

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
Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Interim Pastor Search Team

Change and possibility are energizing the divine spark of Sardis. We have chosen Ellen Dillard, Luther Fisher and Robin Rowland to lead in finding an interim pastor to lead Sunday morning worship while we find a new pastor. In keeping with our visioning process which includes "how God brought us to this moment," here is a little glimpse into how Luther, Robin, and Ellen became involved with the church which meets at Sardis.

Ellen is a DIY proponent. You may find her on a ladder, painting the outside of her house, on her knees laying flooring, or actively engaged in renovating a bathroom. Skills she learned from her machinist father as she grew up in Roxborough. College years at Appalachian State University earned her a degree in counseling, with an emphasis in theology and psychology, and a master's degree in student development. After a career in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, Ellen became a program secretary at St. Stephen UMC, as support for various ministers. She attended a community (St. Stephen, Sardis Presbyterian, and Sardis Baptist) Good Friday service when Sardis Baptist was hosting and was attracted by the ways we tell and live our faith story.

Luther is a sometime DJ, spinning music for parties and other gatherings in the Charlotte area. That's his avocation. The greater part of his time is spent as a title abstractor, visiting county courthouses to do title research for the real estate industry. Born in Indiana, Luther, moved with his family to Charlotte. After graduating from Independence High School, Luther studied at NC State and UNC Charlotte, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. During the Covid slow-down, Luther began looking for a smaller church, one that is more progressive, one that has more diversity in thought. He began attending Sardis's Zoom worship services and has the distinction of becoming a member via the internet.

Robin is a crafter par excellence, working with fabrics and threads among other materials (i.e. the animal blessing radiance). She has more time for this avocation, for spending more time with her dad, and for being part of a suicide prevention coalition since her recent retirement. Robin was the Basic Skills Coordinator/Instructor at South Piedmont Community College. She was responsible for and taught Adult High School and the Compass program, which educates and helps find employment for adults with learning disabilities. She graduated from Western Carolina with a degree in secondary education, her emphasis on social studies: American history and psychology. When Robin was looking for a change in churches, a co-worker came in one day and said, "I found you a church!" After visiting Sardis, Robin agreed that, indeed, he had.



Trunk or Treat! Picnic and Pumpkin Carving

Saturday, October 28th
4:00 PM
Sardis Baptist Picnic Shelter

Please join the staff of
Sardis Baptist Church and
The Garden Preschool
for fun fall festivities on
Saturday, October 28th
at 4:00 PM.

Hot dogs will be provided
(vegan option included).
Please bring a side dish to share.

Kids will be invited to go
"Trunk or Treating"
in the Sardis parking lot.
Guests are encouraged
to decorate their cars and
have candy for the kids.

Bring a pumpkin
and your favorite carving tools
for a pumpkin glow
before the evening ends.



SARDIS BAPTIST'S OCTOBER PROCLAIMERS

The possibilities inherent in change are energizing the divine spark of Sardis. The church is visioning the future as we contemplate "how God brought us to this moment." The proclaimers for the month of October are all involved with and/or have history with the church which meets at Sardis. And have been "brought to this moment."



REV. DR. DAVID BROWN

Rev. Dr. David Brown is the consultant with whom Sardis is partnering during our visioning process. When David was a teen, he felt that engineering was a career he should pursue. The summer between high school and college he began discovering that God might have other ideas, that God was inviting him to use his gifts and skills to meet the needs of the world. His journey thus far has taken him to Clemson, the Wake Forest School of Divinity, and Duke. His positions as associate minister, interim head of staff, and campus minister helped prepare him for his current status as a pastor of The Welcome Table in Rock Hill, SC and as a Ministry Coach/Consultant/Trainer with Pinnacle Associates and as a financial advisor. In each of these areas he approaches ministry relationally. David became acquainted with Sardis when he and Tim Moore ministered together at Oakland Baptist in Rock Hill. And further acquainted as he consulted with Bob Stillerman on bringing Sardis into a visioning process. David believes that the ancient can help shape and form future expressions of the church; his doctoral work at Duke focused on the traditions and practices of the earliest Christians.

REV. DR. DAYNETTE SNEAD PEREZ

Rev. Dr. Daynette Perez was a business owner in the field of real estate when she discerned that God was calling her in another direction. Her acceptance into seminary (Regent University) confirmed that discernment. Peace about her decision came when Daynette interned at a small church in Scotland where she was the only person of color on an island with a population of 500. Early on, her call was to unite God's diverse people. Along the way, Daynette earned her doctorate in Ministry from Gardner-Webb School of Divinity, served as associate pastor of First Chin Baptist Church, a Burmese congregation in New Bern, NC, helped Trenton, NC rebuild their community after Hurricane Florence (She was the local response coordinator with CBF.), served as manager of the national CBF Disaster Response in the US, and founded DIASPRA, LLC. In her Stranger to Neighbor seminar, she teaches diversity and inclusivity awareness and skills. Her passion for transformational relationships is portrayed through her EGGS symbol: ethnicity, gender, generation and social class.

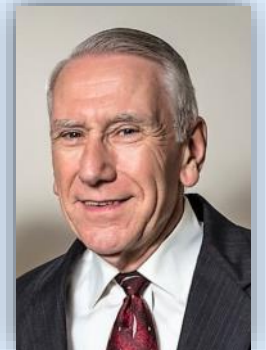


REV. DEBBIE KIDD

Rev. Debbie Kidd describes her journey of faith: "I took a step, a leap of faith, and God applauded and I knew that I was possibly heading in the right direction. Sometimes the next step I would take in following God's plan for my life would involve a 'still small voice'; and often it would involve thunder and lightning. And sometimes, following the way of God would be a peaceful, loving, and planned transition - and then sometimes the next step in my journey would NOT be peaceful, loving, or planned. Just as in the days of Moses and the children of Israel, following God often involved my grumbling and complaining...and yet the journey continued. God has used me as a youth minister, music minister, campus minister, associate pastor, hospital chaplain, and military chaplain. (Lt. Col. in the 145th Airlift Wing of the National Guard) And I ministered as program director for the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network. Two things are true about God's call on my life - God called - and at some point, I answered. God 'called' people to be in my life who pushed, encouraged, and loved me through it all. I pray that I have done the same for others."

REV. SHANNON DUNCAN

Rev. Shannon Duncan was working at Cincinnati Milling Machine when his position as Sunday School Director at Newtown Baptist Church caused him to change the trajectory of his life. He felt led to the field of Christian Education and began studies at Georgetown College, a Baptist institution in Georgetown, KY. Becoming a participant in a Baptist student organization, he began going on weekend college-led revivals to various churches close enough for a weekend trip. They asked him to be proclaimer, and his path took another turn. Sharpsburg Baptist Church called him as their pastor while he was a student and asked that he be ordained. In those same years, he also began working for UPS. Most of his pastoral experience has been as interim pastor in various churches in Indiana, Ohio, and South Carolina. Shannon has also preached in short-term mission venues in Honduras, Haiti, Dominican Republic, England, Liberia and North Macedonia.



REV. AMANDA LEWIS

Rev. Amanda Lewis grew up in a Southern Baptist environment. Therefore, when as a middle-schooler, she discerned a call to ministry, she interpreted it as a call to be a missionary. Further schooling took her to William and Mary, where she earned a degree in Colonial History and Africana Studies, focusing on the modern diaspora (slave trade and more recent migration). She next went to the McAfee School of Theology, earning an M. Div. During these years of study, she interned in Colonial Williamsburg as an historical interpreter, particularly of the ways food was prepared. Amanda spent 9 months in northern Ghana with the Yendi Initiative sponsored by Virginia Baptists. There she learned that "I don't need to be here." She learned that "missionary" was not where God was leading. She served as Minister to College Students at First Baptist, Athens as well as volunteering in memory care facilities. While fulfilling residency requirements at CMC Main, Amanda felt drawn to hospice ministry and has been serving as a hospice chaplain for the last five years.



"A Holy Chaos Where EVERYONE Is Welcome"
HOPE CHAPEL

Sunday, October 15th @ 8:00 AM
Rev. Debbie Kidd Proclaiming
125 Wadsworth Place
Charlotte, NC 28206



Hope Chapel was formed in 1987 when the United Baptist Association purchased the parcel of land adjacent to what was then called the George Shinn Men's Shelter (now Roof Above). It was formed to be a church that welcomed folks who didn't feel comfortable in other churches – the homeless, those released from prison, people with substance abuse disorder and other mental illnesses. Hope Chapel continues meeting the spiritual needs of the downtrodden today, celebrating its 36th anniversary this year. For many visitors, Hope Chapel provides their first introduction to spiritual life. There are long-time members today who have forged their way from homelessness to housing, but they return for worship and fellowship at the chapel that welcomed them during their hardest times.

Sardis Baptist Church supports the important work this ministry provides to the Charlotte community. Hope Chapel is run completely by volunteers which include an overseer, preachers, a piano player, a bookkeeper, and others who serve weekly meals. The small annual budget, approximately \$5,500, is funded completely by the United Baptist Association (UBA) which is made up of Sardis Baptist Church, St. John's Baptist Church, Park Road Baptist Church, and Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. Sardis provides more than financial subsidies for Hope Chapel. We are included in a rotation of UBA churches that preach during their worship services on Sunday mornings. The doors to Hope Chapel are open to anyone, and you are welcome to attend their 8 AM Sunday service any time. Rev. Debbie Kidd, deacon of Sardis Baptist Church, will offer a homily during worship on Sunday, October 15th. Other opportunities for volunteer service are also available. Speak to a member of our ministry team for more information.



CONDOLANCES

Our heartfelt sympathies are with friends who have recently lost loved ones:

Anna Sophie Carolyn Steward, granddaughter of Kristin Parker

Friends and family of Nancy Darnell

Adam, Tammy, Hank, and Curtis Taylor recently lost their family's beloved Dog, Bud

CELEBRATIONS

Welcome Evynn Kate, the newest grandchild of Billie Hutchison!

Welcome Pepper, family dog to the Shepard-Moore family!

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Ken Abbott, friend of June Ross • Rita Akers, friend of the Phillips family
- Clemmer Allison, friend of Alcie Kreutzer • Charles Almond, grandfather of Jacqueline Stillerman • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin • Mark & Cheryl Bradbury, friends of Jonathan Eidson • Mike Bryant, friend of Mark Wiebke
- Maria Byrd • Celia, friend of Amy Wiebke • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Rae Deicke, friend of Jean Lawrence • Nela Demme, Ron's dog • Betsy Cadle DePaul • Dusty Dettmerman, daughter of June Ross • Luke Duncan, son of Tillie and Shannon • Amelia Eidson • Ed Gash • Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison
- Janette Grassi • Mary Moon Guerrant, Kathryn Kreutzer's mother • Janie Harris
- Rod Hawok, father of Tammy Taylor • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Jen Kaminska, friend of the Kreutzer family • Ann Macguire, sister of Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne (Grove Lane)
- 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 Phipps and her children, Kendarius and Mekhi, friends of Betty Gunz • Pam Poston • Mala Reynolds • Tony Rivers, friend of the Taylor family • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Pamela Schwartz, former staff of St. Stephen UMC • Sarah Simpson, friend of John Simpson • Tanya Stevens, daughter of June Ross • Stillerman Family
- Eddie Waiters, husband of Doris • Reggie Warren, friend of Becky Proctor's • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

TRAVELING MERCIES

- *Askins Family (Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reece, Keely)*
- *Leon Fisher • Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis*

Where is the justice in hell? 🔥 What kind of God would cause eternal torment as a consequence for a temporal act? Does the way of Jesus teach us to love our enemies? Or to inflict interminable suffering? 🔥 What is it about humanity that wants hell to exist? 🔥

If you are interested in discussing questions such as these, please join our Sunday Morning Discussion Group for a fall book study. We'll be reading *"Deconstructing Hell: Open and Relational Responses to the Doctrine of Eternal Conscious Torment,"* edited by Chad Bahl. We meet at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings in the large classroom of the Education Building. The book is a collection of essays by 15 different authors that discuss the doctrine of hell from a variety of angles including: history of belief in hell, philosophical difficulties, pastoral and parenting implications, psychological and emotional effects, biblical imagery, and some common alternatives to hell. Unfortunately the book is not available at local bookstores, but can be ordered online. Please speak to a member of our staff if you need financial or technical assistance procuring a copy.



Sardis Baptist Church

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:45 AM Rev. Dr. David Brown Vision 360</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Charlotte Charlotte Wildlife Stewards Leadership Team</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Clergy Group Meeting</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday Group: Deconstructing Hell</p> <p>11:00 AM Rev. Dr. Daynette Perez</p> <p>Noon Worship Development</p> <p>1:00 PM MeckMin Board Retreat</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Indigenous Peoples Day</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>7:00 PM Charlotte Wildlife Halloween's Darling: All About Spiders</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship at HOPE Chapel</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday Group: Deconstructing Hell</p> <p>11:00 AM Rev. Debbie Kidd</p>	<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:45 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Clergy Group Meeting</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday Group: Deconstructing Hell</p> <p>11:00 AM Rev. Shannon Duncan</p> <p>1:30 PM CROP Walk</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:00 PM Picnic Pumpkin Carving Trunk or Treat</p> 
<p>29</p> <p>Recognition of All Saints Day</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday Group: Deconstructing Hell</p> <p>11:00 AM Rev. Amanda Lewis</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>Happy Halloween!</p> 	<p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>30</p>

HISTORY OF HYMNODY **Middle Ages to the Common Era**

~ Hilary Kearns McIntyre ~



In the Middle Ages, a style called Gregorian Chant, or plainsong, took precedent. These were latin texts, sung by monastic choirs in unison (meaning "all on the same pitch") and composed in one of eight "church modes"-- basically, they were a single melody line sung by a group of men that, to our ears, sounds ancient and even a little exotic at times. You have heard Gregorian Chant in movies like "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

The next big development in hymnody was the adoption of four-part harmony, four vocal lines singing together to create chords that we would recognize today. This, along with the use of the organ, began to dominate in the 16th century. Compositions of this time could be large and grandiose and followed the burgeoning rules of counterpoint as developed in Italy and then spread throughout Western Europe.

As Christianity spread to the New World, hymns would take on new, American flavors. In the earliest iterations of the church in America, hymns were always taught orally, in a style called "lining out," where a leader would read or sing a psalm and the congregation would repeat back what they heard. Depending on the denomination, these hymns might be accompanied by organ or sung a cappella--Puritans in particular refused to allow instruments into their worship, seeing them as man-made and therefore not as pure as the human voice.

In the 18th century, a debate started on whether or not to allow note-reading in churches. The idea of reading the music out of a book, called "regular singing," was controversial for many who thought that this would invite other forms of music to dominate in church. The debate raged for decades, and it landed on each individual religious community to decide for themselves whether or not to allow written music into their worship. Either way, the idea of having printed music for hymns took off and tune-books were published and sold to the public. Singing Schools were started by ministers as places for young people to gather, sing hymns together, and socialize under the careful supervision of church elders.

In the 19th century, Shape note singing became popular and Singing masters traveled from town to town teaching this new notation. It was at this time that hymn-singing reached its highest popularity, with every household owning a Hymnal and people sometimes hosting Hymn Singing Parties for their friends and relatives.

While all of this was happening, the Black community was developing their own form of church music. Spirituals started as Slave hymns that were influenced by musical styles brought from Africa as well as Western hymnody. These hymns continue to be some of the most-beloved to this day and had an influence not only on modern Black gospel music, but also Jazz, Blues, R&B, Rock 'n' Roll, and almost every other musical style popular in the US today.

Hymns have had a deep impact on current American Christianity, so I would like to explore the history behind some of the most famous, dig into their composers and the context in which they were written, as well as share stories of my own relationship with certain hymns. I would also love to hear your thoughts and memories of specific hymns!

We will recognize All Saints on Sunday, October 29th. This is a day to remember those who have helped shape us as individuals, our congregation, and the Church Universal. Please share names of any loved ones you would like read during the service with a member of our ministry team.



Imitators of Christ

~ Rev. Jonathan Eidson ~

This month's spiritual direction began with a reading of Ephesians 5:1, followed by a time of silence.

*Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do,
because you are God's beloved children.*

As usual, after the silence, my spiritual director and I shared impressions. I told him that "growing up Jonathan" heard the passage one way and seminary trained Jonathan heard it another.

We discussed what it means to be an imitator of Christ.
"What do you think it means to be a beloved child of God?"

Another question I have for you is,
"How do you explore scripture?"

I ask that question because as we were talking, my spiritual director and I reflected on how we approach scripture. Sometimes after approaching a scripture passage in a straightforward manner, we find that the result is less than satisfying and so sometimes, we must approach it backward to unravel the mystery it presents.

A final question for you is this,
"What does it mean to be in a relationship with Christ?"

I've heard it described as living a new life because Christ lives within us. Because Christ lives within us, it is easier to be imitators of God. It's also easier to face the challenges of our days because we're not facing them alone. We're facing them with Christ in our lives. That's the kind of help I welcome!



SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW



**Gleaning America's Fields
Feeding America's Hungry**

SARDIS EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

Poverty is the number one cause of hunger, and Sardis Baptist Church is joining efforts to alleviate it!

CROP WALK

The Charlotte CROP Walk has consistently been one of the largest in the country in both the number of funds raised and the number of walkers who participate. Sardis Baptist has created a team and we invite you to be a part of it. The walk will take place on Sunday, October 22nd at 1:30 PM, but you do not have to walk to be a member of our team! Those who want to walk will walk; others can stay back and support them in spirit. Use this link to join the Sardis team of walkers or to make a donation: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/sardis-baptist-church-4>. We also encourage you to support our efforts through prayer and helping to raise awareness about hunger in our community.



SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Since retiring during the summer, Robin Rowland has volunteered several times with the Society of St. Andrew. This non-profit organization works with farmers to harvest and distribute their surplus to food banks in our area. Robin finds it very rewarding to gather food to alleviate hunger. The photos above are from tomato and corn gleanings from large commercial farms. Robin loves to talk about her experience with St. Andrews society. Please ask her for more information or visit their website: <https://endhunger.org>.

GOODNESS GROCERIES

Sardis Baptist Church began our Goodness Groceries ministry during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. The intent was to feed hungry families of Charlotte Secondary School, a Title I school near Sardis. Sometimes breakfasts and lunches provided by school volunteers were the only meals students had access to for the entire day. Goodness Groceries was used to start a food pantry to help provide nourishment for those students when schools were not in session during the pandemic. Since schools have reopened, CSS continues to offer breakfast and lunch to unfed students.