

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



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 26th

Sardis Baptist Church flipped tradition upside down during the Lenten season, focusing on the life of Jesus, rather than his death. We pondered and shared ways that we've seen life and vitality during a dark year. Our life-giving efforts continued through the season of Easter, with a focus on hope. As we move into a new liturgical season, we are providing an opportunity for you to both share and receive life and hope with others.

Sardis Baptist Church has partnered with OneBlood, a non-profit blood bank that serves the Carolinas and beyond. They will have a "Big Red Bus" on the Sardis campus on Wednesday, May 26th from 4PM until 8PM. We invite you, if health and circumstances allow, to give a pint of blood. One donation has the potential to save up to three lives! In conjunction with the blood drive, we are hosting our second Sardis tailgate. Whether you choose to donate blood or not, we hope you will join us in the parking lot of the meetinghouse for food, fun, and fellowship.

At the beginning of April, we hosted the first Sardis tailgate. There was no football (although it felt like football weather), but there were plenty of friends. Despite the chilly temperatures, we had a terrific time, and are excited to do it again on a warmer evening! Sardis Baptist Church will provide the food. We just need you to provide the fellowship. Plant-based options will be available. Additional details we will be provided as the date approaches. Stay tuned to weekly Sardis Happenings emails for more information.

Although without gender, on this Mother's Day, may we celebrate the feminine qualities manifested in God's love, nurturing, and guidance. As the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich eloquently summarized, "As truly as God is our Father, so truly God is our Mother."



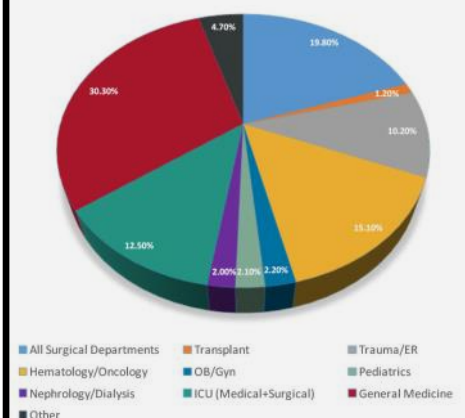
WHY BLOOD IS NEEDED

(from www.oneblood.org)

The reason to donate is simple... it helps save lives. In fact, every two seconds of every day, someone needs blood. Since blood cannot be manufactured outside the body and has a limited shelf life, the supply must constantly be replenished by generous blood donors.

Blood donors play a vital role in the healthcare of patients in our community. 37% of the population is eligible to donate blood, yet only 5% actually do. With every blood donation, you are providing strength, hope and courage to patients and their families.

There are many reasons patients need blood. A common misunderstanding about blood usage is that accident victims are the patients who use the most blood. Actually, people needing the most blood include those being treated for cancer, undergoing orthopedic or cardiovascular surgeries, and being treated for inherited blood disorders. The pie chart below shows the breakdown of how red blood cells are used in the US. Another chart illustrating platelet usage is available at www.oneblood.org.



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

Several times a week, our family enjoys a long walk along the greenway that runs behind our house. Last month, Mary Allen and I decided that we are going to take a picture of every interesting piece of nature she sees this summer. We even have a checklist to help: last night she was on high alert for puppies, yellow flowers, bugs, birds, and triangular leaves. Our camera roll is filling up fast: we've already documented a mama barred owl barking orders to the daddy of the family; yellow-spotted millipedes; magnolia leaves; buttercups; a family of deer; and a couple of bullfrogs. It really is amazing what you notice when you are both intentional and excited about seeing what's around you. It's even more exciting to think about all the stories we'll share from our nature walks, and how those details will bring us joy in the winter months.



I think our natural pursuit is fitting for this season of Easter. We're seeing the renewal of life take place in front of our very eyes. And there's plenty more that will unfold as summer approaches.

I can't help but think of the disciples, lingering in that strange space between Resurrection morning and the promise of Pentecost. Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem, and soon enough, they would know what was in store. What do you imagine they noticed as they stayed alert for a changing season? Do you reckon they noticed people, and places, and everyday wonders that had been in front of them all along? Do you think they pondered how their revelatory experience might be shared with others? Do you think they imagined how their community might transform in the same way winter does to spring?

Now is as good a time as any to be alert to the possibilities of how we do Church. After all, Pentecost is our birthday, and we have all kinds of opportunities to engage our senses in springtime. As we anticipate blooming gardenias, and dream about lush green grass tickling our bare feet, may we also notice the seeds of love, care, peace, and justice that are seeking to take root among us. And may we both dream AND work for their blooms to become a reality in the coming season.



ALCIE KREUTZER

SARDIS GRADUATES



The final good-by speech at this year's Charlotte Secondary School's graduation will be given by Alcie Kreutzer. As valedictorian, she will inspire her fellow classmates with memories and with good wishes for the future. Secondary's outstanding student has committed to attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, beginning with the fall semester. She will begin with almost a full semester's work already accomplished as she has taken classes at Central Piedmont Community College alongside her high school schedule. After the two years of basic classes, Alcie plans to apply to the nursing school and also intends to continue her education by obtaining a master's degree in nursing.

Alcie's senior year of high school is covid memorable in that she and fellow students switched to on-line learning. It has been a disappointment to miss out on normal senior activities such as prom night. But Alcie turned events to her advantage and became a full-time nanny, taking care of two toddlers and an eight-year-old.

During the summer and "spare" time, Alcie planted a garden, providing her family with fresh vegetables and fruit for their meals. In addition to common garden fare like tomatoes, peppers and lettuce, Alcie also cultivated blueberry bushes and watermelon vines. Family meals were enhanced by Alcie's being a superb baker.

Alcie's leisure time activities include visiting city parks for outdoor time. She follows cult figures Shawn Spencer and Gus Guster on the TV program Psych, in which the principles pretend to be psychics and sell themselves as case solvers to their local police department.

Alcie's family consists of parents Kathryn and David and siblings, Madison, Kaleb, and Dylan.

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

**We send our deepest condolences
and all of our love to Ruthye and Brandon Cooley
for the loss of Ben Cooley, husband and father**

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 • Askins Family: Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reese & Keely • Jim Bowlin, father of Melissa • Melissa Bowlin • Maria Byrd • Sonny Cole, brother of Marge Henderson • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Crisco Family, friends of Marge Henderson • Nancy Darnell • Dukar Family, friends of Marge Henderson • 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 • Eugene Hill • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Karen, CBF Field Personnel and friend of Amanda Lewis • Robert & Catherine Marshall, grandfamily of Janette Grassi • John McKinney, friend of Donna Barger • Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz • Cheryl Rough, friend of Kristin Parker • Mala Reynolds • Rolando, father of Tamara Prieyemski • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Michael Shepard-Moore • 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 • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

BETH ALLISON BARR Historian, Writer, Professor

Beth grew up believing that "God designed women primarily to be submissive wives, virtuous mothers, and joyful homemakers." Although this belief was taught by her church and reinforced by her culture, over time, she became more and more skeptical. She witnessed misogynistic behaviors from church leaders, yet stayed involved in ministry and kept her concerns quiet. After her husband, a Southern Baptist pastor, was fired for challenging the traditions of women in ministry, she broke her silence.



Her new book, *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth*, is the result of her speaking out. Personal experience inspired Barr to write the book; "I can no longer watch silently as gender hierarchies oppress and damage both women and men in the name of Jesus," she says. However it was her training as a historian, with a focus on women in medieval and early modern church history, that provided the evidence needed to complete this project.

Sardis Baptist Church will begin reading and discussing this book in May. The book was released in April, and can be ordered through local bookstores or online. Those interested in participating in the discussions are invited to join a Zoom room on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM. Login details will be shared each week in the Sardis Happenings email, as well as in the weekly worship reminders sent on Sunday mornings. Please contact the church office if you need assistance getting a copy of the book.

PENTECOST

The day of Pentecost is May 23rd. The scripture passage will be from the second chapter of Acts, where wind and fire represent the coming of the Holy Spirit. Help us spread the spirit in our Zoom room that day by wearing red, orange, and yellow.

WELCOME TO SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH



Latest chalk art courtesy of Revs. Bob Stillerman and Tillie Duncan



Prayer Garden in Need of TLC

Peace and beauty abound in the Sardis Baptist prayer garden. Walking our labyrinth is an active form of meditation that calms the mind, relaxes the body, and invites you into conversation with the Holy. Benches surrounding the labyrinth are available for those who would rather sit in silent prayer. Our sacred space is enjoyed by many people in our community looking for a quiet place to connect with God.

For many years, Mary Jane Osborne took responsibility for tending the garden area surrounding the labyrinth. She showed up regularly to pull weeds and often brought something new to plant in the garden as well. Her prayer garden perennials will be enjoyed for years to come. The Sardis family has certainly missed Mary Jane this last year, and so has our prayer garden, which is in need of some tender loving care.

In addition to the green growth of spring, the prayer garden has a burgeoning crop of weeds! There are seasonal pruning needs as well. We are looking for a couple (or few) Sardis friends, with a love for gardening, to help with its care. If you are interested in helping, please send an email to the church office: info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org.