

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

GOD'S WORK.



OUR HANDS.

Early each year the Board of Stewards (formerly called the Board on Committees) creates a Nomination Form comprised of current Sardis members eligible to fill open positions on our boards. It is distributed to all people on our church roster and requests are made for nominations to be submitted to the Board of Stewards. This year, we will have positions opening on all three boards: two deacons, one trustee and one steward. The process is beginning, and you will receive your form in mid-January.

The general purpose of the Board of Deacons is to help organize and oversee the spiritual affairs and programs of the church. Responsibilities include supporting the Sardis ministerial staff in various ways through assistance with sacraments and special services (e.g. communion, baptisms, funerals); helping to provide pastoral care to members of the Sardis community (see page 2 for a summary of Pastoral Care written by JS Spong); planning and overseeing special programs and events (e.g. 30th Anniversary, various celebrations).

The general purpose of the Board of Trustees is to organize and oversee the on-going administrative, business and legal affairs of the church. Responsibilities include preparing our annual budget, managing our finances, addressing legal issues (e.g. city ordinances, lawsuits), and conducting business affiliated with the church (e.g. maintenance contracts, insurance requirements).

The general purpose of the Board of Stewards is to assist in the selection of church leaders (i.e. boards and officers) and recruiting volunteers for stewardship teams. Responsibilities include understanding the volunteer needs of the various stewardship teams (e.g. Building and Grounds, Fellowship, Missions, Mutual Care, Outreach, Preschool/Children/Youth, Worship Development), writing descriptions and guidelines for volunteer positions, and recommending qualified people as needed.

Sardis Baptist is a congregation full of people who minister to one another in a myriad of ways – preparing meals for those in need, praying during worship, caring for our youngest friends, spreading mulch on the playground, organizing food drives and MUCH more! Our Boards do many such things that contribute to the life and vibrancy of Sardis, as well as a catalog of tasks required to keep our church doors open. Please give careful consideration to those whom you believe have the talents and abilities to fulfill these important positions. Nominations will be open from mid-January through the end of the month.

EPIPHANY

The Christian Church observes Epiphany on January 6th each year. It's the twelfth and final day of the liturgical Christmas season. Epiphany represents the metaphorical story where the wisest people of the land were divinely inspired to recognize Jesus as the Christ. Marilyn McEntyre shared her definition of epiphany in 2017 in a Patheos blog called **Writing Life**:

"God reveals himself again and again, but not on our terms or our timing, and sometimes in ways we tend to ignore: in Scripture which many of us neglect to search with open hearts; in nature, which many of us ignore and even destroy with overconsumption; in the faces of the poor and suffering, or of those it's given to us to love; in the events of ordinary life. In epiphanic moments.

Epiphany is divine disclosure—an 'aha' moment when the whole frame of reference shifts and we see something we couldn't see before that changes the terms of everything else. It's the moment of 'getting it' when the joke makes sense, or the math problem or the key to a nagging problem. The moment of recognition changes our behavior, our attitude, mood, our plans."

May we all be divinely inspired to recognize Jesus and our call to follow his ways of love with open hearts and open minds.



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

Sights and Sounds for a New Season

It's not a drip, drip, drip...it's more like a whoosh. Three separate and succinct chimes. A chorus of amens. A special rattle that goes hiss, hiss, hiss. The clapping of hands and stomping of feet on the downbeat, and the upbeat, too! "Peace be unto you, friend."

These are the sounds of Sardis: K-Cups cranking out coffee, as worshipers nudge sleep from weary eyes. A bell calling us to order. Affirming responses to another beautiful anthem. Maracas made from paper plates, and clapping hands (some in rhythm, some not!) as we sing *Halle, Halle, Halle*. And a peace, Christ's peace, that greets us warmly each time we gather.

Cheerios peaking over the rim of a big red container, and JIF peanut butter, too. A steel pot drying on a dish-rag in the kitchen. Burlap and cloth strips, and fresh-cut greenery, and candles I didn't even know we had. Crooked pews that were straight an hour ago. Open notebooks with sheet music spilling out.

These are the sights of Sardis: Another food drive complete. Another potluck supper where all had their fill, and spiritually, too. Another thoughtful worship display created with care. Seats no longer straight, because, hey, when you get up and move around, and greet each other, and hug each other, sometimes a room gets messy! The anthem's finished; It's a gift that's fleeting — it can't be netted like a butterfly. But the music left behind, reminds us of notes and key-strikes and melodies that tell us, "God is in this place."

Sardis Baptist Church, when you gather in this place; when you share in life with one another; when you give praise to a God who is always present, you help make this place a sanctuary.

And in the intervals between our gatherings, I find joy in the evidence of community you leave behind. And I find my heart eager, racing even, to see what our next gathering will bring. The details are never the same, but the result is: God's spirit filling us in the ways we need to be filled.

In the coming year, may we be wonderfully surprised (again!) by God's consistency. And may we be aware of the sights and sounds of God that are always present in this place.



Pastoral CARE

Tillie's Adult Sunday School class has been working their way through an interesting book written by John Shelby Spong, **Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World**. In his chapter about the Corinthian Letters, Spong shares his understanding of Paul's approach to Pastoral Care. As Sardis embarks on a new year and begins the process of selecting leaders for our Board of Deacons, who support our pastors through their assistance with Pastoral Care needs, please consider Paul's approach through Spong's words.

"...Congregations learn very quickly that ordination does not bestow perfection on their ordained leaders. Pastoral Care is the sensitive attempt to bring wholeness out of an exchange between human passion and human insecurity. It is a delicately nuanced balancing act, the purpose of which is to enhance the humanity of all who are involved. If we need a text to describe what I believe is the goal of all pastoral activity, it would be the Fourth Gospel's definition of Jesus' purpose: "I have come," John has Jesus say, "that they might have life and have it abundantly" (10:10). That is finally both the mission of the Christian church and the hoped-for outcome in every pastoral relationship. Abundant life, please note, does not always mean happiness or even the easing of pain. Many people seek wholeness in quite destructive ways, with addiction to drugs, alcohol, sex and even success being just a few of them. Sometimes abundant life becomes possible only in confrontation and brokenness. Real pastoral care is not about helping another to feel good; it is about helping wholeness to be created... Wholeness is seen in the freedom to be and in the ability to escape the survival mentality that inevitably locks us into self-centeredness. Wholeness is found in the maturity of being able to live for another by giving our love away.

Sardis Baptist Church

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CELEBRATIONS

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

Congratulations to Brittany Clark on
graduation from graduate school at ECU.

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy is with loved ones of Dr. Gene
Washburn, uncle of Tillie Duncan.

Our sympathy is with loved ones of Lena
Landers, long-time friend of the Phillips.

PETITIONS

Fay Alderman • Jourdan Askins and Family •
Melissa Bowlin • Margaret Branton, Amanda
Lewis' grandmother • Suzette Buchan, Danny
Phillips' sister • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's hus-
band • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's
mother • Nancy Darnell • Ed DePasquale,
friend of William Kruger • Don & Betsy
DePaul • Elizabeth Garland-Lewis, niece of
Amanda Lewis • Marge Fowler • Mollie
Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky
Owen • Myra Helmly, friend of Melissa
Bowlin • Gennell Hall, Mother of Jessica
Wallace (Bullies 2 the Rescue) • Don Hill •
Eugene Hill, Don's son • Harvie Hill, Kathryn
Kreutzer's father • Doris Hunter, Anne Eid-
son's mother • Ted Jackson, Jeff's grandfather
• Karen — CBF North Africa Field Personnel,
friend of Amanda Lewis • William Kruger •
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

Piglet noticed that even though he
had a very small heart, it could hold
a rather large amount of Gratitude.

—AA Milne



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 those who prepared and brought food for our Hanging of the
Greens breakfast: Deborah & Greg Clark, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Bennett
Henkel, Kathryn Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Susan Phillips, Becky Proctor, Robin
Rowland and Bob Stillerman.

Special thanks to Hilary Kearns, the Chancel Choir and others who joined to make
beautiful and joyful noise during our Christmas Cantata.

Thanks to our guest proclaimers for their good words during the season of Advent:
Mary Apicella, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Hilary Kearns, Debbie Kidd, Kathryn
Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, and Becky Proctor.

Thank you to our flower and decorating team for beautiful displays during Advent
as well as purchasing and delivering poinsettias to honor and memorialize loved ones:
Jonathan Eidson, Janette Grassi, Susan Phillips and Bob Stillerman.

We are grateful for those who participated in our Christmas Caroling event: Tillie Duncan,
Jonathan Eidson, Betty Gunz, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jean Lawrence, Jim
Owen, Danny & Susan Phillips, Bob Stillerman (and a cameo appearance by Mary Allen).

Thanks to the many who made our 30th Anniversary Celebration a success: Tillie
Duncan, Karen Holt (Whitehead Conference Center), Marge Fowler, Kristin Jackson,
Kathryn Kreutzer, Katey & Jose Mata, Chef Oscar Rico, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman,
Mike Whitehead and Whitehead Manor, Worship Development Stewards, Queen City
Groove, those who shared photos of Sardis through the years—too many others to list!

Many participants made our Christmas Eve service special: Tillie Duncan, Allie Eidson,
Jonathan Eidson, Hilary Kearns, Alcie, David, Dylan, Kaleb, Kathryn and Madison
Kreutzer; Abby, Hannah and Michael Shepard-Moore, and Bob Stillerman.

We are grateful to those who took our Chrismon tree and other decorations down and
put them away: Tillie Duncan, Jean Lawrence, Dylan Kreutzer and Susan Phillips.

Thank you Becky Proctor for leading us in carols during Hilary's absence.

Thank you to the following people who served as worship leaders in December:
Linda Cook, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Bennett
Henkel, Billie Hutchison, Debbie Kidd, Kaleb Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, Madison
Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Becky Proctor, John Simpson, 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 December: friends from Christ our Shepard preschool, Janet
Beltzhoover, Betty Gunz, Alcie Kreutzer, 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!

2019 Youth Ski Retreat

Several questions remain regarding the 2019 Youth Ski Weekend. How much snow will be on Flat Top Mountain? What is the conversion of inches of snow to inches of packed powder? What is it about snow tubing that makes men in their 50's giddy? What will the proclaimers for worship be like? Will I know some of the music the musician shares?

How hard will we all laugh while on the trip? Is it really possible to die laughing?

Have any animals ever skied before, a cow, for example? How many steps will Pastor Hilary and Pastor Jonathan get whilst tubing? How many eye rolls will Pastor J Swizz receive over the course of the weekend? We ski at Winterplace but is there a Summerplace and do people waterski there?

Some questions have already been answered. What is the date of the ski weekend? January 25-27, 2019. Where is the ski weekend? Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia. What will we do? View a dreamscape of scenery driving to and from West Virginia, race down the snow tubing chutes, enjoy the 27 trails of snow skiing, worship together and take part in all the unforgettable moments during group times, get a souvenir t-shirt, eat delicious meals, visit Tamarack, stay at Country Inns and Suites and the list goes on!

How much is it? \$150 for members; \$175 for guests. How do I sign up? See Pastor Jonathan immediately!

WINTERPLACE • JANUARY 25th to 27th



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

We're having new journeys on Sunday mornings with young children. We had faith enrichment experiences planned for November and December and more will follow this month. Sessions are scheduled for January 13th and February 10th at 9:45 AM. Classes during subsequent months will take place every third Sunday. Thankfully, we have a resident expert, Susan Phillips, who has written "how-to's" and curriculum plans for two willing teachers, Pastors Hilary and Jonathan. We'll be reading books, singing songs, arts & crafts and practicing active learning. You may have imagined seeing in the New York Times, the children's demographic is one of the fastest growing areas at Sardis Baptist Church. Let Hilary or Jonathan know if you'd like to be a part of it.



January 23rd @ 6:00 PM
PIZZA • SODA • COOKIES
Sardis Meetinghouse
Jonathan Eidson & Hilary Kearns



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JANUARY.6.2019

Worship Care.....Chris Mair & Elizabeth Mosley
Greeter / Vestibule.....Marge Fowler
Ushers.....Elizabeth & Janet Beltzhoover
.....and Valerie Rutherford

JANUARY.13.2019

Worship Care.....David Kreutzer & Tammy Taylor
Greeter / Vestibule.....Howell Peterson
Ushers.....Greg Clark, Jean Lawrence
.....and Howell Peterson

JANUARY.20.2019

Worship Care.....Joey & Maria Byrd
Greeter / Vestibule.....Ron Demme
Ushers.....Sarah Bowlin, Ron Demme
.....and Magay Shepard

JANUARY.27.2019

Worship Care.....Mary Jane Osborne
.....and Valerie Rutherford
Greeter / Vestibule.....John Simpson
Ushers.....Janette Grassi, June Ross and John Simpson

FEBRUARY.3.2019

Worship Care.....Adam Taylor and June Ross
Greeter / Vestibule.....Joe Wall
Ushers.....Betty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy and Joe Wall

Guest Proclaimer: REV. AMANDA LEWIS

We welcome our friend and member, Rev. Amanda Lewis into the pulpit for a three-week series in January. She'll be our guest proclaimer during the weeks Rev. Bob Stillerman will be home with Jacqueline, Mary Allen and the addition expected by their family in mid-January. Amanda will be preaching at Sardis Baptist on January 13th, 20th and 27th.



Amanda is a graduate of William & Mary with a degree in Colonial History and Africana Studies. She received her Masters of Divinity with an emphasis in pastoral care from McAfee School of Theology. Amanda served as minister to college students at First Baptist Church of Athens (Georgia) before relocating to Charlotte. She currently works as a chaplain with Atrium Health.



We'll gather for a Sardis SOUP-er bowl on Sunday, January 20th following worship. Please bring a favorite soup, salad or dessert to share and canned goods for our food drive. Charlotteans don't have a home team to cheer for during this year's football playoffs, so we've created our own friendly competition to keep us in the spirit! We'll vote for our favorites in the following categories: soups, salads and desserts. There will be SOUP-er prizes for the winners!

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 New Year's Day	2 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	3	4	5 3:00 PM Staff Planning Retreat 
6 Epiphany 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	7	8	9 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	10	11	12
13 Baptism of the Lord 9:45 AM Sunday School Toddler Class 11:00 AM Worship 	14	15	16 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	17 Board Nominations Open 	18 Irena's 26 th Staff Anniversary 	19
20 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon SOUPer Bowl 	21 Martin Luther King Day 	22	23 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	24	25	26
27 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	28	29	30 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	31 Board Nominations Close 		

Sardis Baptist Church—Business

2018 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.

November Budgeted Offerings	\$12,916.67
November Actual Offerings	\$7,055.00
December Budgeted Offerings	\$12,916.67
December Actual Offerings	\$26,273.00
2018 Budgeted Offerings.....	\$155,000.00
2018 Actual Offerings	\$139,963.35

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.....	\$11,260.18
Benevolence.....Individual & Family Needs.....	\$1,275.87
*Duncan Proceeds.....Speakers; Budget.....	\$4,502.28
*Hill Proceeds.....Music; Outreach.....	\$2,091.96
*Odom Proceeds.....Children & Youth.....	\$6,269.80
Maintenance Escrow.....Upkeep & Repairs.....	\$17,515.58
*Balance reflects proceeds currently available, principal balances, not listed, vary with market conditions.	

ENGRAVED 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: 704.362.011 or info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org. The price of each paver is \$100.

Our Deepest Condolences

WE SHARE OUR SYMPATHY WITH
REV. TILLIE DUNCAN
FOR THE LOSS OF HER UNCLE.

Dr. Gene Washburn

OUR CONDOLENCES ARE WITH
SUSAN & DANNY PHILLIPS
FOR THE THE LOSS OF THEIR LONG-TIME FRIEND.

Lena Landers

WE OFF THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR
RACHEL FAULK
OR THE LOSS OF HER GRANDMOTHER.

Doris Faulk



Sardis Baptist 30th Anniversary Survey

We had a fabulous celebration honoring the life and ministries of the past 30 years at Sardis Baptist and looking forward to the next 30! In preparation for the celebration, our deacons created a survey for the congregation to share some important qualities of Sardis. Below we've shared just a snippet of answers to a few of the questions. Ask a staff member if you'd like to read more.

What ONE word do you think best describes Sardis? Inclusive • Accepting • Comfortable • Friendly • Open • Open – to all people; to all biblical interpretations of all stripes; to creative worship and programs • Joy • Unique • Welcoming • Transforming • Special • Intentional • Relevant • Family • Inviting

What do you remember about the first time you visited Sardis? The warm atmosphere, the judgement-free zone, the loving hugs during Peace • Sense of caring for each other • Inter-generational community where youth sat with our elders and assisted them • The warmth of the welcome, the smiles, the feeling of community • I remember that the people were welcoming and friendly, and that the message was not what I expected from a Baptist Church. I was pleasantly surprised.

Where have you seen God working at Sardis Baptist Church? In the selection and quality of staff; in all elements of worship; in servanthood of congregants • In our worship, fellowship and service • Everywhere • Sunday school, the caring of sick, welcoming nature of everyone, sermons, music • Commitment to spirituality (prayer, labyrinth, walkway, Taize services) • Willingness to accept everyone regardless of where they are in their faith journey • Every single time I need to be affirmed or encouraged, the people of this place seem to respond intuitively. It's really quite remarkable.