

# 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

## COMMUNION BRUNCH



**August 12th @ 10:30 AM**

The Communion Table at Sardis is open. Our table is not reserved for members only—or even Christians only. At God's table, all are welcome. This sacrament represents God's unconditional love for all of us, regardless of whether we share religious or political beliefs, no matter what we look like or where we live, and irrespective of what we value we hold dear.

We'll celebrate God's open table at a Communion Bruch on Sunday, August 12th at 10:30 AM. We'll transform the sanctuary into a banquet hall. As we eat we will worship around a common table, remembering that worship is conversation and community.

Breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, sweet breads, juice and coffee will be served. Vegan and gluten-free options will be available. Contact the church office if you would like to assist with setup, cleanup or food preparation: 704.362.0811 or [info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org](mailto:info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org).

## Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones

It's not Vacation Bible School, it's better! Camp Sardis is back and it's an event for all ages! We'll turn the worship hour into a play school for the young at heart—all ages are welcome.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 5th. We'll begin worship a bit early, 10:30 AM to make time for all the fun we need to squeeze in. We'll finish up at noon.

This year's story is about Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones. There will be story-telling, singing, crafts, science and snacks. Dress comfortably and bring your energy, enthusiasm and your child-like imagination!

**CAMP SARDIS**  
**8/5 @ 10:30 AM**



## THE SARDIS EXPERIMENT

Rev. Bob Stillerman



Visit other blog posts at  
[SardisBaptistCharlotte.org/blog](http://SardisBaptistCharlotte.org/blog)

*"May God's Spirit swirl all around you,  
And leave you with a grin,  
And may that grin turn into a smile,  
And may that smile turn into an act of kindness.  
And together, we will be a chorus of love,  
Empowered to be the hands of Christ in our community.  
Go now with God's blessing,  
And in God's peace."*

Over the past few months, several people have asked me where our weekly benediction comes from. I wrote it. And since you asked, I'll tell you how it came about.

In all the churches I've been a part of, both as a lay person and as a minister, there's always been a standard benediction. It's not that I didn't like the ones I've heard, it's just that I wanted something original. Something that made sense for me, and reflected the personality of the congregation I served. And something I could remember without a prompt. And something that I wanted to say more than once. And something the congregation would remember, too.

I think joy is paramount for worship. And paramount for life. And I think joy is what changes the world. Even the psalmist who cries from the depths, or hangs up her harp on the shores of Babylon, or walks through the darkest valley has known the goodness that comes from God's love. And even in their most vulnerable state, they never lose hope in a divine force that is steadfast, merciful, and transformative. They wait with expectant hope.

Each Sunday morning, we seek to express our expectant hope in God's possibilities. And we believe that such an expression has the power to move us into collective action, to be God's agents in the world.

When I speak this benediction, I remember a playful, mysterious, and wise God. And I see the faces of saints moved by God's spirit. And I remember all the choirs from former congregations. And I remember all the hands who've helped shape me. And I even took the ending from a church I served in seminary (thanks, Grace!).

And my grin turns into a smile. And my smiles turns into acts of kindness. And I join a chorus of love. And I hope you do, too!

## REV. AMANDA LEWIS SARDIS PEOPLE



As an intern of Historic Foodways in Colonial Williamsburg (Virginia), Amanda Lewis helped to re-create foods of the eighteenth century. In order to help twenty-first century folk understand how our ancestors prepared food and ate it, she learned to butcher hogs; the way colonials cut up their meat was different from the way we divide it up today. She also ground cacao seeds into cocoa; this was done by hand; only the tools of the colonial period were used.

Amanda spent seven months working with the Ghana Baptist Convention. She was part of the Yendi Initiative sponsored by Virginia Baptists to provide mosquito netting to Ghanians in an attempt to minimize the spread of malaria.

Rev. Lewis graduated from William and Mary with a degree in colonial history and in Africana studies, with an emphasis on the modern African diaspora (slave trade and more recent migration of African peoples to other locations and cultures). Further studies led her to McAfee School of Theology from which she received a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis in pastoral care. While there, Rev. Lewis served as minister to college students at First Baptist Church of Athens (Georgia). She was ordained there on Mother's Day, 2017 and currently works as a chaplain with Atrium Health.

Amanda grew up in Smithfield, Virginia with one older sister. She is married to Bennett Henkel; they will celebrate their first anniversary on Christmas Eve.

# SARDIS PRAYERS

## CELEBRATIONS

▪ Melissa Bowlin graduated from Royal Park Rehab Hospital after more than 6 months of recovery! ▪ The Byrd Family welcomed Leilana Camila into their fold on July 11th! ▪ Tammy & Adam Taylor welcomed twins Curtis Dean and Henry Levon on June 24th! ▪

## PETITIONS

▪ Fay Alderman ▪ Mark Almond, Jacqueline's uncle ▪ Jourdan Askins and Family ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister ▪ Jim & Yvonne Cherokee, friends of Kristin Jackson ▪ Lauren Clark ▪ 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 ▪ Don & Betsy DePaul ▪ Emily, friend of Matas ▪ Marge Fowler ▪ Don Hill ▪ Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson's mother ▪ Ted Jackson, Jeff's grandfather ▪ James, friend of Janette Grassi ▪ William Kruger ▪ Lena Landers, friend of the Phillips ▪ Odell Peterson, Howell's brother ▪ Becky Proctor ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Friends & Family of Jacqueline Samuels, friend of Bill Sholin ▪ Bill Sease, Jim Owen's brother-in-law ▪ Catherine Tate, Becky Proctor's sister ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips ▪ Lourdes Vaca, friend of Melissa Bowlin ▪ Eddie Waiters ▪



**IT TAKES MANY HANDS, FEET, HEARTS AND MINDS TO DO THE WORK OF SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE VARIOUS WAYS YOU SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF THIS SPECIAL CHURCH!**

- La Bonita! Thank you to our Board of Deacons for hosting a wonderful shower for the Byrd Family in celebration of Leilana!
- Beautiful! We are grateful to Rick Proctor and Innbo Furniture for their donation of a table and 8 chairs for use in the Education Building!
- Yum! Thanks Melissa Bowlin for hosting Sardis Friends for a Ben & Jerry's Bonanza!
- Bon Voyage! We are thankful for Pastor Jonathan and Hilary for their leadership with our youth in Knoxville, Tennessee at UniDiversity Youth Camp!
- Thirsty! Betty Gunz, William Kruger, Magay Shepard and Bob Stillerman have quenched our plants on these hot summer days—thank you!
- Safety First! We are grateful to Jim Owen and Danny Phillips for building safe stoops to the playground from classrooms, for recent plumbing repairs, and for chopping and removing tree debris!
- Thank you to the following people who served as worship leaders in July: Melissa Bowlin, Sarah Bowlin, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Kathryn Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Abby Shepard-Moore, Hannah Shepard-Moore, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman, Joe Wall.
- Thank you to the musicians who shared their gifts with us during July worship services: Melissa Bowlin, Mark Catoe, Ross Frady, Irena Hramenkova, Hilary Kearns and Sarah Russell.
- Thank you to those who have shared their love with our youngest Sardis friends during worship care in July: Ruthye Cooley, Tillie Duncan, Jim Owen, Susan & Danny Phillips, Becky & Rick Proctor and Michael Shepard-Moore.

**WE WORK HARD TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THOSE WHO GIVE THEIR TIME, TALENTS, AND TITHES TO THE MINISTRIES OF SARDIS. YOU ARE A GENEROUS CONGREGATION! SOMETIMES WE FAIL TO OFFER PROPER GRATITUDE TO THE PERSONS WHO DESERVE IT MOST. WE OFFER SPECIAL THANKS FOR THOSE WHOSE GIFTS HAVE GONE UNNOTICED. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU!**





# UNIDIVERSITY

**Elizabeth Beltzhoover:** “In our week at UniDiversity we spoke of the rhythms of Grace. As spoken in the book of Matthew, ‘Grace is spoken in rhythms.’ Throughout the week we were brought back to the central idea of rhythm in many ways. As the week progressed, I as well as many others grew closer to God. I very much enjoyed my time at camp and full well know that many others did as well.”

**Madison Kreutzer:** “This past week I went to UniDiversity with Jonathan, Hilary, and Elizabeth. I had loads of fun. My favorite part was Shari Madkins (our camp pastor) because she was amazing. I met lots of people that I am hoping to stay in touch with!”

**Jonathan Eidson:** “The theme for this year’s UniDiversity was Rhythms of Grace and Elizabeth, Hilary, Madison and I spent the week learning how to move from the often times chaotic rhythms of society to the rhythms of faith. Each day, we were a part of Bible study, seminars and electives of choice and worship but the time I enjoyed the most was the time we spent together in church group devotions talking about our day and calmly praying. We groaned collectively when the songs of the week got stuck in our minds but as I think about it, that was and is probably a big part of finding a new rhythm.

We laughed together and in Mellow Mushroom, we were laughing so loudly the whole restaurant wondered what was happening. It was a fantastic week and I’m grateful to be a part of a church that understands the importance of youth ministry and rhythms.

The challenge for all four of us and indeed Sardis as well is how do we all make the rhythms of faith ours each day.”

**Hilary Kearns:** “From July 23 to July 28, Jonathan, Madison, Elizabeth and I attended UniDiversity. This was Jonathan’s and my second year going and, like last year, we had a blast!

Each day we got up around 6am, spent several hours in worship, bible study, seminars on different aspects of religion, electives like kick ball and board games, explored the University of Tennessee campus, sometimes took naps, ate together, worshiped some more, and spent our evenings engaging in various outdoor activities—think twister on an air mattress, running from one end of campus to another trying to win starbucks gift cards, and inflatable obstacle courses that pitted youth against adult (an altogether unfair competition!).

We learned what it meant to follow the “Rhythms of Grace” as put forth by Christ in the gospel of Matthew. Our proclaimer, Shari Madkins, took us through the Sabbath and the importance of rest, how “God provides, [and] people divide” up the fruits of that provision, the importance of finding a quiet, separate place to pray and listen for God, and how to live into the “unforced rhythms of Grace.” This was a wholly transformational week and I know that all of us will remember it fondly!”



September 7-9 is the weekend of this year’s Fall Youth Beach Retreat. Last year, the trip was like finding buried treasure. We were ecstatic that the retreat finally happened and we had a wonderful weekend! If you’re thinking, “Yeah but pastor J Swizz, you have to say that!” then read on and be reminded what some of our youth said about the weekend.

*Elizabeth: I liked swimming and seeing a sweet, little dolphin in the water. I also liked doing the sand sculpture contest.*

*Summer: I really liked seeing Fort Caswell, meeting new people, seeing a dolphin, swimming, being at the beach, building a sculpture and worship!*

*Matthew: I liked hanging out with my friends and going to the beach. I also liked building the sand sculpture for the contest.*

*Jackson: I liked playing football at the beach with Matthew, Ian, Ben and J Swizz.*

*Madison: I liked swimming in the ocean and exploring the forts.*

**I know you’re convinced now but if I thought you weren’t, I’d add Hilary’s comments to these others.**

*Hilary: On Saturday evening, a few of us walked from the entrance of the property—all along the beach—to Hatch Auditorium where worship was happening. It was the most beautiful, peaceful experience after a day spent frolicking and playing together. I will never forget it!*

That would surely have done the trick but if I thought anyone might not be convinced, I would have mentioned that several celebrities including Stef Curry and Lady Gaga may have said something that in a presidential debate could have been translated as Sardis youth had a great time at the beach! The retreat is \$75 for Sardis youth if you register by August 12th; but goes up to \$120 if you sign up after this deadline.

## Sardis Baptist Church — Worship



### AUGUST 2018 WORSHIP LEADERS

#### AUGUST 5TH, 2018

WORSHIP CARE..... SUSAN & DANNY PHILLIPS  
GREETER..... HOWELL PETERSON  
USHERS..... KATHRYN KREUTZER  
                                 MADISON KREUTZER  
                                 HOWELL PETERSON

#### AUGUST 12TH, 2018

WORSHIP CARE..... BECKY & RICK PROCTOR  
GREETER                     JOE WALL  
USHERS                     BETTY GUNZ  
                                 LISA KENNEDY  
                                 JOE WALL

#### AUGUST 19TH, 2018

WORSHIP CARE..... PCY STEWARDS TBD  
GREETER..... RON DEMME  
USHERS..... SARAH BOWLIN  
                                 RON DEMME  
                                 MAGAY SHEPARD

#### AUGUST 26TH, 2018

WORSHIP CARE..... PCY STEWARDS TBD  
GREETER..... JOHN SIMPSON  
USHERS..... JANETTE GRASSI  
                                 JUNE ROSS  
                                 JOHN SIMPSON

## UPCA SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Worship at Sardis is much more than an hour on Sunday mornings! Sardis people worship all week long through word, deed and interactions with others. This month we'd like to offer a worship opportunity that will benefit students of University Park Creative Arts Elementary School. UPCA is a Title I school, meaning that many of the families live in high-poverty situations and many students are behind academically or at-risk of falling behind. Parents who are struggling to find secure housing or put food on the table are often unable to provide the long list of school supplies requested by teachers — and schools operating with tight budgets are not able to fill in the gaps. We are holding a school supply drive to help these students and families. The final day of our collection will be Sunday, August 19th. Following is a list of requested items: Backpacks (no wheels), Pencil Boxes or Pouches, Spiral 1-Subject Notebooks, Composition Notebooks, 1" and 2" Binders, 2-Count Colored Pencils, 24-Count Crayons, Markers, Rulers, Large Gluesticks, School Scissors, #2 Pencils, Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper, Plastic Pocket Folders, Ziplock Bags, Clorox Wipes, Tissues and Hand Sanitizer.



## NOTES FROM HILARY

This Summer has been wonderful — getting to worship with so many talented musicians, but get ready, because your Sardis Choir is returning to worship on Sunday, August 19 for a new year of song and service.

The staff and I want to thank the choir members for serving in Worship Care this Summer and we hope that this break was relaxing and restful.

I can't wait to see you all for our first rehearsal on Wednesday evening, August 1st, so save the date!

# Sardis Baptist Church — Calendar

# August August



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p>Irena will be on vacation for a couple of weeks this month, and we are so grateful to have another gifted pianist in our midst. Thank you Becky Proctor for filling in while she is gone!</p>			<p>1</p> <p>3:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice Resumes</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>10:30 AM Camp Sardis</p> <p>Noon Quarterly Conference</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>3:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 AM Communion Brunch</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p>	<div> <h2>SAVE THE DATES!</h2> <p><b>9/5—Youth Pizza Party</b></p> <p><b>9/7 to 9—Youth Beach Retreat</b></p> <p><b>9/9—2nd Sunday with Hilary Kearns</b></p> <p><b>9/12—Practicing Midrash—Book Signing with Tim Moore</b></p> <p><b>9/16—Potluck &amp; Stewardship Kickoff</b></p> <p><b>9/19—Sardis Academy</b></p> <p><b>9/29—Animal Blessing</b></p> </div>	
<p>19</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>Noon Deacons Meeting</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>3:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p>		
<p>26</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p>		

# 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.

June Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
June Actual Offerings.....	\$10,746.38
July Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
July Actual Offerings.....	\$8,529.38
Year-to-Date Budgeted Offerings.....	\$90,416.69
Year-to-Date Actual Offerings.....	\$68,386.41

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

25th Anniversary...Campus Development....	\$5,722.84
Benevolence...Individual & Family Needs....	\$1,178.37
*Duncan Proceeds...Speakers; Budget.....	\$2,523.64
*Hill Proceeds.....Music; Outreach.....	\$2,693.28
*Odom Proceeds....Children & Youth.....	\$8,462.88
Maintenance Escrow...Upkeep & Repairs....	\$19,294.83

\*Balance reflects proceeds currently available, principal balances, not listed, vary with market conditions.

We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give.

- Winston Churchill

## TRUSTEES



### BOARD BRIEFS

Your Trustees have been busy this summer, largely with minor maintenance issues. Plans are in the works to: replace the stoops in the playground area to comply with termite protection coverage; replace broken ballasts on overhead lights in our offices and kitchen; paint several interior offices and meeting rooms; and remove several large, dead tree limbs along the exterior of our grounds.

The Trustees are also addressing several longer-term and exciting enhancements for our property. Estimates are being procured for painting the exterior of the church and replacing the children's playground equipment. While there are funds set aside to help with these expenses, we would welcome additional contributions above and beyond the church's planned operating needs.

Finally, the Trustees continue to assess the financial health of both our operating fund and endowment funds, and make recommendations as necessary.

Trustees: Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, David Sigmon

Technology has changed the world! It's changed how we communicate, how we do business and even how we do church! And Sardis is doing its best to keep up with the times. Many regular contributions now come to us electronically from your bank rather than in Sunday's offering plate. You are also now able to give tithes, donations and other payments (e.g. fellowship meals, youth events, sweatshirts) to Sardis via PayPal. Setup a payment to Sardis by accessing the following PayPal link:

[PayPal.Me/SardisBaptistChurch](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.sardisbaptistchurch.org).

Sardis staff members are also able to process PayPal donations and payments onsite with a card reader if you prefer.





## Sardis Baptist Church



Please note the following address change to your Sardis Baptist Church directory:

Nancy Darnell  
Mt. Pleasant Assisted Living  
Room 23  
935 Page Street  
Mt. Pleasant, NC 28214  
704.438.6802



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TAYLORS  
ON THE ARRIVAL OF  
**CURTIS DEAN & HENRY LEVON**  
ON JUNE 24TH!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BYRDS  
ON THE ARRIVAL OF  
**LEILANA CAMILA**  
ON JULY 11TH!



scandinavian & contemporary designs

We are grateful to INNBO Furniture and Rick Proctor for their donation of a beautiful table and eight coordinating chairs for use in the education building. Thanks for your generosity!

Sardis will participate in the 40th Annual Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk on Saturday, October 13th. Participants can register to walk or donate at [crophungerwalk.org/charlottenc/SardisBaptist](http://crophungerwalk.org/charlottenc/SardisBaptist). Sardis will also hold its Sardis CROP Challenge to help community members engage hunger issues in ways that extend beyond walking and donating. Stay tuned for more details.

