

PRITCHARD CHURCH MESSENGER

AUGUST 2024
VOLUME 59 ISSUE 8

CULTIVATE *SUMMER EDITION*

DINNER, FELLOWSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

DINNER | 5:30 - 6:30 PM

CLASSES & YOUTH/CHILDREN PROGRAMMING | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

SIGN-UP IN PRITCHARD CONNECT BY AUGUST 9

Family Discipleship - Chris Richardson

This is going to be a time to discuss how to have regular family discipleship time. For parents or families of any kind, the idea is to help empower and equip our families to grow in their journey after Jesus together.

Soul Care - Grace Sykes

How do you care for your soul? We will dive deep into how to renew your soul when you are weary.

"Retain your Brain"- How to Age-Proof Your Most Valuable Asset - Chuck Foresyth

In this workshop we will discuss action steps you can take to protect your brain and optimize your brain health today and tomorrow so you can remain being the best version of yourself.

How I can use RightNow Media - Rusty Thomaston

Besides the thousands of group studies, RightNow Media has a vast supply of video-based devotions and helps for every stage of life or interest – from babies to senior adults! Use this information to get your FREE Pritchard Church account and join us for the “How I can use RightNow Media” workshop.



Dr. Chris Richardson

Lead Pastor

crichardson@pritchardchurch.com

"All that you touch, you change. All that you change, changes you." Octavia Butler

Butler wrote a few books about this concept, and funny enough some of her thoughts spurred a type of religion from them. Don't worry, I'm not trying to convert you to that, I'm firmly convinced of the truth of Jesus. But, that doesn't mean we can't learn from other religions, groups, philosophies, writings, etc. And this quote from Butler has stayed with me.

Change is always a topic at the front of our minds, we recognize the reality, the importance, and the inevitability of change while also often resisting it. We WANT change. Or at least we recognize we need it. Change calls us to weigh our values, to consider the future, and to allow ourselves to journey into the unknown.

I believe Pritchard values following Jesus. I believe Pritchard values welcoming all the prodigal sons and daughters home. I believe Pritchard values the transformational power and joy of the gospel that Jesus the Christ was crucified, buried, and rose on the third day. These are our top-level values.

When it comes to change those values aren't changing for us. Gut-check time, though. We have to ask ourselves, if our preferences, our habits, our traditions, our creature comforts, if those things prevent us from enacting those top-level values, will we give those things up or toss our values instead? If each of us could be a little bit uncomfortable, but we knew, KNEW that someone might meet Jesus that wouldn't meet Jesus otherwise, would we be uncomfortable? What are our values worth to us?

I realize change is difficult, but I would encourage everyone to also see: change is inevitable. The medical patient that will not change his diet to avoid heart disease is simply embracing the change that comes through a heart attack. The taco company that will not embrace change by embracing Uber Eats is simply embracing the change of decreased profits. And the churches that do not embrace change... well I think we have seen plenty of examples. My invitation to you is to find the joy on forsaking all else for the sake and the call of the gospel. It's an adventure, it's a winding road, it is change. And it's wonderful.

Chris

Staffing Update:

This month I am pleased to give some exciting news: Grace Sykes is going to remain with us on staff in a part-time pastoral role for the next year.

When a foundation approached me to ask if there was a way to support our women's ministry or what major areas of need we had as a community, I quickly responded that we had a wonderful young pastor who was recently ordained, and that I wished we had the ability to keep her on staff longer. The foundation then responded by promising a year's part-time salary so that we could retain Grace in a pastoral role.

She and I are working on a title, but the summary of her role this coming year will be: women's ministry, continuing to assist with new members' class, augmenting our spiritual formation processes, and (this one ends up being a lot) helping me in a huge variety of ways. I am thrilled with the development, believe that she has already had a major positive impact here, and am very grateful that this does not require us to utilize money from our budget, but does allow us to continue to forward the mission of Pritchard.



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

SummerFest Week II, August 19-23

SummerFest, on beautiful Oak Island, NC, is Fort Caswell's premier five-day, four-night retreat for adults 50 and above!!! Our week's theme, "Reclaim the Joy", is taken from James 1:2. In just a few weeks, 24 of our members will be traveling there to experience a week like no other. Our worship services each morning, Tuesday-Thursday, at 11:00 AM in Hatch Auditorium, will be led by our very popular Bible study teacher, Rev. Dr. Rudy Ramphal. Special elective classes will be offered each morning from 9:00-10:45 AM, including the most popular arts and crafts class this past May, "Wooden Barn Quilts," led by our very own Vicky Arroba. By August 9, everyone planning to join us will receive a letter from me with everything you need to know about the week. Please contact me if you plan to ride on our church bus. Remember, all final payments are due now! (\$375.00 per person)

Sweet Spirits return Wednesday, September 4

We are calling all adults 50 and above to attend our next Sweet Spirits gathering from 11 AM-1 PM in our Fellowship Hall! Once again, there will be a time of GREAT fellowship, a delicious meal prepared by our very own Chef Matt, a time of singing the old timey songs and a devotion. Guest speaker will be Mr. Jimmie Odom, Master Beekeeper of Charlotte, NC. He has had the privilege over the years to share his wonderful knowledge of honey bees throughout our state with many groups of all ages. We'll listen to his many different stories, some may even bring a laugh, about his journey through life with God's amazing honeybees.

Reservation deadline: Wednesday, August 21 (to order food). Cost: \$10.00 per person payable at the door. Sign-up on REALM or call the Church Office. Remember...the best place to be is TOGETHER with YOU and Sweet Spirits!!!!!!

Upcoming September/October events:

- Sunago Choir resumes for 2024-2025
- Tuesday Night Fellowship/Bible Study/Prayer Time
- NCBAM Field of Makers at the Baptist Children's Home in Thomasville, NC
- The Ark Encounter Christian Tours Trip, October 14-18. We still have a few openings if you would like to attend!

I hope you are enjoying your summer. Look forward to seeing you soon!

Blessings, Stan



Shannon Leary
Child Development Center Assistant Director
sleary@pritchardchurch.com

Summer Salutations! We are in the dog days and are feeling it here at the CDC! July has been HOT! Water play on Fridays is in full swing and our kiddos are loving it! It has also been fun to see the beach and ocean themed lessons our classes have been working diligently on. We have had some great children's art decorating our hallway bulletin boards -



Vacation Bible School was a big hit with our Pre-K and TK classes. They really enjoyed being Olympians for the week and participating in all of the fun activities Melissa Wisor and her team of amazing volunteers put together. It was a huge project, and we thank her for making it such a big success for our children!

In August, we are preparing for September and the beginning of a new school year. We have finalized our rosters and are working on all of our new enrollments. We have several spots still available in our two- and three-year-old rooms, so if you know someone who is looking for childcare, please send them our way. We enjoy welcoming new families into our family!

We will have the Kona Ice truck come out in August, too, as a fun summer treat! We know it won't rival Pastor Chris and his ice cream machine, but it should be fun 😊

We have two teacher workdays at the end of this month to get prepared to welcome children into their new classrooms. The Center will be closed August 29-30 to accommodate these transitions.

We hope you have a fantastic August!



Adam Calderone
Recreation Director
acalderone@pritchardchurch.com

July has been a busy month here at Pritchard Recreation! It takes a huge effort to make these camps a success and I'd like to say thank you to those who helped with our STEM and Sports camp, specifically John Austin, Bill Farson, David Bailes, and Kelsey Strange for all of their efforts!

Vacation Bible School was a major success! It was the first time we hosted an afternoon session in the gym and the kids had a blast! Plans are already in the works for next year to continue the success we built on. A huge shoutout to Melissa Wisor for putting everything together and all our wonderful volunteers. It would not be possible without you!



Grace Sykes
Pastoral Intern
gsykes@pritchardchurch.com

Happy August! It's hard I believe that we are already over half way through the year! I want to thank our congregation and our kids camps for their donations to Second Harvest Food Bank. During VBS alone the kids donated over 120 items to those in need! All of the items donated will be dropped off to Second Harvest Food Bank this month.

I am so excited for all of the great events that we have planned for the second half of the year. One of the events that I am most excited about is our Football Tailgate Lunches. This season we are going to give out hotdogs to the tailgaters at every 1:00 home game (9/15, 9/29, 11/3, 11/24, 12/15 and 12/22). We will also provide a shuttle service to the stadium. Our goal with this event is to get involved in the community and show people the love of God through our actions. For this event to be a success we will need people to help cook hotdogs, serve hot dogs, and drive the buses. You can make a difference by simply volunteering for one of the six home games. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or if you would like to volunteer!



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

We had two amazing weeks of camps during July and I want to thank a lot of folks. We took 9 children to Camp Caraway where they experienced a ton of outdoor activities including archery, rock climbing, ziplining, fishing and other life skills like fire building, hair braiding, cooking and even how to play the ukulele. They left camp feeling challenged spiritually and wanting more. A huge thank you to Mac McCormick and Kristin Rogers for giving up a week to chaperone our kids.

Go For The Gold: VBS was wonderful and could not have been possible without the help of our amazing volunteers. We had close to 70 children who consisted of 4 year olds - 5th graders. VBS ended at 12 PM, however, this year, we offered an extended camp session which lasted until 4:30 PM. A HUGE thanks to Adam Calderone and the youth for providing wonderful care to 33 kids!

VBS VOLUNTEERS

Opening Ceremony: Courtney Ballard, Pritchard youth, David Bailes (for sound)

Crafts: Kristin Rogers, Tara Rogers, Emma Wisor

Bible Study: Grace Sykes, Lauren Wall, Anna Grady

Olympic Trials: Jennifer Arena

Snacks: Angela Livingston, Robin Richardson, Randy and Lynn Allen

Recreation: Adam Calderone, Tom Creech, Mac McCormick, Jack Richardson

Greeters: Lisia Shaw, Marilyn Billmeyer

Team Leaders: Virginia Wallace, Dakota Elder, Ginger Thompson, Kelsey Strange, Lynn Kisiah, Sheila Williams, Kathy Evans, Frances Nettles, Kendra Elder, Alisha Corey

Planning Team: Rebekah Alsop, Caitlyn Erickson, Jennifer Arena, Kristin Rogers, Morgan Jessup

We ended VBS with a family lunch. We are thankful for Matt Higgins who made our meal and Pastor Chris for his famous soft serve ice cream!

Two of our beloved volunteers are stepping down after many years. Nancy Elder and Gail Victory have served in the infant-3 year old class for over 25 years. We've been very fortunate for their commitment and the love they've shown to our youngest Pritchard Kids. I'm truly thankful for the both of them and the impact they have made on my own children.

There are many needs for volunteers starting in the fall. Our children are growing in quantity and we need to match that growth with adult volunteers. Please be in prayer as to how you can help.



Mac McCormick, Melissa Wisor & Kristin Rogers
enjoying decades night at Camp Caraway



Sports Camp with Coach Adam



Pritchard Kids at
Camp Caraway



Science & Stem Camp



Special Guest: John Austin



Go For The Gold: VBS



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

The month of July has been nothing short of fantastic! We had our second Cultivate Wednesday night where we made goodie bags for first responders at our local police and fire stations. We had a blast with our youth lock-in, driving up to Huntersville for bowling and a competitive game of laser tag. Back at the gym, we played basketball and football before closing the night with a midnight Bible study focused on "Being the Light." Our youth did a fantastic job supporting the Kid's Ministry and VBS. We also had "Fun Day" on July 23 and capped off the month with a trip to Carowinds on July 28.

August is here, and I am so excited to see what God has in store at Camp Ridgecrest this year. Our very own Jordan Sykes, the camp director, has done a fantastic job preparing for our 2024 camp! Camp Ridgecrest will run from August 5-9. We ask for your prayers, as we know God often moves on the

mountaintop. When we return home from camp, we look forward to our last Cultivate Wednesday Night on August 14, where the youth will meet up with their mentors. This will be an opportunity for relationships to form and prayer requests to be submitted for the upcoming school year. On Saturday, August 17, we are having our first-ever Progressive Dinner. Students will ride the bus, making stops at the homes of gracious members who have welcomed us in. Appetizers, entrées, desserts, and more!

Lastly, we continue to study the book "*What If Jesus Was Serious?*" led by our Clayton Erickson and Mekenzie Lemly. They have done a fantastic job challenging our students with meaningful theological reflection. Sunday mornings have been vibrant, filled with great energy, engaging games, and spirited competitiveness, all centered around our study of the book. Additionally, we are sharing weekly challenges throughout the summer, designed to foster personal growth and spiritual development.

Stay connected by signing up for our monthly email updates and following Pritchard Youth on our private Instagram and Facebook pages!



From the Media Center *by Katrina Gore*

Summer fun. Last peak of summer. Grab a summer read!

Sandcastle Inn *by Irene Hannon*

Vienna Price never intended to return for more than a passing visit to Oregon and all the bad memories she'd left behind. But when your career tanks, home is where you go to nurse your wounds and chart a new course. Only temporarily, of course, because as much as she loves her quirky mom, anything more than a short stay would drive them both crazy.

Love, unscripted *by Denise Hunter*

When Chloe can't find her perfect man, she writes a book to create him and receives a movie contract! Notorious Hollywood flirt Liam gets the lead, but he comes with a twist: Chloe must save his reputation by pretending to be his real-life girlfriend. Will this bargain prove to be more trouble than either could imagine?

PASTOR'S PULPIT

AUGUST 4

"WHO'S ALLOWED TO WHAT?" 1 TIMOTHY 2

AUGUST 11

1 CORINTHIANS PT 1

AUGUST 18

1 CORINTHIANS PT 2

AUGUST 25

1 CORINTHIANS PT 3





Thursday, August 1

Friday, August 2

Saturday, August 3

5:00 PM—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, August 4

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

11:30 AM—New Members Class

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

Monday, August 5

9:00 AM—Campers leave for Ridgecrest

Tuesday, August 6

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

Wednesday, August 7

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, August 8

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

Friday, August 9

12:00 PM—Campers return from Ridgecrest

Saturday, August 10

5:00 PM—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, August 11

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:30 AM—New Members Class

5:00-7:00 PM—All on the Table

Monday, August 12

9:00 AM-4:30 PM—Recreation Camp

6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, August 13

9:00 AM-4:30 PM—Recreation Camp

10:00 AM—See and Sew

Wednesday, August 14

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

9:00 AM-4:30 PM—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, August 15

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

9:00 AM-4:30 PM—Recreation Camp

Friday, August 16

Saturday, August 17

4:00 PM—Youth Progressive Dinner (off campus)

More Than Conquerors NOT MEETING

Sunday, August 18

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:30 AM—New Members Class

11:30 AM—Church Council

Monday, August 19

9:00 AM—SummerFest departure

Tuesday, August 20

Wednesday, August 21

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, August 22

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

Friday, August 23

4:00 PM—Summerfest participants return

Saturday, August 24

More Than Conquerors NOT MEETING

Sunday, August 25

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:30 AM—New Members Class

11:30 AM—Q&A with Pastor Chris (be sure to bring a bag lunch)

Monday, August 26

Tuesday, August 27

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

Wednesday, August 28

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

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, August 29

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

Friday, August 30

Saturday, August 31

More Than Conquerors NOT MEETING



Join us as we cover our students,
faculty and staff with prayer as they start their
2024-2025 School Year

We are currently collecting school supplies such as notebooks, scissors, crayons, pencils, rulers, erasers, glue sticks, and more! Stop by the Gathering Place any Sunday morning to leave your donations in the collection bin and have a cup of coffee! Donations may also be left in the Church Office during the week.

While you're out shopping and supplies are currently value priced, pick up extras for your Operation Christmas Child shoebox.....coming soon in November!

We Express Our Love and Sympathy to...

- Susie Crowell, Teresa Royer, Neva Sykes and their families in the passing of their mother, Sara Thompson.
- Peggy Cherry and family in the passing of her brother, Lynn Harrill.

Staff Anniversary

Join us in wishing Adam Calderone, Pritchard's Recreation Director, a Happy Anniversary! He joined our staff 3 years ago on August 9, 2021. Thank you, Adam, for your dedication and ministry! We appreciate you! *"We give thanks to God always for you...." (1 Thessalonians 1:2)*



Virginia Wallace	8/1	Amber Williams	8/20
Reagan Self	8/1	Donna West	8/23
Jean Boyd	8/1	Emery Taylor	8/23
Jeannie Sigmon	8/1	Terry Pope	8/27
Bob Morgan	8/2	Ripkin Beatty	8/27
Sharon Carstens	8/4	Donna Baldivid	8/29
Mary Frances Bussey	8/5	Sandy Riggins	8/30
Bo Sherrill	8/6		
Anne Roberson	8/7		
Larry Robinson	8/8		
Willow Knepp	8/8		
Lynn Allen	8/9		
Antonio James	8/11		
Susan Brown	8/12		
Robin Richardson	8/13		
Julia Jenkins	8/16		
Terry Walker	8/17		
Bethany Nettles	8/17		
Charles Bumgardner	8/17		
Bob Riggins	8/18		
Katrina Gore	8/18		

Stewardship Update: June 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	\$104,133	\$103,292	\$603,998	\$670,850
Expenses	\$104,875	\$117,411	\$641,531	\$709,000
Net Income	\$ -742	\$ -14,119	\$ -37,533	\$ -38,150

Year-To-Date Actual Net Income is \$-37,533 compared to \$-38,150 for the budget, giving us \$617 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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Child Development Center: 704-343-2944

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