

PRITCHARD CHURCH MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2024
VOLUME 59 ISSUE 9

Fall Kick-Off & **JERSEY SUNDAY**

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE JERSEY OR TEAM COLORS!

SEPTEMBER 8

**CONNECT GROUPS | 9:15 AM
WORSHIP CELEBRATION | 10:30 AM**

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN PROGRAMMING
BEGINS AT 9:00 AM. YOUTH CHOIR BEGINS AT 11:45 AM.**





Dr. Chris Richardson

Lead Pastor

crichardson@pritchardchurch.com

This month in worship we're going to look at three big words: Gather, Give, Go, and ask that you prayerfully consider your participation in those things. We believe that this is a simple way to describe what we do as a church and a simple way to view your own spiritual growth. I am confident that if you commit yourself to participating in gathering, giving, and going, that you will experience more growth and more joy in your spiritual life.

Gather:

This one may seem simple and obvious to you. "Yeah yeah, come to worship on Sundays." But that isn't the only way to gather. It is important to our spiritual growth to gather with other Christians and sing, important to consider the teachings of Scripture, and important to pray corporately. But those are not the complete list of the ways we need to gather. We need to gather in more personal settings. We have quite a few options for Connect Groups or Sunday School classes on Sunday mornings at 9.15 AM. This is a space for you to know others and for you to be known. Being anonymous sounds great, but growth happens in community. In addition to our established groups, Associate Pastor Grace Sykes and I will be offering a group on Sunday mornings titled: *"Faith, Doubt, and Deconstruction"* where we ask questions we might otherwise be too shy to ask.

Maybe Sunday morning isn't great for you. We are working on establishing some home groups. You may be interested in facilitating or hosting one yourself, reach out to me and I'd love to talk about how we can make that happen.

But, beyond gathering in those ways, we believe spiritual growth happens by gathering with the Triune God. Why say it that way? Because we often forget that God is three persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. And when we pray, prayerfully read scripture on our own, and otherwise seek God individually, we are actually gathering with that Triune God.

Give:

Give us money. No, that's actually not what this is centrally about. We believe that one thing that is essential to our growth is to give of ourselves. That means giving time, and often giving of our treasures. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" is not just DESCRIPTIVE, it is also PRESCRIPTIVE! We get closer to God as we return to him our money and our time, things that we only have because he originally gave those to us. So we believe you need to give to grow.

Go:

This could say "as you go" but we are made for mission. That doesn't mean we always have to travel around the world, often mission is waiting for us at school, work, the gym. Every person we see is an image-bearer of God, and he invites us to love them by offering them his table and his church. Our mission is invitation. We grow by being on mission.

I am excited for this series we'll be starting on September 8 with our "kickoff" Sunday. I hope you will wear your jersey and join us!

Chris



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

SWEET SPIRITS: Wednesday, October 2

Calling all adults 50 and above to attend our next Sweet Spirits gathering! Great fellowship, a delicious meal prepared by our very own Chef Matt, a time of singing the old timey songs, and our guest artist, Michael McKnight. Michael is a concert/church pianist from Greenville, NC. For those of you who have attended SummerFest the past two years, you have had the opportunity to enjoy his talents. A gifted pianist, who can play any kind of music, is not stuffy...he can let his hair down. At SummerFest, he led us in a special fun program of "Name That Tune" and also shared a program of Broadway Show tunes. We had the option of trying to match the song with the Broadway show OR just sitting back and enjoying our favorite show tunes played so wonderfully by Michael! Michael is developing something new for our Sweet Spirits gathering where we will try and match the songs he plays to our favorite TV programs. It's going to be so much fun! You will marvel at the way he plays the piano!

Sweet Spirits meet each month from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM in our Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10.00 per person payable on Realm prior to the event or \$12.00 at the door. Remember to register on Realm to receive your \$2.00 discount for signing up and paying early! Reservation deadline is Thursday, September 19. We'll need to turn in our final number to Chef Matt so he can order the food. Remember, the best place to be is together with you and the Sweet Spirits!

SPECIAL DAY TRIP to *Field of Makers/Baptist Children's Home/Mills Home in Thomasville, NC: Saturday, September 7*
Sponsored by NCBAM

Come see crafters from all over NC as they share their unique creations that will be judged that day as well as items that will be for sale. This juried artisan event features North Carolina's finest craftsmen, food vendors, a tour of Mills Home and the headquarters of NCBAM. We'll leave Pritchard by our minibus Saturday morning at 9:00 AM and return by 4:00 PM. Cost is \$10.00 (admission and travel expenses). Sign-up on Realm or call the Church Office.



SUNAGO CHOIR RESUMES

Our Sunago Choir begins its new year on Thursday, September 5 at 10:15 AM in our Shoemaker Music Building

under the direction of our Minister of Music, David Bailes. Lori Williams will be our pianist. We hope all our Sunago Choir members will be able to join us again this year, as well as those who have been wanting to join our outstanding Senior Adult Choir! Oh, by the way, it's time to learn our Christmas music to present to our church and community in December. See you on Thursday, September 5!!!

TUESDAY NIGHT ZOOM *Fellowship, Bible Study and Prayer Time resumes Tuesday, September 10 at 6:45 PM to 8:00 PM.*

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Blessings, Stan



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

Salutations! We hope you had a great labor day weekend and enjoyed time with friends and family.

As summer gives way to fall, we are preparing for our children at the CDC to move up to the next age group and saying goodbye to our rising Kindergartners. August went fast and we enjoyed a month of water play on Fridays and the Kona Ice Truck as a special goodbye summer treat!

In September, we welcome thirteen new families into our CDC. We are operating at nearly full capacity with the addition of new children and are looking forward to getting to know them. We will be moving some of our classrooms around to better utilize our space. We will add a library/specials room combo where children will have the opportunity to go for their music special, starting in October, and library time. We removed climbers from classrooms and gave our "blue room" a little bit of a face lift by adding these structures back in here for gross motor time and rainy-day space. We have also added some fun ocean themed decorations around the center and our theme for that is *"Mightier than the waves of the sea is his love for you"* from Psalms 93:4.

We will begin planning for our October Trunk-or-Treat and our fall festival early this month. We will need volunteers, so, if you'd like to help, please send an email to Kim, myself or Lynn. We are also working on some additional volunteer opportunities that our church community can get involved in throughout the year, so stay tuned for that if you are interested. We'd love to see you and I am sure our children would love it too!

Have a wonderful and safe start to the school year!



Rev. Rusty Thomaston

Executive Pastor

rthomaston@pritchardchurch.com

A Particular Flying Biscuit's Special Sauce – PART 3

This is the final article where I share with you why Amy and I decided to make the drive to a particular *Flying Biscuit* restaurant, though it's on the south side of Charlotte and we live on the north side, by relating our experience there (their *special sauce*) to Pritchard Church being "*the neighborhood church*."

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*."

I've shared three ingredients. (A fuller explanation of them can be found in my June article.)

1. A heap of "welcome." From the time Amy and I pulled in until we left, we felt welcomed.
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.
3. A handful of "interest." The staff at *Flying Biscuit* is interested in what is going on with Amy and me.

Here is the final "ingredient" of community I'll share.

4. A generous portion of "extra mile." Because of life events, it had been several weeks since Amy and I could enjoy brunch at our favorite *Flying Biscuit*. When we were able to return, Sharon, one of the sweetest ladies you will ever meet, welcomed us as usual but quickly disappeared. I thought that was a little odd, but I didn't know what she was involved in before we arrived, so I wrote it off as her being busy. What we didn't know was she was making a break for her car. See, she had been carrying around a housewarming gift for us ever since our last visit. She was glowing as she presented it to us.

Church, to be the neighborhood church, it will necessitate that we, in whatever way we are able, go the extra mile for people. Going the extra mile will look different from person to person, but the way it is delivered will be the same. It will be delivered with excitement and a genuine desire for those for whom we are going the extra mile will know they are valued because we have, in some way, thoughtfully invested in them.

Like any good recipe, you may add extra ingredients to your liking, but I'm confident that these four ingredients can't be missing. I encourage you to think about what else you could add to make the special sauce here at Pritchard even better!

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

Saved to Serve, Rusty

Another Giving Option

Chances are you have given a tithe and/or offering by putting cash in the offering plate, written a check, or even given online or through an app. But have you ever given stock? This option is becoming more and more common. If you would like to give a tithe or offering by donating stock, your broker will need some important information. Have them email me (rthomaston@pritchardchurch.com). I will be happy to provide them with what they need.



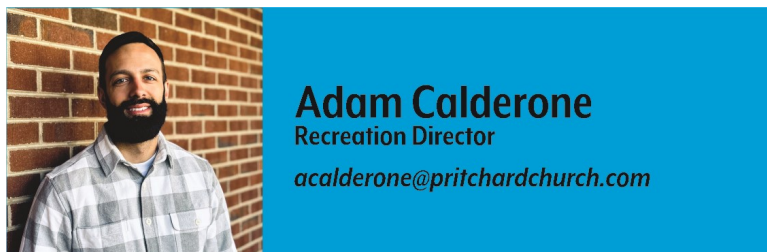
We're excited to announce our newest staff member

Martin Timmons



Martin joined Pritchard's team as our Facilities Assistant on August 1. He enjoys woodworking and fishing. He also does excellent work painting, laying carpet and he has a host of many other wonderful hidden talents! Martin is a ray of sunshine....always has a smile on his face and a warm greeting for every person he meets. He's been a member of Pritchard since July 2021. If you haven't met him yet, make sure you introduce yourself!

We're so happy to have you join our team, Martin! We are grateful for your generous heart, sharing your God given gifts and hard work!



Adam Calderone
Recreation Director
acalderone@pritchardchurch.com

And that is a wrap for summer! Our final summer camp was a major hit. For the first time, kids got the chance to compete in different field day activities against other campers at Tom Sykes Rec Center. The festivities ended with a giant game of Tug of War!



We had a great summer here at Pritchard rec, filled with sports, ice cream, laughs, and of course, swamp ball. A huge thank you to everyone that helped this summer, it would not be possible without you.



A special shoutout to our Pritchard Youth Kendra and Dakota Elder, who worked tirelessly all summer to ensure our camps ran smoothly. We are already planning for summer 2025, so be on the lookout for some big things coming!



Happy 10 Years!

Our South End Fine Arts Academy is celebrating it's 10 year anniversary this season! Since its beginning, the Academy has reached nearly 100 families through piano lessons and dance classes. The students come from our CDC families, our Pritchard families and the community. We are thankful for Melissa Wisor who manages the admin and vision side of things, for David Bailes as their supportive advisor, for Lori Williams as their piano instructor extraordinaire, and for Megan Tyler and JoBeth Hilton as exceptional dance instructors.

Mission Project

Starting this month, we are collecting items to assist new residents at the Anchor of Hope homes. Many times, a new person will move into one of these homes with little more than the clothes on their back and a huge desire to improve their life. Providing some of these necessities will be tremendously helpful!

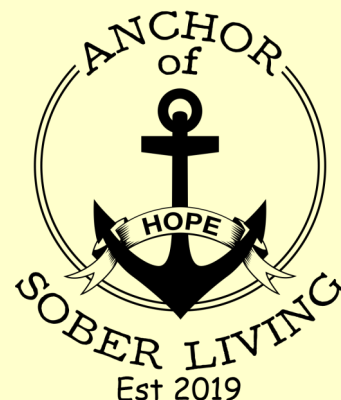
A gift box list of hygiene products, groceries and individually wrapped snacks is available in the Sanctuary lobby and the Church Office.

Collection containers will be provided throughout the campus with signs indicating they are for this mission project. Please place your donations into these collection containers. This will be an ongoing project.

If you have questions, please contact Carol Hewitt or Jennifer Arena. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

*"For I was hungry
and you gave me food;
I was thirsty
and you gave me drink;
I was a stranger
and you took me in."*

Matthew 25:35 (NKJV)





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

We are excited to share the launch of our new mentoring program, designed to foster meaningful relationships and spiritual growth within our Pritchard Youth community. This program, running from September to May, will pair our young people with dedicated mentors who will guide, support, and encourage them.

The practice of discipling and mentoring is deeply rooted in scripture. Throughout the Bible, we see examples of mentorship shaping the faith and lives of individuals: Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and His disciples, Paul and Timothy. These relationships demonstrate the power of investing in others, providing guidance, wisdom, and encouragement.

We are incredibly thankful to the 16 mentors who have stepped up to embrace this new opportunity at Pritchard to invest in the lives of our young people. Their commitment and willingness to mentor will undoubtedly make a lasting impact.

In the month of September, kicking off this mentorship will be our primary focus, but we've got some exciting opportunities to connect and grow spiritually. Sunday mornings, we will be jumping into a new series, "Amazing Grace," as we explore what it means to be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Pritchard Youth Families, we invite you to join us for the Cookout and Pool Party at the Beatty home on Saturday, September 7 from 4:30-6:30 PM. Additionally, we are looking forward to the CBFNC Fall Retreat at Fort Caswell in October.

Please keep our mentors and mentees in your prayers as they embark on this journey together. We look forward to seeing the positive outcomes of these relationships in the coming months.

Women on Mission

Join us as we resume our monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 3 in P200 (Pritchard Building second floor) at 10:30 AM. Women on Mission is a missions discipleship group designed to equip adult women in becoming active disciples of Christ as they live on mission for Him. We seek to live out missions through missions projects, ministries, prayer, giving, and Bible study. If you have never been to one of our meetings, we invite you to attend! To learn more or if you have questions, please contact Millie Creech.



Rev. Grace Sykes
Associate Pastor
gsykes@pritchardchurch.com

Happy September! It is hard to believe that it is already here! I am so excited for the events that we have lined up for Women's Ministry! Did you know that we have a Women's Ministry Facebook page? Simply search "Pritchard Women's Ministry" and we should pop up or go to this link - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pritchardwomen>

We will have a Women's Ministry Kick-Off meal on Friday, September 6 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is an event that you do not want to miss!! Please RSVP through Realm by September 3 to ensure we have enough dinner for everyone! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

From the Media Center

by Katrina Gore

Award winning author, Irene Hannon is well-known for writing romantic-suspense novels that leave readers on the edge of their seats. She has more than 50 romantic suspense and contemporary romance women's fiction novels. She is a seven-time finalist & three-time winner of the RITA award.

Favorite Verse: Matthew 6:21

"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

SANDCASTLE INN

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.

LETHAL LEGACY

The police say her father's death was suicide. But Kelly Warren says it was murder--and she has new evidence that she believes proves it. Detective Cole Taylor doesn't put much credence in her claim, and nothing in his case review suggests foul play. But when Kelly ends up in the emergency room with a suspicious life-threatening medical condition, the incident strikes him as more than just coincidence. Digging deeper, he discovers she's linked to a long-ago crime. Is history repeating itself? And who wants Kelly silenced?

September

Sunday, September 1

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming
9:15 AM—Connect Groups
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

Monday, September 2....LABOR DAY

CHURCH OFFICE/CAMPUS CLOSED

Tuesday, September 3

10:30 AM—Women on Mission
1:00 PM—Pickleball
3:00 PM—Afternoon Bible Study Group (Spence home)
NO ZOOM Bible Study/Prayer Time

Wednesday, September 4

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, September 5

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

Friday, September 6

6:00 PM—Women's Ministry Kick-Off Meal

Saturday, September 7

9:00 AM-4:00 PM—Senior Adult Day Trip to Field of Makers
4:00-6:30 PM—Youth Cookout and Pool Party (Beatty home)
More Than Conquerors (NOT MEETING)

Sunday, September 8

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming
9:15 AM—Connect Groups
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration/Fall Kick Off/Communion
11:45 AM—Youth Choir
5:00-7:00 PM—All on the Table

Monday, September 9

6:30 PM—Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, September 10

10:00 AM—See and Sew
1:00 PM—Pickleball
6:45 PM—Prayer Time/Bible Study on ZOOM

Wednesday, September 11

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

Thursday, September 12

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

Friday, September 13

Saturday, September 14

5:00-7:00 PM—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, September 15

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming
9:15 AM—Connect Groups
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration
11:45 AM—Youth Choir
12:00 PM—Pritchard Kids Family Lunch at Camp North End

Monday, September 16

Tuesday, September 17

1:00 PM—Pickleball
6:45 PM—Prayer Time/Bible Study on ZOOM

Wednesday, September 18

6:30 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
10:00 AM-4:00 PM—Thrift Store open
6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal
6:30-9:15 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, September 19

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

Friday, September 20

Saturday, September 21

5:00-7:00 PM—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, September 22

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming
9:15 AM—Connect Groups
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration
11:45 AM—Youth Choir

Monday, September 23

Tuesday, September 24

10:00 AM-12:00 PM—Volunteers to Crisis Assistance
1:00 PM—Pickleball
6:45 PM—Prayer Time/Bible Study on ZOOM

Wednesday, September 25

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, September 26

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

Friday, September 27

Saturday, September 28

5:00-7:00 PM—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, September 29

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming
9:15 AM—Connect Groups
9:15 AM—HIS Class Social
10:30 AM—Worship Celebration
11:45 AM—Youth Choir

Monday, September 30

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

- Dennis Purdy and family in the passing of his wife, Jill Purdy.
- Amanda Tatum and John Tatum in the passing of their father, Mike Upchurch.
- Gary and Debra Huhnerkoch in the passing of his aunt, Gladys Blomquist and his uncle, Vernon Magnuson.
- Jan King and family in the passing of her mother, Jerri King.
- Bill and Brenda Farson in the passing of his brother-in-law, Evans Harris.

Staff Anniversary

Join us in wishing Grace Sykes a Happy Anniversary! She joined our staff on September 5, 2023. We've watched her grow up before our eyes as a long time church member. She was ordained in May at Pritchard. As our Associate Pastor, Grace will work with our women's ministry, new members class, spiritual formation and in many other areas. Grace, thank you for your ministry and dedication to Pritchard. We love and appreciate you!

"We give thanks to God always for you...."
(1 Thessalonians 1:2)



Vivienne Fox	9/1	Claudia Mady	9/19
Emilia Fox	9/1	Flynn Hewitt	9/19
Keith Davis	9/2	Landry Wisor	9/20
Cole Calo	9/2	Adeline Rogers	9/20
Beverly Harris	9/3	Skip Williams	9/21
Vance McBride	9/6	JC York	9/21
Claude Hollingsworth	9/7	Carol Kimball	9/21
Jean Patterson	9/10	David McDuffie	9/22
PJ Eaves	9/11	Neva Sykes	9/23
Marsha Sherrill	9/13	Gail Foresyth	9/23
Ken Cherry	9/13	Brad Cowan	9/27
Zeno Wall	9/14	Doug Burkhart	9/28
Stacey Elder	9/15	Gerald Robinson	9/30
Barbara Taylor	9/16		

Stewardship Update: July 2024 Revenues and Expenses Summary

	Month-To-Date Actual	Month-To-Date Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget
Revenue	\$87,409	\$90,517	\$691,407	\$761,367
Expenses	\$98,604	\$112,605	\$740,136	\$821,605
Net Income	-\$11,196	-\$22,089	-\$48,729	-\$60,238

Year-To-Date Actual Net Income is -\$48,729 compared to -\$60,238 for the budget, giving us -\$11,509 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
- Associate Pastor.....Rev. Grace Sykes
- Minister to Children & Their Families.....Melissa Wisor
- Executive Assistant for Administration & Education.....Lynn Plyler
- Office Assistant & Media Center Director.....Katrina Gore
- Accounting Assistant.....Jeannie Sigmon
- Events & Volunteer Coordinator.....Jean Patterson
- Kitchen & Facilities Manager.....Matt Higgins
- Facilities Assistant.....Martin Timmons
- 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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