy a (continued on page 5)



December 3rd—Sunday of Hope

9:30 AM Hanging of the
Greens Breakfast
11:00 AM Morning Worship
4:30 PM Youth to Laser Quest

December 4th @ 6:30 PM

Hansel & Gretel
The Little Opera Company

December 9th @ 5:00 PM

Sing S'More Songs
Annual Christmas Party

December 10th—Sunday of Peace

9:45 AM
How Did That Wise Guy
Get in My Nativity?
Second Sunday with Pastor Bob
11:00 AM Morning Worship

December 17th—Sunday of Joy

11:00 AM Christmas Cantata
Noon Christmas Caroling

December 24th—Sunday of Love

10:00 AM Christmas Eve
Communion Brunch
6:00 PM Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

December 31st—New Year's Eve

11:00 AM Morning Worship
No Sunday School Today

Church DEACONS

November 14, 2017

Dear Sardis Family:

For nearly three decades, ours has been a congregation rooted in creative leadership: We've refused to be rigid in defining the ways God calls persons of faith to demonstrate their ministerial gifts.

Four women have been ordained to gospel ministry by our congregation, and this past spring we established the position of Pastor Emerita. Another former pastor holds the title of Writer in Residence. We've also been open to bi-vocational ministry – both of our current pastors have employment beyond Sardis. Lay leadership is also essential. Deacons, elected from within the church body, are ordained and commissioned to offer congregational care. Board members and stewards, also elected or appointed from within, help accomplish more specific tasks. Together, ordained lay leaders and ordained clergy help fulfill the work of the church.

But Sardis is unique. Sometimes we are gifted with leaders whose callings are found outside the categories of deacon and clergy. These individuals are called to a particular or special ministry. In Hilary Kearns and Kathryn Kreutzer, we have been blessed with two very unique ministers, each called to offer us their gifts in very particular, and very special ways.

Neither Hilary nor Kathryn desire to seek seminary training, nor do they desire to become clergy. But each of them serve our congregation in a professional capacity. Hilary offers us her gift of music, as well as her gift of being invested in the lives of our congregants. Kathryn offers us her gifts of organization, creativity, and communication, and has served as a deacon. Each of them are integral in the planning of corporate worship, as well as the day-to-day operations of Sardis. More than anything, Hilary and Kathryn are women who care about, who love, and who attend to the needs of Sardis and its people. Hilary Kearns and Kathryn Kreutzer are ministers.

We believe it's time to acknowledge and celebrate their calling in a formal way. Therefore, the board of deacons, with the consent of the board of trustees and pastors, has voted unanimously to change their titles effective December 1, 2017. Hilary Kearns will be given the title of Minister of Music. Kathryn Kreutzer will be given the title of Minister of Congregational Support.

Each winter, we ordain newly elected deacons, and offer them our blessing though the laying of hands. This year, we will include Hilary and Kathryn in this service as an opportunity for each of you to offer your support and blessing for their new calling.

God is calling each of us in new and exciting ways. As long as there's a place called Sardis, we'll continue to listen and respond to God's call.

In Service,
The Diaconate of Sardis Baptist Church
Melissa Bowlin, Marge Fowler, Kristin Jackson, John Simpson

SARDIS PEOPLE ~ BETTY R. GUNZ

Social justice advocate Betty Gunz embodies her beliefs by being a social activist as well. One of the ministries she performs regularly is with Reproductive Rights of Charlotte. She lends a helping hand to patients and whole families seeking aid at the abortion clinic as they navigate past protesters toward assistance.

One of her most spiritual experiences came a few years ago when she journeyed to Raleigh to the Moral Monday protests. She was arrested along with 150 other volunteers. "It was like being held in an embrace by the group. No one was left behind." There were other volunteers who waited through the night to transfer those taken to jail back to their cars.

"Eating a plant-based diet is a daily justice practice for me," Betty adds. "I practice compassion three times a day. It is a spiritual practice as well as a health and a compassion practice.

She is married to Joe Wall; they have one daughter and two grandchildren: Joe, 14, and Katy, 9. KK, the cat, completes their family circle. Nee Rogers, Betty grew up in Rolesville, NC with one brother.

Betty loves how much Sardis is like Pullen, the church in which she was a member while living in Raleigh. "I'm glad I found [Sardis] and glad to be here" where we are all living into imperfection.



Sardis Baptist Church



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN DECEMBER:

Mark Almond, Jacqueline Stillerman's uncle • Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister • Ben Cooley, Ruthye Cooley's husband • Ruthye Cooley's mother • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Kevin "Yam" Cruise, friend of Jonathan's • Nancy Darnell, St. Andrews Living Center • Family and Friends of Betty Deason • Betsy & Don DePaul • Ed DePasquale, friend of William Kruger • Howard Etheredge, friend of David Kreutzer • Dennis Espenschied, Jonathan's brother-in-law • Friends & Family of Alan Gordon, Kathryn Kreutzer's uncle • Janette Grassi • Don Hill, Stewart Health Center • Irena Hramenkova • Doris Hunter, Anne Hunter Eidson's mother • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Erin Kennedy • William Kruger • Tammy Moore, Tim's sister-in-law • Odell Peterson, Howell's brother • Rachael Phipps, Sean Bracey's wife • Mala Reynolds • Violet Ross, June Ross' mother-in-law • Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother • Carson Sholin • Tammy Taylor • Eddie Waiters, husband of Doris Waiters who cleans at Sardis

PRAYER CHAIN – MELISSA – 704.458.9773 / MBOWLIN@CMPD.ORG

Thank You, Sardis Friends!

Many people participate in the ministries at Sardis Baptist Church! It takes effort from lots of volunteers to accomplish all that we do at our church and beyond. We'd like to thank the following who have contributed during the last month through their efforts to maintain our building and grounds, design worship displays, care for our children, serve as worship leaders, pay our bills and prepare fellowship meals:

Fay Alderman, Janet Beltzhoover, Melissa Bowlin, Joey Byrd, Maria Byrd, Linda Cook, Ron Demme, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Irena Hramenkova, Kristin Jackson, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Kathryn Kreutzer, William Kruger, Chris Mair, Tim Moore, Elizabeth Mosley, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman and Joe Wall



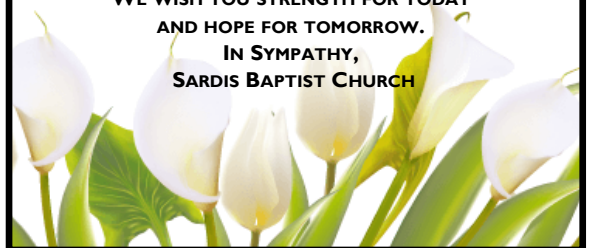
Poinsettias in memory or honor of special people are available for purchase for \$15 through Wednesday 12/6. Order forms are available in the vestibule. Poinsettias will be displayed beginning Sunday 12/10 and may be taken home following the Christmas Eve Service.

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Betty Lou Deason

WE WISH YOU STRENGTH FOR TODAY
AND HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

IN SYMPATHY,
SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH



SKI TRIP

Remember Ski Trip '17? Here's what Madison and Matthew said about last year's ski trip:

Madison: *"My favorite part of skiing was being with friends and trying some new and harder slopes. I loved the worship services; they made me really happy."*

Matthew: *"I enjoyed hanging out with everybody on the trip and getting to ski the slopes with friends. It was an amazing trip!"*

The question is, "Can we top last year's trip?" I believe we can! This year's retreat is January 26 – 28. The cost is \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. Advanced skiers who want to ski Friday night as well will add \$40.00 to that total. Bob, Hilary and Jonathan will be chaperoning this year's trip.

We've had wonderful experiences on past trips so be sure to sign up by December 3rd with Pastor Jonathan. The Ski Trip makes a great Christmas gift!

UNIDIVERSITY

It's already time to begin thinking about UniDiversity. This summer our youth will head back to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN for UniDiversity Camp. We arrive on campus on Monday, July 23rd and leave for home on Saturday, July 28th. Sardis will subsidize tuition for each camper bringing the cost down to \$250 apiece.

UniDiversity is a week-long Christian summer camp for teenagers planned by youth workers and adult volunteers who have a passion for connecting teens with Christ and with each other.

UniDiversity will be enjoyed by teenagers from SC, NC, VA, GA, KY, TN and MO! We are expecting around 400 this July 23 – 28, 2018. See Pastor J for more information.



COME CAROLING! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH @ NOON

Congratulations!

Our acclaimed pianist, Irena Hramenkova, led her students to victory in the recent Concerto Competition.

1st Place—Anthony Yang
2nd Place—Jonathan Wang
2nd Place—Claire Fan
3rd Place—William Jin

SARDIS BAPTIST SWAG

Sardis still has a number of hoodies available for purchase (\$20). These make great Christmas gifts. If hoodies aren't your style, consider buying one to give to our Room in the Inn guests when they join us in February.



Sardis Baptist Church — Worship



DECEMBER 3, 2017

Worship Care—Lisa Kennedy and Sarah Bowlin

Greeter / Vestibule—Marge Fowler

Ushers—Valerie Rutherford and Family

DECEMBER 10, 2017

Worship Care—Olivia Dumez and Maria Elena Floren

Greeter / Vestibule—William Kruger

Ushers—William Kruger, Lisa Kennedy and Larry Harrill

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Worship Care—Barbara Mosley and Mary Jane Osborne

Greeter / Vestibule—Howell Peterson

Ushers—Howell Peterson, Magay Shepard and Jeff Jackson

CHRISTMAS EVE — 10:00 AM WORSHIP

Worship Care—None scheduled; all children are welcome in worship.

Greeter / Vestibule—Joe Wall

Ushers—Joe Wall, Betty Gunz and Linda Cook

CHRISTMAS EVE — 6:00 PM WORSHIP

No Worship Care—None scheduled; all children are welcome in worship. Other worship leaders to be determined.



(continued from front) fire pit, s'mores, hot holiday beverages, and a chance to sing our favorite carols.

How Did That Wise Guy Get in My Nativity? Second Sunday with Bob Stillerman, Sunday 12/10, 9:45 a.m. — Join Bob for a discussion of the birth-stories in the four Gospels.

Christmas Cantata, Sunday 12/17, 11:00 a.m. — On Sunday morning, December 17, Sardis will be performing its first Christmas Cantata! *Breath of Heaven* is a 40-minute work with narration by Mary and Joseph and music by composer and arranger Russell Mauldin. Songs range from traditional Christmas medleys to brand-new works by Mauldin. And, you'll hear carols you recognize too, so you're encouraged to sing-along with your choir during the performance.

Christmas Caroling, Sunday 12/17, Noon — Following worship, all are invited to go caroling as we spread a little cheer beyond the walls of Sardis. Pack a bagged lunch, and we'll "picnic" together in the kitchen before loading our vehicles for a joyful ride.

Christmas Eve Communion Brunch, Sunday 12/24, 10:00 a.m. — In lieu of 11:00 worship, Sardis will gather for a special (and family-friendly) Communion brunch at 10:00 a.m. (note the time). Bring your favorite breakfast treat to share. As we eat, we'll sing carols, offer prayers, hear inspiring words, and share the Lord's Supper.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sunday 12/24, 6:00 p.m. — Sardis will gather for a family-friendly service of readings and carols. We expect the service to last for approximately 45 minutes. Come early to enjoy coffee, hot chocolate and cookies, and take a family picture in front of our tree. We have lots of amateur photographers!

Sardis Baptist Church — Calendar



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Advent One: Hope 9:30 AM Hanging of the Greens Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship	4 	5 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	6 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	7	8	9 5:00 PM Sing S'more Songs
10 Advent Two: Peace 9:45 AM Second Sunday Birth Stories of the Gospels 11:00 AM Worship	11 	12 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	13 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 Advent Three: Joy 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Christmas Cantata Caroling to Homebound Friends	18 	19 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	20 4:30 PM Staff Meeting	21 Winter Solstice 	22	23
24 Advent Four: Love No Sunday School *10:00 AM Worship Communion Brunch (*Note Time Change) 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 	26	27 4:30 PM Staff Meeting	LENT 2018 — SAVE THE DATES 2/13— Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper) 2/14 — Ash Wednesday (Evening Worship) 2/18 — 1st Sunday of Lent 2/15 to 3/31 — Various Service Events • 3/25 — Palm Sunday 3/29 — Maundy Thursday (Communion Supper) 3/30 — Good Friday (Mid-Day Worship) 4/1 — Easter Sunday		
31 No Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship						

Sardis Baptist Church – Business

'TIS THE Season OF Giving

Our Operating Fund (sometimes called General Fund) is used to do the daily work of the church, and to keep Sardis up and running! Donations not otherwise designated are put into this fund. A portion of this fund is donated to our ministry and missions partners to support the work of the church outside of our building walls.

October Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 12,916.67
October Actual Offerings:	\$ 18,846.53
November 2017 Budgeted:	\$ 12,916.67
November 2017 Actual:	\$ 9,691.00
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$142,083.37
YTD Actual Offerings:	\$125,314.36

a little help for our friends...

Christmas Food Drive – Sardis will be collecting canned and dry food (no glass!) for Loaves and Fishes through Sunday 12/17. Containers are available for collection in the church vestibule.

Monarch – This Fall, our friends at Monarch provided a presentation on mindfulness for one of our Sardis Academy sessions. Monarch also provides services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health and substance use disorders. One facet of these services are group homes for persons living with mental illness. One of their homes, Carmel Forest, is located here in Charlotte. The home has six adults, who work during the day, but also receive assistance with basic needs like cooking, managing a household, and socialization. Monarch has asked if Sardis would help them in providing the Carmel Forest Family with some Christmas cheer. We're looking to provide each adult with three gifts a piece (each one in the range of \$10-\$15). If you would like to participate, we have information available about each adult (hobbies and clothing sizes). We will collect donations through Sunday 12/17. Contact the church office for additional details. Once we've collected the gifts, we'll arrange a time to deliver items and carol to our new friends.

Warmth Gifts – Sardis continues its partnership with Hope Chapel, a collaborative of the United Baptist Association. Each Sunday, guests of the Charlotte Men's Shelter are invited to an 8:00 a.m. worship service. Bob Stillerman is the proclaimer twice annually. Hope Chapel is always in need of gloves, hats, scarves, winter coats, undergarments, and toiletries. If you'd like to make any donations, please contact the church office, and we'll ensure they are delivered.

Christmas Eve Offering – All non-designated offerings for this year's Christmas Eve service will be given to Crisis Assistance Ministry and Loaves and Fishes.



The Board on Stewards is planning for the year ahead, and looking for volunteers to fill positions available in 2018. Following are areas of service:

- BUILDING & GROUNDS** maintenance of Sardis' buildings and property
- FELLOWSHIP** planning, preparation, setup and cleanup for meals
- MISSIONS** mission activity serving those beyond our building walls
- MUTUAL CARE** providing love and care to Sardis friends in crisis
- OUTREACH** relationships with those outside of the Sardis community
- PRESCHOOL / CHILDREN / YOUTH** programming for youngsters
- WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT** collaboration with staff to plan worship

The Board on Stewards will also be working in the coming months to fill opening positions on our boards of deacons and trustees. Please prayerfully consider what gifts you can share with Sardis. Contact the chair of our Board on Stewards to nominate yourself or someone else: Susan Phillips, dwoodp@aol.com, 704.579.7757.

Sardis Baptist Church



January Sardis Academy

JANUARY 17th—Christy Clark, the North Carolina Chapter Leader for Mom's Demand Action will join us to discuss this grassroots organization. Moms Demand Action supports the 2nd Amendment, but believes common-sense solutions can help decrease the escalating epidemic of gun violence that kills too many of our children and loved ones every day. Seven American children/teens are shot and killed everyday.

JANUARY 24th—Bill Guerrant has been a volunteer for six years at Charlotte's First United Methodist Church where 150 homeless persons are served breakfast each Sunday morning. As a photographer he noticed the incredible faces of people being helped and wanted to document them. For 14-months he photographed portraits of 30 individuals as well as images of volunteers and architectural features of the 90-year old church. The result is the *Faces of Hope* mural (30 x 8 feet) now on permanent display at the uptown church. Guerrant's presentation on January 24 will include information about the homeless ministry, portrait images and discussion of the mural project that has received local, national and international coverage.

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