



PRITCHARD
at South End

CHARLOTTE, NC

MESSENGER

Volume 54 Issue 12

December 2019

Experiencing Christmas

A musical celebration

December 15 | 10:30 AM



CHRISTMAS EVE *Service*

December 24 | 5:00 PM





Rev. Bobby Morrow

Pastor

bobbymorrow@pritchardmemorial.com

The Christmas season has begun. If we are honest, it began for many people the day after Halloween. Isn't it amazing that we begin to celebrate earlier and earlier each year? On the way back from Atlanta on Sunday, November 17, April and I listened to Christmas carols on the radio most of the way home. It would be nice to believe that people are so anxious to celebrate the birth of Christ that they just can't wait till after Thanksgiving, like it use to be. We are all savvy enough to understand it is all about sales. The earlier we start the longer we have to sell. Soon we will have those who will tell us whether it has been a bad Christmas, good Christmas or great Christmas based on the amount of money, we as Americans, spend this year. Unfortunately, that has nothing to do with the real Christmas evaluation.

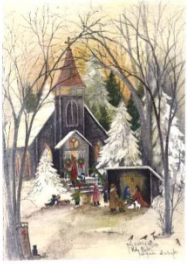
I freely admit that for many more years than I would like to admit, I evaluated Christmas based on the quality of gifts I received. If Santa was extremely generous, it was a great Christmas. If my family chose gifts that pleased me, it was a great Christmas. If there were some hits and some misses in the gifts I received, it was a good Christmas. If Christmas was heavily weighted down with socks, underwear, bedroom shoes and ties, it was a bad Christmas. (My rule: everyone should always get something to play with!) I could be a real Scrooge if my evaluation was that I had a bad Christmas.

Thankfully things changed and Christmas became all about giving. The real joy began to come from seeing other people find joy in what I gave them. Watching their reaction to a well-chosen gift became the centerpiece of Christmas. Since we are celebrating the greatest gift ever given, and God is watching our reaction to the joy it brings us, this makes much more sense to me. Taking time to share God's love, by sharing my love with others, makes the season so much more enjoyable.

As I have continued to age, one more change has occurred. It's not the gifts that are the centerpiece of my celebration, but the people who I share the season with. Family becomes more important to me each day. The opportunity to be around those who know us best and have loved us the longest becomes so much more important. I look back on some Christmas's past and regret that I did not take that part as seriously as I should. I would love to go back and relive those celebrations with those who are no longer with us for Christmas. I can't do that, so I need to make sure I don't take for granted those who I have the chance to celebrate with this year. We are not promised unlimited time with those we love. I have come to cherish every moment God gives me with them.

The centerpiece of every Christmas is found in the opportunity to praise God and thank Him for the miracle of Jesus. Every worship experience during the month of December will allow us to do just that. I hope you will take advantage of every opportunity to celebrate Christmas with us here at Pritchard. Let God know by your faithfulness that Jesus is at the center of your Christmas this year.

In His Love,
Bobby Morrow



*May the peace and
beauty of Christmas
remain with you
throughout the New Year
From the Media Center*

Room in The Inn

Our new season of Room in The Inn begins on Wednesday, December 4. There is a need for van drivers and individuals who are willing to spend the night. If you would like to help with either of these roles, please let Bobby Morrow know and we will put your name on our substitute list. We anticipate this being another great year of hosting our neighbors in need!

Youth Winter Retreat

The youth will travel to Sugar Mountain Ski Resort on Friday, January 24 and return Sunday, January 26. We have rented a private cabin where we will have a weekend of relaxing, Bible study, skiing/snowboarding, and fellowship. This retreat has limited space! Cost includes lodging and ALL meals. Cost is \$150 per person if skiing/snowboarding OR \$100 per person if NOT skiing/snowboarding. **This does NOT cover ski and snowboard wear/bibs. Youth will be responsible for bringing their own ski and snowboard wear. You can rent clothing from Alpine Ski Center in Charlotte. Deadline for online registration and payment is Sunday, December 22. Please contact Kristen Tucker for more information or if you have questions.

Women on Mission

The next meeting for WOM will be Tuesday, December 3 at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. As you know, we will have prayer, Bible study, hear about missions and missionaries. We will also send cards to those who can't join us. Our mission project for the month will be collecting donations to support the Barringer Christmas Party. Please make your checks out to PMBC and put "WMU for Barringer" on the memo line. The money you give will help make this a special event for these children.

Please double up on your casseroles or other dishes so we can provide lunch for everyone. We have asked the office staff to join us for lunch to show our appreciation. We look forward to our time together with our guests.



HELP US REACH
OUR GOAL OF
\$8,000

Afternoon Bible Study Group

The Afternoon Bible Study Group will meet Tuesday, December 3 in the home of Peggy Spence at 3:00 PM. Kristen Tucker will lead the Bible Study.

There's a Song in the Air

A Musical Performance by Pritchard's Sunago Singers
and Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Choir

Sunday, December 8 immediately following Worship

Reservations required and can be made through Realm or by calling
the Church Office by Dec. 2 (\$7/adult, \$5/child)



Rev. Stan Heiser
Associate Pastor,
Pastoral Care & Senior Adults
stanheiser@pritchardmemorial.com

Although it may be a little ahead of schedule, it's not too early to give some things away this Christmas. Not just on Christmas Day, but during the days leading up to December 25. We could call these daily gifts "our Christmas projects." Maybe one per day from now till then. Here are a few suggestions:

- > *Mend a quarrel.*
- > *Seek out a forgotten friend.*
- > *Hug someone tightly and whisper, "I love you."*
- > *Express appreciation.*
- > *Make or bake something for someone else. Anonymously.*
- > *Take a walk with a friend.*
- > *Kneel and pat a dog.*
- > *Apologize if you were wrong.*
- > *Treat someone to an ice-cream cone.*
- > *Encourage an older person.*
- > *Offer to baby-sit for a weary mother.*

Let's make Christmas one long, extended gift of ourselves to others. Unselfishly. Without Announcement. Or Obligation. Or Reservation. That is Christianity, isn't it?

Sunago Singers Christmas Musical Schedule

Our Sunago Singers will be presenting a beautiful Christmas musical this year entitled "**There's a Song in the Air**" by composer Stan Pethel. This musical is a pure and simple celebration of Christmas. Beloved carols are seamlessly blended with new songs and simple narration, along with a beautiful drama performed at Pritchard Memorial Baptist and Pleasant Grove Presbyterian churches. Blessings to you as you celebrate the profound message of Christmas...simply and wonderfully...at one of our performances this year!!!

*December 5—Sharon Towers at 3:00 PM (5100 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210)

*December 8—Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church **Churchwide Christmas Luncheon** at 11:45 AM, followed by the performance at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Combined choirs of Sunago Singers and Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Adult Choir.

*December 12—Plantation Estates at 10:00 AM (733 Plantation Estates Drive, Matthews, NC 28105)

*December 15—Experiencing Christmas, a musical celebration at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary of Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church, featuring all choirs from Pritchard.

*December 19—Ranson Ridge at 10:30 AM (13910 Hunton Lane, Huntersville, NC 28078)

*December 22—Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church morning worship service. Joint presentation with Sunago Singers and Pleasant Grove Presbyterian adult choir (6701 Pleasant Grove Road, Charlotte, NC 28216)

Please keep the Sunago Singers in your prayers as they share "There's a Song in the Air" Christmas musical this Christmas season!!!

Christmas Caroling: Sunday, December 22

Come join us for our annual churchwide Christmas caroling, Sunday, December 22 at 5:00 PM. Our entire church family, from the youngest to the oldest, always enjoy the specialness of this evening. As we sing and bring Christmas cheer to our members who live in our assisted living centers, retirement communities and to our homebound members. Wear your festive Christmas attire, bring your jingle bells, and your childlike spirit for an evening of joy and fun for ALL ages!!! When you arrive in the Fellowship Hall, we will have delicious Krispy Kreme donuts, apple cider, coffee, and hot chocolate waiting for you to enjoy. Oh, yes, we will have a brief practice of our Christmas songs too, got to practice ringing those jingle bells!!!! We will travel in vans from Adventure Vans again this year. Thanks upfront to those who will volunteer to drive. Can't wait to have you and your family join us for an evening of Christmas blessing. Contact the church office to let us know that you will be coming. It will help me know how many vans to order and how much food to prepare. Looking forward to being with you as we jingle all the way!!!

On behalf of my wife Donna, daughters Lindsey, Shannon and son-in-law, Rob, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

End-of-Year Tithes and Offerings

This is the season of giving and many of you may want to make year-end contributions. For your contribution to be credited and included on your 2019 statement, it must be placed in the offering plate or delivered to the church office by December 31. Contributions received after December 31, even with a December date on the check, will be recorded in 2020.

Your 2019 contribution statements will be emailed or placed in the mail no later than January 31. All inquiries, with respect to omissions or discrepancies, should be brought to the accounting office and each concern will be promptly investigated.

Thanks in advance for your generosity that allows Pritchard to make a difference in the lives of many.



Rev. Kristen Tucker
Associate Pastor,
Spiritual Development
and Communication
kristentucker@pritchardmemorial.com

Winter 2020 Pritchard Connect Class Schedule

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to announce our Pritchard Connect classes starting in January 2020.

Please plan to come to our first Wednesday night dinner of the year on January 8th starting at 5:00 PM. At 6:00 PM you will have an opportunity to hear all about our classes and what you can expect!



Tuesdays (bi-weekly) 6:00-8:00 PM

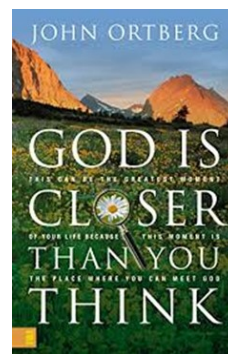
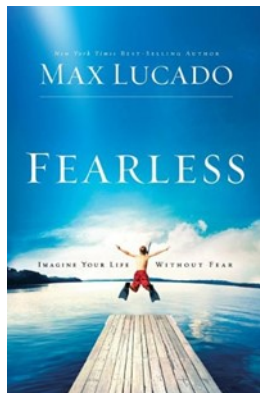
The Enneagram Journey
Personal Growth Class • Led by Stephanie Cote
Cost: Possible fee (TBA)

A 12-session curriculum designed to help participants learn about the Enneagram. It is a powerful ancient tool for understanding motivation, behavior, and experience.

Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 PM

Fearless
Spiritual Discipline Class • Led by Susan Rose
Cost: FREE

Every sunrise seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. They're talking about layoffs at work, slowdowns in the economy, flare-ups in the Middle East, Isis attacks worldwide, and upswings in global warming. What if faith, not fear, was the default reaction to threats? Can you imagine your life without fear? Through this study, Max Lucado gives an honest and hopeful look at what can happen when fear meets faith.



"God is Closer Than You Think" by John Ortberg
Spiritual Discipline Class • Led by Stan Heiser
Cost: FREE (Book is optional)

Now is the time! This is the moment! Today...you CAN see God in action...you CAN hear God speaking to you...you CAN connect with God heart-to-heart. We hope you will come join us as we read and discuss John Ortberg's book *"God is closer than you think!"*



The Gospel of John
Biblical Book Study • Led by Kristen Tucker
Cost: FREE (Please bring your Bible)

If anyone asks, "What book should I start with to learn more about Jesus?" most would answer, "START WITH JOHN!" This book has truly been on my heart to do an in-depth study like we did two years ago on the Book of Revelation. We will explore many things in this book and have a great discussion on how it STILL relates to tell others the GOOD NEWS!

Stewardship Committee Update

Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church
Revenues & Expenses – Summary
OCTOBER 2019

	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues	\$124,196	\$110,055	\$1,172,087	\$1,142,708
Total Expenses	\$ 99,817	\$107,501	\$1,058,805	\$1,169,970
Net Total	\$ 24,379	\$ 2,554	\$ 113,282	(\$27,262)

Our actual year-to-date revenue is ahead of our YTD expenses by \$113,281.

PRITCHARD PULPIT

10:30 AM WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

SERMON: "CHRISTMAS: IT'S A SIMPLE STORY"

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:1-20

REV. BOBBY MORROW

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

SERMON: "MAKE CHRISTMAS ABOUT GIVING"

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 3:16

REV. BOBBY MORROW

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

"EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS" CHRISTMAS MUSIC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

SERMON: "WHAT'S NEW ABOUT CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR"

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:1-14

REV. BOBBY MORROW

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

SERMON: "CHRISTMAS IS OVER AND I'M DEPRESSED"

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:13-20

REV. BOBBY MORROW

Sanctuary Flowers

Sunday, December 1

The flowers on the altar table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Diane Bailes by her family who have missed her for 10 years. They are also placed in honor of David Bailes on his birthday with love by Melissa, Donny, Emma, Landry, Kristin, Matthew, Jackson, Adeline, and Lincoln.

Poinsettias

The poinsettias placed in the Sanctuary the month of December are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Amon and Imogene Baucom. They are placed by the families of Chip Baucom and Angela Livingston.

Remembering Someone Special

Have you ever considered placing flowers in the Sanctuary in memory or honor of a loved one? Call Lynn in the church office to let her know of your interest. The following dates are available in 2020: *January 5, 12; February 9, 16; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7, 21, 28; July 5, 19, 26; August 16, 23, 30; September 6, 13; October 18, 25; November 15, 22, 29.*

The two florists who have access to our Sanctuary are Starclaire House of Flowers (704-553-2435) and Elizabeth House of Flowers (704-342-3919). They can deliver the flowers on Saturday for Sunday morning's service. As an alternative, you may do an arrangement of your own and bring it to the Sanctuary on Sunday morning.

Barringer Christmas

Many have asked about Pritchard's plans for the holidays for our friends and extended family at Barringer Academic Center. We have been planning for several months. Unlike our activities in years past, we have decided to have a family Christmas party this year. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 21 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There will be crafts, the Christmas Story, lunch, gifts from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and delivery of family food boxes. By having all of this on a Saturday, it eases concerns of transportation for all of our Barringer friends. How can you help? Sherry Shaw and her children will put together food boxes; the Professionals Sunday School class will wrap presents; each of you can volunteer (each year the volunteers have as much fun as the children); and/or you can donate to this project. In the past you have brought food for the boxes. This year, so that we may be as frugal with the funds we have, we will purchase the food in bulk. Consider donating what you might have spent on food. You can give this to the church, designated to "Barringer Christmas Party." As always, we want to be sure that no one at Barringer is without food. We desire for the children to have a Christmas somewhat like our children have. Most importantly, Pritchard wants to continue to be the "Presence of Christ" in our city. Contact Tony Canupp at ermdmph69@gmail.com or 336-469-4673 for questions.





Sunday, December 1

*see Weekly Sunday Activities

Monday, December 2

Tuesday, December 3

10:30 AM—Women on Mission

3:00 PM—Afternoon Bible Study Group (Spence home)

Wednesday, December 4

*see Weekly Wednesday Activities

6:30-7:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast at Tryon House

Thursday, December 5

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast at Americana

10:00-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, December 6

6:00-8:30 AM—Open Gym

6:00 PM—H.I.S. Sunday School Class Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7

9:30 AM-12:00 PM—Pritchard Kids Birthday Party for Jesus

1:00-3:00 PM—Sunago Singers/Pleasant Grove Rehearsal

Sunday, December 8

*see Weekly Sunday Activities

11:45 AM—Christmas Lunch and "There's A Song In The Air"

Monday, December 9

6:00 PM—Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, December 10

Wednesday, December 11

*see Weekly Wednesday Activities

6:30-7:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast at Tryon House

Thursday, December 12

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast at Americana

10:00-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, December 13

6:00-8:30 AM—Open Gym

Saturday, December 14

10:00 AM-12:00 PM—Christmas Music Rehearsal

2:00 PM—Taft Sunday School Class Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15

*see Weekly Sunday Activities

10:30 AM—"Experiencing Christmas" A Musical Celebration

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

Wednesday, December 18

*see Weekly Wednesday Activities

6:30-7:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast at Tryon House

Thursday, December 19

Pritchard's Day of Prayer for the City

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast at Americana

10:00-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, December 20

6:00-8:30 AM—Open Gym

Saturday, December 21

11:00 AM—Barringer Christmas Party

6:00 PM—Adult Choir Christmas Party (off campus)

Sunday, December 22

*see Weekly Sunday Activities

5:00 PM—Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24....CHRISTMAS EVE

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

5:00 PM—Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25.....CHRISTMAS DAY

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

Thursday, December 26

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast at Americana

10:00-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, December 27

6:00-8:30 AM—Open Gym

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29

Monday, December 30

Tuesday, December 31

Weekly Sunday Activities

8:30-9:15 AM—Orchestra

8:45-10:15 AM—Media Center open

9:15 AM—Bible Study

10:30 AM—Worship Service

11:45 AM—Handbells

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

Weekly Wednesday Activities

4:00-6:00 PM—Pritchard Media Center open

5:00 PM—Fellowship Dinner

5:00-6:00 PM—Williams Center Children's Library open

5:45-7:30 PM—Youth Activities

6:00-7:00 PM—Pritchard Connect Classes

6:00-7:30 PM—Pritchard Kids Clubhouse

6:00-8:30 PM—Childcare

7:00-8:30 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal



Welcome to Our New Members!



By Baptism:

Emma Wisor



By Statement:

Debra Huhnerkoch

Congratulations!

The family of Randy and Ann Duncan want to announce their 50th wedding anniversary! They were married November 15, 1969. Congratulations to you both! We love you very much!

Note of Thanks

Dear Pritchard Church Family,

It is with a very heavy heart that I share the passing of my precious brother, Jay Ross Kistler, Jr. on Monday, October 14. Myself, along with the rest of the Kistler family, want to THANK YOU for all of the cards, thoughts and prayers for the past several months.

In Christian Love, Ann Kistler Teague

Vehicle Break-ins

It's that time of year when vehicle break-ins escalate. PLEASE lock your doors, remove any valuables and be aware of your surroundings when walking to your vehicle. Leaving things in plain view is like an invitation to a thief. Please remember vehicle break-ins can happen anywhere.

what's cooking in Q's Kitchen

Wednesday, December 4: Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, fruit, cookies

Sunday, December 8: Pot roast, gravy, rice, green beans, carrots, salad, fruit, cheesecake

Wednesday, December 11: Smothered chicken, green beans, dressing, rolls, salad, fruit, red velvet cake

Wednesday, December 18: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, salad, fruit, chocolate cake

Call the church office to make your reservation no later than Monday at Noon.

Adult: \$7, Child (under 12): \$5,

Salad & Dessert ONLY: \$3, Family (living under one roof): \$30

We Express Our Love & Sympathy to:

~ The family and friends in the passing of Elizabeth "Lib" Mayer.

~ Barbara Taylor and family in the passing of her grandson, Christopher Christianson.

Campus Security

Should you need access to a building for any reason, please come by the church office and one of the staff will be happy to assist you. Also, with colder temps arriving, there is a chance of some folks looking for a warm place to sleep. Please make a concerted effort to check the doors to close securely behind you. DO NOT at ANY time prop doors open. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations to Lynn Plyler, our Executive Assistant for Administration and Education. She joined the staff on December 2, 1991 and has been taking care of us here at Pritchard for 28 years! We love you Lynn!

"We give thanks to God always for you...."
(1 Thessalonians 1:2)

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Bobby Morrow
Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care & Senior Adults.....Rev. Stan Heiser
Minister of Music & Outreach.....Rev. David Bailes
Associate Pastor, Spiritual Development & Communication.....Rev. Kristen Tucker
Minister to Children & Families.....Sherry Shaw
Administrator.....Doug Burkhart
Executive Assistant for Administration & Education.....Lynn Plyler
Media Center Director.....Linda Robinson
Office Assistant.....Katrina Gore
Accounting Clerk.....Cindy Gamwell
Maintenance.....James Phillips
Grounds Keeper.....Dewight Little
Chef.....Qunita Dashiell



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Child Development Center 704-343-2944
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