

# 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



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

### *Holiday Cookie Decorating Party!*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

1:30 PM

SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH

*We will decorate cookies (maybe eat a few too!)  
then caravan to Royal Park of Matthews to sing carols  
and deliver cookies to caregivers.*

*Hope to see you here!*



Sunday, December 1st

9:30 AM

Sardis Baptist Sanctuary

*Please join us for a light breakfast.*

*We will fill our jolly bellies,  
decorate the Chrismon tree,  
and make ready the  
Meetinghouse for Advent  
and Christmas.*



## AN INVITATION TO A STARRY ADVENT

Catherine Zuckerman of National Geographic describes stars as celestial bodies made mostly of hydrogen and helium that produce light and heat from the churning nuclear forges inside their cores. She also calls them "building blocks of galaxies," and tells us they are light years away from Earth.

Stars are not your average nightlights!

The prophet Isaiah invites us humans to look high and see these stars. And Isaiah reminds us it is God that created these lights, and even numbers them, and accounts for them.

In both spiritual and scientific ways, stars evoke a sense of wonder and awe. Stars invite us to dream. Stars invite us to wish. Stars invite us to hope. Stars invite us to be transported into something better, something purer, and something more divine than the present.

In this season of Advent, stars are a visual reminder of God's new beginning AND of God's infinite possibilities.

Sure, the days are getting shorter, and the nights are getting longer, but that doesn't mean light isn't present. Stars of hope, peace, joy, and love all abound, forming a new galaxy, or perhaps a renewed galaxy, made radiant, compassionate, and whole in the presence of the Christchild.

It's the season of Advent, complete with the advent of stars. Stars that'll fill our trees. Stars that'll fill our meetinghouse. Stars that'll capture our imagination. Stars that will guide us to a perfect light.

As we move forward into the coming season, may we do so looking high to see God's bright stars.

## ~ Sardis People ~



## ~ Letty Brunton ~

Letty Brunton enjoys this much anticipated time of year. Christmas is her favorite holiday. She likes the time spent with family and looks forward to the elf-on-the-shelf tradition in her home.

Having moved here a little over a year ago, Letty finds Charlotte a good place to live. With her family having their own home now, she has more room. She also likes the fact that there are more people and she can make more friends. She enjoys time spent with the other children in her cul-de-sac. She brought three of them to Sardis' recent pumpkin carving event!

Nine-year-old Letty attends McAlpine Elementary School where she is in the fourth grade. One of her favorite classes is science, and she is particularly interested in rocks and minerals. Rocks "have always been my thing," she says.

Her free time is taken up by playing with friends and reading. A favorite genre is graphic novels and she especially likes fantasy novels in the *Wings of Fire* series by Tui T. Sutherland. The story is about dragons who live on the islands of Pyrrhia and Pantala. The young dragons yearn for peace and prosperity for their land and work for the cessation of war.

Letty also likes to spend time with her parents, Mark and Natasha, making jewelry and painting. Her ambition is to be an art teacher and she plans to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design.





*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 grateful to the following people who served as worship leaders in November: Sarah Bowlin, Mark Brunton, Natasha Brunton, Ron Demme, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Dave Fox, Janette Grassi, Betty Gunz, Marge Henderson, Irena Hramenkova, Hilary Kearns, Debbie Kidd, Amanda Lewis, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, Susan Phillips, June Ross, Magay Shepard, Bob Stillerman and Joe Wall.

Thank you to those who shared their love with our youngest friends in worship care in November! Betty Gunz, Alcie Kreutzer, David Kreutzer, Kathryn Kreutzer, Amanda Lewis, Katey Mata, and Jacqueline Stillerman.

We appreciate Billie Hutchison and Debbie Kidd for leading our recent Art & Treasure sale! We are also grateful to Suzette Buchan for donating beautiful paintings and pottery pieces. Many others contributed to the success of the sale: those who helped empty William's home, those who transported goods, those who priced treasures, and more. Thank you all!

We are grateful to Deborah & Greg Clark for coordinating our first blood drive and for feeding us afterwards. The BBQ and collards were delicious! Thank you to all who brought side dishes and desserts as well.

We appreciate Rev. Amanda Lewis for representing Sardis Baptist Church at Pawsitively Matthews at the beginning of the month

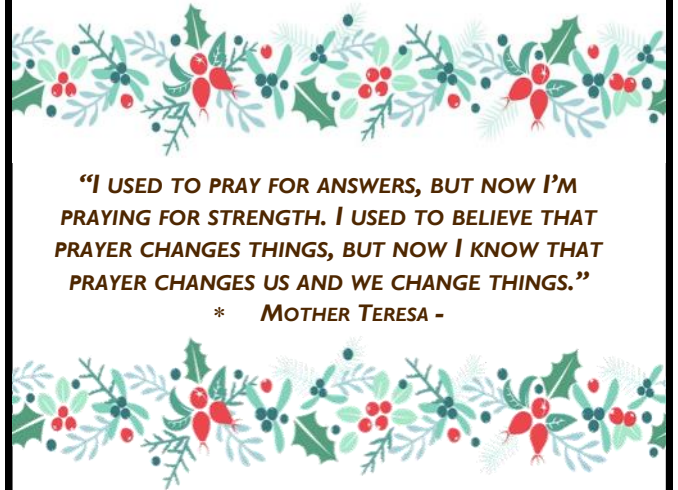
Thank you to Billie Hutchison for sharing her experience and knowledge about mental health and addiction during Sardis Academy.

We are grateful to our Worship Development team for helping to shape worship during advent. We appreciate Robin Rowland for donating ornaments for our Starry Advent theme, as well as providing lunch for the team. Our displays provide a meaningful visual connection with our themes, and we thank Janette Grassi and Susan Phillips for creating them.

Thank you to Melissa Bowlin for replacing our dying Keurig! She is not a coffee drinker, but other Sardis coffee drinkers are grateful.

We are grateful to Debbie Kidd and Hilary Kearns for procuring hymnals and sheet music for Sardis Baptist.

*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!*



**"I USED TO PRAY FOR ANSWERS, BUT NOW I'M PRAYING FOR STRENGTH. I USED TO BELIEVE THAT PRAYER CHANGES THINGS, BUT NOW I KNOW THAT PRAYER CHANGES US AND WE CHANGE THINGS."**

**\* MOTHER TERESA -**

## **SARDIS PRAYER REQUESTS**

### **CELEBRATIONS**

Barbea Bowlin, sister of Melissa, is recovering from successful surgery, and further treatment is not required.

Kitty Tate, sister of Becky Proctor, has improved significantly from the negative reaction to immunotherapy.

### **CONDOLENCES**

Mark Wiebke's mother passed away on November 25th.

May the Wiebke family feel comforted by our love and prayers during this time of grief.

### **PETITIONS**

Fay Alderman ▪ Judy Blevins, friend of Kristin Parker ▪ Gaye Booth, friend of Ellen Dillard and Marge Fowler ▪ Jim Bowlin, Melissa's father ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Mark Brunton's father ▪ Sonny Cole, Marge Fowler's brother ▪ Ben Cooley, Ruthie's husband ▪ Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother ▪ Nancy Darnell ▪ Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky Owen ▪ Gennelle Hall, Mother of Jessica Wallace (Bullies 2 the Rescue) ▪ Donna & Larry Harrill ▪ Joanne Henkel, Bennett's grandmother ▪ Don Hill ▪ Eugene Hill, Don's son ▪ Harvie Hill, Kathryn Kreutzer's father ▪ Billie Hutchison ▪ Roy Jones ▪ Karen—CBF North Africa Field Personnel ▪ David Kearns, cousin of Hilary ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪ Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother ▪ Mary Jane Osborne ▪ Harrison Paris ▪ Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz ▪ Gene Rector, Hilary Kearns' great-uncle ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Bob Rowland, Robin's father ▪ Tonya, daughter of June Ross ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips ▪ Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy

# SKI RETREAT

Our youth ski retreat is January 24-26, 2020 in Ghent, West Virginia. Our kids will be skiing and snowboarding at Winterplace Ski Resort with other participants at the annual CBFNC retreat. Friends are welcome. We will leave in time on Friday to allow for night skiing, snowboarding or tubing when we arrive. The cost is \$175 per person which includes:

- \*2 Nights Standard Hotel Lodging
- \*Continental Breakfasts
- \*1 Day Equipment Rental
- \*1 Day Lift Ticket
- \*Lunch Voucher
- \*Dinner @ Tamarack
- \*Program T-Shirt

See Pastors Jonathan or Hilary for more information.

## SKI RETREAT SIGN-UP FORM

January 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, Winterplace Ski Resort

Clip out and return to Pastors Jonathan or Hilary by December 8th.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Select ONE box below:

- ☐ Skiing Friday Night
- ☐ Snowboarding Friday Night
- ☐ Tubing Friday Night

Select ONE box below:

- ☐ Skiing Saturday
- ☐ Snowboarding Saturday
- ☐ Tubing Saturday

REQUIRED for 1st-Time Boarders:

- ☐ Snowboard Lesson

Select T-Shirt Size (Adult Sizes):    S    M    L    XL

Financial:

\$175.00 each participant	
+ \$40.00 if skiing Friday night	+
+ \$30.00 if 1st-time snowboarder	+
<b>Balance due:</b>	=
- \$35.00 non-refundable deposit	-
<b>Remaining balance due by January 12th:</b>	=

## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

Is Santa real? Well the spirit of Santa certainly is—it's the spirit of selfless giving! That's what I hope Sardis kiddos learn from the gifts Santa leaves under their trees. Kyle Matthews says it well in **Everything Santa Knows** ([click here to listen](#)). "Everything that Santa knows, he learned from Jesus. Like how the finest gifts we give, we give in secret... Before all his (Santa's) generosity was inspired by Jesus' passion for the poor and weak, he was a devotee of Jesus' special way, and that's why he always shows up here on Jesus' birthday."

Just for fun, we thought you might want to hear what our youngest Sardis friends (or in some cases, their parents) are hoping Santa leaves under their Christmas trees:

~~Jose~~ Julian would like a new coach for the South Carolina Gamecocks, or a winning season for the year 2020.

Lucy loves to make joyful noise of all kinds! For her 1st Christmas, she wants to spend time singing with her family and staying up late laughing with her sister. She's hoping for toys that she can use to make her own music!

'Tis the season and the Taylor boys are ready to open some presents. Curtis has been asking to end world hunger starting in his kitchen with plenty of food for himself and the other hungry children out there. He would also like some new balls he can toss around the house. Hank is looking to end global warming and would only like wooden toys this year like wooden cars, a baseball bat and a wall divider so he can have his own room.

Mary Allen's favorite things are helping Daddy cook breakfast on the weekends and Paw Patrol! She can't wait to bake cookies and decorate gingerbread houses to prepare for Christmas. She's hoping for Paw Patrol and kitchen toys that can keep up with her and her imaginary friend, Ryder!

Letty would like anything that has to do with dragons, stuffed animals, Taylor Swift, and more dragons! Check out **Sardis People** this month to learn about Letty and her interests.





**DECEMBER 1, 2019**

**Worship Care**

June Ross & Adam Taylor

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

Howell Peterson

**Ushers**

Janie Harris, Jean Lawrence, Howell Peterson

**DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**Worship Care**

Janie Harris & Jacqueline Stillerman

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

Mark Wiebke

**Ushers**

Lisa Kennedy, Amy Wiebke, Mark Wiebke

**DECEMBER 15, 2019**

**Worship Care**

Lisa Kennedy & Krista Sigmon

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

John Simpson

**Ushers**

Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

**DECEMBER 22, 2019**

**Worship Care**

Deborah Clark & Rachel Faulk

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

Greg Clark

**Ushers**

Greg Clark, Ron Demme, Magay Shepard

**DECEMBER 24, 2019**

5:00 PM – Candlelight Service

**DECEMBER 29, 2019**

**Worship Care**

Betty Gunz & TBD

**Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer**

Marge Henderson


**Ushers**

Mark Brunton, Natasha Brunton, Valerie Rutherford

## POINSETTIAS

We will display poinsettias in memory or honor of special people to our lives during the weeks leading up to Christmas. You may purchase plants through Sunday, December 8th for \$15 apiece. Order forms are available in the vestibule, or you may contact the church office to place an order: call (704) 362-0811 or email [Info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:Info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org).

Poinsettias will be displayed beginning Sunday, December 15th and may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.



The Sardis choir will present us with the gift of song! Our Christmas Cantata is scheduled for Sunday, December 22nd at 11:00. They will perform Pepper Choplin's ***Go Sing It on the Mountain***, a cantata of traditional and folk tunes that is fun to sing and hear!

Songs include ***Arise, O People*** from Sacred Harp, ***Call His Name Jesus*** using the tune Barbara Allen, ***Star Eternal*** which incorporates the melody to *Rock of Ages*, ***Joyous Nowell to the World*** combining *The First Nowell* and *Joy to the World*, and of course, ***Sing It on the Mountain*** — a bluegrass take on *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.



*Christmas Eve*  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 • 5 PM



# Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar



# december



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>HOPE</b> 9:30 AM Breakfast and Hanging of the Greens 11:00 AM Worship			4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 Cantata Practice 7:30 PM Chancel Choir			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>PEACE</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion Worship Deacons Meeting			4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 Cantata Practice 7:30 PM Chancel Choir			
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>JOY</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 1:30 PM Cookies & Carols Christmas Party			Sardis Baptist Church 31 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 Cantata Practice 7:30 PM Chancel Choir			
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>LOVE</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Christmas Cantata		 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:00 PM Candlelight Worship				
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship						



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.

<b>October Budgeted Offerings.....</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>
<b>October Actual Offerings.....</b>	<b>\$10,002.99</b>
<b>November Budgeted Offerings.....</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>
<b>November Actual Offerings.....</b>	<b>\$7,265.00</b>
<b>YTD Budgeted Offerings.....</b>	<b>\$137,500.00</b>
<b>YTD Actual Offerings.....</b>	<b>\$114,738.89</b>

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. These amounts reflect balances as of 10/31/2019.

<b>30th Anniversary.....</b>	<b>Campus Development.....</b>	<b>\$6,141.62</b>
<b>Benevolence.....</b>	<b>Individual &amp; Family Needs.....</b>	<b>\$930.12</b>
<b>*Duncan Proceeds.....</b>	<b>Speakers; Budget.....</b>	<b>\$6,160.63</b>
<b>*Hill Proceeds.....</b>	<b>Music; Outreach.....</b>	<b>\$915.97</b>
<b>*Odom Proceeds.....</b>	<b>Children &amp; Youth.....</b>	<b>\$7,246.81</b>
<b>Maintenance Escrow.....</b>	<b>Upkeep &amp; Repairs....</b>	<b>\$11,293.10</b>

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

**DONATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 12/31/2019 TO BE INCLUDED IN YOUR ANNUAL GIVING REPORT FOR THIS YEAR.**

## Let the Turkeys Gobble ~ by Betty Gunz

It may be too late for Thanksgiving, but you can give a turkey – and Mother Earth – and your own body – a reason to be thankful at Christmas. Consider a plant-based Christmas feast, and there will be thankfulness all around!

No less prestigious a group than the United Nations Food and Agriculture Commission reports that global meat production causes more greenhouse gas emissions than all our cars, trains, and airplanes combined. They have encouraged the adoption of a plant-based diet, and turkeys agree! *"Animal agriculture puts a lot of stress on the environment, using many natural resources and producing large amounts of methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas. The U.N. report stated that 'a shift toward plant-based diets' is one of the most significant ways to reduce greenhouse gases from the agriculture sector ([earthday.org/2019/08/08](http://earthday.org/2019/08/08))."*

In this time of increasing awareness of the dangers a meat-based diet poses to life on earth, as well as to the lives of the 70 billion animals killed each year for humans to eat, what we choose to eat and how it affects the world around us is worthy of some thought.

This kind of change is often difficult – habits, traditions, and social belief systems being what they are. If you need recipes, you can ask Sardis friends who are on the earth-friendly food path. Or consult the handy Google machine that seems to know everything. If you need prayers, let us know. We'll hold hands and give thanks. The planet and the turkeys will give thanks too. Especially the turkeys!







*Our sympathies are with  
Mark & Amy Wiebke  
and their family.*

*Mark's mother passed away  
on November 25th.*

*May they be comforted by  
an outpouring of love as they grieve.*



## ENGRAVED PRAYER GARDEN PAVERS



Many of the pavers leading to the Sardis Baptist Prayer Labyrinth honor cherished memories of our loved ones and commemorate the service of those who have ministered here - not just our ordained ministers! In addition to honoring a special person or occasion these engraved pavers also support the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church. If you would like to order an engraved paver, please contact the church office: 704.362.0811 or [info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org). The price of each paver is \$100.