

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

Advent: Magnificence in the Ordinary

I imagine a walk through my day with an ancestor from way back—not my grandmother or my favorite great auntie, but an ancestor from several thousand years ago. The first thing I do, since it's almost winter and the days are short, is turn on the lamp at my bedside. Illumination! Magnificent! A miracle to my ancestor, who never so much as imagined lighting a room with such ease. Next, I pick up my smartphone and learn that the truce between warring countries more than 6,000 miles away was extended for another day. Transcendence of space and time, another miracle! Magnificent! I stumble downstairs and push a button on a machine that dispenses a steaming beverage, rich and nutty in flavor. My ancestor tastes with disgust. Her palate isn't accustomed to the saccharine sweet flavors that our taste buds have been engineered to appreciate. Nonetheless, she recognizes what I do not—that coffee is another modern miracle. Its short history dates back only to the 15th century. Magnificent!

Magnificence is everywhere, but it often escapes our perceptions. During the season of Advent, we hope you too will examine the magnificence in your everyday, ordinary existence. Open your hearts and minds to see what is present, but often unseen. Dr. Daynette will carry this theme into her sermons through Advent. She'll encourage us to take a different view of some ordinary elements of Sardis worship.

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you. Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him" (Romans 12:1, The Message).

The image to the right looks like an ordinary Christmas ornament, but it is a magnificent photograph taken by Russian photographer, Alexey Kljatov from the balcony of his home in Moscow. Check out more macro photos on his Flickr page: [flickr.com/people/chaoticmind/75/](https://www.flickr.com/people/chaoticmind/75/).



WELCOME DAYNETTE

We welcome Rev. Dr. Daynette Snead Perez as Interim Pastor of Sardis Baptist Church, effective December 1st! Rev. Dr. Daynette Snead Perez is an ordained minister, entrepreneur, and the creator of DI-ASPRA® and Stranger to Neighbor Ministry™. She will now add Interim Pastor to her impressive CV.

Daynette earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Gardner-Webb University in 2019, and has held multiple ministry roles since, most recently as the manager of domestic disaster relief for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Before moving to Charlotte, she served as associate pastor of First Chin Baptist Church, a Burmese refugee congregation in New Bern, NC.

Last year, Daynette led the Sardis congregation through her Stranger to Neighbor Ministry™, based on her recently published book, "CHURCH: What To Do When Everyone Is Like You". Her courses are designed to help churches break through barriers of race, gender, generation, and social class.



Sardis Baptist Church Mission Statement

At a church conference on November 26th, our congregation voted unanimously to approve the following mission statement:

Sardis Baptist Church is an inclusive, spiritually progressive community of faith that nurtures curiosity and open-mindedness. With a joyful and vibrant spirit, we aspire to listen and learn, to wrestle with doubt, to create authentic relationships, and to promote social consciousness so that all might experience the warmth and welcome of God.

PASTOR SEARCH TEAM APPROVED

On November 26th, the congregation of Sardis Baptist Church voted to approve the formation of our Pastor Search Team. In addition to those listed below, Rev. Tillie Duncan will represent the staff of Sardis Baptist as an ex officio member of the team.



LUTHER FISHER Whether it is work or play, Luther is an enthusiastic supporter of all things Sardis. He lends his DJ skills at holiday picnics, lends a hand on church work days and sings in the choir. Born in Indiana, Luther moved to Charlotte early enough to attend high school here. He continued his education at NC State and UNCC earning a degree in chemistry. His job has him traveling to county courthouses where he abstracts court records for various real estate companies and other businesses.



JIM OWEN Jim has been a member of Sardis almost since its inception. He has served as deacon, worked in child care and currently holds the position of treasurer. He is also a choir member and faithful building and grounds supporter. Jim grew up in Waynesville, NC. Winston-Salem was his home when he attended and graduated from Wake Forest University. After spending several years as an educator in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Jim's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish his own painting business.



SUSAN PHILLIPS A member of the Worship Development Team, Susan uses her skills and creativity to create much of the visual enhancement of our worship services. A former children's minister, she has also contributed to Sardis's child development programs. Susan lends her alto voice to the choir and assists with Wednesday night dinners. She is almost a Charlotte native, moving here during the first year of her life. She was born in Texas where her father was a seminary student. Susan is a graduate of Meredith College.



BECKY PROCTOR Becky moved to Charlotte from Virginia to provide child care for her two grandsons. She was recruited for the choir the very first Sunday she visited Sardis. Becky is an ordained minister, having served various churches as music minister and youth minister, as well as leading in educational endeavors and adding her expertise to worship planning. At Sardis, Becky has served as deacon and on various committees. She graduated top of her class from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



SHANNON ROBERTS Shannon is a runner and found Sardis as she was running through the neighborhood one day. She ran track as a high school student in New Jersey where she grew up. Her degrees in English and Psychology came from Manhattanville College in New York. Shannon is an editor and liaison for an author submission service, where, among other duties, she helps aspiring authors find a market for their work. She has herself had a book published. Shannon is an avid supporter of Sardis programs and is eager to be an integral part of our visioning process.



AMY WIEBKE The beautiful, quilted banner that hangs in the sanctuary during the Christmas season was created by Amy. Other non-profit organizations have also profited from Amy's needle-work skills. She enjoys walking and hiking, particularly in the mountains. Recently she spent a few weeks hiking the Camino Trail in Spain. Amy is from Pittsburgh, but moved to Charlotte early enough to graduate from East Mecklenburg and then earn a degree in economics from the University of North Carolina/Charlotte.



ADVENT COLLECTION in Lieu of Poinsettias

During the season of Advent, we offer Sardis friends the opportunity to honor or memorialize special people in our lives. Historically, we've displayed poinsettias in our sanctuary on Christmas Eve as a visual reminder of the love and appreciation we feel. During worship, the names of honorees are read aloud. In recent years, we've put worship in action by honoring our loved ones a bit differently - by donating to a ministry that reflects the values of Sardis Baptist. The recipient for this year's donations will be MeckMin (Mecklenburg Metropolitan Interfaith Network). The mission of MeckMin is to promote interfaith collaboration to foster understanding, compassion, and justice.

The war in Israel and Gaza has heightened tensions between people of different faith traditions, not just in the middle east, but around the world, including at home in Charlotte. Antisemitic and Islamophobic threats have increased throughout the city. Tension between our Jewish and Islamic neighbors have led some faith communities to disengage from the work of MeckMin. A press release from MeckMin, released on November 27th, states the following: "MeckMin is exploring how future community dialogues and events can be better designed to bridge gaps and foster deeper understanding among all faith groups, including on highly divisive issues like Israel and Palestine. Our goal is to create forums where diverse voices can engage in respectful and meaningful conversations, contributing to a more united community." The offerings we collect, in lieu of poinsettias, will be designated for this purpose.

Sardis Baptist Church has long been a community of faith that recognizes the value in interfaith relationships. On multiple occasions, we've partnered with leaders of other faith traditions to listen and learn. With each gathering, this conviction has grown: although our traditions may differ, core values of our faiths are aligned.

If you'd like to support MeckMin's effort to unify our divided faith communities, please consider honoring or memorializing a loved one this Christmas. Provide the following information to the church:

- (1) Your Name
- (2) Is this in honor or memory of your loved one?
- (3) List the name of the person(s) to be recognized. Names will be shared during worship on Christmas Eve.
- (4) Amount of donation (for reference, the cost of a poinsettia is around \$15).

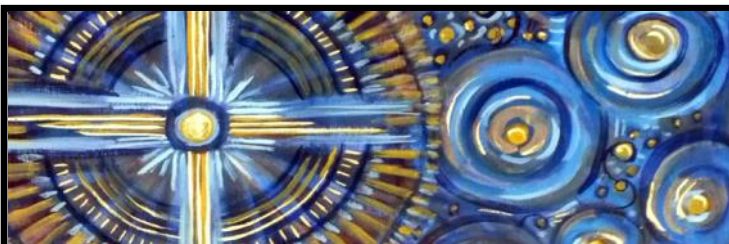


Options for sending this information follow:

- Order forms will be available at the church
- Mail the above details along with payment to: 5811 Sardis Rd / Charlotte, NC 28270
- Email the above details to the church office: info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org, and submit payment via our secure PayPal page, www.paypal.com/paypalme/SardisBaptistChurch; include "MeckMin" in the notation

ADVENT GIFT MATCHING CHALLENGE!

All donations made to support MeckMin during Advent will be matched by a member of Sardis Baptist Church.



DECEMBER PRAYER LIST

Kathie Jean, member of Sardis Baptist Church, died on November 21st. Please keep Marvin and their daughters, Margaret and Katherine, in your prayers.

HEALTH & WELLBEING





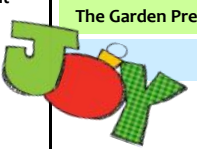

- Ken Abbott, friend of June Ross • Rita Akers, friend of the Phillips • Clemmer Allison, friend of Alcie Kreutzer • Charles Almond, grandfather of Jacqueline Stillerman • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin
- Mark & Cheryl Bradbury, friends of Jonathan Eidson
- Maria Byrd • Rae Deicke, friend of Jean Lawrence • Nela Demme, Ron's dog • Betsy Cadle DePaul • Dusty Detterman, daughter of June Ross • Jack Dillard, friend of Ellen Dillard
- Luke Duncan, son of Tillie • Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's mother • Ethan, young friend of Shirley Lewis • Ed Gash
- Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison • Mary Moon Guerrant, Kathryn Kreutzer's mother • Janie Harris • 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, Kendarius, and Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Pam Poston • Bill Reynolds, son of Mala • Mala Reynolds • Tony Rivers, friend of the Taylor family • June Ross • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Pamela Schwartz, former staff of St. Stephen UMC • Tanya Stevensen, daughter of June Ross
- 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

Sardis Baptist Church



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Clergy Group Meeting	2
3 1 st Sunday of Advent HOPE 9:45 AM Sunday Morning Discussion Group 11:00 AM Worship Dr. Daynette	4	5	6	7	8	9
	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM					
	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM					
		7:00 PM Magnificence Making at the Phillips' Home	4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	 CWS Leadership Team		
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent PEACE 9:45 AM Sunday Morning Discussion Group 11:00 AM Worship Dr. Daynette	11	12	13	14	15 Clergy Group Meeting 	16
	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM					
	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM					
			4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice			
17 3 rd Sunday of Advent JOY 9:45 AM Sunday Morning Discussion Group 11:00 AM Worship Dr. Daynette Noon Christmas Lunch & Caroling	18	19	20	21	22	23
	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM					
	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM					
	 Sardis Baptist Church Anniversary		4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice			
24 4 th Sunday of Advent LOVE CHRISTMAS EVE 9:45 AM Sunday Morning Discussion Group 11:00 AM Worship Dr. Daynette	25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27	28	29	30
			4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice			
31 9:45 AM Sunday Morning Discussion Group 11:00 AM Worship						



Growing up, one of the mainstays of the Advent season in my house was playing music from my dad's extensive Christmas collection—early on, it was tapes, by Elementary School it had evolved to CDs, and later it was a combination of the Holiday music choice TV channel, his SiriusXM account, and Apple Music streaming. Whatever the medium, I can always count on hearing the same songs that my family loves. There are the standards: Michael Bublé, Mariah Carey, Dean Martin, and Vince Guaraldi to name a few, but for my dad and me in particular, Christmas is nothing without Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Mannheim Steamroller.

Out of this large catalog of music my dad has shared with me, the one song I cannot go without during Advent is "Veni, Veni (O Come, O Come Emanuel)" from Mannheim Steamroller's 1988 album *A Fresh Aire Christmas*. The song begins with unison male voices singing a capella, or "unaccompanied", interspersed with the ringing of a bell. Veni, veni Emmanuel! Captivum solve Israel! Qui gemit in exilio, Privatus Dei Filio."

The text of this hymn is a paraphrase of traditional Catholic "O Antiphons", chants used at Vespers during the last seven days of Advent, and these likely date back to 6th-century Italy. The common pattern begins on December 17th with the text "O Sapientia" (O Wisdom), followed by "O Adonai" on the 18th, "O Radix Jesse" (O Root of Jesse) on the 19th, "O Clavis David" (O Key of David) on the 20th, "O Oriens" (O Morning Star) on the 21st, "O Rex Gentium" (O King of the Nations) on the 22nd, and culminating with "O Emmanuel" on the 23rd. Each antiphon is a title of Christ from scripture. In the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", we repeat five of these O Antiphons, with a refrain added in 1710. The first verse, printed above, is a reference to the 7th and final Antiphon, "O Emmanuel". The second verse ties to the 3rd Antiphon, "O Radix Jesse"; the third to the 5th Antiphon, "O Oriens"; the fourth to its corresponding 4th Antiphon, "O Clavis David"; and the final verse to the 2nd Antiphon, "O Adonai".

The Mannheim Steamroller song continues with high male voices and tubular bells played on a synthesizer. The haunting bellringing persists and leads us to the first refrain, "Gaude, gaude! Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel." A simple, climbing arpeggio takes over on the keyboard and ushers in a pan flute solo, harmonized by synthetic harpsichord and strings. The boys choir joins in to match the flute on the third verse. The piece continues to expand, adding in the men and boys with the full orchestral compliment in verse four. The music stops abruptly before a return to the refrain that matches the tone of the opening. After the final vocal note, the keyboard finishes with three chimes in an open perfect 5th.

What I love most about this piece is the connection I feel to the past when listening to it. It may be repackaged and revamped with modern instruments, but with its 15th-century tune and traditional Latin text, it evokes that historical style. It is a powerful feeling to know that humans 600+ years ago were hearing these same melodic intervals at this same time of year and feeling the same excitement and anticipation that I feel every year at Advent. It speaks to the human experience more than almost anything else I can think of. It also reminds me how lucky I am to have always had music in my life.

~ Hilary McIntyre, Minister of Music



A SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

After school on November 16th, I had an informational meeting about a February elementary class trip. I left the meeting with just enough time to stop by Lowe's to replenish our dwindling supply of painter's tape for the final painting portion of our kitchen renovation and made it home just in time to log in for my spiritual direction session.

The chaos and busyness of the renovation on top of my full-time and part-time jobs has me running ragged a lot lately so I thought the scripture passage to begin the session couldn't have been better. Colossians 3:2 says "Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm" (Passion Translation).

We discussed those distractions and their ability to sidetrack our spiritual journey. Do you remember the "magic eye" pictures that were so popular several years back? When you looked at them, you could see a picture but if you looked at it long enough, a picture within the picture became visible. Sometimes it seemed the harder you tried to see it, the further you got from seeing it. You almost had to relax your eyes to see it.

Our spiritual direction conversation led to the realization that for many, the harder we try to be spiritual, the further it seems we get from being spiritual. Because of the ebb and flow nature of the spiritual life, we almost have to relax into it to find it, and this can seem counterintuitive. But I am seeking to "feast on the treasures of the heavenly realm" and when such yearnings of the heart are the matters of the soul, those yearnings will guide us to God. What are your yearnings? Let's listen to them!

~ Pastor Jonathan Eidson



Runners from Imokalee High School
at the South Regional Cross Country Invitational

Above is a screenshot from a video sent to Sardis:
"Thank you Sardis Baptist for sponsoring us!
We had a great time!"



Hanging of the Greens—Magnificence in the making!

MAGNIFICENCE MAKING Tuesday, December 5th @ 7 PM

Throughout the season of Advent we will be looking for magnificence in the ordinary. The Worship Development Team invites you not only to *see* magnificence in the ordinary, but to *make* something magnificent from something ordinary. On Tuesday, December 5th, we will gather at 7 PM to shape something splendid from standard supplies. We'll create ornaments for Sardis' Christmas tree using paper worship guides left behind after recent Sunday services, along with some other ordinary items. Our hosts are Susan and Danny Phillips. Email the church for additional details:
info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org.



cultivate abundance

Sardis Baptist recently received a last minute benevolence request from **Cultivate Abundance**, an organization that addresses food insecurity and other livelihood challenges in low income, im/migrant farmworker communities. **Cultivate Abundance** is a partner of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and was highlighted during their recent Global Missions campaign. The request was to support children of farmworkers in Immokalee, Florida—high school students whose Cross Country team qualified for the South Regional Cross Country race in Charlotte, NC. In order to attend, they needed sponsors to help with transportation, food, and lodging. Dr. Daynette received the call, and reached out to Sardis staff to see if we could join the team. You may remember some of the kids from last year when Sardis Baptist sponsored a dinner and invited them to worship the next day. Our Sunday morning study group made lunches for them. This year we were able to allocate some benevolence funds to meet the request, and a Sardis member also helped. Their trip was a success, and two of the teammates received rewards!

Learn more about **Cultivate Abundance** by visiting their website: cultivateabundance.org.