


# PRITCHARD CHURCH MESSENGER

JUNE 2024  
VOLUME 59 ISSUE 6



## JUNE

- 
- 1 Fine Arts Dance Recital
  - 2 Hawaiian Shirt Sunday  
Summer League Tip-Off (Pritchard Rec)
  - 5 Seniors: Sweet Spirits (Fellowship Hall)
  - 6 Summer Pop-Up at Sweet Frogs: Matthews  
(Pritchard Kids)
  - 10 - 14 Summer Sports Camp (Pritchard Rec)\*
  - 12 Cultivate
  - 13 Seniors: Lake Lodge
  - 17 - 20 Summer Sports Camp (Pritchard Rec)\*
  - 18 River Tubing Adventure (Pritchard Youth)\*
  - 24 - 27 All About the Arts Camp (Pritchard Kids)\*

## JULY

- 8 - 12 Camp Caraway (Pritchard Kids)  
Summer Sports Camp (Pritchard Rec)\*
- 10 Cultivate
- 13 - 14 Lock-In at Lake Lodge (Pritchard Youth)
- 15 - 18 VBS: Go For The Gold (Pritchard Rec and Kids)\*
- 22 - 25 Yes I Can Basketball Camp (no volunteers required)
- 21 Volunteer Meeting for Camp Ridgecrest
- 23 Youth Day at Lake Lodge (Pritchard Youth)
- 28 Youth Serve and Carowinds after Worship  
(Pritchard Youth)
- 29 - 1 Yes I Can Basketball Camp (no volunteers required)

## AUGUST

- 5 - 9 Camp Ridgecrest
- 12 - 15 Summer Sports Camp (Pritchard Rec)\*
- 14 Cultivate
- 17 Progressive Dinner (Pritchard Youth)
- 18 Blessing of the Backpack Sunday
- 19 - 23 Seniors: Summerfest at Caswell
- 24 Family Day at Lake Lodge  
(Pritchard Kids and CDC)

*\*Requires registration*

Visit [pritchardchurch.com/events](https://pritchardchurch.com/events)  
to find registration links.





**Dr. Chris Richardson**  
Lead Pastor

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

## **The Audacity of Church**

In the July and August articles in this space I'll have some exciting initiatives and movements I want to share with you. Here in June I have a little bit of breathing room and felt like it was important to step back and remind us all of WHY we have initiatives, why we have movement, why we have staff, why we have a Messenger. Each of these is part of the larger picture. And the larger picture is so audacious and so important that we often pull back a little from it.

Simply put, the audacity of Church is the belief that Jesus Christ wants to make each of us a new creation.

The process for that is both amazingly simple and a process that includes lifelong learning. Why do we start new initiatives at Pritchard? Right now we need to be able to explain how they help people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Why have some things changed, why will we likely change more going forward? To help people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Why do we have staff, and why have we had some staff changes? To help people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jesus told a parable about several people who were given some talents of gold. The first doubled his, so he was entrusted with more. The second did the same, so again he was entrusted with more. But the third buried his, so even what he had was taken away. The buried treasure did not change, it didn't grow or shrink, and most importantly in my mind, it didn't do any work. Work requires something of us while work also changes us. Discipleship is the same.

We believe that God has placed us here, on South Boulevard, but also wherever your home happens to be, wherever your work happens to be, your school, your gym, your bank, and God has placed us in all those places with an audacious plan for us: to bring change and joy and peace in the name of Jesus Christ. To be disciples that MAKE disciples. It's a big task, but every little thing we do as a church, we should be able to explain how that helps us as disciples and make disciples. That can include many things, such as fellowship, worship, service, learning, silence, prayer, studying scripture, but the invitation of Jesus to our church is that if we are doing anything that doesn't help us as disciples to make disciples, then I believe he invites us to leave it behind as sacrifice for the sake of his kingdom and the people he desires to call home.

This month I would invite you to pray as we look ahead to our summer together, and then beyond into the fall as we'll start new programs and groups. Pray that God would convict us, call us, draw us to embrace those things which lead to growth, and leave behind any that only lead to comfort.

*Chris*



**Rev. Rusty Thomaston**  
Executive Pastor  
[rthomaston@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:rthomaston@pritchardchurch.com)

### *A Particular Flying Biscuit's Special Sauce*

Amy and I have started a new tradition – Saturday brunch at a particular Flying Biscuit restaurant. And just to show you how dedicated we are to this new tradition, we decided that no matter where we live, we will make the drive to this Flying Biscuit because we LOVE the special sauce!

Amy and I went to the Flying Biscuit for a “what.” We were looking to meet something specific. We were looking for a restaurant with good food that was dog-friendly where we could eat a Saturday brunch. **But** what we got was so much more!

Over the next several months, I will share with you some of the “why” behind our decision to make this tradition by relating our experience to Pritchard Church being “*the neighborhood church*.” We will not only identify the sauce, but more importantly we will look at the ingredients that make it so special. (There are a ton of restaurants that are dog-friendly, but none are as special as THIS Flying Biscuit!)

But first, this month I’m going to set the series up because unless we know what we put the sauce on, it won’t be special. (You don’t just have sauce? Sauce goes ON something, right?)

Have you ever thought about the fact that people are looking for a “what,” specifically a church that can meet specific need(s) they have? Remember, Amy and I were not looking for just any place; we were looking for a specific kind of restaurant. We were looking for a restaurant that was dog-friendly and served brunch on Saturday. (That’s a pretty specific “what.”)

Be encouraged, do not discount the uniqueness of our church. God has blessed us with people and opportunities that are what people are looking for. As someone has said, “We can scratch their itch.”

Take some time and consider all that Pritchard has to offer. Nothing is off limits or seemingly inconsequential; people are looking for all kinds of specific things. (Remember, Amy and I were looking for something pretty specific.)

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but let this list serve as a catalyst for you as you think about all of the “whats” that make Pritchard specific: We have a gym. We have a CDC. We have a Fine Arts Academy. We have many different ministries. We have live music. We have a wide array of opportunities and time commitments available to serve others. What else?

Now, though it is important to identify the “what” (the itch, the draw, the surface level need) the **goody**, the “so much more,” the “special sauce,” the stuff that not just attracts but is the “why” folks keep coming back will be the focus of my articles over the next few months. For now, just so you aren’t left totally hanging, I’ll summarize it one word – community! (You may be shocked at the ingredients of this sauce!)

Saved to Serve,  
Rusty







## Rev. Stan Heiser

Associate Pastor Pastoral Care  
& Senior Adults

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

### Sweet Spirits Present CDC Children Singers

Come enjoy great fellowship, a delicious meal, and a program presented by our CDC Wednesday, June 5 (11:00 AM-1:00 PM Fellowship Hall). It will feature some of the children singing their favorite songs under the direction of Kathy Evans and Frances Nettles. Our CDC Director, Kim Govan, will share a message on how we can volunteer to help the CDC program. Chef Matt will prepare meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls and dessert which will be served by our Sweet Spirits Team. Cost: \$10/person (payable at door). Sign-up on Realm, call the Church Office or see me Sunday mornings after worship. Reservation deadline: May 30.

### SummerFest Week I "Reclaim the Joy" = A BIG Success!!!

Twenty-five attended the first week (May 13-17) and had a wonderful time! Keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Rudy Ramphal who taught his popular Bible Study class. Rev. Tony Martin served as our worship leader throughout the week. Entertainment was led by Rev. Susan Sparks ("Laugh Your Way to Grace"), Matt Fore (a humorous writer, speaker and award-winning comedy magician) and Michael McKnight (special piano concert). Communion by the sea wall Thursday evening was led by Dr. Doug Cole making it a wonderful closing to a week full of special memories. Vickey Arroba and Kathy Goforth led a new arts/crafts class making wooden barn quilts that very quickly became one of the most popular!

My prayer for the week was that all would rest in the truth of God's Word while gaining a new outlook on life as they got to meet new friends from across the state. My prayer was answered as it was truly a week to remember!

It's time to sign-up for Week II (August 19-23) which is a repeat presentation of Week I as we "Reclaim the Joy". Sign-up on Realm, call the Church Office, or contact me.

### Cultivate: "Just Walk Across the Room"

Join me as I lead this study by Bill Hybels Wednesday, June 12 and Wednesday, July 10. What if taking 10 steps across a room and saying hello to another person could impact his/her eternity? This is a natural and empowering approach to evangelism modeled after Jesus himself. It will equip and inspire you to follow Jesus's lead by taking simple walks across rooms to extend care, compassion, and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God's love today. If this interests you, please come join me!

Blessings, Stan



## Shannon Leary

Child Development Center Assistant Director

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

Wow! May was a busy month! First, we would like to extend our warmest gratitude to the best group of parents ever for showering us with love and appreciation during Teacher Appreciation Week! It was also so nice to see all of our moms for Muffins with Moms and now Dads, it's your turn to be celebrated! Join us for Doughnuts for Dads on June 14! Stop by in the morning at drop-off for doughnuts and coffee to kick-off your Father's Day weekend!

Our second annual Family Picnic was a huge success! It was wonderful to get a chance to spend time with all of you and we had amazing weather (and food— thank you cooks, volunteers and ice cream guys)! We hope to see you next year for the event as well.

Our wonderful three- and four-year-old children will give a special performance during the Sweet Spirits Luncheon on Wednesday, June 5. We would love to see you there!

On June 7, we will celebrate our rising kindergartners with a graduation party. We will miss these wonderful children we've watched grow and blossom, some from infancy, but we are so excited for them and their next chapter!

We continue to grow and flourish here at the CDC. We have a new teacher that you will be seeing in our hallways, Ms. Carlesta. She has come highly recommended and we know she will be a great addition to our team. Please join us in making her feel welcome by saying hi and introducing yourself.

We are kicking off summer with some fun summer themes in our classes! The two-year-old classes have learned about butterfly life cycles and will be hatching some. This is an amazing science exploration for the children! We are looking forward to water play on Fridays during the summer months as well.

Our rosters for September are just about complete. We still have spots available in our two-year-old rooms, so if you know anyone looking for a great preschool for their child or grandchild, have them contact Kim or myself at the CDC.

Have a safe and happy June!  
Shannon



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

Happy June everyone! June is one of my favorite months out of the year as it signifies the start of summer. Warm weather, Knights games at the stadium downtown, beach trips, and summer camps! We are in for a huge summer here at Pritchard Recreation and we are in need of some help around the facility. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know, let's get you plugged in!

There is still time to register for summer camps. If you want to sign your child up, your neighbor, your grandkids who all of the sudden showed up for the summer, whomever, you aren't too late! With plenty of options for kids ages 5-11 and scholarships still available, you don't want to miss out on a summer of fun. You can find specific details on the website or contact me for information.

Last month, we hosted our first ever Pritchard Recreation Pickleball Tournament. We had a great turnout and everyone had a blast. Our winners, Mark and Bryan, played a great tournament and took home pickleball gift cards. Be on the lookout for more tournaments and leagues in the fall. It's the fastest growing sport in the country for a reason, come find out why!



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

The end-of-year chaos, organized or not, is here and we're all excited for the rest and relaxation the summer brings. We are thrilled and excited for all of the wonderful camps happening on campus and we could still use your help!

We have the largest crowd yet for VBS, but only a few volunteers. If you are available July 15-18 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, please let me know.

I'm also very excited about Cultivate and having fun activities for the kids. Children, infants-rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders, will have fun, age-appropriate activities starting at 6:30 PM. In June they will have water wars, July will be open gym and August will be glow night! In order to make sure we have enough volunteers, please let me know if your child is coming.

## South End Fine Arts Academy

Pritchard is proud to be the home of the South End Fine Arts Academy. The Academy offers private music lessons, group dance classes and intro to music classes. For more information, please email [finearts@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:finearts@pritchardchurch.com) about upcoming classes!

# Hawaiian

## SHIRT SUNDAY JUNE 2

**CONNECT CLASSES | WORSHIP CELEBRATION | LUNCH IN THE COURTYARD**





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

Hello Pritchard family! First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming flood of prayers, love, and support extended to us as we eagerly anticipated the arrival of baby Ballard! Your prayers, cards, and acts of generosity from our church family have deeply touched us. We are looking forward to introducing him to all of you!

June is upon us, and we're thrilled to share what's happening in Pritchard Youth this month. Throughout June, we've got a lineup of events, including Promotion Sunday and Hawaiian Shirt Sunday on June 2. We'll be welcoming our rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders to Pritchard Youth in The Loft on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Fletcher building, and embracing the summer vibes with Hawaiian attire! On June 9, our summer book study, *"What if Jesus was Serious?"* begins. Facilitated by Clayton Erickson and Mekenzie Lemly, this study offers middle school and high school youth a chance to deepen their faith. Other exciting events include Color Wars on June 12, River Tubing with NC Outdoor Adventures on June 18, and a Family Lunch at Capishe: Real Italian Kitchen on June 23 after worship. Lastly, mark your calendars for June 30 when our youth will lead various areas of our church for Serve Sunday, followed by a fun-filled day at Carowinds!

We've also launched weekly challenges for the summer months, designed to foster personal growth and spiritual development. From Summer Scripture Kickoff to Tech-Free Week, there's something for everyone. Save the dates and get ready for a great kickoff to summer with Pritchard Youth! Stay connected by signing up for our monthly email updates and by following Pritchard Youth on our private Instagram and Facebook pages!

On the Journey Together,  
Brack Ballard

## Upcoming Dates:

**BAPTISM**  
Sunday, June 2

**COMMUNION**  
Sunday, June 23



**Grace Sykes**  
Pastoral Intern  
[gsykes@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:gsykes@pritchardchurch.com)

Happy June! During the month of June, we will be collecting canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank. Second Harvest Food Bank helps families and individuals who do not have adequate access to food. In one year, Second Harvest Food Bank distributes about 75 million pounds of food to individuals in need! During the month of June Pritchard Church will be collecting canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank. The most requested items include:

*Canned Fish or Meat*  
*Peanut Butter*  
*Canned Low-Sodium Soups or Stews*  
*Canned or Dry Beans*  
*Canned Fruits in Juice*  
*Canned Low-Sodium Vegetables*

Multiple drop-off locations include the Church Office and in the Sanctuary. Pritchard Kids will also participate in the Food Drive during their summer camps! Thanks so much for all your support for those in need!

## From the Media Center *by Katrina Gore*

Colleen Coble is a best-selling romantic suspense author whose novels have won numerous awards. She has over 4 million books in print and her books have been on several bestseller lists, including the USA Today bestseller list. She writes romantic mysteries because she loves to see justice prevail. Colleen is CEO of American Christian Fiction Writers. She lives with her husband in Indiana.

### **Fragile Designs**

When Carly Tucker's husband is killed during a home break-in, she knows that her side hustle isn't enough to support her and their infant son, Noah. Her grandmother's proposal to have her and her two sisters restore the family's waterfront home into a bed-and-breakfast is immediately intriguing. Carly never expected to find a letter in a trunk, written in her husband's handwriting . . . dated two days before his death. Is it possible that Eric's death wasn't random after all?

### **A Stranger's Game**

Desperate for answers about her best friend's drowning death, wealthy hotel heiress Torie goes undercover on Jekyll Island. When she meets Joe rescuing turtles, she finds a tentative ally in her quest. The more they dig, the more truth eludes them. One thing is clear---someone will risk anything to keep secrets buried!



### **Saturday, June 1**

2:00 PM—Fine Arts Dance Recital

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

### **Sunday, June 2**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Summer Kick Off/Lunch in the Courtyard

### **Monday, June 3**

### **Tuesday, June 4**

10:30 AM—Women On Mission

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

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, June 5**

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

### **Thursday, June 6**

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

3:30-4:30 PM—Pritchard Kids Summer Pop Up

### **Friday, June 7**

### **Saturday, June 8**

### **Sunday, June 9**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:45 AM—Youth Choir

### **Monday, June 10**

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting

### **Tuesday, June 11**

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

10:00 AM—See 'n Sew

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, June 12**

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

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

5:30-7:30 PM—Cultivate (Children, Youth and Adults)

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

### **Thursday, June 13**

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

9:00-3:00 PM—Church Workday

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

### **Friday, June 14**

9:00-3:00 PM—Church Workday

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

### **Saturday, June 15**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

### **Sunday, June 16....FATHER'S DAY**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

### **Monday, June 17**

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

### **Tuesday, June 18**

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Youth Event

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, June 19**

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

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

10:00 AM-4:00 PM—Thrift Store open

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

### **Thursday, June 20**

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

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Summer Recreation Camp

### **Friday, June 21**

### **Saturday, June 22**

### **Sunday, June 23**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

### **Monday, June 24**

9:00 AM-12 Noon—All About the Arts Camp

### **Tuesday, June 25**

9:00 AM-12:00 PM—All About the Arts Camp

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

7:00 PM—ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

### **Wednesday, June 26**

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

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

9:00 AM-12:00 PM—All About the Arts Camp

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

### **Thursday, June 27**

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

9:00 AM-12:00 PM—All About the Arts Camp

12:00-1:00 PM—All About the Arts Camp Performance

### **Friday, June 28**

### **Saturday, June 29**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors Banquet

### **Sunday, June 30**

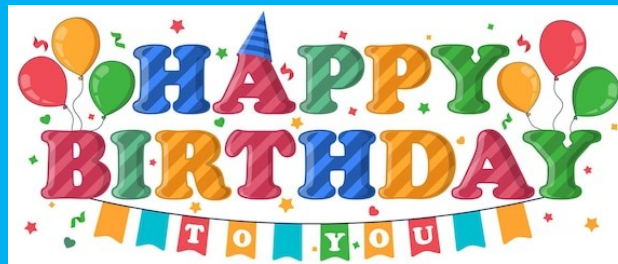
9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

12:00-5:00 PM—Youth to Carowinds

## We Express Our Love and Sympathy to...

- Dennis Stallings and family in the passing of his wife, Pam Stallings
- Joanny Rodriguez Bolick and family in the passing of her husband, Robert Bolick



Lori Williams	6/1	Diane Eaves	6/20
Jeff Steger	6/2	Kathy Thomas	6/22
Austyn Knepp	6/4	Adam Calderone	6/22
Hayes Knepp	6/4	James Fisher	6/24
Pat Cunningham-Billets	6/5	Ben Franklin	6/24
Kathy Evans	6/6	Lewis Johnson	6/24
Steve Dukleth	6/7	Mike King	6/24
Wendy Smith	6/8	Fifi Green	6/26
Pam Walters	6/8	Susan Rose	6/26
Chris Black	6/9	Bret McCormick	6/26
Carolyn McIntosh	6/10	Tommy Nettles	6/27
Molly Hewitt	6/12	Pat Springsteen	6/28
Dana Fox	6/12	Addison Ballard	6/28
Nancy Parris	6/14	Cynthia Zeigler	6/28
Joe Thomas	6/16	Michelle Taylor	6/29
Troy Mitchell	6/19	Susha Hursey	6/29
Dianne McGaha	6/19		
Dana Vaden	6/20		
Louise Bessinger	6/20		
Peggy Cherry	6/20		



**Thursday, June 13 and Friday, June 14**  
**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
**LUNCH PROVIDED**

Contact Matt Higgins, our Kitchen and Facilities Manager,  
 with questions or for more information  
[mhiggins@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:mhiggins@pritchardchurch.com) or 704-376-1571 ext. 112

## Stewardship Update: April 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	\$113,239	\$116,067	\$415,869	\$464,267
Expenses	\$103,767	\$112,605	\$416,621	\$478,983
Net Income	\$9,472	\$ 3,462	\$-752	\$ -14,716

Year-To-Date Actual Net Income is \$-752 compared to \$-14,716 for the budget,  
 giving us \$13,964 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
Pastoral Intern.....	Rev. Grace Sykes
Minister to Children and Their Families.....	Melissa Wisor
Executive Assistant for Administration & Education.....	Lynn Plyler
Office Assistant/Media Center Director.....	Katrina Gore
Accounting Assistant.....	Jeannie Sigmon
Events and Volunteer Coordinator.....	Jean Patterson
Kitchen and Facilities Manager.....	Matt Higgins
Recreation Director.....	Adam Calderone
CDC Director.....	Kim Govan
CDC Assistant Director.....	Shannon Leary



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