

# 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

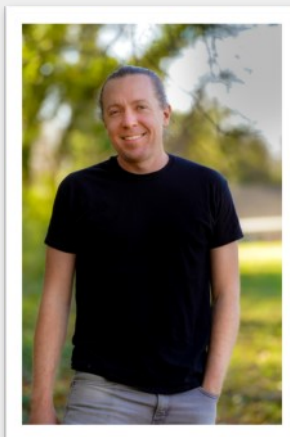
Sunday at 9:45 AM  
Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Morning Worship

## TRESPASSES OF THE HOLY: Race, Place, and Faith

Interactive Discussions with Greg Jarrell  
March 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>

Rev. Greg Jarrell will lead Sardis in a series of interactive discussions about how racism and segregation have shaped our city, including a walking tour of Uptown Charlotte. 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](http://FortressPress.com)). Greg has also created a contemplative experience entitled "Walking Charlotte as Labyrinth" aimed at exploring the past, present, and future of the Queen City.



Greg will invite Sardis to experience the "Charlotte Labyrinth" and its complex history in a week-long series of interactive events. We hope you will make plans to be part of these meaningful discussions.

**Meetinghouse Map, Wed 3/8, 5:45 p.m.** – Greg will transform our meetinghouse into an interactive map, and we'll explore the various neighborhoods of Charlotte. Dinner will be served at 5:45 p.m. Program begins at 6:15 p.m.

**Church-wide Discussion, Sun 3/12, 9:45 a.m.** – During the Sunday School/ Discussion Group hour, Greg will facilitate a conversation about how race and segregation have shaped/continue to shape the Charlotte community. Program will begin at 9:45 a.m. and conclude before 10:45 a.m.

**Morning Worship, Sun 3/12, 11:00 a.m.** – Greg will be our morning proclaimer, and worship themes/setting will reflect our focus on Charlotte history.

**Walking Tour of Uptown, Sun 3/12, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** – We will have prepared to experience this walk with discussion and intentional worship. With full hearts and minds, we will accompany Greg on a three-mile journey through Uptown. Sardis will provide a light lunch following worship, and we encourage participants to carpool from the Sardis parking lot. We will plan to depart for Uptown at 1:00 p.m. Walkers should bring water bottles, and wear layered clothing and comfortable shoes. We are requesting RSVPs for those who plan to walk in order to make appropriate preparations. Please confirm your intention to walk by emailing the church office at [info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org)

**Debriefing Session, Wed 3/15, 5:45 p.m.** – Our final session will offer a space to process the experience of our walk and interactive discussions, and give voice to discerning next steps for our congregation in engaging issues of race and segregation.

## LENTEN LIVING LILIES

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).

QCFT is a neighborhood based community organization, rooted in the Enderly Park neighborhood of West Charlotte, NC, working at the intersection of faith, culture, and social change. QCFT intentionally and actively cultivates/tends/nurtures people and places so that they might create thriving communities of abundance, justice, imagination, and mutual care for all. Through practices of cultural organizing, they strengthen social infrastructure, expand on interdependence, mutual aid, and solidarity where it already exists. Learn more at their website: [qcfamilytree.org](http://qcfamilytree.org).

Instructions for making contributions to the Living Lilies Fund will be shared on Sunday mornings and in our weekly Sardis Happenings emails. Contact the church office with questions: [info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org).



## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

### What Happened to the Sardis Entrance Sign?

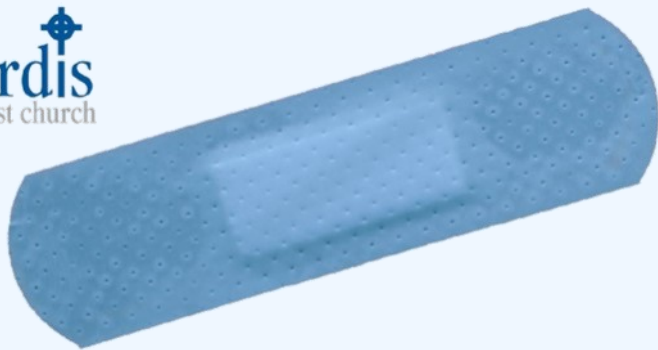
In late January, a motorist collided with the Sardis entrance sign. Thankfully, nobody was seriously injured in the accident, but our brick sign was reduced to rubble. The destruction of our sign coincided with our congregation beginning a visioning process.

Yes, we will eventually replace our sign, and there's already a team stewarding that work. In the interim, we created a banner featuring a blue Band-Aid. We think it's a fun and clever way to tell the community we are on the mend. But in many ways, it's also a metaphor for healing in a post-pandemic world.

The last 36 months have changed every facet of life, especially the lives of congregations. Programming, traditions, and rituals that once seemed so vital to our needs and reflective of our values, are no longer as vital and reflective. We anticipate the "new" Church, but we also grieve the loss of comfort and familiarity. Perhaps it's an adolescence.

We're seeking to discern what Church is going to be in 2023 and beyond. How will we be an extension of God's love in the Charlotte community and beyond? And though it may be a tedious process, we also believe that part of our discernment is giving intentional thought to the language represented on our new sign. Who are we? What are the needs of the community around us? What resources can we share and receive to meet the needs of our community?

To that end, you may have to wait a little while longer to see a permanent sign at 5811 Sardis Road. And don't be surprised to see a banner or two that seek your input. Just know that we're striving to build a better, more relevant, more loving community of faith. And when do finally "rip off the Band-Aid," we hope our sign will reflect our deepest desire to offer radical and consistent hospitality to our neighbors near and far.



5811 Sardis Road

#SardisSign

### Sardis People:

## WILLIAM KARNES POSTON, JR.

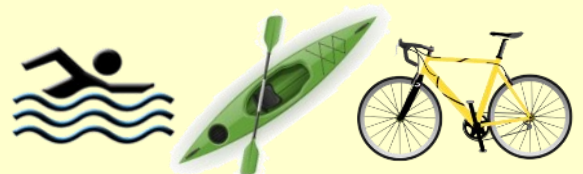
Names are often passed down from one generation to another. William Karnes Poston is such a name. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the name belonged to Bill Poston's great grandfather, a man who fought with Lee at Gettysburg. The name skipped a generation and was given to Bill's father. He was a soldier in World War II, an infantryman who helped to liberate a death camp.

Bill, too, served in the army. He received an ROTC commission after graduating from Bluefield College in Virginia and from the University of Richmond and served in an Ordnance Corps as Second Lieutenant.

Bill's name became Dr. Poston when he graduated from West Virginia University Medical School. His internship in surgery and residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology were completed in San Antonio, Texas. At present he is a hematologist-pathologist with the Presbyterian Pathology Group in Charlotte and his work space includes any of the Novant facilities in Mecklenburg County. His diagnostic skills in biopsy interpretation give direction for a patient's medical treatment.

Bill adds sportsman to his name in pastime activities. He enjoys the water sports of kayaking and swimming. He is also a biker and rides both bicycle and motorcycle. Reader is another name as he appreciates perusing current events and history. For fiction, Bill likes to read the master of adventure, Clive Cussler's thrillers.

Dr. Poston is named husband by Dr. Pam Poston and father by Mandy and Billy (William Karnes Poston III, deceased).





### CONDOLENCES

We offer our condolences to Sardis friends  
who have recently lost loved ones:

- Jim Stillerman, uncle of Bob Stillerman
- Nicole Fisher, sister-in-law of Luther Fisher

### HEALTH & WELL-BEING

**Please join us in prayers for the health and well-being  
of the following friends of Sardis Baptist:**

- 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 • Dusty Detterman, daughter of June Ross • Amelia Eidson, mother of Jonathan • Krissa Gaston, friend of the Phillips family • Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison • Janette Grassi • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • 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, 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

When you can't put your  
*prayer* into words,  
*God* hears your  
**HEART.**



## LENT

When we engage the stories of Jesus, we meet someone who is collaborative, openminded, humble, and generous. In a world that tells us to bypass the needs of others in favor of our own, Jesus chooses to engage his neighbors, and use his life as a vessel for meeting their needs. Often, we are quick to admire the relationship-building and servanthood-focused qualities of Jesus. But we are much slower, and much less frequent, in emulating those qualities in our daily living.

During the first part of Lent, we'll consider some of the stories from Mark's Gospel that best reveal the neighbor-making practices of Jesus. And we'll give thought to those things we can "take on" rather than "give up" to better express our individual and collective callings. How might we be co-laborers in Charlotte? How might we learn to listen to views and perspectives that differ from our own? How might we offer healing in quiet corners? How might we be hosts to our community? How might we take on the best qualities of the One we follow?






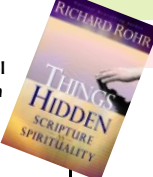

As we enter Palm Sunday, we'll parse out the tension of competing theologies. Was the Holy Week drama a predestined plan of sacrificial atonement or simply the consequence of political and religious systems that lash out against those who threaten the status quo? Amid such loss and emptiness, and indeed the woundedness that comes with the sense-making of human violence, can we imagine a God that resurrects and recreates new life where new life seems impossible? Can we ready our hearts and minds to be overwhelmed once more by the old, old story?

We hope you'll join us for the Lenten journey on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM.



# Sardis Baptist Church

# MARCH

| SUN   | MON  | TUE  | WED   | THU   | FRI  | SAT   |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|
|   |  | 1<br>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM   | 2<br>Charlotte Wildlife Stewards Leadership Team<br>             | 3<br>Clergy Group Meeting<br><br>Jonathan's 10th Sardis Anniversary |   |   |
| 5<br>Second Sunday of Lent<br><br>9:45 AM<br>Sunday School<br>Things Hidden<br><br>11:00 AM<br>Worship                          | 6  | 7<br>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM<br><br>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM<br><br> 7:00 PM<br>Coyotes<br>Charlotte Wildlife | 8<br>4:00 PM<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:45 PM<br>Fellowship Dinner<br>6:15 PM<br>Trespasses of the Holy<br>7:45 PM<br>Choir Practice                     | 9   | 10   | 11<br>Spring Ahead Before Bed<br> |
| 12<br>Third Sunday of Lent<br><br>9:45 AM<br>Sunday School<br>Trespasses of the Holy<br>Greg Jarrell<br><br>11:00 AM<br>Worship | 13<br>        | 14<br>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM<br><br>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM   | 15<br>4:00 PM<br>Staff Meeting<br>5:45 PM<br>Fellowship Dinner<br>6:15 PM<br>Trespasses of the Holy<br>7:45 PM<br>Choir Practice                    | 16  | 17<br>Clergy Group Meeting<br><br>St. Patrick's Day<br> | 18  |
| 19<br>Fourth Sunday of Lent<br><br>9:45 AM<br>Sunday School<br>Things Hidden<br><br>11:00 AM<br>Worship                         | 20<br>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM<br><br>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM | 21   | 22<br>4:00 PM<br>Staff Meeting<br>6:00 PM<br>Discovery Team<br>7:30 PM<br>Choir Practice  | 23  | 24   | 25  |
| 26<br>Fifth Sunday of Lent<br><br>9:45 AM<br>Sunday School<br>Things Hidden<br><br>11:00 AM<br>Worship                          | 27<br>        | 28<br>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM<br><br>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM   | 29<br>4:00 PM<br>Staff Meeting<br>7:30 PM<br>Choir Practice<br> |   |  |   |



## DISCOVERY TEAM UPDATE

The Discovery Team met twice in February, and will meet three more times this Spring to conclude its work. In January, Sardis engaged Rev. Dr. David Brown, a consultant with Pinnacle Leadership, to investigate a potential visioning process – what kind of time and effort would it take for Sardis to explore our congregational identity in a formal and constructive way?

The Discovery Team is doing the hard work of 1) determining the questions we need to ask and 2) designing a process (with David's guidance) for how to answer those questions. The initial meetings have offered the committee members an opportunity to learn about both David and Pinnacle Leadership, and he them, as well as an opportunity to reflect on our congregation's recent past. Perhaps the most meaningful/fruitful conversations have been each committee member sharing what brought them to Sardis. Powerful stories! And stories that remind us the Spirit of this place isn't something to be bottled up or hidden, but to be shared with others. Ultimately, we want more people to experience what it feels like to be Sardis-y.

In the coming weeks, the conversation will shift to trends in the Church Universal, and thoughts about the future work Sardis is called to. With this rich data in hand, the committee will draft/design a process/roadmap for congregational discovery, and eventually present a recommendation to the entire congregation.

These are exciting times! Perhaps most exciting is the collective energy and giftedness of the team members willing to engage this important discussion. Please continue to give prayerful support to their work – we ask that God channel their collective wisdom into transformative possibilities for Sardis!



## Charlotte Wildlife Stewards

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### COYOTES

**Tuesday, March 14th @ 7:00 PM**

**Sardis Baptist Church Meetinghouse or Virtual**

Coyotes are in every city and county in North Carolina. Want to know more about this shy, clever animal? Join the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards chapter of NCWF and State Wildlife Biologist Rupert Medford to receive the latest updates on our state's coyote population, relative to urban areas like Charlotte. We will discuss urban coyotes and the impacts they have on native wildlife, habitat, and people. This event is free and open to the public.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3xcrW9N>

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### I SPY ... TRASH!

**Sunday, March 19th @ 3:00 PM**

**Chantilly Ecological Sanctuary**

Join us while we continue our mission to protect wildlife habitat by cleaning up trash at Chantilly Ecological Sanctuary. Wildlife faces threats of injury and death when trash is in the environment. Not only does trash create local problems, but it also washes all the way to the ocean by way of storm drains, creeks, and rivers. This is a great family activity and will teach our young, budding naturalists one of the easy ways they can protect wildlife and habitat. We are partnering with Charlotte Mecklenburg Storm Water for Creek Week and they will supply trash pickers and bags. Wear boots and bring gloves! Please register so we know how many supplies are needed:

<http://bit.ly/3HXPWT9>



Sardis Spring 2023

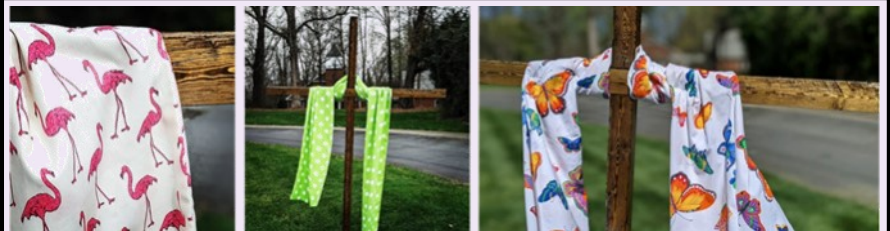


10 Years of Service at Sardis ~  
Thank you Jonathan Eidson!



## CHURCH WORKDAY

Spring has sprung at Sardis, and that means it's time for our annual church-wide spring cleaning extravaganza! It is tradition at Sardis to spruce up our surroundings prior to Easter, allowing us to share our Sunday best on the day of resurrection. There will be outdoor tasks for folks who enjoy Sardis' gardens and grounds this time of year, as well as to-do's inside the meetinghouse. Our Buildings & Grounds Team will determine the date. Details will be announced on Sunday mornings as well as in weekly Sardis Happenings emails.



## CROSS OF MANY COLORS

Traditionally, the Lenten season has been a time to "give up" something in hopes of drawing closer to God. Here at Sardis, we think a little differently. We view Lent as a season of "taking on" or "filling up." We believe that living presently and abundantly cultivates right relationship with God, neighbor, and land.

To that end, our 2023 Lenten theme is focused on considering the qualities of Jesus we want to best emulate: healing; open-mindedness, radical hospitality, and collaboration. How might we "take on" new ways/disciplines that foster curiosity, empathy, actualized love, neighbor-making, and genuine partnership? And how might these individual and corporate expressions help create a better world?

We also note that most Lenten crosses are adorned in purple. But most Lenten crosses don't reside at Sardis! Throughout the season, you'll notice dozens of banners, representing a full spectrum of colors and patterns. For us, the color splash represents the idea that vitality abounds in every season, and uniqueness and value abide in every person. Perhaps these "color pops" will be a catalyst claiming life in the Lenten season of wilderness. It should also be noted that we have a soft spot for bumble bees, butterflies, and flamingos! #CrossOfManyColors