



Pines to Host 200 Guests!

YOUTH RALLY

"Stumble...Hope...Soar..."
Isaiah 40:29-31

WHEN: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018
10:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
12751 KIMBERLEY LN.
HOUSTON, TX

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 TO KRISTI BLANKMAN,
KBLANKMAN@PBYOFNEWCOVENANT.ORG

MISSION PROJECT - COMFORT CASES

A Comfort Case is a small backpack or duffel bag with the purpose to providing comfort for youth as they enter the foster care system. The backpacks are full of essentials for the first few days in a new place as well as comfort items to help ease a scary transition.

What we'll need:

- Large backpacks and duffel bags
- Pajamas (2T to Adult XXL)
- Toothpaste*
- Lotion*
- Stuffed animals
- Deodorant
- Fleece (1 1/2 yards to make blankets)
- Youth and adult toothbrushes
- Shampoo and Conditioner*
- Soap or Body Wash
- Journals and pens

* unopened travel-size toiletries only, please.



See page 8 for more information on this exciting event!



It's A Boy!

Congratulations to..

Zach and Shana Saucier with the birth of **Landon Zachary Saucier** born on October 16th. Landon weighed 6 lbs, 3 oz and was 18 1/4" long. Be sure to welcome baby Landon when he comes to church!

A Special Thank You to all who made our 7th Annual Tablescapes Luncheon Event a success! The Following hostesses did a wonderful job of transforming the Fellowship Hall into a decorator's dream:

Casey Aldred, Kelly Aldred, Linda Aldred, Susan Babineck, Cathy Bankhead, Lynda Barr, Margy Bohn, Terecia Burgess, Melissa Gravett, Cindy Houlihan, Connie Sipp, and Morgan Stephens

And the Following Men from Pines gallantly volunteered to be our waiters or helped out in the kitchen:

Val Aldred, Bob Barr, David Coles, Rusty Fuller, Tim Holder, Jan Koenig, Bob Lewis, Roger Mowell, Walter Penberthy, Steve Retzloff, and David Sipp.

Warmest thanks again to all who contributed with their time, talent and treasure. Representing the Pines Presbyterian Women, Linda Aldred and Connie Sipp

AND Linda and Connie would never take credit, but they both worked hours upon hours on this event and did a beautiful job! Please give them a hug of thanks next time you see them! Cindy



JUST A REMINDER...

Sunday, November 4th the clocks will "Fall Back" one hour, so remember to change your clocks the night before. This would be a great time to begin a Sunday School class if you are not already doing so!

Please mark your calendars with the following NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:

November 23 (December 2018 newsletter)

December 14 (January 2019 newsletter)

January 18 (February 2019 newsletter)

Bible Quiz....

Paul was shipwrecked on what island?



Answer: Malta

WE HAVE THROWN IN THE TOWEL!

We are looking for someone to prayerfully consider washing the dish towels in the kitchen each week. You would pick them up at church on Sunday and bring them back the following Sunday. If you feel you can help in this way, please give Cindy a call and she will give you the details.

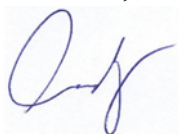
Grace & Peace in the name of Christ,

Often times we look to the scriptures to see the miracles with which God has blessed his people. We love to read about the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea, the saving of Daniel from the jaws of the fierce lion, the ability of Meshack, Shadrack and Abednego to avoid being consumed by the fiery furnace. The New Testament is no different when we read about Jesus healing the blind man, the cripple and the leper, or how about feeding the thousands with a miniscule amount of bread and fish. These are amazing stories of miracles that happened so long ago, but what about miracles since the canonization of the Bible. Do we still hear about God's miraculous work since the time of scriptures?

Enter Oberammergau, a small village located in the southern Bavarian province of Germany. In 1633, the residents of **Oberammergau**, vowed that if God spared them from the **bubonic plague** ravaging the region, they would produce a play thereafter for all time every 10 years depicting the life and death of **Jesus**. The death rate among adults rose from one person per 1000 per year in October 1632 to twenty in the month of March 1633. The adult death rate slowly subsided to one in the month of July 1633. The villagers believed a miracle had occurred and that they had been spared. They kept their part of the vow when the play was first performed in 1634. The play is now known as the *Passion Play* and tradition will hold as the next play is planned for the summer of 2020. The play is a staging of Jesus' **passion**, covering the short final period of his life from his visit to Jerusalem and leading to his execution by crucifixion.

I would like to invite you and friends to join us as we travel to experience this world-renowned time-honored commitment to God's faithful and miraculous works on June 3rd of 2020. Our 11-day tour will take us to some of Europe's most interesting countries including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria and Germany. The scenery is absolutely spectacular as we travel through the plains and valleys of the magnificent eastern European countryside. The points of interest are very diverse, spotlighting historical places and natural wonders. In addition to our time spent in Oberammergau, we will have the opportunity to enjoy visits to the beautiful city of Prague, the enchanting city of Budapest, the elegant and historic musical city of Vienna, and the Bavarian capital of Munich. I hope you will consider joining us on this amazing journey to witness one of the most historic depictions of Christ's passion, and one community's remarkable dedication to their faith.

Our journey will begin on June 3rd, 2020, but we will have an informational meeting on Sunday, November 18 following worship in room C-3. I hope you will consider joining us. In Christ,



See more info on page 5

Youth Happenings!

Our November Youth United event will be the PYCC Rally hosted at Pines! Join us on Sunday, November 11th at 10:45 for a worship service run by the youth of our Presbytery! We encourage you to take this opportunity to enjoy this moment of unity as youth from all over Houston come together and worship, and we want to make sure we welcome them with open arms!

Following worship, there will be a Rally where all of the youth are welcome to join! There will be fellowship, laughter, great food, and a service project. Don't miss this chance to connect with other Middle and High School students from all over our Presbytery!

Questions? Contact Jesse at (713) 467-2234 x121, or jesse@pinespc.org!



Join us from 5:30-7:00 on November 25 for our "O Holy Night" Advent celebration. We will have our Advent play, tree lighting, dinner, and a live nativity. We hope to see you and your family there!



IS the theme for our 2019 Stewardship Campaign. "i AM..." refers to what we think of when we think of Pines. When asked about what members love about Pines they often reply with statements such as, "I am supported", "I am home", "I am challenged", or "I am loved". For many of us we are who we are because of this church, its ministries, missions and its amazing people. As you think about what Pines means to you, the Stewardship Committee invites you to a Stewardship Celebration Luncheon following worship on Sunday, November 4th. Please RSVP to www.pinespc.org/iam if not already done.

We look forward to celebrating all Pines is, and glorifying God, with you on November 4th!

11 Day Splendors in Eastern Europe— Passion Play in Oberammergau

Are you ready to travel? It is with great pleasure and excitement that we invite you to join us on our 11 Days Splendors of Eastern Europe tour with a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend the world famous Passion Play in 2020 in Oberammergau, Germany departing June 3, 2020. The villagers of Oberammergau first performed the play in 1634 in fulfillment of their promise to God for sparing them from the Black Plague, and it has been presented there every 10 years since then.

This tour will take us to some of Europe's most interesting countries including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria and Germany. The scenery is absolutely spectacular as we travel through the plains and valleys of the magnificent eastern European countryside. The points of interest are very diverse spotlighting historical places and natural wonders.

In addition to our time spent in Oberammergau, we will have the opportunity to enjoy visits to Prague, the beautiful 1,000-year-old capital of the Czech Republic; Budapest, Hungary's enchanting capital on the Danube River; Vienna, Austria's elegant city with an old world ambience and a rich musical heritage; and Munich, the capital of Bavaria. The price of our tour includes roundtrip airfare, first class/select hotels, private homes/pensions in Oberammergau, most meals, first class admission tickets for the Passion Play, the services of a professional tour director, taxes, most tips, and sightseeing in a deluxe motor coach. Our cost is \$4,499 per person based on double occupancy and you'll have until 2020 to make the final payment.

We look forward to having you join us on this trip of a lifetime. It promises to be a wonderful experience for all with time to enjoy the fellowship of old friends and new. Nawas International Travel is making the arrangements for us and has earned a reputation for reliability and excellence in their near 70 years of business.

While the year 2020 seems a long way away, NOW is the time to make plans and reserve your place on the tour as space is limited. Don't miss out on this opportunity to see the Passion Play and experience the history, culture and remarkable scenery of Eastern Europe! Space is limited, so if you are interested in this amazing trip please email pastor Andy at andy@pinespc.org

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, we look at the hymn “Count Your Blessings” written by Johnson Oatman, Jr. in 1897. Two of his most popular hymns were “No, Not One” and “Higher Ground.” “Count Your Blessings” was written with this Oatman thought in mind:

“All too often in this great land of America, we seem to lapse into a state of ingratitude, taking for granted all of the blessings and comforts we enjoy. We should give thanks every day for even ordinary things. If the stars in the Milky Way appeared every thousand years, people would rejoice when they appeared, but since they are in the sky every night, we tend to neglect that they are even there. We revert into an attitude of self-satisfaction expecting that peace and bliss will follow us always. During those times we should, with sincerity of heart, count our blessings!

I am so grateful for my Christian heritage, my Christian parents, Pines Presbyterian Church and all who attend, and the wonderful Music Department that God has blessed so richly. Let's all “Count Our Blessings” this month.

Keeping a song in your heart!

Tim

Dear Prayer Partners,

Many of you are faithful to pray the weekly prayer list. That is one of the underlying strengths of Pines Presbyterian Church. Prayer ranks among the most important things any of us does. You are appreciated! Something special is added when we pray together in person, sharing that bond of prayer and caring, that peaceful and refreshing time. Would you like to join us for the praying of the weekly list, plus any other concerns or praises mentioned? The in-person weekly prayer team currently meets at 9:00 am on Wednesdays (the hour before the Wednesday Bible Study) in room C-10. It also coincides with the start time for Pines Preschool, for anyone who brings a child to that. The exact day and time could be negotiable if that would enable someone to participate.

Contact Bethel Strawser by email BethelStrawser5@earthlink.net for further discussion.

Bethel Strawser

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Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Do you know what Stephen Ministry is all about?

Stephen Ministry began at Pines more than 20 years ago and is a one-on-one caring ministry. Our Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of training and even more, they are undergirded by prayer and love as they serve those who are in need of someone to talk with confidentially.

There is a phrase in the Old Testament, *לֵב שִׁמְעֵל* which is often translated “understanding heart” but it literally means “hearing heart”. This is what Stephen Ministers offer to any relationship. They are ones who tune their hearts to listen to both those they are with and to God as they offer love and care. If you are facing some changes in life, grieving, looking for a confidential relationship, in need of a hearing heart...then contact Barbara Retzloff and she will tell you more about this loving ministry.

Agape Communion Offering November

The AGAPE Communion Offering - The Greek word Agape 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, and we remember that example of sacrifice when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. In order to bring greater awareness of and participation in the Service and Outreach "outside our walls" ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Communion Offering** of small, tangible goods will coincide each month with the celebration of Holy Communion. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting an item to donate and bring to the baskets in the narthex on the **first Sunday** of each month.

The Agape Communion Offering for **November** is the **Sherwood Christmas Store**. Take an ornament from the Sherwood Tree in the Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, 10/28 and bring your unwrapped gifts on Nov. 4th. Gifts will be collected through Sunday, November 25th. Gift details can be found on the website and available in the Fellowship Hall.



Sherwood Christmas Store
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
NOVEMBER AGAPE
We need and appreciate your help in stocking the Christmas Store
Place contributions or donations in the **Missions collection bin** located in the Narthex by **Sunday, November 25th**.
PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Pines tradition – The **Sherwood Christmas Store** 2018 will take place on Saturday, December 8th. We need and appreciate your help in stocking the Christmas Store. Ornaments with the age and gender of a child are hanging from the tree located in the Fellowship Hallway. Select an ornament and register your name in the ornament logs. We ask that you spend a minimum of \$40.00 per child keeping the age & gender as indicated in mind when shopping. Please return your numbered ornament and unwrapped gifts to the Sherwood Christmas Tree or place in the Missions collection bin located in the Narthex by Sunday, November 25th.

SUGGESTED TOY DONATIONS

Boys: Football, soccer ball, basketball, scooters, skateboards and helmets, remote controlled cars, handheld video game, sports team logo items, Nerf, Spiderman, Starwars, Batman, train sets, Tonka vehicles, playdoh sets, construction sets (Legos, Bionicle's, Knox), hot wheels, ridding toys.

Girls: Scooters, arts & craft sets, cosmetic sets, nail polish, skateboard or roller blades and helmets, karaoke machine, paint by number sets, dolls, pillow pals, playdoh sets, doctor kits, plastic food & dishes, riding toys, Legos, Barbie's, Melissa and Doug toys, Little People toys, puzzles, dress-up clothes.

This is only a sample – you can always check the toys in the store to see recommended ages.

All toys should be new and unwrapped with an approximate retail value between \$10 and \$50.

Please include extra batteries when required to operate the toy.

If you have questions or need additional information contact

Kari Work – kwork@mgcinc.net



Once again, this year Pines will be ordering Poinsettias from the Brookwood Community to decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. 2018 Poinsettia Signups will begin on November 4th and run through December 2nd. Please stop by the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall to sign up for a Poinsettia *or two*. The cost of each Poinsettia is \$10 and they may be taken home after the 11:00 PM Service on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Session Meeting Notes

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on October 22, 2018. Here are some highlights:

- Made personal phone calls to members to invite them to the Stewardship Celebration on November 4.
- Heard a positive financial report for year-to-date 2018.
- Learned that 30 people have signed up for the Disciple Bible Study beginning October 28 – a great turnout!
- Received a briefing on matters that will come before the Presbytery at its November 17, 2018 meeting.
- Heard an update on the final preparations for the Feed My Starving Children event on November 2-3.
- Received an update on the Shepherding program, which is almost ready to kick off.

Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session

A Message From the Pines Youth Ministry Team

The weekend of Nov 10th – 11th, our high school and middle school will be hosting the Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC) here at Pines. The PYCC is a team of youth and mentoring adults who work together to plan and lead events and activities for the youth of our presbytery. These young people develop leadership skills and grow in their spiritual life, learning to articulate their faith through the journey. They form friendships with youth from other congregations while exploring and sharing their God given gifts.

A team of 45 student and adult leaders will be staying at Pines that weekend. Youth attending the event will participate in small group discussions, play games, make new friends, worship, and create and participate in a dynamic Sunday worship service. The entire Pines family is invited to experience the energy and exuberance of over 200 guests during our normal 10:45 worship hour. What does this mean to all of us? We will be a bit crowded with approximately 200 youth and youth leaders joining us. A good opportunity to stay away? Why miss out on this chance to be a part of this incredible event lead by our future Presbyterian leaders. We anticipate busting at the seams so arrive early, and give a warm Pines welcome to our area youth. Questions or want to help out! Contact Jesse Parker, our Pines Youth Director @ 713-467-2234, ext 121.

"And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity....And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed - keep that dusted off and in use. Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes!"

1 Timothy 4:12-15



Pines Preschool children enjoyed a sweet time during
Donuts with Dad!

