



sardis signposts

baptist church

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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 AM –
Sunday School

11:00 AM –
Morning Worship



As Jesus ended his ministry in the Galilee, and headed toward Jerusalem, he devoted himself to listening intently for God's call. He prayed. He explored his theology with the disciples. He served others. He opened himself to all of God's possibilities.

As March begins, we continue our Lenten emphasis on service and vocation. Like Jesus, we pause to consider the possibilities and plans God has for our lives. And we commit ourselves to meeting these possibilities.

March provides a number of opportunities for Lenten reflection and commitment. In worship, SoulCollages will be displayed on our altar (see more on back page), as well as Lenten reflection boards in the front and back of the sanctuary. Add a meaningful quote to a board, or contribute your own SoulCollage for the altar. Or just take time to explore these exhibits.



Lenten Saturdays provide opportunities for service. Sardis has already participated in outreach projects with local police, homebound members, and the Ronald McDonald House. In March, we'll work on projects for Urban Ministries, Habitat for Humanity and Hospice (see sidebar).

There are also opportunities for Bible study. On Tuesdays, the Adult Bible Study class will explore the book of *Genesis*, and each Sunday our Sunday School classes for all ages will provide lessons that correspond to the Sunday worship service.



At end of the month, Lent transitions into Easter. Holy Week events prepare us to experience the joy of resurrection.

Palm Sunday, 3/20: Sunday School-9:45 AM, Morning Worship-11:00 AM. We'll remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday Communion Supper, 3/24: Join us at 5:45 PM for a light supper followed by communion. We'll remember Jesus' last meal with the disciples.



Good Friday, 3/25: Join us at noon at Sardis Baptist for a shared service with Sardis Presbyterian and St. Stephen UMC. Rev. Dr. Jane Fobel will offer the homily.

Easter Sunday, 3/27: Bring flowers from your yards and gardens to adorn an Easter cross in front of the meetinghouse. We'll have multiple opportunities for worship. **Sunrise Service, 7:00 AM**—Join us in the labyrinth and prayer garden for a short sunrise service. Dress casually and warmly. Afterwards, we'll head to IHOP for breakfast. **Sunday School, 9:45 AM, Morning Worship, 11:00 AM.**



Sardis friends have used this Lenten season as an opportunity to explore service to our community in a variety of ways. Each Saturday during Lent we have participated in a mission that has reached out to our community in some way. We collected and delivered treats to our local CMPD precinct to thank them for their service; we went hymn caroling to Sardis friends at home, and we created and delivered decorations to adorn the dining room of the Ronald McDonald House.

Additional opportunities are planned for Saturdays in March:

3/5—Operation Sandwich

We are collecting donations to make 150 sandwiches for delivery to Urban Ministries, an organization that helps feed hungry neighbors in our community.

3/12—Habitat for Humanity

We will volunteer to work in the Habitat ReStore to support their efforts to build homes, community and hope.

3/19—Hospice House

We'll collect toiletry kits and snack items, then deliver them to the Hospice House at Southminster.

Sardis People MIRRA SMITH



Music and family togetherness have always been a part of Mirra Turner Smith's life. As she studied at the business school of the Oxford Institute, she also studied voice. And each of her five children play a musical instrument.

She enjoyed singing with her six sisters as she was growing up on a tobacco farm in Fairmont, NC. As the oldest of the seven girls, her main responsibility was to take care of the younger children, though she sometimes helped in the tobacco or cotton field and milked cows.

As varied as her duties were growing up, her business life has also seen plenty of variety. She was hired as a civilian worker by the Air Force, where she learned to install radios in planes along with other tasks.

It was at Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio that she met her husband Bob Smith who was also a civilian employee. From Chicago, Bob took Mirra back to that city as they started life together. Mirra worked for an insurance company until the children came along. She has two sons and three daughters, the youngest of whom is Dianne McQueen who attends Sardis with her.

When her husband died at an early age (50 years), Mirra moved back to Raleigh with the five children, and they all worked together, supporting each other. Mirra taught kindergarten, was administrative assistant at Carolina Food Brokers, and sold cosmetics at North Hills Penney's. She finally retired from the business world at age 80!

Though her children are scattered from Vermont to Texas to Florida, they all keep up with each other. She and her four surviving sisters still get together on an annual basis.

Mirra always had a church life and always sang in the choir. In Chicago she attended Northshore Church and worshiped in the Jade Chapel, so named because of the jade window given by the Kraft family.

"When you find a perfect spot, it seems that you have to move on," says Mirra. She will be leaving us in March to go to Jacksonville, FL to live with her son as Dianne and Ed move to Durham. She will miss Sardis and its "wonderful people. I felt a part of you from the first time I attended." And she iterates, "You are so lucky to have Bob. He is a real person from A to Z!" We will miss you, too, Mirra. You have been a perfect part of us. The notes you have added to our symphony will always be a part of the music that is Sardis.

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

In the old spiritual *There Is a Balm in Gilead*, the singer laments, "Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain." The chorus offers encouragement: "But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again! There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole."

Lent is hard! And life is hard! We've barely finished February, and for many of us, 2016 has been daunting. We expend so much effort in managing our personal affairs there isn't much energy leftover for church. And is it energy well spent? What kind of healing will we find in committee meetings? Wouldn't we be better off just enjoying Sunday brunch?

Thanks goodness for weeks like last week! On Saturday, a dozen Sardis singers visited two local assisted living facilities. We sang old hymns. Familiar music moved souls young and old. On Sunday, Olivia Yang wowed us on the piano - time stopped! And then the choir followed with an anthem we hoped would never end. On Sunday afternoon, we celebrated the upcoming marriage of Katey Kelly and Jose Mata. Good fellowship is revealed in cupcakes, laughter and broken bows. (Don't worry, Katey and Jose, Jacqueline says the Belk ones don't count!) On Sunday evening, the youth bounced at Sky High, and then shared pizza at a table in the sanctuary. That's communion in my book. On Monday evening, the Miller Property reviewed initial drawings for our picnic shelter. The room was abuzz with possibilities - what will we do next?!?

Our work is not in vain. God is working in this place! Even when it gets dark early. Even when it's cold outside. Even in Lent's somberness. God is working in this place.

So when you feel discouraged, take heart. There is a balm in Gilead that makes the wounded whole. And there's a balm at Sardis. It's God's community. And if you pay attention, you too might find God's spirit in a song, or a psalm, or even in a cupcake!



THANK YOU!

- Linda Cook, Barbara Mosley, Mary Jane Osborne and Becky Proctor have been sorting and organizing 20+ years of anthems and hymns for our music department. Their work continues, and we are grateful!
- Sarah Bowlin, Maria Elena Floren, Betty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy, Krista Sigmon and Abby Shepard-Moore for their love and care of our children in worship care
- Melissa Bowlin, Ruthye Cooley, Kristin Jackson and Danny Phillips for leading the invocation
- Linda Cook and Jacqueline Stillerman for leading our Lenten Reflections and extinguishing the Tenebrae candles
- Jeff Jackson, Erin Kennedy, Kaleb Kreutzer, Madison Kreutzer, Summer Rutherford, Hannah and Michael Shepard-Moore for serving as acolytes
- Ron Demme, Marge Fowler, Larry Harrill, Erin Kennedy, Lisa Kennedy, Howell Peterson, Gray Sigmon and John Simpson for serving as greeters, ushers and vestibule volunteers
- Melissa Bowlin, Kristin Jackson, Alcie, Kaleb & Kathryn Kreutzer, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard, Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman for helping with the wedding shower for Katey and Jose
- Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman for chaperoning our youth at a recent outing to Sky High Trampoline Park; Kathryn Kreutzer for providing dinner afterwards
- Linda Cook, Chris Mair & Jim Owen for their ongoing efforts to keep bills paid and finances in order
- Betty Gunz and Magay Shepard for their consistent care of the sidewalk planters; the new rosemary plants are beautiful!



Prayers of Celebration and Anticipation

- ♦ Sarah Bowlin ♦ Joey Maria & Isabella Byrd ♦ Katey Kelly & Jose Mata ♦ Scottie Stamper ♦ Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman ♦

Prayers for Comfort, Healing and Strength

- ♦ Ken Abbott, June Ross' nephew ♦ Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mom ♦ Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband ♦ Nancy Darnell ♦ Betty Deason ♦ Don Hill ♦ Irena Hramenkova ♦ Andy Jackie and Family, Kristin Jackson's uncle ♦ Henry Journey ♦ William Kruger ♦ Lennox Manswell, Sandy Manswell's father ♦ Jason Matthews & Sabrina Welly ♦ Pete McSwain, Tillie Duncan's brother-in-law ♦ Becky Owen ♦ Becky Proctor ♦ Mala Reynolds ♦ June Ross ♦ Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother ♦ Tonya Stevenson, June's daughter ♦ Deanie Tiddy, Mike Tiddy's mother ♦ Sarah Tillman ♦

PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT – MELISSA BOWLIN
mbowlin@cmpd.org / 704.458.9773

Prayerfocus

- February 28th—March 5th ~ Mary Jane Osborne
- March 6th—March 12th ~ Jim & Becky Owen
- March 13th—March 19th ~ Hilda Padgett
- March 20th—March 26th ~ Eric & Anna Peppard
- March 27th—Apr 2nd ~ Howell Peterson

Sardis Baptist Church – Youth & Children

SKI RETREAT MEMORIES

We had a great trip to West Virginia but don't take my word for it. Read on to find out what our youth thought about the trip. By the way you'll need to understand the following for many of these to make sense. 'Gnar' is the shortened form of the word gnarley. It means high on the scale of dangerousness and coolness. It brings back memories of Jeff Spicoli, "Danger is our business!"



"I enjoyed being with my friends that I can call family and getting to ski, tube, swim and stay together at the same hotel." – Ryan Hawkins

"Hanging with friends." – Jackson Hawkins

"Going down my first real ski slope and hitting a jump that I didn't exactly mean to hit." – Madison Kreutzer

"I enjoyed tubing." – Elizabeth Beltzhoover

"Swimming in the pool with Summer, Madison, Elizabeth, and skiing with Matthew on 'Woods Run.'" – Kate Montgomery

"Shredding the gnar!" – Mason Barksdale

"Dabbing for the dance competition and winning cowtails for first place." – Abby Shepard-Moore

"I enjoyed snowboarding and tubing." – Summer Rutherford

"Learning about Jesus and having an amazing youth leader! #JDAWG." – Michael Shepard-Moore

"The terrain park for snowboarding." – Brandon Rutherford

"There's no more gnar out here anymore! We shredded them all." – Kaleb Kreutzer

"Watching Brantley try a backflip!" – Reid Sigmon

"Going down 'Drop Off' with Matthew and Kate."
– Hannah Shepard-Moore

"Skiing the slopes with my friends." – Matthew Mosley Mair

"Listening to Pastor Tim and night skiing." – Brantley Rutherford

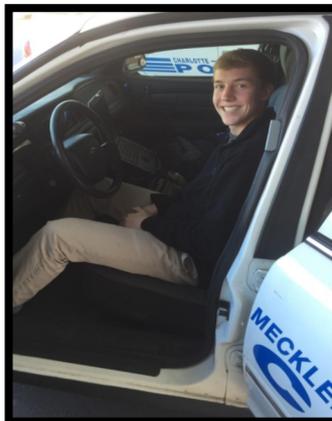
"Shredding the gnar!" – Erin Kennedy

The next Sardis Youth adventure will be for fun, fitness and friends at Inner Peaks Climbing Center. We'll gather at the meetinghouse at **4:30 PM on Sunday, March 6th**, head to the Crown Point Inner Peaks location off Monroe Road, then enjoy a meal together. Details for dinner and pickup will be announced once plans are finalized.



MECKMIN YOUTH RETREAT

The MeckMin Youth Council will be hosting a youth retreat in March. Youth are collecting snacks for the event. Donations are appreciated, and can be made in the narthex. Please bring granola bars and other similar items without nuts by Wednesday, March 3rd. Thank you!



Sardis Baptist Church – Worship



WORSHIP LEADERS

MARCH 6th

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Howell Peterson
Ushers—Maria Elena Floren, Howell Peterson
and John Simpson
Worship Care—Elizabeth Mosley & Chris Mair
Deacon—John Simpson, 704.591.0890

MARCH 13th

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Larry Harrill
Ushers—Larry Harrill, Erin Kennedy
and Michael Shepard-Moore
Worship Care—Tamara Priyemskiy
and Valerie Rutherford
Deacon—Kristin Jackson, 704.618.6213

MARCH 20th

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—Ron Demme
Ushers—Ron Demme, Howell Peterson
and Marge Fowler
Worship Care—Janet Beltzhoover and Betty Gunz
Deacon—Kathryn Kreutzer, 704.241.6927

MARCH 27th

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer—William Kruger
Ushers—William Kruger, Janette Grassi
and David Sigmon
Worship Care—Sarah Bowlin and Krista Sigmon
Deacon—Melissa Bowlin, 704.458.9773



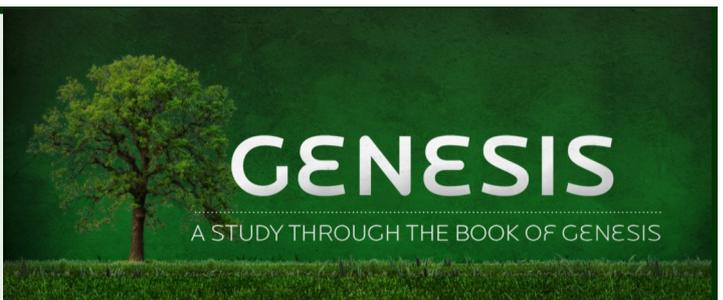
We offer gratitude beyond words to Susan Phillips and David Kreutzer for their leadership during recent years in their roles on Boards of Deacons and Trustees. Susan truly has a servant's heart and has offered her gifts and talents to help make Sardis Baptist what it is today. David's accounting experience and business sense has served us well and helped make Sardis Baptist Church a strong steward of your financial gifts.

Sardis members recently affirmed your nominations for leadership positions beginning in 2016. We welcome Kristin Jackson and John Simpson onto the Board of Deacons; they'll serve alongside Melissa Bowlin and Kathryn Kreutzer. Linda Cook was voted onto the Board of Trustees to serve with Lisa Kennedy and David Sigmon. Howell Peterson and Susan Phillips were selected to fill vacancies on the Board of Committees, serving with Janet Beltzhoover.

ORDINATION AND POTLUCK

John Simpson and Kristin Jackson join these boards as first-time members in our church leadership. We will recognize and affirm their call to serve God and our church at an ordination ceremony during worship on Sunday, March 13th. During this service, we will ask the congregation to bless all members of our leadership boards. Following worship, we will celebrate and fellowship together at a potluck lunch. Please bring your favorite dish or dessert to share.

The Adult Bible Study will continue to meet on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 PM. This month the group will begin to study the book of *Genesis* and continue to *Exodus* if time allows. We hope you'll join us to



MARCH 2016



SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SATURDAY
		1	2 Choir-7:30 PM	3	4	5 Service Saturday-Sandwiches for Urban Ministry
6 4 th SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday School-9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Youth Event-4:30 PM	7	8	9 Choir-7:30 PM	10	11	12 Service Saturday-Work at the Habitat ReStore
13 5 th SUNDAY OF LENT Trustees Meeting 8:00 AM @ Phil's Deli Sunday School-9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Deacon Ordination / Blessing of Boards Potluck-12:15 PM Deacon Meeting-2:00 PM	14	15	16 Choir-7:30 PM	17 ST. PAT'S DAY 	18	19 Service Saturday-Hospice House at Southminster
20 PALM SUNDAY  Sunday School-9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM	22	22	23 Choir-7:30 PM	24 MAUNDY THURSDAY Communion Supper-5:45 PM	25 GOOD FRIDAY Worship-12:00 PM	26
27  EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service-7:00 AM Sunday School-9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM	28	29	30 Choir-7:30 PM	31 No Sardis Academy during March. We will resume Wednesday night activities in April.		

Congratulations Joanie Williams! The greater triangle region wasted no time in snatching up her gifts and talents when she moved their way! Joanie is serving as interim minister of music at Hood Memorial Christian Church in Dunn, North Carolina. She accepted a short-term position in order to be ready for the Spring arrival of Baby Williams.


Our sympathy is with the friends and family of Joyce Dennis, who passed recently following her battle against lung cancer. Joyce was a friend and partner in women's ministry to Susan Phillips and Tillie Duncan.



January 31st, 2015

Fellowship Fund	\$ 111.00
Youth / Children Fund	\$ 2025.00
Ministry Plan Fund	\$ 16,475.50
TOTAL:	\$ 18,711.50

February 7th, 2016

Benevolence Fund	\$ 56.74
Ministry Plan Fund	\$ 3,372.00
Building Rental	\$ 350.00
TOTAL:	\$ 3,778.74

February 14th, 2016

Ministry Plan Fund	\$ 1,661.00
TOTAL:	\$ 1,661.00

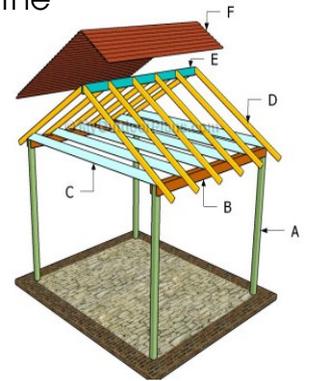
February 21st, 2016

Youth & Children Fund	\$ 70.00
Ministry Plan Fund	\$ 3,109.00
TOTAL:	\$ 3,179.00

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

MILLER PROPERTY UPDATE

The Miller Property Committee met with Pfahl Architects on Monday, February 22nd. Pfahl presented initial sketches of the picnic shelter. After receiving feedback from the committee, Pfahl will move forward with formal drawings, and will provide a project estimate in the next 30 days. Once the plans and budget are approved, the next step will be receiving a building permit from the city, and then construction. Assuming this process goes smoothly, we should have a shelter in place by summertime. Stay tuned for more details.



SARDIS STAFF

Rev. Bob Stillerman, Pastor
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Rev. Tillie Duncan, Associate Pastor
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Rev. Jonathan Eidson, Associate Pastor
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Rev. Scottie Stamper, Interim Minister of Music
scottiestamper@mac.com / 704.340.0317

Irena Hramenkova, Pianist



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Janie Harris—telephone number— 980-288-0773
Dylan Kreutzer—704.242.0501—64 Laurel Cove Rd. / Candler, NC 28715





Betty Gunz, Joe Wall, Gray Sigmon, Marshall Simpson, John Simpson and Melissa Bowlin (not pictured) delivering goodies to our local CMPD precinct to thank them for their service to our community. Melissa received a thank-you note from officers asking her to share their thanks with members of Sardis Baptist Church.



SoulCollages created by Janette Grassi and John Simpson will be displayed on the communion table through the Lenten season. SoulCollage is a method of self discovery through the creation and intuitive analysis of a deck of (personally created) collaged cards. The intuitive process allows a person to include information that



comes from imagination, emotions and the unconscious mind. We hope the SoulCollages will encourage Lenten reflections of your own. Please share your words and images on the the boards located in the vestibule and sanctuary. For more information about SoulCollage, visit the website at www.soulcollage.com.