

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

BIBLE DIGEST: BOOK BY BOOK



Biblical literacy is of the utmost importance to our congregation. On the most basic level, if we choose to proclaim that Holy Scripture is instructive and useful to our pursuit of divine understanding, we ought to at least read its contents. But it's more than that. When we engage ancient texts, we participate in the ongoing narrative of God. We become explorers. Our scriptures are not sacred and special because they are perfect and infallible. In fact, I would argue that it's the opposite – it's their humanity and imperfections that make them holy. The stories reflect people of faith seeking to make sense of the divine in every human way. Sometimes they are poetic and profound; sometimes they are heroic or compassionate; sometimes they are clumsy; sometimes they are even mean and shortsighted; sometimes they are mysterious. But they are always human. Our role, as persons of faith, is to engage these stories with openness and authenticity, in order that we might draw out new meaning for life in the present.

We remember context. We value history and scholarship. We think about the characters that go unmentioned; we grieve those who are abused and marginalized; we challenge ourselves to be more humane and inclusive in the present. We have the resolve to believe that both God and the scriptures we read are strong enough, smart enough, resilient enough to receive and even welcome our questions and our doubts. Our intentionality, our scholarship, and our curiosity does not negate our sense of wonder and faith; they enhance them.

More than anything, when we take seriously the pursuit of biblical scholarship, we make ourselves active agents in God's redemptive story, a story that is ever unfolding. And we have the opportunity to help proclaim a compassionate and realized God that is so vital for a world in turmoil. With all of this in mind, I'll be introducing a new format for Sundays in Ordinary Time at Sardis. It is my hope to engage all 66 books in the First and Second Testaments, as well as apocryphal books, in the next two years. On such Sundays, we will read one passage from each book in our canon. We will also have a brief historical introduction and homily for each corresponding book and passage. Congregants will be encouraged to read the highlighted book in the week after each introduction/homily. At the end of our series, each congregant will have exposure to every book in the Bible, and can pursue the texts that best resonate with their life context.

We will begin our series this fall by exploring the books of the Pentateuch, the Gospels, and Acts:

- August 7th—Genesis 1:1-2:4a (Creation One)
- August 14th—Exodus 3:1-15 (Burning Bush)
- August 28th—Leviticus 25:8-24 (Year of Jubilee)
- September 4th—Numbers 27:1-11 (Daughters of Zelophehad)
- September 11th—Deuteronomy 6:1-13 (Hear O Israel)
- September 18th—Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes)
- September 25th—Mark 2:1-12 (Friend Lowered through the Roof)
- October 9th—Luke 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan)
- October 16th—John 4:1-42 (The Woman at the Well)
- October 23rd—Acts 6:1-7 (Selection of Deacons)



COMMUNION BRUNCH August 21st, 11:00 AM



The Communion Table at Sardis is open. Our table is not reserved for members only – or even Christians only. At God's table, all are welcome. This sacrament represents God's unconditional love for all of us, regardless of whether we share religious or political beliefs, no matter what we look like or where we live, and irrespective of what values we hold dear.

We'll celebrate God's open table at a Communion Brunch on Sunday, August 21st at 11:00. We'll transform the sanctuary into a banquet hall. As we eat we will worship around a common table, remembering that worship is conversation and community.

Breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, sweet breads, juice and coffee will be served. Vegan and gluten-free options will be available. Email the church office if you would like to assist with setup, cleanup or food preparation:
info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

CORPORATE THANKSGIVING

For many years, a presentation of offerings was this congregation's most tangible and visible symbol of gratitude. Changes brought on by both technology and pandemic have shifted our expression. Many congregants tithe electronically. Others struggle with the close proximity of plate-passing. An unintentional consequence has resulted: both congregant and usher experience a sense of awkwardness. Nobody wants to pass or collect an empty plate. Nobody wants to experience shame or doubt in the expression of their gratitude, especially if they've already given. Conversely, if someone has a traditional offering to give, they don't want to spend the entire worship service wondering when or how to make their offering.

What we're really interested in is the spirit of gratitude. We offer our thanks to God, and our contributions to this congregation in the ways that are most accessible to our lives in the present. Initially, an offering plate was meant to help our giving feel less transactional and more relational. We acknowledge that for many congregants the traditional offering provided meaningful ritual.

In the spirit of that ritual, there are two offering plates in the meetinghouse, one at the front, and one at the back. Traditional offerings may be received at the beginning or conclusion of worship. There is also a QR code below for families who would like to access our PayPal app.

We will also distribute bookmarks during worship as a symbol of thanksgiving. Each month's bookmark will feature an expression of gratitude for contemplation. We invite you to take the bookmark, or if you have offered your time, talent, or tithe to Sardis in less "traditional" ways, consider leaving your bookmark in the offering plate. The collection of cards will serve as a visible and sacred reminder of our collective stewardship.



Sardis People: THE STILLERMAN FAMILY



What a summer this has been for the Stillerman Family! There is now a trinity of little girls in the household. Josephine Renée has joined Mary Allen and Lucy Marguerite, having been born on June 25th. Mary Allen and Lucy adore being big sisters to Josie. Thankful parents Rev. Bob and Jacqueline are full of love and pride for the little princesses who vividly color their lives.

Summertime has been full of colorful experiences for Lucy and Mary Allen. They've enjoyed the "fluff tree" (mimosa) in their front yard. Digging up some off shoots, they potted them and are patiently watching them grow. They also have a favorite tree in the Sardis churchyard: the magnolias, naming them Maggie, Mattie, and Maddie. They love to smell the fragrant flowers. The big sisters found color and taste abounding in snow cones at a store in Waxhaw. With over 100 flavors to choose from, they finally decided on the Birthday Cake/Cotton Candy with butterfly gummies. Watching the train make its way across the bridge in Waxhaw was just "icing on the cake." Running through splash pads, riding scooters, learning to swim, reading, visiting grandparents, playing on a dirt pile in Winston-Salem have made their summer as bright as the rocks they painted at Sardis during Lent.

Mary Allen will be six years old in August and is very excited about her birthday party which will take place at a splash pad. Three-and-a-half-year-old Lucy is in the Shark class at pre-school. She has heard "A Rainbow of Color" so many times that she can now "read" the 25-page book, which is all about color in the life of a Disney princess. But, as the book says, one doesn't have to be a princess to find color everywhere.

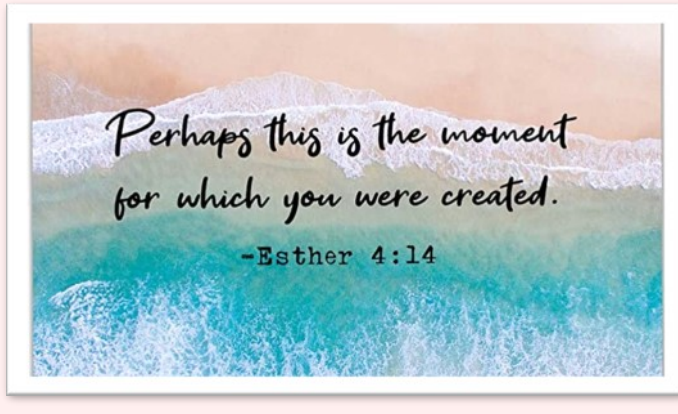
Jacqueline is Senior Manager of Acquisition Marketing at TIAA and Bob is Pastor of Sardis Baptist Church. Their summer, too, has been colored – with greatly appreciated family time.

CBFNC - YOUTH BEACH RETREAT

October 7-9, 2022 ~ NC Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell

HOW ABOUT A TRIP TO THE BEACH? The CBF Fall Beach Retreat is a retreat for middle and high school youth. It is the week-end of October 7th - 9th. This year's theme is "Embrace: Such a Life" and we'll be considering Esther 4:14, "You have come to royal dignity for a time such as this." Our retreat focus is to embrace where we've been, where we are today, and what we hope for the future.

Here's the surprising part! The retreat participation cost is \$0.00! (You only have to pay if you sign-up but don't show-up.) We need to know if you want to go so sign-up for you and your friends by Sunday, August 21st! Check with J Swizz to sign up or if you need more information: SardisJonathan@yahoo.com, (704) 622-9984.



Choir and Invitation

The Sardis Baptist Church Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday evening, August 10, 2022, at 7:30 PM.

Our first Sunday in worship will be August 28th, and we will practice before worship at 10:30 AM in the music room.

Anyone and everyone is invited to join the choir! We sing (almost) every Sunday morning between September and June, and attendance is never mandatory, so even if you can't always join us for church or rehearsal, you are always welcome!

If you want to contribute to the choir without having to sing, you can email Hilary Kearns McIntyre at SardisHilary@yahoo.com with any song requests or suggestions. We love learning new music and especially interpreting your favorites!



CONDOLENCES

Family and friends of Marge Fowler Henderson, beloved friend and member of Sardis Baptist Church, who died on July 4th.

Family and friends of Carolyn McClendon, friend of Bob Stillerman, who died on July 1st.

CELEBRATIONS

• Lindsay Jackson (daughter of Kristin Parker) & Connor Stewart, preparing for their upcoming wedding • Amanda Lewis & Bennett Henkel, expecting an addition to their family this month • The Mata family, expecting an addition to their family in early 2023 • The Stillerman Family joyfully welcomed Josephine Renée on June 24th

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

• Roger & Janet Albiston, friend of Jean Lawrence • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin • Sarah Bowlin Criss • Steve Braxton, brother-in-law to Rick Proctor • Maria Byrd • Pat Chowning, friend of Marge Henderson • Sonny Cole, brother of Marge Henderson • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Becky Crisco, friend of Marge Henderson • Nancy Darnell • Ron Demme • Larry & Amelia Eidson, parents of Jonathan • David Faircloth, extended family of Phillips • Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Janie Harris • Shareen, niece of Janie Harris • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Robert Lacey, uncle of Kate Mata • Ted Lillie, friend of Ellen Dillard • Ann Macguire, sister of Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne (Grove Lane) • Maria Marshall, daughter of Janette Grassi • Kristin Parker • Ryan Parks, former student of Jean Lawrence • Frank Phillips, brother of Danny Phillips • Vicki Phillips, niece of Shannon Duncan • Rachel, Kendarius, & Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Mala Reynolds • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Pamela Schwartz, former staff of St. Stephen UMC • 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

TRAVELING MERCIES

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

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.

Sardis Baptist Church



august



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Stranger to Neighbor Ministry™ & Ice Cream Social	4  ICE CREAM	5	6
7 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross 11:00 AM Worship Noon Worship Development Team	8 	9	10 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Weekly Choir Practice Resumes 	11	12	13
14 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross 11:00 AM Worship 	15	16	17 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross 11:00 AM Communion Brunch	22 	23	24 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross 11:00 AM Worship Blessing of the Backpacks 	29	30	31			



WORSHIP CARE - WIT, WISDOM, DISCOVERY

"Thank you God for our youngest church buddies! Thank you parents for bringing them to church! Thank you Sardis for providing inviting, safe, interesting spaces to learn and grow in faith and helpers to learn alongside the children." ~ Susan Phillips

Our Worship Care volunteers reinforce the bonds our youngest church buddies have to Sardis Baptist. Serving in Worship Care is worship too! Your service is a celebration of their potential as children of God and members of our community. Susan Phillips recently shared some reflections on her time with our youngest buddies following worship care. Shortly after arrival, one of the children noticed others arriving and exclaimed, "Yay! Look out the window! Here come our buddies to play with us!"

The children made fruit and marshmallow skewers, and tied the activity to the creation story: "Farmers grow fruit, but God made the seeds. Thank you God! But God didn't make those marshmallows! They don't have seeds!" A prayer of gratitude followed in song as they sang the Johnny Applesseed song, "God's been good to me!" Words of wit, wisdom, and discovery were shared throughout their time together.

Some of Susan's favorite quotes from the kiddos follow: 🍓 They talked about how strawberries grow on the ground, blueberries grow on bushes, grapes grow on vines, and bananas grow on trees. One child responded, "Marshmallows grow on _____, huh?!" 🍓 From another, "Fruit makes us healthy, but maybe not marshmallows." 🍓 "My baby can't make a fruit stick by herself, BUT I CAN!" 🍓 "Grapes can roll a long way on the floor. OOPS!" 🍓 "Bananas will squish on the skewer... but grapes and blueberries have skewer holes." 🍓 "Blue, purple, red, yellow, white are our fruit colors. We need a green grape, but no green strawberries – yuck!" 🍓

Worship care volunteers are currently scheduled through August. Please contact Pastor Jonathan if you have questions or would like to join this rotation.

August 7th..... Rachel Faulk
August 14th..... Tammy Taylor
August 21st..... Jonathan Eidson
August 28th..... Jonathan Eidson

Please contact another volunteer from the Worship Care rotation to switch dates if you are unable to be with our church buddies on your scheduled day. If you're unable to find a replacement, please let a member of our staff know as soon as you are able. We are grateful for your service to this important ministry!



Stranger to Neighbor Ministry™
Ice Cream Social — August 3rd @ 6:30 PM

Join us in the Sardis Baptist Picnic Shelter next Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:30 PM. The founder of Stranger to Neighbor Ministry™, Dr. Daynette, will facilitate a discussion about ongoing efforts to build multicultural relationships. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you participated in the book study she led earlier this year. Summer sundries will be served for you to enjoy as you socialize with Sardis friends.



Worship Development Team Meeting
August 7th @ Noon

The Worship Development Team will gather following our service on Sunday, August 7th. Pizza will be provided. We will begin planning for special worship events in the fall, including World Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and the Sardis Animal Blessing. The door is open for all Sardis friends to participate in these important discussions that guide our worship. Please let Kathryn know if you will attend so that we can plan for food accordingly.



Blessing of the Backpacks
August 28th @ 11:00 AM

It's already time to begin a new school year! In anticipation of this important milestone for students, teachers, administrators, and parents, we will include a blessing of the backpacks (lunch boxes and laptop totes too) during our worship service on Sunday, August 28th. We will pray that minds and pencils are sharp, that backpacks are never forgotten, that the burdens they carry are light and the bodies that carry them are strong. We'll give thanks for glue sticks, notebooks, pencils, and especially our Pink Pearls that remind us it's not only okay to make mistakes, it's an important part of the process. These things we will pray in the spirit of our greatest teacher!

SARDIS HAPPENINGS IN JULY



**Baby Shower Honoring
Amanda & Bennett,
July 17th, 2022**



**Wit, Wisdom, and Discovery
Worship Care — July 24th, 2022
See page 5 for more details.**

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Sardis Baptist Church is hosting a school supply drive through August. Supplies collected will be donated to economically disadvantaged students of Charlotte Secondary School, with whom we have partnered for the Goodness Groceries campaign. A list of supplies needed is listed below. Donations may be dropped off in the church vestibule.

- Backpacks
- Lunch Bags
- Pencils
- Sharpeners
- Erasers
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Pocket Folders
- Dividers
- Index Cards
- 3-Ring Binders
- Graph Paper
- Composition Notebooks
- Loose Leaf Notebook Paper

If you would prefer to make a financial contribution to this effort, please notate "school supplies" with your payment. Sardis will use funds collected to supplement items dropped off at the church.