

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

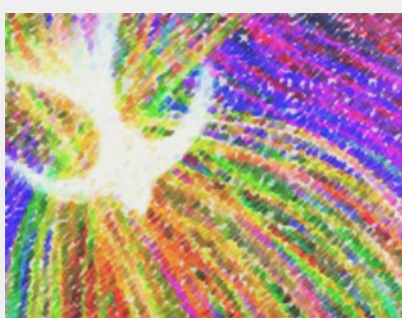
11:00 AM—
Morning Worship

ASCENSION SUNDAY



Ascension Day this year is Thursday, May 10th—forty days after the resurrection. We'll recognize this special day on Ascension Sunday, May 13th. Few of us, if any, view the ascension as did people hundreds, even thousands of years ago. Today we have a much greater understanding of the cosmos than existed during the 1st century—a three-tiered universe of earth, heaven and hell. So what does the ascension symbolize? Maybe the better question to ask is, "Where is Jesus now?" Not up in the clouds, but right here with us—in our hearts, entwined in our relationships with one another, among us when we gather, around the table with us when we break bread, and even present in places we may not recognize or acknowledge him. The ascension story is not about the physical body of Jesus, but a story about his spiritual whereabouts—right here with us. *"... and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Matthew 28:20

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Sunday, May 20th is Pentecost—the day on which we celebrate the birth of the Church. Prior to this day, there were followers of Jesus, but no organized movement. This was the beginning of the grassroots effort that became known as Christianity. It's the day, as shared in Acts, that the followers of Jesus were metaphorically filled with the holy spirit. Supernatural phenomena filled the house where the followers had gathered: a strong wind from heaven, flames of fire and the sudden ability to speak in languages other than their own. Symbolically, the multilingual miracle of Pentecost calls us to be in community with all people—those who look and speak like us and those who don't. It challenges us to examine our own biases against those who do not share our culture or language. *"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."* Galatians 3:28

TRINITY SUNDAY



Sunday, May 27th is Trinity Sunday. This is the day the Christian church celebrates the doctrine of the trinity—that is the three-in-one theology of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, or perhaps God Beyond Us, God Among Us and God Within Us. The idea of a trinitarian God did not come explicitly from the bible, but instead was eventually adopted many years after being accepted by Roman Emperor Constantine during the Council of Nicaea, and he adopted it primarily for political rather than theological reasons! The Council of Nicaea did not end the debate over the nature of God. Specifically, disagreement over the nature of the Holy Spirit led to the Council of Constantinople where the Nicene Creed was adopted. This became the official belief and teaching of the Christian church. Certainly debate over the nature of God continues today! *"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."* John 5:7



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

As the winds of Pentecost approach, it's a good time to reflect on the liturgical practices (that's a fancy way of saying what we do in worship) that help us to feel better connected to God's spirit.

Every Sunday morning, we offer an invocation, a prayer to invoke God's presence. It's not that God isn't already present. Instead, this kind of prayer offers an intentional way of calling upon God, and inviting God to be part of our time of praise. It's a statement of our purpose: "Hey God, we're here! And here's why. And here's what we hope will happen in this space."

We also pass the Peace of Christ. Contrary to popular belief, this is NOT a time of introduction or homecoming. Though of course, this does happen — Sardisians are social creatures! It's a chance to publicly and formally acknowledge the safety and security we feel in God's presence, both individually and collectively. Here, in this space, we feel safe, we feel loved, and we feel connected. And by passing Christ's peace virtually to absent community members, or extended family and friends, we are reminded that such a feeling isn't just spatial. It's fluid!

We pray in other ways, too. We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask God to dedicate the gifts we bring. We offer a prayer of intercession where community members speak about their celebrations and concerns. And we offer a closing benediction which asks God to be present with us as we go back out into the world.

We sing hymns — some of praise, some intended to call us to action, some intended to draw us into deep reflections, and some intended to offer thanksgiving (the Doxology is one). We read scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary, a schedule of readings used by churches worldwide. That means that each Sunday, we're looking for wisdom in texts alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ's extended community. And we're working our way in an ordered fashion through the whole of our sacred readings.

And of course there are sermons that seek to offer a personal reflection on scriptures, a weekly invitation encouraging others to share how God is moving in their lives, a welcome to remind everyone of the work of the church, and special events like Communion, Baptism, and Ordination.

All of these activities allow us to practice the discipline of being aware of and connected to God's spirit. But none of these activities have to be limited to the worship hour. Imagine the power of our week if we took time daily to be intentional in praying for others, sharing with others, inquiring about the wellness of others, or inviting others to be part of our lives. It seems to me, we wouldn't have to wait around for the winds of Pentecost to see the power of God's spirit in our midst. May it be so!

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM REV. J SWIZ



What is the most famous verse in the Bible? Most people would probably say John 3:16. Can you recite it?

Have you ever heard of the artistic technique 'chiaroscuro'? It is a technique pioneered by Leonardo Da Vinci and Caravaggio and of which Rembrandt was a master. It refers to the juxtaposition of light and dark or shade as a visual effect. It is the effect that brings intensity and emotion to Rembrandt's paintings. He did a self-portrait of himself as St. Paul in 1661 where the effect is used to show Paul in an introspective moment. The effect can also be used to create movement as it does in Rembrandt's 1642 painting known as **Nightwatch**.

The writer of John's gospel could be called a master of light and dark as well. In his gospel, there is the light or the characteristics of Jesus and his mission to change the world and the dark or the rejection of Jesus' message by so many of the people. Light and dark are also a part of human existence.¹ I have always believed that John 3:16 shouldn't be separated from John 3:17. One reason is that so many focus on the perishing part of John 3:16, the dark part, even though the verse begins with love, continues with a gift and ends with eternal life. Verse 17 seems to anticipate those who would condemn. Read the two verses together.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

It's about light: love and salvation not accusation and condemnation. What do you think about that?

¹ McKenzie, Alyce; Edgy Exegesis; *Walking in the Light: Reflections on John 3:14-21*; March 18th 2012; [<http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Walking-in-the-Light-Alyce-McKenzie-03-12-2012.html>]

Sardis Baptist Church

TYFBA

(Thank you for being awesome.)

It takes many more human resources than our small staff can provide to get the work of this church done! Thank you all for the various ways you support the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church!

We are grateful to special guests who made worship and Academy sessions successful in April: Ross Frady was our guitarist for the sunrise service; Olivia Yang wowed us with her talent during worship last month; Floyd Davis from Community Link taught a Sardis Academy session about the nonprofit organization that helps many Charlotteans find affordable housing; Jessica and Scott Wallace from Bullies 2 the Rescue, along with Bella (a four-legged friend), taught us about the mission and operations of their organization.

Our fellowship stewards provided fabulous fare for our Sardis Academy suppers. Please share your gratitude with Janet Beltzhoover, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard and Bob Stillerman.

Ordination Sunday was a special day at Sardis! Many people helped make it so: Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Betty Gunz, Bennet Henkel, Hilary Kearns, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Danny & Susan Phillips, Bob & Mary Allen Stillerman, and Joe Wall.

Our Earth Day workday was a success! Pine straw was spread, Easter lilies and bulbs were planted, and debris was cleared. Helpers included Cousin Edie (Marge's cousin), Jonathan Eidson, Betty Gunz, Kathryn Kreutzer, Tim Moore, Mary Jane Osborne, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Danny & Susan Phillips, Rick Proctor, Bob & Mary Allen Stillerman, and Joe Wall.

Thank you to Betty Gunz, William Kruger, Mary Jane Osborne, Susan Phillips and Magay Shepard for beautifying our walkway. We are greatly appreciative of William's generous gift from Pike Nurseries.

The following people served as worship leaders in April: Melissa Bowlin, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Betty Gunz, Janie Harris, Irena Hramenkova, Jane Jurney, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Alcie, David, Kaleb Kathryn and Madison Kreutzer, William Kruger, Jose & Katey Mata, Howell Peterson, June Ross, Valerie Rutherford, and Joe Wall.

Bob, Jacqueline and Mary Allen are grateful to the following people for the love shared during worship care: Elizabeth & Janet Beltzhoover, Sarah Bowlin, Lisa Kennedy and Krista Sigmon.

Thank you to Bob Stillerman for teaching us about Walter Rauschenbusch and the social gospel movement during April's 2nd Sunday session.

We are grateful to Janette Grassi and Susan Phillips for the beautiful displays created to enhance worship experiences.

Thank you to Jim Owen and our trustees for keeping our bills paid and our books in order.



CELEBRATIONS

- The Byrd Family is expecting!
- The Taylor Family is expecting twins!
- Marge Fowler is expecting a great-grandchild as well as a great-great-grandchild!
- Janette Grassi welcomed a new great-grandchild: Benjamin Robert Marshall!

PETITIONS

- Fay Alderman ▪ Mark Almond, Jacqueline's uncle ▪ Jourdan Askins and Family ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda's grandmother ▪ Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister ▪ Jim & Yvonne Cherokee, friends of Kristin Jackson ▪ Omaira Cohen, friend of Janet Beltzhoover's
- Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband ▪ Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother ▪ Nancy Darnell ▪ Ed DePasquale, friend of William Kruger ▪ Dennis Espenchied, Jonathan Eidson's brother-in-law ▪ Danny Farquhar, friend of Jose Mata's ▪ Don Hill ▪ Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson's mother ▪ William Kruger ▪ Lena Landers, friend of the Phillips' ▪ Tammy Moore, Tim's sister-in-law ▪ Odell Peterson, Howell's brother ▪ Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz ▪ Teena Proctor, Rick's mother ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Bill Sease, Jim Owen's brother-in-law ▪ Catherine Tate, Becky Proctor's sister ▪ Eddie Waiters



Yes, we may talk about **STAR WARS** but the lake is a great place for **Star Gazing**. It's a great place for **S'more Troopers** to practice the craft of making s'more! It's a great place to focus on the force! It's a great place for members of the resistance to go to escape the Empire of school work and peer pressure.

Jump in your family's Land Speeder and travel to the cozy confines of Snug Harbor for swimming, laughter, kayaking, faith, food, fellowship and much s'more.

Youth are welcome to bring friends along. There is no charge for this event. Please call Pastor Jedi Swizz today if you are interested!

**FRIDAY, MAY 4TH @ 6:00 PM UNTIL
SATURDAY, MAY 5TH @ 2:30 PM**

UniDiversity

Last summer, Jonathan and I took five youth to a camp called UniDiversity and had one of the best times of our lives! In that week, we experienced worship, bible study, classes about mindfulness and meditation, card games, kick ball, basketball, swimming—and those were just the organized events. Between these, we had time for hours of fellowship within our own group, and in that time I felt like I really got to know these young adults. They are a funny, intelligent, insightful group that I feel privileged to know.

From July 23 to 28, Jonathan and I will be taking another group to this same camp at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. The faces will be new, the theme will be different, but I know one thing for sure—the experience will be exciting, fun, and we will all learn and grow because of it.

If you have a middle or high school-aged child, please consider sending them with us this July. The cost is just \$100 for youth, and we have extended that same price to friends so we can share the experience with as many people as possible. I hope to see you there! — Hilary



SARDIS BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

1st—Bill Sholin
2nd—Sandy Manswell
6th—William Kruger
12th—Krista Sigmon
13th—Joey Byrd
18th—Sheila Black
22nd—Jackson Mosley-Mair



SERMON SCRIPTURES

May 6th — John 15:9-17
May 13th — Luke 24:44-54
May 20th — Acts 2:1-21
May 27th — Isaiah 6:1-8
June 3rd — Mark 2:23-3:6
June 10th — Mark 3:20-35
June 17th — Mark 4:26-34



Sardis Baptist Church – Worship

The Sardis Choir will be taking a well-deserved break from May 28th to August 4th. During this time, Minister of Music Hilary Kearns will arrange for soloists and special music in place of our usual anthems. If you or someone you know would like to perform, or if you have any special requests, please contact Hilary at sardishilary@yahoo.com.



SERVANT

MAY WORSHIP LEADERS

MAY 6, 2018

Worship Care.....Betty Gunz & Mary Jane Osborne
Greeter/Vestibule.....Ron Demme
Ushers.....Ron Demme, Sarah Bowlin, Magay Shepard

MAY 13, 2018

Worship Care.....Brandon & Valerie Rutherford
Greeter/Vestibule.....John Simpson
Ushers.....Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

MAY 20, 2018

Worship Care.....Grey & Krista Sigmon
Greeter/Vestibule.....William Kruger
Ushers.....Larry Harrill, Lisa Kennedy, William Kruger

MAY 27, 2018

Worship Care.....Chris Mair & Elizabeth Mosley
Greeter/Vestibule.....Marge Fowler
Ushers.....Elizabeth & Janet Beltzhoover,
.....Valerie Rutherford

JUNE 3, 2018

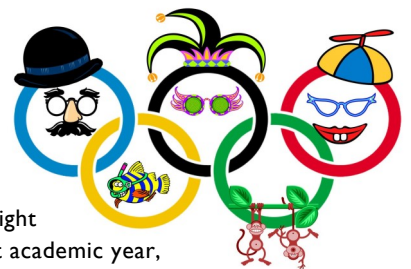
Worship Care.....Choir Members
Greeter/Vestibule.....Howell Peterson
Ushers.....Kathryn & Madison Kreutzer, Howell Peterson



Author Katherine Stillerman will join us for Sardis Academy on May 9th. She's published four books: one memoir and three novels, all historical fiction. Kathy is a retired teacher and administrator from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She's earned her BA in history from Furman University and her MA in Intermediate Education from Campbell University. Both are Baptist colleges supported through the Ministry Plan of Sardis Baptist Church. Kathy and her husband, Bill, have four grown sons, one of whom is Rev. Bob Stillerman. For more information about Katherine Stillerman and her writing, visit her website: fortheloveofwriting.net.

Kathy's book are all available on Amazon: *Hattie's Place*, *In the Fullness of Time*, *Over the Mountain* and *Retirement: A Journey not a Destination*. We look forward to hosting her and hope you will join us!

We'll host another round of the Sardis Olympics in lieu of a more studious Sardis Academy session on May 23rd. This will be our final Wednesday night activity for the current academic year, and we plan to make it memorable. Team Swiz-Hil took the coveted flamingo trophy torch in 2017 and Team Bob-Kat is already in training to even the score. We hope you'll join the competition. Dinner will be served at 5:45 PM followed by games at 6:30. You don't want to miss the fun!



Sardis Baptist Church — Calendar



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	2 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	3	4 6:00 PM Youth Evening at the Lake Begins 	5 11:00 AM Memorial for Carson Sholin 2:30 PM Youth Day at the Lake Ends 
6 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Quarterly Conference  MEETING	7	8 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	9 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Meal 6:30 PM Kathy Stillerman 7:45 PM Choir Practice 	10 Ascension Day	11	12
13 Ascension Sunday Mother's Day 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Communion 	14	15 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	16 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	21	22 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	23 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Meal 6:30 PM Sardis Olympics 7:45 PM Choir Practice 	24	25	26
27 Trinity Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Choir Break Begins	28 	29 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	30 3:00 PM Staff Meeting	31		

\$ARDI\$ GIVING REPORT



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.

March Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
March Actual Offerings.....	\$11,715.86
April Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
April Actual Offerings.....	\$11,247.11
Year-to-Date Budgeted Offerings.....	\$51,666.68
Year-to-Date Actual Offerings.....	\$42,055.24

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. Any member of our staff or Board of Trustees can provide you with details about additional funds.

25th Anniversary Fund.....	Campus Development
Benevolence Fund.....	Individual & Family Needs
Duncan Endowment.....	Guest Speakers; Budget Support
Hill Endowment.....	Music Ministry; Outreach
Odom Endowment.....	Children & Youth
Maintenance Escrow.....	Maintenance & Repairs

QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our 2nd quarter business conference is **Sunday, May 6th** following worship. Please plan to stay for a brief meeting and report from our boards.

CLEAN-UP EARTH DAY *day*

Our Earth Day picnic and workday was a success! Following a delicious meal of fried chicken and many fixin's, helpers aged infant to senior put their work gloves on and celebrated creation by taking care of the earth around Sardis. We planted Easter lilies around the prayer labyrinth, spread pine straw, planted bulbs, and cleared debris. We hope to schedule another workday before the heat of summer arrives, so stay tuned if you'd like an opportunity to dig in the dirt with Sardis friends.

SARDIS BAPTIST STAFF

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Kathryn Kreutzer,
Minister of Congregational Support
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Irena Hramenkova, Pianist

Bullies 2 the Rescue



A HUGE
THANK YOU
FROM ALL OF US!

Thanks everyone for the prayers, cards and phone calls. It's great to know someone cares. I hope to be back soon. Love, Fay Alderman

Thank you so much for welcoming us to Charlotte with such a delicious meal! We all loved being able to gather around your table and share in passing the peace with you. The food was wonderful and the leftovers did not go to waste. Thank you again for your generosity and hospitality. From Siena College, Habitat Charlotte Collegiate Challenge '18

Thanks so much for your most generous love offering that you sent. It really meant a lot to me. Your gift is a true example of love for your brothers and sisters in Christ. Words can't express the gratitude I have. Again thank you and God bless you all. Love, Doris Waiters

We are so thankful to be part of such a thoughtful congregation. Thank you all for the kindhearted offering of love you shared with the staff of Sardis. Each of us was touched by your generosity. We are all grateful! With love, Bob, Hilary, Irena, Jonathan and Kathryn



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