



PRITCHARD
at South End

CHARLOTTE, NC

MESSENGER

Volume 59 Issue 1

January 2024

HOW WILL YOU FIND
COMMUNITY
IN 2024?

CONNECT GROUPS | FELLOWSHIPS | MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT





PRITCHARD PULPIT

10:30 AM WORSHIP
DR. CHRIS RICHARDSON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
"LET'S DO THIS: 2024"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
"CROWN HIM: A STUDY IN MATTHEW"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
"CROWN HIM: A STUDY IN MATTHEW"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
"CROWN HIM: A STUDY IN MATTHEW"

Scholarship Liaison Report

It is with great pleasure to announce Charlene Washburn has prayerfully considered and accepted the position of Scholarship Liaison. She will work alongside me in 2024 and in 2025, she will take responsibility for all the duties of this position. I have assured her that she can call on me at any time for questions. This decision has been bathed in prayer for several years and my prayers have been answered and I do feel that God will be with Charlene as He has been with me all these years. I thank God for His goodness and guidance throughout the years I served in this position. He was faithful in guiding and helping me during my time of service. I know He will be there for Charlene as well.

Grateful for the opportunity to serve Him and PMBC in this position.

Brenda Farson, Scholarship Liaison

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.

From the Media Center by Katrina Gore



NEW YEAR.....NEW READ!

Here are some new books to start the year off right!

Countdown by Lynette Eason

Flight paramedic Raina Price is trying to escape a dangerous stalker, she changed her name and disappeared, building a new life. It feels good to put her energies into saving people's lives, but because her stalker was never found, she's never stopped looking over her shoulder. And one can only run so far before the past finally catches up.

Windswept Way by Irene Hannon

Buying a haunted house was never in Ashley Scott's plans, but when an intriguing opportunity drops into her lap after a major setback, she finds herself trekking cross-country to Hope Harbor on the Oregon coast to launch a new life.

Wildflower Falls by Denise Hunter

When her mother's death leaves Charlotte Simpson bereft, she hopes the Robinson clan will accept her as one of their own and help fill the void. But a startling discovery dashes her hopes and leaves her wondering if she will ever know the father she's always longed for.



Dr. Chris Richardson

Pastor

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What is this year going to be?

I try to spend some time each December thinking through my previous year. What went well, what went wrong, what went out the window! I try to ask myself where I found fulfillment and where I did not. And in that process I try to align my next year with what I believe God wants me to be.

January is the longest month, no one will convince me it only has 31 days like August or October. I don't know why, maybe it's because December is always a month full of celebration and festivity, remembrances and holiday cheer, grief and endings. But January just seems to last forever. One way we can redeem that time is by taking the month of January to re-align ourselves. Let's spend some time asking ourselves if we were the people God wanted us to be in 2023, were we the church God wanted us to be?

I think if we're all really honest, it's always a bit of both.

This January, 2024, I want to encourage you to think about two aspects of your spiritual life and personal life: community and purpose.

These two things are irreplaceable when it comes to our fulfillment and joy in life. We are created to be in relationships, and we're created to do stuff that means something. Here is the great news: I believe you can have both in our church community. Here is the bad news: no one can do those for you.

So this January, the longest month you'll have this year, think about some little steps you can take to increase your community and increase your purpose. Ask someone to coffee or lunch that you know their name but not much more, look for a place to serve on Sunday mornings (we could use some foot traffic in the Gathering Place!), take someone a meal, visit a shut-in, sit in a ***gasp*** new pew on a Sunday, talk to some of the kids or youth, help in the rec center during basketball... I can keep going.

But, if you want to be sure your 2024 is better than your 2023, it will be much less about your paychecks or successes, less about your social media posts or whether we sing your favorite songs on Sundays, and much MORE about whether you take steps to increase your community and to increase your purpose. Let's make 2024 an amazing year at Pritchard, together.

Chris



Rev. Stan Heiser

Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care and Senior Adults

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Sweet Spirits

Our Sweet Spirits program in 2023 was a very special time for all of our adults 50 and above! Our average attendance has grown to 80 each month. Jean Patterson is responsible for ordering our meal from Cracker Barrel each month. She and the catering service have given us excellent meals every month. Our programs led by guest entertainers/speakers were captivating for all who attended. Everyone especially liked our "First Annual Sweet Spirits Talent Show". We truly have a lot of talent out there in the audience. We will look forward to our second talent show, October 2, 2024, so begin working on your special talent now! Special THANKS to all of our Sweet Spirit team members for all you do in making this such a special event!

So many of you said they cannot remember when we are having Sweet Spirits each month. I have spoken with some of our Sweet Spirits team members, church members and church staff, and have decided to move Sweet Spirits to the **first Wednesday of each month**. Also, we will not meet in January, but will meet February through June, then September through December. The dates are: February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1 and June 4....so mark your calendars now!

On February 7, our program will be led by NCBAM and the Queen of Hearts, Charity Johnson and members from Novant Health Heart and Vascular Center here in Charlotte. We will have a photo booth set up so you can have your picture made with the Queen of Hearts! February is Heart Month! We want to know all there is to know about how to keep our hearts healthy and well. Make plans to attend by signing up before February 1 by calling the Church Office. Remember, the best place to be is TOGETHER with YOU and the Sweet Spirits!

Coming in October

The Ark Encounter and Genesis Creation Museum with side trips to Cumberland Falls State Park, known as the "Little Niagara" or "Niagara of the South", to the largest Amish and Mennonite settlement in the United States. While there, we will enjoy a family style "all you can eat" meal in an Amish home. Afterwards, we're off to Ledman's Hardware where we'll step into an 1840's era barn, Amish Farmlands Tour, Cyclorama, Amish shopping, dinner, Amish Country Theater, Warther Carvings, plus other surprises along the way! This trip is open to our ENTIRE church family.

The proposed date is October 14-18. We will be traveling with Christian Tours. If under 30, we will be traveling with their scheduled tour. If we have 30 or above, we will have our own tour designed for Pritchard. The cost for this 5 day, 4 night trip (includes 4 continental breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners) is:

- Single \$1,289.00 per person
- Double \$1,049.00 per person
- Triple \$979.00 per person
- Quad \$945.00 per person

If you are interested in attending, please let me know by Sunday, February 18. Your interest is not a commitment at this point, but it will help me in planning for a trip open to others. I hope you will be able to join us for this once in a lifetime trip!!! Please let me know of your interest as soon as you can! With the interest in the Ark Encounter and Genesis Creation Museum, this trip may fill up fast. Call the Church Office today!

With my New Year's Blessings for you,
Stan Heiser



Rev. David Bailes

Minister of Music and Outreach

dbailes@pritchardchurch.com

Before Christmas/Advent 2023 fades to a pleasant memory, I want to thank everyone in all our choirs (Celebration, Youth, Children, Sunagos), instrumentalists, handbells, and AV team, for their wonderful and joyful participation during the season.

It is difficult to imagine Christmas without music! It is equally difficult to imagine music at Pritchard without you! We are grateful for you and appreciate you!

We look forward to a great 2024! Perhaps to coin a slogan, "Let's Sing for the Lord in 2024". You may have noticed a full choir loft on Sundays in December. It is said that a general blanket appeal is not very effective, but if you read this and feel a desire or calling, to participate in our music/ worship ministry, I truly hope you will! The choir loft and stage will look full more consistently with you there.

Early in 2024, you will see the return of our annual musical dinner show. The date is February 24, but more details will be forthcoming.

Easter is early this year, so our Easter Egg Hunt will be early, too. More details later, but I hope you will help with this event which helps Pritchard connect with our community.



Adam Calderone

Recreation Director

acalderone@pritchardchurch.com



Melissa Wisor

Minister to Children and Their Families

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It's hard to believe 2024 is already upon us; I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. The start of a new year is always a great time to refocus and start working on our goals for the year ahead. Whether your New Year Resolutions are focused on exercising, spending more time with family, reading or anything else, I hope you are beginning to make some progress on them!

2024 is set to be a fun packed year here at Pritchard Recreation. As we look ahead to the Spring, I wanted to highlight some events we have coming up through the Spring. See below for dates. Please contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Recreation Events Spring 2024 Highlights -

- January 9: Men's Basketball Winter League begins, games every Tuesday/Thursday Nights
- January 25: CMS Teacher Work Day Camp
- February 1: Summer Camp roll out: All dates, themes, and sign ups will begin.
- March 6: CPR/First Aid Training Night, open to all!
- March 18-22: Gym will be closed
- March 24: Men's Basketball Spring League Begins! Sunday afternoon kick off.
- March 29: CMS Teacher Work Day Camp
- April 20: Pickleball Tournament

Pritchard Kids and families had a wonderful December. The season started with an Advent Wreath Breakfast where our families made Advent wreathes, for their own homes, and received an Advent Devotional written by Grace Sykes and myself. Thank you for supporting our children's ministry by sending cards through the Pritchard Kids' Post Office and buying stovetop potpourri. We raised just over \$300 with stovetop potpourri alone. A big shoutout goes to Hope Riggins and Sheila Williams for helping fulfill those orders! We loved having our Kids Choir participate in the special service on December 17. It is a blessing to see our children sing! We also loved having our children participate in the nativity on Christmas Eve. It was a special time to close out our year.

As we move forward into the new year, we will focus on community and relationships. I am super excited to be taking six 3rd-5th graders, along with Grace Sykes and Donny Wisor, to Camp Caraway's Winter Camp. We'll spend January 13-15 in Sophia, NC building relationships within our group and Christ. We're also excited to have Family Night for children, youth and their families on January 28. It is sure to be a fun night building community within all of our families.

A FEW OF OUR YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAMS

MISSING OUR 12 YEAR OLD BOYS!





Rev. Brack Ballard

*Minister to Youth
and College-Aged Students*

bballard@pritchardchurch.com

Happy 2024! It brings me great joy to share some exciting updates from Pritchard Youth as we embark on the new year.

January 28: Family Night

Mark your calendars! Join us at the gym with Pritchard Kids for a Family Night at Pritchard! Expect a day filled with 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!

February 17–19: Winter Retreat

Escape the ordinary and join us for an unforgettable Pritchard Youth Winter Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN! This year, we're elevating our retreat experience by staying in a massive 7-bedroom, 10-bathroom private lodge. Get ready for indoor extravaganza, featuring a private heated pool house, a 14-seat theater, a 7-person hot tub, and a game room stocked with various games. We're also offering an option for skiing and snowboarding! Sign up now on Realm!

March 9 - Checkers Game

Gear up for an exciting match as we head to the Charlotte Checkers game! More details and sign-up information will be coming your way soon!

April 20: Mission Morning

Following our past success at Mike King's house, we're heading to a Pritchard shut-in home to assist with yard work. This could include mowing, weed eating, cleaning, and more! Further details and sign-up information will be coming your way soon!

May 4–5: D-Now Weekend

It's back! Join us for a sleepover, worship, games, laughter, and more during our D-Now Weekend. We haven't had one since Covid, so get ready! We will be seeking host-homes from our church family, so if you are interested, please reach out to Brack Ballard. More details and sign-up information will be coming your way soon!

Bible Study during Youth Group

Our Bible study now aligns with Pastor Chris's sermons. This approach allows us to reinforce biblical teachings from his sermons, providing a deeper understanding of this important scripture section. Anticipate thought-provoking discussions and opportunities to grow in your faith.

Stay Connected with Pritchard Youth

For weekly updates on our activities, join our social media community. 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.



Kim Govan

Child Development Center Director

pritchardcdcdirector@pritchardchurch.com

Happy New Year to everyone! We are really looking forward to all the wonderful possibilities that the new year will bring. We are focused on maximizing the number of children and families that we are able to serve over the next year. We are bringing in new, dedicated teachers, who will be crucial to our success in accomplishing that goal. We will be working to strengthen our level of participation in outreach projects with the church children's ministry and planning more collaborative family engagement activities that we think our parents will love. We will also be implementing a program that will bring church seniors in to volunteer in the classrooms. These types of multigenerational programs are so beneficial to everyone involved. These volunteers will be able to provide an extra lap or become the new favorite class storyteller. So many positive new happenings in 2024! We hope that you are looking forward to it as much as we are!

2023 WMU Thrift Store Report

We would like to thank those who have continued to support the WMU Mission Shoppe with their donations and shopping at the Thrift Store. God continues to bless us! This year you helped us raise \$8,262.16 for the Baptist Men's Local Project Fund.

We are still using the National Kidney Foundation for pick-ups when needed. We ask that all donations of clothes be either new or gently used, and that all other items be in good working order. Since we sell to the public and so does the Kidney Foundation, we need items that someone else is willing to purchase. We appreciate your desire to help with this important mission project. Items we **are not** able to take: *TV's, entertainment centers, beds, mattresses, car seats, and magazines over 1 year old.*

We pray that you will continue to support the Baptist Men's Local Project Fund with your donations to the Thrift Store. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Farson or Nancy Elder.



Monday, January 1....NEW YEAR'S DAY

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2

10:30 AM—Women on Mission

1:00 PM—Pickleball

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

NO ZOOM BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER TIME

Wednesday, January 3

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

10:00 AM-4:00 PM—Thrift Store open

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, January 4

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

10:00-11:15 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

Sunday, January 7

9:15 AM—Committee Orientation/Breakfast

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

Monday, January 8

6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting (***NOTE DATE CHANGE***)

Tuesday, January 9

10:00 AM—See 'n Sew

1:00 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, January 10

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, January 11

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

10:00-11:15 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, January 12

Saturday, January 13

Children's Weekend at Camp Caraway

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

Sunday, January 14

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

Monday, January 15...MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

DEACON'S MEETING MOVED TO JANUARY 8

Tuesday, January 16

1:00 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, January 17

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

10:00 AM-4:00 PM—Thrift Store open

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, January 18

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

10:00-11:15 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, January 19

Saturday, January 20

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

Sunday, January 21

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

11:45 AM—Church Council Meeting

Monday, January 22

Tuesday, January 23

10:00 AM—Volunteers to Crisis Assistance

1:00 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Quarterly Report/Prayer Time

Wednesday, January 24

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, January 25

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

10:00-11:15 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

Sunday, January 28

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

5:00-7:00 PM—Youth/Children Family Fun Night

Monday, January 29

Tuesday, January 30

1:00 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, January 31

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM—Pickleball

Staff Anniversary

Join us as we celebrate Chris Richardson, our Lead Pastor, who joined our team one year ago on January 15! Chris, thank you for your leadership and direction. We are so grateful God led you to our Pritchard family. We love and appreciate you!

"We give thanks to God always for you...."

1 Thessalonians 1:2

WITH DEEPEST
sympathy

- Ann Duncan in the passing of her husband; Kim Jones, Wendy Duncan Smith, Robbie Shaffner and their extended families in the passing of their father, Randy Duncan.
- Tom and Millie Creech in the passing of his stepmother, Ruth Creech.
- Linda Maguire and family in the passing of her father.
- Colin Mates and family in the passing of his grandmother, Nona Thompson.
- Lynn Plyler and family in the passing of her mother, Pat Plyler.
- Lisia Shaw and family in the passing of her aunt, Ann McDaniel.



Kevin Hercules	1/1	John Austin	1/13
Beryl Campbell	1/2	Betty Sykes	1/16
Debbie Stroup	1/4	Grace Sykes	1/16
Sandy Austin	1/5	Tyler Sipe	1/16
Allen Childers	1/5	Elizabeth Stickley	1/17
Tristen Knepp	1/5	Katrina Hidy	1/17
Suzanne Clark	1/6	Jackson Lawrence	1/17
Dale Hopper	1/7	David Crowell	1/19
Mekenzie Lemly	1/7	Martin Timmons	1/20
Sarah Foard	1/8	Sophia Ballard	1/21
Meagan Crowell	1/8	Rene Poole	1/22
Cindy Edahl	1/9	Shawn Jacobs	1/24
Mario Chang	1/9	Karen Nicholson	1/24
Stanley Eaves	1/9	Jeff Stewart	1/26
Frank Merchant	1/9	Caden Self	1/26
Elaine Denton	1/9	Vickie Mayer	1/26
Mark Orlick	1/10	Anita Taft	1/27
Valorie Fitzsimmons	1/10	David Riggins	1/27
Anne Graham	1/11	Frances Knell	1/27
Ann Duncan	1/12	Dan Williams	1/31
Tony Canupp	1/13	Gary Huhnerkoch	1/31

Stewardship Update: November 2023 Revenues and Expenses Summary

	<u>Month To Date Actual</u>	<u>Month To Date Budget</u>	<u>Year To Date Actual</u>	<u>Year To Date Budget</u>
Revenue	\$118,488	\$120,263	\$1,294,370	\$1,322,894
Expenses	\$ 97,819	\$114,879	\$1,184,603	\$1,324,484
Net Income	\$ 20,669	\$ 5,384	\$109,767	\$ -1,590

Year-to-date actual net income is \$109,767 compared to \$-1,590 for the budget, giving us a net difference of \$111,357 to the good.

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 Burkhardt
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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