



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press April 2026 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org

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Pines Family News & Current Events

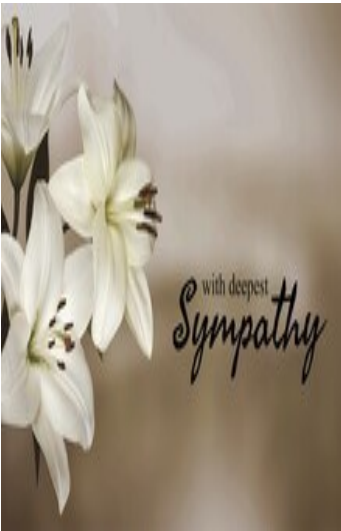
The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. On Fridays, the office staff work from home. If you need assistance Fridays, call Cindy at 832-489-5989.

EASTER IN THE PARK

Join Your Pines Family for Easter Fun and Outreach to our Neighbors

Bendwood Park - April 4
9:00am - Set Up
10:00am- Egg Hunt and Activities

Questions and to Volunteer
Contact Shirley



Pines member Beverly Martin passed away on March 13, 2026.

She and her husband Chic (deceased) had been members of Pines since October of 2000, but Beverly had difficulty making it to worship in recent years. The family had a private service in their home and are thankful for your loving thoughts. Please hold Bev's family in your prayers as they journey through this valley.

Please keep the Aldred family in your prayers. Linda's brother, Mike Manthos, passed away on March 17th unexpectedly. The service was held on March 27th. Pray that the family feels the loving arms of our savior surrounding them during this time of sorrow.

Please keep the Sipp family in your prayers. Connie's mother, Dorothy Bear, passed away on March 22. She was 92 years old. Connie said she had a great life. Pray for Connie as she handles all of the arrangements.

Prayers for the Cezeaux family in the loss of their mom, Pines member Mary Catherine Cezeaux. Mary Catherine had been a member of Pines since December of 1979. A service was held at Pines on March 27th.



BINGO...

May 21, 2026 at 6:30 pm SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us to celebrate the New Year with dinner and a fun game of Bingo. Bring your friends and family. Be sure to let Linda Aldred know you are coming so she can have plenty of food ready!



Pastor's Page

Dear Pines family of faith,

Back in December, Pastor Andy shared news of the Session's formation of an 8-person team to focus with intentionality on discerning God's call for Pines. As this team began its work, we were inspired by the words of Isaiah 43:19: *See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.* Because of this scriptural inspiration, we are introducing the name The Isaiah Project to refer to this work.

What is The Isaiah Project all about? Put simply, we will seek to lead the congregation in prayerful listening to Scripture, one another, and our community as we discern and walk together faithfully toward fulfilling God's plan for Pines.

The project team is working with an external, theologically trained coach to ensure strong progress and skilled guidance. As we continue to prayerfully seek God's will, we have begun our process by first listening to the Session during their retreat at the beginning of March. We listened for the Holy Spirit as we heard our leaders' hopes and dreams.

The next step will be a survey asking open-ended and outward-focused questions to give every member of the Pines congregation an opportunity to share thoughts about our church and our call to ministry. That survey will be available in multiple formats shortly after Easter. Once the survey process is complete, we will study and pray about what you've told us, then use the information in small group listening sessions with you over the following weeks as we all dig deeper into God's call.

We strongly encourage you to participate in the survey and the upcoming small groups. It is an exciting time for Pines!

With prayer and thanksgiving,

The Isaiah Project Team

Mark Babineck

Andy Gans

Mike Lade

Dan Schafer

Terrie Cardwell

Linda Johnson

Beth Patterson

Phil Wetz



The church office will be closed the Monday after Easter. Should you have any questions, we will return on Tuesday April 7th.

Have a Happy Easter!

Want to share a favorite recipe? I am looking for some new appetizer recipes. Send Cindy an email and she will publish it in the next newsletter.



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 to order a live arrangement.
Please email: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred to sign up.


Corny jokes of the month...


How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh? Ten-tickles.
Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything.
How does Moses make tea? He brews.
Where does a dog go when it loses its tail and needs a new one? A re-tail store

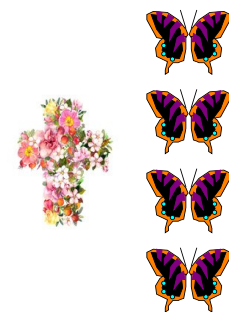


Want to learn to play Mahjong, or are you already a seasoned player? Suzy Wolfe has begun a Mahjong group in the café, the 2nd Thursday of each month near the receptionist desk at 7pm. The next night is April 9th. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.



 The Congregational Fellowship Committee has planned a fun fellowship opportunity for April. We hope you can join us --come with your family or invite a friend to join you!

 **Sunday, April 5th:** Easter Sunday Coffee Fellowship in the Narthex --- fruit, mini-muffins, cookies, juice, and coffee available right after the Sunrise Service and before our regular Easter Sunday Worship.



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. 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!

If you haven't already, be sure to list Pines on your **Randalls or Kroger cards**. There is no cost to you and they donate a percentage of the sale to the church. What an easy way to give back to Pines. Thank you!



The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We have a couple of volunteers currently, but we **need** more and 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. Hours are 9 to 2. If you can help, please give Cindy a call at 713-467-2234 x110.

Do you have any computer skills? Cindy has a very basic project that simply requires one to save each file as a PDF. If you think you can help with this, please call the church office and let Cindy know you have an interest. This volunteer project comes with free training, coffee, and brownies!



Have a few hours to volunteer? There are plenty of things that are needed in the church office. We need help keeping copies made, the office supply room organized, our keys for the building need help, and a variety of other things need action. If you have a few extra hours any day Monday through Thursday 9am to 4pm, please feel free to pop in. Cindy will walk you through where help is needed!

Have you ever thought of volunteering to teach Sunday School? There is always a need to teach, substitute, or give the regular teachers a break in the summer. If interested, talk to Shirley Bollich. **Do you bake?** Get on Shirley's list to bake cookies for various events; memorials services, luncheons, the homebound, or perhaps just someone who needs a lift. **Ever thought of ushering at church on Sunday morning?** It is easy to learn and Chris Wolfe will be glad to walk you through how. Just find him at church on Sunday morning. Ushers and substitutes are always needed!



The Servant Song (Revisited)

During the February 22 worship service led by the Stephen Ministers, Allie Guerra sang the meaningful words from "The Servant Song". In recent years, this song has become one of my favorites because I believe the lyrics accurately describe some aspects of what is involved in working with a Stephen Minister. In particular I will focus on the three sections of the song shown below in italics.

The first section reminds us that there are often challenging times in our lives when we need someone to walk with us. Jesus reminds us in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world". When we face troubles, it is often helpful to have someone to walk with us and that is what Stephen Ministers are trained to do. In so doing, both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister are blessed.

The second section reminds us that we often need others to speak words to provide us with comfort and a sense of peace which in turn can provide the hope needed to keep moving forward. This does not imply that Stephen Ministers have answers to one's problems, but they do pledge to be present on a regular basis and share words of hope and comfort.

The third section reminds us that our journeys will be filled with weeping and laughter as well as joy and sorrow. A Stephen Minister promises to walk with a care receiver through ALL of the emotional stages one might encounter.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you in the nighttime of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

Like a Christian servant, a Stephen Minister pledges to follow God's will, love others, and mirror Christ's humility by acknowledging that God is the CUREGIVER and Stephen Ministers are caregivers. If you would like to confidentially discuss the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister, please contact Phil Wetz or Ann Guerra.

Phil Wetz

Contact Us

Sanctuary flowers: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred

Make a donation: Alexis Graham at alexis@pinespc.org or donate on our website at pinespc.org

Add a name to the prayer list: Bethel Strawser at prayer@pinespc.org

Request a bulletin announcement: Laurie Conner at laurie@pinespc.org

Request a newsletter announcement: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Request an announcement for This Week at Pines: Dan Schafer at communication@pinespc.org

Update contact info in our database: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Plan a wedding: Linda Aldred

Add something to our calendar: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Question about our kitchen: Ann Guerra

Question on the Preschool: Connie Pike at connie@pinespc.org

Anything else? Just give the office a call at 713-467-2234 x110

**OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST
PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!**

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact (for phone numbers contact Church Office)
Pines Event	Easter Egg Hunt Needs: A truck or large SUV to transport tables and chairs Volunteers to assist with set-up, running the event, and cleanup	April 4, 2026 10:00am start	Easter in the Park	Shirley Bollich
The Restoration Team	Assist with storm recovery efforts and other community assistance	Ongoing	TBD	www.therestorationteam.org
Taco and A Prayer	Make tacos/share prayers with neighbors. In April it will be on the 10th.	1 st Fridays- (anytime between 6:30-7:30am)	Pines	Margaret Schafer:
Sherwood Elementary	Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20-30 lb. bags)	Fall/Spring	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles:
Sherwood Elementary	Reading Buddies (½ hr. once per week)	2026-27 school year	Sherwood	Dave Coles
Sherwood Elementary	Bulletin Board Team (seasonal)	Jan 2027	Sherwood	Cindy Coles:
Sherwood Elementary	Sherwood Christmas (assistance with organizing event)	November 2026	Pines	Beth Patterson:
Montrose Street Reach	Shop for and deliver food to street ministry	Every other month Thursday evening	Pines to Montrose location	Kathy Ropshaw:
Church Office	Answer phones; office help	1 day/week	Pines	Cindy Houlihan: cindy@pinespc.org
Youth Hand on Hand Apartment Outreach	Assist with preparing food and other activities	Monthly	Pines/ nearby apt. complex	Ron Langston

Pines Monthly Agape Offering

What is the AGAPE Offering? The Greek word Agape (ag-ah-pay) is used in the New Testament to refer to a kind of love that is not necessarily a feeling but a motivation for action, a sacrificial love that voluntarily gives without expecting anything in return. We are called to Agape love through Christ's example. To bring greater awareness of and participation in Pines' "outside our walls" ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Offering** of small, tangible goods or financial donations are scheduled each month. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting items to donate and bring to the donation bin. Watch the monthly fliers in the bulletin, newsletter, and This Week at Pines email for more information.



Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ!

Thank you! Your Pines Missions Committee



Family Stories!

Ray and LaShunda endured a year of unimaginable hardship, both losing their legs and facing daily struggles in a home that wasn't accessible. Yet through it all, their faith, love, and gratitude never wavered.

Thanks to your support, The Restoration Team transformed their home, adding accessibility, safety, and dignity, so they can live with independence and hope.

This gift is an answer to prayers and a reminder that perseverance and compassion can light even the hardest days.

Jon has spent his life caring for his 36-year-old son, Joshua, who is nonverbal and autistic. Despite his own health challenges, Jon's love and dedication have been unwavering, creating a bond that has fostered Joshua's strength and resilience.

For 2 years, they lived without consistent running water, facing significant home damage, drywall issues, and the risk of mold.

The Restoration Team stepped in to repair the plumbing, restore running water, and address home damage. These repairs mean Jon can continue caring for Joshua at home with peace of mind.

For Mary Prejean, getting outside her own home had become nearly impossible. Mary is a wheelchair-bound double amputee, and without a safe ramp, she was effectively confined indoors. Simple moments many of us take for granted, fresh air, visiting with loved ones, stepping outside, were out of reach.

The TRT team installed a wheelchair ramp that has been a life-changing blessing for Mary.

Before we left, we all stood together, Mary, the volunteers, and the TRT team, and cried. Tears of relief. Tears of gratitude. Tears that come when you realize you are not forgotten, and you are not alone.

The Second Saturday of every month is an open volunteer opportunity for individuals, families, and small groups. All skill levels are welcome and we will provide all the necessary tools, materials, and guidance. *If you would like your group, club, society, office, team of eight or more individuals to participate, please contact us to get on our schedule! Go to www.therestorationteam.org to volunteer today!

April Agape - The Mission of Yahweh

TAKE A CHILD TAG FROM THE MISSION OF THE MONTH BOARD OUTSIDE FELLOWSHIP HALL. SHOP AND DROP THE NEW CLOTHES IN THE MISSIONS BOX IN THE NARTHEX.

Help Clothe the Children of The Mission of Yahweh

New Clothing is a REAL Treat and an Ego Booster!

OR

PLACE A CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE, BRING IT TO THE OFFICE OR GO TO PINESPC.ORG OR ZELLE (NOTE: "MOY AGAPE")

Visit us at pinespc.org

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

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 10!
For more information contact Margaret Schafer or the church office.

Presbytery of New Covenant Presbyterian Women
2026 Spring Gathering * Saturday, April 11, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
302 S. Nolan Street, Navasota, Texas

*"Finding Joy in
Jesus, Others and Yourself!"*

Join women of our Presbytery for a meaningful time of fellowship, worship, and inspiring workshops.

- 9:30 am Registration and continental breakfast
- Concludes around 2:30 pm

Come for the conversation. Stay for the inspiration.

Leave refreshed, encouraged, and connected.

Registration Deadline: Monday, March 31st

Make your check payable to: PW – Presbytery of New Covenant

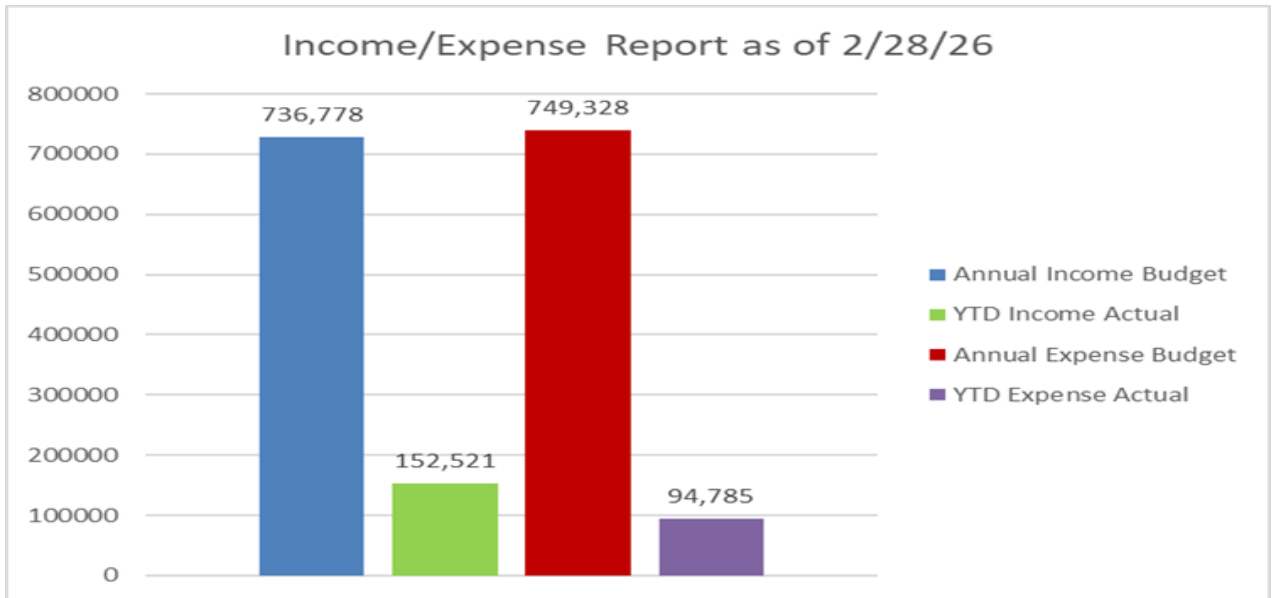
----- Print, then detach registration form and mail with your check -----

Send your registration form and payment to: Cynthia Rogan, Treasure 2410 Colby Bend Drive Katy, Texas 77450 cynthia.rogan@gmail.com / (281) 630-1136		Registration Fee: \$18 First – Time Attendee: \$15 Late/Walk In: \$20	
Name			
Address			
City		Zip Code	
Phone #		E-Mail	
Church		City	
Emergency Contact Name		Phone #	
Will you Attend Breakfast? Yes No		Will you attend lunch? Yes No	
Special Dietary Needs:			

Please send questions or concerns to Linda Walicek, Co-Moderator
lwalicek@gmail.com / 936-218-3858 call or text

REGISTER TODAY!

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES

The February 28, 2026 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

1. Total income received through February 28 was \$152,251 (21% of budget.) Pledge income was \$134,153, ahead of expected budget and unpledged income was \$10,439, slightly below expected budget. Interest income was \$3,628, also ahead of budget.
2. Overall expenses were at \$94,785 (13% of target) which is slightly below expectation. CE, Property, and Staff committees are all underspent through February. Property expenses are favorable due to higher property income from the Preschool.
3. Net income through February was a positive \$57,736.

Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on March 23, 2026. Here are some highlights:

- Revisited and discussed the outcomes from the Session and Staff Retreat with the Isaiah Project Team.
- Heard the Faith Statement of Elder-Elect Valerie Harelson. She will be ordained and installed on March 29, 2026.
- Approved a Memorial Service for Mary Catherine Cezeaux to be held in the Sanctuary at 1:00pm on March 27, 2026.
- Heard a report of positive finances for the year to date.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session

CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRAVEL SERVICES LIMITED

Footsteps of Faith Through Scotland and the Reformation

11 Days: September 1-11, 2026

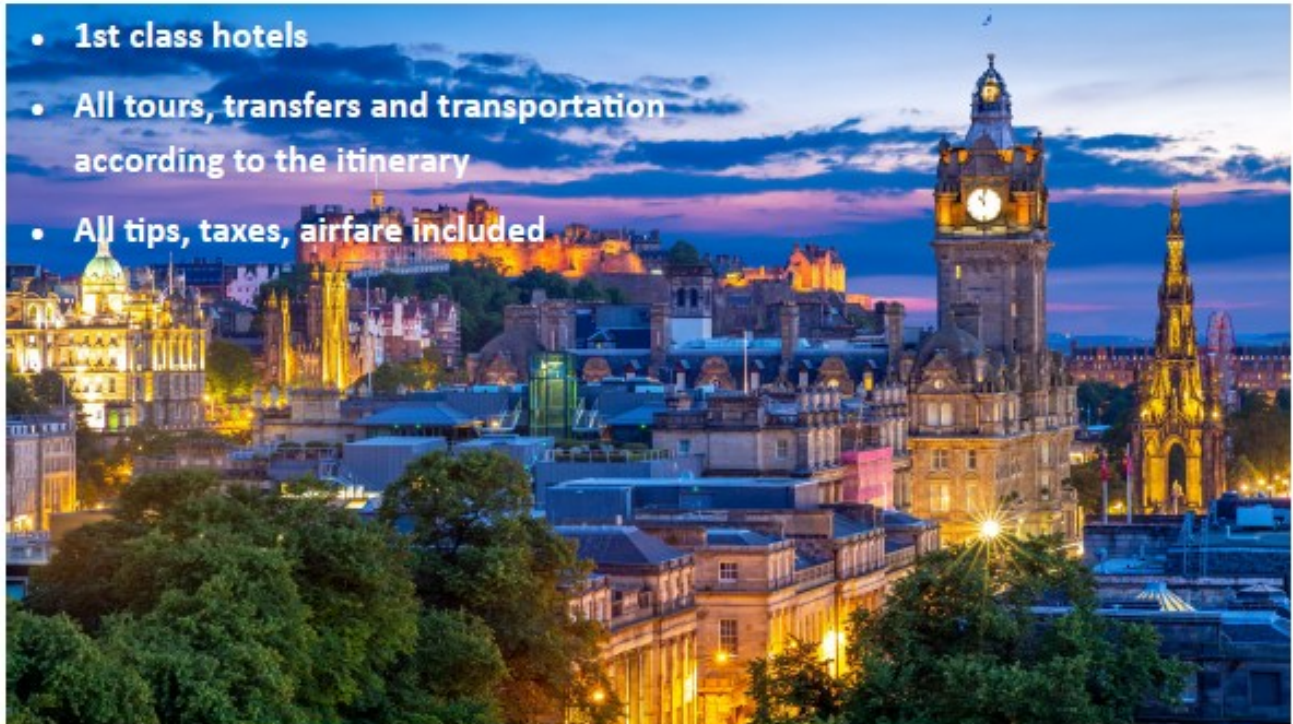
Visiting

Edinburgh • Stirling • Inverness • Loch Ness • Oban
Isle of Skye • Iona • Glencoe • Loch Lomond • Pitlochry

Hosted By:
Rev. Andy Gans

\$5,585 from Houston

- 1st class hotels
- All tours, transfers and transportation according to the itinerary
- All tips, taxes, airfare included



Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: April 17th (for the May 2026 issue)

Looking for *Things To Do...*

Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center

Natural Oasis

Just 15 minutes from downtown Houston you'll find a park with a lake, ponds, wetlands, woods and prairie. Your family will love exploring this nearby oasis.

Things to Do

Come out for the day to fish, hike, paddle and nature watch. You can visit for free: We don't charge an entry fee!

All facilities and trails are ADA accessible.

HIKING

Walk two miles of trails through various habitats in the park. The Pond Loop Trail takes you past 28 hatchery ponds returned to nature. Along the aptly-named Prairie Trail and Wetland Loop, you'll see examples of coastal habitats.

Explore the park's "green" side while hiking. Look for solar panels, water collection tanks and recycled steel pipes. Download our Guide to Alternative Energy and Green Building at Sheldon Lake Environmental Learning Center | PDF.

Take a virtual tour with our interactive trails map.

FISHING

You can fish without a license here!

Fish the 1,200-acre Sheldon Lake from boat or bank. Throw in a line at the fishing area off Garrett Road. Launch boats from the south boat ramp on Pineland Road; boats must not exceed headway speed. Learn more about fishing at Sheldon Lake.

Families (children with adults) can drop a line in one of our two fishing ponds, which are catch-and-release only.

PADDLING

Bring your own kayak or canoe and explore Sheldon Lake.

NATURE WATCHING

This park is teeming with things to see, from birds to alligators, prairie grasses to wildflowers, trees to aquatic plants, butterflies to grasshoppers. Bring binoculars to see details and cameras to capture memories.

The 82-foot John Jacob Observation Tower features panoramic views of the park, the distant Houston skyline, and the San Jacinto Monument! The tower has two observation decks, one accessed by ramp and the other by stairs and elevator.

Visit our Wildscape demonstration garden for ideas on using native plants to attract wildlife to your backyard. Alligators live in the park; read our alligator safety tips before your visit.

