



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE PINES PRESS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Pines Family Updates
- 3 A Note From The Pastor
- 4 Stewardship and Session
- 5 Stephen Ministry & Thriving Into Stewardship
- 6 Missions
- 7 Missions
- 8 The Rolodex

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 09/01 | Scotland Trip - Please pray! |
| 09/01 | Family Mission Bingo Begins |
| 09/06 | Labor Day Weekend - No Sunday School |
| 09/07 | Labor Day - PPC Office Closed |
| 09/13 | Children's Sunday School Kick Off Breakfast |
| 09/13 | Mission Trip Informational Meeting |
| 09/17 | Bingo is back in the Fellowship Hall |
| 09/19 | Presbytery's Accessibility Workshop |
| 09/24 | Stephen Ministry Meeting |



What's new, Pines Family?



Remembering Bill Willis

Our church community continues to mourn the loss of Bill Willis, whose funeral was held this past Saturday, August 29th. Bill was a cherished part of our family, and we ask that you keep his son, Josh Willis, and their entire family in your steadfast prayers. Please pray that the peace of God surrounds the Willis family during this difficult time of grieving and transition.

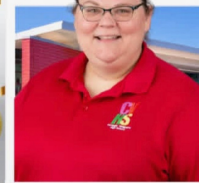


We praise God for the safe arrival of Elise Schultz, born on August 1, 2026 to proud parents Claire & Brian, and big sister, Emilee. Weighing 7 lbs, 3 oz, she already brings so much joy to the family. "Every good and perfect gift is from above..." (James 1:17).

Welcome baby Elise!

CONGRATULATIONS TEACHER OF YEAR

2026



KRISTEN
DAVIS-OWEN

Our very own Kristen Davis-Owen was awarded Teacher of the Year at Carnegie Vanguard High School! What an honor!

Dear Pines Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for Dad's service. He loved you all so much. It means the world to us that you all still considered him a true part of Pines—he loved being there. Thank you for thinking and praying for all of us during this time.

Love, Stacie and Brent LaForge



**RAISE UP
FAMILIES**

September Agape

Collecting food
for RUF
Christmas Party



Select a tag from the Missions Board outside Fellowship Hall. Purchase the listed items and place them in a bag (with the tag attached) in the Agape Offering Box outside the Sanctuary.

Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate, made online (pinespc.org/giving or Zelle), or sent to the church office. Include "September Agape" with your donation.

Mission@PINES+

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Youth Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Sunday September 13 @ 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall - a light supper will be served

We invite all who think they might be interested to come and learn about the 2027 Youth Mission Trip! Parents please bring your calendars to assist in choosing the best date!

→ Where We're Going

→ Who We'll Serve

→ Schedule of Events

Calling All
Youth ages
13-19!!



This trip welcomes youth from all churches in our presbytery to join us in service! Bring a friend!

For more information, please call: 713-467-2234



a note from

our pastor

Looking ³
Upward

Grace & Peace in Christ's Name,

Many months ago the Session created a taskforce to help us vision for the future of Pines. The group came up with the now common name, The Isaiah Project. The name is based on Isaiah 43:19 when God is speaking to the Israelites and tells them, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." This passage reminds the Israelites to be excited about the new things that are about to happen and to pay attention to what God is doing in their midst.

I believe this passage speaks to this family of faith and how we should be excited about the new things God is doing in our midst. As we enter September new things are happening and God is in our midst. Just a few weeks ago we welcomed two new staff members to our team and our family of faith. Cassandra Burke and Theresa Perales join us as our new Director of Faith Formation and Office Manager, respectively. These two wonderfully gifted and spiritual ladies have been sent to us by God to share their gifts with us and to help us become the congregation God wants us to be. Their work ahead will be hard as they replace two very beloved staff members in Kristin Beall and Cindy Houlihan. Cindy leaves us after 27 years of caring for our office, building and many of us. We have relied heavily on her institutional knowledge and her patterns for getting things done for many years. Her presence and wonderful spirit will be immensely missed. And just as God blessed us with Cindy and Kristin, God has blessed us once again, this time with Cassandra and Theresa. Each of us will have to remember that God is doing a new thing, and that's ok. Over the days, weeks and months ahead we would be wise to remind ourselves that Cassandra and Theresa are not filling the shoes of those whom they're replacing, they have their own shoes and their own way to fulfill God's calling with us. I hope you'll join me in offering grace when needed, helpful suggestions when appropriate, and most importantly an open mind and spirit to their fresh ideas.

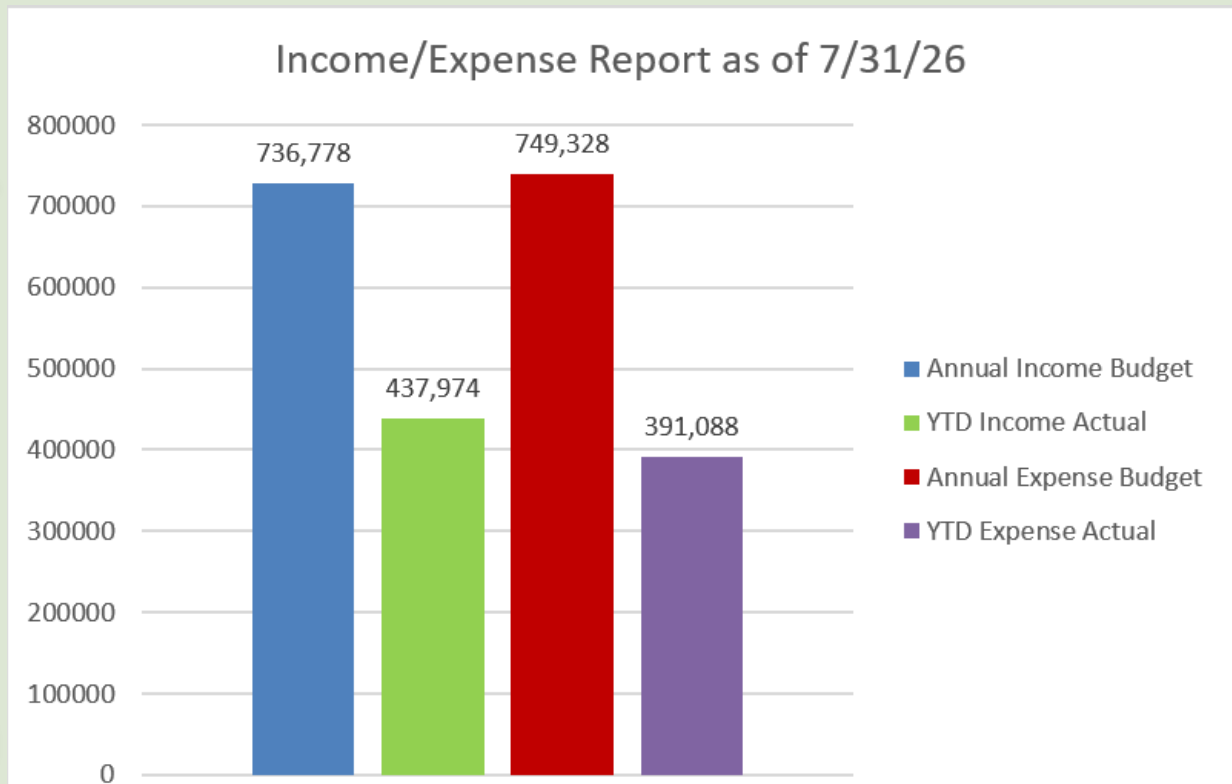
Remember, "God is about to do a new thing; now it springs forth;". Let's be excited and welcome Cassandra and Theresa as they help us spring forth into God's future for Pines Presbyterian Church!

Springing forth,



Andy

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Total Income as of July 31 is ahead of forecast at \$437, 974. Pledge income, non-pledge income and interest income are all exceeding budget forecasts.
2. Total expenses are under budget due to lower than expected expenditures in Christian Education, Staff and Congregational Fellowship.
3. Net Income is \$46,886.

Your Session met for its regular stated meeting on August 24, 2026. Here are some highlights:

- Approved a request by the Missions Committee to have a worship service highlighting some of our mission partners on the same day as the Thankfulness luncheon, November 8.
- Approved a joint worship service in the Sanctuary with Mosaic Village and Young Nak Presbyterian Church on World Communion Sunday, October 4.
- Approved collection of the PCUSA World Communion Offering.
- Approved a request to have Cassandra Burke and Angela Bullock develop an informational meeting at Pines about autism.
- Heard a positive report on year-to-date pledge and non-pledge income.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer – Clerk of Session

Session



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

**Growing
Inward**

5

Immerse Yourself!

We credit this month's blurb to Pastor Andy. Many of you may remember his Children's Message where his magical ball absorbed water and revealed a towel back in July.

Pastor Andy asked: do we stay floating on the surface or do we immerse ourselves in our faith? The analogy really hits home. How often do we find ourselves taking our relationship with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for granted? Is it only in times of crisis that we take a deep dive and allow ourselves to absorb the light and the love of our loving God? Let's stay submerged and share our faith, hope and love!

If you are just skimming the surface in your faith journey or need a little boost to take the plunge, Stephen Ministers are available to swim alongside.

Please reach out to Phil Wetz or Ann Guerra for more information.

Thriving into Stewardship Season 2027

Let's get excited! We have so many wonderful things happening around here at Pines. When we reflect back over the last year, we are humbly overwhelmed at all of the times God has consistently and faithfully shown up and blessed our livelihood here at Pines.

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul writes, "To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us." It is obvious to us that we are meant to THRIVE! To reference the song from the Christian rock band Casting Crowns, "We know we were made for so much more than ordinary lives, it's time for us to more than just survive, we were made to THRIVE!" This is our approach to our Stewardship Campaign for 2027. We Are Pines! We are thankful for all God has provided. We are extraordinary and we recognize that we are here to make a difference. The feeling we choose to feed will be to THRIVE.

Throughout September and the beginning of October, we ask that you prayerfully consider your gifts for 2027, let's celebrate what an incredible church we already are. Let's see what God has in store for the future. We can hardly wait and see how He will once again do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. What a privilege it is to be on this journey with each of you. So, YES, let's get excited!

Your 2027 Stewardship Campaign Coordinators,
Val and Linda Aldred





Let's be the hands & feet of Jesus.

Come and join us.

Join Us for a Fellowship Outing to The Brookwood Community! Experience a day of inspiration, shopping, and fellowship at The Brookwood Community, a Pines missions partner, on Thursday, October 8. We will tour their beautiful campus near Brookshire, which provides a meaningful living and working community for adults with disabilities including the adult children of two Pines families. We will enjoy a delicious lunch together at the Brookwood Café, shop their unique gift store and tour the living and working spaces.

RSVP to Linda Johnson so that we can arrange carpooling from Pines. We plan to leave Pines at 10:45 am and leave Brookwood to return to Pines by 3:30 pm.

"I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME." MATTHEW 25:36

Our missions partner, Prayers of the People (POP), provides spiritual care, prayer, and community resources through specially trained lay chaplains, bringing God's presence and hope to patients in health care settings. Are you interested in joining this meaningful ministry? A two-day training session is scheduled for October 2 and October 23.

Contact Beth Patterson or check online at:
<https://popministry.org/home/programs/training/>

A MESSAGE FROM THE ISAIAH TEAM

Greetings,
The Isaiah Project team is reaching out to the community beyond Pines' walls for input about what's important to our west Houston area, what its needs are and, ultimately, how Pines might serve it better.

We hope to complete that work later this fall, and then we'll inform everyone of next steps.

Blessings,
The Isaiah Project team

Mark Babineck
Terrie Cardwell
Andy Gans
Linda Johnson
Mike Lade
Beth Patterson
Dan Schafer
Phil Wetz

WHO, ME? A VOLUNTEER AT MAM?

**SERVING
OUTWARD**



7

What is it like to volunteer at the MAM warehouse? Does it take a long-time commitment? Do I need any training? Do I have to lift heavy things? Would I be all by myself?

These are great questions, and several women from Pines have found volunteering at MAM easy and enjoyable. It began when members of the Potpourri Circle volunteered at the MAM warehouse on the first Monday of each month. No special training or long-term commitment is required. Tasks may include sorting donated shoes or clothing, stocking housewares on the sales floor, or creating floral arrangements. There is no heavy lifting, and you will work alongside a friend from Pines. Just wear closed-toe shoes—everyone is welcome!

We have enjoyed volunteering so much that we now go twice monthly, every other Monday, from 10:00am-noon. If you're interested, please contact Margaret Schafer or Linda Aldred. We hope you'll join us!



A MESSAGE TO THE PINES CONGREGATION:

On behalf of the women and children of the Mission of Yahweh, we want to thank you for your very generous donation! Because of this gift, the pathway for many is much brighter.

Blessings,
Marilu Garza
Development Consultant





THE ROLODEX

HOW CAN WE HELP?

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Contact Melissa Gravett
or Linda Aldred

MAKE A DONATION

Contact Alexis Graham
alexis@pinespc.org
or donate through our
website at pinespc.org.

PRAYER LIST

Contact Bethel Strawser
prayer@pinespc.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact Laurie Conner
laurie@pinespc.org

NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact Theresa Perales
theresa@pinespc.org

THIS WEEK AT PINES ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact Dan Schafer
communication
@pinespc.org

UPDATE CONTACT INFO

Contact Theresa Perales
theresa@pinespc.org

PLAN A WEDDING

Contact Linda Aldred
lindaaldred1@aol.com

BOOK THE CALENDAR

Contact Theresa Perales
theresa@pinespc.org

INQUIRE ABOUT OUR KITCHEN

Contact Ann Guerra

PINES PRESCHOOL

Contact Connie Pike
connie@pinespc.org

ANYTHING ELSE?

Contact Theresa Perales
theresa@pinespc.org