



# signposts

a spiritually progressive community of faith

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

## WALK AS ONE FOR PEACE May 6th @ 1:00 PM in the Sardis Prayer Garden

Saturday, May 6th is World Labyrinth Day and thousands of people will participate in the fifteenth annual recognition. Participants worldwide will "Walk as One at 1" by walking a labyrinth at 1:00 PM their local time to create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe.

We invite you to join Sardis friend and certified labyrinth facilitator, Ed Gash, at the Sardis Baptist Church prayer garden for a guided labyrinth meditation on this special day. The walk will begin at 1:00 PM. Those who are unable to attend in person are encouraged to download a finger labyrinth and participate virtually. Various finger labyrinth styles are available for download on the World Labyrinth Day website (<https://www.worldlabyrinthday.org/resources/finger-labyrinths>).

Labyrinths have been used for spiritual purposes as far back as 5,000 years. Archeological digs have found them among ancient Cretans, Etruscans, Normans, Hindus and Native Americans. One labyrinth pattern found on a figurine in the Ukraine was dated to 15,000 B.C.

Labyrinths became popular among Christians during the Middle Ages, though the oldest existing labyrinth was placed in the Church of Reparatus in Algeria in the 4th century. Walking a labyrinth became an alternative prayer pilgrimage when the Crusades made visits to the Holy Land too dangerous.



Unlike mazes, in which there are multiple pathways and unforeseen dead ends, a labyrinth has a single path leading to the center. You cannot get lost in a labyrinth. It always leads you home.

This is a great metaphor for a life of faith. Somehow, despite all the twists and turns of life, God is always there to be found, waiting to embrace us in times of joy, or sorrow, or sheer bewilderment, and ready to guide us forward.

**WALK AS ONE FOR PEACE**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM  
 Study Group

Sunday at 11:00 AM  
 Morning Worship

## Baby Dedications

Sardis Baptist Church has welcomed three newborns into the Sardis family in the past year. Our hearts have melted as gurgles and coos have joined prayers and songs from the gliders at the back of the sanctuary during worship. Our tradition is to celebrate the lives of our youngest members during individual ceremonies of child dedication where our faith community enters into covenant with the child's family to teach the child about following the Way of Jesus. We don't decide for the child, but instead agree to love and educate the child to the point that the child can make his / her own decision about faith matters.



Members of the extended Stillerman and Allen families will join us for worship on Sunday, May 21st as we celebrate the dedication of Josie Renée Stillerman.

## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

During our Discovery Team meeting this Spring, one piece of feedback was that many Sardis community members, and especially our newer ones, are not aware of or lack access to some of the most informative parts of our history. In many instances, there are stories and traditions - ones that need to be heard - that go unheard and unseen. To help remedy this, we thought it would be a good idea to share a list of links and other resources that reveal the Sardis Community.

Did you know that we have Seven Promises? You can find them here: <https://sardisbaptistcharlotte.org/seven-promises/>

On the Sundays that we share Communion, we complete our worship service by reading aloud our Church Covenant:  
<https://sardisbaptistcharlotte.org/covenant/>

In 2021, we completed a five-year recap to summarize the various spiritual activities of our community: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1amRde2bM8azde2eg4tBy78070dg4VaI5?usp=sharing>

Sardis creates a monthly newsletter, Signposts, available both electronically and in print. Each issue features a recap of current events, an introduction to a different Sardis person, and pastoral musings. An archive dating back to 2016 can be accessed here:  
<https://sardisbaptistcharlotte.org/newsletters>

We instituted a tradition of sharing a virtual Peace of Christ. Use the hashtag #SardisPeace to see a sampling of peace-givers from around the globe!

Our Creation Window in the meetinghouse centers us in praise and worship. Did you know that our Communion Plate and Chrismon Ornaments, both pottery creations of Janette Grassi, are depictions of the window?

We chime the trinity on Sunday mornings. Did you know that the bell we use was given to us by Bestelle Hill, our first minister of music? And did you know that the sink in our kitchen was originally used in her husband Don's pharmacy lunch counter? And better still, did you know that Don and Bestelle established a music endowment that provides funding for guest musicians and other music-driven initiatives?

There are honorarium stones in our labyrinth and prayer garden. In 2018, we honored five community partners for their efforts in creating a better Charlotte: Crisis Assistance, Loaves and Fishes, Baptist Retirement Homes of NC, Urban Ministries (now Roof Above), and Habitat for Humanity.

And now it's your turn. What tidbits do you think newcomers should know about Sardis?

## 2023 SARDIS GRADUATE: MADISON KREUTZER

Madison Kreutzer will graduate this spring from East Mecklenburg High School. Her fellow seniors voted her "Most Likely to Lead a Protest" when they chose the superlatives in their class. They took their cue from the fact that Madison is active in community concerns and likes to stay educated on the world around her.

Summer will be a busy time for her as she will continue to work at Walgreen's as a Pharmacy Technician. Work will be interspersed with fun times, however, as she will spend time with friends and will combine labor and amusement in her sometimes job as one of the face painters of YES Entertainment during professional football and soccer games at Bank of America stadium. She will also continue her classes in aerial silks at the Charlotte Cirque & Dance Center. At the dance center, Madison engages in a type of acrobatic performance while hanging from a special fabric from which she suspends, swings, drops or wraps herself in. Flexibility is a word to describe the graduate, physically, intellectually, and socially.

Madison plans to attend UNC-Charlotte this fall and will major in Mechanical Engineering Technology, another way in which she can make practical use of her skill and talent.

Madison is a member of the Kreutzer family: parents David and Kathryn, and siblings Dylan, Kaleb, and Alcie. She has also been a part of the Sardis Church family from the time she was born.





## DISCOVERY TEAM UPDATE

The Sardis Discovery Team has been hard at work, and recently completed its fifth session in April. The team will meet for a final session on Wednesday May 3rd, where it will finalize a visioning process recommendation to be presented to the entire congregation. The team plans to present its findings in morning worship on Sunday June 4th. Please plan to attend this exciting and important opportunity in the life of our church. More details will be provided in upcoming May emails, as well as the June edition of Signposts, to help prepare the congregation for this presentation.



## MUSIC NOTES FROM HILARY

During the summer months of June and July, the Sardis Baptist Church Choir will take a break. Our sabbatical begins on Sunday, June 4, 2023. We will resume rehearsals in August. Check the June edition of Signposts for details about guest musicians throughout the summer. Choir members are encouraged to select a Sunday to spend time with our youngest church buddies during our break. Contact Pastor Jonathan if you'd like to volunteer for Worship Care.



## MAY PRAYER REQUESTS

### HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Rita Akers, friend of the Phillips • 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 • Anne & Jonathan Eidson • 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 • 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 • David Sigmon • Tanya Stevenson, 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 •

May the sun bring you new energy every day.

May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your worries.

May the breeze blow

new strength into your being

May you walk gently

through the world

and know its beauty

all the days of your life.

# Sardis Baptist Church



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  4:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Discovery Team 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	3  CWS Leadership Team	4  CWS Leadership Team	5  9:30 AM Clergy Group	6  1:00 PM World Labyrinth Walk as One  
7  Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship	8  The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM  Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	9  7:00 PM CWS Counting Trees	10  4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	11  CWS Leadership Team	12  CWS Leadership Team	13  CWS Leadership Team
14  Sixth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship	15  The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM  Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	16  7:00 PM CWS Counting Trees	17  4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	18  CWS Leadership Team	19  9:30 AM Clergy Group 12:00 PM G3 (Gals Gab & Grub)	20  
21  Ascension Sunday 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship Dedication of Josie Stillerman	22  The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM  Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	23  7:00 PM CWS Counting Trees	24  4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	25  	26  CWS Leadership Team	27  CWS Leadership Team
28  Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship	29  The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM  Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	30  Memorial Day	31  TGP Last Day 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chancel Choir			

# CREATION CARE

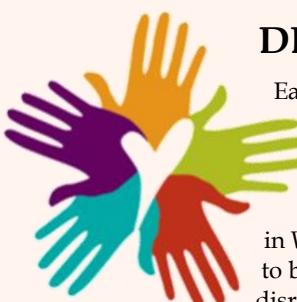
Don Gordon, the founder and CEO of C3—Christians Caring for Creation, recently led an informative Sardis Academy session about what it means to be good stewards of the earth. He began by reminding participants that every human being who has lived, is living now, and will live in the future, is dependent upon creation care. Click the links below to review slides and notes from his informative presentation:

**SLIDES**—<https://www.dropbox.com/s/thj3fi9g01vq2sh/Creation%20Care--SBC.pdf?dl=0>

**NOTES**—<https://www.dropbox.com/s/momovb9685spng/Creation%20Care%20Lesson%2C%20April%202023.pdf?dl=0>

**C3—Christians Caring for Creation** is a non-profit organization that 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](http://christianscaringforcreation.com).



## DESIGNATED MISSIONS

Each year during Lent we collect donations for a cause that emulates the work of Jesus in today's world. This year's benefactor was QC Family Tree, an organization that has been working for justice in West Charlotte since 2005. They endeavor to build power in Black communities while disrupting and dismantling white supremacy.

Thanks to many Sardis friends who contributed, we were able to send more than \$1,200 to support the life-changing programs of QCFT.

Sardis Baptist Church has made a meaningful difference in the lives of students from Charlotte Secondary School through our Goodness Groceries collection. Your financial donations are used to purchase supplies for the school's food pantry as well as breakfast and lunch programs for students who do not have food available at home. Approximately 60% of CSS students qualify for free and reduced lunch, so the needs are significant. Sardis Baptist was able to make a large delivery at the end of April thanks to the financial support of Sardis friends who have been contributing to this effort since the food pantry was initially opened in Spring of 2020.

# Charlotte Wildlife Stewards

## COUNTING TREES CHARLOTTE TREE SURVEY

**Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, 7—8:30 PM**  
**Sardis Baptist Church Sanctuary**

Recognized as having one of the best urban forests in the nation, Charlotte is known for its lush, urban tree canopy that covers nearly 46% of the city. Want to know more about how our city's trees are cared for and cataloged? Join us as we welcome Natasha Warren, Program Coordinator with the City of Charlotte Landscape Management department, and learn how the city works to protect and preserve Charlotte's canopy of trees. or register here for the online link: <https://tinyurl.com/y4krv4yr>

## WILD ON THE WATER!

**Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, 9:00 AM—12:30 PM**  
**Mountain Island Lake — Latta Nature Preserve**

**Wild on the Water!** is the annual fundraiser for the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards. Paddle along with like-minded nature lovers, learn from experienced naturalists, and raise funds for local wildlife projects.

Following the fun on the water, enjoy a delicious lunch followed by a raffle of great prizes. Each paddler will receive one raffle ticket with their \$50 registration and three raffle tickets with an additional donation of \$50 or more.

Please visit this link to register:  
<https://charlotthewildlife.org/wild-on-the-water/>  
The registration deadline is May 15th.



# PENTECOST

Sunday, May 28th is Pentecost. According to Acts, this is day that followers of Jesus' way, gathered together in Jerusalem, were filled with the Holy Spirit. They heard sounds of rushing winds, saw flames of fire, and began to speak in unfamiliar languages. Others in Jerusalem, of diverse backgrounds, heard the noise and came to see. They were amazed that these Galileans were speaking in their native tongues. Many were baptized into the movement that day. They devoted themselves to the teachings and fellowship of the apostles and the spread the message. This was the beginning of what we now call Christianity. Prior to Pentecost, there were followers of Jesus, but no organized movement.

Think of the symbolism of the language of this story. The rushing wind is invisible, yet powerful, like the Holy Spirit. Fire has the ability to illuminate and incinerate. We follow spiritual pathways in hopes of enlightenment, as well as to deliver us from the evils we've encountered along the way. The multilingual miracle of Pentecost represents our calling to be in community with all people—those who look, speak, and believe like us and those who don't. It challenges us to examine our biases against those who do not share our language, system of beliefs, and culture.

***"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus,"* (Galatians 3:28).**