



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward...

Pines Church Picnic

SUMMER FUN COOKOUT!



and

T-SHIRT SUNDAY

Date: July 21

Time: noon in Fellowship Hall

Attire: casual & cool T-shirts



Wear your **favorite t-shirt** to church & bring those lightly worn t-shirts to **donate to a local homeless ministry.**



Pines Family News

Our Sympathy and prayers go out to:

to Pines member *Dandra Waxman and family* in the loss her husband Gerry, who passed on June 22nd;
to Pines member *Mary Catherine Cezeaux and family* in the loss of her husband Gus who passed on June 16th;

to Pines member *Peg Anderson and family* in the loss of her husband Jack who passed on June 15th;
to the *family of Carolyn Searles* who passed on June 13th.

Welcome
to the
Family

A big welcome to new Pines member Linda Oxley. Linda has been in Houston for 10 years and came to Houston from Waikiki Hawaii. Please find Linda and give her a hearty welcome the next time you see her in the hallway. We are so glad to have you worshipping with us Linda!

Notes from two friends of Pines...

Dear Pines, Thank you so much letting us stay in your church. We had a great time and wouldn't have been able to complete our mission trip to Mexico without ya'll! Thanks again, 410 Youth Group from Marietta Georgia

Dear Pines, On behalf of the Texas Lacrosse Officials Association, please accept this donation to Pines as our way of saying thank you for all of your wonderful support and hospitality. Cheers, Tim Bohdan, TLOA



This is it!! Mark your calendars and save the date!!!

Tablescapes is coming to an end ~ We are currently in the planning stages for our 10th annual **Tablescapes** which will be presented by the Pines Presbyterian Women on **Saturday, October 5, 2019**. If you are interested in being a hostess or would like to find out more information for this final year, please contact Linda Aldred at 281-734-2043, Connie Sipp at 713-515-3404 or Cindy Houlihan at 713-467-2234.

Creative, Imaginative Hostesses are needed and welcomed!! Hostess selections will be based on a first come first served basis and we are filling up very fast so please call soon!

Vacationing this summer? You can keep your Pines giving current by scheduling your monthly or weekly donation by ACH payment via your bank's app or online website. After you set Pines up as a payee from your account, the bank will send your check to Pines AND pay the postage! You can also make your donations via the secure Pines Website link: <http://pinespc.org/donate-2/> Try it!

Bible Quiz.... According to the Gospels, what is the unique literary genre Jesus employs to preach his message?



Answer:
The parable

Please mark your calendars with the following

NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:

July 19 (August 2019)

August 23 (July 2019)

September 20 (October 2019)

October 25 (November 2019)

Pastor's Page

Summer Greetings,

This past month we welcomed over 110 children to our campus for our annual Vacation Bible School. The time with these children and volunteers was amazing, and I'm so thankful for them! As I watched them come in and out of our doors, I was amazed how big some of them had gotten over the past year. I also wondered how much of a growth spurt they'd have before school begins in the fall. Seeing these growth spurts in the children reminded me of the parable of the mustard seed in the Gospel of Mark. I thought about the seed being planted and it growing so large, even when we don't notice its growth at some points. I also thought about how that seed, and plant, need to be nourished so that its branches can grow into one of the largest shrubs.

Often times adults put a lot of emphasis on the physical and spiritual nourishment and nurture of children and youth. We make sure they eat their vegetables and get plenty of fruits so they can grow healthy and strong bodies. We also want to make sure their faith is nourished as well by making sure we bring them to Sunday school, send them to Vacation Bible School, Children's Church, Conclaves or on a mission trip. As parents we want to make sure they have a good foundation. But sometimes, as they grow, we don't seem to emphasize that same nourishment.

Why do we think healthy habits are only necessary for younger people? We all need to maintain a healthy lifestyle of nutrition and exercise for our bodies AND our faith no matter our age. We all still have the ability to grow. Summer is often a time of growth, so how are you going to grow this summer? What are you going to do to grow in your faith? What do you have planned to strengthen your relationship with God and walk in the ways of Jesus of Nazareth? As your body needs nourishment and care to grow, so does your relationship with God. Take time this summer to give your faith, and your relationship with God, some extra good nourishment so it can grow strong and give you encouragement and purpose for tomorrow.

May you grow off the charts this summer!



Andy

Youth Happenings!

We Need Your Prayers!



This month, 11 Middle School and High School students, along with 4 adult chaperones, will serve on our Summer Mission Trip to New Orleans! We will be working with schools, homeless shelters, and city parks to do minor construction, painting, and yard work.

We're excited about the opportunity our youth have to be the hands and feet of Christ in the city of New Orleans. We

would like to ask the congregation to keep us in prayer from July 8th—13th.

We're so thankful for the way you all have supported the Youth Ministry!

Children's Ministry



Who: 4-year-old's through 5th graders

When: July 19,
6:00-8:30 PM

Where: Pines' Gym

What: Pizza, games, snacks and a movie!

If your children can join us for the evening, please contact Ashley Sullivan at 713-855-1304 or at Ashley@pinespc.org.

All.... The property committee operates the Pines physical facility on a budget of ~\$200,000 annually. This amount has stayed flat over the past 3 years. As a regular newsletter feature, the committee will bring you up to date with a few of the major expenditures to provide greater transparency and understanding of the stewardship of your donations.

Two of the primary projects ongoing are a leak repair and replacement of the Plexiglas on the stained glass window and back parking lot asphalt repairs.

The stained glass window has experienced some leakage into the wall, and we will assess that issue upon opening the wall to replace the leak. The initial cost to replace the Plexiglas and make outside repairs is \$9,000. Two bids within \$200 were received, and work should commence by July 15.

Asphalt repair is estimated to cost \$2,500. Not only is the main pothole towards West Bough in the middle roadway going to be repaired, but some emerging issues will be address as well.

Thank you for your support as we address these two issues.

Walter Penberthy, Property Committee Moderator



**HURRICANE
PREPAREDNESS
& EVACUATION INFORMATION**

VIEW & Save BROCHURE

visit **PinesPC.org**

The graphic features a collage of images related to hurricanes: a flooded road with a car and a house in the background, a close-up of a hurricane's eye, and a satellite view of a hurricane. The text is overlaid on a dark blue background with yellow and light blue accents.

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

Follies! 2019 was a huge success and summer is upon us! Thanks to all who participated in and all who attended this wonderful event.

Now that the summer season is here, things change a bit. The choir is in the loft in June and August, but without robes...cool summer clothes!

The Chancel Choir takes the month of July off.....no Wednesday rehearsals, no Sunday morning rehearsals, no anthems in the choir loft. **July** is the month when the choir can take vacations, sit with their families and friends in the pews, or simply rest!

This opens the opportunity for **YOU**, the congregation to become the **Jubilant July Voices**. To give the choir a break, but still have an anthem and offertory in the month of July, we ask that you volunteer to sing with the **Jubilant July Voices** during the four Sundays of July. There is no commitment, just come to the choir room at **10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings** to go over the hymns and learn one very familiar hymn for an anthem. You can sing one, two, three or all four Sundays. We have fun and it is a blessing to the congregation.

Please join us for this important ministry of the Music Department.

Think you can't sing? **The Bible says to "make a Joyful Noise!"** Come and join the fun!

Blessings!

Tim



Communion Setup Helpers Needed!

Would you like to help us prepare for worship?

This is a small but vital way to serve the ministry of Pines.

Please contact
Sue Master at

lou.n.sue@comcast.net

if you're interested
and would like to
learn more!

Service Beyond The Walls

How are you active and serving in God's Kingdom?

Saturdays are usually quiet days at Pines when our gym is not used for youth basketball. The contractors who keep our outside area in wonderful condition usually work in the afternoon but most of the day is quiet. However, Saturday, June 1 was quite an exception and I wanted to share my observation of so many faithful members working behind the scenes" to create wonderful opportunities for us to experience fellowship and to continue to grow in our faith.

Numerous choir members were not only practicing with Tim to make the June 2 Follies show a "night to remember" but were working in the gym to set up tables for dinner, as well as creating an environment to enhance the audience's appreciation of this EXTRAORDINARY show which was enjoyed by so many, including many from beyond the Pines family.

There were numerous people working hard to prepare for the following week's Vacation Bible School when 100+ children learned about Jesus' love for them. With Kari Work's creative and imaginative mind, the church was transformed to help the children fully understand the Bible lessons which were shared. Meanwhile, Ashley Sullivan and Ann Guerra were hard at work organizing all of the week's activities, many of them which they personally led. There were many helpers of all ages who provided the foundation for a magical week of fellowship and learning.

Worship is the focal point of many of our visits to the church campus and many people were working to make the June 2 worship service possible. Dedicated volunteers were in the kitchen making it possible for us to celebrate communion the next day and several capable workers were organizing the sanctuary so that it was ready for Sunday worshippers.

As I observed these dedicated servants during the day (my estimate is that there were over 50 people working at the church that day), I gave thanks for the "God Sighting" of these disciples sharing God's love behind the scenes" and for the privilege of being inspired by the ways they put their faith into action. Thanks be to God.

Phil Wetz



Service at Pines



FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN



SAVE THE DATE:

OCTOBER 11-12



PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Feed My Starving Children – We're doing it again! Save the date for this year's MobilePack© on **October 11th & 12th**. You don't want to miss out on this exciting mission project! Sign ups for packing shifts will be posted in September. Make sure you invite your friends, family, co-workers, teammates and neighbors to this amazing mission to feed the hungry children of the world.

**Missions Committee
July Service & Outreach
Opportunities**



Missions Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with preparing and serving dinner for RaiseUp Families Family Education Classes held at John Knox Presbyterian Church on Thursday, 07/18 and 07/25 from 5:15pm to 6:30pm. If you are interested in cooking or volunteering please contact Kari Work – kwork@mgcinc.net.

Pines Preschool

The 2018/2019 school year is a wrap!

Thank you so much to the church for your support. As we look back on the year, we absolutely loved partnering with the church for the Sherwood Christmas Store and Baskets, welcoming Ashley Sullivan as the Children's Director, and watching Pastor Andy dress up like a fireman! We will begin our 49th year in September. Believe it or not, we are already planning for the school's 50th Anniversary celebration coming in Fall 2020.

Have a wonderful summer!



Staff Spotlight



Staff Spotlight – Micah Meyers

The Staff Committee, in an effort for the congregation to better know our amazing staff, has developed these “Staff Spotlights” to further introduce you to the staff of your church. We hope you enjoy learning a little more about the people who serve you and God at Pines.

This month we are spotlighting Micah Meyers our Communications Coordinator. Micah joined the Pines family in July of 2018 as a 20hr/week staff member. Since that day she has been making an impact on the way we learn about the activities, missions, programs and worship happening at Pines. Micah is no stranger to the Presbyterian world; she grew up at Central Church Presbyterian, and she and her mother have been part of the St. Philip Presbyterian Church family for several years, in fact Micah works part time for St. Philip as their Graphic Designer. Micah received degrees from Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas and Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. Micah eventually made her way to northern California where she honed her gift of communication

through graphic design and developed a deeper love of experiencing nature.

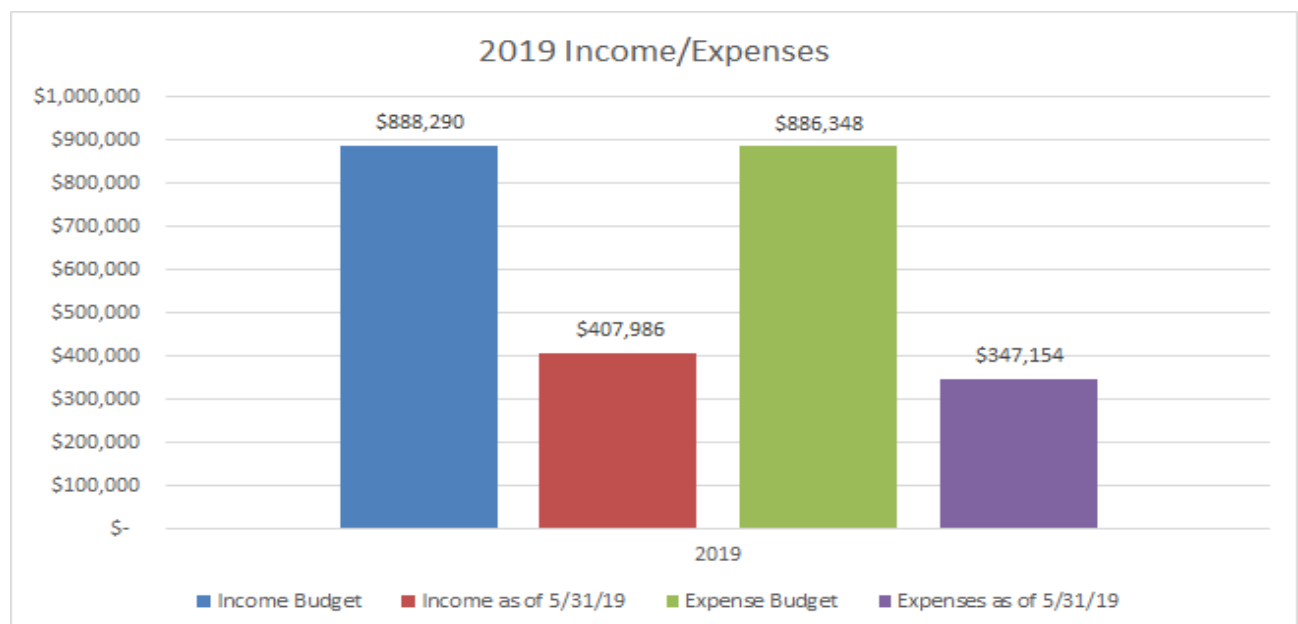
As the Pines Communications Coordinator, Micah strives to be the eyes and ears of Pines. She says, “I take in all the information about the church and present it to best represent the vibrance of the people and the church’s purpose in the community. While Pines takes pride in its history and traditions, there is also a progressive openness -- taking in regard change, modernizing and ‘moving forward.’”

Micah’s 20hrs/wk. are jam packed with projects. Her typical workday usually consists of focusing on certain campaigns such as VBS, Church BBQ, The Monthly Agape, Feed My Starving Children, Sunday school, stewardship campaigns and creating a new web site, while also addressing the quick turn-around tasks that occur throughout the week. Micah then works on promoting our campaigns everywhere; online, in the hallways, emails and snail mail. When not at her desk you can find Micah out and about testing images on the sanctuary screens for the upcoming Sunday worship, measuring and photographing a location on the church property for an upcoming project, researching supplies needed for a new project, and taking jobs to the printers.

Micah says Pines keeps her constantly challenged and learning, as she gradually gets more familiar with all the nuts and bolts of what makes Pines function as church. Micah also said, “I admire the overall enthusiasm I see throughout the church that radiates through special events, meetings, weekly church groups and the strong emphasis in outreach.”

Stop by and say “Hi” to Micah, her door is always open when she is with us on Monday’s and Thursday’s.

Stewardship





July Agape Offering School Supply Drive

Many children in our area will not have supplies needed to start the new school year. Please consider donating to our School Supply Drive that benefits our local Mission Partners - RaiseUp Families and Spring Branch Family Development Center.

SUPPLY LIST:

- 1 package #2 Pencils
- 2 boxes of crayons
- 1 box of markers
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 plastic supply box
- 2 Erasers (pink beveled)
- 2 bottles Elmer's liquid glue
- 2 glue sticks
- 4 spiral notebooks
- 6 pocket folders w/brads asst. colors
- Children's Safety Scissors
- Ruler (12-inch)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Kleenex

A Vida Update from The Rundle Family

The words below were taken from an email sent by Alastair Rundle ...

What does it look like to care for the poor? One night it looked like giving away the sausages that weren't ordered to a man without a home. He was grateful to receive them, and we were delighted to share the delicious local sausage we serve with someone who might not normally have access to high quality food. On another occasion we were not the givers at all, but we were able to host the environment that cultivated generosity. A

group of adults approached our truck, clearly hungry, digging through their collective pockets for enough money to share a plate of food. Another woman, a regular customer of ours who herself has known both struggle and God's care, came to the back window to secretly give Alastair \$40 so they could order whatever their hearts desired. They received the news of this anonymous gift with tears in their eyes, and they dined on pancakes and love.

It continues to be a steep learning curve as we give ourselves to follow Jesus in this realm of "business for benefit," but He encourages us daily, giving us (in the language of Isaiah 55) both bread to share and seed to sow. We press on with joy, believing a larger harvest awaits. Thank you for partnering with us!



My Dear Pines Family,

Thank you so much for such a beautiful celebration on Sunday! I was truly blessed and touched by the out-pouring of love! I spent the afternoon reading all of your cards and was reminded once again of what a gift it has been to journey with this family for these 30 years. The basket the cards were collected in was coated in glitter so when I was done reading and picked up the basket, glitter was all over me! It made me smile because it was a visible reminder of how each of you has touched and blessed me with the love and light and sparkle of Christ!

To all who planned and prepared and purchased and organized and created and prayed...and kept a secret... thank you! I was deeply blessed!

I love you all,

Barbara

Reflections on 30 years ~ It Goes Both Ways!

I walked into my office (now C-8) on June 5, 1989 with the intention of being at Pines Presbyterian Church for one year. I had been hired as a one year interim while the church was in search of an associate pastor. Thirty years later I am still here. In that time, I have served with five senior pastors, three associates, five youth directors, and three children's directors. We have gone through two major building renovations, we have moved from typewriters to computers, from cassette tapes to live streaming, from the "red" to the "blue" hymnals to the use of the screens. My ministry began as director of Christian education and evolved to children's ministry, adult ministry, and eventually, ordained ministry.

In 1989, Pines welcome me and my small family which included a ten-month-old son, and within five years, embraced our daughter and another son. Pines was there for my family when my children were baptized and when they started school. They have held my babies in the nursery, taught them at VBS, led them in the preschool Cherub Choir, directed them in Christmas pageants. They were there to cheer them on in sports and musical endeavors and to teach them about Jesus and mentor them during confirmation. My Pines family walked with my kids when they went on their first mission trips and participated in Celebration and confessed their faith in Jesus Christ. And Pines walked with us and loved us and prayed for us when I went through a divorce. And Pines celebrated with us when God brought Steve into my life, and you embraced him as your own right from the start, even laughing at his antics and corny jokes!

Together we have said good-bye to some wonderful friends and together we have celebrated with others during special moments in their lives. We have tried new ministries and let others die, we have started new classes, learned new hymns, welcomed new friends, and reached out to the community in numerous ways. We have faced challenges, mucked out houses, fallen down and gotten back up on our feet. We have prayed and worshipped together, and prayed and worshipped together.

More than ever I am convinced that we can never take for granted what it means to be part of a Christian community. As I look back, I wonder where I would be if Walter Crofton and Pines hadn't taken a chance on a 27-year-old to lead their Christian Education program. What kind of parent would I have been to my little ones if I had not learned from the amazing teachers in the Pines preschool? What adults would have been part of their lives if they didn't have the youth leaders here to love and mentor them? Where would we have been without the love, support, prayers of this family of faith when I found myself single? If Pines had not encouraged me to explore new avenues of ministry, blessed my call to train as a spiritual director, supported me through seminary, where would I be?

All to say... it goes both ways! Pines, you have been an incredible blessing in my life and the life of my children!! I cannot even recount all the ways! And undergirding it all, providing a foundation stronger than all of us combined, nudging us toward beauty and service and grace, working in unseen ways to transform and shape us...is the mysterious and glorious love of Christ! So all to say...all thanks goes to God! And to God be the glory!

I love you all! Barbara ♥

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on June 24. Here are some highlights:

- Reiterated our thanks to Barbara for her 30 years of ministry with Pines.
- Heard positive comments from our neighbors about the newly completed butterfly installation.
- Approved grant applications to the Synod of the Sun for the Sherwood Christmas Store and the Feed My Starving Children event.
- Received a positive financial report for income and expenses year to date.
- Prayed for the family and friends of members who have died in recent days.

Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session

Are you aware that Pines has a Columbarium and Memorial Prayer Garden? It is located through the doors on either side of the chancel, accessed through the sanctuary and is a peace-filled place with benches, a fountain, shade trees, and beautiful landscaping for all to find a connection with God in nature and to find peace remembering loved ones. When you go out to visit the area, please don't forget to take a key to reenter the building. The key is hanging on the door frame as you exit to the gardens. To learn more about the Columbarium, ask one of the members of the Columbarium Committee: Phil Johnson, Janice Pannell, or David and Connie Sipp. To find out how to purchase a niche or a memorial stone to honor a loved one, contact Connie Sipp or Cindy Houlihan.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

In Stephen Ministry we refer to ourselves as Caregivers. When discussing our relationships with those we serve, we refer to them as our Care-receivers so as not to divulge their identity. Unless we choose never to love or to be in relationship with anyone (perhaps such people exist, but I don't know any personally) we are all both Caregivers and Care-receivers at various points in our lives. Oftentimes we are both. We don't always think about it this way, but when we are thrust into the role of being a Primary Caregiver, particularly when ministering to the needs of a loved one who is facing a sudden or long term illness, we need to receive a little more care than usual ourselves. One of the most important rules of primary care giving is to **take care of yourself**, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And it is one of the hardest things to do. It is healthy to not be afraid to seek and accept the care of others when we are faced with such a challenge. I know this to be true from personal experience.

In fact, many of our Care Receivers in Stephen Ministry are individuals who are faced with the challenges of being a Primary Caregiver. Also, most of our Stephen Ministers have been in their shoes at some point in their lives. A Stephen Minister can help with the emotional and spiritual aspects of self care. They will devote an hour or so per week, supporting their Care Receiver by listening to and praying for and with them. For me, it was a blessing to be reminded by my Stephen Minister family, that the emotions and challenges I was experiencing as a Primary Caregiver were normal and that Christ is always with me, even in difficult times.

I have shared before in this column from Henry Nouwen's Life of the Beloved. In the chapter entitled "Given", he writes:

"In the giving it becomes clear that we are chosen, blessed, and broken not simply for our own sakes, but so that all we live finds its final significance in its being lived for others."

Perhaps you have need of the support a Stephen Minister can provide at this time. Or perhaps you are at a stage where you can give back and would be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister. If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry or know someone who may benefit from a confidential relationship with a Stephen Minister, please contact Barbara Retzliff at 713-467-2234 or barbara@pinespc.org.

In Christ, Tim Jenkinson