



# PINES

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*The Pines Press* April 2024 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / [www.pinespc.org](http://www.pinespc.org)

### ***FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH THROUGH SPAIN & PORTUGAL***

***12 Days: January 20-31, 2025***

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Lisbon • Jerez • Evora • Guadarrama

Hosted By: Rev. Andy Gans

\$3,659 from Houston (based on 25 travelers)

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- 1st class hotels
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# Pines Family News & Current Events

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



## **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 order a live arrangement. Please email: Melissa Gravett at [mgravett0123@gmail.com](mailto:mgravett0123@gmail.com) or Linda Aldred at [lindaaldred1@aol.com](mailto:lindaaldred1@aol.com) to sign up.

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

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

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



Look for the next Bingo night coming up in May!

***Second Sunday Lunch*** ...will be April 14th, right after church at Café Express.

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

## **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.

**PLEASE help us conserve energy...**by remembering to turn off lights and AC when you leave the building. **If you turn it on, please turn it off!** Thank you so much! Your Property Committee

Dear Pines family of faith,

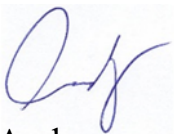
Happy Spring! I pray your Holy Week and Easter encounters were meaningful to you this year, and that they made a lasting impact on you and your faith. I was so thankful for the choir's cantata presentation on Palm Sunday. The choir worked extremely hard to bring you a meaningful and well sounding worship experience through music and words. The cantata, followed by the amazing lunch in Fellowship Hall, was a wonderful way to kick off Holy Week as we went from the joyous celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, to the excruciating pain of the crucifixion, followed by the joyous sounds of Halleluiahs on Easter morning. I was so grateful for our church family who came together as a body of believers to offer worship and fellowship to our community. I was excited to see the visitors who joined us at the Easter Egg Hunt and Sunrise Service in Bendwood Park on Easter weekend. I'm sure all in attendance felt the love Pines offers through Christ to our community.

Our community is the reason we sit on this corner of West Bough and Kimberley. Our calling as a family of faith... our why we do what we do... is to make an impact for Jesus Christ in the lives of those who not only live around the church, but also those with whom we come in contact. Your Session understands our calling to be a joyful Christian community that welcomes all, and to make disciples who know, love and trust in Jesus. This calling means we need to be praying and looking ahead to what, and where, Jesus wants us to be as a church in five years. At its retreat at the beginning of March the Session met and began developing a list of five-year goals for the church to help us fulfil our "calling" and our "why". Although this list is in its beginning stages of development, we do know the goals will have elements in areas such as community involvement and engagement, equipping our membership to share who we are, and strengthening who we are as a family of faith whether that be through our worship, mission, preschool and building. Following the discussion of this early list of goals the Session discussed how each committee will be charged with developing the necessary steps to reach the final list of established goals.

There is amazing creativity and love in this congregation! Our community, whether it be Fonn Villas or Greater Houston, needs this family of faith and the love we have to offer through our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. I hope you'll be in prayer about how you can help us reach our goals and reach God's people with the message and love of our risen Lord! If you're ready to help, then please reach out to me or one of the Session members so we all can attain the calling God has for this family of faith.

May the Risen Lord make a daily impact on your life!

Your brother in Christ,



Andy



# Family Ministry Calendar for April

## PLEASE HELP!

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

### Family ministry calendar for April:

April Family News and Calendar

6-7 Youth Confirmation Retreat and Community Outreach

17 Pines Youth Group- Youth Rooms 6-7:30pm ‘Snowball’

20 Youth Car Wash 9am-1pm – Mission lunch/ meeting 1pm in youth room

21 Prayer Pal Potluck Dinner! 6-7:00pm in Fellowship Hall

27 (Rain date car wash)

28 Confirmation Sunday during worship

Small groups continue to meet for Sunday School Children at 9:15am in rooms W13, W14 and Youth at 9:30am in youth rooms

### PRAYER PAL POTLUCK COMING!

April 21st, Sunday will be the next Prayer Pal Dinner opportunity at church.

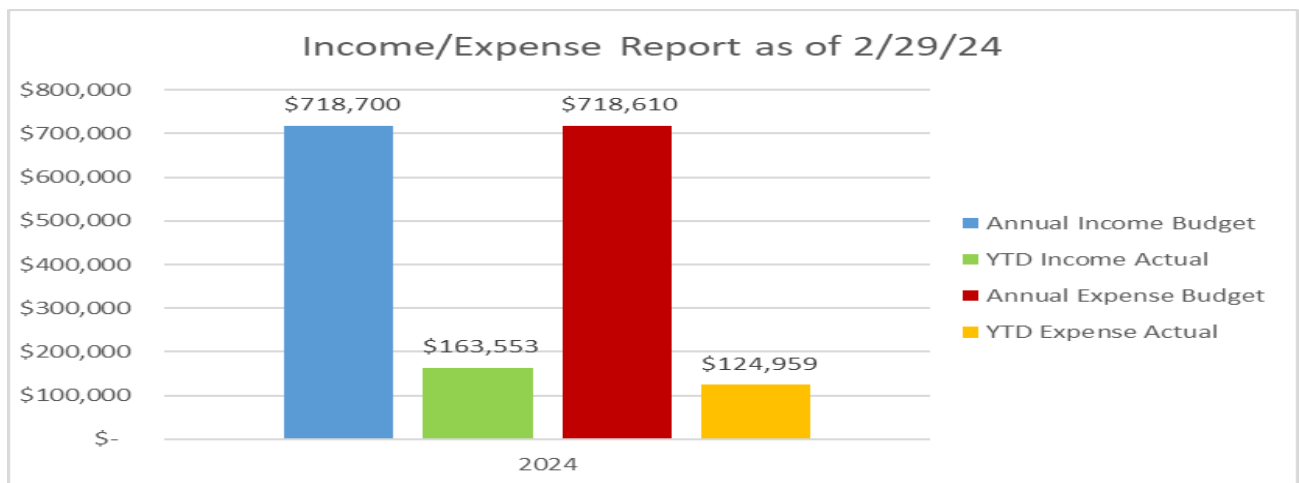
POTLUCK! (drinks provided but it's a true potluck! We will assign some to serve what you point out to limit germ spread but do try a little of everything!)

Fellowship Hall 6-7:00pm; we will have a short devotion on prayer after we share grace and a meal!

PLEASE reach out to your prayer pal and let them know if you will or will not be attending! Let them know it is OK to go even if you do not- we will have a random table of fellowship or they can sit with family! If you can not attend you may wish to offer an alternative time to grab a meal or catch up on prayer requests.

See page 8 for pics from Youth/Children events...

# Stewardship



### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

The February 2024 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

- Total income received through February was \$163,553. Pledge income was \$137,875 and unpledged income was \$11,370. Several members paid their entire pledge in January giving us a great start to the year. Interest income also exceeds the budgeted amount for 2 months.
- Overall expenses were on target for two months of the year at \$124,959.
- Net income through February was \$38,594.

## Pines is Family

It is true that “Pines is Family!”

We worship and pray together, study together, sing together, and play bingo together! Maybe we can get together for more fellowship time. If you are interested in any of the following, please send me an email. And, if you can help organize any of these activities, that will be terrific!

Suggestions have been made for the following:

Book Club at Le Madeleine, Games Day, and Sojourners day trips.  
If you have other ideas, please include that in your feedback.

I look forward to hearing from you so we can begin to make plans.  
Thanks, Shirley Bollich [shirleybollich@hotmail.com](mailto:shirleybollich@hotmail.com)

**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](mailto: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!

**PINES YOUTH**  
**Fundraiser CAR WASH**

**SATURDAY ~ APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9am - 1pm - Kimberley Parking Lot**  
PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH [visit: PINESpc.org](http://PINESpc.org)

### Looking for something new to do with the family?

- 1) Pick a new park each week to discover
- 2) Too hot, try bowling at a local indoor center
- 3) Been to the Bluebell Ice Cream Factory? Great time of year with all of the bluebonnets out!
- 4) Try a pottery class and make something new you can use in the kitchen or give as a gift

## Session

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on March 25.

Here are some highlights:

- Welcomed elders from the class of 2027 as members of the Session.
- Welcomed new members Leanne and Steve Messer.
- Approved a motion to conduct a Musical Theater Camp led by Laurie Conner during the summer. Dates TBD.
- Approved a study on the Apocrypha by the Foundations class.
- Discussed next steps by committees on initiatives identified during the Session Retreat.
- Thanked the Chancel Choir for a wonderful Cantata.
- Thanked the Congregational Fellowship Committee for a delicious luncheon on Palm Sunday.

Dan Schafer  
Clerk of Session



## What's in a Lenten Devotional?

By Ann Guerra

If you didn't get a chance to read this year's Lenten Devotionals, they were based on everyday places and encouraging the authors to look deeper. As the editor put it, "it was a sacred exercise in attending to whatever God lays before us in our lives and our communities."

As the authors carried us to a popular bar, the trails of Red Rock National Conservation Area, a landfill, a library, their favorite hamburger spot, on a city bus ride and so many other places, I was able to share the simple stories and share God's message of compassion, companionship, intentionality, and love. I will admit, they were not as "deep in scripture" as other years. Because of that, I found myself out in the world sharing them with others- with people that I had no idea where they were on their faith journey or if they even had faith. Some of the conversations that were triggered were so touching.

Reading the devotionals, I opened my eyes a little wider, cleaned out my ears, and softened my heart as I entered grocery stores, schools, airports, restaurants, and hospitals this Lenten season. When I listen to the news, I have a hard time seeing a world that loves each other, but when I look closely at what's right in front of me, I sure can.

The devotion on March 17 talks of a family needing a translator to express the needs of their sick baby, a woman in a hijab and an unhoused man all gathering together in a hospital ER where the author writes, "No one is turned away." From North to South and from East to West we all deserve to be accepted, seen and loved.

If you need to be accepted where you are on your journey; seen; loved unconditionally; and prayed for regularly, consider contacting Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz to find out more about having a Stephen Minister walk with you.

### *Ring in the New Year With Your Fondest Memories of Pines*

*Participating is easy. Just jot down a few paragraphs and your memories will become part of the upcoming Pines History Book. We have pictures of most of our members and we'll include those, too.*

Please tell us:

Your name, and the names of family members, along with the number of years (or months or weeks) you've attended Pines.

What attracted you to Pines and any volunteer work, and maybe a little about friendships made along the way.

Tell us your email address or phone number so we can be in touch with any questions that might arise. We have recent pictures of most of our members that we'll include.

As an example, check out a couple of examples below. Thanks to Leslie Friedrich, and Susan and Mark Babineck for sharing their memories. See below:

Ten years ago, **Leslie Friedrich** came to Pines because of her interest in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The DAR's Alexander Love chapter meets several times a year at Pines. "I ended up joining because I liked what I saw, and also because our church is so close to my home. I found I had lots of ties at Pines. There was Kari Work, also Janice Pannell, Cathy Bankhead, Sue Barry and Morriss Partee who, like me, graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Memories go on and on and so do the splendid friendships I've made at Pines Presbyterian Church."

**Susan and Mark Babineck** moved to the west side of Houston in 1998, a few months after their marriage. Susan began looking for a neighborhood church to join, and after several weeks of searching, narrowed down to three. Mark was working most weekends but was able to attend services at those three. They decided on Pines, as it felt the most welcoming and homelike. Wayne Eberly was minister at the time, and made them feel a part of Pines. They realized this was a church that calls all its members to be active in faith, and truly wants to help them grow. They officially joined in 1999.

Submit your memories to [sharondotson@gmail.com](mailto:sharondotson@gmail.com) or call her at 346-242-9504 with any questions. She's here to help. In advance, thanks for your memories. They'll be featured in the 2024 Pines' History Book.





Interested in serving on a mission team with Faith in Practice? There's still time to sign up for the Pines Mobility Team serving this summer in the Antigua, Guatemala area, July 20-27. We'll build, fit and distribute 100 wheelchairs to patients with significant mobility challenges. It's guaranteed to be an experience you can't forget! Spanish language skills not required; a heart for serving people is all you need. For more information, contact Linda Johnson, [ladjohnson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ladjohnson@sbcglobal.net)

## April Agape - The Mission of Yahweh

**NEEDED: New Boy's and Girl's Shirts and Shorts Sizes 2T - 14**

**Suggested Stores:**  
Target | Walmart  
JCPenney | Macy's  
T.J.Maxx

**Visit us at**  
[pinespc.org](http://pinespc.org)

*Help us Fill the House of Hope with Clothing for Children at The Mission of Yahweh*

*New Clothing is a REAL Treat and an Ego Booster!*

**DROP OFF DONATIONS**  
**IN THE MISSIONS BIN NEAR FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**OR**  
**PLACE A CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE, BRING IT TO THE OFFICE OR CONTRIBUTE ONLINE (NOTE: "MOY AGAPE")**

**MAM**  
HELPING HOUSTON  
**Sack Lunches**

One Easy To Open Canned Meat / Meals  
-To-Go (no tuna please)

- One Easy Open Vienna Sausage
- 16.9 oz Water Bottles
- Standard Size Paper Bags
- Only one item per sack lunch
- Please watch the expiration dates; do not purchase if date is near.
- Wrapped Plastic Cutlery Set

One Individually Wrapped Cheese / Peanut Butter Crackers packet

One Fruit Strips

One Individually Wrapped Packet

**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 April 5th

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



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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](mailto:cindy@pinespc.org) and we will update your record.





**Do you know a Pines Graduate?** This is anyone who is part of the Pines Family and graduated in the past year from High School or a higher education. This includes college as well as graduate students. Please email Kristin the name and contact information so that we can celebrate with them in May! Thank you for

**Your help is needed!** Pines could use a kitchen manager to check the kitchen once per month and make sure it is kept clean and check to make sure we have plenty of supplies. If you would be interested in doing this, please give Cindy in the office a call at 713-467-2234 x110.

**Please mark your calendars with the  
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: April 19th (for the May 2024 issue)**