

sardis signposts

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

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

WE ARE A WILD AND CRAZY BUNCH OF PEOPLE, SARDIS! IT'S IN OUR DNA PASSED DOWN FROM THE ORIGINATING WILD AND CRAZY BUNCH AND THROUGH SUCCEEDING REINCARNATIONS.

IN A RECENT ARTICLE FOR THE BAPTIST ALLIANCE, REV. TIM MOORE QUOTED A STATISTICIAN WHO POINTED OUT THAT A CHURCH BECOMES A NEW CHURCH EVERY SEVEN YEARS. I'M GUESSING THAT HE MEANT IT IS A FLUID PROCESS, EBBING AND FLOWING. NOT A CLEAN BREAK EVERY SEVEN YEARS. PEOPLE COME AND PEOPLE GO. EVEN IN CHURCHES WHOSE MEMBERSHIP REMAINS FAIRLY STATIC, PEOPLE AGE AND THEIR IDEAS CHANGE. THUS, A "NEW" CHURCH SORT OF MORPHS INTO BEING APPROXIMATELY EVERY SEVEN YEARS.

WE ARE TWO OR SO YEARS INTO THE FIFTH RE-CREATION OF SARDIS! AND IF WE WERE PUT SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH A "TYPICAL" BAPTIST CHURCH, ALL 4 1/3 SARDISES WOULD BE A LITTLE WILD AND CRAZY

THAT BEGINNING BUNCH OF PEOPLE (WHICH CONSTITUTED THE CHURCH) WERE MEMBERS OF CARMEL. THEY DIDN'T AGREE WITH CARMEL'S DECISION TO RELOCATE AND DECIDED TO BEGIN A NEW CHURCH THAT WOULD BE LAY-LED AND THAT WOULD GIVE WOMEN EQUALITY IN LEADERSHIP; THEY EVEN CONSIDERED HAVING NO MINISTERIAL STAFF. DEWEY HOBBS DROVE FROM WINSTON-SALEM EVERY SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY TO PREACH AND LEAD BIBLE STUDY, GIVING GOOD COUNSEL TO THE FLEDGLING CHURCH AS THEY GREW AND DECIDED WHO THEY WANTED TO BE. THE CHURCH BEGAN LIFE WITH THE NAME CARMEL OAKS. WITHIN A COUPLE OF YEARS, THEY DECIDED THAT THEY WERE DIFFERENT FROM CARMEL AND CHANGED THE NAME TO SARDIS. THEY ALSO DECIDED TO CALL A FULL-TIME PASTOR. BUZZ HARRISON AN-SWERED THEIR CALL TO BE PASTOR BUT COULD NEVER WRAP HIS HEAD AROUND THE LAY LEAD-ERSHIP STRUCTURE. WHEN HE LEFT AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS, REV. HOBBS RETURNED AND GUIDED THE CHURCH TO CALL DOUG ALDRICH AS INTERIM.

THIS FIRST WILD BUNCH BOUGHT PROPERTY AND PAID IT OFF, DECIDED THAT RE-BAPTISM BY IMMERSION WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED FOR NEW MEMBERS COMING FROM OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AND HIRED IRENA HRAMENKOVA AS PIANIST, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



On February 16th at 5:00 pm, Sardis will be having its first Date Nightsingles and couples welcome! We'll gather for dinner at a restaurant near the home of Amanda Lewis and Bennett Henkel, and then move to their home for games and socializing.

MR.CHARLES

Saturday, February 16th @ 5:00 PM Mr. Charles Chicken and Fish 8006 Cambridge Commons Drive Charlotte, NC 28215

If you are interested in joining us for this event, please let Hilary or Kathryn know so we can have an accurate head count:

info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org sardishilary@yahoo.com



a spiritually progressive community of faith

WILD THINGS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) SPONSORING
HER IN HER BID TO GET A GREEN CARD
AND THEN HER US CITIZENSHIP. AFTER
MEETING IN THE CARMEL BUILDING FOR A
SHORT TIME, THEY MET AT PROVIDENCE DAY
SCHOOL. THAT WAS A MAJOR UNDERTAKING
REQUIRING "MOVING IN" CHURCH FURNISHINGS EVERY SUNDAY AND THEN MOVING OUT
AFTER WORSHIP. MARY ANN AND GUY KELLY
BROUGHT INFANT AND PRESCHOOL PARAPHERNALIA.
THE SETTING UP ALWAYS INCLUDED A BISCUIT RUN TO HARDEE'S.
YOU CAN ASK JIM OWEN ABOUT THAT.

The second wild and crazy bunch hired Tim Moore as pastor and Pam Greenwood as their first paid music minister. (Bestelle Hill had led music on a volunteer basis.) They built the sanctuary building and had ministries with Rama Road School, Room in the Inn, Habitat for Humanity, Urban Ministries, Loaves and Fishes, and RAIN — all of these community entities ministering to mind and body, as well as spirit. They also supported the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. About half-way through this second re-creation, Tim and Magay brought the triplets into existence. The church agreed with Tim that his position would become part-time, and they would hire an associate pastor part-time to share full-time duties. That's when I joined the staff and was ordained - in spite of the dire warnings of the Southern Baptist Convention who decreed that women were NOT to be ordained. Then this wild and crazy bunch ordained other women!

THE THIRD BUNCH BUILT THE EDUCATION BUILDING AND PAID FOR IT. BELIEVING IN FAMILY INTEGRATION, THEY BEGAN A WORSHIP CLASS FOR CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN. BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY HONORED THEM WITH ITS CHURCH AWARD FOR FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF WOMEN'S ROLE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. MANDY ENGLAND-COLE JOINED THE STAFF AS AN ASSOCIATE MINISTER, AND MY ROLE CHANGED TO PASTORAL CARE MINISTER. A MARKETING AND OUTREACH PLAN USED DIRECT MAIL TO INTRODUCE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES TO SARDIS. THEY BUILT THE PRAYER GARDEN/LABYRINTH AND SERVED COMMUNION OUT OF IT ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS LIKE LENT AND ADVENT. THIS SARDIS PULLED OUT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION AND SOLIDIFIED OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS.

THE NEXT WILD AND CRAZY GROUP DECIDED TO PLAY AROUND WITH THE WORSHIP SCHEDULE DURING ONE SUMMER AND INSTITUTED A WORSHIP-THEN HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER PLAN. LOTS OF STAFF CHANGES OCCURRED DURING THIS FOURTH RE-CREATION. IN MUSIC LEADERSHIP, PAM LEFT; REV. BECKY PROCTOR SERVED AS INTERIM; AND REV. JOANIE WILLIAMS JOINED THE STAFF. IN PASTORAL LEADERSHIP, MANDY LEFT; REV. JONATHAN EIDSON BECAME PASTOR WITH YOUTH AND CHILDREN (CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

Sardis People...

BILLIE HUTCHISON



Nursing and missions have been the guiding passions of Billie Hutchison's life. She chose nursing as a career because she knew that was one of the few avenues through which she could become a missionary. Her first longings to fit into a mission program came when she was a child. She saw a picture of some missionaries in Africa surrounded by monkeys. They were so cute, she wanted one and thought that if she became a missionary, she could have one, too!

Her mission field turned out to be right here in North Carolina, however. She became the church/community nurse with First Baptist Church of Marshville and then ministered in that capacity with Union Baptist Association. During those years she was very much involved in WMU in the state and on a national level teaching at conferences and leading in training sessions. (WMU is a Baptist organization promoting and supporting various ministries and mission efforts.) Billie was also rearing two sons.

In 1995 and again in 1996 Billie participated in a mission trip to South Africa under the auspices of North Carolina Baptists. During those travels she actually did see monkeys and elephants! "South Africa was my chocolate, " she says enthusiastically . A third mission trip came in 2016 when she went to Peru.

Along with Debbie Kidd, Billie's latest trip was a "mission" with 4 of 5 grandchildren to Disney World during the Christmas-New Year holiday. 12 family members enjoyed time together including her 83-year-old mother. The other grandchild is a college student in New York. A native of Guyana, she became a Hutchison family member some years ago and this past summer became a citizen of the United States.

Billie currently works at an in-patient detox mental health facility in Charlotte. She grew up in Landis, NC with one brother and one sister.

Sardis Baptist Church

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 William Kruger for the new gardenia shrubs and planting services from Pike Nursery.

We appreciate Janette Grassi for the gift of her beautiful handmade pottery communion plates.

We are grateful to Amanda Lewis for sharing wisdom and inspiration during the weeks she preached at Sardis in January.

Thank you Becky Proctor for leading the choir and congregation in music during Hilary's absence.

We appreciate the love, dedication and leadership that Jonathan Eidson and Hilary Kearns provided for our youth during their annual ski retreat.

We are grateful to our Sunday School teachers for all ages: Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Hilary Kearns, and Susan Phillips for toddler curriculum development.

Thank you to Janette Grassi & Susan Phillips for their creativity and efforts towards making our worship displays creative and meaningful.

We appreciate the following people who served as worship leaders in January: Elizabeth & Janet Beltzhoover, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Janette Grassi, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jean Lawrence, Amanda Lewis, Jose & Kate Mata, Howell Peterson, Danny & Susan Phillips, Becky Proctor, June Ross, Valerie Rutherford, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman, Joe Wall and all the members of the Sardis Baptist Chancel Choir.

We are grateful to those who have shared their love with our youngest Sardis friends during worship care in January: Joey & Maria Byrd, Alcie & David Kreutzer, Chris Mair & Elizabeth Mosley, Mary Jane Osborne, Valerie Rutherford, Adam & Tammy Taylor.

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!

PRAYERS WITH SARDIS PEOPLE



CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to the Stillerman Family on the birth of Lucy Marguerite • Congratulation to Mary Jane Osborne on the birth of her 8th great-grandson!

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy is with Jim and Becky Owen following the death of Bill Sease, Becky's brother.

PETITIONS

Fay Alderman • Jourdan Askins and Family • Sammy Boone, nephew of Deborah Clark • Melissa Bowlin • Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother • Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister • Christy Clark, daughter-in-law of Rick & Becky Proctor • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Nancy Darnell • Ed DePasquale, friend of William Kruger • Don & Betsy DePaul • Shannon Duncan • Marge Fowler • Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky Owen • Gennelle Hall, Mother of Jessica Wallace (Bullies 2 the Rescue) • Don Hill • Eugene Hill, Don's son • Harvie Hill, Kathryn Kreutzer's father • Matt, Maartje & Baby James Howard, friends of the Taylors • Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson'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 Catherine Tate, Becky Proctor's sister • Wretha Townsend, neighbor of Phillips • Eva Tucker • Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips . Vicki, Amanda Lewis' aunt

Sardis Baptist Church – Youth & Children



My mind continues to bring up toddlers! For example, I was watching football last weekend wanting to see how former Bulldog great, Toddler Gurley was doing. Studying President Abraham Lincoln, I was suddenly curious about his wife, Mary Toddler Lincoln. And of course, Alpheus Toddler, English the born, Canadian librarian and constitutional historian. I could go on and on but the point is, Pastor Hilary and I have now been a part of two toddler Sunday School classes. (I wonder if in Olde English it was toddlre?) Both classes were made so much easier for two reasons. First, we have great toddlers at Sardis and second, Susan Phillips is an expert in all things children. In case you didn't know, she has written the curriculum Pastor Hilary and I (| Swizz) are using and it's amazing! As a result, we're able to combine the children from the Sardis Baby Boom and curriculum written just for them!





Pastors Jonathan & Hilary took 5 youth to Ghent, West Virginia for a ski retreat with other youth groups affiliated with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. It sounds like a great weekend for participants of all ages. Here's some feedback from some:

Jonathan Eidson:

"I had a great time on the ski trip with our youth! I am always proud to be with them and proud of the way they represent Sardis. They are bright, compassionate, energetic and fun. This trip we had several great discussions about belonging including our Wednesday evening gathering. I'd like to commend all of them and Hilary for the way they handled the situation at IHOP. There had been some violence there as the pancakes had been battered. The manager, Mr. Brown, was unwilling to rehash it. Our youth reacted eggzactly as you would have hoped they would. They showed true grit!"

Hilary Kearns:

"This year's CBFNC ski retreat was great in many ways — the tubing was a lot of fun, it was great to spend time with our youth, and the worship experiences were thought-provoking and brought about some interesting discussions with the group. The theme was Called Together, and our proclaimer Katie Callaway tied that in with Ruth 1:1-18. She used Instagram, Harry Potter, and the relationship between Ruth and Naomi to make the youth understand the difference between fitting in and belonging. Our group spent time talking about the word belonging, what it means to be in a community, and where we feel the safest and happiest. I thought these were some of the best discussions I've had with these young-adults and it made me so proud to know them!"

Madison Kreutzer:

"This ski trip I brought one of my best friends, Eden Pearlman. She is Jewish, and it was a super cool experience to compare and contrast our religions during the retreat. I had a lot of highlights on this trip, if I had to pick my favorite I think it would be the time we spent in the outdoor hot tub in 20-degree weather. Shout out to Hilary and Jonathan for putting up with us. Can't wait for next year!"

Rio Renaud:

"My favorite part of this was when we went tubing. During the time we all tubed we bonded and laughed. This was my favorite part of the trip."

Summer Rutherford:

"My favorite part of the trip was tubing at night because it was really fun and everyone being there. Also the next day tubing and getting hot chocolate."

Sardis Baptist Church — Worship



FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

FEBRUARY 3RD, 2019

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

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2019

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

FEBRUARY 17TH, 2019

Worship Care - Rachel Faulk & Kate Mata Greeter / Vestibule - Howell Peterson Ushers - Greg Clark, Jean Lawrence, Howell Peterson

FEBRUARY 24TH, 2019

Worship Care – Janet Beltzhoover & Betty Gunz Greeter / Vestibule - Ron Demme Ushers - Sarah Bowlin, Ron Demme, Magay Shepard

MARCH 3RD, 2019

Worship Care - Sarah Bowlin & Amanda Lewis Greeter / Volunteer - John Simpson Ushers - Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

Shun Lee Palace

The Sardis staff will gather for a good meal and even better conversation at Shun Lee Palace on Wednesday, February 20th at 6:00 PM. We hope you will join us. Our only agenda item is to spend time together with Sardis family!

Shun Lee is located in the Cotswold area, behind the Chick-Fil-A on Randolph Road. The address is 4340 Colwick Road, Charlotte, NC 28211. You may access a copy of their menu online at ShunLeeCharlotte.com/order/main-menu.



WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Worship Development Team is planning for the busiest liturgical season of the year. We will meet on Sunday, February 10th following worship to plan for Easter and Lent. We will eat

around the table, so please bring a lunch from home.

Sardis Baptist Church — Calendar

FEBRUARY FEBRUARY FEBRUARY

				_		
<u>SUN</u>	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
4 th Sunday	4	5	6	7	8	9
after Epiphany 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Nominating Team	MINATED		4:45 PM Staff Meeting Planning for Lent 7:30 PM Chancel Choir			
10 5 th Sunday	11	12	13	14 Valentine's	15	16
9:45 AM Sunday School			4:45 PM	Day		5:00 PM
Toddler Class 11:00 AM Communion Worship	*		Staff Meeting 7:45 PM Chancel Choir		$\overset{*}{\mathbf{D}}$	Sardis Date Night
Noon Worship Development						* * *
6 th Sunday after Epiphany	18 Presidents	19	4:45 PM Staff Meeting	21	22	23
9:45 AM Sunday School	PRIDEN	is Sh	un Lee Pala Fellowship Dinner @	ce		
11:00 AM Worship Noon	NO DA	•	7:30 PM Chancel Choir			
Church Conference			Chancel Choir			
24 7 th Sunday after Epiphany	25	26	27	28	Save	the Date!
9:45 AM Sunday School			4:45 PM Staff Meeting		PAN	CAKE
11:00 AM Worship			7:30 PM Chancel Choir		SUP	FER

Sardis Baptist Church—Business



Our first quarterly conference of 2019 is scheduled for Sunday, February 17th following worship. We have important items to discuss and vote on, so we hope you'll be able to join us. Agenda items include the following:

- The Board of Stewards will present nominations for open board positions to the congregation for a vote.
- The Board of Stewards will present nominations for open stewardship positions to the congregation for a vote.
- The Board of Trustees will
 present the 2019 Budget to the
 congregation for a vote. Copies
 of the budget will be available
 during the conference. If you'd
 like an opportunity to review it
 before the conference, please
 contact the church office and we
 will gladly send it to you.
- The Board of Trustees will present financial statements from 4th quarter 2018.

We hope to see you on Sunday, February 17th. Sardis Baptist is a church full of lay ministers, and we value the input of all!



Your Sardis Trustees have been at work developing the budget for 2019, and it will be presented for a vote at our upcoming conference. Once approved, we will share the monthly budgeted offering expectations along with actuals received. Look for the January — February information in the March edition of signposts. Meanwhile, we've included the balances of some of our designated offering accounts below.

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......\$11,470.18
Benevolence.....Individual & Family Needs.....\$1,155.87
*Duncan Proceeds......Speakers; Budget......\$4,502.28
*Hill Proceeds......Music; Outreach.......\$2,091.96
*Odom Proceeds......Children & Youth........\$5,417.80
Maintenance Escrow.....Upkeep & Repairs.......17,515.58
*Balance reflects proceeds currently available, principal balances, not listed, vary with market conditions.

Thank You for Giving!

2018 Giving Statements are currently being processed and will be mailed out the first week of February. Please call the church office if you do not receive yours by the middle of the month.

Sardis Baptist Church



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2) DUTIES. TIM LEFT; AFRICAN-AMERICAN ACTIVIST REV. RODNEY SADDLER BECAME INTERIM PASTOR; AND THEN REV. BOB STILLERMAN JOINED THE STAFF, BRINGING WITH HIM HIS WORD CRAFTING SKILLS AND PASTORAL OUTLOOK. IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS CHANGE, SARDIS PAID OFF ITS MORTGAGE WITH SPECIALIZED HELP FROM WILLIAM KRUGER, LINDA COOK AND HOWELL PETERSON.

ANY REASON, LET ALONE BAPTISM, SO STAFF AND LAY LEADERS WERE RUNNING BACK AND FORTH TRYING TO BOIL WATER ON THE

THAT BRINGS US TO THIS GROUP. LET ME REMIND YOU OF WHAT WE ARE A PART OF—A REALLY WILD AND CRAZY STORY TO BEGIN. ONE SUNDAY MORNING A BAPTISM WAS SCHEDULED. FIRST COMERS TO THE MEET ING HOUSE FOUND THE BAPTISMAL EMPTY THOUGH IT HAD BEEN FULL THE DAY BEFORE. HOSES WERE HOOKED UP AND SNAKED INTO THE "POOL." COLD WATER FILLED THE BAPTISMAL—NOT TOO TEMPTING TO ENTER FOR

KITCHEN RANGE IN WHATEVER POTS COULD BE FOUND AND POURING IT INTO THE COLDNESS. GOOD THING JONATHAN AND THE BAPTISEE WERE YOUNG, BECAUSE THE WATER NEVER GOT WARM! BUT THE FIFTH RE-CREATION OF SARDIS IS WARM AND CARING. FOR A SHORT WHILE SCOTTIE STAMPER SERVED AS OUR MUSIC MINISTER AND THEN SUPERCALIFRAGILISTIC HILARY KEARNS JOINED THE STAFF TO LEAD OUR MUSIC MINISTRY. SHE ALSO LENDS A HAND WITH THE YOUTH. SHE GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST A COUPLE OF OPERAS. THE PICNIC SHELTER HAS BEEN BUILT; WE HAVE HELD ANIMAL BLESSINGS, MINISTERED TO PEOPLE ON SERVICE SATURDAYS, EXTENDED CAROLING TO ORDINARY TIME AND SUNG HYMNS IN NURSING HOMES AND IN HOMES WHERE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO GET OUT; HELD A MUSIC CAMP, INITIATED CAMP SARDIS. AND WE ORDAINED KATHRYN KREUTZER AS MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT AND HILARY KEARNS AS MINISTER OF MUSIC — A RECOGNITION OF THEIR INDISPENSABLE SKILLS WHICH THEY SHARE WITH US.

THE GOD WE SERVE IS A WILD AND CRAZY GOD. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT, READ THE BIBLE; READ MEMOIRS OF THE GREAT SAINTS; READ STORIES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO LIVE THEIR LIVES IN A WAY THAT SHOWERS JUSTICE AND LOVE ON THEIR WORLD. GOD'S HAND IS ON US, SARDIS, URGING US TO CONTINUE TO BE WILD AND CRAZY ENOUGH TO TURN THIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN, INSIDE OUT, AND EVERY WHICH WAY FREE TO BE!

WRITTEN AND PRESENTED BY REV. TILLIE DUNCAN FOR THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH