



Twenty-five years ago Stephen Ministry became a part of this church we love. The SERVANT SONG was chosen as a guide and inspiration for what we hoped to become. As the Lord has put folks in our lives to share their stories we have been blessed to be a listening ear and a hopeful presence. When you have need of such a friend please let Barbara Retzloff know and she will connect you with a care giver. Barbara can be reached at 713-467-2234.

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.



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

January 2020

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

Done with small talk?

Try Alpha

January 9 - April 2

Thursday Evenings | 6:30 to 8:00pm



You're invited!

Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

For more info contact:

Barbara
713 467 2234 or
barbara@pinespc.org

Join Us

for a FREE MEAL & GREAT CONVERSATION.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PinesPC.org



Pines Family News

thank you

Thanks to all for many messages extending healing payers for my sister, Earline Kimball, during her 11 months of illness. She is whole again enjoying her heavenly home with our savior Jesus Christ. Her earthly families are at peace knowing she is smiling again, praising Jesus Christ for each day for her new beginning. Bob & Lynda Barr

Kroger Donation-Aug 27, 2019 to Nov 26, 2019 - 24 households provided \$85.86

Randalls Donation-Quarterly statement as of Sept. 30 - check received for \$103.19

Please be sure and stop by your local Kroger or Randalls and register your card to Pines.

And don't forget to sign on to Amazon Smile also.



This is an easy way to support your church. Thank you!!!



Please join us for...

Un-Hanging of the Greens!

January 11th, 9 am to 11 am

This is a wonderful family activity and a chance to meet others in the church, as well as your Worship Committee members.

There is a place to help for everyone from 1 to 99!



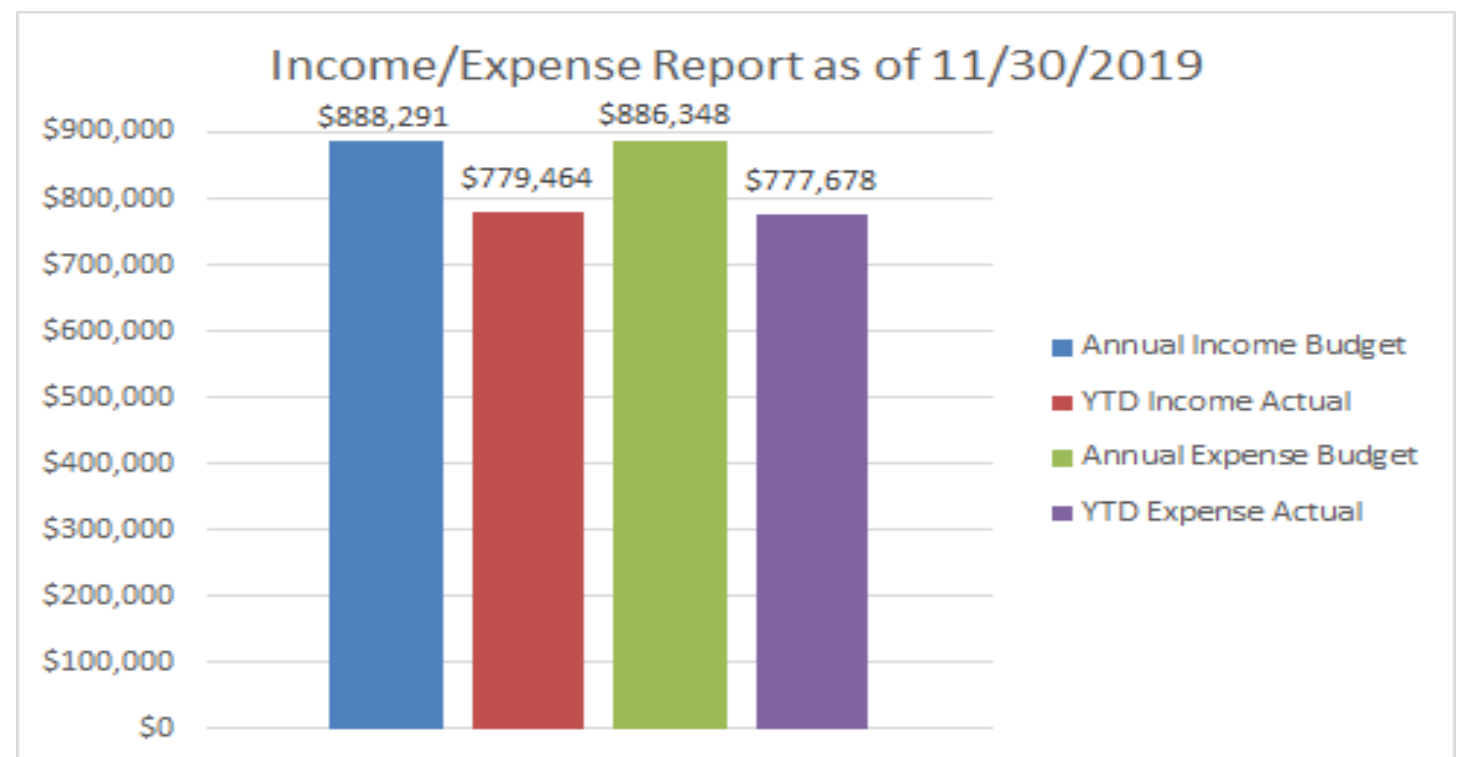
Please mark your calendars with
the **NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:**
January 24 (for the February 2020 issue)
February 21 (for the March 2020 issue)

Stewardship



Growing into the Future...

- As of 12/16/2019, pledge income received is \$669,348. The 2019 pledge income budget is \$695,000. Non-pledge income received is \$107,885; non-pledge income budget is \$120,000. We appreciate all gifts!
- The last day to make donations for 2019, by delivering them to the church office, is Tuesday, 12/31/19. The office will close at 4 PM on that day.
- Any donations mailed to the church must be postmarked 12/31/19 to count for the 2019 year.
- Online donations made via the church website, <http://www.pinespc.org>, by 12/31/2019 will count as a donation for this year.
- 2020 pledges received to date total \$611,430. If your family has yet to make a pledge, we would appreciate receiving that information soon. Your thoughtful consideration of a pledge allows the business and mission of the church to continue in a prudent, fiscally responsible manner.



Session Meeting Notes

There is no regular session meeting held in December.
Session Meeting Notes will be back in January.

TRAINING FOR CAREGIVERS

In addition to providing personal care and support for those facing difficult challenges in their lives, the Stephen Ministers at Pines collectively try to sponsor continuing education programs on various topics of interest. Recent examples include four sessions on Grieving which were facilitated by Rev. Bill Willis and several sessions on dealing with the trauma associated with the aftermath from Hurricane Harvey.

Through this article we wanted to inform you of a training program being conducted by Amazing Place, a local organization which sponsors a dementia day care program, caregiver support and community education. The Savvy Caregiver Program (SCP) is a **FREE** six-week, 12-hour training program for caregivers of those with dementia. It is based on the fact that family members who become caregivers assume the role because of the relationship, not because they are trained to do it. It supplies the knowledge and skills to be a successful caregiver with as much reward and as little distress as possible.

SCP involves active, involved learning, independent practice of strategies at home and interactive coaching in the classes to help caregivers achieve an optimum daily life environment. It also addresses the tremendous amount of stress the caregivers experience. It teaches strengthening of mediating factors such as self-care, knowledge, skills, outlook and resources, allowing caregiving situations to become more positive.

The training classes will be conducted at a number of churches in the January – April 2020 period. If you are interested in participating, please contact either Barbara Retzloff or Phil Wetz for additional details.

Phil Wetz

Pastor's Page

Happy New Year,

Welcome to 2020! Wow, it seems so strange to say twenty-twenty. When I was a child I thought that year seemed so far away and that I'd never make it there. Well... here we are! We have made it to January 2020, now what do we do?

As we enter this new year, and this new decade, many people have made New Year's Resolutions, you actually may be one of them. These resolutions are good reminders of what we want to do, how we want to change, and they're a good indication of what's important to us in the coming year. As we look forward into the new year, we look with excitement of how God will move us, stretch us, and grow us as disciples of our Lord. Often times when God grows, moves and stretches us it means change. Change is not always a comfortable feeling when we are going through the adjustment, but when we have made it through the change we can look back and see, as painful as it may have been, that we have grown and learned.

I think that's what God wants. I believe God wants us to learn and grow during times of adjustments. One of those learnings, I believe, is that we learn to rely and trust God through the process.

As we look into 2020 we will see some changes here at Pines. With God's help, we will see a new Director of Children's Ministry. What we will not see is Ashley Sullivan leading that ministry. Ashley's departure means there will be a large void in our ministry. This means we will need more people stepping up to serve and volunteer to help with certain projects within the children's ministry. I continue to ask you to pray for the Children's Ministry search committee as they seek God's hand in bringing the called candidate to Pines.

I'm sure God has other changes instore for us in 2020 and that shouldn't scare us, it should excite us. You and I just got finished celebrating one of the biggest changes to ever take place in the world, God breaking into this world to bring peace, to show us all how to live better towards each other and towards God. God breaking into this world in the form of a human child scared a whole bunch of people. The people weren't sure what to think or what to do with the teachings of Jesus. The people were uncomfortable because Emmanuel disrupted what they were used to. I believe you would agree that the radical change of God being with us, Emmanuel, continues to be a great thing for you and the world.

Jesus changed the world with his ministry of compassion, reconciliation, and justice. How has that ministry changed you, and what will you do to continue that ministry today? I encourage you to welcome the New Year and welcome the change God brings each one of us in 2020, for in welcoming the change we welcome God to be in control and to trust that we are being held in God's amazing hands.

May we always learn and grow as we seek to serve the New Born King.

With blessing for the new year,



Service Beyond The Walls

How are you active and serving in God’s Kingdom?

THE IMMENSE POWER OF SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS

The catalyst for this reflection came from my youngest daughter, Andrea, who is living in Colorado and shared the following public posting in a restaurant she regularly visits.

On September 27 my husband and I went to your restaurant in Granby (Coincidentally, Granby, CO is now the home of former Pines members, Roger and Lauren Kaestner) for dinner. My husband walked in and went straight to a dirty table, literally cutting in front of people who had been waiting for quite a while. I explained to the wait staff that my husband had dementia and I would be happy to get something to go.

*The girls checked with the waiting customers and we were able to stay for dinner. Little did I know the he would pass away on October 2. **Thanks to the customer and girls who made my last dinner with my husband so memorable. People amaze me with their acts of kindness. Thank you!***

As I read this heartwarming story, I thought of the countless small acts of kindness which my family has experienced while we have been members of the Pines church family – prayers and encouraging words of support while caring for loved ones; listening ears allowing us to share joys and concerns; smiles, hugs and laughter to fill our hearts with joy; and sharing unconditional love during all of the seasons of life. I also thought of the even larger number of such acts that I have witnessed and heard about which have blessed members of this church family, as well as those beyond, but which have often been done quietly and gone unnoticed.

This leads me to share the following quotes for reflection and prayer during this season of thanksgiving.

Hebrews 13:2
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”
LEO BUSCAGLIA

My prayer for all of us is that this remembrance will motivate all of us to act in kindness and trust our Lord to use such acts to bless lives in ways that we may never see.

Phil Wetz



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.

Oberammergau

“Spots available!”

Join your Pines family as we travel to Prague, Budapest, Vienna, and southern Germany **June 3rd, 2020**. While on this journey we will experience the centuries old, world famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. This Passion Play is only held every 10 years so tickets are limited. For more information and to sign up check out the following link: <http://pinespc.org/trip-to-easterneurope/>



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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Missions and Current Events continued...



Thank you so much to the many volunteers who pulled together the Sherwood Christmas food baskets. Many families will have a hearty Christmas meal thanks to your gifts!

Youth Happenings! and Children's Ministry

Family Advent Night at Pines was a fabulous gathering. We celebrated the holiday season with outreach to our neighbors. Volunteers packed meals to serve over 200 neighborhood families this Christmas season. Our children and youth ministries teamed up for our annual Christmas pageant and the Pines Christmas tree lit up the evening!



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



Greetings from the Music Department!

With the beginning of a new year, my thoughts turn to the hymn, “In the Bulb, there is a flower,” also known as “Hymn of Promise.” Natalie A. Sleeth wrote the words and music in February of 1985 as a choral anthem, and later adapted it as a hymn. The song came to be as Natalie was pondering the death of a friend (life and death, death and resurrection), pondering winter and spring (seeming opposites), and a T. S. Eliot poem which had the phrase, “In our end is our beginning.” These contradictory “pairs” led to the theme of the song and the hopeful message that out of one will come the other whenever God chooses to bring that about. “Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.” We are reminded in this song that to everything there is a season, and it is known only to God.

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed and apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning’ in our time infinity;
In our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity,
In our death a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Be blessed with music in this New Year!
Tim



Missions and Current Events

Your Missions Committee has been hard at work this fall to benefit those in our community who struggle to meet ends meet, especially during the holidays. We also took time to celebrate our Missions Partner organizations.

In November we coordinated with the Fellowship Committee to bring you the Thankfulness Lunch. Many of our benevolence grant recipients were there to meet and greet our congregation, and to tell them a little about what they do and where our benevolence dollars go.



After Thanksgiving a small but mighty group of Pines folks reached out to City Centre to help with their Holiday in the Plaza event. We even had our own “Mrs. Santa Claus” (AKA Linda Oxley) there to help with the Photos with Santa line.

A huge thanks goes to Kari Work for organizing the basket fill activity on December 1, to benefit Raise Up Families, for their Christmas party on December 8, and The Mission of Yahweh. Members gathered during the Sunday school

hour to assemble food baskets and bags. Pines also sponsored the family meal at the party by providing the baked chickens.

A dozen-ish hearty friends rose early on a Saturday morning, December 7, to cook, roll and package over 700 tacos for the annual Rudolph Run in City Centre. We then took them to the finish line of the race where we handed the tacos out to the runners. What a great example of reaching out to the community to be a neighborhood church to those around us!

The Alternative Gift Market was again a great success. It was a joy to see so many of Pines’ friends supporting our mission partners by giving alternative gifts in the form of donations to those organizations.

Last, but certainly not least, the Sherwood Christmas Store recently took place to yet again a great success. Dozens of Pines and other volunteers gathered early Saturday morning, December 14, to unpack and organize the “store”, then hosted the parents as they shopped for their families. The smiles on the faces of both the volunteers and the parents were priceless! Thanks to all who helped make this annual event such a success!



A few pictures from Parkway Place when the choir went over to sing on December 15th.

