

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

The Pines Press, August 2023

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234



SUMMER INDOOR POTLUCK PICNIC!

August 13

Fellowship Hall
Following Worship

*Sign-Up Sheets Next to
Coffee Ministry Table*

Questions?
Contact Judy Shamp

Together @ P I N E S 

Pines Family News & Current Events

The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. On Fridays, the office staff work from home. If you need assistance on Fridays, call Cindy at 832-489-5989.



Our prayers go out to former members Susan and Steve Danbom. Susan's mother passed away recently. Susan welcomes your prayers and her address is available in the church office if you would like to send a card or note. Susan and Steve live in Denton Texas.

Volunteers Needed – Would you like to get more involved in a Church activity but don't feel you have much available time? The Worship Committee has just the spot for you to serve. The committee is looking for someone (or several people) to be responsible for preparing the communion elements for a three-month period. Our available period is the months of July – September. Duties entail, filling 80 – 100 communion cups with juice, prior to the Sunday morning Communion Service. This can be done Friday or Saturday and the trays stored in the kitchen refrigerator. The Communion gluten-free bread is being prepared by Linda Aldred and Laurie Connors and will be stored in the freezer. Enough bread to serve 100 people should be taken out and placed in the refrigerator to thaw prior to the Sunday service. Prior to Sunday, you need to purchase a round loaf of bread for the Communion Table. On Communion Sunday, the bread is put in the trays, the juice is added to the pitcher and the loaf of bread is lightly scored on the bottom so Andy can rip it apart easily. The juice and bread trays are placed on the front table with the top covered; tongs are placed behind the bread trays; the loaf of bread is covered with a white cloth napkin and the pitcher and chalice are also placed on the table along with the bread. The church circles assist with cleaning up Communion after the service. If interested, please contact Connie Sipp. All expenses incurred will be reimbursed and training and printed instruction will be provided.



Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: August 25 (for the September 2023 issue)

Second Sunday Lunch ...the lunch is cancelled for August due to the Potluck Picnic on August 13th. Please join us for the picnic and we will reconvene for the 2nd Sunday lunches in September.

Church Seeking Nursery Workers: \$12-15 per hour based on age and experience.
Contact kristin@pinespc.org for more information. Pines is looking for people ages 13 and up who are willing to be trained and cleared for childcare in the nursery. Most hours are on Sunday mornings, but special events are also available.

Pastor's Page

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior,

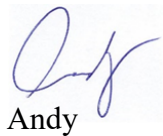
Have you ever really thought about that greeting? What does it mean to greet and welcome someone in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ? When I think of greeting or welcoming someone in the name of Jesus the Christ it means I open my arms, I welcome you with an open heart, open mind. I welcome you as an equal without any conditions.

When we, as a church, welcome people to our worshiping community Jesus should be our example of welcome and greeting. We should be thankful when we have guests sitting in our pew, when we have crying babies, when we have exuberant children and teens, when we have people who maybe look, dress or smell differently than us. When these people are in our pews then we are a growing congregation, and we should do all we can to make sure these guests know we are truly glad they are with us.

The Gospels are full of examples of Jesus' never ending offer of welcome, mercy, grace and love. The neat thing about Jesus' offer of welcome is that it wasn't just offered on the Sabbath. The example of Jesus' welcome should be seen in everything we do as individuals and as a church. We should never be the ones who point fingers, who whisper under our breath, or who shew someone away.

Several years ago, a church member sent me an article about the act of welcoming people in church. The article centered on a welcome sign posted on the doors of St. Clements Church in Essex, England. This sign stands not only as a welcome to all who stop by, but also a reminder to the membership of who is welcomed by God. I have enclosed the words of the welcome sign here as a reminder to all of us about what it means when we say, and embody, the opening statement of our vision and mission statement that say, "Pines is a joyful Christian community that welcomes all."

With the Welcoming arms of Christ,



Andy

"We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying new-borns, skinny as a rake or could afford to lose a few pounds. You're welcome if you are Old Leigh, New Leigh, Not Leigh, or just passing by.

We welcome you if you can sing like Pavarotti or can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woke up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been in church since little Jack's christening.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like 'organized religion.' We've been there too!

If you blew all your money on the horses, you're welcome here. We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, 'work too hard,' don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost on the London Road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts... and you!"

<http://kindnessblog.com/2015/07/07/walked-past-a-church-yesterday-had-this-poster-on-the-door/>

Family Ministry Calendar for August

PLEASE HELP!

To keep growing and supporting our small but “growing” youth group we need help!

August Family Ministries:

We celebrate the summer!

Vacation Bible Camp and Youth Tulsa Mission Trip!

Thank you!

This month: **August**

6/13th What’s in the Bible all ages PreK-High School Sunday School- Senior high room- 9:15am-10:15am

13th Church wide Potluck Picnic with Children’s inside activities, water balloon time outside and ice cream! Noon in Fellowship Hall

20th Blessing of the Backpack/ Teacher/Student Blessing during service 10:45am- Sunday School for all ages- Welcome back/ Promotion/ Pencil bag craft

20th YOUTH meet at church 5:45pm for snack supper then we are going to Mission of Yahweh to provide a snack and play with the kids- over at 8:15pm at Mission of Yahweh or Kristin can give ride back to church/ home after all have been picked up-just let me know!

27th Morning Sunday School will be Vacation bible camp in review with sharing, songs and revisiting crafts!

Sep 3 Labor Day weekend- Special Sunday School in Fellowship Hall/ Kitchen to learn about hospitality, make snacks/ drinks for fellowship and greet the church as they all arrive for worship!

See Youth Mission Trip pictures on age 5 and VBC pictures on the last page...



PINES, DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS – What’s better than one historical account of Pines Presbyterian Church? Try two. (1) A book assembled with traditional paper, ink and photos and (2) a modern historical depiction with digital photos dated from 2013.

This includes videos and still shots of Christmas, Easter and other holy observances. Our Pines history project will take several months to record and assemble, so please begin gathering photos now. Pines members with personal memories to share should email Sharon Dotson at sharondotson@gmail.com.

Do you feel like you are constantly looking for a phone number for one of your fellow church members?

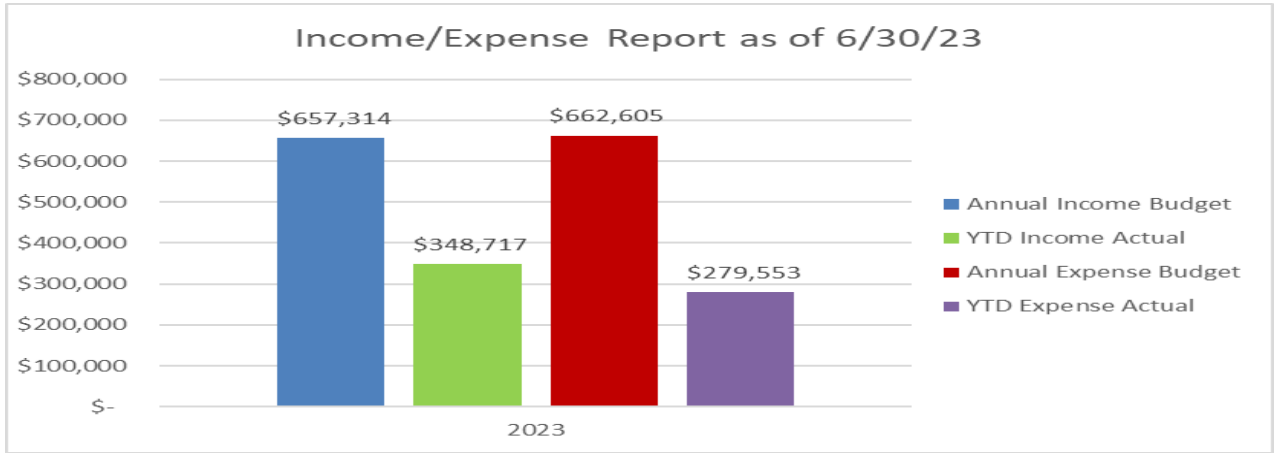
How would you like to have access to that information right on your phone or computer?

Call Alexis and she can assist you in adding the Breeze app to your phone or computer.

The Breeze app will give you the full directory of member names, phone numbers, and addresses so that you have them at your fingertips! To obtain this information, you must be a Pines member. Any questions, give Alexis a call. She is in the church office on Mondays.



Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Total Income remains strong for the first half of the year, with Pledge Income, Non-pledge Income and Interest Income all exceeding budget expectations. Pledge Income is \$266,931, 51% of budget for first half of year. Non-pledge income is \$64,565, 64% of budget for first half of year. Interest income already exceeds the full year budget by \$867.
2. Total expenses remain underbudget: \$279,553 spent, 42% of budget for first half of year. Property income from building use is offsetting expenses ahead of schedule. Strong demand for electricity and air conditioning are expected to increase costs over the next few months.
3. Net Income is \$69,164, well above expectation for this point in the year. We are blessed!



Youth Tulsa Mission Trip 2023



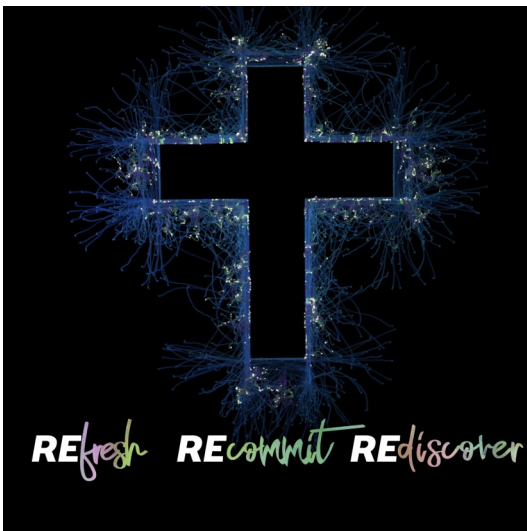
Does this Speak to You?

by Ann Guerra

Albert Gyorgy is the Romanian artist that created *Melancolie* somewhere between 2013-2014. You can find it in Lake Geneva, Switzerland.

Allow yourself sit with it. What is your heart telling you? Allow yourself some space to honor what you feel. As you are there, perhaps Matthew 11:28-30 will provide comfort. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

If you are finding yourself in a space where you think a confidential relationship with a trained Stephen Minister would offer comfort, please contact Ann Guerra, Phil Wetz or the church office.




Are you looking for something you can do from home for the church? We are looking to start back up with the Sojourners Group. This volunteer position would look for places for people in or connected to our church to go on trips in the Houston and surrounding areas. All participants must be over 50 years old. You pick the place you want to go, schedule it, and then schedule the county bus to come to the church to pick up the group for the days journey. If you would be interested in doing this, please give Cindy a call in the church office. This is a wonderful opportunity to do fun things with your Pines family. Been to the Blue Bell Ice Cream Factory lately, to the Painted Churches, to one of the many museums in the Houston area? There are so many fun things that can be done on a group trip. Again talk to Cindy (713-467-2234 x110) and she will guide you through the process.

Please prayerfully consider being our Sojourners Planner!

PLEASE help us conserve energy by remembering to turn off lights and AC when you leave the building. If you turn it on, please turn it off.

Thank you SO MUCH!
Your Property Committee

 **Do you have any** orchestra or band instruments taking up space in your closet? Want to find a safe place to keep them where they will be used and appreciated? Call Laurie or the church office and they will help you with that.

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THE MISSION OF YAHWEH

Mission Backpack Blessing

MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES (MAM)

Back to School Clothing Drive

JULY/AUGUST AGAPE

**Donations can be placed in the offering plate,
made online, or sent to the church office.
Include "Back to School" with your donation.**

PINESPC.ORG

Mission@PINES+

Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!


Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team for school year 2023-24, and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is. We have the privilege of giving fresh breakfast tacos to folks who might have missed breakfast, or who might not have any other food for the day, or are just hungry for a taco and maybe a prayer. Our cheerful team members bring smiles and warm food to our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ.

We are rewarded with smiles, occasional cash donations, tears of gratitude, and sometimes even songs (from a school bus driver)! Join us September 1st! For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



and a





Your help is needed for next year's *Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack*. We are looking for a few people who can help us research for grants to help pay for our Mobile Pack. This task will NOT include writing the grant, just looking on the internet for suitable grant opportunities. You will be trained on how and what to look for. If you are interested in researching grant opportunities please contact Tony Samper or Pastor Andy.



Another terrific
Vacation Bible Camp!
**Thanks to ALL of the
volunteers!!**

The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones: Monday through Thursday. We have volunteers for some days currently, but we also want to create a list of substitutes. No experience necessary. We will train you. Bring a book or something to work on while sitting at the front desk. If you can help, please give Cindy a call to get on the list. By the way, one of our long ago male members (Jack Long) used to answer the phones on occasion...just to give you gentlemen out there something to think about!

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 to get on the list. If you would prefer to send an email for prayer, you may send it to Bethel at prayer@pinespc.org. Cindy can also help you sign up to receive our newsletter or our weekly publication "This Week at Pines". So give us a call, we would love to get you connected to what is happening at Pines!