

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 Anniversary

On Sunday, December 16th, Sardis Baptist will celebrate the anniversary of its first worship service. We hope you will make plans to join us for the special occasion.

Rev. Mary Apicella, Pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Hendersonville, NC will be our guest proclaimer. In addition to being a gifted preacher, Mary shares a special connection to Sardis: she is the granddaughter of Dr. Dewey Hobbs, who served as our first Pastor, and preached our first sermon.

Mary grew up in Marion, NC. Prior to Providence, she pastored a blended congregation associated with the American Baptist Churches, USA and United Church of Christ in Brooklyn, Connecticut. Mary is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Boston University School of Theology and graduated magna cum laude from both. An ordained American Baptist pastor, Mary is committed to the work of inclusion, justice, and creating God's beloved community by following the example of Jesus' way of ministering: telling stories, asking questions, and embodying God's love. We look forward to her good words!

Following worship, all are invited to a special luncheon at Whitehead Manor. We will share stories of our first thirty years, and enjoy a performance from Queen City Groove, our favorite a Capella group. Lunch is \$10 per person, and reservations can be secured by emailing the church office at info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org



DECEMBER 2nd

9:30 AM.....Breakfast & Hanging of
the Greens
11:00 AM.....Christmas Cantata,
Proclaimer—Kathryn Kreutzer

DECEMBER 9th

9:30 AM.....Taize Worship
11:00 AM.....Proclaimers—Rev.
Amanda Lewis and Rev. Becky Proctor
12:00 Noon.....Christmas
Caroling to Homebound Friends

DECEMBER 16th—30th Anniversary

9:45 AM.....Sunday School with
Rev. Tillie Duncan
11:00 AM.....Anniversary Worship
Proclaimer—Rev. Mary Appisella
12:00 Noon.....Luncheon at
Whitehead Manor

DECEMBER 23rd

9:45 AM.....Sunday School with
Rev. Tillie Duncan
11:00 AM.....Proclaimers—Rev.
Tillie Duncan and Rev. Debbie Kidd

DECEMBER 24th—Christmas Eve

5:00 PM.....Candlelight Service
(Note: time is earlier than last year)

THE SARDIS EXPERIMENT

Rev. Bob Stillerman

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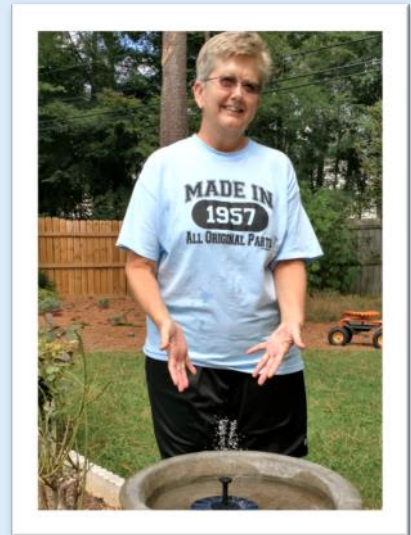


Every morning, I drop my little girl off for daycare. In the parking lot, there is a long, yellow curb nearly 75 feet in length. It's her balance beam. She grabs my hand, and insists to walk the beam from start to finish. With total concentration, and with unlimited wonder, my little acrobat performs her daily ritual. And for a moment, our world slows down. It's just me and her. The emails, and phone calls, and her breakfast can wait. This is important. She's connecting with the world around her, and she's like a sponge soaking it all in. And it's funny, even though I've only been a Daddy for a short while, it's hard for me to imagine life before this routine. It's part of me.

The liturgical rhythms of our life are the same way (if we're doing them right, I think!). This past Sunday, we shared the bread and cup. And we heard the words, "You are always welcome at Christ's table." Our choir sang an anthem (this week, a new take on Amazing Grace), We spoke our joys aloud, and our sorrows, too. We petitioned God to be present (not that She's ever not!) — maybe I should say noticeable to our distracted eyes. And She was!!! We greeted one another, and embraced one another, and welcomed friends, new and old. And we heard babies laughing and crying, and playing. And there were hot doughnuts from Krispy Kreme (Thanks, J-Swizz!). We sang hymns, some familiar, some less. We gave of our time, talents, and tithes. And maybe even some of the rigid exterior we keep strong for the outside world. And in the realization of God's presence, and our connectedness, we passed Christ's peace.

I've only been your pastor for a little longer than I've been a Daddy, but it's also hard for me to imagine a time before Sardis. The rhythms and people of this place are part of me, and I hope part of you!!! And before I did anything else today, I just wanted to walk my long, yellow curb and tell you so. In this season of expectancy, I hope you'll take time to notice the special rhythms and people in your life. And offer God thanks for the things that are fused in us. Amen.

REV. DEBBIE KIDD



Debbie Kidd sang her way across Ireland. Upon her retirement, Debbie, accompanied by Billie, took a Kate Campbell musical excursion to the Emerald Isle. For two weeks they experienced the scenery, culture, and pubs of this British Isles country while singing as they traveled. Their tour guides were folk singer-songwriters. For Debbie, it has been one of her favorite trips. She appreciated seeing another country and learning the culture of a place outside the United States. In addition to traveling, Debbie spends much of her time with family. She is planning to take grandchildren to Disney World in December.

Debbie is a rabid University of Virginia fan, so will be enjoying ACC rivalries in the upcoming basketball season. She grew up in Martinsville, VA, with an older brother. She graduated from Bluefield College (Bluefield, VA) with a BA in behavioral science.

Rev. Kidd is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master's in Christian Education. She also did post-graduate work at Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity

and completed 8 units of CPE (two years) at Carolinas Medical Center. She earned additional CPE at the Baptist Counseling Center. Debbie has been employed in several church ministry capacities: associate pastor, working with youth and children, and as minister of music. She was the senior program director for RAIN here in Charlotte.

The career from which Lieutenant-Colonel Kidd retired was as chaplain of the North Carolina National Guard. Happy retirement, Debbie! You've earned it!

Christmas prayers

- around the table and in your home -

CELEBRATIONS

Mary Allen Stillerman is expecting a sibling!
Let us pray for all of the Stillermans.

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy is with Rachel and family in
the loss of her grandmother, Doris Faulk.

PETITIONS

▪ All those impacted by Hurricanes and Fires ▪
Fay Alderman ▪ Jourdan Askins and Family ▪
Rebecca 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 ▪
Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky
Owen ▪ Myra Helmly, friend of Melissa Bowlin
▪ Don Hill ▪ Eugene Hill, Don's son ▪ 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 ▪ William Kruger ▪ 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
▪ Eva Tucker ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips ▪
Carole Underwood, relative of Proctors ▪ Vicki,
Amanda Lewis' aunt ▪ Eddie Waiters ▪

*Encircle us with your love.
Calm our fears. Cheer our hearts.
Renew our hope.
Come, live among us! Amen.*



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 Janette Grassi, Danny and Susan Phillips for their talents and assistance in making our All Saints Service sacred and special. We've been told that no one does All Saints Sunday better than Sardis! We also give thanks to the Worship Development stewards for helping to plan special worship during the season of Advent: Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Janette Grassi, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Susan Phillips, Becky Proctor, Robin Rowland and Bob Stillerman.

Our deacons hosted a wonderful shower for the Stillerman family last month! Thank you to all those who assisted: Deborah Clark, Betty Gunz, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Bennett Henkel, Kristin Jackson, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, Katey & Jose Mata, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard and John Simpson.

We are thankful to Tillie Duncan and Tim Moore for their leadership during a Sunday School in reading the following books (both highly recommended by the group):
Practicing Midrash: Reading the Bible's Arguments as an Invitation to Conversation
and **Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World.**

We appreciate Rev. Gary Hudson, chaplain of Southminster Retirement Community, for teaching a November Sardis Academy course on Frederick Buechner.

Food, glorious food! We always appreciate the meals provided by our Fellowship Stewards on Sardis Academy evenings: Janet Beltzhoover, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard and Bob Stillerman.

Thank you Rev. J. Swizz for sharing your words of wisdom with the Sardis congregation during our Reign of Christ Sunday.

Thank you to the following people who served as worship leaders in November: Janet Beltzhoover, Melissa Bowlin, Sarah Bowlin, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Betty Gunz, Amanda Lewis, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, David Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, Madison Kreutzer, Tim Moore, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Valerie Rutherford, Michael Shepard-Moore, Bob Stillerman, Joe Wall and all the members of the Sardis Baptist Chancel Choir.

Thank you to those who have shared their love with our youngest Sardis friends during worship care in October: Joey Byrd, Maria Byrd, Betty Gunz, Bennett Henkel, Amanda Lewis, Chris Mair, Katey Mata, Elizabeth Mosley 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!



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP YOUTH SKI RETREAT

January 25 – 27, 2019

Winterplace Ski Resort, Ghent, West Virginia

\$125.00 for members and \$175.00 for non-members

Hear what youth and adults said about last year's trip which was probably *ALMOST* as good as what they will say this year!

I liked skiing and eating out with everybody at Pizza Hut / IHOP. MATTHEW

I liked roasting Summer's hairline and going skiing with Mr. Jonathan and Madison. JACKSON

My favorite things about the ski retreat this year were going on some new/harder slopes and joking around with the group. MADISON

I really liked snowboarding and ski lifts and the pool. It was really fun.

The church was good and it was a good weekend. SUMMER

Even though I didn't ski for long, I loved the chance to spend time with everyone and hear from some wonderful speakers. HILARY

I loved tubing on Friday night. I loved begin with Hilary, Jackson, Madison, Matthew and Summer! I enjoyed our conversations and laughter. It was a great weekend! JONATHAN

Stay tuned for comments about this year's amazing weekend!



The Sardis Baptist choir is presenting our annual Christmas Cantata during the worship hour on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2nd.

This year's musical program includes songs by Benjamin Harlan and Pepper Choplin, as well as traditional carols and arrangements. The songs are sure to bring a smile to your face and will help us usher in the Advent season!

The program will be recorded, so if you or someone you know would like to experience it for themselves and are unable to be here on December 2nd, tune into our Facebook page to watch a live broadcast during the 11:00 hour or anytime thereafter for a replay: facebook.com/sardisbaptistcharlotte.



Hilary and Jonathan began a new journey on Sunday, November 18th with a faith learning experience! We read books; we used crayons (in fact, the entire tub was dumped out two times); we made artistic renditions of praying hands; we played with toys and we learned about prayer. You may be wondering how we found enough time to do it all?

Toddlers are quick and busy — we fit it all into a brief 45 minutes during the new Toddler

Sunday School class that began last month. The children's demographic is one of our fastest growing at Sardis. We have three new babies this year, Leilana Byrd, Curtis Taylor, Hank Taylor and Baby Stillerman in January will make four. We look forward to growing together in upcoming classes!

WORSHIP LEADERS

DECEMBER.2.2018

Worship Care.....Alcie Kreutzer and Jacqueline Stillerman
Greeter / Vestibule.....John Simpson
Ushers.....Janette Grassi, June Ross and John Simpson

DECEMBER.9.2018

Worship Care.....Lisa Kennedy and Krista Sigmon
Greeter / Vestibule.....Marge Fowler
Ushers.....Elizabeth Beltzhoover, Janet Beltzhoover
.....and Valerie Rutherford

DECEMBER.16.2018

Worship Care.....No Volunteers Needed
Greeter / Vestibule.....Howell Peterson
Ushers.....Kathryn Kreutzer, Madison Kreutzer
.....and Howell Peterson

DECEMBER.23.2018

Worship Care.....Janet Belzhoover and Betty Gunz
Greeter / Vestibule.....Joe Wall
Ushers.....Sarah Bowlin, Lisa Kennedy and Joe Wall

DECEMBER.24.2018

No Worship Care — All Ages Together in Worship
Greeter / Vestibule.....Ron Demme
Ushers.....Ron Demme, Betty Gunz, Magay Shepard

DECEMBER.30.2018

No Worship Care — All Ages Together in Worship
Greeter / Vestibule.....John Simpson
Ushers.....Janette Grassi, June Ross and John Simpson

DIFFERENT VOICES

One of the great advantages of reading our Scriptures is that the stories introduce us to diverse characters who glimpse pieces and moments of God's intended world. They come from all backgrounds and experiences, and yet they find commonality in God: a force that calls them, molds them, affirms them, empowers them, and uses their gifts in extraordinary ways. When we hear their stories, we learn that God can (and does, and will!) use us, too!

Advent is a season of expectancy and preparation. We ready ourselves for the hope, peace, joy, and love that will come with the Christchild. This birth represents the world we long for: God and humanity living in covenant together. And it represents a re-birth in each of us.

The Lukan narratives help remind us that Christ's birth means different things for different people. Yes, all of our characters will experience the longed-for hope, peace, joy, and love of God in the world. But some are young, and their inexperience brings anxiety and bewilderment. Some are old, and their experience brings caution, skepticism, and guardedness. And some are in-between, and they're not certain what to feel. Advent, like the coming of a child, is beautiful, but it's also messy!

There's no way one voice, or one experience can capture the essence of the season. Therefore, we need to hear from a variety of voices. Each week, we'll hear from different proclaimers, who will explore different texts, characters, and feelings. (A schedule of proclaimers is listed on the front page.)

How will we prepare for the Christchild? We'll see the hope, peace, joy, and love from the eyes of our neighbors. And in hearing and seeing something new, we have the chance to see God anew.

May it be so!

Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:30 AM Hanging of the Greens Breakfast 11:00 AM Christmas Cantata Kathryn Kreutzer	3 	4	5 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 9:45 AM Taize Worship 11:00 AM Worship Becky Proctor & Amanda Lewis 12:00 Caroling	10 	11	12 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Rev. Mary Apisella Noon 30 th Anniversary Luncheon	17 	18 Sardis Anniversary 12/18/1988 	19 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Rev. Tillie Duncan & Rev. Debbie Kidd	24 Christmas Eve  5:00 Candlelight Service Note: Earlier Time Rev. Bob Stillerman	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29
30 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	31					

CHRISTMAS GIVING



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.

October Budgeted Offerings	\$12,916.67
October Actual Offerings	\$8,580.00
November Budgeted Offerings	\$12,916.67
November Actual Offerings	\$7,055.00
Year-to-Date Budgeted Offerings.....	\$142,083.37
Year-to-Date Actual Offerings	\$113,690.35

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....	\$4101.49
Benevolence....Individual & Family Needs.....	\$1075.87
*Duncan Proceeds.....Speakers; Budget.....	\$3,462.96
*Hill Proceeds.....Music; Outreach.....	\$1,994.03
*Odom Proceeds....Children & Youth.....	\$5,100.78
Maintenance Escrow...Upkeep & Repairs....	\$17,381.42
*Balance reflects proceeds currently available, principal balances, not listed, vary with market conditions.	

TRUSTEE MINISTRY

A recent and anonymous poll asked Sardis folks about our congregation. When asked for one word to describe Sardis, responses included: welcoming, affirming, transformative, inclusive, intentional, unique, and accepting. What else did we learn?

One person wrote: "Sardis is the first church I've found that allows me to view God the way that I do, not forcing me to see things their way."

What would you do if there were no Sardis? Some said they wouldn't go to church at all, and others that they don't think they'd be as open to new possibilities.

And why is Sardis important? One said, "It saved my life!" Another said, "Sardis is a place that allows for unique expressions of God's love for ALL people."

Our survey revealed a congregation of people who matter, doing work that matters. As we enter our thirtieth year, we want to ensure a future Sardis for our children and grandchildren.

Please give prayerful consideration to how you might use your time, talents, and tithes to help sustain the ministries of this place. And in this thirtieth year, how you might contribute in a way above and beyond your regular commitment.

Sardis Thirtieth Anniversary Fund – Contributions to this fund (formerly 25th Anniversary) support the maintenance of our campus and grounds. In the past, this fund has helped pay down mortgages, re-roof the meetinghouse, complete the picnic pavilion, and allow for other improvements.

Duncan, Hill, and Odom Endowments – Sardis has ongoing endowments that help sustain Speakers and Education, Youth and Outreach, and Music and Worship.

Commemorative Pavers – Pavers for the labyrinth may be purchased for \$100 to honor or memorialize family and friends of Sardis. Contact the church office for additional details.

Thirty Hours – How much time are you investing in Sardis? Consider allotting thirty hours of your household's time to Sardis (2.5 hours per month). Sing in the choir, help with a yardwork day, lead in worship, help with a fellowship meal, coordinate a mission project or serve on a team of 'stewards'.

Thanks for all you have given (and will give) as we embark on our next thirty years.

Danny Phillips, Howell Peterson, and David Sigmon, Trustees of Sardis Baptist Church



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



We are accepting orders for Christmas poinsettias to honor or memorialize the special people in our lives. The price is \$15; please contact the church office by December 9th or complete an order form which can be found in the church vestibule. Poinsettias will be displayed in worship from December 16th through Christmas Eve.

ENGRAVED PRAYER GARDEN PAVERS



Many of the pavers leading to the Sardis Baptist Prayer Labyrinth honor cherished memories of our loved ones and commemorate the service of those who have ministered here - not just our ordained ministers! In addition to honoring a special person or occasion these engraved pavers also support the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church. If you would like to order an engraved paver, please contact the church office: 704.362.0811 or info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org. The price of each paver is \$100.