



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2020

Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving

WELCOME TO FALL

& THE AWESOME LINE-UP OF CLASSES OFFERED: 9:15 am Sunday mornings.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL

at Pines!

Bring your coffee,
your kids & your curiosity.
We can't wait to see you!



ADULT CLASSES
begin IN-PERSON on
OCTOBER 18TH

**CHILDREN &
YOUTH CLASSES**
begin IN-PERSON on
NOVEMBER 1ST

ADULTS

If you are usually considered an adult by the general public.

Classroom: C-3 and online via Zoom at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89275636179>

Topic: Adults, are you looking for new ways to grow your faith, question yourself or fellowship with others? – This is the class for you! From now until November 1st, we are engaging in discussion surrounding Rob Bell's Nooma videos. These are short films that "explore our world from a perspective of Jesus." On November 1st, we will re-visit a Discipleship curriculum that is beloved by many. We will equip ourselves with prayer, encouragement and service as we are invited to journey into a more intimate relationship with our Maker.

Note: This class is **ONLINE ONLY** until October 18th when it will be offered online and in-person.

YOUTH

Between 6th-12th grades.

Classroom: High School Youth Room and via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83682869768>

Topic: Why do we have four different stories of Jesus' life? What is going on in the books we don't typically read? And what does a book this old have to do with my life right now? We tackle these questions, and more, every Sunday. Our youth-focused approach centers on why the word of God, and the stories of God's people, matters in the lives of teenagers in the 21st century. **Note:** This class begins **IN-PERSON** on November 1st.

FAMILY-CLASS

For all God's children between the ages of 4 & 104!

Classroom: W-12

Topic: This is an inter-generational class designed for families to attend together. We are digging into compassion this season – looking for examples of God's compassion in the Bible and wondering how we can lead more compassionate lives. We will act out some of the Bible stories, color and talk about how to connect the stories to real ways we can bring more compassion to our world. **Note:** This class begins **IN-PERSON** on November 1st.

NURSERY

For children under 4 years old.

Classroom: W-8

Topic: It might seem unusual to teach babies and toddlers, but these littlest ones are the youngest disciples and the most absorbent sponges. It is important for us that they, too, know God loves them! We use memory verses with hand motions, songs with Bible truths, and simple pictures to show the gospel. In this class, the youngest babes will begin to know God's love and start praying to our amazing God. **Note:** This class begins **IN-PERSON** on November 1st.

VISIT: **PINESPC.ORG**

Pines Family News & Current Events



To my Pines Family, I send a heartfelt thanks for your prayers of healing. I have excellent Drs and through God's grace over the coming month, will have surgery to fix one problem and continued care for the other. Mary Alice continues to thrive, adjusting to bottle feeding. In all, the Lewis and Priemer families know we are in God's hands. In Christ, love to all, Ann

A THANK YOU... Dear Pines Family, I have been overwhelmed with gratitude at the emails, notes and cards received as I recover from my surgery. I cannot thank you enough for your encouraging words. God has blessed me with the gift of your friendship and love. Please keep those prayers coming and I hope to see everyone as soon as I can drive. I will be the one with the beautiful sling over my shoulder! Wish they came in pink....Love, Cindy

"Waiting" an Advent DEVOTIONAL



This year has been such an emotional year for many reasons and that's why we'd like to produce our own Advent Devotional written by our family of faith. Advent is the season in the church where we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. Our theme for this devotional is **"Waiting"**. Please share with us a time when you had to wait. What did it feel like to wait? How did God comfort you in your time of waiting? Through people? Through scripture? If so, what scripture and why? Through a surprise encounter? Please write 3-4 *brief* paragraphs (between 250 and 400 words).

It is not our intention that this should be an in-depth Bible study or scholarly commentary. Rather, we ask that you make this a personal expression of your faith. If there is a particular Bible passage that resonates for you, please give that reference within your devotional. **If you would like, we will offer or choose an appropriate scripture for you. Also, please close with a 1 sentence prayer.**

Again, thank you for your thoughtful contribution. We know these devotionals will be powerful reflections as we all prepare for the coming again of the Christ child into our lives.

Please submit your devotional no later than Nov. 16th to Pastor Andy at andy@pinespc.org.



A brand-new worship opportunity will begin Sunday, November 1st at 5:00 p.m. in our West Bough parking lot. YES, in the parking lot... outside! In an effort to provide worship for those who don't feel comfortable being in crowds we are trying out this parking lot service for three weeks. All you will have to do is pull in, park and tune your car radio to FM 107.1. It's as simple and safe as that. This service will have a message similar to the morning worship, but the format of the service will be a little different, including Bobby Bang leading us in contemporary music. So pull-in, park and praise the Lord at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday November 1st, 8th and 15th.

Please mark your calendars with
the **NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:**
November 20 (for December 2020 issue)

Grace & peace to you,

As we enter November, I am thankful the warm temperatures and stifling humidity of summer are finally giving way to cooler breezes and a little less humidity. These cooler temps turn our thoughts to exciting activities of fall, Thanksgiving, and dare I say Christmas. When thinking of the season of Thanksgiving my mind often turns to the Psalms that often speak of the thanksgiving we have in God's love and commitment to us. Psalm 100:4 is one that reminds me of the joy I have because I have the ability to praise God's name; to seek God and to give thanks for all with which God's has blessed me. Psalm 106 and 107 reminds me how thankful I am that God's love is steadfast, never changing, never wavering and that God's love endures FOREVER. For this I am truly thankful!

As we think about God's never changing, never wavering love for us, my mind also turns to how I can show my love back to God; how I can show God I am thankful for God's love that endures forever. This year's thankfulness campaign, which some traditionally call our Stewardship Campaign, is focusing on how we can be thankful to God for this community as we move **Forward Together in Faith**. God's love has always been present in the people of this congregation; love that has always found ways to support each other and the community. Over the past few weeks, you have had the opportunity to watch videos and hear how Pines family members are making an impact for the Kingdom in the community and in the lives of each other. I encourage you to watch these videos and see how God continues to use this community to further the Good News of the Gospel by going to <https://www.pinespc.org/stewardship>.

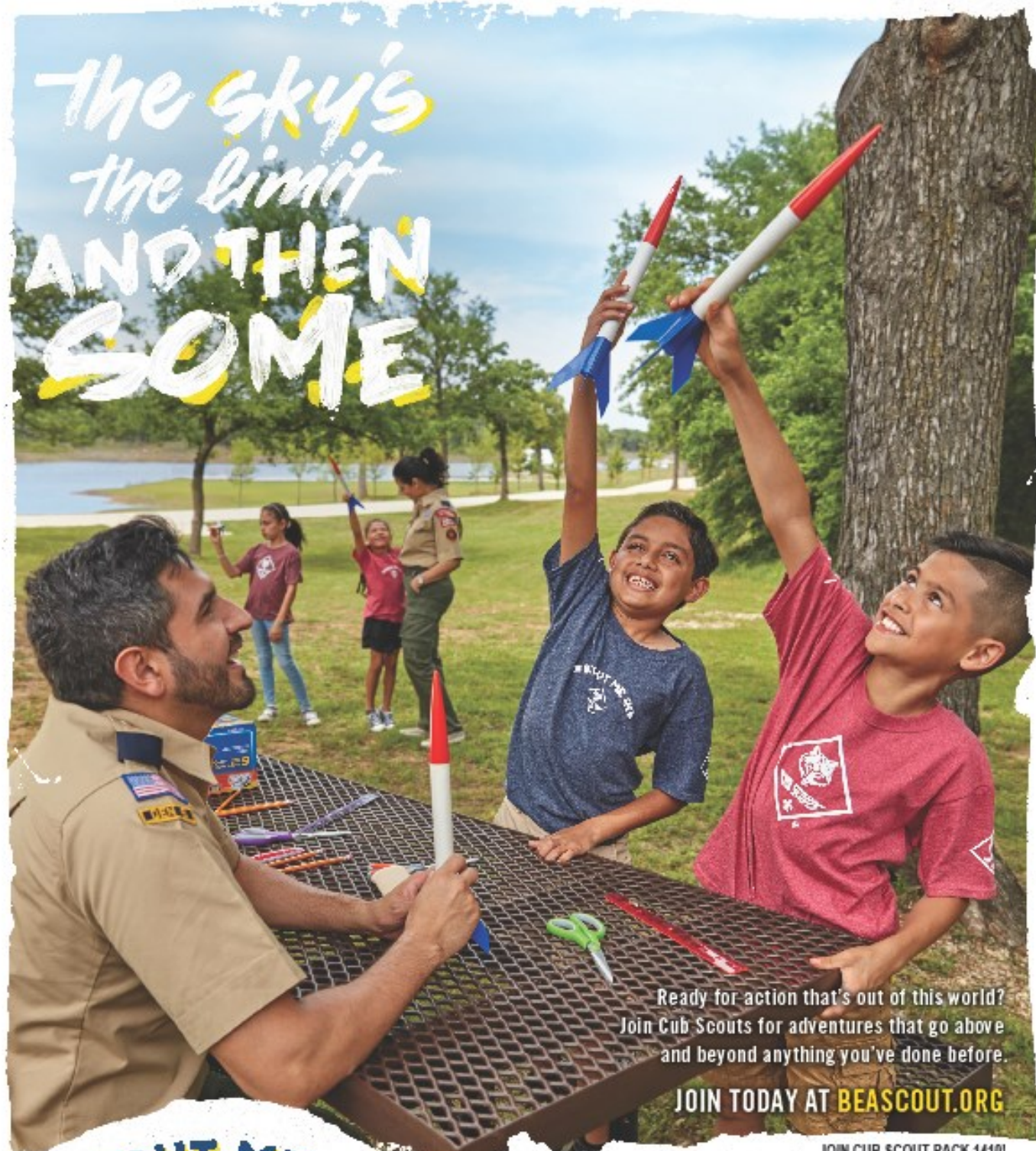
I am thankful for our past, and I am excited about our future! I hope you are excited as well. One of the great new things we are trying out is a parking lot worship service for those who don't feel comfortable being inside or around large crowds. The service will take place in our back parking lot the first three Sunday's in November at 5:00pm. You will be able to drive in, tune your FM radio to 107.1 and enjoy the service from the comforts and safety of your own car. This service will have a similar message to the morning service, but the music will be more contemporary. There are other exciting activities in the works as we try to stay connected and in relationship with each other.

Pines is not Pines without you. Your commitment to God and this church is needed and is what will allow us to move **Forward Together in Faith** with joy and excitement. We need your time and talents to volunteer to be on committees, to help with events, and with our children and youth ministries. Your financial commitment is also extremely important if we want to continue with the activities, programs and missions we are currently doing, but they are also important if we want to develop new opportunities to move forward together in faith as we look upward, grow inward and serve outward.

May this season of thankfulness fill your hearts with love for all God has blessed you with.
Happy Thanksgiving,



The sky's
the limit
**AND THEN
SOME**



Ready for action that's out of this world?
Join Cub Scouts for adventures that go above
and beyond anything you've done before.

JOIN TODAY AT [BEASCOUT.ORG](https://beascout.org)



Mustang-Sam Houston Area Council

JOIN CUB SCOUT PACK 1410!

Boys and Girls Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Sign up at Thornwood Elementary School

14400 Fern Dr., Houston, TX (East Parking Lot)

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 between 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

\$108.00 to Join (registration paid through 12/2021)

Observe social distancing guidelines, face coverings required

UNIRSE A CUB SCOUT PACK 1410!

Todos los Niños y Niñas de Kindergarten to 5th Grade Invitados!

REGISTRESE EN la Escuela Primaria Thornwood

14400 Fern Dr., Houston, TX 77079 (Al este del estacionamiento)

Miércoles, 4 de Noviembre de 2020 de 4:30 - 6:30 pm

\$108.00 para unirse (Registro pagado hasta el 12/2021)

Observar las pautas de distanciamiento social, revestimientos faciales requeridos

Youth Happenings

Happy Thanksgiving!



We Can't Wait to Safely Gather in Person!

Now that Pines is beginning to regather for worship, Youth Sunday School for grades 6-12 will resume in person on *Sunday, November 1st*, barring any decisions made by local officials or the Session. For this time, we will be requiring all students and teachers to wear a mask while attending Sunday School, and breakfast will not be provided.

Until then, tune in on Sundays at 9:30am for Sunday School and 4:00pm for Youth Group on Zoom! To get the log in information, contact Jesse in the church office!



Nursery

The nursery will be open from 9-noon every Sunday starting November 1st. We have some great volunteer caregivers who are ready to love your children and show them God's amazing love! Our nursery will be utilizing the Ultimate Toddler Bundle curriculum with faith-filled activities and songs for children three and under.

Family Sunday School

Children, bring your parents to Sunday school starting November 1st. We will be learning how to love like God! This class is designed for children 4 to 104; so come one, come all!

Advent Family Night

This beloved tradition will take place on Sunday, November 29th from 4:30-6pm!

Children's Offering

Throughout the month of November, children are learning about stewardship by giving an offering during Sunday school. Our goal is to raise enough money to buy a flock of chicks for a family in poverty through Heifer International. Bring your spare change and loose bills!



The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

“How can I say thanks” is the first line of the song “My Tribute” by Andrae Crouch. With Thanksgiving approaching, my mind wanders to this phrase which is actually addressed to God the Father. Crouch talks of all that God has done for him, “Things so undeserved, yet You give to prove your love to me.” I begin to wonder in my life, what am I thankful for, and not only thanks to God, but thanks to special people in my life and in this church.

I thank God for my parents, who raised me in a Christian home, and gave me piano lessons, even when money was tight. I thank them for the name Timothy which means honoring God. I then go to the phrase “Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing Lord to Thee.” I have tried all my life to live pleasing in front of my Savior, and all those I come to know.

I thank God for the search committee led by Becky Neisig that brought me to Pines Presbyterian Church. I thank God for every singer, musician, bell ringer, and encourager who has ever walked through the Choir Room door to assist me in spreading the Gospel of Jesus through music. I give thanks for all these people and things while remembering the most important part of the song:

To God be the glory, to God be the glory
To God be the glory, for the things He has done!
With His blood He has saved me,
With His power He has raised me,
To God be the glory, for the things He has done!

Praise God for His goodness and grace to me, to the Music Department, and to all of Pines Presbyterian Church!

In Christ’s service, I remain

Tim Holder
Director of Music Ministries
Pines Presbyterian Church

YOU ARE BLESSED, SO GIVE THANKS THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON...

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ...Matthew 6:25-34 ESV

REMINDER: Please, if you move to a new address, change your phone number or your email address, please call or email the church office so that we can update our files. Also, if you feel you are not receiving communications from the church, **please** contact the church office at 713-467-2234! You may also email Cindy or Genny at cindy@pinespc.org or genny@pinespc.org Thank you.

Missions

Sherwood Christmas Store 2020

Although December is a few months away and our day to day lives continue with some uncertainty, our presence within the lives of the Sherwood Elementary students is more important now than ever. The impact you have made on the Sherwood families in years past will continue this year but in a different format. Despite the changes, our love and dedication for our families remain stronger than ever.

The feedback from our traditional Christmas Store allowing families to have ownership in the process has been extremely well received. Current health concerns have challenged us all in many ways and, we cannot risk the health of our volunteers and the Sherwood families using this same format. Traditionally parents selected and purchased gifts for their children at a large discount. The money paid for the gifts by the parents was returned in the form of a large food basket. The basket contained a gift card for perishable items, along with non-perishable items for a Christmas meal and several meals to bridge the food gap during the holidays. This year the Sherwood families will be given gifts selected by Pines members. Our plans are to continue with the purchase and delivery of food. There will be no cost to the families. The Missions Committee is standing on Faith that the donations of gifts, approval of a grant, and other financial support will come sustain this effort. The Missions Committee along with the assistance of Bonnie Reyes, CIS Manager at Sherwood, has determined there are 100 children ranging from birth through high school that need Christmas gifts. We need your help in creating the magical experience the families of Sherwood have come to love. There are several options on how to support the Sherwood Christmas Store.

Enjoy some Christmas shopping!

Take a tag off the Christmas Tree that will be in the Fellowship Hallway and outside the Missions Room which was previously known as C5. Register your name in the ornament logs.

Spend a minimum of \$50.00 per child keeping the age & gender as indicated in mind when shopping.

You may purchase one gift for \$50.00 or several gifts totaling \$50.00 or more.

We ask that the toys be new and unwrapped and that you include batteries when required to operate the toy.

Please return unwrapped gifts to the Sherwood Christmas Tree or place in the Missions collection bin located in the Narthex by Sunday, November 22.

Gift wrap and Christmas meal basket assembly. Contact Kari Work at kwork@mgcinc.net

Financial Support!

Make a cash, check, or credit card donation. Donations can be dropped off at the church or made online at www.pinespc.org. Please note "Sherwood Christmas" on your donation.

Key Christmas Store Dates:

Sunday, November 22nd turn in date for gifts purchased

Saturday, December 5th 9am to noon volunteer gift sorting and wrapping. Wrapping stations will practice social distancing.

Saturday, December 5th volunteers are needed to assemble the food baskets. Social distancing in place.

Tuesday, December 8th – Gift delivery to Bonnie Reyes at Sherwood begins for distribution to families.

Thank you for your help with the Sherwood Christmas Store. This is one of our biggest Mission events. We cannot do this without you! Please contact Kari Work with any questions on how to support the Sherwood Christmas Store.



Missions continued...

"Hello from Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, Child & Family Worker, Lacey Rivers! It has been six months since our agency began to take precautions regarding COVID-19 and in our department, this meant a transition from providing in-home services to virtual sessions for our clients. Although it has been a learning experience for all, I am happy to share that we have continued to successfully provide services to children and families in need, while also getting creative! I am currently working with 12-15 families and providing services such as TBRI parenting sessions, telehealth therapy sessions for stress management and emotional support and providing resources as many battle job losses and financial struggles. For many clients it has been a blessing to be able to utilize technology to meet via telehealth or simply by phone. We have been able to assist in providing needs such as school supplies, baby essentials, food assistance and more. I have made many trips to client's homes and left needs upon their doorsteps while getting smiles and waves through the windows. I have received feedback that it is comforting to have support and to see our faces though we are unable to meet in person. A recent way of remaining connected with clients through this time was by making "back to school" baskets with inspirational quotes, motivational letters, school supplies and a treat (or two J) to let our families know we are thinking about them and supporting them through this journey! I am grateful each day to be able to continue to serve like Jesus and assist families in finding their strengths and to remain together and connected. We continue to pray for the safety and health of all who are navigating through the pandemic and are grateful for every prayer and donation to be able to continue to serve our community."

Take care and stay safe,

Lacey

Lacey Rivers, LMSW

Child and Family Specialist



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

12751 Kimberly Ln Houston, TX 77024

lacey.rivers@pchas.org



CanCare

CanCare offers two new forums!!

CanCare, the support organization for cancer patients and their caregivers is

offering two new forums at the links below:

A survivor by your side. Monthly Forum for Stage IV Survivors

Third Friday of the Month 12:00 CDT [https://us02web.zoom.us/](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82376121357?pwd=Qzk3alhndExMSXV1T2puMHFZdVJmQT09)

[j/82376121357?pwd=Qzk3alhndExMSXV1T2puMHFZdVJmQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82376121357?pwd=Qzk3alhndExMSXV1T2puMHFZdVJmQT09)

Monthly Forum for Caregivers

First Friday of the Month 12:00 CDT [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84618568380?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84618568380?pwd=V0RpeEcrZTdhcUYxdGI2V0lKbUJZdz09)

[pwd=V0RpeEcrZTdhcUYxdGI2V0lKbUJZdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84618568380?pwd=V0RpeEcrZTdhcUYxdGI2V0lKbUJZdz09)

If you have any questions, contact Beth Patterson at

jbpat3@sbcglobal.net.

Hello MAM Family!

No, no, I'm not pestering you again about volunteers for the MAM Resale Store! I'm pestering you about **inventory** for the MAM Resale Store. Our donations are way down. We are specifically very short on **furniture and housewares** of all kinds. With the holidays approaching, now is a GREAT time to clean out old and unused furniture items to make room for more decorations! And your donations will magically turn into store proceeds that fund 37% of MAM's programs and services to help families in need.

You can bring donations to the MAM donation door at 1625 Blalock **Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.** Or, especially for furniture, **you can call us and MAM will send a delivery truck to pick it up and haul it away!** Thank you for all your support! Who could have foreseen that 2020 would have become such a challenging year?

Speaking of the unforeseeable, I'll leave you with this:



Blessings,

Bill

William W. (Bill) Ogden, *Community Liaison*

Memorial Assistance Ministries

1625 Blalock Road, Houston, TX 77080

Phone: (713) 468-4516 ext. 161 | Cell: (713) 826-9440 |



Also, MAM has a job opening and is looking to hire a part-time Development Specialist. We'd appreciate your help in getting the word out, and letting us know if you have any qualified candidates you can send our way.

The Development Specialist would need to commit 20-25 hours per week, focusing on donor acknowledgment and a variety of general and specific office tasks supporting the Fund Development department. Must have at least a high school degree and 3+ years experience in an office environment, with demonstrated proficiency in MS Office in Outlook, Word and Excel.

Database experience preferred; familiarity with DonorPerfect a plus.

A full job description is available on MAM's website: www.mamhouston.org.

Please pass this along if you know of any potential qualified candidates.



Staying Connected: --- You can now find upcoming opportunities to connect by visiting our website: pinespc.org. Join in on the next scheduled meeting, class or event by signing up for your free Zoom account: zoom.us/signup. View our archived videos anytime and also join in "live"!



Live Worship Services: --- Pines Worship Services on Sundays are now live streaming! 10:45 am worship services can be viewed by visiting our website: pinespc.org You can also catch us on facebook for the same live streaming worship services.



Online Giving: ---As always, we thank you for your generous sharing of treasures in the spirit and practice of stewardship. Please visit our website for online giving: pinespc.org



FORWARD TOGETHER IN FAITH

In mid-October I realized that I was responsible for two November newsletter articles – the monthly article on the availability of Stephen Ministers at Pines to serve those with emotional needs AND a special article to remind you of our ongoing “**Forward Together in Faith**” stewardship campaign, especially some upcoming events.

The first stewardship event will occur on **Sunday, November 8** when we will have an **outdoor** “ice cream social” after the worship service while observing physical distancing. The goal of our “**Safe Sundae Social**” is to remind us of the joy inherent in the fellowship we enjoy when we gather together. For those who do not feel comfortable in gathering, we will also have a “drive-by” option where we would be excited to share a smile, a warm greeting, and a cold ice cream snack for those who drive by the covered entry way in the south parking lot off of West Bough between 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

On **Sunday, November 15**, you may either attend worship and bring your pledge card forward during the service or you may “drive-by” the church using the south parking lot off of West Bough and leave the card with someone who will be standing under the covered entrance between 9:30-11:30am. Regardless of the choice you make, we will share a breakfast taco with everyone as a small token of appreciation for your willingness to join us in moving **Forward Together in Faith on “Taco and a Pledge Sunday”**. Of course, pledge cards can also be mailed to the church at any time.

As I thought about this article, I remembered a portion of one of the Guiding Principles we developed to guide our efforts in conducting the “**Forward Together in Faith**” campaign. That Principle states we will “also use the campaign to begin efforts to promote healing and bring people **together**”. As I reflected on those words, I realized that they also apply to what Stephen Ministers attempt to do. They have undergone 50 hours of formal training, as well as countless hours of continuing education, to become equipped to facilitate healing through a commitment to come together with those suffering emotional pain and walk beside them.

By this time, I hope you have viewed the impactful video which featured the Rev. Bill Willis’ journey with a Pines Stephen Minister, as well as the loving outreach of this congregation in welcoming him into our family after he lost his beloved wife over six years ago. It is a powerful testimony of what can happen when people move **Forward Together in Faith**, and can be viewed on the Pines website.

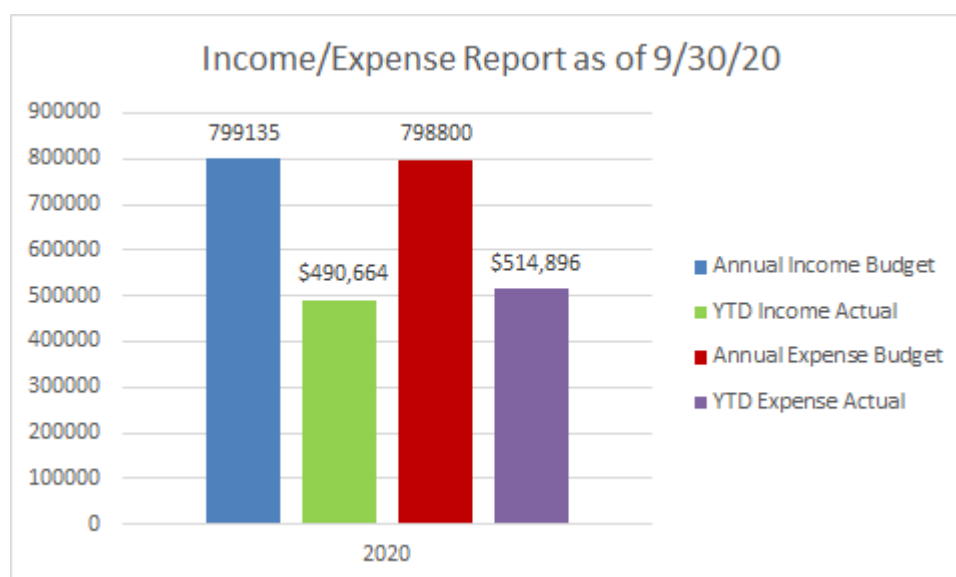
Bill now leads the Stephen Ministry program at Pines and is always willing to talk to anyone who is interested in learning about the program or exploring the possibility of talking with a Stephen Minister. He can be contacted at bill.00.willis@gmail.com or by calling the church office.

We look forward to continuing to walk with you in our church family’s journey of moving **Forward Together in Faith!**

Phil Wetz



Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

1. Pledge income is below target for 9 months operations-- at the end of the first nine months (75%) of the year, 65% of pledge income is received. Non-pledge income is well below budget with only 34% of non-pledge income received at the end of the first 9 months.
2. Committee expenses are below budget expectations.
3. YTD Total Income is \$490,664; YTD total expenses are \$514,896; with Net Income thru August at \$-24,232.
4. PPP loan funds (\$58,925) are expected to help address the non-pledge income deficit when the loan is forgiven.



Session Meeting Notes

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

- Approved a Worship Committee proposal to hold outdoor worship services in the back parking lot beginning November 1 at 5:00 p.m. The services will utilize a low-power FM transmitter to allow participants to remain in their cars.
- Heard that while pledge income in October is up, the year-to-date shortfall in total income continues.
- Received an update on the stewardship campaign and presented 2021 pledges.
- Heard an update on the progress of resuming in-person gatherings, including strong adult Sunday School attendance.
- Elected commissioners to the November 21 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.

Dan A. Schafer, Clerk of Session



School officially started in late August but there is a need for supplies.

Last week while talking with Bonnie, Communities in School at Sherwood, she mentioned that most students have resumed in person school. However, that created a need due to COVID restrictions. School Rule: students cannot take supplies from one classroom to another thus the need for additional markers, colors, glue sticks and composition notebooks. Pines filled the need. 120 glue sticks, 80 markers, colors and notebooks delivered! Bonnie was again very grateful for the partnership between Pines and SWE.

On another note, while talking with Bonnie, I learned that the Walmart at Westview and Beltway 8 offered Bonnie school supplies. She was told to take whatever they had in bulk that would fit in her car. She was able to get folders, spirals, pencils, pencil bags, note cards, binders, paper and several other items. It's nice to know our local Walmart is supporting SWE.

Kari Work, Missions Committee

Let Us
Give
Thanks