

# P I N E S P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

*The Pines Press*, November 2022

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENT...



### The Heart of Stewardship is Love

Together we are contemplating the challenge of embracing stewardship as a Christian discipline that permeates our actions all year long. We are called to be good stewards of all that God has given us. “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” *1 Peter 4:10*. This calling not only includes our financial gifts, but also our time and our individual talents.

**God is love and is the source of everything that we are and everything that we have.**

*How does that knowledge and belief change our view of stewardship?*

**Using our God-given gifts, we make God’s love tangible to each other, our community, and beyond.**

*How can we use our God-given gifts to reflect God’s love to the world?*

**Love frees us from fear and enables us to trust that we can give our ‘first fruits’ in God’s service.**

*What could you do if you were freed from fear?*

Last week, we began our focus on these foundations of our call to stewardship:

All year we see around us the impact of Pines’ ministries in our community and the world. We are reminded that participating in the Blood Drive or Feed My Starving Children, volunteering at Sherwood, MAM, or Mission of Yahweh, making tacos or

praying with others during Taco and A Prayer, our monthly Agape Offerings, making our church building available for Mosaic Church, AA, Al Anon, and so much more – all are examples of being good stewards of God’s gifts to us. We hope you will consider how you can use your time and talent to support Pines’ ministries.

On November 13, Dedication Sunday, we will dedicate our Giving Goals to God. Please prayerfully consider your financial gifts to the church, remembering that these gifts truly fuel all of Pines’ ministries both within our walls and beyond, and that each gift is important, no matter how large or small. During worship we will bring our cards to the front of the church as a communal reflection of our response to God’s love for us. Additionally, Giving Goal cards can be mailed or brought to the church if needed.

As we move to Dedication Sunday and beyond, let’s not forget that Stewardship is a Christian practice and discipline grounded in God’s love for us. Thank you for joining us in this challenge to make Jesus’ teachings and God’s love real to the world. Remember, **The Heart of Stewardship is Love.**

Jim and Beth Patterson

# Pines Family News & Current Events

The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
The office is closed on Fridays. If you need assistance on Friday, please call Cindy at 832-489-5989 anytime between 9 and 4.



The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones Monday through Thursday. We have volunteers for some days currently, but we also want to create a list of substitutes. No experience necessary. We will train you. Bring a book or something to work on while sitting at the front desk. If you can help, please give Cindy a call to get on the list. By the way, one of our long ago male members (Jack Long) used to answer the phones on occasion...just to give you guys out there something to think about!

**PLEASE** help us conserve energy by remembering to turn off lights and AC when you leave the building. If you turn it on, please turn it off. Thank you SO MUCH!  
Your Property Committee



## Wondering how to order flowers for the Sanctuary or Narthex?

—cost for Narthex flowers is \$50 and the Sanctuary is \$75. We offer the option to give to a benevolence or order a live arrangement. Please email: Melissa Gravett at [mgravett0123@gmail.com](mailto:mgravett0123@gmail.com) or Linda Aldred at [lindaaldred1@aol.com](mailto:lindaaldred1@aol.com) to sign up. Or you can also sign up at the front desk on the flower calendar while at church.

Please bring the family and join us as we hold our next **Property Work Day** on November 5th to spruce up the church. There are activities for all ages. We will begin at 9 AM and end with lunch being prepared by the Property Committee. Please find the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hallway to see where you can help!



Clara Gay Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30am in room C-3. This year the Presbyterian Womens' study is Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight and we utilize member leaders, a study book, and the author's DVD. If you're interested in learning more and/or joining our group, please contact Marcia Welsh. For information on this circle or any of our other circles, please contact the church office.

**Church Seeking Nursery Workers: \$12-15 per hour based on age and experience.** Contact [kristin@pinespc.org](mailto:kristin@pinespc.org) for more information. Do you love playing with babies and young children? Pines is looking for people ages 13 and up who are willing to be trained and cleared for childcare in the nursery. Most hours are on Sunday mornings, but special events are also available.



Do you have any orchestra or band instruments taking up space in your closet? Want to find a safe place to keep them where they will be used and appreciated? Call Laurie or the church office and they will help you with that.

Please mark your calendars with the  
**NEWSLETTER DUE DATE:**  
**November 18** (for the December 2022 issue)



I would like to express my thanks, and the thanks of my family, for the many prayers, thoughts, cards and acts of kindness during Don's short illness and passing. Your love and care warmed my heart and continues to do so. Many of our friends and family told me they felt welcomed by my church family at the service and reception. Thank you for being a very thoughtful and caring church family. Love and blessing to all, Carol Schneider

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus,

One of my favorite classes in high school was History. It didn't matter if it was American History, World History, history of war or history of sports, if it was history, I loved it. I don't know why I had such an attraction to things of the past. Maybe it was the stories my grandparents told me, maybe it was the desire to learn from the past and get to know the struggles and the accomplishments of our forbearers. I remember my seminary Church History professor, Cathleen Gonzales, she was amazing! Her grasp of the past and her ability to bring the past to life was truly uncanny. I remember listening to her teach and thinking to myself, "was she actually there?"

Professor Gonzales made me want to "be there" in history, she instilled in me the desire to want to explore, learn more, and experience the history in person. She would say she could teach us the book history, but to know the history you need to touch and feel, you need to experience the places and the people for yourself. Her words have encouraged me to travel to the places I have read about so I too could truly learn and experience the history I've only learned through words on a page.

I believe one of the greatest forms of education is travel. Through travel we not only get a chance to touch, walk, and see places, but most importantly we get to experience the people, the cultures and the places we've only heard about. This is why I am inviting you to join me, October 13-24, 2023, as we follow the footsteps of Apostle Paul and John through Greece and parts of Turkey. We will experience Greek history and culture and learn more about early Christianity in some of the places associated with the missionary journeys of Paul and John! This cruise and tour will take us to some of the Eastern Mediterranean's most interesting and scenic islands including Patmos where John experienced his Revelation, Crete, Santorini and Mykonos. We will make a stop in Ephesus, home of one of The Seven Churches of Revelation and the focus of one Paul's epistles. Our land journey will take us to the incredibly historic and ancient cities of Athens, Olympia, Delphi and of course the great New Testament city of Corinth. The scenery will be absolutely spectacular as we cruise the Aegean Sea and travel through the magnificent Greek peninsula. The points of interest are very diverse spotlighting historical places and natural wonders.

In addition to our time spent exploring the picturesque islands of the Aegean Sea, we will have the opportunity to enjoy visits to Athens the capital of Greece and western civilization. While there we will explore the Acropolis and Aeropagus hill from where Paul preached. We'll follow the Apostles footsteps to Corinth itself, the ancient city where St Paul spent 18 months in 51 & 52 AD, preaching to the citizens to reform their ways and writing his famous epistle. Greek history enthusiasts will enjoy our tours through the historically influential cities of Olympia, Delphi and Mycenae.

If you're interested in joining this incredible learning opportunity, please let me know or go to [www.pinespc.org/greece](http://www.pinespc.org/greece) for more information. I'm sure this experience will deepen your faith and help all you've read about come alive.

On His journey,



Andy

# Family Ministry Calendar for November

## PLEASE HELP!

To keep growing and supporting our small but growing youth group we need help!

Sign up links:

Teach Children: [Pines Kids: Children's Sunday School \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Meals Youth: [Meals For Pines Youth via Take Them A Meal](https://signupgenius.com)

Youth Group Leader (no prep just come have fun) [Pines Youth: Pines Youth Group evening \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Amazon Family Ministries Wishlist: [Amazon.com](https://amazon.com)

## Calendar Highlights:

**Nov 6 and 20** Pines Youth Group 6-7:45pm

**Nov 12** Youth Rally and Lock In

**Nov 27** Family Advent Night! 4:30 rehearsal, 5:30 dinner and family night!



The next Bingo night is:  
**Thursday November 17th at 6:30 PM .**  
Dinner will be served.  
Picture...two of our most recent winners.

**Advent Devotional** – Believe it or not Advent is around the corner, which means we will soon be producing our own Advent Devotional guide. This year's theme is Love and we need your story and your reflection on a verse of scripture to make this devotional come to life. If you'd like to write a brief devotional to be included in this year's guide please let Pastor Andy know and he will help guide you to a scripture, if needed, and let you know the needed length and deadline for submission.



**MAM**  
MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES

## JOB FAIR 2022 JOIN OUR TEAM!



LET US HELP YOU FIND A CAREER

### Vacancies Available :

- Warehouse/Pricer/Cashier PT (Blalock Location)
- Warehouse/Pricer PT (Blalock Location)
- Warehouse Manager FT (Blalock Location)
- Resale Associate/Pricer FT (Blalock Location)
- Resale Associate/Warehouse PT (Heights Location)
- Legal Assistant FT (Blalock Location)
- Bilingual Immigration Attorney FT (Blalock Location)
- Bilingual Benefit Advocate Case Worker FT (Blalock Location)
- Marketing & Communication Manager FT (Blalock Location)
- Volunteer Trainer Liaison FT (Blalock Location)
- Pathways For Young Adults Program Coordinator FT (Blalock Location)
- STEP Employment Program Specialist FT (Blalock Location)
- Bilingual Client Navigator FT (Blalock Location)

Bring your up-to-date resume.  
On the spot hiring for certain vacancies.

For information contact  
**Lorena Cornelio, HR Director**  
**346-415-4266**  
[LCornelio@mamhouston.org](mailto:LCornelio@mamhouston.org)



NOV 10  
CLASSROOM A



11AM - 2PM



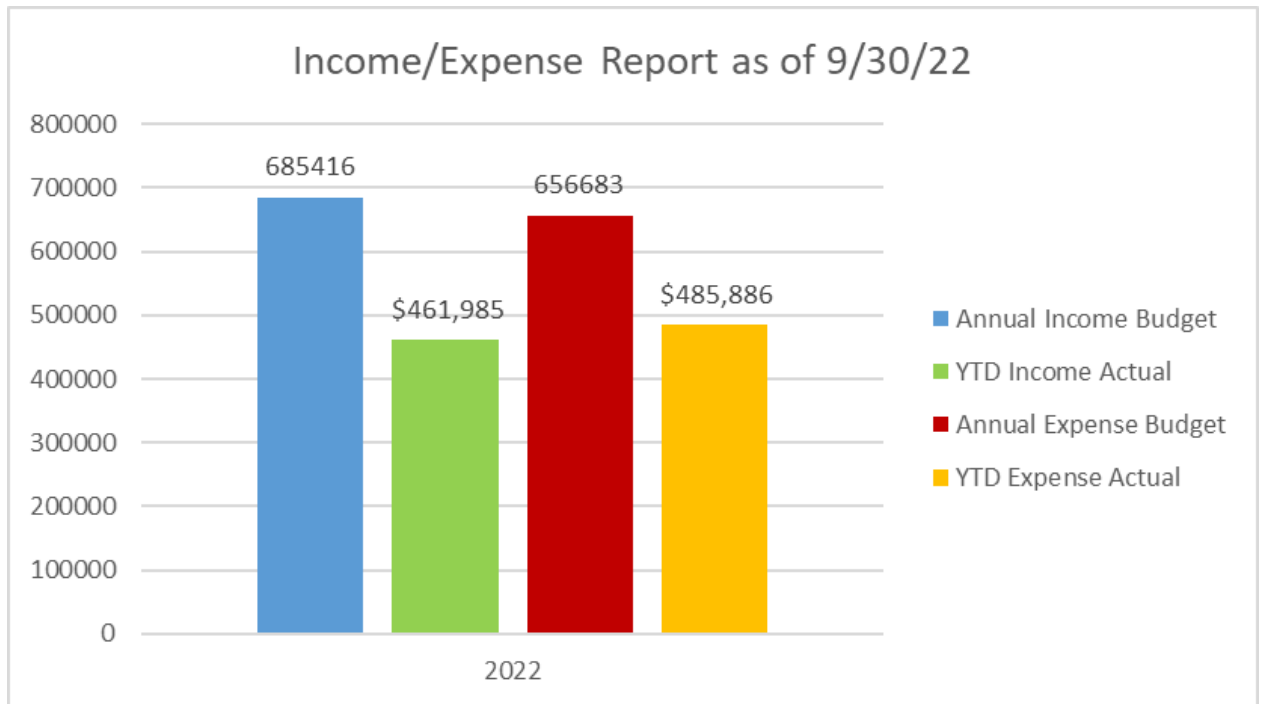
1625 BLALOCK RD  
HOUSTON, TX 77080

[WWW.MAMHOUSTON.ORG](http://WWW.MAMHOUSTON.ORG)





# Stewardship



## STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Pledge income in September is close to being on target for the 9 months. Non-pledge income is still trailing below forecast and well below this same time last year.
2. Overall, committee expenses remain slightly below budget expectations. Mission expenditures are accrued on a 1/12th basis each month; Property and worship expenses are slightly above budget but offset by other committees' underbudget expenses.
3. Total Income was \$461,985; total expenses were \$485,886; leaving a Net Loss of \$23,901 for the year as of 9/30/22.

## Session

### Here are some highlights from the October Session meeting:

- Session examined and welcomed Laurie Conner and Valerie Harelson as the newest members of Pines. Laurie, Valerie, and Janice Spradlin will be introduced as new members to the Congregation on October 30.
- Session approved the Feed My Starving Children mission event on January 20 and 21, 2023, and approved fundraising events, including a silent auction and children's art sale, for Feed My Starving Children in January.
- Session elected Craig Walker as a ruling elder commissioner to the November 19 Presbytery meeting at Pines, joining Friedrich and Connie Sipp, previously elected as commissioners in September.
- Session approved spending a generous donor's designated funds for the purchase of new choir robes.
- The Missions Committee plans to have a bulletin board in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall to announce upcoming mission opportunities.
- Session approved the Worship Committee's motion to swap the grand piano in the choir room with the baby grand piano currently in the Sanctuary, and adjust the arrangement of pews as required.
- Session prayerfully considered their stewardship pledges for 2023, and unanimously submitted their Giving Goals cards.

Craig Walker  
Clerk



For China, it's the Year of the Tiger. For Pines Stephen Ministry it seems to be The Year of the Training! We've trained 4 new Stephen Ministers this year. One new Stephen Leader is training right now. And Continuing Education for new and old alike is . . . well - **continuing!** In the webinar I attended last week there were over 100 Stephen Leaders from all around the nation. Nearly all came from Stephen Ministry chapters at large churches with many members (700 and 4000 were numbers I heard)!

They spoke of complex organizations – committees and staff members and duties and lots of meetings. At first I was a little envious, even a bit intimidated – until I remembered how privileged I am to be where I am! Because? Because Stephen Ministry is not at all about size! It *is* all about one-on-one relationships – one Stephen Minister and one care receiver, living out the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in everyday life. Speaking and listening and praying during times of trouble. The earthly Jesus himself is our example. Indeed, he did sometimes speak to large crowds or small groups, but we most clearly see his love for people in so many one-on-one encounters with individuals. Stephen Ministry is devoted to emulating that caring love.

If the burdens of your life seem too heavy to carry alone – if the grief or anxiety needs to be expressed – if you need to find out what you really think by hearing yourself tell it out loud to a ready listener – then why not try a Stephen Minister? It's free and it's totally confidential. It's a one-on-one thing. You can find out even more by contacting Bill at [bill.00.willis@gmail.com](mailto:bill.00.willis@gmail.com) or by calling the church office for his phone number, or by asking anyone wearing a Stephen Ministry nametag. In his great love, may God bless you each and every one! *Bill*

# Thankfulness

## LUNCH

### Nov. 13th

**After church in Fellowship Hall.**

**Everyone is invited for homemade soups & to meet our MISSION PARTNERS.**

FEED MY  
STARVING  
CHILDREN

It's time for us to hold another **Feed My Starving Children MobilePack** on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>!

As we prepare for our big day we need a team of volunteers to help organize this amazing event. If you'd like to be on the organizing team or to learn more about how you can help, please contact Pastor Andy or Cindy Houlihan. Remember, we need **YOU** to make this another huge success for our community and the hungry around the world. **Sign ups begin soon, so watch in the Fellowship Hallway!** In the meantime, grab one of the cans in the Hallway to begin saving coins to feed the children. One quarter buys 3 meals for a child.



# Sherwood Christmas

## WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:



**Take an angel from the Christmas Tree**  
(Fellowship Hallway) and start shopping!



**Make a cash, check, or credit card donation.**  
[ drop off at church or visit: [pinespc.org](http://pinespc.org) ]  
Please note "Sherwood Christmas" .

**Return contributions or donations**  
by **Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**questions: KARI WORK** **more info: PINESpC.org**

**OCTOBER & NOVEMBER AGAPE**

**Mission @PINES<sup>+</sup>**

**Calling all Taco-makers and prayer warriors!** Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team for school year 2022-23, and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is. We have the privilege to give fresh breakfast tacos to folks who might have missed breakfast, or who might not have any other food for the day, or are just hungry for a taco and maybe a prayer. Our cheerful team members bring smiles and warm food to our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. We are rewarded with smiles, occasional cash donations, tears of gratitude, and sometimes even songs (from a school bus driver)! Join us!

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



**and a prayer!**

## WANTED!

### You and Your PickUp Truck

- Once a Month for Two Hours
- Help Pick Up Food from Kroger and Deliver to Pines

Your efforts will help open up communications with 50 Sherwood families and provide nutritious food to carry them through the month.

For more information  
Contact **Cindy Coles**

[CindyLColes@comcast.net](mailto:CindyLColes@comcast.net)

# ***THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL & JOHN***

***Land tour & Cruise through Greece & Turkey***

***12 Days: October 13-24, 2023***

**Visiting:** Ephesus • Patmos • Corinth • Athens • Santrini  
Mykonos • Crete • Rhodes • Olympia • Delphi

**Hosted By:** Pastor Andy Gans



## **Thanksgiving Cornucopia**

We are entering the season of thanksgiving and we need to remember those who are less fortunate are in a food desert. Every year the Pines congregation helps the Mission of Yahweh help fulfill these needs via our Thanksgiving Cornucopia.

The Thanksgiving Cornucopia will be set up in the Sanctuary and accepting donations from Sunday, November 13 – November 20. All donated items will be taken to the mission after the service on November 20. Besides helping the residents of the mission, the local community is aware they are welcome to stop by for food assistance. We contacted the mission to inquire what items were most needed. We asked if they preferred perishable and/or non-perishable items or a mix of both. They informed us they get plenty of fresh perishable items donated to them from local grocery stores and restaurants who are not able to use their supplies prior to them going bad. Below is a list of a few items they indicated are the most needed:

Green Beans, Can Corn, Sweet Peas, Mix Veggies, Tuna, Sugar, Cooking oil, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Ketchup and Mustard

There will also be a box under the table for overflow donations. Thank you for again helping to keep The Mission of Yahweh pantry shelves filled!