

sardis signposts

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811 SardisBaptistCharlotte.org

WORSHIP **SCHEDULE**

Sunday at 9:45 AM Study Group

Sunday at 11:00 AM Morning Worship

HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS @ SARDIS

Holy Week events prepare us to experience the joy of resurrection. Please make plans to join us for several special remembrances:

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 2nd @ II:00 AM

We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will wave palms and process to the prayer labyrinth to complete worship on this special day.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SUPPER April 6th @ 6:00 PM

Join us for a light supper of soups, grapes, cheese and bread followed by Communion. We will remember Jesus' last meal with the disciples (and his first Communion with each of us).



April 7th @ Noon

Sardis Baptist, Sardis Presbyterian and St. Stephen UMC will partner for the annual community Good Friday worship service. Congregants will gather at noon on the south lawn of Sardis Presbyterian (located at 6100 Sardis Road). The outdoor worship experience will include prayer, music, art, and scripture to encourage reflection on Jesus' final days.

SARDIS BAPTIST SUNRISE SERVICE April 9th @ 6:45 AM

Join us in the Sardis Baptist prayer garden on Easter morning at 6:45 AM for sunrise worship. This simple service of prayer, song, and scripture is a beautiful way to begin the Easter season.

EASTER BREAKFAST

April 9th @ 8:00 AM

Worship often occurs around the table! Join Sardis friends for breakfast on Easter morning at 8:00 AM. Restaurant TBA by Pastor Jonathan Eidson.

EASTER MORNING WORSHIP

April 9th @ 11:00 AM

Sardis will host a celebratory Easter service in our sanctuary at 11 AM. Please note, the Sunday morning book group will not meet on Easter Sunday.













Our next series

of Sardis Academy sessions will be led by Don Gordon, founder and CEO of C3 – Christians Caring for Creation, which provides a platform to address the critical environmental issues of our day. C3 challenges Christians to act boldly in loving God and neighbor by loving all of God's creation. Learn more about this organization at their website:

christianscaringforcreation.com.

Don will facilitate discussions based on readings from "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World." Although the book will be the basis for our sessions, reading the book is not required. The purpose of this series is to help Sardis Baptist Church have conversations about what it means to be a steward of the earth.

The series will begin in April and conclude in May. We hope you'll join us for fellowship dinners before the sessions. Meals will be served at 5:45 PM; sessions will begin at 6:30 and end in time for the Sardis Choir to begin practice at 7:45 PM. Please save the following Wednesdays in your calendar: April 19th, April 26th, May 10th, and May 17th.

Sardis Baptist Church

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

EASTER MUSINGS

Five Dollar Kindness. This past month, Sardis launched a Five Dollar Kindness Initiative. You can read about it here: sardisbaptistcharlotte.org/2023/03/24/five-dollar-kindness/

Our hypothesis remains solid: it appears that kindness is contagious. As of this writing, one congregant reports buying lunch for a stranger; another warm drinks for the school crossing guards. We've also had an anonymous benefactor underwrite an additional 20 acts of kindness! I distributed another set of 20 envelopes midweek, and will keep you posted on what happens. Use the hashtag #5DollarKindness to follow our progress on social media.



Hard or Soft? I don't why, but this week, I keep thinking about the Exodus story: for whatever reason, God hardens Pharaoh's heart, and it's this hardening that loosens Pharaoh's grasp on Israel. The most powerful ruler on Earth is rendered powerless, futile even, in comparison to God.

This month, we'll join Jesus as he awaits trial by Pilate. I'm not so sure that God hardens Pilate's heart – how do you harden someone who is indifferent, unknowledgeable even, to the concept of truth? And there are no mysterious signs and wonders to push Pilate to the brink of exhaustion. It seems a softer approach. Jesus will liberate Israel, not with the overwhelming power of the divine, but instead, with his full and authentic humanity. And yet somehow, it's no less maddening for Pilate – Jesus is fully independent of Pilate's autonomy, and fully interdependent upon God's autonomy.

I suppose our liberation is rooted in the agitation of systems. I wonder, then, is Easter the season of discovering our own gifts, and how we might employ them (hard, or soft, or both) in ways that lead to rebirth and reconciliation? Could it be that truth is just as much a plague on injustice as frogs or pestilence? I sure hope so! And I hope truth is born anew for each of us in the coming season!

A Community of Artifacts. Janette gave me a beautiful painting (pictured above) to hang on my office wall. As I hung it, I also noticed the Elvis bears that Marge gave me; the shepherd that Tim gave me; the Buddy Jesus and Jesus breath mints that Jonathan gave me; a Lenten cross that Irena gave me; Weeble Epiphany sets that preschoolers gave me; drawings from my daughters; a reclaimed stained-glass window that John gave me...there are dozens of other things, too! You may not know it, Sardis, but I carry you with me, wherever I go, and you all are here in the meetinghouse, even when you aren't. You have a wonderful way of extending your presence; you leave the breadcrumbs and fingerprints of your lives behind: kindness, generosity, creativity, love, etc. For that, I am grateful!

SARDIS PARTNERS:

QC FAMILY TREE

Visionary leaders Greg and Helms Jarrell have inhabited the corner of Parkway and Tuckaseegee since 2005. Having recently graduated from seminary,



they bought a house in the Enderly
Park neighborhood of Charlotte, focused on
"cultivating community for the common good."
Their strategy was to live there, rear their children
there, become a Christian community where they
would form relationships with the neighbors.

Their risk taking and organizational abilities, and most of all, their respect and love for their neighbors, have enabled them to become an integral part of the community. Through imagination and vision, the Jarrells continue to work for justice as they practice anti-racism and combat gentrification. Their focus is on the liberation of Black people, which leads to the liberation of all people, including White Supremacists. No one is free if all are not free.

Imagination for what can be leads the Jarrells and their neighbors to work toward mutual aid and the sharing of resources. Strategies have included establishing a neighborhood youth group, inviting local families to their home for dinner on a regular basis, providing summertime activities for children, and growing a neighborhood garden among others. This weekend they will join Enderly Park in hosting an egg hunt sponsored by Mecklenburg Parks and Recreation.

Respect for history, traditions, stories, the voices and perspective of their neighbors has led them to organize and innovate within Enderly Park and with

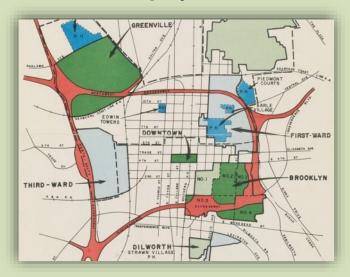


its residents. Resident Culture Bearers, Rhizome Coalition, and West Side Creative are three neighborhood groups founded by the residents. They use various art forms to communicate and to tell their stories.

Painting by Helms Jarrell

A Spiritually Progressive Community of Faith

Trespasses Walk: Uptown Charlotte Sunday, April 16th



Rev. Greg Jarrell recently led Sardis friends in a series of interactive discussions about how racism and segregation have shaped our city. Greg is the co-founder of QC Family Tree and author of the book *Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Making—and Taking—of Neighborhoods* (coming winter 2024 from Fortress Press).

An accompanying walking tour of uptown Charlotte was originally scheduled in March, but was postponed due to poor weather conditions. The walk has been rescheduled for Sunday, April 16th. A quick lunch will be available following worship, then we will caravan uptown for a two mile walking tour of uptown Charlotte. We will look for 'stories of exclusions and invisibilities' that have been built into our cityscape.

If you were unable to attend the recent sessions, please see videos on the Sardis Baptist Facebook page: facebook.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte/videos.



Throughout the season of Lent, Sardis friends make donations to a "Living Lilies Fund" that supports organizations who embody the way of Jesus in their missions. Donations are made in honor or memory of loved ones who are recognized during worship on Easter Sunday. The benefactor for this year's collection will be QC Family Tree (QCFT). The deadline for submitting 2023 Living Lilies honorariums is Monday, April 3rd. If you wish to make a donation, please email Kathryn Kreutzer at info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org with the names of those you would like recognized.

Hear My Voice

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 everyone impacted by crises in the world.

Give us hope for a future of peace based on justice for all.

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathies are with the following people who are grieving the loss of loved ones:

- Donald Stevenson, grandfather to Rebecca Askins and MacGregor Stevenson
- Nicole Fisher, sister-in-law to Luther Fisher
 - Jim Stillerman, uncle to Bob Stillerman

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Charles Almond, grandfather of Jacqueline Stillerman
- 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 Betsy Cadle DePaul Dusty Detterman, daughter of June Ross • Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's mother
- Krissa Gaston, friend of Phillips family
 Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison
 Mary Moon Guerrant, Kathryn Kreutzer's mother
 Janie Harris
 Kathie
 Marvin Jean
 Ann Macguire, sister of Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne (Grove Lane)
 Maria Marshall, daughter of Janette Grassi
 Robert Marshall, grandson of Janette Grassi
 Maria Monk, friend of Daynette Snead Perez
 Frank

Phillips, brother of Danny Phillips • Vicki Phillips, niece of Shannon Duncan • Rachel Phipps and her children, Kendarius and Mekhi, 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) Leon Fisher Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis

Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy

Sardis Baptist Church

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Palm Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship	Sardis Pi 6:45 to 8:00 PM Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Truck @ Sardis Baptist	TUE 4 The Garden Preso	WED 5 hool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM PM to 8:45 PM 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	Maundy Thursday 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:00 PM CWS Leadership Meeting	FRI 7 Good Friday Noon Community Worship at Sardis Presbyterian	SAT 1 April Fools 8
9 Easter Sunday 6:45 AM Sunrise Worship 8:00 AM Breakfast * No Book Group 11:00 AM Easter Worship		no Academy — 3:15 F 7:00 PM CWS: Opossums	M to 8:45 PM 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	13	14	15 12:00 PM
of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship Noon Worship 1:15 PM Trespasses Uptown Walk		The Garden Preso ano Academy — 3:15 I Time TBD Discovery Team Meeting	hool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM AM to 8:45 PM 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Sardis Academy 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	20	9:30 AM Clergy Group	Earth Day
Third Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship		The Garden Press	26 hool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM M to 8:45 PM 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM Sardis Academy 7:45 PM Chancel Choir	27	28	29
Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship	Sardis Pi	The Garden Presc ano Academy — 3:15 F	nool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM			

FREE BEN & JERRY'S ICE CREAM Monday, April 3rd - 6:45 to 8 PM



Ben and Jerry's will have an ice cream truck with FREE ice cream at Sardis Baptist Church on Monday, April 3rd from 6:45 until 8:00 in the evening. The menu will include vegan and gluten-free options. All tips collected will be donated to Charlotte Family Housing whose mission is to empower working families experiencing homelessness to achieve lifelong self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, supportive services, and advocacy. Please help us spread the word. Invite friends and neighbors to stop by for a sweet treat!



Charlotte Wildlife Stewards

OVER THE MOON FOR OPOSSUMS — APRIL 11th

Opossums are the only marsupial mammal in North America, and a generalist species that has enabled them to adapt to human environments. Yet, they often fall prey to the hazards or urbanization. Join the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards on Tuesday, April 11th at 7 PM to learn more about these captivating marsupials and their unique biology.

A special guest from Animal Rehabilitators of the Carolinas will also lead a discussion about wildlife rehabilitation resources in the Charlotte area.

The class will be held in the sanctuary of Sardis Baptist Church, and will also be available via Zoom for those who prefer to attend virtually. Please visit the CWS facebook page to register: facebook.com/CharlotteWildlife/events.

EARTH DAY— APRIL 22nd, 10 to NOON

Celebrate Earth Day with action! CWS is teaming up with NC Native Plan Society and Wild Ones Charlotte to remove invasive plants at Chantilly Ecological Society. Please visit the CWS facebook page to register: facebook.com/CharlotteWildlife/events.



THEN SINGS MY SOUL — HYMN FESTIVAL

Our neighbor church, Sardis Presbyterian, is hosting a hymn festival, and the Sardis Baptist Choir has been invited to join in song.
Then Sings My Soul, will be on Sunday, April 30th at 4 PM in the sanctuary of Sardis Presbyterian, 6100 Sardis Road. The festival is a final project for Kaitlyn Davros, Director of Traditional Music & Worship at Sardis Pres. Musical selections will lead participants on a journey through how song, lifted in community through praise and worship, can speak towards reconciliation and love, and spread loving-kindness.

Repertoire:

Praise to the Lord — arranged by Alice Parker
O God, Beyond All Praising — Proulx
How Great Thou Art — Paul Leddington Wright
The Church's One Foundation — Dan Forrest
Prayer of the Children — Klouse
Our Love Can Mend a Broken World — Trenney
Concertato on We Know That Christ is Raised — Hopson

If you would like to participate, please email our Minister of Music, Hilary McIntyre, at SardisHilary@yahoo.com before April 16th.

Sardis Baptist Church





G3 - APRIL 15th

The G3 Group (Gals Gab and Grub)
will gather for lunch on
Saturday, April 15th at 12:00 PM.
Stay tuned to the weekly
Sardis Happenings email
for additional details.

Please Ellen Dillard know if you have questions or are planning to join the group: (704) 301-4330, ejdcharlotte@gmail.com.

