

# 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

## SARDIS BAPTIST BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons is charged with organizing and overseeing the spiritual affairs and programs of the church. This responsibility includes assisting staff with worship and ordinances as well as serving the members of Sardis Baptist Church and our community. Our diaconate has four members, and Bob serves as the staff liaison, but our deacons work with all of our ministerial staff.



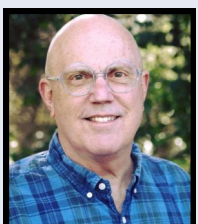
**Melissa Bowlin** – deacon since 2015  
Alumni – Appalachian State University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Hobbies – Spending time with family and friends  
Favorite Music – No favorite genre; she loves it all!  
Favorite Food – Chocolate  
Fun Fact – Accepted by Ringling Bros for clown college



**Kristin Jackson** – deacon since 2016  
Alumni – UNC Chapel Hill, Meredith College  
Hobbies – running/walking, yard work, reading, spending time with her kids  
Favorite Music – Top 40 and Alternative Rock  
Favorite Food – Chocolate  
Fun Fact – Wake County 200 Meter Sprint Champion

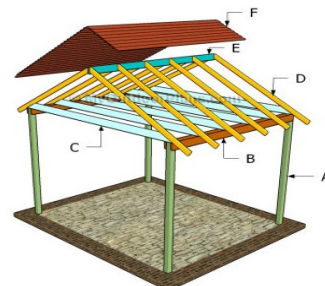


**Kathryn Kreutzer** – deacon since 2013  
Alumni – Guilford College (Fighting Quakers)  
Favorite Music – Classic Rock  
Favorite Book – The Fellowship of the Ring, J.R.R. Tolkien  
Hobbies – Hiking in the mountains, reading, time with family and friends  
Fun Fact – Born on Guam



**John Simpson** – deacon since 2016  
Alumni – Randolph Macon and University of Tennessee  
Hobbies – creating SoulCollage, reading and spending time with extended family  
Favorite Food – Peanut butter, PB and raisin sandwiches  
Favorite Author – Vince Flynn (political thrillers)  
Fun Fact – Was kicked out of Sunday School as a teenager!

## MILLER PROPERTY UPDATE



Work will soon be underway on our new picnic shelter. Our architects are working with the city to secure permits for the job, and in early June, we'll begin clearing space to lay the foundation. The shelter will be adjacent to the education building and have dimensions of 30 x 20 feet. Interested persons can see the plans (pinned to the bulletin board) in the classroom adjacent to the nursery in the meetinghouse. Upon completion of the shelter, the Miller Property Committee and Trustees will be working on ideas to enhance the landscape around the new structure, as well as several entry points on our campus. Stay tuned for details, and be prepared for a grand opening celebration by summer's end.

## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

**Not So Ordinary!** ~ We've been through a string of extraordinary occasions in the last six months: Christ the King Sunday, Christmas Eve, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension Sunday, Trinity Sunday...Whew, that's a lot!

This month, we find ourselves in the Season after Pentecost, or Ordinary Time. And I know what you're thinking: "Yippee! No more big events for a little while. Just back to the basics. Just time to enjoy summer vacation."

It's true that Ordinary Time (the time in between Pentecost Sunday and Advent) does not include any major milestones in the church calendar. It's not true that this season is ordinary, meaning mundane or common. The name for this season is derived from the word "ordinal," which means to mark time. In this season, we're called to give thought to how the Holy Spirit will empower us to be instruments of God's love and grace in our community. And in this season, we're freed to be children of God.

Think about it: What's so ordinary about our youth spending a week at Passport? What's so ordinary about summer months where we tend to our gardens, or enjoy the birds and squirrels (well the squirrels, begrudgingly!) on our shady back porches, or find fellowship at a picnic shelter? What's so ordinary about a string of Sundays that focus us not on the milestone events of Jesus' ministry, but rather on those thousands of little moments that gave insight into God's coming kingdom?

This season is not ordinary! This season is a chance for us to simply enjoy and benefit from the ministries of this place. So sing a little louder; listen a little more intently; love a little more boldly; give a little more generously...for even in this Ordinary Time, God is doing extraordinary things. Thanks be to God!

GET EXCITED ABOUT  
THE ORDINARY



## SARDIS PEOPLE - RUTHYE CURETON COOLEY

*"There is nothing in the world so much like prayer as music is." (William Merrill)*

When Ruthye Cooley sings, it is like being included in a conversation with God. Her giftedness gifts us through her participation in the choir and when she sings solo.

Two choral groups in our area are also blessed with her voice. She has belonged to the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble since coming to live in Charlotte. For the last three years she has also been a part of Palmetto Voices in Sumter, SC. It is with the latter group that she recently sang in New York's Carnegie Hall; Italy was another destination of the professional group where four other singing groups joined the Voices on their singing tour.

Ruthye grew up with three brothers. Their parents were educators; her father was also a Baptist minister for many years. His last pastorate was Reedy River Missionary Baptist Church where he served for 43 years. He served a term as president of the National Baptist Convention. This was in Greenville, SC, where Ruthye graduated from Southside High School. Her further education included Oberlin College (Ohio) and Furman University. Her degree is in anthropology, but she also studied economics and political science.

She currently works with Union Bank as Vice-President of their Risk Operating Office Program. She met her husband Ben when they both worked for Southern Bell, and they have a son Brandon who lives in Boston. In addition to singing, she enjoys running, hiking and reading. She began a book club upon her arrival in Charlotte.

Ruthye's faith journey brought her to Sardis after she experienced a worship crisis. She began to explore where she wanted to worship, what she wanted out of worship. After visiting churches of various denominations, she visited Sardis when Tillie invited her after their introduction at a Meck Min meeting. The affinity she felt with Sardis kept her here.

## Sardis Baptist Church



### Prayers of Celebration and Anticipation

The Byrd Family • Molly Simpson Gross • Douglas Kennedy • Dylan Kreutzer • Charlie Senn • Scottie Stamper • Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman

### Prayers for Comfort, Healing and Strength

Jourdan Askins • Evelyn Beck • Melissa Bowlin • George and Joan Braswell, Jim's cousins • Linda Cook • Elzene Corbett, Janet's mom • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband • Nancy Darnell • Betty Deason • Family and Friends of Dorothy Doolittle, Shannon's aunt • Tillie & Shannon Duncan • Jonathan Eidson • Allie Eidson • Ginter Park Baptist Church • Nancy Kate Gordon, Kathryn's aunt • Janie Harris • Don Hill • Irena Hramenkova • Family and Friends of Andy Jackie, Kristin's uncle • Lindsay Jackson • Lennox Manswell, Sandy's father • Jason Matthews & Sabrina Welly, friends of Kathryn • Michael Midgett, Mary Jane's son-in-law • Mala Reynolds • June Ross • June Ross' daughters - Tonya, Dawn & Dante • Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother • Bill & Kathy Stillerman • Family and Friends of Joy Williams, Jason's grandmother

## *In Memoriam*

**Honoring the Life of Alexander George** ~ Please notice the two new stone benches in the Sardis Prayer Garden. Money for prayer garden accoutrements was donated by Janie Harris and other loved ones following the tragic death of Alexander George, Janie's grandson. These benches will serve as a memorial to his Alex's short life.

## F O C U S

May 29th—June 4th	Bill Sholin
June 5th—June 11th	David & Krista Sigmon, Gray and Reid
June 12th—June 18th	John Simpson
June 19th—June 25th	Scottie Stamper
June 26th—July 2nd	Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman



- Greeters, Ushers and Vestibule Volunteers: Linda Cook, Ron Demme, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Jeff Jackson, David and Madison Kreutzer, Howell Peterson, Valerie Rutherford, Magay Shepard, Reid and Gray Sigmon, John Simpson and Joe Wall
- Worship Caregivers for Loving and Teaching Our Children: Alex Beltzhoover, Maria Byrd, Betty Gunz, Chris Mair, Elizabeth Mosley and Valerie Rutherford
- Worship Leaders for Praying, Reading and Sharing Their Musical Gifts: Melissa Bowlin, Ruthye Cooley, Marge Fowler, Erin Kennedy, Kathryn Kreutzer, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, John Simpson, Anthony and Olivia Yang
- The Miller Property Committee for the work they've done to move forward with development
- Susan Phillips for the beautiful displays on our altar table
- Betty Gunz and Magay Shepard for caring for the beautiful flower pots on our walkway
- Linda Cook, Chris Mair and Jim Owen for keeping our bills paid and finances in order



## JUNE 5th @ 4:30 PM

Youth will gather at the meetinghouse on the first Sunday of this month, June 5th at 4:30 PM. We'll be making pizzas and ice cream sundaes—YUM! Jonathan will also spend time preparing our youth for the upcoming trip to PassportMissions camp, based at Averett University in Danville, Virginia.



## pizza & passport

## PASSPORT

*Empowering Students • Embracing the World • Extending Grace*  
sm

Join us for 6 days, 5 nights of PASSPORTmissions and experience the excitement of summer camp with the adventure of a mission trip. Our youth will grow their faith and discover new friends throughout the week while putting faith into action to make a difference in the world. They'll attend PassportMissions at Averett University in Danville, Virginia from **July 3rd-8th**. Visit [passportcamps.org](http://passportcamps.org) for more information. Let Pastor Jonathan know if you or your kiddo(s) would like to join the fun.

Jonathan Eidson  
c/o Amelia and Larry Eidson  
5725 Hershinger Close  
Duluth, Georgia 30097-6432



Pastor Jonathan will be heading down to Georgia mid-June for his third and final summer working to earn credentials as a Montessori trained teacher. We will miss him while he is gone and look forward to seeing him when he returns in August—and on the weekends he is able to be home! His training requirements are intense and stressful. Let's send lots of love and encouragement to his summer address, listed above.

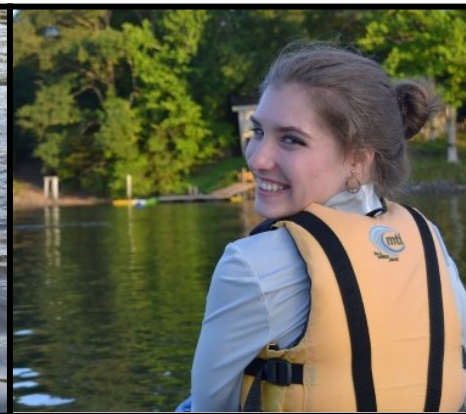
## CLASS OF 2016

We will recognize Sardis Baptist graduates of the  
Class of 2016 in worship on June 12th.  
Congratulations for your accomplishments!



Douglas Kennedy  
Dylan Kreutzer  
Charlie Senn  
Scottie Stamper

## YOUTH ADVENTURES: LAKE WYLIE 2016





## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

### June 5th, 2016

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Ron Demme  
Ushers—Ron Demme, Abby and Hannah  
Shepard-Moore  
Worship Care—Maria and Joey Byrd  
Deacon—John Simpson, 704.591.0890

### June 12, 2016

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Marge Fowler  
Ushers—Jeff Jackson, Magay Shepard  
and Michael Shepard-Moore  
Worship Care—Elizabeth Mosley and Chris Mair  
Deacon—Kristin Jackson, 704.618.6213

### June 19th, 2016

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Larry Harrill  
Ushers—Larry Harrill, Erin and Lisa Kennedy  
Worship Care—Tamara Priyemskiy and  
Valerie Rutherford  
Deacon—Kathryn Kreutzer, 704.241.6927

### June 26th, 2016

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—William Kruger  
Ushers—William Kruger, Maria Elena Floren and  
Howell Peterson  
Worship Care—Betty Gunz and Janet Beltzhoover  
Deacon—Melissa Bowlin, 704.458.9773

## Adult Sunday School

### A MATRIX FOR THE GOSPELS

During the month of June, Bob will be leading the adult Sunday School class in a four-week study of the Gospels. The study will provide basic background information (historical setting, author's point-of-view, claims of authority, understandings of Jesus, etc.) for each Gospel. We will also explore each Gospel's inclusion (or omission) of important events in the life and ministry of Jesus. And finally, we'll explore what these ancient testimonies mean for our modern witness as members of a community called Sardis Baptist Church.

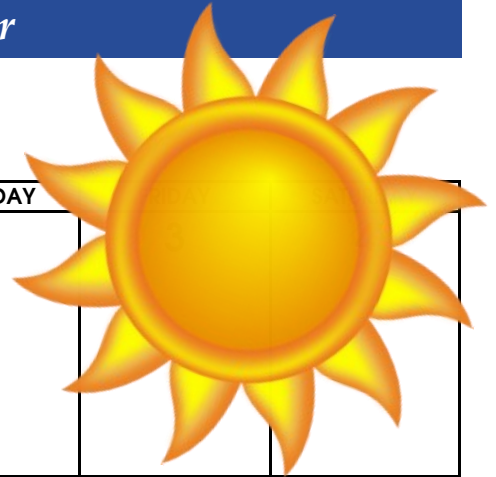
All are welcome to attend. There is no need for preparation. Come one Sunday, or all. Each session will build off the previous one, but newcomers will have no trouble jumping right in. We will meet from 9:45-10:45am in the sanctuary for a change of scenery (and in anticipation of a few new faces)!

## Minister of Music Search

The search for our new minister of music continues. The deacons have completed reviewing resumes and are now in the process of interviewing candidates. We expect to narrow our decision and bring forth a candidate for approval by the congregation before the month's end.



# SARDIS BAPTIST - JUNE 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY		
			1 Tillie's 17 <sup>th</sup> Staff Anniversary Kathryn's 1 <sup>st</sup> Staff Anniversary	2		
5 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Communion Youth Event- 4:30 PM	6	7 Huddle Meeting- 10:00 Adult Bible Study- 1:00 PM	8	9 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (CMS)	10	11
12 Trustees Meeting- 8:00 AM @ Phil's Deli Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Deacon Meeting- 12:15 PM	13	14 Huddle Meeting- 10:00 Adult Bible Study- 1:00 PM	15	<b>STAFF CALENDAR NOTES:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tillie will be traveling out of the state for the month of June.</li> <li>- Jonathan will be studying in Georgia from mid-June until mid-August.</li> <li>- Deacons are searching for a summer intern to assist staff during these absences.</li> </ul>		
19 FATHER'S DAY Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM	20 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY SUMMER SOLSTICE	21 Huddle Meeting- 10:00 Adult Bible Study- 1:00 PM	22			
26 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM	27	28 Huddle Meeting- 10:00 Adult Bible Study- 1:00 PM	29	30		

*Happy Staff Anniversary to Tillie Duncan.  
June 1st marked the passage of 17 years since Tillie began  
her ministry at Sardis Baptist Church. Our congregation  
has been blessed through her friendship and wisdom.  
Thank you, Tillie!*





## Sardis Baptist Church — Business

### The Offering



Overall, our financial outlook is healthy. Sardis enjoyed a very-strong 1st quarter, exceeding its offering goals, and expenses came in under budget. April was not a strong month for giving. Still, Sardis remains in good shape to meet its financial goals for 2016. We offer our gratitude for your generosity, and ask that you continue to give prayerful consideration to how your household can give of its time, talents, and tithes to sustain the ministries of this place.

Moving forward, we will provide a monthly recap of prior month's offerings, as well as year-to-date offerings and expenses.

**April 2016 Budgeted Offerings:** \$13,750  
**April 2016 Actual Offerings:** \$ 8,765  
(63.7%)

**Budgeted Offerings (Jan-Apr 2016)** \$55,000  
**Actual Offerings (Jan-Apr 2016)** \$50,423  
(91.6%)

**Budgeted Expenses (Jan-Apr 2016)** \$51,705  
**Actual Expenses (Jan-Apr 2016)** \$45,349  
(87.7%)

### With — Sympathy

*We extend our deepest sympathy  
to the friends and family of*  
**Dorothy Doolittle**  
*(aunt of Shannon Duncan).*

*We share our heartfelt condolences with  
the friends and family of*  
**Andy Jackie**  
*(uncle of Kristin Jackson).*

## 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**



**Nancy Darnell**  
(change in ownership and name)  
Room 123  
160 Warren C. Coleman Blvd.  
Concord, NC 28027

**Jonathan Eidson**  
(mid-June through mid August)  
c/o Larry & Amelia Eidson  
5725 Hershinger Close  
Duluth, Georgia 30097-6432

# Youth in the Prayer Garden



## Festival of HOMILETICS

*Tillie Duncan* ~ Inspiring preachers! Conversations about preaching and worship and the world we live in! Current issues with which the church should be coming to terms! Theological reflection on preaching and worship!



All this and more filled my time last week at the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta.

The event, sponsored yearly by Luther Seminary, is a time for preachers of various denominations and theological bent to come together to listen, explore, ponder and share.

Program personalities included these among many: Walter Brueggemann, professor emeritus/author/theologian, spoke about our perception of chosenness, our feeling of entitlement which leads to exclusion and to the extraction of wealth. Leonard Pitts, columnist/professor/lecturer talked about the art of writing. Lauren Winner, professor/priest/author encouraged us to preach the text and not the issue. Will Willimon, dean/professor/pastor reminded us of the false messages the world gives us as opposed to God's loving acceptance of us.

The Festival gave me an opportunity to spend time and conversation with Tim Moore and Mandy England Cole as well as other friends in the ministry. We had time to catch up with each other and to discuss the speakers of the day.

The predominant theme of the Festival was prophetic preaching. Some of the issues to which our attention was directed were white privilege, gender equality, LGBT rights, economic disparity, domestic violence, making the church a "field hospital," and our inability to understand each other.

My head is still spinning with information, inspiration, and instigation! May it settle into an integrated whole.