

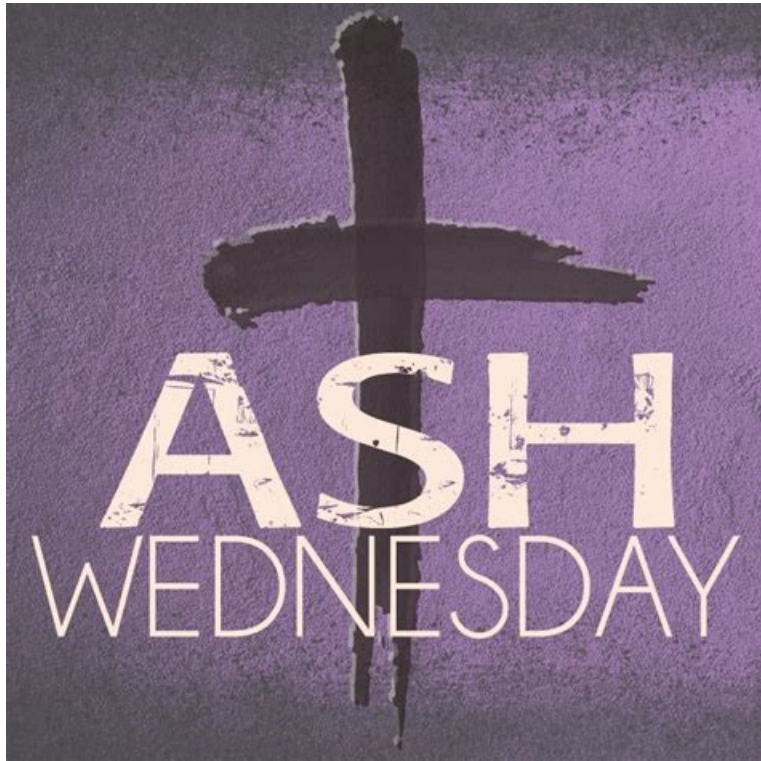


PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, February 2023

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234



February 22

12:00 pm

A time of Meditation and
Imposition of Ashes

6:30 pm

Worship and Imposition of
Ashes Service

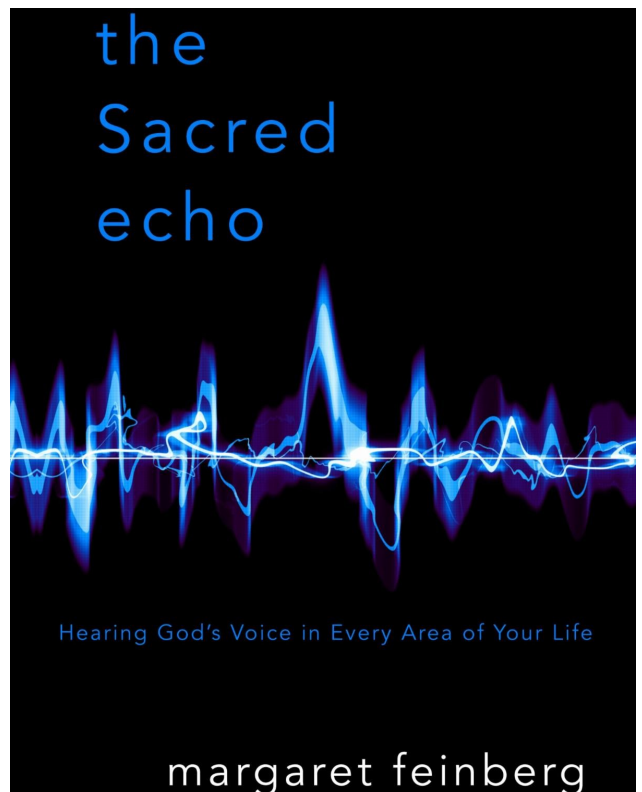
Churchwide study is coming for Lent this year!

CE is hosting a church wide study called *Sacred Echo* by Margaret Feinberg and there are several opportunities...

Adults can choose a Sunday morning class beginning February 26 in room C8 or an evening class including a light supper, on Thursdays from 6:00 -7:30 pm in the youth rooms.

Sign up with Kristin Beall or Margaret Schafer.

Children will also be studying prayer in the Sunday school hour during Lent with age appropriate lessons and activities. Youth will explore the mysteries of prayer during Sunday evening youth group. All people of Pines are encouraged to use this season to look for Gods mysterious and wondrous message for us as individuals, as well as the whole congregation of Pines.



Pines Family News & Current Events

The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The office is closed on Fridays. If you need assistance on Friday, please call Cindy at 832-489-5989.



Please hold Roger Mowell and family in your prayers...for the loss of wife and mother, Jerry. Jerry and Roger joined Pines in 1968. Jerry was very involved in our Stephen Ministry program and was loved by so many here at Pines. Her sweet spirit and beautiful smile will be deeply missed.

A note from our missionary partners... We are heading back to the US in a week and will be relocating to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. We have semi-retired as missionaries but still want to serve the people of Taiwan down the road. Right now our plans are to spend a year in the US and then return to Taiwan in early 2024. In spite of our intentions we need to follow God's call. God may have other plans for us so we need to be flexible in our plans.

We hope to make a trip to Houston this year but we don't have a real agenda yet. We will keep you posted. Blessings, Ken & Judy McDyer

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 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!



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 to sign up. Or you can also sign up at the front desk on the flower calendar while at church.

Church Seeking Nursery Workers: \$12-15 per hour based on age and experience. Contact kristin@pinespc.org for more information. Do you love playing with babies and young children? 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.

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.



Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: February 17 (for the March 2023 issue)



A big welcome to Marley Stephens was born on January 5, 2023 in Methodist Clear Lake to Cody and Morgan Stephens. Morgan is the daughter of Jay and Melissa Gravett.

Congratulations to the new parents and grandparents!

Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you,

Six years ago this month Cheryl and I made our very first visit to Pines. We were excited to meet the PNC face to face and see what Pines was all about. I remember sitting on the plane returning to Florida and talking with Cheryl about our take aways from the weekend. We both agreed that our greatest take away was the feeling we had surrounding prayer. We both felt that Pines placed a great emphasis on prayer in everything it did. We appreciated that so much, because prayer is very, very important to both of us. It was this overwhelming sense of importance of prayer that swayed us to join this incredible family of faith.

During seminary one of my favorite passages was from Philippians 4. I came to lean on and tried to trust in its words that reminded me, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." These words reminded me of the importance of prayer in my life throughout all situations. It is prayer that should be the foundation and cornerstone of all we dream and desire in our lives. I believe, without a good foundation and cornerstone of prayer, what we desire and undertake will crumble.

This past January's Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ was a perfect example of the importance of prayer. This was our third MobilePack™ event, and each year I work with a team of people who begin to lay the solid foundation for a successful MobilePack™ with prayer. There is no way this massive service project would get off the ground and be successful unless we rooted it in prayer. Over the three years of hosting this project I have often been asked, and even asked myself, "How are you going to get 500 volunteers? How are you going to raise \$25,000?" Each time I'm asked this question I usually respond by saying, "I'm praying I'm not going to do it, but God is." This incredible mission wouldn't be possible unless it was surrounded in prayer from the time we pray about a date for the pack to when the tractor trailer full of meals pulls out of our parking lot. This year your prayers sent us nearly 500 volunteers from our surrounding community. Your prayers helped us reach our goal of \$25,000. Your prayers covered us while we exceeded our packing goal and assembled 108,864 meals, which will provide one nutritious meal a day for a year to 298 starving children. Your prayers will save 298 children from death caused by starvation.

Prayer is a powerful thing in this world. Prayer is about making your supplications known to God **AND** it's about listening for God's direction to answer those prayers. Sometimes though, that answer is heard or expressed through what some call God's echo. That's why I'm excited we will be doing a church wide study on prayer and listening for God's echo. Our Christian Education Committee has selected the book *Sacred Echo* by Margaret Fienberg for us to read as a church family. The book asks, "Are you ready to shake up your prayer life forever? Often when God speaks, God will echo the same message through a sermon, a passage of Scripture, a chance conversation, or an unexpected encounter. When we begin looking for these sacred echoes, we are better able to recognize God's voice in our life and walk more confidently in the fullness of all God has for us."

So are you ready to pray and listen for the echo? Are you ready for where God will take us when we pray?

Praying & listening,



Family Ministry Calendar for February

PLEASE HELP!

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

February Family Ministries

Children's Small Group Sunday School: Sunday 9:15am-9:30am

Youth Small Group Sunday School: Sunday 9:30-10:30am

Pines Youth Group: Sundays 6-7:45pm in youth rooms

SPECIAL PINES YOUTH GROUP on Sunday February 19th at 6pm-7:45pm at **CHUCK E CHEESE** 2002 Gulfmont Dr Katy (right off I-10) Bring a friend and \$20 for pizza and games (NO SCHOOL MONDAY)

BAKE SALE for Summer Missions: Sunday February 12th in Fellowship Hall hallway- 9:30am until after church or when all items are sold!

Youth baking and preparing sale **SATURDAY FEB 11th** 10am-noon- If you are attending summer mission plan to be there!

SUPPORT YOUTH SUMMER MISSION AND PURCHASE YOUR BAKED GOODS ON FEBRUARY 12th! Want to donate a baked item to sell? Sign up here: [Pines Youth: Youth Sponsored BAKE SALE \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com) or sign up with Kristin

All children and youth will be adding prayer studies and practices during Lent that begins with Ash Weds on Feb 22nd! This will correspond with the church wide study Sacred Echo by Margaret Feinburg.

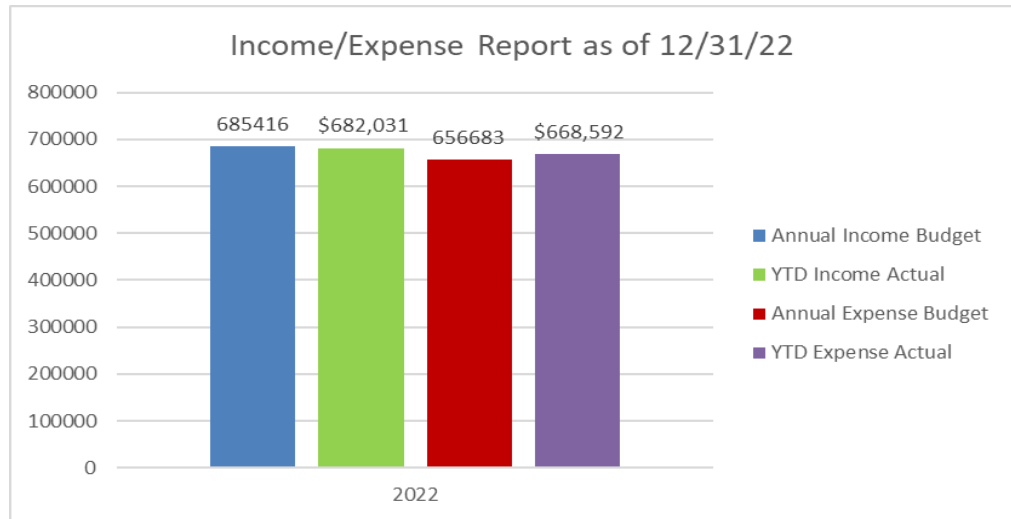
Sacred Echo Lenten Small Group Study for Adults:

Thursdays 6-7:30pm in youth area (will serve dinner in main room and video/ discussion in Junior High room)

Dates included: Feb 23, March 2, March 9, March 23, March 30 (April 6th is Maundy Thursday service which is separate but still kinda perfect end of class- go Holy Spirit)



Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES

1. Both pledge and non-pledge income ended 2022 year within 1% of the budgeted amounts! God is good. December pledge and non-pledge contributions exceeded expectations making it possible to achieve this result. Thanks to all who made contributions to fulfill or exceed their pledge.
2. Overall, most committee expenses are below budget expectations for the year. Worship committee is slightly above budget and Property expenses are well above budget due to repairs and higher costs for our building.
3. Total Income was \$681,031; total expenses were \$668,592; leaving a Net Income of \$13,439 for the year, \$15,294 below the budgeted Net Income of \$28,733.
4. In the spirit of financial transparency, the Session has scheduled an information session with lunch following worship on February 12. We will review income projections and committee budget requests and answer any questions that arise.

Session

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on January 23. Here are some highlights (including highlights from a special called meeting in December):

- Session welcomed and accepted Pam and Fred Ellis as new members of Pines.
- The Stewardship Committee presented a proposed budget for 2023. Following discussion, Session approved a Congregational Lunch Gathering to be held after Worship on February 12 to present to the congregation the results of the 2022 budget and the 2023 preliminary budget. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall with lunch provided.
- Session approved on first reading a full revision to the Policies and Procedures Manual, the first complete revision since 2006.
- Session approved the 2022 Statistical Report to Presbytery, reflecting among other things 336 active members of Pines as of 12-31-2022.
- Session approved a meditative service to be held on Ash Wednesday, February 22, around the noon hour, to be organized by the Worship Committee.
- The memorial service for Jerry Mowell was approved in the Sanctuary for February 4 at 2 p.m. A private service in the Columbarium will be held on February 5.
- The Session and Staff Retreat was approved for March 3 and 4, with the examination of the elders-elect for the Class of 2026 to be conducted on March 4.
- John Plush has been re-elected Treasurer for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2023.
- Craig Walker has been re-elected Clerk for a one-year term beginning March 1, 2023.

Craig Walker, clerk



CHANGING SEASONS

During the December 15 Service for Healing and Wholeness, I read the familiar words below from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes:

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.*

As I read those words, I could never have envisioned the dramatic changes which would occur in the month of January for the Stephen Ministry program at Pines. Due to a need to focus on some health issues, Bill Willis recently informed the Stephen Leaders that he will need to take a "sabbatical" from leading this program. The Stephen Leaders fully support Bill's decision to concentrate on his health and are indebted to him for his leadership since taking over that role from Barbara when she retired. We are particularly grateful for Bill's leadership in planning, organizing and helping to implement the six month training program for the four new Stephen Ministers who were trained in 2022.

While Bill is away, Ann Guerra and I will lead the Stephen Ministry program and will serve as contacts for those who want to explore establishing a relationship with a Stephen Minister. You can reach either one of us by going to stephenministry@pinespc.org. Feel free to contact either one of us if you have questions and know that any discussion will be handled in a confidential manner.

The other major change for the Stephen Ministry program was the recent death of our beloved friend, Jerry Mowell. Jerry was instrumental in bringing the Stephen Ministry concept to Pines in 1994 and remained active as a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader until her death on January 12. In fact, she was one of those who helped train the new class of Stephen Ministers in 2022. The Stephen Minister website states that all Stephen Ministers "share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need." No one has ever done this work with more faithfulness or love than Jerry did. Her ministry served as a role model for all of her fellow Stephen Ministers. All of the Stephen Ministers ask for your prayers in helping us to carry on this ministry in ways that would honor Jerry's efforts and be pleasing in the sight of our Lord. Thanks for your support.

Phil Wetz

Looking for something new to do with the family?

Check out a few of the following...

Mardi Gras in Galveston

Celebrate Mardi Gras in Galveston with a full weekend of events including seemingly endless parades, a contest, and plenty of fun activities.

BAYOU WILDLIFE PARK

5050 FM 517 Alvin, TX 77511

BAY AREA RACEWAY GO CARTING AT IT'S FINEST

3825 Gulf Freeway Dickinson, TX 77539

LOVE Is In The Air

Grab your someone special for this special event!

Skip the chaos of flower shops and head to The Green ion CitiCentre to buy bouquets of roses and baby's breath from 4 - 9 PM. Don't forget to bring your (extra) special someone—your dog! From 5:30 - 8:30, TAMU PAWS will be hosting "Smooch a Pooch", a Valentine's themed photo booth for you and your pup! No dog of your own? No worries. They'll have some cuddly friends ready to meet you on The Green! There's nothing more romantic than enjoying dinner and a live jazz quartet under the lights on The Green. Top off the perfect evening with a scoop of ice cream from Lick or a sweet treat from Hey Sugar!

Missions

7

Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors! Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team for school year 2023-24, and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is. We have the privilege to give fresh breakfast tacos to folks who might have missed breakfast, or who might not have any other food for the day, or are just hungry for a taco and maybe a prayer. Our cheerful team members bring smiles and warm food to our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. We are rewarded with smiles, occasional cash donations, tears of gratitude, and sometimes even songs (from a school bus driver)! Join us!

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



and a prayer!



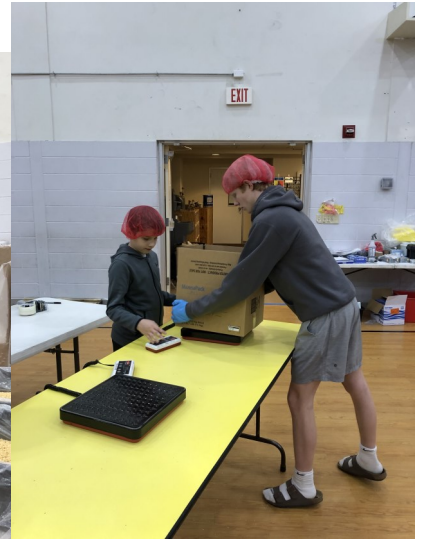
Please join us as we gather for more Bingo in the Fellowship Hall on March 23 at 6:30 PM. There will be food and drinks provided and of course...lot's of fun with BINGO! Don't miss the fun! Contact Linda Aldred or the church office if you plan to attend so we can make sure there is plenty of food for all.



Pines is in partnership with Randalls and Kroger through the Good Neighbor Program. For every dollar you spend at these locations, a small portion goes to Pines and is placed into our Missions budget. If you have not already registered your card with Randalls or Kroger, please do. There is no cost to you, you still get your discount, and Pines benefits too!



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



**Thank you to
EVERYONE** who
participated this
year whether you
gave of your time or
your financial gifts,
you are appreciated!



Did you miss the fun??? Join us next year for another opportunity to share the love!