

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

Friday @ Noon
Virtual Prayer Gathering



Sardis Baptist Church isn't a series of transactions, it's a collection of evolving relationships. How do you describe such a place? We're not sure we can develop a document that does a perfect job, but we have attempted to paint a picture of Sardis. This February, Bob will provide a five-year recap of All-Things-Sardis, including a summary of partnerships, ministries, worship themes, financial performance, and community activities, just to name a few. The work of the church reveals its investment in and love of neighbor.

Keep an eye out for an email in early February with a link to the full report. In addition, Bob will post a video presentation of the report that includes additional details about its content. It's our sincere hope that a review of our past five years will be a catalyst for dreaming, ideating, and making possible a Sardis that thrives in the future. More than anything, we hope that the varied expressions of giftedness revealed in these pages will serve as an invitation for every community member to share their gifts at Sardis.

Here are a few teasers about 2016-2020 review while you wait:

Did you know that Sardis has received more than \$1 million in financial contributions to support its ministries in the past five years? Did you know that nearly fifteen percent of those contributions have been used to directly support local missions and outreach here in Charlotte, or to grow the internal ministries and programming of Sardis?

Did you know that enough people have attended Sardis programming in the last five years to fill Spectrum Arena (home of the Charlotte Hornets)? And that's saying something, because the Hornets can't fill it up unless LeBron's in town!

Did you know that Jonathan has delivered more than 3,000 doughnuts for worship (enough boxes to stack from floor to ceiling of the meetinghouse), and that our Keurig has cranked out more than 3,500 cups of coffee, just shy of 300 gallons, which we think would fill the baptismal!

Did you know that Tillie has conducted 60 interviews of Sardis people, each one compelling!

Did you know our choir has performed more than 200 anthems, Hilary and Irena have directed and accompanied more than 750 hymns, Sardis lay leaders have offered more than 500 original prayers, and Kathryn has designed more than 250 worship guides, 60 newsletters, and 200 weekly emails?!

#SardisShrove

Our tradition at Sardis is to spend the last evening before the Lenten season together feasting on pancakes and the fixings. It is unfortunate that we are unable to gather at the Meetinghouse this year for our annual Shrove dinner. But that doesn't mean we cannot feast together in spirit. We encourage you to prepare a pancake dinner at home on Tuesday, February 16th, and post pictures with #SardisShrove to Facebook and Instagram (or email pictures to info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org) for us to post for you. The photo above is from our Shrove Pancake Supper in 2019. We are also asking everyone who participates to call a Sardis friend (or a few) and pass the peace of Christ voice-to-voice over the telephone, or via video to share, also with #SardisShrove.



Lent officially begins on the following day; Ash Wednesday is February 17th. We will continue our tradition, adapted for covid safety, by worshipping with friends and neighbors of Sardis Presbyterian church at noon. The short service will be virtual. Details to watch will be sent via email.



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

TURN AROUND—You may not remember, but on the Sunday after the Presidential Inauguration in 2017, I turned all of the chairs in the meeting-house 90 degrees counterclockwise. As a result, we were completely reoriented in worship – the choir and worship window were beside of us, instead of in front of us. You hated it! You really hated seeing the exit sign above the Communion Table, and you really hated that you had to turn your head to see the choir, and you hated that people somehow seemed closer vertically, but further away horizontally, and you hated how cumbersome it was to pass the peace of Christ.

I admit it. I failed in getting you to like the new seating arrangement. But I didn't fail in my larger purpose, which was to redirect your attention. Don't get me wrong, I realize we are connected to the world, and the leaders we elect do have a significant impact on our lives, and on the lives of our neighbors. But in that season, I sensed that we had been SO focused on the current election, that we let its outcome supersede the importance of other pivotal elements in our lives: our attention to sacred rhythms; our attention to how we stay connected in seasons of polarization; our attention to the ongoing work of Sardis, regardless of the party in power.

And for the first time in many months, your hallway conversations to me the following week were not about what you'd seen or heard on the news. You told me you needed to see the worship window; you told me you needed to see everybody's face; you told me you needed the consistency of your sacred space. And I noticed in each of you a resolve to let Sardis be a source of comfort, wisdom, and provocation in your lives.

Here we are four years later. And my invitation remains the same. Yes, turn on the cable news when you make breakfast – it's good to be informed. But when you can, turn around, and look, and listen, and be in conversation with your faith community, too. Here, in this place, you might just find some reassurance that the Spirit's gonna keep working, regardless of how well the systems are functioning. And you might just find the inspiration to be a force that repairs those systems in need of reform. But don't worry, I'll keep you pointing North in the meetinghouse.



SARDIS PEOPLE: WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WAYNE & DEBBIE WIKE

The vocations of Wayne and Debbie Wike have found them responding in various places: educational institutions, state organizations, local churches, and family interactions. In their forty-four years of marriage, Sardis has been the church where they were members longest. They left Sardis as Wayne answered a call to be pastor of the First Baptist Church of Laurinburg. Debbie was also looking at a change in her teaching career. With the onset of grandchildren, Debbie began thinking of resigning from public school teaching and taking on the joy of learning with her children's offspring.

The Wikes still live in Laurinburg, but Wayne retired from the church there this past year. He had planned to retire in May. However, the corona virus changed that goal slightly. With the state stay-at-home requirement being announced just a week after his retirement announcement, Wayne agreed to stay with the church through its first months of internet worship. His retirement became official the first Sunday in November of 2020. Shortly thereafter he was asked to become the interim pastor at First Baptist Church of Mount Gilead which he accepted and where he also does his preaching on-line.

Retirement has not found the Wikes withdrawing from useful occupation. The home front has kept them fully occupied. They have remodeled their house, adding a study for Wayne. Wayne has also taken up woodworking and does much of the home repair work. Debbie enjoys painting and especially likes working with acrylics. They have planted a garden on part of their acre lot and enjoy the fruits of their labor when they sit down to meals.

Grandchildren still fill their lives with happiness though currently there is not as much in-person interaction with them. Debbie and Wayne's three children have given them six grandchildren, with two sets of twins. The thirteen-year-old girls live in Georgia; the four-year-old boy and girl live in Charlotte. The twins' two cousins, girls, three and five years old, also live in Charlotte.



pray

Condolences for family and friends of loved ones recently lost:

Rachel Massey, cousin of Tillie Duncan • Margaret Branton,
grandmother of Amanda Lewis • Fay Alderman •
Infant Grandchild of Robert & Terry Ray

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Our Country, Our Citizens, Our Leaders • Migrants and Advocates,
including Eastside Advocacy Group and Migrant Assistance Project •
Students, Teachers and School Staff • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline
Stillerman • Gaye Booth, friend of Ellen Dillard and Marge Fowler •
Jim Bowlin, father of Melissa • Melissa Bowlin • Maria Byrd • Sonny
Cole, brother of Marge Henderson • Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband •
Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Nancy Darnell • Dusti
Detterman, daughter of June Ross • Larry and Amelia Eidson,
Jonathan's parents • Gennelle Hall, Jessica Wallace's mother (Bullies 2
the Rescue) • Larry & Donna Harrill • Sharin, niece of Janie Harris •
Joanne Henkel, grandmother of Bennett • Eugene Hill • Kathie &
Marvin Jean • Karen, CBF Field Personnel and friend of Amanda Lewis
• Charlie King, friend of Mark Wiebke • Vicki Lewis, aunt of Amanda
Lewis • Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother • John McKinney, friend of
Donna Barger • Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz • Cheryl Raugh,
friend of Kristin Parker • Mala Reynolds • Rolando, father of Tamara
Prieyemski • Daryl Ross, June's husband • Bob Rowland, Robin's
father • Linda & Cameron Thomas • Deannie Tiddy, Jo's mother-in-
law • Heather Robinson Weir, friend of Susan & Danny Phillips •
Linda Robinson, friend of Susan and Danny Phillips • Jack Wall,
brother of Joe • Lenka Warner, Jonathan's cousin • Katie Wiebke,
daughter of Mark & Amy • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

When you can't put your
prayer into words,
God hears your
HEART.



Dr. John Simpson is a trained SoulCollage® facilitator and is offering a free virtual workshop for Sardis friends and guests. Soul Collage is an expressive arts practice done individually or in community. The process encourages you to follow your intuition as creativity and self-discovery unfold. Experience and artistic talent are not required!

Soul Collage Virtual Workshop

Facilitator: John Simpson

Assistants: Melissa Bowlin and Janette Grassi

Where: Virtual Zoom Room *

When: Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 PM

* Login details will be shared via email.

Supply packets have been prepared by John and Janette. Please email the church office to make arrangements to pickup your packet. In addition to what is provided, you will need the following:

- Small sharp-nosed scissors
- Exacto knife / box cutter
- Glue sticks
- Cutting board or mat
- Collection of images *

Images may be old or new and of any color. Collect images from magazines, photos, books, cards, artwork...

* A collection of images will be included in your packet. However, you may wish to collect your own images that speak to your soul!



SARDIS SOCIAL NETWORK HELP WANTED!

Over the years a number of Sardis Baptist folks have said our church is one of the best kept secrets in town. We are trying to change that and you can help. Our social media is more important now than ever before. We are active on Facebook and Instagram. Any time you see a post or video from Sardis Baptist Church on your feed, please click like, leave a comment, and consider sharing it so your social media friends will see it as well. We generate nearly 100 additional views for every like, comment, and share. In other words, five to ten people is the difference between 100 and 1500 people seeing our posts!

Visit our social media pages through your apps, or click the following links to access them through your web browser:

www.Facebook.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte and
www.Instagram.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte.

Sardis Baptist Church is hosting another trivia night! Master of ceremonies, Bennett Henkel, is working on a list of questions to challenge and engage. Contact him if you have requests for topic categories.



**THURSDAY NIGHT TRIVIA
FEBRUARY 11TH**

7:30 PM

**Zoom login details will be emailed the week of the event.
If you wish to be added to our email distribution, please
contact us at info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org.**

GIVING STATEMENTS

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church in 2020. Your generosity allowed us to do more than meet our budgeted offering goal; we exceeded it! Your gifts allowed us to expand missions to the greater community during a difficult year, as well as make some needed improvements to our church home. Annual giving statements are currently being processed and will be mailed out the first week of February. Please call the church office if you do not receive yours by the middle of the month.



**The Sunday School group is looking at ancient stories with new lenses. The schedule for February follows. We gather via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Email the church if you would like login details:
info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org.**

Feb. 7	Jonah and the Whale	Jonah 1, 2
Feb. 14	Noah and the Ark	Genesis 6:11-8:22
Feb. 21	Sampson and Delilah	Judges 16:4-31
Feb. 28	Stephen	Acts 6:8-60