

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

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Pines Presbyterian

MARCH 2018



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday—March 25—9:30 and 11:00 AM
(palm processional at 10:45 AM)

Maundy Thursday—March 29—7:00 PM

Good Friday—March 30—12 noon and 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday—April 1:

**Sunrise Service 7:00 AM
in Bendwood Park**

**Easter Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM
in Pines Sanctuary**

Pines Family News

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Bruce Collipp passed away in November. Unfortunately, we did not find out until February. Please keep Priscilla Collipp and her family in your prayers. **John Kamp** passed away on February 28. Please keep Kezzie and her family in your prayers. When a service has been planned, word will be sent out.

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!



Thank you for your prayers and support during my father-in-law's illness and his passing. My family appreciated your prayers, thoughts and cards.
Thank you, Pedro, Anahir and Family



Dear Pines Family, thank you for the flowers, cards, texts and phone calls offering love and support after the death of my beautiful mother, Joyce Chapman. Sincerely, Mary Cantu

Dear Pines Pounders, thank you so much for the creative pounds of supplies for our home. We have had fun going through all the items. Our home is complete with supplies for the office, pantry, garage, garden and bathrooms. Scout says thank you for filling his snack needs as well. Your generosity through notes and gifts is overwhelming. We feel welcome and a part of this active congregation.
With love in Christ,
Cheryl and Andy, Scout too



Pines Easter Lily Sale

Once again this year Pines will be ordering Easter Lilies from the Brookwood Community to decorate our Sanctuary for the Easter. If you would like to provide one or more Easter Lilies, sign-ups will be held February 25 and March 4, 11, 18 and 25 in the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall. The cost of each Easter Lily is \$10 and you may take them home following the 11 o'clock Service on Easter Sunday, April 1.

Sign up Calendars for the 2018 Sanctuary and Narthex Flowers will also be available at these times if you would like to dedicate flowers for a special Sunday later this year.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Please remember that nothing should be stuck on the windows in the fellowship hallway at any time. These windows are tinted on the inside and it will ruin the tinting if the stick-ons are removed. Thank you for taking care of your church home!



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

Save the date: March 10th Church Work Day!

Please join your Pines family as we gather to work on various projects around the church. There is something for everyone, any age, that can be done. Bring a pair of garden gloves in case you plan to help with the planting outside. Chef Penberthy will be cooking

hamburgers when the work is completed. This is a fun morning and a great way to help your church spruce up for the Easter Lenten season. Join us at 8:30 in the Fellowship Hall for coffee to get started!

A Message From Our Pastor

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus,

As we continue on this Lenten journey to the cross of Easter I can't help but think of some of the Christian traditions that surround this season. The tradition I hear most people partaking in is the "giving up" of some action or food. Some people place that tradition against a mirror and "take on" some action such as reading more scripture, serving in the community or exercising more. Hopefully, both of these traditions draw you closer to God.

The long practiced tradition of "giving up" something can also be considered "fasting." When many hear the word fasting we think of not eating or drinking for several hours, or even days. Fasting doesn't have to mean we stop eating or drinking, it can mean fasting, or stopping certain behaviors to which we, and our society, have become accustomed. Pope Francis came up with a list of things we might consider "fasting" from this Lent.

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience [understanding].
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

I have fasted from food before, but I believe this list will help me better grow as a faithful participant in the Kingdom of God. Which, from this list, will you try and fast from this Lenten season? Which one of these will help you grow in your relationships with family, friends, co-workers, school mates, and God?

I know giving up chocolate, sweet tea, and ice cream are wonderful things, but how about this Lenten season trying something different, something that will truly make a difference in your spirit and in the Kingdom of God.

With joy in my heart,



Youth Happenings!

Pines Youth Events

Mission Trip Info

High School Trip - Houston, TX July 1st – 6th Local Harvey recovery work coordinated through Son Servants followed by Schlitterbahn trip. Our High School Youth will stay local this summer for their mission work. After the destruction Hurricane Harvey left on the greater Houston area, the youth will be helping in an area of the United States most in need of mission assistance. Our high school youth will be traveling each day in small groups to repair houses in the Houston area. Our High School Youth will be partnering with other church youth groups to make an impact on the destruction left by Harvey. Son Servants Ministries is the organization overseeing this local effort.

Middle School Trip – Houston, TX June 17-22nd. Reach Beyond Missions coordinated through the Presbytery. Middle School youth will stay local to help in the relief efforts of Hurricane Harvey. The youth will be teaming up with churches across our Presbytery for the week. Our mission trip is organized through Reach Beyond Mission. The week will include fellowship, relationships building, scripture, and relief efforts. The Middle School Youth will be giving back to our community and helping Houston to continue to recover to where it was before the devastating destruction left by Hurricane Harvey.

Pines Kids



Children's Ministry at Pines

What is Messy Church?

It is a time for families to enjoy being together, making things together, eating together and celebrating God together through His word, through music and through prayer. It's different from a children's activity because it's an event for children and their caretakers or parents together, and it's more than just a play time because of the element of

worship that underpins it all. With Messy Church, we are trying to be a worshiping community of all ages, centered on Christ, showing Christian hospitality. (from the book Messy Church by Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter).

If this sounds interesting to you, please join us for Pines' first Messy Church to take place on Wednesday, March 28th from 5:30-7:00pm. It will be a very special "Messy Easter" celebration with dinner, crafts/games and a relaxed worship time, all in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to invite friends! There is no cost to attend.



Ireland

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.



What: Friends of Spring Branch Memorial Library's annual Plant and Book Festival

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 23; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 24

Where: Spring Branch-Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston, TX 77024.

Info: Call the library at 713-464-1633 or visit

www.hcpl.net/location/spring-branch-memorial-branch-library
[and www.friendsofsbml.org/](http://www.friendsofsbml.org/)

Festival offers bargain books and plants and family fun.

Proceeds benefit Spring Branch Memorial Library.

Proceeds from the event are used to buy materials, such as e-books and children's books, and pay for programs and beautification of this busy library, considered a neighborhood gem. The library is part of the Harris County Public Library system.

Hello from the preschool! February was another fun month at Pines. Our students prepared and mailed Valentine's, baked cookies, donated soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring and enjoyed a visit from the dentist and her "tooth." We wish you all a very Happy Easter!!



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.

If you have been graciously taking the kitchen towels and washing them, please pop an email or call Cindy to let her know. She would just like to offer a big thank you and know who to call if an abundance occurs. Thank you so much!

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!

As we look forward to Holy Week, I am impressed by the amount of wonderful hymns and songs that are available to us in this special season. All the emotions from triumph on Palm Sunday, to the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, the crucifixion of our Saviour, and the celebration of resurrection on Easter Sunday morning! All so powerful....all so meaningful. I hope you will come to hear some of this wonderful music as we go through this powerful time in the church year.

This year, the Chancel Choir will be presenting "Musical Reflections from the Cross" at noon and 7:00 p.m. on Good Friday. This will give all a chance to hear the musical.....with times during the day and evening. This program will use different forms of music of the season.....from classical to gospel. It is a powerful presentation. Please make plans to attend one or both of these special services.

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday the Orchestra will join with the Chancel Choir for glorious music of the season! There will be extra copies of the "Hallelujah Chorus" in the choir loft if you would like to sing with us. God is doing great things! Let us rejoice!

Keep a song in your heart!

Tim



Session Meeting Notes

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on February 26, 2018. Here are some of the highlights:

- Allocated money to pay for extensive repairs to the roof.
- Elected members for the Visioning and Planning Committee for one-year terms beginning March 1, 2018.
- Passed a motion requesting that the Presbytery of New Covenant submit an overture to the General Assembly regarding the use of products made of polystyrene.
- Approved having a single worship service at 10:30 a.m. beginning Sunday, May 27 and continuing through the summer.
- Approved offering during the summer at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday a service of morning prayer and communion to provide a trial of a more contemplative service.
- Appointed Inkyu Han and Melissa Sandstrom as the Session representatives on the 2018 Congregational Nominating Committee.
- Pending favorable reports and presentation, approved awarding a second \$10,000 Next Generation grant to Houston Hope of the Nations.

Date For Eight

Yes, we are planning to have Date for Eight this Spring. We have a new leader, Sharon Dotson, who will bring a lot of talent and energy to the job. Although, we are off to a slower start than usual, we are proposing some changes that will make it easier to organize the groups.

First: There will be dinners in only 4 months this year: March, May, September and November.

Second: Signups will start on February 4th for the March and May dinners.

Third: Signups for the September and November dinners will occur in August.



Stephen Ministry

“The After People”. Stephen Ministers are the “After People.” We are ready to come alongside you or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives and provide comfort and support for as long as “after” we are needed.

....after you washed and returned the last casserole dish.

....after the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life

....after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away and the house is incredibly empty

....after you arrive home following the funeral service and the emotions you have held at bay come crashing down

....after the relationship has ended but the wounds are still bleeding and painful

....after the doctors have said “There’s nothing more we can do”

....after the pink slip inserted in your last paycheck

....after your family and friends have heard your story too many times but you still

....after the gavel goes down, handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away

....after the baby has arrived, putting more demands on you than you ever imagined or dreamed possible

Stephen Ministers are trained lay persons to offer Christian support and care. This service is a one-to-one Christian care
Please contact Barbara Retzloff, 713-467-2234

The Labyrinth

Here is how someone who walked the Labyrinth described the experience:

“Walking the labyrinth is a difficult experience to capture in words. Each time I have walked it, I have felt all the peace of deep meditation and ...have always come away with something that can be applied immediately to my daily life....It has a...personal spiritual quality...the only requirement is to put one foot in front of the other.”

The 40 days of Lent gives us an opportunity to explore our own spirituality in new ways. On Ash Wednesday, as we had ashes pressed onto our forehead and heard that we are dust, and to dust we will return, we were reminded that our physical beings are temporary; but that our spiritual connection to God is immortal. Our Lenten Devotional guides us through meditations on how our prayers connect us with the will and power of God. And walking the Labyrinth leads us on a path that takes us closer to the God we love.

The Outdoor Labyrinth will be decorated and lit for St. Patrick’s Day on Sat., March 17, as an open invitation to you and anyone in our neighborhood to walk it.

The Indoor Labyrinth will be in the Fellowship Hall during services for Holy Week:

*Maundy Thursday, March 29, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

*Good Friday, March 30, from 10:00 a.m. thru 9:00 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, the Outdoor Labyrinth will be decorated with Easter lilies.

You are invited to walk our Labyrinths as part of your observation of Lent and Easter.



The Witness Corner

We set everything up: the whipped cream, fresh strawberries, blueberries, chocolate, and syrup. Then began serving pancakes to our youth with Center Ministries. One of the young ladies made the following comment about the serving counter “this looks like one of those fancy meals you see served in a hotel in the movies!”. To me, they were just pancakes. To her, they were something much more special. Just a small reminder from God to be grateful for everything, even “just pancakes”.

Mission Current Events

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 ...bringing 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 coincides each month with the celebration of Holy Communion. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting an item to donate on the **first Sunday** of each month.

Next Agape offering is March 4th

NewSpring is a faith-based non-profit which Pines supports through our missions. They are dedicated to making a positive social and economic impact in the Spring Branch area of Houston. Students meet after school in the NewSpring Art Studios at several Spring Branch schools to develop their artistic talents. The butterfly purchased by Pines (that supported both NewSpring and Westside Homeless Prevention) was painted by the art students at St. Francis Episcopal School. Often, these students come to class hungry either because they ate their snack earlier in the day, or they just didn't bring a snack at all. Let's not allow these children to be hungry after school. Please bring a healthy snack such as: jerky, peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, granola bars, protein bars, trail mix or pretzels as your Agape offering March 4th. The missions committee will set up an "After School Pantry" for these students. Thanks! Lesa Smith

**Sherwood 50th Anniversary Celebration
will be held on Friday, March 2nd.**

**Pines will be serving cup cakes and ice cream
from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..**

**Volunteers are needed! Please contact Kari Work
at 713-818-1140 or kwork@mgcinc.net
if you would like to help.**

Thanks for shopping at Kroger and Randall's. Because of the time you took to register, Pines will receive the following:

Your supporters (19 households) who shopped at **Kroger** between **8-27-2017** and **11-26-2017** have contributed to your \$43.83 total donation. Your organization will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount .

—QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AS OF December 31, 2017—

Randall's

Good Neighbor number: 2210

Purchases Made	Payment Calculated
\$12,545.00	\$125.45