

# 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

## GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESS

November 1st is All Saints Sunday, a day we will remember our loved ones who have transitioned from our world during the past year, as well as the Sardis Baptist Great Cloud of Witnesses who have gone before us. In 2020, we lost two members who helped shape our congregation.

Don Hill was a charter member of Sardis Baptist Church. Although some of you may not have had the opportunity to know him, he was active in our congregation as long as his health allowed. Don earned a Masters of Divinity, and at times joined Sardis from the pulpit as proclaimer. Among other commitments to our church, Don faithfully served on our Board of Deacons as well as in the Sardis Baptist Church choir. Our music program, led by his wife Bestelle, began in the Hill home before Sardis purchased the property to build our meetinghouse. Don and Bestelle both loved to sing and serve!

Mary Jane Osborne was a devoted member of Sardis Baptist Church from 1999 until her death in March of this year. During her time with us, she served on our Board of Deacons, as well as on teams for Worship Development, Worship Care, and Building & Grounds. Mary Jane was a member of the ad hoc committee responsible for development of the Sardis labyrinth and prayer garden. She loved to garden and shared this passion with Sardis until the end of her life, often weeding and planting in our sacred space.

### *We Remember Them*

by Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer

At the rising sun and at its going down; We remember them.  
 At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter; We remember them.  
 At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring; We remember them.  
 At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer; We remember them.  
 At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn; We remember them.  
 At the beginning of the year and when it ends; We remember them.  
 As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as  
 We remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength; We remember them.  
 When we are lost and sick at heart; We remember them.  
 When we have decisions that are difficult to make; We remember them.  
 When we have joy we crave to share; We remember them.  
 When we have achievements that are based on theirs; We remember them.  
 For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as,  
 We remember them.

## — CERTIFIED — WILDLIFE HABITAT

It's official! CWF (Charlotte Wildlife Stewards) has designated Sardis Baptist Church a "Certified Wildlife Habitat". Qualification is based on a points system developed by the National Wildlife Federation. Sardis earned points in the categories of habitat (our grounds provide essential elements for native wildlife to grow and thrive: food, water, cover, and places to raise young), education and outreach. Our recent Sardis Academy session introducing Sardis folks to CWF and their mission also helped us reach our points goal. We will continue to promote the health of natural plant and animal species, as well as participate in education and outreach opportunities. Please save the dates for the following upcoming activities:

**I-Spy—November 15th @ 3 PM:** This guided nature walk, led by a CWF volunteer, is designed to introduce participants of all ages to the many wonders of nature in our beautiful grounds.

**English Ivy—December 6th @ 2 PM:** Although beautiful to look at, English Ivy is an invasive species that endangers the ecological communities on the Sardis grounds. CWF volunteers, along with Sardis folks, will begin removing the ivy to prevent displacement of native species as well as weakening of the host trees it is climbing.





## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

### REFLECTIONS FROM MORROW MOUNTAIN

A few weeks ago, Jacqueline and I took the girls for a hike at Morrow Mountain State Park in the heart of North Carolina's Uwharrie Mountains, one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. At one point, these mountains were tens of thousands of feet tall, but time has eroded them into to small hills, most of which are only a few hundred feet above sea level.

I have to admit, when I go to the western part of our state, and behold the Blue Ridge, it's often their height, just as much as their blue tint, which captures the image of God for me. "I lift up mine eyes to the hills," and feel the mighty (and very vertical!) presence of God.

But on this particular day, I noticed God through the lens of resiliency. For hundreds of millions of years, these stone figures have endured all that Mother Nature could throw at them. Yes, they've lost their height, but not their stature. Time has laid them bare, but there is such beauty in their vulnerability, and their smooth tops, and round edges offer soft respite for the ecosystem around them. They nurture green moss, and a variety of wild mushrooms, and I dare you to find a more radiant collection of fall colors. They've even served as quarries, providing flints and stone blocks for as long as humankind cares to imagine.

It seems to me, these mountains reveal both who we were, and what we may become.

When I was little, I thought these "tiny" mountains were past their prime. They used to be something, but now they aren't. As an adult, I realize it's the "tall" mountains that have not yet discovered what they will be. And it's the tiny mountains that are enjoying a wonderful purpose: living into who they are!!! And helping to shape the world that will be.

I think too often we act as if God's story for us, and for everybody, and for everything, has some finite ending. But that's not true. God just keeps working, re-inventing, re-purposing creation for what's to come. The eroded mountain is no less vital than the stub of a candle. Both have given light that will permeate creation indefinitely.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for stubby mountains, and seasoned saints, and burned-down candles, whose witness reveals the land, people, and light of days to come.

## HOWELL PETERSON & ONE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS



One Special Christmas has benefitted from the woodworking skills of Howell Peterson for the past fifteen years. This year's project is a repeat of the one that he did two years ago. He has crafted a two-drawer hunt board table from cherry. The hunt board is taller than an ordinary dining table so that hunters could reach breakfast foods while mounted on horses. Or grab celebratory libations at the end of the hunt.

A special event of One Special Christmas each year has been an auction wherein woodworkers from the Charlotte area donate items they have made. This year's sale will deviate from the normal dinner and live auction and will be held online. Up to three financially distressed families will benefit from the proceeds of the auction, the idea being to give them one special Christmas. Previously, the organization worked through schools to identify children whose Christmas might not be a happy event. These children were privately asked what gift they would like to receive, and their wishes were granted. Naturally bicycles and video games were big items, but there were also some poignant requests: One child asked for a headstone for his grandfather's grave; another wanted a crib for her baby brother. One little girl's simple request was for Chapstick.

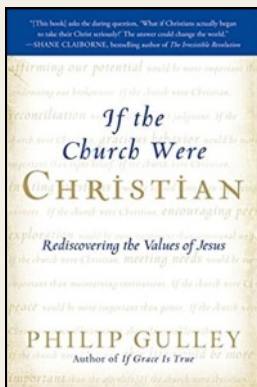
One Special Christmas grew from simple beginnings about 45 years ago. Don Chapman was a college student who didn't have the money to travel home for the Christmas holidays. He used the college woodworking shop to make toys for children who lived in a near-by orphanage. The next year other students joined him.

One can find examples of Howell's handiwork around Sardis, too. Some years ago when Sardis had a children's handbell choir, he made two red oak tables to hold the bells during performances. Music room shelves have dividers for choir folders and the children's room has had building blocks. Most recently Howell repaired Irena's keyboard stand.

Special Christmases, etc., are possible because of special people – pro bono givers!







## IF THE CHURCH WERE CHRISTIAN

Our virtual Sunday School class is beginning a book study on Sunday, November 8th. We will be discussing *If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus*, by Quaker minister, author and speaker, Philip Gulley. He offers a challenging and thought-provoking examination of his vision of the church... if Christians truly followed the core values of Jesus Christ.

We meet via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. Login details will be distributed via email.

## VIRTUAL LEARNING

Just as virtual church has required adjustment from us, school has required adjustment from our kids! Pastor Jonathan recently checked in to ask them how online school was going. Here is what they had to say:

"Good!" ~ Tyler

"Thank you for asking. I am at home and it is hard to stay focused. the work is not too hard. I miss my friends. Thank you!"  
~ Letty

"It's definitely not how I expected to spend my senior year, but it could be way worse! I have taken online classes through the dual enrollment program before, so it's not as new to me as others."  
~ Alcie

"Online learning is going alright; sitting at a screen all day is not at all enjoyable. I miss being in the classroom, but I recognize that it's not the right thing to do in the midst of a pandemic."  
~ Madison

"I'm having a blast!" ~ Jackson



## BRINGING DIVERSE FAITH TRADITIONS TOGETHER



Please join friends and neighbors on Tuesday, November 24th at 6:45 PM for the MeckMin 45th Annual Community-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. MeckMin will broadcast the service live on their Facebook page where they will creatively connect worshippers from different faith backgrounds across our region. The theme of this year's service is "The Truth of Our Connectedness." We will come together in gratitude to celebrate diversity and pray for unity. The proclaimer will be Rev. Dr. Peter Wherry. He is the founding moderator of the United Baptist Missionary Association—the ministry that connected us with the Bright Stars program for whom we collected school supplies earlier this year.



### MeckMin's 45th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service The Truth of Our Connectedness

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 24th @ 6:45 PM

**WHERE:** Broadcast Live on MeckMin's Facebook page

## MORE MOVIE REVIEWS

David & Donna have added some 4 and 5 star films to their list of movie recommendations. New additions are listed below. Click the movie title to open the trailer.

*The Triplets of Belleville* ★★★★★  
*Paris Texas* ★★★★★  
*Witness* ★★★★★  
*Manchester by the Sea* ★★★★★  
*The Conversation* ★★★★★  
*In the Mood for Love* ★★★★★  
*About Time* ★★★★★

[VIEW THE  
COMPLETE  
LIST HERE](#)



## great cloud of witness



Mary Jane Osborne  
1933-2020



Don Hill  
1933-2020

## HANGING OF THE *Greens*

Our annual Hanging of the Greens celebration will be different this year, but it will still be special! The first day of Advent is at the end of this month. We will have a dedicated time during virtual worship to share our plans for the season of hope, peace, joy, and love. Our Worship Development volunteers have collaborated with Sardis staff members to create a memorable way to include you in the Advent celebration. Zoom into worship at 11:00 AM on November 29th to hear about plans for the season. We will share photos of a Chrismon tree project on the Sardis campus along with instructions on how you can help bring it to fruition. Pastor Bob is currently creating his annual Advent calendar to share with Sardis friends and family. You will receive your copy in time to kick-off the season.

## Happy Retirement

Let's join together in celebrating  
alongside Billie Hutchison as she  
embarks on life as a retiree!

## Congratulations

It's official! In October,  
Rev. Amanda Lewis submitted  
her final assignment, met with the  
approval committee, and earned  
her board certification as a  
chaplain. Congratulations!