

PRITCHARD CHURCH MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 60 | ISSUE 2

I mentioned in the January 12th sermon that each of us is created to be a creator. Part of our God-given nature as image bearers is that because God is a creator, WE are creators. Just take a look at our homes, the way we dress, the ways we write, the way some park, we are creative! (and I'm sorry but that's actually not a good thing for parking)

Whatever it is, we're each creative to some degree. You might be thinking you wish you were, you just aren't creative any more. Well, I have good news! This is an excuse and a reason to be creative again! We are getting ready, it is still a couple months away, but we are already getting ready for our first "Creation Night"! Or, we might call it something else, working on that part. I like Creation Night, but I've heard it didn't test well.

Regardless of what we end up calling it, here is what we're going to do: on Friday, May 2 we are inviting everyone to bring something that shows their creativity. It doesn't need to be perfect, in fact I would argue there is no such thing. Maybe you enjoy writing, write something and bring some copies of part of it. Maybe you enjoy fashion, bring some of your fashion decisions. Maybe you enjoy wood-working, bring something you've made. Maybe you enjoy performing a dance or a song or a poem, come show off!

This is meant to be a café type of time where we fellowship, appreciate what other people have made and done, and encourage one another. God is the great artist, and each of us is meant to create just like he does. So mark your calendars and start thinking now! We will have early registration soon. We'll have coffee, tea, hot chocolate. We'll have some snacks. And we'll have fun. Hope you can make it!

Chris Richardson

Lead Pastor



PRITCHARD GOES POP

DINNER SHOW

**THE EVENING WILL SHOWCASE A VARIETY OF
SOLOISTS AND THE ADULT, YOUTH,
AND KID CHOIRS.**

**OUR ADULT MENU INCLUDES BAKED
CHICKEN BREAST, GREEN BEANS, MASHED
POTATOES, SOFT ROLLS, TOSSED SALAD,
AND APPLE COBBLER. FOR THE LITTLE ONES,
WE HAVE A KID'S MENU FEATURING
CHICKEN NUGGETS, FRENCH FRIES, AND A
DELIGHTFUL DESSERT.**

**FEBRUARY 22
6:00 PM**



REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 14!

Message from Endowment

MINIMIZE TAXES - You know the saying, "Cash is king"? That's not necessarily true, especially when it comes to making charitable contributions to the causes you care about. There's an opportunity to maximize your philanthropic gift and minimize your taxes with the donation of non-cash assets. And the opportunity is significant: According to a study of tax data by Cause IQ, while 90% of wealth in the United States is held in non-cash assets, only 14% of non-profits reported receiving non-cash contributions. With thoughtful planning, you can donate stocks, mutual funds, bonds, company shares, real estate and more to your favorite charities – and make a major impact.

BOTTOM-LINE BENEFITS - Opening your heart and mind to donating non-cash assets will not only further the mission of your beloved nonprofits, but can have significant tax benefits for you as well. Because donors typically hold more wealth in non-cash assets, the value of the items they possess is greater than what they're able to donate in cash. Charities benefit by effectively receiving a larger donation. But that value can work for you too. Donating a non-cash asset that has appreciated in value, like real estate or stock, allows the charity to benefit from the full fair market value of the gift. You can also deduct the fair market value of the donated assets, with the added benefit of avoiding capital gains taxes. Once you've made the donation, it'll also reduce the size of your taxable estate, lowering your tax bill overall. Before you decide what type of asset to donate, speak with a tax professional to ensure you're gifting the noncash asset that will provide the most significant tax relief. Additionally, considering how much you'd like to contribute to the charitable cause you choose may help you determine which asset you should donate.

GUIDELINES FOR DONATIONS - If you'd like to donate non-cash assets, check with the charitable organization first to ensure they accept these types of contributions. Typically, the nonprofits that are willing to receive real estate, securities and the like will advertise this fact (since they must be equipped to manage and liquidate them). If you don't have a specific charity in mind, you may be able to find an organization that supports the cause you care about and that's willing to accept the non-cash assets you want to offer.

PRO TIP - If you have a donor advised fund (DAF) or are considering establishing one to expand your philanthropic commitment, it may make the process of donating non-cash assets easier. You can transfer non-cash and even illiquid complex assets to a DAF and use the proceeds from liquidation for grantmaking to your favorite charities. If you're donating real estate, you'll be required to obtain a third-party appraisal to attach to the tax filing to validate the deduction you claim. Gifting private shares requires a third-party valuation as well. You don't need this information prior to making the donation, but will need it in time for filing your

tax return. Your advisor can help guide you through the process, so you can focus on fulfilling your philanthropic goals and leaving a meaningful legacy. You may be able to maximize your generosity and reduce your tax burden with a strategic, well-planned donation to the organizations that you care about the most, such as Pritchard Church Endowment Fund.

Mental Health

Have you felt like you've struggled with some mental health issues? If so, we have a fund to help pay for some counseling for our people who need it. We will keep it discrete, but if you need that assistance, there is nothing wrong with you or with letting your church family help. Please reach out to any of our pastoral team and they will help you confidentially.

Notes of Thanks

Last summer I had 2 major surgeries. I spent 114 days (or 2,736 hours) and approx. 164,116 minutes on a walker. Healing was a slow process. The one constant during this time was and is unconditional love. God led me through this by putting a wonderful wife in my life. No matter what she says, it's true. Caring, nurturing, and doing things that I could not do for myself.

Church family, you stepped up like the saints you are. We have a small farm with close to a half acre of raspberries and blackberries. We planted only a 1/4 of an acre of tomatoes and a few other things. The harvest was immense and we would have been overwhelmed except that our church family stepped up. The volunteers were many that we had to make a schedule. Some came multiple times. Many brought meals.

The folks who make up Pritchard are very special. I witnessed first hand God's love is amongst us! We truly have servants who only want to walk in Jesus's steps. Pritchard equals unconditional LOVE. I humbly thank each and every one of you!

Robert Thompson

Thank You from David Bailes

I was honored and humbled by the retirement reception on January 12 and I am profoundly appreciative! The worship celebration was also very personally impactful as the choir sang one of my all-time favorites, the orchestra played one of my all-time favorites, and the video was especially meaningful. I am extremely thankful to all those who had a role in planning and implementing the entire day's events.

It has been a profound honor to serve Pritchard Church, and I am blessed to be able to continue to serve in a lesser role in the days ahead. Thanks again to all the Pritchard members, choir, orchestra, staff, my family and my wife, Lisa, for all their heartfelt support.

A New Song in Your Heart

The Bible references "singing a new song" nine times. In Revelation, the apostle John twice describes a heavenly scene where a new, eternal song is sung to Jesus, the Lamb who was slain (Revelation 5:9; 14:3). In Psalm 144:9, the psalmist vows to "sing a new song" in the face of suffering and opposition. Furthermore, Psalm 40:3 reveals that when God saves us, He puts a new song in our mouths. This ninefold biblical emphasis demonstrates the importance of singing new songs, highlighting that singing is an eternal aspect of our worship. Throughout history, the Church has offered diverse and captivating interpretations of the "new song" concept, and those interpretations generally offer us three insights:

First: we are compelled to sing new songs, driven by the necessity to express our ever-deepening relationship with God and our ongoing transformation into the likeness of Jesus. It's telling that the command to sing new songs is written throughout God's inspired songbook, the Psalms. It's even more telling that at the end of the Psalms, in Psalm 149, the command is repeated, as if God is saying, "I've given you my songs; now continue what I've started. Write new songs. Sing new songs." New songs stoke a fire that tends always to grow cold. New songs are like new logs on a well-burning fire. They ensure the fire will keep on burning. God has wired us to be stirred by new sounds, new melodies, and new words.

Second: singing old songs newly. Replacing old songs with new songs isn't the only way to be faithful to the new song command. Sometimes the same logs just need to be stirred a little bit. Old songs take on new meanings in present circumstances. When my dad died, "It Is Well with My Soul" took on a new meaning and believe me, it became a new song. Old songs can be sung newly because we never approach them from the same place. Life changes. We change; circumstances change. We grow; we shrivel. Some parts of us die. New parts of us spring forth. And all those changes mean that sometimes a new song is simply a song we've already sung, except now we are singing from a new place. So, yes, let's keep singing those time-tested, faithful songs that the church has sung for generations, along with new songs.

Third: the new song as an eternal reality. Whether we're singing brand new songs or old songs newly, doing both things trains us for eternity. John, who wrote Revelation, was aware of the language of the Psalms when it came to "new song," and he used that phrase to describe what he heard in heaven. When he heard the song to Jesus in Revelation 5, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation," he described it as a new song. It's as if he's pointing out that

the new song talked about in the Psalms and Isaiah points toward the eternal song to Jesus. The new songs we sing are woven into the eternal song to our King, surrounded by thousands upon thousands of other melodies. So, let's sing with confidence, creativity, and eternity in mind. May the Holy Spirit fill our music with fresh power and presence (Ephesians 5:18-19).

Daniel Sibrian

Creative Arts Pastor



Amanda Thomas	2/5	Alan Urwick	2/16
Debra Huhnertoch	2/6	Dennis Brown	2/19
Jimmie Philbeck	2/9	Ray Kimball	2/20
Wyatt Elder	2/9	Meredith Boyd	2/20
Stan Heiser	2/9	Catie Cottle	2/21
Mark Wherry	2/10	Bryan Ostrander	2/21
Jean Merchant	2/10	Vickey Arroba	2/22
Robert Shaw	2/12	Carole Johnson	2/22
Jeff Knell	2/12	Brian Thomas	2/22
Drew Mayer	2/12	Galen Bolin	2/23
Clayton Erickson	2/13	Kaye Crosby	2/23
Anne Norman	2/13	Meg McCormick	2/25
Ken Edahl	2/14	Greg Taylor	2/26
Gail Helms	2/15	Tom Creech	2/27
Lisa Wall	2/16	Elizabeth Boswell	2/28
David Foard	2/16	Don Hidy	2/29

Staff Anniversaries

We have several staff anniversaries we're celebrating this month! We want to express our appreciation and gratitude to the following folks for their dedicated service and ministry at Pritchard -

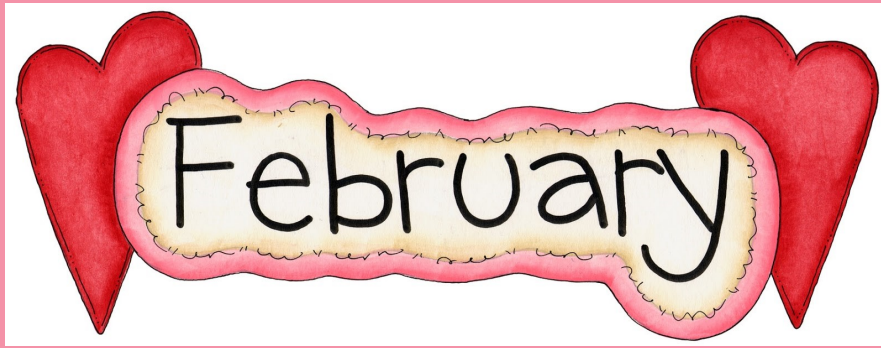
- David Bailes, Music Associate - February 1, 2006
- Jeannie Sigmon, Accounting Assistant - February 28, 2022
- Rusty Thomaston, Executive Pastor - February 29, 2024
- Jean Patterson, Events/Volunteer Coordinator - February 2024

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



1117 South Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28203
704-376-1571 704-376-6304
Dial-A-Prayer: 704-334-2332
Child Development Center: 704-343-2944

www.pritchardchurch.com



Saturday, February 1

8:30 AM-4:30 PM—Youth Basketball Games

5:00-7:00 PM—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, February 2

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

5:00-7:00 PM— All On the Table

Monday, February 3

Tuesday, February 4

10:30 AM—Women on Mission

2:00 PM—Afternoon Bible Study Group (Spence home)

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

Wednesday, February 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

6:30-9:00 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, February 6

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

10:15 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, February 7

5:00 PM—Men's Retreat Weekend in Cheraw, SC

5:00 PM—Youth Retreat Weekend at the Lake Lodge

Saturday, February 8

8:30 AM-4:30 PM—Youth Basketball Games

More Than Conquerors (CANCELLED)

Sunday, February 9

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

Monday, February 10

6:30 PM— Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, February 11

10:00 AM-1:00 PM—See 'n Sew

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

Wednesday, February 12

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:00 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, February 13

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

10:15 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, February 14....VALENTINE'S DAY

Saturday, February 15

8:30 AM-4:30 PM—Youth Basketball Games

5:00-7:00 PM—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, February 16

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

Monday, February 17...PRESIDENT'S DAY

Tuesday, February 18

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

Wednesday, February 19

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

6:30-9:00 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, February 20

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

10:15 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, February 21

Saturday, February 22

8:30 AM-4:30 PM—Youth Basketball Games

5:00-7:00 PM—More Than Conquerors

6:00 PM—Pritchard Goes Pop Dinner Show

Sunday, February 23

9:00 AM—Children and Youth Programming

9:15 AM—Connect Groups

10:30 AM—Worship Celebration

Monday, February 24

Tuesday, February 25

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

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

Wednesday, February 26

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

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

6:30-8:00 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:30-9:00 PM—Pickleball

Thursday, February 27

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

10:15 AM—Sunago Singers

Friday, February 28