

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, December 2021

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234



ADVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 19th

Worship Service | 10:45am - held outdoors (weather permitting)

"Lessons & Carols" | Pines Choir & Space City Sound

Christmas Brunch (after worship) in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 24th | Christmas Eve

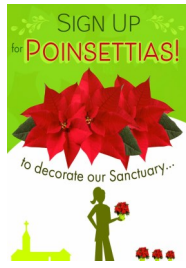
Candlelight Family Worship - 5pm

Candlelight Worship - 7pm

Communion will take place at both services.

Pines Family News & Current Events

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Chelsea in the church office at 713-467-2234 to get on the list. Chelsea 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!



We will be ordering from Brookwood Community to decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

The cost is \$11.00. A sign-up list will be available outside Fellowship Hall. You may also contact **Linda Aldred** at: lindaaldred1@aol.com. You will need to designate whether the Poinsettias are "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" when you make your selection and you may order as many as you like. The poinsettias will be delivered to the church on December 10th.



Wondering how to order flowers for the Sanctuary?—

cost for Narthex flowers is \$50 and the Sanctuary is \$75. We offer the option to give to a benevolence or order a live arrangement. Please email: Melissa Gravett at mgravett0123@gmail.com or Linda Aldred at lindaaldred1@aol.com. You may also call the church office to get a message to either one of these ladies.

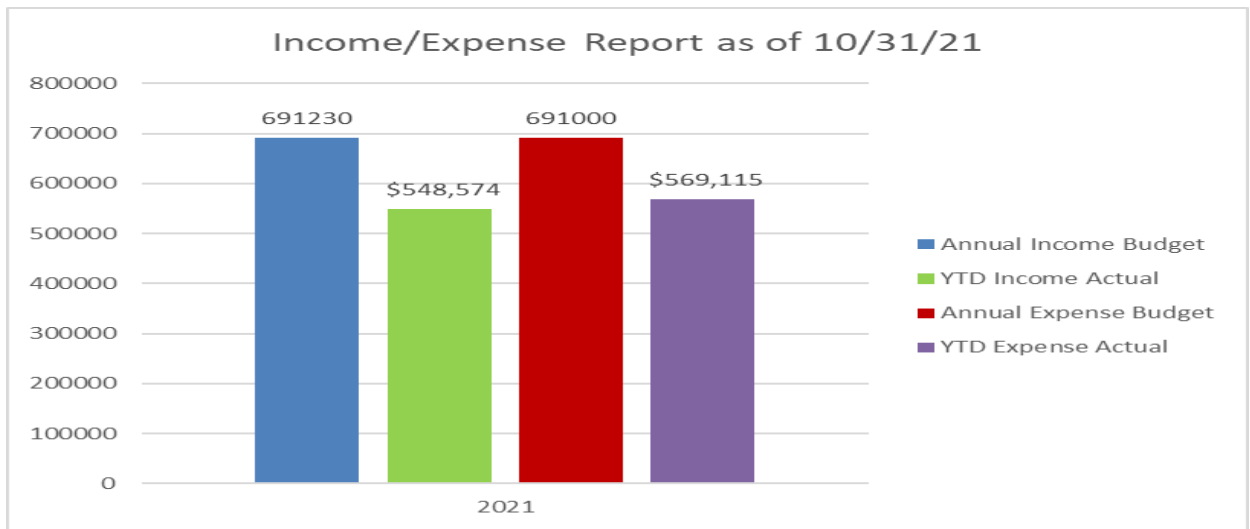
A graphic for Christmas Brunch. It features a white dove in flight against a blue background with colorful splatters. Below the dove is a white plate with a fork and knife. The text reads: "Christmas Brunch", "Sunday, Dec. 19th", "Join us for a new tradition at Pines...", "[Following worship in the fellowship hall]", and "pinespc.org". At the bottom, it says "PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH".

Pines Family Campout: Are you and your family interested in a relaxing weekend camping out with other Pines families? A date has not been determined but will likely be sometime this winter when the temperatures are cooler. We will likely be staying in rustic state park cabins or bring your own tent or trailer if you desire. We will have fun and games for the whole family, hiking, fishing and, of course, s'mores around the campfire. Drop a quick email to the Pines *Adult Ministry* team (adults@pinespc.org) and let us know if this sounds like something your family would enjoy.



Please mark your calendars with the **NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:**
December 17th (for the January 2022 issue)

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

1. Total Income for the ten months is \$548,574, 79% of Total Income budgeted for the year. This is below target (83%) for this time of the year.
2. Expenses for the nine months are \$569,115, 82% of Total Expenses budgeted for the year and right on target. Most committees (except Property) are under budget at this time of the year.
3. In looking at our top 3 expenditure areas, Staff, Property and Missions, Property is over budget for this time of year, Staff is under budget and Missions is about on target. The Property expenses are net of preschool payments and use of the capital reserve fund for gym air conditioning replacement. Property spending is on pace to overspend the budget fairly significantly, which is a concern, but hopefully will be mostly mitigated by Staff underbudget expenses.
4. Total Expenses exceed Total Income for the ten-month period, generating a negative Net Income of (\$20,541). While a negative net income is concerning, we don't know yet where we'll end up at the end of the year, based on ten months of income and expenses.
5. Pines' PPP2 loan was fully forgiven by the SBA during the last few day of October. \$59,862

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on November 22. Here are some highlights:

- Session welcomed and accepted Steven (Steve) Chaney and Antoinette (Nette) Anderson as new members of Pines.
- The Worship Committee announced there will be two Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 7 pm.
- Session approved restarting the passing of offering plates beginning December 5. Fellowship pads are already in the pews.
- Session and the Stewardship Committee thanked Susan and Mark Babineck for leading this year's Stewardship Campaign. Pledges received so far are somewhat behind last year at this time, but 8 brand new pledges have been received!

Craig Walker, clerk

Pastor's Page

Greetings to you in the name of the Christ Child,

I pray you had a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by some family or friends. Thanksgiving has traditionally been a time to welcome people into our homes or join others in theirs. For the past thirteen years my family and I have spent Thanksgiving with our very close friends in Dallas, but we're not the only ones there for the meal. The dinner guests, which number between twenty to thirty, include extended family and close friends. The preparations are intense, but what's more spectacular is the hospitality my dear friend offers. She makes sure everyone knows where everything is, makes sure everyone has enough, and if there is a fresh face in the group that year, she makes sure they are loved on and made to feel like part of the family.

For several years, as I sat around my friend's table, I couldn't help but be aware that hospitality is paramount for her. I then began to think about the church and how we might think about hospitality, especially during the Advent and Christmas season. I once read an article about a study on church hospitality during Christmas. The study, taken in the late 1990's said that three out of four Americans attend church sometime during the Christmas season, and almost thirty percent attend church more frequently during the holidays. That number might be a little high these days, but it still shows that attendance increases during this season. The article says there will be:

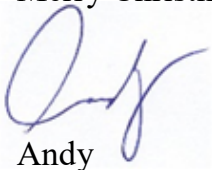
- family members from out of town,
- people thinking about making a change in the coming year after Christmas
- seekers longing for the familiarity of Christmas traditions they grew up with
- curiosity driven consumers seeking the comforts of beautiful Christmas music

Even in this COVID world we still expect to see many first-time visitors and guests for our Christmas events and worship services. Let's be sure to extend a warm hand of Christian hospitality, in hopes that they will want to return next week, and the week after that, and even make Pines their church home. Here are some hospitality suggestions as we enter this marvelous season:

- Take the time to greet people you don't know.
- First-time visitors and guests aren't familiar with the layout of the building, so please be ready to help with directions to the Sanctuary, rest rooms, childcare, and children's worship bags.
- You might even want to offer to provide a personal escort or guided tour.
- The sanctuary will be more crowded than usual, so please leave seating space at the aisles for people who arrive after you. Let's not make visitors and guests crawl across other people.
- If someone is sitting in the seat you normally occupy, just look for a different seat. In fact, let's plan to look for seats near the front, and leave the rear seats for visitors and guests wherever possible.
- Visitors and guests will not be familiar with our Sanctuary and worship habits. Offer to help if you see someone who looks as if they may not be sure what's going on.

This moment is the best time of year to demonstrate the friendliness of our amazing family of faith. Let's take the initiative and invite our friends, co-workers and neighbors to enjoy the hospitality, love and faith of this remarkable congregation. May we welcome others with the same open arms with which Christ welcomes us!

Merry Christmas,



Andy

Youth Happenings

5

from Director of Family Ministries:

Thank you again for all the warm welcomes and grace extended to me and my family as we move into the Pine's family! If you have anyone in your household 12th grade or younger I hope you have already received an email from me by this point. I'm very interested in meeting with each of you individually as your time allows. If you are not receiving emails please do me a great favor and send me an email so I make sure I have your correct contact information. This is my main way to let you know of special events and programs available. In the future specific calendars and events will also be shared through the newsletters. My door is open and my phone is available- if I miss you please leave a message!

Youth and Ministry Team are encouraged to come Sunday Dec 12 to the youth room at 12 for some lunch and dream planning time! RSVP for food count is helpful: Kristin 540-327-1233

Church family special events:

Dec 12 Special Sunday School hour Craft day- making presents for others

Dec 24 5pm Family Christmas Eve Service 7pm Traditional Service

Make sure I have your contact information for more events and happenings as they are added! I appreciate the help!

Kristin Beall



Children at Pines

What's New with the Children?

On the first Sunday in Advent, the Pines children, joined by the children from the Mosaic Church, acted out The Christmas Story. Pictured below are the children in costume for the annual advent play.

In addition to the Sunday School classes, there will be a Secret Gift Workshop on Sunday, December 12th. The children will be making gifts for their family members during the



Sunday School hour (9:15 – 10:15). Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to bring your children and grandchildren! They always love this workshop!



**Join us for Family-Style Sunday School in W-12 as we continue
“Learning to Love like God”**



Our “Forward Together in Faith” campaign culminated in Stewardship Sunday last month, where many of us in the worship service turned in our pledge cards and prayed over them as we look ahead – forward – to the promise of 2022 and the future.

If you look around, many houses of worship have similar dates on their calendars but they often go by different names. Admittedly I have some bias here, but I really like how we frame it compared to some other popular names:

- Pledge Sunday: Sure, we turn in our pledges, but that’s really just the promise to give in the future. It accurately describes the function, but it stops short of the goal.
- Commitment Sunday: A stronger word than “pledge”, commitment gets us closer, but once again it simply goes as far as a promise to follow through later. At least it also signifies a binding relationship between the giver and the church that – hopefully – goes beyond writing checks or authorizing bank debits.

On November 14 we celebrated Stewardship Sunday, our spin on the concept. While many of us turned in pledge cards to let the church know of our financial commitment, we use a name that transcends merely the promise of the congregation members to the church.

Rather, Stewardship Sunday conveyed a promise in the opposite direction. While we pledge to give to Pines, the church vows in return to be faithful stewards of those resources for God. Whether it be salaries for our valued staff, repairs and improvements on our facilities, utility bills to keep us warm or (more often) cool or our myriad mission projects, Pines works hard to be a trusted steward.

Stewardship Sunday is also just a beginning. While we had a robust response, we still seek pledge commitments from members who have not yet turned their cards in so we can plan out the year to come ... and beyond. Pines stands at the ready to continue its tradition of stewardship. Please prayerfully consider assisting the effort if you haven’t already, and thanks to all who trust the church to venture forward together, in faith.

Mark & Susan Babineck



Pines 1st Annual Bingo!



Bingo was a real hit this month! About 50 people, including kids, had pizza and an evening of fun and fellowship. Congratulations to Linda Aldred and her team for a superb event.

Watch for more Bingo in the New Year!



STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAUMA – WHAT IT IS AND WHAT CAN BE DONE

On October 28, several Stephen Ministers joined Joy Kreider for a seminar on trauma. Joy has done extensive study on the topic and has worked with trauma victims as well as trained caregivers in how to support those whose lives have involved traumatic incident(s).

Joy helped us to understand that trauma can occur from: (1) a single incident such as the death of a loved one or a severe accident; (2) repeated events such as physical and emotional abuse; and (3) varied and multiple events such as those inherent in a toxic relationship. The possible responses by victims of trauma are too numerous to mention but can include: exhaustion; fear; withdrawal; confusion; anger; sadness; sleep disturbance; anxiety or poor concentration.

In extreme cases, an individual dealing with trauma may respond with either **freezing** as they are so traumatized that they can no longer perform basic daily tasks or **fighting** where the individual is so scared and threatened that they consistently react in an antagonistic fashion. Fortunately, these are extreme cases and, in those instances, seeking professional help (e.g. a support group or a therapist with trauma training) is advised.

In less severe cases, Joy made a number of helpful suggestions on how caregivers can support those who have experienced trauma. Examples include:

- Identify activities that help a person feel calm (e.g. listening to music, drawing, praying, exercising, singing)
- Connecting with others through talking, writing notes, social media, or getting together
- Developing hobbies which provide joy and a sense of calmness
- Deep breathing exercises
- Asking someone to simply be physically present with you if conversation is not an option

Although all Stephen Ministers engage in 50 hours of training, the Stephen Ministers at Pines engage in monthly continuing education activities, such as Joy's seminar, to continue efforts to enhance our ability to serve and care for others. Our goal is to listen and interact with people who are dealing with any type of life challenge in an attempt to partner with the Holy Spirit in assisting that individual to work through the issues and identify ways to develop a more gratifying life.

If you would like to explore the possibility of a **CONFIDENTIAL** relationship with a Stephen Minister, please contact Bill Willis at bill.00.willis@gmail.com or call the church office.

INCARNATION

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

CASUAL all ages!

SUNDAY EVENINGS mingle

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mosaic Village Church

PINESPC.ORG 12751 KIMBERLEY LANE, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

Incarnation meets
at **5:00 p.m.**
Come join us for a
lively hour of
praise and worship
in the gym!

Missions

Winter Agape Offering Christmas at Sherwood - 2021

A Pines Christmas tradition! Please join us once again in providing Christmas joy to our extended family at Sherwood Elementary. As with previous years, we need and appreciate your help in filling the Missions Room with wonderful gifts that bring so much excitement to Sherwood families on Christmas morning. An Angel tree will adorn the Fellowship Hallway decorated with angel ornaments with the age and gender of a child who will benefit from the love you show. There are several ways you can support Sherwood!

Gift Wrap Party, Saturday, December 4th 9:00am to Noon—see more info below.

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

Join the Elves! – We have these Mission Opportunities to coordinate putting this event together.

Gift Tracking – Inventory the Angel ornaments / children’s requests / gifts received to see what shopping is necessary. You will help make sure all the children’s requests are met.

Gift Wrapping – Recruit the wrapping day elves and oversee the wrapping day activities.

Gift Delivery – Coordinate filling the sleighs and the delivery of gifts to Sherwood.

Preschool Coordinator – Work with preschool to keep them updated on activities and deadlines.



Key Sherwood Christmas Dates:

Saturday, December 4th, 9am to noon - Volunteer gift sorting and wrapping. We will have several wrapping stations for those who want to join in the fun but feel more comfortable spreading out.

Tuesday, December 14th – Gift delivery to Bonnie Reyes at Sherwood for distribution to families.

Thank you for your help with the Sherwood Christmas Store.

Questions? Contact Kari Work – kwork@mgcinc.net



Amber's Home

We're getting a lot of good and necessary work done over at Amber's house. Amber and her five children have been living with an open roof, broken windows, rotted siding, and leaks throughout their plumbing. This is one of the thousands of Houston families living in substandard housing regardless of a disaster (Winter Storm Uri only compounded the problem).

Contact John Work if you have some free time to help work on this or many other homes in our area.

2021 Holiday Show

SOLSTICE: An evening of celebration with **Space City Sound**

2 Performances

Friday

December 17th

7:30 p.m.

Pines Presbyterian Church

12751 Kimberley Ln.

Houston, TX 77024

Saturday

December 18th

5:30 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

9600 S. Gessner Rd.

Houston, TX 77071

Tickets

\$20 Adults

\$15 Students or Educators



Purchase tickets at:

spacecitysound.simpletix.com

or at the QR code above

Note: Guests will be notified of COVID protocols one week prior to the performance



SPACE CITY SOUND

Acappella

spacecitysound.org

facebook: SpaceCitySound





Come join a great group of volunteers and serve our community.

Volunteer opportunities include assisting teachers in the art classes, checking in students at the front desk, helping with special events, business mentoring, and more!



Be an Art Volunteer Do you like to work with children in an art setting? Volunteers are needed to assist the teacher and students in our afternoon art classes. You don't have to be an artist - just want to help kids! We need volunteers every afternoon of the week, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Be an Office Volunteer Help with office tasks including database management, filing, front-desk greeting and student registration. We need volunteers every afternoon of the week, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Volunteer to be a Business Edge advisor Volunteers work in teams of two, working with promising local business owners in the year-long program

Be a Special Events Volunteer!



“It’s Gonna Happen”

JOIN US **December 5th**
for a class on preparing for the end.
12 noon, Fellowship Hall

You know *“It’s Gonna Happen”*...

God brings us into this world and brings us back home one day. Are you prepared? Come to this class led by Carol Greene and Cindy Houlihan to learn about preparation for end-of-life issues. This

information will cover planning, costs, and organization for your family or friends.

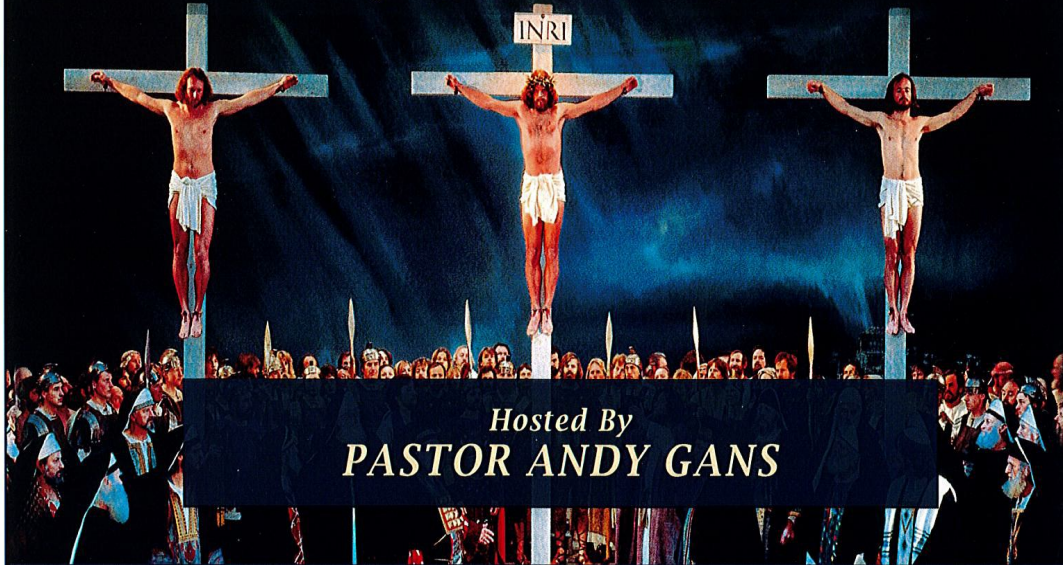
Copies will be handed out for you to take home to start your planning. Your Stephen Ministry is sponsoring this class. PLEASE contact Cindy (cindy@pinespc.org or 713-467-2234 x110) in advance if you have not signed up so that we can have documents prepared for you.

The class will begin right after church, so we are asking each participant to bring a sack lunch. We will provide the water. This is a two hour session. Looking forward to seeing you and even your friends, at this very informational presentation!

SPLENDORS OF EASTERN EUROPE

INCLUDING THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU

11 Days: JUNE 1 - 11, 2022



***Hosted By
PASTOR ANDY GANS***

Visiting

Prague • Budapest • Vienna • Munich



**\$4666 FROM
HOUSTON**

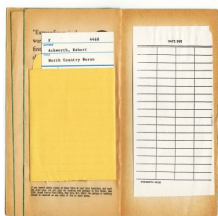
(Air/land tour price is \$4121
plus \$545 government
taxes/airline surcharges)



Featuring: Roundtrip airfare from Houston, accommodations at first class/select hotels (hotels & guest-houses in Oberammergau area), first class (Category 1) admission tickets to the Passion Play, most meals, comprehensive services of a professional English-speaking tour director, all hotel service charges, value added taxes, portorage where available & entrance fees per the itinerary.

**If you are
interested in
joining this
group on this
trip of a lifetime,
please contact
Pastor Andy Gans
to get on the list!**

Pines Library “Book of the Month”



Since the holiday season is upon us, how about taking a moment with all that free time you have (LOL), to take a look at some of the books we have in our church library! Beginning in January, we will highlight a “Book of the Month” for you to check out. Since we currently do not have a Librarian, please be sure to replace the books when you return them to the shelf from which they came. And just to add a little humor, did you

know where the term/sound Brr came from...Borrow, Read, Replace.

Ha! Ha!

Have a wonderful December!!

