

# Pines Presbyterian

MAY 2018

*Growing  
Upward,  
Inward,  
and  
Outward...*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pines Family News 2

Pastor's Message 3

Youth News 4  
Children's News

Ireland Trip 5  
Preschool News

Music 6  
Session Notes

Activities 7

Missions 8

Saturday  
May 5th  
9 AM — 2 PM

Youth  
Car  
Wash



Please place the Pines Youth Car Wash on your calendars. Funds raised during the Car Wash will be used not only for mission trips but also for Youth United activities such as the Bowl and Barrel outing recently.



## Agape Communion

### Offering for May

In honor of mothers and babies, the Agape Offering for May will benefit L.I.F.E. Houston, the only local agency dedicated solely to providing emergency food and supplies for babies.

Items most needed are: Baby formula – Similac, Enfamil, or Gerber brands (BE SURE TO CHECK EXPIRATION DATES), Diapers – all sizes, Baby wipes

Our collection box is set up in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall. Pull a tab from the display or simply drop off an item or two. If you have any questions about L.I.F.E.

Houston or other Agape beneficiaries, feel free to contact any member of the Missions Committee.

**The AGAPE Communion Offering** - The Greek word *Agape* is used in the New Testament to refer to a kind of love that is not necessarily a feeling but a motivation for action, a sacrificial love that voluntarily gives without expecting anything in return. We are called to *Agape* love through Christ's example, and we remember that example of sacrifice when we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

In order to bring greater awareness of and participation in the Service and Outreach "outside our walls" ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Communion Offering** of small, tangible goods will coincide each month with the celebration of Holy Communion. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting an item to donate and bring to the baskets in the narthex on the **first Sunday** of each month.

# Pines Family News



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

To Michael Donovan and family with the loss of Michael's mother, Mary, in April. Mary lived in England. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.

**We have a new location for tablecloths that have been used.** Please place these tablecloths in the labeled plastic bin in the fellowship hall storage closet. They will be picked up by the cleaners and returned. We ask that you send an email to Cindy to let her know what committee used the tablecloths so that the cost can be applied to the correct committee. Of course, you can always save money for the church by taking the tablecloths you use home and washing them. We just ask that you return the cloths to the location you got them (either the Parlor or the Library) when you bring them back. Thank you for helping to take care of your church!

**Date for Eight** this Spring is off to a very good start again with 82 adults and 7 children participating in 14 Groups with potluck dinners during March and May. A very special welcome to those young Pines families, who are reigniting Date for Eight with Children. We have one group of 6 adults and 7 children. If we form a second group, there's room for more young families. If you know of any, please spread the word. If you were unable to sign up for this Spring session, mark your calendar that Date for Eight will be held again this Fall in September and November, signups will start in August.

Sharon Dotson (281-620-9909) [sharondotson@gmail.com](mailto:sharondotson@gmail.com) and Art Otermat (713-303-0718) [aotermat@earthlink.net](mailto:aotermat@earthlink.net)

## Dear Pines Family,

It's been 8 months since Harvey and we would not be in our house already if we hadn't had the help of our church family. Between 2 days of help from church members mucking out the house, a monetary donation from Pines, as well as many, many other donations and emotional support over these months, we would definitely still be displaced.

Thank you, thank you, thank you EVERYONE!!! We are having an Open House on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> after church from 1:00-6:00 to say thank you to all who helped in any form or fashion. Come see our PHASE 1 progress, visit, drink, eat, and view how 8 months later looks.

15626 Tumbling Rapids

Houston 77084

Blessings and God bless, Melissa and Jay Gravett

**Calling all Singles!** You are invited to join a group of Single people for a pot luck lunch on the third Saturday of each month. We will meet at noon at a member's house for fellowship before enjoying the dishes everyone has brought (home-cooked or store-bought). We'll rotate as host or co-hosts. This group has been known in the past as SOLOs, and we'll be carrying on a tradition that has created deep friendships and great memories. (Remember the time when *everyone* brought desserts?) Please call Dianne Harrington at 713-932-9285 or email at [nethaharr@gmail.com](mailto:nethaharr@gmail.com) for more information. We'll have our first SOLOs lunch on May 19!

## Dear Pines Family,

Thank you so very much for your prayers and encouraging words of support this past month. We felt such peace going into Jake's ablation treatment knowing that our Pines family had him covered in prayer. Happily, the treatment was a complete success and Jake is back to normal with no physical restrictions whatsoever. We are so grateful for the gift of Pines to our family!

With Much Love,  
Connie, Troy and Jake Pike

# A Message From Our Pastor

PAGE 3

Grace and Peace.

Over the course of the life of the church we are blessed with wonderful children of God who come in and out of our lives. These people touch us with their wonderful spirit and show us a glimpse of the spirit of God. We also encounter people who encourage us to stretch ourselves in how we fulfil our calling as faithful Christians, who invite us to go beyond ourselves to love others as God first loved us. Valerie Mowell, our Director of Children's Ministry is one of those people.

As many of you know Valerie will be leaving us to head to the Dallas area as her husband, Scott, begins his new job. Valerie and her family have blessed this congregation for many years with their spirit, love and dedication to this family of faith. A little over eighteen months ago Valerie's commitment to this church grew as she became our temporary Director of Children's Ministry. Her knowledge of early childhood education, and her commitment to faith in Christ made her an excellent choice. The Staff Committee soon realized that Valerie's gifts were what we needed as our permanent Children's Director. Since her hiring Valerie has strengthened our children's program by creating new opportunities for children to be involved in faith building activities. One of the most recent programs she instituted was the Messy Church program. Messy Church was a huge success and it brought great joy to all the children who joined us that evening. Valerie also worked tirelessly at communicating with the families involved in her program, making sure they knew all of the latest happenings through countless phone calls and email newsletters. But one of Valerie's greatest gifts was making sure each new child and their family felt welcomed here at Pines. Many of our families have said Valerie's attention and welcoming words were one of the reasons they joined the church.

We will miss the gifts and spirits of Valerie, Scott, Kaylie and Makenna, but we know God has wonderful things in store for them in north Texas. I hope you will join me in celebrating Valerie's ministry among us on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have a reception in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 between services to say thank you to Valerie and her family, for all with which they have blessed us. If you feel so inclined, a basket will be available for you to drop off notes and of thanks and encouragement.

Valerie's official last day as Director of Children's Ministry is May 15<sup>th</sup>, but don't worry about the future of the Children's Program, the future looks bright with the foundation Valerie has built. The Christian Education Committee is working hard at filling the gaps until we find a new Director, and the search committee is working diligently, and prayerfully, to find the person God is calling to be our next director.

Please Keep Valerie and her family in your prayers as they begin this new chapter of their lives. I also ask you keep the Christian Education Committee and Search Committee in your prayers and they seek God's support and guidance in their tasks ahead.

Blessings,



# Youth Happenings!

## Pines Youth Events

### Confirmation Class Dates

May 6<sup>th</sup>, Confirmation Banquet, May 13<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Sunday

Youth Car Wash - May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 2:00pm

Senior Recognition Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am Service

Youth Lock-In @ Pines - June 1<sup>st</sup>, Details to come

### Mission Trip Info

Middle School Trip - June 17-22nd. Local Reach Beyond Missions coordinated through the Presbytery.

High School Trip - July 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Local Harvey recovery work coordinated through Son Servants.

Mission trip training for both HS and MS is June 1st!

## Pines Youth Celebrates!

20 youth and adult leaders enjoyed Bowling, Burgers and Cupcakes at our April Youth United event.

*"And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity...And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed - keep that dusted off and in use. Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes!"*

*1 Timothy 4:12-15*

## Pines Kids Children's Ministry at Pines

### **Kaleidoscope Camp, August 6 – 10 from 9am to 12pm!**

Pines is offering a fun, new format this summer for children ages 4 through rising 6th graders. It will encompass a "kaleidoscope" of activities including daily bible stories and music and worship as well as art projects, gymnasium games and playground time! Children 7 and older will receive special art instruction time from a Newspring art teacher! Cost is just \$25 per child with savings for families registering more than one child. Scholarships available upon request.

**Go to Pines Website at <http://pinespc.org/childrens-ministry/> to register for the camp. Contact Valerie Mowell or Margaret Schafer with any questions.**



## Journey to the land of the Celts,

The Rev. Andy Gans invites you to join him in Ireland for an inspiring journey into the Celtic roots of Christianity and the influence of this history on our own Presbyterian heritage. We will have an opportunity to visit sites of great historical and religious significance, learning more about the evangelization of Ireland and the institutions and practices that arose there.

Ireland is a land of immense natural beauty. We have created a unique itinerary that weaves together visits to magnificent coastlines, ancient monastic sites, and medieval town centers. Local expert guides will help us make sense of both ancient and contemporary events – including efforts to foster peace and social justice between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. Throughout our program, we will be treated to Irish culture, food, storytelling and music. Our program includes visits to Dublin, Armagh, Londonderry/Derry, Giant's Causeway and the nearby Corymeela Center, Belfast and nearby Downpatrick, traditional burial site of St. Patrick.

Come join us for this rich program that begins September 28 and runs through October 6, 2018! The cost for the trip, based on 20 participants, is \$4,165 per person. If you would like to reserve your spot on this amazing trip, please contact Rev. Gans at [andy@pinespc.org](mailto:andy@pinespc.org).



**May 17: Spring Sing-Along @ 9:15 am in Fellowship Hall**

**May 24: Last Day of School**

### **PRAYING PARENTS**

Our *Praying Parents* meet on **Monday in W-13 from 9:05-9:20**. Everyone is welcome!



**SAFETY ALERT:**

Please remember to lock your cars when you leave your vehicle. Also, you should stow any items on your seat in your trunk. We have had several car break-ins in the area. We want each of you to be safe and take every precaution necessary to protect yourself and your property.

**OFFICE SUPPLIES:**

Folks, in an effort to control spending and be frugal with the church funds, we are initiating a new policy regarding office supplies. Should you need office supplies anytime in the future for your classroom or committee, please submit the form found on the counter behind the receptionist desk to Genny. Genny will pull the office supplies you need and place them in your committee box or assist you in getting what you need and filling out the form. Thank you for your help and patience as we move forward. We all appreciate your efforts to help.

## The Music Department

### Greetings from the Music Department!

On this crisp, bright April morning I am thinking of the song by Henry Smith:

*Give Thanks with a grateful heart;  
Give Thanks to the Holy One;  
Give Thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give Thanks!*

Looking back on the Lenten and Easter season, I truly have a grateful heart. For all the musicians, singers, ringers, and readers who made this season so special, I simply want to say "Thank you." God has once again been glorified through your time and hard work.

And as we look forward to the summer, please mark your calendars for !FOLLIES!, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be at 5 and the program will be at 6. This year we are doing "A Salute to Broadway!" with tunes from several different shows. I am grateful that the Music Department has this chance to give our friends in the congregation a night out for a dinner and a show. Come and enjoy!

Keep a song in your heart!

Tim



## Session Meeting Notes

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular stated meeting on April 30. Here are some of highlights:

- Approved a motion to use The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel as the curriculum for the All-Church Study this fall.
- Heard an update from Andy on the new youth director, Jesse Parker, who will begin work early this summer.
- Received positive updates from the two search committees: Director of Children's Ministry (almost ready to begin interviewing candidates), and Communications Coordinator (position description complete).
- Was updated on a successful meeting with a representative from Feed My Starving Children as part of planning for the All-Church Service Project November 2-3.
- Approved a motion for the PYCC worship team to lead the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, November 11 as part of the PYCC Youth Rally being held at Pines.

Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session

## The Memorial Garden and Columbarium

Several years ago the membership of Pines decided to create a memorial garden and columbarium to honor and cherish the Pines family. The memorial garden is a special place for individuals, and/or groups to meet for meditation, prayer or simply enjoying the garden and fountain. The engraved paving stones in the garden can be purchased to honor special loved ones and family members.

A columbarium is also a part of the memorial garden. It consists of small spaces which would contain ashes of loved ones who have been cremated. Each space end stone will be engraved with the occupants name and date of birth and death. These spaces are reserved exclusively for the members of Pines Presbyterian Church and their families.<sup>1</sup>

For more information regarding the Memorial Garden and Columbarium, please contact any of the following committee members:

David Sipp [dasipp@comcast.net](mailto:dasipp@comcast.net)

Connie Sipp [cbsipper@gmail.com](mailto:cbsipper@gmail.com)

Janice Pannell [jjapann@aol.com](mailto:jjapann@aol.com)

Allie Hunt [allieaggie13@gmail.com](mailto:allieaggie13@gmail.com)

<sup>1</sup>Policies and Regulations of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium must be adhered to.



Nina Hendee,  
Owner of Taste of Texas

If you want to be a hostess  
or need more info, please  
contact:

Connie Sipp  
[connie.sipp@fluor.com](mailto:connie.sipp@fluor.com)  
Phone: 713-515-3404 (cell)  
or 281-263-3289 (work)

Linda Aldred  
[lindaaldred1@aol.com](mailto:lindaaldred1@aol.com)  
Phone: 281-734-2043 (cell)  
or 281-675-3442 (work)

Cindy Houllhan  
[cindy@pinespc.org](mailto:cindy@pinespc.org)  
Phone: 713-467-2234 (work)

### Back By Popular Demand -

The Pines Presbyterian  
Women  
are  
Pleased to Resume  
the

## 9th Annual Tablescapes Luncheon

Our Featured Speaker  
is  
Nina Hendee

Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

Catered  
by Massa's  
Grill

Walt Staff - The  
Men of Pines



**What is Tablescapes?** It is a special day in the life of our church where hostesses (ladies who are members of the church) volunteer to decorate a table in their own "unique" theme. It's an event where the ladies of the church are encouraged to invite friends and also an opportunity get to know other church members on a more personal basis. The men of Pines get involved by volunteering to be the servers. Every year there is a wonderful guest speaker and this year it will be Nina Hendee. Nina and her husband Ed own "Taste of Texas" steak-house and both are very involved in the community. If you interested in being a hostess, please contact Linda Aldred ([lindaaldred1@aol.com](mailto:lindaaldred1@aol.com) cell: 281-734-2043) or Connie Sipp ([cbsipper@gmail.com](mailto:cbsipper@gmail.com) cell: 713-515-3404). For those wishing to just attend the luncheon, sign-ups will begin in a few months; just look for updates in the church newsletter and bulletin.



# Mission Current Events

## SHERWOOD MENTORING PROGRAM

We're looking for mentors to spend 30 minutes – 1 hour per week with a Sherwood Elementary student. The program will begin next school year, Aug 2018. You will be able to choose the subject and will be guided by the teacher and/or Sherwood counselor. And don't worry if you can't make every week. We know things come up. Sign up this Sunday if you're interested or if you just need more info please contact Kathy Ropshaw at [kr@jhvi.com](mailto:kr@jhvi.com) or 713-236-8303 x329.

**TAAP (Taco and A Prayer)** will not take place on May 4th. But no worries, we will start back up again on June 1st for one last TAAP before the summer break! Be sure to join us June 1st for this great time of fellowship with the community!

Dearest Pines Friends,

Thank you for helping to make our 50th anniversary celebration so fantastic! Your golden touch was literally the icing on the cupcake :)

The ice cream in the ice cream wagons was such a hit with our Eagles and the breakfast tacos were the perfect addition to our morning celebration on Saturday.

There are truly no words to adequately express our appreciation for all the many ways you contribute to creating our feeling of welcome and family at Sherwood.

Please know that you are high in our thoughts and we feel your blessings daily!

Most Sincerely,

Your Sherwood Family

## *Service Announcement*

**Beginning June 3rd 2018...**

**we will combine Sunday services and begin meeting at 10:30 a.m. for the summer.**

**Please mark your summertime calendar with this new service time!**