



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, February 2022

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234

PINES
YOUTH



bake
sale



Valentine's Bake Sale

Coming Sunday morning Feb 13: Youth Sponsored Bake Sale!

All proceeds support summer mission to Tulsa Oklahoma!

We need bakers to donate their specialty baked good items.

Individually wrapped ready for sale is preferred OR please get to church by Saturday morning (Feb 12th) 10am (on cart by front office) for preparation. Please mark your pans with your name for return and have a note if special dietary such as gluten free or nuts included. AND save the date to purchase and enjoy all the congregations many talents! **Makes great Valentines Day gifts as well as supports a great cause.** Please let Kristin know what you plan to donate so we can plan appropriate variety. Something for everyone!

Pines Family News & Current Events

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Chelsea in the church office at 713-467-2234 to get on the list. Chelsea can also help you sign up to receive our newsletter 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!

Mark your calendar for
Ash Wednesday, March 2nd!
More details will follow at a later date.



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 order a live arrangement.

Please email:

Melissa Gravett at mgravett0123@gmail.com or
Linda Aldred at lindaaldred1@aol.com.

You can also sign up in the Fellowship Hallway on the flower calendar while at church.

The church office
will be closed
Monday,
February 21st
for
President's Day



Pines Family Campout: Are you and your family interested in a relaxing weekend camping out with other Pines families? We have confirmed the date for March 25 through 27th when the temperatures are cooler. We will be staying in rustic state park cabins or bring your own tent or trailer if you desire. We will have fun and games for the whole family, hiking, fishing and, of course, s'mores around the campfire. Drop a quick email to the Pines Adult Ministry team (adults@pinespc.org) and let us know if this sounds like something your family would enjoy.



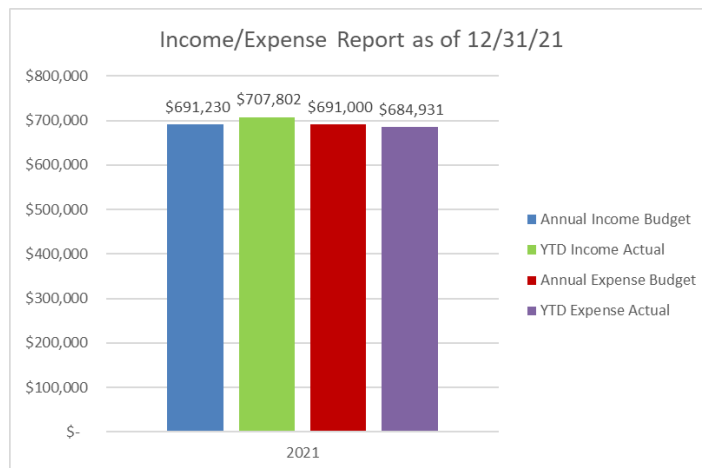
Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:
February 18th (for the March 2022 issue)

Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

It is a privilege to report the year end results for Pines. We are blessed with a generous congregation. Thank you all!!

1. Pledge income exceeded our budget for 12 months operations-- at the end of the year, 101% of budgeted pledge income was received. Non-pledge income also exceeded budget with 111% of non-pledge income received at the end of the year. Total Income for the year was \$707,802, 2% above budgeted income of \$691,230.
2. Overall, committee expenses were below budget expectations – by 1%. Mission expenditures were exactly as budgeted; Property exceeded budget by \$25,000 due to air conditioning repair and maintenance costs; Staff committee was under budget by \$25,000 due to staffing changes and all other committees were mostly under budget.
3. Total Income was \$707,802; total expenses were \$684,931; leaving \$22,871 Net Income for the year. Hallelujah!
4. Significant items on the balance sheet at year end include the receipt of PPP loan funds of \$59,861, \$108,270 in 2022 pledges received in advance (These will be rolled into income at 1/12th per month in 2022), and a Sustaining Gift Fund balance, held at the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, of \$621,576 (an increase in value of \$113,818 over year end 2020.)
5. To date, we have received \$505,880 in pledges for 2022 from 77 pledging families. This is down slightly from 2021. (\$515,500 from 89 families in 2021) The average pledge is \$6,570, a generous increase as compared to \$5,792 in 2021. We received pledges from 10 new pledging families and increased pledges from 27 families. Thanks to all who pledged! Pledges are still being received and help us plan for missions, events and activities for 2022.



Session

- The Session met for its regular stated meeting on January 24. Here are some highlights (including high lights from a special called meeting in December):
- Session welcomed and accepted Amanda, Brad and William Hofstetter, and Patricia Jackson, as new members of Pines.
- Session approved on first reading an amendment to the Policy and Procedures Manual governing annual and special meetings of the Congregation.
- Session approved the 2021 Statistical Report to Presbytery, reflecting among other things 371 active members of Pines as of 12-31-2021.
- The Caring and Worship Committees seek greeters and ushers respectively. Please contact Shirley Bollich or Connie Sipp if you would like to volunteer.

Craig Walker, clerk



Pastor's Page

Greetings in the name of our loving Lord,

Hallmark greeting cards have helped us adopt February as the month of “Love”. Every year on February 14th florist, candy and greeting card shops are historically filled with men buying last minute gifts for the most important person in their life. We give flowers, candy and cards to show someone how much we love and appreciate them. Restaurants are overflowing with parties of two as many take their loved one out for dinner. These are wonderful things to do to show someone you love them, but why just once a year, and why just dinner, flowers, candy and cards? Shouldn't our love be shown on a daily basis if we expect God's love to be shown to us on a daily basis?

Biblically, if we think of love, one of the first scriptures we think about is 1 Corinthians 13. I'm sure you've heard this used at many weddings, and I've even used it at funerals. This scripture talks about the kind of love relationships should be all about. But our word love covers so many different kinds of love we have or feel. We use the word “love” to describe how we feel about chocolate, the Astros, our job, our teammates, our family, and our significant other. One word to describe all these different levels of love. I was reading an article about this passage the other day and the author mentioned that the Greeks had six words to describe love. The Greeks have the word *Eros*, which describes sexual desire. *Philia* describes love towards friends. She goes on to say there is the word *Ludus* which is playful, and casual. The word *Pragma* is longstanding love, like the long standing love a long-married couple enjoys. The Greeks also used the word *Philautia* to describe a kind of self-love. Then there's the word many of us have heard used, *Agape*. This is the love we read about in 1 Corinthians 13. This is a self-sacrificing love. The writer says it's a “radical love for others, grounded in an ethic to care for all of humanity, beyond our differences and despite our immersion in a world addicted to violence. *Agape* is God's love for humankind in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For Christians, *agape* inspires our lives and our call as disciples.”

Agape love is the love God wants for us, and the love God wants us to share. This is why Paul wrote this letter to the church in Corinth. The church was full of bickering, envious, boastful, angry and rude people. Paul knew the only cure for the church was agape love. Agape love sounds good, but are we supposed to have this kind of love, this valentine love with everyone? Does Paul understand there are mean bullies in the world? Does he understand that we have to deal with angry people that aren't so nice to us; people who post or send hurtful things on social media or emails? Yes, he does! Paul knows the only love that heals a community is self-sacrificing love that loves even in the midst of pain and struggle. I know it sounds radical to bring roses and chocolates to someone who's just sent you a nasty email or said mean things about you to others, but this is the kind of love Christ modeled for us through his life and through his death on the cross. It's easy to have these five other kinds of love, but the one Christ calls us to is the agape love. Agape love is patient, not rude, never envious, not boastful or arrogant, it's not irritable, resentful, and it doesn't rejoice in wrongdoing. Agape love rejoices in the truth as it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. This is true valentine love, and it's a love we need to practice every day.

In His love,



Andy



FEBRUARY YOUTH EVENTS

CALENDAR DATES

SMALL GROUP/ Sunday School Bible- The Story

Sundays 9:15am small groups in Senior High Room each Sunday (except this month no Feb 20th while at conclave)

YOUTH GROUP

6pm-7:45pm Bring dinner/food and have Youth Group in Senior High Room: We'll be doing something a bit different each week from working on room renovations, doing a fun lesson, prayer and worship stations, service projects for the church and community and especially lots of games as we rebuild our community. A great entry place to bring in friends. Note: there will NOT be youth group Feb 20th as we return from Conclave Weekend Retreat, but I hope you'll be with us on that!

CONCLAVE Retreat!



Youth Conclave at Cho-Yeh Feb 18-20

Who: All youth 6-12th grade

When: Meet Pines at 4:30pm Friday return to Pines at 3pm Sunday

How Much: Cost is \$150 but Pines sponsors half! (\$75 with registration forms) (if you do not go we humbly ask you to donate the remainder as it is non refundable) We will also cover transportation costs or any incidentals outside of fast food stops for meals

What: A special time with God, others and a beautiful setting to have fun while being stretched in our faith!

Please turn in the Cho-Yeh forms, updated Pines Release form and money to Kristin before February 6 at the latest!

WHAT TO BRING TO CONCLAVE AT CHO-YEH

Medical forms for Pines

Sleeping bag or sheets, pillow, blanket

Towel(s)

All toiletries (i.e. soap, shampoo, toothbrush, deodorant, sunscreen)

Bible, notebook, pen; backpack if desired

Rain gear; insect repellent if desired

Comfortable clothing

Walking shoes, socks; shower shoes if desired

Items for the service project a bonus! - Band-Aids, gauze, anti bacterial wipes, lip balm, Neosporin, masks, or individually wrapped snacks (don't need to bring all these- just some!)

Money for TWO meals while traveling

Money for Trading Post purchases if desired

Water bottle and Flashlight strongly suggested

BAKE SALE! The youth will be sponsoring and benefiting from a Bake Sale on Feb 13th 10am-12:30pm. Please sign up with Kristin to work the table for a 45 minute shift. AND come Saturday Feb 12th at 10am to the Kitchen to help make/ decorate/ prepare items for the sale! If you plan to attend Mission 2022 you need to be part of Saturday or Sunday or see Kristin ahead of time with how you can help! Thank you!

Dear Friends -- I received a brief note from Mt Olive Baptist Church in Lake Charles concerning our Youth Mission Trip last summer and wanted to share the following excerpt:

Our restoration is taking time but little by little it is being done. Work has begun on the sanctuary and we will prayerfully be in by the first of the year, BUT NO LATER THAN EASTER!

Only wish I could be there on that first Sunday when they gather as the place will be ROCKING! And I can just imagine the powerful sermon that will be shared with the faithful.

Thanks again to each of you for what you did to make last year's youth mission trip possible. It continues to enrich my life as do each of you! Phil Wetz



As we move forward in our mission to welcome all by Looking Upward, Growing Inward and Serving Outward, we ask for your help in the following way...

Through our partnership with The Restoration Team, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and The Methodist Disaster Assistance Group (UMCOR), Pines has become quite the missional church. Help us to welcome the many groups we will be hosting here at Pines beginning in February and throughout the summer. You will see people from all across the country coming to stay with us in our Youth areas and in the Gym. Some may worship with us, some may share a meal, or some may just look to have a conversation. I hope each of you will help me in welcoming these strangers coming to help rebuild in our communities around Houston. I have found that when they arrive as strangers, each group has left as our friends.

I am sure you have noticed the additional 2 new shower buildings we received on the back parking lot. These were acquired through a grant offered by our Presbytery. We also have partnered with The Houston Tool Bank and the Houston Food Bank who provided the brightly painted container near the showers. This container is here because we are centrally located in the Houston area. Your support of all of these organizations has allowed Pines to become the beautiful missional church it is today. We hope this mission will continue to grow in outreach to the community for years to come. Your support benefits your neighbors, friends, other organizations and churches. So please help us to welcome these "strangers in our midst" when they are in our church.

Remember...*Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.* Heb 13:2. Cindy Houlihan



Stephen Ministry

One Set of Footprints

One night a man had a dream,
He dreamed he was walking along a beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand....
One belonged to him; the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the foot prints in the sand....
He noticed that many times along the path of his life,
there was only one set of footprints.
He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest
times of his life. This really bothered him and he questioned
the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow
you . You'd walk with me all the way." But I have noticed that
during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one
set of footprints. I don't understand why at times when I needed
you most, you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and I would never,
never leave you during your trials and sufferings. When you see
only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Stephen ministers claim this promise for others and for themselves. If you see the need of a trusted friend as you travel
some of the rocky spots on your road of life, please call Bill Willis. He can be reached through the church office.



♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥

Missions



ANNOUNCING-- MAM TOURS!
LEARN WHERE YOUR SUPPORT TO MAM GOES
PINES TOUR: THURSDAY, FEB 17 at 2 PM.
 Contact the church office or Margaret Schafer



MAM Matters Newsletter

New Year Client Spotlight



Beatrice has been a part of the MAM family for many years, and her journey is one of opportunity, grit, and perseverance. In Mexico, Beatrice worked in education, specifically Pre-K education, but in Houston she was unable to find work in the field that she loved. After learning about MAM from a neighbor, she reached out for guidance and support. MAM enrolled Beatrice in the Family Assistance Program providing emergency assistance to help with rent and utilities, and connected her to our partner, Workforce Solutions, to help with securing employment. Over the years, Beatrice worked in a variety of jobs that did not pay a living wage, making it difficult to be financially stable and independent. In 2015, she committed to actively working with a MAM job coach. Together, they explored her interests and passions, developed a resume that reflected her talents and skills, practiced interviewing to increase her confidence, and celebrated when she landed a job paying \$12/hour, almost twice her original earnings! This was just the beginning for Beatrice...through bundled financial assistance, MAM helped her with rent over the next 3 months and she enrolled in Financial Education and Coaching. Through these MAM programs, Beatrice learned how to develop and follow a budget and created a plan to increase her income.

In 2021, Beatrice's hard work resulted in her securing employment as an Operator at an IT manufacturing company in Houston earning \$30/hour! Her journey from crisis to stability to thriving exemplifies the power of opportunity, community, grit, and perseverance.

Beatrice continues to learn, grow, and thrive. Today, Beatrice has more than a job, she has a stable career! Thank you for being a part of her journey and for creating hope, stability, and belonging....together!



Introducing Second Saturdays with The Restoration Team!

The Second Saturday of every month will now be an open volunteer date for anyone who would like to join. Come alone or bring a friend, we will have an experienced leader and all of the tools and materials you'll need for a fun and meaningful day of home repair. All other Saturdays will remain open as well for group registration. **Our first Second Saturday will be February 12th.**

Sign up at <https://www.therestorationteam.org/volunteer>



**Please congratulate
The Restoration Team's new
Director of Construction, John Work!**

John joined TRT this past summer as an AmeriCorps Project Lead after a long career in the IT industry. Missions have been a big part of John's life and he is looking forward to working with the TRT clients and volunteers to be the hands and feet of God.

YAY, John!





The next AmeriCorps NCCC group will arrive this Sunday, January 30th. This group of 10 young adults will be living at the TRT campus and serving on worksites for the next three months and are in need of meals! A lot of hard work is lined up for them and groups in the past have really appreciated the hospitality of our loving community. They live on a very limited food stipend (\$4 per person a day) and we need to keep them well-fed and full of energy.

If you would be interested in providing a meal or two during their stay, please sign up at

<https://www.therestorationteam.org/volunteer> or email Jacinta at jacinta@trthome.org and we will coordinate scheduling and drop-off times with you.

INSPIRING PURPOSE

The Brookwood Community
2022 Benefit Lunch

Save the Date
Wednesday, April 20, 2022
Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel

Please join us for The Brookwood Community's Biennial Benefit Lunch on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at the Hilton Americas Hotel. We'd love to see you there!

Joni Eareckson Tada, well-known author, radio host, and founder of Joni and Friends, will be our guest speaker, and **Jim McIngvale** will accept the inaugural *Vicki Streit Inspiration Award*.

For information regarding tables and tickets, visit
The Brookwood Community 2022 Benefit Lunch

For questions, contact Donna Gower at donnag@brookwoodcommunity.org or 281.375.2192



OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2022/2023 PINES PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE. YOU WILL HEAR AN OVERVIEW OF OUR SCHOOL, MEET OUR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION.*
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED*



OPEN HOUSE DATES

2-YEAR OLD CLASSES BEES & BUTTERFLIES:

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

3 & 4-YEAR OLD CLASSES FROGS, RAINBOW FISH, TEDDY BEARS & TURTLES:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022
12:30 PM – 1:15 PM

BRIDGE & KINDERGARTEN CLASSES | LADYBUGS & OWLS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022
7:00 – 8:00 PM

WE WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING CURRENT **FAMILY AND CHURCH MEMBER PAPER APPLICATIONS** (CASH OR CHECK ONLY) AT **9AM** ON **JANUARY 24**.

OUR **ONLINE APPLICATION** WILL OPEN AT **2:00 PM** ON **JANUARY 26**. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND ONE OF OUR OPEN HOUSE SESSIONS.

**2022/2023
PRIORITY REGISTRATION:
JANUARY 24 – FEBRUARY 4**

* FACE MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE BUILDING AT OUR OPEN HOUSE EVENTS. THANK YOU!

more info | register: PinesPresbyterianPreschool.com

Looking for something new to do with the family?

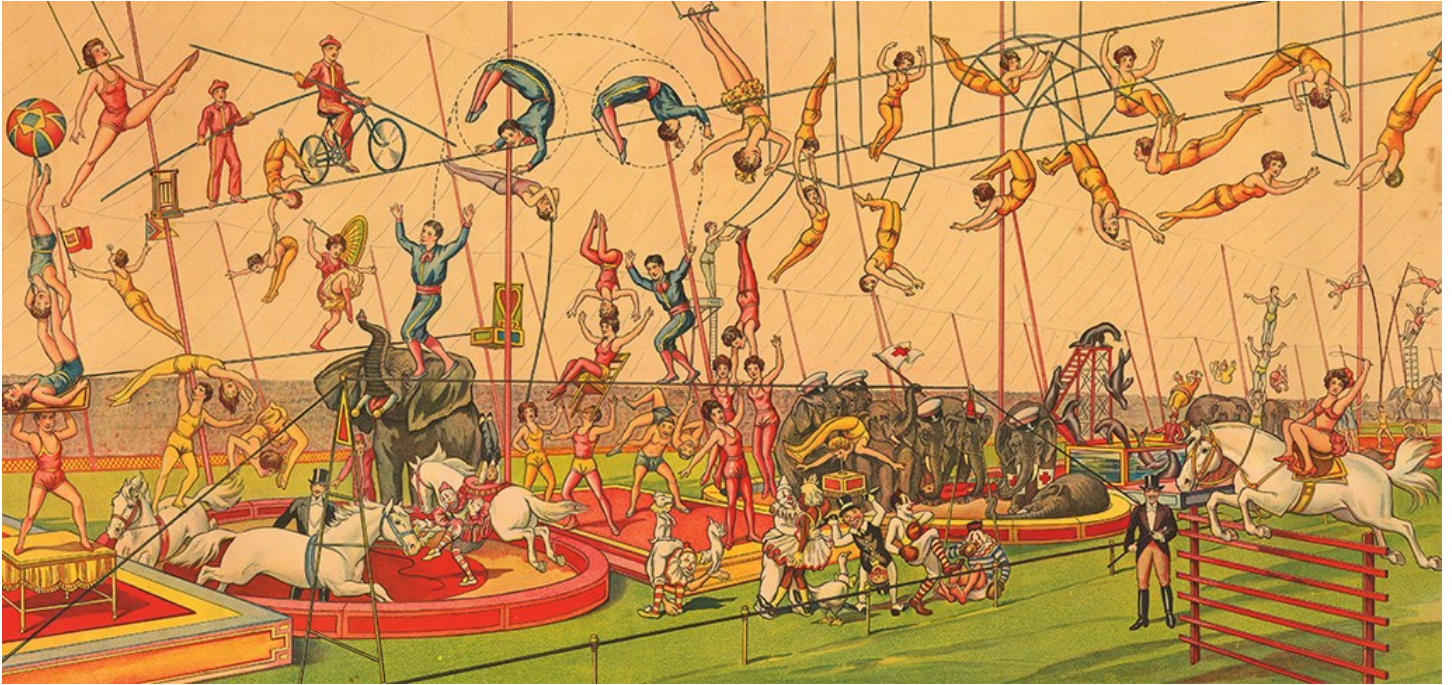


EXHIBIT ON VIEW
January 15-June 18
The Julia Ideson Building
550 McKinney St., 77002 | 832-393-1313

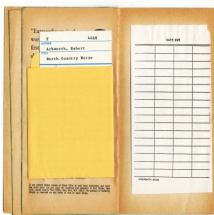
Circuses have entertained and enthralled American audiences since 1793. By the turn of the 20th century, large circuses like Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus traveled the country by rail, boasting mile-long trains that carried death-defying performers, exotic animals, vibrantly painted wagons, and acres of tent canvas. In Houston, like many other towns and cities, circus day was one of the most important days of the year. Businesses and schools would close so everyone could watch dozens of elephants parade down Main Street, see the spectacle, and be transported to another world.

This exhibition features posters, costumes, photos, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia from the Heiser-Alban Collection of Circus Historical Materials, all collected by Houstonian Joseph M. Heiser for almost eighty years.

Plan your visit to [view this exhibit](#) and [find out about other exhibits](#) at HPL!



Pines Library “Book of the Month”



February’s book of the month is:
“The Boys in the Boat” by Daniel James Brown. It is about the trials they went through to get to the gold in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Enjoy!



Have you read any books from the Pines library?
If so, give Cindy a call and let her know which ones you recommend.
We can place them in next month’s edition of the newsletter!