



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Palm Sunday Luncheon!
 Come for fun and fellowship after worship on Palm Sunday - March 24

Bring A Dessert To Share!

Fellowship Hall
 Three Kinds of Pasta, including Macaroni & Cheese, Green Salad, Rolls, Beverages



Celebrate Easter Morning with Your Pines Family!
 Join us for a Light Breakfast
 7:30 - 10:30AM Fellowship Hall



Together @PINES+

EASTER

MAUNDY THURSDAY
 MARCH 28
 6:30 PM
 Foot Washing Service - 5:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY
 MARCH 29
 6:30 PM
 MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER 10:45AM LIVE STREAMED

EASTER SUNDAY
 MARCH 31
 6:30 BENDWOOD PARK AM
 & 10:45 AM
 Light Breakfast | 7:30-10:30AM Fellowship Hall

PINESPC.ORG | 12751 Kimberley Ln | 713-467-2234



See page 4 for more Easter activities involving the youth and children!

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.

Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!

Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is.

Join us for our next TAAP on March 1st!

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



and a



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 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.



Please join us as we gather for more Bingo in the Fellowship Hall on March 21st at 6:30. 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.

Second Sunday Lunch ...will be March 10th, right after church at La Madeline.

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!

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

Lenten greetings to you,

I pray your Lenten journey has been one that has enriched your faith and challenged it as well. Lent is that season of the church year where each of us needs to take a critical look at our relationship between ourselves and God. As I said in last month's article, this is a time when we historically either take something on or give something up in an effort to be more mindful about our relationship with God.

We love when our relationship with God is enriched but struggle when we are challenged. I know I often find it easy to be faithful and trusting in God when life is going well, but when difficulties arise or "my plan" isn't working out I struggle to trust. A few weeks ago our lectionary reading was from Genesis and was the story of Abram and Sarai being told by God that they were going to have children in their old age. Imagine the look on their faces, imagine what was going through their minds... "are you nuts?!" God wasn't nuts. God reminded them of who he was and that they should trust him. God even made a covenant with them, and to their future generations, to be their God and to always follow through with his promises. Sarai and Abram would become Sarah and Abraham as a sign of that promise and their trust in God.

Fully trusting someone isn't always easy, because we humans often let each other down. But why do we have difficulties trusting God? God has proven Godself time and time again that he is 100% trustworthy. When you and I are challenged to believe that God is 100% trustworthy, it is because we are challenged with short sightedness and selfishness. We can't see the bigger plan. We can't see five years, five days or even five minutes ahead. We don't know what's instore for us down our path. But God does. We could save ourselves a whole lot of pain and suffering if we just trusted God more.

There have been several times in my life when I struggled to trust God. Each time God came through, maybe not in the time, way or place I thought he would... but he did. So why don't I trust more? Our Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Mobile Pack was one of those times my trust waned. I always worry about being able to raise the money and secure the 500 volunteers needed to reach our goal of 100,000 meals packed. Each year God provides! This year, one week before the pack, FMSC saw our number of volunteers and asked if we could increase our goal to 125,000 meals packed. This new goal meant 80 more volunteers and \$7,000 more dollars. I felt God had blessed us so far with volunteers and money that surly God would want me to say "Yes" to the new goal, and so I did. I trusted God in that moment, but then only half of the volunteers showed up on Friday and I got worried. Could we make the goal? Did I extend us too far? Why did I say "yes"?! With each Saturday packing shift the energy grew and the meals packed grew. I am thankful to say that God came through once again! We packed 125,000 meals, surpassed our funding goal, had over 530 volunteers and because God delivered, again, 340 starving children will have a nutritious meal every day for a year!

During this Lenten season, how can you and I increase our trust in our covenantal God? Our God who gave us his son to show us how to trust even as he was being nailed to a cross. May your trust in God grow throughout this Lenten season and beyond.

Your brother in Christ,



Family Ministry Calendar for March

PLEASE HELP!

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

Family ministry calendar for March:

3 Pines Youth Hand on Hand Apartment Outreach 12-2:30pm - offsite

17 Stranger Safety Family Day 9:15-10:15am W12

17 Pines Youth 6-7:30 Fellowship Hall(? Group in youth rooms right?) sanctuary and narthex- escape room

20 Pines Youth 6-7:30pm Shrinky Dink magic and Nooma

30 All Family Community- Easter in the Park! Crafts/ Games and Egg Hunt! Set up 9-10am Event 10-11am

Clean up 11-11:30am

Looking for both Easter Fun and Reaching out to our community? Save date and be part of Easter in the Park! Bendwood on Saturday March 30 10-11am! See Kristin to volunteer! Kristin@pinespc.org

SAVE THE DATE! JOIN US- Saturday March 30 Pines will be hosting a Free community Easter party and Egg Hunt in Bendwood Park from 10am-11am! Are you willing to help love on our neighbors by hiding eggs, running a yard game, manning the craft table, handing out fans or ice cream, learning and distributing animal balloons? We will set up starting at 9am just beyond the playground area. RSVP to help Kristin@pinespc.org

Sunday School each Sunday in March:

Kids 9:15-10:15am rooms W13 and W14

Youth 9:30-10:30am Senior High Room

If any children are interested in being an acolyte, (2nd grade and up), see Kristin for training.

If any children are interested in singing OR ringing the chimes see Laurie (all ages!)

If any children are interested in greeting or ushering see Kristin or Chris Wolfe!

We love our kids leading us in worship!

FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH THROUGH SPAIN & PORTUGAL

12 Days: January 20-31, 2025

Visiting: Madrid • Toledo • Cordoba • Granada • Seville

Lisbon • Jerez • Evora • Guadarrama

Hosted By: Rev. Andy Gans

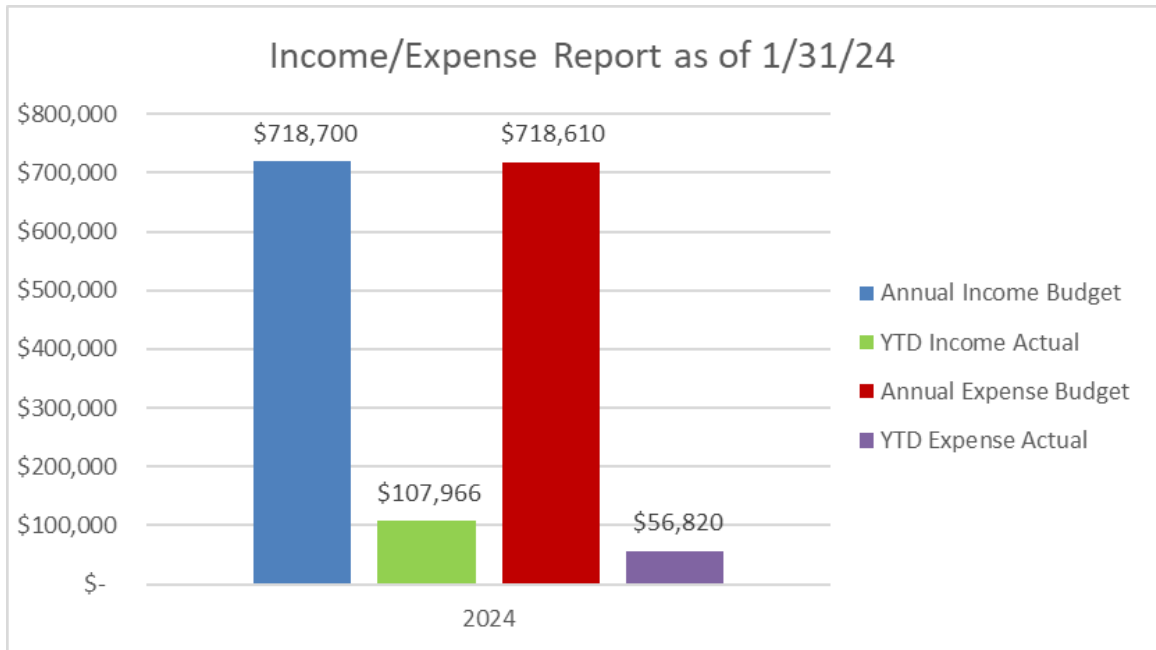
\$3,659 from Houston (based on 25 travelers)

www.pinespc.org/spain



- 1st class hotels
- All tours, transfers and transportation according to the itinerary
- All tips, taxes, airfare included
- Experienced tour manager

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Total income received in January was \$107,966. Pledge income was \$90,262 and unpledged income was \$9,617. Several members paid their entire pledge in January giving us a great start to the year. Interest income also exceeded the budgeted amount for 1 month.
2. Overall expenses were slightly below average for just one month of the year at \$56,820. Cindy will be filing an insurance claim for the plumbing repair we had in December, which, if received, will reduce property expenses.
3. Net income for January was \$51,146... a great start!

Session

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on February 26. Here are some highlights (including a called Session meeting on February 7):

- Session elected Beth Patterson as the third Ruling Elder Commissioner to the March 16 meeting of Presbytery. Beth will join Shirley Bollich and Patsy Jackson representing Pines.
- Session endorsed the Property Committee's nomination of Elizabeth Deraps, Phil Johnson, and Sharon Timmons as the members of the Columbarium Committee.
- Session approved on first reading an amendment to Pines' Policies and Procedures Manual concerning fundraising by outside organizations, originally approved at the February 7 called meeting:

"Session has determined that Pines shall not allow outside organizations not otherwise affiliated with Pines to conduct fundraising events on Pines' property unless otherwise approved by Session, but encourages mission partners and members to make personal and individual contacts with members of the Congregation to support their fundraising efforts."

- At the February 7 called meeting, Session reviewed and endorsed the Staff Committee's proposed Terms of Call for Pastor Gans, which were subsequently adopted by a vote of the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 11.
- Session approved hiring an off-duty Houston Police Department officer to be present during the Easter service.
- Session received the inspirational faith statement of Phil Wetz, and after examination, approved Phil to be installed as an elder. The other four elders-elect (Brad Hofstetter, Patsy Jackson, Ron Langston, and Beth Patterson) will be examined at the Session retreat on March 2, and installed during Worship on March 3.

Craig Walker, clerk



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

CONTINUING EDUCATION – DID YOU KNOW?

Most of you know that the Stephen Ministers at Pines have completed 50 hours of training to equip them to support care receivers who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives. However, you may not realize that these Stephen Ministers also commit to continuing education activities to further enhance their ability to serve those in need.

We usually schedule our monthly continuing education sessions on the fourth Thursday of each month and, if we feel we will be discussing a topic which would be of interest to the congregation, we extend an invitation to the Pines family to join us. That was the case on January 25 when we had a representative from the local Alzheimer's Association give us an overview of the disease and, more importantly, educate us on the tremendous website (**ALZ.ORG**) which the organization has and the resources which can be accessed.

In preparing to write this article and to share some of the resources which can be accessed, I called the organization's 24/7 Helpline (**800-272-3900**) to verify that the advertised resources are available. I am thrilled to report that I had a VERY POSITIVE experience during my call. My call was quickly and professionally answered by a very polite person who confirmed the availability of everything from educational materials on the disease (e.g., communication strategies; possible behavioral issues) to helping locate medical referrals to identifying local support groups. Much of this information is available on the website but the representative told me that they are also willing to mail materials to the caller.

However, the most important learning for me was that, if someone is calling and looking for guidance on developing a "long term care plan", a phone appointment can be set up for the caller to talk with a trained (Master's level) expert on the disease who will help the caller develop a care plan, including identifying local resources to help them on the journey. **THERE IS NO FEE OR COST FOR THIS SERVICE.**

A key part of the training for Stephen Ministers is developing the ability to discern the situations in which we can directly help someone and when we need to try to assist them in accessing help from trained experts. Our role is to continue to offer support even if it means helping the care receiver work with professionals.

If you feel you are facing a challenge in your life where the support of a Stephen Minister might be beneficial, please contact either Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz to have a CONFIDENTIAL discussion on whether working with a Stephen Minister might be appropriate.

Phil

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.

As an example, check out a couple of examples below. Thanks to Leslie Friedrich, and Susan and Mark Babineck for sharing their memories. See below:

Ten years ago, **Leslie Friedrich** came to Pines because of her interest in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The DAR's Alexander Love chapter meets several times a year at Pines. "I ended up joining because I liked what I saw, and also because our church is so close to my home. I found I had lots of ties at Pines. There was Kari Work, also Janice Pannell, Cathy Bankhead, Sue Barry and Morriss Partee who, like me, graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Memories go on and on and so do the splendid friendships I've made at Pines Presbyterian Church."

Susan and Mark Babineck moved to the west side of Houston in 1998, a few months after their marriage. Susan began looking for a neighborhood church to join, and after several weeks of searching, narrowed down to three. Mark was working most weekends but was able to attend services at those three. They decided on Pines, as it felt the most welcoming and homelike. Wayne Eberley was minister at the time, and made them feel a part of Pines. They realized this was a church that calls all its members to be active in faith, and truly wants to help them grow. They officially joined in 1999.

Submit your memories to sharondotson@gmail.com or call her at 346-242-9504 with any questions. She's here to help. In advance, thanks for your memories. They'll be featured in the 2024 Pines' History Book.

Looking for something different to do with the family? How about a trip to Brookwood to volunteer or just to have breakfast with the Easter Bunny?!

*Breakfast with Bunny

March 23
Saturday
9:00am - 1:00pm

HOP ON OVER & volunteer to assist our CAFE with the annual breakfast and wonderful photos with the Easter Bunny. Please sign up to Greet and assist with various volunteer opportunities to help this event become a success. (Volunteers assist in lobby - picture taking & CAFE set up/serving buffet). Go to the Brookwood website for more details and times for the event.

MAM
HELPING HOUSTON
Sack Lunches

One Easy Open
Vienna Sausage 16.9 oz Water
Bottles



One Easy To Open Canned Meat / Meals
-To-Go (no tuna please)



Standard Size
Paper Bags

Only one item per sack lunch
Please watch the expiration dates; do not purchase if date is near .



Wrapped Plastic Cutlery Set

One Individually Wrapped
Cheese / Peanut Butter Crackers packet One Fruit Strips One Individually
Wrapped Packet



Faith In Practice
Life Changing Medical Mission

Have you always wanted to try an adult mission trip to Guatemala?

Pines, in partnership with Faith in Practice, is offering an opportunity to participate in a week long Mobility Team July 20-27, 2024. This team will reach those in need of mobility aids (wheelchairs, canes, walkers and referrals for specialty wheelchairs) for up to 125 patients during the week. Team members are needed to be wheelchair assemblers, physical or occupational therapists, Spanish translators and a photographer/blogger. Interested? To find out more contact Linda Johnson at ladjohnson@sbcglobal.net.

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

AGING SOLO COURSE OFFERINGS BY AMAZING PLACE

On October 26, several members attended a program entitled "Aging Solo" which was presented by a representative from Amazing Place. This hour-long presentation was a summary of the full six-hour course which will be offered at various churches throughout Houston in 2024 as shown below. The course provides a planning guide to prepare for the possibility that some people will have to live at some point without a spouse/partner or family support. In addition to the planning guide, participants receive an extensive resource booklet to help them develop their individual plan. I took the six-hour course last year and found it very informative. If you are interested in registering for the course, please contact Phil Wetz.

Note: We apologize but did not have the space to list all of the class locations. Please get with Phil Wetz if you are interested in attending one of the classes.

Save the Date — Sunday, March 24, 2024 **WHY?** Palm Sunday Pasta Lunch **WHEN?** Right after the Sunday Service **WHERE?** Fellowship Hall **MENU?** 3 kinds of pasta (including mac & cheese), green salad, rolls, and beverages **CAN WE HELP?** Yes! Sign up to bring a dessert to share **SEE YOU THERE!!**
A light Easter breakfast will be on March 31st from 7:30-10:30am between the two services. Easter breakfast will include: coffee cakes, bagels, muffins, fruit, yogurt, and beverages.

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!

See below for some activities alone or with family or friends to explore in March...

The Astros are playing the Yankees on March 28th, get you some tickets!

Checked out the Museum of Natural Science lately?

How about renting bicycles in Herman Park and riding around the park on one of our beautiful days!

Dancing with the Stars will be at the Smart Financial Center in Sugarland on March 2.

Sur La Table has cooking classes throughout the week. Try something new!

Buy a pole and go fishing at the Texas City Dike. Big Reds out there!

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 in the office a call at 713-467-2234 x110.

Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: March 22nd (for the April 2024 issue)