



PRITCHARD

at South End

CHARLOTTE, NC

MESSENGER

Volume 57 Issue 12

December 2022



Christmas Musical CELEBRATION

FEATURING

Special Guest Steve Amerson and Laurie Gayle Stephenson
Celebration Choir and Orchestra

DECEMBER 4
10:30 AM

SIT WITH ME

1117 SOUTH BLVD. CHARLOTTE, NC 28203



Pritchard Family and Friends,

The Pastor Search Team would like to express our gratitude for your prayers and support since our group's affirmation on February 13, 2022. It was a unique situation for Pritchard in that while Bobby opened the door for the PST formation with his January 9 announcement, he was still very actively leading us all the way through to his October 23 announcement that he would be leaving *by Thanksgiving*. Due to our comfort with Bobby, our love for the Morrow family, and perhaps even our busyness that tends to draw our focus elsewhere, the news still staggered us a bit. Despite the long lead time Bobby provided and the eventual inevitability of loss, our hearts still leapt into our throats for an instant and we wondered: "*What now?*"

The good news was that the PST had already engaged with Chris Richardson back in August. This relationship had moved with increasingly mutual interest during September, so by early October, we were already well on our way to our eventual call to Chris. The PST is so very thankful for the responsibility entrusted to us by Pritchard, and your confidence shown in our decision really hit home on Sunday, November 13 when we saw the unanimity of over 280 raised hands for Chris! We have felt God's hand envelop every moment and bridge every critical juncture of this journey together. Soon, as Pritchard begins to welcome the Richardsons to Charlotte, we will be able to share additional amazing stories of how His timing continues to weave and bind our paths together. As we enter 2023 - a year of transition perhaps like none we have seen in our 121 year history - we must remain unified in order to increase the "horsepower" of our shared yoke, as Chris relayed this past Sunday. We are all so excited to see what is in store!

Thank you again. Sincerely, your Pritchard Pastor Search Team:

Vickey Arroba, Meagan Crowell, Perry Holland, Frances Nettles, Chris Wallace, Marilyn Withrow, and Jeff Rogers

A Message from Pastor Chris

*"Long lay the world, in sin and error pining
'Til he appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn' ...
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother
And in his name, all oppression shall cease"*

I love the month of December. I always have. It's my birthday month and Christmas. I love the end of the college football season, chili, soups, warm coffee on chilly mornings. But even in the excitement, I doubt I'm alone in sometimes feeling some melancholy as well.

We will sing "O Holy Night", but we will also return to a world where tears are still shed, oppression still suffocates, and hearts still break. We proclaim the arrival of the savior of the world, The Word- made flesh! But we also soberly see that the world has not been remade. At least not yet.

The Richardsons are overjoyed and excited to join the Pritchard family, but there is still sadness at leaving our home here, our schools, our friends. I am confident the Pritchard family is excited to welcome us, but there will be sadness to say goodbye to Bobby and April. Turning the page does not mean forgetting the past, instead it means loving what happened and looking ahead to what God is doing next. We will be turning these pages together.

Many of us bear the yoke of Christmas. We believe we must be unequivocally happy all month long. We suffer guilt that we proclaim a risen savior on Sunday, but see what's wrong in the world on Monday. This is what it is to be human in the time between times- Jesus has come, Jesus has died, and Jesus has risen- but He has not yet finished His work in this world. And He has not yet finished His work in you and in me.

To be human is often to be conflicted- we sing and celebrate the Holy Night, and we can rejoice even at times with tears in our eyes. Faith does not mean we ignore or push away grief- it means we embrace it and recognize that grief will not have the final word. The final word is The Word. We celebrate His Advent this month, and we will someday celebrate His wiping every tear and bringing joy everlasting. This Christmas season, please do not feel shame at your grief, and do not feel you are wrong to still see the difficulty in our world. We practice Christmas together to remember what He has done and look forward to what He is doing, often in a mixture of emotions. We look forward to joining you soon, and bearing those yokes together!



Join Pastor Stan Heiser on Zoom each Sunday morning if you are unable to meet in person.

Time: 9:00 AM

Watch for E-Connect weekly with the Zoom link.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Join us each Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM for fellowship and 7:00 PM for prayer meeting/Bible study via Zoom!

Tuesday, December 6: Stan Heiser
Tuesday, December 13: David Bailes
Tuesday, December 20: Brack Ballard
Tuesday, December 27: Christmas Break





Rev. Stan Heiser

Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care and Senior Adults

sheiser@pritchardchurch.com

It's hard for me to believe that it's December already. This year of 2022 has flown by. Here we are preparing our hearts for the Christmas season once again. Every Christmas I read this reminder from God, found in Isaiah 9:6: "God has given a son to us...His name will be wonderful Counselor, Powerful God...Prince of Peace." If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us a economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent a Savior.

He became like us, so we could be like Him.

Angels still sing and the Star still beckons.

He loves each one of us like there was only one of us to love.

This is God's Christmas gift to us!

Sweet Spirits Christmas Program/Lunch

Wednesday, December 14 • 11 AM-1 PM • Fellowship Hall

Special Guests: Keenan Harmon, our fabulous trumpeter for our Celebration Band/Orchestra and several of his friends will share instrumental Christmas music with us! We'll also have a Christmas concert presented by our Sunago Singers Choir under the direction of Nona Thompson, narration by Jean Freeman and music by our talented pianist Lori Williams. A delicious Christmas meal will be catered by Cracker Barrel. Cost is \$10.00 per person and payable at the door.

Sign up deadline for the meal is Wednesday, December 7. Make your reservation by calling the Church Office, sign up on Realm or see me down front in the Sanctuary by the chapel door after worship each Sunday.

Come join us for this meaningful, inspirational and fun Christmas event. Remember...the best place to be is together with the Sweet Spirits!

Charlotte Seniors 2022 Christmas Shinn-dig

Thursday, December 15 • Park Expo/Conf Center/Freedom Hall

The George Shinn Foundation is providing this event to the seniors of Charlotte (ages 50 and above). Doors open at 11:00 AM, a complimentary holiday lunch is served at 11:30 AM with entertainment to follow at 12 Noon featuring: Jeannie Seely (Grand Ole Opry member), Charlie McCoy (Grand Ole Opry member), Jack Hoot ("The Voice" 2017 champion), and Kathie Lee Gifford (4-time Emmy winner). Remarks by George Shinn (Founder of the George Shinn Foundation) and Rev. Franklin Graham (President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse). Dismissal is

(continued in next column...)

at 2:00 PM. FREE ADMISSION and PARKING at The Park Expo and Conference Center (800 Briar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28205) in Freedom Hall.

I have 30 tickets for this exciting event. Contact me as soon as possible to reserve yours. Tickets are going fast!

Christmas morning Sunday, December 25

Worship Celebration only • 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

My Christmas blessings from my family...Donna, Lindsey, Shannon and Rob...to YOU!



**CMS STUDENT
TEACHER WORKDAY
OPEN GYM**

**JANUARY 25
MARCH 27**

7-10 YEAR OLDS

SPORTS RELATED ACTIVITIES
basketball, dodgeball, pickleball
and much more!

LUNCH AND SNACKS PROVIDED

\$50 PER SESSION
\$75 WHEN YOU PURCHASE BOTH SESSIONS

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP
Drop your child off for day (8:30 AM-4:30 PM) of fun while kids are off from school.
Students must be picked up no later than 5:00 PM.

Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church - Overflow Center.

SCAN TO REGISTER



QUESTIONS?
Please contact
Recreation Director: Adam Calderone
acalderone@pritchardchurch.com
1117 SOUTH BLVD.

Pritchard's Thrift Store

Shop.....Save.....Support

Please remember our thrift store is CLOSED the month of December. We will reopen in January.

We ask that you kindly hold all donations until then.

Thank you for an incredible year!



Adam Calderone

Recreation Director

acalderone@pritchardchurch.com

We braved freezing temperatures for a double header and brought home the Sports Link Co-Ed Softball championship! We may not have been able to feel our toes or hands, but the sweet taste of victory made it all worth it!



Christmas Post Office



The Christmas Post Office is back in business! The mailbox is located in the Gathering Place for you to send your holiday greetings to church members. It's only 50 cents per card and an easy way to avoid long lines at the post office. Drop your money in the box and put your card(s) in the appropriate slot (by last name). Don't forget to periodically check the mailbox for the merriest of wishes sent to YOU! All proceeds will go directly to missions.



Melissa Wisor

Minister to Children and Their Families

mwisor@pritchardchurch.com

Hi Pritchard Family,

We are entering the season of giving and you would be proud to know that your Pritchard Kids were able to provide 5 Thanksgiving boxed dinners to Charlotte Rescue Mission this past week. The funds were raised during VBS with their own change. The kids assembled the boxes with food and special handwritten notes, this past Sunday, and then delivered on Friday.

We're also very excited to host our 2nd annual potpourri fundraiser. Orders can be placed now until December 18. Email mwisor@pritchardchurch.com to order yours! Thank you for supporting Pritchard Kids!

Christmas FUNDRAISER

Each package of cinnamon sticks, cloves, fresh cranberries and an orange are assembled, with love, by Pritchard's very own Pritchard Kids.



ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP
SUPPORT PRITCHARD KIDS'
SUMMER ACTIVITIES & CAMPS!

**\$5 PER
PACKAGE**

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. If you need to schedule a meeting on campus with your committee, class or group - please contact Lynn at lpilyer@pritchardchurch.com or 704-376-1571 ext. 103 so that she can get you on the master calendar. Doors and HVAC will be set accordingly.

With colder temps arriving, there is a chance some folks will look for a warm place to sleep. Please make a concerted effort to check the doors behind you to make sure they securely close. Please DO NOT prop doors open with door stoppers.

Also, it's that time of year where vehicle break-ins escalate. Don't forget to lock your doors, remove any valuables and be aware of your surroundings when walking to your car. Leaving things in plain view is like an invitation to a thief.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

PRITCHARD PULPIT

10:30 AM WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

SERMON: "JOY IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES"

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:14

REV. STAN HEISER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

REV. BRACK BALLARD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SERMON: "JESUS IS THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS"

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1:18-25

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

SERMON: "LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS"

SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

REV. STAN HEISER

Sanctuary Poinsettias

The poinsettias that decorate the Sanctuary in 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

If there is someone in your life you'd like to remember in a special way, consider placing flowers in the Sanctuary one Sunday. There are several dates available throughout the year. It's an easy and inexpensive gesture that the recipient always appreciates. Anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, milestones of any kind to remembering the loss of someone dear to your heart. Please call the Church Office to reserve your date today!

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes will be available soon in the Gathering Place, Sanctuary, and on the 3rd floor of the Williams Center. Boxes are not numbered, nor do they have individual names printed on them. You may also come by the Church Office during operating hours to pick up a new box.

Quarterly Conference

Our next Quarterly Conference will take place Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please note: 2022 chairpersons will report on the 2022 October/November/December quarter. At our April 2023 Quarterly Conference, the new 2023 chairpersons will report on January/February/March of 2023. A reminder will be sent via email prior to each conference.

From the Media Center by Katrina Gore

Christmas in My Heart by Joe Wheeler

No season beats Christmas for being sentimental. Somehow all things converge to make it a season for giving, caring, and sharing. The stories we share make us inseparable from our families. Some stories become everyone's story. Those are the ones that become classics---the ones we tell and retell until we know them by heart.

Skiping Christmas by John Grisham

Imagine a year without Christmas. No crowded malls, no corny office parties, no fruitcakes, no unwanted presents. That's just what Luther and Nora Krank have in mind when they decide that, just this once, they'll skip the holiday altogether. Theirs will be the only house on Hemlock Street without a rooftop Frosty; they won't be hosting their annual Christmas Eve bash; they aren't even going to have a tree. They won't need one, because come December 25 they're setting sail on a Caribbean cruise. But, as this couple is about to discover, skipping Christmas brings enormous consequences---and isn't half as easy as they'd imagined. A classic tale for modern times, *Skiping Christmas* offers a hilarious look at the chaos and frenzy that have become part of our holiday tradition.

The Christmas Shoes by Donna VanLiere

Sometimes the things that can change your life will cross your path in one instance---and then, in a fleeting moment, they're gone. But if you open your eyes and watch carefully, you will believe...



Merry Christmas



Thursday, December 1

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Americana)
10:15-11:15 AM—Sunago Choir
6:30 PM—Vision Committee Meeting

Friday, December 2

7:00 PM—Youth Christmas Party

Saturday, December 3

9:30 AM-12 Noon—Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM—Overflow

Sunday, December 4

9:15-10:15 AM—Sunday School
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration/Christmas Musical

Monday, December 5

Tuesday, December 6

10:30 AM—Women on Mission
3:00 PM—Afternoon Bible Study Group (Spence home)
6:30 PM—Zoom Fellowship/Prayer Time/Bible Study

Wednesday, December 7

6:30-7:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Americana)
10:15-11:15 AM—Sunago Choir
5:30 PM—Pastor Search Team Meeting

Friday, December 9

Saturday, December 10

12:00 Noon—Food for Thought SS Class Christmas Lunch
6:00 PM—Overflow

Sunday, December 11

9:15-10:15 AM—Sunday School
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

Monday, December 12

6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

6:30 PM—Zoom Fellowship/Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, December 14

6:30-7:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
11:00 AM-1:00 PM—Sweet Spirits
6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Americana)
10:15-11:15 AM—Sunago Choir

Friday, December 16

Saturday, December 17

2:00 PM—Fine Arts Academy Christmas Dance Recital
6:00 PM—Overflow

Sunday, December 18

9:15-10:15 AM—Sunday School
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

Monday, December 19

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 PM—Zoom Fellowship/Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, December 21

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

Thursday, December 22

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Americana)

Friday, December 23

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

Saturday, December 24....CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM—Christmas Eve Carol Service

Sunday, December 25....CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

Monday, December 26

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27

Wednesday, December 28

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

Thursday, December 29

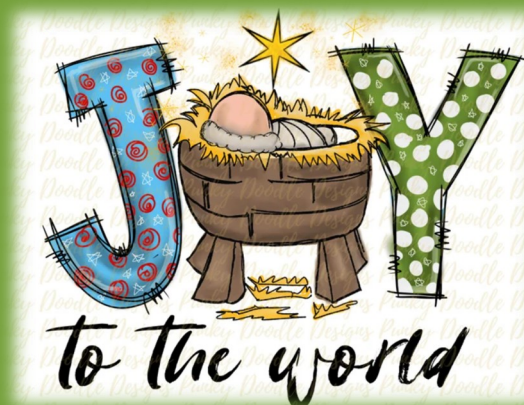
6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Americana)

Friday, December 30

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

Saturday, December 31....NEW YEAR'S EVE

CAMPUS CLOSED/NO ACTIVITIES



*the Lord is come, Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

Merry Christmas from your Pritchard staff

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 2022 statement, it must be delivered to the Church Office no later than Thursday, December 29 by 12 Noon or placed in the offering on Sunday, December 31. Contributions received after Sunday, December 31, even with a December date on the check, will be recorded in 2023.

Your 2022 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.

We Express Our Love and Heartfelt Sympathy to:

- Tim and Gail Helms and family in the passing of her brother, Jan Power.
- The family and friends in the passing of Anne Tschudy.
- The family and friends in the passing of Anne Lewis.
- Jason and Jannell Smith in the passing of his mother, Cindy Eggers.
- The family and friends in the passing of Wendall Janes.
- Dennis and Cynthia Brown in the passing of her mother, Clint and Michelle Taylor in the passing of her grandmother, Emery Taylor in the passing of her great grandmother, Claudine Johnston.

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to those who filled a box for Operation Christmas Child. A total of 55 boxes were delivered by James Phillips to Samaritan's Purse. We are no longer accepting boxes. If you have one you haven't turned in yet, please take it directly to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center at 7100 Forest Pointe Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28217 (off of Nations Ford Road).

HAPPY
Anniversary!

Congratulations to Lynn Plyler, our Executive Assistant for Administration and Education, who is celebrating her 31st anniversary on Pritchard's staff. She joined our team on December 2, 1991.

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

Notes of Thanks

Thank you to my church family for all your support, calls, letters, food and prayers in Christine's homegoing. She loved her church and her church family of 62 years.

The Wilson Family

A special thank you to Macomb Group (formerly Mechanical Supply) who donated \$1,000 to our Ridgecrest fund in memory and honor of Bob Gore, Jr. Each year they hold a Bob Gore Memorial Golf Tournament and make a contribution to our church. This is the fifth donation since Bob's passing.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....	Chris Richardson
Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care & Senior Adults.....	Rev. Stan Heiser
Minister of Music & Outreach.....	Rev. David Bailes
Minister to Youth & College Aged Students.....	Rev. Brack Ballard
Minister to Children and Their Families.....	Melissa Wisor
Administrator.....	Doug Burkhardt
Executive Assistant for Administration & Education.....	Lynn Plyler
Office Assistant/Media Center Director.....	Katrina Gore
Operations Assistant.....	Madison Werner
Accounting Assistant.....	Jeannie Sigmon
Maintenance.....	James Phillips
Grounds Keeper.....	Dewight Little
AV Director.....	Joe Hicks
Recreation Director.....	Adam Calderone



📍 1117 South Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28203

☎ 704-376-1571 📠 704-376-6304

Dial-A-Prayer: 704-334-2332

Child Development Center: 704-343-2944

www.pritchardchurch.com