

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 FOCUSES ON HUNGER

Our Fall focus on hunger began in September with Sardis Academy sessions that focused on hunger and included our participation in Operation Sandwich. We collected funds to purchase supplies to make 200 meat, cheese and egg salad sandwiches for hungry neighbors through Urban Ministries.

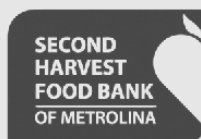
We'll continue our focus on hunger through the month of October with participation in the CROP Walk as well as a food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank.

Charlotte CROP is a poverty-fighting organization that honors the call to improve the quality of life of people suffering from poverty and hunger. They educate, inspire and empower the Charlotte community to become agents of change through fund-raising events with local and international impact.

Sardis Baptist is building a team of walkers to participate in the annual CROP Walk on Sunday, October 16th. The length of the walk is 3.6 miles, which symbolizes the average round trip people in developing nations make daily to get water. You can register to join our team or to sponsor Sardis walkers with donations at crophungerwalk.org/charlottenc/sbc. Our goal is to have 25 walkers, 25 sponsors and earn \$2,500.

In existence since 1981, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metro-lina strives through education, advocacy, and partnerships to eliminate hunger by the solicitation and distribution of food. Second Harvest provides a regional distribution warehouse and branches that supply food and grocery items to almost 700 charitable programs that assist people in need across a 19 county service area. They serve 14 counties in North Carolina and 5 counties in South Carolina.

A generous benefactor has challenged Sardis to collect shelf-stable food and other essential items for a Second Harvest food drive. Most needed food items are: Canned Fish or Meat, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Canned or Dry Beans, Soups, Canned Fruits in Juice, Canned Low-Sodium Vegetables and Whole Grain Cereals. Non-food items most in need are: Paper Products, Diapers, Cleaning Supplies and Personal Hygiene Items. Bring your donations to the church before November 6th. William Kruger will match our donations pound for pound! Let's help him break the bank!



You're Invited! Picnic and Pumpkin Carving



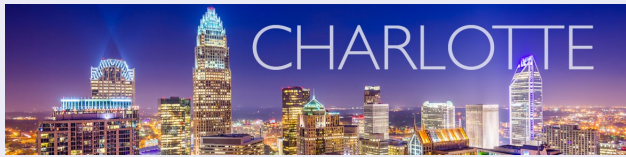
Sunday, October 23rd
5:00 PM

Sardis Baptist Picnic Shelter

- Hotdogs, Fixin's and S'mores
Will Be Provided -

- Bring a Side Dish or
Dessert, a Pumpkin
and Carving Tools -





I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

A Prayer for Our City ~ During Wednesday's staff meeting, we struggled to make sense of the latest events in our city: Charlotte joined the growing list of neighborhoods affected by police shootings in recent weeks. Just like Milwaukee, Baton Rouge, Tulsa, and others, our city feels first-hand the confusion, fear, anger, and disappointment of another life lost. And just like our sister cities, we've seen first-hand the tension created between two distinct groups: those who experience tangible justice and those who don't.

As our staff gathered, we asked each other, "What do we say about this on Sunday? What action can we take? What candle can we light, what symbol can we create?"

After an hour, we were right where we started. We still didn't know what to say or do. We decided to reach for the words of a more modern prophet. We read Martin Luther King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. In January of 1963, Birmingham, Alabama was considered the most-segregated city in America. In an effort to call attention to injustices in Birmingham, civil rights activists organized protests, sit-ins and other demonstrations. A group of white clergymen wrote a letter to King, asking him stop the protests, and stop creating tension in the city. On Good Friday, King was arrested for demonstrating. He wrote this letter in response to his fellow clergy. Here are a few snippets:

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct action campaign that was "well timed" in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God given rights. The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jetlike speed toward gaining political independence, but we still creep at horse and buggy pace toward gaining a cup of coffee at a lunch counter. Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, "Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will (continued on page 4)

The Askins Family

SARDIS PEOPLE



The Askins family loves the beach. They're in a great place for indulging that inclination. They live in Jacksonville, NC, not far from Topsail Beach. Jourdan is a lieutenant commander in the United States Navy and is currently on his first deployment on the USS San Antonio. He is a nurse and one of his duties is instructor of basic and of advanced life support.

The Askinses also enjoy visiting family. Since the military has taken them from one end of the country to the other, their visits to their extended family (Jo and Mike Tiddy and MacGregor Stevenson) also means that Sardis family has the opportunity to see them occasionally.

Rebecca is now selling real estate in the Jacksonville area, having earned her license in January of this year. Other times she is occupied with home duties and the rearing of their five children. The family recently joined a gym and each of them have gravitated to their own interests.

Joey, 15, is a freshman in high school where he is looking at the cross country and track programs. He is in Driver's Education and looking to a future with the Naval Academy. Brady, 11, and Reece, 6, are in the wrestling program at the gym. Brady is in his last year of elementary school and a huge Carolina fan. Samuel, 9, and Keely, 4, are enrolled in Tai Kwan Do. A third grader, Samuel wants to be a paleontologist and is especially interested in the Jurassic period, dinosaurs, and the replication of dinosaur cells. Keely will begin kindergarten next year.

Though one of their favorite places to live was Burlington, Washington (near Seattle), they are hoping to remain in North Carolina for Jourdan's next assignment.

Sardis Baptist Church

*Extending deep and
heartfelt sympathy to
Shannon Duncan
in the death of his sister,
Mary Jo Hurocy.*



weekly prayer *focus*

October 2nd-8th: Tom & Denise Cooley

October 9th-15th: Nancy Darnell

October 16th-22nd: Betty Deason

October 23rd-30th: Ron & Pepe Demme

October 31st-November 5th: Don & Betsy DePaul



The work of the church requires the efforts of many people! Sardis is a place for you to feel the love of God and also for you to offer God's love to others. We have to many people to thank for their participation in our September efforts: Worship Leaders, Saturday of Service Assistants, Fellowship Stewards, Worship Caregivers, Animal Blessing Coordinators, and many others who keep our day-to-day operations running. We are thankful for all of you, and especially want to highlight the following people for their support of Sardis' in September:

Melissa Bowlin, Linda Cook, Ruthye Cooley, Olivia Dumez, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan & Anne Eidson, Maria Elena Floren, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Kristin Jackson, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, William Kruger, Chris Mair, Elizabeth Mosley, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Danny & Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman, Jo Tiddy, Joe Wall

*We share sincere condolences with
Alex Beltzhoover
in the loss of his mother,
Rita Beltzhoover.*



PRAYER

changes things

Prayer Chain ~ Melissa Bowlin
704.458.9773, mbowlin@cmpd.org

Jourdan Askins and Family • Evelyn Beck • Friends and Family of Rita Beltzhoover, Alex's mother • Sarah Bowlin • Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mom • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband • Nelson Cooper, friend of Jonathan's • Charles Cureton, Ruthye Cooley's brother • Nancy Darnell • Betty Deason • Don Hill • Irena Hramenkova • Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson's mother • Friends and Family of Mary Jo Hurocy, Shannon Duncan's sister • Jane Journey • William Kruger • Lennox Manswell, Sandy's father • Jason Matthews & Sabrina Welly, friends of Kathryn Kreutzer • Pete McSwain, Tillie Duncan's brother-in-law • Michael Midgett, Mary-Jane Osborne's son-in-law • Ryan Midgett, Mary-Jane Osborne's grandson • Hudson Newbrough, great grand-nephew of Janie Harris • Mala Reynolds • June Ross • June Ross' daughters - Tonya, Dante, Dawn and Dusty • Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother • Betty Zimmerman, friend of Hilary Kearns

Sardis Baptist Church — Youth & Children

(Continued from page 2) and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six year old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people... When you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness"-- then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair. I hope, sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience.

After reading King's words, we came to a conclusion: We have no conclusion! We don't know what to say to heal the racial discord in our city. There's not a sermon to preach, or a prayer to pray, or a passage to read, or a candle to light that will magically heal what ails us.

But here's what we do know: We worship a God who works in and through and with ALL people. And we worship a God whose spirit dwells in this place. And we worship a God who can and does and will offer healing to our community.

And so this is our prayer:

God, through your spirit, give us the ability to empathize with others. Help us to listen to and acknowledge the needs of those who can no longer wait for justice. And help us to create dialogue with those who seek to hoard justice, as if there wasn't enough to go around.

God, through your spirit, make us a creative people, a people who will use its varied gifts and talents to spread your love through this community.

God make us a discerning people, a collection of individuals who will ask in earnest: "What can I do to bring about healing?"

God, make us a persistent people, a people who will not run from hard conversations, but rather, a people who engage them head on.

God, make us your people! Amen.

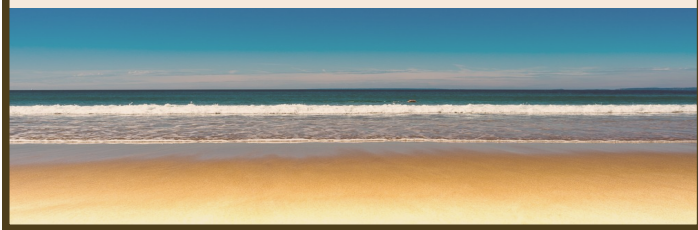
"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Weekend is Finally Here!

The time has arrived at last and our youth will make the trip to the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. The Beach Retreat is planned and led by the CBF of North Carolina.

While there, our group will have spiritual growth and worship opportunities as well as plenty of time to enjoy the beach and explore the fort. We'll leave the regular distractions behind and have fun together. Stay tuned to next month's signposts to read what our youth have to say about the experience.



SAVE THE DATE
January 20-22, 2017



YOUTH SKI RETREAT
WINTERPLACE SKI RESORT
Ghent, West Virginia



~ Details Coming Soon ~
Makes A Great Christmas Present!

Sardis Baptist Church — Worship

WORSHIP LEADERS



OCTOBER 2, 2016

Worship Care: Betty Gunz, Valerie Rutherford

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: Ron Demme

Ushers: Ron Demme, Abby Shepard-Moore,
Hannah Shepard-Moore

OCTOBER 9, 2016

Worship Care: Janet Beltzhoover, Krista Sigmon

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: Larry Harrill

Ushers: Larry Harrill, Lisa Kennedy, Erin Kennedy

OCTOBER 16, 2016

Worship Care: Elizabeth Mosley, Chris Mair

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: Marge Fowler

Ushers: Jeff Jackson, Magay Shepard, Michael
Shepard-Moore

OCTOBER 23, 2016

Worship Care: Lisa Kennedy, Maria Elena Floren

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: Valerie Rutherford

Ushers: Valerie Rutherford, Brandon Rutherford,
Summer Rutherford

OCTOBER 30, 2016

Worship Care: Maria & Joey Byrd

Greeter/Vestibule Volunteer: William Kruger

Ushers: William Kruger, Maria Elena Floren,
Howell Peterson

DEACONS

Melissa Bowlin — 704.458.9773, mbowlin@cmpd.org

Kristin Jackson — 704.618.6213, kpj@carolina.rr.com

Kathryn Kreutzer — 704.241.6927, kathrynkreutzer@gmail.com

John Simpson — 704.591.0890, drjohnsimpson@yahoo.com

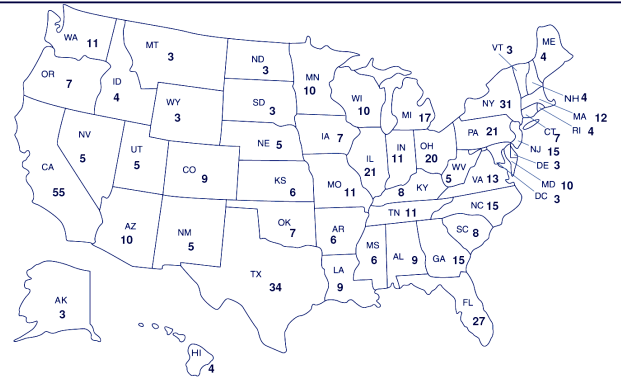
SARDIS ACACEMY OCTOBER 12 @ 5:45 PM

Elizabeth Mosley will lead us down memory lane and bring us back to High School Civics class! With less than one month before election day, she'll remind us how our Electoral College works, and guide discussions on the pros and cons of our election system.

Our time together will begin with a fellowship meal at 5:45 PM followed by Civics class at 6:30. We'll wrap up in time for the choir to begin practice by 7:45. We hope you will join us.



ELECTORAL COLLEGE MAP

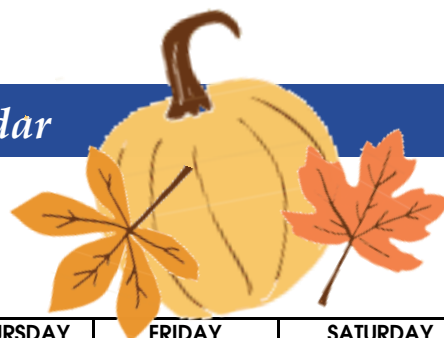


OCTOBER 2, 2016



World Communion is celebrated by churches of many denominations in places throughout the world every year on the first Sunday of October. The purpose is to promote unity and ecumenical cooperation.

OCTOBER 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Saturday of Service- 9:00 AM
2 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM World Communion Deacon Meeting- 12:15 PM	3	4 Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM	5 Choir 7:45 PM	6	7 CBF Youth Beach Retreat 	8 CBF Youth Beach Retreat
9 CBF Youth Beach Retreat Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM	10 Columbus Day	11 Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM	12 Fellowship Meal 5:45 PM Sardis Academy 6:30 PM Choir 7:45 PM	13	14	15
16 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM CROP WALK	17 	18 Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM	19 Choir 7:45 PM	20	21	22
23 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM Fall Picnic & Pumpkin Carving- 5:00 PM 	24	25 Adult Bible Study 1:00 PM	26 Choir 7:45 PM			
30 Sunday School- 9:45 AM Worship-11:00 AM	31 Happy Halloween					

Sardis Baptist Church — Business

WE MAKE A
LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE A
LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.

~WINSTON CHURCHILL

We offer gratitude for your generosity, and ask that you continue to give thoughtful consideration to how much members of your household can give time, talents, and financial contributions to sustain the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church.

August Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 13,750.00
August Actual Offerings:	\$ 9,262.00
September Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 13,750.00
September Actual Offerings:	\$ 9,146.31
Budgeted Offerings (January—September 2016):	\$123,750.00
Actual Offerings (January—September 2016):	\$108,529.75

SERVICE SATURDAYS

Our next Saturday of Service is scheduled for October 1st, beginning at 9:00 AM. We accomplished a lot of important tasks in and around Sardis in September, and will continue working on our church home this month. Last month we sanded the picnic tables, sanded the youth room tables, weeded around the prayer labyrinth and cleaned the utility closet. We are grateful to those who were able to help, and hope to see even more of you on Saturday, October 1st!

SARDIS STAFF

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

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

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

Hilary Kearns, Minister of Music
sardishilary@yahoo.com / 704.517.4417

Irena Hramenkova, Pianist

**WE'VE
MOVED**

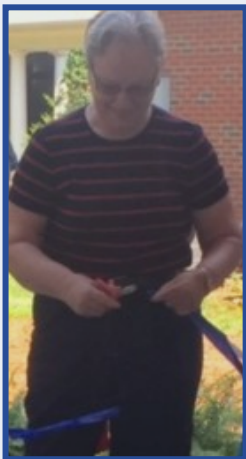
Updated church directories are printed and in the vestibule for you to take. Please note the following updates:

Evelyn Beck
Brighton Gardens
Room 360
6000 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28210

Eugene Hill
ID# 0182978
Holte Correctional
243 Old Highway 211
Raeford, NC 28376



'God puts rainbows in the clouds so that each of us - in the dreariest and most dreaded moments - can see a possibility of hope.' ~ Maya Angelou



Picnic Shelter Christening Events

The Sardis picnic shelter was opened and dedicated on August 28. Linda Cook, charter member and currently a member of the Sardis Board of Trustees cut the ribbon symbolizing the completion of the shelter and its readiness for use. Sardis staff members, Bob Stillerman, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, and Hilary Kearns, each read from scripture and voiced their hopes for the future of the edifice. Outstanding potluck picnic fare was shared and enjoyed by all attending.

The shelter has been utilized twice in September for Wednesday evening fellowship dinners. The shelter is one of the early projects of our ongoing development of the Miller property.

Sardis' first animal blessing service was held on September 18 on the Miller property adjacent to the new picnic shelter. A dozen dogs and one cat were present to participate. Pictures of other pets were on display and included in the blessing. Recently departed pets were acknowledged and prayed for by the Sardis ministerial staff.

After a general blessing of animals and prayers for the whole of creation, each pet, along with its family, was individually blessed.

