

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

world communion sunday sunday, october 7, 2018

On Sunday, October 7, Sardis will join Christians from around the world at a global table. World Communion Sunday reminds us that Christ's table extends beyond the walls of our meetinghouse. Imagine a table thousands of miles long – long enough for billions of place settings. Worship will be a feast! We'll explore liturgies and share breads from various cultures.

Worship will also be highlighted by a special proclaimer. Rev. Dr. Jill Crainshaw, Interim Dean and Blackburn Professor of Worship and Liturgical Theology at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, will offer the morning message.

Crainshaw emphasizes in her writing and teaching how Christian worship and leadership arise from and return to human experience. Her newest book, *When I in Awesome Wonder: Liturgy Distilled from Everyday Life* (The Liturgical Press, September 2017), explores how worship's sacramental elements such as bread, wine, and water are connected to local fields and farmers, waters and artisans. Crainshaw's teaching focuses on intersections between religious leadership and sustainability, social justice, and "grounded" human experiences. Crainshaw is an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and is a regular contributor to Patheos' *Unfundamentalist Christians* and *The New Verse News*, an online publisher of "politically progressive poetry on current events and topical issues." We look forward to her good words!



Sardis CROP Challenge



We are participating in Charlotte's 40th Annual CROP Walk, and the Sardis CROP Challenge is underway! Our challenge invites community members to engage in issues related to hunger in ways beyond walking.

Our goal as a church community is to earn 5,000 points in the Sardis CROP Challenge. That is the equivalent of 50 people earning 100 points. Earning points is easy - we already have numerous people who have earned more than 100 points!

Quick and easy ways to earn points in the challenge include reading hunger-related news articles, studying scripture passages related to hunger, bringing canned goods to the Sardis food drive, making a donation to the Sardis CROP team, praying and encouraging our team members.

Visit our website for additional information and links to resources:

[SardisBaptistCharlotte.org/
event/2018-sardis-crop-challenge/](http://SardisBaptistCharlotte.org/event/2018-sardis-crop-challenge/)



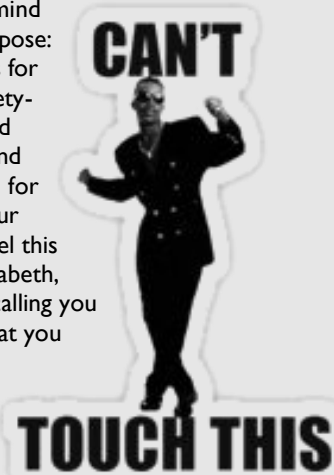
In the spring of 1990, and again in 1992, I spent a weekend with other middle-schoolers from FBC Winston-Salem at Fort Caswell in Oak Island, NC for an annual retreat. I really don't remember too much: we played basketball in a hot, crowded, old gym every chance we got. And we forged friendships, and we had meaningful discussions about various stories in Scripture. And one year, in seventh grade I think, I was sleeping in a bunkbed that collapsed – I don't remember if I was on the top or the bottom. I just remember we both scrambled for cover. And I remember that our youth minister endured teenagers listening to MC Hammer's *Can't Touch This* for four consecutive hours on the bus ride there and back. What a saint!

Last month, I decided to spend a Saturday with our youth group on their fall retreat at Caswell. And oh how the memories rushed back to me! I'd forgotten the natural beach, which allows a perfect view of the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean coming together. And the ruins of a nineteenth-century fort just begging to be explored. And the barracks and fields and classroom buildings look remarkably similar to the ones I'd last seen and experienced more than a quarter century ago.

But I think what I was most moved by, was the fact that the kinds of people and interactions were just as I remembered them. Group leaders and parents spending their spare time driving buses, lifeguarding swim parties, enthusiastically playing volleyball, singing, talking, dancing – just having fun with teenagers. And teenagers retreating from a hectic world, if only for a day, and giving thought to their place in God's creation. And finding belonging in conversation, and play, and silliness, and a Saturday together. And thinking (maybe not for the whole day, but at least for a few moments!), about how God is shaping their lives (lives that already are, and will be remarkable!).

It's weekends like this that remind our faith community of its purpose: to carve out spaces and places for all of our children (one to ninety-two!) to connect with God and one another in safe, healthy, and creative ways. I'm SO grateful for Hilary and Jonathan, and for our wonderful youth, as they model this practice for all of us. And Elizabeth, Madison, and Summer, I'll be calling you in twenty-five years to see what you remember about Caswell! Hopefully, not much will have changed!

- Bob Stillerman, Pastor



Sardis People ROBIN ROWLAND

Thanks to Robin Rowland, Sardis has a distinctive stand on which to display pictures of well-loved pets and animals and puts them into orbit.

With having their pictures, Sardis can bless pets in absentia.

The stand is in the shape of a sun burst – autumn golden in color.

Designing and making the visual backdrop is part of the

creative nature of Robin. She has a

home craft business which increases and declines in ratio to her other life pursuits. Recently she has been making pillows and ornaments, hand stitching on wool and on felt. Her creations are destined for a bazaar in Monroe held in the middle of October.

Robin is a graduate of Western Carolina University, holding a degree in secondary education in the field of social studies – American history and psychology. She has found her teaching place to be in a community college setting. At present she is the Basic Skills Coordinator/Instructor at South Piedmont Community College. She coordinates/teaches in two areas: Adult High School for those adults seeking to achieve a high school diploma. Second, but first in her heart and her passion, is Compass Education for adults with learning disabilities. The goal is to point students to a way of independent, self-directed living.

Robin grew up in Stanley (Gaston County) with one sister and one brother, he being her "sixteenth birthday present." She has a nephew and a niece, the niece being another birthday present, as she, too, was born within a few days of Robin's birthday. In addition to her educational duties and her crafting interests, Robin spends time with her family, visits her dad on a weekly basis, participates in yoga, is part of a suicide prevention coalition, and travels. Ask her about her trip to France a few years ago!



Sardis Baptist Church



CELEBRATIONS

- Mary Allen Stillerman is expecting a sibling! Let us pray for all of the Stillermans.
- Mark Almond, Jacqueline's uncle has safely returned home from deployment.
- Melissa Bowlin's recovery continues. She was able to attend church recently for the first time since her accident in January!
- Keenan, a student of Robin Rowland's who has Cerebral Palsy recently fell. His recovery is going well, and he will be able to return to school!
- June Ross will was invited to teach quilting on cruise ship!

PETITIONS

- All those impacted by Hurricane Florence ▪ Students, Teachers and Faculty as the Fall Semester Is Underway ▪ Fay Alderman ▪ Jourdan Askins and Family ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister ▪ Ava Champman, granddaughter of Doris Waiters ▪ 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 ▪ Lena Landers, friend of the Phillips ▪ Odell Peterson, Howell's brother ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Sammy, cousin of Deborah Clark ▪ Bill Sease, Jim Owen's brother-in-law ▪ Catherine Tate, Becky Proctor's sister ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips ▪ Vicki, Amanda Lewis' aunt ▪ 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!

- We are grateful to Robin Rowland for her creativity and craftsmanship of our "All Creatures Great and Small" display of beloved animals. Many thanks are shared with those who made our 3rd annual Animal Blessing successful: Jonathan Eidson, Betty Gunz, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, Susan Phillips, Robin Rowland, Bob Stillerman and Joe Wall.
- We appreciate Jonathan Eidson, Hilary Kearns and Bob Stillerman who accompanied a group of Sardis youth to a beach retreat at Fort Caswell.
- We are thankful for Becky Proctor and her musical leadership during Hilary's absence.
- We appreciate the energy given by Susan Phillips and Bob Stillerman to research and select safe, functional and fun equipment for our playground.
- Thank you Janette Grassi for the design and production of ornaments commemorating our 30th Anniversary!
- Thank you to Jim Owen and Howell Peterson who coordinated and oversaw the installation of a new roof over the Miller Property garage.
- Thank you to Danny Phillips for repairing the HVAC units in our sanctuary and Education Building.
- Let there be light! Staff appreciates the Trustees for addressing the lighting in our hallway!
- We are grateful to our Fellowship Stewards for coordinating meals during our September Sardis Academy sessions: Janet Beltzhoover, Tillie Duncan, Kathryn Kreutzer, Magay Shepard and Bob Stillerman.
- Thank you to the following people who served as worship leaders in September: Alex & Elizabeth Beltzhoover, Melissa & Sarah Bowlin, Deborah Clark, Ron Demme, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Irena Hramenkova, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jose & Katey Mata, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, June Ross, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman and Joe Wall.
- Thank you to those who have shared their love with our youngest Sardis friends during worship care in September: Janet Beltzhoover, Betty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy, Alcie Kreutzer, Krista Sigmon and Jacqueline Stillerman.

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!

CASWELL CHRONICLE

- Hilary Kearns

This year's beach retreat to Fort Caswell was a blast! We arrived late on Friday evening and headed straight to worship, followed by unpacking and bed at around 12:30 am. We were up bright and early on Saturday morning for breakfast, followed by more worship, small group study, and a debriefing session with our pastor, Angel Pittman. Once we were free, we met Pastor Bob at the Provision Company in Southport for a delicious seafood lunch, some good ice cream, and great conversation. We followed that up with a trip to the PX – the Fort Caswell gift shop – and finally had about an hour on the beach where we played in the waves and continued the weekend's bonding.

That evening we "enjoyed" some questionable meatloaf and then headed over for more worship. We received a deep and engaging sermon by Angel Pittman, followed by a time for our church groups to meet and discuss on our own the topic of the weekend – Micah 6:8. We talked about systemic injustice, the privileges that we are born with, and how to walk with people while practicing justice, mercy, and humility. That night we actually made it to bed by 11 pm!

Sunday morning was another early start, full of packing, breakfast, snapchat stories, and another church group devotional. Luckily, we still had time to explore the fort a bit longer before final worship and communion.

As I reflect on our weekend, I can't help but smile. We made some great memories: from sticky toys to climbing trees, from exploring the fort to stepping on dead jellyfish. But we learned some lessons as well, and for that I am grateful and most of all proud of the youth who came with us.

"My favorite part of this weekend was the beach and going to services and doing things new."

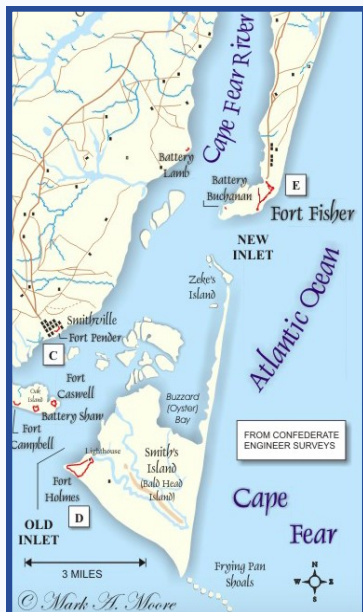
~ Summer

"My favorite thing at the retreat was swimming in the ocean."

~ Elizabeth

"My favorite part of the trip was probably our retreat pastor Mrs. Angel Pittman. I say that because she sent out a really good message and was a good person to be around. I also enjoyed the Provision Company."

~ Madison



I feel like I just started school. Actually, I did just start school and you're reading about the youth beach retreat in this issue of signposts. While this is all true, it is time to talk Ski Retreat. It'll be here before we know it. This year's retreat is January 25 – 27. The cost of the retreat is \$155 for members and \$175 for Non-Members. Advanced skiers who want to ski an additional night will add \$40.00 to that total. Be on the lookout for the Ski Retreat Sign-up Form. As always, remember, the ski retreat makes a great Christmas gift!

We've had wonderful experiences on past trips and this one will be another great one so be sure to sign up by November 18th with Pastor Jonathan.



Sardis Baptist Church — Worship



October 7, 2018

Worship Care: Rachel Faulk & Kate Mata

Greeter / Vestibule: Howell Peterson

Ushers: Kathryn Kreutzer, Madison Kreutzer & Howell Peterson

October 14th, 2018

Worship Care: Janet Beltzhoover & Betty Gunz

Greeter / Vestibule: Joe Wall

Ushers: Sarah Bowlin, Lisa Kennedy & Joe Wall

October 21st, 2018

Worship Care: Sarah Bowlin & Amanda Lewis

Greeter / Vestibule: Ron Demme

Ushers: Ron Demme, Betty Gunz & Magay Shepard

October 28th, 2018

Worship Care: David Kreutzer & Tammy Taylor

Greeter / Vestibule: John Simpson

Ushers: Janette Grassi, June Ross & John Simpson



October is Domestic Violence Awareness month., and we welcome Cathy DeLoach Lewis for a Sardis Academy session to discuss Domestic Violence on Wednesday, October 10th. Dinner will be served at 5:45 followed by the program at 6:30 PM. One of Cathy's areas of expertise is DV, and she will share systems and theories to apply in DV situations. You are encouraged to attend regardless of your personal experience.



We welcome our writer in residence, Dr. Tim Moore, as guest speaker / teacher for our Adult Sunday School class several Sundays in October. Class begins at 9:45 AM. We will discuss chapters from his recently published book, *Practicing Midrash: Reading the Bible's Arguments as an Invitation to Conversation*. The book opens our eyes to understanding contradictory scriptures and deeper appreciation of bible stories told from different perspectives. Copies of the book are available for sale in the church office for \$20. Reading is not required or necessary to benefit from our discussions.

10/7	<i>Which People Are Our People?</i>	Chapter 5
10/21	<i>Following Jesus</i>	Chapter 7
10/28	<i>Who Is My Neighbor?</i>	Chapter 8 &
	<i>Wrestling With the Bible</i>	Conclusion

Rev. Tillie Duncan will lead the Adult Sunday School class on Sunday, October 14th. We will discuss what is known as the bible's "protest literature" (the books of Jonah, Job and Ruth) using John Shelby Spong's book, *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World*, as a catalyst for conversation.

WELCOME *To church*

We are delighted to welcome Jean Lawrence, Amanda Lewis and Bennet Henkel into the Sardis fold! They've chosen to formalize their relationship with Sardis Baptist through membership. We've considered them part of our Sardis family prior to their decisions, and are thrilled they've made it official.



Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar

October



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 4:45 PM Staff Meeting	4	5	6
7 World Communion Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School Rev. Tim Moore 11:00 AM Worship Communion Rev. Jill Crenshaw		9	10 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Meal 6:30 PM Cathy DeLoach Lewi: 7:30 PM Choir Practice	11 	12	13 CROP Walk 
14 9:45 AM Sunday School Rev. Tillie Duncan 11:00 AM Worship Noon Deacons Meeting	15	16	17 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Meal 6:30 PM Sardis Academy 7:30 PM Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 9:45 AM Sunday School Rev. Tim Moore 11:00 AM Worship			24 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 9:45 AM Sunday School Rev. Tim Moore 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Pumpkin Carving & Picnic			31 	 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION December 16 th Luncheon Following Worship at Whitehead Manor		

Sardis Baptist Church – Business

For it is in giving that we
receive.

St Francis Of Assisi

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.

August Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
August Actual Offerings.....	\$9,000.00
September Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,916.67
September Actual Offerings.....	\$20,668.94
Year-to-Date Budgeted Offerings.....	\$116,250.03
Year-to-Date Actual Offerings.....	\$98,055.35

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...	\$3672.84
Benevolence....Individual & Family Needs....	\$1,178.37
*Duncan Proceeds.....Speakers; Budget.....	\$3,562.96
*Hill Proceeds.....Music; Outreach.....	\$2,104.93
*Odom Proceeds....Children & Youth.....	\$9,047.78
Maintenance Escrow...Upkeep & Repairs....	\$17,381.42

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

30th ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



As our 30th Anniversary Celebration approaches, Sardis is offering a unique way to mark this special occasion. Our own Janette Grassi has been commissioned to create a commemorative ornament inspired by the worship window in the meetinghouse. Each ornament will be specially-handcrafted, and there will be several colors and designs to choose from. The cost of each ornament is \$30, but shoppers will receive a discount on the purchase of two (\$25 each), or three or more (\$20 each). All proceeds will benefit the 30th Anniversary Fund, which helps to maintain our campus and grounds. Please place your orders with the church office on or before 10/31 to ensure delivery by December.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Our trustees approved requests for some important improvements on the Sardis grounds! They've replaced the roof on the storage building behind our picnic shelter (the old Miller Property garage). This space will be used as a much needed storage area. Additionally, they approved the purchase and installation of new playground equipment, ordered from Superior Play Systems. It is scheduled to be installed the middle of this month.



We continue to send our prayers to neighbors affected by last month's storms. If you would like to offer financial assistance, Sardis would encourage donations to CBFNC's Hurricane Florence Disaster Relief Fund. You can also find information about needed supplies on their website: cbfnc.org



The Pumpkin Glow PUMPKIN FEST



PUMPKIN GLOW & PICNIC
Sunday, October 28th
6:00 PM
Sardis Baptist Church
Picnic Shelter

It's almost time for our annual Pumpkin Carving and Glow! Join us on Sunday evening, October 28th, for a cook-out, s' mores, candy, and plenty of pumpkin guts. We will be sharing more information as we get closer to the event but be prepared to bring one or two pumpkins to carve and a set of tools – although there are usually extras of each floating around. Costumes are welcomed and encouraged, but just remember that glitter is hard to get out of our carpet!

Weather permitting, we will be eating and carving outside, but if it is too cold, windy, rainy, or anything else we will adjust accordingly and move ourselves indoors. If you would like to help purchase supplies for or set up this event, please contact Hilary Kearns at sardishilary@yahoo.com. Otherwise, bring friends, bring family, dress up and come hungry for the Sardis Pumpkin Glow!