

# 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



## Charlotte Family Housing

*Working to solve family homelessness*

During the season of Advent, we offer Sardis friends the opportunity to honor or memorialize special people in our lives. Historically, we've displayed poinsettias in our sanctuary on Christmas Eve as a visual reminder of the love and appreciation we feel. During worship, the names of honorees are read aloud. In recent years, we've put worship in action by honoring our loved ones a bit differently - by donating to causes in support of those less fortunate than ourselves. The recipient for this year's donations will be clients of Charlotte Family Housing.

Charlotte Family Housing (CFH) is a shelter-to-housing program for working families experiencing homelessness. Clients begin their journey to self-sufficiency in the Shelter Phase where they are empowered to manage a household budget, establish healthy routines, and become more involved in their children's education. Families also begin to work with social workers, who provide wraparound supportive services. They address barriers to family stability and facilitate pathways to financial literacy, education, health and wellness, and job readiness.

After completing the Shelter Phase, families transition into the Housing Phase. Housing resource coordinators connect families with housing through a network of housing providers across Mecklenburg County. CFH provides rental subsidies that span the gap between the families' earning capacity and the market rental rate until they can sustain housing on their own. CFH provides a full year of social work services during the Housing Phase, with the potential for renewal if the family continues to meet eligibility requirements.

Donations received by Sardis Baptist in lieu of poinsettias will be used to support a seasonal CFH program that aids families in transition: Home for the Holidays. Household starter kits are given to single-parent families to help them launch successfully as they move from the shelter to homes of their own. The kits provide basic provisions such as air mattresses, sheets, pillows, towels, pots and pans, dishes and silverware, toiletries, and canned goods. The cost of a Home for the Holidays Kit ranges from \$400—\$600, depending on the number of children.

If you'd like to help Sardis build Home for the Holidays Kits, please consider honoring or memorializing a loved one this Christmas. Provide the following information to the church:

- (1) Your Name
- (2) Is this in honor or memory of your loved one?
- (3) List the name of the person(s) to be recognized. Names will be shared during our worship service on Christmas Eve.
- (4) Amount of donation (for reference, the cost of poinsettias is approximately \$15 apiece).

Options for sending this information follow:

- Order forms will be available at the church on Sundays
- Mail the above details along with payment to the church office:  
5811 Sardis Rd / Charlotte, NC 28270
- Email the above details to the church office: [info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org), and submit payment via our secure PayPal page, [www.paypal.com/paypalme/SardisBaptistChurch](http://www.paypal.com/paypalme/SardisBaptistChurch).



## DECEMBER DATES TO Remember

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH @ 12:30 PM**

~ SARDIS LADIES LUNCHEON ~  
 THE SANCTUARY BISTRO  
 6414 REA ROAD / CHARLOTTE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH @ 11:00 AM**

~ CHRISTMAS SWAG SUNDAY ~  
 ~ 34 YEARS OF SARDIS ~  
 COME IN COMFY & CASUAL CHRISTMAS  
 ATTIRE FOR A FESTIVE WORSHIP HOUR

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH @ NOON**

~ CHRISTMAS CAROLING ~  
 CARAVAN WITH CHOIR MEMBERS AND OTHER  
 CAROLERS FOR AN A CAPELLA CHORUS

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH @ 5:00 PM**

~ WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION ~  
 JOIN PRESCHOOL FAMILIES FOR A LUMINARY  
 LIT WALK ALONG OUR NATURE TRAIL

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH @ 5:00 PM**

~ CANON, CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT ~  
 SARDIS BAPTIST CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
 WITH STORIES AND SONGS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH @ ANYTIME**

~ CHRISTMAS MORNING VIRTUAL WORSHIP ~  
 WORSHIP AT YOUR CONVENIENCE  
 ON FACEBOOK LIVE OR YouTube



## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

I started preparing our Christmas decorations in early October. Don't roll your eyes at me! I'm not trying to be disrespectful of the liturgical calendar, and like most people, I also wish the retailers would wait until Thanksgiving to string their lights. (One exception: peppermint should be evergreen!) But I have a hunch you started your preparations in October, too. I'm talking about raking leaves.



Good luck stringing those icicle lights with a gutter full of wet muck, or securing those inflatables in six inches of leaves, or dragging Santa's sleigh over all those acorns and pinecones. And raise your hand if those pesky leaves tend to interfere with other important weekend errands.

Of course, it's not all bad. One morning of raking leaves makes my Fitbit very happy. And the natural areas and critters are grateful for another layer of nutrients or house-building materials. And a leaf pile to play in is a whole lot easier to clean up than a den full of Legos or stray puzzle pieces.

Most importantly, it's kind of a spiritual activity (not so spiritual that I want to do it every week of the year, but still spiritual). Advent is our readying, and indeed our acknowledgment of God's presence in the world. We wait with expectant hope for the Christchild, and for the newness God will bring in the coming year. We also give thought to what will be birthed anew in our own lives, and what we might offer to make God's presence more known and felt in our communities.

Each fall, the leaves change colors, and eventually land in my lawn. The plants, blooms, and greenery of the summer season fade as well. But I am not sad, because I know they'll be back in the coming season, displaying both a familiarity and a newness that captures my imagination.

In their own way, the leaves are also a calendar or scrapbook of the previous year. As I blow them away, new, green grass is revealed. I also see the rock garden made of my daughters' initials that comes back into focus. There's the strand of lights I hung below our deck and forgot about last season. The swing set gets a wash, and the firepit is safe for gatherings again. An old fencepost, and a few stones will be reclaimed to repair a foot path. Bird feeders are replenished, and there's clean, clear water in the bird bath. And new mulch to keep our winter bulbs cozy. And Christmas flamingos, because that's just how we roll.

My arms are tired. And those oak leaves are skinny, and stubborn, and like Velcro. And there are times where I just want to stop, and be done with all this readying. But I want something new. I want something meaningful. Each swing of the rake makes room for a new memory – perhaps a grass stain on an Easter dress from the daredevil roll down the hill, or the squeal of delight at seeing the first yellow daffodil.

God's newness is coming, y'all! In the days and weeks ahead, how will you make space for that newness?

## Sardis People

### Dr. Pamela Poston



A virtuoso counselor, Dr. Poston uses varied techniques and resources in her practice of transpersonal psychology. She blends Eastern philosophy with Western psychology. Art, music and creative writing are some of the tools of her trade,

along with mindfulness-based cognitive theory and internal family systems theory. She also uses qigong, a Chinese meditation and movement discipline which helps to deal with managing emotions like anger, stress, and anxiety.

Pam also practices what she teaches. She likes to paint and draw in her spare time and contributed to "Complete Self Care: 25 Tools to Achieve Anything," edited by Anna Pereira. She studied creative writing at Queen's University where she received the Marjorie Blankenship Melton Creative Writing Award for Essay.

Other educational history includes an undergraduate degree from West Virginia University where she majored in art and K-12 Education. She taught for six years in an elementary school and in a preschool where she was curriculum director. A Master's degree in Community and Agency Counseling came from UNC Charlotte. Sofia University (Palo Alto, CA) is where she earned her PhD in Psychology.

In addition to writing and painting in her spare time, Pam enjoys reading. Along with her family, she likes playing with their dogs. Dash, who was rescued from the streets, became a flyball champion, but is now enjoying retirement in his old age (about 12 years old.) Flyball is a dog sport involving hurdles and catching tennis balls.

Pam grew up in Endicott NY with one brother. She is married to Dr. Bill Poston, and they are the parents of daughter Mandy and recently-deceased son, Billy. They enjoy two grandsons.





## ADVENT

A bow is indicative of unity — two or more strands become one, and work together for a greater purpose. There's also the idea of tension and release, as well as completion. Additionally bows can serve as symbols of endurance and love. They are an enhancement—they help state that a gift is special, and comes from a place of love.

Notice the bows that adorn the Sardis Chrismon tree this season, and the bow that is unfurled each week as we contemplate the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent. We will use the season to prepare/make room/get ready to experience Emanuel, the true gift of Christmas. May each of us use this season to prepare for sharing our own gifts with the world as we are reminded that the season of Advent leads to Christmas—God with us. May we gift God's love to one another.

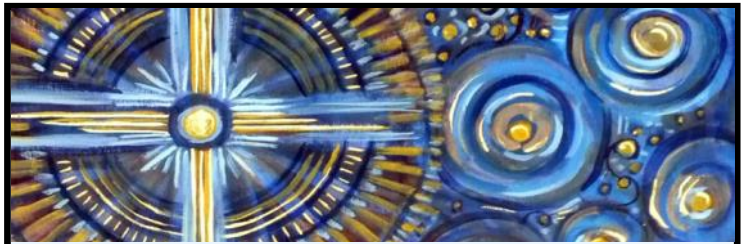
Pastor Bob's annual advent calendar embodies this theme, and he invites you into the Advent journey. A devotional passage is listed for you to read each day. On Christmas Eve, use scissors and glue to transform your calendar into a beautiful bow, and use it to top a special gift. Printed copies are available in the vestibule at Sardis, or you can visit this URL below to print a copy from home.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/1827b072601/0cba9689-080a-4c31-910e-1cdd11482d2.pdf>



"It is Christmas every time  
you let God love others  
through you... Yes, it is  
Christmas every time  
you smile at another  
and offer your  
hand."

~ Mother Teresa  
(slight redaction)



## DECEMBER PRAYER REQUESTS

### CELEBRATIONS

*Phillip welcomed a cousin into the world this month!*

*Congratulations to the Lewis-Henkel family  
on the arrival of Brian Stitz on November 9th.*

*Congratulations to Lindsay Jackson (daughter of Kristin Parker)  
and Connor Steward on their recent nuptials!*

*We joyfully await the arrival of an addition  
to the Mata Family in early 2023!*

### CONDOLENCES

*Heartfelt sympathies for those  
who have lost loved ones:*

- Richard Campbell, friend of Anne Eidson
- Ted Helton, uncle of Sarah Criss
- Ted Lillie, friend of Ellen Dillard

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING









- Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin • 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 • 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 • Becky Proctor
- 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

# Sardis Baptist Church



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM		1	2	3
	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM		 5:00 PM Hanging of the Greens 7:30 PM Choir Practice	Charlotte Wildlife Stewards Leadership Team 	Clergy Group Meeting	
4		6	7	8	9	10
 Advent ~ Peace 9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way 11:00 AM Worship		The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM				
	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM		4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
 Advent ~ Joy 9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way 11:00 AM Worship	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM				Clergy Group Meeting	
	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM		12:30 Sardis Ladies Lunch 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Advent ~ Love 9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way 11:00 AM SBC Anniversary Christmas Sweater Sunday 12:00 PM Christmas Caroling	The Garden Preschool 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM		<b>WINTER SOLSTICE</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice			Christmas Eve  5:00 PM Worship ~ Canon, Carols & Candles
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day  No Sunday School Virtual Worship	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM		4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice			



The Garden Preschool kids and their families will gather on the Sardis grounds for a celebration of the winter solstice at 5:00 PM on Monday, December 19th, and they have invited Sardis Baptist friends to join the fun. Students will learn about the solstice through a story, then will enjoy a lantern walk along the Sardis nature trail. Luminaries will light the way, and students will carry lanterns made during school. The walk will culminate at a fire pit for making s'mores. In festive tradition, hot tea and cocoa will also be served. Stay tuned to the Sardis Happenings weekly email for additional details.



#### **WORSHIP CARE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

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

December 4th.....	Kristin Parker
December 11th.....	Tammy Taylor
December 18th.....	Jacqueline Stillerman
December 24th.....	Intergenerational Worship
December 25th.....	Virtual Worship

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!

## **December Ladies Lunch**



**SANCTUARY**  
BISTRO

The ladies of Sardis Baptist are gathering for lunch on Wednesday, December 14th at 12:30 PM. We'll dine at Sanctuary Bistro located at 6414 Rea Road (in the shopping center near the intersection of Rea Road and Bevington Place). You may preview the menu on their website: [SanctuaryBistro.com](http://SanctuaryBistro.com). Please let Ellen Dillard know if you have questions or are planning to join the group: (704) 301-4330, [ejdcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:ejdcharlotte@gmail.com).

## **SARDIS WINTER SKI RETREAT**

### **WHO?**

Sardis Friends of ALL Ages

### **WHAT?**

Winter Ski Retreat

### **WHERE?**

Winterplace Ski Resort  
(Snowtubing and Skiing)

Pipestem State Park  
(Lodging)

### **WHEN?**

January 21-23

### **WHY?**

Fun and Fellowship

### **HOW?**

Email Pastor Jonathan  
for additional details:  
[sardisjonathan@yahoo.com](mailto:sardisjonathan@yahoo.com)



### **IMMOKALEE HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY**

The IHS Cross Country Team was able to attend a meet in Charlotte with the support of CBF, and Daynette & Pedro Snead-Perez. Friends from Sardis Baptist helped with meals for the team and their chaperones.



## **HOLIDAY BEFORE THE HOLIDAY**

December 18th will truly be the holiday before the holiday! This is the day 34 years ago, that Sardis Baptist had its first worship service. We will celebrate the occasion and the Christmas season during a festive worship service. We encourage you to dress casually, adorned by by your favorite Christmas swag—the more bejeweled and bedazzled the better! Santa hats and Dollar Tree accessories are also encouraged!

December 18th is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love. We'll send worshippers home with a special gift to put under your tree. We hope it will serve as a reminder throughout the coming year that the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ are always with you.

Following worship, Sardis singers are invited to join Minister of Music, Hilary McIntyre and other choir members for an afternoon of caroling to nearby friends of Sardis who are unable to join us in person. Carolers will enjoy a time of fellowship (please bring your own lunch) before caravanning to deliver some holiday cheer to housebound friends.

