



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press July 2025 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org

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Happy 4th of July!



Pines Family News & Current Events

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch...

Join us on July 13th at Mod Pizza on Memorial right after church for the next Second Sunday Lunch!

Hymn Sing on August 3rd. Mark you calendars for 4pm in the Fellowship Hall, All welcome to come join in!



TIME FOR ANOTHER ADULT GAME DAY!

Thursday July 17, 2025

in the Fellowship Hall from

1 to 3 p.m.

Come join us for a fun afternoon.

Don't sweat it!

Stay cool (inside) with your Pines Friends!

Bring your favorite game!

Bring a friend!



Want to learn to play Mahjong, or are you already a seasoned player? Suzy Wolfe has begun a Mahjong group in the café, near the receptionist desk each month at 7pm. The next night is July 10th. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.



Next BINGO...September 18

6:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us in September when we start Bingo back up again!

Brown Bag Book Club

If you would like to join us for an interesting discussion of some good books, plan to attend our next meetings.

We will meet on Tuesday, August 12th, from 12:00 noon to 1:00p.m. for a review of *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion. This is a heartwarming novel that follows the story of a genetics professor on a project to find the perfect wife!

Mark your calendar for our fall meeting which will be held on Sunday, October 5th, following our worship service. Linda Crowl will be leading us in a discussion of the book, *The Train to Crystal City*, by Jan Jarboe Russell. This book summarizes a secret FDR approved American internment camp in Texas during WWII, where thousands of families, many U.S. citizens, were incarcerated.

Mark your calendars and come to these Brown Bag book club meetings!
Happy Reading!!!



Pastor's Page

Happy summer greetings,

This past month our preschool welcomed over 100 children to our campus for its annual three-week Camp Pines program, and this month we'll welcome little over half of that for our annual Vacation Bible Camp. If history is any indication of what this VBC will be like, then I know it's going to be AMAZING! I am so thankful for all the volunteers who make this very special, and important week happen! I'm also thankful for Kristin who will finish up VBC and then turn around and take our youth on a mission trip to Puerto Rico. Each year as I watch the preschoolers, our VBC campers, and our youth come in and out of our doors, I'm often amazed how big some of them have gotten over the past year. I also wonder how much of a growth spurt they'll have before school begins in the fall. Seeing these growth spurts in the children and youth reminded me of the parable of the mustard seed in the Gospel of Mark. I thought about the seed being planted and it growing so large, even when we don't notice its growth at some point. I also thought about how that seed, and plant, need to be nourished so that its branches can grow into one of the largest shrubs.

Often adults put a lot of emphasis on the physical and spiritual nourishment and nurture of their children and youth. We make sure they eat their vegetables and get plenty of fruits so they can grow healthy and strong bodies. We also want to make sure their faith is nourished as well by making sure we bring them to Sunday school and worship, send them to Vacation Bible School, Conclaves or on a mission trip. As parents we want to make sure they have a good foundation. But sometimes, as they grow, we don't seem to emphasize that same nourishment.

Why do we think healthy habits are only necessary for younger people? We all need to maintain a healthy lifestyle of nutrition and exercise for our bodies, AND our faith no matter our age. We all still have the ability to grow. Summer is often a time of growth, so how are you going to grow this summer? What are you going to do to grow in your faith? What do you have planned to strengthen your relationship with God and walk in the ways of Jesus of Nazareth? As your body needs nourishment and care to grow, so does your relationship with God. Take time this summer to give your faith, and your relationship with God, some extra good nourishment so it can grow strong and give you encouragement and purpose for tomorrow.

May you grow off the charts this summer!



Andy

Family Ministry Calendar for July

PLEASE HELP!

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

July Calendar:

NO SUNDAY MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL OR SPECIAL EVENTS IN JULY- Happy Summer!
Youth Mission Team in Puerto Rico June 28-July 4

Let me know if you have any sports or performances for your kids that are public that I can attend! Summer is a great time to catch up!

Thanks for all the support of Hand on Hand apartment outreach! We continue to have great success- from a kids bingo with 45 people to June's picnic cookout and yard games with another 45 people!!





The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Monday through Thursday. We have a few volunteers currently, but we **need** more and 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 713-467-2234 x110.

Corny jokes for the month...



I asked dad to explain what a solar eclipse was. He said...No, son.

and one more...

Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? At the bottom!

Contact Us

Sanctuary flowers: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred

Make a donation: Alexis Graham at alexis@pinespc.org or donate on our website at pinespc.org

Add a name to the prayer list: Bethel Strawser at prayer@pinespc.org

Request a bulletin announcement: Laurie Conner at laurie@pinespc.org

Request a newsletter announcement: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Request an announcement for This Week at Pines: Dan Schafer at communication@pinespc.org

Update contact info in our database: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Plan a wedding: Linda Aldred

Add something to our calendar: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Question about our kitchen: Ann Guerra

Question on the Preschool: Connie Pike at connie@pinespc.org

Pickleball Program: Kristin Beall at kristin@pinespc.org

Anything else? Just give the office a call at 713-467-2234 x110



Christ caring for people through people

Hope is Out There! by Ann Guerra

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

June marked 2 years since the we began the Monday night “Tending to Grief” group at Pines. One of my Pines friends has encouraged people to attend. She recently shared that one of those friends reported back on her experience. “I didn’t think I needed it. I am so glad I went. I will go for the rest of my life!”

This made me smile because it validates that this person found a community that understands her heart. Participants often share the group allows them to speak without judgment, gives them a place to just “be,” allows them a release they don’t find anywhere else- a safe place. Grief is a journey. Grief never ends, because love never ends.

Each week the meeting offers love, friendship, understanding, support and often laughter. Yes, laughter. Too often I wonder if people think, “What’s so funny about grief?” when they walk by and hear the laughter going on in the Parlor on Monday nights. We learn to walk simultaneously in a multitude of emotions.

There are so many different types of support groups offered in our amazing city that do the same thing. You do not need to walk alone. Your Pines Stephen Ministry team has a resource list for anything you are going through. We can help you find groups to support you through divorce, illness, mental health issues, financial stress, food insecurity, abuse, eating disorders, alcoholism, codependency and more. Having a Stephen Minister walk with you can be supplemental to finding a community that knows what you are experiencing.

It is often said, “You don’t know until you know.” Let us help you find the community that knows what you are going through. Reach out to Stephen Leaders Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz at anytime.

RENOVATIONS

The end is in site! Work is being done and things are proceeding. We beg your patience for a bit longer as we hope to have completion on the new Fellowship Hall restrooms soon. Thank you for your patience up to this point. The committees have worked hard to make this a renovation you will be pleased with. More updates to come soon.

MISS HAUGHTON'S
**THIS IS WHAT
RESTORATION
LOOKS LIKE.**



Thanks to your support and the dedication of our team, Miss Haughton's home is now safer, stronger, and more accessible than ever.

Electrical outlets raised above the flood line, Walls replaced with flood-resistant “muck-ready” materials, A FORTIFIED roof for long-term protection, A brand new wheelchair ramp, Weather-protected windows for added safety and comfort.

Every repair tells a story of resilience — and Miss Haughton's is one we're honored to be a part of.

This is what restoration looks like.

Go to www.therestorationteam.org to read this story and more!

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact (for phone numbers contact Church Office)
Raise Up Families	Summer Camp Send Off	June 29 Noon-2	Pines	www.raiseupfamilies.org
The Restoration Team	Assist with storm recovery efforts and other community assistance	Ongoing	TBD	www.therestorationteam.org
Taco and A Prayer	Make tacos for and share prayers with neighbors	1 st Fridays- (anytime between 6:30-7:30am) Begins in Sept.	Pines	Margaret Schafer [REDACTED]
Sherwood Elementary	Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20 lb. bags)	Spring Semester	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles [REDACTED]
	Reading Buddies	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy & Dave Coles, Val Aldred
	Bulletin Board Team	Spring semester	Sherwood	Cindy Coles [REDACTED]
Montrose Street Reach	Shop for and deliver food to street ministry	Every other month Thursday evening	Pines to Montrose location	Kathy Ropshaw [REDACTED]
Church Office	Answer phones	1 day/week	Pines	Cindy Houlihan cindy@pinespc.org
Youth Hand on Hand Apartment Outreach	Assist with preparing food and other activities	Monthly	Pines/nearby apartment complex	Kristin Beall kristin@pinespc.org
Vacation Bible Camp	Various roles to be filled – group leader, crafts, and more	June 23-26	Pines	Kristin Beall kristin@pinespc.org

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!

Pines Monthly Agape Offering

What is the AGAPE Offering? The Greek word Agape (ag-ah-pay) 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.

To bring greater awareness of and participation in Pines' "outside our walls" ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Offering** of small, tangible goods or financial donations are scheduled each month. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting items to donate and bring to the donation bin. Watch the monthly fliers in the bulletin, newsletter, and This Week at Pines email for more information.

Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ! Thank you! Your Pines Missions Committee

CanCare JUNE AGAPE

A survivor by your side.

Our Agape offering benefits CanCare, a community of survivors that supports cancer patients and caregivers through one-on-one support, empathy, and hope.

Bring lap blankets, shawls, scarves & warm caps to "wrap up" cancer patients in love and hope.

Place a check in the offering plate or bring it to the office.
Donate online at pinespc.org or via Zelle
Note "CanCare Agape" in the subject line.

Wrapping Up Cancer.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PINESPC.ORG



Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!

Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is.

Join us for our next TAAP on September 5th!
For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.

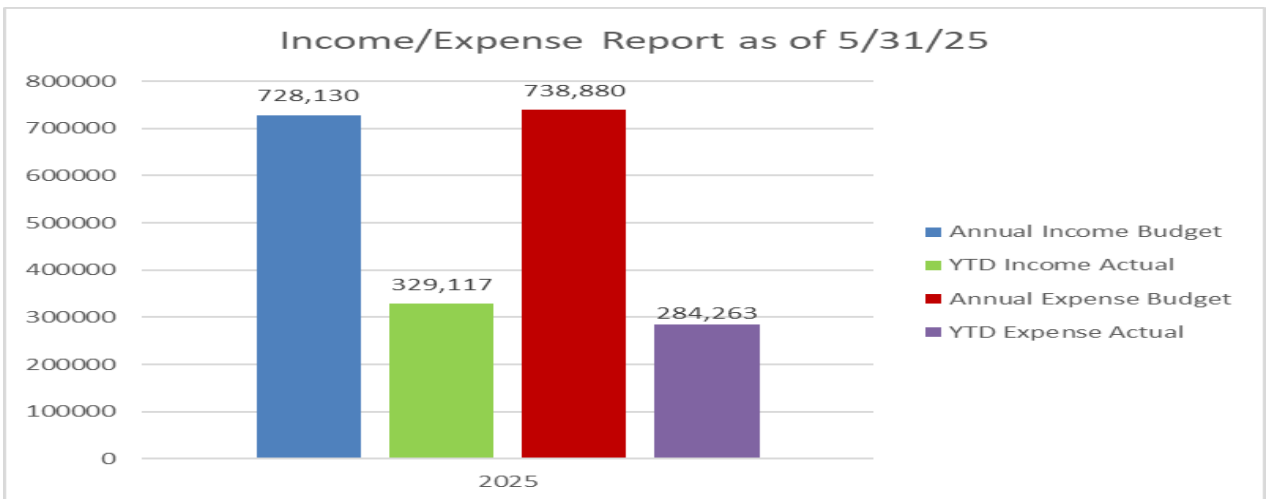
Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on June 23, 2025. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a presentation by Jessica Noonan of LEADconnects about that presbytery-sponsored strategic planning program.
- Heard a report from the Trustees on the extraordinary expenses for the air conditioner repairs and bathroom remodel.
- Approved having the Stephen Ministry 30th Anniversary Program during Worship on a date to be set this fall.
- Elected Ann Guerra as one of the congregational representatives on the Preschool Committee.
- Elected Commissioners for the July 19, 2025 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer - Clerk of Session

Stewardship



Stewardship Notes:

1. Pines is blessed. Pledge income continues to exceed budget at this point in the year. (\$260,658 or 49% of full year's budget) Non-pledge income is \$35,243 or 31% of full year's budget. Total income is \$329,117 or 55% of budget (\$728,130).
2. Expenses for all committees are under budget at this time of the year. (\$284,263 vs budget of \$738,880.) Property income is supporting property expenses at a higher rate than expected due to insurance reimbursements and payment of the preschool building use fee (\$23,700) in May.
3. Net Income is \$44,854 as of May 31, 2025.

Are YOU Storm Ready?

Preparation now can protect your home, your family, and your peace of mind later.

Don't wait for the storm to make landfall — prep now, stay ready, and protect what matters most.

Looking to get ready for Hurricane Season? Go to Hurricane Preparedness | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at <https://www.noaa.gov/hurricane-prep>.



Wondering how to order flowers for the Sanctuary or Narthex?

—cost for Narthex flowers is \$50 and the Sanctuary is \$75. We offer the option to give to a benevolence or to order a live arrangement. Please email: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred to sign up.

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 x110 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 monthly newsletter “The Pines Press” 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!

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 for caring for **YOUR** church!
The Property Committee

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.

Adult Sunday School

We invite you to join our Sunday School class called Explorers. We meet each Sunday in room C-3 @ 9:30 am. The class consists of short videos followed by lively group discussions. Come join in on any Sunday!

Music Theater Camp!

Did you miss this fab production in June?

Be sure to join us next year for the production presented by the Pines Music Theater Camp!
Below are a few pictures from the musical *The Giant Slayer*.



Searching for some new ideas to do with the family or friends this summer?

Picture this—it's golden hour, the sun sets, stars emerge... and the film starts to roll. The classic American drive-in is at once nostalgic, romantic, and comfortable, capturing the joys of seeing a movie in theaters ([as Nicole Kidman so eloquently described](#)) in a more casual, intimate way. During the pandemic, we saw a surge of drive-in theaters, as people sought a way to get out of the house for a safe, communal experience. Hence the "second boom" of Houston-area outdoor movies.

If you've never had the pleasure of a drive-in movie experience, then I urge you to grab a partner, pack a picnic, and drive on over to one of these Houston-area theaters creating movie magic in the great outdoors.

[Moonstruck Drive-In \(East End\)](#)

[Movie Nights in the Suburbs](#)

[Sunset Cinema \(The Woodlands\)](#)

[Movies in the Park \(Deer Park\)](#)

[Central Green Movie Night \(Katy\)](#)

[Movie Under the Moon \(Sugar Land\)](#)

[Sunset Cinema \(Pearland\)](#)

[Showboat Drive-In \(Hockley\)](#)

[Rooftop Cinema Club \(Post Oak\)](#)

[Screen on the Green \(Downtown\)](#)

[Family Movie Night \(Upper Kirby\)](#)

[Movies at Miller \(Museum District\)](#)

[Movies Under the Stars \(Downtown\)](#)



2025 Roaming Texas

**Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: July 25 (for the August 2025 issue)**

Want to share a favorite recipe? Send Cindy an email and she will publish it in the next newsletter. This one was sent in by Pines member Patsy Jackson. Bon Appetit!

Spinach-Artichoke Casserole

1 package frozen spinach	8 ounces cream cheese
1 can artichokes	2 T lemon juice
1 stick margarine	¼ cup artichoke juice

Thaw and drain spinach. Mix with cream cheese, margarine, lemon juice, and artichoke juice. Melt on low heat.

Cut artichokes in half and layer them in casserole.

Pour sauce over top.

Cover with foil.

Bake 30 minutes at 300.



Independence Day, in the United States, the annual celebration of nationhood held on July 4. It commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

This document announced the separation of the 13 North American colonies from Great Britain. In 1870 the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal workers, and in 1938 it became a paid federal holiday. Also called the Fourth of July, the holiday is celebrated across the United States with parades, fireworks shows, picnics, concerts, and other festivities. Independence Day is also notable for its displays of patriotism, as many Americans commemorate the day by flying the American flag and dressing in the flag's colors of red, white, and blue.



Important Info...

In the event that the doors are not open for your group, please leave a note on the door to ask them to call your cell phone for entry. Every group leader should have an entry card to come into the building. If you do not, please contact Cindy in the church office to assist with getting one for you. Propping the doors open not only wastes electricity, but also is a danger to those in the building in case of intruders. Please treat your church as your home. **And please, NEVER prop open the doors at any time!** Thank you.

If you would like to **opt out** of receiving this newsletter, or if your email is going to change, please send a note to cindy@pinespc.org and we will update your record.