

sardis signposts baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811
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



Sardis Baptist Church has embarked upon an effort to engage friends in productive discussions about race in our community. Engagement in conversations that are sometimes uncomfortable or difficult is an important step toward improving racial relations in our communities. Although our experiences and perspectives may differ, Sardis folks agree that the way of Jesus is to love our neighbors as ourselves, and our neighbors include those who do not look like us, think like us, or behave like us.

Our first two formal sessions were in August, and two more are scheduled for September. In our first session, we talked about whiteness. What does the color of white skin mean in America? How would you define white culture? Some of us discovered that white folks have not given much thought to defining what it means to be white. Understanding our own culture can help us recognize and appreciate cultures that are different from our own. The focus of our second session was understanding what racism is. Many of us were taught that prejudice and racism were synonymous, but sociologists have redefined these words based on their studies of social behaviors. Prejudice is when a person negatively prejudices another person or group. Racism is broader; it is not about individuals, but about systems that impact a racial group.

Several video clips to prompt breakout discussions were shared with participants during our August sessions. If you were unable to join, but would like to review the materials shared, please email the church office. This month's conversations are scheduled for Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM, September 17th and 24th. Zoom login details will be shared via email. We've heard that informal discussions among Sardis folks are continuing and we believe ongoing conversations on these issues will make future sessions more robust and informative!

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based events held in cities and towns across the United States raising funds to support the global mission of *Church World Service*, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

Funds raised from *CROP Walk Charlotte 2020* will be used to fight hunger locally and globally. This year has left many families uncertain about how they'll get their next meal. Sardis Baptist Church has created a team in hopes of helping them. We hope you will support it!

In order to keep all participants safe, *CROP Walk Charlotte 2020* will be virtual, meaning there will not be a mass gathering. Participants will be encouraged to walk on their own on October 1st, and to raise funds supporting the effort between now and then. You do not have to walk to assist our team. Consider making a donation or sharing our team webpage with friends and family via email or social media:
www.CropHungerWalk.org/CharlotteNC/SardisBaptistCharlotte.

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



NEW LIFE:

In these trying times, we sometimes forget that God is still creating new life. But signs of renewal are always present. Last month, while doing some yardwork, I noticed a mama box turtle on our path laying eggs. Her little legs worked with a mix of care, efficiency, and power to create a safe nest for her babies. And right in front of us was a picture of tangible hope.

Our family has worked to give Mama some space – we’ve avoided the path, and we’ve let the grass grow high in that spot in an effort to avoid disturbing such a fragile process. We think things are going well; we spotted Daddy yesterday, who looked to be on a scouting expedition. Yes, it’s a minor inconvenience to avoid the best thruway to our back yard, but we think it’s worth it. Baby turtles!!!

We often make an effort to preserve nature; I wonder how often we make an effort to preserve our neighbors? There are so many mamas and daddies out there “burrowing” a nest for their children, hoping to create the same future for their family we hope to create for ours. Are we making space for them in our lives? Are we willing to endure some inconveniences in order that all babies might be born into safety and abundance?

BLOGGING AGAIN:

I’m writing a new blog, this time focused on how clergy in small parishes can be Church in the age of pandemic. I want to document our response in unprecedented times, but I also want to encourage other peers and colleagues. Too often, Church is only portrayed from the perspective of the big steeples, and so often that doesn’t describe the kind of ministry (wonderful ministry!) that’s fostered in places like Sardis. While our congregation is not the primary audience of this blog, I’d love to hear your feedback, and have you join in the conversation. A Small Parish Approach to Corona may be accessed here:
<http://sardisbaptistcharlotte.org/covidblog/>.

Anne Hunter Eidson

Sardis People...



"I like to describe church music like a dinner plate." So says Anne Eidson, Minister of Music at Caldwell Presbyterian Church and Sardis member. In addition to leading the music program for all ages at Caldwell, she prepares the weekly order of worship, and participates in pastoral care. Twice a year Anne and her choir sit on parade floats, singing as they join the Pride parade and the Martin Luther King parade. She finds fully satisfying the plate which she has created at Caldwell: gospel music as the main course with jazz, classical and spirituals as side dishes. In other churches in which Anne has served, the main course was classical music complemented by global music, spirituals, jazz and American folk music.

Varying the menu began early with Anne. She graduated from Mars Hill College planning to become a school band director. That summer, the departing minister of music at Burnsville, First Baptist, compellingly recommended that the Hunter's youngest daughter, Anne, be the church's music interim. This taste of church music led Anne to enroll at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to train for a church music career. She chose Southeastern because of the desire to study with Michael Hawn.

While at seminary, Anne's eye was caught by "the coolest car on campus": a red 280 Z Datsun. Soon, the driver of the car became the coolest guy on campus! She and Sardis associate pastor Jonathan have been married for 31 years. Their son Josh lives and works in Atlanta; daughter Allie is a graduate student at Meredith.

An avid reader, Anne is currently reading *How to Be Anti-Racist* along with her neighborhood book club. Among her favorite authors are Louise Tenny and Anne Lamotte. And -- she likes to read out loud to Jonathan those things that she thinks he needs to hear!

Gratitude

Thank you Sardis friends for your efforts to help keep us connected to one another. We know there are many unknown/unseen ways you are reaching out to Sardis folks. Many thanks have been left unsaid in the list below. Know that we are grateful for each of you!

- Thank you Rev. Tillie Duncan for the wise words you shared as our guest proclaimer in August. We are grateful for the many ways you serve Sardis Baptist.
- Danny Phillips cleared brush and debris from a storm drain in a wooded area along the edge of our property. Thank you for keeping us in compliance with city regulations and taking such good care of our property.
- The refrigerator in the church kitchen stopped cooling. We are grateful to Susan Phillips for emptying it out and hauling the trash away.
- The Lenten Roses in our Prayer Garden are hanging on thanks to the efforts of Sardis folks who are helping to keep them watered when needed: Donna Barger, Jonathan Eidson, David Garrison, Billie Hutchison, Debbie Kidd, and Bob Stillerman.
- We appreciate the efforts of Susan Phillips in keeping our sanctuary plants happy and healthy while we are away.
- Thank you to our Treasurer and Board of Trustees for the work they are doing to make our sanctuary lighting more efficient and earth-friendly: Jim Owen, Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, and Robin Rowland.
- Many, many thanks to all of you for the ongoing support you've shared with our friends and neighbors through Goodness Groceries and Backpack Buddies.



PRAYERS of the CHURCH

Our condolences are with the following Sardis friends.
May they be surrounded by love and peace:

- Ruthye Cooley and family for the loss of her mother, Claudette Cureton
- Hilary McIntyre and the Canfield family for the loss of Katherine (Kappy) Canfield, lifelong friend of Hilary's
- Loved ones of Edith Peters, friend of Tillie's, who served as a missionary in Honduras for 70 years
- Susan & Danny Phillips and William Roddy, for the loss of Susan's cousin Linda Roddy
- Becky & Rick Proctor for the loss of Catherine (Kitty) Tate, Becky's sister

Fay Alderman ▪ Gaye Booth, friend of Ellen Dillard and Marge Fowler ▪ Jim Bowlin, Melissa's father ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Loved ones of Katherine (Kappy) Canfield, friend of Hilary McIntyre ▪ 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, Ruthye's husband ▪ Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother ▪ Nancy Darnell ▪ Benji Edwards, Billie Hutchison's cousin ▪ Dr. Keith Tillman Edwards, Billie Hutchison's uncle ▪ Larry & Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's parents ▪ Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky Owen ▪ Mildred Gragg, Billie Hutchison's mother ▪ Gennelle Hall, Jessica Wallace's mother (Bullies 2 the Rescue) ▪ Larry & Donna Harrill ▪ Eric and Peyton, Janie Harris' nephews ▪ Joanne Henkel, Bennett's grandmother ▪ Don Hill ▪ Eugene Hill, Don's son ▪ Harvie Hill, Kathryn Kreutzer's father ▪ Billie Hutchison ▪ Kathie & Marvin Jean ▪ Karen — CBF North Africa Field Personnel ▪ Debbie Kidd ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪ Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother ▪ John McKinney, friend of Donna Barger ▪ Pete McSwain, Tillie Duncan's cousin ▪ Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz ▪ Cheryl Raugh, friend of Kristin Parker ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Bob Rowland, Robin's father ▪ Thad Royster, Tillie Duncan's cousin ▪ Linda & Cameron Thomas ▪ Wanda Watkins, friend of Billie Hutchison ▪ Becca Weekly, Tillie Duncan's granddaughter ▪ Heather Robinson Weir, friend of Susan Phillips ▪ Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy

WEEKLY ZOOM ROOMS

Sunday School - 9:45 AM

Sunday Worship - 11:00 AM

Wednesday Choir - 7:00 PM

Friday Prayers - Noon

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS

Devotional from Jonathan
(Email)

Song from Hilary
(Facebook)

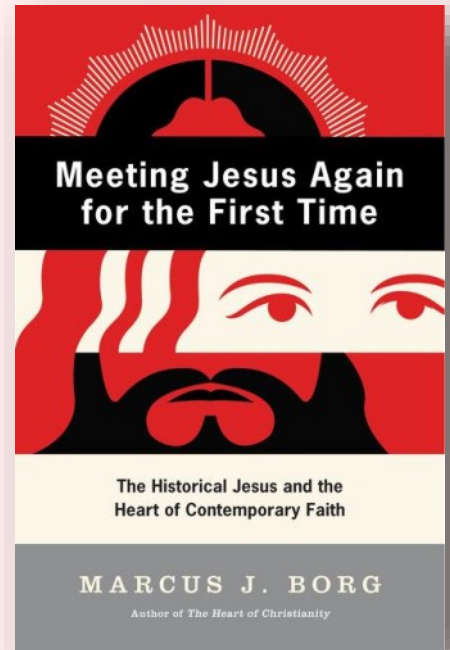
Sardis Prayers & Happenings
(Email)

UPCOMING BOOK STUDY

"Believing in Jesus does not mean believing doctrines about him," Borg writes. "Rather, it means to give one's heart, one's self at its deepest level, to . . . the living Lord."

"For ultimately, Jesus is not simply a figure of the past, but a figure of the present. Meeting that Jesus—the living one who comes to us even now—will be like meeting Jesus again for the first time."

We will begin discussing **Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time**, by Marcus Borg, on Sunday, September 13th at 9:45 AM. Login details for the class will be shared via email prior to the date.



SANCTUARY LIGHTING GOES GREEN

The lights in the Sardis Baptist sanctuary burn hot—but not for long! The twenty-four 500-watt incandescent bulbs that have been used since our sanctuary was built in 1997 produced enough heat to warm a 1200 square-foot home in winter. Thanks to our Board of Trustees and Building & Grounds team, the process of replacing the sanctuary lighting with 40-watt LED bulbs is underway. The new lighting is yet another way SBC is working to go green. The change will yield a significant savings to our electric bill, not simply due to the decrease in wattage, but the load on our HVAC units during summer months will also be significantly less.

How many Sardis members does it take to change a lightbulb? No joke, it's a lot more than you think! The process of transitioning to efficient lighting has been quite involved. The ceilings in our sanctuary are about 20 feet high, so the project required our team to assemble scaffolding inside the sanctuary allowing them to safely reach bulbs throughout the large room. There were also concerns about the compatibility of existing electrical components with the new type of lighting. Various trials were required before a commitment to the transition could be made.

The cost of each bulb is just under \$200, so the church is spending nearly \$5,000 upfront. For anyone who wishes to help underwrite this project, please make donations to the SBC Maintenance Escrow Fund. Contributions can be made through our online PayPal portal, or by mailing checks to the church office (please specify designation): www.PayPal.com/PayPalMe/SardisBaptistChurch. Although the cost of LED bulbs is greater than that of incandescent, the life of the new bulbs is significantly longer, estimated to be up to 25,000 burn hours. We generally use our sanctuary lighting less than 10 hours per week, so we should be set for many years to come!

