



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, November 2023

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS...



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

Property Committee All Church Work Day

Please bring the family and join us as we hold our next Work Day on **November 4th** to spruce up the church. There are activities for all ages. We will begin at 9am and end with lunch being prepared by the Property Committee. Don't miss the fun and fellowship!



Turn your clocks back on November 5th

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 Joy 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. The deadline for submission is **November 10th**.

Grace and peace to you,

Throughout most of my life as a pastor I have not been much of a fan of the Apostle Paul. Don't get me wrong, I love his message about how to live a life dedicated to faith in Christ Jesus. I also believe Christianity is alive and well today in part because of him, but I struggle with the way he sometimes delivered his message. There are times, I feel, he is a little arrogant, a little full of himself. But what I didn't realize until our recent trip to Greece and Turkey was Paul's amazing courage.

Our group's twelve day trip to walk in the steps of the Apostle Paul and John was in many ways an eye opening experience for me. I had never been to any of the cities we visited and I was really looking forward to experiencing the historic cities of Ephesus and Corinth, home to two of Paul's beloved faith communities. Our group of 36 was blessed to walk down the ancient streets of Ephesus towards the historic Library, and then make our way over to the rather large amphitheater where it is thought Paul preached. As I walked down these streets, I imagined Paul doing the same I had been doing most of the morning. I imagined him looking at all the people, flashing an occasional smile to a passerby and maybe even striking up a conversation with a stranger. As we stood near the large amphitheater I imagined Paul preaching to just a few people the first time he spoke and the I imagined the theater full of people yearning to hear about this thing called the Good News.

Following our stop in Ephesus we eventually made our way to Corinth...another one of Paul's favorite, but needy, churches. Here you immediately see the largest ruin of the city, the temple to the Greek god Apollo. There are other smaller temples and shrines to the other Greek gods scattered throughout the ruins. Again, I imagined Paul living in the hills and coming to the city each day to get to know the people and to share the Good News of Jesus. At times the feeling of knowing that Paul walked these streets and preached among these temples to these other gods was overwhelming. Especially when the group and I stood on the platform where Paul would have preached to the community. As we stood there, I read aloud chapter thirteen of Paul's first letter to his beloved church in this city. I felt a renewed connection to these words and Paul's work among these people. I also thought about the courage he had to speak similar words as he stood in the shadows of these massive temples.

This amazing trip gave me a new perspective on the one I once thought was arrogant and full of himself. Walking through these cities I came to better understand Paul's immense love for these people and for Christ. Paul continually poured himself out and risked his life for the Gospel. Seeing all the temples and shrines that dominated the cities, I realized how difficult it must have been for Paul to not only share the Gospel but also to have people come to believe in Christ while living in the shadows of these enormous temples to other Gods.

I have often said that travel is the best form of education. The whole group learned and experienced so much on our journey that we can't wait for our next field trip and the opportunity to learn and grow.

With great thanks to Paul and all who've had the courage to share the Gospel,



Family Ministry Calendar for November

PLEASE HELP!

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

Family ministry calendar **November:**

Small groups continue all weeks of November: children 9:15-10:15am in rooms W13 and W14 and Youth 9:30-10:30am in Senior High Room

4 Church Work day- kids of all ages can help fix up our church 9am-1pm

5 Pines Youth- Outreach night 6-8pm

12 Pines Youth Rally Day- Pasadena

15 Pines Youth- Paint Tiles Night

19 Pines Youth- Tomato 6-7:30pm

26 Advent Play Rehearsal 4:30-5:30pm

26 Family Advent Night 5:30-7:30pm

29 Pines Youth- Caroling 5-7:00pm

Dec 1-3 Pines Youth Retreat-

Pines Youth Retreat 4:30pm Friday Dec 1- Sunday Dec 3; 8pm Beach, Corner, Advent Play Rehearsal/help, Life and Debt, Homework TIME, and Apt Outreach! Cost is \$45

RSVP by NOVEMBER 26!



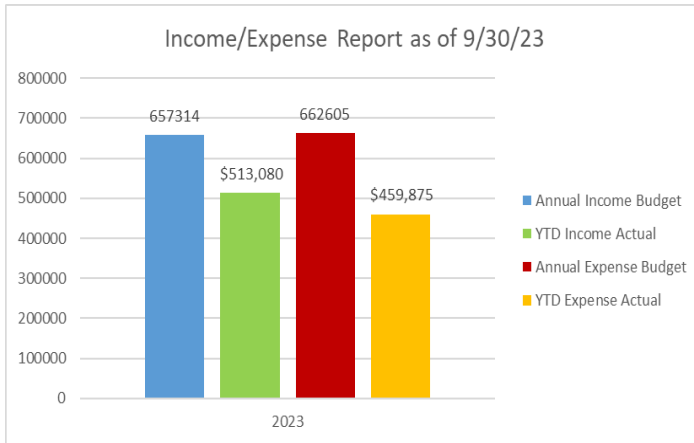
Can you add one more person to your prayers?

Looking for adults 18 and older to ‘adopt’ a student age 4-18 to be a prayer pal. Prayer is the only requirement, though we know it’s a bonus to follow one another in life events. Gifts for special occasions are appreciated but not required. We know prayer is the special gift and a card every so often (we encourage at least quarterly notes) is one way the Holy Spirit time and time again shows up in our kids lives reminding them they are thought about, supported and loved.

Pines commits to assigning all active kids a partner beginning at age 4. We do have some new students as well as those who just turned 4 ready to receive a partner. Are you willing?

We have a special dinner in April for spending time all together and I can send out gentle reminders to all partners to pray/ send a card out. Thank you for considering this important ministry. Contact Kristin for more information or to commit: kristin@pinespc.org

Stewardship



1. Pledge income for 9 months continues slightly ahead of budget. Non-pledge income received through September is well ahead (84%) of the year's budget due to unexpected early gifts and continued strong giving.

2. Overall expenses were underbudget for nine months. Property expenses are well controlled and under budget. Staff committee expenses are right on target. Missions spending is well below budget and expected to catch up in November when grants are distributed at the Thankfulness Luncheon.

3. Total Income was \$513,080; total expenses were \$459,875; leaving a Net Income of \$53,205 for September, continuing our very strong start for the year.

4. John Plush has tendered his resignation as Treasurer effective the end of December. Kari Work is nominated to serve as Treasurer effective January 1, 2024. She will be proposed to the congregation to be elected at the congregational meeting on Sunday, November 5.

5. The Stewardship committee and the Trustees are working together to schedule an informational meeting for the congregation following worship on January 21, 2024, with Jake Wilson, our representative with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF), to learn more about legacy (estate) giving opportunities to benefit Pines.

6. Thanks to all members of the congregation who have submitted their Giving Goal commitments for 2024 giving already! Cards can still be submitted by returning them to the church office or emailing Alexis Graham with your family's commitment. Your family's support is important and allows the church leadership to plan for the ministries of Pines in 2024.

Session

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on October 30. Here are some highlights:

- Session elected Susan Babineck, Emily Gairo, and Chris Wolfe to represent Pines as Ruling Elder Commissioners at the November 18 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- Session approved the Stewardship Committee's motion to create the Harry Loose Memorial Fund to support Pines' members or staff who need financial assistance to participate in Guatemala mission experiences.
- Session also approved the Stewardship Committee's motion to create the Jerry Mowell Memorial Fund to support additional mission giving by Pines.
- Session also approved adding the election of a new Treasurer to the agenda for the Congregational Meeting to be held after Worship on November 5. Session recognized the exceptional contributions of John Plush as Pines' Treasurer for the past two years. Kari Work has been nominated as Treasurer to succeed John.
- Session approved Phil Buelow and Kristen Davis-Owen to return as members of the Christian Education Committee.
- Session approved the Missions Committee's request to apply for a Presbytery grant to support the Raise Up Families Christmas event to be hosted by Pines on December 10.
- Mark your calendars for events from the Property and Worship Committees: (a) Church workday is this Saturday, November 4, at 9 am; (b) the assembly of the Pines' outdoor Christmas tree will be 11-18; (c) gifts purchased for the Sherwood Christmas Store need to be delivered to the Church by 11-19; (d) gift wrapping for the Christmas Store will be on 12-2; and (e) also on 12-2, decorating the Church for Christmas will start at 9 am.

Craig Walker, clerk



A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

Like many of you, I spend extra time during November reflecting on the long list of things for which I am thankful. At the top of the list is God's unconditional love, a gift I experience every day, even when I do not always recognize it.

The second item on my list are the many people God has placed in my life to bless and enrich it. These people can be grouped into a number of categories, including, but not limited to:

Those who have shared knowledge with me, regardless of whether it was in school, the workplace, at a church, or during friendly conversations

Many, including so many in the Pines family, have shared their faith with me through their deeds and words. I was fortunate that this started at an early age and continues today as God patiently and graciously gives me the opportunity to continue to develop my faith.

Others have unconditionally loved me before I learned to love myself. I am so grateful for their patience and perseverance in helping me accept that, even someone like me, is one of God's beloved children.

Some have patiently spent time with me and helped me discover the priceless joy of fellowship – a gift which keeps on giving and is a great source of joy

There is another incredible group – those who have walked with me through the most difficult times in my life by listening in a non-judgmental way, encouraging me when needed, challenging me when that was necessary, and offering help when needed.

While I have never had a formal Stephen Minister, God has graciously placed many “informal ones” in my life during those times when He knew I desperately needed help. If you are going through such a difficult time and feel it might be helpful to share with a Stephen Minister, feel free to contact Ann Guerra or me or call the church office. Ann or I would be happy to talk with you to help you determine if a Stephen Minister could be helpful or whether some other form of assistance might be a better choice.

I close this with a prayer that each reader will have a meaningful time of giving thanks to God for the blessings in our respective lives.

Phil Wetz



It's our 4th Annual
Feed My Starving Children MobilePack
February 23th and 24st!

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 Tony Samper. Remember, we need YOU to make this another huge success for our community and the hungry around the world.

Sign ups will begin January 2nd, so be on the lookout in the Fellowship Hallway!

Your help is needed for next year's *Feed My Starving Children MobilePack*. We are looking for a few people who can help us research for grants to help pay for our Mobile Pack. This task will NOT include writing the grant, just looking on the internet for suitable grant opportunities. You will be trained on how and what to look for. This is needed quickly so, if you are interested in researching grant opportunities please contact Tony Samper or Pastor Andy.

Sherwood Christmas

Return contributions or donations by Sunday, November 19th

Come help wrap presents! December 2 | 9:00am

questions? **KARI WORK**

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER AGAPE

Mission @PINES†

Montrose Street Reach Ministry

One of the groups supported by your generous giving is Montrose Street Reach Ministry. For several years your Missions committee has supported this worthy group with – wait for it – Honey Buns and Bar-B-Q potato chips! Every week Montrose Street Reach feeds a snack and a meal to 80 - 120 homeless souls near the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer. Pines plays a small role in this effort by regularly donating and distributing the not-so-nutritious but very much appreciated snacks. Once the hunger pangs are quieted with a dose of sugar and salt, a worship service is held. After worship a full meal donated by area churches is served. Haircuts, donations, counseling, and other vital services are also offered. The mission of Montrose Street Reach is to help transform the homeless and equip them to lead productive lives through Jesus Christ. Rest assured the Holy Spirit is very much alive and well in Montrose every Thursday evening.

For more info go to: montrostreetreach.com

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

HEY MEMORIAL!
HELP US DELIVER MORE THAN A MEAL TO HOMEBOUND SENIORS NEAR YOU!



The Meals on Wheels program of Interfaith Ministries serves homebound seniors who have difficulty preparing their own meals, safely, inside their home, making their Meals on Wheels delivery a vital part of their nutrition and wellness.

We are currently searching for volunteers to deliver a lunchtime route, weekdays, to seniors in the Memorial area. Come get to know your neighbors and deliver a smile and a hot lunch!

For more information, reach out to Ann Johnson (txann76@gmail.com) or Charlotte Adams (cadams@mdpc.org).



There is a shortage of foster families in our community, especially for school-aged kids and siblings. Here are three ways to get involved:



Become a Foster or Adoptive Family. Learn more and connect with a Foster Care & Adoption Guide at: pchas.org/fosteradopt



Advocate within your church and community for kids in foster care. Join an Online Info Session to learn how foster care and adoption work. Find event dates and register at: pchas.org/fosteradoptevents



Use your social media for good! Become a friend of PCHAS on our various platforms, interact with us online, and share things you care about with your friends and family at: linktr.ee/pchasway

 **Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services™**

800.888.1904 | info@pchas.org

pchas.org
  
[@pchasway](https://www.instagram.com/pchasway)

Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!

Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is. We have the privilege of giving 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 November 3rd! For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



and a



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

Our current resident (sort of) **Space City Sound** member, Sara Windmeyer (member of Pines Pealers, but shared with 1st Presbyterian Sugar Land) reports back from this weekend's competition in Dallas:

“SPACE CITY SOUND placed 1st in 5 categories and won BEST MIXED CHORUS overall. So, we are bringing the CHAMPION trophies back to Houston for the 2nd year. Will you pass the news to bell members and to the church that so graciously allows us to rehearse there.”

If you see anyone from SCS in the hallways, please tell them congratulations on this wonderful award!

Are you looking for something you can do from home for the church?

We are looking to start back up with the Sojourners Group. This volunteer position would look for places for people in or connected to our church to go on trips in the Houston and surrounding areas.

All participants must be over 50 years old. You pick the place you want to go, schedule it, and then schedule the county bus to come to the church to pick up the group for the days journey. If you would be interested in doing this, please give Cindy a call in the church office.

This is a wonderful opportunity to do fun things with your Pines family. Been to the Blue Bell Ice Cream Factory lately, to the Painted Churches, to one of the many museums in the Houston area? There are so many fun things that can be done on a group trip. Again talk to Cindy (713-467-2234 x110) and she will guide you through the process.

Please prayerfully consider being our Sojourners Planner!



Please join us as we gather for more Bingo in the Fellowship Hall on November 16th at 6:30. There will be food and drinks provided and of course...lot's of fun with BINGO! Don't miss the fun! Contact Linda Aldred or the church office if you plan to attend so we can make sure there is plenty of food for all.



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 or Linda Aldred at lindaaldred1@aol.com to sign up.

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 to get on the list. If you would prefer to send an email for prayer, you may send it to Bethel at prayer@pinespc.org. Cindy 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!

If you would like to opt out of receiving this newsletter, or if your email is going to change, please send an email to cindy@pinespc.org and we will update your record.