

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
Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Friday @ Noon
Virtual Prayer Gathering



CHARLOTTE CROP WALK 2021

The Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk takes place each fall as a part of a nationwide endeavor to raise money to alleviate hunger and poverty in our local communities and overseas. Since its first walk in 1979, Charlotte has raised over \$9 million to relieve hunger. The Charlotte event has consistently been one of the largest CROP Walks in the country in both the number of funds raised and the number of walkers who participate.

Sardis Baptist Church is building a team to join the effort again this year. Safety concerns related to the pandemic prevent us from walking in large groups with other communities of faith this year, but we will walk nonetheless. The Stillerman family home has private access to the Four Mile Creek Greenway. They've invited Sardis folks to meet at their place following worship on Sunday, November 7th. Bob promises to have football playing on the garage TV and coffee available to keep warm.

You do not have to walk to be a member of our team! Those who want to walk will walk; others can stay back and support them in spirit. Click the button below (or visit the URL) to join the Sardis Team by registering on our roster, making a donation to one of our walkers, or supporting our efforts through prayer and helping to raise awareness about hunger in our community. T-Shirts will be available at the church for team members, while supplies last, and we will encourage you to wear them to worship on the day of the walk. Additional details will be shared as our walk date approaches.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/sardis-baptist-church-3>

Woo Hoo! WEDNESDAY

We are welcoming Wednesdays back to the Sardis calendar this fall!

October 20th
5:45 PM to 7:30 PM
Picnic and Labyrinth Walk

On October 20th, the Fellowship Team will host a picnic in the shelter. Dinner will be served at 5:45 PM, followed at 6:30 by a guided walk in our prayer garden with Ed Gash, labyrinth facilitator and member of The Labyrinth Society.

Ed recently partnered with Civil McGowan and Drew Pappas to clean our labyrinth, and we are grateful!

October 27th
5:45 PM to 7:30 PM
Picnic and Pumpkin Carving

This will be a brown bag event – pack a sandwich and bring a pumpkin to carve. Chips, apples, drinks, and Halloween candy will be provided.

WORSHIP CARE IS WORSHIP TOO!

The grown-ups aren't the only ones enjoying in-person church activities – the children of our church are delighting in getting reacquainted! And (as our caregivers can attest) it has been so wonderful to start back with childcare professionals from COS Kids Daycare. We won't be able to fund professional childcare on a permanent basis, so it's time to get back into our cycle of volunteers...and that's where you, our Church Buddies, come in! We are in need of worship care volunteers. Our church families are reestablishing their roots and those littlest roots need tending to grow & reinforce their bonds to this place. (See **Benefits of Worship Care** on the back page.)



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



The Chamber of Commerce is quick to remind us that Charlotte ranks as one of the nation's largest banking centers, and our city is often highlighted in lists of desirable places to live. It's important, however, for us to remember that prosperity is not experienced by every neighbor in our region. Despite our many commercial successes, nearly one in four school children are food insufficient, and generational poverty persists at a rate much higher than the national average.

The Annual Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk is a tangible way to address lingering inequities in our community. All funds raised are contributed to agencies addressing hunger needs in Mecklenburg County, as well as to help provide clean water and sustainable agriculture to global neighbors.

The walk raises public awareness for hunger needs; it's compelling to see several hundred people stepping in unison. The walk also generates empathy; a distance of four miles simulates the daily walk children in developing nations travel for access to drinking wells. There's ecumenism, too! Dozens of faith communities across our city join in the walk together, not to mention more than 300 other walks in communities across the country. We celebrate World Communion Sunday, why not a global walk?

CROP Walk also offers an opportunity for intergenerational stewardship: walking, donating, praying, advocating, encouraging, and educating others are all vital to ending hunger near and far. Please give prayerful consideration to how you can support this year's walk.

WALK WITH US— Join us on Sunday, November 7th at 3:00 p.m. The Sardis team will walk along the Four-Mile Creek Greenway in Matthews with check-points at the Parker and Stillerman residences. More detail will be provided later in the month.

JOIN OUR TEAM— Visit the Sardis Team Page to register to walk or donate to our team, <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/sardis-baptist-church-3>.

PRAY FOR US— We are a spiritual community. Prayers for creative and inclusive solutions to global hunger, as well as strength for our walkers are always appreciated.

REFLECT WITH US— Join us on Wednesday 10/20 for an opportunity to reflect on how we can address local hunger issues, but also serve others in a changed world. We will have a light supper in the Sardis picnic pavilion at 5:45 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. Ed Gash, a neighbor, leadership coach, and labyrinth facilitator, will offer ideas on how we can use the labyrinth as a means to unlocking ideas for outreach and service. Ed will also lead us in a short labyrinth walk and meditation.

WEAR A T-SHIRT— Every Sardis member who supports the walk in any way, big or small, will receive a complimentary t-shirt. We ask that you would wear your shirt on Sunday 11/7 to help us build awareness for the 2021 CROP Walk.

Reflections from the Beach

by Hilary Kearns McIntyre

As we prepared to leave on our youth retreat to Fort Caswell last weekend, Bob and Kathryn gave us some thought starters for our discussions:

- What do you want Sardis to be?
- What does church look like to you?
- What does justice look like to you?
- How do you want to help the world?

Here are some examples of what we talked about...

Summer: "I want Sardis to be a community where we can all come together and feel safe and comfortable, Sardis already does a highly good job of this. Church looks like a place where you can go to worship God, and have a safe place to go when you need it, also the community which helps lift spirits. Justice looks like fairness to me, we need fairness in society."

Madison: "Sardis IS what I want it to be, I've been at the church 17 years and I've always been comfortable with the people in our congregation. The environment is everything I could hope for in a worship community. Church to me is a place where people are loved and welcomed as they come. It is a space for improvement for all, spiritually and mentally."

Leon: "I've only been at Sardis for a couple months but it already feels like what I would want it to be as a church, and there isn't really anything I'd change about it."

In addition, we had some good conversations about justice and, as the last question states, how the youth want to help the world. They each have a lot of insight into environmental issues that Jonathan and I knew very little about, they are also all very well aware of the importance of mental health, and honestly all of our discussions gave me so much hope for the future. There were no concrete plans made, but that wasn't the point.

I don't want to put words in anyone else's mouth, but I know for me this weekend was not only fun, but it was energizing getting to speak with such intelligent young people, and it was therapeutic getting to have so many open discussions on topics that I personally have been struggling with, seemingly on my own. I hope I speak for the rest of the people on the trip in saying that I can't wait for the next one!



prayer

Pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones:

Family and Friends of Eric Duncan, son of Tillie & Shannon
Family and Friends of Pat Dukar, friend of Marge Henderson
Family and Friends of Ryan Fischer, friend of Kate & José Mata
Family and Friends of Cheryl Landers, friend of Susan and Tillie
Family and Friends of Pete Robinson, friend of the Tammy & Adam Taylor
Family and Friends of Walt Simpson, cousin of John Simpson

Pray for the health and wellbeing of those who are sick or managing challenging medical conditions:

• Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Maria Byrd • Carol, neighbor of Tillie Duncan • Mary Moon Guerrant, Kathryn Kreutzer's mother • Pat Chowning, friend of Marge Henderson • Sonny Cole, Marge Henderson's brother • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Becky Crisco, friend of Marge Henderson • Nancy Darnell • Larry & Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's parents • Carter England-Cole • Gennelle Hall, Jessica Wallace's mother (Bullies 2 the Rescue) • Larry & Donna Harrill • Shareen, niece of Janie Harris • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Charlie King, friend of Mark Wiebke • Lela, relative of Tillie Duncan • John McKinney, friend of Donna Barger • Kendarius, Mekhi, and Rachael Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Beau Prevost, friend of Jim Owen • Cheryl Raugh, friend of Kristin Parker • Mala Reynolds • Rolando, father of Tamara Prieyemski • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Linda & Cameron Thomas • Deannie Tiddy, Jo's mother-in-law • Julie White, friend of Marge Henderson • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

Pray for those planning for and recovering from surgeries and injuries:

• Melissa Bowlin • Linda Cook • Tyler Criss • Ron Demme • Billie Hutchison • Judy Kearns, mother of Hilary McIntyre • Kristin Parker • Becky Proctor • Tanya Stevenson, daughter of June Ross

Pray for the health and well-being of beloved newborns and those who will arrive soon:

Annie, sister of Amanda Lewis, expecting this month
Jack Holliday, newborn grandnephew of John Simpson
Catherine Marshall, expecting Janette Grassi's great granddaughter
Jack Simpson, newborn grandson of John Simpson
Eleanor "Ellie" Simpson, newborn granddaughter of John Simpson

Give thanksgiving to God for coming celebrations:

Josh Eidson & Maggie Knight, to be married this month
Lindsay Jackson & Connor Steward, to be married next year

Pray for the safety of those traveling:

• The Askins Family (Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reese, and Keely) recently relocated to Japan • Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis, working overseas for CBF and Field Personnel • Vadim, Veronica, and Kira Pateshkin, chosen family of Billie Hutchison, from Belarus awaiting paperwork from American Embassy for move to the US • Amy Wiebke, hiking the Camino de Santiago • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy, traveling and working in South America

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Worship with us:
October 3rd
11:00 AM



We Will
Be Bread For
A Hungering World

And the table
will be wide.
And the welcome
will be wide.
And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.
And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.
And our aching
will be met
with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.

And we will open our
hands to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.
And we will taste
and know of delight.

And we will
become bread for
a hungering world.
And we will
become drink for
those who thirst.
And the blessed will
become the blessing.
And everywhere
will be the feast.

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CHARLOTTE PRIDE INTERFAITH SERVICE

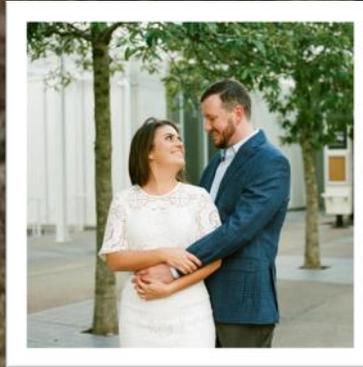
Charlotte Pride made the decision to move its annual interfaith worship service from an in-person event to a virtual event. The new date for the service will be Sunday, October 24th at 6 PM. The service, which will be broadcast live from St. John's Baptist Church, will include special musical offerings, remarks from Charlotte Pride, and a keynote address from Rev. Clifford Matthews, Senior Pastor of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church. Please note: date, time and place (now virtual) have changed since the service was originally announced. A livestream link will be shared when they are made available.

VIRTUAL WEDDING SHOWER
Maggie & Josh

Sardis tradition is to celebrate marriages in our church families with wedding showers, and we won't allow circumstances to stand in our way! Although the celebration will not be in-person, we will still share best wishes with Maggie and Josh (son of Jonathan and Anne Eidson) by showering them with gifts virtually.

If you wish to join the virtual celebration, click here to visit their wedding website which provides a simple way to view and purchase the wish list of registry items they would like to outfit their home together.

You may also enter the following URL in your web browser:
[https://www.zola.com/wedding/maggiandjosh/october16/registry.](https://www.zola.com/wedding/maggiandjosh/october16/registry)



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 7th is the Sunday following All Saints Day, when we will remember those who have helped shaped us as individuals, have help shaped our congregation, and have helped shape the Church Universal. During worship we will read the names of Sardis' saints as well as loved ones who have died during the last year. We will experience joy and grief when we remember them, but this is a Sunday of power. When we speak their names, we hasten their spirits and are reminded that God's spirit resides in us too! May this embolden us to be living saints: people who share their gifts so that others might also know God's fullest presence and widest mercies. Please let any Sardis staff member know if you would like to honor a loved one who has passed on the the last year.

*"If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever."
-Winnie the Pooh*



BENEFITS OF WORSHIP CARE

(Continued from front page.)



Worship Care is worship, too! Worshiping as a Church Buddy with the little roots is a celebration of their potential as children of God and members of our community.

It takes a village – or a church community! Consistent Worship Care enables guardians to strengthen their connections to this place and keeps them coming back. (If you are or ever have been a guardian, you know what it means to get just one hour of "grown-up" time!)

First impressions are important. Having a buttoned-up Worship Care schedule with loving Church Buddies puts Sardis' best foot (our incredible patrons) forward for any visiting families to see.

If the thought of spending an hour with the sweetest, silliest, nature-walking, playground-loving SBC members makes you smile, Worship Care is for you! Please email the church (info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org) and let us know you're ready to become an official Church Buddy!



WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT – PREPARE THE WAY!

Advent begins in less than two months! The Worship Development Team will meet at noon on Sunday, October 10th to begin developing a meaningful theme for the 2021 Advent season. All who are interested in joining this creative team are welcome. Those able will gather in-person following worship, and a Zoom login will be available for anyone who wishes to join virtually.

