

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

SARDIS PROCLAIMERS FOR JULY



Hilary McIntyre



Seth Hix



Jonathan Eidson



Kathryn Kreutzer



Tillie Duncan

Pastor Bob will spend Sundays in July adjusting to his new life as father of three precious girls! We will miss his presence in the pulpit, but will enjoy the opportunity to hear a variety of voices. In addition to welcoming a special guest proclaimer from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, you will have an opportunity to hear sermons from the other members of our ministerial staff.

★ **June 26th**—We are grateful for wisdom shared by our Minister of Music, Hilary Kearns McIntyre, in her inaugural sermon at Sardis Baptist Church. If you were unable to tune-in, we encourage you to visit our Facebook page for Hilary's rendition of the Fruit of the Spirit.

★ **July 3rd**—Pastors Jonathan and Tillie will lead an abbreviated worship service on the Sunday before Independence Day. In lieu of a homily, we will practice lectio divina, which translates to divine reading. See the article on page 2 for more about this ancient contemplative spiritual practice.

★ **July 10th**—We will welcome Rev. Seth Hix as our guest proclaimer. He currently serves at CBFNC as the coordinator for transitions and church engagement. Prior to his appointment with CBF he served various congregations as minister of music. Like Pastor Bob, Seth is a graduate of the Wake Forest School of Divinity.

★ **July 17th**—Pastor Jonathan Eidson has a special way of reminding us that God has a sense of humor! He will undoubtedly help us to remember that we can see our sacred scriptures through lenses of seriousness as well as silliness.

★ **July 24th**—Our Minister of Congregational Support, Kathryn Kreutzer, will step out of her administrative role to share a bit more of her spiritual side with Sardis friends. She enjoys her regular behind-the-scenes role in developing our worship, but appreciates the opportunity to enter worship in a different capacity.

★ **July 31st**—We will hear from the matriarch of the Sardis family on the final Sunday of the month. Pastor Emerita, Rev. Tillie Duncan, has served Sardis Baptist Church for 25 years, but she is only retired in title! We are grateful that she continues to serve and share words of wisdom with Sardis Baptist and friends.



Beginning in August, you will see more movement and energy around the Sardis grounds on weekday mornings. The trustees of Sardis Baptist Church have entered into an agreement with **The Garden Progressive Preschool**. The mission of the school is to "provide a fun and nurturing environment that allows students the opportunity to explore and discover their own unique and creative talents and to generate a community of learners that has a deep love and respect for others, for their environment and for themselves." **The Garden** welcomes families with children between the ages of 2.5 and 6.

The educational philosophy of a Progressive Education is heavily influenced by Dr. Maria Montessori and Jean Piaget, among others. Fundamental to the philosophy is a deep respect for a child's ability to learn through experience. All experiential opportunities in **The Garden** classrooms fall into one of four main categories: Sensorimotor (life skills, constructive play, classification and manipulative work/play), Art (visual, musical, theatrical), Language and Mathematics (opportunities are based on interest and readiness). Learn more about the school and their philosophies by visiting their website: <https://thegardenschools.com>.

The Garden will use two classrooms at Sardis: the Worship Care room in our Meetinghouse and the Preschool Room in our Education Building. You may see Ellen and Ginny around Sardis this summer as they prepare for the beginning of school. Please give them a warm welcome.

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



Several years ago, Susan Phillips sent a sweet note to Mary Allen and Lucy, and she signed it: "Love, Your Church Buddies, Danny and Susan." Ever since receiving that note, everyone our family sees at Sardis is our Church Buddy. And the term has spread like wildfire at Sardis. "Tell me about the people you go to church with" someone might ask. "They're my buddies," Sardisians reply.

A buddy is a wonderful thing for a young person to have in their lives. Buddies laugh with us. Buddies have fun with us. Buddies are interested in us. They encourage us; they pat us on the back when we're having a tough day; they bandage skinned knees. Buddies want to share their lives with us, and we want to share our lives with them. Buddies bring community to life. When we are around our buddies, we know we've got a group of people who get us and have always got us.

Well guess what? I think buddies are a wonderful thing for adults of every season to have, too! When we have buddies, the spaces we occupy affirm and encourage us to be ourselves, and they open us to embracing new ideas. When we have buddies, and seek to keep making new buddies, we're less likely to feel like we are intruding on spaces, and more likely to feel like we are discovering places. But more than anything, when we have buddies, we know we have neighbors who are experiencing the journey with us.

Last month, in our Stanger to Neighbor series with Daynette Snead Perez, we considered (and we will keep on considering!) how we might share more of Sardis with the world – how might we engage people with different cultural backgrounds than our own? I believe that one of things we can do is to tell people about our Church Buddies!

To that end, we have created our very own Sardis Baptist Church Buddies stickers (pictured above). Put one on your laptop, your favorite coffee mug, your car bumper, or your fridge. And when somebody asks, "What's a church buddy?" you'll have a great opportunity to tell them. And who knows, we might just meet a few new buddies in the process.

The first batch of stickers are available in the meetinghouse.

WHAT IS LECTIO DIVINA?

Lectio divina is a method for interacting with scripture. It's a practice that involves both reading and prayer, but is different from traditional study of biblical texts. Lectio divina is not an intellectual process; it's a spiritual and contemplative process where you are quiet and receptive to God's word. It evokes an emotional rather than cerebral response; think of it as formation rather than instruction.

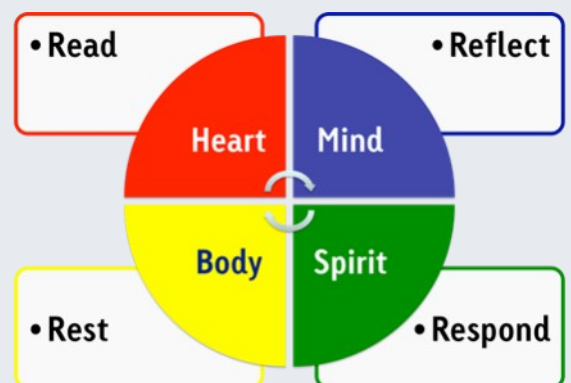
Lectio divina provides opportunity for reflecting prayerfully on a chosen scripture passage. There are various methods for this practice, but traditionally four stages:

READ. A scripture passage is read slowly and listened to thoughtfully. What word or phrase captures your attention and grabs your heart? It's important not to force ideas, but wait patiently for God to give gentle guidance.

REFLECT. The passage is read slowly again, and listened to prayerfully. The second reading deepens the focus on what you became aware of during the first reading. Try not to analyze the passage. What is God saying to you in this passage? Offering you? Asking you? What feelings are arising within you?

RESPOND. Slowly and prayerfully, read the passage again. Respond to God from your heart. Speak to God of your feelings and insights. Offer these to God. You may do this silently, by writing in a journal, or in a group setting you may be offered an opportunity to share your response. In a group setting, lectio divina is about listening to the experiences of others and how they might inform your experience. It is never about a particular belief or point of view.

REST. Possibly read the passage another time. Sit quietly and contemplate God's presence. Rest in God's love.



Stillerman Summer Plans

Dear Church Family,

How lucky our family is to have such a loving and supportive congregation! As the Stillerman family prepares for the arrival of our daughter this week-end, we feel your amazing support, and we are SO grateful for it.

I wanted to make sure the congregation was aware of my summer plans. I am planning to be on leave until July 15th. This will allow me a few weeks to help get our family settled. After that, I will be getting myself back into day-to-day church business. In addition, I am very, very grateful for our wonderful staff! Hilary, Jonathan, Kathryn, and Tillie will all take a Sunday in the preaching rotation. Not only does this allow the congregation to hear their wonderful wisdom and insight, but it also allows me some additional bandwidth during the month of July. I will resume regular preaching duties the first Sunday of August.

Mary Allen, Lucy, and I are hopeful that we'll be able to attend worship by mid-July. Jacqueline and the baby will make their debut a little later in the summer.

Thank you again for giving our family this sacred and special time together, and we can't wait to see you soon.

Peace! Bob



GROW

Thank you to our Worship Care volunteers for reinforcing 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. The summer schedule is listed below. Please contact Pastor Jonathan if you have questions or would like to join this rotation.

July 3rd.....Intergenerational
.....(no worship care)
July 10th.....Kate Mata
July 17th.....Luther Fisher
July 24th.....Amanda Lewis
July 31st.....Rachel Faulk
August 7th..... TBD
August 14th.....Tammy Taylor

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!

SUMMER PRAYER LIST



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

- Family and friends of Pat Crippen, friend of Ellen Dillard, who died recently
- The Fox-Bean family, friends of the Taylors, lost their 12-year-old son
- Family and friends of Sylvia Misenheimer, friend of Susan Phillips, who died recently

CELEBRATIONS

- Rachel Faulk, celebrating new job with Wells Fargo
- Lindsay Jackson (daughter of Kristin Parker) & Connor Stewart, preparing for their upcoming wedding
- Kaleb Kreutzer, celebrating new job as full-time firefighter with Matthews FD
- Amanda Lewis & Bennet Henkel, expecting an addition in August
- Jacqueline, Bob, Mary Allen & Lucy Stillerman, welcoming Josephine Renée

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
- 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 Walters
- 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



Forest friends have gathered to say
a sweet baby boy is on his way!

Please join the deacons of Sardis Baptist Church
for a baby shower in honor of

Amanda & Bennett

Sunday, July 17th at 10:00 AM
Sardis Baptist Education Building

Registered at
babylist.com/jkuxfwvds

CBFNC - YOUTH BEACH RETREAT

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

Sardis Youth and friends are invited to explore and experience ways to “embrace” life at this year’s CBFNC Youth Beach Retreat. The theme is “Embrace” using Esther 4:14 as a guide for the weekend’s activities. Participants will reflect on ways to embrace where they have been, where they are going, and what they hope for in the future.

Proclaimer for the retreat is Tori Crook, student of Yale Divinity School, who is passionate about using ministry as a way to further human rights and peace and justice work. Music will be led by Scott England, who makes contemporary music that mixes Gospel, R&B, Hip-Hop, and Indie Rock influences. Scott’s vision is to make music that changes lives.

Reach out to Pastor Jonathan for additional details
or to reserve your space for the retreat:
SardisJonathan@yahoo.com

A BLESSING FOR OUR GRADUATES

~ Rev. Bob Stillerman

Our blessing remains the same.

May you always be drawn to God’s bright, good light.

Each of you are heading somewhere that will draw your mind into a new frontier: a classroom, a workspace, a meeting place.

May God’s light illumine and empower your minds.

May you find a voice, or a thought, or even a single atom of knowledge that draws you into yourself and reminds you of who you are: God’s good creation!

Each of you are joining new communities.

You are going to meet a whole new ecosystem full of neighbors.

May God’s light illumine your heart to see their beautiful createdness, and they yours. And in the newness of friendship, may you always know God’s abundance.

We are envious of your youth! Youth brings strength and hope.

May God’s light fill you with infectious energy and audacious hope to help build a better world.

And whenever, and however, and wherever, and with whomever and whatever you go, know that our light goes with, you, and that your light reflects back to us.

*And know that each and every week we will ask that God’s blessing, God’s peace, and God’s joy go with you as well!
Amen.*