

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

JULY SCHEDULE

On July 23rd, Sardis will hold a church conference to vote on the approval of a visioning process. In the interim, members of the Discovery and Design team suggested that the staff consider activities/discussions that would begin inviting the entire congregation into this process. In other words, they wanted to help Sardis build momentum and endurance for the journey ahead. If we approve this proposal, it will build off the conversations we have in July and August.

To that end, we have developed a schedule that seeks to ★ Introduce us to new voices
★ Balance the desire for creative worship with the challenges of summer attendance patterns
★ Connect Sardis with the larger community ★ Retain a consistent schedule.

Sunday, July 2nd, 2023, Singing in the Shelter, 11:00 AM

Hilary McIntyre and Debbie Kidd will lead Sardis in a service of songs, prayers, and readings. Hear old favorites. Learn some new ones. Come ready to request a hymn that's special to you. (We'll move worship indoors if the weather is unpleasant).

Sunday, July 9th, 2023, Morning Worship, 11:00 AM

Sardis will welcome Rev. Melissa Lamm as our guest proclaimer. Melissa has long-standing connections with both Jonathan and Bob, but also served for many years on the staff of St. Stephen UMC, one of our Sardis Road partners. We look forward to her good words.

Sunday, July 16th, Field Trip to Caldwell Presbyterian Church, 11:00 AM

(1609 East Fifth Street / Charlotte, N.C. 28204 / www.caldwellpresby.org)
To connect with our community, but also to observe how others worship in shared spirit, we will travel to Caldwell Presbyterian to join in their morning worship. The Sunday Discussion Group will meet at their regular time for a brief discussion before departure. Plan to carpool from Sardis at approximately 10:20 AM or meet us there. The staff will send more details in the weekly Sardis Happenings emails.

Sunday, July 23rd, 2023, Morning Worship, 11:00 AM

Following a traditional worship service, we will hold a called church conference to vote on the visioning process.

Sunday, July 30th, 2023, Takeout Worship, 9:00 AM – Noon

We will create a station-centered worship experience where congregants can participate in six-eight meditative and prayerful activities at their own pace. For those who arrive during the eleven o'clock hour, we will have a brief time of welcome and community prayer. For those on "the go," takeout boxes will be provided for home worship. Café tables will be available for those who wish to visit. Pop in or stay a while!

MILLER PROPERTY

Each time I drive onto the Sardis Baptist Church property, I marvel at how beautiful the church grounds are. Here in what is practically the middle of south Charlotte, we have a verdant oasis in the middle of one of the largest cities in the southeastern United States. Did you ever wonder what personal life stories of the previous owners are buried in the past? I have, and I recently had the opportunity to review some church files and an April 18, 1998 newspaper article that yielded some interesting information that I want to share with you.

The Meetinghouse is located on a roughly 3 ½-acre parcel of realty that was purchased from Fanny Miller in the early 1990s. Fanny was the widow of Julian Miller, Sr., who had been the Editor of the Charlotte Observer Newspaper. Fanny and Julian had five children. Pertinent to this history are two sons, Julian Jr. and Robert. Jule (as he was called) and Robert were both

(continued on page 3)



I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



Holy Conversations in Ordinary Spaces

We don't have to confine the study of sacred texts to classrooms and sanctuaries. And we don't have to use Sunday School quarterlies to develop informed and authentic understandings of the divine. Sometimes, we can just let it happen. Calendaring aside, here are some spontaneous invitations to holy conversations. I hope you can make it!

Psalms at Sunset, Tuesday, July 18th @ 7:45 PM

(Rain Date: Tuesday, July 25th, 2023, 7:45 PM)

Back by popular demand (and actually on a Tuesday this time!), we will gather in the Sardis labyrinth for a time of reflection, prayer, and song. Bring a lawn chair; invite a friend (or two); come ready to share in the spirit of thanksgiving.

Midweek Meetup. Midrash Optional

Wednesday, July 26th @ 6:30 PM, Edge City Brewery

Libations, yes. Lamentations, no. I'm really not kidding, the *Genesis* passage for this particular week begins, "Jacob left Beer-sheeba..." (*Gen* 28:10). I'm gonna raise a glass, because it seems providential. Come join me. We can talk about *Genesis*, or we can just talk. Edge City is not far from the Sardis campus; the address is 6209 Old Post Road.

Walk n' Talk, Friday, July 28th @ 10:00 AM, McAlpine Creek Park

The Gospels spend a lot of time talking about lakes, bushes, birds, and seeds. What if we went somewhere that had all those things? And what if we chatted about the Gospels amid that context? And what if it also meant we could get some exercise, too? We'll meet at McAlpine Creek Park, located at 8711 Monroe Road.

A Psalm of Sardis

Participants from last month's Bible Study — Psalms at Sunset, created their own unique psalm for their closing prayer. We included it below so you may use it during your personal time of devotion.

Friend of Loving Character, Faithful One, Home:

*You, Lord, are our source of peace, the creator of nature, our filter for life.
In your presence, we find comfort; in your realm our hearts are calm and peaceful.
In your story we continue to find ourselves.*

*Be we are anxious, even a little weary.
Today, we know transitions —
new spaces, new life phases,
new paths not yet fully revealed.*

*We long for your company —
you are our connective tissue;
you are our garment of mutuality.
You are light amid darkness,
hope amid uncertainty.*

*And so we wait: Eager. Confident.
Alert. Ready to be present with one another,
and ready to be present with you! Amen.*



Sardis People:

Robin Rowland

Hundreds of people across North Carolina have received their high school equivalency diplomas after being mentored and taught by Robin Rowland. Three different community colleges in the state have benefitted from her dedication and devotion to students who were enrolled in adult high school programs or students enrolled in programs for the developmentally disabled. As a qualified mental health professional, she also worked for a couple of years in a behavioral health hospital setting.

Robin's retirement begins on the 30th of June after almost twenty years at South Piedmont Community College in Monroe. Her last assignment there was as director of Compass Education, which helps those with intellectual and developmental disability to develop skills for employment and/or skills for further education/training.

Robin began her career in Sylva as a recent graduate of Western Carolina. She was teaching GED preparation and helping adults to qualify for a high school equivalency diploma. In these early years, she taught in peoples' homes and in community centers. One of the homes in which she taught was of a 67-year-old woman, the oldest person to receive a diploma whom she has guided. The woman's wish to complete was to be a model for one of her granddaughters.

Robin will now have more time to pursue her creative interests, which are many and varied. Needlecrafts are part of her passion: needlepoint, embroidery, rug hooking, punch needle among others. She is also looking forward to more involvement at Sardis and having more time to spend with her dad. But to begin with, she is planning to "do a whole lot of nothing"!



Robin, celebrating retirement with her team at Compass Education

MILLER FAMILY HISTORY

(continued from front page) outstanding athletes, and they both attended the University of North Carolina.

World War II intervened and drastically altered the lives of the Miller family. The year following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Jule and Robert enlisted in the military together, and they went through basic training together. After basic training, Jule was sent to be trained as a gunner, and he ended up being assigned as a waist gunner in a B24 Liberator, a four-engine heavy bomber. The B24 was a relatively ugly aircraft that was effectively a flying boxcar loaded with bombs. Robert was assigned to perform administrative tasks and was never stationed overseas.

Jule was stationed in New Guinea (a large island due north of Australia). He was one of a ten-man crew that manned a B24 bomber. Shortly before the crew was to leave for a few days of R&R (rest and relaxation), the crew volunteered to undertake a bombing mission. The fully loaded B24, with fuel tanks filled to capacity with aviation fuel and its belly full of bombs, lumbered down the runway and struggled to lift itself into the air. Moments later, it smashed into a mountain and exploded. There were no survivors.

The 2-acre parcel of real estate on the east side of the Meetinghouse property that we know as "the Miller property" was owned by Jule's brother, Robert, and Robert's wife Saralyn. They lived in a house on the Miller property, and they wanted that 2-acre piece of property to belong to the church after their passing. They negotiated a deal with the church whereby the church purchased the property and allowed them to continue to live there rent-free for the remainder of their lives.

From now on, every time I visit Sardis Baptist Church I will think of the Miller family. We should all thank them for allowing the Sardis community to have this little oasis of beauty in the middle of Charlotte.

~ by Joe Wall



Saralyn Turpie Miller, 1920–2012



Robert Brice Miller, 1920–2003

Summer Prayer

*This World
Your Creation
Rolled into a Sphere
Packaged in Sunshine
Gift-Wrapped in Love
Given to Us
Thank You*

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 • Luke Duncan, son of Tillie
- Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's mother • Ed Gash • 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 • Rex Nordeen, cousin of Tillie Duncan • Frank Phillips, brother of Danny Phillips • Vicki Phillips, niece of Shannon Duncan • Rachel, Kendarius, and Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Pam Poston • Mala Reynolds
- 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 •

JULY JULY JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Holiday Hymn Sing 	3 	4 Independence Day 	5 1:00 PM Sardis Staff	6	7 9:30 AM Clergy Group	8
9 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship Rev. Melissa Lamm	10 G3 Lunch 12:30 PM @ Enat Ethiopian 	11	12 1:00 PM Sardis Staff	13	14	15
16 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study  Field Trip Depart Sardis @ 10:20 AM	17	18  7:45 PM Psalms @ Sunset Sardis Labyrinth (Rain Date 7/25)	19 1:00 PM Sardis Staff	20	21 9:30 AM Clergy Group 	22
23 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Worship Noon Church Conference 	24 	25	26 1:00 PM Sardis Staff 6:00 PM Midweek Meetup Edge City Brewery 	27	28 10:00 AM Walk n' Talk McAlpine Creek Park 	29
30 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study 11:00 AM Takeout Church	31	 <p>Save the Date! Communion Brunch August 6th</p>				

GUEST PROCLAIMER

Rev. Melissa Lamm ~ July 9th



Melissa grew up in Western North Carolina and after high school attended Meredith College in Raleigh, NC where she earned a BS degree in Child Psychology and a K-6 certification. After teaching for one year she attended Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC where she earned a Master of Divinity and upon graduation was ordained by her home church, First Baptist Church of Sylva. For the past 25 years she has worked as a pastor and a hospital chaplain. Also during that time she married her college sweetheart Ashley and they have 4 children and 2 dogs.

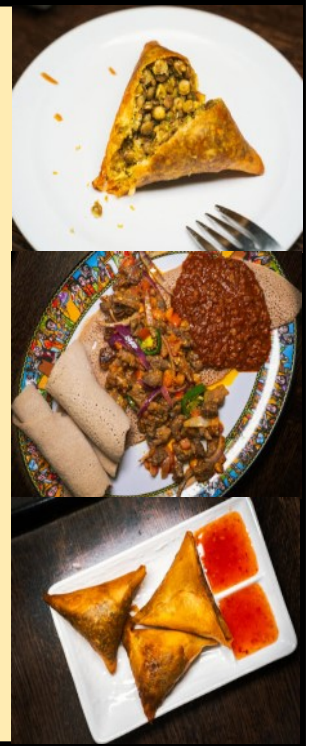
In addition to her degrees she has obtained training in Racial Equity and Social Justice from Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, Peggy Huddleston's Mindfulness Training, Community Wellness Advocate Training from Living Compass, Connections Matter Training by Prevent Child Abuse NC, The Colossian Way: How to have Healthy, Civil Conversations training through the Duke Endowment and Border Conversations: Global Migration and Refugees training from the Migrant Assistance Program.

For fun she and her husband love spending time outdoors, especially in the mountains. They love hiking, biking, kayaking, camping, playing golf, pickle ball and spending time with their family and friends. Melissa also loves reading, thrifting with her daughters, talking on the phone with her son Isaac who lives in Miami, and walking with her girl friends. Fun fact: she and her two youngest daughters have matching heart tattoos.

G3 LUNCH IN JULY

Sardis' G3 group will gather for lunch on Monday, July 10th. We'll dine at Enat Ethiopian, a minority owned business where we'll have the opportunity to enjoy cuisine from another culture. You may view the menu in advance at enatethiopianrestaurant.com/ohmenu/. Vegan options are available.

Ellen Dillard is our group coordinator. Please let her know if you plan to join us so she can ensure the restaurant is able to accommodate our group (ejdcharlotte@gmail.com or 704-301-4330). Those who wish to carpool to the restaurant should meet in the parking lot of the Sardis Meeting-house at noon. Otherwise meet at Enat Ethiopian (4450 The Plaza, Suite D) at 12:30 PM.



THIRST NO MORE

~ Pastor Jonathan Eidson

Thirst No More was the theme of this year's worship and music conference at Montreat. With the daily downpours of rain, we never got thirsty. The theme explored the way God's living water shows up repeatedly in the scriptures from Genesis to the Revelation as well as in our lives today.

Anne attended courses throughout the day and I joined her for worship each day. I especially appreciated the way the conference artist represented the theme. Because space is limited in signposts, I can't show all the art. I chose the two wood carving pieces below. The carvings were twelve feet tall. The woman is holding her pregnant belly filled with the amniotic fluid that is our first "water". The man is holding a fish that has the face of a person because Jesus called us to be fishers of people.

What helps to quench your spiritual thirst?





JUNE GATHERING FOR JEAN'S ESL GROUP @ SARDIS PICNIC SHELTER



A Fuller Vision

THIS HYMN WAS SELECTED BY MINISTER OF MUSIC, HILARY MCINTYRE, FOR US TO SING AND CONTEMPLATE AS WE THINK ABOUT THE VISIONING PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

A FULLER VISION, LORD WE SEEK,
TO SEE THE REALM OF GOD AT HAND;
A CLEARER VOICE WITH WHICH TO SPEAK,
TO SPREAD YOUR WORD IN EVERY LAND;
A DEEPER KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR WORD,
A FIRMER FAITH IN CHRIST OUR LORD.

A FULLER VISION, LORD WE SEEK
TO BE THE CHURCH THAT WE MUST BE.

A FULLER VISION, LORD WE SEEK,
TO SEE THE WORLD OF HUMAN NEED;
A STRONGER ARM TO BEAR THE WEAK,
A FIRMER HAND IN HOLY DEEDS;
A CLEARER CALL TO FOLLOW YOU,
A LOVE THAT SHOWS IN ALL WE DO.

A FULLER VISION, LORD WE SEEK
TO BE THE CHURCH THAT WE MUST BE.

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For Those Who See Change on the Horizon

THIS POEM WAS SHARED WITH SARDIS FRIENDS FROM BETTY GUNZ AS SHE CONSIDERS HER WISHES FOR THE CHURCH MOVING FORWARD. IT WAS DISTRIBUTED BY THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS IN "PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE".

A TINY PRAYER, BY MICAH BUCEY

MAY YOU TAKE IN THIS VISION
AND KNOW THAT YOUR NEXT STEP
IS TO MOVE FROM WITNESS TO TESTIFIER,
FROM ADMIRER TO CO-CREATOR,
FROM ABSORBER TO ENACTOR,
A SHIFT THAT REQUIRES
A THOUGHTFUL BALANCE
OF SPEAKING UP
ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER,
BREATHING THROUGH
THINGS THAT DON'T,
QUESTIONING YOUR OWN
FRAGILE ASSUMPTIONS,
STRENGTHENING THE MUSCLES
REQUIRED TO LIFT UP
THE VOICES THAT CHALLENGE YOU,
AND ACTIVELY BECOMING
THAT CHANGE YOU SEE COMING,
INSTEAD OF SIMPLY WAITING
FOR IT TO ARRIVE.
AMEN.