

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

11:00 AM
Morning Worship

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sardis Baptist Church will host a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, September 28th at 10:00 AM. The service is an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for every animal in our biosphere. All animals, insects and even micro-organisms play a role in our ecosystem, and we'll give thanks for them all. Our pets have a special place in our lives and will have a special place in this service. Pet companions model unconditional love and affection. For many people, they provide companionship that is unavailable elsewhere. The service will offer a chance for each family's pet to receive an individual blessing, as well as a time of remembrance for departed pets. Children are encouraged to bring their favorite stuffed animals—teddy bears and stuffed flamingos need blessings too!

The Animal Blessing will take place next to the Sardis Picnic Pavilion on 5811 Sardis Road. Please do not bring food for your pets! We will have water bowls and dog treats available for our furry friends. For the safety of people and pets in attendance, all animals must be in pet cages or on leashes. We wish to bless our animals, not traumatize them, so please leave "scaredy cats" (and other pets) at home! Prayers transcend distance, so presence is not required. We encourage you to bring photos of pets with social anxiety or poor manners. We'll bless them from afar.

Our friends from Bullies 2 the Rescue will join us for this event. They'll gladly accept donations to support their efforts to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home French and English Bulldogs. Sardis friends are creating a photo display of beloved animals to remind us to continue offering prayers of health and thanksgiving for our animal friends in the months ahead. Bring or email your photo to the church office: info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org.

ECOLOGY OF EMANUEL

In the remaining weeks of our ecological series, we hope to strengthen our emotional connection to creation, the kind of connection that's needed to overcome our desire for convenience and our assumption of unlimited resources. Ecology of Emanuel will conclude in the middle of this month. Information about the last two Sundays in the series is below:

9/8— CREATURES HAVE VALUE

Scripture: Psalm 148

Sermon Topic: The praise of God is our primary purpose as created beings. What happens when we acknowledge nature's joint effort in our collective praise?

Talk-Back: Creatures (non-humans) have value. And creatures converse with God. What happens when we consider that God is in parallel, meaningful relationships with all elements of creation, not just humanity?

9/15— THE WORD AMONG US

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Sermon Topic: The Word lived and dwelled among us. If "us" is bigger than humanity, what does the life and work of Jesus mean for the whole of creation?

Talk-Back: Emanuel – God with us. How big is our us? What happens when we imagine that "us" encompasses all of creation? How does that change our language, our liturgies, and our outlook on God's world?

OUR SPECIAL SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES IS ENDING MID-MONTH.
REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 22ND:
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45 AM; WORSHIP AT 11:00.



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

Last Friday, I stopped by the Arboretum shopping center for a quick errand. Our town has a Labor Day parade, and I wanted to find something red, white and blue that my girls and I could wear – we love to dress in themes. Alas, we were too late – it may have been August 30th, but the winter clothes were already on display. We settled for slim pickings in the clearance rack. In the parking lot on our way out we noticed a bin of pumpkins, and boxes of Halloween candy and costumes to be stocked in the days to come. And just this morning, Jacqueline and I considered early voting.

What happened to September and October?!? We live in a fast-paced world, one that expects you to be in a season well in advance of the actual season. And when the day/season actually gets here, you can't enjoy it, because you've got to prepare for the next thing in line.

We often ask the question: "What distinguishes faith communities from other communities?" I think our liturgies distinguish us. Our liturgies (that's a fancy way of saying our formal worship routines and traditions) are meant to establish a recognition, enjoyment and response to the seasons of life. Not before they happen. But as they are happening.

So...there may not be any Halloween Candy left at Walmart or Harris Teeter after October 1st, but we'll enjoy a Pumpkin Glow on October 27th, and we'll remember our saints or "hallowed ones" on November 3rd. We'll worship every Sunday, and we'll even share a few Sardis Academy meals (two this month! 9/11 and 9/18). But don't worry, you won't need an advanced reservation, nor will the hymns, prayers, sermons, and spirit be out of stock.

At Sardis, we're all about being present in this season. Because when we're present in the current season, be it ordinal, special, or once-in-a-generation, we allow ourselves to be mindful of all God has created, and to recognize our connectedness as part of God's creation. And that's real, not manufactured or manipulated by a retail calendar.

So come be part of the season, Sardis. But no need to rush. We plan to linger here for a little while.



Sardis People ~

Amy Wiebke



Community is an integral part of Amy Wiebke's being. At present she is making weighted blankets which are given to children with autism. Snuggling in this kind of quilt makes a child feel safe and secure as if (s)he is being hugged. Several other community organizations have benefitted from Amy's involvement. In the past she joined Habitat as a free-lance volunteer builder. With a group from St. Stephen, she provided, prepared and served dinner to the occupants of the Men's Shelter. She served through RAIN, ministering to people suffering from AIDS. During the time that her two daughters were growing up, she volunteered in various capacities in their schools.

Amy learned early that community and neighborliness is international. Along with her two brothers and her parents, she lived in Pittsburgh during her early childhood years. Her family often hosted international students from the near-by university, particularly during times that U.S. students went home for holidays.

The family moved to Charlotte as Amy moved into high school; she graduated from East Meck and then attended UNC-Charlotte, graduating with a degree in economics. She held part-time jobs with Harris-Teeter while in high school and college, and upon graduation became employed full-time in H-T's merchandising department and then in financial services. Now, post full-time mom/volunteer, Amy works two days a week at Green with Envy, a gift shop in Plaza-Midwood.

Amy's family includes husband Mark and adult daughters Emma and Katie. She enjoys walking, hiking and biking especially when she gets away to the mountains. Reading is also a favorite pastime. She describes Sardis as "the most warm and welcoming place of worship she has ever attended. Though small, it is big in many ways!"

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!

« GRATEFULNESS »

Our Communion Brunch was a time of fellowship and fabulous fare. We offer thanksgiving to **ALL** (too many to list) who helped make it a sacred and scrumptious time of worship. In addition to Sardis friends, we remember with gratitude: animals, farmers, transporters, grocers, and others who make our meals possible.

Worship planning is underway for special events in our future. We are grateful to our Worship Development stewards for the time, thought and creativity shared during their August planning session: Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Janette Grassi, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Susan Phillips, Becky Proctor, Robin Rowland, and Bob Stillerman.

We appreciate the following people who served as worship leaders in August: Greg Clark, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Irena Hramenkova, Hilary Kearns, Kathryn Kreutzer, Tim Moore, Michael Shepard-Moore, Howell Peterson, Bob Stillerman and Joe Wall.

Thank you to those who shared their love with our youngest friends during worship care in August! Rachel Faulk, Janie Harris, Lisa Kennedy, Madison Kreutzer, Mary Jane Osborne, Krista Sigmon, Jacqueline Stillerman.

We gladly welcome the Sardis choir back to the loft. Their "joyful noise" was missed during the Summer. We give thanks for the talent and skill they share with us in worship leadership each Sunday.

For years we've tried to find a locksmith willing to repair a malfunctioning lock in the education building. Danny Phillips to the rescue! We are grateful for his handyman abilities (Jim's and Howell's too!).

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!



SARDIS PRAYER LIST

CELEBRATIONS

Kate & Jose Mata have expanded their family - and our Sardis family too! We are thrilled to welcome Julian and look forward to meeting him soon. CONGRATULATIONS to the Mata family!

CONDOLENCES

Don DePaul passed away last week following his battle with dementia and pancreatic cancer. A memorial service will be held at Sardis Baptist Church on September 14th at 3 PM.

PETITIONS

Fay Alderman ▪ Judy Blevins, friend of Kristin Parker
▪ Sammy Boone, nephew of Deborah Clark ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Carson, friend of Grey Sigmon ▪ Kay, cousin of Deborah Clark ▪ Sonny Cole, Marge Fowler's brother ▪ Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband ▪ Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother ▪ Dan Criss, Sarah Bowlin's husband ▪ Nancy Darnell ▪ 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 ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪ Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother ▪ Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz ▪ Becky Proctor ▪ Gene Rector, Hilary Kearns' great-uncle ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Bob Rowland, Robin's father ▪ 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

FORT CASWELL NC Baptist Assembly

I still remember my first trip to the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. I was a student at Southeastern Seminary before the fall. I had just returned from Israel where I had, for two months, been a part of an archeological dig at Tel Mique Ekron. (I was digging in 7th Century BCE and we also had 10th Century BCE as well.) Prior to departing the United States for Israel, I interviewed for a part-time job as youth minister at First Baptist Church in Raleigh. I

had to leave before learning whether or not I got the job. Anne and I were dating at the time and she would learn my fate and relay that to me in Israel when I called from a pay phone at a pre-arranged time. Back then, a phone was a phone and a cell was just a cozy room in a prison. When I called Anne, she told me I had been called to FBC Raleigh.



At the end of the excavation season I took a brief trip to Egypt (hello pyramids, hello sphinx) and then flew back to Raleigh. I went to the office at FBC on a Thursday, joined the church on Sunday, had a fellowship and met the youth that night and departed for Youth Week at Caswell with them the following morning not knowing quite what to expect.

If you've ever been to Fort Caswell, you probably remember crossing the Oak Island bridge and driving the Caswell Road until it dead ends at the entrance to the Fort where, despite having our church name painted all over the van, we were thoroughly scrutinized by the security personnel. Driving into the grounds, you see a blending of past and present. The old fort covers much of the campus and many of the buildings around the parade ground have repeatedly been renovated and are in use today including the barracks building (where our group stays). I still remember being amazed by the beauty of the grounds. The Cape Fear River ambles by on one side of the camp and you can see South Port across it to the north and Bald Head Island to the east. You can stand on the beach and look at the Atlantic Ocean.

I was struck by the realization that a former military installation could be transformed into a facility hosting faith enriching programming providing spiritual growth for so many.

This trip, my first to Fort Caswell, took place 31 years ago in August of 1988. I bought Anne's engagement ring a month before! My co-chaperone for this year's trip, Hilary Kearns, had not been born yet.

Beach Retreat 2019

Fast forward to 2019! The CBF Fall Beach Retreat is September 20 – 22 at Fort Caswell. 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. This is a free retreat for our youth! Contact Jonathan or Hilary for more information.

THANK YOU GOD FOR HELPERS

Our toddler Sunday School class will learn about God's helpers during September. Lessons will include the familiar stories of "The Good Samaritan" and "The Boy Who Shared His Lunch". Activities will help our kids recognize the everyday helpers in their lives: doctors and nurses, veterinarians, police officers, teachers, recyclers, volunteers, etc.





SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

Worship Care

Rachel Faulk & TBD

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Joe Wall

Ushers

Betty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy, Joe Wall

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Worship Care

Janet Beltzhoover and Betty Gunz

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Marge Fowler

Ushers

Greg Clark, Magay Shepard

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Worship Care

Sarah Bowlin-Criss and Amanda Lewis

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Howell Peterson

Ushers

Janie Harris, Jean Lawrence, Howell Peterson

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Worship Care

David Kreutzer and Tammy Taylor

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Ron Demme

Ushers

Sarah Bowlin-Criss, Ron Demme, Valerie Rutherford

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

Worship Care

To Be Determined

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

John Simpson

Ushers

Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson



AMY BROOKS OF GREENFAITH WILL JOIN US FOR SARDIS ACADEMY ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH. SHE WILL LEAD US IN A SESSION ON APPLYING CREATION-CENTERED FAITH INTO OUR DAILY LIVES. DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 5:45 PM FOLLOWED BY PROGRAMMING AT 6:30.

be still be free

We are in such a rush with packed schedules, too little sleep, and societal expectations that success means always being on the go. When do we experience the spiritual discipline of rest? Jonathan and Hilary will help us find the answer to this question during Sardis Academy on Wednesday, September 18th. Dinner will be served at 5:45 PM followed by programming at 6:30.

Creator God,

You make all things and weave them together in an intricate tapestry of life.

Teach us to respect the fragile balance of life and to care for all the gifts of your creation.

Guide by your wisdom those who have power and authority, that, by the decisions they make, life may be cherished and a good and fruitful Earth may continue to show your glory and sing your praises.

Almighty God,

You have called us to tend and keep the garden of your creation.

Give us wisdom and reverence for all your plants and animals who share this planet with us and whose lives make possible our own.

Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life and join with us in giving you praise.

Amen.

(From the National Council of Churches)



Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar

SEPTEMBER

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|---|-----------|--|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>12th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>No Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> | <p>2</p>  | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>13th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Thought Starter</p> <p>10:30 AM Environmental Focus</p> <p>Quarterly Conference</p> <p>Deacons Meeting</p>  | <p>9</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>6:30 PM GreenFaith</p> <p>7:45 PM Chancel Choir</p>  | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p>  <p>Memorial Service</p> <p>Don DePaul</p> <p>3:00 PM</p> <p>Visitation Following</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>14th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Thought Starter</p> <p>Toddler Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Environmental Focus</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>6:30 PM "Be Still..."</p> <p>Jonathan & Hilary</p> <p>7:45 PM Chancel Choir</p>  | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Bob's 4th Staff Anniversary</p> <p>Youth Beach Retreat</p>  | <p>21</p> <p>Youth Beach Retreat</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>15th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>Youth Beach Retreat</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>10:00 AM Animal Blessing</p>  |
| <p>29</p> <p>16th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:30 AM Shower for Hilary & Sam</p> <p>11:00 AM Rev. Tillie Duncan</p> | <p>30</p>  | <p>OCTOBER DATES TO SAVE:</p> <p>10/2—Dinner & Sardis Academy</p> <p>10/6—World Communion Sunday</p> <p>10/13—Baby Dedication</p> <p>10/16—Dinner & Sardis Academy</p> <p>10/20—Toddler Sunday School</p> <p>10/20—CROP Walk</p> <p>10/27—Pumpkin Glow</p> <div>  <p>CROP HUNGER WALK</p> <p>ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME</p> </div> | | | | |



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.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| July Budgeted Offerings..... | \$12,500.00 |
| July Actual Offerings..... | \$8,899.69 |
| August Budgeted Offerings..... | \$12,500.00 |
| August Actual Offerings..... | \$8,411.00 |
| YTD Budgeted Offerings..... | \$100,000.00 |
| YTD Actual Offerings..... | \$77,355.76 |

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..... | \$7,858.29 |
| Maintenance Escrow...Upkeep & Repairs... | \$17,515.58 |

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



Sardis Baptist holds one conference per quarter, as required by the church by-laws. Our next church conference is scheduled for Sunday, September 8th (originally scheduled for August). Please plan to stay briefly following worship to give members of our Deacons, Trustees, and Board on Stewards an opportunity to share updates regarding their work. If you have a matter you'd like discussed at a church conference, please share it with a member of our staff or boards.



Charlotte CROP is a poverty fighting organization that honors the call to improve the quality of life of people suffering from poverty and hunger. They educate, inspire and empower the Charlotte community to become agents of change through fund-raising events with local and international impact.

Sardis Baptist is building a team of walkers to participate in the annual CROP Walk on Sunday, October 20th. The length of the walk is 3.6 miles, which symbolizes the average round trip people in developing nations make daily to get water.

You can register to join our team or to sponsor Sardis walkers with donations at:

CropHungerWalk.org/CharlotteNC/SardisBaptist



*The Deacons of
Sardis Baptist Church
Kindly Request Your Presence
for Breakfast and a Wedding Shower
Honoring*

*Hilary Kearns
and
Sam McIntyre*

*Sunday, September 29th, 2019
9:30 AM in the Education Building of Sardis Baptist Church*

Registered at Belk, Target and The Knot