



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, September 2023

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234



Taco and a Prayer is **BACK!**
Starting September 8

Come at 6:30am to cook and roll tacos.

**Or come at 7:15am
to hand out tacos and prayers.**

Contact Margaret Schafer for more info.

New Sunday School Classes Coming September 10!

Explorers - "The Promised Land" series by Ray Vander Laan - Video and Discussion -
Led by Sandra Johanneman

Foundations - "The New Testament You Never Knew" series by N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird - Video and
Discussion - ZOOM Available - Led by Margaret Schafer

NEW ADULT CLASS! - "Walking and Learning Together" - Sharing and Discussion as we travel our Faith
Journey - Led by Phil Wetz and Ann Guerra

Children up to Sixth Grade - "Hands-On Bible Curriculum" - Guiding kids through the Bible

Youth - Finishing up our study of "The Story" - Stay tuned for a new adventure starting in October.

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.



Welcome to **Susana Clare Filer!** She is the daughter of Marc and Kara Filer and granddaughter of Phil and Linda Johnson.



(We're baaack.....)

Join Us in Fellowship Hall
September 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Food, Fellowship and BINGO!

RSVP to
Linda Aldred or the Church Office

Together @ PINES+

A Special Invitation to All Pines Women

Our three Presbyterian Women's Circles at Pines invite you to share in study and fellowship for the next year! Our Circles are briefly described below, and I encourage you to contact the leaders for more information.

Clara Gay Circle is studying the PW Horizons study titled "Sacred Encounters". They meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30AM in room C-3. All are welcome!

Contact: **Marcia Welsh**

Miriam Circle is also following the "Sacred Encounters" study which is written by women, for women. They meet at 7:00PM in room C-8, the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Contact: **Bethel Strawser**

Potpourri Circle is comprised of women in a variety of ages from twenty something to ageless. They meet the third Tuesday each month and study topics that vary from year to year. This circle meets at various locations and times.

Contact: **Linda Aldred**

Second Sunday Lunch

...is on September 10th. Please join us at Cava, in the Randall's shopping center. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: **September 22** (for the November 2023 issue)



Want to Join a Growing Organization?

The CO+OP is celebrating its 35th anniversary, and we are excited to see what the Lord has in store. One thing we know for sure... we are growing, and we want others to grow with us.

If you know someone looking for a new place to serve where we treat each other like family, offer unique benefits, and operate with integrity, this is for them. We are accepting resumes for the following positions:

Director of Project Management

This position will provide oversight of company projects to ensure all deadlines are met and tasks are on schedule. We utilize Basecamp4 as our Project Tool and Salesforce as our CRM. Both can be easily learned. Hours are 3-4 days per week. Please send resume to patti@churchco-op.org or call 832-510-3160.

Relationship Manager

This position is for someone who enjoys connecting people and resources. Whether it is through email, Zoom/Teams, phone, or in person, you would be connecting our member churches, schools, and nonprofits with our reputable vendors to help them shepherd their resources. Please send resume to christophermalott@churchco-op.org or call 832-688-8897.

By the way...Pines is a member of this Co-Op.

Pastor's Page

Warm summer greetings in Christs' name,

This month, during one of our weekly staff meetings, Cindy Houlihan led our devotion time. Cindy read a devotion written by Glenn Miller, no not the Big Band Glenn Miller. The devotion was entitled *Water for Squirrels* and was based on John 4:13-14 which reads; "Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Miller shares the story of the squirrel, he creatively named "Rocky", that arrives every day in his yard to feed or drink. This particular day the temperature was over 105 degrees and Miller noticed that Rocky, instead of lapping up the water in the birdbath or eating a few of the many acorns that had fallen to the ground, was chewing on the potato vine ground cover. As Miller watched Rocky, he thought how we humans are much like Rocky. In times when there is physical or spiritual heat, we don't always reach for the fresh water that sustains us... the Living Water of Jesus Christ.

As our temperatures continue in record setting triple digits, as our world continues to struggle with wars, senseless shootings and division, how are we staying hydrated? How are we seeking the life giving, rehydrating, Living Water of Jesus Christ? We are good at telling our children to make sure they drink plenty of water when they play. We don't want them to get dehydrated, because we know the results when they don't drink enough water. The body begins to shut down.

Several decades ago, the University of Florida Gators football team struggled with practicing and playing in the extreme heat and humidity each summer. The coaches struggled with getting the players back out on the field during these hot days. Not knowing how to replenish their players, one of the coaches went to the school's science department for help. After multiple studies and experiments the scientists realized the players weren't getting the correct hydration, they needed more than just plain water. The result of the study produced a re-hydrating drink that we've come to know as Gatorade. This drink revolutionized college athletics to where Gatorade, or something similar, is now on the sideline of every sporting event in the world.

When times are hot, when they're spiritually or emotionally difficult, we need to look for that which will hydrate us. We need to look for the Living Water of Christ Jesus that fulfills us and prepares us for the work that is ahead of us. We can be like Rocky and chew on that which won't really help us, or we can seek out and drink deep of that which will give us the energy and strength for the battle ahead.

May we all drink deep,



Andy

Family Ministry Calendar for September

PLEASE HELP!

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

Family ministry calendar September:

3 pines youth 6-8pm French Fry Battle
 13 pines youth 6-7:30pm Nooma
 17 Pines Youth 6-7:30 It's in the Cards
 29 Parents Night Out 5:30-8:30pm

Sunday Sept 3- special Sunday school hour for all children in fellowship hall- Hospitality

All Sundays Sunday school
 Children 9:15-10:15am
 Youth 9:30-10:30am
 Nursery 9:00-noon Ages birth-4
 W13 ages 4- 1st grade
 W14 2nd-5th grade
 Children, Hands on Bible/ Youth, The Story

Coming October 29- Trunk or Treat! 2-5pm - looking for those willing to run games or use their vehicle to decorate and distribute candy! See Kristin for more details or to volunteer!



PINES, DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS – What’s better than one historical account of Pines Presbyterian Church? Try two. (1) A book assembled with traditional paper, ink and photos and (2) a modern historical depiction with digital photos dated from 2013. This includes videos and still shots of Christmas, Easter and other holy observances. Our Pines history project will take several months to record and assemble, so please begin gathering photos now. Pines members with personal memories to share should email Sharon Dotson at sharondotson@gmail.com.

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

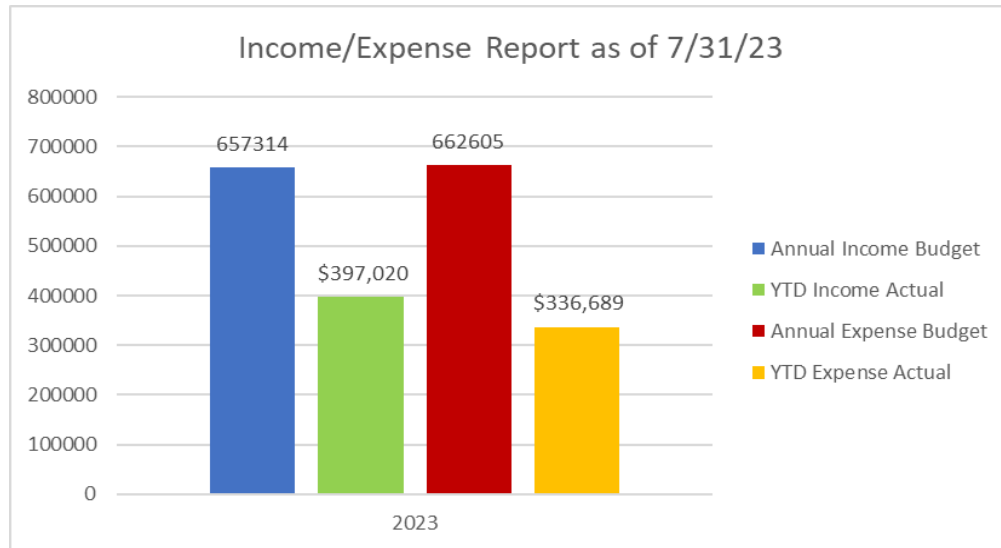
How would you like to have access to that information right on your phone or computer?

Call Alexis 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.



Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES

1. Pledge income for 7 months is right on target for this period. Non-pledge income received through July is well ahead (71%) of the year's budget due to unexpected early gifts and continued strong giving.
2. Overall expenses were underbudget for seven months. Property income is ahead of budget offsetting well controlled property expenditures. Staff committee expenses are right on target.
3. Total Income was \$397,020; total expenses were \$336,689; leaving a Net Income of \$60,331 for July, continuing our very strong income statement for this year.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give...
for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7

Our time of Stewardship is coming a little earlier this year...
Kickoff, September 10; Commitment Sunday, October 8.

Session The Session met for its regular stated meeting on August 28 (Session did not meet in July). Here are some highlights:

- Session approved Amanda and Brad Hofstetter's 2023 Stewardship Campaign. The theme is REAP, which will explore what giving means to each of us. The campaign will commence on September 10, with Commitment Sunday on October 8.
- Session approved a funeral service for Sharron Planck on Sunday, September 3, at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary, to be officiated by Rev. Gans. Sharron visited Pines, and was baptized by Andy in the hospital shortly before her passing.
- Session approved the baptisms of Bob and Lynda Barr's great-grandson, Walker Robert Vazquez; and David Anthony Corral, the son of the Barr's granddaughter Meggan's best friend, Deborah Corral. Meggan and Deborah both grew up in Pines.
- Session approved a Sunday service on November 12 focusing on Thanksgiving and Love, to be led by Pines' Stephen Ministers.
- Session also approved a Wholeness and Healing Service to be conducted on Wednesday, December 6, by Ann Guerra and Phil Wetz.
- Sharon Dotson provided an update on the Pines History Project she is coordinating. A paperbound history book is shaping up to be a memory book going back to 1960. A video with still and moving pictures is also in the works.

Craig Walker, clerk



CONTINUING EDUCATION ... IN AN UNLIKELY SETTING

Even though I have spent 50 hours being trained as a Stephen Minister and attended a full week of classes to be trained as a Stephen Leader in addition to attending continuing education sessions for the past 13 years and having read numerous articles on related issues, I received one of the most impactful “continuing education sessions” I have ever experienced during this year’s youth mission trip in Tulsa. It occurred while our group visited a lower income housing community where we were to help serve food to the residents, interact with them including playing with the children, and share our faith.

After our arrival, many of the youth diligently worked in preparing and serving food to the residents which provided opportunities for interaction. However, my attention focused on the efforts of Marley Langston and her good friend, Katherine Hafling, who began interacting with some of the younger girls who lived in the area (see photo). Although I could not hear their conversations, their physical actions immediately reminded me of what I envision Stephen ministers doing: coming alongside someone in a caring way; listening to them to discern their needs; talking with them; and showing care and concern for them in everything they do. For me, it was like watching a silent movie where words were not needed because all of the girls’ actions gave a clear message – **THEY WERE THERE TO CARE FOR AND LOVE THOSE GIRLS!**

After our return to Houston, Ron Langston spoke to the girls about what they did and received the following comments:

“I carried the girl in my arms to calm her and to comfort her.”

“I sat with her and asked questions. As she answered my questions, she soon became comfortable and began talking freely.”

“The questions we asked centered on them and enabled us to talk and play with them.”

“One major difference between us and the girls we played with is that we have hope for the future whereas, in their lives, real hope is hard to come by. We hope that we brightened that day for the girls by becoming their friends and playing with them.”

Without any training, Marley and Katherine realized they were not “curegivers” and could not solve all of the issues in these girls’ lives. However, as Stephen Ministers do, they engaged in the “ministry of being present” – coming alongside someone to listen, offer hope, share time together and do things in an attempt to help make each day a better one.


If you ever feel that a Stephen Minister could help you during a difficult time in your life, feel free to contact Ann Guerra, Phil Wetz or the church office. **AND CONSIDER ATTENDING WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 15 TO HEAR MORE ABOUT OUR REMARKABLE YOUTH AND WHAT THEY ACCOMPLISHED ON THE TULSA MISSION TRIP.**

Phil Wetz



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

 **Do you have any** orchestra or band instruments taking up space in your closet? Want to find a safe place to keep them where they will be used and appreciated? Call Laurie or the church office and they will help you with that.



September Agape

RAISE UP FAMILIES

Help Stabilize Houston Families


Donate Walmart Gift Cards to support a family's varied needs, from food to clothes for children.

Gift Cards or Financial Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office. Include "September Agape" with your donation. You Can Also Give Online!

Mission@PINES+

MALE OVER 50?
Questions or concerns about PROSTATE CANCER?
Hear the experiences of two Pines members who had prostate cancer. From their awareness of cancer through radiation treatment, and afterwards.
Sunday – October 8, 2023
Join the 30-minute candid discussion in the Parlor, after church service. There will be time for questions.

Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!
Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team for school year 2023-24, and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is. We have the privilege of giving fresh breakfast tacos to folks who might have missed breakfast, or who might not have any other food for the day, or are just hungry for a taco and maybe a prayer. Our cheerful team members bring smiles and warm food to our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. We are rewarded with smiles, occasional cash donations, tears of gratitude, and sometimes even songs (from a school bus driver)! Join us September 8th! For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



Your help is needed for next year's *Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack*. We are looking for a few people who can help us research for grants to help pay for our Mobile Pack. This task will NOT include writing the grant, just looking on the internet for suitable grant opportunities. You will be trained on how and what to look for. If you are interested in researching grant opportunities please contact Tony Samper or Pastor Andy.

REJOICING AND GIVING THANKS

On July 16, I began my 14 mile round trip hike to Lake Verna in Rocky Mountain National Park with the beautiful view of Adams Falls shown in the top photo. The Falls are just outside of Grand Lake, CO and are fed by several mountain lakes including Lake Verna.

As I tried to comprehend the majesty of this view, I remembered the favorite Bible verse of one of the many saints of Pines who has impacted my life. In this case, it was Charles Moody who often shared the words of Psalm 118:24 -- "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

As I began my favorite hike, I began to reflect on the words of the psalmist and acknowledged that it is easy for me to rejoice and give thanks in the midst of a beautiful mountain setting with summer temperatures in the 70's. I realized that there are very few days when I truly REJOICE at the prospect of another day and the opportunities God will give me to share love with His children. While I begin my days with giving thanks, I seldom REJOICE at being given such a precious gift as another day of experiencing God's grace. All too often, my words of gratitude are quickly followed by developing a work plan to handle the tasks of the day.

As I continued my reflection, I remembered that Charles enthusiastically shared the words of the psalmist in EVERY setting. This included doing so on Tuesday mornings when he gathered with cherished friends for the Men's Bible study as well as when I visited him in Methodist hospital while he was receiving dialysis treatments.

By the end of my hike, I had committed to trying to emulate Charles' example of REJOICING and giving thanks in all settings and not just when I am hiking in the Rockies. My first step in trying to fulfill my commitment is making a public pledge to do so in this article. The second step is to ask those reading this article to consider being one of my accountability partners by occasionally asking me how I am doing on my pledge.

In closing, the bottom photo is of Lake Verna which is one of my special places to talk with God. At the conclusion of my hike I did thank God for safely guiding me through a challenging hike and a glorious day which is a complementary practice at the end of a day that I am confident the psalmist would endorse. Thanks in advance for your help!

Phil Wetz



Eagle project update

When Thomas Babineck first embarked in his Eagle project in early 2022, many Pines members gave generously in support. Those funds were used to buy materials for 5 much-needed outdoor storage sheds at the Mission of Yahweh. Those were completed and installed this past April. Thomas and his family would like to thank all those who donated and offered encouragement.

(Here's the team and the finished product)

