



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2021

Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward...



Rejoice
IN THIS *Day*

Preparing for Easter

Palm Sunday-March 28 at 10:45am Sanctuary & 5:00pm Drive-in

Maundy Thursday-April 1 at 7:00pm Sanctuary

Good Friday-April 2 at 12pm Sanctuary

Easter Sunday-April 4 at 6:30am in West Bough Parking Lot,
10:45am Sanctuary & 5:00pm Drive-in (In-Car-Nation)

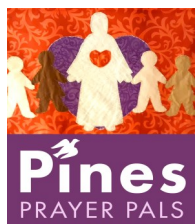
Pines Family News & Current Events



It's A Boy!

Wyatt Addison O'Connor came into the world just before noon on Tuesday, February 2. He weighed 9lbs 12oz. Baby and momma Leigh are doing very well. Congratulations to parents Leigh & Brian, brother John, and grandparents Paul & Trish McElroy and David & Lin O'Connor.

Cyrus Alexander Mood was born on February 19, 2021. He weighed 6lbs, 5oz. The Mood family; Cindy, Charles and big sister Lena are doing well and happy to add



Volunteer needed to head up the Children's Prayer Pal team!

The CE committee would love your help to organize our Prayer Pals for the children. The Pals and children have already been partnered up. All you have to do is send a few emails to help the committee get them connected and started. This is a job that can be done at home and will have a very small time commitment. If the Spirit is leading you, reach out to Phil Buelow at pbuelow26@outlook.com. Thank you!



Pines member Pat Marquis, entered the Church Triumphant on January 29th. Pat was a lady full of love, and who shared her love of Christ with our Pines family for nearly 25 years. Let us join together in sharing our sympathies with her children Wayne, Craig and Sharron. The family has scheduled a service here at Pines on February 26th at 2pm. Should you attend the service, please follow CDC guidelines by wearing your mask and socially distancing from anyone not living in your household. Wearing a mask during any church service is mandatory. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone that linked their Remarkable Card to Pines and has been shopping at Randalls. We will be receiving a check from Randalls for \$109.39 for the last quarter of 2020.

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Genny in the church office at 713-467-2234 to get on the list. Genny can also help you sign up to receive our newsletter or our weekly publication "This Week at Pines". So give us a call, we would love to get you connected to what is happening at Pines!

Day Light Savings Time begins on March 14th.
Please mark your calendars and prepare to **SPRING FORWARD!**



With the end of the year comes the new flower calendars—cost for Narthex flowers is \$50 and the Sanctuary is \$75. We will continue to offer the option to give to a benevolence or order a live arrangement.

Please email:

Melissa Gravett at mgravett0123@gmail.com or Linda Aldred at lindaaldred1@aol.com.

You may also call the church office to get a message to either one of these ladies.

Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:

March 19 (for April 2021 issue)

April 23 (for May 2021 issue)

Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace,

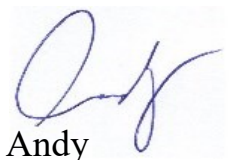
Welcome to the journey we call Lent! Often times faithful believers look at Lent as a depressing time within the Christian year. We often think about what we should give up. We think about our need for repentance and a deeper faith. And we think about the long and painful journey that is ahead for Jesus. But what if we put a different spin on Lent? What if we thought about this time as an opportunity to be joyful; a time that affords us the chance to renew and reimagine ourselves while looking forward to the new life and new opportunities that lie ahead? What would bring you joy? How could you renew yourself in these forty days that would give you hope and align your joys, hopes and faith with God?

These forty days are giving the Staff Committee and Session the opportunity to reimagine our Children's and Youth Ministries. Our Children's Ministry said goodbye to the Rev. Cindy Mood at the end of December, and our Youth Ministry will say goodbye to Jesse Parker at the end of his contract in May. These departures are allowing us to reimagine the needs, desires and budget for these positions. What would a reimagined Children and Youth Ministry look like? Would it remain two separate positions, or could Pines achieve its goal of faithfully caring, teaching and supporting this age group with one staff person? The Staff Committee is actively engaging in conversations around these options. A combined position would allow us to have a unified and coordinated ministry to families and their children from birth to age 21. This position could also cultivate a strong coordinated community of faith in which children, youth and their families can know the love and grace of Jesus Christ, learn and grow in faith, find meaningful ways to express Christian service and spirituality, and invite newcomers to find a home with them.

Throughout Lent the Staff Committee and Session will work on reimagining these positions so they are prayerfully in line with God's will, the needs of this congregation, and within our budget. I am confident a plan will be developed that is in line with those criteria. Once the plan and job description are decided upon a search committee will be developed, and our search for the person/s God is calling to Pines will be sought out.

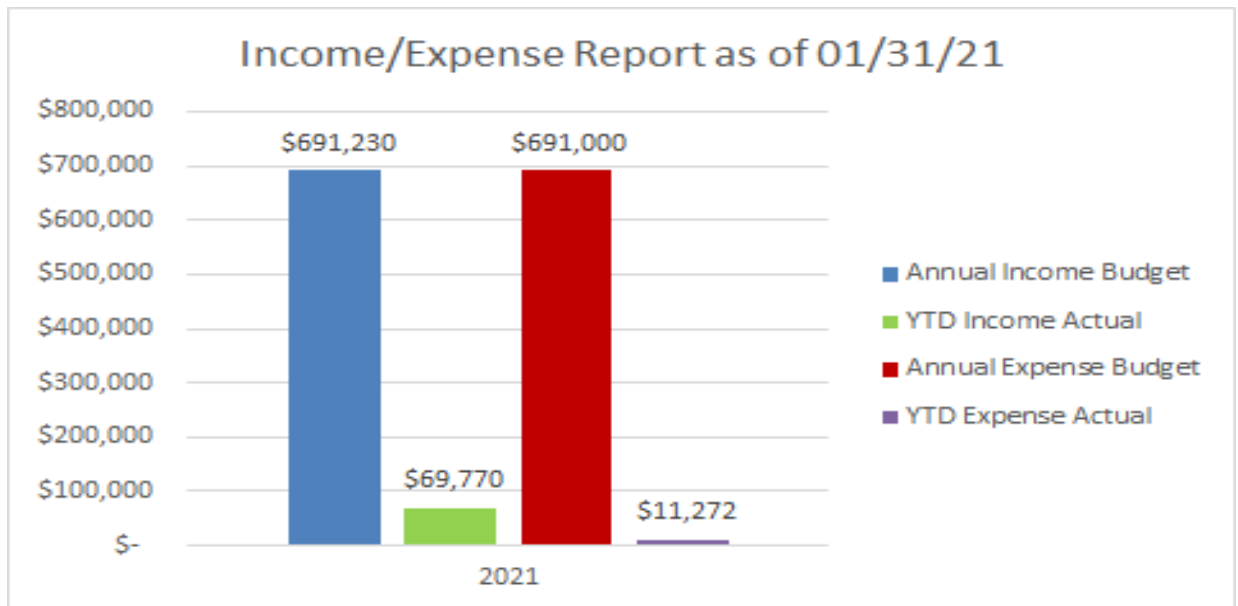
This season of Lent is a new beginning for Pines, and it can be a new beginning for you as together we reimagine the journey to which Christ is calling us. May your Lenten journey be a joyful reflection of where you've been, and a hope filled glance into the future.

Your brother in Christ,



Andy

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

STEWARDSHIP NOTES;

1. At the January Session meeting, the Session adopted a balanced budget for 2021.
2. January pledge income was higher than expected.
3. Expenses continue to be lower than expected due to reduced activity in January.
4. The church is eligible and has applied for a second PPP loan in 2021.

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on February 22. Here are some highlights:

- Elected Craig Walker as Clerk and Karen MacAllister as Treasurer for one-year terms.
- Elected Connie Sipp, Janice Pannell and Phil Johnson to the Columbarium Committee for one-year terms.
- Elected Kristin Davis-Owen, Ann Smith, Jill Sherrill, John Work and Chris Wolfe to the Vision and Planning Committee for one-year terms.
- Set the date for the Annual Meetings of the Congregation and Corporation for March 14 following worship.
- Approved a Staff Committee motion to establish a search committee for the position of Director of Family Ministries.

Dan Schafer, scribe

Youth Happenings

A Recap of Confirmation, 2020-21!

After a long and challenging year, our 4 Confirmands have officially become members of the Pines family! Our new members are:

Thomas Babineck is a 9th grader at Stratford High School, is a member of the school marching band, and a Boy Scout.

Ryan Lade is a 10th grader at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School. He is a member of their soccer team and on his way to achieving his Eagle Scout.

Harris Timmreck is a 10th grader at Stratford High School. After his first year on the baseball team was cut short, he is thrilled to once again be a member of the team.

McKinley Wood is a 10th grader at Fort Bend Christian Academy. She has been a member of Houston Area Celebration and an actress for her schools theater department.

When Confirmation began with a weekend Beach retreat in January of 2020, we had no idea the year that we had in store! We made it through a couple of in person classes, learning about answering the “big questions” of the Christian faith, such as: How do we know and trust God? What does it mean to be a disciple? What does it mean that Jesus is our “Lord” and “Savior”?

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, we took a pause from Confirmation in hopes that we could resume with in person classes. When that wasn’t possible, classes switched online to finish up the curriculum. We held out a little more hope that we would be able to finish the program fully in person, but the pandemic had other plans, and we finally wrapped up in January of 2021, with a 3 week recap that helped our students writing their Statements of Faith. They read them before the Session of Pines on January 25th. Then on January 31st we officially welcomed them as members of Pines Presbyterian Church!

We continue to be so proud of what our Confirmands were able to achieve this year. They are the embodiments of how faith in Christ can endure the most difficult times! Congratulations once again!

Children at Pines

What’s New in Children’s Ministry?

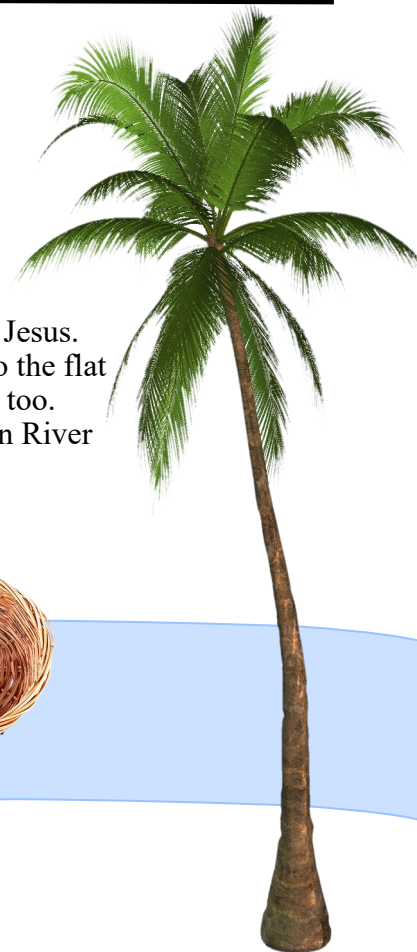
Our kids have been busy creating a Bible Village scene to help us remember all of the stories about Jesus. To start with, we have re-created Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus.

We painted boxes to resemble the biblical homes and added straw to the flat rooftops, miniature clay pots and baskets, palm trees and olive trees too.

As our study of Jesus continues, so does our Bible scene. The Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee have been added.

The possibilities are endless.

Maybe we will make some fishing boats and nets!



**Join us for Family-Style Sunday School in W-12
as we continue “Learning to love like God”.**

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

As we are now in the middle of the 40 days of Lent, and looking toward Good Friday and Easter, let us look at the hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus." The words to this magnificent hymn were written by Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane in 1868. There is such beautiful word painting in this short, two versed hymn.

In the first line the poet creates the vision of approaching the cross by saying "I fain (gladly) take my stand." She continues by comparing the cross to "a mighty rock within a weary land." Oh how weary our land is today! The cross can bring relief from all tension, sorrow, and fatigue.

She compares the cross to "a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way." As we go through our despair of this pandemic, we can rest in the cross, as we progress to our ultimate goal. The cross protects us "from the burning of the noonday heat, and the burden of the day."

In the second verse we read the actual description of Christ's suffering on the cross..... "the very dying form of One who suffered there for me."

The most powerful lines in the hymn come at the very end as we sing "And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess: The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness."

As we approach Easter this year, we all need to remember His redeeming love and our unworthiness.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Blessings,
Tim

**Pines
In-car-nation**



*Join us for
In-Car-Nation*

Sunday's at 5 PM

on our back parking lot!

Bring your family...bring your friends...bring a chair, or sit in your vehicle...all as you tune into the service on your car radio! If you have not had a chance to attend, don't miss this meaningful Worship opportunity!

REMINDER: Please, if you move to a new address, change your phone number or your email address, please call or email the church office so that we can update our files. Also, if you feel you are not receiving communications from the church, **please** contact the church office at 713-467-2234! You may also email Cindy or Genny at cindy@pinespc.org or genny@pinespc.org Thank you.

Missions

The Missions Committee is seeking input from the congregation regarding the decision as to whom Pines will grant funds in 2021. With the diminished dollars we have, we want to support those organizations that mean the most to our members. That said, the list below reflects the organizations we supported last year and we are asking the congregation to respond to the Missions Committee with the ones that our members support or volunteer for. Here is the list:

1. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
2. Brookwood Community
3. CanCare
4. CENTER Ministries
5. Communities in Schools (at Sherwood)
6. CRM - Rundles/Novo *(NO LONGER IN MINISTRY AS OF 2021)*
7. CRM - Joy Kreider/NOVO
8. Fairhaven Food Pantry
9. Faith in Practice
10. Freedom Place - Arrow Ministries
11. Interfaith Ministries
12. Memorial Assistance Ministries
13. Mission of Yahweh
14. New Life School (Guatemala)
15. Newspring
16. OMF International/McDyer
17. Prayers of the People (POP)
18. Presbyterian Children's Home/Services
19. RaiseUp Families *(formerly Westside Homeless Prevention)*
20. The Restoration Team
21. The Women's Home

You may contact Margaret Schafer at ga.schafers@comcast.net or send an email to Cindy in the church office at cindy@pinespc.org and she will place it in the Missions box for Margaret. Thank you in advance for your response.



Thank you all, for your help in collecting this food for the folks in Southwest Louisiana. Amazingly, we got every canned good and boxed food into my car with the help of Tommy, Margaret, Mariela and Patrick! I could not have done this without your help. I was so excited to drive to SWLA and deliver these blessings to Iowa, Louisiana.

Just this week, the water system failed, and they were back to boiling water. Then, following that, there was no power - my friend was reading her devotional by lantern. You are part of a huge blessing to this community !
Thank you...Karen Cooper





YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

The church is in great need of someone to clean out the pantry cabinet in the Fellowship Hall kitchen that contains the spices and kitchen staples. Many things need to be thrown away and the cabinet shelves need to be wiped and cleaned. If you can help in this way, PLEASE call Cindy in the church office to set up a time when you can come help. This would be a wonderful job for a group of friends to do together.



Staying Connected: --- You can now find upcoming opportunities to connect by visiting our website: pinespc.org. Join in on the next scheduled meeting, class or event by signing up for your free Zoom account: zoom.us/signup. View our archived videos anytime and also join in "live"!



Live Worship Services: --- Pines Worship Services on Sundays are live streaming! 10:45 am worship services can be viewed by visiting our website: pinespc.org. You can also catch us on Facebook for the same live streaming worship services.



Online Giving: ---As always, we thank you for your generous sharing of treasures in the spirit and practice of stewardship. Please visit our website for online giving: pinespc.org

WILL YOU HAVE A GRADUATE THIS YEAR?



If you will have a student that is graduating this year from high school or college, please send an email to cindy@pinespc.org so that she can publish their name in our bulletin.

We need to know the following information:

- What is students name?
- What school will student graduate from or attend?
- Write a brief 5 or 6 lines about what their post graduation plans are.
-

We will need this information before May 1st. Thank you in advance!



Christ caring for people through people **Perseverance!**

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

So how far is it from deep in the valley to the top of the mountain? For me – yesterday – it was 293 million miles, and I made the trip in 7 minutes of terror. **One** moment I was dutifully engrossed in despairing over this week's misery of 2 days w/out power, light, or heat (just then restored), and in day 4 with no water. The **next** moment I was snatched up all the way to the emotional and spiritual mountaintop of seeing the Mars Rover **Perseverance** land on a dusty lakebed littered with rocks **on the next planet out from us!** A breathless trip to see the glory of God in the heavens, and the astounding capabilities of the creature God created to have dominion over all the earth, now reaching way beyond the earth!! **Hallelujah!** Wish the water would come back on.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth! ³ When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established; ⁴ what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? ⁵ Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor. ⁶ Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands; ⁹ O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is thy name! (Psalm 8, RSV. See also Genesis 1.)

Mountaintops like that are very few and far between, valleys not so much. If the burdens of your valley 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 confidential. You can find out more by contacting Bill Willis at bill.00.willis@gmail.com or by calling the church office for his phone number, or by asking anyone wearing a Stephen Ministry nametag.

Service Beyond The Walls

How are you active and serving in God's Kingdom? Send your thoughts to cindy@pinespc.org.

GIVING THANKS WHILE MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER IN FAITH

As was the case with many of you, I was deeply saddened to learn of Pat Marquis' departure to her eternal home with our Lord, even though there were countless family and friends who were waiting to lovingly greet her and celebrate with her. As I was praying for the family that evening, I recalled one of the most joyous sights I have witnessed in my 15 years at Pines.

Shortly after Linda and I joined in 2006, I attended the Wired Word Sunday School class moderated by Mike Marcotte. Pat and Henry Marquis, as well as their close friends, Frances and Charles Cawthon, were regular attendees. On most Sundays when I arrived, the four of them would be sitting in the room laughing and telling stories of the latest adventure they had shared together. Charles and Henry would be doing most of the talking, while Frances and Pat would lovingly roll their eyes and raise their eyebrows. As I look back, that was my first introduction to the loving fellowship Linda and I would eventually discover and come to cherish at Pines.

So, part of my initial prayer was to give thanks for couples like these two, and so many others, who created that passion for caring and fellowship that is a hallmark of our church family. Those bonds are so strong that, even when members physically move to new places, they continue to feel connected and loved by the Pines church family.

As you might guess, since I was a co-chair of the most recent stewardship campaign, I also thought of the countless couples like the Marquis' and Cawthon's who many years ago joined Pines and committed to moving **FORWARD TOGETHER IN FAITH** by dedicating their time, talents and financial resources to build the ministries of Pines. I thought of people like Bobby Agosto, who Charles invited to visit Pines and who has stayed and blessed all of us. I thought of Charles and Henry being among those who used to gather as members of the Friday Men's work group to do "fix up" chores at the church. Then I thought of Frances becoming a Stephen Minister and blessing so many with her loving spirit. As I recalled how each of these saints faithfully used their gifts as part of the ministries of this church, I gave thanks for their faithfulness.

Finally, as I was giving thanks for these bountiful blessings, I decided to write this remembrance since I knew those of you who would read it would be doing so during the season of Lent. I close by reminding you of the challenge Andy presented to us in his letter in the February newsletter -- **What would happen this Lenten season if we allowed God's perfect love to flow through us to others?** I believe Pat, Henry, Frances and Charles responded positively to Andy's challenge every day of their lives. I hope you will join me in recommitting to making every effort to do so in the days to come as we continue to move **FORWARD TOGETHER IN FAITH**.

Thanks be to God for the many saints who have lived such faith-filled lives while being a vibrant part of this church family.

Phil Wetz

Don't forget to register
Pines for use with your
Kroger card.



MAM Network of Programs

If you, or someone you know needs help, please refer them to the help below.

MAM is still here to help!

We are offering services remotely by phone, video, text, online and email.
Please contact us at the phone numbers provided below.

Emergency Financial Assistance

English: (713) 574-7533
This service is zip-code based.

Citizenship Classes

(713) 468-4516 ext. 139

Covid-19 Bereavement Program

(713) 468-4516 ext. 104

Employment Services

(281) 756-7458

Daily Orientation (10am) | (936) 463-8876 | tinyurl.com/empsvc

Pathways for Young Adults: (832) 429-6447

ESL Employment Services | tinyurl.com/eslintake |

English Classes (ESL)

(713) 468-4516 ext. 140

Financial Education

(812) 567-7057

Immigration Legal Services

(713) 468-4516 ext. 187

Please leave a message and return telephone number. Friday Consultation Days are cancelled until further notice.
Please call for an appointment.

Mental Health Counseling:

Eddie Molina: (936) 463-8972

Jessica Medina: (832) 475-3904

Wilcrest Campus

(281) 849-4393

Tax Preparation

Have you visited
MAM lately???





Welcome Home, Nancy!

Reprinted with permission from the TRT website...

February is #FebREPAIRy at The Restoration Team! Every day this month, we have been highlighting a different completed home repair project from the last couple of years on our website and social media. Today is a very special project that we just wrapped up - Nancy's home!

During Hurricane Harvey, Nancy's home was flooded with nearly five feet of water. Two and a half years later, she was still left without walls and had to wash her dishes in her yard with a five gallon bucket. Every day, Nancy would wake up and see through her living room and into her kitchen from her bedroom. Fortunately, her case was referred to us by a neighbor and we got to work as fast as we could.

Together with our wonderful volunteers and donors, we were able to repair the roof and replace siding, remediate the existing mold, and install new insulation, drywall, floors, trim, windows, doors, cabinets, bathrooms, and fixtures. This was one of our larger volunteer projects, with 166 volunteers putting in 3,386 hours of love and hard work into this home. The total cost for the repairs came to \$39,993.

We are grateful for our time spent with Nancy these past few months and for the outpouring of support that went into this home. It may be hard to believe there are still families recovering from Hurricane Harvey, but the truth is there are stories like this all across the city. You could be the difference in bringing someone home. Your gifts and/or your time will provide safe, livable housing to a family in desperate need.

Follow along with #FebREPAIRy to see 27 more completed projects here:
<https://www.therestorationteam.org/febrepairy>



Before and
after photos
of the
house.
Thank you
to the Pines
volunteers
that helped
work on
Nancy's
home.

