

sardis signposts

baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811
SardisBaptistCharlotte.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM
Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Friday @ Noon
Virtual Prayer Gathering

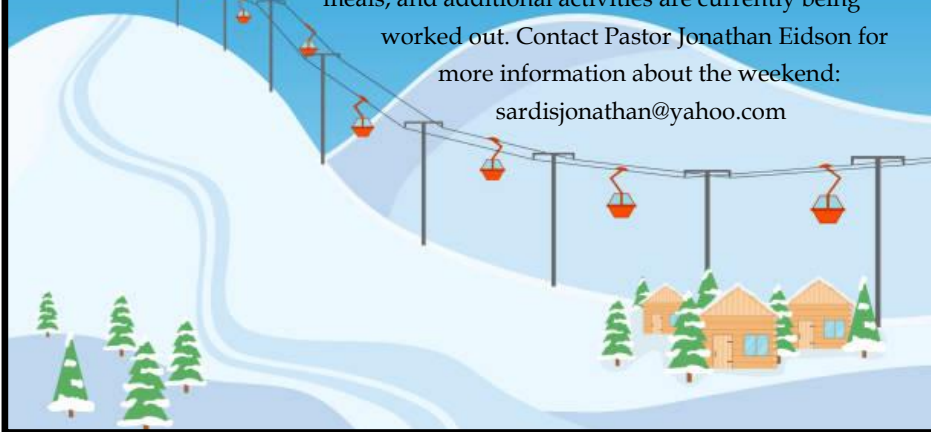
WINTERPLACE SKI RETREAT 2022

In the Fall of 2021, Sardis youth were scheduled to gather with teens from other youth groups at Fort Caswell for the CBFNC beach retreat. When CBF determined it was not safe to get a large group of teens together due to COVID-19, pastor Jonathan made alternate arrangements. Considering the small size of our group, he and Hilary felt they could safely travel with agreed upon mitigation measures in place. Donned with masks, they headed to the beach.

Weekend retreats have long been highlights for the youth of Sardis, and the time has come for the annual winter retreat. Unfortunately, CBFNC is still unable to safely host a large gathering. Once again, COVID-19 has forced Jonathan to make alternate arrangements. Donned with masks, Sardis youth will head to the mountains where Winterplace Ski Resort will be their base for the weekend of February 11th-13th. For this trip, "Sardis youth" are defined as kids of any age! If you would like to join our teens for a weekend of skiing and fellowship let any member of the Sardis staff know by January 31st. Everyone is welcome!

Winterplace is easily accessible from Charlotte, located in Ghent, West Virginia, just a few miles off of I-77. The resort has more than 25 ski trails ranging from beginner to advanced. Outdoor activities are not limited to skiing and snowboarding; there is a large snow tubing park that requires no experience and no special equipment. For those who prefer to stay warm and cozy, there is a comfortable

lodge for recovery and relaxation. Details for lodging, meals, and additional activities are currently being worked out. Contact Pastor Jonathan Eidson for more information about the weekend:
sardisjonathan@yahoo.com



The last couple of years have forced Sardis folks to be more limited in our approach to working with community partners. We haven't been able to do the hands-on activities we are accustomed to. Instead, our missional outreach has been limited to donations and supply drives—and we've been successful! You've given around \$15,000 to support mission projects, including Goodness Groceries, CROP Walk, Roof Above, and St. Philip's PPE Project. You've also donated food and supplies to efforts supporting Care-Ring, the CSS School Supply Closet, and meals for Sardis friends living alone. We are proud of our efforts, and want to broaden the way we engage with missions in 2022.

It's become increasingly clear that the "old normal" is not returning soon, nor will it do so in a predictable way. That means we need to be assertive and clever in the present. If you have a heart for missions and outreach, or want to give thought to how we can be impactful, safe, and substantive in our efforts, or want to be the hands and feet that meet human needs in Charlotte, we need your help and input!

Rev. Bob Stillerman has issued an open invitation to all who are interested in being a part of our missional process. Please email the church office if you would like to be involved:
info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



You are loved! You are loved! You are loved!
You are loved! You are loved! You are loved! You
are loved! You are loved! You are loved! You are
loved! Are you still reading? Is there a point at which
this statement becomes too repetitive? Twice? Five times? Ten times?

You are enough! You are enough! You are enough! You are nough!
You are enough! You are enough! You are enough! You are enough!
You are enough! You are enough! What about now? Is this message too
stale when it's repeated? How many times should you hear it? Twice?
Five times? Ten times?

In the assurance that you are both loved AND enough, Beloved, be at
peace! Be at peace! Be at peace! Be at peace! Be at peace! Be at peace! Be
at peace! Be at peace! Be at peace! Be at peace! Is that too repetitive? Is it
tiresome to see that and hear that? Should we cap it? Twice? Five times?
Ten times?

I know the excitement of Christmas has passed, and the New Year isn't
so new anymore. Add in snowy weather, and the stops and starts of
pandemic precautions, and it seems like the wintry monotony could last
well past when the groundhog sees her shadow.

Something occurs to me though. Maybe what we prepared for in Advent
was not so much God's arrival, but rather our readiness to both receive
and act upon the joy of God's presence long after the Christmas news
cycle.

It seems to me, Sardis, we have the opportunity to tell our neighbors,
every moment, of God's love, care, and delight for them. We can share
and receive each other's gifts. We can be witnesses of God's presence in
the present.

Do you think it's possible to offer words, moments, and actions of assur-
ance to our neighbors with such frequency that they become fatigued by
our spirit? They tell us they are overflowing with compassion. They tell
us they are confident of their belonging. They tell us their anxieties have
disappeared. They tell us God's assurance of their value is unwavering.

Well, I don't know about you, but that's a Groundhog Day movie I'd pay
to see. In the meantime, it's also the kind of not-so-monotonous work I
think we should engage in.

Dear you.
You are 'enough'. You don't have to be
prettier. smarter. better. happier.
than you are right now. This moment
is what matters and right now...
exactly who you are... is good enough.
It's good enough for me. It's good
enough for the people who really love
you. So let it be good enough for
you too. You are enough. ♥
Love. Me

Sardis People: PEDRO PEREZ



Of Afro-Caribbean Taino Indian heritage, Pedro Perez grew up in lower Manhattan, NY. Living near the Hudson River, he could run down and watch battleships and aircraft carriers as they came into port. It was a favorite activity of the little boy who was growing up in low income housing. His mother, a native of Puerto Rico, met the challenges of single parenting and upward mobility by hard work and by attaining an education, becoming a nurse. As an adult, Pedro reunited with his father. The reconciliation gave Pedro's children a wonderful grandfather.

Today, Pedro is the Executive Director of Charlotte Family Housing, an organization established to help empower the homeless to achieve life-long self-sufficiency, as they find and keep housing. This past year 239 families with 484 children were served. The three phase program guides a family through providing shelter, finding them subsidized housing, and moving them to self-sufficiency and unsubsidized housing.

Previous to his Charlotte career, Mr. Perez was a New York state trooper for thirty years. As brigadier general of the New York State Police, he commanded the state investigative services. In this capacity, he was involved in the 9-11 response as well as in other disasters. His educational background includes an A.A. in Human Services-Child Development from LaGuardia College, a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Empire State College and an M.A. in Public Administration from Marist College.

The conguero (conga drummer) enjoys playing drums and practicing martial arts in his spare time. He has been a teacher of both these activities. Pedro also likes to cook, the result of which is equally enjoyed by his wife of two years, Daynette.

SACREDSPACE

Sardis Baptist Church is situated on a beautiful campus. Our grounds are sacred places to members of our church community and the community at large. We welcome visitors to enjoy our prayer garden, labyrinth, and walking trail even when our church doors are not open.

With spring approaching, we are planning some beautification projects and would appreciate input from Sardis gardeners. We're considering low-growing, low-maintenance shrubs to line the side of our main building that faces the parking lot. Additionally, several shrubs between the main building and education building have died and need to be replaced. If you have some gardening know-how and are interested in helping with plant selections please email the church office: info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org.



BUILDING & GROUNDS

The Building & Grounds Team at Sardis operates in the background and often goes unnoticed. Here are some of the things they've been working on recently in conjunction with our Board of Trustees:

- HVAC unit at rear of the Meetinghouse replaced in early January 2022
- Energy efficient thermostats installed in Meetinghouse and Education Buildings, December 2021
- Light fixtures upgraded to LED in Meetinghouse and Education buildings, December 2021; upgrades will result in a reduction to energy costs
- Enrolled in Duke Power's Small Business Energy Saver Program to receive incentives and help offset costs associated with efficiency upgrades
- Contractor has surveyed area beside labyrinth in order to determine best method for safely remounting fallen stone bench; scheduling is underway
- Lighting for sign at church entrance is being evaluated for replacement if necessary
- Gathering and comparing quotes for pine straw and/or mulch to cover beds surrounding buildings
- Researching shrubs for placement around the Meetinghouse



Prayer

Sardis offers prayers for health, peace, hope and joy beginning with our church community and expanding to our global community. Specifically we pray for:

- All people impacted by COVID-19
- Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers
- Students, teachers, and other school staff members
- Other frontline workers whose jobs increase their potential for illness
 - All those recovering from disasters, natural and manmade
 - Countries in turmoil and on the verge of conflict
- Migrants, refugees and their advocates, specifically: Eastside Advocacy Group, Migrant Assistance Project, Off Ramp, Welcome House Ministry

Pray for peace and comfort for those who are grieving the recent loss of beloved friends, family and pets:

- Jeff Blythe, friend of Marge Fowler
- Francisco, grandfather of José Mata
- Adam Gordon, cousin of Kathryn Kreutzer
- Larry Harrill, charter member of Sardis Baptist Church
 - Ella, Shepard Moore family dog
- Madison Taylor, cousin of Kathryn Kreutzer
- Idell Waiters, mother-in-law of Doris

Pray for the health and well-being of those who are sick or recovering from surgeries and injuries:

- Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman
- Maria Byrd
- Carol, neighbor of Tillie Duncan
- 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
- Ron Demme
- Larry & Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's parents
- Carter England-Cole
- Evan, relative of Shannon Duncan
- Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer
- Betty Gunz
- Shareen, niece of Janie Harris
- Daniel Hudgins, son of Scott Hudgins (CBF-NC)
- Kathie & Marvin Jean
- Charlie King, friend of Mark Wiebke
- Lela, relative of Tillie Duncan
- Ann Macguire, sister of Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne (Grove Lane)
- Jose Mata Sr.
- John McKinney, friend of Donna Barger
- Sylvia Misenheimer, friend of Susan Phillips
- Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz
- Beau Prevost, friend of Jim Owen
- Becky Proctor
- Cheryl Raugh, friend of Kristin Parker
- Mala Reynolds
- Rolando, father of Tamara Prieyemski
- Bob Rowland, Robin's father
- Tanya Stevenson, daughter of June Ross
- Deannie Tiddy, Jo's mother-in-law
- Doris Waiters
- Julie White, friend of Marge Henderson
- Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

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
- Vadim, Veronica, and Kira Pateshkin, chosen family of Billie Hutchison, from Belarus awaiting paperwork from American Embassy for move to the United States
- Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy, traveling and working in South America



WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT - FEBRUARY 6th

Sardis Baptist Church has an active and engaged team comprised of staff, board members, and lay leaders that strives to develop worship themes for the liturgical calendar that are thoughtful, interesting, and meaningful. All Sardis folks who are interested in mixing creativity and theology are encouraged to join the Worship Development Team. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 6th following worship. We plan to meet in person, but will also have a Zoom option available for anyone who would prefer to attend remotely. Login details will be shared via email closer to the meeting date.

This meeting will be used to discuss ideas for the seasons of Lent and Easter, including plans for Shrove Tuesday (March 1st), Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning (April 17th).



2021 Giving Statements are currently being processed and will be mailed out the first week of February. Please email the church office if you do not receive yours by the middle of the month.

Our Board of Trustees is in the process of developing a ministry plan budget for 2022 which will reflect the best estimate of the financial needs for Sardis ministries, staffing, and programs. Be on the lookout for details in the near future regarding an opportunity for you to review and ask questions before it is formally approved.