

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



WHY I WALK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20th @ 2:30 PM

Sardis will join other faith communities for the 41st annual Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk on October 20th. Funds raised from the walk will go to provide food, build wells, and help implement much-needed infrastructure in food-insecure places around the globe.

Our team goal is to have 25 walkers and raise \$2,500. Please consider how you might be able to walk, donate, or support our efforts through prayer and awareness. You can register to walk or donate by visiting the Sardis team page <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/charlottenc/SardisBaptist> or the display in the vestibule. Let's end hunger together!

In this age of polarization, there are very few things we can agree on, but some things transcend politics. One of those things is the right of all people, especially children, to have consistent access to food and clean water.

It's not that we have a lack of these things. Instead, it's a problem of resource allocation. And not just in places far away from Charlotte. As a matter of fact, nearly one in four NC school children are food insufficient, meaning that they aren't sure where their next meal will come from. There are neighbors right here in Mecklenburg County that don't have access to clean water, nor do they have consistent access to supermarkets that offer the fresh produce and clean foods that children (and adults) need to thrive.

Again, it's not for lack of these things. Rather, it's because of an indifference to waste and resource allocation. The annual CROP Hunger Walk of Charlotte, NC (and others like it around the country) provides much needed awareness to the issues surrounding global and local hunger. And it gives us a tangible way to help.

We'll walk nearly four miles, the average distance that persons in underdeveloped areas walk for clean water. While walking, we'll converse with other people of faith, and see how our neighborhoods are interconnected. Signs and statistics will dot our walk, reminding us of how, where, and when people are affected by hunger. Our efforts will raise money to fight hunger around the globe, as well as in and around the Charlotte community.

But CROP Walk's success isn't just about miles walked or dollars raised. It's about sustaining intentional behavior to eradicate hunger. When we know where our food comes from, how and to whom it's distributed (or not distributed), and the effect our food practices have on our neighbors, we become more empathetic, more pro-active, and more determined to be good neighbors – neighbors who feed the world, not hoard its food.

If you can't walk or donate, please consider ways you might become informed about hunger issues in our community, and use the knowledge you gain to help steer your prayers and conversations.



You're Invited! Picnic and Pumpkin Carving



Sunday, October 27th
4:00 PM
Sardis Baptist Picnic Shelter

Main Dish Provided

Please bring:

- side dish or dessert
- pumpkin
- favorite carving tools



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

WORLD COMMUNION – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th

More than two thousand years ago, thousands of miles away, in an upper room, Jesus shared a simple meal with a couple dozen of his closest friends. He told them that the bread and cup were for them; he told them that he loved them; he told them that each time they gathered in the same manner, his spirit would be there. And it was. And it has been. And it still is. And it always will be. Thanks be to God!

The spirit of that first table has drifted through space and time, spanning continents and generations, and sustaining and sharing the radical hospitality of Jesus.

On Sunday 10/6, we'll celebrate the global nature of this table. Christians around the world will speak the ancient words in their own tongues, partake in the bread and cup of their native diets, and somehow, somehow, we'll all be connected.

To honor this global table, our worship will include special music, a presentation of breads from around the world, and an intentional reflection on what Christianity looks, feels, and sounds like in a myriad of cultures.

Most Communion Sundays, we challenge Sardis members to imagine that our table has wheels. We imagine what happens when our table expands beyond our walls. On World Communion Sunday, we'll let that table come to us. We'll allow the witness of Christians from around the world to inform our faith, mimic their hospitality, and hopefully experience the love and spirit of Jesus in new and exciting ways.

Our table is set, and we hope you can join us!



Sardis People ~

MARK WIEBKE

Mark Wiebke loves airplanes. The art of flying captivates him. He holds a commercial pilot's license and is also certified to teach flying. "It is fascinating to look at earth from the perspective" of the clouds, he says. "I miss flying; haven't had a chance to do so for a few years."

However, Mark's work keeps him close to airplanes. He is an engineer at Charlotte Douglas Airport. His job as planning director keeps him looking twenty years into the future. He anticipates what the future demand for air service will be and plans accordingly with what land needs to be acquired, what runways and buildings need to be built.

Mark's first job was with Duke Energy here in Charlotte, taken upon his graduation from Virginia Tech. Both he and his two brothers hold civil engineering degrees from that institution. They grew up in Roanoke, VA.

His second love takes him from the air into the water. His two daughters, Emma and Katie were swimmers. That led Mark to become an official referee at their year-round swim meets. He also officiates at college meets at some of the local colleges – Queens, Wingate, Catawba, Lenoir-Rhyne. And he could volunteer to officiate at some of the Olympic trial meets. Mark also jumps into the water at times. He swam in the Dammed Catawba River Challenge in Mountain Island Lake.

Along with wife Amy, Mark feels at home at Sardis. They like our welcoming and open congregation and feel that they are worshipping among friends.

SARDIS PRAYER LIST

CELEBRATIONS

Sammy Boon, nephew of Deborah Clark, will return from deployment in the Middle East this month.

Melissa Bowlin welcomed an new grand-niece on September 23rd: TatumRae Thompson. Congratulations!

Kate & Jose Mata have expanded their family - and our Sardis family too! We are thrilled to welcome Julian. Congratulations to the Mata family!

PETITIONS

Fay Alderman • Judy Blevins, friend of Kristin Parker • Gaye Booth, friend of Marge and Ellen • Melissa Bowlin • Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother • Carson, friend of Grey Sigmon • Sonny Cole, Marge Fowler's brother • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Nancy Darnell • Betsy DePaul • Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky Owen • Gennelle Hall, Mother of Jessica Wallace (Bullies 2 the Rescue) • Larry Harrell • 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 • Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt • Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother • Sam McIntyre • Freddie Moore, Deborah Clark's father • Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz • Danny Phillips • Becky Proctor • Gene Rector, Hilary Kearns' great-uncle • Mala Reynolds • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Stephanie & Nick, Katey Mata's sister • Kitty (Catherine) Tate, Becky Proctor's sister • Debbie, friend of Jo Tiddy • Tonya, daughter of June Ross • Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy •



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 offer thanksgiving to those who helped with Wednesday night fellowship suppers in September: Tillie Duncan, Betty Gunz, Billie Hutchison, Debbie Kidd, Alcie Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jim Owen and Howell Peterson.

We are grateful to the Mutual Care Team for providing a wonderful meal for Betsy DePaul and her extended family members following Don's funeral: Deborah Clark, Tillie Duncan, Janette Grassi, Kathryn Kreutzer, Krista Sigmon and Bob Stillerman.

We appreciate Jonathan Eidson and Hilary Kearns for dedicating their valuable time to Sardis youth and friends during the annual beach retreat.

Woof, woof! Meow, meow! Thank you to those who planned, prepared and cleaned up following our 4th annual Animal Blessing: Jonathan Eidson, Betty Gunz, Bennett Henkel, Hilary Kearns, Alcie Kreutzer, David Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Howell Peterson, Susan Phillips, Robin Rowland, Bob Stillerman and Joe Wall.

Here Comes the Bride! We are grateful for our deacons and those who helped them with the wedding shower honoring Hilary Kearns and Sam McIntyre: Tillie Duncan, Marge Fowler, Billie Hutchison, Amanda Lewis, Jose Mata, John Simpson, Bob Stillerman and Amy Wiebke.

We appreciate the following people who served as worship leaders last month: Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Irena Hramenkova, Billie Hutchison, Hilary Kearns, Debbie Kidd, Kathryn Kreutzer, Howell Peterson, Bob Stillerman, Joe Wall and of course the Sardis Baptist Chancel Choir!

Thank you to those who shared their love with our youngest friends during worship care in August! Sarah Bowlin-Criss, Rachel Faulk, Betty Gunz, David Kreutzer, Madison Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Mary Jane Osborne, Valerie Rutherford 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 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!

Retreat Reflections - Fort Caswell 2019

This weekend at Fort Caswell may have been our best yet. Not only was the weather all weekend beautiful, 80° and sunny with a light breeze, but we also had a blast and some serious good luck.

When we arrived Friday evening, we had to enter worship late and I was almost worried that this was a bad omen for the rest of the trip. It was late when we got to the barracks to unpack our belongings, around 11pm, and Jonathan still had to sit in a group leader's meeting. As the girls and I got settled in and began our bedtime routines something else happened that made me worry for the state of this trip—I found the biggest cockroach I have ever seen climbing on the bunk next to mine. The four of us were not willing to touch the thing, so someone from another group had to come kill it for us. We knew it would be hours before we could calm down enough to rest.

But then, a miracle! Mere seconds after this roach's life ended Jonathan sent me a message, "do you want to sleep in a cabin?" It was already midnight, but I told the other girls and their faces lit up. We had to wait for confirmation from Jonathan's friend Kevin from Mount Airy, but at the go ahead we began the mad dash to unmake our beds and re-stuff our belongings back into our suitcases. When we got to Yucca, our new home, the Mount Airy group was waiting to hold the door for us, they helped us carry our bags upstairs, and we knew that our luck had changed.

Saturday, although we had only gotten about 5 hours of sleep apiece, we were all so much more engaged in what was happening. Our speaker for the weekend, Jenny Lee, talked about fear, anxiety, and stress, and in our small groups we played timed games to simulate these feelings. We learned some mindfulness practices to help all of us, and especially the teens in the audience, become better at dealing with the pressures of life in 2019.

Of course, the weekend wasn't all serious. Saturday afternoon was our free time with our church groups. We had lunch at the Provision Company for the second year in a row, followed by ice cream at Flava's Ice Cream Shop. When we got back to camp, we dressed and went to the beach. We stayed for a few minutes, then hopped over to the pool. This was the perfect choice because we were able to hear ourselves talk, people could lay out in the sun on actual lounge chairs, and the water wasn't a murky brown.

Worship that evening was a beautiful mix of thoughtful questions for the group and comforting scripture with answers. The music, provided by Rhody Mastin, fit the theme of Be Still to a T. The main song our group responded to was "Honest", which has a remarkably catchy chorus. We all found ourselves singing back and forth to each other, "I'm alone... no you're not. I'm alone... no you're not," incessantly.

But of everything we did, Saturday night was by far everyone's favorite. Following worship, we had devotions scheduled with our own individual youth groups. We decided to go out to the fishing pier for ours. Each devotion had two parts—a discussion about a specific scripture or topic followed by a corresponding activity. The activity for Saturday night was called "Star Gazing." I won't go into detail but suffice it to say that this game is hilarious, and if you want to see videos of all of us laughing our heads off while falling to the ground, just ask." ~ Hilary

"We had a great group, great fortune and a great weekend! The great group was Hilary, Lilly, Madison, Rio, Summer and me. The great fortune was an upgrade in lodging from the barracks to a cabin. A long-time friend of mine, Kevin Wilson was there (Youth minister to my nieces and nephew when they were all youth at First Baptist Church of Mount Airy). The group he was with was put in a larger cabin than they had requested so they only used the bottom level and invited us to use the upper level. The great weekend was spending time together resting, playing, laughing, growing and enjoying nature and each other! We had perfect weather and wonderful company!!" ~ J Swizzle

"What I really liked about this trip is we got to stay in a cabin and it was really fun, and we met people and played more games."

~ Summer

"I really liked going to the beach and hanging out with friends. We had a lot of fun and I can't wait to go again next year." ~ Rio

"I loved spending time outside together and going to the beach and getting away from social media, and getting closer with people and making new friends." ~ Lilly

"I very much so enjoyed my time at Caswell. I love that I seem to get to know everyone a little bit more each and every one of these trips. I liked having the choice to unplug and relax. I'm looking forward to the next trip!" ~ Madison



SARDIS YOUTH & CHILDREN CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

WORSHIP volunteers

OCTOBER 6, 2019

Worship Care

Adam Taylor & June Ross

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Joe Wall

Ushers

Betty Gunz, Lisa Kennedy, Joe Wall

OCTOBER 13, 2019

Worship Care

Lisa Kennedy & Krista Sigmon

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Marge Fowler

Ushers

Greg Clark, Magay Shepard

OCTOBER 20, 2019

Worship Care

Janie Harris & Jacqueline Stillerman

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Howell Peterson

Ushers

Janie Harris, Jean Lawrence, Howell Peterson

OCTOBER 27, 2019

Worship Care

Deborah Clark & Rachel Faulk

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Ron Demme

Ushers

Sarah Bowlin-Criss, Ron Demme, Valerie Rutherford

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

Worship Care

Betty Gunz & TBD

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

John Simpson

Ushers

Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

October Sardis Academy

10/2 Compass Education is an academic-based program for adults with intellectual / developmental disabilities. The program, designed by our own Robin Rowland, provides students the academic and soft skills necessary to transition to higher education and/or employment. Robin will share details about the program and stories of its impact during Sardis Academy next Wednesday, October 2nd. Dinner will be served at 5:45; programming at 6:30.

10/16 Following Wednesday dinner, we'll dance the night away! We'll be learning the Bachata, a partner dance from the Dominican Republic. Come join Rachel Faulk and some of her dance instructor friends as they teach us a basic intro class into this unique style of dance. Wear comfortable clothes that you can move in - pants preferred, and shoes without too much grip. Dinner will be served at 5:45; dancing begins at 6:30.



All Saints Sunday - 11/2

On Sunday, November 2nd, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a time to remember those people who helped shape our congregation, as well as the Church Universal. During worship, we will recognize the names of those persons in our Sardis family whom we've lost this year: William Kreuger and Don DePaul.

If you would like to share the name of a loved one who has passed on this year, please contact the church office: (704) 362-0811 or Info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org. At the conclusion of worship, we'll proceed to the labyrinth where we will read the names of Sardis saints.

This will be a day of mixed emotions. We experience great joy and great grief when we remember our loved ones. But this is also a Sunday of power. When we speak the names of our saints, we hasten their spirit, and we are reminded that God's spirit resides in us too! Each time we speak their names, we are emboldened to be living saints: people who share their gifts so that others might also know God's fullest presence and widest mercies.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Compass Education 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	3 	4	5
6 World Communion Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion Worship Noon Worship Development	7 	8	9 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	10	11	12
13 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Lucy's Dedication	14 <i>baby girl's</i>  <i>dedication</i>	15	16 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Dance the Bachata 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	17 	18	19
20 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School Toddler Class 11:00 AM 11:00 AM Worship Rev. J. Eidson 2:30 PM CROP Walk	21 	22	23 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	24	25	26
27 20 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM QC Family Tree 4:00 PM Pumpkin Carving	28 	29	30 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	31 		

FINANCIAL REPORT

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.

August Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
August Actual Offerings.....	\$8,411.00
September Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
September Actual Offerings.....	\$20,115.14
YTD Budgeted Offerings.....	\$112,500.00
YTD Actual Offerings.....	\$97,470.90

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....	\$9,441.62
Benevolence....Individual & Family Needs...	\$930.12
*Duncan Proceeds.....Speakers; Budget.....	\$6,160.63
*Hill Proceeds.....Music; Outreach.....	TBD
*Odom Proceeds.....Children & Youth.....	TBD
Maintenance Escrow...Upkeep & Repairs...	\$17,515.58

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

For it is in giving that we
receive.

St Francis Of Assisi



Sardis Baptist printed new directories in September of this year. Contact the church office if you have not received a copy. Please note the following changes since publication:

**Eugene Hill has a new phone number—
(704) 649-3170**

**Hilary Kearns will be moving in November, following her wedding to Sam McIntyre. Their new address will be—
9227 Meadow Vista Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28213**

**Jean Lawrence has a new email address—
pondgreen2@twc.com**

Please add our newest Sardis friends—

**Roy Jones & Harrison Paris
2914 Polo View Lane
Matthews, NC 28105
704.841.7583
rbyaky642014@yahoo.com**

Update your directory birthday calendar with the following:

**Sam McIntyre—March 18
Julian Mata—August 23
Harrison Paris—September 16
Roy Jones—September 22nd**





THANK YOU GOD FOR HELPERS

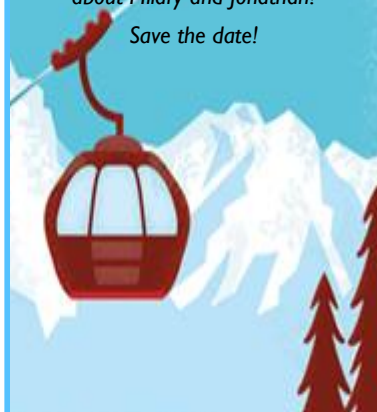
Jonathan Eidson and Hilary Kearns will gather with Sardis toddlers for faith enrichment on Sunday, October 20th at 9:45 AM in the Education Building. They will continue learning about the theme "Thank You God for Helpers". The lessons and activities will help our youngest friends recognize the everyday helpers in their lives.



SKI THE DATE!

Youth have barely recovered from the Caswell beach retreat, and they are already excited about their next adventure! They'll journey to West Virginia **January 24 -26** for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Ski Trip. Some have called it their "favorite weekend of the year" and I'm not talking about Hilary and Jonathan!

Save the date!



BLESSINGS CONTINUE

The day of our annual animal blessing has passed, but virtual animal blessings continue at Sardis throughout the year. Our 2019 Blessing Board has been presented to the church, and will be hung up in the sanctuary for continued enjoyment. If you were unable to bring a beloved animal to the service, we will gladly offer a virtual blessing. Just send a photo to the church office via snail mail or email (Info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org), and we will add it to our 2019 Blessing Board.

