

PRITCHARD
CHURCH
MESSENGER

Volume 59 Issue 4

April 2024

Ladies Tea

April **27** Sat

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

We welcome all ladies, including children, to join us while wearing a beautiful sun hat of your choice - whether homemade or store-bought. Indulge in delicious finger foods, delightful punch, and delightful conversations in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Tickets are \$10, and children aged 12 and under are free.

Registration can be found on realm.
Deadline: April 17



Dr. Chris Richardson

Lead Pastor

crichardson@pritchardchurch.com

Sometimes I think we're tempted to come to Easter and we're very happy about the resurrection of Jesus. Then the next week, or the next month, we move on back to "regular" life.

But, if the resurrection happened, then there can never be regular life, ever again.

Sometimes I think we're tempted to come to Easter, and we think, well this is a nice thing that happened. I believe it with my mind and know it, so that is a good thing for my brain. Then we carry on doing the same things we did before.

But if the resurrection happened then that single event invites us to participate. Not simply to believe. Not simply to think about or trust or have faith, though it certainly invites us to those things as well. If we claim that a man was dead and then he was not dead anymore, then that single event invites us into a whole new way of life.

Resurrection invites us into resurrection.

Jesus came preaching, teaching, and healing. And in the moment of the resurrection all those things are fully realized. Jesus is risen, so the Kingdom of God is here, among us, and we met it in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is risen, and as he taught his disciples, now he invites us to live as he lived. Jesus is risen, his body gloriously and miraculously healed, showing us not only a wonderful future but a breathtaking present. We also will be healed.

As we come to Easter, we were invited to come empty, broken, and destitute, and we are now invited to leave it in the very image of Jesus, the son of God, savior of sinners. We are invited to leave Easter believing his preaching, healed in his blood, and invited to practice the ways he taught. My prayer is that we come to Easter together and that as we leave Easter this year, we can never be the same.

Chris

PRITCHARD PULPIT

10:30 AM WORSHIP
DR. CHRIS RICHARDSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

"MISSIO DEI: PROPHETS, PRIESTS, AND PRESIDENTS"
MATTHEW 28:16-20

*The flowers on the altar table are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the following special people -
Bill and Ann Todd, in-laws of Robert Thompson;
Bob Harper, father of Ginger Thompson on his birthday;
and Ann Rogers, sister of Ginger Thompson who was a light and inspiration to everyone who knew her.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

"MISSIO DEI II: PROPHETS, PRIESTS, AND PRESIDENTS"
MATTHEW 28:16-20

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

"MISSIO DEI III: PROPHETS, PRIESTS, AND PRESIDENTS"
MATTHEW 28:16-20

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

"MISSIO DEI IV: PROPHETS, PRIESTS, AND PRESIDENTS"
MATTHEW 28:16-20

Media Center News by Katrina Gore

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Spring is a time for gardening, flowers, baseball, warmer weather and more sunshine!

Grow Your Own Vegetables by Carol Klein

Eating vegetables is good for you. Growing your own is even better. Growing your own will change what's on your dinner table and it will change you. In this book, see the tricks to becoming a successful small-plot gardener, from preparing the soil, to deciding what to grow, to coping with pests and weeds.

For the Love of the Game by Cynthia J. Wilber

A tribute to the baseball greats of the forties and fifties as told in the players' own voices and depicts an era of baseball before agents, owner "lockouts," and artificial turf.



Rev. Rusty Thomaston
Executive Pastor
rthomaston@pritchardchurch.com

Since I have been at Pritchard, a couple of questions have been asked of me - "How's it going?" and "What is an Executive Pastor?"

To the first question, my response is usually this - "I feel like I'm drinking water out of a fire hydrant, but it's good water!"

Pritchard, you are so warm and friendly. Your welcoming spirit is very noticeable. You will never know how much I appreciate your gentleness and patience with me as I learn systems, names, faces, and, of course, who is related to who! Your kindness and genuine care is making the learning curve much more manageable.

To the second question, my response is this - "As the Executive Pastor, I focus on much of the administrative side of things but do so through the lens of ministry."

During the "interview" with Chris on my first Sunday, I told you that one thing I value is "others." When we are "others" focused, we go out of our way to make sure that others are able to experience the selfless sweet fellowship that we enjoy so much at Pritchard. As a recipient of this, I want to both brag on you and thank you for how you have welcomed me and made me feel at home. I also want to encourage you to continue to be selfless in order for "others" to experience what I have experienced in meaningful ways.

John 13:35 isn't something Jesus said flippantly. He knew the power that is in our service to each other. And when we extend this attitude to those outside of Pritchard...well, I believe God will use us to be a bright light in South End that extends out further than we can imagine.

How can you be others focused in the church as well as outside the four walls of Pritchard? Look for new ways to show someone else the love of Jesus by letting Him shine through you. Be OTHERS focused!

Saved to Serve,
Rusty



Rev. Stan Heiser
Associate Pastor Pastoral Care
& Senior Adults
sheiser@pritchardchurch.com

Sweet Spirits: Wednesday, April 3

Calling all adults 50 and above to attend our next Sweet Spirits gathering! Come for great fellowship, a delicious meal from Cracker Barrel, a time of singing the old timey songs, and a special concert by our very own Paul Miner. The theme of Paul's concert is "A Testimony in Song." Paul has blessed our hearts with his beautiful tenor voice for many years now. He has developed this special concert to share his lifelong faith in Christ with us. You will not want to miss this heartfelt program!

Sweet Spirits meet each month from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM in our Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10.00 per person and is payable at the door in the Gathering Place. Sign-up on Realm or see me on Sunday mornings after worship down front by the Chapel. The deadline to register is Thursday, March 28 for our April program (so we can turn in our final number to Cracker Barrel). Remember...the best place to be is TOGETHER with YOU and the Sweet Spirits!!!

Upcoming Sweet Spirits Programs/Events

- Wednesday, May 8 – Sunago Singers present their Spring concert led by our Minister of Music, David Bailes. We'll sing many of your favorite songs, so make plans to attend! Sign-up deadline: Thursday, May 2.
- Wednesday, June 5 – A special program presented by our Child Development Center for Sweet Spirits and our CDC parents. This truly will be an intergenerational program! Our CDC Director, Kim Govan, will lead the program as our CDC children will present a special musical performance. We will also learn how we, the Sweet Spirits, can volunteer to help the ministry of our CDC! Sign-up deadline: Thursday, May 30.
- Thursday, June 13 – I'll fix the grilled chicken and you are asked to bring the fixin's! Buck Boyd recently led a group of men and women in renovating our lodge at Lake Norman. You may be overwhelmed by the makeover of our old lodge. Plan to come and enjoy the day as we fellowship, a delicious lunch, and maybe a pontoon boat ride! I will share more details as we get closer to the event.

SummerFest Week 1: May 13-17

Time to sign-up for May 13-17! Rooms are filling up fast. Call the Church Office to register by April 14. Cost: \$375.00 per person. An unforgettable week of inspirational speakers, special guests, and entertainment. New this year....interest group - Wooden Barn Quilts (Tues-Thurs. 10:00 AM) led by our very own Vickey Arroba and Kathy Goforth.

Ark Encounter/Genesis Creation Museum

It's a go! We'll travel by Christian Tours to visit the largest Amish and Mennonite settlement October 14-18. I am happy to say that we have 38 people interested in going. I will send out information to everyone who registered by mid-April. Please call the Church Office or contact me to sign-up. It will truly be a trip to remember!!!

NCBAM AAIM Statewide Leadership Meeting

NCBAM AAIM (NC Baptist Aging Ministry Aging Adults Innovative Ministries) takes place Tuesday, May 7 at First Baptist Church Thomasville, NC on the NC Childrens Mills Home Campus. Our theme this year is "Intergenerational Ministry."

I invite anyone interested to attend this special meeting for adults. We'll focus on our year-long discussion at our leadership regional meetings along with our May and August SummerFest gatherings. The process began May 2, 2023 at Griffith Baptist Church in Winston Salem. We would like to present everyone who attends with a Intergenerational Toolbox that our NCBAM Team developed. It can be used in churches everywhere. I will be leading the meeting as chairman of NCBAM AAIM. We have two wonderful Keynote Intergenerational Speakers. Don Gilbert serves at Bay Leaf Baptist Church in Raleigh. Kenny Lamb serves at the NC Baptist State Convention in the Music Ministry Department. If you would like to attend, please call the Church Office.

Blessings, Stan

Women's Fellowship Breakfast

The last Wednesday of each month at 8:30 AM all women and their friends are invited to Skyland Restaurant (4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte 28209). We've had a great turn out at our previous breakfasts! Come join us Wednesday, April 24 for fellowship, a devotion, and a delicious breakfast together. No reservations needed....just come hungry! Skyland's breakfast prices run from \$6-15 (not including your beverage). Can't wait to see you all there! Hosted by Angela Livingston and Tara Rogers.

Church Council Meeting

Church Council will meet Sunday, April 28 immediately following the morning worship service. Committee chairs, please plan to attend this important meeting in the Williams Center Lounge.

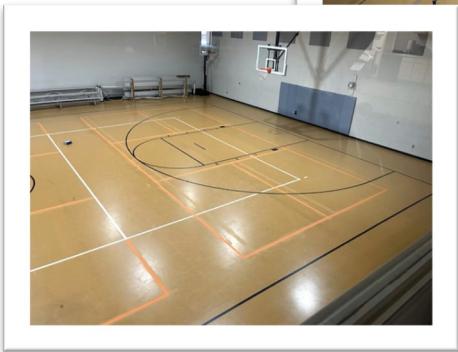
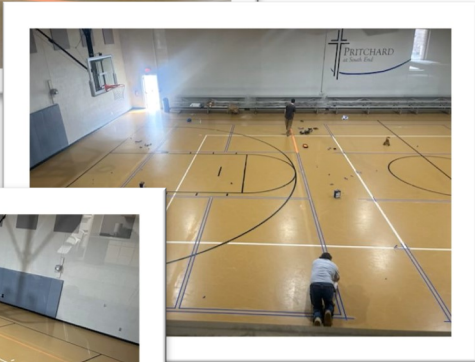
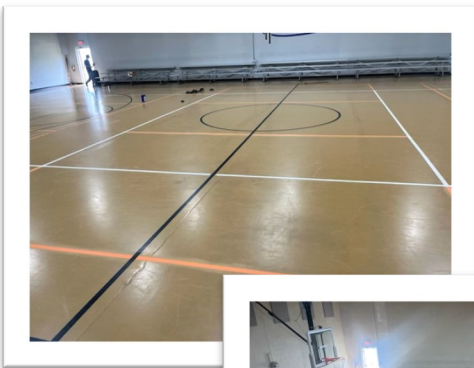
Staff Anniversary

This month, we celebrate Brack Ballard's four year anniversary. He serves as Minister to Youth and College Aged Students. He rejoined Pritchard on April 19, 2020.



Adam Calderone
Recreation Director
acalderone@pritchardchurch.com

Out with the old, in with the new. Pritchard Recreation officially has new, painted on pickleball lines!! Staff and volunteers had to pull up the old tape, working countless hours to remove the tape and residue it left behind. A huge shoutout to everyone who pitched in to help, it would not have been possible without your support. Stop by to see these new improvements! We continue to play Tuesdays at 1:00 PM and Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, all skill levels (including those who haven't even played before) are welcome.



Summer Camp

Summer Camp sign ups are live and filling up fast! Our "Go For The Gold" VBS full day camp is full already, so don't miss out on our other camps! Please visit our website for more information and details about our camps.

Concession Stand

We are still looking for volunteers for the Concession Stand! Each Sunday afternoon, we are selling concessions in our gym including hot dogs, candy, Gatorade, and more. It's a great opportunity for fellowship with the men and their families who play in our adult basketball league. It's even better to do with a tasty hot dog or two!! Please contact myself or Melissa if you would like to get involved.



Melissa Wisor
Minister to Children & Families
mwisor@pritchardchurch.com

I am so excited that many of you have volunteered to be Mystery Readers at the CDC. This is a wonderful way to build the connection between our church and our CDC families and staff. Way to go!

Our Pritchard Kids were very busy in March. The kids did a wonderful job singing for the Country Dinner Show AND for Palm Sunday. The weeks leading up to Easter, we had a couple meaningful activities. Each family made a resurrection garden and on Easter Sunday, we made resurrection rolls which symbolized Jesus being buried in the tomb and rising 3 days later. They were also a yummy treat! My hope is these hands-on activities will help our children remember how important the events surrounding Easter truly are.

Back by popular demand, we will be having a Parents Night Out on Saturday, April 6. Registration is required and can be found in The Scoop. The Pritchard Kids are also excited to host the Ladies Tea, for all ladies, on Saturday, April 27. We're excited to have our Kids Choir participate in the Worship Celebration on Sunday, April 28. I will be hosting a Parent Forum at 9:00 AM which will be a time for me to share goals for the Pritchard Kids Ministry as well as hearing from our parents.

JOIN THE FUN!
REGISTER TODAY!

CAMP RIDGECREST

August 5 -9

CAMPERS 4th GRADE - 12th GRADE

Activities include:

- DAILY BIBLE STUDY
- ENGAGING WORSHIP
- 3-MEALS A DAY
- CANTEN FOR ALL
- SWIMMING
- HIKING
- FISHING
- CRAFTING
- STEM PROJECTS
- OUTDOOR GAMES

BE THE LIGHT
JOHN 9:12

EARLY BIRD PRICING UNTIL APRIL 1: \$275
AFTER APRIL 1, PRICING INCREASES TO \$300

Volunteers needed!

Male and female volunteers, ages 18 and up, are needed to ensure campers have a great week at Camp Ridgecrest! Register via the link in E-Connect or email MWisor@pritchardchurch.com



Rev. Brack Ballard
Minister to Youth and College-Age Students
bballard@pritchardchurch.com

Can you believe April is here? It has been a great semester so far with Pritchard Youth! Some experiences include Sunday night family night in the gym, the winter retreat, Checkers game, learning to crochet and more! We have another exciting event to look forward to.

Saturday, April 20: Missions Morning

Let's go into our community to help a Pritchard shut-in with yard maintenance! More details to come. You can register now through Realm.

Sunday, April 28: Parent Forum

Youth families let your voices be heard! The Youth Council is creating an opportunity to allow parents, volunteers voices be heard through a forum. We would love to hear your ideas of what you would like to see in addition to what our objectives and goals are as a youth ministry. You will see spiritual formation goals, meet the Youth Council, and more. I hope you are planning on coming. This will take place immediately after worship at 11:45 in the Loft during Youth Choir.



Kim Govan
Child Development Center Director
pritchardccddirector@pritchardchurch.com

We have had all kinds of fun this month! Dr. Seuss week provided lots of rhyming and creative costumes. We had our first volunteer mystery readers to read to the children. Thank you to everyone who signed up. The kids really do enjoy it. We have our Easter Egg Hunt on March 28 starting at 2 for the 4s. Please make sure to send in a basket. Be on the lookout for an email with the link to sign up for the communication app that is tied into our software. You will be able to log in to see how your child's basic needs have been met, what they have been working on in their classrooms and some fun pictures throughout the day. If you send a message to your teacher, please be patient. She will get back to you when the children are otherwise involved or napping. If you need an immediate response, please call the school. We are currently planning our Family Picnic for May 16. Please plan to come and join us after school for dinner. We will have the grill going and provide a bounce house for the kids. Hope to see you there!



Grace Sykes
Pastoral Intern
gsykes@pritchardchurch.com

I have had a blast serving the Pritchard community this semester! In the month of February the New Members Class ran for four weeks. Each week we discussed one of the four belief pillars of Pritchard, Centrality of Scripture, Priesthood of all Believers, Autonomy of the Church, and reedom of Religion. During our time together each week we shared a meal and then dove into our topic for the day. Throughout the four weeks, ministerial staff visited the class to ensure that each new member knew the ministerial leadership of Pritchard. We had a great time building community with new faces at Pritchard.

We also started a Grief Share group in the month of February. Grief Share is a time where individuals can process grief from the loss of a loved one. I have loved leading this group and would love to teach it again in the Summer during our Connect Group hour! Please let me know if you are interested in this!

Looking ahead to April, I am very excited about the upcoming Women's Retreat! We will head down to Oak Island, NC on Friday, April 12 and we will return on Sunday, April 14. Over the weekend, we will dig into Matthew 22:36-40, enjoy fellowship, and obviously soak up some rays.



Tuesday, April 9 | 5:45 PM – 8:00 PM
Charlotte Convention Center

Pritchard Church is hosting a table and inviting those who are interested in hearing about this life-affirming work. We believe you'll be inspired to learn how our church family can continue to serve women, their families and share the gospel. Call the Church Office to make your reservation or John Austin (704-962-4109) if you have questions.



Monday, April 1....EASTER MONDAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, April 2

10:30 AM—Women on Mission

1:00-3:30 PM—Pickleball

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

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, April 3

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

10:00 AM-4:00 PM—Thrift Store open

11:00 AM-1:00 PM—Sweet Spirits

NO ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, April 4

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

10:15-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, April 5

Saturday, April 6

MORE THAN CONQUERORS CONNECT GROUP NOT MEETING

6:00 PM—Pritchard Kids Parents Night Out

Sunday, April 7

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

Monday, April 8

Tuesday, April 9

10:00 AM—See 'n Sew

1:00-3:30 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, April 10

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

1:00-2:00 PM—Grief Share

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, April 11

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

10:15-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, April 12

Women's Retreat Weekend at Oak Island, NC

Saturday, April 13

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

Sunday, April 14

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

9:15 AM—Pastor's Book Club

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

Monday, April 15

6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, April 16

1:00-3:30 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Wednesday, April 17

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

10:00 AM-4:00 PM—Thrift Store open

1:00-2:00 PM—Grief Share

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, April 18

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

10:15-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, April 19

Saturday, April 20

8:00-11:00 AM—Youth Missions Morning

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

Sunday, April 21

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

Monday, April 22

Tuesday, April 23

10:00 AM-12 Noon—Volunteers to Crisis Assistance

1:00-3:30 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, April 24

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

8:30 AM—Women's Prayer Breakfast (Skyland)

1:00-2:00 PM—Grief Share

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, April 25

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

10:15-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, April 26

Saturday, April 27

10:00 AM-12:00 PM—Ladies Tea

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

Sunday, April 28

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

11:45 AM-12:30 PM—Youth Parent Forum

11:45 AM—Church Council Meeting

Monday, April 29

Tuesday, April 30

1:00-3:30 PM—Pickleball

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

Note of Thanks

Dear Pritchard Family,

Words cannot fully express my gratitude for your many acts of love and kindness during months of rehab and since my return home. Your visits, calls, cards, gifts, food, and rides to appointments meant so much to me. These gifts of love continue to encourage me. Above all, thank you for your prayers. They are very special to me. I really feel them. I miss you all and look forward to returning to church. I'm so happy to be a part of Pritchard's wonderful church family. God bless you.

Love in Christ, Anne Roberson

Quarterly Conference

Our next Quarterly Conference will take place Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Current committee chairpersons will report on January/February/March 2024.

CAMPUS CONNECT: Melissa Wisor
 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Tim Stewart
 COMMUNITY CONNECT: Stacey Elder
 ENDOWMENT: Virginia Wallace
 FACILITIES AND PROPERTY: Buck Boyd
 MISSIONS: Mac McCormick
 NOMINATING: Lisa Wall
 PERSONNEL: Russ Allen
 STEWARDSHIP: Kevin Hennessey
 VISION: Jeff Rogers
 WORSHIP: Sandy Childers



Ryan Hooper	4/1	Jorge Arroba	4/24
Jasper Evans	4/2	Debbie Price	4/25
Count Fosdick	4/3	Wes Livingston	4/25
Joncie McCall	4/4	Clay Sams	4/26
Charles Huffstetler	4/4	Paul Miner	4/27
Edith Parker	4/5	Crystal Williams	4/28
Nancy Elder	4/10	Chris Hursey	4/28
Debra Morgan	4/11	Sara Thompson	4/29
Ashley Hiers	4/11	Marshall Bessinger	4/29
Doris Fudo	4/13	Linda Grady	4/30
Melissa Wisor	4/14	Jon Cecil	4/30
Garrett Elder	4/16		
Doug Evans	4/17		
Jean Freeman	4/20		
Jamey Gray	4/21		
Tanya Mazingo	4/21		
Kelsie Elder	4/21		
Meredith Lawrence	4/22		
Karen Allred	4/22		
Ashley Sipe	4/24		
Marilyn Billmeyer	4/24		

Stewardship Update: February 2024 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	\$87,797	\$128,842	\$202,823	\$232,133
Expenses	\$105,245	\$112,605	\$205,711	\$227,861
Net Income	\$-17,448	\$ 16,237	\$ -2,888	\$ 4,272

Year to date actual net income is \$-2,888 compared to \$4,273 for the budget, giving us \$7,161 below our projected budget.

CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor.....Dr. Chris Richardson
 Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care & Senior Adults.....Rev. Stan Heiser
 Executive Pastor.....Rev. Rusty Thomaston
 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

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