



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press October 2025 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org



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In John 13:34-35, the apostle quotes Jesus as saying, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

This chaotic world demands this as much as ever, and it should be a model for all of us in our daily lives. As a congregation, Pines needs to be a tangible manifestation of this command, and we devote our time, talents and treasure to ensure that keeps happening, as it has for decades.

This being a 2026 Stewardship Campaign article, we're focused right now on the "treasure" part. Sometimes it feels uncomfortable - no one likes to talk about money. But like it or not, most everything we do relies on it, from the most mundane bill or repair to some of the most vital mission and church programs we support.

You probably know by now that our theme this year is structured around the hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love," whose verses call us to be "one in the Spirit", to "walk with each other", and "work with each other". As we build to Commitment Sunday on October 5th, we've meditated on these themes throughout September.

We have opportunities every day to meet Jesus' demands in the Scripture. We hope in 2026 that you'll be able to help us keep doing it collectively through Pines with your pledge support.

Mark Babineck, Stewardship Committee Chair

Pines Family News & Current Events



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 Aldredto sign up.

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 for caring for **YOUR** church!
The Property Committee

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!

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.

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch...

Join us on October 12th right after church, for the next Second Sunday Lunch. We will meet at VIA 313 Pizzeria, 10201 Katy Frwy. Please come have lunch!

Mark your calendars now because Trunk or Treat is coming soon! On Sunday, October 26, 4:00-5:30pm, Pines is hosting Trunk or Treat activities in the Kimberley parking lot. Invite your friends and relations, get your costume ready, and come enjoy all the fun!
Volunteers are needed for candy and prize donations, as well as adults to "man" the booths. See Margaret Schafer or Shirley Bollich to sign up.



Look for details soon on the 2026 Stewardship Campaign, which will culminate on Dedication Sunday, scheduled for October 5th. Please join us on this journey of introspection and giving.

Brown Bag Book Club

Mark your calendar for our fall meeting which will be held on Sunday, October 5th, following our Worship service at 12:30. Linda Crowl will be leading us in a discussion of the book, *The Train to Crystal City*, by Jan Jarboe Russell. This book summarizes a secret FDR approved American internment camp in Texas during WWII, where thousands of families, many U.S. citizens, were incarcerated.



Mark your calendars and come to these Brown Bag book club meetings! Happy Reading!!!

Pastor's Page

Blessings to you,

I have often seen either bumper stickers or signs that read, “No Jesus, No Peace; Know Jesus, Know peace.” At first glance they seem to be wonderful signs about the love Jesus can bring into your life. Which is true, but I don’t think Jesus promised peace if you or I followed him and his ways. When Jesus called the disciples in the Gospel’s of Mark and Matthew he said, “Come, follow me...” He then continued by saying, “I will send you out for people.” (NIV) Jesus did not offer peace to his disciples, he offered a way of life that would cause people to hate you for going against the status quo, for thinking of neighbor before self. He told the disciples if they followed him he would send them out to people. We can see by Jesus’ ministry, he meant ALL types of people; rich, poor, housed, homeless, politician, illiterate, jailed, free, and gentile or Jew.

Today’s emotional, political, and cultural climate is calling us, as followers of the Prince of Peace, to be different. You and I have to be the ones who say “no” to violence, to hate, to division, and to misleading rhetoric. We have to be the lantern that carries and allows the light of Christ to shine in the darkness that is creeping into every aspect of our lives. What we say and do reflects back onto who we say we follow. Our actions, if they are in line with how Jesus Christ calls us to live, will be light in the darkness. We will be the ones who respect the other for their opinions. We will be the ones who enter into conversations knowing that I don’t have to make the other wrong to make me right. We will be the ones who allow God to be the judge and not take judgement into our own hands. Our actions may be seen as subversive to the popular culture of today, but so were Jesus’.

For many, it’s hard to think of Jesus as subversive, but he was. Everything he did turned the tables, figuratively and literally, on culture and society. So how are we, as disciples of Jesus, continuing his ministry? How is this church continuing the subversive ways of the One we call our Savior? I challenge each of you to consider ways how, together, we can bring light into the darkness, justice for “the least of these,” and peace and unity to a divided society.

Let’s make church the place where we strengthen our faith and join together to live out the life Jesus taught us to live. A life centered around those without, seeking justice for those on the fringes of society, those who feel abandoned and betrayed, and those who are hurting. Let’s be able to say to people in Houston, “Come and follow me to a place where we answer Jesus’ call to serve, unite, and love the children of God.”

Come, follow me,



Andy



Family Ministry Calendar for October

PLEASE HELP!

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

October Calendar:

5 Pines Youth noon-1pm

12 Pines Youth noon-1pm

19 Hand on Hand noon-2pm

Each week Sunday School kids 9:15-10:15am; Youth 9:30-10:30am

Join in on Hand on Hand outreach! We had so much fun with our kids bingo last month!



Good afternoon, Council,

This is a huge THANK YOU to our amazingly generous congregations who stepped up with volunteer support during the recent 3 Corners apartment fire disaster.

For many years MAM has reliably provided disaster relief to the community, winning a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and a spot in the **top 4%** of disaster relief agencies **in the country**. But every time we do so, the resale store has experienced a drop in revenues, sometimes substantial, because disaster victims using their vouchers have depleted store inventory faster than we can restock.

NOT THIS TIME!!!! We sent out a call for volunteer restock relief, and our member congregations rose to the challenge! Thanks to your amazingly generous response, resale revenues this time remained steady, and store inventory remained priced and restocked, despite the dozens of families redeeming disaster vouchers and walking out with baskets of clothing, shoes, linens, etc., to start rebuilding their lives. VP Cindy Husband has managed the store and warehouse for over 15 years, and she says it's the first time she remembers Resale ever weathering a disaster response so smoothly.

YOU ROCK!!! Thank you for making MAM one of the preeminent family assistance missions in the country!

Blessings,

Bill

William W. (Bill) Ogden

Faith Liaison

Memorial Assistance Ministries

1625 Blalock Road, Houston, TX 77080

Office: 713-357-9509 | Cell: 713-826-9440

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)





The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Monday through Thursday. 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. If you can help, please give Cindy a call to get on the list 713-467-2234 x110.

Corny jokes for the month...



1. Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon?
It had great food, but no atmosphere.
2. Why don't scientists trust atoms?
Because they make up everything!
3. What do dentists call their x-rays?
Tooth pics!
4. What did one ocean say to the other ocean?
Nothing, it just waved.

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



HELPING A FRIEND IN NEED

Since October is a month with playoff baseball games, I am sharing a photo depicting Baseball Hall of Famers Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese standing together, with Reese putting his arm around Robinson. The Reese and Robinson Monument is located in front of Maimonides Park in Brooklyn.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first black player in the major leagues. Unfortunately, Robinson often encountered hostility. The statue depicts an event which reportedly happened in 1947 in Cincinnati's Crosley Field.

Hecklers at the game reportedly made repeated vile comments aimed at Robinson. At one point, Dodgers' shortstop, Pee Wee Reese, came over, stood by Robinson, and put his arm around his shoulder. No words were recorded as being spoken but none were needed as Reese's gesture simply said that Robinson was not only a teammate, but a friend he cared about.

I am writing this on a Sunday when we sang the following words which reminded me of this inspiring story.

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love*

The story which was the catalyst for the sculpture also reminded me of what Stephen Ministers are called to do. They are Christians who are trained to quietly come alongside people and support them as needed during difficult times in their lives. In doing so, they are attempting to put their Christian faith into action. If you ever feel that a relationship with a Stephen Minister could be helpful, please contact Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz and they would be happy to have a **confidential** discussion with you about the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister.

Phil Wetz



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

Pines Monthly Agape Offering (next page)

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

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact (for phone numbers contact Church Office)
The Restoration Team	Assist with storm recovery efforts and other community assistance	Ongoing	TBD	www.therestorationteam.org
Taco and A Prayer	Make tacos for and share prayers with neighbors	1 st Fridays- (anytime between 6:30-7:30am)	Pines	Margaret Schafer
Sherwood Elementary	Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20 lb. bags)	Fall/Spring	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
	Reading Buddies	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy & Dave Coles, Val Aldred
	Bulletin Board Team	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy Coles
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	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 apartment complex	Kristin Beall kristin@pinespc.org
Mission of Yahweh	Assist with leading Sunday evening Children's Church (2-11 yrs old)	Sundays 6:30-8:30 (seeking 1 Sunday/mo. commitment)	Mission of Yahweh	Janet Gay (Mission of Yahweh volunteer) Janetolson.gay@missionofyahweh.com

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 October 3rd!
For more information contact Margaret Schafer or the church office.



and a



Session

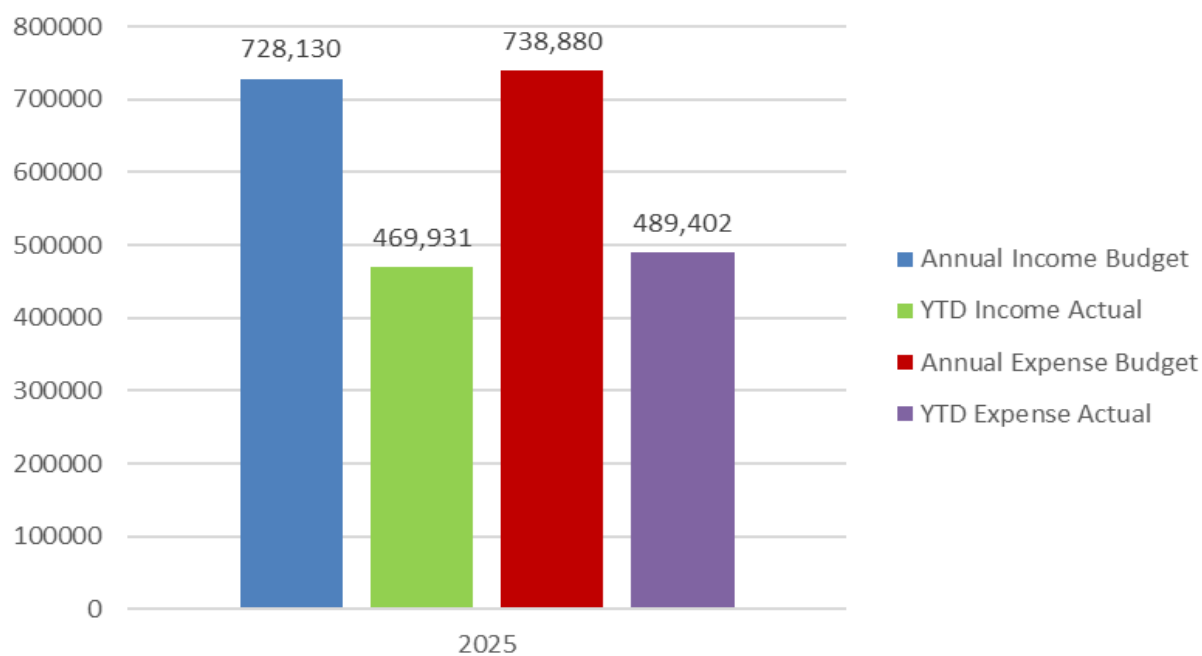
The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on September 22, 2025.
Here are some highlights:

- Welcomed Ben Jia and Hellen Wang into the Pines family through Profession of Faith. Ben and Hellen will be baptized during worship on September 28.
- Elders presented their 2026 pledges during worship at the end of the meeting.
- Heard updates on the air conditioning and bathroom repair/remodel situations.
- Heard that income and expenses were on track through eight months.
- Heard a report on the first meeting of the search committee to replace the position previously held by Kristin Beall.
- Received an update on those stepping up to lead the children's and youth ministries. Appealed for more volunteers to help.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer
Clerk of Session

Stewardship

Income/Expense Report as of 8/31/25



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

The August 31, 2025 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

1. Total income received through August 31 was \$469,931 (65% of budget, 2% behind target.) Pledge income was \$369,936 (2% ahead) and unpledged income was \$44,353 (28% behind). Interest income was \$13,002 (6% ahead).
2. Overall expenses were at \$489,402 (1% ahead).
3. Net income through August was (-\$19,471).

Calling all Pines Women:

We invite you to be part of one of our circles, both following the PW study, **Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ**. This study is written by women, for women.

Miriam Circle is a lively group of (mostly) professional (or formerly professional) women, who meet at 6:30pm in room C-8 the second Tuesday of each month.

Contact Bethel Strawser for more information.

Clara Gay Circle meets from 11:30am-1:00pm in room C-3 **also** the second Tuesday of each month. We're a fun group of retired ladies who share great stories and experiences! Contact Marcia Welsh for more information.

Both circles share snack and lesson facilitating opportunities.

We welcome all interested women!

The Potpourri Circle will meet at La Hacienda on October 21st at 11:30. Please contact Linda Aldred for details or to reserve your spot at lunch!



Next BINGO...

November 20, 6:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us for 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!



Want to learn to play Mahjong, or are you already a seasoned player? Suzy Wolfe has begun a Mahjong group in the café, near the receptionist desk each month at 7pm. The next night is August 14th. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.

Sunday Oct 26 from 4-5:30pm is our annual Trunk or Treat!

We need volunteers willing to hand out candy from their car, run a yard game or man the popcorn!

Contact Margaret Schafer to volunteer!

Sign up link [Pines Kids: Trunk Or Treat 2025](#) for publications online/email.



If you would like to opt out of receiving this newsletter, or if your email is going to change, please send a note to cindy@pinespc.org and we will update your record.

The 56th year of Pines Presbyterian Preschool is off to a fun start!
Our theme this year is “It’s a Wonderful Day in the Neighborhood!”
Thank you for your continued support of our preschool.



JOIN US FOR
SECOND SATURDAY

HELP US MAKE HOMES SAFE &
LIVABLE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

OCTOBER 11, 2025
9 AM - 2 PM

**SIGN UP
TODAY!**



Looking for *Things To Do...*



As the weather begins to cool down, have you thought about taking your family for a picnic at the waterfall in the Galleria area? Perhaps bring a ball and play on the green space!



24-May-2025 to 24-Aug-2025

23 households contributed \$47.52 to Pines.

This is an easy and free way to donate to your church. Just go to any Kroger and they will tell you how to register.

Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: October 24 (for the November 2025 issue)

Want to share a favorite recipe? Send Cindy an email and she will publish it in the next newsletter. This one was sent in by Marcia Deison. Bon Appetit!

PUMPKIN SPICE COOKIES

8 oz Cream cheese-softened
1 1/2 C Brown sugar
1/2 C Sugar (white)
2 lg Eggs (room temp)
1 C Canned pumpkin (NOT pumpkin pie filling)
2 tsp Vanilla
3 1/2 C All purpose flour
2 TBSP Pumpkin Pie Spice
1 tsp Baking soda
1 Tsp Salt
1/2 Tsp Baking powder

Preheat oven to 350 degrees
Line cookie sheets with parchment paper
Combine all dry ingredients (except sugars), stir, then set aside
Beat cream cheese and both sugars (brown and white) until smooth
Add eggs one at a time and beat until well incorporated
Beat in pumpkin and vanilla
Gradually add dry ingredients to pumpkin mixture, mixing well between each addition
Drop by tablespoon full (or small cookie scoop) 2 inches apart on cookie sheet
Bake for 10-12 minutes.

GLAZE

2 C Powdered sugar
1/3 C Butter melted
3 Tbsp Boiling water
2 C Pecans (chopped up very small)

Mix powdered sugar with melted butter and enough boiling water to make a thick, creamy consistency.
I use a spoon to dribble the glaze over the cookies and sprinkle with pecans.

Thank you Marsha for sharing your recipe! Can't wait to make this one.
If you have a recipe you would like to share, please send it to cindy@pinespc.org.
We love publishing your recipes!



Important Info...

In the event that the doors are not open for your group, please leave a note on the door to ask group members to call your cell phone for entry. Every group leader should have an entry card to come into the building. If you do not, please contact Cindy in the church office to assist with getting one for you. Propping the doors open not only wastes electricity but also is a danger to those in the building in case of intruders. Please treat your church as your home.
And please, NEVER prop open the doors at any time! Thank you.