

Growing

Upward,

Inward,

and

Outward...

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Pines Presbyterian

JANUARY 2018

Pines Women's Retreat



January 27, 2018
8:30-2:00

Pines Presbyterian Church
12751 Kimberley Lane

**"Taking Our Pulse:
Living in Time With the Spirit"**

Speaker: Rev. Anne Beall

*Join us for a wonderful day filled with
inspiring talks, good friends,
delicious food and more!*

Registration begins January 7th
Space is limited so sign up ASAP!

Cost: \$10.00
Child Care Provided

Pines Family News



Thanks for all the prayers and cards during my recovery from recent surgery. I have experienced no pain at all which is a true blessing.
Connie Sipp



Do you get the Pines Prayer List each week?

Please contact Genny at genny@pinespc.org or call the church at 713-467-2234 to be added to the prayer email list.

This Week at Pines is sent out every week among several other articles. If you are not receiving this weekly email or other congregational email notices, please contact Genny in the church office at 713-467-2234 or genny@pinespc.org with your current email address. Thank you!



New Members

Please help us give a big welcome to...

Catey and Ashley Gans:

Catey is in school at Furman and Ashley is at SMU.

Cynthia Mills:

Cynthia is our newest

choir member and is a trained chef.

Be sure to introduce yourself next time you see them in the church!



Have something you do with your family for fun? Share that with the church so we can tell others about it.



Looking for somewhere to volunteer?

Call Cindy in the church office. She will help you to find something that fits wherever your gifts lie.



Agape Communion Offering

The Agape Communion Offering for January 7th will benefit Street Reach Ministry .

Street Reach Ministry serves the homeless of Houston in the Presbytery parking lot every Wednesday evening.

Please bring: Socks (preferably tube socks or crew socks) and sweater caps, store bought or handmade. For more information about this wonderful ministry, please speak to someone on the Mission Committee.

Thank you!

A Message From Our Pastor

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Happy New Year in Christ's name,

As I sat with my family watching the seconds of 2017 tick away on New Year's Eve, I couldn't help but think about how much my world changed over the past 365 days. A year ago I was anxiously awaiting my visit to Pines as the PNC and I discerned God's will and calling. A few months later I left my congregation and friends of nine years to journey to my new family of faith here in Houston. I was blessed to have my youngest daughter graduate from high school and enter her college years, luckily not too far up the road. I experienced a hurricane that devastated many, hurt my heart, but gave me hope in God's children as I saw faithful people respond with an agape (self-sacrificing) love that continues to this day. And after nearly eight months, I was finally able to officially call Houston my home with the move of my wife and dog to this great city.

Amazing things have also happened in the life and ministry of Pines. You said good-bye to pastor Lucia and welcomed me. You participated in amazing mission projects, cared for and loved on hurting family members, supported and reached out to Hurricane Harvey victims, and you completed the New Beginnings program. Your passion for God's people and this church is amazing.

As we look into 2018 I want to share with you some of the things your Session, and the Vision and Planning Committee (V&P), have been working on since the completion of the New Beginnings program. The first order of business was the creation of a new vision and mission statement which was completed mid-summer. Thanks to Harvey the annual Session retreat was postponed and finally held in November. The retreat was filled with great energy as we took the results of the New Beginnings gatherings and began dreaming of what we thought Pines could be in the coming months and years, and most importantly how to achieve those dreams. Discussing the results of the New Beginnings process and the many ideas of session members, four priority action areas for 2018 were selected. The areas receiving extensive focus will be the youth ministry program, worship, end-to-end communication/marketing strategy, and every-member outreach. These four areas have each been assigned a special task force charged with investigating the issue, developing a plan, reporting to Session, and then executing the plan.

The Youth Ministry Team will be looking at staffing options for the program as well as developing an interim plan until a staff person can be in place. The worship task force will be evaluating current worship opportunities, while also investigating other options that might appeal to the surrounding population that might not be attending worship. The communications task force will investigate and implement a plan that will help Pines communicate within our family and outside our family using all available 21st century communications platforms. This group will also look into the possible need for an additional staff person to carry out the communication and marketing strategy. Last, but certainly not least will be the Caring Committee developing a ministry plan to reach out and be in contact with every member of our church on an ongoing basis. Our church family is one of the most important resources we have. We need to take care of, walk with, lift up, love on and listen to each of you if we are to be the body of Christ and serve the Kingdom of God.

I am excited about what God is doing, and will do at Pines in 2018! I pray you can join in the excitement as we seek to serve our mighty God.

Happy New Year,



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pines Youth Events

January 5th - High School Mission Trip Sign-up Deadline

Trip is July 1st - 6th performing local Harvey recovery work followed by Schlitterbahn trip. Drop off application in Youth Mailbox by receptionist desk by January 5th. Rising 8th - current 12th grade are eligible to go.

January 7th - Confirmation Kickoff Meeting

Sunday noon to 1:30 in High School room. Lunch will be served.

January 19th - Conclaves Signup Deadline

Conclaves @ Cho-Yeh (March 2nd - 4th); Applications on Youth News board. Drop off in Youth Mailbox.

February 4th - Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon

Pines Youth are hosting the luncheon and will be serving soup following the 11am service. Donations from congregation are welcome and will benefit Spring Branch Blessing in a Backpack.

Pines Youth Celebrates!

A big thank you to the youth and the entire Pines congregation for supporting the Youth Missions Bake Sale. Almost \$2,000 was raised for this summer's mission work.

"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 Kids

Children's Ministry at Pines



New high chairs and booster seats have been added to the Fellowship Hall for our families with babies and toddlers! When we have meals together, please feel free to use them. They are located in the storage closet behind the kitchen.

Epiphany Celebration Coming Soon...

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 7th during Kids Worship (11am worship service) to come and learn more about the journey of the Wise Men to find the baby Jesus in the stable. We will have fun crafts and games to gain a better understanding of what happened after Jesus came to Earth as a baby. Parents, grandparents or anyone else who is available and would like to volunteer to help with this special time, please contact Valerie and let her know. She will be looking for several helping hands!





Journey to the land of the Celts!

Ireland and Northern Ireland are the destinations for the next Pines Pilgrimage. October 2018 will be the date for our travel to the historic home of Celts to learn about their faith and how it has influenced our Christian faith. Preliminary stops will be the cities of Belfast, Armagh, Derry/Londonderry, and Dublin. We plan to journey to the first Christian church started by St. Patrick and other amazing churches built in his honor, several natural wonders such as Monasterboice and the breathtaking Giants Causeway, Trinity College and the Book of Kells, Dublin Castle and many more amazing places.

More information, including dates and pricing, will be coming in the February Newsletter and online. Make your calendars now to make sure you don't miss out on this amazing spiritual and learning experience.

Help Needed

Assistance is needed in the Pines kitchen. We need someone to wash the dishcloths each week. This would require you to take the dishcloths home each Sunday and return them the following Sunday of each week. Sometimes there are only a couple, other times there could be as many as

20. Please consider this much needed gift to the church. (This act of service could be offered by a woman OR a man.) If you can help in this way, please email Cindy in the church office at cindy@pinespc.org. Thank you!

Happy New Year!

Greetings From the Music Department



Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150.

We welcome everyone who would like to musically praise the Lord to consider these opportunities in the Pines Music Department!

The Chancel Choir. The Chancel Choir adds to the 11:00 a.m. morning Worship Services with leading the hymns, providing an Anthem and an Introit. The Chancel Choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room, and again at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays to prepare for the Worship Service. We present a Christmas Cantata every year, and a Good Friday presentation. In June, we have fun in presenting FOLLIES!, a salute to Broadway, with dinner and a show. There are extra called rehearsals for the special presentations, usually on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

The Pines Pealers. This group is the Pines Bell Choir directed by Bethel Strawser. The Pealers are on a winter break at the moment. When the Pealers reconvene, they will rehearse at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Bell Room. They bless the services on the 3rd Sunday of the month with an Anthem, a Chiming of the Hour, and enhancing the congregational singing by playing the hymns. The Pealers also play for special services during the year.

The Pines Orchestra. The Orchestra plays on the second Sunday of the month, providing music for the Prelude, Postlude, and accompanying the hymns during the 11:00 a.m. service. Rehearsal times for this group are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and 8:30 a.m. on the second Sunday before the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. This group also accompanies the Chancel Choir for the Christmas and Easter music.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir. The Children rehearse every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. This wonderful group, directed by Shirley Bollich, blesses the congregation with an Anthem at special times of the year.

The Men's Chorale. The men in this group sing in both services once a month. The music here is mostly gospel. The men also sing at various times during the year for the Buckingham and Parkway Place. We rehearse on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

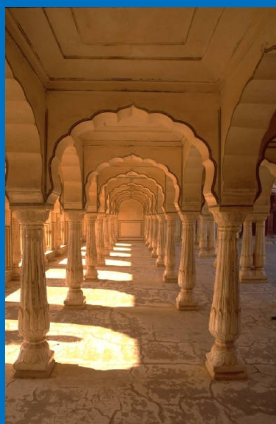
Second Sunday Sing-A-Long. We provide a sing-a-long of old hymns at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the second Sunday of each month. Coffee and refreshments are served, and everyone gets to select the hymn they would like to sing. A fun time of singing and fellowship!

Please prayerfully consider joining one of these musical groups. No audition is necessary, and all are welcome!

Keep a song in your heart! Tim

REMINDER:

Please remember to pay for the flowers you purchased in 2017 if you have not already done so. Thank you!



Session Meeting Notes

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for a Called meeting on December 21. Here are some highlights:

- Welcomed Cynthia Mills, Ashley Gans and Catey Gans to the Pines family.
- Approved a proposal to participate in a program by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in which Pines would receive a student earning a Master's degree in youth ministry as a resident working part-time as the Pines youth director while completing his or her degree. Moving forward would be dependent on the 2018 budget.
- Approved a proposal to allow Asa to access the gym during nighttime hours to be set by Andy. The gym can be locked off from the rest of the building.
- Approved a proposal to move Valerie Mowell from "under contract" to status as a part-time employee of Pines Presbyterian Church, effective January 1, 2018.

18-MONTH to 4-YEAR OLD OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, January 24th 11:45-12:30 pm

11:45-12:05: NEW PARENTS - Preschool Overview in W-12.

12:05-12:30: Parent and child visit room for 2018-2019. Teachers will give overview of the curriculum and answer questions while the children explore the classroom.

BRIDGE & KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 25th 7:00-8:00 pm

Join us as our teachers share the philosophy and curriculum of Pines Preschool. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions while visiting the classrooms. Parents only please.



Stephen Ministry

CANCER, NOW WHAT?

All of us have had family members and/or close friends impacted by the diagnosis of a serious medical condition. At those times, we want to provide comfort and support but often do not know the best way to do so. During the Stephen Leader training session I attended, the staff previewed a new book entitled, "Cancer, Now What?" written by Dr. Kenneth Haugk who founded the Stephen Minister program and supported his wife during her battle with ovarian cancer. Suggestions which I found helpful and wanted to share include:

Your goal is not to make the person who has received the diagnosis feel better or to cheer them up, but to listen in order to provide the chance for them to share what is in their heart

Do not make "promises" you cannot keep or be sure of (e.g. chemo treatments will help you; new discoveries are being made all of the time).

Instead of saying "call me if you need anything", learn what your gifts are and how you can use them to make specific offers to help (e.g. what errands can I do for you? what appointments can I drive you to? when can I care for your pets?). Needs will change so feel free to repeat such offers.

Check in on the caregiver and also give that person the chance to talk.

Sincere written expressions of support are impactful and appreciated even though they probably will not be acknowledged.

Ask if there are specific prayer requests which the person has.

While Stephen Ministers are often called upon to provide support in such situations, we recognize that invaluable support is often provided by family and close friends. We hope these suggestions are helpful to those who encounter such situations. If you are interested in reading more, there is a copy of "Cancer, Now What?" in the Stephen Minister library in Room C-8.

Joining you in Service,

Phil Wetz

Mission Current Events

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 Randalls 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



THE AGAPE OFFERING

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-lead movement of caring that is transforming the nation's biggest weekend of football into a week of giving. Pines Youth, along with youth from across the US will be collecting money and canned goods to help end hunger. Bring your donations to tackle hunger and poverty in our community. Let's change the game! Together we can turn the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring.

Please place your canned good and non-perishable in the collection box located in the Fellowship Hallway and the Narthex. Monetary donations will be collected by Youth following the 9:30 and 11.00am services. Checks are welcome too with a notation of "Souper Bowl" in the memo line.

DONATIONS WILL BENEFIT FAIRHAVEN FOOD PANTRY & SPRING BRANCH BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Pines Youth invite you to the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING luncheon on
Sunday, February 4th.

Youth will be serving SOUP following the 11am service. It's FREE, however donations are welcome and will benefit Spring Branch Blessings in a Backpack.