



# sardis signposts

baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

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

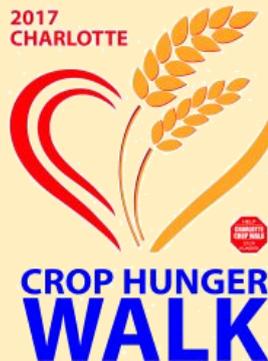
## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 AM—  
Sunday School

11:00 AM—  
Morning Worship

## SARDIS CROP CHALLENGE

2017 CHARLOTTE



The 39th Annual Charlotte CROP Walk will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 9:00 am at Independence Park (300 Hawthorne Lane). Sardis will do its part to help make this year's walk the best one yet. For 2017, we have set a **fund-raising goal of \$3,000** and a **participation goal of 30 walkers**. Walkers can register for or donate to the Sardis team at: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/charlottenc/Team/View/44031/Sardis-Baptist-Church>.

But we don't just want walkers and donations. We want to have our community immerse itself in issues related to local and global hunger. So we're inviting you to participate in the **2017 Sardis CROP Challenge**. Here's how it works:

Everyone at Sardis (and friends, too!) are invited to see if they can earn 100 challenge points. Points can be earned in the following ways: 25 points—walk in CROP Walk; 25 points—receive 1 point for every dollar donated up to \$25; 15 Points—register a friend to walk in CROP Walk; 15 Points—for every article read about issues related to hunger (click [here](#) to find online resources); 15 Points—volunteer one hour with a hunger ministry in Charlotte ([Crisis Assistance](#), [Loaves and Fishes](#), [Second Harvest Food Bank](#), and [Urban Ministry Center](#) are all good places to start); 10 Points—for every prayer given to empower our community to help eliminate hunger; 10 Points—for every conversation you have with someone else to engage them in a discussion of the hunger crisis; 10 Points—for every scripture passage you read related to issues of hunger (click [here](#) for suggestions); 5 Points—for every act of encouragement you offer to a walk participant (prayer, word of thanks, note, text, etc); 5 Points—for every social media engagement (post, share, like, comment, picture, etc.) to encourage participation in this year's Challenge. Click [here](#) for a spreadsheet to help you keep a running tally of points. Points will be allocated on the honor system.

Sardis will maintain a google doc to tabulate all participants ([link here](#)). Please update as you go along. In the Meetinghouse, we will display a bulletin board listing each participant (and gold stars for every point), as well as a progress thermometer.

**Our goal as a community is to earn 50,000 points.** To help get us started, Bob Stillerman has pledged to give \$.01 per point to the Sardis Walk Team, for the first 20,000 points earned. Let's start walking today, so we can stop hunger in its tracks!

## EVICTED

In 2016, Matthew Desmond penned an award-winning book entitled *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Desmond explores the affordable housing crisis in Milwaukee, but the book could just as easily describe cities like Charlotte and Raleigh. Faith groups across Charlotte have participated in a book study to increase awareness of the role a lack of affordable housing plays in equality and justice in our city.

Sardis wants to join the conversation. During September, we'll hold two Academy sessions (Wednesday 9/13 and Wednesday 9/27) to discuss Desmond's book. The church has seven copies available for use. You may claim one from the Church vestibule community bookshelf, and return once you are finished. The book is also available on [Amazon](#).

On 9/13, we'll have dinner (5:45 pm) and an introductory discussion. On 9/27, Matthew Desmond is actually speaking in Charlotte. A group of Sardis folks have already secured tickets or are on a waiting list. We'll gather for a snack supper at Sardis at 5:30. Those with tickets will carpool to the event. For those without tickets, we'll lead a small group discussion here at Sardis. To put your name on the waiting list, click [here](#).

We're also planning a follow-up discussion about the book for our Second Sunday program on Sunday, 10/8. We hope to see you there!

WITHOUT A HOME  
EVERYTHING ELSE  
FALLS APART



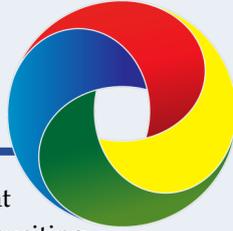
## SARDIS MUSIC CAMP SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

**8:30 AM**—Registration begins for kids from age 6 to 11  
**9:00 AM**—Music, Crafts, Games, Dancing, Instruments  
**11:30 AM**—Concert for Friends and Family  
**12:00 PM**—Lunch for Everyone

**TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OR CALL 704.362.0811.**

## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



As another school year begins, we want to make you aware of all the new and exciting things happening at our church in the next few months. We've created a schedule of events with key themes in mind: 1) Community Outreach 2) Creative Worship 3) Doing God's Work in the World and 4) Practicing Spiritual Formation.

This year, we want to reach out to our community. We've planned several events to meet the needs and interests of our neighbors: Hilary Kearns will lead a free *Music Camp* for Kids ages 6-11 on Saturday, 9/9; Sardis will host its *Second Annual Blessing of the Animals* on Saturday 10/7; we'll round out October with a *Pumpkin Carving and Trunk or Treat* on Saturday 10/29; we'll celebrate the Christmas season with songs, campfire, and spirit for *Carols and Candlelight* on Saturday 12/9.

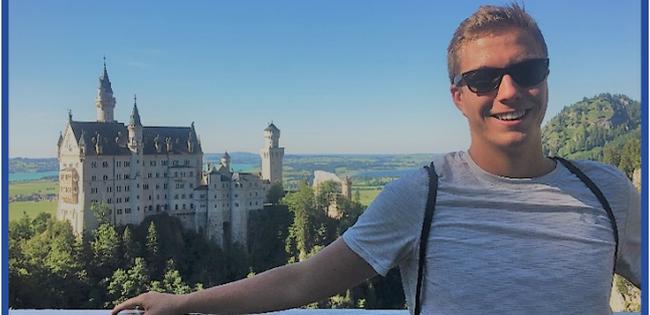
In October, there will be two opportunities for special, creative worship services. Both of these services will emphasize our connection to and work among the larger body of Christ here in Charlotte, and around the world. On *World Communion Sunday* (10/1), we'll celebrate the Eucharist with Christians in every nation, listen to special music, and hear God's voice in multiple languages and traditions. On *Servant Sunday* (10/8), we will celebrate our partnerships with five local organizations who are making a difference in the Charlotte area.

There will be multiple opportunities for missions this year, but the *Sardis CROP Walk Challenge* (see more on page 1) offers a chance for service by people of all ages. Walk in or donate to the Charlotte CROP Walk on Saturday 10/14, or take our challenge, and find ways (big and small) to help end hunger for all of our neighbors.

September and October Sardis Academies will offer opportunities for spiritual discernment. Join us in September (9/13 and 9/27) as we reflect on the affordable housing crisis with the aid of Matthew Desmond's book:

(continued on page 5)

## MICHAEL SHEPARD-MOORE



East Mecklenburg High School graduate Michael Shepard-Moore is now UNC student Michael Shepard-Moore. His determination to be the best will put him at good advantage for reaching the goals that he has set for himself. Having been in the IB program in high school gave him a good work ethic and taught him how to study. Family support and encouragement were also important in setting him up to succeed.

Playing soccer and basketball gave him challenges that he enjoyed taking on. He was a valued member of his high school soccer team and also played for city organizations. His love for soccer led him to coach a children's team. The friends he made in soccer are some of the best memories he will carry with him.

This past summer he enjoyed playing with family and friends in the interim of trading high school for college. There were several periods in the concluding kick-off. He attended UniDiversity with the Sardis youth squad, cementing life-long friendships. With his family, Michael traveled to the Outer Banks where they were tackled by the loss of electric power. A family trip to Europe scored high with Michael. The age of historical sites they visited were "really impressive:" The Charles Bridge in Prague, Notre Dame stained glass windows, castles. The venture gave Michael a new goal of studying abroad.

As Michael said with gratitude during last week's worship, "Sardis helped me become the person I am." And, you, Michael, have helped to make Sardis the church we are!



## SARDIS PRAYER REQUESTS

Charles Almond, Jacqueline Stillerman's grandfather • Mark Almond, Jacqueline Stillerman's cousin • Debbie & Tad Bonidy, Valerie's Mother and Stepfather • Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister • Ben Cooley, Ruthye Cooley's husband • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Nancy Darnell, St. Andrews Living Center • Betty Deason, Carrington Place • Betsy & Don DePaul • Ed DePasquale, friend of William Kruger • Howard Etheredge, friend of David Kreutzer • Larry Harrill • Don Hill, Stewart Health Center • Irena Hramenkova • Doris Hunter, Anne Hunter Eidson's mother • Madison Kreutzer • William Kruger • Odell Peterson, Howell's brother • Mala Reynolds • Violet Ross, June Ross' mother-in-law • Brandon Rutherford • Brantley Rutherford • Valerie Rutherford • Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother • Carson Sholin, The Dorchester • Eleanor Stillerman, Bob & Jacqueline's niece (9 mos old)

**PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT—MELISSA BOWLIN**  
704.458.9773 / MBOWLIN@CMPD.ORG



Many hands make good work! And it takes many hands to do the good work of Sardis Baptist Church! We especially want to thank the following people for supporting the efforts of Sardis in August.

**Worship Care:** Alex Beltzhoover, Janette Grassi, Chris Mair, Elizabeth Mosley, Mary Jane Osborne and Jacqueline Stillerman for loving and caring for our youngest friends during Worship Care. We thank Danny & Susan Phillips for adjusting the height of the crib in our Worship Care room.

**Worship Leaders:** We are grateful to those who preach, teach, pray, read, serve as greeters and ushers—Melissa Bowlin, Ron Demme, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, William Kruger, Howell Peterson, Danny & Susan Phillips, Brantley and Valerie Rutherford, Abby, Hannah and Michael Shepard-Moore, Tim Moore, John Simpson and Bob Stillerman. We thank Becky Proctor for accompanying and leading during the absences of Irena and Hillary.

**Communion Brunch:** The following people made our Communion Brunch a success by assisting with setup, cleanup and food prep—Fay Alderman, Melissa Bowlin, Linda Cook, Ruthye Cooley, Marge Fowler, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Janie Harris, Kathie Jean, Jane Jurney, Kathryn Kreutzer, Susan Phillips, Shepard-Moore's, John Simpson, Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman.

**Security:** We offer many thanks to Linda Cook for the time she spent with Select Security company and the Charlotte Fire Marshall during the recent retrofit of our security system.

**Youth:** Thank you to Kathryn & David Kreutzer for hosting youth and parents in their home for the Back-to-School Kick-Off dinner.

**Flower & Decorating:** We are grateful for our beautiful worship displays created by Susan Phillips. We thank Betty Gunz and Magay Shepard for caring for our flowerpots.

**Building & Grounds:** Thank you to Jim Owen for power washing the playground equipment and to Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman for taking care of the weeds on the playground. The following people worked hard during our playground workday spreading 20 cubic yards of mulch: Kathryn Kreutzer, Tim Moore, Howell Peterson, Susan & Danny Phillips, Bob & Jacqueline Stillerman.

## BEACH RETREAT TO CASWELL

Will the beach retreat happen? Enquiring minds want to know! Let your mental calendar wander back to October of 2015. Sardis youth were ready to journey to Fort Caswell for the CBF Fall Beach Retreat but Hurricane Joaquin had other things in mind. The result? No beach retreat! Flash floodward to 2016. Youth are once again excited about fall beach trip to Caswell but Hurricane Matthew had other ideas! The result? No beach retreat!

The CBF decided to move the trip to September this year hoping to finally have it this time around! Once again, our youth are excited about it! Will the beach retreat *finally* happen or will another hurricane blow in and end the dreams of our youth? Say your prayers, keep your fingers crossed and turn away immediately from any black cats!

We'll leave the meetinghouse at 4:30 on Friday, September 15th and return on Sunday afternoon. Our schedule allows for plenty of free time to enjoy the beach and our community of friends. Our youth should come with plenty of creative ideas for the sand sculpture contest! Jonathan Eidson and Hilary Kearns will chaperone.



## UNIDIVERSITY

**Abby:** "I am so blessed to have spent a week with our amazing little group. Sharing laughs and fun with them was an experience that I certainly won't forget. It was especially cool to get a new perspective on my faith thanks to the seminar on Israel taught by a Christian Arab Israeli woman. Lastly, I am incredibly thankful for J Dog McSwizzle for being a supporting, loving and irreplaceable leader and friend for the past years. ♥"

**Michael:** "I think this camp solidified my understanding of God as I venture off to college. I'm so thankful to have experienced this with all of you, through laughter, love and fellowship. I personally enjoyed the help of J Swizz and my bible study leader Kate who let me experience God as she came to me."

**Hannah:** "I enjoyed being able to spend our last year at camp in tight and loving community: the bonds between the seven of us certainly became stronger and more memorable throughout the week, and for that I am grateful. I also enjoyed discussing the Bible with other youth of my age."

**Hilary:** "I had such a great time on this trip getting to know all of the grads that came and spending quality time with everyone. I feel so lucky to be a part of such a special church."

**Erin:** "I can't believe how lucky I am to have spent my last year at youth camp with the same friends I did church camps with ten years ago. I am incredibly blessed to have been able to go through all stages of my life with such amazing friends. Jonathan and Hilary also made my last camp experience the best by being the best chaperones I could ask for."

**Jonathan:** "I was with five graduates and a fellow staff member weaving a tapestry together, a picture of a final youth camp for our grads. I wish you could see it in my mind because it's a masterpiece but this is a tapestry you'll have to hear about and since you have to hear about it, I hope you'll ask one of our graduates to tell you all about it. If you can't find one of them, ask Hilary or me."

9/10 @ 4:00

On September 10th, Sardis youth will venture to Kinetic Heights for their first youth activity of the school year. Kinetic Heights offers 22,000 square feet of indoor obstacles and adventures, including ropes courses, a bouldering wall, zip lines and more! We'll gather at the meetinghouse at 4:00 PM. Please note, we've shifted the time to 4:00 PM to allow plenty of time to enjoy all the adventures Kinetic Heights offers. The Beltzhoovers will host a picnic for youth in the Sardis shelter following our field trip. Parents may pick kiddos up at Sardis about 7:30 PM.

KINETIC HEIGHTS

# Sardis Baptist Church – Worship



## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

### SEPTEMBER 3RD

**Worship Care**.....Krista and Gray Sigmon  
**Greeter / Vestibule**.....John Simpson  
**Ushers**.....Ron Demme, Janette Grassi  
and John Simpson

### SEPTEMBER 10TH

**Worship Care**.....Maria and Joey Byrd  
**Greeter / Vestibule**.....Jo Tiddy  
**Ushers**.....Jeff Jackson, William Kruger  
and Magay Shepard

### SEPTEMBER 17TH

**Worship Care**.....Betty Gunz  
and Erin Kennedy  
**Greeter / Vestibule**.....Howell Peterson  
**Ushers**.....Howell Peterson, Gray Sigmon  
and Reid Sigmon

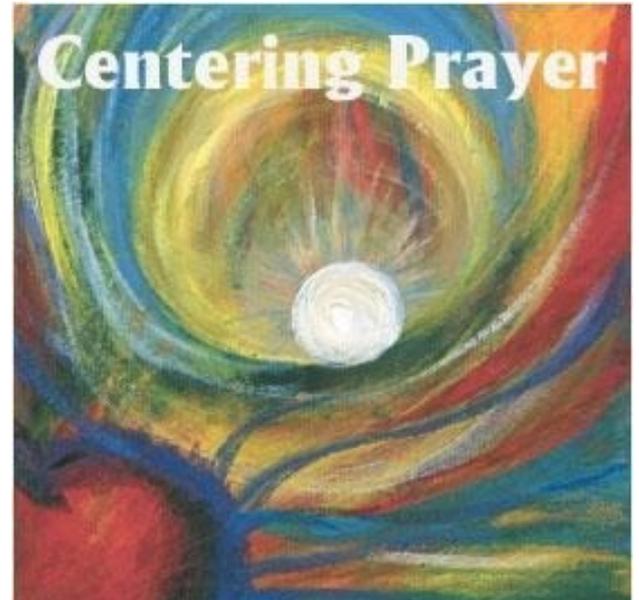
### SEPTEMBER 24TH

**Worship Care**.....Sarah Bowlin and  
Lisa Kenndy  
**Greeter / Vestibule**.....Linda Cook  
**Ushers**.....Linda Cook, Betty Gunz, Joe Wall

(continued from page 2) Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City (see more on page 1). In October, we'll consider two forms of meditation: Mindfulness (10/11) and Laughter Yoga (10/25).

There's lots to do at Sardis this fall. We hope these opportunities will allow many chances to find spiritual rest during your busy week.

We hope for all that Sardis can be!  
The Sardis Baptist Church Staff



Join Hilary for September's **2nd Sunday** session on September 10th at 9:45 AM for **An Introduction to Meditation and Centering Prayer**. We will begin with a short description of these practices and then you will be able to take part in guided meditation. If you wish, you may bring pillows, blankets, yoga mats, etc., but these items are not required. All you really need is an open, curious mind, a willingness to find the peace within yourself and to hear God speak. We hope to see you here!

To Debbie Kidd  
**retirehappy**  
Make Retirement the Best Years of Your Life

Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	4  <b>LABOR DAY</b>	5	6 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	7	8	9 9:00 – 12:00 AM Kid's Music Camp 
10 <b>Grandparents Day</b> 9:45 AM Second Sunday Hilary Kearns Contemplative Walking 11:00 AM Worship Communion 4:30 PM Youth Event	11 	12 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	13 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Sardis Academy Evicted 7:45 PM Choir Practice	14	15 Youth Beach Retreat to Caswell 	16 Youth Beach Retreat to Caswell
17 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Youth Beach Retreat to Caswell	18	19 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	20 <b>Bob's 2<sup>nd</sup> Staff                      Anniversary</b> 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	21	22 <b>Fall Begins</b> 	23
24 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Worship Development Meeting	25	26 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	27 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Sardis Academy Evicted 7:45 PM Choir Practice	28	29	30



### SARDIS OFFERINGS

Our Operating Fund (sometimes called 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 outside of our building walls.

July 2017 Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 12,916.67
July 2017 Actual Offerings:	\$ 10,439.00
August 2017 Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 12,916.67
August 2017 Actual Offerings:	\$ 10,334.16
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$103,333.36
YTD Actual Offerings:	\$ 77,249.33

Designated Funds (sometimes called Special Funds) have been set up to support specific ministry efforts of Sardis Baptist Church that are not covered by our Operating Fund. We encourage you to consider whether you can support the efforts of Sardis through a designated donation. Following are some funds and how they are used:

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



Congratulations Sardis Baptist Church! You helped many students and teachers begin their school year prepared for S-U-C-C-E-S-S! The turnout for our Back-to-School donation drive was quite an achievement. We tallied...

17 book bags; 12 boxes of tissue paper; 3 boxes of Ziplock bags; 4 containers of cleaning wipes; 31 boxes of Crayons; 8 packages of erasers; 10 scissors; 5 bottles of hand sanitizer; 7 tape dispensers; 17 bottles of glue; 60 glue sticks; 29 packs of notebook paper; 5 packs of construction paper; 14 pencil boxes; 25 composition books; 39 folders; 36 spiral notebooks; 21 three-ring binders; 4 packs of dividers; 336 pencils; 12 rulers; 2 packs of colored pencils; and 7 packs of markers...

And more supplies arrived after we completed our counts. You made students and teachers at University Park Creative Arts Elementary School very happy. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

*Congratulations to Irena Hramenkova! She received a diploma of recognition for her extraordinary dedication and achievement in the field of teaching music from the American Protégé International Concerto Competition in 2017. Her students were selected as winners and invited to perform at Carnegie Hall! We are honored to have Irena share her talents at Sardis Baptist Church!*





- virtual passing of the peace -  
MAY THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU



@SardisBaptistCharlotte



@Sardis BaptistCharlotte



@SardisBCChar

Visit our Website: [SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](http://SardisBaptistCharlotte.org)

## May the Peace of Christ Be With You!

Every Sunday morning for 29 years, Sardis Baptist has joined an ancient tradition—we pass God's peace among one another. This is more than a simple greeting. In passing the Peace of Christ to one another, we acknowledge the shared sense of value and community God offers each of us. And there is power in speaking these words! Together, we proclaim the work that God is doing with us, for us, among us, and within us. And we celebrate how such work can and will transform our community.

We recently started a new tradition at Sardis—A Virtual Passing of Peace. Sometimes, community members aren't able to be physically present in worship. But that doesn't mean we can't share God's peace, and share it enthusiastically. We encourage you to text, Facebook, Tweet, Instagram, SnapChat, or even snail mail a simple message of peace to a friend.

And if you are using social media, please use the hashtag #SardisPeace. We hope this will be a new way to celebrate an ancient connection.



### SARDIS BAPTIST STAFF

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

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

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

**Irena Hramenkova, Pianist**