

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 SUMMER SCHOOL

This summer, Sardis will offer a unique opportunity for worship and discipleship that is contingent on one thing:

your voice! That's right, your voice matters, and we want it to be a part of our Sardis Summer School, a blend of worship, education, discipleship, and supper-table conversations. More details will be available in the July newsletter, but here's a preview. We will explore two topics, spending four weeks in each topic.

- WORSHIP
- EDUCATION
- DISCIPLESHIP
- CONVERSATIONS

church vocabulary

George Carlin famously explored the seven words you can't say on TV. In the same spirit (only in a much less profane way!), we want to explore some of the words people don't like to say in church. With the help of Marcus Borg's *"Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—And How They Can Be Restored,"* we'll parse out traditional theological terminology (words like blood, sin, salvation, etc.), and give thought to their place in our community's faith narrative.

environmental issues

We'll also spend a few weeks thinking about the intersection of our faith practices and our ecological practices. What choices are we making voluntarily or involuntarily that affect the health of our planet? And how do such choices align with our theological values?

schedule

Mid-July through mid-September, Sundays at Sardis will operate on a revised summer schedule:

Sardis Summer School—Church Vocabulary
July 14th, 21st, 28th and August 4th

Communion Brunch
August 11th, 10:30 AM until Noon
No Sardis Summer School

Sardis Summer School—Environmental
August 18th, 25th, September 8th and 15th

Labor Day Sunday
September 1st, Worship at 10:30 AM
No Sardis Summer School

(Summer worship hours and additional details continue on the back page.)



In approaching food justice, climate change, and sustainable agriculture, we find ourselves simultaneously inhabiting places both rich with opportunity and aching with loss and defeat. Today's challenges call for a strenuous, sustained response. Yet how do we sustain our spirits in the face of hunger, social inequity, and ecological ruin? How do we develop a spirituality for the long haul? And what riches do we find in the Christian contemplative tradition that might aid us on our journey?

Each year, Wake Forest University School of Divinity's Food, Health, and Ecological Well-being Program hosts a Summer Institute on food, faith, and ecology in western North Carolina. Faith leaders gather for four days to participate in God's active renewal of the face of the earth and explore ways they are called to join God in that good work. Kathryn Kreutzer will join the gathering this year, and hopes to explore these questions. She'll return to Sardis Baptist with information to help shape our summer series on environmental issues.

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

A few years ago, Jacqueline and I went to the State Fair in Raleigh. Along with getting her free Mt. Olive pickle, Jacqueline also purchased a t-shirt that read: *BBQ IS NOT A VERB*. It's true of course. BBQ is something you eat, not something you do, nor is it something you cook on. But it's okay, Sardis still loves people who believe in the anathema of the BBQ verb. Talk about open and inclusive!!!

Jacqueline's shirt, however, makes me think of a possible slogan for another t-shirt: *WORSHIP IS NOT A NOUN*.

Too often, we tend to make worship a noun. Specifically, worship becomes some formal combination of prayers, hymns, sermons, readings, and other liturgies. And even more specifically, worship becomes the gathering hour that happens in our meetinghouse at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

But worship is a verb! It's fluid and active. And for me, worship is the simple act of acknowledging that God is present in our lives. Therefore worship isn't limited to time or space. So yes, we do gather together regularly in something we call worship, but it's not as simple as that. Instead, we gather, with varying degrees of frequency, attendance, and formality, to verbalize, publicize, proclaim, celebrate, discern, imagine, or insert-your-best-word-here God's investment in our lives.

Worship is celebrating the life of a saint in a memorial service. Worship is dedicating three infants (and a few more to come). Worship is acknowledging the graduations of high school and college students. Worship is pausing to bless, install, commission, and ordain new servants. Worship is throwing a shower for a recent marriage, a pending one, and the arrival of a little boy. Worship is nurturing our infants and toddlers with a song, or on a swing set, or in reading a picture book. Worship is telling people around us what we're thankful for, what makes us anxious, and how we think God is working in the world. Worship is a song that we're singing. Worship is living in community with one another, and marking the events and people who help give us shape.

So as spring turns to summer, I want to encourage you to seek out your favorite BBQ noun (pork, beef, tofu, vegan, no matter). And maybe, as you share in the goodness of that noun, with the people you love, give thought to how you'll make worship at Sardis a verb. You can start by thinking about worship as something you do rather than attend. (Of course, I do hope you will still attend church activities!)

And who knows, maybe Bennett will make us some t-shirts!

Sardis People...

KALEB KREUTZER

When it came time for the seniors at Charlotte Secondary School to choose and designate the students they thought of as being at the top of the class, Kaleb Kreutzer was chosen in two categories. He was elected as most athletic. Kaleb played attack on the school's lacrosse team; they have won the NC state championship for the last two years. His favorite sport, however, is hockey. He has played defense for several years on the traveling hockey team known as the Charlotte Rush (formerly the Junior Checkers). Playing with the Rush has taken him all over the United States as well as into Canada.



Kaleb was also selected as best friend. His friends here at Sardis could second that. He has been an active member of the youth group and has enjoyed traveling with them to Passport. But shorter jaunts have also been fun. Spending time at the Shepard-Moore Lake house has been at the top of his list for enjoying time with Sardis youth. For a couple of years, it was a tradition for Kaleb, Michael Shepard-Moore, and Brandon Rutherford to take a polar plunge into the waters of Lake Wylie on New Year's Day.

Kaleb's summer plans include a trip to Canada with a friend who has family there; they will spend most of their time engaged in outdoor activities. But summer will not be all play, as he will continue working at Auto Bell. At the end of summer, Kaleb will attend CPCC with the intention of transferring to UNC-Wilmington after a year or two. He has not made a definite career choice, but is drawn to something in the criminal justice system and has also considered a career as a mechanic in the Air Force. He loves working with his hands and can often be found working on his Jeep, either repairing or enhancing the vehicle. He inherited that love from his dad David who at one time was a member of a racing car pit crew! Other members of Kaleb's family include mom Kathryn and siblings Dylan, Alcie and Madison.





**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 those who worked on the grounds last month spreading mulch on the playground and clearing debris: Jonathan Eidson, Hilary Kearns, Jim Owen, Danny Phillips, Susan Phillips, Reid Sigmon, Bob Stillerman, and Adam Taylor.

We are grateful to the following people for helping with Sardis Academy meals in May: Elizabeth and Janet Beltzhoover, Tillie Duncan, Betty Gunz, Billie Hutchison, Kathryn Kreutzer, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Magay Shepard, Bob Stillerman and Joe Wall.

We appreciate the following people who served as worship leaders in May: Alex Beltzhoover, Elizabeth Beltzhoover, Sarah Bowlin, Ron Demme, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Alcie Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jim Owen, Kristin Parker, Howell Peterson, Magay Shepard, Bob Stillerman, Joe Wall, and Anthony Yang.

Thank you to those who shared their love with our youngest friends during worship care in May: Janet Beltzhoover, Sarah Bowlin, Betty Gunz, David Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis and Tammy Taylor.

We are grateful for the beautiful flower pots and welcoming flag as you enter our sidewalk. Thank you Betty Gunz, Susan Phillips, and Magay Shepard.

Our displays provide a meaningful visual connection with our themes for worship. We are thankful for the creativity and effort of Janette Grassi and Susan Phillips.

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!



CELEBRATIONS

Congrats to Allie Eidson for earning her degree from UNC Chapel Hill • Congrats to Kaleb Kreutzer for earning his HS diploma from Charlotte Secondary School • We join Amanda and Bennett in celebrating their new puppy, Fredward • We are thrilled that the Mata family is growing! They are expecting a baby boy in August • We join John Simpson in welcoming a granddaughter into his extended family! Lou Bishop Gross was born on May 22nd.

CONDOLENCES

May our Sardis friends be comforted by the outpouring of love surrounding them as they grieve • Betsy Arnett, aunt of Kathryn Kreutzer and family • Aaron Washburn, cousin of Tillie Duncan • Precious, the family dog of Sarah, Dan & Tyler Bowlin-Criss.

PETITIONS

Fay Alderman • Keith Bingham, former pastor of St. Stephen UMC • 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 • David Faircloth, relation of Phillips • 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 • Larry Hovis, CBFNC • Doris Hunter, Anne Eidson's mother • Karen — CBF North Africa Field Personnel • Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother • Becky Proctor • Betty Rector, grandmother of Hilary Kearns • Mala Reynolds • Linda & William Roddey, friends of Phillips • Dantasia, daughter of June Ross • Wretha Townsend, neighbor of Phillips • Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips • Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Mary Wiebke, mother of Mark • Debbie Wike, former member of Sardis Baptist Church

UNIVERSITY

Youth Camp

July 22 - 27, 2019

Last year, Pastors Jonathan and Hilary led the youth group to our neighbor state for an amazing camp week. This summer our youth will make the journey to the state of Tennessee for Unidiversity. This year we try an exciting new location, Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee. We'll arrive on campus on Monday, July 22nd and leave to return home on Saturday, July 27th. The cost for this year's camp is \$250.

In case you don't remember, Unidiversity is a week-long Christian summer camp for teenagers. Camp is planned and led by church ministers and adult volunteers who have a passion for connecting teens with Christ and with each other. Hilary Kearns is helping plan this year. Unidiversity has the wisdom of a camp over 20 years old. It gathers on college campuses in the southeast. The camp follows a collegiate theme with its schedule and takes full advantage of everything the campuses and their towns have to offer.

Churches from Missouri to Georgia join in for the fun and fellowship of the camp. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our youth. The time to sign up is almost over so contact Pastor Jonathan (SardisJonathan@yahoo.com) or Pastor Hilary (SardisHilary@yahoo.com) for more information.



Jonathan and Hilary have been having lots of fun with the new Toddler Sunday School Class. Using curriculum developed by Susan Phillips, this spring they have been focusing on God's creation. With such beautiful sunny weather, they are now able to go out onto our newly mulched playground, walk the grounds spotting things in nature, even watering plants and filling bird feeders.

They are both excited to continue this class into the summer months. Class meets every third Sunday, coming up on June 16, the next will be on July 21, and the following will be on August 18.

If you are the parent of a child between the ages of 2 and 5 and would like to bring your child, they begin at 9:30 and end at 10:30, just in time for Worship Care to begin. On Sunday mornings you can find Jonathan and Hilary in the entrance to the meeting house or in the Toddler Playroom in the education building. Parents are welcome to join the adult Sunday School group which meets in the main building.

Let my teaching fall
like rain and my words
descend like dew



JUNE 2, 2019

Worship Care

Danny & Susan Phillips

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Howell Peterson

Ushers

Janie Harris, Jean Lawrence, Howell Peterson

JUNE 9, 2019

Worship Care

Tillie Duncan & Kristin Parker

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Ron Demme

Ushers

Sarah Bowlin-Criss, Ron Demme, Valerie Rutherford

JUNE 16, 2019

Worship Care

Becky & Rick Proctor

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

John Simpson

Ushers

Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

JUNE 23, 2019

Worship Care

Alcie Kreutzer & Tim Moore

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Joe Wall

Ushers

Betty Gunz, Kathryn Kreutzer, Joe Wall

June 30, 2019

Worship Care

Jim Owen & Assistant TBD

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Marge Fowler

Ushers

Elizabeth Beltzhoover, Janet Beltzhoover, Greg Clark

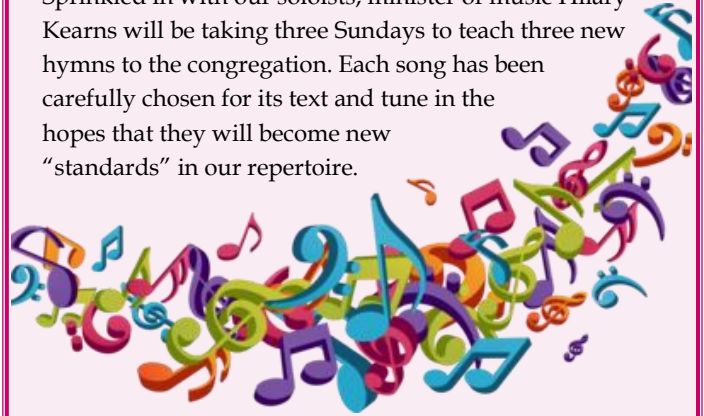
GUEST MUSICIANS

The Summer is upon us once again, and that means special music at Sardis!

Our intrepid accompanist, Irena Hramenkova, will be traveling during the month of June. In her absence, we will have a guest pianist by the name of Lillian Park. She is the former student of Hilary Kearns' former piano teacher, Mrs. Kristin Stonnell, and comes highly recommended.

We will also have guest soloists such as cellist and baritone Josh Hatchell, UNCSA student and baritone Micah White, violinist and educator Sarah Russell, and Charlotte Symphony violinist Tatiana Karpova.

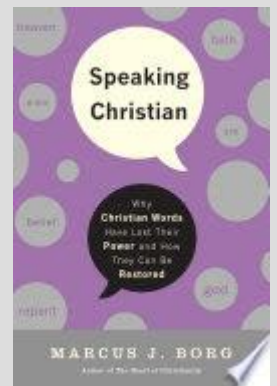
Sprinkled in with our soloists, minister of music Hilary Kearns will be taking three Sundays to teach three new hymns to the congregation. Each song has been carefully chosen for its text and tune in the hopes that they will become new "standards" in our repertoire.



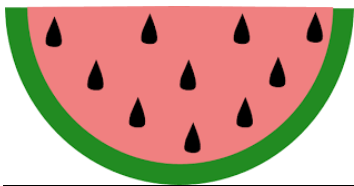
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Our adult Sunday School class will soon begin reading and discussing the book we'll be using to frame our Summer Series on Christian Vocabulary, "***Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—and How They Can Be Restored.***"

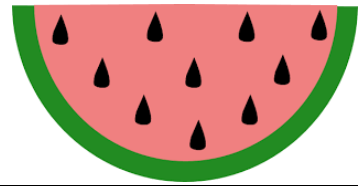
The author, Marcus Borg, argues that the language Christians use has become distilled, distorted and disconnected from the beliefs which once underpinned it. The group, led by Rev. Tillie Duncan, and meets in our Main Building on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM. All are welcome to join us. Contact the church office if you would like a copy of the book.



Sardis Baptist Church — Calendar



JUNE

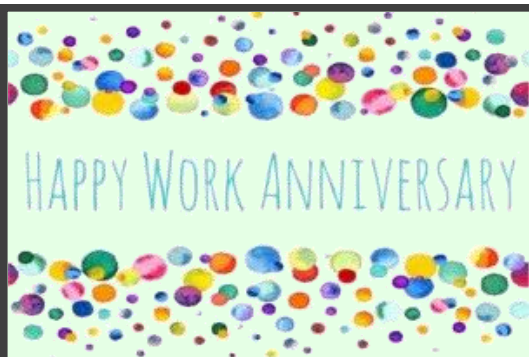


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div> <div> 1 Tillie's 20th Staff Anniversary Kathryn's 4th Staff Anniversary </div> </div>						
2 Ascension Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	3	4	5 2:00 PM Staff Meeting No Choir Break Begins	6	7	8
9 Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	10 Kathryn Attending Food, Faith and Ecology WFU School of Divinity 	11	12 2:00 PM Staff Meeting No Choir Summer Break	13	14	15
16 Father's Day Trinity Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School Toddler Class 11:00 AM Communion Worship	17 	18	19 Hilary's 3 rd Staff Anniversary 2:00 PM Staff Meeting No Choir Summer Break	20	21	22
23 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Kathryn Kreutzer	24	25	26 2:00 PM Staff Meeting No Choir Summer Break	27	28	29
30 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM Mata's Baby Shower and Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship			<div> SUMMER SERIES BEGINS JULY 14TH SPEAKING CHRISTIAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUMMER SCHOOL — 9:45 AM WORSHIP — 10:30 AM TALK-BACK — 11:15 AM </div>			

TREASURER UPDATE

We are grateful to Jim Owen and Chris Mair for their work as co-treasurers of Sardis Baptist Church! The time and effort they spend serving Sardis Baptist in this capacity usually goes unseen. They often spend Saturdays on campus taking care of Sardis business, i.e. sending donations to our missions partners, running our staff payroll, paying our bills, reconciling our banks accounts, and preparing financial reports for our Trustees.

Sardis Trustees recently approved an upgrade to our financial recording/reporting software. We are migrating from a desktop to an online version, and hope this will allow Jim and Chris more flexibility and convenience to do much of the business of the church from the comfort of their homes.



Rev. Tillie Duncan may have retired last year, but she continues to play an integral role in the life of Sardis Baptist Church. Saturday, June 1st marks 20 years of her ministry at Sardis Baptist Church! On the same day, Kathryn Kreutzer will celebrate her 4th anniversary as a member of our staff, and June 19th marks 3 years of service for Hilary Kearns. Please thank them for their service at Sardis Baptist Church.



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.

April Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
April Actual Offerings.....	\$11,997.00
May Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
May Actual Offerings.....	\$9,959.00
YTD Budgeted Offerings.....	\$62,500.00
YTD Actual Offerings.....	\$48,179.01

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.....	\$9,742.38
Benevolence.....	Individual & Family Needs.....	\$961.76
*Duncan Proceeds.....	Speakers; Budget.....	\$5,230.18
*Hill Proceeds.....	Music; Outreach.....	\$2,118.04
*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.



sardis summer schedule (continued from front page)

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM Churchwide Thought-Starter

The leader for the morning will offer a five-minute thought-starter on the topic of the day, and then moderate an open discussion among the congregation. Questions and thoughts from all perspectives are encouraged. This exercise is intended to attune the whole congregation for worshipful reflection and dialogue throughout the morning.

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Worship

Morning worship will include special music, favorite hymn requests, prayers of celebration and petition, and a short homily, all focused on the daily theme.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM Talkback

This is your chance! Tell the proclaimer what you really think. All are encouraged to offer comments, questions, and other thoughts about the homily. And then, everyone is encouraged to keep a conversation going beyond the walls of Sardis.

questions & answers

What do I need to do to prepare? Nothing. Really. Nothing. Just come ready to be present and open.

Do I have to talk? No, of course not. But the more voices that are heard, the more depth there will be in our exploration of important issues. Plus, we value what you have to say, no matter what it is. And another thing, we worship a God who's big enough and humble enough for you to ask what needs to be asked.

What happens if I show up late, or if I can't come every Sunday? While every week will build on the previous week's topic, you do not need to be present every week to be able to follow along. And if you are late, don't worry. We will make every effort to keep all parties involved in the discussions.

*Sympathies go out to Sardis friends
who have lost loved ones:*

*Betsy Arnett,
Aunt of Kathryn Kreutzer*

*Aaron Washburn,
Cousin of Tillie Duncan*

*Precious Criss
Family Dog of Dan, Sarah and
Tyler Bowlin-Criss*

