



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, October 2023

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS...



WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

World Communion Worship Service and Potluck

Join us on **October 1st**
where we will celebrate
World Communion Sunday, hold
a potluck lunch after Worship,
and follow up with a
Happy Hour Hymn Sing!

Advent Devotional –

Believe it or not Advent is around the corner, which means we will soon be producing our own Advent Devotional guide. This year's theme is Joy and we need your story and your reflection on a verse of scripture to make this devotional come to life. If you'd like to write a brief devotional to be included in this year's guide, please let Pastor Andy know and he will help guide you to a scripture, if needed. The deadline for submission is **October 25th**.



PINES PARKING LOT
Sunday Oct 29th 2pm - 5pm
Bounce Houses, Games, Face-painting,
Balloons and of course Trunk or Treating!

See page 4 for more details

Pastor's Page

Grace and peace in Christ's name,

Fall is often a time of new beginnings for families and the church. Schools are now back in session, students are getting their new teachers, and new after-school activities are in full swing. The church is no different. Our new Sunday school classes have begun for all ages, and we've even started a brand new class for adults called *Walking and Learning Together*. This class is intended to be a time of exploring our faith journeys and growing from our shared and unique experiences.

Many of our committees are also looking at new and exciting opportunities for us to engage scripture, each other and the community. Our Stewardship Committee is no different. This year the Stewardship Committee is trying something new by beginning the annual stewardship campaign in September instead of late October. There are a few reasons why we are having the campaign this month, one reason is several of our members will be away on our Journey's of Paul and John trip to Greece. The other, and main reason is because of previous years' late start to the campaign. The Stewardship Committee was having difficulty gathering up all the needed information to create a budget in time for the new year. The feeling was to move the start of the campaign back in hopes of having a budget ready to be approved before the new year.

Brad and Amanda Hofstetter are the chairs for this year's campaign. They have asked us to look at the what's and the why's of our giving. They have encouraged us to see and experience the joy we can have when we give of our time, talents and our financial gifts. Our giving, and our joy, should come from our gratitude to God for all God has given each one of us. Remember, no matter the gift, or the size of the gift, God just wants our best because God gave us his best in Christ Jesus.

Stewardship can be a difficult season for many folks because we don't like to talk about money, but stewardship is so much more. Stewardship is our caring for what God has given us, and we can do that in so many different ways. We care for what God has blessed us with by making sure the church is clean, that we have teachers for our young and older students, that we have people to serve on Session and committees, that we have folks to prepare fellowship meals, that there are joyful voices to sing in the choir, that we have caring hearts willing to visit our fellow members and invite new faces in, that we have compassionate hearts to engage in caring for those in need, and that we have people with a heart to give of their finances to make sure all of this can happen as we glorify God.

Friends, as you contemplate how you might give during this stewardship campaign, remember, it's all about what we can give back because God first gave to us. With a grateful heart,



Andy

Family Ministry Calendar for October

PLEASE HELP!

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

Family ministry calendar **October:**

1st Pines Youth 6-7:30pm- rehearsal

8th Stewardship Sunday

11th Pines Youth 6-7:30pm- rehearsal

15th YOUTH SUNDAY then after service, French Fry Battle (lunch) (No evening youth)

22nd Kids Acolyte Training with Pizza after Service (2nd-5th grades)

25th Pines Youth 6-7:30pm- Slime night

29th TRUNK OR TREAT 2-5pm (set up prior)

looking for those willing to run games or use their vehicle to decorate and distribute candy! See Kristin for more details or to volunteer!

Sunday School each Sunday 9:15am-10:15am for kids and 9:30am-10:30am for youth



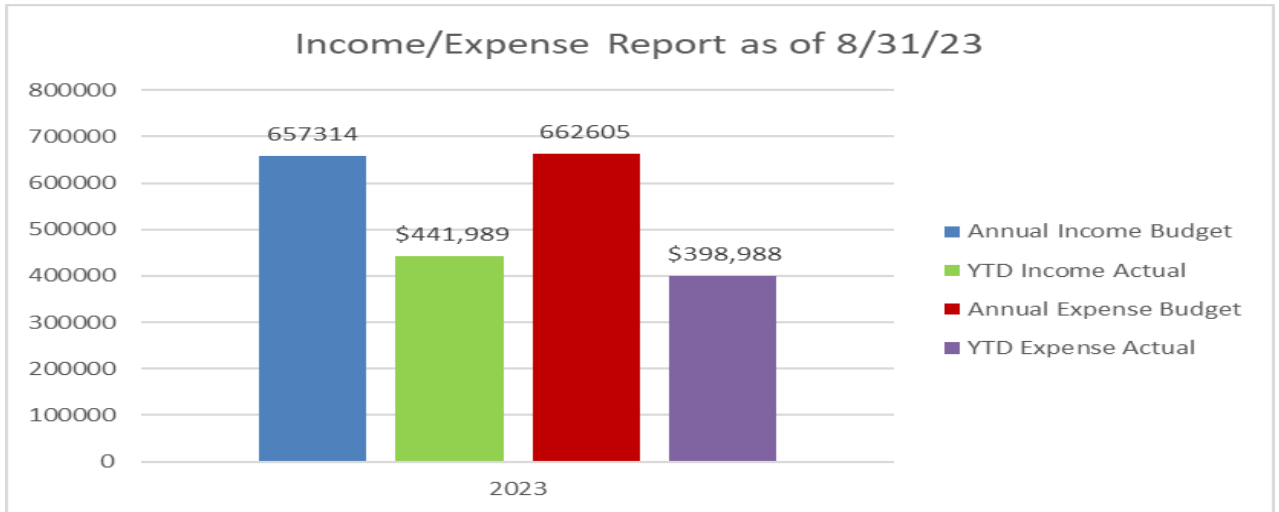
Can you add one more person to your prayers?

Looking for adults 18 and older to ‘adopt’ a student age 4-18 to be a prayer pal. Prayer is the only requirement, though we know it’s a bonus to follow one another in life events. Gifts for special occasions are appreciated but not required. We know prayer is the special gift and a card every so often (we encourage at least quarterly notes) is one way the Holy Spirit time and time again shows up in our kids lives reminding them they are thought about, supported and loved.

Pines commits to assigning all active kids a partner beginning at age 4. We do have some new students as well as those who just turned 4 ready to receive a partner. Are you willing?

We have a special dinner in April for spending time all together and I can send out gentle reminders to all partners to pray/ send a card out. Thank you for considering this important ministry. Contact Kristin for more information or to commit: kristin@pinespc.org

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE The August, 2023 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

1. Pledge income for 8 months continues very slightly under budget. Non-pledge income received through August is well ahead (79%) of the year's budget due to unexpected early gifts and continued strong giving.
2. Overall expenses were underbudget for eight months. Property income is ahead of budget offsetting well controlled property expenditures. Mission spending is well under budget. The final benevolence payments are typically made in November. Staff committee expenses are right on target.
3. Total Income was \$441,989; total expenses were \$398,988; leaving a Net Income of \$43,001 for August, continuing our very strong performance for the year.

The 2024 Stewardship campaign is ongoing. Commitment Sunday, when Giving Goals will be received during worship, is October 8, 2023. Thank you for considering your family's commitment to Pines.

Session **The Session met for its regular stated meeting on September 25. Here are some highlights:**

- Session approved the 2024 Youth Mission Trip to Belize with Praying Pelicans from June 29 to July 5.
- Session approved the Christian Education Committee's tentative churchwide study or Sunday School class using *The Bible in 90 Days*, written by Ted Cooper. The Committee will examine the best time to begin the study.
- Session approved the Youth Ministry Sunday School curriculum "Defending Our Faith," looking at faith from the different perspectives of numerous theologians and scholars. Session also enthusiastically approved Cole Liles to teach the course.
- Session also approved a Congregational Meeting to be held after Worship on November 5 to elect elders for the Class of 2007.
- Mark your calendars: there will be a potluck luncheon after Worship on October 1 for World Communion Sunday, followed by a hymn sing featuring the full Music Department; the next Church Workday will be on Saturday, November 4!
- Elders on Session prayerfully presented their Giving Goal pledge cards in support of the 2024 Stewardship Campaign

Craig Walker, clerk



Made in God's Image

By Ann Guerra

The children's Sunday School class was learning how they were made in God's image. The children were asked to look in the mirror and tell us their best quality. We heard everything from their new shoes to their muscles to their heart, hair, and toes.

As I observed them looking at themselves, they were squirmy, uncomfortable, and shy. Have you ever looked at yourself in the mirror and listed your best quality(ies) that God gave you? If you did, were you squirmy or uncomfortable?

Is it hard to accept that you are precious children of God made in his image? Think about that. We are unique and special and most of the time don't allow ourselves to be grateful to God for what and who we are. I had a season in my life where I wouldn't allow myself to see the good qualities. Because of some choices I made, I was so full of self-doubt, fear, and shame that I wouldn't allow myself to receive the positive things God blessed me with. I refused to trust that he knew the plans he had for me as we learn in Jeremiah 29:11. I was fortunate that God put a person in my life that challenged me to put affirmations all over my house and say at least one to myself *in the mirror* each day. That's easy you say! No, it is not! It took months for me to comfortably say and believe those positive things about myself.

Have you made some choices you are not proud of? Are you struggling to believe you are a precious child of God? Do you struggle to look in the mirror to see how God has blessed you? Pray about affirming yourself and ask God to place someone in your life that can help you accept He loves you- always.

A Stephen Minister is there to walk alongside and lend a listening ear when you need someone to talk to. Contact Stephen Leaders Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz for more information.



We have big news concerning George's house! We asked and you all DELIVERED.

Thanks to the incredible support of the TRT family, George - a retired Navy Veteran - has a brand new roof and is one step closer to a safe, functional home. Now that the envelope of the home is secure, we can move on to interior repairs.

From Buffy, George's niece: "A MILLION thank yous! This made our year! God Bless you and your team."

There is still much to do at George's house and you can be a part of it. Give the gift of a safe house at <https://www.therestorationteam.org/donate>



George's New Roof



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

Missions

Sherwood Christmas
WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:


-  **Take an angel from the Christmas Tree** (Fellowship Hallway) and start shopping!
-  **Make a cash, check, or credit card donation.** [drop off at church or visit: pinespc.org] Please note "Sherwood Christmas" .

Return contributions or donations by Sunday, November 19th.

questions: **KARI WORK** more info: **PINESpc.org**

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER AGAPE


Mission @PINES⁺

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN 

It's our 4th Annual **Feed My Starving Children MobilePack** on **February 23th and 24st**!

As we prepare for our big day we need a team of volunteers to help organize this amazing event. If you'd like to be on the organizing team or to learn more about how you can help, please contact Pastor Andy or Tony Samper. Remember, we need YOU to make this another huge success for our community and the hungry around the world.

Sign ups will begin soon, so be on the lookout in the Fellowship Hallway!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN 

Your help is needed for next year's *Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack*. We are looking for a few people who can help us research for grants to help pay for our Mobile Pack. This task will NOT include writing the grant, just looking on the internet for suitable grant opportunities. You will be trained on how and what to look for. This is needed quickly so, if you are interested in researching grant opportunities please contact Tony Samper or Pastor Andy.

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 of giving 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 October 6th! For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



and a



MALE OVER 50?
Questions or concerns about PROSTATE CANCER?
 Hear the experiences of two Pines members who had prostate cancer. From their awareness of cancer through radiation treatment, and afterwards.
Sunday – October 8, 2023
 Join the 30-minute candid discussion in the Parlor, after church service. There will be time for questions.

GIVE BLOOD.ORG

Pines Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 8
8:30 AM- 1:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

All donors will receive our limited edition "Space City" t-shirt + a voucher for a FREE pint of beer from St. Arnold's Brewing Company!

Scan Below for Appointments:
sponsor code: 0758



Are you looking for something you can do from home for the church?

We are looking to start back up with the Sojourners Group. This volunteer position would look for places for people in or connected to our church to go on trips in the Houston and surrounding areas.

All participants must be over 50 years old. You pick the place you want to go, schedule it, and then schedule the county bus to come to the church to pick up the group for the days journey. If you would be interested in doing this, please give Cindy a call in the church office.

This is a wonderful opportunity to do fun things with your Pines family. Been to the Blue Bell Ice Cream Factory lately, to the Painted Churches, to one of the many museums in the Houston area? There are so many fun things that can be done on a group trip. Again talk to Cindy (713-467-2234 x110) and she will guide you through the process.

Please prayerfully consider being our Sojourners Planner!



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.



THE BEST WAY
TO FIND A
BLOOD DRIVE
AND SCHEDULE
YOUR
DONATION!



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.



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.

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 Bethel at 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!

If you would like to opt out of receiving this newsletter, or if your email is going to change, please send an email to cindy@pinespc.org and we will update your record.