

# PRITCHARD CHURCH MESSENGER

**JULY 2024**  
**VOLUME 59 ISSUE 7**

# ALL ON THE TABLE

**August 11 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**





**Dr. Chris Richardson**  
Lead Pastor

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

### **All On The Table**

It doesn't take much to see that we live in a divided and divisive time. It's hard to have a conversation about current events without someone getting a bit... aggressive. Israel and Palestine. Russia and Ukraine. IVF treatments. Women as pastors. The 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. LGBTQ discussion.

Likely for many of us, one or more of those words or phrases got you at least a LITTLE bit tense. This conversation could get out of hand. What we see modeled for us and what each of us has likely even participated in, is that if we enter those conversations then someone will have to win and someone will have to lose. Likely, the relationship itself will have some scars at best and fracture at worst.

But, here is the question, can Christians disagree on those topics, can Christians disagree on topics I didn't list, and still remain a family of faith?

Often we'll say, yes, but what we expect then is we simply don't discuss anything that we might possibly disagree about. We ignore disagreements and pretend they don't exist. Or we minimize the freedom of others to have their own views. Is there a better way?

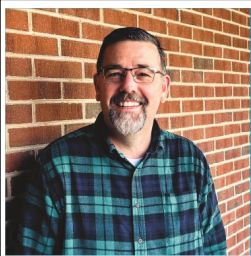
I think so.

In January I assembled a team, not the Avengers but close. The team is helping me create a space and a time for us to discuss difficult issues. The format will be fairly simple: discussion, communion, meal. The name of the event is "All on the Table" and we will be meeting monthly on Sunday evenings. This is not a decision making event, we are not trying to change bylaws or our church's position on things. This is not a forced uniformity event, we are not seeking to make everyone agree before we leave each month. This is a Unity in Christ Alone event, a reminder that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is our hope, and that after that we have the safety and freedom to discuss things, to struggle together, to reason together, even to **\*\*gasp\*\* DISAGREE** together, and to come back together for the purpose of the gospel.

This is your first formal invitation to join us. The second Sunday of each month, from August through May at 5 PM we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for All On The Table. And we are asking you to place all your struggles on the table, all your doubts, all your disagreements, all of your politics, theology, opinion, argument... all of it on the table. And to leave it, pick up communion, and find unity in a divided and divisive world. Not the cheap unity of complete uniformity, or the easy unity of ignoring difference, but the costly and wonderful unity found in the body and the blood of Jesus Christ.

Look for more information. In the month of August, it will be for our church only. After that, we will be inviting outsiders. On August 11, we'll be discussing "church matters" like who should be allowed to be members, who should be allowed to be ordained, and what is worship supposed to be? I hope you can join us in this wonderful adventure, August 11 at 5 PM!

*Chris*



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

### *A Particular Flying Biscuit's Special Sauce – PART 2*

Last month I told you that over the next several months, I will share with you why Amy and I decided to make the drive to a particular *Flying Biscuit* restaurant by relating our experience there (their *special sauce*) to Pritchard Church being "*the neighborhood church*."

<<If you did not read last month's article, I encourage you to do so.>>

The special sauce is **community**. Community is what we will "put on" all that we do. Without it, Pritchard Church can't be "*the neighborhood church*."

Here are just three of the "ingredients" of community. (I'll give more next month.)

1. A heap of "welcome." From the time Amy and I pulled in until we left, we felt welcomed. The folks at Flying Biscuit went out of their way to make eye contact with us, greet us, smile at us, and thank us for dining with them. The staff made us feel like their day was made better by us being there.

When "welcome" is in the sauce, you are glad you showed up. It seems so simple, but it is so very important.

2. A pound of "care." Since we have Oakley (our dog) with us, extra care is required to ensure that we have a good experience. We need to sit outside. We need to be seated in a place where we can keep Oakley out of the walkway. When "care" is in the sauce, you feel loved. It has been said that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. It takes a little effort, but showing care speaks volumes.

3. A handful of "interest." The staff at *Flying Biscuit* is interested in what is going on with Amy and me. They ask questions about our house. They want to know how our adjustment to Charlotte is going. They want to make sure Oakley is comfortable. When "interest" is in the sauce, you feel valued. It takes initiative, but being interested in others reaches a level that few, outside of close friends and family, reach.

Church, I'm confident that if we will welcome, care for, and show genuine interest in others, they will be glad they came, feel loved, and know we value them. If that happens, we will be well on our way to developing community that people will be drawn to.

What will you do to make Pritchard "*the neighborhood church*?"

Saved to Serve, Rusty



The Worship Leader Search Team and the Personnel Committee are excited to announce that Pete Killian joined the Pritchard staff as our new Creative Arts Pastor on Sunday, June 23!

For nearly two decades, Pete has lead worship, managed A/V, organized and trained musicians, and pastored multiple congregations throughout the US. He is a multi-instrumentalist with significant experience and is excited to bring his talents and skills to Pritchard.

Pete and David Bailes will work together over the next few months as worship planning responsibilities begin to transition to Pete. David's willingness to share his extensive experience and his commitment to serve Pritchard through the end of the year will help ensure a smooth transition.

The Pritchard congregation will have the opportunity to meet Pete, his wife Careese, and his sons Micah and Tobin during a special meet-and-greet after the service on July 14. We look forward to Pete and his family getting plugged in over the summer and are excited about this new chapter at Pritchard!

Matthew Rogers, Worship Leader Search Team Chair



## Rev. Stan Heiser

Associate Pastor Pastoral Care  
& Senior Adults

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

### Sweet Spirits Break for the Summer

Our program is taking a summer break after experiencing great programs/meals since February. Average attendance each month has been 70. I want to thank my committee for all they do to make every program a success - Becky Black, Carolyn Bolin, Chuck Foresyth, Frances Knell, Jane Mizelle, Jean Patterson, Robin Richardson, Tara Rogers, Sue Sams, Teri Sigmon, and Pam Walters. Thank you to Matt Higgins, our Kitchen/Facilities Manager, for the wonderful meals he has fixed the past two gatherings, David Bailes for running sound, Doug Burkhart, Rusty Thomaston, and Pastor Chris Richardson for serving meals to the tables along with greeting attendees. Fall program lineup: 9/4-Jimmie Odom (Master Beekeeper in NC), 10/2-Michael McKnight (SummerFest pianist), 11/6-Second Annual Sweet Spirits Variety Show; 12/4-Sunago Choir Christmas Concert.

### Cultivate "Just Walk Across the Room, Part II": July 10

What if you knew that taking 10 steps across a room and saying hello to another person could impact his/her eternity? It has nothing to do with methods and everything to do with taking a genuine interest in another human being. This will equip and inspire you to follow Jesus lead to extend care, compassion, and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God's love today. If this is an interest to you, please come join us!

### Tuesday Night ZOOM Fellowship/Bible Study/Prayer Time

It's been my pleasure to lead our Tuesday night ZOOM program (averaging 28 each week). It's a time we look forward to, even the funny jokes shared during fellowship time. A couple of weeks ago I asked about taking a break for the summer. 60% were in favor of breaking and 40% were in favor of continuing. From our "family" discussion, I have decided to break for the months of July and August. We'll resume September 4 and I look forward to seeing you and others who will join us for this very special time!

### SummerFest Week II "Reclaim the Joy": August 19-23

We are looking forward to another exciting week at Caswell. I am currently trying to secure additional rooms and we've started a wait list. By the first of July I'll know if we can add more rooms because of cancellations by other groups. If you are registered to go, final payments are due Sunday, July 28. Cost: \$375.00/person. Information packets will be sent out towards the end of July.

Blessings, Stan



## Shannon Leary

Child Development Center Assistant Director

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

Happy July! We had a very successful Graduation ceremony for our Pre-K and TK children! It was wonderful to see all the families and grandparents along with our alum and special guest speaker, Castle. It was a really exciting afternoon for the children but, of course, bittersweet for us, as we will be saying goodbye to our oldest children as they embark on their "big school" journey. We wish them all the best as they start their next chapter.

We enjoyed seeing everyone for our song performance at the last Sweet Spirits gathering. We are working on putting some volunteer opportunities together for those who are interested in being involved with our children at the Center. We will start announcing these in the fall and will reach out then.

We also had a successful clean-up day during campus clean-up. We would like to thank Matt for putting that together and the CDC would also like to thank Buck Boyd and Brian Thomas for building us a frame for the sandbox on our playground!

July is shaping up to be a really fun month around here. We have started our water play days on Fridays and the first one was a ton of fun! Sprinklers, water tables and bubbles. What could be a better thing to do on a sunny Friday in July if you are a kid? We will continue to do that through August.



We have lots of summer themes we are exploring this month. Beaches, ocean animals, and farms are just a few. The two-year-old classes are also hatching butterflies for a science project. This should be a really fun experience as they learn about the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly.

We have finalized our rosters for the 2024/2025 school year that will start in September. We will be operating at full enrollment and will be adding one three-year-old teacher to facilitate the opening of a second three-year-old room. If you know of anyone interested in working with us and our amazing littles, send them our way!

We wish you a fun and safe month of July!

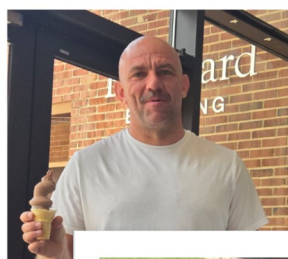




**Adam Calderone**  
Recreation Director  
[acalderone@pritchardchurch.com](mailto:acalderone@pritchardchurch.com)

Summers off to a great start here at Pritchard Recreation. Kids have enjoyed playing sports, making new friends, Swampball and of course, tons of ice cream. Even the staff got in on the fun.

Coming up in July we have VBS and multiple basketball camps, so the fun isn't slowing down anytime soon. A huge shoutout for the Pritchard Recreation A Team: Robbie, Kendra, Dakota, Kelsey, and Ben.



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

We are having a wonderful time in Pritchard Kids so far this summer. In June, we enjoyed a pop-up outing at Sweet Frogs, a family fellowship, and our All About the Arts Camp. We ended the month with Love In Motion: Kids Worship, where our children worshipped and then packed brown bag lunches and snack bags for Crisis Center. Thank you to those who supported this mission focus by donating food items.

On July 8, Mac McCormick, Kristin Rogers and I will be taking eight children to **Camp Caraway's Summer Camp**. They'll experience a week full of worship, friendship building, fun skills and interest groups like cooking, gardening, ziplining, archery, air rifling and much more.



**GO FOR THE  
GOLD  
SUMMER CAMP**

Just two days after we get back, we'll jump right into **VBS: Go For The Gold!** We have 70 children signed up which is our highest number in a long time. With the spirit of the summer Olympics in mind, each day will be packed with team-building activities, exciting sports and relays, crafts, enriching Bible study, and a delightful taste of snacks from around the world. July 15-18 will be filled with fun, growth, and unforgettable experiences! Please start praying for the hearts of the children who come onto our campus, that they will see Jesus in all we do and that seeds are planted.



## From the Media Center *by Katrina Gore*

### Just for the Summer *by Melody Carlson*

The solution to both their problems seems obvious. Just for the summer, they'll swap jobs and lifestyles. But they never anticipated swapping love interests . . . In this fabulous new twist on an age-old fable, award-winning and bestselling author Melody Carlson introduces you to two career-focused women who are about to discover that there's more to finding happiness than just switching up the scenery.

### The Summer House *by Lauren Denton*

When Lily Bishop wakes to find her husband's goodbye note and divorce papers, she takes a position as hair stylist at the Safe Harbor retirement community. She soon livens up the place Rose Carrigan founded. Will these women become friends?



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

The month of June has been nothing short of fantastic! Our rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders were promoted to youth on Hawaiian Sunday, and we have enjoyed welcoming them into our summer activities! We had a blast with slime and water balloons in color wars during our first of the Cultivate Wednesday Nights summer series, drove to the mountains for tubing down the river, and enjoyed a wonderful lunch with families at Capishe next door. We also kicked off our Sunday Morning Summer Book Study, *What if Jesus Was Serious*, in which our students are studying the Sermon on the Mount.

July is upon us, and I am sure it will be just as great as June was! Here's what's coming up: **July 10**, we are participating in Cultivate Wednesday night, focusing on missions. We'll be making "goody bags" and delivering them to our local police station, fire station, and other places of service to say, "We are your neighbor and thank you." **July 13-14**, we are having a lock-in at the church! This event was originally planned for the lake lodge, which we hope will be available soon. The night will include games, fun activities, and worship on Sunday morning! I am looking forward to a great night together. **July 15-18**, many of our youth will be volunteering with VBS. **July 23**, we're planning a fun day outing. **July 28** is our Sunday Serve event where we will participate in local missions and then head to Carowinds after church from 12:00-5:00 PM.

Lastly, we've launched weekly challenges for the summer, designed to foster personal growth and spiritual development. From Summer Scripture Kickoff to Tech-Free Week, there's something for everyone to engage with. Stay connected by signing up for our monthly email updates and following Pritchard Youth on our private Instagram and Facebook pages!

On the Journey Together, Brack



The last Wednesday of each month at 8:30 AM, all women are invited to Skyland Restaurant (4544 South Boulevard). Our next time for fellowship, devotion and a delicious breakfast together will take place July 31. Invite a friend! No reservations needed....just come hungry!



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

Happy July! Thank you all for your food drive donations. I know many families will benefit from your generosity.

June Cultivate was also a huge hit! I am looking forward to the next Cultivate on July 10. This month I will be teaching a class about Emotional Intelligence. Emotional Intelligence can be defined as your ability to manage your own emotions while also understanding the emotions of those around you. During this class, we will dive into how we can use Emotional Intelligence to help show God's love to all people. I hope to see you there!



## Sanctuary Flowers

**Sunday, July 14:** The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ginger Thompson's mother, Mary Elizabeth Harper; her brother, Tommy Harper; and Robert Thompson's mother, Sallie Thompson in celebration of their birthdays.

**Sunday, July 21:** The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Wall's heavenly homegoing July 20, 2023. They are placed by his wife, Debbie and their extended family.





**Monday, July 1**

**Tuesday, July 2**

10:30 AM—Women On Mission

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

**Wednesday, July 3**

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

10:00 AM-4:00 PM—Thrift Store open

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

**Thursday, July 4...INDEPENDENCE DAY**

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

**Friday, July 5**

**Saturday, July 6**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, July 7**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

**Monday, July 8**

Pritchard Kids leave for Camp Caraway

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Recreation Camp

**Tuesday, July 9**

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Recreation Camp

10:00 AM—See 'n Sew

**Wednesday, July 10**

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

9:00 AM-4:00 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, July 11**

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

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Recreation Camp

**Friday, July 12**

Pritchard Kids return from Camp Caraway

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Recreation Camp

**Saturday, July 13**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

Youth Lock In (The Loft)

**Sunday, July 14**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

11:30 AM—Meet and Greet with Pete Kilian

**Monday, July 15**

9:00 AM-12:00 PM—Vacation Bible School

12:00-4:00 PM—Recreation Camp

6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting

**Tuesday, July 16**

9:00 AM-12:00 PM—Vacation Bible School

12:00-4:00 PM—Recreation Camp

**Wednesday, July 17**

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

9:00 AM-12:00 PM—Vacation Bible School

12:00-4:00 PM—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, July 18**

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

9:00 AM-12:00 PM—Vacation Bible School

12:00-4:00 PM—Recreation Camp

**Friday, July 19**

**Saturday, July 20**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, July 21**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

3:30 PM—Ridgecrest Volunteers Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**Monday, July 22**

**Tuesday, July 23**

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Youth Fun Day Outing

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

7:00 PM—Quarterly Conference

**Wednesday, July 24**

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

**Thursday, July 25**

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

**Friday, July 26**

**Saturday, July 27**

5:00 PM—Connect Group: More Than Conquerors

**Sunday, July 28**

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

12:00-5:00 PM—Youth to Carowinds

**Monday, July 29**

12:00-1:00 PM—Pritchard Kids Pop-Up (off campus)

**Tuesday, July 30**

**Wednesday, July 31**

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



We Express Our Love and Sympathy to...

- The family and friends in the passing of Elinor Hendrick.
- The family and friends in the passing of Judy Morgan.



Melissa Wisor has served as Pritchard’s Minister to Children and Families since July 12, 2021. Thank you, Melissa, for the love and care you give to our little ones. We appreciate you and your ministry!  
*“We give thanks to God always for you....” (1 Thessalonians 1:2)*

THANK YOU!

We want to give a shout out to Matt Higgins for organizing a very successful campus workday in June. We filled up the large dumpster twice! Things are so much tidier now and the campus is looking better. THANK YOU to our volunteers who pitched in –Steve and Debbie Price, Mac McCormick, Brian Thomas, Sheila Williams, Buck and Jean Boyd, Jean Patterson, Jordan and Grace Sykes, Marilyn Withrow, Meagan Crowell, Allen and Sandy Childers, Donny and Melissa Wisor, Chris Richardson, David Bailes, Rusty Thomaston, Doug Burkhart, Lynn Plyler, Shannon Leary, Kim Govan, and Adam Calderone.  
***We couldn’t have done it without you. It was a team effort!***



Ginger Thompson	7/1	Bobby Stroup	7/19
Chuck Foresyth	7/1	Joanie Holland	7/19
Vernous Huntley	7/3	Cordelia Bennett	7/20
Judy Kelly	7/3	Kathy Kobos	7/21
Emma Wisor	7/4	Missy Hennessey	7/21
Nicole Stover	7/4	Mary Bridges	7/21
Mike Parker	7/6	Mitzi Mayhew	7/22
Courtney Ballard	7/6	Kim Knell	7/23
Ron Sigmon	7/7	Nancy Hollingsworth	7/24
Noah Henderson	7/7	Don McGaha	7/25
Kathy Dozier	7/9	Susan Cowan	7/26
Brian Eaves	7/10	Jim Thomas	7/27
Roxanne Phillips	7/11	Harper Lemly	7/27
Jue’l Givens	7/12	Michael Williams	7/28
Peggy Spence	7/13	Cathy Prince	7/30
Alice Yadon	7/13	Dennis Clark	7/30
Gail Victory	7/14	Cynthia Brown	7/31
Sue Sams	7/16		
Sheila Williams	7/18		
Faye Canupp	7/18		

Stewardship Update: May 2024 Revenues and Expenses Summary

	Month-To-Date Actual	Month-To-Date Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget
Revenue	\$83,997	\$103,292	\$499,866	\$567,558
Expenses	\$120,087	\$112,605	\$536,708	\$591,588
Net Income	\$-36,090	\$-9,313	\$-36,842	\$-24,030

Year-To-Date Actual Net Income is \$-36,843 compared to \$-24,030 for the budget, giving us \$-12,812 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
Creative Arts Pastor.....	Rev. Pete Kilian
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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