



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press May 2024 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org

Ways you can SERVE

Help lead/co-lead the Sunday school hour- it's a set curriculum of Veggie Tales with Bible story and follow up questions- you can add in your own craft or game as you like though some are available! Sign up link online or with kristin@pinespc.org

- Help Sunday June 2 during Sunday school with the kids/ youth mission project preparing mission kits for lots of summer projects!

Calling ALL to help with Children and Youth Ministry this summer!

We NEED you! Ministry for all ages and abilities!

- To pray for a youth/ adult while on their summer mission to Belize you may use the link or see Kristin. A physical card to take with us is appreciated though prayer throughout the week is the goal. June 29- July 5
- We desperately need Crew Leaders during Vacation Bible Camp- NO Prep needed ahead of time- simply be a guide, hold some hands, supervise the random trips to bathrooms, give extra love to those who need some encouragement etc. 8:40am arrival to meet your crew and noon release after last child is picked up, June 24-27. If you can only do one day that is still a help. Sign up with kristin@pinespc.org

Be an assistant director (no experience needed!) for our first-ever Pines Music Theater Camp, scheduled for Monday, July 22 - Friday, July 26, with the final performance on Sunday, July 28 during worship. We are anticipating community participation, as well as involving the Pines children! More details to come. Email to sign up at laurie@pinespc.org.



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.

with sympathy

Please hold the family of Fred Kelly in your prayers. Fred passed on April 7th. A service will be held on May 10th at 10am. Everyone is invited to join the family in celebration of Fred's life. Fred joined Pines in 2007 and was involved in several areas of the church. He was a good, kind man, and will be missed.



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.



Next BINGO...May 16th.

Come join us in this opportunity for Fellowship, Fun, Good Food, and Prizes! Everyone is invited! Bring a friend!

Second Sunday Lunch ...due to Mother's Day, Second Sunday Lunch will be postponed until June.



The Pentecost Offering supporting youth ministries both within our congregation and also throughout the denomination will be collected on **Pentecost Sunday May 19.**

Important Info...

In the event that the doors are not open for your group, please leave a note on the door to ask them to call your cell phone for entry. Every group leader should have an entry card to come into the building. If you do not, please contact Cindy in the church office to

assist with getting one for you. Propping the doors open not only wastes electricity, but also is a danger to those in the building in case of intruders. Please treat your church as your home.

And please, NEVER prop open the doors at any time! Thank you.

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

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

The season after Easter is such a wonderful time of year. The season brings with it a freshness, new beginnings, and new life. You can sense people's excitement as the days get longer and warmer, we sense the coming of summer, and the earth begins to bear more and more beautiful colors as flowers begin to grow and bloom.

This past Easter, as I enjoyed the lilies in the Sanctuary and the fresh new plants and flowers around our campus, I thought how fresh and welcoming they made this house of God appear. I was amazed how new plants and flowers made such a difference in the way I felt about entering our worship space. Our Easter faith needs to be like these flowers. These flowers are like Evangelism 101. A flower's beautiful colors draw people, and animals, to them to enjoy the color and nectar they provide. We may then go and tell others about how beautiful these flowers are, and they will come and see. Those people may come and bring others, and awed by their beauty they may wish to plant some of their own. Do you see how this can be seen as basic Christian evangelism? We are connecting people to God and to each other.

Maybe Evangelism is too uncomfortable of a word for some, how about connections? To be true Easter people, and not let the Good News of Easter pass away with the season, you and I need to be like the beautiful flower. We need to bloom and join the Session to figure out ways to connect with our neighbors; to reach out and engage our community in drawing people to God's church and God's Word. By doing so others will see the beauty of God's Word and share that Good News with others and create the most beautiful garden ever seen.

Come and Grow!



Family Ministry Calendar for May

PLEASE HELP!

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

Family ministry calendar for May:

May marks the end of the school year and we will be celebrating our graduates on May 19th!

Calendar:

- 3 Friday Parents Night Out 5:30-8:30pm
- 5 Youth Outreach- Hand on Hand Apartment Ministry at noon
- 19 Graduate Sunday
- 20 Pines Youth End of the Year party- 6:00-7:30pm
- 26 NO Small Groups for Memorial Weekend

May 5, 12, and 19th Sunday School:

Children 9:15am-10:15am;
Youth 9:30am-10:30am

Parent's Night Out!



All the Feels Slumber Party - Wear Pajamas!

Friday, May 3 | 5:30-8:30pm

Drop Off: Fellowship Hall | Pick Up: Youth Rooms

FREE but must RSVP

Availability based on Volunteers for Maximum Safe Fun

Dinner | Games | Crafts | Movie

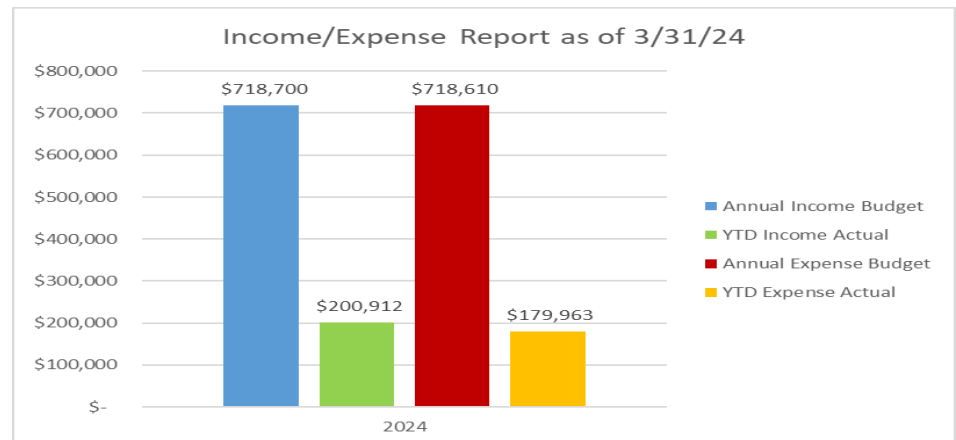
Nursery - 5th grade

RSVP or questions to Kristin - kristin@pinespc.org

Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

The March 2024 financial statements can be summarized as follows... Pines continues to be a blessed church!



- Total income received through March was \$200,912 (28% of annual budget.) Pledge income was \$165,943 and unpledged income was \$14,484. Interest income also exceeds the budgeted amount for 3 months. Total income is slightly ahead of budget through first quarter.
- Overall expenses were right on target at \$179,963 (25% of annual budget.) Cindy has filed an insurance claim for the plumbing repair we had in December, which, if received, will reduce property expenses. The Preschool is expected to pay their annual contribution (\$26,278) in April, which will help net property expenses.
- Net income through March was \$20,949... a great first quarter.

Pines is Family

It is true that “Pines is Family!”

We worship and pray together, study together, sing together, and play bingo together! Maybe we can get together for more fellowship time. If you are interested in any of the following, please send me an email. And, if you can help organize any of these activities, that will be terrific!

Suggestions have been made for the following:

Book Club at Le Madeleine, Games Day, and Sojourners day trips.

If you have other ideas, please include that in your feedback.

I look forward to hearing from you so we can begin to make plans.

Thanks, Shirley Bollich shirleybollich@hotmail.com

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 x110 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 monthly newsletter “The Pines Press” 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!

The church office will be closed on May 27th for the Memorial Day holiday.

Looking for something new to do with the family?

Check out Mary Jo Peckham Park in Katy. They have an indoor swimming pool, miniature golf, walking trails, and a pond to fish in. All free to the public. Great place for a picnic and to watch the ducks!

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!

Session

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

- Approved the 2024 Benevolence budget as presented by the Missions Committee.
- Continued work to refine five-year goals, a process begun at the Session retreat.
- Approved clear guidelines for use of Committee funds held on the balance sheet.
- Approved an addition to the Policy and Procedures Manual setting clear guidelines for fundraising by outside organizations.
- Approved a memorial service for Fred Kelly on May 10 at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.
- Gave thanks for a successful Prayer Pal dinner on April 21 and for the dedication of Prayer Pals to the children and youth of Pines.

Dan Schafer
Clerk of Session



STEPHEN MINISTRY AND BASEBALL – A WONDERFUL COMBINATION

In March, I was very fortunate to spend a week in Florida with a long-time friend who had invited me to join him in watching spring training baseball games. It was a wonderful week of fellowship with my friend as well as with several other fans in the stands who shared our passionate love for this special game.

Several people have asked me if there was a special highlight that will always be remembered. There were many excellent plays in the games and a special moment when another friend who met us caught a foul ball and gave it to a young boy sitting behind us.

However, the most memorable moment was when a young girl (around age 10) threw out the first pitch from the pitcher's mound to her father who happened to be a coach for one of the teams we were watching. While her throw to her dad was excellent, the most memorable event occurred after her dad caught her toss. At that moment, she started running full speed to her father who was patiently waiting for her. As she got near to her father, she jumped into his arms, and they shared an extended embrace.

While attending baseball games, I have witnessed many great events – a no-hitter; a grand slam home run; game-winning home runs; a suicide squeeze play; a triple play; and getting to hear Frank Sinatra sing “New York, New York” after a Yankees victory in Yankee Stadium. However, watching this young girl and her father share their love for each other is the most enjoyable event I have witnessed in a baseball stadium.

After some thought, I concluded that the event involving the young girl and her father is similar in some ways to what occurs between a Stephen Minister and a care receiver. For example:

It took courage for the young girl to step out and try something new just as it takes courage for someone to discuss the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister.

As the young girl began running to her father, she knew he would be there waiting for her just as a care receiver knows that a Stephen Minister will be faithful in consistently meeting with the care receiver.

Regardless of the “quality” of the girl's throw, she knew her dad would affirm her efforts and continue to work with her to improve just as a Stephen Minister will unconditionally accept where the care receiver is on their journey and strive to help them grow.

The girl knew her father would patiently and lovingly listen to her story of how it felt to do this new task and would affirm her efforts which is what Stephen Ministers pledge to do.

Regardless of whether you are a baseball fan, if you are struggling with a difficult life challenge and feel a Stephen Minister might be of assistance, feel free to contact Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz to have a CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION about the process of working with a Stephen Minister. Hoping you enjoy the current baseball season regardless of which team is your favorite!

Ring in the New Year With Your Fondest Memories of Pines

Participating is easy. Just jot down a few paragraphs and your memories will become part of the upcoming Pines History Book. We have pictures of most of our members and we'll include those, too.

Please tell us:

Your name, and the names of family members, along with the number of years (or months or weeks) you've attended Pines.

What attracted you to Pines and any volunteer work, and maybe a little about friendships made along the way.

Tell us your email address or phone number so we can be in touch with any questions that might arise. We have recent pictures of most of our members that we'll include.

Submit your memories to sharondotson@gmail.com with any questions. She's here to help. In advance, thanks for your memories. They'll be featured in the 2024 Pines' History Book.



Faith In Practice
Life Changing Medical Mission

Interested in serving on a mission team with Faith in Practice? There's still time to sign up for the Pines Mobility Team serving this summer in the Antigua, Guatemala area, July 20-27. We'll build, fit, and distribute 100 wheelchairs to patients with significant mobility challenges. It's guaranteed to be an experience you can't forget! Spanish language skills not required; a heart for serving people is all you need. For more information, contact Linda Johnson, ladjohnson@sbcglobal.net

May Agape Offering

Donate New or Like-New Children's Books



Books Between Kids serves Houston's at-risk children by providing them with books to build their own home libraries.

DROP OFF DONATIONS

IN THE MISSIONS BIN NEAR FELLOWSHIP HALL

OR

PLACE A CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE, BRING IT TO THE OFFICE OR GIVE ONLINE ON ZELLE OR AT PINESPC.ORG (NOTE: "BOOKS BETWEEN KIDS")

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact
Raise Up Families	Assistance at 30 th Anniv. Graduation Luncheon (w/free lunch ticket)	4/30/24	The Rustic Post Oak in Uptown Park	Margaret Shafer or John Work <i>Link on This Week at Pines</i>
Raise Up Families	Pines Greeter at Summer Camp Sendoff	June TBD	Pines	Kari Work
Sherwood Elementary	Deliver Monthly Food Bags	4/19/24 @ 8:15am	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
Taco and a Prayer	Cook, wrap, and hand out tacos	5/3/24	Pines	Margaret Shafer
Montrose Street Reach	Shop for and deliver food to street ministry	Every other month Thursday evening	Pines to Montrose location	Kathy Ropshaw
Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)	Assist with clean up & seasonal re-fresh after 50% off sale	May TBD	MAM	MAM website or Margaret Shafer
CanCare	Assist staff to bundle and deliver donations from June Agape Offering	Fall – TBD	CanCare offices/hospitals	Beth Patterson

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
Colossians 4:2

Be a Pines Prayer Pal! All that is required is prayer. We strive to assign all children and youth ages 4-18 a prayer pal. We have several openings right now that could use your help. They will know who you are, and parents are encouraged to share things going on to pray about. Cards are encouraged but not required. We have an annual potluck dinner to celebrate this ministry but you can attend their events or a meal any time. It's a great ministry to expand Christian mentors in the lives of our kids. If willing to be part see Kristin@pinespc.org Thank you!



Pines members Walt Bohn and Eleanor Loose in the art group at Parkway Place.

Photo curtesy of Leara Higginbotham



Do you feel like you are constantly looking for a phone number for one of your fellow church members?

How would you like to have access to that information right on your phone or computer?

Call Alexis in the church office and she can assist you in adding the Breeze app to your phone or computer. The Breeze app will give you the full directory of member names, phone numbers, and addresses so that you have them at your fingertips! To obtain this information, you must be a Pines member. Any questions, give Alexis a call. She is in the church office on Mondays.

Do you know a Pines Graduate? This is anyone who is part of the Pines Family and graduated in the past year from High School or a higher education. This includes college as well as graduate students. Please email Kristin the name and contact information so that we can celebrate with them in May! Thank you for your help!

Your help is needed! Pines could use a kitchen manager to check the kitchen once per month and make sure it is kept clean and check to make sure we have plenty of supplies. If you would be interested in doing this, please give Cindy a call at 713-467-2234 x110.

**Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: May 24th (for the June 2024 issue)**