



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, July 2021

Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving

With recent guidance from the CDC and the State of Texas, Session has approved specific recommendations of the Pines' Public Health Team. We are pleased to announce the following guidelines in a return to "normalcy":

- On Sunday, May 30, masks became optional for all those who are vaccinated throughout the Sanctuary and the rest of the Pines facility.
- Most pews will be open with no distanced seating. However, for anyone not able or ready to take this step, the north section of the Sanctuary is designated for anyone who prefers masks and social distancing. It is not required that anyone sit in this designated area, but is an option if you prefer.
- Parents with children under 12 are asked to be mindful of the fact that your children are not able to be vaccinated yet and to please find seating that allows some space for your family.
- For our 12-to-18-year old's, we will trust the wisdom and guidance of their parents whether to sit in the designated distanced area.
- Online worship services will continue to be offered on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PinesPresbyterianChurch>) and on the pinespc.org website.
- As previously announced, physical bulletins will be placed in the narthex, as well as QR code availability for bulletins and donation information in each pew.
- The welcome table in the narthex is now open.
- Hand sanitizing stations and revised safety signage will continue to be located throughout the building.
- Coffee fellowship resumed on June 6. Coffee and cookies will be served.
- The kitchen was open as of May 30, and food preparation and service will again be available as before.
- Bibles, Hymnals, and Friendship Pads will likely become available in the pews in August. The Worship Committee is working through these details.
- The passing of Communion plates and offering plates are also being reviewed by the Worship Committee and will also likely resume in August, pending reassembling usher teams and communion elders.

Session and all of the Pines staff appreciate everyone's patience and observation of these new and past guidelines, which have allowed Pines to offer in-person Worship while keeping our congregation safe and healthy. In these efforts to return to a more "normal" experience of being together, it is our prayer that we all embrace a spirit of unity, acceptance, and grace as we find our way forward as a family of faith.

Pines Family News & Current Events



Welcome to **Emilee Eva Schultz**. Emilee was born on May 13 to parents Claire (Dutton) and Brian Schultz. Grandparents Evette and Robert Dutton are thrilled to have Emilee as their new grandbaby! Congrats all!!



Please keep the family and friends of Pines member **Janice Pannell** in your thoughts and prayers. Janice passed away last week on June 15th. Janice taught in our preschool for many years and had been a member of Pines since 1989. **A service will be held at Pines on July 14th at 10 AM.**

In addition to Janice's service, there will be two more services to follow in July:
Jo Frazee-service to be held at Pines on July 17th at 11:00 AM and
Tracy Allison-service to be held at Pines on July 22nd at 11 AM.
Please keep these families in your prayers.

Do you know how to do calligraphy? On occasion the office needs someone that can do this for baptism books and such. If this is a gift of yours, please call Cindy in the church office and let her know you can help!



We have a new receptionist! Her name is Christine Barrett! She has been working as our sitter on Sundays for some time and will be a perfect addition to the Pines office staff. She will be here Monday through Thursday. Christine is married to Rick and they have 2 adult children and 2 grandchildren. Christine is so excited to be at Pines and feels this is truly where God meant for her to be! Please stop in to meet Christine and say welcome to Pines.

Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:

July 23 (for the August issue)

August 20 (for the September issue)

Pastor's Page

I have a new mantra and it was inspired by my golf game. I am really hard on myself out there and more often than not, I tell myself, that I should have hit that better, I should have made that putt, I should have kept my eye on the ball, I should have, I should have, I should have...you get the picture. And then I start talking to myself...I am no good, I shouldn't play this stupid game, I'm never going to get better, I'll never be as good as (fill in the blank)...and again, you get the picture. And maybe even more, you can create your own picture of your own tendencies to do the same thing whether in sport or life.

So this is my new mantra. Instead of "should"...I should have called her, I should have gotten a better grade, I should have worked harder, run faster, been more patient, made that putt, visited more often, shared more of what I have.... Instead of "should"...instead of beating myself up, living with regret, demeaning my efforts, telling myself that I am no good. Instead of "should", I am telling myself "could"...I could have called, I could have done better, I could have been more patient, I could have, I could have, I could have! I could have...because I am able, because I am almost there, because I do care, because I have it in me, because I've done it before. For me, "could" is filled with possibility whereas "should" is filled with regret.

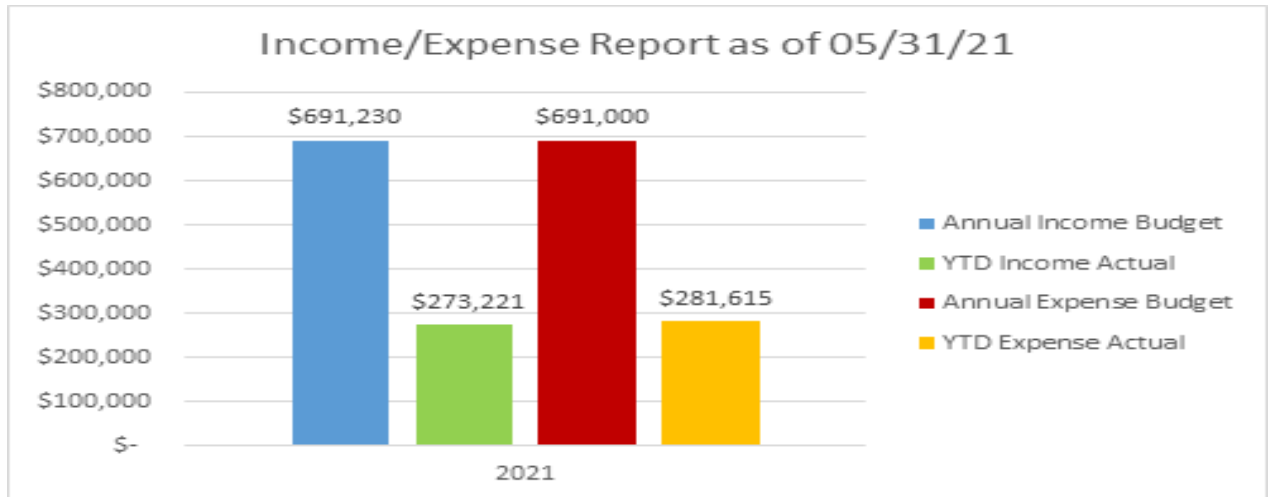
Pines, as I finish up my time here, again, there is much before you, and you are in a place where you can decide to live into the possibilities. There are many "coulds" in front of you as you welcome Andy back, worship and work together as a family, and find God's calling for this church. There are many "coulds" because you are able, gifted, caring, and loving...there are many "coulds" because God is with you and for you...there are many "coulds" but even more than all the positive words and thoughts, more than all the successes and failures, we have a God who loves us and refuses to let us go and never bases our value on performance. We have a God who uses what we bring to the game of life and does so much more with it than we will ever know or can even fathom. We have a God who is big enough, loving enough, able enough, more than enough!

Our God in Jesus Christ, not only could but did come into our lives to redeem and save us and make us his own. Thanks be to God!

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

With the Love of Christ,
Barbara

Stewardship



1. Total Income for the five months is \$273,221, 40% of Total Income budgeted for the year. This is just slightly below target for this time of the year.
2. Expenses for the five months are \$281,615, 41% of Total Expenses budgeted for the year and right on target.
3. In looking at our top 3 expenditure areas, Staff, Property and Missions, Property and Staff are running just slightly under budget for this time of the year and Missions is accruing expenses, in preparation for paying benevolences when the committee has reviewed our benevolence organizations for the year. The Property budget benefitted from the Preschool paying their building use fee (\$15,700) in May. All other committees are under budget for the five month period.
4. Total Expenses exceed Total Income for the five month period, generating a negative Net Income of (\$8,394). While a negative net income is concerning, this negative number declined from April to May and it's still too soon to make generalizations about where we'll end up at the end of the year, based only on first five months of income and expenses. We expect to end the year with a slight excess of income over expenses, as budgeted.
5. In May Pines received a bequest from the estate of Susan Schroeder. We will discuss the allocation of this bequest at our June Session meeting.

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on June 28. Here are some highlights:

- Elected Violet O'Brien, Bob Barr, Emily Gairo and Judy Shamp as commissioners to the July 17 Presbytery meeting.
- Elected Elizabeth Deraps as a member of the Columbarium Committee.
- Approved the Worship Committee's recommendation to designate the generous bequest by the estate of Susan Shroeder: 10% to the Missions budget, 50% to the Capital Reserve Fund for Property; and 40% to the Sustaining Gift Fund.
- Reviewed the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry's communication that it has unanimously approved the restoration of Rev. Andy Gans to ordered ministry. This places a motion for restoration on the docket for a vote by the full Presbytery on July 17.

Craig Walker, clerk

The youth and adults listed below will be participating in a mission trip from July 3-9 and will be doing various types of service in the Lake Charles area with an organization called Praying Pelican Missions. We expect the work to include restoration work on homes damaged by last year's hurricanes as well as relational ministry work with residents in the area. We will be worshipping at a local church on July 4 and participating with the church's children in an afternoon celebration.

All of us would ask for your prayers for a safe trip and that we would take advantage of opportunities to share God's love with those we interact with during the trip. If you would like to serve as a Prayer Pal for one of the participants, please contact Melissa Sandstrom, who has graciously and capably handled the planning for this trip.

In addition, Barbara will be commissioning the participants during worship on June 27 and we would ask for your support on that day as we continue our preparations for this opportunity to serve.

Our Youth Participants Are: Thomas Babineck, Gillian Brady, Cassie Dorris, Ryan Flynn (Ryan Lade's friend), Katherine Hafling (Marley Langston's friend), Tristan Hammond, Ryan Lade, Marley Langston, and Allie Liles

Adult Chaperones Are: Melissa Gravett, Ron Langston, Phil Wetz, and Diane Wright

**In observance of the holiday, Pines Sunday School will not be taking place on July 4th.
Happy Birthday, USA!**

Children at Pines

What's New with the Children?

**All children (both big and little!) like Super Heroes!
They also know that their favorite characters are pretend.
During summer Sunday School we are learning about Super Heroes of the Bible.
And they were real people! They were heroes for God!**

**We hope that the children will get excited about our Bible Heroes too.
And, they will learn that they can also be heroes for God!**

**Keep us in your prayers as we hear these Bible stories about favorite
characters, all of them deeply loved and cared for by God. And pray that as our
children grow, they will feel loved and cared for by God!**



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

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

Isaiah 41:10 tells us “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Since the Bible has told us that God is always with us, let’s take a look at my favorite Benediction hymn, “God Be With You Till We Meet Again.” This hymn is a singing version of a “Christian Goodbye.” We may sing it at memorial services to say goodbye to our loved ones, and we can sing it on Sunday mornings to say goodbye to dear friends that are worshipping with us.

“God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you
With a shepherd’s care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.”

The second verse refers to God’s constant protection:

“God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.”

The third verse is my favorite as it tells us that when life’s problems become overwhelming, God always puts His arms around us:

“God be with you till we meet again; when life’s perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.”

I believe that those who died in Christ are cheering us on as we make our journey here. Hebrews 12:1 tells us “therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.” I think I hear that great cloud of witnesses, along with my Granny Holder, and my Mom and Dad singing, God be with you till we meet again.

Keep a song in your heart!
Tim Holder

Mosaic and Pines In-car-nation



Join us for
In-Car-Nation
Sunday’s at 5 PM
on our back parking lot!

**With the hot weather upon us,
In-Car-Nation has moved indoors!**

The service will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will continue to broadcast the service on FM 107.1 in the West Bough parking lot for those who prefer that option. Come join us for a lively hour of praise and worship! NOTE: NO In-Car-Nation on July 4th. Will resume on July 11th!

Missions

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

**MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE
MINISTRIES (MAM)**
Back to School Clothing Drive

**SHERWOOD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**


**THE MISSION
OF YAHWEH**
Mission Backpack Blessing

JULY & AUGUST AGAPE

Please consider donating to "Pines Back to School Drive" that benefits **3** of our benevolence organizations Back to School Programs.

Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent directly to the church office.
Include notation "Back to School" with your donation.

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 **visit PinesPC.org for more details.**

Pines Missions Committee

July and August Agape Offering

Back to School Drive

The 2021/2022 school year is quickly approaching. This time of year, Pines has a long history of stepping up to support Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM), Sherwood Elementary and the Mission of Yahweh. Your generous donations are used to purchase necessary clothes and supplies needed to start the new school year. The smiles you have helped place on the faces of these students and parents are heart-warming. Please help our neighbors by donating to "Pines Back to School Drive". Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent directly to the church office. Please indicate "Back to School" on your check.

Thank you Pines. You are amazing!

MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES (MAM)

Back to School Clothing Drive

MAM, working with local schools, provide parents of at-risk students with vouchers for back to school shopping. The parents along with their children can shop together from an approved list. MAM's back to school needs are year-round.

THE MISSION OF YAHWEH

Mission School Blessing

Mission School Blessing is a year-round need. Weekly the MOY receives children that need school clothing and supplies to attend school while living at the mission. The MOY uses funds from the blessing to purchase needed clothing, shoes, and supplies.

SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pines members contribute to Sherwood Elementary in a variety of ways including mentoring, meals, reading events and a workday. Because many Sherwood families face personal financial struggles, donations from Pines, are especially important and truly appreciated.



For additional information contact: [Kari Work](#)



MAM is in need of volunteers to work in their resale shop. If you have a few extra hours to spare, please give them a call to see where you can help out. It is such a fun place to volunteer and a great place to shop while you are there!



TRT

THE RESTORATION TEAM

Summer 2021 is HERE!



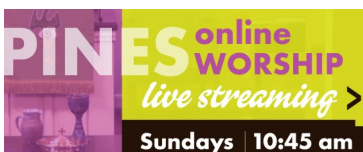
Summer has begun at The Restoration Team! This week we welcome our first out-of-town mission team out of Plano, TX. After our 2020 summer was canceled for COVID protocols, we are thrilled to be booked and busy these next couple of months!

This week, Custer Road UMC will be serving at five locations. We will be painting, laying floors, installing trim, drywalling, mucking out a house, and building shelves at a food pantry.

We will be working hard and loving on families all summer. We can't wait to show you what all we'll accomplish!



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 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

Committee Catch-up Corner: Vision & Planning

We're committed to keeping you informed and in the loop, here's what this month's highlighted committee has been up to lately!



Celebrating!

We're so thankful for the congregation's engagement with the church media poll last fall! We've broken down the data and some members of church staff and/or committees have begun utilizing your feedback. Look for a summary of the results in the adult education hallway by the water fountain in the coming weeks.

Currently Working on

- **Communication:** We continue taking a look at how to keep the congregation informed & engaged. One way is this announcement! We hope to have a highlighted committee reaching out in the newsletter to let you know what's going on in our community and how you can help.
- We're also looking at putting together a time & talent survey so that we can connect all of the wonderful people in our church family and better utilize everyone's gifts.
- **Adult Ministries:** V&P is working to help sponsor an Adult Ministries (AM) program at Pines. This ministry will be lay-lead, targeting spiritual and social needs of all adults but its offerings will be open to all ages. The ministry will attempt to serve the needs of both Pines congregants, as well as the neighboring community.

Calls for Engagement: Contact John Work @ john.work9@yahoo.com

- **Ideas for Vision and Planning:** Please submit your thoughts for Pine's future.
- **Adult Ministries:** We are looking for adults of all ages who would like to provide feedback on the Adult Ministries program at Pines.

Call Outs!

A big thank you to Micah who worked so hard with us to get the media survey formatted and user-friendly!

YOU! – We received an overwhelming response to the Communications Survey with over 60% of the active members providing feedback.

Coming Up! Keep an eye on This Week at Pines and the Newsletter for upcoming outreach 😊

RUMMAGE

sale

for charity

Saturday | JULY 24 | 8AM - 2PM

[Proceeds benefit the Feed My Starving Children Mission Project]



PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

~ Location ~

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12751 Kimberley Ln.

Houston, TX 77024

[in the Family Life Center]

In back of the church – look for signs in the parking lot.

**WE'RE GATHERING ITEMS
TO DONATE FOR SALE:**

**SET UP DAY: FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1-5 PM
(or by appointment)**





Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

This morning I'm thinking about the word **steadfast**, about Stephen Ministry, and about how closely the two are related. Scripturally – I think of the prophetess Anna, who was present in the temple when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to be presented to the Lord. She was 84, and never left the temple, worshipping night and day, fasting and praying. And I think of the crippled man who had lain beside the pool at Bethesda for 38 years, trying to be first to get into the water when it was “troubled”, in order to be healed. Until Jesus showed up and healed him! Steadfast! Both were steadfast. One in trouble himself, the other worshipping faithfully.

Stephen Ministry is like that, in some ways. It's about remembering who God is and giving him thanks continually, and it's about someone coming alongside trouble in the name of Jesus himself. Steadfast *is* as steadfast *does*. It's been active here at Pines PC for over 25 years. There are some still active in it who began it in 1994. There are relationships that are years old and still active, people meeting with people week after week, month after month – a Stephen Minister listening to and caring and praying for a Care Receiver. It's about the steadfast love of Christ for God's own people, one beloved person at a time.

If the troubles of your life seem to be more steadfast than your capacity to handle them – you could do worse for yourself than to inquire into having a Stephen Minister walk along and listen steadfastly with you!

Stephen Ministers at Pines are available to walk and speak with anyone who is grieving any type of loss – the loss of a loved one; or of good health; or of a relationship; or of a job. If you would like to explore the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister on a CONFIDENTIAL basis, please contact Rev. Bill Willis at bill.00.willis@gmail.com, call him @ 318-548-4414, or call the church office.

Thank you, Pines, for being Zoe's "home church" all these years!

At the end of my kindergarten year, our class was given shirts that said Class of 2021. I remember wearing it and thinking to myself, 2021- that will never come. At many points this past year it sure felt like I was never going to make it to graduation, but here I am. And although graduating high school is a normal accomplishment in white, middle-class America, the reality of how privileged I am to have made it here with relative ease has not passed me by. It is because of you that this is my reality. You have come around me and reminded me what I am capable of, time and time again. I truly have had the most incredible teachers, mentors, family and friends. Thank you. That being said it is very necessary that I take a moment to acknowledge the most faithful parents (mine teehee☺). They have taught me that Jesus is the most loving father and constant friend. Mom & Dad- you have paved a beautiful path for my life since the beginning, and I am excited to take over and see where it leads.

So, as you look at this announcement and catch a glimpse of the person I am becoming, I hope you also are reminded of the person I have been. That although life is usually not simple, it always cultivates beauty and grows endurance. I cannot wait to see what beautiful things lie in my future.

♡ Zoe



A Note from graduate Zoe Rundle

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.



Pines Life Camp is this SUMMER!

August 2-5, from 9:00 AM-11:30 AM

Online registration is available!

LIFE CAMP Work Day – Saturday, July 17th from 9am to noon. Join the decorating team to color, glue, twist and staple as we prepare decorations for LIFE CAMP. There are at home projects too. Please contact Kari Work at 713-818-1140 / kwork@mgcinc.net for additional information or to obtain a home project.

LIFE CAMP Decorating Day –Saturday, July 31st from 9am to noon. Help transform the preschool area into a family camp! Volunteers needed to decorate for LIFE CAMP.

For additional information contact Kari Work.