

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

Service Saturday



During the season of Lent Sardis Baptist Church invites you to focus on ways you can strengthen your relationship with God, and on actions you can take to bring forth Jesus' vision, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Our Missions team has coordinated a number of "Saturdays of Service" activities throughout the Lenten season to support such efforts, and we encourage you to get involved when you are able. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

- March 9th @ 9:00 AM — 1st Saturday in Lent — Sardis Baptist Church Workday; breakfast at 8:00 AM, 74 East located at 10915 Monroe Road, Matthews 28105. Spring cleaning of our buildings and grounds; bring rakes and gloves!
- March 16th @ 10:00 AM — 2nd Saturday in Lent — Migrant Assistance Workshop; We'll welcome Nikola Taylor, coordinator for migrant assistance efforts in Charlotte to share her story and teach us about the project.
- March 23rd, Time TBD — 3rd Saturday in Lent — Human Trafficking Workshop
- March 30th, Time TBD — 4th Saturday in Lent — Crisis Assistance Ministry
- April 3rd @ 6:30 PM — Sardis Academy — Urban Ministry / Homecoming Kits; fellowship dinner provided at 5:45 PM
- April 6th @ 9:00 AM — 5th Saturday in Lent — Sardis Baptist Church Workday

Additional details for each activity will be provided through our weekly emails, or you can contact the church office for more information (info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org / 704.362.0811).

The Missions stewards have planned for ongoing collections throughout the year to support some of the local ministries that are near and dear to the heart of Sardis! We will continue collecting supplies for Charlotte's Migrant Assistance (continued on page 2)

TUESDAY

You are invited to gather with
Sardis friends for a
Shrove Tuesday Celebration!

March 5th, 2019

6:00 PM

Breakfast for Supper

We'll have an abundance of
pancakes (regular and gluten-free) as
well as plenty of delicious toppings,
bacon, sausage, and fruit.
After our dinner indulgence we'll
enjoy games and good times.



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

A Conversation With Paul and His People

Love him or hate him, perhaps no figure has shaped our modern understanding of Christianity more so than the Apostle Paul. He is the focus of much of Acts, and there are thirteen letters (seven authentic) attributed to his pen, and addressed to the communities in which he ministered. And if there's been a scriptural argument to be made about a contemporary theological issue in the last century, you'd be hard-pressed to find one that doesn't invoke one of Paul's letters.

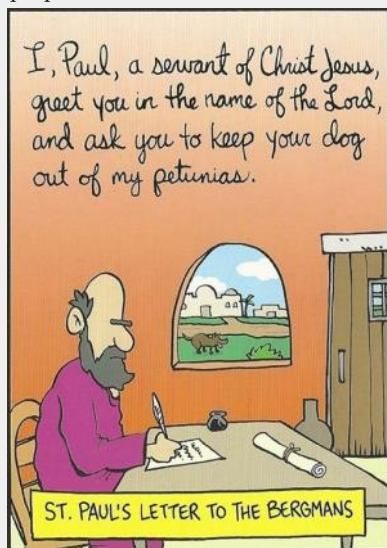
It's funny though. Paul wrote these letters over the course of two decades to varying audiences in varying places under varying circumstances. And yet we have this urge to make his letters (the modern-day equivalent of a few dozen emails) a rigid, chronological, ordered, unshakable, indisputable testimony of his entire life. And not only his life, but the lives of modern Christians as well.

In this Lenten season, we invite you into a more intentional conversation with Paul. Each week, we'll choose one of the communities he ministered to. We'll think about their historical context. We'll review the guidance and counsel Paul offered. And we'll put Paul's words, and each community's situation (conflict, celebration, prayer, mission, etc.) into conversation with our own. What might Paul say to us, and we him? What might we glean from the experiences of ancient communities, and how might we channel their spirit into our own rhythms of Christian worship?

Finally, Paul, and each of the churches he labored with, created a model for transcendence in their daily lives. That is to say, in their being together, and in their desire to understand the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and in their quest to follow Christ's example, God was revealed to them in remarkable ways. Our purpose in the weeks ahead is not to simply mimic their practices or beliefs, or even to agree with them – we may just find we don't! Our purpose is to mimic their spirit, their faith, and their openness to believe that communities, bound together in love and common purpose, can reveal God's love in transformative ways. And that

such love can change, even resurrect a broken world.

Each week, a different Sardis speaker will explore a different text and community. Bob Stillerman will begin with Corinth on Sunday, March 10th, followed by Becky Proctor with Ephesus on Sunday, March 17th. Kathryn Kreutzer, Jonathan Eidson, and Tillie Duncan will also participate – their communities and details will be announced later this month.



LOVE MISSIONS

(continued from front page) Project. Recipients arrive with almost nothing but the clothes on their backs. Most needed items will help them though their journeys to reach sponsors with whom they will stay until hearings to determine whether asylum will be granted: general toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lip balm, tissues); non-perishable snack items that travel easily; bottled water; small books and toys to entertain children on long bus rides (e.g. crayons, coloring books, play dough).

MARCH—This month we will also begin collecting items to build a "Welcome Home Kit" for a family working to transition from homelessness to housing. When someone from our community moves into housing after experiencing long-term homelessness, they typically do not have the essential items needed to make their house a home. The basic items provided in a "Welcome Home Kit" allow the individual to easily transition into the next phase of their life. Any housing program in the Charlotte community that houses a person from the chronically homeless registry is able to get a "Welcome Home Kit" through Urban Ministry Center.

Our kit will include basic items for the bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and utility rooms. A complete list of needs is on the community bulletin board in the Sardis narthex. Please check items off the list as you bring them to church to prevent double purchases! Many items are needed—enough for participation by all who wish to be a part of the effort.

APRIL—Start saving your pennies now! Beginning in April we'll fill vials of coins (and maybe some bills too) in support of Baptist Retirement Homes' annual "Medicine from the Heart" campaign. Funds collected provide financial assistance to older adults with limited resources to help them purchase needed medications.

JUNE—The mission of Community Link is to enable families and individuals to attain safe, decent and affordable housing. One of many programs offered is called "Travelers Aid." They provide bus vouchers to individuals and families seeking to relocate for safe, stable and supportive housing. The program is always in need of luggage and moving supplies for recipients. We'll collect new or gently used suitcases and duffle bags throughout the summer.

AUGUST—Once again Sardis folks will collect school supplies to support University Park Creative Arts, a Title I elementary school.

SEPTEMBER—In honor of our annual Animal Blessing, we will collect donations and supplies in support of Bullies 2 the Rescue.

OCTOBER—This year a Sardis team will participate in Charlotte's 41st CROP Walk to end hunger. We will collect donations to support efforts locally and globally.

NOVEMBER—Sardis has a food drive going through out the year! There are always collections bins from Loaves & Fishes in the building, and we encourage you to pick up extra non-perishables anytime you come across a good sale! Our food drive will kick into high gear during the month of November, with a specific focus on Thanksgiving meal preparations.



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 for the hospitality of Bennett Henkel and Amanda Lewis! They coordinated a delicious meal at Mr. Charles', then opened their home to friends for our first Sardis game night.

Thank you Susan Phillips and Rick Proctor for the meaningful February worship display to commemorate the first sit in at Woolworths in Greensboro, North Carolina

We appreciate the efforts of the Nominating Committee to fill open positions on our boards: Betty Gunz, Jose Mata, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, Susan Phillips, Becky Proctor, John Simpson and Bob Stillerman.

Thank you to William Kruger for the gardenia shrubs and services from Pike Nursery, and to Magay Shepard for planting new pansies in our sidewalk planters.

We appreciate the work of the Worship Development Team in planning a special series for Lenten worship: Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Janette Grassi, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Susan Phillips, Becky Proctor, Robin Rowland, Bob Stillerman.

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

We appreciate the following people who served as worship leaders in February: 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

Jourdan Askins is safely home from deployment in West Africa

▪ Congrats to Allie Eidson on her early acceptance to a graduate program for Industrial and Occupational Psychology at Meredith College ▪ Congratulations to Mary Jane Osborne on the birth of her 8th great-grandson ▪ Congratulations to Hannah Shepard-Moore for her summer internship appointment in Winston-Salem ▪ Congratulations to the Stillerman Family on the birth of Lucy Marguerite

CONDOLENCES

Baby James, son of Matt & Maartje (friends of Tammy & Adam Taylor), passed away last week ▪ Ed Depasquale, friend of William Kruger, recently passed away ▪ Carol Underwood, mother of Christy Clark (Becky & Rick Proctor's daughter)

PETITIONS

Fay Alderman ▪ 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 ▪ Don & Betsy DePaul ▪ Marge Fowler ▪ Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky Owen ▪ Gennelle Hall, Mother of Jessica Wallace (Bullies 2 the Rescue) ▪ Joanne Henkel, Bennett's grandmother ▪ 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 ▪ Stephanie Parker, daughter of Susan & Danny Phillips ▪ Odell Peterson, Howell's brother ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Catherine Tate, Becky Proctor's sister ▪ Wretha Townsend, neighbor of Phillips ▪ Eva Tucker ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt



Have Fun. Learn More. Make Friends.

Attention all families with babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers: the Byrd Family has opened Romp n' Roll in nearby Harrisburg! We have an event planned just for you. According to their web site, Romp n' Roll classes and activities are specifically designed to meet the developmental needs of babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers, ages 3 months through 5 years. Rather than focusing solely on the physical activity aspect, like other kids gyms, they incorporate art classes, music classes, movement activities, and imagination into their offerings. They have high-quality classes and well-trained, passionate instructors. Romp n' Roll strikes a balance between having fun and learning because they are one and the same!

Romp n' Roll

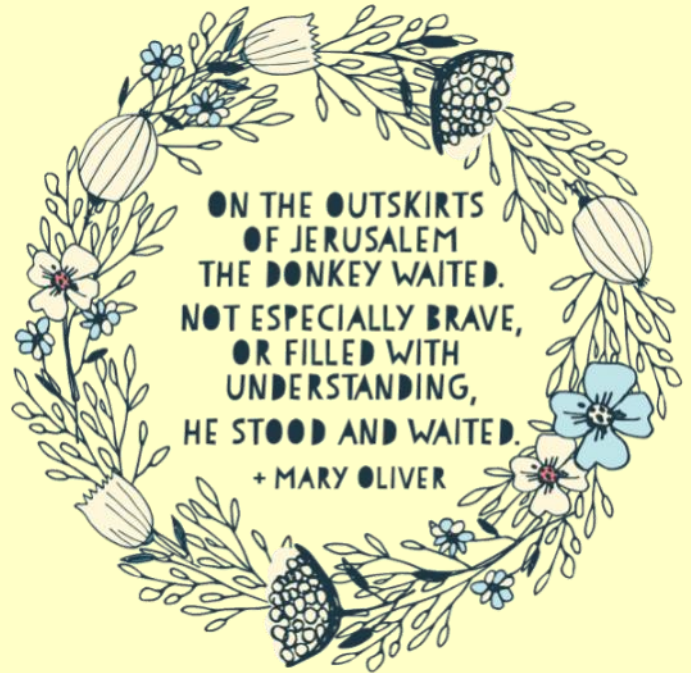
Saturday, March 2nd

12:30 PM

4200 Main Street / Suite 100

Harrisburg, NC 28075

Please let Pastor Jonathan know whether you will be able to join the fun: sardisjonathan@yahoo.com.



ON THE OUTSKIRTS
OF JERUSALEM
THE DONKEY WAITED.
NOT ESPECIALLY BRAVE,
OR FILLED WITH
UNDERSTANDING,
HE STOOD AND WAITED.
+ MARY OLIVER

As we make our way into the Lenten season, the Sardis Choir will be preparing for our second annual Easter Cantata. Our program will take place on Palm Sunday, April 14, during worship.

Everyone is invited to join us each Wednesday night during March to prepare for this event. Rehearsals take place at 7:30 PM, but if you are unavailable at this time please see Hilary after worship or email her at sardishilary@yahoo.com to receive copies of the music.

We would love to have your voice for this program, so please come out and join us!



UNIDIVERSITY...

from many churches, one camp experience.

from many personalities, one fellowship.

from diverse joy and hurts, one time of love and laughter.

from many worship styles, the presence of one Holy Spirit.

from many spiritual experiences, the worship of one Lord.

UniDiversity 2019 is scheduled for July 22nd-27th at Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee. Let Pastors Jonathan or Hilary know if you'll be able to join our group for this year's camp experience.

Why Religion?

“Why does religion still exist in the twenty-first century? And why do so many people—even, and especially, those who challenge religion—continue to argue about the questions it raises? What purpose does it serve in our lives? These questions took on a new urgency for Pagels when she was dealing with unimaginable loss: the death of her young son, followed a year later by the shocking loss of her husband. Here she interweaves her personal story with the work that she loves—illuminating how, for better and worse, religious traditions have shaped how we understand ourselves; how we relate to one another; and, most important, how we get through our most difficult challenges.” - From the book jacket of *Why Religion*.

The Adult Sunday School is beginning a discussion of this memoir written by Elaine Pagels, an American religious historian, author and professor of religious studies at Princeton University. All are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Reading is not required to participate in the discussions, but copies of the book are available for those who wish to read along.



LENTEN WORSHIP LEADERS

MARCH 3, 2019

Worship Care—Amanda Lewis & Kate Mata
Greeter / Vestibule—John Simpson
Ushers—Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

MARCH 10, 2019

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

MARCH 17, 2019

Worship Care—Dave Kreutzer & Tammy Taylor
Greeter / Vestibule—Howell Peterson
Ushers—Kathryn Kreutzer, Madison Kreutzer, Howell Peterson

MARCH 24, 2019

Worship Care—Joey & Maria Byrd
Greeter / Vestibule—Joe Wall
Ushers—Sarah Bowlin, Lisa Kennedy, Joe Wall

MARCH 31, 2019

Worship Care—Mary Jane Osborne & Valerie Rutherford
Greeter / Volunteer—Ron Demme
Ushers—Ron Demme, Betty Gunz, Magay Shepard

MARCH MENU










Sardis Folks had a great gathering at Shun Lee Palace for a February fellowship meal. We'll do it again this month. We hope you will join us at **6:00 PM on March 20th at Red Sea Restaurant located at 4301 Monroe Road in Charlotte.** Red Sea serves Ethiopian and Eritrean cuisine. Our primary goal is to gather good friends for good food and fellowship, but we also wish to support local restaurants owned by immigrant neighbors all while sampling a variety of delicious ethnic cuisines.

Elements of Worship

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do in worship? Join us for Second Sunday on March 10, 2019 at 9:45 a.m. as Bob Stillerman explains the thought process behind worship planning at Sardis. It'll be your chance to hear how and why we choose our texts, prayers, and songs, and how we seek to honor the rhythms of each season of worship. It'll also be your chance to ask any burning questions you might have about how the congregation of Sardis expresses itself in corporate worship. We hope you can join us!

Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 12:30 PM Romp n' Roll
3 Transfiguration Sunday Jonathan's 6th Staff Anniversary 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Church Conference	4  	5 Shrove Tuesday  6:00 PM Pancake Supper 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	6 Ash Wednesday  Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Communion Worship @ Sardis Presbyterian	7	8	9 9:00 AM Sardis Workday  Daylight Savings Begins at 2:00 AM 
10 1 st Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM 2nd Sunday 11:00 AM Worship	11 	12	13 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	14	15	16 Time TBD Saturday of Service Migrant Assistance Project 
17 2 nd Sunday in Lent Saint Patrick's Day 9:45 AM Sunday School Toddler Class 11:00 AM Worship	18 	19	20 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Red Sea Restaurant Fellowship Dinner 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	21	22	23 Time TBD Saturday of Service Human Trafficking 
24 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	25	26	27 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	28	29	30 Time TBD Saturday of Service  CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY
31 4 th Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship						

GET ON Board

The quarterly conference originally scheduled for February has been moved to the first Sunday of March: 3/3 following worship. The conference was moved in order to allow ample time for church members to receive notification of the candidates they will be voting on. Our Nominating Team reviewed nominations from the congregation and asked the candidates with the highest number of nominations to serve. All agreed to serve if affirmed during the conference:

Board of Deacons:

Billie Hutchison
Amanda Lewis

Board of Trustees:

Robin Rowland

Board on Stewards:

Jo Tiddy

DONATIONS

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 – March information in the next 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.....\$10,700.18

Benevolence.....Individual & Family Needs.....\$961.54

*Duncan Proceeds.....Speakers; Budget.....\$4,352.28

*Hill Proceeds.....Music; Outreach.....\$2,091.96

*Odom Proceeds.....Children & Youth.....\$5,193.40

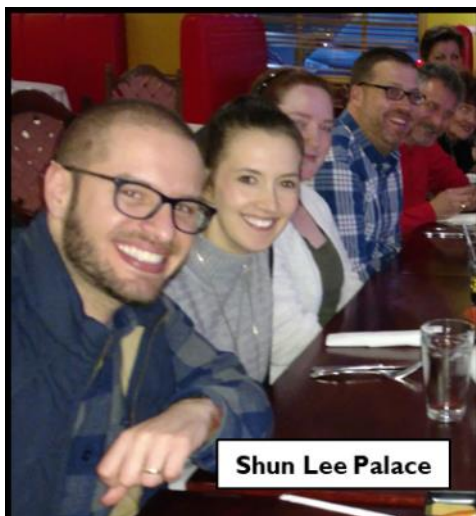
Maintenance Escrow.....Upkeep & Repairs... ..\$17,515.58

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

All hands on deck! We invite you to join our Buildings & Grounds team for a church workday on Saturday, March 9th beginning at 9:00 AM.

Many hands make fast work! We have some Spring cleaning to do around the Sardis house and grounds. Bring gloves and rakes. We plan to clean up yard debris from recent rains, pull weeds, spread mulch, and spruce up some of our inside spaces as well. Bagels, fruit and coffee will be available to keep worker's energy tanks full throughout the morning. We hope you'll join the effort!





Shun Lee Palace



Stacks



Shun Lee Palace



Mr. Charles' Chicken & Fish



40th CROP Celebration

MCS - Multiple Chemical Sensitivity

Friends at Sardis Baptist serve as ministers to one another in many of the same ways our paid staff members do – and many other ways as well! Something we can all do to serve one another is to be aware of special needs of friends in our congregation. Some such needs are met without a second thought. When someone in a wheelchair needs help with a door there are multiple Sardisians at the ready, or when a family needs support during an illness our members prepare delicious homemade meals to deliver. Other special needs may not be as obvious and remain unknown unless shared with you. In that regard, we have a special need to share with you.

Have you ever heard of MCS (multiple chemical sensitivity)? MCS is a medical condition causing a physical reaction to various irritants that are common to daily use. Irritants vary between people afflicted with the condition and can include foods, cosmetics, exhaust fumes, cleaning supplies, and much more. Symptoms occur after breathing, touching or eating an irritant and can range from mild to severe. Common symptoms include headache, dizziness, brain fog, nausea, fatigue, muscle and joint pain. A minimal amount of chemical exposure may cause a reaction to an MCS patient – often so minimal that the irritant may not even be detectable by someone without MCS.



Sardis has numerous members who suffer with varying degrees of MCS, and we are making efforts to make our meetinghouse MCS friendly. We use natural cleaning products as well as natural hand and dish soaps. You can help too! If possible, please avoid wearing scented bath and body products or cosmetics when coming to Sardis. Also consider using unscented laundry detergents and fabric softeners. Synthetic fragrances are primarily made from petrochemicals, one of the biggest offenders to our MCS patients.

The field of science regarding MCS is growing, despite the well-funded lobbyists supporting the chemical industry. For more information please visit the website of **The Chemical**