

# 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

## ALL THINGS SARDIS - SEPTEMBER 14th @ 5:45 PM



September is a season of beginnings. The new school year points our attention to the future. Sometimes, to go forward, we must remember where we've been. To that end, Sardis Academy sessions this fall will consider two topics: 1) Where We've Been and 2) Where We Want to Go.

Our first September session (9/14) will offer a refresher on all things Sardis, including an abridged history of our 34 years together as a faith community, as well as a visual and interactive exhibition of our community journey in recent years. This is your chance to learn the story of the Sardis Experiment. In our second September session (9/21), Sardis staff members will participate in a panel discussion about their journey with Sardis. What informs their ministry here, what gifts do they hope to share, and how is this congregation shaping their sense of calling? This is your chance to hear what your staff loves about Sardis, and what they dream of for her future.

In October, the discussion will shift to what we hope to accomplish in the coming year. In the first session (10/12), the staff will present a partial ministry plan for 2022-2023. Note the word partial. The initial presentation will include some major themes and initiatives – those things that help Sardis articulate and manifest our collective congregational calling. We'll want your feedback. But you will also notice some gaps. The second session (10/19) will center around your input – what does the congregation hunger for? What kinds of activities, programs, liturgies, etc. are needed to supplement the work we're already doing? What will make Sardis feel even more Sardis for you? The hope is that this process will offer a transparent and collective effort to be and do church.

If we do this work the right way, November sessions, and those that follow throughout the year, will be a reflection of our whole community. We hope you'll join us on the journey of discovering where we've been and where we'll go.



## The Bible - Book by Book

Pastor Bob began a series in August that will guide us through every book in our canon. Each week he will offer a historical introduction to one book, followed by a homily based on a passage from the book. You are encouraged to read the highlighted book during the week following. The scripture schedule for coming weeks is below:

**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)

## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

As we engage the books of the Bible, a natural question emerges: What translation should we read? There are hundreds of translations in English alone, and finding a good starting place can be overwhelming.

Perhaps the best place to start is considering what you hope to accomplish in your reading. Do you want a translation that gets you as close as possible to the original meaning of its authors? Do you want something that is accessible and easily understood? Is it a translation you want to read quietly, or one that you read aloud, something with prose that flows off the tongue? Do you want to feel something? Do you want to learn something? Do you just want to avoid falling asleep when you read long passages? It's important to find a translation that works for your setting and temperament. Here are a few translations to consider:

**Give It To Me Straight!** ► The Common English Bible (CEB) is translated with accessibility in mind. Much like a newspaper (think *USA Today*), this version is one that will feel approachable and contemporary for anyone who speaks and reads the English language.

**If The Story Was Happening Today** ► The Message (MSG), much like the CEB, is also aimed at accessibility. Its author, Eugene Peterson, incorporates modern slang, and he writes in a manner similar to how he provided sermon illustrations. He's going to give you the gist of the text, but he's also going to push the limits of interpretation.

**Back To The Source** ► At Sardis, we read from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This is also the translation that is commonly used in academic settings. Where possible, the committee of scholars worked to find consensus in original meaning for every translated word. Also, where possible, and when it does not affect meaning, gender-neutral language is incorporated. The scholarship is superb, but sometimes the reading is clunky.

**Give Me That Old Time Religion** ► The King James Version (KJV), translated more than 400 years ago, is perhaps the most well-known literary document in history. The language is poetic and striking. The whisps and the winds of John's prologue are a monument to English prose, and they thunder when given voice from a skilled reader. But here, prose is prioritized over original meaning, and sometimes, thou wouldst like some slang, please.

There are several online sites where you can access and compare dozens of Bible translations. Bible Study Tools offers a parallel Bible where you can compare translations side-by-side, and Bible Gateway offers many helpful hints for engaging texts in creative ways. [Click here to access additional details from Pastor Bob regarding Study Bibles](https://files.constantcontact.com/1827b072601/786b3bd5-4870-405c-8503-8b3d9b3a9f78.jpg?rdr=true) (<https://files.constantcontact.com/1827b072601/786b3bd5-4870-405c-8503-8b3d9b3a9f78.jpg?rdr=true>).

There's no right choice or wrong choice to make when selecting a translation. There's the choice that works for you. Find a translation that fits your needs. Consult others for the times and places when you need something different. The most important thing we can do in engaging the Bible, is to utilize those resources that meet us where we are, and help generate discernment for processing our own faith journeys.



## Sardis People:

## THE GARDEN PRESCHOOL



*May my teaching fall like rain and may my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass...*

Two framed photos of flora have graced the entrance to the preschool room in Sardis' education building for some years. The pictured plants receive the natural nurture of rain and sun. They spark a response in our brain as we think of the semblance of young children to tender plants in their need for a nurturing environment. In a sense these symbolic depictions have been a harbinger of the school which will be utilizing that space beginning this school year: The Garden Progressive Preschool.

The mission of the Garden School is stated in their literature and on their web site, "...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 curriculum is designed so that learning fits the child as opposed to fitting the child into an already designed pattern. Children learn from each other as they interact in a non-competitive environment. As they learn respect for others, they also learn to respect themselves and the unique talents which they each possess.

The experiential learning philosophy of the school is a blend of the methods of several noted educators: Dr. Maria Montessori, Jean Piaget, John Dewey, Lev Vygotsky, Loris Malaguzzi.

Ellen Graham is the lead teacher in the Sunflower classroom and the administrator for preschoolers. She has a fine arts degree in creative writing from UNC-W. She studied education at Western Carolina University and is credentialed in early childhood education. Amber Pinnell assists in the Sunflower classroom. A passionate gardener, she is also the outdoor education specialist. She studied early childhood development at Napa Valley College.

Ginny Mehlretter is the lead teacher of the Daisy classroom and administrator for toddlers. Her degree is from UNC-C in psychology. In addition to preschool experience, she has been a middle school math tutor and a sixth-grade science teacher. (Continued on back page.)





## A RAINBOW OF QUILTS

Sardis quilter-in-residence, June Ross, has spent hours cutting, piecing, backing, quilting, and binding fabrics to make an array of quilts for senior residents living in Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina. The seven quilts pictured here have been donated on behalf of Sardis Baptist Church.

Quilting is an active form of prayer for June, who has been making quilts for friends at BRH since Pastor Bob joined Sardis Baptist Church. Bob has a special connection with BRH—his father, Rev. Bill Stillerman, now retired, served as director of this ministry partner for many years.

June's quilts are designed especially for people who frequently sit in wheelchairs. The measurements are narrower than standard quilts which prevents them from bunching, gathering, and getting caught in the spokes of their wheels.



For seven years he has inspired this congregation with his passion and perpetual creativity! Please share your gratitude with Rev. Bob Stillerman as he celebrates his anniversary as pastor of Sardis Baptist Church on September 4th.



### CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt sympathies are with Sardis friends who have recently lost loved ones:

Sheryl Allen, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman  
Steve Braxton, brother-in-law of Rick & Becky Proctor  
Larry Eidson, father of Jonathan Eidson

### CELEBRATIONS

• Lindsay Jackson (daughter of Kristin Parker) & Connor Stewart, preparing for their upcoming wedding • Amanda Lewis & Bennett Henkel welcomed Phillip William into their family in August • The Mata family, expecting an addition to their family in early 2023 • John Simpson welcomed another grandson in August—William Doswell Gross

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

• Roger & Janet Albiston, friends of Jean Lawrence • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin • Sarah Bowlin Criss • Maria Byrd • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Nancy Darnell • Ron Demme • Amelia Eidson, mother of Jonathan • David Faircloth, extended family of Phillips • Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Carter Gunn, young friend of Jo Tiddy • 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 • Robert Marshall, grandson of Janette Grassi • 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 • Billy Poston • Pam Poston • 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 • 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.

# September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				 Charlotte Wildlife Stewards Leadership Team	Clergy Group Meeting	
4 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross  11:00 AM Worship  Pastor Bob's 7th Sardis Anniversary	5 	6 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM  Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	7 4:00 PM Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Choir Practice	8 	9 Clergy Group Meeting	10
11 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross  11:00 AM Worship	12 	13 7:00 PM CWS — Wildlife Photography with Frank Vasto	14 4:00 PM—Staff Meeting 5:45 PM—Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM—Sardis Academy 7:45 PM—Choir Practice	15 	16 Clergy Group Meeting	17
18 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross  11:00 AM Worship	19 	20 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM  Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	21 4:00 PM—Staff Meeting 5:45 PM—Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM—Sardis Academy 7:45 PM—Choir Practice	22 	23	24
25 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross  11:00 AM Worship	26 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM  Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	27	28 4:00 PM Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Choir Practice	29 	30	





ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF OUR YOUNGEST CHURCH BUDDY...

**Phillip William Henkel-Lewis**

**August 19th at 4:12 PM**

**8 pounds, 21 inches long**



JOIN US IN WELCOMING AMANDA AND BENNETT INTO THE WORLD OF DIRTY DIAPERS, SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, AND ENDLESS LOVE!



### SARDIS WORSHIP CARE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Worship care volunteers for the months of September and October are listed below. Please contact Pastor Jonathan if you have questions or would like to join this rotation.

September 4th.....Rachel Faulk  
September 11th..... Kristin Parker  
September 21st.....Tammy Taylor  
September 28th.....Kate Mata  
October 2nd.....Luther Fisher  
October 9th.....Rachel Faulk  
October 16th.....Kristin Parker  
October 23rd.....Tammy Taylor  
October 30th.....Kate Mata

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 your are able. We are grateful for your service to this important ministry!



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP ~ from Pastor Jonathan

You may want to sit down before reading any further — Mary Allen Stillerman just began first grade and will soon be joining us in worship! On Sunday, September 11th Susan Phillips and I will meet with Mary Allen during the Sunday School hour to talk about what happens in worship and to learn the meaning of some funny sounding words like 'hymn', 'offering plate', and a few other churchy terms. As you see Mary Allen joining us in worship, make sure to give her a warm welcome!

*"He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.' Mark 9:36-37*



## Worship Development Team Meeting September 11th @ Noon

The Worship Development Team will gather following our service on Sunday, September 11th. We will work together to iron out details for special worship events in the fall, including World Communion Sunday and All Saints Sunday. The door is open for all Sardis friends to participate in these important discussions that guide our worship. Our planning session will begin at 12:15, lunch time. Pizza will be provided. Please email the church office if you plan to attend so that we can plan for food accordingly.

## SARDIS COMMUNION BRUNCH 2022

*Community Worship Around the Table*



*...like abundant rain on tender plants. Deuteronomy 32:2*

(continued from page 2) Chelsea Ball assists in the Daisy class. Her undergraduate degree is in education with an emphasis in early childhood and a master's in English as a Second Language. Her experience includes teaching in CMS. The faculty is completed by Dash Cohn who has a degree in child and family development. They are currently working on a master's degree in early childhood development. They are the behavioral support specialist, helping to foster cognitive and socio-emotional learning.

The Garden School begins on September 6 with 2 classes, one for toddlers and one for preschoolers. They meet Monday-Thursday from 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM. Parents may choose for their child to attend 3 days per week or 4 days per week. The 22 children attending will learn in the preschool room in the education building, the baby-toddler room in the sanctuary building, and the playground in between. For further information, one may go to [www.thegardenschools.com](http://www.thegardenschools.com).



### Wildlife Photography with Frank Vasto September 13th @ 7:00 PM Sardis Baptist Meetinghouse

You are invited to join the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards chapter of North Carolina Wildlife Federation online or in-person for a presentation by wildlife photographer Frank Vasto. Frank's focus on ethical wildlife photography is designed to develop an appreciation for local wildlife and its preservation. He researches his subjects to learn about their lifestyles and contributions to the ecosystem. Frank will share how he captures wildlife images, give tips and tricks, and share some of his favorite images with information he's learned about his subjects. Whether you have an interest in photography or wildlife or both, this program is for you! Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/3SsO0Xm>.