

sardis signposts

baptist church

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

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Several people have expressed an interest in recent months in renewing a regular Sardis Bible Study. Bob Stillerman will be leading a few experimental formats in June, July, and August. At the conclusion of the summer, we'll determine if there is enough interest to incorporate any of these formats (or some iteration of them) into our regular programming for the 2023-2024 calendar.

Psalms at Sunset, Tuesday June 6th @ 7:45 PM

Sardis Labyrinth

Conclude your day in the peace and serenity of the Sardis labyrinth. We'll read the psalms of pilgrims and share sacred prayers.

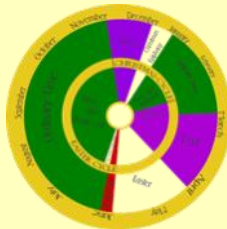


Midweek Midrash, Wednesday June 14th @ 6:00 PM

Sardis Meetinghouse

Sardis bases its weekly worship readings and sermons on the [Revised Common Lectionary](#). We join a global community of Christians in discerning a common text each week.

For this exercise, we'll take a few minutes to explore the background of one of Sunday's selected readings.



Brown Bag Bible Study, Friday June 23rd @ Noon

Sardis Picnic Shelter

Pack your lunch and join us in the picnic shelter for a discussion of Genesis 1. We'll have a restful conversation as we enjoy nature and read about creation and rest.



D&D PRESENTATION June 4th @ 11 AM

Last Fall, the staff and trustees began an informal conversation with Rev. Dr. David Brown of Pinnacle Leadership Associates (see profile on page 2) to explore a visioning process for Sardis Baptist Church. We wanted to give formal shape and thought to how Sardis can best equip itself to respond to the needs of our community in 2023 and beyond. In February, a Discovery and Design (D&D) team was formed to explore the scope of such a project: what questions do we need to ask, and what are the resources required to answer those questions?

We are delighted to report that the D&D team has completed its work, and will share a summary of its findings in worship on Sunday June 4th. Their findings will include a recommendation for engaging in a nine month visioning (continued— page 3)

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



Global Partners

In the summer of 2011, then a student at Wake Forest University School of Divinity, I interned with [Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London](#). While there, I formed a friendship with the Rev. Dr. Ruth Gouldbourne. We corresponded for many years, and increased our correspondence when Ruth received a call to pastor [Grove Lane Baptist Church](#) in Cheadle Hume UK (near Manchester). Grove Lane and Sardis are of similar size and theology, and we enjoyed sharing our experiences with one another. In 2019, Ruth and I began thinking of ways to introduce our congregations. An opportunity presented itself with World Communion Sunday, and the two congregations read letters of greeting to one another. With the onset of pandemic in 2020, the two congregations increased their correspondence to include shared virtual worship services, as well as storytelling panels. One Christmas Eve, the congregations exchanged readers of sacred texts. Ruth has also led a virtual session for our Sunday Discussion group, offering her perspectives of calling, and the affirmation of women in ministry.

Following are two greetings that help describe the more global aspect of our faith. They also give depth to the theology of Communion, and what we hope to accomplish as we gather at various tables.

From Grove Lane Baptist Church to Sardis Baptist Church, Shared in Worship on October 6th, 2019.

To Our Sisters and Brothers in Christ who gather in Sardis as a Baptist Congregation. We send you greetings from Grove Lane Baptist Church here in Cheadle Hulme, UK.

As a congregation, we trust that when we meet at the Lord's Table we are sharing with God's people across time and space, meeting in the presence of the Living One. It is a privilege today to "put names" to another part of the Body – you, whom though we have not met, yet we worship beside.

Today, we bring thanks for your experiment, your humanity, your faith.

We pray that in all that you do to live love and seek the Kingdom, you will celebrate the presence of the Living One, and live that Living Life for the blessing and transforming of the world. May God's love and presence be your first reality, and the delight that shapes your days. May your service of God, worked out through serving your neighbours, be a source of joy for you and for others, and may unexpected possibilities open up before you.

As you gather to share Bread and Wine, may that life that is in Christ, in which we all live, be also in you, for the coming of the Kingdom.

*With our best wishes,
The congregation at Grove Lane*

(continued on back page)

Sardis Partner:

Rev. Dr. David Brown



David Brown has been working with the Sardis Discovery Team in the Discovery and Design phase of Sardis looking to the future and asking the question: Who are we and who will we be in a post-covid world? The team is the beginning of a process in which the church at Sardis will continue to explore the challenges and opportunities which the God Who Is shows us. Dreaming and discernment is the beginning of practical planning.

David's holds a doctorate from Duke University School of Divinity in Christian Leadership, focusing on the traditions and practices of the earliest church. He is an associate with Pinnacle Leadership Associates and consults with churches who are looking to refine the concept of who they are. He does not use a "cookie-cutter" approach, but works with each particular congregation to find a pattern which fits that congregation's needs. As Dr. Brown works with Sardis, he will help congregants to connect their stories with the story of Sardis and with God's story.

Rev. Dr. Brown is also the pastor of The Welcome Table, a house church in Rock Hill, SC. The premise of the church is that "all are partners in God's ministry...and are called to live the disciple life, allowing faith to shape every aspect of who we are and what we do, individually and collectively." As a church, they gather to worship God, to form relationships with each other as they learn how to form relationships with God and with neighbor. Then they scatter to live the disciple life in the world. To be.

Previous ministry positions include Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, Rock Hill, and Winthrop University. He is married to Sarah and they have three children, Garrett, Keller, and Emma Kate.



DISCOVERY & DESIGN

(continued from page 1) process. As of this writing, the details of the presentation are being finalized.

On 6/4, congregants will be provided with a synopsis of the proposed work. We will also make this information available in multiple formats. Please note that the group is only presenting its findings. There will be ample opportunity to ask questions. David Brown will also be available for an in-person meeting in late-June or early-July (date TBD) to answer any additional questions and offer feedback. We will hold a church conference following worship on July 23rd to vote on approval of the D&D team's proposal.



Music Notes from Hilary

Summer is upon us, and as such, our wonderful pianist is off traveling the world. Every year in June, Irena goes to visit family in Russia. We miss her terribly, but we are never left without beautiful music at Sardis!

June 4th, 11th, and 18th, we will be graced by three students from Irena's studio, the Sardis Piano Academy. We look forward to hearing some Debussy and Chopin performed by Yoav Ovrutsky, Parvati Iyer, and Coco Dong.

Also, throughout the month, Minister of Music Hilary McIntyre will be taking the opportunity to introduce us to hymns in our Chalice Hymnal that may be unfamiliar, but may soon become old favorites!

Stay tuned next month to find out what other musical adventures we will be taking part in during the Summer!



prayer Requests



*In prayer it is better
to have a heart without words
than words without a heart.
~ John Bunyan ~*

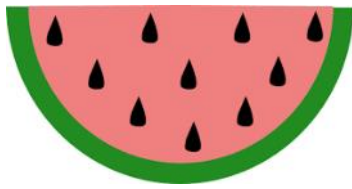
HEALTH & WELLBEING

• Rita Akers, friend of the Phillips • Charles Almond, grandfather of Jacqueline Stillerman • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin • Mark & Cheryl Bradbury, friends of Jonathan Eidson • 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 & Tom Guerrant, Kathryn Kreutzer's parents • 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 • Frank Phillips, brother of Danny Phillips • Vicki Phillips, niece of Shannon Duncan • Rachel, Kendarius, and 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 • David Sigmon • Sherman Stanley, friend of Kreutzer family • Tanya Stevensen, daughter of June Ross • Deannie Tiddy, Jo's mother-in-law • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin •

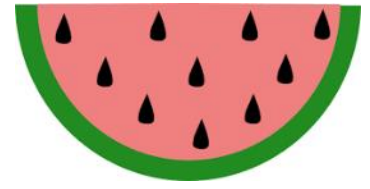
TRAVELING MERCIES

• 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



JUNE



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 Tillie Duncan—24 Years • Kathryn Kreutzer—8 Years • Hilary McIntyre—7 Years We encourage you to share a note, text, or email with some words of gratitude and affirmation for the gifts these ministers bring to Sardis Baptist Church.				1 Tillie's Workiversary Kathryn's Workiversary 6:00 PM CWS Leadership Team	2 9:30 AM Clergy Group 	3
4 Trinity Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Discovery Sunday 	5	6 7:45 PM Psalms at Sunset	7	8	9	10
11 Second Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Graduation Sunday 	12	13 The Garden Preschool — 7:30 AM to 11:30 PM C3 Board Meeting	14 6:00 PM Midweek Midrash 	15	16 9:30 AM Clergy Group	17
18 Third Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship 	19 Juneteenth Hilary's Workiversary 	20	21	22	23 Noon Brown Bag Bible Study 	24
25 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship	26	27	28	29	30	

Hope Chapel - Men's Clothing Drive

Hope Chapel was formed in 1987 by a small group of Baptist churches, including Sardis. It is located next to Roof Above and is a church that welcomes folks who may not feel comfortable in other churches - the homeless, those released from prison, people with substance abuse disorder and other mental illnesses. Their small annual budget is funded by the four founding churches. Services and administration are managed completely by volunteers — there are no paid staff members. Please let a member of the Sardis Ministry Team know if you are interested in getting involved!

Hope Chapel is currently collecting men's clothing to provide to friends who attend. Please bring new or gently used men's items to Sardis Baptist Church. Leave them in the laundry basket in the vestibule and we will ensure they are delivered.



SARDIS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood is essential to life. Blood circulates through our body and delivers essential substances like oxygen and nutrients to the body's cells. It also transports metabolic waste products away from those same cells. Blood is made up of four main components. Red blood cells, platelets, plasma, and white blood cells. Each whole blood donation has the potential to save up to three lives.

OneBlood brought their "Big Red Bus" to the campus at Sardis Baptist on May 31st for a blood drive. We hoped to have 10 donors and with help of Sardis friends we met the goal! Donations made by Sardis friends have the potential to impact the health of nearly 30 people.



Tidbits of Sardis History

~ from Susan Phillips

Pastor Bob recently shared an article with a few resources to help readers better understand the Sardis Community. He included our Seven Promises, Church Covenant, 5-Year Recap, archives of church newsletters, as well as a few interesting tidbits of Sardis history. (The article can be found in the May edition of signposts: <https://sardisbaptistcharlotte.org/newsletters>.)

Bob concluded by asking Sardis friends to respond with other pertinent tidbits of interesting history. We thank Susan Phillips for sharing the following and encourage readers to keep the information flowing. Share Sardis tidbits with any member of our ministry staff. Stay tuned — next month we'll include some historical information on the Miller Property, recently uncovered by Joe Wall.

The Lilly Foundation gifted us with a generous worship grant several years ago. Books were purchased; Worship Development Team was begun, enhancement items were bought, and money for speakers was provided.

Helen McCall, recently deceased, is the artist/seamstress who created our worship banners. She also made the durable white tablecloths we frequently use.

Amy Weibke picked up the tradition of banner creation with our new beautiful banner for Advent (more to come!)

Rick & Becky Proctor's worship mindset saw his furniture/decor business as a source of striking pieces for a Pentecost display we have used for several years. They also gifted the conference table in the Education Building and the comfy reading chairs in Bob's office.

William Kruger's incredible setting for a bible times marketplace in VBS years ago provided now weekly-used colorful tablecloths and fabric for displays. He and Marge Fowler provided items for displays honoring native peoples around July 4th.

Melissa Bowlin donated the appliances in our kitchen for preparing and serving meals on occasions such as Maundy Thursday, Communion Brunch, Fellowship Team meals, and others.

Irena Hramenkova's mother not only taught her piano but was an artist. Three of her paintings hang in the hallway by the pastor's office.

Suzette Buchan, sister of Danny Phillips, made the pottery goblets and pitcher used for serving communion alongside pottery platters made by Janette Grassi. Suzette also gave us the Angel sculpture which greets us each time we enter the sanctuary as well as several paintings around our campus.



Christian Dedication
May 21st, 2023

Josie Renée Stillerman

with Godfathers - John & Harry



WORLD LABYRINTH DAY
Walk as One for Peace
May 6th, 2023

GLOBAL PARTNERS

(continued from page 2) The following year, 2020, both congregations adopted Zoom technology. Each congregation shared a video greeting with the other. Here is the transcript of Bob's video greeting to Grove Lane Baptist Church on 10/4/2020:

Hello, Grove Lane, and greetings to you from North Carolina on this World Communion Sunday.

In several conversations I've had with Ruth over the last few months, and in fact in her video greeting to us this morning, she's mentioned the idea of Eucharist transcending space and time. The words and actions of Jesus exist in every dimension. By sharing bread and wine, by remembering his words, in some small but powerful way, we connect to Jesus, and Jesus gathers with us.

I love this image. But still, there's something missing. I visualize what's behind me and what's in front of me. I know we don't often think of time as being vertical, but humor me. We have a line, traveling through space and time, all that's come before, and all that will be, and we occupy a space in that realm.

But it still feels isolated, because we know that other Christians exist beyond our walls, beyond our national borders, to all points of the globe. For me, World Communion Sunday, much like the Revised Common Lectionary, is a unifying liturgy. Every Sunday, millions of people are reading the very same words as us in their own setting. And today, millions, I guess even billions of people, are sharing in this same act of hospitality: bread and wine, given freely to any who might seek it.

So for me, this global communion offers a lateral perspective to complement Ruth's vertical perspective. Imagine a second line that bisects our first. This second realm includes all of the varied faith houses around the world sharing the elements in their own unique and sacred ways.

So...here we are, at the point where two lines meet: the transcendent history of the table and the current, living, physical embodiment of its global members.

And what better thing to sit upon this axis, than a globe, the world God created, full of creatures, each one, made in the image of God. And no matter, when, or where, or how we spin this globe, the central meeting point – the place where the transcendent history joins the living people – is a table, God's table, Christ's table, our table!

Grove Lane, today, we the Church at Sardis, join you at the table. And we give thanks for this global gathering. Amen.

