

Pines Presbyterian

APRIL 2018

*Growing
Upward,
Inward,
and
Outward...*

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Easter Services

Easter Sunday—April 1:

Sunrise Service 7:00 AM

in the Kimberley Parking Lot

Breakfast following the Sunrise Service in the Fellowship Hall

Easter Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM

in Pines Sanctuary

Agape Communion Offering for May



**INFANT FORMULA, BABY CEREAL, BABY FOOD,
DIAPERS & WIPES**

Benefiting L.I.F.E. HOUSTON

The AGAPE Communion Offering - The Greek word *Agape* is used in the New Testament to refer to a kind of love that is not necessarily a feeling but a motivation for action, a sacrificial love that voluntarily gives without expecting anything in return. We are called to *Agape* love through Christ's example, and we remember that example of sacrifice when we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

In order to bring greater awareness of and participation in the Service and Outreach "outside our walls" ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Communion Offering** of small, tangible goods will coincide each month with the celebration of Holy Communion. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting an item to donate and bring to the baskets in the narthex on the **first Sunday** of each month.

Pines Family News



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

...to the family of Pines member Frances Cawthon. Frances passed away on March 23. A private service will be held at a later date for the family. Please keep this family in your prayers.

We have a new location for tablecloths that have been used. Please place these tablecloths in the labeled plastic bin in the fellowship hall storage closet. They will be picked up by the cleaners and returned. We ask that you send an email to Cindy to let her know what committee used the tablecloths so that the cost can be applied to the correct committee. Of course, you can always save money for the church by taking the tablecloths you use home and washing them. We just ask that you return the cloths to the location you got them (either the Parlor or the Library) when you bring them back. Thank you for helping to take care of your church!

Date for Eight this Spring is off to a very good start again with 82 adults and 7 children participating in 14 Groups with potluck dinners during March and May. A very special welcome to those young Pines families, who are reigniting Date for Eight with Children. We have one group of 6 adults and 7 children. If we form a second group, there's room for more young families. If you know of any, please spread the word. If you were unable to sign up for this Spring session, mark your calendar that Date for Eight will be held again this Fall in September and November, signups will start in August.

Sharon Dotson (281-620-9909) sharondotson@gmail.com and Art Otermat (713-303-0718) aotermat@earthlink.net

If you have been graciously taking the kitchen towels and washing them, please pop an email or call Cindy to let her know. She would just like to offer a big thank you and know who to call if an abundance occurs. Thank you so much!

STEPHEN MINISTRY...Is this what you've been looking for?

Is your heart longing for healing? Are you thirsty for someone to really listen and really know what is on your mind? Do you need encouragement and prayer for the journey?

Then maybe a Stephen Minister is just the person you have been needing to come alongside you and be a friend in Christ. Our Stephen Ministers are warm, genuine, authentic, and loving people. They are ones who look in your eyes, listen to your heart, and help you to hear the song your heart sings. And perhaps above all, our Stephen Ministers pray for and with you. Henri Nouwen's words describe the heart of a Stephen Minister. He wrote, *Praying is letting one's heart become the place where the tears of God and the tears of God's children can merge and become tears of hope.* Our Stephen Ministers help you find ways to let God's love and your struggles meet, bringing hope through the healing touch of Christ. If you would like to know more, feel free to contact Barbara Retzloff at 713-467-2234 or barbara@pinespc.org.



We invite all our heroes to join us for a celebratory luncheon as we raise money for our Houston area programs. For over 100 years **Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services'** mission has been providing Christ-centered care to children and families in need. Come hear moving testimonies from Houston families, as they share how PCHAS has helped them accomplish their goals. Please RSVP: Sarah Cleary, Senior Development Officer, sarah.cleary@pchas.org, 512.731.2571 OR Kathy Ropshaw, kr@jhyi.com, 713.236.8303 x329.

JUST A REMINDER...

Please remember, this is your church home. We all want to be good stewards of the many blessings God has provided in our building. When you borrow something from the church, please return it to where you found it. Also, when you bring something into the church, please remember to mark it with your name in case you leave it here. Finally, ANY item/service that you would like to donate to Pines should first be approved by the Property Committee. With these thoughts in mind, we can all enjoy our church home!

A Message From Our Pastor

PAGE 3

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

It is a blessing to live in a world where we know Easter has happened and continues to happen every day! Each day God gives us is an opportunity to experience the newness of a life alive with the Risen Christ. Easter frees us to live into the joy that is faith, freedom and hope.

I am excited that Easter means renewal and adventure. I believe Pines is in an Easter time. Within the next six months we will welcome three new staff members to our family of faith. As we welcome a Youth Director, Children's Director and Communications Coordinator, each one will bring with them new ideas and an enthusiastic attitude for adventure. As the search committees seek those whom God has called to Pines, they will be leaning on God's guidance to find the people who are passionate about their faith in Christ, energetic about engaging God's people, and willing to join in leading this congregation into its next chapter of faithfully, and actively, living out the Gospel. I ask that you keep the search committees, and the ones whom God will call, in your prayers.

The Session is also excited about this Easter time at Pines. During the its last retreat the Session came up with two priorities that will help us Look Upward, Grow Inward and Serve Outward. In early fall we will encourage everyone to take part in a church wide study of the book "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel. Strobel, a former legal journalist and one-time atheist knows how to ask tough questions. His own search for truth about Jesus led him to faith in Christ. The prayer of the Session is that this small group study will strengthen our bonds with each other, and by the end of the study, groups may very well see Jesus in a new way--and even, like Strobel, find their life and faith transformed. The Christian Education Committee will have more information about the study coming very soon.

The second priority came after much discussion and prayer. The prayer was how can Pines find a creative way of opening our doors, letting the community know we are here, while at the same time serve the Kingdom. The prayer and discussion revealed that Pines should host a community wide mission project. The mission project we chose was Feed My Starving Children. This project uses church and community volunteers to assemble and package nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. This amazing project will give all members of Pines the opportunity to live into our mission and share our love with our local and global community. For a sneak peak at what this project is, and can accomplish with your help, click on this video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ech5XOryipM>

I am so thankful for Easter and this Easter time at Pines, and I pray you will join me in this excitement. If you would like to get involved in the all church study, please contact Pastor Barbara. If you would like to be part of the planning team for our community wide mission project, please contact me. May we all live into the joy, hope and calling that is imbedded into the phrase, "He is risen, He is risen indeed!"

Happy Easter,



Youth Happenings!

Pines Youth Events

Confirmation Class Dates

April 15th, 22nd, and 29th, 12:15 - 1:30 in C3

April 1st, 6:45am Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service

Confirmation class will help lead the service and should arrive @ Pines 6:15am

April 14th, Youth United Bowling & Dinner

Meet @ 4:45 @ City Centre Bowl & Barrel. Pick up @ Pines @ 8:00pm

May 5th, Youth Car Wash, 9:00am to 3:00pm

Mission Trip Info

Middle School Trip - June 17-22nd. Local Reach Beyond Missions coordinated through the Presbytery.

High School Trip - July 1st - 6th Local Harvey recovery work coordinated through Son Servants.

Turn in your forms if you have not done so. Final payment due April 1st.

Pines Youth Celebrates!
15 youth and adult leaders attended Conclaves Camp Cho-Yeh last month.

"And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity...And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed - keep that dusted off and in use. Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes!" 1 Timothy 4:12-15

Pines Kids

Children's Ministry at Pines



Have you seen our new banner photo wall between the two restrooms across from Room W12? Parents and grandparents, we are in need of photos of your children at Pines. Please email Valerie with photos and sign a Media Release Form if you haven't already! Thank you for your help continuing to beautify our spaces and make them fun and interesting for everyone.



Bring your Easter baskets to church on April 1st! Our annual egg hunt begins at 10:25am on the large playground. See you all there!

Children's Ministry at Pines is looking for new Sunday School Teachers for next school year! All you need is a heart for kids and a desire to help them learn about Jesus' love. Please contact Valerie Mowell if you'd like to learn more!

Follow our new Facebook Page! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/pineschildrensministry/> for all the latest updates.

Journey to the land of the Celts,

The Rev. Andy Gans invites you to join him in Ireland for an inspiring journey into the Celtic roots of Christianity and the influence of this history on our own Presbyterian heritage. We will have an opportunity to visit sites of great historical and religious significance, learning more about the evangelization of Ireland and the institutions and practices that arose there.

Ireland is a land of immense natural beauty. We have created a unique itinerary that weaves together visits to magnificent coastlines, ancient monastic sites, and medieval town centers. Local expert guides will help us make sense of both ancient and contemporary events – including efforts to foster peace and social justice between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. Throughout our program, we will be treated to Irish culture, food, storytelling and music. Our program includes visits to Dublin, Armagh, Londonderry/Derry, Giant's Causeway and the nearby Corymeela Center, Belfast and nearby Downpatrick, traditional burial site of St. Patrick.

Come join us for this rich program that begins September 28 and runs through October 6, 2018! The cost for the trip, based on 20 participants, is \$4,165 per person. If you would like to reserve your spot on this amazing trip, please contact Rev. Gans at andy@pinespc.org.



Yee Haw!...

In March, the preschool students enjoyed learning about some fun Texas traditions.



Teddybear Cowpoke and Cowgirls



Frogs making Trail Mix!



Ladybugs gardening

SAFETY ALERT:

Please remember to lock your cars when you leave your vehicle. Also, you should stow any items on your seat in your trunk. We have had several car break-ins in the area. We want each of you to be safe and take every precaution necessary to protect yourself and your property.

OFFICE SUPPLIES:

Folks, in an effort to control spending and be frugal with the church funds, we are initiating a new policy regarding office supplies. Should you need office supplies anytime in the future for your classroom or committee, please submit the form found on the counter behind the receptionist desk to Genny. Genny will pull the office supplies you need and place them in your committee box or assist you in getting what you need and filling out the form. Thank you for your help and patience as we move forward. We all appreciate your efforts to help.

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

As I reflect on this Lenten and Easter season this scripture comes to mind.....

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory
And the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven
And earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom;
You are exalted as head over all.

I Chronicles 20:11

I give thanks to God for sending His Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but have everlasting life!

It has been a wonderful season, and I am so blessed to work with such wonderful singers and musicians as we present the gospel of Christ in music. Thanks to all who sang, played, rang, and rejoiced in the majesty and splendor of the season! Also thanks to the Worship Committee for all the behind the scenes work that made this Lenten and Easter season so very special.

Blessings!

Tim



Session Meeting Notes

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met March 3, 18 and 26. Here are some highlights:

- Welcomed Melissa Donovan, Michael Donovan and Anthony Gaira to the Pines community.
- Approved members for two search committees: Director of Children's Ministries, and Communications Director.
- Heard reports from Commissioners to the March 17 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- Approved hosting the PYCC youth rally at Pines in November.
- Heard updates from the task forces: Worship; Youth; Communications; Every Member Matters; All-Church Study, and All-Church Service Project.
- Received a positive report on completion of repairs to the roof.

Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session

BENT BUT NOT BROKEN

On March 2-4, 12 youth and three adults joined Ron Langston (who was a Presbytery staff member) and youth from throughout the Presbytery at Conclaves, a weekend retreat at Cho-Yeh which is planned and run by the Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (Olivia Williams is a member of PYCC).

The theme for the weekend was "Bent but Not Broken" which led the youth to discuss ways to walk hand in hand with our Lord while facing challenging times. In addition to those discussions, the youth participated in two service projects which served as a reminder that we are called to support others who are facing difficult times.

During our discussion time as a church family, the youth spoke about the most meaningful activity of the weekend. On Saturday evening, many of the youth walked a Labyrinth and gathered in the center for prayer. They indicated their prayers were ones of thanksgiving for the friendships they share in a group where they feel unconditionally loved. They also indicated that they continue to grieve for those youth who are no longer part of the group and for those who will soon leave. Many (including some of the boys) admitted to shedding tears of joy for this special gift of friendship made possible by God's grace and love. One of the youth said that Pines was more than just a place to come to worship and glorify God, but also a community where people gather to love and care for others.

On behalf of the youth and youth leaders, we would like to thank the Pines family for their prayers and support which makes possible activities like attending Conclaves, Youth Rally, and participating in mission work throughout the year.



Nina Hendee,
Owner of Taste of Texas

If you want to be a hostess
or need more info, please
contact:

Connie Sipp
connie.sipp@fluo.com
Phone: 713-515-3404 (cell)
or 281-263-3289 (work)

Linda Aldred
lindaaldred1@aol.com
Phone: 281-734-2043 (cell)
or 281-675-3442 (work)

Cindy Houllhan
cindy@pinespc.org
Phone: 713-467-2234 (work)

Back By Popular Demand -

The Pines Presbyterian
Women
are
Pleased to Resume
the

9th Annual Tablescapes Luncheon

Our Featured Speaker
is
Nina Hendee

Saturday, October 6th

Catered
by Massa's
Grill

Wait Staff - The
Men of Pines



Mission Current Events

SHERWOOD MENTORING PROGRAM

We're looking into bringing back our Sherwood Mentoring Program for the 2018-2019 school year. As many of you know, over the years Pines has provided a large number of volunteers who work one on one with Sherwood students. Recently, our presence in the Sherwood Mentoring Program has dwindled. But I'm pleased to say, in recent months the Missions Committee has been approached repeatedly about bringing the mentoring program back to life. So this is the official call to action for anyone who would like to participate in this worthy and rewarding ministry beginning in August, 2018.

Pines will coordinate with the Sherwood counselor to match you with a child based on your interests and preferences. Normally the mentoring period is for 30 minutes per week, during the school day. The child is allowed out of the classroom to meet with you on campus. The child's teacher and school counselor work together with you to provide appropriate materials and instruction for your time with the child. This is all done under the supervision and protocol of Spring Branch ISD's volunteer program. As such, eventually you will need to register online and agree to a criminal history background check. But at this point, we're simply gauging interest, so no need to register, yet.

Don't worry about committing for every week of the school year. We understand things come up in your life and there will be times when the school calendar prohibits visits. We're trying to make plans for August 2018, so if you think this is something you'd like to try or if you just need more info, please contact Kathy Ropshaw at kr@jhyi.com or 713-236-8303 x329.

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Your Missions Committee is happy to report that at our March meeting we awarded a \$10,000 Next Generation grant to Houston Hope of the Nations, a worshipping community ministering to immigrants, primarily from the Middle East. Houston Hope of the Nations (HHN) is led by Rev. Eid Abdelmassih Hanna in conjunction with and the support of our Presbytery. HHN is also supported by several other churches in the area and is governed by a board of volunteers primarily from those congregations.

HHN meets every Sunday afternoon at St. Thomas Presbyterian. Average worship attendance is 30-45 and the service is in English so feel free to worship with them! Eid spends much of his time helping HHN members with the basic necessities and assists them in acclimating to our culture. Many of these brothers and sisters arrive in Houston with no money, no job, and no transportation. What they do have is a hunger for a better way. HHN is working diligently to improve lives and increase the faith of their congregation. Pines is blessed to have the opportunity to walk along with HHN. The website for Houston Hope of the Nations (HHN) is <http://www.hhon.org/>

WHAT'S A NEXT GENERATION GRANT????

Pines Next Generation Grants for New Worshipping Communities came out of our successful Next Generation Capital Campaign back in 2013. The Capital Campaign raised funds for an extensive renovation and addition to many areas of our church campus. The Session allocated a specific percentage of funds raised in the Capital Campaign be set aside to encourage new church development and to support Benevolence to worthy organization(s).

As a result of our congregation's generous giving to the Next Generation Campaign, the Missions Committee (formerly the Benevolence Committee) was instructed to distribute \$180,000, split equally between deserving charitable organizations and new church developments. Here's how the funds have been distributed, thus far:

Benevolence Giving:	2014	Presbyterian Children’s Home	\$45,000	\$90,000
	2017	Camp Blessing	<u>\$45,000</u>	
New Church Development:	2016	Presbyterian Church of the Redeemer	\$10,000	\$50,000
	2017	Presbyterian Church of the Redeemer	\$10,000	
	2017	Grand Lakes Korean Presbyterian	\$10,000	
	2017	Houston Hope of the Nations	\$10,000	
	2018	Houston Hope of the Nations	<u>\$10,000</u>	

We still have \$40,000 to award to new church developments. The above congregations are eligible to apply annually for a \$10,000 grant. New recipients are welcome to apply by contacting the Missions Committee through the church office.