



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2020

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

WOMEN'S RETREAT

the Gift

of Story



FEBRUARY 8, 2020



GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF OUR LIFE STORIES & OUR STORIES ARE A GIFT... TO OURSELVES AND TO EACH OTHER. THIS YEAR WE WILL BE BLESSED TO HEAR 3 OF OUR SISTERS IN CHRIST SHARE THEIR STORIES AND WE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO REFLECT ON OUR OWN.

LINDA JOHNSON, SHANA SAUCIER & JILL SHERRILL WILL BE OUR SPEAKERS.

REGISTRATION BEGINS:

JAN. 19, 26 & FEB. 2

HOW: AT CHURCH OR **PINESPC.ORG**

* SPECIFY IF CHILDCARE IS NEEDED WHEN REGISTERING.

TIME:

8:30AM-1:30PM

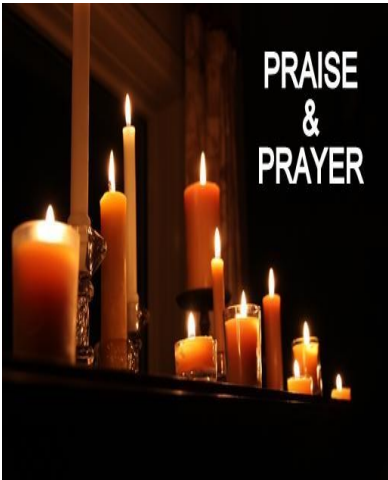
{IN FELLOWSHIP HALL}

COST: \$20.00 LUNCH INCLUDED



PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pines Family News



Prayers for Anthony Gairo and his family. Anthony's father, Jim Gairo, passed away last week.

For Phil Buelow and his family in the death of Phil's mother, Juanita Buelow. The Buelow family traveled to Virginia for the service.

For Linda Johnson and her family whose father, Bill Daniel, passed away on December 28. A service was held in Indiana.

For Dot Barnes in the loss of her husband Jack. Jack and Dot are former members in the 70/80's who were very active in the life of Pines.



Angela Bullock—Angela comes to us from Memorial Drive Christian Church. She is married and has two children. Give her a big hello when you see her!



Dana and Linda Harkey—the Harkey's visited Pines 27 years ago! They came at the invitation of their neighbors Bob and Lynda Barr. Be sure to welcome them back!



Dylan Huntsman—Dylan came to Houston 5 years ago from San Antonio. Please join us in welcoming Dylan to our church family!

Dinner for 8 (formerly Date for 8)

Yes, Dinner for 8 is back and it is time to sign up! This is a wonderful way to gather for a meal and fellowship in Pines' members' homes. Sign-ups take place in February and the hosts/hostesses will contact their guests to schedule lunches or dinners for their group. What a fun way to get together to eat a meal and to meet friends!

Questions? Contact Lynda & Bob Barr

Columbarium Committee – If you are interested in serving on the Columbarium Committee, please contact Connie Sipp at cbsipper@gmail.com. This is a one-year commitment and the business/discussions are conducted via e-mail when appropriate. If an in-person meeting is necessary, it is held after church on a Sunday and does not last more than 30 minutes.

Did you know you can access our church calendar and the Sunday services on our website at www.pinespc.org? We are also working on updating our website and soon you will see some very positive changes. Be sure and check back each week and let us know what you think!

Please mark your calendars with
the **NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:**
February 21(for the March 2020 issue)
March 20 (for April 2020 issue)

Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace in the name of Jesus Christ,

During my devotion and prayer time the other day God placed a wonderful passage from Jeremiah in front of me that really spoke to me, and I felt spoke to all that is going on here at Pines.

The passage is Jeremiah 17:7-8:

- 7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
8 They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

This passage begins with an incredible reminder to us all of the gift we receive when we trust in God... we are blessed. When you and I truly trust in the Lord we understand and receive so many blessings from God. I love the imagery here of those who trust in the Lord will be like a tree planted by steam that is constantly nourished by the living water that flows near its roots. This tree will not fade or loose its leaves when heat and drought come, and maybe most importantly it won't become anxious during the challenging time. This was a great reminder to me considering the season we are in at Pines. With the departure of Ashley, our Children's Director, and Pastor Barbara many may see this as a time of extreme heat or drought in the life of Pines. Fear and worry about our future may arise in the minds of some, but this passage is very clear that if we truly trust the Lord with our worship, staffing, programing and finances we will make it through these times of heat. If we truly trust the Lord then even in these times we will continue to send out roots, we will continue to stay green and even bear fruit.

I know this might be a time of worry for some, but the Pines family is strong, and we have laid strong roots by living water for almost sixty years. If we trust the Lord, I know the Lord will bless us in ways we have never imagined. I am confident this family of faith will bear amazing fruit that will honor God and bless the Kingdom.

As we continue to send out roots to the living water, the Session has begun the process of looking forward. Due to the immediate need to fill two positions, and our current finances, we will be searching for a part-time Interim Associate Pastor for Children's Ministry and Adult Discipleship. The primary responsibility of this position will be children's ministry, with a smaller portion dedicated to spiritual growth, worship leadership, and pastoral care. The Session also approved searching for a 10 hour a week Children's Ministry Assistant.

The Session plans to discuss long term staffing models at their retreat in early March. They will study the churches mission and finances to envision appropriate staffing models that will help Pines live into its mission to make disciples who know, love, and trust in Jesus Christ by Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward.

Trusting in the Lord,



Service Beyond The Walls

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

CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS

By the time you read this, your mind and heart (as well as store displays and advertisements) will have shifted from Christmas to Valentine's Day. Nonetheless, I wanted to share some Christmas Eve and New Year reflections as I experienced this special time of year at Pines.

Christmas Eve is such a blessed time as we celebrate the greatest gift any of us will ever receive in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and we remember the love of family and friends who enrich our lives. For many of us, worshipping on Christmas Eve is a treasured tradition and, over the years, many of the children at Pines have told me these worship services are among their favorite "church memories".

I am embarrassed to admit that, for many years, I took for granted the work that occurs "behind the scenes" to make possible the three worship services Pines has historically offered on this special night. Last year, I tried to be more intentional in noticing the many people who worked and "donated" a portion of their Christmas Eve to making these services possible. While I know I have missed some, I offer the following list of faith-filled servants who graciously gave of their time to make our worship experiences possible:

- Ministers and our Music Director, who lead worship during each of the three services and give up treasured family time to do so, in addition to likely having a shortened night of rest prior to Christmas Day

- Talented musicians and vocalists who give of their time and talent to enrich our worship experience with the music of the season; can you imagine worshipping at Christmas without music and how different the experience would be?

- Sound and visual technicians who make it possible for us to see and hear in order to fully participate in worship

- Ushers who welcome and greet people on the occasion when the church likely has the most visitors of any time during the year AND who clean up the sanctuary after each worship service (yes, the sanctuary was cleaned after the 11pm service)

- Duty elders who arrive before 5pm to open our church facility and get it ready as well as close and secure it after midnight on Christmas Day

- Those who prepare the communion elements for the 7pm service

- Lay volunteers who spend time before the service to prepare to be liturgists as they read some of the familiar scriptural passages and light the Advent candles

- Finally, there are many who work for countless hours prior to Christmas Eve to plan the services, recruit volunteers and prepare bulletins, among other duties.

We are blessed to be part of a church family where so many give with loving hearts to make such experiences possible. One of my resolutions this year is to be more intentional in thanking these people for their loving and faithful service "behind the scenes". I hope some of you will join me in doing so.

While speaking of new year resolutions, I heard both Bill Willis and Andy Gans challenge us in late December and early January to be intentional in setting aside time and accepting the hope which only Jesus can provide in having the courage to take small steps each day to share God's love and make our world a better place. As I suspect many do, I struggle with maintaining my focus on being intentional in making a difference via my actions.

However, this year as I was leaving Pines after worship on January 5, I drove by a Pines member walking alongside a nearby street while picking up large pieces of trash and litter along the road. That image stayed in my mind. Later that afternoon, Linda and I went for a walk in our neighborhood and halfway through I finally opened my eyes to notice trash along the roadside. Instead of walking by, I picked up the pieces I saw and took them home.

Although I know of some at Pines who do this on a regular basis, the powerful image of seeing another Pines member beautifying the area surrounding our beloved church made an impression on me which I hope will remain fresh in my mind as I go through this year. My hope is that it will lead me to more frequently take advantage of opportunities to love and care for all of God's creation, including His children. My prayer is that all of us will do so and occasionally share our stories to encourage each other.

Thanks be to God for the gift of those at Pines who love and serve Him in a multitude of ways.
Phil Wetz

Youth Happenings



Conclaves at Camp Cho-Yeh!

It's not too late to sign up for the annual
Conclaves Retreat at Camp Cho-Yeh!

The retreat is from Friday, February 28th to Sunday, March 1st. The cost of the trip is \$75 and it's open to **all 6th – 12th graders!**

Students will enjoy a weekend filled with worship, games, and service with other church youth groups throughout the Presbytery. To sign up or if you have any questions, please contact Jesse in the church office, or at jesse@pinespc.org.

Children's Ministry

To VBS or not to VBS? *(Seriously- that is the QUESTION)*

Pines Family,

We are in **urgent need** of help in Children's Ministry. We can't do this without you! **Planning cannot begin for VBS**

--unless--

the Christian Ed Committee **secures 25 VBS volunteers** or more by February 16.

This June, we would like to offer a simplified VBS called **LIFECAMP** with classes for crafts, music, games and Bible stories. There will **not** be opening and closing ceremonies. Groups of 10 children will rotate through 4 activity rooms. The goal is to serve 40 children ages 4 through 5th grade.

June 22-25 from 8:30-12 (for volunteers) 9:00-11:30 for kids

To **make LIFECAMP 2020 a reality**, we will need planners, teachers, group leaders, administrative help and supply gatherers. There's a job for everyone!

**Can you help the Children's Ministry live into our mission:
*Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward?***

Please contact Ann Guerra at annieguerra@att.net Or, sign up anytime in the hallway of Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!

Yours in service,

Melissa S., Elizabeth D. Margaret S., Ann G., Phil W., Inkyu H., Jesse P., Shirley B., **The Pines Christian Education Committee**

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

As we say goodbye to our beloved Associate Pastor Barbara Retzloff, I am reminded of the words of the great hymn “God Be With You.”

This hymn was written by Jeremiah Rankin, pastor of Washington’s First Congregational Church and president of Howard University, the great African-American college in the nation’s capital in 1880. He wrote it, he said, after discovering that the term “good-bye” meant “God be with you.” The words of this familiar hymn are:

*God be with you ‘til we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you ‘til we meet again.*

*God be with you ‘til we meet again; ‘neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you; God be with you ‘til we meet again.*

*God be with you ‘til we meet again; when life’s perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfailing round you; God be with you ‘til we meet again.*

So, dear Barbara, as we say goodbye, we also say “God be with you ‘til we meet again.”

Keep a song in your heart.

Tim

YOUTH will be SERVING SOUP following the 10:45AM service

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
tacklehunger.org

FOOD & MONETARY DONATIONS will benefit SPRING BRANCH BLESSINGS in a BACKPACK & FAIR HAVEN Food Pantry

PINES YOUTH GROUP
INVITES YOU TO SOUPER BOWL OF CARING LUNCHEON
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2ND

AGAPE OFFERING for February

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Missions and Current Events



Pictured (left to right) Brent Peery, VP Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care, Chairman of Medical Missions Committee, Mrs. Linda Johnson and Dr. Phil Johnson

Long-time Volunteer, Team Leader and Faith In Practice Board Member, Dr. Phil Johnson, was awarded the Memorial Hermann Medical Missions Exemplary Physician award on December 11. This annual award is given to a physician who demonstrates commitment to medical missions, faithfulness and service to Memorial Hermann Health System and its values, and is a respectful member of the Memorial Hermann Health System community. Dr. Johnson was selected from a field of seven nominees chosen by the Medical Missions Steering Committee and Medical Missions staff.

Congratulations, Dr. Phil Johnson, on this special honor! We are blessed by your faithful and devoted service to Faith In Practice and celebrate your recognition.

Missions and Current Events continued...



Another “Pines Day of Service” painting the interior of the home of Ms. Lilly, a Northeast Houston resident trying to get back into her home after Harvey. Interested in joining us? Drop your name and number in the Sunday offering plate indicating your interest, or call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234.

Pictured to the left: Walt Penberthy, John Work, Robin Brady, Jim Brady, Margaret Schafer, Cindy Houlihan and Val Aldred.

Pictured below: Conley Juban on the left and “always smiling” project leader Carson Tucker with Margaret Schafer

thank you



The Property Committee will be having a family work day on **March 28th**. Please mark your calendars to come and help spruce up your church that morning. Sign ups will take place in early March. This is a **wonderful family activity!** Chef Walt will be cooking his famous **hamburgers** for all to enjoy! Watch for sign ups with more details coming soon.

Note: we will be cleaning out the closet next to the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall, among several other indoor and outdoor projects. If you have any items you want to keep that are currently stored in that room, please send a note to cindy@pinespc.org by *March 8th* and she will label it with your name or committee or it will be disposed of. Our plan is to organize, give away, or throw away ALL unused items. Storage space in the church has disappeared **and** we must comply with City of Houston requirements on our storage space near the kitchen.

Watch Worship Online

Have you ever missed a Sunday and wished you could see and hear what you missed, or wanted to hear it again, or wanted to share the service with a friend? Beginning later this month Pines will be posting on our website each weeks complete worship service. You will be able to see the previous Sunday's service as well as a few months' worth of previous services. The recorded services will be under the "Worship/Music" tab on our web site. In an effort to maintain the safety and security of our children, the Session and Worship committee agreed, the camera recording the service will pan up to the Sanctuary cross during the Children's Message.

Dr. J. Andrew Dearman Retirement Celebration

Saturday, February 22, 2020
6:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church, 10221 Ella Lee Ln, Houston, TX 77042, USA



Please join Fuller Theological Seminary
for a retirement celebration in honor of

Dr. J. Andrew Dearman

Please RSVP online at
fullerseminary.wixsite.com/dearmanretirement
or by calling Danae Jaeger at (626) 584-5472
by Monday, February 17.

Dear Prayer Partners,

Many of you are faithful to pray the weekly prayer list. That is one of the underlying strengths of Pines Presbyterian Church. Prayer ranks among the most important things any of us do. You are appreciated!

Something special is added when we pray together in person, sharing that bond of prayer and caring, that peaceful and refreshing time. Would you like to join us for the praying of the weekly list, plus any other concerns or praises mentioned? The in-person weekly prayer team currently meets at 9:00 am on Tuesdays in room C-10. It also coincides with the start time for Pines Preschool, for anyone who brings a child to the school. The exact day and time could be negotiable if that would enable someone to participate. Contact Bethel Strawser by email BethelStrawser5@earthlink.net for further discussion.

Bethel Strawser

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Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on January 26. Here are a few highlights:

- Welcomed Angela Bullock, Dylan Huntsman, and Linda and Dana Harkey into the Pines family.
- Set March 1, 2020 as the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
- Scheduled a Congregational Gathering on February 23 following worship to discuss our Ministries and Budget.
- Met with representatives from the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry to discuss next steps following Barbara's departure.
- Elected Commissioners to the March 21, 2020 Presbytery meeting in Lufkin.
- Voted to form a Search Committee for an Interim Associate Pastor and an Interim Children's Ministry Assistant.

Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session



We have another Eagle Scout in the house! Congratulations Sean Lade on this well earned honor! We are so very proud. Sean's Eagle Scout Project consisted of enhancements to the Pines playground. This included installing two raised planters and a tricycle bridge. Building the bridge was a big undertaking. The more Sean planned, the more complex building a bridge became...

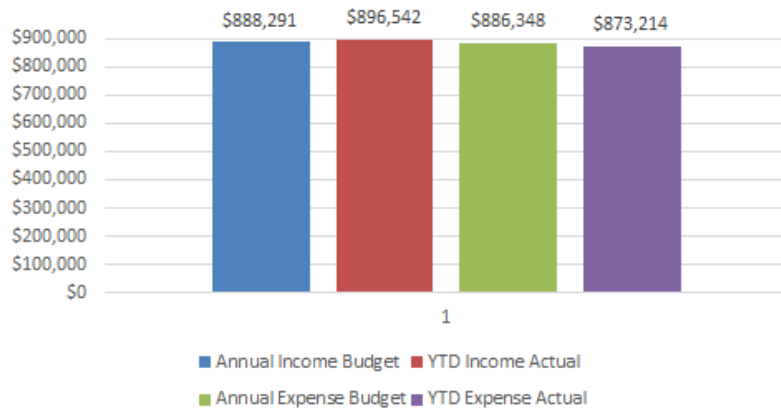


Yet, as scouts do, he persevered, overcame the obstacles, and delivered on his project with a truly outstanding result.





Income/Expense Report as of 12/31/2019



- Thank you to all who fulfilled their 2019 pledge. Your support matters...to you, to Pines and to our community! Annual giving statements for your records were mailed in early January. If you did not receive yours or if you have questions, please contact Alexis Graham at alexis@pinespc.org.
- Thank you also to all who made a pledge for 2020. Your pledge makes it possible for Pines to plan and budget for the 2020 fiscal year. As of January 2020 pledges total \$635,130. If you have not made a pledge and would like to do so, please turn in your card to the church office or put it in the collection plate.

~ You're invited ~

REV. BARBARA RETZLOFF'S
FAREWELL
Reception
Sunday, Feb. 9th | 12 noon | Fellowship Hall

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Let's surround Barbara in friendship
for her Pines farewell celebration!

Questions?
Please Contact: Shirley Bollich ph. 713.828.2234
or by email: shirleybollich@hotmail.com



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

The Servant Song

By David Haas

Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace, To let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on the journey, We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other, Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you, In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow, Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, We shall find such harmony
Born to all we've known together, Of Christ's love and agony.



OPEN HOUSE

18-MONTH TO 4-YEAR OLDS:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

11:45 AM TO 12:30 PM (CHILDREN ARE WELCOME)

**REGISTRATION STARTS
JANUARY 29**

WE WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING PAPER APPLICATIONS AT OUR OPEN HOUSE JAN. 29TH. OUR ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL GO LIVE AT 2 PM THE SAME DAY.

BRIDGE AND KINDERGARTEN:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

7:00 TO 8:00 PM (PARENTS ONLY)

PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR PINES CHURCH MEMBERS: JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 7

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH