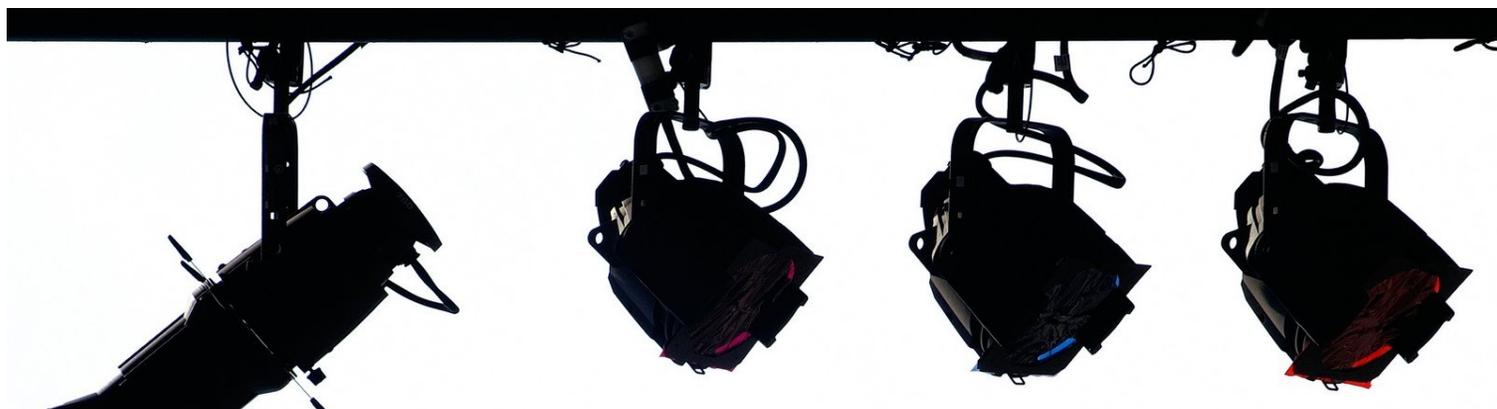




Pines News

JUNE 2019

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



JUNE 2, 2019

FOLLIES!

LOVE SONGS FROM BROADWAY.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Music Department of Pines Presbyterian Church will present FOLLIES! for 2019 **in the Family Life Center on Sunday June 2, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

This year we are presenting "Love Songs of Broadway." Come hear some of your favorite love songs performed by the Chancel Choir, the Pines Orchestra, the Pines Pealers, the Ladies Chorale, the Men's Chorale and soloists at this wonderful evening of music and dining. Again this year, we will have a catered meal for you to enjoy. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted to help offset expenses. Please stop by the table outside the choir room on Sundays May 19 or May 26 to sign up (we need an estimate for ordering purposes) and pick up your tickets to the dinner and show.

See page 6 for more details.

Pines Family News



Congratulations to Jaqueline Otermat and Drew Boone who were married in Tulsa on Saturday, April 27th. Congratulations also go out to: mother Julie Otermat and great aunt and uncle, Art & Suzie Otermat.

Welcome
to the
Family

A big welcome to new Pines member Ethel Kelly. Ethel is already singing in our Pines Chancel choir. Please find Ethel and give her a hearty welcome the next time you see her in the hallway. We are so glad to have you worshipping with us Ethel!



TAAP (Taco and A Prayer)

Would you like to serve our community but not able to attend our breakfast taco deliveries each month? Taco & A Prayer has a job opening! We need a volunteer to be responsible for putting out the banner the Sunday before delivery day. We also need a person who's job each month is to figure out what we want to share with the community as far as Pines events. That person would also create the flyer to go in the bags and would work with other committees to get info to announce. This sounds like 2 jobs but the same person could do both if they choose. Please contact Lesa Smith at lesa.j.smith@sbcglobal.net if you would like to join our TAAP team this way.



This is it!! Mark your calendars and save the date!!!

Tablescapes is coming to an end ~ We are currently in the planning stages for our 10th annual **Tablescapes** which will be presented by the Pines Presbyterian Women on **Saturday, October 5, 2019**. If you are interested in being a hostess or would like to find out more information for this final year, please contact Linda Aldred at 281-734-2043, Connie Sipp at 713-515-3404 or Cindy Houlihan at 713-467-2234. Creative, Imaginative Hostesses are needed and welcomed!! Hostess selections will be based on a first come first served basis and we are filling up very fast so please call soon!

Pines received a check for \$150 that will be placed in the Benevolence account for the shopping you did with the Randall's organization. We also received a check from Kroger for \$73 from your shopping. Thank you and please continue to support Pines by shopping at Randall's, Kroger and Amazon Smile. For more information on how to register at each of these organizations, please see page 5 for the details!



While you're away this summer on vacation, you can keep your giving to Pines consistent by utilizing our online giving option. Visit our website at www.pinespc.org, click on the Donate button and you'll find a secure place to make credit card or ACH payments. You can also set Pines as a recipient in your bank's secure online bill payment center and your bank will generate a check and mail it for you.

**Please mark your calendars with the following
NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:**

June 21 (July 2019)
July 19 (August 2019)
August 23 (July 2019)
September 20 (October 2019)

Bible Quiz....

**Which Gospel is written
by a doctor?**



Answer: Luke

Pastor's Page

Greetings in Christ's name,

Over the past several weeks I have been blessed to have the opportunity to sit with many of you in homes or here at church as I do a "get to know you" tour. The conversations have ranged from favorite food growing up to vision and dreams for Pines. The conversations have been rich with blessings and very informative.

One of the questions I ask the groups is, "what are your hopes and dreams for Pines?" The answer most given is, "We want to grow the church, we need more people in the pews." After that response we often talked about how we make that happen. Several of the suggestions were to have more activities and we try to hold activities outside of the church. We all agreed on several of the ideas that were brought forward, and you may see some of those in the near future.

I agree with the goal of getting more people in the doors of Pines, but our vision needs to be bigger than that if we are to be faithful to the Gospel. My feeling, to be faithful means we share the Gospel message inside our walls and outside our walls, regardless if people join Pines or not. One of the best examples of this is our Taco and a Prayer (TAAP) ministry. For over seven years faithful servants of God have arrived in our kitchen around six in the morning, scrambled eggs, grilled onions, cooked sausage, heated up tortilla shells, mixed in cheese, stuffed, rolled and wrapped over 160 breakfast tacos. These faithful servants then go out to our front drive way to joyfully hand out these unsuspecting Gospel messages. As they are handed out through rolled down windows, prayer requests are taken and prayed for on the spot before the person drives on to the rest of their day.

Some have questioned the success of this ministry and if we are getting any return for the money being spent. Success is in the eye of the beholder, and I believe that in the eyes of God this ministry is a huge success. During the May Taco and a Prayer, drivers were given an opportunity, at their convenience, to participate in an online survey that asked questions regarding TAAP, what they look for in a church, and ideas for Pines to be of service to the community. I'd like to share some of the responses to our survey questions.

Question: What impact do you believe this ministry has on the community?

- *Huge impact - tacos are such a creative way to connect with the community in a non-intimidating manner - defines community outreach
- *I think most people going by have plenty of food. But the importance of the outreach is more than food. Everyone needs to know God loves them and that someone out there cares. It is a very loving way to reach people right by your church, whether or not they want God. Simple, effective and a cheerful ministry. Even when I don't get a taco, it makes me happy to see you out there.
- *I think it's a good thing. It shows that the church is actually blessing others.....

Question: What do/would you look for in a church home?

- *A welcoming open approach. A tolerance for my situation. A simple message of thankfulness, appreciation and unconditional love.
- *Support, advice, acceptance, welcoming

Question: In what ways would you like to see Pines more active in the community?

- *Since I have been job searching (now 8 months), the free breakfasts have been SO motivating, I almost cry after picking up the burritos every time. It's really touching and encouraging. It reminds me that there are others out there, a community, and we are meant to come together for the good of us all. I do get too involved and focused with my responsibilities, and feel I have little time, but would like to make myself come visit.

As you can see this "outside the walls" ministry is making a difference in the lives of those passing by our doors. What are some other ways we can "be out there?" Like many of you, my hope is for Pines to grow, but my dream is to grow the kingdom of God and to creatively touch people with the love and hope of Christ. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

Blessings,



Andy

Youth Happenings!

Coming Soon: Mission Trip Prayer Pals!

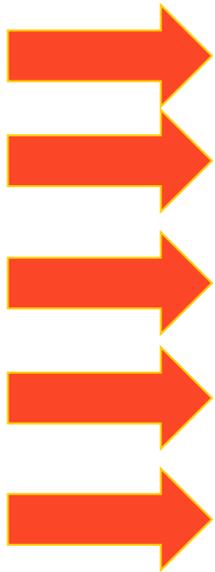


We would love to have you join us in praying for the Youth Ministry as we travel to New Orleans for our Summer Mission Trip!

In the coming weeks, there will be a signup for you to pray for a specific member of our mission team as we prepare to travel during the week of July 8th—July 13th!

Be on the lookout for an official signup outside of the Fellowship Hall coming soon!

Children's Ministry



ROAR! VBS
 Life is wild God is good

Both at Pines

ROAR! VBS
 June 3-7th 9:00AM-12:00PM
 Greetings from our Pines VBS Team!
 We are so excited your family is going to be a part of our Roar VBS.

AFTER VBS CAMP!
TRIUMPH SPORTS

SPORTS CAMP
 June 3-6th 12:00PM-4:00PM
 A multi-sport camp consisting of fun games like dodgeball, kickball & capture the flag.
 Boys & Girls - Ages 5 - 12 years old

Shopping = \$\$ for Pines

If you shop at Randall's, Kroger or Amazon,
YOU can help raise money for Pines Benevolences. Here's how:



1. Get a **Kroger** card & create an account at Kroger.com
2. Click on "Community" & "Enroll Now"
3. Enter Pines' number: **81486. Do this YEARLY!**



1. Get a **Randalls** card and/or take your card to a Randall's Courtesy Booth, fill out a form
2. Ask to link Pines to your card with #2210



1. Create an **Amazon** account online
2. Go to Smile.Amazon.com
3. Click on "Supporting" & put in Pines Presbyterian Church

LAST CHANCE to sign up is NOW!

SPLENDORS OF EASTERN EUROPE
Including The Passion Play Of Oberammergau

11 Days: June 3 - 13, 2020

Prague • Budapest • Vienna • Munich

Hosted By
Pastor Andy Gans

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\$4499 Per Person from Houston

(Air/land tour price is \$4049 plus \$450 government taxes/airline surcharges)

Visiting Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich, and Oberammergau

Price Includes: Roundtrip air from Houston, first class/select hotels, hotels & guesthouses in Oberammergau, first class (Category 1) admissions tickets for the Passion Play, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing with an English-speaking guide and more!!

For a brochure & more information, please contact: Pastor Andy Gans

Tel: (713) 467-2234 / Email: andy@pinespc.org

<http://pinespc.org/trip-to-eastern-europe/>

SPACE IS LIMITED - BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

*This is your last chance to experience the world-famous
Passion Play of Oberammergau until 2030!!*

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

Follies! 2019 will be all about love songs of Broadway. The Men's Chorale will be featuring songs from "Hello Dolly," "The Fantasticks," and "Bye, Bye Birdie." The Ladies will sing tunes from "Oklahoma," and "Calamity Jane." The Pines Pealers will do a great rendition of a song from "The Phantom of the Opera." The Choir will do selections from "Beauty and the Beast," "Oklahoma," "Breakfast at Tiffanys," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Oh, Kay," and "Brigadoon." There will also be solos and duets featuring tunes from "The King and I," "Beatles on Broadway," "Shrek," and other wonderful Broadway shows. The Pines Orchestra will also be playing for your enjoyment.

The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. on June 2, in the Family Life Center (gymnasium) with a catered meal consisting of King Ranch Casserole and a tossed salad. Choir members are baking cookies for dessert. The music will start when the meal is finished, and I promise a wonderful evening of great food and music.

The dinner and show are free, but you will need a ticket. Sign up tables and tickets are available on Sunday May 19 and May 25 just outside the Choir Room.

It will be a magical evening that you will not want to miss. I hope to see you there!

Keep a song in your heart!

Tim



Please join us for Camp Pines 2019!

3-WEEKS OF SUMMER CAMPS

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

with Linda Barber

SPACE IS LIMITED!

WEEK 1 (JUNE 10-13): **OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

WEEK 2 (JUNE 17-20): **TELL ME A STORY**

WEEK 3 (JUNE 24-27): **WET AND WILD!**

Pines Presbyterian
—PRESCHOOL—

Communion Setup Helpers Needed!

Would you like to help us prepare for worship?

This is a small but vital way to serve the ministry of Pines.

Please contact Sue Master at

lou.n.sue@comcast.net

if you're interested and would like to learn more!

Service Beyond The Walls

How are you active and serving in God's Kingdom?

In an effort to lift up and highlight the many ways Pines members are active and serving outward in the community we will be adding a section to the newsletter. This new section will rely on you, our members, to share stories and pictures of ways you see church members serving outward in God's Kingdom. These highlights might be special ways you see people serving within the church and church activities. There might also be occasions where you see our members serving and doing things outside the walls and projects of the church.

This month we would like to highlight a photo of Bill Willis enjoying the gift (a photo of the Elissa) which the Stephen Ministers gave him in appreciation for his efforts in leading the study of the four grief booklets written by Dr Kenneth Haugk.

While we gave the gift to Bill in appreciation for his service to the Pines family, his work with his new "Elissa family" has also given him opportunities to serve "beyond the walls of Pines". For example I know he has shared the grief booklets with several members of his "Elissa family" and personally talked with and cared for them. I know there are also other examples of him using his "Stephen Ministry skills" in that setting.

And thanks to Phil Wetz for sharing this article with us!



GIVING THANKS!

On the Sunday after Easter, Ann Guerra and I facilitated a discussion with the children during Kids' Worship about the importance of giving thanks. We began by reading two scripture verses:

- Colossians 3:17 – “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

In an attempt to put these words into practice, we asked the children to share the things about Pines for which they are thankful. Since many of us will be away for part of the summer months, Ann and I felt it would be timely to share the children's expressions of gratitude about what they experience at Pines while challenging each of us to develop our own list:

- I used to go to a bigger church where I felt no one knew me. When I came to Pines, everyone seemed to know me and began loving me.
- There are no arguments, at least none that I see or hear.
- I go to school here and get to play with my friends.
- All of my teachers make me feel loved.
- I get to learn about Jesus.
- Every time I come, I see friendly and familiar faces who make me feel welcome.
- I love how much people care for and help each other (e.g. after Harvey).
- I like that the church lets people stay here so they can help others.
- When I lost most of my clothes due to Harvey, I got new clothes from the church.
- I love Miss Ashley and how we have fun with her.

We would love to hear why you are grateful to be a part of the Pines family!
Ann Guerra and Phil Wetz

Service Beyond The Walls continued...

Friends -- I cannot go to sleep this evening without sharing my joy after attending the Virtuosi of Houston concert this evening in which Hannah Han played a key role. In order to appreciate what I will share, you need to understand that the orchestra is made up of musicians from ages 11-18, so most are in high school. Hannah was accepted into the orchestra at age 10 last year.

For me the first "surprise" of the evening occurred when I looked in the program and saw that Hannah was awarded fifth place in the orchestra's 2019 Concerto Competition. This is apparently a competition where the orchestra members compete against each other. So these are the best young musicians in the city competing against each other. There is a 1st place in the "Winds Division" and a 1st place in the "Strings Division" and then there are 3rd, 4th and 5th Place awards covering the entire orchestra. Hannah, at the age of 11 and competing against primarily HS students, won 5th Place in the 65+ piece orchestra!!!!!!!!!!!!!! At her age, the only skill I had was being able to organize my baseball cards by team! Of course, Andy, Ron and John will not be surprised to know that 80%+ of cards were for the same team and it was NOT the Houston Colt 45's.

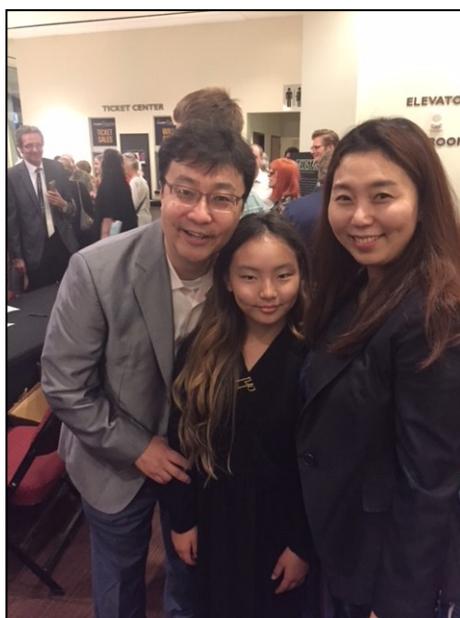
As the program progressed, there was another surprise. A number of orchestra members were selected to speak before the assembled audience and thank people who have supported the orchestra. Hannah was selected to thank the two conductors which she did with poise and confidence. Her remarks were so well done that I just assumed one of the staff people for the orchestra had written them. After the concert, I discovered that I was wrong and that Hannah had written the remarks without any help!!!!!!!!!! One of the photos below is a poor photo of Hannah making her comments.

The final surprise of the evening was another unexpected gift -- seeing Isabella and Nadia Truong who attended the concert. There is a photo below of them with Hannah after the concert. As you can see, they are now beautiful young women but still as gracious as ever.

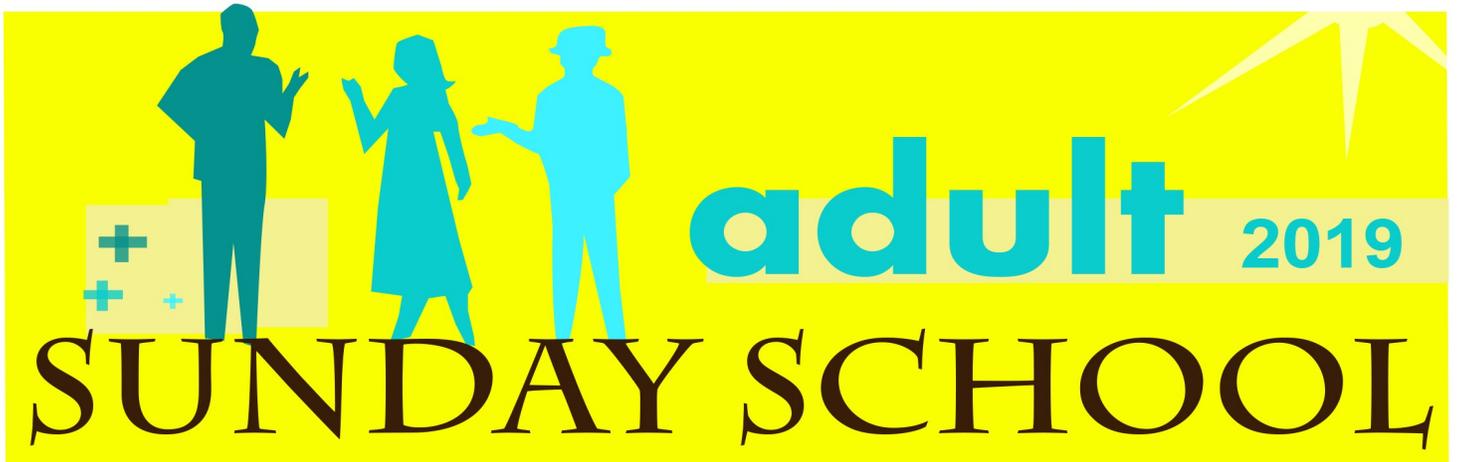
As Andy will remember, one of the conductors described the music by this group as a "spiritual gift" and I totally agree. I feel we need to celebrate Hannah's willingness to provide spiritual musical gifts to the community.

Thanks to Inkyu and Heyreoun for sharing Hannah with the Pines family and the treasured photos below. Best wishes for a blessed week to all. Hopefully I can now wind down enough to go to sleep.

Phil Wetz



Christian Ed for Adults



~ summer ~

Every Sunday morning: **JUNE 2 to SEPT. 8**

Classes meet from **9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

THAT THE **WORLD MAY KNOW**

Join us for this popular video series by Ray VanderLaan. Each lesson is filmed in the Holy Land and offers wonderful insight into the stories of the Bible. This summer we will look at three brand new DVD's in this series.

Leaders: Susan & Mark Babineck, Joan & Tim Jenkinson, Dustin Sullivan | Room: C-3

FRIENDS, BIBLE, BAGELS & COFFEE

We are a group of young adults... in college and out of college...who gather each week to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Our discussions are open and honest as we look at the Christian faith. This summer, we will explore the Bible using the DVD series, "**That the World May Know**". **All are welcome** for bagels, coffee, and a safe place to be and grow.

Facilitators: Linda & Phil Johnson, Cheryl Gans | Room: C-7

HOME GROWN | CHRISTIAN PARENTING

Home Grown is a class in which we'll be building and strengthening friendships while discussing the joys and challenges of parenting and sharing practical wisdom as we discuss the book, "**Home Grown: A Handbook for Christian Parenting**". Are you beginning your parenting journey? We can offer support! Have you been in the trenches and made it out successfully? **We'd love to learn from you! Please join us!**

Leaders: Katie & Cameron Moran, Suzy & Chris Wolfe | Room: C-8

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE AGAPE OFFERING

“Wrapping Up Cancer”



Pines’ Agape offering for the month of June benefits CanCare, a community of survivors that supports cancer patients and caregivers through one-on-one support, empathy, and hope. **Bring lap blankets, shawls, scarves and warm caps to “wrap up” cancer patients in love and hope. CanCare will distribute these items to patients having chemotherapy or other treatment to help keep them warm during and after treatment.**

The Mission at Sherwood Elementary

Can you imagine going to sleep hungry every night? Can you imagine wearing the same dirty clothes every day? Can you imagine not having a backpack for your 1st day of school? For many students, this is their reality! But it does not have to be their reality! And this is why Pines Presbyterian Church has stepped up to the batter’s box to score grand slams for these students the last 25 years!

Since 1994, Pines Presbyterian **has** built a great relationship with a neighboring school, Sherwood Elementary School, through the school district’s program called “Adopt a School”. Sherwood Elementary School is a Title I school with 70% of the students being “At-risk” and 64% of the students being “Economically Disadvantaged” according to the Texas Education Agency. Throughout the year, Pines does an amazing job at closing learning gaps, opportunity gaps, and achievement gaps for these students.

Every August, Pines participates in “Sherwood Back to School Month” by helping Sherwood provide a welcoming learning environment for all students. Pines works on beautifying the landscaping, building classroom cabinets, creating hallway bulletins boards, painting the walls and packing backpacks with school supplies for students. As a community, we want students to walk into Sherwood on the 1st day and know that they are loved, cared for and worthy of an education. Sherwood is a safe place for every student.

Pines provides basic needs to over 100 students including food, clothes, and toiletries. In the fall, Pines provides new books from the school book fair to students who do not have the means to purchase a book. At Thanksgiving, Pines sponsors families to give them the blessing of a Thanksgiving dinner. For Christmas, Pines sets up a Christmas store that enables 40+ families to buy gifts for their children at greatly discounted prices in order to **share the love of Christ** and **spread the** Christmas spirit. Pines also provides Christmas meals to these families. In the spring, Pines provides carnival tickets to students who are making significant strides in their behavior and academics. During the summer, Pines continues to meet the needs of Sherwood students by providing packed lunches once a week. As you can see, Pines volunteers all year round and we always need your help. This is your opportunity to serve a mission within your community.



Sherwood Back to School Month

“Sherwood Elementary would not be the same without Pines Presbyterian Church cheering us on every step of the way. When Sherwood needs help, we know Pines is only a phone call away. We know that our student’s basic needs must be met before they can achieve academic gains. We also know that every student has a story to tell and that every student matters. Our students just need someone to believe in them every day, and here at Sherwood, we are so blessed that we have a whole community that believes in our students. It takes a community to raise a child and we can’t thank Pines enough for being a part of our community! We hope that you continue to support us so we can continue to grow and build towards our future!”

– Monica Jerez, CIS Student Support Specialist at Sherwood Elementary School

“My backpack helps me carry stuff and my school supplies help me write, cut and glue.”

– 2nd grade student at Sherwood Elementary

“Pines have helped me with food because sometimes we don’t have money to buy food.”

– 4th grade student at Sherwood Elementary

“When I saw those carnival tickets, I was relieved and surprised. It was really fun!”

– 5th grade student at Sherwood Elementary



Did you know that Pines Presbyterian Church empowers over 100 students to succeed in school and achieve in life?

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PDA



May 2019



MIDWEST AND NEW ENGLAND VOLUNTEERS

This month we hosted volunteers all the way from Michigan, Iowa, and Boston! How wonderful is it to see amazing people come from all over the country to help with the restoration efforts? God is good!

INNOVATIVE RESILIENCY PRACTICES

With the help of West Street Recovery, we have begun to install muck ready walls and metal cabinets to homes with a high chance of flooding. These practices will hopefully lessen the damage in flood-prone homes.

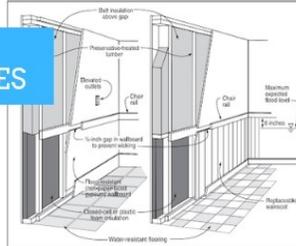
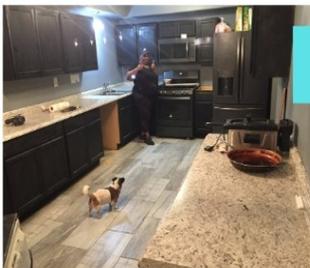


Figure 4. Partial wall flooding technique using flood damage-resistant materials for finished wall construction.



MS. ROSLANE'S HOME

This past month we were able to put a new roof on Ms. Roslane's home. With the help of some of our wonderful volunteers, we were also give her a functional shower and bath and installed new cabinets and counter-tops. It looks great and her dog loves it!

Missions Committee

June Service & Outreach Opportunities

Missions Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of Service & Outreach opportunities. If you are interested in supporting or volunteering please contact Kari Work – kwork@mgcinc.net.

- SWE Summer Soccer Camp: Monday, 06/03 – Thursday, 06/06
 - Prepare and deliver 35 lunches to Sherwood at 11:30am daily



- Mission of Yahweh Summer Blast: Saturday, 06/08
 - Volunteers needed to serve drinks from 11:00am to 2:00pm to the participants



- Sherwood Summer Meals: Sunday, 06/09
 - Volunteers needed to assemble lunches for SWE students residing in the TownPark Apartments from 10:15am to 10:45am



- RaiseUP Families Summer Day Camp: Thursday, 06/20 and Thursday, 06/27
 - Volunteers needed to prepare and serve lunch to day campers at John Knox at 11:30am
 - Volunteers needed to prepare 30 snack bags for the day campers to take home



Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on May 23. Here are some highlights:

- Welcomed Linda Oxley into the Pines family. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for Linda on an upcoming Sunday.
- Approved providing Presbyterian Children's Home and Services the use of Room C 6 as an office for one of their counselors.
- Approved teachers and curriculum for Summer Sunday School, which begins June 2.
- Heard that Pines has been awarded two grants from Presbytery - \$14,000 to help fund the Feed My Starving Children pack in October, and \$1,500 to fund lunches for 75 children at Sherwood Elementary this summer.
- Elected Commissioners to the July 20 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.

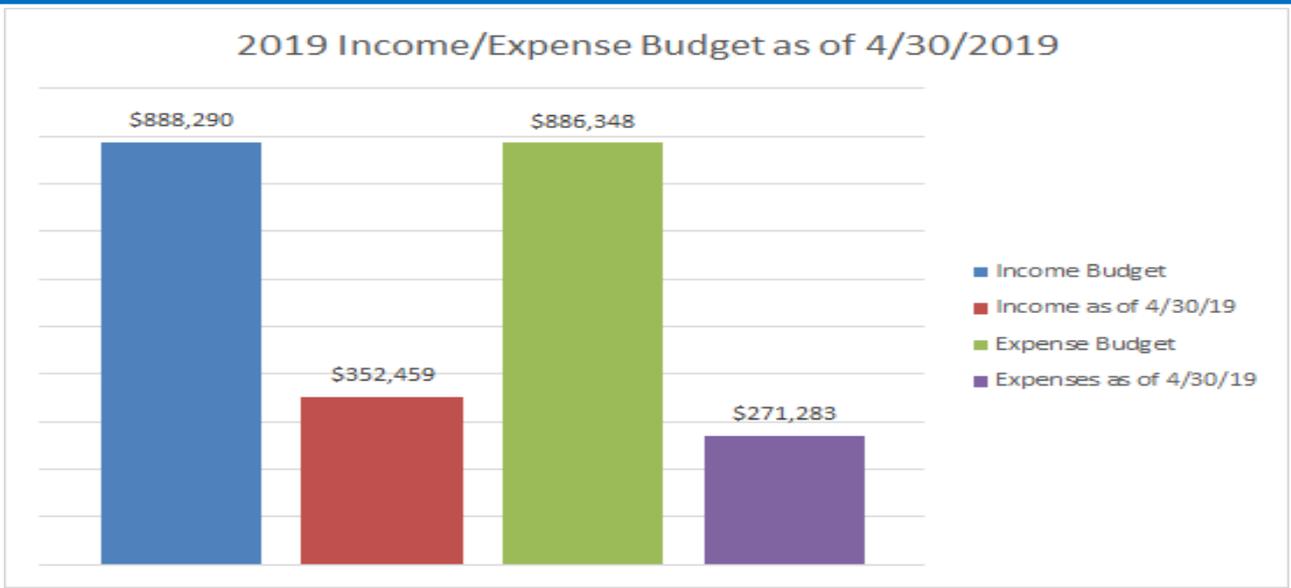
Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session



This PYCC photo in the May/June issue of Connections (see link below) includes our own Danny Williams, Allie Liles and Shana Saucier in the photo.

www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/files/forms/publications/2019_05_May_June_Connections.pdf

Stewardship



THE POWER OF LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

Many of you are familiar with Bob Goff, the author of “Love Does” (and several other books) in which he encourages readers to put their love into action in a world in need of more love. Goff recognizes that each of us has unique gifts which allow us to love in a variety of ways and he encourages everyone to use those special gifts in spreading love.

While reading the April issue of Guideposts, I saw the following quote from Goff:

“Most people need love and acceptance more than they need advice”.

As I read and reflected on those powerful words, I concluded that they are a wonderful summary of the role which Stephen Ministers play. Stephen Ministers do NOT enter a relationship with a “playbook” which says that, if a person is dealing with a certain set of issues, then the corresponding suggestions are made to help the person.

Rather, a Stephen Minister enters a relationship promising to walk with a person in need (the care receiver) while supporting them as they deal with the issues in their lives. The Stephen Minister promises to love the care receiver in a non-judgmental way and to be available on an ongoing basis as the care receiver’s journey continues. We often refer to the latter as “the ministry of being present” because there is great healing power in being with others during difficult times.

If you are ever in a period of your life when you feel a need for someone to walk with you and offer love and acceptance, please contact Barbara Retzlöff to discuss the possibility of working with a trained Stephen Minister. All such relationships are confidential unless the care receiver decides to publicly acknowledge it.

Phil Wetz

