



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2019

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

BACK TO CHURCH

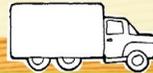
BACK TO CHURCH

join us!
Sunday
September
15th *all ages*

9:15 am
breakfast & activities

10:45 am
worship

11:45 am
food trucks!



by Sunday, Aug. 25
ORDER YOUR T-SHIRT
for upcoming Pines events!
PinesPC.org

TOGETHER

WE ARE Pines
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

for all ages will begin **September 22nd - 9:15-10:15**
every Sunday morning. visit **PinesPC.org** for a full listing.

TOGETHER WE ARE Pines

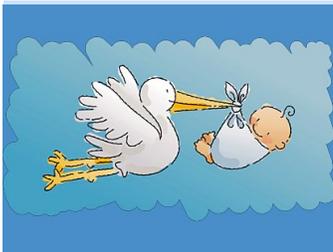
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

See page 7 for more details!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

for all ages will begin **September 22nd - 9:15-10:15**
every Sunday morning. visit **PinesPC.org** for a full listing.

Pines Family News



A big welcome to
Wilson Alexander Gilmore.
Wilson is the son of Allison and
Brent Gilmore and the grandbaby of
Phil and Linda Wetz.



Congratulations on such a sweet new
addition to your family!

See something around the building that needs a little attention? Please fill out a Blue Form found on the counter behind the receptionist's desk and place it in the Property inbox (forms can also be found on top of the black file cabinet in the office supply room), or send an email to the Property Committee. Please help us to keep our building looking it's best!

Looking for a way to serve the church? Shirley Bollich could use some help setting up, serving and cleaning up with memorial service receptions. Please give Shirley a call if you feel led to help in this way. This is a wonderful ministry to the families that have lost a loved one. Thank you for considering serving in this way!



This is it!! Mark your calendars and save the date!!!
Tablescapes is coming to an end ~ We are currently in the planning stages for our 10th and final **Tablescapes** which will be presented by the Pines Presbyterian Women on **Saturday, October 5, 2019.** If you are interested in being a hostess or would like to find out more information for this final year, please contact: Linda Aldred at 281-734-2043, Connie Sipp at 713-515-3404 or Cindy Houlihan at 713-467-2234.

Creative, Imaginative Hostesses are needed and welcomed!! Hostess selections will be based on a first come first served basis and we are filling up very fast so please call soon!

Bible Quiz....

In what water was Jesus baptized?



Answer:
The River Jordan

Please mark your calendars with the following
NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:
September 20 (October 2019)
October 25 (November 2019)

Pastor's Page

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Well, the official end of summer is almost here with Back to Church Sunday and all our fall Sunday school classes beginning on September 15th. As we ease back into our regular routines of school, work and Sunday school, we also ease back into some of our worship routines. During worship, the choir, Barbara and I will once again dust off our robes from their summer hiding places and don them for worship. Some of you like to see the more casual look during the summer months, while others prefer the traditional look of the robes. I will tell you this, the choir, Barbara and I appreciate the cooler option in the summer. As we transition into fall, I recently had a member ask me, "Andy, why do you all wear robes and those nice colored strips of cloth during worship?" I thought that was a great question which I'm sure many people have. So, after some research and leaning on some of my knowledge here is why.

The Robe hides the person. The fact is that we are often distracted by what the pastor is wearing, especially if it's out of accord with the church tradition we grew up in. If the minister wears an expensive suit or dress, people will notice and wonder why the pastor has spent so much money on his or her clothes. If the pastor wears a cheap suit or dress, people will notice and wonder why the pastor doesn't dress more nicely. If the pastor wears a Hawaiian shirt, people will be appalled at the lack of formality...you get the point. The clothing items worn are not to distract us from the office they administer. They are there as Christ's servant. The simple black ministerial gown is designed to remove these barriers.

Wearing a robe also emphasizes the office. The minister wears a robe for the same reason that a judge wears a robe in court, or a police officer wears a uniform when on duty - to identify the fact that they are acting in official capacities. Likewise, the minister wears a robe to signify that when he or she is conducting the worship service, they are acting in their official capacity as a person who has been called by Christ to proclaim his word to his people. The robe reminds the congregation (and the minister!) that they are in the pulpit as an ambassador of Christ, and thus are not to speak their own thoughts or words of wisdom, but only the Word of God.

The colorful strips of cloth we wear are called stoles. The stole is sometimes likened to that of a yoke worn by beasts of burden or servant animals such as oxen. Thus, the stole symbolizes that the Pastor is a servant of God to His holy people. You may also notice we wear different color stoles. The color of stole often coincides with the color of the church season, green - ordinary time, white - for sacraments, red Pentecost, purple - Lent and Advent. Barbara and I have several different stoles, and each have great meaning behind them. My Advent stole was hand loomed by my cousin, my wide green stole is from Guatemala, my multi-colored stole was given to me by my home church at my ordination. Those are just name a few. Please ask us why our particular stole is important to us, we'd love to tell you the story behind them.

Robe or no robe... stole or no stole; may our worship, words and actions always glorify God and point to the grace and love in Christ Jesus.

Blessings,



Youth Happenings!

“Youth Group Comes Back September 22nd!

Get ready for the Fall Kickoff of our Youth Group on Sunday, September 22nd! Youth Group will meet every *other* Sunday, from 4-6pm. Come join us for games, snacks, and a dive into the word as we will be spending Fall 2019 journeying through the Old Testament.

If you have any questions, contact Jesse at jesse@pinespc.org!”

Children’s Ministry



Parents Night Out

Who: Birth - 5th graders
When: September 13, 6:00-8:30 PM
Where: Pines’ Gym & Nursery

What: Pizza, games, snacks and a movie!

If your children can join us for the evening, please contact Ashley Sullivan at 713-855-1304 or at Ashley@pinespc.org.





Dear PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just be a part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community. We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use, The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,
Kroger Community Rewards Staff

01-May-2019 to 31-Jul-2019

24

Households

\$ 77.15

Total Donations

Staff Spotlight



Say “hi” to our dear friend Rev. Barbara Retzloff. Barbara has been part of the Pines family of faith for over 30 years serving as Children’s Director, Director of Christian Education and then becoming our Associate Pastor. As our Associate Pastor Barbara has the blessing of working in many different areas of ministry! Specifically, she works closely with various groups to plan for our adult education including Sunday School, small groups, and Bible studies. She also works with our Women’s Ministry, Alpha, Stephen Ministry, and CityCentre projects/groups. Barbara will preach occasionally, assist in worship every week, and help with pastoral care.

Many of us have been on the receiving end of Barbara’s many incredible gifts. If you spend any time with her you will quickly learn God has blessed her with the gifts of pastoral care, listening, praying, leading small groups, and creating safe and sacred places for people to share and encounter God.

As a pastor, not everything she does is visible to the congregation as a whole. Barbara has said that every day in ministry is different but there are some things that happen on a regular basis such as regularly scheduled meetings, preparing for Bible study and Sunday school, and mentoring a young girl who is now at Spring Forest Middle School. But Barbara has discovered over the years that it is often in the interruptions of each day that the greatest ministry happens so she tries to be sure her days aren’t packed full so God can use the extra time for His plans.

When asked, “What would you like our family of faith to know about you?” Barbara said, “I love Jesus and I really believe that change in this world starts with God’s work in changing one heart at a time... so our calling is so important! Personally, Steve and I have five kids, living in five different cities around the country! We enjoy golf and traveling. I love to read. We have a cute Shih Tzu named Lea. And I am deeply blessed to have journeyed with the people of Pines for so many years!”

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

This month let's look at the wonderful hymn "Seek Ye First."

Jesus addressed some common questions each of us faces in His famous Sermon on the Mount. How am I going to meet my needs? Will I have food and drink? Will I have clothing? Will I have enough to pay my bills? Addressing these questions, Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Jesus tells his followers not to worry about these human concerns, but to place our greatest priority on seeking God's Kingdom.

The first stanza of this "biblical song" was composed by Karen Lafferty in 1972. It was immediately popular with youth and young adult groups. Matthew 6:33 provides the basis for the text. Ms. Lafferty wrote the hymn after attending a Bible study where "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" was studied. When she returned home that evening she composed the melody for the song on her guitar. Ms. Lafferty calls this hymn "a song in which people can put God's desire for their lives above their own." The second stanza was added later by an unknown author: Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!

A beautiful hymn with lasting words of comfort and guidance to "seek ye first."

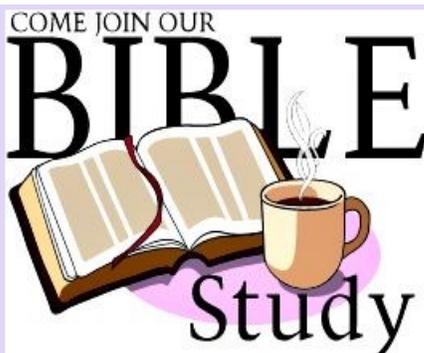
Keep a song in your heart!

Tim



"New spots just became 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/>



Wednesday Bible Study

Everyone is invited to join us as we gather every Wednesday for a thought-provoking study, meaningful discussion, prayer, and sharing. Our studies this fall include:

Who is Jesus? by Louie Giglio, *Bonhoeffer* by Eric Metaxas, and *Israel's Mission* by Ray Vander Laan. Come and be part of the journey beginning September 25th at 10:00 in the Parlor.

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

In recent months, the words of this beloved hymn have frequently come to mind as I have experienced the gift of Christian fellowship with others, both within the Pines family and beyond. I wanted to share my most recent experience and some of the reflections it stimulated.

After worship on August 4, I served as the Prayer Minister. A faithful member of Pines approached me and said, "I am not asking for prayers for myself but I do want to pray for you". This person proceeded to share a heartfelt prayer for me and my family which I will always treasure. The Christian love shared with this person led to the pouring out of ardent prayers before our Father's throne as the second stanza of the hymn proclaims.

This experience led me to ask myself whether the "tie that binds" should lead me to be more consistent in prayer for others. While I am still reflecting on that question, my initial reaction was that I should be more consistent in praying for the staff at Pines and for those who generously give of their time to serve in leadership positions. I am ashamed to admit that I often take the dedication and sacrifice of these saints for granted.

As we begin a new church year, are there others you feel called to include in your prayers because of the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love? If so, I encourage you to tell them of your commitment to pray for them. I suspect they will be appreciative and humbled just as I was on August 4.

Phil Wetz

Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds, Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts, and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows, The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.

Back to Church Sunday ~ September 15

When I was a kid, I don't remember going to church in the summer. I guess I thought they just closed down and God took summer vacation too! *Back to Church Sunday* is certainly a time to welcome back those who have been vacationing this summer, but it is also a time to invite those who have been "vacationing" from church for a long time or for those who have never been part of a faith community. Unfortunately, there are many in our community, school, workplace, and even families who don't know what it is to be part of the family of God.

That is why we are kicking off our ministry year with *Back to Church Sunday* on September 15th. We will begin at 9:15 with a breakfast and ministry fair, activities for the children and youth. At 10:45 we will gather for a special time of worship, and then at 11:45, we will enjoy lunch provided by a variety of food trucks!

This year's *Back to Church Sunday* theme is "Together." And what a beautiful theme as we consider what it has meant for us to be together in this community, and as we consider who we want to invite to join with us. At some point in time, we are all searching for connectedness and for ways to be part of something bigger than ourselves. *Back to Church Sunday* is a time for everyone to experience the gift of Pines...the gift of having a place to belong, a place where we are known, a place where God's love in Jesus Christ is freely shared.

Back to Church Sunday is the perfect opportunity to invite your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to join you and grow deeper in their faith, or perhaps encounter God for the first time.

I hope you will plan to be part of this special day as

"Together we are Pines Presbyterian Church"!

With the love of Christ,
Barbara

BACK TO CHURCH

join us!
Sunday
September
15th all ages

9:15 am
breakfast & activities

10:45 am
worship

11:45 am
food trucks!

By Sunday, Aug. 25
ORDER YOUR T-SHIRT
for upcoming Pines events!
PinesPC.org

TOGETHER WITH **Pines**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages will begin September 22nd - 9:15-10:15 every Sunday morning, visit PinesPC.org for a full listing.

FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN



2019 - GET READY!
OCTOBER 11-12



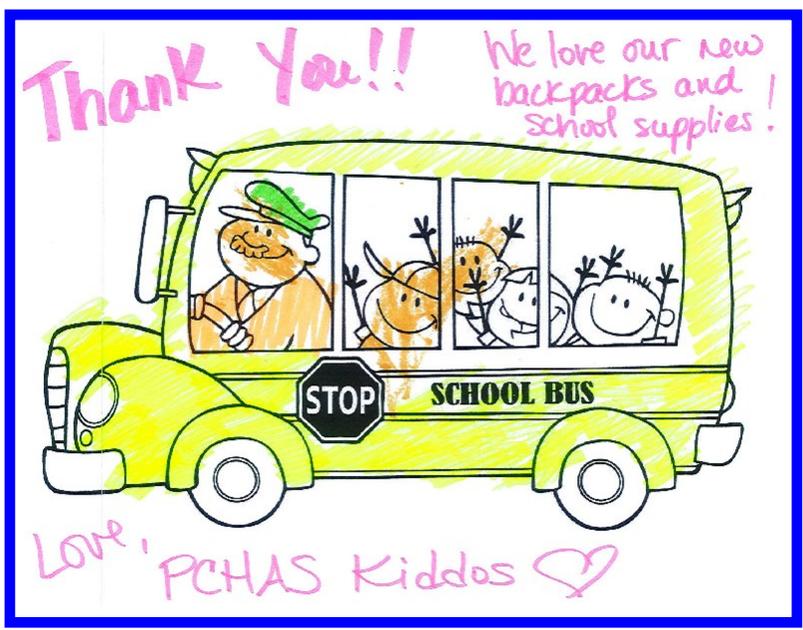
PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Feed My Starving Children – We’re doing it again! You can signup online now!

Visit: pinespc.org/feed-my-starving-children.

Save the date for this year’s MobilePack© on October 11th & 12th.

You don’t want to miss out on this exciting mission project. Make sure you invite your friends, family, co-workers, teammates and neighbors to this amazing mission to feed the hungry children of the world.



PINES PRESCHOOL

It’s back-to-school time in the Preschool! We just kicked off our 49th year on September 3 as we welcomed 120 students ranging in age from 18 months to 6-years old. We ask that you join us in praying for a safe year filled with lots of learning, laughter and play. Thank you all for your continued support of our sweet school.



PINES FELLOWSHIP EVENT

THE HIDING PLACE

A World Premiere Adaptation by A.S. Peterson

image source: adplayers.org

Join Us for a Matinée after Church

Sunday September 29th at 2:30 p.m.

This theater production tells the story of Corrie ten Boom and her family hiding Jews during WWII.



Tickets: **\$42** | sold in the fellowship hallway **SEPT. 1, 8 & 15**

SAVE THE DATE. . .

Sunday September 29, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. -- Join a group from Pines who will be attending a theater production of "The Hiding Place" by the A.D. Players at the George Theater. This theater production tells the story of Corrie ten Boom and her family hiding Jews during WWII. Tickets priced at \$42 will be sold in the fellowship hallway 9/1, 9/8, and 9/15. Cash or checks made out to Pines Presbyterian with "theater tickets" in the memo line will be accepted.

HELP WANTED – SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY MENTORS

Pines is continuing the long tradition of providing mentors to students at Sherwood Elementary. If you have 30-45 minutes a week to spare, why not enrich the life of a child? There is no instruction or specialized skill required, only an open heart and a listening ear. You will meet with your student once a week beginning in late September or early October thru early May, 2020. Don't worry about missing a week. We know life happens.

All mentors will need to apply online and consent to a background check. Go to the following link to apply <https://volunteer.springbranchisd.com>

THANK YOU, SHERWOOD VOLUNTEERS

Our Aug 10 Sherwood workday was another success! Thanks to all who stuck stickers, unpacked books, checked books, packed books, labeled books, and worked/sweated in the flower beds. The Holy Spirit was surely in that place as we all worked together for our beloved Sherwood students and faculty. Thank you, friends for taking the love of Christ outside our walls.

[The Mission of Yahweh](#)

School is starting next week. We are so grateful that Pines Presbyterian Church gave us a check today to go clothes shopping for our back to school kids at The Mission. Thank you for supporting us!





Sunday Mornings: Classes meet from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

FOUNDATIONS | BIBLE STUDY & MORE

If you are seeking to grow closer to God through Bible Study, if you want to deepen your faith and connect with others, if you want a new vision for serving our Lord, then join us for this comprehensive Bible study. Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original, bestselling **Disciple Bible Study**, provides a viable option for busy people. This fall, we will dive into the Old Testament with a close look at Genesis and Exodus. Then in at the beginning of 2020, we will open the New Testament to Luke and Acts. | **Room: C-3**
Teachers: Joan & Tim Jenkinson, Belinda Koenig, Steve Retzloff, & Bill Willis.

FRIENDS, BIBLE, BAGELS & COFFEE

We are a group of young adults who gather each week to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Each week we read and discuss a different passage of scripture. Our discussions are open and honest as we look at the Christian faith as expressed in prayer, worship, service, family life, etc. **All are welcome** for bagels, coffee, and a safe place to be and grow and connect with others and with God. | **Room: C-7** **Leaders: Linda & Phil Johnson, Cheryl Gans.**

TRAVELERS

This class will be studying the Bible, using the online course "**Bible Background**". We will explore what the Bible means to us and to the Christian community, survey the history of how the Bible came to us, and consider methods and resources for studying the Scriptures. We will use the resources provided in the online course, and – perhaps most important – class discussion. Come join us -- no matter where you are on your faith journey! | **Room: C-10** **Teacher: Jim Allison.**

CONNECTIONS | A SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP

Each week we will gather to learn, pray, and support one another in this journey of drawing closer to God through the spiritual exercises and the observations of God in our daily lives. This year we will journey through the books, "**Prayer and Worship**" and "**Living the Mission**".
Room: C-5 | **Leader: Barbara Retzloff.**

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vision & Planning Update

We have been busy reviewing your feedback from the Neighborhood Survey taken in July. The number of survey responses were a pleasant surprise to the committee and signals your overwhelming desire for Pines to be a vibrant, growing family. Our discussions have centered on looking for ways to implement your desire to have Pines reach out to our neighbors near and far, including our current family. We see our mission being one of support and service to our neighbors.

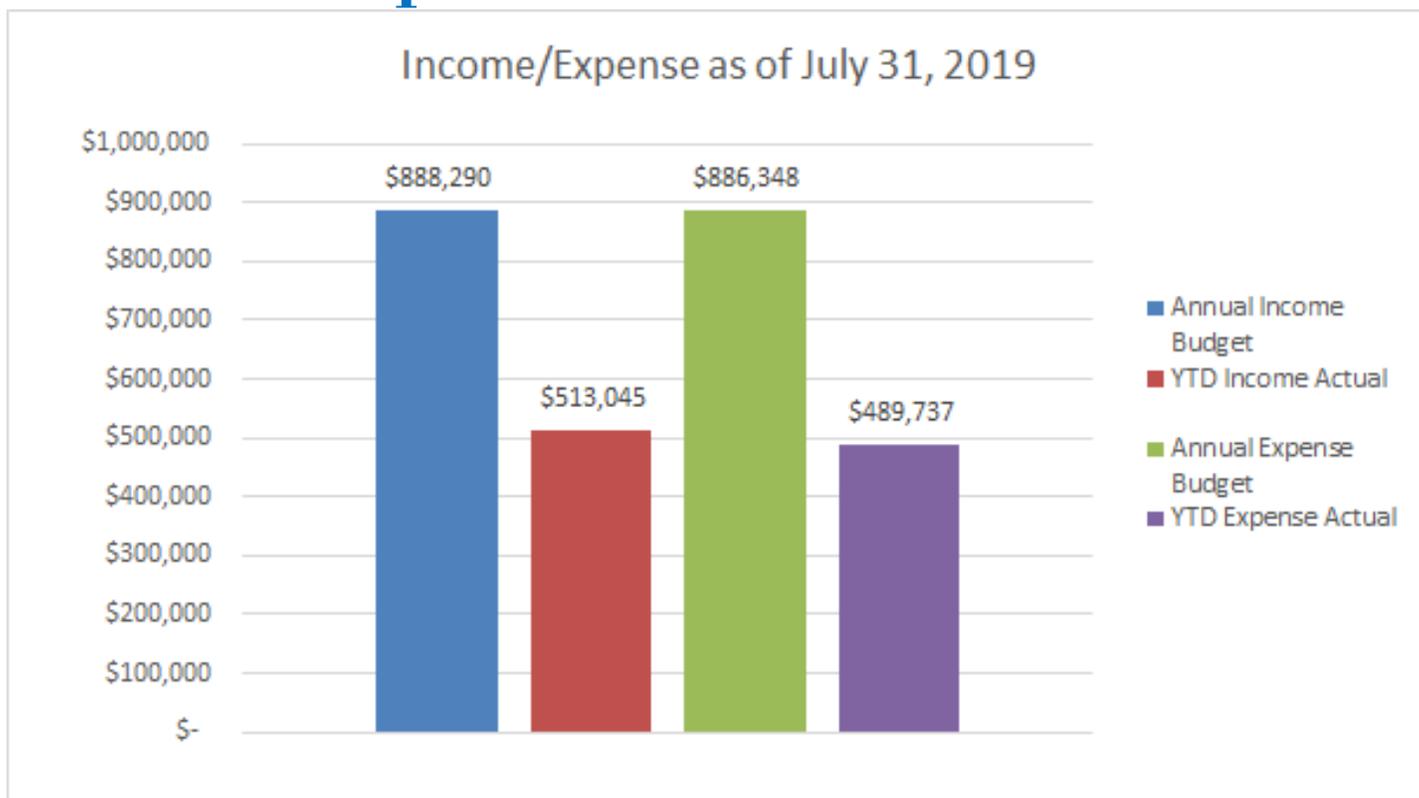
Please stop by our table Sunday, September 15th at 9:15 during the Back to Church Sunday Mission Fair. We would love for you to share your ideas and support for events, activities and programs that we should make a priority at Pines. This is your church and we value your opinion!

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on August 26. Here are some highlights:

- Received the Faith Statement from Confirmand Danny Williams and welcomed him into the Pines family.
- Approved teachers/leaders and curriculum for Christian Education activities during the coming year.
- Approved a Blessing of the Pets service in early October to be led by the Rev. Dr. Belinda Koenig.
- Heard an update on the many activities planned for Back to Church Sunday on September 15.
- Received a positive report on year-to-date financials.

Stewardship



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

STEPHEN MINISTRY The Bible is very clear that we will all go through times of loss, stress, suffering or loneliness. It may be something fairly minor, or a life changing event, but in those times it can be very helpful to have a trusted friend to walk with you and listen. Sharing your concerns with a trustworthy person can make a big difference in how you view your situation. Stephen Ministers are trained to be that trusted friend and are ready to come alongside in your time of need. If you are going through a rough spot, and would like to have someone to share your burden, call Barbara Retzloff (713 467 2234) and she will pair you with a Stephen Minister.