

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



We believe relationships that cross lines of difference can be transformative!

Members of Sardis Baptist Church have been invited to be a part of an Open Tables event hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte at Shalom Park on Thursday, February 13th, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Open Tables is an ongoing program sponsored by MeckMIN, Charlotte - Mecklenburg's Metropolitan Interfaith Network and hosted by various faith communities throughout the area.

MeckMIN promotes interfaith collaboration to foster understanding, compassion and justice. They envision a community that lives by the highest values and core virtues of its rich faith traditions and respects the dignity of every person.

Open Tables, a program launched in the summer of 2019, aims to build substantive relationships among diverse congregations through fellowship and food. One important aspect of this program is getting members, and not just clergy, of each congregation involved.

If you would like to join the group of Sardis friends attending, please contact the church office: 704.362.0811 or info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org.



COWSPIRACY

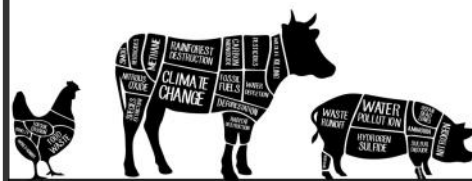
THE SUSTAINABILITY SECRET

At a time when whole regions are in drought, our oceans are dying, and severe weather is becoming the norm, Cowspiracy seeks to find the real reasons why and what we can do about it. Through intense conversations with the nation's leading environmental advocacy groups this film explores the blind spots that are leading us down a road we won't be able to drive our electric car out of.

This is a groundbreaking feature-length environmental documentary following an intrepid filmmaker as he uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today – and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it.

You are invited to a screening of
Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret
Sardis Baptist Church
5811 Sardis Road
Saturday, February 1st, 2020
10:00 AM

Those who are able will go for a Dutch treat lunch following the movie at an Earth-friendly venue.



Amanda Lewis & Bennett Henkel are hosting Sardis friends for an afternoon of food and fun at their home. Game Day is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Saturday, February 8th.

They'll provide soup for lunch. Bring a side or a sweet to share.





The language we use is important. Our diction reflects the depth and breadth of how we perceive the world. Our words carry meaning, whether we want them to or not. And sometimes, our words have the power to transform the people around us, both in good ways, and in bad ways, too. As an intentional community of faith, we are responsible and accountable for the language we use.

For many years, our congregation has read scripture passages from a translation called the New Revised Standard Version. The NRSV seeks to use gender-neutral pronouns where such pronouns do NOT alter the intent of the text in a significant way. In addition, our doxologies reflect a broader view of the Trinity: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. In recent months, we've adopted new(er) hymnals (Chalice and New Century) that reflect more modern theological adaptations of hymnody, as well as incorporating contemporary renderings of the Lord's Prayer on various Sundays.

None of these practices are meant as an indictment against more traditional language and theology, especially the use of more masculine images like father, brother, king, or mankind. Each of us are made in the image of God. Therefore, it stands to reason that all of you good male folks carry the divine spark. But, and this is a big BUT...we are also a congregation full of a lot of people who don't identify as male. And yet, each of these other good folks carry the divine spark, too. Thanks be to God!!!

When we choose to limit our images of God only to those who look like us, only to those who are powerful, only to those who are deemed "normal," we also limit the possibilities of our God. But even more importantly, we construct artificial barriers that prevent every neighbor, and especially our marginalized neighbors, from realizing their value and potential as children of God.

Over the course of the next year, we anticipate that you'll hear dozens and dozens of expressions of God at Sardis ranging from Mama Bear to protector to Sophia to shepherd to parent to rock. This comprehensive approach is intended to model the hospitality Christ offered to all he encountered, and to express the deep love God has for all Her children.

In the days and weeks to come, we encourage you to think about the language you use for God and for God's creation. Does such language reflect the nature and character of the God you follow, and the value of the world God has created? Does your language invite others into community? Is yours a language of God?

Call me if you want a Thesaurus. I've got several. ~ Rev. Bob Stillerman

SARDIS PEOPLE ~ Mark Brunton ~

Mark Brunton's hero is Teddy Roosevelt, 26th president of the United States. An individualist with great drive and intellect, Roosevelt put country above party and consumers above corporations. He has also had more influence than any other president in conserving natural resources. Several national parks, monuments, forests, and bird sanctuaries were established during his tenure.

Mark, too, is a man with varied interests and accomplishments in several fields. A history teacher at Charlotte Latin, he earned a B.S. in education at The Ohio State University. Receiving a James Madison Fellowship, he then pursued a master's degree at the University of Nebraska. He majored in constitutional history and minored in the Gilded Age (Approximately 1870's to early 20th century). The fellowship is given to constitutional scholars who plan to become secondary teachers of the U. S. Constitution. The fellowship is named for our 4th president, James Madison, considered to be the "father" of the Constitution and of the Bill of Rights. One fellowship per state per year is awarded.

Art is Mark's avocation. He enjoys abstract painting and woodworking, which he sells on-line. As a painter, Mark's primary materials are watercolor or mixed media. Woodworking is a family interest, shared by his father and his brother.

Mark grew up in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, with an older brother and sister. He moved to the Charlotte area a couple of years ago from Tennessee where he taught in an Episcopal school. He is married to Natasha, whom he first met in college though they had grown up in the same town and attended the same high school. They have one daughter Letty.





*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 January: Melissa Bowlin, Tillie Duncan, Betty Gunz, Marge Henderson, Jean Lawrence, Lisa Kennedy, Debbie Kidd, Kathryn Kreutzer, Kate Mata, Hilary McIntyre, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, John Simpson, Joe Wall, Amy Wiebke, Mark Wiebke, and Anthony Yang.

Thank you to those who shared their love with our youngest friends in worship care in January! Deborah Clark, Rachel Faulk, Betty Gunz, Amanda Lewis, David Kreutzer, Kate Mata, and Tammy Taylor.

We are ever grateful to the Sardis Baptist Choir for the beauty, depth and leadership they bring into worship. We also thank Debbie Kidd for leading music during Hilary's absence, and Anthony Yang for playing piano.

We appreciate all the strong hands that helped us remove our Christmas greens and golds and store them away: Tillie Duncan, Tim Moore, Kristin Parker, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, Susan Phillips, Robin Rowland, Abby Shepard-Moore, Hannah Shepard-Moore, Bob Stillerman, Jo Tiddy, and Joe Wall.

Thank you to our Nominating Team and Board on Stewards for their efforts in recruiting church leaders for the new year: Betty Gunz, Marge Henderson, Amanda Lewis, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, Becky Proctor, and Jo Tiddy.

Thank you to Becky Proctor for leading us in worship during our Epiphany Communion Supper. We are grateful for the many people who assisted with setup, cleanup and food preparation: Donna Barger, Ellen Dillard, Tillie Duncan, Jonathan Eidson, David Garrison, Bennett Henkel, Jean Lawrence, Amanda Lewis, Kate & Jose Mata, Hilary McIntyre, and Susan Phillips.

We appreciate Janet Hince for the peace and serenity she brought Sardis friends while leading a guided labyrinth walk on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

We are thankful for the love and energy Rev. Jonathan Eidson and Hilary McIntyre shared with Sardis youth on their recent ski retreat in West Virginia.

*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 REQUESTS

CELEBRATIONS

Sardis Baptist recently celebrated Irena Hramenkova's 27th Staff Anniversary and Jonathan Eidson will celebrate his 7th next week. Please offer a prayer of gratitude for them both!

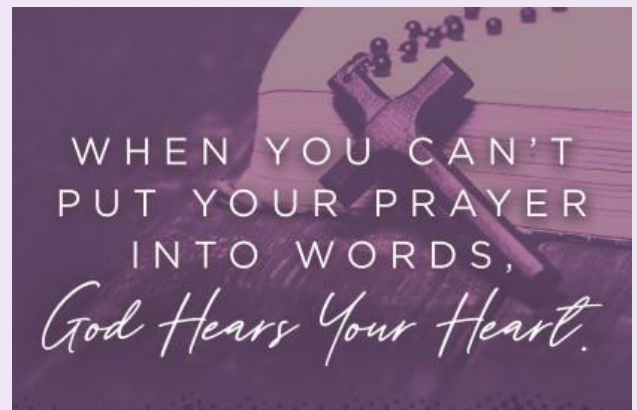
Sardis friends recently announced in church that they'd seen miracles: Melissa's can see (cataract surgery), Billie can (walk), Janette's back has improved, and UNC won a basketball game!

CONDOLENCES

May our Sardis friends feel comforted while mourning. Betty Washburn, aunt of Tillie Duncan, passed away on 1/26/2020. LG Dietz, grandfather of Dan Criss, passed away on 1/20/2020.

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 ▪ Don Brunton, father of Mark ▪ Maria Byrd ▪ Sonny Cole, Marge Fowler's brother ▪ Ben Cooley, Ruthye'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) ▪ 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 ▪ Mark Kearns, uncle of Hilary ▪ Casey Leonhardt ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪ Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother ▪ Jose Mata, Sr., father of Jose ▪ Mary Jane Osborne ▪ Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Bob Rowland, Robin's father ▪ Catherine (Kitty) Tate, sister of Becky Proctor ▪ Susan Tuttle, friend of Phillips ▪ Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy



SKI REPORT

Pastors Jonathan & Hilary took five youth to Ghent, West Virginia for a ski retreat with other youth groups affiliated with CBF-NC. It sounds like a great weekend for participants of all ages. Here's what they had to say...



"(I wanted) more time at the IHOP. I liked hanging out at night and Pizza Hut is always good. Followed the 2020 Trump election, very cool!" –Jackson Mosley-Mair

"I had loads of fun on this trip! My favorite part was definitely skiing, it's one of my favorite things to do. Plus, the weather all day Saturday was perfect weather for skiing. I'm glad I was given the opportunity to go to another successful CBFNC gathering." –Madison Kreutzer

"I enjoyed my time on this trip with friends. I liked everyone sitting together and eating at IHOP. We had some entertaining conversations. Thanks for having me!" –Stefanie Trigueros

"This trip was a great experience! It was my first time every skiing and I had a blast. It was nice I got to learn something new with friends. I'm glad I got to see a new city. Thank you so very much for having me!" –Yesenia Gomez

"I really liked tubing on the trip. Also listening to things explaining why life is the way it is, and that God has something planned for you!" –Summer Rutherford

"Every ski trip I've been able to be a part of has been unique. The first two times we were able to snow tube on Friday night, but this year it was raining. Even so, we had a great time at dinner, stopped at the Go Mart (G-Mart to the youth group), and had much more time to sit and just talk to one another and build our friendships. Saturday was very much like the past two ski trip Saturdays, we tubed and skied, ate lunch together, had dinner at the Tamarack Conference Center, and were exhausted by the time we returned to the hotel at the end of the night. Even so, we all still stayed up for hours chatting, laughing, trying to make Tik-Tok's (ask Summer), and having the best time. On Sunday morning we woke up bleary-eyed and groggy, but everyone enjoyed our breakfast at IHOP, we made it to worship on time (phew!) and had another chance to hear from our band and our amazing speaker, Summer. Overall, I might have to say that this was my favorite ski retreat to date, of course I've said that about all of them! Thank you, Sardis!" –Hilary McIntyre

"What an amazing time we had on the youth ski retreat. I enjoyed the laughs, meeting new friends and renewing old ones. I was impressed with the nature of our youth and the fact that they didn't complain when we couldn't tube Friday night. I enjoyed tubing with Summer and Hilary and hearing from Jackson, Madison, Stefanie, and Yesenia about the fun on the slopes! Thanks, Sardis, for seeing the need to provide opportunities like this for our youth!" –Jonathan Eidson

Infant/ Toddler

Reimagining Our Ministry with Children, Toddlers, and Infants

In recent conversations, the Sardis ministerial staff determined that the time to discuss and dream about our ministry with children, toddlers and infants has come.

So... calling all parents!!

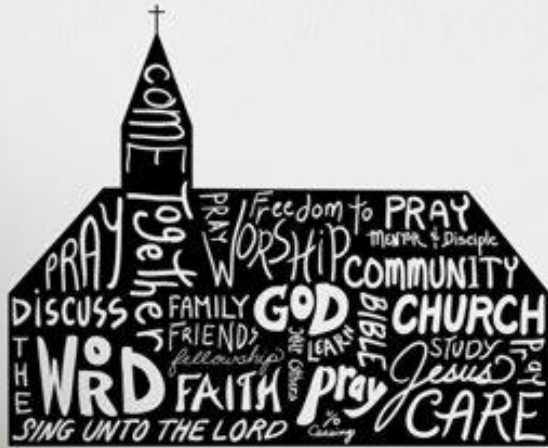
Pastors Hilary and Jonathan are looking forward to meeting with you to listen, dream and discuss to chart the direction of this program for the days ahead!

Look for an email, and follow up correspondence from Pastors Hilary and Jonathan with additional details in February.

We would like to schedule a time for a collaborative discussion in either February or March.



A hundred
Years from now
...it will not
matter what my
bank account
was, the sort of
house I lived in
or the kind of
car I drove...
...but the world
may be different
because I was
important in the
life of a
child.



FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Worship Care

June Ross & Adam Taylor

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Greg Clark

Ushers

Sarah Bowlin-Criss, Greg Clark,
and Bennett Henkel

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Worship Care

Sarah Bowlin-Criss & Amanda Lewis

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Ron Demme

Ushers

Ron Demme, Magay Shepard,
and Valerie Rutherford

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Worship Care

Janie Harris & Jacqueline Stillerman

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Howell Peterson

Ushers

Mark Brunton, Natasha Brunton,
and Howell Peterson

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Worship Care

Lisa Kennedy & Krista Sigmon

Greeter / Vestibule Volunteer

Joe Wall

Ushers

Ellen Dillard, Betty Gunz, Joe Wall

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a night of feasting and celebrating, and that is exactly what we'll do here at Sardis! It always falls the night before Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent and a time when some people choose to give up fatty foods (or other vices). It's sometimes referred to as Fat Tuesday. The tradition of eating pancakes during Shrovetide began in the 16th century. Christians were encouraged to use up ingredients such as butter and eggs that were discouraged during the fasting season.

Tuesday, February 25th, 2020

6:00 PM @ Sardis Baptist Meetinghouse

ASH WEDNESDAY

"FOR DUST YOU ARE, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN."
GENESIS 3:19B

Sardis Baptist Church will
join Sardis Presbyterian
Church for a community
service at 7:00 PM to be held
at Sardis Presbyterian.

There will be a joint choir and
Rev. Bob Stillerman will offer a homily.











*Don't limit
.....a.....
LIMITLESS
.....God.....*

During Lent, the Sardis congregation will consider a myriad of unique expressions for God. We believe that the exploration of diverse images of God offers a pathway to better understanding the needs and experiences of all of our neighbors.

To do this, we need your help! The Worship Development Team has created a series of questions to learn how you imagine, see, hear, touch, and even taste God in your life. The questions will be included in Sardis weekly emails during February and will be available at the church. Would you kindly consider answering them? Your feedback will help shape the discussion of images of God during the Lenten season.

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<p>1</p> <p>10:00 AM Cowspiracy Movie Screening</p> 
<p>2</p> <p>4th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>Noon 1st Quarter Conference</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:00 PM Game Day @ Bennett's & Amanda's</p> 
<p>9</p> <p>9:00 AM Missions Team Meeting</p> <p>9:45 AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>Noon Deacon Meeting</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>6:30 PM Open Tables Shalom Park</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>6th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>9:45 AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>President's Day</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>STAFF RETREAT</p> <p>2:30 PM Staff Planning Retreat</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Transfiguration Sunday</p> <p>9:45 AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00 PM Pancake Supper</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>4:45 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Sardis Presbyterian</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>

BUILDING & GROUNDS



The Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Building and Grounds team, is working to equip our facilities for the next decade. Several projects are already underway: offices and classrooms in the meetinghouse have been painted and both buildings have been pressured-washed in preparation for exterior painting; in 2019, several large trees and brush were removed from the property; the roof of the Miller garage was replaced, and cedar chips were installed on the playground area. In the coming weeks, all tile floors in both buildings will be restored. Spring work days (we need your help!) will be used to remove small trees/brush outside the education building, pressure wash the labyrinth, and spread mulch and pine needles in planting beds. In addition, estimates are being procured to replace damaged carpets in the education building, and paint its interior, repair/replace floor moldings in both buildings, and update window coverings and blinds. These enhancements will help better align our spaces with the changing needs of our programs and activities, ensure our building's healthy maintenance, and provide potential revenue opportunities through space rental to outside groups.

Nearly all of the work being completed has been made possible through your financial support of both the Maintenance Escrow and 30th Anniversary Funds, or through your willingness to volunteer your sweat equity. These funds and volunteer hours allow us to plan for needed campus enhancements without disrupting our annual operating budget. They also provide financial padding for unforeseen expenses. If you have an interest in supporting either fund, helping to support an upcoming campus enhancement, or participating in an upcoming workday, please contact one of our trustees or staff members. Additional details about dates and action plans for upcoming workdays will be announced in March Signposts, and in our weekly email.

CHURCH
CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd @ NOON

FINANCES

2019 OVERVIEW

REVENUES:

Non-Designated Offerings:	\$140,615.00
Designated Offerings:	\$6,526.00
Special Gifts:	\$38,059.00
Meetinghouse Rental:	\$4,260.00
Total Revenues:	\$189,460.00

EXPENSES:

Operational:	\$151,274.00
Disbursements	\$21,707.00
Total Expenses:	\$172,981.00

OPERATING FUND: \$130,334.00

CASH ON HAND: \$143,603.00

DESIGNATED FUND, AS OF 12/31/19:

30th Anniversary Fund:	\$11,514.48
Benevolence Fund:	\$930.12
*Duncan Proceeds:	\$7,023.53
*Hill Proceeds:	\$915.97
*Odom Proceeds:	\$7,246.81
Maintenance Escrow:	\$20,564.67

*The endowment balances listed above reflects proceeds currently available; principal balances, not listed, vary with market conditions.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving statements for 2019 are currently being processed and will be mailed out in the coming weeks. Please contact the church office if you do not receive yours before month's end.



2020 CBF-NC SKI RETREAT

THE SARDIS CHOIR WANTS YOU!

The Sardis Choir is always looking for new members. If you can sing from the hymnal on Sunday, you can sing an anthem! The choir meets every Wednesday at 7:30, or at 7:45 on Sardis Academy Wednesdays.

If you have never been in a choir and do not know your “voice type” (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass), the Minister of Music, Hilary McIntyre, will be happy to meet with you one-on-one and figure that out!

The choir is about to start rehearsing for its spring Cantata, so if you can’t make a full-time commitment but still would like to get involved, this is the perfect opportunity! The cantata performance will be Sunday morning, March 29, during worship.

All are welcome!!!



**Community
Link**

From homeless to
homeownership,
every step of the way.

Community Link is a non-profit organization in Charlotte that works mainly with helping the homeless get housing. They also have a program where they provide one-way bus tickets to people leaving the city for stable housing elsewhere. CL will send them with a bus ticket and snacks for the journey. Most of the travelers have plastic bags for their belongings. Sardis would like to assist these travelers by collecting new or gently used suitcases, backpacks, duffels and totes, as well as snack items. We do not have the space to store a collection of bulky items, so a drop-off date will be announced in the near future. Please begin collecting at home now. We hope the response is greater than CL can accept. In such case, the extra suitcases will be donated to DSS for children taken into DSS custody and placed in foster care. If you would like to donate money, please make your check payable to Sardis and label it Luggage. Contact Melissa Bowlin with questions, 704-458-9773.