

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

LENTEN SERVICE NOTES

During the season of Lent, we like to focus not just on sacrifices we can make to strengthen our relationship with God, but on actions we can take. We have coordinated several opportunities this season for you to share labors of love. We hope you'll join our continuing efforts in April:

Wednesday April 3, 2019

Nikola Taylor, Migrant Assistance Ministry

Join us as we learn about grassroots efforts to help provide food, clothing, and other necessities for neighbors making the journey from detention centers in Texas to other east coast cities. Fellowship meal at 5:45 PM followed by program at 6:30 PM.

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Sardis Cleanup Day

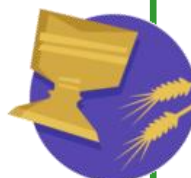
Join the crew anytime after 9:00 AM. Projects include brush clearing, spreading pine straw and mulch, cleaning windows, and more.

Welcome Home Kit

Sardis community members are encouraged to bring donations to help create a "welcome home kit" for a family working to transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

A New Kind of Easter Lily:

For many years, we have invited families to purchase Easter lilies in remembrance or honor of individuals. This year, in lieu of lilies, we are inviting families to make a donation of \$15 to the Migrant Assistance Fund. Sardis will assemble goody bags to be delivered to these neighbors, and will display them in the meeting-house. And don't worry, we'll still have a few lilies on display in keeping with our tradition.



HOLY WEEK

In the middle of April, Lent transitions into Easter. Holy Week events prepare us to experience the joy of resurrection. Please make plans to join us for several special remembrances:

Palm Sunday, April 14th @ 11:00 AM

We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as the Sardis choir performs its annual Easter Cantata.

Maundy Thursday Communion Supper, April 18th @ 6:00 PM

Join us for a light supper of soups, grapes, cheese and bread followed by Communion. We will remember Jesus' last meal with the disciples (and his first Communion with each of us).

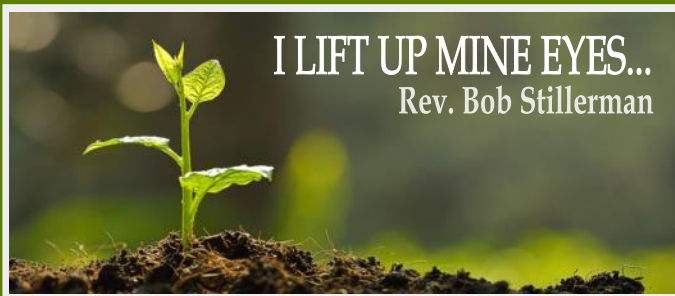
Good Friday, April 19th @ Noon

Join us as Sardis Baptist Church hosts a shared service with neighbor churches, Sardis Presbyterian and St. Stephen UMC.

Easter Sunday, April 21 @ 6:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunrise Service: *Join us in the labyrinth and prayer garden at 6:30 AM for a short sunrise service. Dress casually and warmly. Afterwards, we'll head to IHOP for breakfast.*

Easter Morning Worship: *Traditional worship will be in our sanctuary at 11 AM.*



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...
Rev. Bob Stillerman

A few Sundays ago, Mary Allen and I decided to plant some vegetable seeds – nothing elaborate, just some cucumbers, and beans, and something called rainbow-colored carrots. We collected rocks, and got a bag of potting soil, and rounded up old water bottles and Cool Whip containers. We poked holes in the containers, filled the bottoms with rocks, and then dumped just as much soil on each other and on the ground as we did in the containers. We carefully deposited our seeds, and we watered them well. And now we are waiting.

This week, a bean sprout is popping up. We feel SO accomplished! And each day that little plant grows, we get more and more excited. We're watching new life spring up out of old things.

It's so fitting that the season of Easter corresponds with the beginning of Spring. We watch a world full of brown become green, and we see the Earth remaking itself into something so consistent and so familiar, and yet SO surprising and SO new all at the same time. I don't know about you, but I can't tell you how many times I've been stopped in my tracks just admiring the trees, or plants, or flowers on the Sardis campus. I know they're coming, and yet still the daffodils in February, or the orange oak leaves in October, or the Easter lilies revived once more in May absolutely amaze me. I hope that never changes!

It's harder for us to see, because us humans don't have bodies that grow green leaves or pretty flowers, but God is doing new things in us, too! This community is a garden. We're working to create a soil full of nutrients that will shape, strengthen, and mold us into God's people. (Actually, I should say, the people God wants us to be, because we're already and always will be God's people!). I think the Easter season encourages us to both contribute to and take from the soil of this garden.

In the process, I think we become emboldened, empowered, and surprised all over again by the gifts that are born out of such a garden. Love, generosity, creativity, hugs, laughs, smiles, good meals, acts of kindness, thoughtful words, new relationships – these things are consistent at Sardis, and yet their consistent appearance each season brings newness, joy, and surprise into our lives.

So... Mary Allen and I will watch our beans sprout. But we will also watch for new things in our church bud-dies. And when we see them we'll be SO excited.

Sardis People...

MELISSA BOWLIN

Recently we sang "Happy Birthday" to Melissa Bowlin. She celebrated her 60th birthday, and it was a joyous occasion that she could be physically present with the worshipping community at Sardis. For Melissa has spent the last year recuperating from an automobile accident that has left



her permanently disabled. On January 25, 2018 she was hit head-on by another vehicle, suffering multiple bone fractures. She was hospitalized for a month and then spent five more months in a rehabilitation facility. Set-backs have sent her back to the hospital for short stays, and a physical therapist comes to her house to help her with mobility issues.

Melissa has joined Sardis worship through the powers of this electronic age and has participated as a worship leader. However, the physical ability to attend church services has been the most significant lack she has felt. "The last year has been so exciting with the new members and attendees. So many new people that I haven't had a chance to build a relationship with. And all the new babies born into the church family! At least four, I think, and another to be among us soon."

Another way she feels incomplete is her inability to drive. Not being able to get into her car and drive to church or the store or anywhere. She has to depend on someone else to drive her to the meetinghouse or to accomplish life's daily chores like grocery shopping. "I don't have a lot of control over my life. And so much of my time is spent with various kinds of doctors!" she explains.

The year has brought blessings as well. Melissa acquired a son-in-law with the marriage of her daughter Sarah to Dan Criss; the marriage also brought her a grandson, Tyler. She became a great-aunt with the birth of a nephew's son. (Soon another nephew will make her a great-aunt for second time over!) "And I have met so many wonderful people from the hospital and from Royal Park rehab facility. I have found new friends during the recuperation process."

Thank You



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 thrilled to have two new picnic tables in our shelter; we will no longer need to haul extra tables outside in order to host a meal! The tables were donated in memory of William Kruger by Becky & Jim Owen and Howell Peterson. Please thank them!

We appreciate all those who helped with preparation, cooking and cleanup for our Shrove Tuesday celebration: Jonathan Eidson, Bennett Henkel, Amanda Lewis, Kathryn Kreutzer, Kate & Jose Mata, Tim Moore, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Susan & Danny Phillips, John Simpson, and Bob Stillerman.

Thanks to many of you for great efforts leading to a productive Sardis workday in March: Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Kathryn Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Jose Mata, Tim Moore, Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, Robin Rowland, David Sigmon, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman, and Joe Wall.

We appreciate the planning and efforts our Missions Stewards put towards our Lenten Service projects: Melissa Bowlin, Betty Gunz, Hilary Kearns, and Kristin Parker. Thank you to the many Sardis folks who participated in the events – too many to list!

We are grateful to Tim Moore and Mary Jane Osborne for the work they've done to keep our prayer garden beautiful!

Thank you Susan Phillips and Janette Grassi for the Lenten worship display reminding us of Paul's letters.

We appreciate the good words of our Lenten proclaimers: Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Kathryn Kreutzer, Becky Proctor, and 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 March: Melissa Bowlin, Ruthye Cooley, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Irena Hramenkova, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Kaleb Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, Debbie Kidd, Jose Mata, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, Susan Phillips, Becky Proctor, Michael Shepard-Moore, Tim Moore, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman, and Joe Wall.

We are grateful to those who shared their love with our youngest Sardis friends during worship care in March: David Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Chris Mair, Kate Mata, Elizabeth Mosley, Mary Jane Osborne, Susan Phillips, Valerie Rutherford, and 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

Congrats to Allie Eidson on her early acceptance to a graduate program for Industrial and Occupational Psychology at Meredith College ▪ The Henkel/Lewis family is welcoming a new puppy in May— Fredward ▪ Congratulations to Jeff Jackson on his new job with Flying Squirrel Tree Company ▪ We are thrilled that the Mata family is growing! They are expecting a baby boy in August ▪ Congratulations to Hannah Shepard-Moore for her summer internship appointment in Winston-Salem

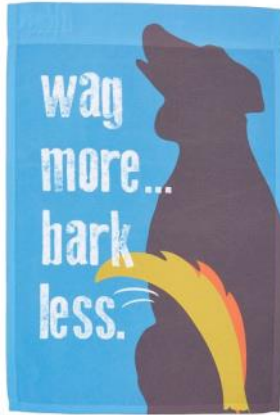
CONDOLENCES

▪ William Kruger died on March 19th. Please offer gratitude for a good and generous child of God, who offered much love, hope, and creativity to our congregation.

▪ Pepe Demme, wife of Ron, died on March 21st following a brief hospital stay. In addition, shortly after Pepe's death, their 14-year-old dog, Ella, had to be put to sleep due to complications of pneumonia.

PETITIONS

Fay Alderman ▪ Keith Bingham, former pastor of St. Stephen UMC ▪ Duke Birtwhistle, friend of Matas ▪ Judy Blevins, friend of Kristin Parker ▪ Sammy Boone, nephew of Deborah Clark ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister ▪ Sonny Cole, Marge Fowler's brother ▪ Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband ▪ Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother ▪ Nancy Darnell ▪ Don & Betsy DePaul ▪ 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 ▪ Karen—CBF North Africa Field Personnel, friend of Amanda Lewis ▪ Odell Peterson, Howell's brother ▪ Becky & Rick Proctor ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Catherine Tate, Becky Proctor's sister ▪ Wretha Townsend, neighbor of Phillips ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪ Debbie Wike, former member of Sardis Baptist Church



Recently, Anne and I led a marriage enrichment retreat for couples from St. Stephen United Methodist Church. Our theme was, **Wag More, Bark Less**. During the weekend, we explored habits that cultivate joy through the many seasons of marriage. Why bark when we can wag?

While there, we provided large group time with plenty of stories, honesty, gentleness and laughter. We explored communication habits that can lead to understanding ourselves and our spouses more effectively and resolve inevitable disagreements with each other and we introduced the group to effective communication tools to work through that conflict that is part of life and marriage. We gave couples time to talk, (continued on back page)



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

In our March Sunday school, we focused on creation. The weather was just right for us to spend some time outside in God's creation. We saw birds and listened to them and we put food in the feeder for them. We did a bark rubbing on a tree. We shared the story from Genesis about creation. Stone animals brightened the mood in the classroom. We also spent some time on the new playground equipment, much of which is made from trees that were part of creation. We talked about blue skies and white clouds and the green grass and leaves opening up all around us as well as the beautiful flowers. You are invited to spend some time walking around outside soaking up God's creation!



This summer our youth will head to a new location for Unidiversity Camp – Maryville University in Maryville, Tennessee. (You may have noticed that the first part of Maryville, 'Mary' is also the name of the mother of Jesus!) We arrive on campus on Monday, July 22 and leave for home on Saturday, July 27. The cost for this year's camp is \$250.

Unidiversity is a week-long Christian summer camp for teenagers. Camp is planned and lead by church ministers and adult volunteers who have a passion for youth and the Christian faith. Pastor Hilary has attended planning team meetings. Unidiversity uses college campuses in the southeast as home and the camp follows a collegiate theme with its schedule and takes full advantage of everything the campuses and their locations have to offer.

Churches from Missouri to the coast of South Carolina join in for the fun and fellowship of the camp. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our youth. See Pastor Jonathan or Pastor Hilary for more information or to sign-up!

Dance of the Lord

On Palm Sunday, April 14th, the Sardis Choir will present our annual Easter Cantata entitled *Dance of the Lord*. Following the text of Sydney Carter's hymn, "Lord of the Dance," we will take a musical journey through the life of Christ. Songs included are:

"Lord of the Dance" by Sydney Carter

"God's Great Lights" by Helen Kemp

"Lord of the Wind and the Sea" by Lloyd Larson

**"Sing Out Hosanna to the Lord (Zum Gali Gali)"
by Patrick M. Liebergen**

**"Blessings of Love"
by David Ashton and Bert Stratton**

"His Hands" by Ruth Elaine Schram

The story begins before Jesus' birth, explores his ministry, his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper/ First Communion on Maundy Thursday, and touches on the trials to come on Good Friday. If you worship with us during Holy Week, you will see that our cantata is not fully complete until Easter morning itself, where we will sing the anthem "Lord of the Dance" by John Rutter and enjoy its glorious conclusion. If you would like to sing with the choir, see Hilary Kearns during or after worship for a copy of the music! Hallelujah!



APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS



APRIL 7, 2019

Worship Care—June Ross & Adam Taylor

Greeter / Vestibule—John Simpson

Ushers—Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

APRIL 14, 2019

Worship Care—Janie Harris & Jacqueline Stillerman

Greeter / Vestibule—Joe Wall

Ushers—Betty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy, Joe Wall

GOOD FRIDAY — APRIL 19, 2019

Worship Care—TBD

Greeter / Vestibule—TBD

Ushers—TBD

EASTER — APRIL 21, 2019

Worship Care—Lisa Kennedy & Krista Sigmon

Greeter / Vestibule—Marge Fowler

Ushers—Elizabeth & Janet Beltzhoover, Greg Clark

APRIL 28, 2019

Worship Care—Rachel Faulk & Kate Mata

Greeter / Volunteer—Howell Peterson

Ushers—Janie Harris, Jean Lawrence,

Howell Peterson

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Join us on April 3rd to hear from Nikola Taylor, founder of Charlotte's Migrant Assistance Project. She'll share a bit about her personal story as well as information about the project. Dinner will be served at 5:45 followed by programming at 6:30 PM.



*Let's gather together to honor
God's creation and celebrate
Earth Day (a couple days later).
We hope to see you on Wed-
nesday, April 24th. Food and
festivities will begin in the Sardis
Picnic Shelter at 5:45 PM. After
our meal together, we'll get our
hands dirty taking care of the
Earth around Sardis!*



Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar



April



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Nikola Taylor 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	4	5	6 9:00 AM Sardis Workday CHURCH WORK DAY
7 5 th Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	8	9	10 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	11	12	13 11:00 AM Memorial Service for William Kruger
14 Palm Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Cantata 	15	16	17 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	18 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM Communion Supper	19 Good Friday Noon Worship 1:00 PM Staff Lunch 	20
21 Easter Sunday 6:30 AM Sunrise Service 7:00 AM Breakfast @ IHOP 11:00 AM Worship 	22 Earth Day 	23	24 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Honoring Earth Day 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28 2 nd Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	29 April 28 th Dedication of Leilana Byrd 	30	<div> <div>April</div> <div>Lord, may I be slow to condemn, quick to forgive, reluctant to judge and eager to show mercy.</div> <div>Prayer of the month</div> </div>			



Board Elections

We are grateful to those who were able to attend our church conference on March 3rd. The congregation overwhelmingly elected the following members for service to our boards:

- Deacons — Billie Hutchison and Amanda Lewis
- Trustees — Robin Rowland
- Stewards — Jo Tiddy

Members also voted to add the following people to various stewardship positions:

- Building & Grounds — Greg Clark
- Fellowship — Tillie Duncan and Billie Hutchison
- Missions — Deborah and Greg Clark
- Preschool/Children/Youth — Susan Phillips and Jacqueline Stillerman
- Worship Development — Amanda Lewis and Robin Rowland

Please say a prayer of thanksgiving for these and other servants of Sardis Baptist Church. Take a moment to share a kind word of gratitude with them through a note, email, phone call or next time you see them here.

BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA, INCORPORATED

Baptist Retirement Homes is holding a “Medicine From the Heart” campaign. Funds collected provide financial assistance to older adults with limited resources to help them purchase needed medications. Please pick up an empty “medicine bottle” from the church vestibule and fill it with spare change during the next month.



OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

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 and church grounds. The amounts below reflect general (undesignated) offerings.

January Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
January Actual Offerings.....	\$8,571.00
February Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
February Actual Offerings.....	\$8,936.00
March Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
March Actual Offerings.....	\$8,716.00
YTD Budgeted Offerings.....	\$37,500.00
YTD Actual Offerings.....	\$26,223.00

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.

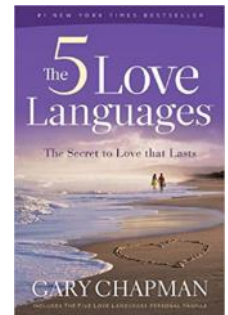
30th Anniversary.....	Campus Development.....	\$10,700.18
Benevolence.....	Individual & Family Needs.....	\$961.54
*Duncan Proceeds.....	Speakers; Budget.....	\$5,230.18
*Hill Proceeds.....	Music; Outreach.....	\$2,268.04
*Odom Proceeds.....	Children & Youth.....	\$6,931.14
Maintenance Escrow.....	Upkeep & Repairs.....	\$17,515.58
*Balance reflects proceeds currently available, principal balances, not listed, vary with market conditions.		



(continued from page 4) listen and enjoy each other.

The weekend included plenty of time for relaxation and play and Sunday morning, Anne and I led worship for the group during which couples served each other Communion.

One of our resources was a book by Gary Chapman called "The Five Love Languages". In it, he explains that each person has a love language and that is the way we express love. The five are: Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, Quality Time, and Physical Touch. When couples discover their love languages they often find that each of them has a different language and as a result, different ways of expressing love but the good news is, once you know your spouse's love language, you can learn to express love that way.



William Kruger passed away on March 19th. Please offer gratitude for a good and generous child of God, who offered much love, hope, and creativity to our congregation. May William find peace in our Creator, and may we find it too, in knowing that he now receives the full peace of Christ. Honorariums may be made to the Audubon Society or Sardis Baptist.

Pepe Demme, wife of Ron Demme, passed away on March 21st following a brief illness. Please take a moment and give thanks for Pepe's life and the years she and Ron shared. In addition, just two days after her death, Ron had to put Ella, their dog of 14 years, to sleep. Honorariums may be made to Sardis Baptist.

