



PRITCHARD  
*at South End*

CHARLOTTE, NC

# MESSENGER

Volume 58 Issue 12

December 2023



*Merry*  
MARKET



Charming Craft Merchants,  
Local Vendors, Festive Music and More!

**DECEMBER 2**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

'Tis the season to be *Merry*

scan for  
**FREE  
TICKETS**





## PRITCHARD PULPIT

**10:30 AM WORSHIP**  
DR. CHRIS RICHARDSON

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3**

HOPE (MATTHEW 1:1-17)

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

LOVE (MATTHEW 1:18-25)

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

ADORE HIM! CLASSIC MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS  
A CELEBRATION OF JOY THROUGH MUSIC

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24...CHRISTMAS EVE**

PEACE (MATTHEW 2:1-12)

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31...NEW YEAR'S EVE**

REV. BRACK BALLARD

## 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 2023 statement, it must be placed in the offering on Sunday, December 24 or delivered to the Church Office no later than December 29 by 12 Noon. Contributions received after Friday, December 29, even with a December date on the check, will be recorded in 2024.

Your 2023 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!

## Offering Envelopes

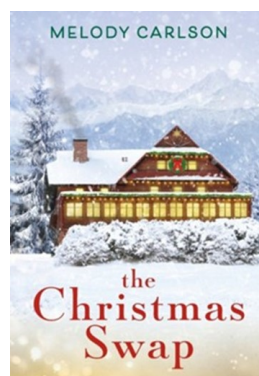
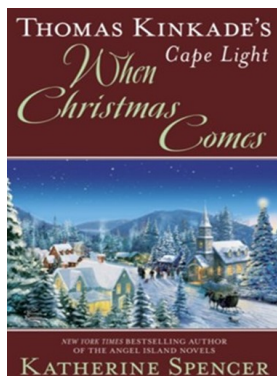
Offering envelopes will be available soon in the Sanctuary lobbies and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Williams Center. Boxes are not numbered, nor do they have individual names printed on them. You may also come by the Church Office during operating hours to pick up a new box.

*You are  
Invited!*

Join us for a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning, December 24 at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There is no cost to attend. After breakfast, we'll have a special time of worship. Please call the Church Office to make your reservation no later than Monday, December 18!

## From the Media Center by Katrina Gore

TIS THE SEASON.....To catch up on your Christmas reading!





# Dr. Chris Richardson

Pastor

[crichardson@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:crichardson@pritchardchurch.com)

*"Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace."*

One small line in the gospel of Matthew that often gets skipped over: *"All the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations"* (Matthew 1.17). In other words, two 7 generations, plus two 7 generations, plus two 7 generations... in other words, six 7 generations from Abraham to the Messiah. In other words, Jesus himself was the seventh 7.

Matthew is the most Jewish of the gospel accounts, and we'll be camping out in Matthew from now until Easter. And in the Jewish mindset, seven was the number of completion, wholeness. So, 7 generations were a complete generation. But seven 7 generations? Wholeness compounded with wholeness. And in the Jewish mindset, wholeness was often conveyed through Shalom, which we often translate peace.

And peace certainly is some of it. But we are meant to be whole, at peace. Whole and at peace with God. Whole and at peace with our world. Whole and at peace with our families, our children, our churches. The gospel message is the beginning of finding our Shalom, finding our whole peace in this world.

That line from *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* has been echoing through my head: *"bid all our sad divisions cease, and be yourself our King of Peace."* What would we give for that? Do we hunger and thirst for that kind of Shalom in our lives?

The Christmas season is such a beautiful time, lights, décor, family, parties. I would encourage you during this season, place your peace and your wholeness in the hands that were born into that manger. Place your Shalom into the only hands worthy, find your peace and your Shalom in his this season. Adore him, worship him, and watch the rest of your life make more and more sense, and give more and more peace.

*Chris*



## Rev. Stan Heiser

Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care and Senior Adults

sheiser@pritchardchurch.com

### Sunago Singers Present "Good News from Home"

Our Sunago Singers have begun sharing their 2023 Christmas program throughout our community. We are so excited that the assisted living, rehab and retirement communities have opened their doors to outside entertainment groups, from churches and our community, to perform for them once again! Since Covid 19 days, we have not been able to do that. This year, our Sunago Singers are sharing the beautiful Christmas musical, *"Good News from Home"* by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith. *"At Christmastime, our hearts and minds long for home. Some journey home to gather with family and friends. Some reflect on the memories of years gone by and joyfully await their eternal home. But for all, Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ."* This musical combines festive original songs and beloved Christmas carols which provide a down home, toe tapping family Christmas celebration for the whole family. This timeless musical brings joy to the reality of our true home...at home with our Savior.

Be in prayer for our Sunago Singers, under the direction of Nona Thompson, as we travel across our community sharing this beautiful musical to -

- Thursday, December 7 at 10:30 AM—Sharon Towers at South Park Main Auditorium
- Wednesday, December 20 at 11:00 AM—Sweet Spirits program at Pritchard in the Fellowship Hall
- Thursday, December 21 at 10:30 AM—Wilora Lake/Brookdale Main Living Room

### Christmas at the Billy Graham Library

A special Christmas event for the entire family! At 4:30 PM on Thursday, December 14, we'll meet behind the Music Building and travel by our church buses to the Billy Graham Library. Come join us as we *"celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ"* with fun family activities. People from all over the Southeast have made this an annual tradition! Enjoy the beautiful light displays, story time for children of all ages, joyful Christmas carolers and festive Christmas music, holiday goodies like Mother Graham's pound cake, cinnamon rolls, hot apple cider (for purchase), Christmas shopping at Ruth's Attic (special weeknight activities and discounts), and the beautiful, meaningful live nativity. There is NO CHARGE for admission.....it's FREE to everyone who attends! The only cost is for food (a combo meal at the Dairy Bar requires a meal voucher in advance - COST: \$12 for adults and \$6 for children

under 12 years old. Menu provided if you're interested). You can also enjoy an 18 minute horse drawn carriage ride around the Billy Graham headquarters/museum/campus (which also requires an advance voucher—COST: \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12 years old). Please let me know IN ADVANCE if you are interested in the meal voucher and/or the carriage ride. I hope you will consider joining us for this meaningful event. Call the Church Office or sign up on Realm!

### Sweet Spirits

Calling all adults 50 and above for another exciting program and Cracker Barrel meal on Wednesday, December 20 from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM in our Fellowship Hall. Our Christmas music entertainment, *"Good News from Home"* will be presented by our Sunago Singers. We are inviting all of our homebound members and their families to attend as our guests. Please call the Church Office to let us know that you will be coming, number of guests, and if you need transportation to and from our church.

For all others, the cost of the program is still only \$10 per person (which includes our musical entertainment and a delicious meal) payable at the door. Make your reservation one of three ways - see me on Sunday mornings down by the chapel door exit, call the Church Office, or sign up on Realm. Reservation deadline is Thursday, December 14 so that we can give an accurate headcount to Cracker Barrel. Remember, the BEST place to be is TOGETHER with YOU and the SWEET SPIRITS!

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!



### Save the Date!

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024 AT CHERAW STATE PARK

### Pritchard's Thrift Store

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](mailto:acalderone@pritchardchurch.com)

The Impact Youth Basketball League is under way! On the first three Saturdays in December (as well as Saturdays in January and February) we host over 300 kids and parents from churches around the city including Myers Park Presbyterian, Myers Park Baptist, and Covenant Presbyterian to name a few, for youth basketball games. We typically host the 12 and under boys division here at Pritchard. This season, Pritchard has 4 youth basketball teams, varying in ages from 5 up to 12 years old. We have a U12 team that will play here at Pritchard on Saturdays throughout the winter, so come on out and support the boys! The other 3 teams will play at different facilities

throughout the city; contact me for the game schedule so you won't miss any of the action!

We are still looking for a few volunteers to help on Saturdays throughout the winter basketball season! Help with greeting, spreading awareness about upcoming events here at Pritchard, being a "floater" in the facility, and helping people with whatever other needs they have. Not into sports? No problem! No knowledge of sports is needed. All are welcome, please contact me if interested in helping out.

Pickleball will continue through December and into the new year, but we have made some slight adjustments to the schedule. We are still playing Tuesdays at 1:00, but Wednesday night sessions have been moved from 6:30 to 7:30 PM to accommodate youth basketball practices. Please email me if you'd like to join the weekly email list with exact times/dates we play for each month, as it can change!

## A Message from the Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has chosen a team of Pritchard members to serve as the search committee for the next Worship Leader following David Bailes' retirement at the end of 2024. Those members are: Matthew Rogers, Hope Riggins, Grace Sykes, Brian Thomas and Virginia Wallace. After consulting with Pastor Chris and researching similar positions at other churches, the new position's title will be "Creative Worship Pastor/Coordinator". To keep Pritchard members in-the-loop, the Job Description that the search team will be posting is available to review below. All inquiries into the position should be emailed to [PritchardWorshipSearch@gmail.com](mailto:PritchardWorshipSearch@gmail.com). We look forward to finding the leader that will be called by God to serve Pritchard and our community!

### CREATIVE WORSHIP PASTOR/COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

**Position Overview:** Pritchard Church is seeking a dynamic and spiritually-grounded individual to serve as our Creative Worship Pastor/Coordinator who will embody Pritchard's passion to Be the Presence of Christ Today. This role is instrumental in leading our congregation in worship, developing and mentoring musicians, and ensuring a seamless audio and visual experience for our church community. The ideal candidate will be pastoral in nature, actively fostering connections within the congregation and the surrounding community, while also demonstrating proficiency in various instruments.

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

**Pastoral Care and Discipleship:** Offer pastoral care to individuals within the congregation, prayer, and support as needed. Facilitate small group gatherings and discipleship programs to foster spiritual growth and community within the church. Conduct regular check-ins and follow-ups with team members to ensure their spiritual and emotional well-being.

**Collaborative Leadership:** Work closely with other ministry leaders to ensure a unified vision and seamless flow of services and events. Participate in leadership meetings and contribute to the overall spiritual formation and growth of the church. Provide guidance and support to volunteer teams, ministries, or other church programs.

**Cultivating Worship Experiences:** Create a diverse and dynamic worship program, incorporating various musical styles and elements to engage a broad range of worshippers. Collaborate with the worship team to ensure the Sunday experience aligns with the sermon theme and message. Lead rehearsals and musical preparation, providing excellence and spiritual depth during worship services. Bridge styles and congregational preferences of music with high quality of execution.

**Musical Development and Mentorship:** Be proficient in multiple instruments and leading worship. Provide ongoing training and mentorship to musicians and vocalists, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed for effective ministry. Facilitate regular workshops and training sessions to enhance the musical abilities of team members. Encourage and nurture the creative talents of individuals within the worship team.

**A/V Management and Training:** Recruit, train, and empower volunteers to operate audio-visual equipment, fostering a culture of excellence and growth. Develop and maintain an organized system for scheduling and managing A/V team members. Collaborate with the A/V team to ensure all equipment is properly maintained, utilized, and updated.

**Technical Proficiency and Innovation:** Oversee all aspects of A/V technology, ensuring seamless operation during all church programs and events. Research and implement modern A/V technologies to enhance the worship experience. Troubleshoot technical issues and coordinate with relevant teams to maintain high-quality production. Access, select, and effectively utilize various multimedia applications to enhance the worship experience.

**Building Community Connections:** Serve as a spiritual leader, providing guidance, support, and prayer for members of the congregation.

Organize and participate in community outreach events, fostering connections with neighboring organizations and individuals. Collaborate with other ministerial staff to create a welcoming environment for all members and visitors.

**Preferred Skills:** Piano and/or guitar, vocals, sound and lighting, streaming and editing video, ProPresenter, Planning Center

**Church Profile:** Established in 1901 just outside Uptown Charlotte, Pritchard Church is strategically located between the vibrance of South End and the family-centric Dilworth neighborhoods. Positioned with the opportunity to be the spiritual anchor for our thriving community, Pritchard stands on a rich legacy blessed with an abundance of space, investments in technology, and a diverse congregation of multi-generational families dedicated to service. Following over 18 years of steadfast pastoral and musical leadership, Pritchard is excited about the opportunity to infuse new and creative ideas into our weekly services, programs, and events.



## Rev. Brack Ballard

*Minister to Youth  
and College-Aged Students*

bballard@pritchardchurch.com

It's my pleasure to bring you some exciting updates from Pritchard Youth as we head into December!

### Save the Date: Saturday, December 2

Mark your calendars because we're gearing up for our Christmas Lock-In party! Get ready for a day of laughter, games, and bonding with your fellow youth members – friends are always welcome. More details and sign-up information will be coming your way soon, so stay tuned!

### Exploring the Gospel of Matthew

In the month of December, we will be diving into the inspired gospel of Matthew. Our Bible study sessions will align closely with Pastor Chris' sermons, providing us with a deeper understanding of this important section of scripture. Be prepared for thought-provoking discussions and opportunities to grow in your faith.

### Stay Connected with Pritchard Youth

If you'd like to stay updated with our activities on a weekly basis, we invite you to join our social media community. You can follow us on Facebook by requesting to join our private Pritchard Youth Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pritchardyouth>

and on Instagram @pritchardyouth.

We are truly grateful for your unwavering support, prayers, and active participation in our youth ministry. Your dedication plays a vital role in nurturing the spiritual growth of our young members. Together, as a community of young people, parents, and dedicated volunteers, we continue to inspire and empower our youth to be the presence of Christ in today's world.

## Christmas Post Office

The Christmas Post Office is back in business! The mailbox is located in the Sanctuary (South Boulevard lobby) for you to send your holiday greetings to church members. It's only .25 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 towards the Pritchard Kids ministry.



## Mrs. Kim Govan

*Child Development Center Director*

pritchardcdcdirector@pritchardchurch.com

We have started decorating here at Pritchard's CDC in anticipation of Christmas! The trees are up and the children are busy making ornaments to decorate them. There is nothing better to see than the look of pride on a child's face when they are able to share something they have created. Our focus this season is "giving" and we have been talking to the children about the importance of helping our neighbors. The four year old classes collaborated with Pritchard Kids, our church's children's program mission, to prepare Thanksgiving Food Boxes for Charlotte Rescue Mission this year. We plan to join Pritchard Kids for more outreach projects regularly throughout the coming year, so be on the look out for communication about how we are getting involved and spreading the love and light of Jesus in our community.

We would LOVE for you to join us on Thursday, December 14 at 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall for "Someone Has A Birthday!" - our Christmas play! Our older children have been working so hard on their performance and we know they would love to see all of you come out and support their efforts if you are available. Birthday cake in honor of Jesus's birthday will be served after the commencement of the play. It's always so much fun to watch so we hope to see you there.

Our school continues to grow and thrive! We have several new staff members as well as new families joining us before the end of the year, so be sure to say hello. We are really excited and looking forward to this holiday season and we have so much to be thankful for. Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season!

## Endowments to Pritchard

We have moved the Endowment Donor Recognition Board to the Sanctuary (side entrance near Solomon Chapel). This is so more people can see it and be inspired by the legacy that others have left. Please take time to stop and see the board. There is plenty of room for other legacy donors. Please consider donating to Pritchard. Contact Bill Farson who is the current chair of the Endowment Committee if you have any questions.

## Thank You!

Many thanks to those of you who filled a box for Operation Christmas Child! A total of 56 boxes were delivered by James 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 Blvd, Charlotte 28217.



**Friday, December 1**

**Saturday, December 2**

10:00 AM-1:00 PM—South End Merry Market

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

TBD—Youth Lock In

**Sunday, December 3**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

**Monday, December 4**

**Tuesday, December 5**

10:30 AM—Women on Mission

1:00 PM—Pickleball

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

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

**Wednesday, December 6**

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM—Pickleball

**Thursday, December 7**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)

10:00 AM—Sunago Singers to Sharon Towers

**Friday, December 8**

**Saturday, December 9**

11:00 AM—Connect Group: Food for Thought Christmas Lunch

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, December 10**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

1:30 PM—Fine Arts Piano Recital

**Monday, December 11**

6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting (Williams Center Lounge)

**Tuesday, December 12**

10:00 AM—See 'n Sew

1:00 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

**Wednesday, December 13**

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM—Pickleball

**Thursday, December 14**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)

10:00-11:15 AM—Sunago Singers

**Friday, December 15**

**Saturday, December 16**

9:00 AM-12:00 NOON—Orchestra/Choir Rehearsal

2:00 PM—Fine Arts Dance Recital

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, December 17**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

**Monday, December 18**

**Tuesday, December 19**

1:00 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

**Wednesday, December 20**

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

11:00 AM-1:00 PM—Sweet Spirits Program/Lunch

7:30 PM—Pickleball

\*\*\*NO ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL\*\*\*

**Thursday, December 21**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)

10:00 AM—Sunago Singers to Wilora Lake/Brookdale

**Friday, December 22**

**Saturday, December 23**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, December 24**

10:00 AM—Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Eve Morning Celebration

5:00 PM—Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

**Monday, December 25...CHRISTMAS DAY**

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

**Tuesday, December 26**

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

\*\*\*NO ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time\*\*\*

**Wednesday, December 27**

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

7:30 PM—Pickleball

\*\*\*NO ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL\*\*\*

**Thursday, December 28**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)

10:00-11:15 AM—Sunago Singers

**Friday, December 29**

**Saturday, December 30**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, December 31**

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

*Merry Christmas*

MAY THE HOLY SEASON BE A TIME OF WONDER AND JOY FOR YOU AND  
ONE WHERE YOU CAN THANK GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS YOU'VE HAD  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



## Staff Anniversary

Join us as we celebrate 32 years with Lynn Plyler! Lynn joined our team back on December 2, 1991. She serves as our Executive Assistant for Administration and Education. Thank you, Lynn, for your many years of service and your sweet smile!

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

*With Sympathy*

- The family and friends in the passing of Sue McLendon.
- Karen Allred and family in the passing of her mother.
- Bob and Ann McIntosh in the passing of their son, Robert (Bo) Samuel McIntosh.
- Sandy Childers and family in the passing of her aunt, Anne Huddleston.
- Sara Thompson in the passing of her husband; Susie Crowell, Teresa Royer, Neva Sykes and extended family in the passing of their father, Dan Thompson.
- Carolyn McIntosh and family in the passing of her husband, Rondo McIntosh.
- Elaine Rogers and family in the passing of her sister-in-law, Judy Yates.
- Angela Livingston and family in the passing of her brother, Chip Baucom.
- Debbie Smith and family in the passing of her father, Paul Eeds.
- Gail Foresyth and family in the passing of her cousin, Kevin Grimmer.



Bernice Wilson	12/1	Chris Richardson	12/22
David Bailes	12/1	Ann Binns	12/23
Mike Vaden	12/2	Josh Bone	12/23
Buddy Goforth	12/2	Perry Holland	12/24
Lauren Sykes	12/3	Teri Sigmon	12/26
Susie Crowell	12/3	Morgan Jessup	12/26
David Fortenbery	12/3	Anna Grady	12/27
Lisa Sipe	12/5	Jordan Sykes	12/28
Bill Farson	12/5	Chris Wallace	12/28
Judy Miner	12/5	Katie Hewitt	12/28
Ron Hewitt	12/6	Sandy Childers	12/28
Opal Kirby	12/6	Carol Hewitt	12/29
Greg Norman	12/8	Susan Davis	12/30
Mandy Davis	12/11		
Kaye Talbert	12/14		
Daniel Barrett	12/14		
Tim Helms	12/15		
Kathy Goforth	12/15		
Reggie Ferguson	12/15		
Jessica Stanfield	12/15		
Madison Bolin	12/16		
Matt Higgins	12/16		
Matthew Rogers	12/18		
Brent Mazingo	12/19		
Elizabeth Mazingo	12/19		
Crystal Urwick	12/19		
Betty Cecil	12/21		
Wilson Lemly	12/21		

Do you have a Birthday in December? If we inadvertently missed you, please call the Church Office.

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Dr. 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 Burkhart  
Executive Assistant for Administration & Education.....Lynn Plyler  
Office Assistant/Media Center Director.....Katrina Gore  
Accounting Assistant.....Jeannie Sigmon  
Kitchen and Facilities Manager.....Matt Higgins  
Recreation Director.....Adam Calderone  
Maintenance.....James Phillips  
CDC Director.....Kim Govan



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Child Development Center: 704-343-2944

**www.pritchardchurch.com**