

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

Animal Blessing - September 29th @ 10:00 AM

Sardis Baptist Church will host a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, September 29th at 10:00 AM. The service is an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for all of God's creation, especially our animal friends. Pets have a special place in our lives because they model unconditional love and affection. For many people, they provide companionship that is unavailable elsewhere. The service will offer a chance for each family's pet to receive an individual blessing, as well as a time of remembrance for departed pets. Children are encouraged to bring their favorite stuffed animals—teddy bears and stuffed flamingos need blessings too!

The Animal Blessing will take place next to the Sardis Picnic Pavilion on 5811 Sardis Road. Please do not bring food for your pets! We will have water bowls and dog treats available for our furry friends. For the safety of people and pets in attendance, all animals must be in pet cages or on leashes.

We wish to bless our animals, not traumatize them, so please leave "scaredy cats" (and other pets) at home! Prayers transcend distance, so presence is not required. We encourage you to bring photos of pets with social anxiety or poor manners. We'll bless them from afar.

Our friends from [Bullies 2 the Rescue](#) will join us for this event. They'll gladly accept donations to support their efforts to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home French and English Bulldogs.

Sardis friends are creating a photo display of beloved animals to remind us to continue offering prayers of health and thanksgiving for our animal friends in the months ahead.

Bring or email your photo to the church office:
info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

NOON

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US
FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.

BRING A MAIN DISH, SIDE OR
DESSERT TO SHARE.

The Board on Stewards has recruited volunteers to fill positions on various teams and will use this occasion as an opportunity to encourage team members to gather and discuss goals and responsibilities for the coming year.



THE SARDIS EXPERIMENT

Rev. Bob Stillerman

Visit other blog posts at
SardisBaptistCharlotte.org/blog

Sunday Worship: We generally follow the Revised Common Lectionary, a system of readings that covers vast portions of the Bible in a three-year cycle. And to do so in conjunction with Christians around the world. Some of our texts will comfort us. Others will provoke us. Still others will confound us, or inspire us, maybe even offend us. Nonetheless, we'll engage these texts, seeking to find a mix of both modern and ancient wisdom, and discerning collectively (that means lay and clergy alike!) God's call on this place called Sardis. And there will be times to mark the rhythms of the season, and the feelings that accompany these rhythms: Ordinal Time (the growth and renewal of Christ's earthly ministry); World Communion Sunday (the connectedness of a global table); All Saints Sunday (the fullness we've found in the Saints who have shaped us, and the grief we feel in their absence); Advent (the expectant hope of Christ's entry into the world).

Theology, Sardis Style: Tillie and Tim are at it again! Tillie is leading our Sunday School class in a discussion of John Shelby Spong's book *Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World*. And Tim, will lead an October series featuring lessons from his new book *Practicing Midrash: Reading the Bible's Arguments as Invitation to Conversation*.

God in the Not-So Ordinary: Join us for special events: an animal blessing; a pumpkin carving and glow; Sardis Academy sessions exploring the concept of boundaries; CROP Walk; spontaneous gatherings; and a 30th Anniversary Celebration, just to name a few.

There's something here for you at Sardis, just like there was something for you in each new school grade. The subjects, the people, the experiences, the music, they may all be slightly different. But the spirit will be the same. And your presence will help make Sardis more full in every way. (Continued at the bottom of the next page.)

A new school year is upon us. Hooray! And as I enter 36th grade, I'm excited about the new subjects with which we'll engage, and the new circles we'll create at Sardis.



We'll learn a few new things, and sharpen our command of things we've practiced over and over, and if we're lucky, we'll experience God (and one another!) in fresh, challenging, and transformative ways.

So what's on the syllabus? So many things to mention, but here are some highlights:

SARDIS PEOPLE Deborah & Greg Clark

Greg and Deborah Clark met when they were both members of the business fraternity at Appalachian State University. Deborah was an accounting major; Greg's degree is in finance. He began his college career at East Carolina but transferred to App within a couple of years. They have put their degrees to good use in the businesses they own here in Charlotte: Protect A Deck and Advanced Surface Solutions, a decorative concrete business. They can take a slab of concrete and transform it into a thing of beauty. Before joining the family business, Deborah served as CPA in other businesses.

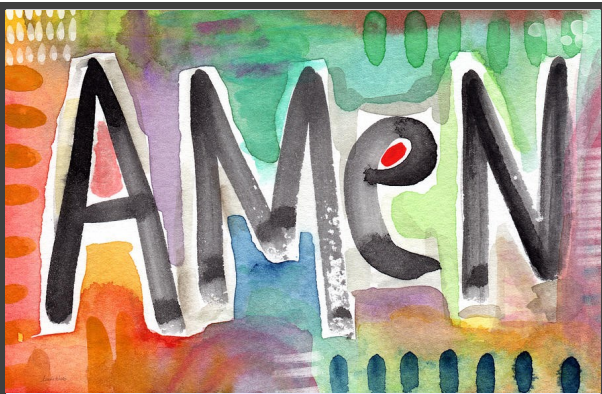
Greg grew up in Tarboro where his father was an architectural designer and his mother ran an in-house daycare. He never lacked for playmates. Deborah was born in Myrtle Beach, but her family moved to Lenoir, where she spent most of her growing-up years. Her father owned a drugstore, and one of her first jobs was in the family business: she was a soda jerk.

During their spare time, the Clarks like to work out, read, and travel. One of their favorite places to visit is Italy, not just for the scenic beauty and the sense of history, but, as they walk down the streets, they feel that the atmosphere is charged with energy. Deborah also spends part of her time as a grief group facilitator.

The Clarks have two daughters. Brittany is working on an occupational therapy degree at East Carolina University and this semester is doing an internship in Durham. Lauren is studying social work at N C State. She spent this summer working with a missions program in Uganda.



Sardis Baptist Church



SARDIS PRAYERS

CELEBRATIONS

- Congratulations to Amanda Lewis on her new job with Novant Health!
- Mary Allen Stillerman is expecting a sibling! Let us pray for all of the Stillermans.

PETITIONS

- Students, Teachers and Faculty as the Fall Semester Is Underway
- Fay Alderman
- Mark Almond, Jacqueline's uncle
- Jourdan Askins and Family
- Melissa Bowlin
- Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother
- Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister
- Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband
- Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother
- Nancy Darnell
- Ed DePasquale, friend of William Kruger
- Don & Betsy DePaul
- Marge Fowler
- Don Hill
- Harvie Hill, Kathryn Kreutzer's father
- Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson's mother
- Ted Jackson, Jeff's grandfather
- Karen—CBF North Africa Field Personnel, friend of Amanda Lewis
- Keenan, student of Robin Rowland
- William Kruger
- Lena Landers, friend of the Phillips
- Odell Peterson, Howell's brother
- Becky Proctor
- Mala Reynolds
- Bill Sease, Jim Owen's brother-in-law
- Catherine Tate, Becky Proctor's sister
- Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips
- Doris Waiters
- 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!

- Thank you to those who made Camp Sardis an educational, informative and fun way of worship.
- Communion Brunch was a wonderful opportunity for sharing much more than a meal with each other. We offer thanksgiving to the many helpers (setup, cleanup and food) – too many to list.
- We are grateful to Alex Beltzhoover, Howell Peterson and Danny Phillips for resolving plumbing issues in the education building and taking care of grounds debris.
- We are grateful to the Worship Development Team for the creative ideas shared during planning sessions for special worship events coming in the following months.
- Betty Gunz, William Kruger, Magay Shepard and Bob Stillerman have kept shrubs and plants happy during the hot summer months. Thanks for taking care of them.
- Thank you to the following people who served as worship leaders in August: Melissa Bowlin, Sarah Bowlin, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Janette Grassi, Bennett Henkel, Hilary Kearns, Amanda Lewis, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Becky Proctor, Hannah Shepard-Moore, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman and Joe Wall.
- Thank you to Becky Proctor for serving as our guest pianist during Irena's absence.
- Thank you to those who have shared their love with our youngest Sardis friends during worship care in August: Alcie Kreutzer, Danny & Susan Phillips, Becky & Rick Proctor and Valerie Rutherford.

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!

(Continued from previous page.) A new friend, or perhaps a renewed friendship; a passion for a new cause or theme; a song that makes you happy (and dance, too!); a mission that expresses your hidden gifts and talents. All of these things are not only possible, they are highly-likely, if you take part in this season of Sardis.

Let's do this, 36th grade!

Grade
36



Rocky the Bulldog, PeeDee the Pirate, Wuf the Wolf, Cocky the Gamecock and Rameses the Ram are just a few of the mascots we have represented by college students of Sardis. We miss having our young adults with us during the school year, but are excited for the endeavors they are preparing for! Please pick up a few Sardis postcards from the vestibule and drop them a line or two wishing them well in the coming semester. A current list of addresses for college students is available in the vestibule or by contacting Kathryn in the church office.

Brittany Clark—NC State University
Lauren Clark—East Carolina University
Allie Eidson—University of NC Chapel Hill
Banks Grubbs—University of NC Chapel Hill
Jackson Hawkins—University of NC Asheville
Erin Kennedy—Central Piedmont Community
Douglas Kennedy—NC State University
Abby Shepard-Moore—American University
Hannah Shepard-Moore—Emory University
Michael Shepard-Moore—UNC Chapel Hill
Grey Sigmon—University of South Carolina



PIZZA PARTY

September 5th @ 5:45 PM

Youth, Hilary and Jonathan will travel to Fort Caswell for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Fall Youth Retreat the second weekend of September. We had a great time last year and anticipate an even better time this year.

You may remember a line from a Saturday Night Live bit, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." It was delivered with a nasal tone and repeated multiple times. We won't fail to plan! On Wednesday, September 5th, we scheduled a youth event at the meetinghouse at 5:45 to prepare. We'll introduce the theme and share scripture passages and discussion. Oh, and of course, we'll have pizza.

But J Swizz, what if I'm not able to go to the beach? Come anyway for the fun, food, discussion and fellowship. That way, you'll be with us in spirit.

So, to recap, Wednesday, September 5th, be at the meetinghouse at 5:45 to share a meal and prepare for the beach retreat. Come one come all!



FORT CASWELL

Will we make it two years in a row? Weather permitting, we are on our way to Fort Caswell for the CBF fall retreat. Hurricanes Joaquin and Matthew prevented the retreat two of the years it's been on our calendar. We had a great time in 2017 and we're hoping the weather agrees with us again this year.

CBF moved the retreat to September last year and they've done it again this year. Hilary and Jonathan are scheduled to leave with our youth on Friday, September 7th and return on the afternoon of the 9th. Keep your fingers crossed, turn away from black cats, avoid walking under ladders and say your prayers regularly! Hopefully, we'll be able to share memories with you in next month's newsletter.

Sardis Baptist Church – Worship



September 2nd, 2018

Worship Care: Betty Gunz & Mary Jane Osborne
Greeter / Vestibule: Marge Fowler
Ushers: Elizabeth & Janet Beltzhoover, Valerie Rutherford

September 9th, 2018

Worship Care: Janet Beltzhoover & Krista Sigmon
Greeter / Vestibule: Howell Peterson
Ushers: Kathryn & Madison Kreutzer, Howell Peterson

September 16th, 2018

Worship Care: Chris Mair & Elizabeth Mosley
Greeter / Vestibule: Joe Wall
Ushers: Betty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy, Joe Wall

September 23rd, 2018

Worship Care: TBD by Preschool & Children Stewards
Greeter / Vestibule: Ron Demme
Ushers: Sarah Bowlin, Ron Demme, Magay Shepard

September 30th, 2018

Worship Care: TBD by Preschool & Children Stewards
Greeter / Vestibule: John Simpson
Ushers: Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

WELCOME

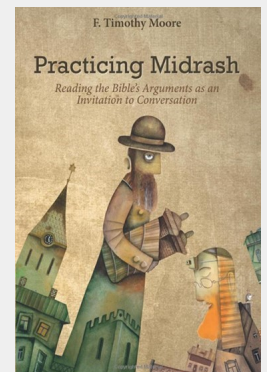
Two of our friends have decided to formalize their relationship with Sardis Baptist by a letter of transfer from their prior churches. We have enjoyed getting to know Jim McAlhaney and Robin Rowland in recent months, and are thrilled to welcome both of them to the Sardis experiment!

SARDIS ACADEMY

Sardis Academy is back! Join us for six special sessions this fall (five Wednesdays and a Tuesday). Dinner will be served at 5:45 pm. \$6 for adults, and remember, first-timers eat free. Dinner will be followed by a program from 6:30-7:30. All are welcome. Below are details for our first three events. Be sure to read next month's Signposts for information on upcoming programming.

9/12 – Book Signing Party with F. Timothy Moore

We'll celebrate our own Tim Moore, and the launch of his new book *Practicing Midrash: Reading the Bible's Arguments as an Invitation to Conversation*. Tim will share snippets of the book, and we'll have discounted copies on hand for \$20. Please contact the church office to reserve your copy. Copies are also available on the [Amazon](#) and [Wipf and Stock](#) websites.



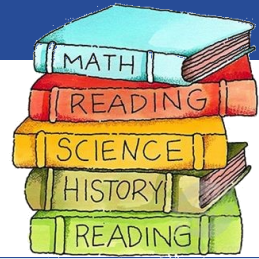
Christian Therapy Services, LLC

9/19, 10/10 – Boundaries: Saying No to a Better Yes

Come and join us on 9/19 for an interactive conversation about how boundaries can actually create space in our lives to minister to each other, our city, our nation, and our world. Catherine DeLoach Lewis, MA, LPC, BCPCC, "Cathy" will be coming to briefly teach us about what boundaries are and then facilitate discussion on how healthy boundaries can be applied when caring for others. Cathy will join us again on 10/10, and we'll apply some of her systems and theories to the topic of domestic violence. Cathy's website is ChristianTherapyServices.com if you want to learn more about her counseling practice.

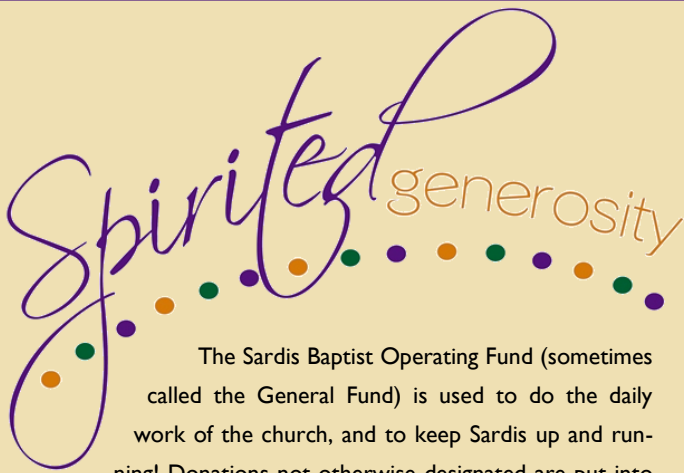
Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar

SEPTEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	3 	4	5 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Youth Pizza Party 7:30 PM Choir Practice	6	7 Youth Beach Retreat Ft. Caswell	8 Youth Beach Retreat Ft. Caswell
9 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Deacons Meeting Youth Beach Retreat Ft. Caswell	10	11	12 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Meal 6:30 PM Practicing Midrash Rev. Tim Moore 7:45 PM Choir Practice			15
16 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Potluck & Stewardship Team Kickoff 	17	18	19 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Meal 6:30 PM Boundaries 7:45 PM Choir Practice	20 Bob's 3rd Staff Anniversary 	21	22
23 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	24	25	26 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	27	28 	29 10:00 AM Animal Blessing
30 9:45 AM Sunday School Rev. Tim Moore 11:00 AM Worship Rev. Tillie Duncan	October 7th—World Communion Sunday (Guest Proclaimer—Jill Crainshaw) October 10th—Sardis Academy (Dinner @ 5:45 PM, Program @ 6:30 PM) October 13th—CROP Walk (9 AM @ Independence Park) October 17th—Sardis Academy (Dinner @ 5:45 PM, Program @ 6:30 PM) October 28th—Picnic & Pumpkin Carving (6:00 PM in the Sardis Picnic Shelter)				30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION December 16th Luncheon Following Worship at Whitehead Manor 	

Sardis Baptist Church – Business



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.

July Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
July Actual Offerings.....	\$8,679.38
August Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
August Actual Offerings.....	\$9,000.00
Year-to-Date Budgeted Offerings.....	\$103,333.36
Year-to-Date Actual Offerings.....	\$77,536.41

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.

30th Anniversary...Campus Development...	\$5,722.84
Benevolence....Individual & Family Needs....	\$1,178.37
*Duncan Proceeds.....Speakers; Budget.....	\$2,523.64
*Hill Proceeds.....Music; Outreach.....	\$2,346.10
*Odom Proceeds....Children & Youth.....	\$8,202.73
Maintenance Escrow...Upkeep & Repairs....	\$19,281.42

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

Celebrating 30 YEARS

As Sardis readies for its thirtieth anniversary, your trustees are working on initiatives to help honor the occasion and steady our congregation for a prosperous future. The first of these initiatives is changing the name of the 25th Anniversary Fund to the 30th Anniversary Fund. All contributions will continue to be used to help transform our campus to meet the needs not just of our current congregation, but for future Sardisians, too. The existing fund has helped to build our picnic pavilion, re-roof our buildings, and landscape our grounds. Any contribution, no matter the size, will help us create and maintain sacred spaces for worship, fellowship, outreach, missions, and other spirit-filled activities.

In the coming weeks, we'll be sharing additional programming and giving options to help maintain the ministries of Sardis. Please begin giving prayerful consideration to how your family can help secure Sardis in the next thirty years.

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The 40th Annual Charlotte CROP Walk will take place on Saturday, October 13, 2018 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 2018, we have set a fundraising goal of \$3,000 and a walk day participation goal of 30 walkers. Walkers can register for or donate to the Sardis team at:

CropHungerWalk.org/CharlotteNC/SardisBaptist

See the back page for info on the Sardis CROP Challenge.



SARDIS CROP CHALLENGE



Sardis doesn't just want walkers and donations! We want our community to immerse itself in issues related to hunger. So we're inviting you to participate in the 2018 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 (CropHungerWalk.org/CharlotteNC/SardisBaptist)
- Receive 1 point for every dollar donated up to \$25
- Receive 25 points for every hour of volunteer work donated to CROP ministry partners - Crisis Assistance Ministries, Loaves and Fishes, or Second Harvest Food Bank
- 15 Points - Register a friend to walk in CROP Walk
- 15 points for every article read about issues related to hunger ([recommendations](#))
- 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 ([recommendations](#))
- 5 points for every act of encouragement you offer to a walk participant (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
- 5 points per canned good donated to the Sardis Baptist Food Drive.

Scorecards are available in the church vestibule for you to track your points ([or print your own](#)). Points will be allocated on the honor system. Sardis will maintain a spreadsheet to keep tabs on the church's progress. Please report your points to the church office on a weekly basis. In the Meetinghouse, we will display a bulletin board listing each participant (and a gold star for every point), as well as a progress thermometer. Our goal as a community is to earn 5,000 points. (That's the equivalent of 50 people earning 100 points). To help get us started, Bob, Jacqueline, and Mary Allen Stillerman have pledged to give \$1 for every 25 points earned up to our goal of 5,000 points. Let's start walking today, so we can stop hunger in its tracks!