



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, June 2023

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Emma Buelow

Emma is graduating from Xavier High School and wants to thank Pines for their support. She loved growing up here especially attending and then helping with Vacation Bible Camp.



Harris Timmreck

Harris Timmreck will graduate from Stratford High School as valedictorian of his class. Harris is a four year Student Council member and serves as president of the Senior Men. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the Stratford Varsity Baseball team. Harris is a member of Young Life and serves as a freshman Young

Life leader. He founded Spartans for Veterans, a club that assists area Veterans. Harris got his fabulous start at Pines Preschool and treasures his time at Pines with Mr. Phil, his mentor, and Cindy Houlihan, his prayer partner. Next fall, he will attend The University of Texas at Austin where he will study at The McCombs School of Business.



Ryan Lade

Ryan Lade will graduate Summa Cum Laude from Strake Jesuit College Preparatory on May 20, 2023. Ryan grew up at Pines, attended Pines Preschool, and has enjoyed Pines Mission trips to Heifer Ranch, Memphis and Lake Charles. Ryan is an Eagle Scout, a member of

National Honor Society, a two year letterman in Rugby, and also played soccer and football while at Strake. Ryan enjoys playing golf, working out, video games, and spending time with his friends. Ryan plans to attend Texas A&M University in the fall and will be majoring in Biomedical Science with plans to attend dental school.



McKinley Wood

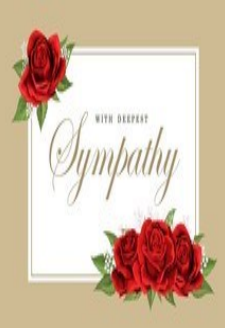
McKinley Wood will graduate from Fort Bend Christian Academy this month and will attend Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, where she received the Marion Merit Scholarship and the School of the Arts Scholarship, to pursue a BFA in Musical Theatre in the

fall. During her time at FBCA, McKinley has served as Troupe President of the International Thespian Society, founded the school's glee club, led weekly chapel services as a vocalist in the school's praise team, earned several fine arts awards for her acting skills in the theatre department and, most recently, McKinley has written and directed her own dramatic play. In her free time, McKinley enjoys ice skating, listening to music, and reading Jane Austen novels. Pines has been McKinley's home church since she was born and she will miss going to Conclaves and the youth events.



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.



- **Prayers for Scott Greene and family** in the passing of our beloved Pines member Carol. She always had a smile and words of encouragement for anyone she came into contact with. Carol was loved by everyone and will be missed.
- **Prayers for Laurie Connor and family** in the passing of her mom, Betty Jane Ayers.
- **Prayers for Tom Moore and family** in the passing of his wife former Pines member Mary Moore. Mary was the daughter of Pines members Guy and Betty Wallace.



Get ready for a Wild Ride through God's Word!

Vacation Bible Camp

June 26-29th

See Kristin for more information or to help!

kristin@pinespc.org

Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: June 23 (for the July 2023 issue)

BROOKWOOD

volunteer@brookwoodcommunity.org or call 281-375-2114

Second Sunday Lunch

...please join us for lunch at Niko Niko's on June 11, right after Worship.

Please come and join in the fellowship!

Church Seeking Nursery Workers: \$12-15 per hour based on age and experience.

Contact kristin@pinespc.org for more information. Pines is looking for people ages 13 and up who are willing to be trained and cleared for childcare in the nursery. Most hours are on Sunday mornings, but special events are also available.

Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace in the name of Christ Jesus,

As a church, we recently celebrated Pentecost. Pentecost is one of the great days in the life of the church, but Pentecost is not an exclusive celebration for Christians. Pentecost was already a time that was celebrated by the Jewish people. It was another festival for the Jews, it was known as the Feast of Weeks... or Shavuot. Shavuot is significant in two ways. First it was a celebration of the wheat harvest in Israel. The faithful would gather and give thanks to God for the gift of the harvest. Secondly, and more importantly for faithful Jews, it was the celebration of God giving Moses the Torah on Mount Sinai. The giving of the Torah was the beginning of a new community of believers. Some would say it was the formation of the Jewish people as a nation.

For Christians... Pentecost is similar in some respects. Our Pentecost is also seven weeks... or fifty days following Passover, or in our case Easter. It too celebrates the formation of a new community by the giving of the Spirit. Recently, I've been thinking about our community. Our beloved community of faith has felt the loss of ten amazing saints as they have gone on to their eternal rest. These losses have been difficult for our church family as many of those folks were the backbone and foundation of this church. Their presence and influence will be greatly missed!

But as I've watched this congregation over the past year, I've also noticed the Holy Spirit moving and building a new community of believers in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary. Each Sunday I see families gathering in that corner to worship with their children. This growing community is significant not only in the life of this church, but also the kingdom of God. These families, and this congregation, are creating our own Shavuot and Pentecost. These children, by their very presence in worship with us are receiving the Torah and the Holy Spirit. I have loved how the children pay attention, and when appropriate, respond with great wisdom to questions I ask. I feel that the children's area is like a garden of rich soil that has been planted with the special seeds of our children and every Sunday they are getting watered and fed by the people they encounter and the Word they are hearing.

The Master Gardner is doing great work in that corner, and you the members of this church are blessing those families by welcoming their whole family into worship. By welcoming these children, we are fulfilling the Matthew 19 verse that says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." May the Spirit continue to move mightily in that corner and in this church as we all seek to learn and worship our living God.

In Christ,



Family Ministry Calendar for May

PLEASE HELP!

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

June Family Ministries:

No Sunday School classes Memorial Weekend- Happy summer! Summer SS classes for children and youth in Senior High room starting June 4th.

June

- 4 Vacation Bible Camp LEADERS meeting 12pm in Fellowship Hall
- 11 Summer Sunday School for Children and Youth in Senior High Room
9:15-10:15am
- 18 Summer Sunday School 9:15-10:15am
- 25 Summer Sunday School 9:15-10:15am
- 26-29 VACATION BIBLE CAMP 9am-11:45am
- July 1 Youth Depart Summer Mission Trip 8am



Vacation Bible Camp: Mosaic Pines Ranch! Get ready for a wild ride through God’s Word!! This year we will begin and end in our sanctuary (parents please drop off/ pick up students there). We will visit a new story and theme each day as we engage in music, snack, game, story room, craft and new this year- science!

Youth serving for a week in Tulsa Oklahoma with Praying Pelican Missions! July 1-7th

Ministry with children’s programs, meal services (to both homeless and low income families), worship, and food banks. There will also be time working at a new arts center for those families unable to afford things such as painting, music lessons, or drama productions for their children. Fourth of July will include supporting a church outreach enjoying fireworks! Please pray for our students as they serve in many unique ways to the community in Tulsa.



continued from the front page...

COLLEGE GRADUATES



Elizabeth Babineck

Elizabeth achieves her undergraduate degree in accounting, with a minor in history, this May from Trinity University in San Antonio. She plans to return to Trinity in the fall to complete the 5 year Masters in Accounting program in May of 2024. Elizabeth interned at PWC this winter and will be working there full time after completing her masters degree.



Joseph Kusko

Joseph is graduating from Texas A&M, College Station with a degree in Aerospace Engineering and a minor in Meteorology. While at college Joseph enjoyed playing French horn in the Aggie Symphonic Band and in Orchestra. He also participated in Quiz Bowl and several design teams. Joseph also shared his skills as a grader for an engineering class and as a lab assistant. He also did an 8 month internship with SpaceX Boca Chica research facility.



Chris Work

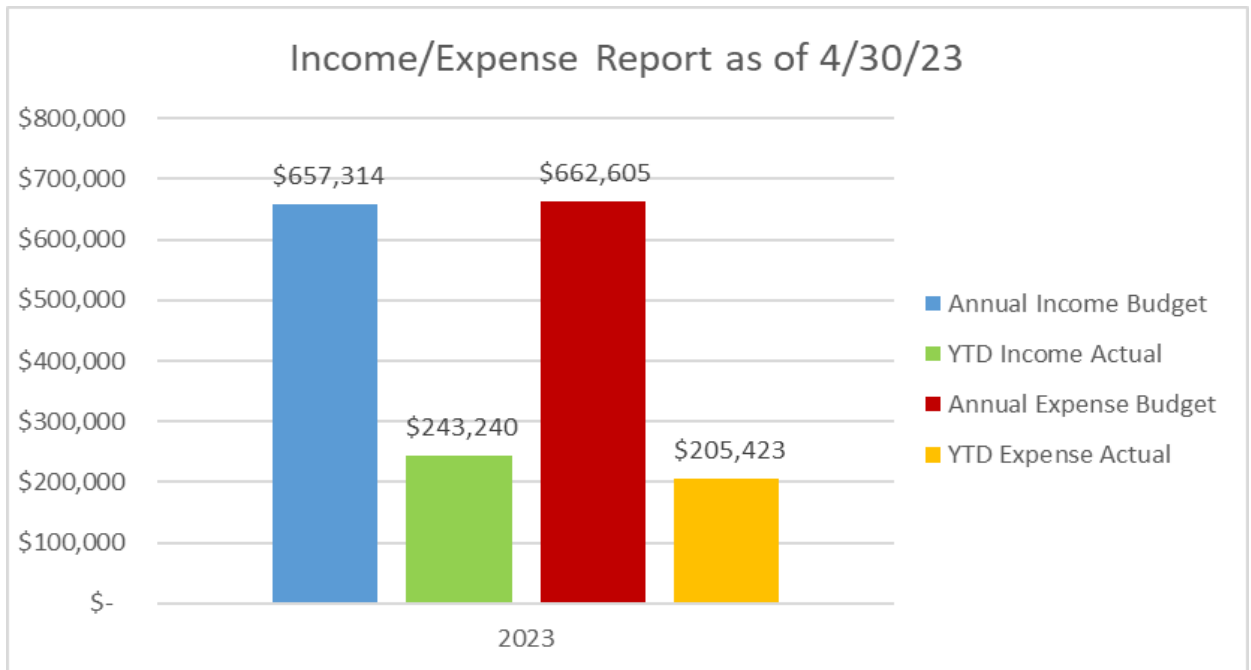
Chris will be graduating from the University of Oklahoma completing his studies at the Michael F. Price College of Business, with a degree in Supply Chain Management. He spent his last 3 summers interning learning various aspects of supply chain. Chris is looking forward to joining the industry to try to create a more sustainable future for all. He wishes to thank his Pines family for the wonderful support given over the years. Boomer Sooner!



Matthew Ward

Matthew attended Pines through middle school with his family, participating in programs like Prayer Pals and mission trips. He just graduated with his Master’s of Science in Finance from SMU after attending Texas Tech for his undergraduate degrees. He will be moving back to Houston this summer to start his career and is looking forward to visiting Pines soon!

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Pledge income for 4 months is slightly ahead of budget. Non-pledge income received through April is 49% of the year's budget due to unexpected early gifts.
2. Overall expenses were underbudget for four months.
3. Total Income was \$243,240; total expenses were \$205,423; leaving a Net Income of \$37,817 for April, still a very good start for the year.

Session

April Session Notes:

The Session met for a called and a regular stated meeting on April 30.

Here are some highlights:

- Session examined, approved, and welcomed new members Jeff and Annie Onstott, and Michael and Tess DeLasalle.
- Session approved the Caring Committee's motion to create a "Tending to Grief" support group to be conducted weekly by Ann Guerra and others beginning June 19.
- Session approved acceptance of a generous gift and endowment from Ramona Buescher to continue to maintain the Kimberley entrance sign (the sign was a gift originally given in memory of Albert Riggs, Ramona's first husband), and an endowment to be invested in the Pines' Sustaining Gift Fund with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, with the interest to support Pines' operating fund.
- The Stewardship Committee will kick off the 2024 Stewardship Campaign earlier this year, beginning on the Back to Church Day in September. Commitment Sunday will be October 8 this year.

May Session Notes:

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on May 22. Here are some highlights:

- Session approved the Trustees' recommendation to invest a generous anonymous gift of \$50,000 in the Pines' Sustaining Gift Fund at Texas Presbyterian Foundation until such time as it may be needed for Property capital projects or other use designated by Session.
- Session approved the Christian Education Committee's motion to use the "Hands on Bible" curriculum in the Fall for children's classes. At the CE Committee's request, Session will also consider and examine possible curriculum for a future all-church study.
- Session approved Fred Ellis as a member of the Property Committee.
- Session endorsed a project suggested by Sharon Dotson to compile a multimedia history of Pines. The last history was in 2010 to coincide with Pines' 50th Jubilee Anniversary. If you have pictures or videos in your collection featuring your family at Pines, please let Sharon know!

Craig Walker, clerk



Does God Seem Distant?

Submitted by Ann Guerra, Stephen Leader

There are times in our life- my life, when I am not sure where God is. As my spiritual journey, faith walk, adventures with God- whatever you want to call them continue to happen in my life, I have a choice. I can choose which way to go. In hindsight, I know there are times I made the journey longer and more painful than I needed to. When I open myself up to knowing I have a choice to trust that God is always there, things don't have to seem as hopeless as I make them out to be. This doesn't mean it is easy. God never, ever promised us a carefree and painless life. Think of Jesus. We are reminded each year during Holy Week and more often if we pick up our Bible and *pay attention* that Jesus suffered. I am **certain** God does not delight in my suffering. I am **certain** He never leaves or forsakes me. The choice is mine. I must find the courage and strength to trust He walks through the valleys with me. I must be as confident in those moments as I am when I am enjoying the mountaintop experiences of my life. My deepest connection to God comes when I can worship Him in spite of pain, thank Him during tough times and trust Him when tempted. At times, I can remember this on my own. Most often, I need community to get through the valleys and the dark times. God places my community right in front of me. Again, I need to make a choice.

If you are experiencing a valley, I encourage you to find your community, your person, your people. Your Pines Stephen Ministry Team is here for you. If you would like to find out more about having a Stephen Minister, please reach out to Phil Wetz or Ann Guerra. You may reach them through the church office at 713-467-2234.


A new support group is coming to Pines on Mondays at 7:00 in the Parlor! Tending to Grief

Tending to Grief is a non-professional support group for any stage/style of grief. It is for all people of all faiths and over the age of 18. The group will meet from 7-8pm in the Parlor. You may come as your schedule allows. The meeting is scheduled every Monday unless it is a holiday week. There is no homework or book to read. Please share this meeting information with your friends. The first meeting will be June 19, 2023. Questions? Contact Ann Guerra

The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones: Monday through Thursday. We have volunteers for some days currently, but 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. By the way, one of our long ago male members (Jack Long) used to answer the phones on occasion...just to give you gentlemen out there something to think about!

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 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 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!

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.

CanCare JUNE AGAPE

A survivor by your side.

Our Agape offering 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 & warm caps to "wrap up" cancer patients in love and hope.

You can also place a check in the offering plate, bring it to the office or give online. Note "CanCare Agape" in the subject line.

PINESPC.ORG

Wrapping Up Cancer.



What a great day of service on May 21 at the **Books Between Kids** Warehouse! Volunteers packed, stickered and sorted books that will go to very happy elementary school kids!

The crew sorted through almost 1500 books in less than 2 hours. Thank you!! Pines donated over 200 books!

BBK would like to extend a huge thank you to the Missions Committee for choosing our non-profit.

Thank you all!
Ann Guerra, President
booksbetweenkids.org



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.

A NOTE FROM ONE OF THE GROUPS WE HOSTED THAT WORKED ON TRT HARVEY RECOVERY...

Dear Cindy and Val,

I am finally catching my breath after returning home from Texas! Last week I served my April session on a Grand Jury that I am on here at home!

I wanted to reach out to you and say “thank you” for your incredible hospitality. We very much appreciated being able to stay at Pines Presbyterian Church in the midst of a very robust and busy ministry that you all do there. I hope we weren’t too much of an inconvenience to all that takes place there. I did want to let you know that we were visited by two squirrels during our time there. I’m not sure how they were getting inside the church. One of them was very tiny and inside the ladies restroom near the kitchen. Here at Luther Acres, where I serve, we had issues with squirrels coming and visiting us as well! I assume you know about the issue, but thought I would share. We were able to return both of them to the outdoors! ☺

Thanks again for your ministry of hospitality!

Peace,

Glenn

The Rev. Glenn A. Beard, Jr., MDiv, BCC

Director, Church Relations & Pastoral Care

Coordinator, Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Network



Reply from Cindy...

Glen, I have never heard of us having squirrels in the bldg. and I have been here for 23 years! I figure they just wanted to give you all a real Texas welcome too! Glad you enjoyed your stay, but more importantly, we are thankful to all of you! One house at a time and we are slowly recovering after 6 years. You were such a gift to the people you helped. I know God smiled at the work that you did. Thank you!! Cindy



A big thanks to these women for all of the time and energy they donate to care for our Pines members and friends in multiple ways. You are all AWESOME!!!



We are considering offering a CPR course to the congregation.

If you would be interested in attending this course, please call or email Cindy in the church office. The class will be \$35 per person.

More details to follow if we get enough interest.

We need a minimum of 20 people to hold the course.

Please email cindy@pinespc.org by June 5th if you are interested.

Thanks!