

# sardis signposts

baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811  
[SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](http://SardisBaptistCharlotte.org)

## VIRTUAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM  
Virtual Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Virtual Morning Worship

Wednesday at 7:00 PM  
Virtual Sardis Academy

## together a p a r t

Sardis Baptist Church recognizes that God is made manifest in many ways, one of which is through our interactions with others. We are a relational church—a community of friends seeking deeper relationships with God, and being together is integral to our spiritual development. The Safer-at-Home recommendation from Governor Cooper has challenged Sardis folks to find unique ways of worshipping and experiencing togetherness while we are socially distant.

Case numbers and hospitalizations for Covid-19 patients continue to increase in Mecklenburg County. Unfortunately, we still do not know when it will be safe for us to convene in our meetinghouse. Meanwhile, Sardis ministers and deacons are reaching out to Sardis folks in a variety of ways to keep us together and help us feel connected to one another.

Ministers have added touchpoints through the week. Each Monday, look for a devotional from Jonathan Eidson. He connects scripture and faith into everyday events through glimpses into his own life. [Click here for access to his recent devotions](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9lql7h9gsnnhckv/ABCJ3CPYnLtTRCYKKe4Gn7a?dl=0) (<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9lql7h9gsnnhckv/ABCJ3CPYnLtTRCYKKe4Gn7a?dl=0>). On Tuesdays, listen for sounds of seraphim. Hilary McIntyre shares a weekly solo sung by herself or a member of the Sardis Baptist Chancel Choir. The repertoire includes everything from “Amazing Grace” to piano compositions by Bach to new hymns from Chalice Hymnal such as “She Is the Spirit”. [Click here for access to the complete quarantine collection](https://www.facebook.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte/videos) (<https://www.facebook.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte/videos>). On Wednesdays, look for an email with prayer requests from Sardis folks, an update on the work of the church, information on missions opportunities, as well as details and login instructions for upcoming virtual events. In certain seasons, we will also use Wednesday evenings for virtual Sardis Academy sessions (none planned in July to allow for Summer break). Intermittently on Thursdays, we’ll have Fellowship activities (Trivia scheduled for 7/9 via Zoom). Fridays at noon, Bob Stillerman leads Sardis friends in a virtual prayer meeting. This is a time to pray with each other, for each other, for the greater community and the world.

Although physical touching, or even sitting side-by-side in our sanctuary is not possible right now, we encourage you to touch the spirit of a Sardis friend through a note, a phone call, a text, or even a virtual meeting on Zoom! [Click here for a list of contact information for Sardis friends](https://www.dropbox.com/s/1es016t837k8e3c/directory%202020.pdf?dl=0) (<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1es016t837k8e3c/directory%202020.pdf?dl=0>).

## ORDINARY TIME

If we look closely we will be able to find God in the ordinary of our lives.

We are several weeks into the longest season of the liturgical year, Ordinary Time. The church calendar begins on the first Sunday of Advent and goes through the completion of Ordinary Time. There are seasons, but they aren’t based on the Earth’s axis. The seasons instead are based on the life of Christ: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is sometimes called The Season after Pentecost because it begins after Pentecost Sunday. During Ordinary Time we are not commemorating the major events in the life of Jesus (incarnation, death, resurrection, ascension). Instead we focus on his daily life, words, and actions. The color displayed for this season is green, representing growth. In the liturgical calendar, Ordinary Time falls after Pentecost, otherwise known as the birthday of the church. Many people were baptized this day, and they devoted themselves to the teachings and fellowship of the apostles. The message spread, leading to the beginning of what we now call Christianity.

## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

### SKITTLE POWER

Muses takes shape in strange forms. This past week, I found a muse for my sermon, and this article, in a Costco-sized bucket of Skittles. Have you ever seen 64 ounces of Skittles?!? Yes, it's gross, and definitely excessive, but also magical.

It's manna – that bucket satisfied ten grandchildren for a week; they couldn't begin to put a dent in it. And after a few handfuls, one doesn't really want to eat more – your teeth and your stomach tell you, "Enough!" I didn't end up preaching, "The Kingdom of heaven is like a big bucket of Skittles" parable, but I did notice all of the manna and kingdom-ness around me while on vacation.

My nieces and nephews also introduced me to a game called *Guess that Skittle*. Being an expert on Skittles, I was eager to play. The rules are simple: close your eyes, eat them one at a time, and see if you can correctly identify the flavor. I was so confident, and yet so wrong! I guessed grape or cherry six times in a row, only to find out I was eating lemon, orange, and sour apple!!! So strange!!! Open your eyes, and you can tell them apart; close them, and it's a lot harder.

This little game got me to thinking: how many things around us do we see without hearing, or hear without seeing, or taste without touching or smelling? How many things do we think we know that we don't really know at all?

When we see monuments in our city, is that which was once pleasing to the eye, soured with the taste of a sullied history? When we read sacred texts or sing special hymns, is that which always felt so pleasing to the ear gargled and mutated by that which pains our hearts: the exclusion of God's beloved? Is that which we have always known as just, and right, and fair, and equitable, and ordered, still just, and right, and fair, and equitable, and ordered when we use all of our senses, and all of the information available to us?

In these difficult days, I believe it is imperative that we choose to use all of the senses that God has given us, in order that we may receive (rather than perceive) all of the beauty in the neighbors around us, and work to make God's love, justice, and grace tangible for all.



Sure, by using our senses, we may learn to like orange Skittles, or carrots, or new songs we'd never been willing to like before. Hopefully, we'll learn to do something much more important: to value what God has given to each of us to make God's world manifest: Each other! ALL of us. Together!

## Sardis People... Shannon Roberts

Shannon Roberts runs almost every day. One day soon after moving to Charlotte, she ran across Sardis Church as she exercised through the neighborhood. Being new to the area, she knew nothing about the church, but curiosity led her to visit. "The people of Sardis keep me here," she says. "It is a great, progressive community. I've not been to a church like it."

Running has been a long-time interest for Shannon. She ran track in both high school and college. She grew up in Saddle Brook, New Jersey, the middle child flanked by two brothers. She attended Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY, where she earned a bachelor's degree in English and psychology. (Rose Kennedy and Gloria Vanderbilt are two of her fellow alumnae.)

Shannon works for an author submission service as an editor and a liaison. She guides the creative writers who are her clients through the processes of formatting their work and finding markets for them. She helps them publish either on-line or in print: magazines, journals, etc. Writers of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, as well as translators can also find agents with her assistance.

Shannon has enjoyed her move to the warmer climate of the south. In addition to running and occasional exercise work outs at home, she finds pleasure in photography and in writing (mostly fiction). She also likes to read, her favorite author being Stephen King. She enjoys the adapted screenplays, too, but often finds that the book is better than the movie. "It's sometimes hard to adjust to the view of the screenwriter," which can be different from the view she has already affixed in her head.





# A Spiritually Progressive Community of Faith



***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 Ryan Newson for an informative discussion about confederate monuments. If you were unable to join the Zoom discussion, see the back page for additional details.

Thank you to Susan Phillips. We may not be worshipping in the sanctuary right now, but Susan is keeping it beautiful! She is coming regularly to share a little love with our indoor plants, and also brought fresh flowers to display on the piano during Irena's last recording.

We appreciate our friends across the pond! We give thanks to Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne and members of Grove Lane Baptist Church in Cheadle Hulme, England. We have exchanged stories via video with their membership and are grateful for this intercontinental friendship.

We are grateful for the voluntary work done by Jim Owen and Chris Mair. They work behind the scenes keeping our bills paid and accounts reconciled.

Thank you to the Sardis Baptist Board of Trustees for taking care of downed trees during recent storms: Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, Robin Rowland.

We are grateful for the efforts of Sardis Baptist Deacons for helping all of us stay connected: Tillie Duncan, Billie Hutchison, Debbie Kidd, Amanda Lewis, Jose Mata, and Kate Mata.

***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!***



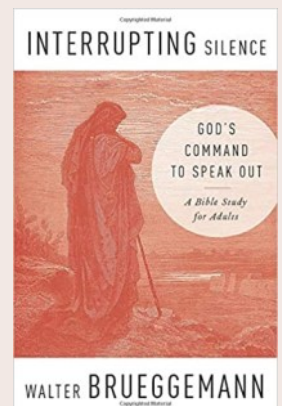
Fay Alderman ▪ Gaye Booth, friend of Ellen Dillard and Marge Fowler ▪ Jim Bowlin, Melissa's father ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Sarah Bowlin Criss ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Don Brunton, father of Mark ▪ Maria Byrd ▪ Matthew Clark, grandson of Becky & Rick Proctor ▪ "Coach", friend of Marge Fowler ▪ Sonny Cole, Marge Fowler's brother ▪ Ben Cooley, Ruthie's husband ▪ Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother ▪ Larry & Amelia Eidson, parents of Jonathan ▪ Nancy Darnell ▪ Marge Fowler ▪ Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky Owen ▪ Gennelle Hall, Mother of Jessica Wallace (Bullies 2 the Rescue) ▪ Larry & Donna Harrill ▪ Eric, Peyton, and Ted, nephews of Janie Harris ▪ Joanne Henkel, Bennett's grandmother ▪ Don Hill ▪ Eugene Hill, Don's son ▪ Harvie Hill, Kathryn Kreutzer's father ▪ Kathie & Marvin Jean ▪ Karen—CBF North Africa Field Personnel ▪ Jean Lawrence ▪ Bob & Shirley Lewis, Amanda's parents ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪ Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother ▪ Family and friends Pete McSwain, cousin of Tillie Duncan ▪ Friends & Family of Heath Middleton, friend of Donna B. & David G. ▪ Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz ▪ Cheryl Raugh, friend of Kristin Parker ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Bob Rowland, Robin's father ▪ Catherine (Kitty) Tate, sister of Becky Proctor ▪ Linda & Cameron Thomas ▪ Andy Tripp, brother-in-law of Melissa Bowlin ▪ Heather Robinson Weir, friend of Susan Phillips ▪ Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy ▪ Family & Friends of Lori Williams, sister-in-law of Marge Henderson ▪ Family & Friends of David Withrow and Diane Crosby, friends of Susan & Danny Phillips



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
**Matthew Mair**  
SALUTORIAN OF  
EAST MECKLENBURG HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2020  
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
CHANCELLOR SCHOLAR  
CLASS OF 2024

## Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out by Walter Brueggemann

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin the study of Brueggemann's book on silence on July 19. The study explores stories in which marginalized people find a voice to break repression. The author urges speaking up in situations of injustice. The class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom Anyone is welcome to join the discussion.



## COPING WITH COVID

Pastor Jonathan asked our youth and college friends how they're coping with COVID-19. Here's what they said:

### **Michael Shepard-Moore**

*"I'm working virtually which has been interesting particularly with technology. But I'm learning a lot and I'm thankful to have work this summer as well! It's been nice to spend one last summer at home."*

### **Hannah Shepard-Moore**

*"My pockets are hurting since I lost my internship and am now making zero dollars and zero cents this summer! But I'm still working on a couple academic projects, which I'm thankful for as well."*

### **Abby Shepard-Moore**

*"I'm trying to stay sane by hugging Ella and Lily (our dogs) and planning for how to not get corona in DC this fall. My summer plans were also canceled so I'm just interning with the NC democratic party."*

### **Brandon Rutherford**

*"I've been focusing on trying to keep busy. Unfortunately, the restaurant I work at is still closed due to COVID so I've had a lot of free time. I've been getting into painting to keep me focused. Other than that, I've been spending a lot of time fishing or swimming at the river. Luckily, we have a branch of the laurel fork river right across the street from our house so I don't have to go far!"*

### **Matthew Mosley Mair**

*"I'm doing alright. I'm back at work now, but we're taking lots of precautions (masks, gloves, etc.) I hope everyone else is doing well!"*

### **Jackson Mosley Mair**

*"I'm baking, practicing cello/guitar, reading, and exercising."*

### **Madison Kreutzer**

*"I started my first part-time job as a receptionist at Great Clips the week salons were allowed to reopen. I am also participating in socially distant training for aerial silks."*

### **Kaleb Kreutzer**

*"I'm staying busy this summer working 35-hour weeks at Autobell. If everything goes as planned, I will leave in/around October for Navy boot camp."*

### **Alcie Kreutzer**

*"I'm doing online classes at CPCC to take up some time. I've also been baking a lot. I miss everyone!"*

### **Jackson Hawkins**

*"My company has cut our hours to 40 a week so my pockets hurt a li'l more than usual, but I'm just blessed to be working."*



Kids of all ages are invited to join us on Zoom for storytime! Reading aloud to children has been shown to improve their reading, writing and communication skills, logical thinking and concentration, creativity, and general academic aptitude, as well as inspire a lifelong love of reading. We will Zoom in on Mondays in July at 10:00 AM. The Meeting ID and password will be shared in a church-wide email.

Several of you have responded as willing readers. If you would like to read a children's book during Sardis Storytime, please let Pastor Jonathan know and he will make arrangements. Prepare with the young child in mind. Choose an exciting story that is brief.



### **SARDIS TRIVIA RETURNS ON JULY 9TH @ 7:00 PM**

Sardis Trivia returns! Get ready to show off your knowledge of favorite categories. Bennett Henkel will once again be our Master of Ceremonies. There will be 6 rounds; the categories are:

Movie Screenshots, TV Themes, Disney,  
Before and After, Games, and State Flags.

Our time of virtual fellowship will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, July 9th. Zoom login details will be shared in an email prior to trivia night.

# ELECTRONIC CHURCH CONFERENCE

## WORDS FROM THE SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Life has looked different at Sardis since March. We're learning to be a virtually-connected community in the age of Corona. Our staff is still working to find the right balance of programming that allows for a good user experience, keeps us connected in real time, and allows for a mix of music, prayer, scripture, fellowship, and discipleship. See the article on page 1 for the flow of activities during July and August.

We are also reaching out to individuals to get feedback on alternative forums for discussion and formation, especially in regards to anti-racism dialogue, Bible Study, and book/movie groups. We know that many Sardisians have very busy schedules, and we want to offer restful and easy alternatives for engagement. Watch for emails from Sardis Baptist for details.

## WORDS FROM THE DEACONS

To the church which meets at Sardis:

Because of the global pandemic, Sardis Church has not had the opportunity of meeting in person for about three months now. Neither have we had a church conference while so many things are on hold. So that we may keep you up to date on what the deacons have been doing during this time, we decided to use electronic media using the written word rather than a Zoom gathering.

The deacons have used various means to keep connected with the congregation. We have prepared and shared food, written notes, texts or emails, made phone calls, and kept you in our prayers. We have also met with the staff and other church leaders to look at options of how to continue being church. We hope that you will contact one of us if you are experiencing illness, grief, or any other discomforting life event. We would also like to share in any joys which come your way.

Too, we would welcome any comments or suggestions on ways to keep connected other than those we are already carrying out.

God's everlasting love keep you in all ways,

**Amanda Lewis** –  
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**Billie Hutchison** –  
704.619.1874, billiejgh@gmail.com

**Debbie Kidd** –  
704.641.2244, revdebkid@gmail.com

**Jose Mata** –  
704.594.0942, josemata.nc@gmail.com

**Kate Mata** –  
704.564.9108, ekatemata@gmail.com

**Tillie Duncan** –  
704.562.6599, sardistillie@yahoo.com

## WORDS FROM THE TRUSTEES

Dear Sardis Church Family,

I would like to say thank you for your support for our ZOOM created services. While they haven't always been perfect, who would have guessed that we would still be ZOOMing in late June. Conditions at the moment are such that for now, ZOOM will continue to be our means of sharing worship/training services with our members. We are continuing to monitor ZOOM and trying to better share our services with you.

That being said, it's easy to forget about the needs of the church property even when few folks visit the campus. Doris is continuing to make sure our facility is clean and attractive inside. Our grounds crew that we employ are keeping the grounds lovely, trimmed and neat.

Most recently, the "Tree Wrecker" struck our campus once again. We had taken care of dying trees, that were creating an unsafe situation. For the second time, tree limbs had fallen across our neighbor's fence and we had to have them cut and hauled away. Within the past 3 weeks, the wind ripped a huge limb from one of our trees located within a couple of feet of the storage shed in the back corner of our parking lot. Our tree service investigated and said the limb that had broken from the tree left the tree in a dangerous state that could result in falling on and crushing the shed or once again falling on our neighbor's fence creating damage. The report we got from the tree service said the tree needed to come down, to the tune of \$1400. Our tree service took this fairly large tree down, cleaned it all up and now if you were to drive down to that corner of the parking lot, you wouldn't know all this work had been performed.

Summing all of this up, our expenses continue going on and typically, giving decreases due to summer vacations and time away from the church for outdoor activities. We appreciate your gifts and would encourage you to continue your stewardship year round.

Thanks for your support,

**Danny W. Phillips** – Trustee, Chairman





## AN INTERCONTINENTAL CONVERSATION

Rev. Dr. Ruth Gouldbourne, friend of Bob's from seminary days, is currently pastor of Grove Lane Baptist Church outside of Manchester, England. Knowing the desire of Sardis folks to be connected to our worldwide community, Bob has encouraged relationship between Sardis Baptist and Grove Lane over the last several years. You may remember sharing World Communion greetings with Grove Lane last year.

Bob contacted Ruth in April to see if her congregation would be interested in a transatlantic sharing of how COVID-19 has affected congregational life. Bob and Ruth agreed they would each interview several congregants via Zoom and share responses with their congregations. In May, Bob facilitated a conversation with some Sardis folks and shared the videos with Grove Lane. Those videos were shared in last month's edition of signposts. Grove Lane responded in June. Although we are many miles apart, it is comforting to know we have a sister church across the pond! The spirit and congregation of Grove Lane is similar to that of Sardis.

Click Here to Review the Sardis Baptist Videos  
<https://youtu.be/7G5h48ZBVkc>

Click Here to Watch Greetings From Grove Lane  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIT3-7dySnU>

## CUT IN STONE, by Ryan Newson

Last month, Sardis had the opportunity to hear from author Ryan Newson about his new book, *Cut In Stone: Confederate Monuments and Theological Disruption*, which was just released. Ryan was a classmate of Bob Stillerman's during divinity school at Wake Forest University. He is an Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics at Campbell University where he teaches courses on theology, ethics, and the intersection of faith and science.

The Zoom discussion centered around the history of confederate monuments: when they were placed, for what purpose, and by whom. If you think you know the answers to those question, think again! Ryan shared his wealth of knowledge on the subject by presenting information to the group, then having them respond with their thoughts, feelings, and whatever questions arose.

If this is a topic that interests you but you were unable to join us, watch a recording of the conversation on the Sardis Baptist YouTube channel:  
<https://youtu.be/5IYcDEX98RU>.

*Cut In Stone: Confederate Monuments and Theological Disruption* is available to order from the following websites:

- [www.baylorpress.com/9781481312165/cut-in-stone/](http://www.baylorpress.com/9781481312165/cut-in-stone/)
- [www.amazon.com/Cut-Stone-Confederate-Theological-Disruption/dp/1481312162](http://www.amazon.com/Cut-Stone-Confederate-Theological-Disruption/dp/1481312162)

