



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, June 2022

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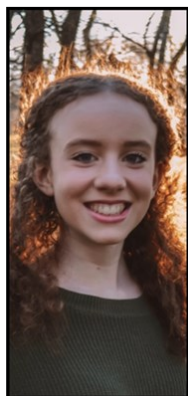
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES 2022



Gillian Brady joined Pines in the fall of 2016 and has enjoyed being part of the Pines Family. She's been a part of the Sunday school classes, local youth mission outreaches and her favorite, summer mission trips. She joined the teams each year serving in Memphis, Houston - Harvey, New Orleans and Lake Charles. She has also been one of the church's representatives on PYCC for the past 3 years, having been a Key Note Leader and most recently the Youth Co Moderator. Gillian has enjoyed a very busy senior year which has included her school commitments to her IB studies Program, her part time job at Pappadeaux's Restaurant and her role as the PYCC Co Mod. She'll be graduating from Awty International School on May 28th and has been accepted to attend *Glion Institute of Higher Education* in Montreux Switzerland to study International Hospitality and Business this fall.



Micah Austin Mills is a graduate of Obra D. Tompkins High School, Katy, TX. Micah is ALL soccer all the time. He has been playing soccer recreationally and competitively since he was 4 years old. In addition to club soccer with the Dynamo Dash, Micah played JV and Varsity soccer at Tompkins. Micah loves dogs, especially Huskies. A few years ago, we were serving at a soup kitchen, when a homeless man and his dog came in to eat. The dog was sick, so Micah made his mom get his custom-made soccer blanket out of the car so he could give it to the pup. In addition to soccer, Micah enjoys working out, hanging out with his friends and his girlfriend. Micah is currently weighing his offers for playing college soccer, and plans to major in business.



Makenna Mowell is the daughter of Valerie and Scott Mowell and the granddaughter of Jerry and Roger Mowell. Makenna completed high school in 3 years and is graduating from McKinney North High School in May. She grew up at Pines and participated in many activities for 13 years including being an Acolyte, singing in the Children's Choir, participating in Advent Plays, going on Youth Mission Trips, volunteering in numerous service activities, and much more. She moved to McKinney from Houston in June 2018, and immediately became active in school athletics and community theatre. She has continued her love of plays and musical theatre and to date has been in over 20 productions since 6th grade, including 2 starring roles. She also earned a spot during the 2019-2020 school year in the North Texas Performing Arts' Inaugural "Spotlight Choir" which performed throughout the DFW area. She played Percy Jackson in *The Lightning Thief Musical* in November 2021, which is one of her favorite roles ever. In High School, Makenna was active in Student Council, International Thespian Society and National Honor Society and competed in UIL Theatre. She plans to take a GAP year during the 2022-2023 school year and will use that time to gain theatre administration and internship experience as well as take community college classes. She is planning to eventually major in Film Studies with a possible minor in Performing Arts or Musical Theatre.



Hannah Zhong graduated from Memorial High School and will attend college in the fall. Hannah has spent her life growing up in West Houston and at Pines Presbyterian. Hannah's passion is art.



Congratulations to all of our amazing graduates!

Pines Family News & Current Events



Our New
Confirmation
Students

Congratulations to our new members through their confirmation...
Marley Langston, Tristan Hammond and Luke Sherrill

Thanks to everyone that showed up to help with the Property Work Day!

And for those that stayed for lunch, they delighted in the spectacular cooking style of Chef Walt! Be sure to join us again in the fall for the next work day! Note: Please remember to return any items you use in the church to the location you found them in. The City of Houston requires nothing to be left on the floor in our storage room in the Fellowship Hall. All items should be returned to the shelves marked for each committee. And if you hold an event, please take leftovers home and do not leave them here at the church. We need your help to keep our church looking it's best! Thank you!

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!



It recently came to our attention through the Dignity website that Pines member Virginia Smith passed away in March. The church is unaware of the circumstances surrounding Virginia's death, but hope that you will join us as we give thanks for the life of Virginia and pray for her family as they mourn her loss.

Lou and I want to thank all our Pines friends who prayed for Lou's healing and our return to Houston. Blessings and Love,
Lou and Sue Master



Andy will be leading a group of 27 people to Eastern Europe on June 1st to, among other things, see the Passion Play. Please add this group to your prayer list while they travel until they return safely home. Thank you in advance for your prayers!



Pines is in partnership with Randalls and Kroger through the Good Neighbor Program. For every dollar you spend at either of 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! This quarter, Randalls wrote a check to Pines for \$99.28. Thanks for shopping and registering your card for Pines!!

**Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATE:
June 17 (for the July 2022 issue)**

Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace in the name of Christ,

As I write this article I am bursting with excitement for the upcoming journey to eastern Europe and the famous Oberammergau Passion Play! This trip has been four years in the making, and we are finally going on June 1st. The 26 travelers and I will visit the great eastern European cities of Prague and Budapest, and then make our way to the Bavarian region with stops in Vienna, Munich and our grand destination Oberammergau. The Passion Play of Oberammergau has been taking place ever since the end of the Bubonic Plague in 1633. The plague had entered the town and killed 84 people. The frightened villagers gathered together and prayed to God that God would spare them anymore death from the plague, and if God saved the town they would show their thanks and give praise to God through the telling of Jesus' final days. And the rest is as they say, history. The play has been performed every 10 years ever since, with the exception of three times due to war and disease. The play was originally performed on Pentecost, but now it begins May 15 and runs every day through September.

The people of Oberammergau take this commitment to God very seriously as the whole village takes part in some portion of the play. The cast is made up of 2,500 towns people, and you have to be born in, or have lived in Oberammergau for 20 years to be able to participate. Rehearsals begin a year before opening day and men are required to let their beards and hair grow beginning Ash Wednesday. I told you these people take this offering to God seriously. Our 27 travelers will be among 4,500 of our closest friends as we watch the 5 hour long play, which by the way is performed all in German!

German! Yes, the whole play... all 5 hours... is performed in German. So, I know what you're thinking, "How will we understand what they're saying if we don't speak or understand German?" I think the same question was asked on Pentecost so many years ago. Act 2 verses 8-12 says, "Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" The answer to our question is, we will understand because they will be declaring the wonders of God. The gift of the Holy Spirit will allow us to understand because they are sharing the mighty acts of God. It is the love of Christ Jesus that will allow us to understand because this story has been written on our hearts.

We may not always understand what someone is saying, and they might not understand us, but if we say it with love, and our love is a witness to God then no matter the language difference or generation gap we will understand and be understood.

Declaring God's wonderful acts,



Children and Youth

Family ministry had a great month with a fun Easter craft and egg hunt, Parent's Night Out and continued Sunday evening youth groups.

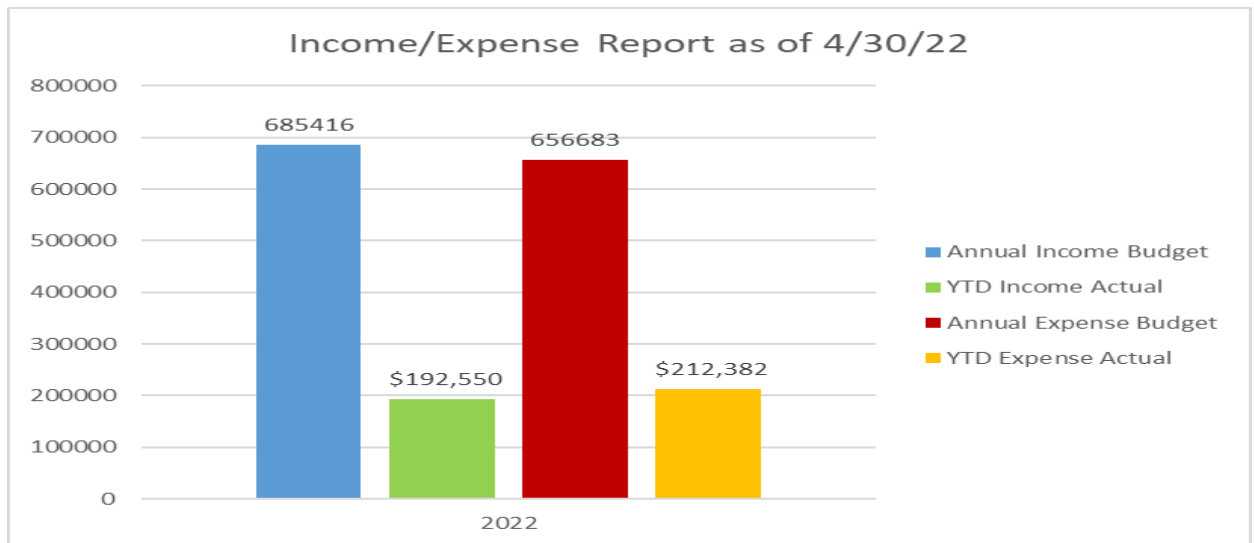


The Youth have 11 youth and 5 adults signed up for summer mission to Tulsa Oklahoma. We have our funding but welcome prayers from now through the trip July 2-8th.

Vacation Bible Camp preparation is in full swing and will be held June 27-30! We need several volunteers still to be key support roles (not in charge but to assist and guide the kids that week). Please let Kristin know or sign up online if you are available- it's set up by day if you are unable to commit to the week. There are also take home packets in the fellowship hallway to make decorations for the rooms. A list of some needed items will be available soon as well for donations. Lots of ways to help out! This is our biggest children ministry event of the year.



Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Pledge income in April is slightly below forecast for the 4 months. Non-pledge income is significantly below forecast.
2. Overall, committee expenses were on track vs. budget expectations. Mission expenditures are accrued on a 1/12th basis each month; Staff committee is right on budget; Property and several other committee expenses were below forecast. Worship committee paid one time annual music license fees in April, in addition to expenses for Easter services.
3. Total Income was \$191,550; total expenses were \$212,382; leaving a Net Loss of \$19,832 for the year.
4. The Stewardship committee is beginning our financial audit process with a review of written procedures and policies, as well as a risk control self-analysis.
5. The Stewardship committee and trustees will meet with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation relationship manager in late May to review our Sustaining Gift Fund.

Session

Here are some highlights from the May Session meeting:

- Session approved Walter Penberthy as a new member of the Staff Committee, and Patsy Jackson as a new member of the Worship Committee
- approved Rev. Bill Willis and Rev. Shawn Kang to fill the pulpit and serve communion as needed
- approved the service of marriage of Katherine Allison at Pines on August 20, 2022, to be officiated by Rev. Gans and Rev. Mark England of Kinsmen Lutheran Church, and the service of communion at the wedding officiated by the Rev. Gans
- approved optional robing for the pastor and choir after Memorial Day
- heard a report from the Property Committee how everyone worked well together at the successful May workday, with another workday tentatively scheduled for November
- endorsed a suggestion that if anyone in the Congregation sees something that needs to be updated or changed, please bring it to the attention of anyone on Session

Craig Walker
Clerk



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Every month this spot in the newsletter tells you a little bit about Stephen Ministry and extends an invitation to consider asking for a Stephen Minister for yourself. For the first part, this month's joyful news is the announcement of 4 new Stephen Ministers joining our ranks - to be officially commissioned by the congregation during worship on Sunday May 29!

These intrepid folks are:

Sharon Dotson

Scott Greene

Ann Guerra

Art Otermat

Congratulations and Welcome Aboard!

Each has completed 50 hours of classroom instruction (nearly every Thursday this year!) - plus hours and hours of reading and prayer, and each has made a serious commitment to serving Pines PC and friends in this Christ-centered ministry. They stand in a 28-year-long line of about 80 Stephen Ministers and 20 Stephen Leaders who have trained and served here at Pines.

And for the second part, here is your invitation:

From time to time, Stephen Ministers are also known as ***The After People***. Find out why in the article below this. And if the burdens of your life seem too heavy to carry alone – if the grief or anxiety needs to be expressed – if you need to find out what you *really* think by hearing yourself tell it out loud to a ready listener – ***then why not try a Stephen Minister?*** It's free and it's totally confidential. You can find out even more by contacting Bill Willis at bill.00.willis@gmail.com or by calling the church office for his phone number, or by asking anyone wearing a Stephen Ministry nametag. In his great love, may God bless you each and every one!
Bill

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the ***After People***.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... ***after*** the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... ***after*** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... ***after*** the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... ***after*** the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... ***after*** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... ***after*** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... ***after*** the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... ***after*** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... ***after*** you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... ***after*** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long ***after*** as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

Help Fill Snack Bags on Sunday, June 5



**The Missions Room
Shelves are Full Again!**



**Come to Fellowship Hall
During the Sunday School Hour
on June 5 to Fill 550 Snack Bags
for Sherwood Elementary,
Raise Up Families and
The Mission of Yahweh**

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PINESPC.ORG



CanCare

A survivor by your side.

JUNE AGAPE

**Our Agape offering
benefits CanCare, a
community of
survivors that
supports cancer
patients and
caregivers through
one-on-one
support, empathy,
and hope.**

Bring
**lap blankets,
shawls, scarves
& warm caps**
to **"wrap up"**
cancer patients in
love and hope.

**You can also place a check in the offering plate
or bring it to the office.
Note "CanCare Agape" in the subject line.**

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PINESPC.ORG

Wrapping Up Cancer.

Books Looking for a New Home!

Duplicate and extra books from the Pines library are available for you to take home. Check the tables outside Fellowship Hall starting May 15 for great additions to your home library!

First come, first served.



The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones when our regular volunteers are unavailable (Monday through Thursday). We have volunteers for each day currently, but need to create a list of substitutes. We will need someone to answer phones on Tuesdays beginning June 21st. 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 members (Jack Long) used to answer the phones on occasion...just to give you guys out there a heads up!

Taco And A Prayer Year-End article

It's a TAAP (Taco & A Prayer) Wrap! The school year has ended on a high note for the TAAP team. If you ever wondered about how this eight year old ministry impacts the community, consider these stories...

A teacher from Bendwood School approached us with thanks for how we prayed for her son through the years. She came out of the school to tell Andy that her son, who was struggling in school, is now at UT and loves learning. She credits our prayer warriors in part for his success and for giving her the strength to navigate those challenging years of parenting.

A gentleman drove through last month and asked if he could donate for the tacos. Of course, we said it wasn't necessary, but he handed a folded bill to us, with his thanks. When Phil unfolded it and looked at it, he saw it was a large amount.

This month, another gentleman handed us a check, along with his gratitude for the taco and the continuing prayers. The check amount was more than we spend on TAAP in a year! It will offset some new materials we need, as well as the new banner.

So, my Pines friends, your Taco & A Prayer ministry touches people in our community in ways only God knows. We receive prayer requests for a wide range of issues from health concerns to parental stress to world peace. While we seldom know the impact of our prayers, it is heartwarming to have that appreciation validated. God is indeed gracious!

We will take a summer hiatus and will resume with the new school year in September. Come join us as we continue to spread the love of Christ to our neighbors. Contact the church office or Margaret Schafer with questions.





New Partnership with SERJobs

The Restoration Team is excited to announce our newest partnership with [SERJobs](#) and [YouthBuild](#)! YouthBuild, a division of SERJobs, provides opportunities for young adults ages 16-24 to earn their GED while attaining work-ready certifications, gaining on-the-job experience, volunteering in their community, and strengthening their leadership skills.

We will host these trainees twice a week on our home repair worksites and teach them valuable skills as they begin their careers in the construction trades. Now, by supporting our ministry, you are not only providing safe housing for families in need but also stimulating the economy through job creation and training. A win-win!



It is the desire of the Worship Committee to put the Memorial crystal ornaments (274+) back into the hands of the surviving family members so these treasures can continue to be a blessing to their loved ones and be forever enjoyed. The ornaments have been organized and sorted by alphabet and they are located in the café by the receptionist area near the front office. Please feel free to stop by and pick up any ornaments connected to your family. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Aldred at lindaaldred1@aol.com.



Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at **Pines Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, July 19, 2022.**

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

Osteoporosis Risk

An ultrasound is performed to measure the shin bone for abnormal bone mass density. This can help assess the risk of osteoporosis, a disease where bones become weak and brittle.

These 5 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 797979 or online at <https://llsa.social/HS>. You can also find a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hallway.



by DE LA ROSA CREATIVA



Quinn Coleman Otermat

Quinn Coleman Otermat, Troop 642 Eagle Scout #624, began his Scouting journey as a Cub Scout at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church in Pack 525. Scouting has had a huge impact on him, fueling Quinn's love of the outdoors. As a Cub Scout, Quinn enjoyed building fires and cooking on campouts. He also enjoyed competing in the Pine Wood Derby competitions. Quinn earned the prestigious Arrow of Light, the highest award in Cub Scouting, while he was in fifth grade. In sixth grade he toured many local Boy Scout Troops and felt immediately at home with Troop 642.

Quinn has served in many roles with Troop 642, including Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Quartermaster and Librarian. He found the role of Senior Patrol Leader to be the most challenging and rewarding.

He attended four summer camps: Camp Sid Richardson near Fort Worth, Texas; Camp Orr in Arkansas; and Camp Daniel Boone in North Carolina as a "Cool Dude." He participated in the 2017 National Boy Scouts of America Jamboree where President Donald Trump was a speaker. In 2019, he attended Philmont High Adventure Camp serving as Crew Leader.

When deciding on his Eagle Scout beneficiary, Quinn looked to nonprofit Family Point Resources (FPR), a small, local organization

that provides youth programs focused on education and fitness. Quinn was a member of the FPR track team throughout middle school, participating in many meets with the team. In 2018, he participated in the AAU Cross Country National Championship in Knoxville, Tennessee. FPR played an important role in Quinn's love for running and was a place where he developed close friendships with teammates, and it was a natural fit for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Quinn and his hardworking group of Scout volunteers and friends refurbished a large GaGa ball pit and built four new picnic tables. (GaGa ball is a fast-paced game played in a large octagonal court and is similar to dodge ball.)

“Quinn earned the prestigious Arrow of Light, the highest award in Cub Scouting, while he was in fifth grade.”

Quinn is a junior at Stratford High School. He enjoys science and math classes and is active on the Stratford cross country and track teams. He is a member of Future Doctors of America and Houston for Homeless Club, and he plans to attend college with a focus on medicine. Quinn has enjoyed holding various summer jobs including being a lifeguard at Lakeside Country Club and a rod and reel repairman at Fishing Tackle Unlimited. This summer he will work as a counselor for Texas Outdoor Camps for hunting and fishing sessions. Quinn has a passion for outdoors activities, especially saltwater fishing, fly fishing, hiking, hunting and boating.

Quinn is the son of Shannon and Steve Otermat and is the older brother of Reid, a freshman at Stratford. He would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers and leaders in Troop 642, and especially Mr. Ronald Wardell who tirelessly served as his guide while earning his Eagle Scout. He'd also like to thank all the Scouts and friends who participated in his Eagle Scout Service Project.





Please join us for Camp Pines 2022!

WE ARE OFFERING 3-WEEKS OF SUMMER CAMPS

PACKED WITH FUN, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, SPANISH WITH MRS. FERGUSON,
AND DAILY ART PROJECTS! ✨ with Linda Barber

Schedule:

WEEK 1 (JUNE 6-9):

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

WEEK 2 (JUNE 13-16):

DINOSAURS AND DIAMONDS

WEEK 3 (JUNE 20-23):

WET AND WILD!

plenty of
play-time &
SPECIAL EVENTS
EVERY WEEK!

JOIN US FOR 1-, 2-, OR ALL
3-WEEKS. REGISTER SOON.
SPACE IS LIMITED! ●

Info:

DAYS: MONDAY – THURSDAY.
NO CAMP ON FRIDAYS.

TIMES: 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM
PACK A LUNCH.

TUITION: \$240/WEEK

REGISTRATION FEE:
ONE-TIME \$25 FEE



Requirements: Must be fully potty-trained and born before December 31, 2018. **Class Size:** 3-Year Olds - 12 Campers;

4-Year Olds - 14 Campers; 5-Year Olds - 14 Campers. **Teachers:** Classes will be taught by Pines Preschool teachers.

High School/College Aids will also help with programming. **Priority Registration:** Priority will be given to current preschool students and church members, followed by siblings and new families.

Pines Presbyterian
—PRESCHOOL—