

sardis signposts

baptist church

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

WELCOME SCOTTIE STAMPER

On Sunday, December 20th, the congregation of Sardis Baptist Church voted unanimously to call Rev. Scottie Stamper as our interim minister of music, effective immediately.

Qualified in many areas of ministry, Scottie exhibits varied interests and experiences. She has held ministerial positions in Baptist churches in our area and in the state. In addition she has taught music in the Charlotte Mecklenburg school system and has been a private piano instructor. She has been an educator and chaplain in city healthcare systems.

A board-certified chaplain with the Association of Professional chaplains, she is endorsed by CBF. At present she is a volunteer chaplain with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police department, Providence division.

We can claim having a TV star in our midst as Scottie was a contestant on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* when it was hosted by Meredith Vieira. She won \$28,000, and after taxes, she had a little left over for herself! "Long gone now," she says.

An eight-time tri-athlete, Scottie hopes to start training for the 2016 season. In addition to athletics, she enjoys the arts and ushers for Blumenthal Performing Arts where she can watch shows and listen to concerts.

Scottie grew up in Statesville with one brother and one sister. She has an 18-year old nephew and an 8-year-old niece with whom she likes to spend time doing fun things. Her present family includes two cats, GrayCee and Ginger.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 AM –
Sunday School

11:00 AM –
Morning Worship

SARDIS ACADEMY

Our first Sardis Academy of 2016 begins on Epiphany— Wednesday, January 6th. Delicious dinners will be served at 5:45 followed by Academy classes at 6:30. The cost for dinner is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children with a family max of \$15. We hope you'll join us!

JANUARY 6th

Epiphany—Celebrated as the day the wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus, we will have a celebration of our own!

JANUARY 13th

Get to know our new interim minister of music, Scottie Stamper. Music, games and activities will make this an enjoyable intergenerational evening!

JANUARY 20th

This will be an evening of education AND fun with intergenerational games and activities.

JANUARY 27th

We will host a huddle-led discussion looking at the committee structure of Sardis.



I LIFT UP MINE EYES... Rev. Bob Stillerman

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION ~ A few years ago, *Time* published a list of the ten most-commonly broken New Year's resolutions. All the usual suspects were there: Lose weight and get fit; quit smoking; spend more time with family; have less stress; volunteer; read more; learn more; eliminate debt.

All good goals to be sure. But too often, our resolutions are lofty. Really lofty. Joining the gym becomes running a marathon before mid-February. Reading more becomes conquering the Twentieth Century's 100 Greatest Novels over a weekend. Volunteering for the local charity turns into a full-time job.

By the time Ash Wednesday rolls around, our lofty resolutions are such a distant memory, we decide we'll take them on again for Lent. And if you're like me, it's probably no big deal because your gym-membership was on auto-draft and you never remembered to cancel it.

This year, I'm trying something new. My resolution is to be present, really present, for one moment a day. A lot can happen in a moment: Moses saw a burning bush; Elijah listened, and in the silence heard God's still small voice; a Samaritan women discovered truth at the well; a young boy offered five loaves and two fish – a meal that fed thousands; Peter and Andrew, James and John responded to a simple command: "Follow me;" and Jesus, in a moment of hospitality, tore off a hunk of bread, and said to his friends: "This is my body, for you."

God lives in little moments. What would happen to us if we chose to embrace God's moments once a day in 2016? Would we find enlightenment in a conversation with a stranger? Would we build new community by sharing a pack of Nabs or breaking of a Kit-Kat bar? Would God speak to us as we took time to notice a sunset or the graceful movements of a dancing tree?

I'm not sure. But in 2016, I wanna be present enough to find out. Will you join me? And guess what? There's no auto-draft!!!



Will Thurston

Sardis People



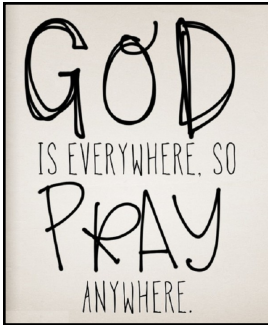
Sardis welcomed Will Thurston to our congregation in November. We'll celebrate his baptism on Sunday, January 10th. Will was born in Charlotte at Presbyterian Hospital. He has lived here his entire life. In spring of 2015, he graduated from South Mecklenburg High School. He was in the top 15 percent of his class and was a member of the National Honor Society and was an officer in the Interact Club.

In August, he matriculated at Davidson College where he is pursuing interests in psychology. At Davidson College, he is a part of the Davidson College Democrats and the Davidson College Outdoors club. He enjoys hiking and being outdoors.

His hobbies include playing the guitar, reading, movies and listening to music. He has a love of history and doing research. He is a tea connoisseur and enjoys discovering different kinds of teas. He also enjoys cooking and trying out new recipes as well as watching episodes of *Chopped*.

Will is a loving, caring person. Let's get to know him Sardis!

Sardis Baptist Church



PRAYERS FOR LOVED ONES

Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband • Nancy Darnell • Betty Deason • Don Hill •

Irena Hramenkova • Lexsy Jones, Valerie Rutherford's grandmother • Phil Jackie and family, Kristin Jackson's cousin • Henry Journey • William Kruger • Lennox Manswell, Sandy's father • Pete McSwain, Tillie Duncan's brother-in-law • Mary Jane Osborne • Becky Proctor • Mala Reynolds • June Ross • Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother-in-law • John Simpson • Christina Thomas, daughter of Daniel & Juanette • Deanie Tiddy, Mike's mother • Williams Family



PLEASE TURN YOUR PRAYER FOCUS TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES THE WEEKS BEGINNING:

January 3rd—Katey Kelley • January 10th—The Kennedy Family—Tom, Lisa, Douglas & Erin • January 17th—The Kreutzer Family—David, Kathryn, Dylan, Kaleb, Alcie & Madison • January 24th—William Kruger • January 31st—The Mosley Mair Family—Chris, Elizabeth, Jackson and Matthew



PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT

Melissa Bowlin
mbowlin@cmpd.org
704.458.9773

- David Kreutzer and The Maintenance Team for the donation of office furniture
- Jim Owen for his assistance with loading and transport of furniture for our church offices
- Jim Owen for replacing motion lights outside of both church buildings
- Many thanks to all who helped with our Hanging of the Greens celebration: Melissa & Sarah Bowlin, Linda Cook, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Betty Gunz & Joe Wall, Janette Grassi, Kristin & Jeff Jackson, William Kruger, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Susan & Danny Phillips, Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman
- Melissa Bowlin, Kathryn Kreutzer, Susan Phillips and Magay Shepard for decorating for the Christmas party
- Magay Shepard for the Christmas candy bags
- Joey & Maria Byrd, Elizabeth Mosley & Matthew Mair and Valerie Rutherford for their love and care of our children in worship care
- Marge Fowler, Michael Shepard-Moore and Bob Stillerman for leading the invocation
- Howell Peterson, John Simpson, Janette Grassi, Mirra Smith, Dianne McQueen, the Byrd family for reading and lighting of the Advent candles
- Jeff Jackson, Erin Kennedy, Alcie & Madison Kreutzer, Brandon Rutherford and Abby & Hannah Shepard-Moore for serving as acolytes
- Anna & Matt Beal for their "Voices of Hannah & Samuel" testimonies
- Joanie Williams for her "Words of Mary" testimony; Kathryn Kreutzer for delivery
- Each of you who have served as greeters, ushers and vestibule volunteers
- Youth and children who have served as acolytes; we are grateful!
- Magay Shepard and Betty Gunz for their continued attention to our winter flower pots

THANK YOU MUCH!

Room in the Inn (RITI) is a big undertaking for a little church, but we do it well! It takes much planning and action. We are grateful for the service many of you provide to enable us to participate in this powerful ministry!



Coordinator: Kristin Jackson

Setup: Alcie Kreutzer, Melissa Bowlin, Abby, Hannah, Michael and Tim Shepard-Moore

Drivers: Julie McElmurry, Tim Moore, Jim Owen, Danny Phillips, Carson Sholin and Mike Tiddy

Overnight Hosts: Julie McElmurry, Jim Owen and Danny Phillips

Breakfast: Kristin Jackson and Lisa Kennedy

Cleanup: Tom, Lisa & Erin Kennedy and Susan Phillips

Laundry: Barbara Mosley and Susan Phillips

To Go Snack Bags: Melissa Bowlin, Hannah Shepard-Moore, and all who donated snacks

MISSIONS

January Youth Event

On Sunday, January 3rd, our youth event will be in the home of Bob and Jacqueline Stillerman. While there, we'll get to know both of them better and talk about some of the ways our youth may become more involved in missions.

Several of our youth have mentioned a desire to do more to help those of our community who need it. For many years now, our youth have attended Passport Camps and have enjoyed the feeling of helping others.

It's time to build on those experiences as well as the experiences they have had at Sardis. The Stillerman's address is: 330 River Banks Rd. Matthews, NC 28105. We'll gather at the meetinghouse at 4:30. Parents may pick up at the Stillerman's at 7:30.



The annual ski retreat is almost here! On January 29—31, our youth will head to West Virginia for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship youth ski weekend. While there, they'll meet youth from other CBF churches, and enjoy the beauty of the snowy mountains while strengthening their faith. We will go to Winterplace Ski Resort for snow tubing Friday night (some of the group may ski) and skiing and snowboarding Saturday.

It'll be here before we know it so let Jonathan or Kathryn know as soon as possible if your youth would like to attend. The price for this event is \$125.00 for Sardis members and \$175.00 for guests.

Sardis has need-based scholarships available for youth wanting to attend. Please contact Pastor Jonathan if this would be helpful for your family. It will be handled discreetly.

Crazy Christmas Activities



Adults, youth and RITI guests all enjoyed food, fun and fellowship at our annual Sardis Christmas Party. For entertainment this year, Bob led us in a "Crazy Christmas Pageant" - and crazy it was! A few of the stars of the show were Brantley Rutherford, who was cast as the Virgin Mary, David Kreutzer as baby Jesus, Joe Wall as Joseph, Betty Gunz as an angel and Erin Kennedy sparkled as the star of Bethlehem. We also enjoyed singing Christmas carols and were accompanied on the piano by one of our RITI guests.

Once again, Sardis folks showed off their artistic abilities when a group of seventeen people, youth and adults, gathered to go Christmas caroling. We were able to visit and sing with about six Sardis folks as well as their friends and neighbors before we headed to Luisa's pizza to enjoy good food and even better company!

Camp Caraway is a beautiful retreat location situated on over 1,000 of acres of oak forests. Camp Caraway serves NC Baptist Churches, other Christian and non-profit organizations, and some corporations through



quality retreat-hosting services and professional educational and recreational programs. Almost 10,000 individuals come to Camp Caraway each year to experience stunning natural beauty, deeper interpersonal connections, and to focus on a time of spiritual reflection.

Children in grades 2nd-5th have the opportunity to attend the 7th Annual Raise a Song Children's Music Camp at Camp Caraway. This has been a great weekend of meeting other children from similar churches in North Carolina, singing, and playing! This year's camp will be held on March 11th-12th, 2016. The cost is about \$60 per child. If you are interested, please let Kathryn Kreutzer or Scottie Stamper know!



WORSHIP LEADERS

JANUARY 3RD

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer – Marge Fowler

Ushers – Alcie Kreutzer, Valerie & Brandon Rutherford

Worship Care – Lisa Kennedy & Maria Elena Floren

Deacon – Susan Phillips, 704.579.7757

JANUARY 10TH

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer – Howell Peterson

Ushers – Linda Cook, William Kruger, Howell Peterson

Worship Care – Maria & Joey Byrd

Deacon – Melissa Bowlin, 704.458.9773

JANUARY 17TH

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer – William Kruger

Ushers – Erin & Lisa Kennedy, William Kruger

Worship Care – Tamara Priyemskiy & Valerie Rutherford

Deacon – Kathryn Kreutzer, 704.241.6927

JANUARY 24TH

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer – John Simpson

Ushers – Larry Harrill, Barbara Mosley, John Simpson

Worship Care – Janet Beltzhoover & Betty Gunz

Deacon – Susan Phillips, 704.579.7757

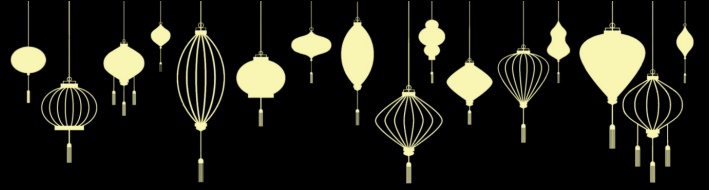
JANUARY 31ST

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer – Maria Elena Floren

Ushers – Ron Demme, Maria Elena Floren, David Sigmon

Worship Care – Krista Sigmon and TBD

Deacon – Melissa Bowlin, 704.458.9773



SARDIS SHARES HOPES AND DREAMS

During the four Sundays of Advent, we've written down our hopes and dreams for what will happen when Christ comes into the world. Between Christmas and the Sunday after Christmas, we will transfer our hopes and dreams onto paper lanterns, and they will be displayed in the sanctuary. On Sunday, January 3, we will conclude our morning worship service by lighting the lanterns and sending our hopes and dreams into the world. (Our lanterns are eco-friendly and 100% biodegradable). As we prepare for the year ahead, give thought to what you hope Christ will bring to Sardis, and to our world in 2016. And once we deploy our lanterns, give thought to how God will use your gifts to help make our hopes and dreams reality.

EPIPHANY

The word epiphany is often used when a person realizes his faith, or when (s)he recognized God at work in life and the world. "The Epiphany" refers to a realization that Christ is the Son of God. We celebrate the visit of the three wise men as the revelation of the incarnation of the infant Christ. The date of Epiphany is January 6th or the twelfth day of Christmas. Epiphany Sunday is celebrated either the 1st or 2nd Sunday of January.



This year Epiphany, January 6th, falls on the first Wednesday evening of our 2016 Sardis Academy session. We will celebrate the feast of epiphany together and learn more about this special day on the liturgical calendar. Dinner will be served at 5:45, and a celebration will follow at 6:30. We hope to see you here!

Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						2
3 EPIPHANY SUNDAY Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Hopes & Dreams Youth Event- 4:30 PM	4	5 Staff Meeting- 6:00 PM	6 EPIPHANY Fellowship Meal-5:45 PM Sardis Academy- 6:30 PM Choir-7:45 PM	7	8	9
10 LORD'S BAPTISM Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Will Thurston's Baptism	11 Trustee's Meeting- 6:00 PM	12	13 Fellowship Meal- 5:45 PM Sardis Academy- 6:30 PM Choir-7:45 PM	14	15	16
17 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Worship Development Meeting-12:00 PM	18	19	20 Fellowship Meal-5:45 PM Sardis Academy- 6:30 PM Choir-7:45 PM	21	22	23
24 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Quarterly Conference- 12:00 PM	25	26	27 Fellowship Meal-5:45 PM Sardis Academy- 6:30 PM Choir-7:45 PM	28	29 Youth Ski Retreat	30 Youth Ski Retreat
31 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM						

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

WEEKLY

A weekly Bible Study will resume in mid-late January. During the fall of 2015, the group met on Thursdays at 10:30 am. It turns out that this has been a difficult time window for some of our regular attendees. In the days ahead, Bob will be reaching out to current and potential participants to determine a more suitable time to meet. Stay tuned for details.



CONTACT MELISSA BOWLIN:
(704)458-9773 OR MBOWLIN@CMPD.ORG

Sardis Baptist Church – Business

SARDIS FINANCIALS



November 29th, 2015

25th Anniversary Fund	\$	1,000.00
Fellowship	\$	100.00
Love Offering	\$	720.00
Maintenance Fund	\$	500.00
Ministry Plan	\$	7,597.10

TOTAL: \$ 9,861.10

December 6th, 2015

Meetinghouse Rental	\$	275.00
Love Offering	\$	1,530.00
Ministry Plan	\$	9,986.00

TOTAL: \$ 11,791.11

December 13th, 2015

Youth / Children Fund	\$	129.00
Ministry Plan	\$	925.51

TOTAL: \$ 1,054.51

December 20th, 2015

Ministry Plan	\$	2,160.00
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TOTAL: \$ 2,160.00

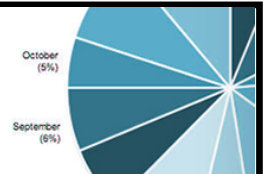
Your financial contributions play a key role in our success. Thank you for continued support of the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church.

The trustees are in the process of building the Sardis Baptist Budget for 2016. You will receive a draft copy electronically for review in mid-January. (Those without email access will receive theirs via USPS.)

Our first quarterly conference of 2016 is scheduled for January 24th, following worship. Trustees will be available for questions and discussion of the budget before we vote.



End of Year Statements



End of year donation statements will be prepared and mailed out in the new year. Look for yours in January.

*With every power for good to stay and guide me,
Comforted and inspired beyond all fear,
I'll live these days with you in thought beside me,
And pass, with you, into the coming year.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from prison, New Year 1945

SARDIS STAFF

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

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

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

Rev. Scottie Stamper, Interim Minister of Music
scottiestamper@mac.com / 704.340.0317

Irena Hramenkova, Pianist

SARDIS CHRISTMAS CAROLERS



CONNECT TO MISSIONS

Sardis children and youth used the money they earned from their recent cookie sale to purchase six flocks of chickens through Heifer International! The mission of this organization is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

Heifer International empowers families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity – but their approach is more than just giving a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Their animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as

milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market. When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings and funding small businesses.

For more information, visit the website: www.heifer.org.

