



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2021

Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward...



Rejoice
IN THIS Day

Preparing for Easter

Maundy Thursday-April 1 at 7:00pm Sanctuary

Good Friday-April 2 at 12pm Sanctuary

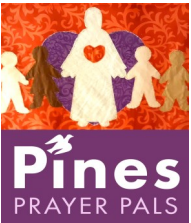
Easter Sunday-April 4 at 7:00am in West Bough Parking Lot,
10:45am Sanctuary & 5:00pm Drive-in (In-Car-Nation)

Pines Family News & Current Events



Pines member Bob Templeton entered the Church Triumphant on November 29th, 2020. Let us join together in sharing our sympathies with his wife Barbara.

Former member Tracy Allison passed away on March 11th, 2021. Please join us in sharing our sympathy with her husband Jim and their daughters.



Volunteer needed to head up the Children's Prayer Pal team!

The CE committee would love your help to organize our Prayer Pals for the children. The Pals and children have already been partnered up. All you have to do is send a few emails to help the committee get them connected and started. This is a job that can be done at home and will have a very small time commitment. If the Spirit is leading you, reach out to Phil Buelow at pbuelow26@outlook.com. Thank you!

The church office is looking for volunteers that would like to do some light office work in the office area as needed. Please call the church if you would like to occasionally answer phones, do some light typing, copying or online product research.

We currently have two volunteers (BIG hugs to Melissa Sandstrom and Marsha Deison for their tireless help in the office!) who help when needed to answer phones. But we could use a few more volunteers when these two ladies would like a break or are unavailable. Please call Cindy in the church if you feel you can help!



A note from Barbara Potts about her son Bill...

Bill rang the bell at Mayo!
He walked out well.
Tears of joy and thankfulness.

**God is good,
ALL THE TIME!**



With the end of the year comes the new flower calendars—cost for Narthex flowers is \$50 and the Sanctuary is \$75. We will continue to 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.

Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:

April 23 (for May 2021 issue)

May 21 (for June 2021 issue)

Pastor's Page

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

It is a blessing to live in a world where we know Easter has happened and continues to happen every day! Each day God gives us an opportunity to experience the newness of a life alive with the Risen Christ. Easter frees us to live into the joy that is faith, freedom and hope.

I am excited that Easter means renewal and adventure. I believe Pines is in an Easter time. Over the next three months the Pines family of faith will embark on a time of reflection and renewal as Pastor Barbara returns to lead you on this adventure. These next three months will also be a time for me to embark on my own adventure of reflection and renewal. We all know God can do amazing things and I look forward to seeing and hearing how God moves within and around us during this time.

These next three months will also see a flurry of activity and excitement as our Staff Committee forms a search committee to seek the person God is calling as our new Director of Family Ministries. This position will combine the youth and children's director position so to allow us to have a unified and coordinated ministry to families and their children from birth to age 21. As the search committee seeks the one whom God has called to Pines, they will be leaning on God's guidance to find the person who is passionate about their faith in Christ, energetic about engaging God's people, and willing to join in leading this congregation into its next chapter of faithfully, and actively, living out the Gospel. I ask that you keep the search committee, and the one whom God will call, in your prayers.

The newness, joy and freedom will continue over the coming months as more and more people become vaccinated and the virus infection rates will hopefully decrease. As more people feel comfortable returning to in person worship, we will renew our relationships that were abruptly taken away from us last year. Our family will be reunited! Our joy and excitement will burst forth just as did the excitement of the women who arrived at the empty tomb and realized their Lord had risen from the dead. They knew great things were to come because they knew the promises of their Messiah. They knew the promise of new life they had been given, the same promise this family of faith has been given. Great things are coming!

I am so thankful for Easter and this Easter time at Pines, and I pray you will join me in this excitement. If you would like to get involved in the adventure, I encourage you to reach out to any member of Session and ask how you can get involved. May we all live into the joy, hope and calling that is imbedded into the phrase, "He is risen, He is risen indeed!"

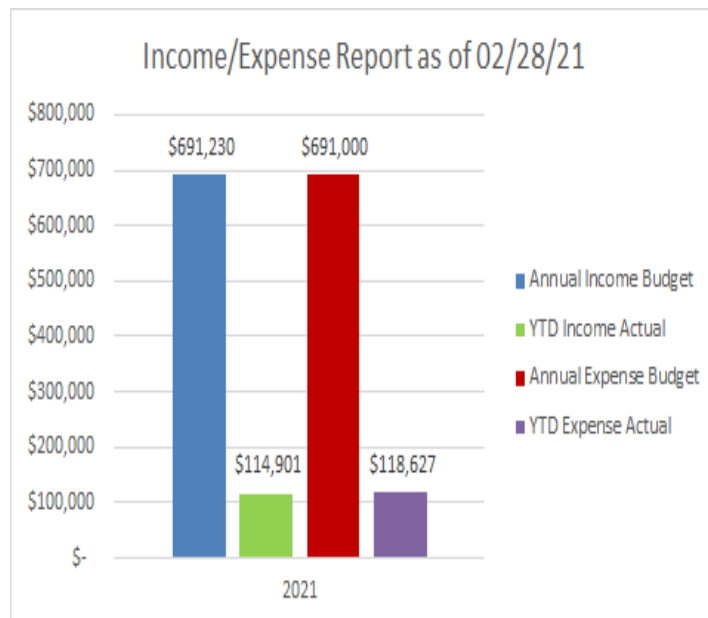
Happy Easter,



Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

1. Income for the two months is \$114,901, 17% of Total Income budgeted for the year. This is right on target for this time of the year.
2. Expenses for the two months are \$118,627, 17% of Total Expenses budgeted for the year and also right on target.
3. Total Expenses exceed Total Income for the two month period generating a negative Net Income of \$3,726.
4. Pines' 2nd PPP loan was approved by the SBA and funded by Allegiance Bank in late February, for the amount of \$59,861.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP...

Do you shop at Amazon.com? Who doesn't, right? You can help Pines by utilizing Smile.Amazon.com for all of your Amazon purchases. If you haven't already, sign up at smile.amazon.com and select Pines Presbyterian Church as your charity. Then remember to always begin your shopping experience at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Pines. It's easy!

Our most recent quarterly donation was \$85 and for the past year the donation was over \$500. Thanks to those who are already participating by designating Pines as the recipient for their Amazon Smile purchases. Just like the Kroger and Randalls donations, your Amazon purchases can support Pines in a meaningful way. Let's decide to increase this amount by increasing the number of members participating in Amazon Smile... after all, it costs you nothing and helps move Pines Forward Together in Faith. AmazonSmile has generated over \$241 million in donations to US charities.

Session Meeting Notes

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

- Welcomed Rev. Barbara Retzliff as the Moderator for Session.
- Approved a motion to allow ToolBank to install a cargo container in the back parking lot to hold tools for organizations, including Pines, to use in disaster relief and other charitable projects, subject to Preschool approval of operating hours.
- The Caring Committee reported that Stephen Ministers will provide primary pastoral care to the Congregation for the next 90 days, led by Rev. Bill Willis.

Craig Walker, clerk

Youth Happenings

Car Wash Fundraiser on April 17th!

The youth of Pines are happy to return to this favorite tradition after a year off. On Saturday, April 17th, from 9am to 2pm, the Youth Ministry will be holding its annual Car Wash Fundraiser! This year, all of the proceeds will go towards our Summer Mission Trip to Lake Charles, Louisiana in July! We're so thankful for the ways the congregation has supported the Youth Ministry and hope to see you all come by on the 17th!

We ask that all Mission Trip attendees, students and volunteers, be present for the Car Wash. Masks will be required, except when eating and drinking or if 6 feet apart, and gloves will be provided.



Children at Pines

What's New in Children's Ministry?

Our Sunday School class may be small in numbers, but we are growing each week in our love for Jesus. And that includes the teachers and parents! The stories about Jesus help us to spread His love to others. In fact, we have been making cards to send to some of our Pines members. You might be one of the lucky people to receive one from the Pines Kids! And, if you haven't heard from us, let us know that you would like one. A card will be on the way!



Don't forget to come to the annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 on Easter Sunday morning! Bring your Easter basket and come to the playground.

Come and join in the fun!



**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!

Hallelujah! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

For the month of Easter, let's look at a song of hope, written by Bill and Gloria Gaither, "Because He Lives." This song was written 50 years ago, but the message of hope is still so true today.

"Because He lives I can face tomorrow; because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives."

The first verse gives us hope for our salvation by telling of His death and resurrection:

"God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon; an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives."

The second verse gives us hope for future generations:

"How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance: this child can face uncertain days because He lives."

The third verse gives us hope for the future and our eternal home which He has prepared for us:

"And then one day I'll cross that river; I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns."

Hallelujah! He is risen! He is risen indeed! And thanks be to Him for our salvation, for the future generations, and for our eternal home in Heaven!

Keep a song in your heart!
Blessings, Tim

**Pines
In-car-nation**



Join us for
In-Car-Nation
Sunday's at 5 PM

on our back parking lot!

Bring your family...bring your friends...bring a chair, or sit in your vehicle...all as you tune into the service on your car radio! If you have not had a chance to attend, don't miss this meaningful Worship opportunity!

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.

Missions

The Missions Committee is seeking input from the congregation regarding the decision as to whom Pines will grant funds in 2021. With the diminished dollars we have, we want to support those organizations that mean the most to our members. That said, the list below reflects the organizations we supported last year and we are asking the congregation to respond to the Missions Committee with the ones that our members support or volunteer for. Here is the list:

1. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
2. Brookwood Community
3. CanCare
4. CENTER Ministries
5. Communities in Schools (at Sherwood)
6. CRM - Rundles/Novo (*NO LONGER IN MINISTRY AS OF 2021*)
7. CRM - Joy Kreider/NOVO
8. Fairhaven Food Pantry
9. Faith in Practice
10. Freedom Place - Arrow Ministries
11. Interfaith Ministries
12. Memorial Assistance Ministries
13. Mission of Yahweh
14. New Life School (Guatemala)
15. Newspring
16. OMF International/McDyer
17. Prayers of the People (POP)
18. Presbyterian Children's Home/Services
19. RaiseUp Families (*formerly Westside Homeless Prevention*)
20. The Restoration Team
21. The Women's Home

You may contact Margaret Schafer at ga.schafers@comcast.net or send an email to Cindy in the church office at cindy@pinespc.org and she will place it in the Missions box for Margaret. Thank you in advance for your response.



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

Missions continued...

The freeze left our mission partner The Mission of Yahweh, without water for 10 days and Pines answered the call to use the shower facilities!

The Missions Committee hosted the residents of the MOY for a hot shower on Saturday, February 20th. While practicing social distancing, residents were given individual snack bags to enjoy as they waited their turn. The MOY residents were grateful to have a hot shower and a space to relax before heading back to their home. Pines received a number of thank you notes that have been displayed on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hallway. The pictures below are from that day...



Please join us for Camp Pines 2021 !

WE ARE OFFERING 3-WEEKS OF SUMMER CAMPS

PACKED WITH FUN, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, DAILY ART PROJECTS!

✦with✦ Linda Barber ✦

**CAMP PINES starts in June
at Pines Presbyterian Preschool!**
Come join us for 3 weeks of summer camps --
Packed with fun, hands-on activities and
daily art projects.
For more details visit: pinespc.org

WILL YOU HAVE A GRADUATE THIS YEAR?



If you will have a student that is graduating this year from high school or college, please send an email to cindy@pinespc.org so that she can publish their name in our bulletin.

We need to know the following information:

- What is students name?
- What school will student graduate from or attend?
- Write a brief 5 or 6 lines about what their post graduation plans are.
-

We will need this information before May 1st. Thank you in advance!



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

We have entered a new experience for our Pines family. Barbara Retzloff has come back to be our preacher and provide guidance aimed at strengthening us spiritually so that we will be better prepared to support Pastor Andy when he returns.

Barbara's position is intended to be part time and she will be available for pastoral care in crisis situations. To protect Barbara's time it has been decided that day-to-day pastoral concerns and questions will be handled by Rev. Bill Willis who leads our Stephen Ministry at Pines. We hope that everyone will cooperate in making Barbara's time with us as productive as possible. If you have concerns or questions, or would like to have a Stephen Minister to walk with you, please call Rev. Bill Willis or call the church office (713-467-2234) and they can put you in contact with Rev. Willis.

Service Beyond The Walls

How are you active and serving in God's Kingdom? Send your thoughts to cindy@pinespc.org.

Dear Pines Needles Group (and congregation)-- Ann Guerra asked Linda and her administrative assistant to share with you a very meaningful note of gratitude which Ann recently received. As background, Ann has a very close friend in Wisconsin who recently lost a beloved family member. This friend recently reached out to Ann for emotional support and Ann has provided support in a variety of ways.

One of the supportive steps Ann took was to send her friend a prayer shawl. Ann asked that I share the following excerpt from the note of gratitude she received from her friend:

Ann, I love that shawl so much. I put it on as soon as I opened it and didn't take it off until I crawled into bed. It's soft but has a weight to it that makes me feel held.

I am taking great delight in sharing this to remind each of you of the spiritual impact inherent in this ministry and to thank you for your support of the ministry, even if it is just to provide encouragement to those who regularly knit. As Ann said in her note to us, "We just never know when, where or how we will touch people."

Thanks for enabling Ann to touch a person in need with a tangible sign of God's love and for providing yet another example of the Pines family moving FORWARD TOGETHER IN FAITH!

On behalf of Linda,

Phil Wetz

Happy Easter

27-Nov-2020 to 26-Feb-2021

Don't forget to register
Pines for use with your
Kroger card.



23

Households

\$ 71.28

Total Donations

Pack the Portico

FOOD DRIVE

DROP OFF
YOUR FOOD ITEMS
IN THE MARKED AGAPE BOX



ACCEPTING
DONATIONS
IN THE NARTHEX

APRIL AGAPE

ITEMS NEEDED

*Peanut Butter, Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Pinto Beans, Rice, Cereal Boxes, Mac & Cheese, Ravioli, Vienna Sausage, Soups, Fruit Cups & Apple Sauce. ***No Glass Containers***

If you are unable to deliver your donated items, please call the church office and we will arrange a pick-up.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH visit: **PINESpc.org**

APRIL AGAPE OFFERING
BENEFITTING
FOOD BAGS FOR NEEDY SHERWOOD ELEM FAMILIES

The April Agape offering will help us fill food bags for Sherwood Elementary families identified by Communities In Schools as being extremely economically disadvantaged.....or really needy. The Missions Committee makes up food bags all year for this special group of friends. You may have noticed the groceries stored in the Missions room. This is where we gather and pack the food items so they're ready to go when we get the call from Sherwood's Communities In School coordinator. Covid and the recent winter storm have made the need for basic groceries more desperate than ever. These families were already struggling before this double whammy.

Every food bag contains the following items:

Spaghetti noodles	spaghetti sauce	Spaghettio's/ravioli
Long-grain, white rice	dry pinto beans	large can of soup
Macaroni & cheese	Manwich	2 cans Vienna sausage
Pork & beans	kid-friendly cereal	4-pack fruit cups
6-pack applesauce	peanut butter	grape jelly
Canned chicken	pop tarts or granola bars	

The cost to fill 10 bags is approximately \$300. Last year we provided over 250 bags. That's a big chunk of the Mission's Committee Service and Outreach budget. That's why we're asking for your help. If you feel led to support this ministry, you may donate any of these items by placing them in the Agape box in the Narthex. If you can't make it to the church with your donations, call Kathy Ropshaw for pickup arrangements.

The Missions Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with shopping, packing, and delivering the food bags. If you'd like to help, contact Kathy Ropshaw by email at kr@jhyi.com. Call the church office to get in touch with her by phone.

What is Communities in Schools?

Communities In Schools (CIS) is a non-profit, national organization that works within public and charter schools to help at-risk students stay in school and perform well. CIS works with schools in Spring Branch ISD by having a full-time counselor in the schools, getting to know the students and their families.

MAM HELPING HOUSTON Homecare Pack



Dish Soap



Roll of Paper Towels



Toilet Paper Rolls



Laundry Detergent



Tote Bags



Anti-bacterial Soap



Household cleaner



Trash Bags



Tissues

Cleaners less than 32 oz. & Individually wrapped items are preferred.

MAM HELPING HOUSTON Sack Lunches



Easy To Open Canned Meat /
Meals -To- Go



Individual Wrap Salted Crackers



Cheese / Peanut Butter Crackers



Vienna Sausage



Standard
Size Paper
Bags



Trail Mix



16.9 oz Water Bottles



Fruit Strips



Protein Bar /
Granola Bar

C.E.N.T.E.R Ministries

Easter Celebration!

Saturday, April 3rd 11:00 AM

Join us at the Center for fun activities:

** "Resurrection Egg" Hunt* *Egg Roll**

Egg Toss* *Arts & Crafts* *Games & Prizes

Free Lunch & Snacks For All!

Bring your Family & Neighbors!



WE ARE PLANNING FOR 200-250 KIDS & ADULTS! WOW!!!

The Center is located behind St. Thomas Presbyterian Church on Memorial Drive.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

HIDING EGGS (2,000 IN ALL!)

SET UP/CLEAN UP

ARTS & CRAFTS

GAMES

FOOD SERVICE

If you can help in any of these areas for an hour or two, please call Cindy in the church office (713-467-2234). Hot dogs will be served!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !!!