

The Pines Press, October 2021

9:15 AM SUNDAY MORNINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL at Pines! PINESPC.ORG

2021 - 122 ADULT CLASSES



ADULTS: FOUNDATIONS Meets in the Fellowship Hall

[in person & on Zoom]

Book of Romans. Study guide and video by Max Lucado: IN THE GRIP OF GRACE. Teacher: Margaret Schafer

ADULTS: ALPHA CLASS Meets in Room C-3

[in person]

Alpha Study created by Nicky Gumbel. Each session will cover key elements of the Gospel and will seek to discover the common ground and essentials of faith with video and discussion format.

Teacher: Sandra Johanneman Facilitators: Linda & Phil Johnson

YOUTH Meets in Room N-19

THE STORY - a focused and chronological journey through the Bible.

Teachers: Ron Langston, Diane Wright,

Melissa Gravett & Melissa Sandstrom.

Currently combined Senior High and Middle School.

CHILDREN: PRESCHOOL - 1⁵¹ GRADE Meets in Room W-13

THE STORY for EARLY ELEMENTARY

(age appropriate picture and story book format for Younger Children; abridged Bible Scripture format for Older Children) and Videos.

Teachers: Carol Schneider, Ann Guerra, Kristen Davis-Owens, Angela Bullock & Shirley Bollich.

CHILDREN: 2ND - 5TH GRADE Meets in Room W-14

THE STORY for LATE ELEMENTARY

(age appropriate picture and story book format for Younger Children; abridged Bible Scripture format for Older Children) and Videos.

Teachers: Shirley Bollich, Karen Davis & Melissa Sandstrom.

CRAFT SUNDAY "HANDS ON FOR JESUS" Meets in Room W-12

Hands on crafts to emphasize key points in THE STORY.
Facilitators: Melissa Sandstrom, Leslie Friedrich
& Kristen Davis-Owens.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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!

Speaking of Chelsea, please stop by and introduce yourself. Chelsea is our new receptionist and she is absolutely wonderful! She is a college student and also one of our sitters on Sundays.

Please help us welcome her to Pines!

Have you changed your address or phone number recently? If so, please give the office a call so that we can update your information in our system. You can also email Cindy at cindy@pinespc.org. Thank you for keeping us updated!



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.

Do you have paper piling up at your home or business? Bring it to MAM SHRED DAY!

Shred Day donations are encouraged and support MAM's programs. All documents are shredded securely on site. All you have to do is roll down your window, get a receipt in exchange for your donation and we'll unload your car for you! Businesses and individuals are welcome.



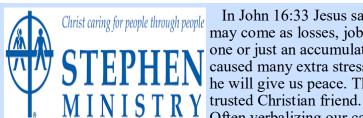
Saturday, October 16 9:00am - Noon

Gates open at 8:45am

Dear Pines church family,

Sometimes we get comfortable in our church membership and forget how important it is. The Pines family showed Barbara and I recently just how important you are to us and how void our lives would be without you. We were in a time crunch situation trying to get out of our house so we could close on the sale of it.

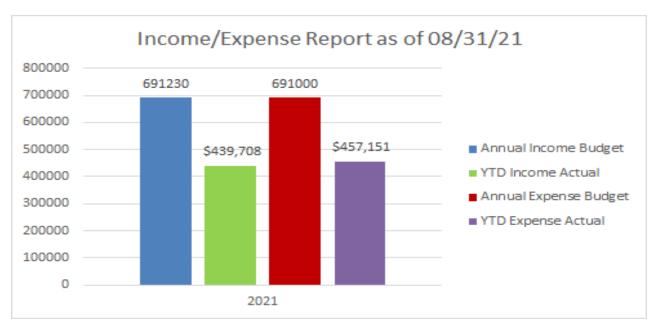
When unfortunately I did a nose-dive in the garage and broke my femur. It looked impossible for us to complete the transaction of the sale. But Andy sent an email expressing the need, and a number of Pines members responded to help us empty the house by the required time. We want to thank those who came to help, as well as those who continued to pray for us in our time of grief and medical need. I hope God blessed each of you in a very special way. We love you and love Pines. Barbara and Larry Greenlee



In John 16:33 Jesus says, "In this world you will have trouble." Our troubles may come as losses, job changes, physical or mental illness in self or a loved one or just an accumulation of a lot of smaller stressors. The pandemic has caused many extra stressors in our lives. In that same verse Jesus also says he will give us peace. That peace can often be felt by spending time with a trusted Christian friend.

Often verbalizing our cares and feelings can help us gain perspective. If you are going through a stressful time a Stephen Minister would be glad to come alongside and be that trustworthy Christian friend for you. Call Bill Willis (contact the church for his number) and he will be pleased to visit with you and pair you with a Stephen Minister.

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES

- 1. Total income is slightly below expectations for this time of the fiscal year, but above where we were at this same time in 2020. Pledge income is close to budget, with non-pledge income falling slightly more below budget than pledge income.
- **2.** Total expenses are right on target overall with all committees except property below their forecast expenditures at this point in the year. Property committee continues to experience the need for maintenance and repair expenses and is running over budget at this point in the year. The overbudget amount is offset by other committee's underbudget amounts.
- **3.** Net Income is a negative \$17,443 as of 8/31/21. We still expect to have a small positive net income for 2021 at the end of December.
- **4.** The balance sheet for Pines is very strong. Our cash position will accommodate our expense needs; the Sustaining Gift Fund, held at the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, has experienced strong growth this year and we have sizeable set-aside funds for Christian Education, Property related needs, a memorial gifts fund and benevolence funds.

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on September 27. Here are some highlights:

- Welcomed and accepted Teresa (Terrie) Caldwell as a new member of Pines.
- Approved the Mission Committee's request to hold a Raise Up Families Christmas Party on December 12.
- Reviewed the recommendations of the Health Advisory Team concerning Pines' Covid protocols, and voted to continue to require masks and social distancing during Worship and while in the building. Session also approved meals to be served in the Fellowship Hall without masks effective November 1.
- The Stewardship Committee reported that pledges continue to be submitted. Although the Property Committee is over budget due to air conditioning repairs, all other committees are under budget. There is a small net income deficit through August.

Pastor's Page

Greetings in Christs' name,

Have you ever had a time in your life that you were really excited about something that was getting ready to happen? Maybe you've been excited about a vacation that's around the corner, or your grandchildren whom you haven't seen in months are coming for a visit, or you're getting ready to start a new job. Well, I'm that kind of excited about the arrival of our new Director of Family Ministries, Kristin Beall! After many long months of seeking God's will and listening for God's voice the search committee found Kristin. From the very first time we met her we knew she was the one whom God was calling to Pines. Her joyful spirit, her 22 years of experience, and her extremely evident love of Jesus made her the perfect fit for our family of faith.

Kristin will join our family on November 1st and her focus will be planning, leading and managing the ministries to our children, youth and their families. As I said, Kristin's amazing personality and background immediately stood out to the committee. She has been in ministry since 1993 in both the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. She has served as Director of Youth Ministry for the past 19 years at Braddock Street UMC in Winchester VA. Kristin is a passionate worker and is constantly thinking of ways to grow in her ministry. She holds a professional certification in both Christian Education and Youth Ministry in the United Methodist church which will translate well into her position at Pines. Kristin was blessed to be born and raised in Houston, spending a few of her teen years in Anchorage Alaska before graduating from Katy Taylor High School. She is happy to share her hometown with her husband David Allen. They have three children, Garrett (24), Parker (20), and Autumn (15). There is also a cat (Chunkie) included in the family that will be with them full time while they hope their children will be visiting on a regular basis. In addition to her family Kristin loves reading, vlogging, travel, and spending time in nature as long as their teardrop camper is involved and not sleeping on the ground. She says that is done only in the name of Jesus. Kristin is excited to get to know her new church family!

I am thrilled to see and hear what programs and opportunities Kristin will bring to our children's and youth ministries. Some of the ones she has already shared with me sound amazing! I know there will be new things she will want us to dive into, while also embracing some of our seasoned activities. I hope each one of us will welcome Kristin's enthusiasm by encouraging her and asking her how you can help. Our children and youth deserve our very best, and that's why God brought Kristin to Pines, but they also need you. Before Kristin calls you for help with the ministry, I encourage you to call Kristin to offer your help and let her know how important our young people are to the life of this family of faith.

II look forward to seeing you in worship on November 7th as we officially welcome Kristin back to Houston and to the Pines family.

In His service.



Youth Happenings

Come and Join your friends in Youth Sunday School. We are here every Sunday and we are just starting a new study: THE STORY. It's a new way of exploring the Bible.

Don't get me wrong, any Bible is awesome -Word of God after all. But sometimes it can be pretty complicated and difficult to get through in some parts. You can even get lost in all the generations of God's people and their place in God's plans. At its heart, Bible is the story of God's love for His creation, His people and His never-ending desire to love us and to be in relationship with us.

"Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, The Story sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. And like any good story, The Story is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption—and this story's true!"

PS...if you come to SS on September 19 you'll get to hear all about your new Youth Leader, now called the Director of Family Ministry

Children at Pines

What's New with the Children?

This year's Sunday School classes kicked off on Sunday, September 12th and it was a blessing to be with our Pines' children. We have two classes this year. One class is for our younger friends who are in prekindergarten through first grade. Our other class is for the children in second through fifth grade. Both classes are using the Max Lucado's The Story this year as we learn about God's love for His children. This curriculum is told in story form and follows the Bible in chronological order.

As you would expect during our first class, we started at the very beginning in Genesis.

Have you ever played the game, Simon Says? Well, we played God Says!

How do you play it? Well, the children had to do the motions when God Says Let there be Light, or God Says Let there be water, and so on.

In addition to using The Story this year in Sunday School, we will have a craft day occasionally and will call it HANDS ON FOR JESUS.

We would like to invite your children or grandchildren to join us in Sunday School this year (9:15-10:15) as we grow in the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sunday School teachers and Hands on for Jesus volunteers Shirley Bollich, Karen Davis, Kristen Davis-Owen, Leslie Friedrich, Ann Guerra, Melissa Sandstrom, Carol Schneider, Angela Spradlin Bullock



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!

This month I would like to look at the old hymn "Whispering Hope." At some point in our Christian journey we all feel down, despondent, and that we simply cannot put one foot in front of the other. Have you had days like this? When I am at this point in my journey I am reminded of the old hymn "Whispering Hope." I know that whatever I am facing.....there is always hope that I will get through it, and God will refresh my soul.

"Whispering hope, O how welcome Thy voice. Making my heart in its sorrow rejoice."

I firmly believe that the "Whispering Hope" is the Holy Spirit, who is always gently guiding us on our Christian walk. Nudging us to take one road and not the other. Call it intuition or a gut feeling, I believe that the Holy Spirit is with us even when we are down in the valley. The first verse describes this feeling:

"Soft as the voice of an angel, breathing a lesson unheard, Hope with a gently persuasion, whispers her comforting word. Wait till the darkness is over, wait till life's tempest is done Hope for the sunshine tomorrow, after the darkness is gone."

Verse two tells us to not shrink away when we are in darkness, for surely a new day will break for us, and the darkness will be gone.

"If in the dusk of the twilight, dim be the region afar.
Will not the deepening darkness, brighten the glimmering star.
Then when the night is upon us, why should the heart sink away?
When the dark midnight is over, watch for the breaking of day."

I leave you with this scripture from Lamentations 3:21-23: "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Keep a song in your heart! Tim Holder



PINESPC,ORG

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

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!

Enjoy some Christmas shopping!

- Take an angel from the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hallway. Register your name in the angel logs.
- Spend a minimum of \$50.00 per child keeping the age & gender as indicated in mind when shopping.

 You may purchase one gift for \$50.00 or several gifts totaling \$50.00 or more.
- We ask that the toys be new and unwrapped and that you include batteries when required to operate the toy.
- Please return unwrapped gifts to the Angel Tree or place in the Missions collection bin located in the Narthex by Sunday, November 14th.

Gift Wrap Party, Saturday, December 4th 9:00am to Noon

<u>Financial Support!</u> 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:

Sunday, November 14th - Turn in date for gifts purchased.

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



From May through August, 23 households purchased enough groceries from Kroger to have a check issued to our Missions account for \$65.69. If you have not already listed Pines as your community partner on our Kroger or Randalls card, please take care of that next time you are in the store. Thank you!!



Hello, Spring Branch ISD Partner:

Congratulations! You or your organization have been named an **SBISD Class of 2021 Good Neighbor** thanks to your support of one or more of our campuses during the 2020-21 school year. Thank you! The Good Neighbor program celebrates and recognizes superlative partners for their support of SBISD or the Spring Branch Education Foundation (SBEF). Many of you are longtime Good Neighbors and some of you have earned this designation for the first time. How do we celebrate our Good Neighbors?

We proudly recognize you on the <u>Class of 2021 Good Neighbor list</u> that is on our <u>website</u>, displayed in the Wayne F. Schaper, Sr. Leadership Center lobby, highlighted in this weekend's **Top Ten**

newsletter and in this season's SBISD football programs!

Coming soon: You can read the details of the good work of our Good Neighbors via the **Good Neighbor APP** located on the <u>program website</u>.

- You will soon receive the recognition item you selected in your application we hope you will display it with pride!
- And more!

We aim to share the stories of our Good Neighbors' work in **district communication channels** throughout the year. Please keep us posted about your good work so we can continue to share our thanks.

We are also excited to share a few new additions to the program this year!

In an effort to support cross-collaboration and networking opportunities, we will provide a **Class of 2021 Good Neighbor Directory**. If you would like to share your contact information within this closed network of partners, <u>please click</u> here to complete a directory form.

- Coming this fall we will launch a **Good Neighbor Newsletter** to keep you informed of program updates, Good Neighbor stories, and partnership opportunities.
- It is never too early to begin logging your Good Neighbor qualifying activities you complete this year! To help you remember to do so, we will send gentle **monthly reminders** which will also include any real-time campus needs, should you be looking for ways to engage.

We thank *all* of you for your support - particularly during the extraordinary challenges we faced last year. Please know how much we appreciate you, and congratulations! With gratitude,

Abby, Katie & the Community Engagement Team

Abby Walker

Coordinator of Strategic Partnerships & Volunteer Programs

Spring Branch ISD 1 955 Campbell Road, 77024

Office 713.251.2289 | Mobile 713.416.3682 | springbranchisd.com



Vision & Planning Update

As a result of Pines member responses from the Communications Survey taken earlier, Vision and Planning has begun soliciting input to gauge interest in forming an Adult Ministries program at Pines. The initial thoughts are this lay-lead ministry would work with existing committees to implement ideas from Pines members. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Stay tuned for more information.

V&P is also working to identify area interfaith congregations who would like to participate in a day of service in the spring. The idea would be to serve our community while also building relationships within our area.

Pines Goals:

We will be an active, inviting, valued neighbor that is engaged with the community.

We will promote a family environment that builds relationships across generations.

We will deepen and nourish our spiritual lives so that we may nourish others and make disciples.

Questions on this update? Contact any of the following:

Andy Gans, Kristin Davis-Owen, Ann Smith, Chris Wolfe & John Work.





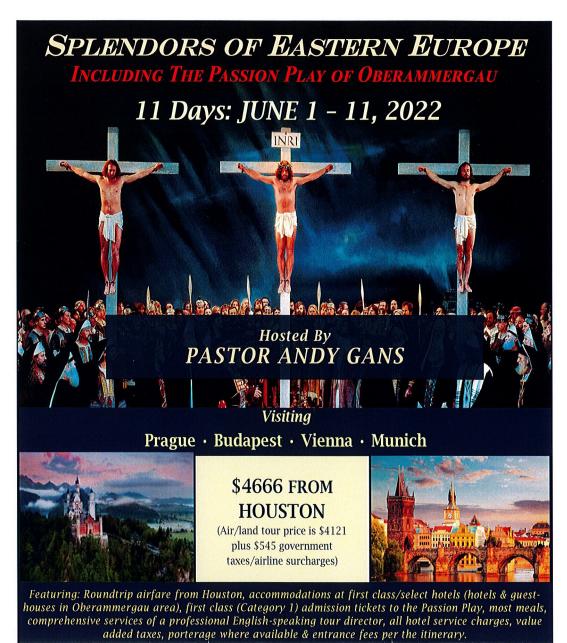
OCTOBER 23rd, 9 AM

Winter Freeze Workday with Cindy and The Restoration Team!

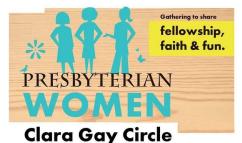
We invite you to come and join Cindy Houlihan and The Restoration Team as they work on a winter storm project on October 23rd. There will be painting, possible sheet rock or flooring work. The work day should be complete by 1 PM. All work can be done by anyone willing to help...there is work for all skill levels. Cindy is trying to gather 6 to 8 people to assist on this day as a gift in remembrance of her birthday...and no I am not telling you which birthday it is! Show up and I will tell you!

Please call Cindy in the church office (713.467.2234 x110) if you would like to join in on this project and help a family that has been waiting to get back into their home. If you would like to know more about the work you will be doing and how it helps our community, please go to the website below and watch.

<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=To7eCTdOk0c</u>. We need about 3 to 5 more people...PLEASE CALL CINDY TODAY!



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



Clara Gay Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30am in room C-3. Join us for our class "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus". Contact Marcia Welsh for more details.



Sunday School meets every Sunday at 9:15 A.M. Using scripture and story with practical applications help us establish our faith on a more solid and life affirming foundation. This Fall we are studying THE STORY. View our website for the full schedule: PinesPC.org



NEW MISSION DONATION OPPORTUNITY with Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM): Please drop off un-bagged items in the Missions Bin or in the Missions Room.

List of items for sack lunches: Easy To Open Canned Meat/ Meals -To- Go, Vienna Sausages, Trail Mix, Individually Wrapped Salted Crackers, Individually Wrapped Cheese / Peanut Butter Crackers, Package of 16.9 oz Water Bottles, Fruit Strips, Standard Size Paper Bags and Protein Bars/Granola Bars. Thank you for your donations!

