

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



Did you know that donating blood may reduce your risk of heart attack as well as developing cancer? In addition to providing life-saving assistance to patients, there are a number of potential health benefits to donors as well.* Your single donation of blood may improve your own health and be used to save the lives of up to three patients. Somewhere in the US alone, there is a patient in need of a blood transfusion every two seconds. Since blood cannot be produced synthetically, these patients rely on donors like us to meet the need.



The Missions Stewards of Sardis Baptist have partnered with OneBlood (formerly known as Community Blood Bank of the Carolinas) for a blood drive. OneBlood is a not-for-profit blood center serving several Southern states including the Carolinas. They'll have a "Big Red Bus" on our campus from 9 AM until 1 PM on Sunday, November 10th. Please invite friends and family members to stop by to support our life-saving efforts.

Following worship, Greg Clark will provide home-smoked BBQ and collard greens to share with all of us. Vegan BBQ and fixin's will be available as well. We are looking for volunteers to bring buns, slaw, beans, and any other side dishes or desserts you'd like to share. Contact the church office if you'd like to help: call 704.362.0811 or email: info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org.

*6 Surprising Health Benefits of Donating Blood, <https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/health-sciences/blog/surprising-health-benefits-of-donating-blood/>



Find your treasures here! It's better than the Dollar Tree! Through the generosity of an estate gift, Sardis has inherited a number of household items that will be made available for purchase at a Treasure Sale on Saturday, November 23rd from 8 a.m. – Noon. Items for sale include artwork, kitchen tools and appliances, dishware, holiday decorations, and more. If you have any treasures that you'd like to donate to the sale, or if you have an interest in volunteering to help with logistics, please email the church office at info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org.

Rev. Amanda Lewis represented the pet-lovers of Sardis Baptist Church at Pawsitively Matthews on Saturday at Stumptown Park. She created a holiday-themed photo booth for four-legged friends (two-legged as well!) and offered prayers for beloved animals and all of creation. Printed copies of the prayers used during our 2019 Animal Blessing were made available for visitors to take with them. They also had the option to submit a photo to Sardis Baptist and have their pet added to our "All Creatures Great and Small" blessing display. More info about this annual event is available at MatthewsNC.gov.



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

I had the opportunity to officiate a wedding this past weekend. That's not something I get to do often, and I enjoy it, especially because it's a chance to be around people with whom I don't regularly worship. The same is true of funerals, and Christmas Eve, and Easter, too. We celebrate and acknowledge monumental moments alongside extended family and friends, and almost inevitably the congregation consists of as many strangers as regulars.

And because I act in those settings just like I act on a normal Sunday at Sardis, I receive a universal response: "I've never been to a wedding/funeral/Christmas Eve service like that!" Many are delighted to find that such services can be joyful, or humorous, or creative, or deeply intimate, or warm, or inviting, or laid back, AND still be reverent. To be sure, there are also always a few who are significantly disappointed that such services are not performed more traditionally, or seriously, or judgmentally. After all, love, displayed in true commitment, and the resurrection of the spirit, and the birth of Jesus are not events that should be enjoyed are they? God's needs you to be solemn so as to be sacred!!!

I think too often, we act as if worship, or the acknowledgment of God, or the practice of being righteous, are somehow separate from ordinary life. What a shame!

Let me tell you something: My reverence for and my obedience toward God does not change based on my demeanor, nor upon my location, nor by the garments that I'm wearing. When I swing my little girl on the playground swings, and she screams, "Higher than the clouds, Daddy!" I am aware of God's presence. When I spin a yarn, and maybe share a spirit with a couple of old friends, I am aware of God's presence. When I sing with windows rolled down; when I shop at the grocery store; when I drive my car; when I walk on the greenway; when I pray the Lord's Prayer in unison; when I share the bread and cup with others; when I've got a clerical robe on; when I've got sweatpants on...I am aware of God's presence.

Worship is not invoking God's presence, and then acting as if the cameras are rolling, and then going about our business when the director yells, "cut." First of all, how do we invoke, or invite, or welcome a presence that never leaves us? God is always present!

Worship is about becoming aware of God's constant presence in every moment. If we work for such an awareness, then a marriage is every bit as worshipful as a wedding, whether we're in pajamas or tuxedos; the swirling spirits of the saints who calm us, empower us, and fill us in quiet, vulnerable, unexpected, ordinary moments are just as worshipful as a thoughtful eulogy; the feeling of renewal and rebirth (and the channeling of that energy into our everyday living!) is just as worshipful as a candlelit Christmas Eve service.

Yes, Sardis, worship can be a tangible point: a marker of something important, something sacred, something to be revered. But I would argue that worship is ALSO the thing we do in between such markers: life, messy and crazy and wonderful, lived in awareness and awe of the One who created us, just as we are!

WORSHIP IS LiFE

Sardis People ~

NATASHA BRUNTON



A classroom and crafting take up the major portion of Natasha Brunton's time. She is an English teacher at Carmel Middle School. She considers herself a grammarian, thoroughly enjoying the structure of language and the rules which govern it. As a crafter, Natasha creates jewelry, makes soap and forms candles. She sells her creations at craft fairs throughout the region.

Reynoldsburg, Ohio (Columbus area) is the hometown in which she grew up with three brothers and one sister. She attended The Ohio State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in English. Further studies took her to the University of Tennessee from which she obtained a master's in Secondary Education.

Natasha and her husband Mark first met at Ohio State and dated for a short while, learning that they had grown up about three miles from each other and that they had attended the same high school. Individual educational goals separated them for a time, but they met again when Mark returned to Ohio for a wedding. Not long after that they began planning their own wedding. They have been married for 15 years. Nine-year-old daughter Letty completes their family.

The Bruntons moved to Charlotte a little over a year ago. Both Natasha and Mark were teaching at an Episcopal boarding school in Tennessee. Looking for more diversity than they were experiencing, they began looking at other cities and found Charlotte to have what they wanted.

Looking for a community that fit who they are and what they believe is what brought them to Sardis. It is a place which "feels right" for them.

THANK YOU!

*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 Robin Rowland for providing details about Compass Education and sharing stories about its impact during Sardis Academy on October 2nd. Thank you to Billie Hutchison for coordinating the meal, and to the following people who provided food and helped her with setup and cleanup: Melissa Bowlin, Tillie Duncan, Betty Gunz, Debbie Kidd, Tim Moore, and Bob Stillerman.

Thank you to Rachel Faulk and friends, George and Angeline, for teaching Bachata dance to a large group of Sardis friends during our October 16th Sardis Academy session. We appreciate the Stillerman family for donating a delicious meal to feed the crowd!

Thank you to Sardis friends and family who supported CROP Walk efforts with donations, and to Jonathan Eidson and Bob Stillerman for representing us on the walking trail.

Our Pumpkin Glow was a large success with more than 30 people in attendance! We appreciate all those who participated and brought food to share, and assisted with setup and cleanup. There are just too many names to list!

We are grateful to the following people who served as worship leaders in October: Melissa Bowlin, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, Marge Fowler, Betty Gunz, Irena Hramenkova, Helms Jarrell, Hilary Kearns, Jean Lawrence, Amanda Lewis, Lisa Kennedy, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jim Owen, Susan Phillips, John Simpson, Abby & Hannah Shepard-Moore, Bob Stillerman, Joe Wall, Amy & Mark Wiebke.

Thank you to those who shared their love with our youngest friends in worship care in October! Deborah Clark, Janie Harris, Lisa Kennedy, June Ross, Krista Sigmon, Adam & 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!*

PRAYER

CELEBRATIONS

Hilary Kearns and Sam McIntyre will wed this month. We wish them a lifetime of love and happiness!

Amy & Mark Wiebke recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and best wishes for many more!

CONDOLENCES

Edwin Luce, uncle of Kristin Parker, passed away last week. May Kristin and family feel comforted by our love and prayers during this time of grief.

PETITIONS

Fay Alderman ▪ Judy Blevins, friend of Kristin Parker ▪
Sammy Boone, nephew of Deborah Clark ▪ Gaye Booth,
friend of Ellen Dillard and Marge Fowler ▪ Barbea Bowlin,
Melissa's sister ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton,
Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Mark Brunton's father ▪
Carson, friend of Grey Sigmon ▪ Sonny Cole, Marge
Fowler's brother ▪ Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband ▪
Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother ▪ Nancy Dar-
nell ▪ Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky Ow-
en ▪ Gennelle Hall, Mother of Jessica Wallace (Bullies 2
the Rescue) ▪ Larry Harrill ▪ Joanne Henkel, Bennett's
grandmother ▪ Don Hill ▪ Eugene Hill, Don's son ▪
Harvie Hill, Kathryn Kreutzer's father ▪ Billie Hutchison
▪ Karen—CBF North Africa Field Personnel ▪ David
Kearns, cousin of Hilary ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪
Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother ▪ Mary Jane Osborne
▪ Danny Phillips ▪ 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 ▪ Kitty (Catherine)
Tate, Becky Proctor's sister ▪ Tonya, daughter of June
Ross ▪ QC Family Tree ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips
▪ Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

With Thanksgiving approaching,
we asked some of our youth to tell us
what they're thankful for.
Here's what they said...

"I'm thankful for Sardis Academy."
~ Alcie Kreutzer ~

"I'm thankful for education."
~ Madison Kreutzer ~

"I am grateful for all my friends and family and what
they have done for me throughout my life."
~ Ryan Hawkins ~

"I'm thankful for my friends and the life I live."
~ Summer Rutherford ~

"I'm thankful for my friends and teachers
for their constant positivity."
~ Jackson Mosley-Mair ~

"I'm thankful for my family and friends for being
there during the challenges of high school."
~ Matthew Mosley-Mair ~

With Thanksgiving drawing nearer,
for what are you thankful?



for each new morning with its light,
for rest and shelter of the night,
for health and food, for love and friends,
for everything thy goodness sends.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

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. 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.

THANK YOU GOD FOR HELPERS

Our November faith enrichment experience for toddlers will continue the theme of God's helpers helping others. Plan on your toddler attending with Pastors Hilary and Jonathan on Sunday, November 17th at 9:45 AM. We will meet in the Education Building.



WELCOME

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

Worship Care

Betty Gunz & Jacqueline Stillerman

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

John Simpson

Ushers

Janette Grassi, June Ross, John Simpson

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

Worship Care

Sarah Bowlin & Amanda Lewis

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Greg Clark

Ushers

Greg Clark, Ron Deme, Magay Shepard

NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Worship Care

Dave Kreutzer & Tammy Taylor

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Marge Henderson

Ushers

Mark & Natasha Brunton, Valerie Rutherford

NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Worship Care

Mary Jane Osborne & Valerie Rutherford

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Joe Wall

Ushers

Sarah Bowlin-Criss, Betty Gunz, Joe Wall

DECEMBER 1, 2019

Worship Care

June Ross & Adam Taylor

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Howell Peterson

Ushers

Janie Harris, Jean Lawrence, Howell Peterson

Mental Health & Addiction

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday, November 13th for supper at 5:45 PM followed by Sardis Academy at 6:30. We'll explore a topic that is largely misunderstood by our culture: mental health and addiction. We will welcome our very own Billie Hutchison as our resident expert in the field. She'll share knowledge gleaned from working as a nurse for years in mental health and addiction treatment.



CANTATA

THIS ADVENT SEASON, THE SARDIS CHOIR WILL BE PERFORMING PEPPER CHOPLIN'S **GO SING IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**, A CANTATA OF TRADITIONAL AND FOLK TUNES THAT IS FUN TO SING! REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN AT 7 PM ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN. BOOKS AND CD'S ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SING.

SONGS INCLUDE **ARISE, O PEOPLE** FROM SACRED HARP, **CALL HIS NAME JESUS** USING THE TUNE BARBARA ALLEN, **STAR ETHERNAL** 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**.

IF YOU SING AND WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF SARDIS CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA, PLEASE CONTACT HILARY KEARNS AT SARDISHILARY@YAHOO.COM.

MeckMin Presents:

44th Annual Citywide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 26 at 7 PM

Musical Prelude at 6:45



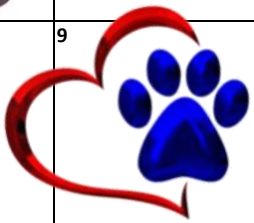



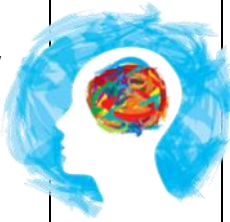




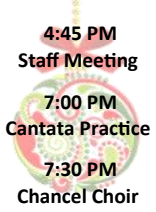

Reception to Follow

Friendship Missionary Baptist
3400 Beatties Ford Road

Canned goods will be collected for
Crisis Assistance and Loaves & Fishes



November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p>Congratulations and Best Wishes to Hilary Kearns & Sam McIntyre</p>					<p>1</p> <p>All Saint's Day</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>10 AM — 4 PM Pawsitively Matthews Rev. Amanda Lewis</p> <p>Daylight Savings Ends at 2:00 AM</p> 
<p>3</p> <p>All Saint's Sunday</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Cantata Practice</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9 AM—1 PM Blood Drive & BBQ</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Communion Worship</p> <p>Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>VETERANS DAY</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>6:30 PM Sardis Academy Billie Hutchison</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School Toddler Class</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>Noon Church Conference</p> <p>12:30 PM Worship Development</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Cantata Practice</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00 AM Treasure Sale</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>Reign of Christ</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>MeckMin Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship 6:45 PM Friendship Missionary 3400 Beatties Ford Rd</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Cantata Practice</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

TITHES & OFFERINGS

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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.

September Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
September Actual Offerings.....	\$20,115.14
October Budgeted Offerings.....	\$12,500.00
October Actual Offerings.....	\$10,002.99
YTD Budgeted Offerings.....	\$125,000.00
YTD Actual Offerings.....	\$107,473.89

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.....	\$6,141.62
Benevolence.....	Individual & Family Needs.....	\$930.12
*Duncan Proceeds.....	Speakers; Budget.....	\$6,160.63
*Hill Proceeds.....	Music; Outreach.....	\$915.97
*Odom Proceeds.....	Children & Youth.....	\$7,246.81
Maintenance Escrow.....	Upkeep & Repairs.....	\$11,293.10

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 17th @ NOON

Plan to stay following worship on Sunday, November 17th for our fourth quarterly conference of 2019. These regular conferences provide an opportunity for our boards to update the congregation on the work they are doing in support of the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church and a chance for members and friends have questions answered.

WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Worship Development Team will meet on Sunday, November 17th following our quarterly church conference. This is a stewardship team comprised of Sardis staff members and lay leaders interested in working together to plan creative and meaningful worship at Sardis Baptist.

The holiday season is upon us, and Advent is just around the corner.

This meeting will be a time of brainstorming and planning for Sardis services through Christmas.



SAVE THE DATE! Join us for breakfast on the first day of next month: Sunday, December 1st at 9:30 AM. We'll fill our jolly bellies, decorate the Sardis Christmas tree, and make ready the Meetinghouse for Advent and Christmas.



The Deacons of
Sardis Baptist Church
celebrate the
marriage of

Sarah Bowlin & Dan Criss

We'll honor their union with a gift tree
from which they can stock their home together.

*Sardis Baptist Deacons
will collect gift cards
through November.*