

# sardis signposts

baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

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

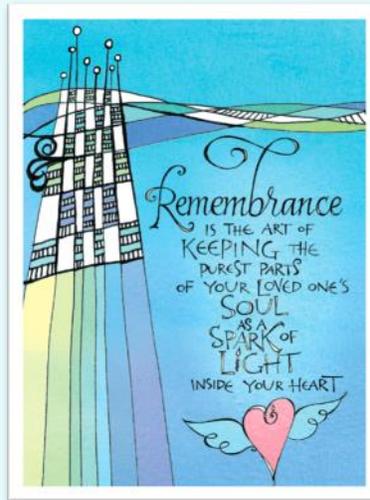
## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM  
Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Morning Worship

## CELEBRATING ALL SAINTS

Who are the saints in your life? Not saints you've learned about in religious history lessons, but those who have revealed God's love to you in sundry ways—the ordinary folks whose lives have touched yours and had profound impacts on the person you are today? **All Saints Day** is a time to remember them and give thanks for the ways they have nourished, challenged, and helped you grow in faith.



The **Communion of Saints** describes those who have gone before us and now rest with God, together with the living who continue to walk with God. All Saints is also a time to consider our own place in this communion. How will people remember you and give thanks for your sainthood? How have you nourished the faith of those in your life? We have two special events planned during the week of All Saints to provide opportunities to remember and contemplate:

**Wednesday, November 2nd** — We will be joined by Ed Gash, labyrinth facilitator, for an All Souls Walk in the Sardis Baptist Prayer Garden. We'll gather in the meetinghouse for dinner at 5:45 PM, then proceed to the labyrinth for a guided walk and meditation.

**Sunday, November 6th** — Our worship service will be one of joy and grief as we remember loved ones who have died during the last year, along with the Great Cloud of Sardis Baptist witnesses who are the foundation for our worship community. This is a Sunday of power; as we speak the names of our saints, we hasten their spirits and are reminded that God's spirit resides in us too! May this embolden us to be living saints: people who share their gifts so that others might also know God's fullest presence and widest mercies.



## MOVING BEYOND MYTH: A JUSTICE-CENTERED THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 22nd

Save the Date for MeckMin's annual community-wide interfaith Thanksgiving service which will be hosted this year by the Rev. Dr. Dwayne Walker and the congregation of Little Rock AME Zion Church.

Sardis folks will gather at the meetinghouse at 5:45 PM to share a meal together before we caravan to the service in uptown Charlotte. Little Rock AME Zion is located at 401 N. McDowell Street. The service begins at 6:45 PM and ends at PM.

The 2022 Community-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will include Indigenous Carolina Catawba, Lumbee, and Tuscarora artists and activists in crafting a service that incorporates their traditional and current practices to address the myth-making around the traditional Thanksgiving story, offer a truer and more complete story, and suggest actions toward justice that attendees and MeckMin can take.

While deeply rooted in Indigenous history and traditions, the service will be accessible to people of all faiths.



## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

A lost sheep nuzzles into the grass-stained shoulder of a shepherd who's gone searching for her. An old woman throws a party to celebrate finding the coin that went missing. A daddy streaks across a field to welcome home a son returned from wanderlust.

There is joy! There is gratitude! There is reconciliation! In these simple stories, Jesus paints a picture of God's extravagant love. The most significant being in existence loves us, pursues us, welcomes us, and parents us. Thanks be to God!

Still, we struggle to make sense of all this magnanimity.

The cynic wonders why a shepherd would waste all that time on just one and not ninety-nine. The banker questions the fiscal responsibility of splurging on a party. The jealous older brother asks, "Don't you see me, too?"

The systems of this world try to tell us that our gratitude must be tempered by efficiency and logic, or even discarded by our jealousy and self-interest. And besides, it's too much effort to cook a turkey!

Please know that thanksgiving is NOT an idle pursuit. Please also know that it's a verb! When we are intentional about noticing AND expressing our gratitude, we are much more likely to receive the subtle and not-so-subtle gifts around us. We are much more likely to share and receive the love of God around us. We are much more likely to be aware of the sources that sustain us. We are much more open to transformative change.

What dad wouldn't trade a thousand fortunes for the chance to tell his little boy, "You're found!" What beauty there is in a connection where voice and touch still the stormy seas! What shepherd would be so foolish as to dismiss the value of that love? What neighbor could not see the timeless value of joy and fellowship shared with an entire neighborhood?

When we notice the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son, we reconnect to what grounds us. There can be power in that gratitude!

It is election season. What might it mean to vote with gratitude? How might your generosity give new possibilities to your neighbors? How might your demand for efficiency and self-perseverance eliminate them? Is the world big enough for your neighbor's joy and wellbeing, too?

It's a season of remembrance. Another year of saints to name. There is grief. As we mourn what has been lost, can we also carve out space for what might still be? Can our lives be an expression of gratitude for those whose gratitude has shaped us?

It's budget season. We are grateful, but are we also faithful? Will the generous gifts we receive become vessels of shared generosity? Or will they simply keep us safe and secure?

The kingdom of heaven is like a congregation who practiced thanksgiving. May it be so!



## Sardis People

### PHILLIP WILLIAM HENKEL LEWIS



See Phillip. See William. See Henkel-Lewis. Notice the symmetry of the "L's"? Phillip and William are names in the families of Bennett Henkel and Amanda Lewis. Phillip is carrying on the history of the two families as he reshapes and fits right into the one family created when Amanda and Bennett were married on December 24, 2017. They have moved from a congruity of two to a congruity of three. Phillip joined them on August 19, 2022 at 4:12pm, weighing in at eight pounds and stretching to twenty-one inches long.

At two and a half months, Phillip sports a head of red hair, already has real smiles and loves to play, batting with his hands at those tempting objects over his head. His father describes him as voracious. Another way he fits in, for Bennett is a creative foodie and likes to experiment with food preparation. At present his interest has turned to baked bread, bagels and pretzels. And Amanda spent an interesting summer as an intern with Historic Foodways in colonial Williamsburg, recreating the food of the eighteenth century.

Phillip goes along for the ride when his parents enjoy hiking over scenic trails. And even though he may sleep through some of them, he is present when Bennett and Amanda turn on their favorite comedies and classic sit coms.

Amanda is a hospice chaplain. She was ordained at First Baptist Church of Athens GA after graduation from the McAfee School of Theology. The emphasis of her M. Div. was in pastoral care. She had previously graduated from William and Mary, her interest lying in colonial history and Africana studies with an emphasis on the modern African Diaspora. Bennett's degree is also from William and Mary. He majored in Education and in classical studies, particularly liking the early Christian and Roman periods of history. He teaches Latin, world history and civics at Queens Grant.

## LOVE IS THE WAY

Our Sunday morning discussion group has begun a study of **Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times**, the most recent book by Bishop Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.



Anyone is welcome; everyone is encouraged to join our formative discussions. We meet at 9:45 in the large classroom of the Education Building. The books are widely available at local and online book-stores. Contact the church office at [info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org) / (704) 362-0811 if you'd like assistance procuring a copy.

# November prayer list

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman
- Melissa Bowlin • Sarah Bowlin Criss • Maria Byrd • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother
- Nancy Darnell • Rae Deicke, friend of Jean Lawrence • Ron Demme • Dusty Detterman, daughter of June Ross • Amelia Eidson, mother of Jonathan • Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Janie Harris • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Ted Lillie, friend of Ellen Dillard • Orville Longley, friend of Rick Proctor • Ann Macguire, sister of Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne (Grove Lane) • Maria Marshall, daughter of Janette Grassi • Robert Marshall, grandson of Janette Grassi • Frank Phillips, brother of Danny Phillips • Vicki Phillips, niece of Shannon Duncan • Rachel, Kendarius, & Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Pam Poston • Mala Reynolds • June Ross • 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

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2*

**BELIEVE  
THERE IS  
GOOD IN  
THE WORLD**  
CROP Hunger Walk

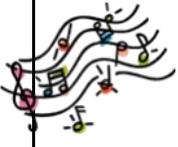
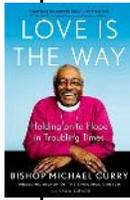
## 2022 SARDIS CROP REPORT

CROP is a poverty-fighting organization that honors the call to improve the quality of life of people suffering from poverty and hunger. Their mission is to educate, inspire and empower the Charlotte community to become agents of change through fund-raising events with local and international impact. Sardis Baptist Church raised more than \$1,300 for the 2022 Charlotte CROP Walk. Local partners that will benefit from our efforts include Loaves & Fishes, Friendship Trays, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Crisis Assistance Ministry.



# November



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	2	3	4 Clergy Group Meeting	5
		All Saints Day 	4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Sardis Academy 7:45 PM Choir Practice	Charlotte Wildlife Stewards Leadership Team 		
6 All Saints Sunday  9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way 11:00 AM Worship	7	8 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM 	9 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	10 	11	12
13 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way 11:00 AM Worship Noon Worship Development	14 <i>Worship</i>	15 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	16 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	17	18 Clergy Group Meeting	19
20 Reign of Christ Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way 11:00 AM Worship 	21 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM	22 Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 7:00 PM MeckMin Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	23 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	24 Thanksgiving Day 	25	26
27 First Sunday of Advent HOPE 9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way 11:00 AM Worship	28	 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	30			

# HAWKS



What food do they prefer?

What habitat do hawks seek out?

Where do they nest?

Do all hawks migrate?

The Charlotte Wildlife Stewards will host experts from the Carolina Raptor Center to answer these questions and more! Learn about the raptors that visit your backyard at this special program taking place at Sardis Baptist Church on Tuesday, November 8th at 7:00 PM. There is also an option to attend virtually; registration and login details will be listed on the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards webpage: <https://www.charlottewildlife.org/community-programs.html>.

# Children's Church

## WORSHIP CARE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

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

- November 6th..... Tammy Taylor
- November 13th..... Jacqueline Stillerman
- November 20th..... Luther Fisher
- November 27th..... Rachel Faulk
- December 4th..... Kristin Parker
- December 11th..... Tammy Taylor
- December 18th..... Jacqueline Stillerman

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!



# YOUTHFUL SKI RETREAT

Are you youthful? Step one: Go look in the mirror. Do you see a youthful person looking back at you? If not, let's move on to step two. Take stock of your feelings. Do you feel youthful? If your answer was "Yes" to any of the questions above, chances are you're ready to go skiing, tubing or van riding.

On our projected date, January 21-23, youthful members and friends of Sardis Baptist are going to be letting the country roads take us home to West Virginia. While there, we'll have the opportunity for snow tubing and skiing at Winterplace Ski Resort. We're planning to stay at the beautiful Pipestem State Park. (I know what you're thinking but ask anyone who stayed there on last year's trip, and they'll tell you it is amazing.)

I can only imagine you're asking yourself, "What do I need to do to be a part of this amazing adventure?" It's pretty easy, let J Swizz know immediately by emailing him at [sardisjonathan@yahoo.com](mailto:sardisjonathan@yahoo.com).

I have to believe that if there had been snow tubes, skis and chairlifts in Jesus' earthly life, he would have thrown on his youthful toga and taken a run down the mountain. Let's head for the hills!!



## WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT November 13th @ Noon

The holy season of hopeful expectation is quickly approaching! The Worship Development Team will meet following worship on Sunday, November 13th to discuss plans for Advent. This team meets periodically to brainstorm for creative ideas to enhance worship throughout the liturgical year. We welcome input from anyone who would like to join the team!



## Sardis CROP ~ 2022 Walking Team



## Who Do We Say We Are? Eight Areas of Focus

During our October Sardis Academy sessions we gave thought to who we are, what we want to be, and how we live out our calling. Upon review of our church covenant and promises, Pastor Bob honed in on eight areas of focus for our congregation:

1. **HOSPITALITY** – We seek to be a people of welcome. We genuinely desire for guests to be themselves.
2. **WORSHIP** – We make an intentional, consistent, and corporate effort to praise our Creator.
3. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** – We seek to be part of the neighborhood; we want to connect with Charlotte and the larger world.
4. **PROPHETIC WITNESS** – Our covenant says that we desire to share the good news of God's love and salvation with the world. That means we want to share (both privately and publicly) something about how we see God in the world. We want our words, actions, and relationships to reflect God's transcendent and transformative presence among us.
5. **SERVICE & MISSIONS** – These are some of the tangible (traditionally missional) things we do to be good neighbors to both local and global communities.
6. **SPIRITUAL GIFT GIVING** – Everyone one of us (every single one!) has something unique and special to offer the world. We want to create an environment where people feel safe, empowered, and emboldened to both be *and* express themselves authentically, and to live into the story alongside of us.
7. **SPIRITUAL FORMATION** – We want to be intentional about offering ways to grow and inform our faith; we also want to be intentional about creating the kind of spaces where we respect (even celebrate!) the uniqueness of every person's spiritual journey.
8. **RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTION** – We want to be human! We want to create meaningful friendships and relationships of mutuality, care, and trust.

If you were unable to attend our October Sardis Academy sessions, please take a look at the presentations Pastor Bob shared: click here or enter [www.flipbookpdf.net/web/site/a503b5b1507754108d7f270843b94c40a25ed927FBP21532409.pdf.html#page/1](http://www.flipbookpdf.net/web/site/a503b5b1507754108d7f270843b94c40a25ed927FBP21532409.pdf.html#page/1). Printed copies are available upon request from the church office, (704) 362-0811 or [info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org).