

sardis signposts baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

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

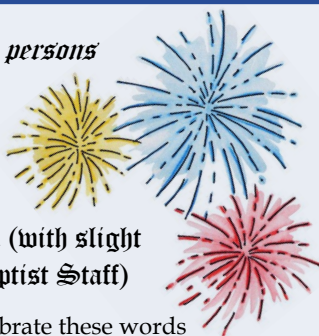
SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 AM –
Sunday School

11:00 AM –
Morning Worship

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all *persons* are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

~ Thomas Jefferson (with slight
redaction by the Sardis Baptist Staff)



Everyday, but especially on Independence Day, celebrate these words from the Declaration of Independence. Appreciate the freedom we share and recognize the ability of each of us to contribute to the vitality of our nation. And in that process, ponder what these words meant to the marginalized in our society when they were written, and what they mean to the marginalized in our society today.

Through the years as our country was established and expanded, we did not practice inclusion or respect of our native peoples! Explorers, settlers, armies, and governmental powers systematically removed native dwellers from their lands into captivity or onto unfamiliar land not of their *(continued on back page)*



Notice the beautiful new shrubs adorning our walkway and the area between our Main and Education buildings. Thanks to a generous gift from a Sardis member, twenty-five new shrubs have been installed by a local nursery.

The landscape design features Kaleidoscope Abelias, Crimson Fire Loropetalums and Sunburst Azaleas. May they serve as a reminder to us all that God's glorious creation is all around!

Many Sardis members work continuously to beautify our grounds throughout the year—donating, planting and watering flowers, participating in various jobs on church workdays, and taking on special projects as needed. We are grateful to have a congregation that is invested in making our property a place of beauty for worship and fellowship.



YOU'RE INVITED... Ice Cream on July 14th @ 1 PM

Melissa Bowlin is hosting an
ice cream social!

Saturday, July 14th at 1:00 PM
Royal Park Rehab Center
2700 Royal Commons Lane
Matthews, NC 28105

Please join her!
RSVP to Melissa by calling 704.458.9773
or emailing mbowlin@cmpd.org.



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



WELCOME TO THE SARDIS EXPERIMENT

Introducing, the Sardis Experiment, a blog with stories about our church family, anecdotes from a small-church pastor, and reflections on sacred texts. Blogs will be posted regularly to the Sardis Baptist Church website, so check regularly. Bob's first post follows.

I want to tell you a story about a church as it nears its thirtieth birthday. It's a healthy church, or at least, it fits my definition of healthy. Its debts are paid. All of them. It owns its building and property outright. Its budget is met faithfully every year. Its committees have been filled with relative ease. It has five staff members, all devoted and called to its mission, and all collegial – actually better than collegial – friends who love and respect one another, and challenge one another, too. It gives faithfully to missions in Charlotte and beyond. In the last twelve months, it has had direct involvement with more than two dozen organizations seeking to do good in the world.

Its community members care for one another: they feed each other; they contemplate theology and life; they sing with one another, and laugh with one another, and grieve with one another; and pray for one another. Lay and clergy plan worship together, and lead worship together. And lay and clergy go and do good in the world: for God, and for neighbor. And people feel safe to be themselves.

All are welcome at their table. All are encouraged to ask questions, and seek the path that works for them. And special events are acknowledged for every individual: dedications, baptisms, graduations, ordinations, weddings, funerals, retirements and other special events are all recognized in intimate and personal ways. And worship is a gift, not a presentation or performance.

It's a church that gets a lot of things right. And to be fair, it gets a few things wrong, too. But what it does, it does together. And there are stories of healing here – that means that people are able to surprise one another; it means people can love one another, and hurt one another, and forgive one another, and love one another again; it means that people can disagree, and dissent, and even annoy one another, and STILL see each other as children of God.

I'm describing a group of people, a healthy group of people who minister to and for one another. And I'm describing a group of people, who believe, really believe, that individual and collective acts of love and justice can bring about God's world, and all of its possibilities.

But we live in a show-me world. And we live in a world that has too many preconceptions of what it means *(continued on back page)*

BENNETT HENKEL

Sardis People



Bennett Henkel is an epicure. He not only has discriminating taste but also has a flair for preparing food. He likes to make his own pasta and recently supplied maple cinnamon sweet potato cookies to a neighborhood bake-off. He likes to cook steak sous vide and recommends the method for pulled pork.

Bennett's hometown is Fairfax, Virginia, where he grew up with two older sisters. He graduated from William and Mary with a degree in education and classical studies. He was a student of history as well, concentrating on early Christian history and the Roman period. He remembers especially two papers he wrote on favorite topics. One was about the apostate Julian, last non-Christian emperor of Rome, whose goal was to sustain interest in and worship of the old Roman gods. The other paper considered the Donatists, considered heretics for their belief that only clergy with no faults could administer the sacraments.

A classical studies and world languages teacher, Bennett currently teaches Latin at Queen's Grant High School in Charlotte. During his leisure time, when he is not cooking, he likes to hike with wife Amanda Lewis in the local parks and at Crowder's Mountain. They also enjoy watching Netflix together, preferring TV shows: comedies and classic sitcoms. On Sundays they like to join the community and the openness of Sardis.

Sardis Baptist Church

Let all
THAT
YOU DO
be done in
LOVE.
1 Cor. 16:14

IT TAKES MANY HANDS, FEET, HEARTS AND MINDS TO DO THE WORK OF SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE VARIOUS WAYS YOU SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF THIS SPECIAL CHURCH!

- Thank you to our Board of Deacons and Melissa Bowlin for hosting a wonderful shower for Tammy and Adam Taylor and helping them prepare for the arrival of Curtis & Henry.
- Thank you to Howell Peterson for overseeing the recent use of our property for a community forum.
- Thank you Pastor Jonathan for planning and orchestrating a special day at Sardis to recognize our 2018 graduates — Grey Sigmon and Jackson Hawkins.
- Thank you Hilary, Kathryn and Bob for cleaning and organizing the craft supplies in the Education Building.
- Thank you to Betty Gunz, Kathryn Kreutzer, William Kruger, Magay Shepard and Bob Stillerman for keeping watering plants on these hot summer days!
- Thank you Susan & Danny Phillips for hosting Sardis staff, choir and families for a BBQ in Fancy Gap, Virginia!
- Thank you to the following people who have recently served as worship leaders: Melissa Bowlin, Ron Demme, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Betty Gunz, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jose Mata, Katey Mata, Howell Peterson, John Simpson and Bob Stillerman.
- Thank you to the musicians who shared their gifts with us during recent worship services: Tatiana Karpova, Becky Proctor, Mark Smith, Anthony Yang and Olivia Yang.
- Thank you to those who have shared their love with our youngest Sardis friends during worship care in June: Kristin Jackson, Madison Kreutzer, Abby Shepard-Moore, Hannah Shepard-Moore, Danny & Susan Phillips, and Becky & Rick Proctor.

WE WORK HARD TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THOSE WHO GIVE THEIR TIME, TALENTS, AND TITHES TO THE MINISTRIES OF SARDIS. YOU ARE A GENEROUS CONGREGATION! SOMETIMES WE FAIL TO OFFER PROPER GRATITUDE TO THE PERSONS WHO DESERVE IT MOST. WE OFFER SPECIAL THANKS FOR THOSE WHOSE GIFTS HAVE GONE UNNOTICED. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU!

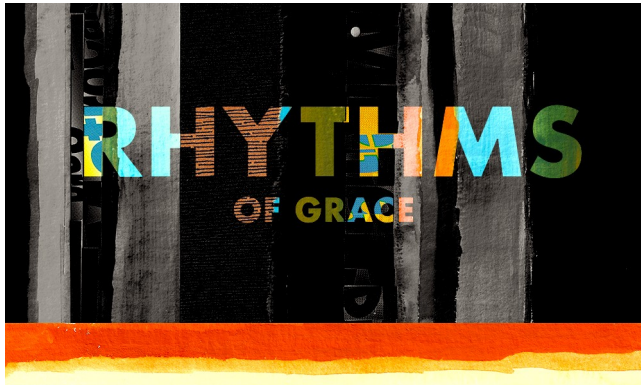
Let's Pray Together

CELEBRATIONS

▪ CONGRATULATIONS SARAH BOWLIN ON YOUR JOB WITH FORT MILL PREPARATORY! ▪ THE BYRD FAMILY IS EXPECTING! ▪ JOHN SIMPSON, SON OF OUR JOHN, JUST BEGAN A CHAPLAINCY INTERNSHIP AT CMC! ▪ TAMMY & ADAM TAYLOR WELCOMED TWINS CURTIS DEAN AND HENRY LEVON ON JUNE 24TH! ▪

PETITIONS

▪ FAY ALDERMAN ▪ MARK ALMOND, JACQUELINE'S UNCLE ▪ JOURDAN ASKINS AND FAMILY ▪ MELISSA BOWLIN ▪ MARGARET BRANTON, AMANDA LEWIS' GRANDMOTHER ▪ SUZETTE BUCHAN, DANNY PHILLIPS' SISTER ▪ JIM & YVONNE CHEROKE, FRIENDS OF KRISTIN JACKSON ▪ LAUREN CLARK ▪ OMAIRA COHEN, FRIEND OF JANET BELTZHOOVER'S ▪ BEN COOLEY, RUTHY'S HUSBAND ▪ ELZENE CORBETT, JANET BELTZHOOVER'S MOTHER ▪ NANCY DARNELL ▪ ED DePASQUALE, FRIEND OF WILLIAM KRUGER ▪ DON & BETSY DePAUL ▪ JONATHAN EIDSON ▪ EMILY, FRIEND OF MATAS ▪ DENNIS ESPENCHIED, JONATHAN EIDSON'S BROTHER-IN-LAW ▪ MARGE FOWLER ▪ DON HILL ▪ DORIS HUNTER, ANNE EIDSON'S MOTHER ▪ JOAN HORLBECK, FRIEND OF JONATHAN EIDSON ▪ TED JACKSON, JEFF'S GRANDFATHER ▪ JAMES, FRIEND OF JANETTE GRASSI ▪ WILLIAM KRUGER ▪ LENA LANDERS, FRIEND OF THE PHILLIPS ▪ ODELL PETERSON, HOWELL'S BROTHER ▪ MALA REYNOLDS ▪ BILL SEASE, JIM OWEN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW ▪ CATHERINE TATE, BECKY PROCTOR'S SISTER ▪ SUSAN TUTTLE, FRIEND OF PHILLIPS ▪ EDDIE WAITERS ▪



UNIDIVERSITY 2018

Are you busy? Are you stressed? Are you tired? Take a deep breath. The world says 'frantic', yet God teaches us to lean into the natural Rhythms of Grace and gives us rest. Our UniDiversity crowd will have the opportunity to explore and embrace the ebb and flow of the complex life into which God has invited us.

The proclaimer at this year's camp is Shari Madkins. Our youth know her well as she was the proclaimer for the ski retreat in 2017. We all loved her! The John Callaway band will once again lead the camp music. Our worship and celebration times will be energetic and nurturing. It's time to make memories that will last the rest of our lives!

UniDiversity Camp 2018 is Monday, July 23 – Saturday, July 28th at the University of Tennessee. If this sounds wonderful to you but you've aged out of the youth group, you still have an opportunity to participate. Worship services for UniDiversity are livestreamed, technology willing, each night so that you at home may join us at camp. Most services last 60-90 minutes and will begin streaming 5-10 minutes before the service begins. Here's the schedule:

Tuesday Night's Worship – July 24 at 6:45 PM
Wednesday Night's Worship – July 25 at 6:45 PM
Thursday Night's Worship – July 26 at 8:15 PM
Friday Night's Worship – July 27 at 6:45 PM

We ask for your prayers and thank you for blessing us with this opportunity.

CBFNC FALL BEACH RETREAT



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

Sardis youth will head to the coast the weekend of September 7-9, 2018 for the annual CBFNC Beach Retreat. The event 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 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.

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

MADISON KREUTZER IS PERFORMING IN CHILDREN'S MUSICAL PRODUCTION OF PETER PAN ON SATURDAY, JULY 14TH. SHE'S BEEN CAST IN THE ROLE OF CAPTAIN HOOK! SHOWS ARE AT 2:00 AND 6:00 PM. TICKETS ARE ONLY \$5 CAN BE PURCHASED ONSITE THE DAY OF THE PERFORMANCES AT THE LEVINE JCC ON PROVIDENCE ROAD.



Sardis Baptist Church — Worship



JULY 2018 WORSHIP LEADERS

JULY 1, 2018

Worship Care.....Tillie Duncan
.....Michael Shepard Moore
Greeter/Vestibule.....Howell Peterson
Ushers.....Kathryn Kreutzer, Abby Shepard Moore,
.....and Hannah Shepard Moore

JULY 8, 2018

Worship CareBecky & Rick Proctor
Greeter/Vestibule.....Joe Wall
UshersBetty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy
.....and Joe Wall

JULY 15, 2018

Worship Care.....Ruthye Cooley and Tim Moore
Greeter/Vestibule.....Ron Demme
Ushers.....Sarah Bowlin, Ron Demme
.....and Magay Shepard

JULY 22, 2018

Worship Care.....Danny and Susan Phillips
Greeter/Vestibule.....John Simpson
Ushers.....Janette Grassi, June Ross
.....and John Simpson

JULY 29, 2018

Worship Care.....Alcie Kreutzer & Tim Moore
Greeter/Vestibule.....Marge Fowler
Ushers.....Janet & Elizabeth Beltzhoover
.....and Valerie Rutherford



Please take a moment when you are at our meeting-house to view our worship display for July. It is intended to celebrate the strength and spirituality of Native Americans. Enjoy the beauty and unique art created from nature featured in the tepees of plains people. The photos on the worship table backdrop were taken of the Blackfoot Nation in the late 1800's.

This display was inspired by Susan Phillips and Janette Grassi. William Kruger and Marge Fowler (from Jerry Henderson's collection) added other native visuals.



THE WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT STEWARDS WILL MEET ON JULY 15TH TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR SPECIAL SERVICES IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR. THE TEAM HAS MUCH TO DISCUSS, AS SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH IS COMING UP ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY AND WE HOPE TO PLAN A CELEBRATION WORTHY OF THE 30 YEARS OF SERVICE SARDIS HAS PROVIDED TO CONGREGANTS AND COMMUNITY. ADDITIONALLY, THE TEAM WILL BEGIN PLANNING FOR OUR 3RD ANIMAL BLESSING, WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AND ALL SAINTS SUNDAY.

Sardis Baptist Church — Calendar



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:30 AM Byrd Baby Shower 11:00 AM Worship	2 	3	4 Independence Day 	5	6	7
8 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Communion Noon Deacons Meeting	9 	10 	11 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 	12	13	14 1:00 PM Melissa Bowlin Ice Cream Social at Royal Park
15 Trustees Meeting 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Worship Development	16	17	18 3:00 PM Staff Meeting	19	20	21
22 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	23 UniDiversity Youth Camp Theme: Rhythms of Grace	24 UniDiversity Youth Camp	25 UniDiversity Youth Camp	26 UniDiversity Youth Camp	27 UniDiversity Youth Camp	28 UniDiversity Youth Camp
<div> </div>						
29 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	30	31	<div> <p> AUGUST 1ST—CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES AUGUST 5TH—CAMP SARDIS @ 10:30 AM AUGUST 12TH—COMMUNION BRUNCH @ 10:00 AM SEPTEMBER 7TH-9TH—YOUTH BEACH RETREAT SEPTEMBER 9TH—2ND SUNDAY WITH HILARY SEPTEMBER 12TH—SARDIS ACADEMY SEPTEMBER 16TH—POTLUCK AND STEWARD KICKOFF SEPTEMBER 19TH—SARDIS ACADEMY SEPTEMBER 29TH—ANIMAL BLESSING </p> </div>			

Sardis Baptist Church – Business

offerings

The Sardis Baptist Operating Fund (sometimes called the 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 beyond our building walls. The numbers below show only general (undesignated) offerings.

May Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
May Actual Offerings.....	\$7,055.41
June Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
June Actual Offerings.....	\$10,746.38
Year-to-Date Budgeted Offerings.....	\$77,500.02
Year-to-Date Actual Offerings.....	\$59,857.03

Designated offerings are often given to support specific ministries of Sardis Baptist Church that are not funded through our Operating Fund. We encourage you to consider whether you'd like to support these efforts through a designated donation. Following are some of our most frequently used designated funds and their current balances. Any member of our staff or Board of Trustees can provide you with details about additional funds.

25th Anniversary...Campus Development....	\$5,722.84
Benevolence...Individual & Family Needs....	\$1,178.37
*Duncan Proceeds...Speakers; Budget.....	\$2,523.64
*Hill Proceeds.....Music; Outreach.....	\$2,793.28
*Odom Proceeds....Children & Youth.....	\$8,462.88
Maintenance Escrow...Upkeep & Repairs....	\$19,294.83

*Balance reflects proceeds currently available, principal balances, not listed, vary with market conditions.

together everyone TEAM achieves more

The Board of Stewards along with Sardis staff members are working together to update "job" descriptions and responsibilities for our stewardship teams. We are planning a **Fall Kickoff Potluck and Team Meeting** following worship on **September 16th** to share the updated information and get everyone organized and excited for the many ministries in the future of Sardis!

Our stewardship teams include our 3 boards: Deacons, Trustees and Stewards; our church officers—moderator, clerk, treasurer and tellers, as well as the following teams—Building & Grounds, Fellowship, Missions, Mutual Care, Outreach, Pre-school, Children & Youth, Tellers and Worship Leaders.



Technology has changed the world! It's changed how we communicate, how we do business and even how we do church! And Sardis is doing its best to keep up with the times. Many regular contributions now come to us electronically from your bank rather than in Sunday's offering plate. You are also now able to give tithes, donations and other payments (e.g. fellowship meals, youth events, sweatshirts) to Sardis via PayPal. Setup a payment to Sardis by accessing the following PayPal link: [PayPal.Me/SardisBaptistChurch](https://www.paypal.com/US/mx/donations/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsardisbaptistchurch.org%2Fdonations%2F). Sardis staff members are also able to process PayPal donations and payments onsite with a card reader if you prefer.

Sardis Baptist Church

Staff & Choir with Families in Fancy Gap, VA—Thank you Susan & Danny Phillips!



...SARDIS EXPERIMENT

to be a healthy, vibrant, and relevant house of faith.

We are Sardis Baptist Church. And we're tucked away from the road – if you pass us, you may not even notice we're here. We've got about a hundred active members, and not a ton of likes on Facebook, and no full-time staff, and no fancy holograms to beam the gospel to parts unknown. And because we're not so visible, or maybe because we're a place where you can't be invisible if you visit, you'll drive on by, looking for a bigger steeple, or a more programmatic house of worship.

But if you'll give us a chance, we'd like to tell you our story. We think it's a good one. And it's a story we'd love for you to be a part of, because it's not one we want to hide. We want to tell you about a healthy church, a loving church, an open church, a church for 2018.

...IMMIGRATION 2018

choosing. Their freedom denied. Their voices silenced. Many of their lives were lost as a result of violence, disease, hunger and exposure.

Ponder the concept that much history was written by “winners” at the expense of those who lost so much. As North Carolinians, we remember the tragedy of our Cherokee people on the Trail of Tears.

400 years ago our European ancestors came to America seeking religious and governing freedom and economic boon. They claimed land, conquered native peoples and reveled in freedom. They enslaved African peoples into backbreaking labor and destroyed their common humanity.

Today, fully entrenched in freedom's privilege, “we” push to build walls, to imprison, deport and separate families. Backs are turned on those immigrants/refugees who more urgently than our ancestors seek safety from violence and relief from poverty and oppression – desperately hungering for basic needs. When will we ever heed God's call to welcome the stranger, right institutional wrongs and listen into understanding the cries and voices of ALL God's people?!

Written by Susan Phillips