

PRITCHARD  
CHURCH  
**MESSENGER**

Volume 59 Issue 5

May 2024



**CULTIVATE**  
*SUMMER EDITION*

JOIN US FOR DINNER, FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP  
FOR ALL : ADULTS, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

**JUNE 12**

**JULY 10**

**AUGUST 14**

**DETAILS INSIDE!**





## Dr. Chris Richardson

Lead Pastor

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

### **Cultivate: Monthly Wednesday evenings this summer!**

Mark your calendars now: June 12, July 10, and August 14 we are going to have a Wednesday evening meal from 5:30-6:30 PM and then we want to open the opportunity for people to participate in or to lead and facilitate workshop type of groups. My personal goal is that we will have 4-5 of these interest groups each month. I am planning to lead one each month.

In June, I'm going to start a training/discussion session for people who have considered starting Connect Groups or home groups or studies. In July, I am planning on doing a discussion about the origins of our Bible and how we got what we got. Lastly in August, I am inviting all families to a training on how to have family discipleship conversations.

We're calling this monthly event "Cultivate." Why? Because we are inviting you to first cultivate relationships and fellowship by sharing a meal with people from your church. Since school is out, we are hopeful that our families will be able to make the time to join us for a meal and enjoy some fellowship. We are also inviting you to cultivate intentional discipleship patterns, learning patterns, and personal growth patterns.

So, how will it work and what do we need?

Matt, our Kitchen and Facilities Manager, will cook a meal that will be ready from 5:30 to 6:30. It will be at no cost, though we will have a donations bucket in case you would like to donate to this program. Even though Matt is cooking, we could certainly use some volunteers to help with cleanup and take down. The goal is to have simple set up.

After that, we want people to have some freedom to go to various classes, workshops, or even just interest groups. So, maybe you're not interested in learning about something, maybe instead you want to host a group to prayer-walk our neighborhood. All we need is someone to facilitate that. If God puts that on your heart, let me know and we'll make sure it is known. Maybe you'd like to go to dessert at one of the downtown restaurants after dinner, we can facilitate that. Our staff will likely facilitate and teach some classes and workshops as well. We are still developing all this.

But I can say now that I will be leading these three workshops:

First in June, as mentioned, I'll be leading a workshop on leading/facilitating classes or groups. Maybe you've long considered starting a Connect Group you just haven't known how, I will help talk you through much of that. Or maybe you've led a Sunday School class for years and just want to continue growing in that, I believe we can help you there too. So I'll be leading that class/workshop in June.

Second, in July I'll be hosting a conversation about how we got the Bible we got. Maybe you've had some questions about where our Bible comes from, maybe you've never thought about it, wherever you come from, we'll have a discussion on this in July.

Third in August I will be having a conversation for families about home discipleship. I believe that the best chance for your family to grow in following Jesus is by having these conversations at home with one another. But, this can feel overwhelming, so how can do it well? Hopefully I can share some ideas and strategies.

So mark your calendars and plan on joining us this summer the second Wednesday of each month for Cultivate!

*Chris*



## Rev. Rusty Thomaston

Executive Pastor

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

*For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of **sharing** his glory. So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. (Col. 1:27-28)*

Have you ever known you are supposed to do something, but you struggled with how to do it? We all have! As Christians, we know we are supposed to **share** our faith, but we often struggle with the how. Below is an acronym that I hope will help you as you seek to **S.H.A.R.E.** with others.

### **S – See. See who God puts in your path.**

Think about those God allows you to interact with and at what level of interaction you have with them. Consider each person. Of all the people on the planet, why did God put who He did in front of you? How much time did you have with them? Was it someone you just passed while walking? Did you make eye contact? Did you greet them? Did you have a conversation?

### **H – Hear. Hear what is said AND not said.**

If you do have occasion to talk with them, what do you pick up on? Are they happy, sad, mad, aggravated, distracted, laid back, in a rush, enjoying life, struggling, etc.? What's their mood, tone, word choice, and body language telling you?

### **A – Ask. Ask God to lead you.**

God wants you to share a word He has for them more than you want to share it. Ask God to give you wisdom. What He has for them may take you 5 seconds to share or 5 minutes. Simply ask the One who lives in you to speak through you. He'll do it!

### **R – Remember. Remember the hope is Jesus.**

Remember, it's all God. "The hope of glory," or as the NLT says it, "the assurance of sharing his glory," exists because of "Christ IN you," and not because of "Christ AND you." To remember the hope is to be conscious of the "God factor" in the encounter. It's the answer to your prayer for God to lead you in what He wants to share with them through you.

### **E – Express. Express to them something that is based on what God revealed.**

Up to this point, you may not have said a word to the person; everything may have just been between you and God.

But, because you share in Jesus's glory, you now express to them something that's based on what God has allowed you to see and hear. All God may want you to do is put a smile on your face and, from a genuine, caring spirit, show them your pearly whites. It could be the first time in a long time anyone has acknowledged them like that. Or, God may have you do something a little more substantive. Now I'm not saying to be weird, but, if you notice they seem down, God may have you say something like, "You look down. I'll ask Jesus to make the day better for you." The important thing is to do/say whatever God tells you to do or say. There is no way to measure what God will do with the smallest act of obedience on your part. Remember, God doesn't want your ability; He wants your availability. He doesn't need you; He wants you to be a part of what He is doing by **sharing** with others what He has **shared** with you.

You will be amazed at what God will do through you if you will **S.H.A.R.E.**

Saved to Serve, Rusty



## MAY SERMONS:

- 5 SOUL COMPETENCY AND THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE
- 12 PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS
- 19 GRADUATION SUNDAY
- 26 AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AND SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE



## Rev. Stan Heiser

Associate Pastor Pastoral Care  
& Senior Adults

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

### Sweet Spirits Present Our Sunago Singers Spring Concert

Calling all adults 50 and above, to attend our next Sweet Spirits Gathering in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 8. Come enjoy great fellowship, a delicious Meal, and a special program presented by our own Sunago Choir Singers, led by our Minister of Music, David Bailes, as they present their Spring Concert. Hear some of your favorite anthems such as: *"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"*, *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*, *"He Keeps Me Singing"*, *"It Is Well with My Soul"*, *"Just a Little Talk with Jesus"*, etc. I hope you will be able to attend this meaningful program! Sweet Spirits meet each month from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM in our Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$10.00 per person and is payable at the door. Sign-up on Realm or see me on Sunday mornings after worship down front by the Chapel. Reservation deadline is Thursday, May 1. Remember...the best place to be is together with you and the Sweet Spirits!

### ZOOM Bible Studies

I invite you to join us on ZOOM for Bible Study each week. We have two offerings that I lead each week -

- Sunday mornings from 9:15–10:00 AM for individuals who are unable to attend their Sunday School Classes in person.
- Tuesday nights from 6:45–8:00 PM. Fellowship time begins at 6:45 PM, Bible Study at 7:00 PM, and Prayer Time follows at 7:30 PM.

To be a part of either (or both) of these ZOOM Bible Study Groups, simply check Pritchard Connect each week, click the join button, and you will be a part of that session. We would love to have you be a part of our group!

### SummerFest Week I "Reclaim the Joy": May 13-17

We have 27 who will be attending the first week of SummerFest this year! Let me share a little bit about the program. Our keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Rudy Ramphal. He will also be teaching his popular Bible Study during the special class option time prior to worship service at 11:00 AM Tuesday–Thursday. Rev. Tony Martin will serve as our worship leader throughout the week. Rev. Cliff Harris will be leading drama skits Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the morning worship service.

Our entertainment Monday–Wednesday at 7:00 PM in Hatch Auditorium will be led by:

- Monday evening: Rev. Susan Sparks "Laugh Your Way to Grace".

- Tuesday evening: Matt Fore, a humorous writer, speaker and award-winning comedy magician.
- Wednesday evening: Michael McKnight will present his special piano concert.
- Thursday evening: Communion by the sea wall led by Dr. Doug Cole.

I will be sending out an information packet with all the information you need to know to have a great week. All final payments are to be made now!

It is my prayer that during your stay at Fort Caswell/ SummerFest, you can rest in the truth of God's Word while also gaining a new outlook on life. Please let me know if you plan to ride on our minibus, drive yourself there, or ride with someone else who is attending. It is going to be a week to remember! For those of you who are not attending, I ask that you pray for us as we "Reclaim the Joy".

Blessings, Stan



### Staff Anniversary

This month we celebrate Katrina Gore who serves as our Office Assistant and Media Center Director. Katrina joined our team on May 13, 2019. Thank you, Katrina, for your love of Pritchard and being the friendly voice to those who call or come into the office. We love and appreciate you!

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

*1 Thessalonians 1:2*



**Adam Calderone**  
Recreation Director  
[acalderone@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:acalderone@pritchardchurch.com)

It's hard to believe May is upon us and summer is right around the corner, which means one thing: Summer Camps are coming! We are still looking for some volunteers to help around the Rec Center this summer. Not much of a sports person? No problem! We have plenty of ways to help that don't involve any type of sports knowledge or physical activity. So if you are looking for ways to help this summer, consider volunteering with Pritchard Rec. Email me or stop by for more information.

Pickleball continues each week throughout May! We play Tuesdays at 1:00 PM and Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. All skill levels are welcome! Come see our newly painted on lines and see why pickleball continues to be the fastest growing sport in the country.

Did you know that in the month of May, Pritchard Rec will host 6 different organizations in our facility? From non-profits, to church groups, to corporate groups, and even birthday parties, a wide range of organizations/people rely on our facility use each month. A special thanks to all of those who helped get it to this point, and as a reminder, it's never too late to get involved 😊



**Melissa Wisor**  
Minister to Children & Families  
[mwisor@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:mwisor@pritchardchurch.com)

So many of you have been faithful in praying that God would grow our church with children and their families. He has been faithful in sending them our way, now I believe he is looking for our response to his faithfulness! Because of the answer to prayer, now we have new challenges.

We currently divide all children, infant – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, into two sections during the Connect Group time (9:00–10:20 AM). Our youngest consists of crawling infants to independent 3-year-olds and our older children consists of 4-year-olds to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We want to create a third classroom that would be home to 4-year-olds to 1<sup>st</sup> graders. Among many benefits of adding a class, a major one is so all children can learn and have discussions that are age appropriate. This will also give a sense of promotion once they "graduate" out of each class. Lessons and supplies are provided one month in advance to volunteers.

Will you join me in praying for new volunteers for our kids' ministry? Is it possible YOU are the answer to that prayer? If you are the slightest bit interested, please email me, call me, catch me on Sundays and let's chat. Sometimes volunteering with children is more of a blessing to you than it is the children.

## How Does Our Endowment Fund Help Pritchard?

Gift Planning is the art of designing your charitable gift so that you realize your philanthropic objectives while minimizing your after-tax costs. In addition to fulfilling your philanthropic goals and support Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church, you can generally expect some or all the following benefits depending on the kind of property you contribute and the type of arrangement you select -

- income-tax savings
- avoidance of long-term capital-gains tax
- stream of income for life
- increased cash flow
- reduced costs and time in estate settlement

How Pritchard General Endowment and other Pritchard Endowments provides for our church and our community -

- Supports missions across the world to help more people learn about Christ and build disciples of Christ
- Helps support our youth group
- Donates money to Pritchard youth scholarships for camps, like Ridgecrest
- Awards Pritchard children scholarship opportunities for college or seminary schools
- Provides extra support for an emergency fund for large projects like HVAC, infrastructure or unforeseen parking garage expenses
- Helps support our music and special event endeavors

If you have any questions or would like to donate to Pritchard Endowment or Gift Fund, please reach out to Virginia Wallace at [vwallace336@gmail.com](mailto:vwallace336@gmail.com) or Chuck Foresyth at [cforesyth@yahoo.com](mailto:cforesyth@yahoo.com) or 404-520-7661.



**Rev. Brack Ballard**  
Minister to Youth and College-Age Students  
[bballard@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:bballard@pritchardchurch.com)

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

**Graduation Sunday: Sunday, May 19**

Please come and support our two very special graduates, both Colin Mates and Titus Hogue. We wish them the very best as they move forward in their next chapter. In addition, we celebrate Jewel Givens graduating from Wingate University. If you are graduating or know of anyone graduating this spring please contact me.



**Kim Govan**  
Child Development Center Director  
[pritchardcdcdirector@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:pritchardcdcdirector@pritchardchurch.com)

Thank you so much for all of your assistance last month with the Easter Egg hunts and Week of the Young Child festivities! We were very successful in making sure that all of the children enjoyed themselves. Classes are focused this month on Earth day related themes. We have recycling focuses and all kinds of information about birds and bugs. We have lots of happenings in the next few months as well. Spring pictures were made April 24. Stop by for Muffins with Mom the morning of May 10. Teacher appreciation week is coming up on May 6 and we are gearing up for the Family Picnic on 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](mailto:gsykes@pritchardchurch.com)

Happy May! Last month 26 Pritchard ladies traveled to Oak Island for our Women's Retreat. We had a blast fellowshiping with each other, spending time soaking up some sun, and diving into The Word. I am so excited for all of the upcoming summer events that we have on the schedule. Stay tuned for what's coming up!

**Media Center News** by Katrina Gore

Denise Hunter is a popular and award-winning author. She has garnered multiple awards for each of her books, which include being a two-time Holt Medallion Winner. She lives in Indiana with her husband, Kevin, and their three sons. Here are two of her latest novels:

**Summer by the Tides:** As the sisters pack up the family belongings, memories of idyllic, slow-paced summers are resurrected. But long-buried secrets also come to light as Maddy discovers that all was not as it appeared that last summer in Sea Haven--nor today in the seemingly perfect lives of her sisters. As family tensions rise the sisters must find a way to accept each other for the women they've become before the bitterness of the past destroys their hope for a future.

**A Novel Proposal:** With sales tanking, Western writer Sadie must pen a romance. The problem? She's never fallen in love! Determined to succeed, she starts collecting and studying love stories. When she discovers an engagement ring tucked inside a book, she entices reluctant neighbor Sam into helping locate the owner. Has she stumbled upon the hero for her novel---and her life?

**Note of Thanks**

*Sunday, February 25 during our worship service, I had an episode where I passed out. When I started to respond and became coherent, I had a host of people around me, taking care of me. One dear lady was holding my head so I would not slump forward. Another kind lady was calmly speaking to me, and this kept me from panicking. While another took my pulse and my blood pressure, I could see that someone was comforting my wife, and I could see them praying. It only took a few minutes for the Charlotte Fire Department to respond. Shortly after that, EMS arrived and transported me to the hospital. So much was going on around me, certainly things were missed on my part. As we exited the doors, more folks were in the vestibule praying for me. I can only say the love and caring that was given from my fellow church members was amazing.*

*God's love is present and growing in our church.*

*Thank you for all the care and concern that has been shown for me. Prayers were answered with our Father's healing.*

*Blessings, Robert Thompson*



### **Wednesday, May 1**

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  
6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

### **Thursday, May 2**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)  
10:15-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

### **Friday, May 3**

### **Saturday, May 4**

10:30-11:30 AM—Pritchard Kids Daddy/Daughter Dance Class  
5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

### **Sunday, May 5**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups  
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration  
11:45 AM—Youth Choir  
11:45 AM—Missions Meeting

### **Monday, May 6**

### **Tuesday, May 7**

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, May 8**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)  
11:00 AM-1:00 PM—Sweet Spirits  
6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal  
6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

### **Thursday, May 9**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)  
10:15-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers  
6:30 PM—Personnel Meeting

### **Friday, May 10**

Women's Retreat Weekend at Oak Island, NC

### **Saturday, May 11**

10:30-11:30 AM—Pritchard Kids Daddy/Daughter Dance Class  
5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

### **Sunday, May 12**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups  
9:15 AM—Pastor's Book Club  
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration  
11:45 AM—Youth Choir

### **Monday, May 13**

9:00 AM—Summerfest Group leaves for Caswell  
6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting

### **Tuesday, May 14**

1:00-3:30 PM—Pickleball  
10:00 AM—See 'n Sew  
7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, May 15**

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, May 16**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)  
10:15-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

### **Friday, May 17**

4:00 PM—Summerfest Group returns from Caswell

### **Saturday, May 18**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

### **Sunday, May 19**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups  
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration  
11:45 AM—Youth Choir  
11:45 AM—Connect Groups Teacher Appreciation Lunch

### **Monday, May 20**

### **Tuesday, May 21**

10:00 AM-12 Noon—Volunteers to Crisis Assistance  
1:00-3:30 PM—Pickleball  
7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, May 22**

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, May 23**

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)  
10:15-11:30 AM—Sunago Singers

### **Friday, May 24**

### **Saturday, May 25**

10:00 AM-12:00 PM—Ladies Tea  
5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

### **Sunday, May 26**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups  
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration  
11:45 AM—Youth Choir

### **Monday, May 27...MEMORIAL DAY**

CAMPUS CLOSED

### **Tuesday, May 28**

1:00-3:30 PM—Pickleball  
7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, May 29**

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

### **Thursday, May 30**

# welcome

## To Our New Members!



**Rusty and Amy Thomaston**  
BY STATEMENT



**Cynthia Mizelle Zeigler**  
BY BAPTISM



**Antonio James**  
BY STATEMENT



**Julia Jenkins**  
BY STATEMENT



Nathan Hewitt	5/1	Gabby Foresyth	5/17
Lily Bone	5/4	Jane Harris	5/18
Todd Grady	5/5	William Albro	5/18
Tate Self	5/6	Shane Agostinelli	5/18
Allison Self	5/7	Dorothy Seabolt	5/19
Jennifer Arena	5/7	Carolyn Bolin	5/19
Daniel Hursey	5/9	Millie Creech	5/20
Mac Elder	5/10	Elizabeth Jacobs	5/22
Leslie Mayer	5/11	Lisa Bailes	5/23
Austin Jacobs	5/12	Brenda Farson	5/23
Barbara Gabriel	5/12	Rose Byrd	5/25
Jane Mizelle	5/13	Ray Goble	5/25
Angela Livingston	5/14	Christian Heard	5/27
Robert Wilson	5/15	Buck Boyd	5/28
Michelle Drury	5/15	Lynn Plyler	5/29
Marilyn Withrow	5/16	Amanda Berkman	5/29
Dick Kimrey	5/16	Walt Mizelle	5/30
Todd Nicholson	5/16	Doris Anderson	5/30
Mya Berkman	5/16	Sherri Sellers	5/31
Tim Stewart	5/16	Charlie Erickson	5/31
Robert Thompson	5/17		

# Stewardship Update: March 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	\$99,807	\$116,067	\$302,630	\$348,200
Expenses	\$108,225	\$138,517	\$313,935	\$366,378
Net Income	\$-8,418	\$ -22,450	\$-11,305	\$ -18,178

Year-To-Date Actual Net Income is \$-11,305 compared to \$-18,178 for the budget, giving us a net difference of \$6,872 ahead of 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  
 Executive Assistant for Administration & Education.....Lynn Plyler  
 Office Assistant/Media Center Director.....Katrina Gore  
 Pastoral Intern.....Grace Sykes  
 Accounting Assistant.....Jeannie Sigmon  
 Kitchen and Facilities Manager.....Matt Higgins  
 Recreation Director.....Adam Calderone  
 CDC Director.....Kim Govan



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