

# sardis signposts baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811  
sardisbaptistcharlotte.org

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

9:45 AM  
Sunday School

10:30 AM  
Morning Worship

11:15 AM  
TalkBack

## ECOLOGY OF EMANUEL

Emanuel, *God with us*, is something we often speak of at Sardis, especially during the seasons of Advent and Epiphany. The life of Jesus (not to mention many other manifestations of God throughout history), has born witness to a Creator offering comfort and healing to a world that desperately needs comfort and healing. God is present with us!

Theologian Elizabeth Johnson asks the question, “Who is the ‘us’?” Is it humanity? Or is it everything that creation encompasses?

For four weeks in August and September, we’ll explore the intersection of faith and ecology, and more specifically the role we as Christians play in preserving and protecting the world we inhabit. If we are serious about such a pursuit, it means we must also explore our *us*. It means we must give serious thought to how we create a broader *us* that encompasses not just the whole of humanity, but the whole of creation: trees, streams, animals, microorganisms, entire ecosystems.

For what purpose has God created *us*? How is God’s love recognized in *us*? What do healing, redemption, and salvation mean in light of a broader *us*?

Our goal is to rediscover, and even reimagine our connectedness to God’s created world. Our hope is that a renewed connectedness will spark a desire to care for creation in tangible ways, both individually and communally.



As our new connectedness reveals itself in the coming months, we’ll also be using our Sardis Academy sessions to bring in local community leaders who can share ideas for practicing earth renewal. Some will be easier. Others may stretch our resolve and comfort. (I hope so!)

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. In the interim, start thinking about how big our *us* can be.



## COMMUNION BRUNCH

The Communion Table at Sardis is open. Our table is not reserved for members only—or even Christians only. At God’s table, all are welcome. This sacrament represents God’s unconditional love for all of us, regardless of whether we share religious or political beliefs, no matter what we look like or where we live, and irrespective of what values we hold dear.

We’ll celebrate God’s open table at a Communion Bruch on Sunday, August 11th at 10:30 AM. We’ll transform the sanctuary into a banquet hall. As we eat we will worship around a common table, remembering that worship is conversation and community.

Breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, sweet breads, juice and coffee will be served. Vegan and gluten-free options will be available. Contact the church office if you would like to assist with setup, cleanup or food preparation:  
704.362.0811 or  
info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org.

# Oopen Table

## Communion Brunch

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH AT 10:30 AM

If you've spent much time at Sardis, you might notice that we eat. A lot. Fellowship meals are central to who we are, and what we do. But why? What's the big deal with meals?

For starters, meals are cooperative — they require all forms of participation. Some people make the food. Some people are in charge of logistics. Some have to go shopping, or set up tables and chairs, or lay out tablecloths and silverware, or search the freezers for ice. And there are servants, too, those who make plates and pour drinks. And dishwashers. Blessed are the dishwashers! Someone usually blesses the meal. Sometimes there's entertainment, too. And we need guests. People who come and enjoy the meal, and provide conversation, and add to the presence of community. Meals offer the opportunity for everyone to be involved in some way, big or small. And meals are never diluted by adding more people, nor made insignificant when done with lesser numbers.

I also believe that meals are a way to model worship, and indeed everything we do at Sardis. When we worship each Sunday, there are people who plan, bring their own contributions (songs, prayers, gifts, etc.), or simply participate, and all of them are vital.

Meals also model hospitality. Have you ever been to supper at Sardis, and heard someone tell you there wasn't enough to eat, or that you weren't allowed to go back for seconds, or that you weren't invited because you didn't RSVP, or bring a dish, or that we didn't have enough room? Of course you haven't!!! Because there's always enough: enough food, enough room, enough time, enough flexibility, enough love to go around.

I also think this is what we celebrate when we serve Communion: a table that's always open, always, growing, always transforming to welcome those who seek it, and even those who don't. Lots of people will tell you Communion is supposed to be formal, and rigid, but it isn't. It's just a tangible way to model the radical, intuitive, improvisational hospitality that Jesus practiced.

On Sunday 8/11, we'll host our annual Communion Brunch. And you are invited. While we feast — on food, on spirit, on shared gifts — I hope you'll give thought to how we can use the table to model Christ's hospitality in all that we do.

## Sardis People ~ *Ellen Dillard*

A DIY enthusiast, Ellen Dillard recently spent one of the hot days of July painting the trimming on her house. Other projects include laying the flooring in her house and renovating her bathroom. Her talent for doing things herself comes from her machinist father: "There was nothing he couldn't do." Roxborough, NC is where her father practiced his art and where she grew up along with one sister.



Ellen's other enthusiasms include: Her almost one-year-old granddaughter. "The first time I held her it was pure love!" That love includes one son and one daughter. Walking with her rescue black lab, Miles and spending time with Patrick, her rescue cat. Reading various genres of literature. One of her most recent reads is [The Warmth of Other Suns](#), a recounting of the African American migration from the South. Her job. She is the program secretary at St. Stephen United Methodist Church, supporting the youth, the children's and two music ministers.

She holds a degree in counseling from Appalachian University. Her undergraduate degree is in theology and psychology; a masters degree, in student development. After completing her studies, Ellen moved to Charlotte because of the larger job market. Her main career has been with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. She began as a teacher's assistant and then moved to the school office as secretary, serving at Huntingtowne Farms elementary, Beverly Woods Elementary, and Myers Park High School. (She was especially enthusiastic about working in high school.) She moved to CMS administrative offices, served in various divisions and retired from human resources department.

Ellen began attending Sardis after the Good Friday service held here. "I feel embraced every time I come," she affirms.

## Best Volunteer Ever!

*We're so grateful for your help!*

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 appreciate the following people who served as worship leaders in July: Ron Demme, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Irena Hramenkova, Tatiana Karpova, Hilary Kearns, Lisa Kennedy, Debbie Kidd, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jean Lawrence, Howell Peterson, June Ross, Hannah Shepard-Moore, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman, Joe Wall and Micah White.

We are grateful for the shared talents during Special Music last month: Irena Hramenkova, Tatiana Karpova, Hilary Kearns, Debbie Kidd, Lilian Parks and Micah White.

Thank you to those who shared their love with our youngest friends during worship care in July! We are grateful to our choir members for giving our regular Worship Care volunteer a break during the Summer months: Tillie Duncan, Billie Hutchison, Jim Owen, Kristin Parker, Danny Phillips, and Susan Phillips.

Hours worth of ground maintenance was required following recent storms. We are grateful to Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips and Bob Stillerman for clearing fallen trees and brush on the portion of our property adjacent to Livingston Drive.

We appreciate our new nylon tablecloths for use in the picnic shelter. Betty Gunz repurposed some fabric scraps from a bygone Sardis project and pieced them into water-resistant, washable table coverings. Thank you!

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 appreciate the leadership of our Sunday School teachers: Bob Stillerman and Tillie Duncan in the Adult Class; Jonathan Eidson and Hilary Kearns in the Children's Class.

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!

## Prayer MINISTRY

### CELEBRATIONS

We are thrilled that the Mata family is growing! They are expecting a baby boy this month.

Billie Hutchison & Debbie Kidd welcomed Vadim into their home every summer of his youth to give him time away from the toxicity of his environment in Belarus following the Chernobyl incident. They welcome Vadim, his wife Veronica, and their daughter Kira back to NC for a visit in August.

### CONDOLENCES

Rev. Keith Bingham, former pastor of St. Stephen UMC, passed away due to complications from the stroke he had in February.

### PETITIONS

Fay Alderman ▪ Judy Blevins, friend of Kristin Parker ▪ Sammy Boone, nephew of Deborah Clark ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Cill, Katey Mata's mother ▪ Kay, cousin of Deborah Clark ▪ 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 ▪ David Kearns, cousin of Hilary Kearns ▪ Anya, Jean Lawrence's granddaughter ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪ Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother ▪ Becky Proctor ▪ Gene Rector, Hilary Kearns' great-uncle ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Stephanie & Nick, Katey Mata's sister ▪ Debbie, friend of Jo Tiddy ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips ▪ Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy ▪ Debbie Wike, former member of Sardis Baptist Church

Thought you  
might need a little  
pick-me-up  
today so I prayed  
for you.







Rev. Jonathan Eidson

I saw a different side of Unidiversity this year. A friend of mine and Pastor Bob's, John Callaway, the camp musician, asked me to play drums in the Unidiversity band. It was a wonderful experience. In addition to playing the theme song each morning in celebration and evening in worship we played songs the campers could sing along with as well as a few performed by the band alone.

I have a funny memory from when John sent the members of the band the theme song; he said, "Here's the song you're going to hate by the end of next week!" He must have written it well though because none of us hated it and the campers loved it.

If you're interested in hearing it or anything else, you can go to the Unidiversity web page to the worship streams: <http://unidiversity.org/university-camp>.

### *Thanks for the Spirit of God in our Lives*

~ Michael Morwood

*We give thanks for the Spirit of God  
in our world  
and in all people.*

*We give thanks for the people  
who show us what the Spirit of God can do  
when they allow the Spirit to work in their lives.*

*We give thanks for their wisdom,  
for their care and concern for others,  
for their generosity and courage,  
and for the many ways  
they make the world a better place.*

*We give thanks for the Spirit of God in our lives,  
in our own particular gifts and abilities.*

*May we use our own gifts of the Spirit well  
so that God's Spirit will be seen in all we do and say.  
Amen.*

## Time to Hit the Well! CASWELL!

When is it? I'm glad you asked! The CBF Fall Beach Retreat is September 20 – 22. This year's theme is "Be Still..." and we'll be considering the spiritual discipline of rest. How can we be still when our schedules are packed, we get too little sleep and societal expectations are that we're always on the go? We'll be making the discovery ourselves with the leadership of Jenny Lee, our retreat pastor and Rody Mastin, our camp musician. (She was with us two years ago.)



**Here's the surprising part! The retreat participation cost is \$0.00! (You only have to pay if you sign-up but don't show-up.) We need to know if you want to go so sign-up for you and your friends by Sunday, August 11!**

I have some fond memories of being at the NC Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. You don't have to take my word for how amazing it was. Here's what several of our youth said.

*"My favorite part of this weekend was the beach and going to services and doing things new." I also liked being with Hilary and J Swizz! ~ Summer*

*"My favorite thing at the retreat was swimming in the ocean." I also liked being with Hilary and J Swizz! ~ Elizabeth*

*"My favorite part of the trip was probably our retreat pastor Mrs. Angel Pittman. I say that because she sent out a really good message and was a good person to be around. I also enjoyed the Provision Company." I also liked being with Hilary and J Swizz! ~ Madison*

Okay, I added the part about being with Hilary and J Swizz but trust me, there's a good chance they did like it!



## **SARDIS WORSHIP LEADERS**

### **AUGUST 4, 2019**

#### **Worship Care**

Mary Jane Osborne & Valerie Rutherford

#### **Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

Marge Fowler

#### **Ushers**

Greg Clark, Elizabeth Beltzhoover, Janet Beltzhoover

### **AUGUST 11, 2019**

#### **Worship Care**

June Ross & Adam Taylor

#### **Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

Howell Peterson

#### **Ushers**

Janie Harris, Jean Lawrence, Howell Peterson

### **AUGUST 18, 2019**

#### **Worship Care**

Janie Harris & Jacqueline Stillerman

#### **Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

Ron Demme

#### **Ushers**

Sarah Bowlin-Criss, Ron Demme, Valerie Rutherford

### **AUGUST 25, 2019**

#### **Worship Care**

Lisa Kennedy & Krista Sigmon

#### **Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

John Simpson

#### **Ushers**

Janette Grassi, June Ros, John Simpson



## **NOTES FROM HILARY**

This Summer has been wonderful and we have enjoyed worshipping with talented guest musicians! But the Sardis

Choir's Summer sabbatical is coming to an end. Choir practice resumes on Wednesday, August 7th at 7:30 PM.

The staff and I want to thank the choir members for serving in Worship Care this Summer and we hope that this break was relaxing and restful for our regular Worship Care volunteers.

## **At-one-ment**







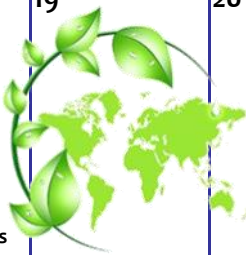



We welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Moore as guest proclaimer for the final Sunday in our series on Christian language. On Sunday, August 4th, he'll lead us in discussion about atonement. What does atonement mean to you, and what does it mean to the Church at large? A group thought-starter will begin at 9:45, followed by worship at 10:30, concluding with a talk-back following worship.



THE WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT STEWARDS WILL MEET ON AUGUST 18TH TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR SPECIAL SERVICES IN THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. THE TEAM WILL BEGIN PLANNING FOR OUR 4TH ANIMAL BLESSING, WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AND ALL SAINTS SUNDAY. THE SEASON OF ADVENT FALLS SHORTLY THEREAFTER, SO THEY HAVE MUCH TO PONDER AND PLAN. OUR STAFF IS GRATEFUL FOR THE THOUGHTFULNESS AND CREATIVITY THIS TEAM BRINGS TO WORSHIP AT SARDIS BAPTIST.

# Sardis Baptist Church — Calendar

# AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Speaking Christian Rev. Tim Moore	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Choir Practice Resumes	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 AM—1 PM Mary Allen's Birthday Party 
<b>11</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Communion Brunch Noon Church Conference Deacons Meeting	<b>12</b>  	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School Toddler Class 10:30 AM Environmental Focus Noon Worship Development	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 	<b>22</b>	<div>  <p> <b>9/1—10:30 Worship</b>  <b>9/8—10:30 Worship—Ecology</b>  <b>9/11— 5:45 PM Dinner, 6:30 Sardis Academy</b>  <b>9/15—10:30 Worship—Ecology</b>  <b>9/18—5:45 PM Dinner, 6:30 Sardis Academy</b>  <b>9/20—Bob's Staff Anniversary</b>  <b>9/20 to 22—Youth Beach Retreat</b>  <b>9/28—Animal Blessing</b>  <b>9/28—Shower for Hilary &amp; Sam</b> </p> </div>	
<b>25</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Environmental Focus	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 	<b>29</b>		

## DONATIONS

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.

June Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
June Actual Offerings.....	\$11,841.06
July Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
July Actual Offerings.....	\$8,899.67
YTD Budgeted Offerings.....	\$87,500.00
YTD Actual Offerings.....	\$68,944.76

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.....	\$9,710.38
Benevolence.....	Individual & Family Needs.....	\$930.12
*Duncan Proceeds.....	Speakers; Budget.....	\$5,432.73
*Hill Proceeds.....	Music; Outreach.....	\$1,215.97
*Odom Proceeds.....	Children & Youth.....	\$8,508.29
Maintenance Escrow.....	Upkeep & Repairs.....	\$17,515.58
*Balance reflects proceeds currently available, principal balances, not listed, vary with market conditions.		

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Sardis Baptist Church  
we collected more coins than  
ever before during our drive for  
Medicine from the Heart!

### \$487.79

These funds will be donated to  
residents of Baptist Retirement  
Homes to help them purchase  
needed medications.

We will participate in this annual  
drive again in 2020. Please start  
collecting coins now!



## BOARD BRIEFS

The Board of Trustees has begun the process of procuring estimates for minor repairs to rooms in both the meetinghouse and education building. These repairs include painting, shining/restoring linoleum floors, repairing torn/damaged carpeting and floor molding, and other minor issues. The long-term goal of these projects is to better utilize existing space to meet our current needs for worship, education, and fellowship. More details will be revealed in the coming months.





CHURCH *is not*  
A BUILDING YOU GO TO,  
IT IS *a family* YOU BELONG TO

## ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Parents who are struggling to find secure housing or put food on the table are often unable to provide the long list of school supplies requested by teachers — and schools operating with tight budgets are not able to fill in the gaps. We are holding a school supply drive in August to help these students and families. Following is a list of requested items:

**Backpacks (no wheels) • Pencil Boxes or Pouches • Spiral Notebooks • Composition Notebooks • 1" and 2" Binders • Colored Pencils • 24-Count Crayons • Markers • Rulers • Large Gluesticks • School Scissors • #2 Pencils • Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper • Plastic Pocket Folders • Ziplock Bags • Clorox Wipes • Tissues • Hand Sanitizer**

## CLT MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

Volunteers of Charlotte's Migrant Assistance Project are grateful to Sardis Baptist for our continued support of their efforts. Please continue to assist through donations the following items for the people seeking asylum from dangerous situations in their countries:

**Bottled Water • Tuna and/or Chicken Packets • Crackers • String Bags • Small Toys • Baby Food • Basic Toiletries • Diapers and/or Wipes • Feminine Hygiene Products**

