



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2019

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

Join us!

Thankfulness LUNCH



Nov. 3rd

After church in fellowship hall.

Everyone is invited for **homemade soups** & to meet our **MISSION PARTNERS.**

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Pines Family News



Thank you for visits, cards and well wishes for us during my stroke recovery. **Sam and Priscilla Singer**

Thank you SO MUCH for all of the get well wishes during my recent illness, and for all of the birthday wishes during that time. I am so very blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family! Thanks be to God! **Cindy Houlihan**

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!

A Special Thank You to all who made our 10th and final Tablescapes Luncheon Event a success!

The following hostesses did a wonderful job of transforming Fellowship Hall into a decorator's dream:

**Kelly Aldred, Linda Aldred, Susan Babineck, Kezzie Deffebach,
Colleen Foster, Melissa Gravett, Ann Guerra, Cindy Houlihan, Ann Lewis,
Virginia Rutherford, Lesa Smith, Connie Sipp, Morgan Stephens,
Yohanna Tirayoh, and Tindy Youngflesh**

And the following men from Pines who gallantly volunteered to be our waiters or helped out in the kitchen:

**Val Aldred, David Coles, Andy Gans, Jan Koenig, Adam Lewis,
Bob Lewis, Lou Master, Walter Penberthy, Steve Retzlöff, Robert Rutherford, David Sipp,
Aaron Smith, and Edgar Smith.**

Warmest thanks again to all who contributed with their time, talent and treasure.

Representing the Pines Presbyterian Women, Linda Aldred and Connie Sipp

And an extra thanks to **Linda Aldred, Colleen Foster, and Connie Sipp** who have faithfully planned and prayed and prepared for Tablescapes for ten years. Without you ladies, this beautiful event of hospitality wouldn't have touched so many lives. We thank God for your vision and hard work!

Please mark your calendars with the following NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:

November 15 (December 2019)

**NOTE EARLY DATE for December:
December 13 (January 2020)**

Pastor's Page

Greeting in the name of our Lord,

November is here and it seems we have officially entered into the fall season. Our temperatures have finally fallen, we are turning our clocks back, our days are getting shorter, Thanksgiving will be here before you know it, and the church calendar is getting full. I'm so thankful for fall, not only because of the cooler weather, but because it seems the church comes alive again. There is so much going on for which we can be thankful.

November is the traditional time of year we remember and give thanks to God for all God has given us. A few weeks ago, I preached a sermon about being thankful. The scripture was from the Gospel of Luke which spoke about the Samaritan leper who was one of ten lepers healed by Jesus, but the Samaritan was the only one to return to him to give thanks. The sermon focused on how you and I give thanks.

Giving thanks takes many forms. You should have already received your Growing Into the Future pledge card as part of our annual stewardship campaign. This is one of several ways we can turn and give thanks to God for all God has given to us. I give thanks to those who have given in the past and those who will faithfully pray about their giving for the coming year. Through this form of giving thanks we, as a church, are able to share the gift of love, justice, and mercy around Houston and the world.

We also give thanks for the spiritual gifts God gives each one of us. Not sure what a spiritual gift is, or what your specific spiritual gift might be, or how to use it? You're in luck! Spiritual gifts are God-given gifts for living faithfully as Christian disciples' day by day and they help us find meaningful ways to use our gifts in connection with others through the community of faith. If you'd like to see what your spiritual gifts might be you can click the following link provided by the United Methodist Church to take an assessment. <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts-online-assessment>

Another thing I am extremely thankful for are the servant hearts so many in this congregation have. Through your service to the community and the world we have provided much need school supplies to schools and students, we have made Christmas a little brighter for low income students through our Sherwood Christmas Store, because of your servant hearts and hands we fed 404 starving children a meal a day for a year with Feed My Starving Children, we have helped feed families working to make a better life for themselves and families through Raise Up Families, we have provided a warm embrace of prayer and a hand made shawl with our Prayer Shawl ministry, we have offered warm breakfast tacos and uplifting prayers each month with Taco and a Prayer, and the list goes on and on.

As you think about what, and who, you are thankful for this year please don't forget to whom you should be thankful. Please don't be like the other nine lepers in Luke's story, make sure you are the one who is excited to have the opportunity to turn and give thanks to our God for the many, many gifts God continues to give each one of us.

With thanks for you,



Youth Happenings!

Bake Sale December 15th!

The annual Youth Ministry Bake Sale will be on December 15th, before and after worship. This fundraiser will support the mission of the youth ministry for 2020, and we are looking for volunteers to donate baked goods.

Those interested in helping out can contact Jesse at jesse@pinespc.org!

Children's Ministry



Parent's Night Out

Who: 4-year-olds through 5th graders

When: November 15, 6:00-8:30 PM

Where: Pines' Gym

What: Pizza, games, snacks and a movie!

*If your children can join us for the evening, please contact
Ashley Sullivan at Ashley@pinespc.org.*

Staff Spotlight | Tim Holder

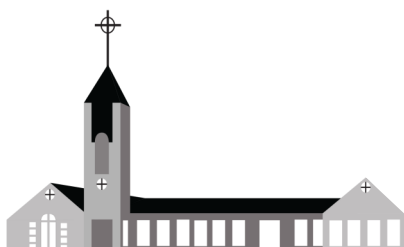


Who is this man who tickles the ivories each Sunday in a way that draws us all closer to God? Tim Holder has been blessing the Pines family of faith with his God given gifts for over five and a half years. As the Director of Music Ministries, Tim Holder oversees the complete music ministry at Pines. Tim prayerfully selects the major pieces of music for each worship service while also skillfully directing the Chancel Choir, Men's and Women's Chorale, and Pines Orchestra. Tim also shares his gift of music, and his desire to serve, with several area senior living establishments. Tim enjoys sharing the Gospel through music with these older adults by having hymn sings and even creating small choirs within the facilities. The residents at the senior living establishments love that Tim comes to share what so many of them have been missing for years since they cannot attend their home church to enjoy worshiping through song.

Tim has been playing music almost his entire life, and it shows. Tim has many gifts, but he feels his greatest gift is the ability to take a piece of music for any group that he directs and adapt it to that particular group using the voices or instruments God has given him for that rehearsal or service, rewriting parts or putting the music in a different, more singable key. If you asked Tim what brings him the greatest joy, or fulfillment about his ministry here at Pines he would say when a member of the congregation comes to him after service or writes a note expressing how a particular song in the service touched their heart. One of his greatest fulfillments comes on Wednesday evenings during choir rehearsal when the music is so beautiful, the voices blend so well, the harmony is just so perfect that it brings tears to his eyes. Speaking of tears, Tim says God has blessed him with a tender heart so he can minister in music to the choir, the congregation, and the residents of the retirement centers he visits. He says this tender heart easily brings him to tears. His sister once told him, "You cry watching a Hallmark commercial!" Tim thanks God for the blessing of a tender heart.

Now that you know a little bit more about Tim, I hope you'll stop him in the hallway, or stick your head in the choir room following worship and say hello. You will be blessed by his spirit.

Be on time for worship this Sunday, November 3rd.
Set your clocks back Saturday night!



The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

We recently sang the hymn “Give Thanks” in our Worship service. I would like to tell you how that particular hymn came to be written.

Henry Smith must have viewed life this way: God’s side of the equation always far outweighs whatever is on the other side. He wrote the words “give thanks” six times in the opening phrase of the song, even though he was struggling to find steady work, despite having just earned a college degree. When he says “the poor” are rich in the song, that’s an echo from his difficulty finding work. His eyesight was also failing because of a degenerative condition that would eventually leave him legally blind, certainly a “weakness” that he expressed in the song as his eyesight faded.

Thankfully, theological training informed him that God’s side of the equals sign was what mattered. Other parts of his life further motivated the song that came directly from his heart. He had found someone to love, his future wife. And he was grateful to be through school, which his poor eyesight had made difficult. He was also glad to be back in his home church in Williamsburg, Virginia.

If God was all that Henry Smith had in 1978, when the song was written, then He could be praised, and yet God provided even more. It is no surprise that Henry’s heart overflowed in this song:

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.
And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”
Let the poor say, “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!

Blessings and thanks to each of you during this wonderful Thanksgiving season.
Tim

GIVING THANKS FOR THE PINES MUSIC MINISTRY

During a recent conversation with a Pines member, the individual remarked about what a wonderful music ministry we have at our church and encouraged me to write about it. After some thought, I decided that this comment was a “nudge from the Holy Spirit” which led me to reflect on the many facets of the Pines music ministry.

We are fortunate that those involved in the music ministry define the scope of their ministry in a very broad and diverse manner. While I do not have the gifts to be directly involved, my observation is that this group (which is comprised of the chancel choir; the men’s chorale; the mixed trio; the orchestra; and the bell choir) defines their ministry in a comprehensive manner which includes:

- Helping to lead worship services
- Performing outreach in serving several assisted living facilities by sharing their talents
- Providing fellowship with their Sunday afternoon Sing-A-Longs and the annual Follies, which is always one of the year’s highlights

I do not know of another group in our church with such a comprehensive ministry. As with so many things in life which are done with sustained excellence, it is easy to take these gifts for granted. While I have occasionally tried to convey my appreciation to our musical family, I confess that I often fall into the trap of taking for granted the countless hours they spend in preparing to share their musical talents in ways that enrich the spiritual lives of the Pines family and those included in their outreach efforts.

I hope you will join me in personally thanking our many musical servants for their ministry which lifts our hearts and strengthens our faith as only music can.

Phil Wetz

Done with small talk?

Try Alpha

January 9 - April 2

Thursday Evenings | 6:30 to 8:00pm



You're invited!

Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

For more info contact:

Barbara
713 467 2234 or
barbara@pinespc.org

Join Us

**for a FREE MEAL
& GREAT CONVERSATION.**

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PinesPC.org





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 Retzlaff, & Bill Willis.

FRIENDS, BIBLE, BAGELS & COFFEE

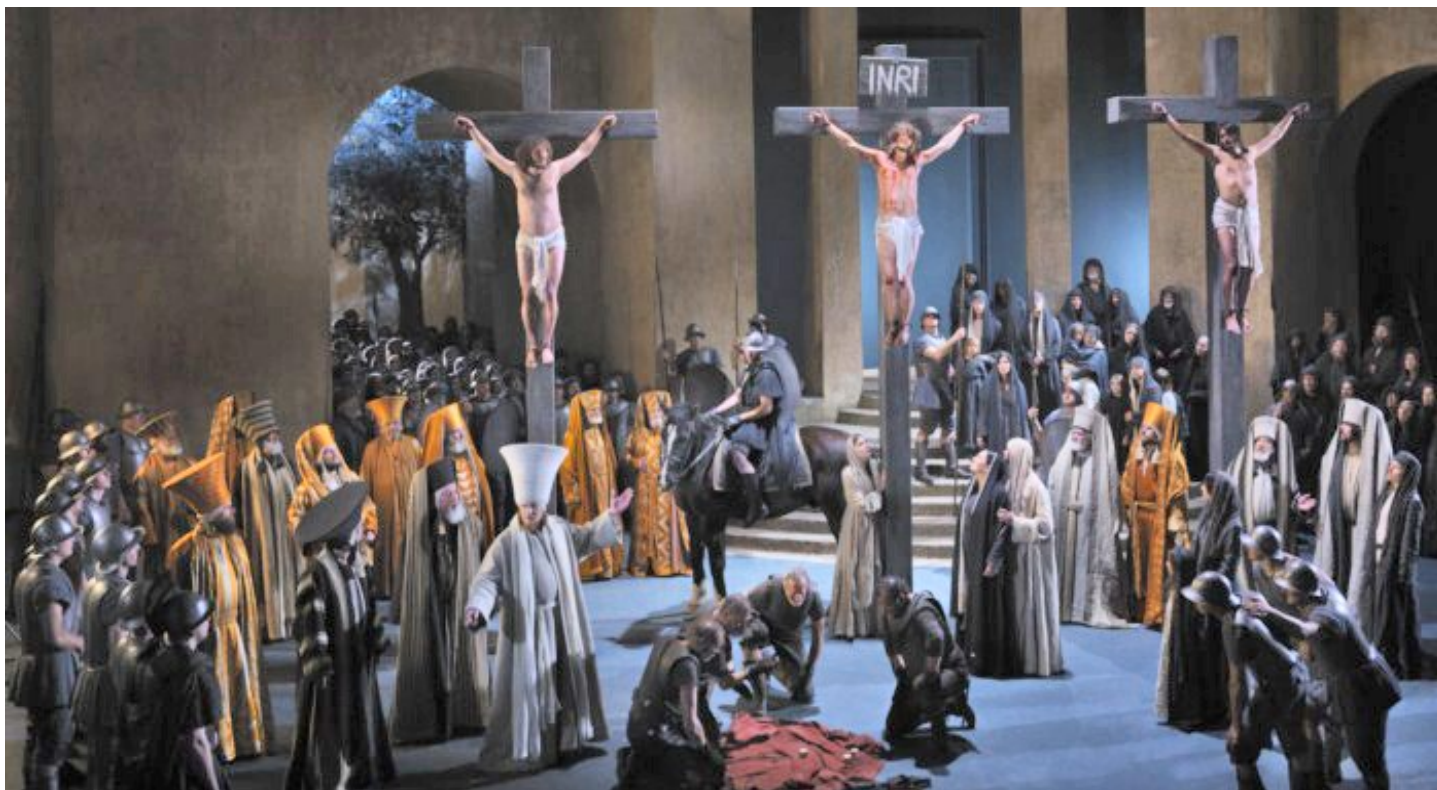
We are a group of young adults who gather each week to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Each week we read and discuss a different passage of scripture. Our discussions are open and honest as we look at the Christian faith as expressed in prayer, worship, service, family life, etc. **All 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 Retzlaff.



Oberammergau

“Spots 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/>

Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure?

LIFE LINE  SCREENING®

is coming is to Pines
December 4, 2019

GET SCREENED > CALL 1-877-380-1743 OR VISIT LIFELINESCREENING.COM/COMMUNITYCIRCLE

a Wellness Package (includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening).
All 5 screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

[You can also call Cindy in the church office or sign up in January in the fellowship Hall.]

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on October 28. Here are some highlights:

Elders prayerfully considered their stewardship of God's gifts and dedicated their 2020 pledges.

Approved posting video of Sunday worship services on the Pines website.

Elected Commissioners to the November 16 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.

Heard that net income through the end of September remains positive.

Approved continued exploration of possible participation in the PCUSA's Vital Congregations program.

- Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session



What is on the Inside??

I recently watched the animated movie, "Inside Out". It is a delightful children's movie that will make you smile and laugh and cry, but it will also make you think about the events in your life that have helped to shape you; it will make you think about the depths of your soul; it will make you think about what is on the inside.

The main character, Riley, is a happy, hockey-loving 11-year-old Midwestern girl, but her world turns upside-down when she and her parents move to San Francisco. Riley's emotions are 'personified' as we get a glimpse into the inner workings of her soul. *Joy* tries to remain in control through this life-changing event, but eventually, the stress of the move brings *Sadness* to the forefront. When *Joy* and *Sadness* are inadvertently swept into the far reaches of Riley's mind, the only emotions left in 'Headquarters' are *Anger*, *Fear* and *Disgust*. During the course of the movie, *Joy* tries so hard to stay in control and to avoid letting any other emotion come to the surface. In the end, she finally learns that *Sadness* is not something her beloved Riley should avoid, but rather it is something she should acknowledge and "feel what needs feeling."

As in many children's stories, there is a profound message for adults. The events of our past can effect us deeply and life-changing experiences can cause all kinds of emotions to surface... sadness, anger, fear, disgust. And so it is with any of us at one time or another...emotions bubble up that, often times, we never knew were there. The Pines Stephen Ministers are here for such times. They bring the blessing of a listening presence and caring heart, and help their care receivers know that it is okay to "feel what needs feeling" and in that, eventually find healing and wholeness by the grace of God. Please feel free to call me if you want to know more.

With the love of Christ,
Barbara

Service Beyond The Walls

How are you active and serving in God's Kingdom?

SHARING LOVE

Prior to teaching my first children's Sunday School class 20 years ago, a wise woman provided some sage advice – "While the children will retain only a small percentage of what you say, they will always remember if they felt loved".

One of the reasons I love the Pines family is the many ways in which I observe love being shared among people of all ages. While developing a comprehensive list of all the ways this is done would be a lengthy task, I wanted to share a note I recently received from Matthew Ward who was a member of Pines until he entered high school. During that time, two of the wonderful saints at Pines, Charles and Frances Cawthon, served as Matthew's prayer pals. Matthew, who is now a freshman at Texas Tech University, gave me permission to share the following excerpt from a recent email:

On a different note, I've been refereeing intramural football at Texas Tech for a part time job and got to take part in something really special yesterday. On Tuesday nights the intramural sports department teams up with the Special Olympics and does something called unified flag football, with each team consisting of at least half of their players being adults with mental disabilities. It was really a special occasion, as a fairly large crowd of students came out to cheer them on, as well as most of the kids' parents. It was pretty incredible to be a part of making those people's days, and the number of students willing to take an hour out of their day to come support them made me think my generation is going to be okay. I couldn't stop thinking about Mr. Charles and Frances (Cawthon) and how lucky I was to grow up at Pines.

After reading Matthew's email, I concluded that he continues to remember AND experience love from the Pines church family. During this season of Thanksgiving, this leads me to give thanks for the multitude of ways that members of the Pines family share love with each other and with others in need. There are no age limits nor boundaries on how or when this love is shared nor on the lasting impact it has on the lives of those involved. Thanks be to God for this grace-filled gift.

Phil Wetz

Watch Worship Online

Have you ever missed a Sunday and wished you could see and hear what you missed, or wanted to hear it again, or wanted to share the service with a friend? Beginning later this month Pines will be posting on our website each weeks complete worship service. You will be able to see the previous Sunday's service as well as a few months' worth of previous services. The recorded services will be under the "Worship/Music" tab on our web site. In an effort to maintain the safety and security of our children, the Session and Worship committee agreed, the camera recording the service will pan up to the Sanctuary cross during the Children's Message.



A Program of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston



What is Chore Corps?

The Chore Corps Program provides homebound clients with volunteers to help with household chores and tasks. Volunteers coordinate directly with clients, so hours are flexible and convenient.

Who is Eligible?

All Meals on Wheels Clients:

Homebound.

Difficulties with everyday chores.

Resides within Harris County, Galveston County, and other surrounding areas.

*****All volunteers must complete IMGH's volunteer orientation AND Chore Corps training to participate*****

Chore Corps Services:

Lawn Care: Weeding, and general up-keep of the yard. (No Mowing)

Laundry: Washing, drying, folding, and putting away.

Floors: Vacuuming, mopping, sweeping.

Kitchen Help: Washing, drying, and putting away dishes, checking for expired products.

Friendly Visits: Spending time getting to know clients in their home and have fun together.

*****Clients provide products and equipment along with instructions on "how to" *****

For information on Volunteer Orientation & Chore Corps Training visit
<https://www.imgh.org/volunteer> or email chorecorps@imgh.org

Missions and Current Events



will be held on Sunday, November 3rd benefiting Sherwood Christmas Store. Look for the Christmas display in the Fellowship Hall for how you can help.

*The 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. In order to bring greater 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 will coincide each month with the celebration of Holy Communion. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting an item to donate and bring to the baskets in the narthex on the **first Sunday** of each month.*

The Agape Communion Offering for **November** is the **Sherwood Christmas Store**. Take an ornament from the Sherwood Tree in the Fellowship Hall beginning **Sunday, 10/27**.

Unwrapped gifts will be collected through Sunday, December 1st. Gift details can be found on the website and available in the Fellowship Hall.

News from Center Ministries...

In addition to the middle and high school students that Mark Trotter's group feeds each week and leads in bible study, the need has risen to work with the elementary aged children. So, on Tuesday nights, Center Ministries works with the middle and high school youth (up to 75 kids now) and now on Wednesdays, they have begun working with elementary aged children (see picture below).

They meet every week, see the time schedule below. Mark and his volunteers are always looking for more help leading the bible studies, feeding the kids (on Tuesdays only), and just being there as a mentor/friend to the kids. If you are interested in helping once or twice per week, please give Cindy a call. The group now meets at the community center behind St. Thomas Presbyterian. They would welcome you with open arms!



On Tuesdays...

4-5 PM - VOLUNTEERS WILL MENTOR/TUTOR STUDENTS ON HOMEWORK. OTHER VOLUNTEERS WILL SET UP FOR MEAL.

4:30 PM - MEAL WILL BE PROMPTLY SERVED ON BOTH DAYS. CLEAN-UP WILL BE FINISHED BY 5 PM.

5 PM - BIBLE STUDY BEGINS. WE WILL DISMISS ELEMENTARY GROUP AT 5:30, BUT BE AVAILABLE TO COUNSEL/MENTOR STUDENTS THAT WALK HOME UNTIL 6 PM. MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL DISMISS AT 6 PM.

6:30 PM - ALL CLEAN UP/BREAK DOWN WILL BE COMPLETED AND ALL VOLUNTEERS WILL BE DISMISSED



From Joy Kreider...

PRAYERS FOR:

- 1) May God continue to open doors in the local Mennonite community.
- 2) For sexual abuse survivors and those who suffer from sexual addiction--may God bring new hope and healing to the masses of people in our country that fit in one or both of these categories.
- 3) For traveling mercies and deep conversations with financial partners in Iowa.

PRAISES FOR:

- 1) Open doors!! God is doing special things here in Virginia, so grateful.
- 2) For deepening friendships at church, in the neighborhood and at school.

Sherwood Christmas Store

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

NOVEMBER AGAPE

We need and appreciate your help in stocking the Christmas Store

Place contributions or donations in the **Missions collection bin** located in the Narthex by **Sunday, December 1st**.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sherwood Christmas Store Date: Saturday, December 14th

A Pines tradition – The **Sherwood Christmas Store** 2019 will take place on Saturday, December 14th. We need and appreciate your help in stocking the Christmas Store. Ornaments with the age and gender of a child are hanging from the tree located in the Fellowship Hallway. Select an ornament and register your name in the ornament logs. We ask that you spend a minimum of \$50.00 per child keeping the age & gender as indicated in mind when shopping. Please return your numbered ornament and unwrapped gifts to the Sherwood Christmas Tree or place in the Missions collection bin located in the Narthex by **Sunday, December 1st**.

SUGGESTED TOY DONATIONS

Boys: Football, soccer ball, basketball, scooters, skateboards and helmets, remote controlled cars, handheld video game, sports team logo items, Nerf, Spiderman, Starwars, Batman, train sets, Tonka vehicles, playdoh sets, construction sets (Legos, Bionicle's, Knox), hot wheels, riding toys.

Girls: Scooters, arts & craft sets, cosmetic sets, nail polish, skateboard or roller blades and helmets, karaoke machine, paint by number sets, dolls, pillow pals, playdoh sets, doctor kits, plastic food & dishes, riding toys, Legos, Barbie's, Melissa and Doug toys, Little People toys, puzzles, dress-up clothes.

This is only a sample – you can always check the toys in the store to see recommended ages.

All toys should be new and unwrapped with an approximate retail value between \$10 and \$50.

Please include extra batteries when required to operate the toy.

If you have questions or need additional information contact

Kari Work – kwork@mgcinc.net



Pines Stewardship campaign kicked off during the Minute for Mission on Sunday, October 20 as Jessica Lewis Priemer shared what Pines has meant to her and now to her young family as well. It is inspiring and heart-warming to see a young woman who was baptized at Pines, grew up in the church through Sunday school, confirmation and youth mission trips, is now married and giving back by teaching Sunday school for middle schoolers and also raising her young daughter and soon to be born twins with the help of her Pines family. This is the best example of Growing into the Future with Pines!

Stewardship is the act of recognizing that our blessings as well as our strength come from God and desiring to give back a portion of that blessing and strength to God by supporting His church with our resources, both time and finances. Giving is God's way to grow our faith.

Stewardship is also the best way for Pines to plan responsibly for our future. Your pledges enable the Session and Church to move into the future with confidence. Projected 2020 expenditures include maintaining our building facility, supporting our staff and mission giving and providing Christian education and fellowship for our children, youth and adults. We want to grow into our future as God's church.

A pledge card and an invitation to participate in the stewardship campaign is being sent to each church member household in late October. As you prayerfully consider your family's commitment of time and resources for 2020, may you be richly blessed knowing that you belong to God's family and to our family at Pines. May we all faithfully and enthusiastically grow into our future as we bring our pledges to worship on November 10.





Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

40 years ago Eugene Peterson published his 1st book - [A Long Obedience in the Same Direction](#). For years and years I've been jealous of that title, wishing I'd said it myself. The book is a study of the 15 Psalms we know as Songs of Ascent (Ps. 120-134), and was the first step toward his widely known translation of the entire Bible - [The Message](#). These Psalms were most likely used by generations of faithful Jews as walking and climbing hymns, sung as they made their way up the hills to Jerusalem on annual pilgrimages. Peterson suggests that these songs were vital elements of the Jews' long obedience to God's call, strengthening them to remain faithful century after century.

As Christian disciples, we are called individually and collectively to a similar long obedience to that same call of God - to an ever-growing, lifelong faithfulness to Jesus' gracious invitation to come follow him. The road to Jerusalem was neither smooth nor level. And neither are the pathways of our own lives. Sometimes it seems there is no road there at all – only bumps and surprises and dangers, troubles, and heartaches. Songs of Ascent can still help us along the way, but today, here at Pines PC, we are singularly blessed to have even more tools of assistance and encouragement at our disposal. Stephen Ministry is one of them.

When your road disappears completely, or gets impossibly difficult to manage, there is a Stephen Minister ready to come alongside, to walk with you, to pray for and with you, to be a faithful Christian listener and friend. The relationship is confidential, free, and encouraging. For Stephen Ministers, their service is an integral part of their own long obedience to Christ's call. It is not necessary to stumble on down the road all by yourself.

Call Barbara Retzloff and ask her about getting a Stephen Minister.
(713 467-2234 or barbara@pinespc.org)

Bill Willis

Stewardship

