

# sardis signposts baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811  
[SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](http://SardisBaptistCharlotte.org)

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM  
Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Morning Worship

### CHURCH: What to Do When Everyone Is Like You

Rev. Dr. Daynette Snead Perez will proclaim for Sardis Baptist Church on Sunday, May 1st. Her sermon will kick-off the series she's offering at Sardis on Wednesday evenings through the month—*Stranger to Neighbor Ministry: The Gospel Truth About Building Diverse Relationships*. The series will guide participants through her new book, **Church: What to Do When Everyone Is Like You**, written to help churches break through barriers of race, gender, generation, and social class.

Daynette's unique experiences as a stranger (outsider) who became a neighbor (insider) have given her valuable insight into living, listening and learning with people who are not like her. Readings, exercises, and discussion will help us uncover rules hidden within our church culture that prevent us from growing into the diverse community we desire to be. We will meet every Wednesday evening in May—mark your calendars for May 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th. Time for dinner and fellowship will begin at 5:45 PM, followed by book study sessions at 6:30. Stay tuned to weekly emails from Sardis Baptist Church for details about what will be offered for our fellowship meals.



We are thrilled with the response from Sardis friends interested in attending in this formative series. There are only a couple of seats remaining. Please email the church office as soon as possible if you wish to join us ([info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org)). We are able to waive the fees normally assessed to individual participants thanks to a grant from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC as well as funds from the Duncan Endowment.



### HOPE CHAPEL

*"A Holy Chaos where EVERYONE is welcome. We don't try to fix people at the Hope Chapel, we simply aim to welcome them, and most importantly, to make them feel loved."*  
~ Hope Chapel Facebook Page ~

Many churches in Charlotte partner with Hope Chapel to bring worship to neighbors who may not feel welcome in some churches. Hope Chapel is a small church located next to the Men's Shelter. They serve our homeless neighbors as well as anyone else who wants to attend.

Sardis is committed to leading worship at Hope Chapel twice in the coming months: Sunday, May 15th and Sunday, October 16th. The short (about 30 minutes) 8 AM worship service includes hymns, a scripture reading, a homily, and a time of prayer. Historically, Pastor Bob has led worship on our Sundays. However, we would like to broaden our connection and engage Sardis friends in this important ministry. Please let Bob know if you would like to participate in the leadership of either of these services.

### SARDIS' PHONE TO FOREVER

A simple but profound artifact has recently been added to the Prayer Garden at Sardis: a phone to forever. An old rotary lineman's phone, discovered by John Simpson, was handed over to woodworker, Howell Peterson, with a request to build a shelter so the phone could be installed beside our labyrinth. This phone is for important calls you want to make to grieving loved ones. It's a tool to facilitate the grief process as you allow your heart to reach across space and time. It provides an opportunity to share messages with lost friends and family, or to say the goodbyes you never got to say. Some may say this old rotary phone dials to nothing, but for those in grief, we hope this phone will connect them with healing voices. We invite you to pick up the phone; you know the number.



## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



As participants in this experiment called Sardis Baptist Church, we espouse four essential freedoms: soul freedom, believer's freedom, church freedom, and religious freedom.

- We are free to interpret the scriptures and discern God's call upon our lives based on our own conscience.
- As a body of believers, we are made up of unique and gifted individuals who are all equipped and empowered to be a voice in shaping the decisions of our congregation.
- We, collectively, as a church body, listen for the Spirit to chart our congregational course, independent of a larger, governing denominational body. There isn't another Sardis just like us.
- We believe in the separation of church and state.

As we move into a new season, one of Easter hope, and of lives dramatically reshaped by new post-pandemic and geopolitical realities, I'd like to offer a fifth freedom for us to consider: Sardis freedom.

We have the opportunity for our little congregation to become ANYTHING we want to be. We are free to listen. Free to learn. Free to dream. Free to worship. Free to gather (again!). Free to laugh. Free to weep. Free to love. Free to move about in open spaces. Free to identify what gives us energy and fills us up. Even more free to identify what doesn't. To name it, discard it even. Free to be ourselves, just as God made us. Most off all, I think we are free to faith our future.

Pandemic robbed us of more than 80 in-person worship services. And I doubt that we had a single committee meeting, business meeting, Bible Study, fellowship event, missional gathering, or community meal in the last two years that resembled anything close to those of what the congregation experienced in 1988, the first year of our fellowship. And yet we are here. And the Spirit moves. And our congregation thrives. And God is still present among us. Our expressions may change, but our purpose, resilience, and spirit do not.

To paraphrase an old Shell Silverstein poem:

*Listen to Mustn'ts, Sardis, listen to the Don'ts.  
Listen to the Shouldn'ts, the Impossibles, the Won'ts.  
Listen to the Never Haves, then listen close to me.  
Anything can happen, Sardis, Anything can be.*

May God free us to make it so!

## Sardis People ~ JOE WALL ~

Joe Wall has experienced the Supreme Court of the United States up close. One of the highlights of his legal career was working with his firm (Jordan, Price, Wall, et. al.) to defend the State of North Carolina against a challenge by Washington State to the constitutionality of an NC statute. Washington State claimed that the statute discriminated against Washington State apple growers, giving NC apple growers an economic advantage in selling their apples in NC. The case involved the Commerce Clause of the US Constitution, so it was a significant case. In the following years, the Supreme Court's decision often appeared in textbooks for classes involving constitutional law.

In addition to the exhilaration of sitting in the highest court in the nation and filing documents with them, Joe and wife Betty Gunz enjoyed Washington, DC, during the blooming of the cherry trees. A visit to the Air and Space Museum followed by a romantic dinner in an Italian restaurant contributed to the loveliness of their trip.

After completing his undergraduate degree in history at Duke University, Joe began working on a law degree at the University of North Carolina. He earned the degree but only after an interruption involving the U.S. army. After basic training at Fort Bragg, he went to Vietnam, where he was stationed at US headquarters at Long Binh.

Joe and his four siblings grew up in Alamance County in the shadow of the Pleasant Grove School (grades 1-12). Both his father and mother were teachers there. While in high school, he drove a school bus and enjoyed playing basketball for Pleasant Grove HS and, after consolidation, for Eastern Alamance HS. Today, one of his favorite pastimes is watching "Better Call Saul."



Joe Wall, Vietnam, Circa 1970



## MAKE WELCOME SEWING SCHOOL *Congratulations Class of 2022!*

Many thanks to Sardis friends who supported our Lenten mission collection for the **Make Welcome Sewing School** who seeks to empower refugee women as they work to make the United States their new home. Make Welcome accomplishes this through vocational training, English tutoring, mentorship, and mental health support. Sardis Baptist has raised more than \$1,100 in contributions that will specifically be donated to help purchase new sewing machines and sewing kits to enable this year's graduates the ability to begin their own businesses.



## Music Notes from the Choir



Our Good Friday concert was a hit! Billie Hutchison, Danny Phillips, Debbie Kidd and I (Jonathan) sang at the Willow Ridge Memory Care assisted living facility. Travis, a staff member there connected with our own Debbie Kidd and gathered the four of us together to sing with the residents. Debbie led and accompanied us with her guitar. We sang and shared for approximately 30 minutes while the receptive group sang along, and one gentleman even danced!

The program featured holy week hymns and inspirational thoughts shared by Rev. Debbie Kidd. The residents were grateful for our presence and many of them urged us to return in the future. I was grateful for the opportunity to share the Gospel with many who were living their Easter experience on Good Friday.

~ Pastor Jonathan

## PRAYER

### GOD OF HOPE

Give comfort to those who suffer because of violence.  
Assuage the grief of those who mourn their dead.  
Provide resources to countries who welcome refugees.  
Protect those who work to promote peace.  
Convert the hearts of those who resort to arms.  
Inspire leaders to peace and reconciliation with enemies.  
Inspire compassion for all people impacted by the crisis in Ukraine.  
Give us hope for a future of peace based on justice for all.

### CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies are with Daynette Snead Perez and her family for the loss of her brother, Michael Todd Snead.

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Roger & Janet Albiston, friend of Jean Lawrence • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin • Sarah Bowlin Criss • Maria Byrd • Pat Chowning, friend of Marge Henderson • Sonny Cole, brother of Marge Henderson • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Pat Crippen, friend of Ellen Dillard • Becky Crisco, friend of Marge Henderson • Nancy Darnell • Ron Demme • Larry & Amelia Eidson, parents of Jonathan • Carter England-Cole • David Faircloth, extended family of Phillips • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Janie Harris • Shareen, niece of Janie Harris • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Ted Lillie, friend of Ellen Dillard • Ann Macguire, sister of Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne (Grove Lane) • Sylvia Misenheimer, friend of Susan Phillips • Kristin Parker • Ryan Parks, former student of Jean Lawrence • Frank Phillips, brother of Danny Phillips • Rachel, Kendarius, & Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Becky Proctor • Mala Reynolds • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Pamela Schwartz, former staff of St. Stephen UMC • John Simpson • Tanya Stevensen, 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  
• April Wolfe, minister to Doris Waiters

### TRAVELING MERCIES

Askins Family (Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady,  
Samuel, Reece, Keely)  
Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis  
Katie Wiebke,  
daughter of Mark & Amy



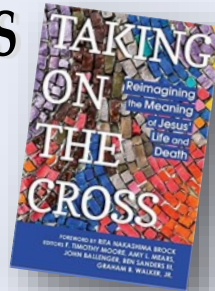
PayPal is revolutionizing the way churches receive donations. For some folks, the ease and convenience of an online payment system is preferable to more traditional methods such as writing a check or putting cash in an offering envelope. However, there is a downside—fees. Although the fees may seem small, they add up when you pay a lot of them! Sardis Baptist has paid more than \$450.00 in PayPal fees during the last year.

We've noticed that we incur fees for some transactions, but not for others. Any transaction designated as payment for "goods and services" incurs a fixed fee plus a percentage of the amount, but we are not selling goods and services! You can help us reduce fees (and increase our budget) by selecting the "friends and family" option instead. \*Note: this option is only available if you have a PayPal account and payment is made from your PayPal balance or your bank account.

## TAKING ON THE CROSS

Our Sunday School class is reading a newly published book whose editing team includes Writer-in-Residence, Rev. Dr. Tim Moore. *Taking on the Cross: Reimagining the Meaning of Jesus' Life and Death*, includes essays from a diverse group of Baptist pastors, writers, and theologians who critically question substitutionary atonement theology—that Jesus died on the cross for humanity's sins—and offers pathways for reimagining the meaning of Jesus' life and death. Each chapter concludes with questions that will make for interesting discussions during our Sunday morning gatherings.

The doors to our Sunday School class are open to anyone who wishes to join our discussions. We meet at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings in the large classroom of the Education Building. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$15.



# THANK YOU!

*Staff Appreciation Thank You's Continued...*

Sardis Baptist Church—  
Members, Deacons, Trustees,

*A big thank you for the gift card given to me for helping with the financial work of the church (a privilege and an honor). You are a wonderful collection of people to worship with and serve.*  
~ Jim Owen

My Dear Sardis People,  
My BIG THANKS to all of you! I appreciate your appreciation!!!  
~Irena Hramenkova

Sardis Baptist,  
*How lovely! Thank you for the Barnes & Noble gift card. A great way to help me indulge in one of my favorite pastimes.*  
~Tillie Duncan

So many of you helped with special events during Lent that we don't have space to list all the names in our newsletter! After two years of minimizing our gatherings and keeping our distance from one another when we were together, the seasons of Lent and Easter were especially fulfilling! It has been wonderful to have so many Sardis friends actively engaged and involved in the work of the church.

Kudos to Sardis friends who worked together and participated to bring meaning to the following projects and events. We are grateful for each one of you!

- Sardis Buildings & Grounds Workday
- Lunch & Learn: Sardis Tables
- Just Coffee
- Shrub Installation
- Symbolic Lenten Floral Displays
- Rock Painting & Treasure Hunting
- Palm Sunday
- Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
- Flower Pot Rehab
- Good Friday Community Worship
- Willow Ridge Memory & Music Concert
- Easter Sunday

## NATIVE SNAKES OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Charlotte Wildlife Stewards will be hosting their first in-person community program since 2019 at Sardis Baptist Church this month! Join them on Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 PM for Native Snakes of North Carolina. Snakes are beneficial and necessary members of a healthy ecosystem. This family-friendly class will explore the important ecological roles that snakes play and highlight the differences between venomous and non-venomous snakes. This event is free and open to the public. If you plan to attend, please register online at <https://bit.ly/3qNCiKO>.



# Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Third Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross 11:00 AM Worship Rev. Dr. Snead Perez	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Stranger to Neighbor Ministry 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross 11:00 AM Worship	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Charlotte Wildlife Stewards: Native Snakes 	<b>11</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Stranger to Neighbor Ministry 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:00 AM Hope Chapel 9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross 11:00 AM Worship	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Stranger to Neighbor Ministry 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:00 AM Stillerman Baby Shower Gift Card Blitz 11:00 AM Worship	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Stranger to Neighbor Ministry 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Ascension Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross 11:00 AM Worship	<b>30</b> Memorial Day 	<b>31</b> Make Welcome Sewing School Graduation 				





Hallelujah!



Happy Easter!



Maundy Thursday



Sardis Spring 2022

### Baby smiles and giggles galore,

THE STILLERMAN FAMILY WILL WELCOME ONE MORE!  
MARY ALLEN & LUCY HAVE PLENTY TO SHARE,  
GIFT CARDS ARE ONE WAY TO SHOW THAT WE CARE!

The deacons of Sardis Baptist invite you  
for breakfast and a  
*gift card blitz*  
celebrating the coming arrival of

### Baby Girl Stillerman

Sunday, May 22nd, 2022 at 10:00 AM  
Sardis Baptist Church, Education Building

Most they have, but a few things could use...  
Gift Cards from Target and Amazon.  
If you prefer something to wrap, visit their gift registry:  
<https://www.babylist.com/StillerChou3>



## Flowers of Peace and Unity

Throughout the season of Lent, we hope you noticed the flowers displayed as you arrived at the meeting-house. They were a visual representations of our prayers for countries in conflict. Please remember these countries as you continue to pray for peace and unity.

Sunflowers – Ukraine  
Chammomile – Russia  
Tulips – Afghanistan  
Jasmine – Syria  
Lilies – Hong Kong

Creator of all,  
Sometimes our world seems broken.  
Neighbor has turned against neighbor, and we've focused more on our differences than the fact that we are all uniquely made in the image of You. Unify us and show us that peace is possible through love of each other rather than clinging to differences.  
Amen.

