

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

PROTECTING OUR TREE CANOPY

Sardis friends will gather on June 12th for a Sardis Academy session focused on trees. We will welcome Heather Brent, certified arborist and urban forest educator, who will talk to us about protecting and growing Charlotte's beautiful tree canopy. She works for TreesCharlotte, a public/private nonprofit whose mission is collaboration to grow, diversify and steward the city's iconic urban forest.

Data from the USDA's National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) shows that Charlotte's tree canopy is on the decline, but increasing coverage, and even obtaining the goal of 50% canopy coverage by 2050 is possible through implementation of strategies to conserve and increase Charlotte's tree population. Without such strategies, Charlotte's tree canopy is expected to decline from the current 47% to 40% in the same time frame. (Continued on back page.)



Trauma Awareness & Resilience

Saturday, June 15 | 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Sardis Baptist Church



Sardis folks are invited to gather with friends of MeckMin (our local interfaith network) to learn about trauma and resilience. The workshop will take place at Sardis Baptist Church on Saturday, June 15th from 9:30 AM until noon.

The following workshop description is from MeckMin's website (meckmin.org):

You've probably heard that "hurt people hurt people." It's true. Unhealed trauma leads to violence against self and others. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Individuals and communities can learn skills for addressing trauma, healing relationships, and building resilience which improves the well-being of all. Healing people heal people!

In this workshop we'll explore the types of trauma and its impact on individuals and groups, the victim/survivor cycle of unhealed trauma, the aggressor/offender cycle of unhealed trauma, and tools and techniques for breaking the cycle. We'll also share transformative initiatives and stories.

This is an introductory workshop which will be most helpful to attendees with little to no previous training on trauma.

Payments for workshops offered by MeckMin are on a sliding scale. The funds help support their work for interfaith understanding and cooperation. Visit this link for ticket and registration information: <https://www.meckmin.org/event-details/trauma-awareness-and-resilience-breaking-cycles>



REV. TILLIE DUNCAN - 25 YEARS

On the first day of June Sardis Baptist celebrates a remarkable milestone: 25 years of dedicated service by our beloved Rev. Tillie Duncan. For a quarter of a century, Tillie has brought faith, humility, kindness, reliability, and wisdom to the work of our church.

Through the years Tillie has filled as many roles as any other leader in our church's history. When Tillie was named as Pastor Emerita in 2017, Rev. Tim Moore reminisced, "What has made her such a wonderful pastor is that she has always been willing to serve where she was needed. She has played with preschoolers at VBS; taught weekday Bible classes; sat and listened to the ill and dying; helped guide and direct committees; challenged Sardis children to bowling duels; worked in the heat of summer mission trip construction projects; faithfully sang in the choir; touched grieving hearts preaching at funerals and praying at gravesites; whitewater rafted with the youth; pulled pork BBQ to be sold for a fundraiser. In short she never backed away from any challenge, need, heartache, tough conversation, or moment for deep prayer."

Tillie continues to expand her pastoral repertoire today, but the impacts of her ongoing ministry will not be measured by the number of roles she has filled or the number of years she has served with unwavering commitment. The value of her ministry is found in the countless blessings bestowed on the members of our church family. Rev. Tillie Duncan is a cornerstone of Sardis Baptist Church. For the gift of her ministry, we give thanks to God!



Sardis People:
JOE FLEMING



Behind Joe Fleming's brilliant smile lies an active, inquiring mind. He meets all his days' activities with enthusiasm. An early childhood diagnosis of cerebral palsy has not dampened his joy of living. He spends most mornings at Ryan's Place, an empowering day program for I/DD. It is "a community that respects their differences and cultivates their potential to grow and reach their goals."

When not involved at Ryan's Place, Joe likes to watch TV and listen to music on his computer. His listening habit covers all bases as his interest in music is eclectic. But no matter the genre, Joe sings along with the artist, remembering all the lyrics in a wide assortment of songs. He is active watching TV as well and likes to flip through numerous stations. That does mean frequent battery replacement in his remote though.

Other pursuits that fill his days are going shopping with his grandmother, Nell Barnes, and working part time at LongHorn Steak House. He has volunteered at a food bank, shelving and coordinating donated foodstuffs.

Joe enjoys traveling with family. Destinations have included England and Caribbean cruises. Recently he has travelled vicariously with his father and his recently-graduated-from-college sister, keeping up with them electronically as they drive to Alaska. They are delivering a truck to Joe's brother who recently secured a job as maintenance supervisor for the Alaskan Park System. Before moving to Charlotte, Joe, his brother and his sister spent a good part of their growing-up years in Massachusetts.

PRAYER
Requests

We pray for all those impacted by wars in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and African countries — and we pray for God's peace.

We pray for the health and wellbeing of Mother Earth, and for all those who rely on her generosity to reciprocate her care.

We pray for hungry and homeless human beings, and for all of us to recognize the basic human rights of all of God's children.

We pray for teachers, students, and graduates, and for all those in the world who do not have access to opportunities for formal education.

June is national gun violence awareness month.

We pray that angry hearts are touched by God's love and turned from violence towards peace. We pray for calm in the face of fears that make many believe they need to use guns against others.

We pray traveling mercies for Sardis friends on the move:

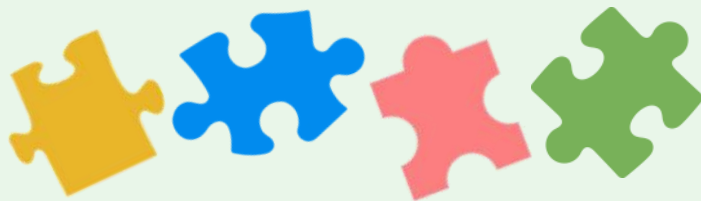
- Askins Family (Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reece, Keely)
- Son and granddaughter of Nell Barnes • Leon Fisher • Irena Hramenkova • Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis

We offer condolences for Bud Duncan (brother of Shannon) and his son Joe, for the death of Linda Duncan.

We pray for the health and wellbeing of Sardis friends:

- Rita Akers, friend of the Phillips • Clemmer Allison, friend of Alcie Kreutzer • Charles Almond, grandfather of Jacqueline Stillerman
- Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Kyra Ballentine, friend of Hilary McIntyre • Robin Bennett, friend of David Kreutzer • Melissa Bowlin
- Maria Byrd • Chris Clark, son of Becky Proctor • Murphy Clark, relative of Robin Rowland • Tracey Danley, friend of Sarah Criss • Rae Deicke, friend of Jean Lawrence • Nela Demme, Ron's dog • Betsy Cadle DePaul • Dusty Detterman, daughter of June Ross • Terry Devine, friend of Robin Rowland
- Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's mother • Ed Gash • Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer
- Jen Kaminska, friend of Kreutzer family • Cindy Lucas, and husband Bob, friends of Mark Wiebke • Robert Marshall, grandson of Janette Grassi
- Michael Shepard-Moore • Tim Moore • Jim Owen • Rachel, Kendarius, and Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Pam Poston • Bill Reynolds, son of Mala • Mala Reynolds • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Pamela Schwartz, former staff of St. Stephen UMC • Ken Smith, friend of the Kreutzer's • Sandra Sparks, mother of Laurie • Tanya Stevensen, daughter of June Ross • Vanessa Wieland, cousin of Jonathan Eidson • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

UPDATES FROM TASK GROUPS



COMMUNICATIONS CREW:

Amanda Lewis, Hilary McIntyre, Melissa Bowlin, and Kristin Parker

The Communications Crew has met quite a few times during the Spring, and we have realized that we need your help! Each Sunday we stream our worship service live on Facebook. If you see or hear something during worship that speaks to you, or if you would like a simple way to help get the word out about Sardis, go on Facebook and “like” and/or “share” that post! During the week, we post many updates to our Instagram and Facebook about goings-on at the church. Go “like” and/or “share” those posts! On Wednesdays and Sunday mornings we send out worship reminder emails. If you know people who would be interested in the events and topics we are promoting, forward those emails! At the beginning of each month, we send out our newsletter, signposts. Share it with people! A “like” and a “share” on social media go a long way in boosting our message to the wider-Charlotte community. If you believe in what we are doing here, share!

COMMUNITY BUILDERS:

Jonathan Eidson, Rachel Raulk (chair), Betty Gunz, Jean Lawrence, Robin Rowland, and Shannon Roberts

The Sardis Community Builders have been collaborating since February and we are very excited to share our progress with you. So far, we have reviewed who regularly visits our beautiful campus and how they are utilizing the indoor and outdoor spaces. We have discussed how we can better utilize our spaces to serve current members of our congregation and the community at large.

Our dynamic, creative team has brainstormed many ideas for ways to build community and connection on campus. Presently, we want to hear from you! What activities/events resonate the most with you? Is there anything not here that you'd like to suggest? Lastly, would you like to participate in the prep of anything? If you are reading electronically, please click here to take our survey and share your thoughts; if you are reading a printed copy, please contact a member of the team for survey access. • BINGO • Create a Beehive • Tai Chi with Chai Tea • Movies on the Lawn • Senior Coffee • Survival Sewing Skills (a sewing circle to teach basic sewing skills and work on small projects together, while bridging the gap between generations) • Social at Sardis (Friday night meetups targeted at adults of all ages, but also child/teen friendly, that would include a rotating activity each month such as adult coloring, soul collaging, trivia, game night, etc.)

STRUCTURES & SYSTEMS:

Ellen Dillard, Debbie Kidd, Kathryn Kreutzer, Jim Owen, Joe Wall (chair)

The primary task of the Structures & Systems Committee, and presumably the most difficult, is to rewrite our existing bylaws to better serve the needs of Sardis Baptist Church as it currently exists. Church bylaws provide the structure and guidelines for how our church functions. Our new bylaws will define the church's mission; set out membership requirements; create a governing structure; explain the processes for electing leaders and defining their roles; provide guidelines for conducting official meetings; and establish procedures for the enactment of future bylaw amendments. The Structures & Systems Committee has been meeting bimonthly since the end of January for the purpose of drafting these new bylaws, which of course will not become official until and unless the congregation approves them at a church conference. Once the committee has completed its work, the committee's recommendations will be provided to church members for review. Ample opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions will be provided before a vote for adoption is called for.












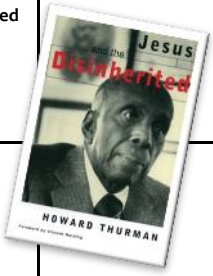
PASTOR SEARCH TEAM:

Tillie Duncan (staff liaison), Luther Fisher, Jim Owen, Susan Phillips (chair), Becky Proctor, Shannon Roberts, and Amy Wiebke

The Pastor Search Team has met frequently over the last two weeks. Introductory interviews using Zoom were conducted with several potential candidates. Using information congregants supplied, the team will now begin a process of discernment about which of these applicants may best suit the needs and goals of Sardis. We ask that you pray with and for us as we pray for wisdom and acumen in how and with whom to proceed.



CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>2</p> <p>Second Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:30 PM Trustees Meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM Communications Team Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30 AM Structures & Systems Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Annual Fire Inspection</p>  <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 PM Charlotte Wildlife Stewards Leadership Team</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Clergy Group Meeting</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>Staff Anniversaries</p> <p>Kathryn's 9th</p> <p>Tillie's 25th</p> 
<p>9</p> <p>Third Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p>			<p>12</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>6:30 PM Sardis Academy TreesCharlotte</p>  	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM - Noon MeckMin Trauma Awareness Workshop</p> 
<p>16</p> <p>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Book Study</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p>		<p>18</p> <p>6:30 PM Community Builders Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>JUNETEENTH</p> <p>CBF General Assembly re:imagine</p> <p>Hilary's 8th Staff Anniversary</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>TGP — 9:15 to 1:15</p> <p>CBF General Assembly re:imagine</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>CBF General Assembly re:imagine</p> <p>Clergy Group Meeting</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p>			<p>26</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Book Study: Jesus and the Disinherited</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> 						

What Does It Take To Be A Church Pianist?

~ Hilary McIntyre, Minister of Music ~

What does it take to be a church pianist?

Well, I can't tell you from personal experience, but here's what I do know.

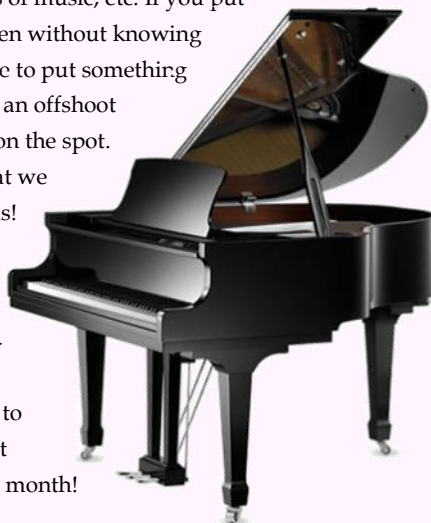
First, and foremost, you have to play the piano! Obvious, right? But, did you know that there isn't just one way to play a piano? As a church pianist, you have to be able to play solo piano, piano accompaniment, "functional piano" (I'll explain later), and in many cases you also have to be able to improvise. Our own church pianist, Irena Hramenkova, is well-versed in all of these styles (although she may have different names for some of them), and she also has an uncanny ability to weave tunes together while improvising that is above and beyond what many other church pianists have the skill to do.

Solo piano is the style that Irena, and most other piano teachers, will teach their students. This is the ability to read music, use your fingers in specific ways that promote good technique and sound, memorize pieces, perform for an audience, and use critical thinking and specialized knowledge to perform music from different eras of music and genres. Not all piano music is the same! Classical is actually a very specific era of music history, among many others. They have to know this and know what technique to use for each one.

Piano accompaniment is the art of providing piano music for choirs, bands, orchestras, and even hymns, so that each instrument or voice is able to work together to make music. This is not an easy skill to master; it takes being able to read music, watch a conductor, play your own instrument and listen to others all at the same time. When you are an accompanist, you can't only rely on your own musical instincts, you have to be collaborative. Sometimes you have to cover up mistakes made by the person or people you are accompanying - and the best accompanists can do this so well that their partners might not even realize they made a mistake at all (I know from experience).

Functional piano and improvisation are related skills - if you have good functional piano skills, you will also have a foundation from which to improvise. Functional piano is essentially a firm grasp of the ins and outs of music - how chords work, what rhythmic patterns and tempos work well for which styles of music, etc. If you put a hymn in front of a good functional pianist, even without knowing the hymn, they can use their musical knowledge to put something together, even on short notice. Improvisation is an offshoot of this; it is the ability to make up piano music on the spot. Irena does this every week, and I am certain that we do not give her enough credit for her skill in this!

Overall, a church pianist is an all-around musician. They have a wealth of knowledge, skill, usually experience, and hopefully love for what they do! We at Sardis are extremely lucky to have Irena and her students to share their musical talents with us, and we can't wait to see what they have to share with us this month!



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

~ Rev. Jonathan Eidson ~



¹³ Jesus said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

~ John 4:13-14 ~

Several months ago, my topic was discernment. You may recall that discernment is the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure in our faith.

Moving into the discernment process can be challenging. How do you get into it? I thought I'd share questions you might ask to enter the process. My spiritual director asked me these questions when I was trying to make a decision.

Ask yourself, "Is this going to be life giving?" or "Is it going to be life draining?" In other words, as you ponder, you ask yourself, "Is this going to bring me life? Or "Is it going to drain the life out of me?" Usually, answering these questions brings me clarity quickly. If these two questions don't help an answer crystalize for you, you may want to explore other questions to see if you can find some that work for you.

What happens to many is that discernment becomes an action of asking yourself what you should do. I believe that this limits the work of the Holy Spirit in the discernment process because we are liable to guilt ourselves into a decision. For example, one might say, "I should do this because this is what a good Christian would do." Or "I should do this because this is what everyone wants me to do."

Surely, the Holy Spirit wouldn't guilt us into something. That's just a thought. What do you think?



New Mural at Hope Chapel,
Painted by Community Members



A Tapestry of
Resistance



Nature Walk with Students of Philips Academy



G3 @ East Frank

PROTECTING OUR TREE CANOPY

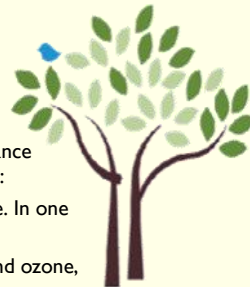
(Continued from front page)

Efforts to preserve and grow our tree canopy will benefit the Charlotte community in many ways! Trees offset climate change, increase health, enhance comfort levels, and even boost our economy. Consider these few examples:

- Trees mitigate climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. In one year, Charlotte's mature trees absorb 138,000 tons of CO₂.
- Trees trap other pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone, therefore improving air quality.
- Trees reduce flooding and protect us from stormwater runoff. Leaves slow the impact of rainfall, and roots absorb water and anchor the soil to prevent erosion. Charlotte trees intercept 1,330 million gallons of runoff annually.
- The annual financial benefit from the combination of air quality improvement, stormwater runoff, and carbon sequestration totals more than \$52,000,000!
- Trees provide shelter and food for a variety of wildlife, therefore reducing the impacts of habitat loss. Charlotte's trees provide habitats for more than 270 bird species!
- Trees improve physical and mental health — people who live in areas with more trees have lower rates of asthma and cardiovascular disease. Studies also show exposure to trees lowers stress and reduces symptoms of ADHD.
- Trees enhance our comfort — we admire their greening in the spring, their flowers when in bloom, their colors in the fall, and their shade in the summer. Shade from summer trees reduces air temperatures by 5-20 degrees. And our regular labyrinth walkers will attest to their ability to muffle unwanted sound!

If you have questions about trees in your yard, you will not want to miss this opportunity! In addition to sharing a presentation about protecting and growing trees, Heather will walk the Sardis grounds with us to provide some recommendations for the tree canopy at Sardis Baptist. Dinner will be served at 5:45 PM; Heather will begin at 6:30.

(Sources: treescharlotte.org; An Assessment of Urban Tree Canopy in Charlotte, North Carolina, completed in November 2023, by Plant IT Geo, Inc.)



SUMMER MUSIC

It is time once again for Irena's annual trip home to Russia. During the month of June, not only will we have special music from a variety of Irena's piano students, but our worship services will be accompanied by a student as well!

Serena Cai, who has played for us on Sunday morning a couple of times already, will be filling in for Irena all five Sundays of June. She is only 12-years-old, but she has been studying under Irena for seven years. Her two younger sisters are also students of Irena. Please join us in welcoming her on June 2nd.

During those five weeks, we will also host a slew of Irena's students playing music by Chopin, Mozart, Bach, and Grieg. Our guest musicians are Yoav Ovrutsky, Coco Gong, Ray Lu, Parv Iyer, Patrick Hui and Henry Hui. We are so grateful and blessed to have so many talented musicians connected to our church!