



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press September 2025 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org



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September is the [ninth month of the year](#) and has 30 days. It marks the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere. Notably, it's named after 'septem', the Latin term for seven, as it was originally the seventh month in the Roman calendar.

The month sees a change in foliage in the Northern Hemisphere, as leaves start to turn into beautiful autumnal colors.



Pines Family News & Current Events



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 to order a live arrangement. Please email: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred to sign up.

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 for caring for **YOUR** church!
The Property Committee



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Carolyn Craig. Carolyn had been a member of Pines since February of 2013. She was 93 years old. You may have met Carolyn at some point for she was a volunteer at Memorial City Hospital for a long time. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 x110 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 monthly newsletter "The Pines Press" 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!

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch...

Join us on September 14th at Café Express, right after church,
for the next Second Sunday Lunch!

Look for details soon on the 2026 Stewardship Campaign, which will start soon and culminate on Dedicate Sunday, tentatively scheduled for October 5th. Please join us on this journey of introspection and giving.

Brown Bag Book Club

Mark your calendar for our fall meeting which will be held on **Sunday, October 5th**, following our **Worship service**. Linda Crowl will be leading us in a discussion of the book, *The Train to Crystal City*, by Jan Jarboe Russell. This book summarizes a secret FDR approved American internment camp in Texas during WWII, where thousands of families, many U.S. citizens, were incarcerated.



Mark your calendars and come to these Brown Bag book club meetings! Happy Reading!!!

Pastor's Page

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Starting in a couple of weeks we will begin our annual stewardship season. I'm thankful to Sandra Johanneman for leading this year's campaign season. Sandra has developed the theme, "They'll Know by Our Love", based on the hymn *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*. We will be using the following verses as our weekly guide.

"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord"

"We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand"

"We will work with each other, we will work side by side"

We will hear stories from our faith family members about what makes Pines and their faith so important to them. Each one will reflect on a specific verse and share their thoughts on what it means to them and how they see those words playing out in their faith and life.

I am thankful you, and others, continue to be a constant witness to God's love and welcome in the Kingdom. This is part of being good stewards to what God has given and entrusted to each of us. Stewardship is about what we can joyfully give back to God because God has given us so much. Often times people feel stewardship is only about how much money you can give to the church. It is NOT. Here at Pines we try to help people understand that stewardship is more than just giving money. Stewardship is about your joyful response to what God continues to give to you. Are financial gifts part of that equation? Yes, but they are only a portion of how we respond to God's grace. Your gifts of time and service are just as important. Just as we need each person to financially give to the church, we also need each person to give of their time and talents, and be involved. Without you sharing with others what God has given you to share, then we cease to exist as a community of faith impacting people's lives with the message of welcome, hope, and grace.

Your involvement now will be more important more than ever as we say goodbye to our dear sister Kristin later this month. Kristin has been such an amazing blessing to this church family! She has started programs, shared her creativity and most importantly she has loved on us with the love of Jesus Christ. Kristin did a lot of things and now we're going to need your help to step up and step in to help fill the gap until we hire the person God has already selected for us. Please consider going outside your comfort zone and letting the Christian Education Committee know that you're ready to be a good steward of the gifts God has given you and you want to help. There is no replacing Kristin, but God will bring someone to Pines who will continue Kristin's legacy of loving and leading us. I hope you'll join us for a special luncheon on Sunday, September 21st as we celebrate Kristin's ministry and say a tearful goodbye.

Friends, I encourage you, especially during this stewardship season, to reflect and pray about what God has so abundantly given to you and how you can respond in faith and action to God's amazing grace. Help Pines continue to be a transformative body of faith for all people.

They'll Know By Our Love,



Andy

Family Ministry Calendar for September

PLEASE HELP!

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

September Calendar:

All September youth and kids small groups will meet during the Sunday School hour-

- PreK-1st grade W13 9:15am
- 2nd-5th grade W14 9:15am
- 6th-12th grade Senior High Room 9:30am

Family Ministries Calendar September

- 7 no Pines Youth (PY)
- 12 Parent’s Night Out 5:30-8:30pm (RSVP by the 7th)
- 14 Hand on Hand noon
- 19-20 30 Hour Famine for Youth
- 21 no PY
- 28 PY-all invited with RSVP by 21st to have dinner and make pavers in memory of Melissa Sandstrom

Youth will go 30 hours without eating food to raise money for hunger relief! You may support them here: [Pines Youth - Fundraising For Team World Vision](https://www.pinespc.org/fundraising) While fasting we play games that are not only fun but educational, work on service projects and just have a lot of fun together making a difference for others! If you’d like to be part to participate or support contact Kristin! kristin@pinespc.org





The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Monday through Thursday. We have a couple of volunteers currently, but we **need** more and 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 713-467-2234 x110.

Corny jokes for the month...



A quote from Morriss Partee when I sent him a Happy Birthday note...

Thank you so much! I love birthdays.
The more you have, the longer you live.

Gotta love Morriss' sense of humor!

Contact Us

Sanctuary flowers: Melissa Gravett or Linda Aldred

Make a donation: Alexis Graham at alexis@pinespc.org or donate on our website at pinespc.org

Add a name to the prayer list: Bethel Strawser at prayer@pinespc.org

Request a bulletin announcement: Laurie Conner at laurie@pinespc.org

Request a newsletter announcement: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Request an announcement for This Week at Pines: Dan Schafer at communication@pinespc.org

Update contact info in our database: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Plan a wedding: Linda Aldred

Add something to our calendar: Cindy Houlihan at cindy@pinespc.org

Question about our kitchen: Ann Guerra

Question on the Preschool: Connie Pike at connie@pinespc.org

Pickleball Program: Kristin Beall at kristin@pinespc.org

Anything else? Just give the office a call at 713-467-2234 x110



Random Thoughts on Peace

by Ann Guerra

“My head feels like this storm sometimes,” said Tiny Dragon.

“If you really listen,” said Big Panda, “you can hear the raindrops splashing on the stone. It’s possible to find a little PEACE, even in a storm.” (Big Panda and Tiny Dragon, copyright 2021)

Make PEACE with yourself as you sort through all the pieces of your life.
Anonymous

No God. No peace.
Know God. Know PEACE. Unknown

When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know PEACE. Jimi Hendrix

If you are looking for PEACE and would like a companion to walk with you, reach out the Stephen Leaders Phil Wetz or Ann Guerra.

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!

Pines Monthly Agape Offering (next page)

What is the AGAPE Offering? The Greek word Agape (ag-ah-pay) 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.

To bring greater awareness of and participation in Pines’ “outside our walls” ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Offering** of small, tangible goods or financial donations are scheduled each month. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting items to donate and bring to the donation bin. Watch the monthly fliers in the bulletin, newsletter, and This Week at Pines email for more information.

Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ!

Thank you! Your Pines Missions Committee

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact (for phone numbers contact Church Office)
The Restoration Team	Assist with storm recovery efforts and other community assistance	Ongoing	TBD	www.therestorationteam.org
Taco and A Prayer	Make tacos for and share prayers with neighbors	1 st Fridays- (anytime between 6:30-7:30am)	Pines	Margaret Schafer
Sherwood Elementary	Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20 lb. bags)	Fall/Spring	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
	Reading Buddies	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy & Dave Coles, Val Aldred
	Bulletin Board Team	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy Coles
Montrose Street Reach	Shop for and deliver food to street ministry	Every other month Thursday evening	Pines to Montrose location	Kathy Ropshaw
Church Office	Answer phones	1 day/week	Pines	Cindy Houlihan cindy@pinespc.org
Youth Hand on Hand Apartment Outreach	Assist with preparing food and other activities	Monthly	Pines/nearby apartment complex	Kristin Beall kristin@pinespc.org
Mission of Yahweh	Assist with leading Sunday evening Children's Church (2-11 yrs old)	Sundays 6:30-8:30 (seeking 1 Sunday/mo. commitment)	Mission of Yahweh	Janet Gay (Mission of Yahweh volunteer) Janetolson.gay@missionofyahweh.com

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 September 5th!

For more information contact Margaret Schafer or the church office.



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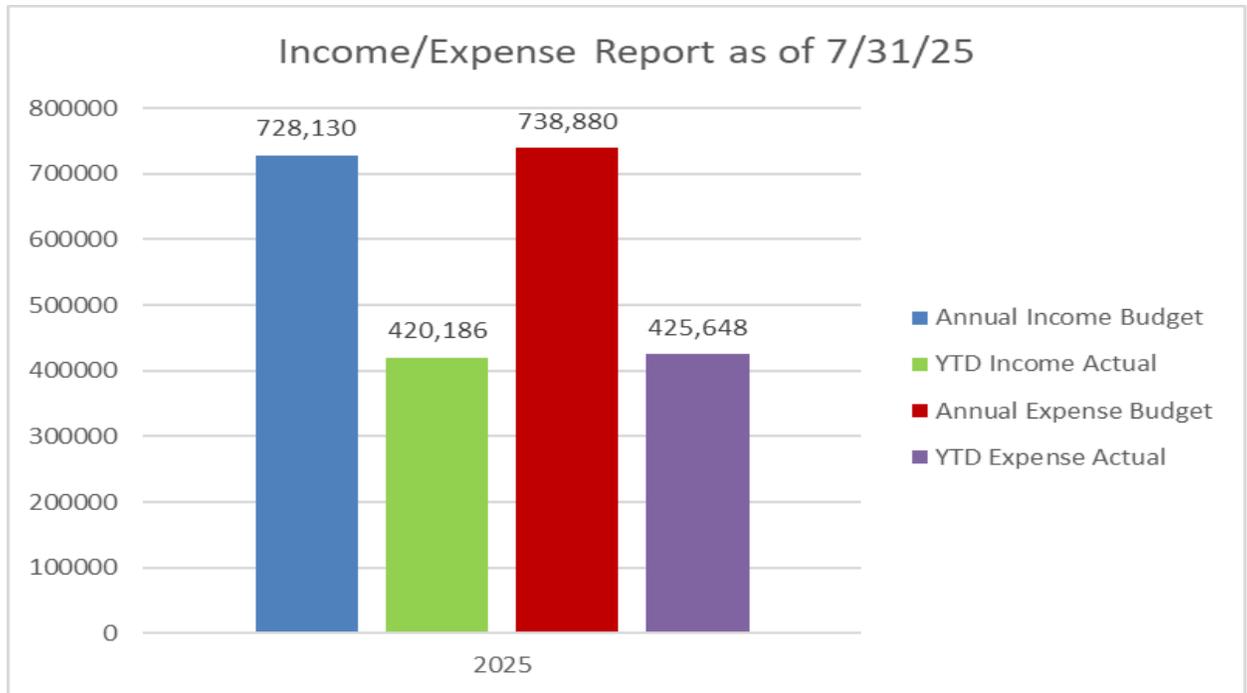
Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular Stated meeting on August 25, 2025. Here are some highlights:

- Received with sadness the resignation of Kristin Beall as Director of Family Ministries.
- Approved a special offering to recognize Kristin's ministry at Pines. A celebration of her ministry will be held as part of the picnic event on September 21 following Worship.
- Heard a report on progress with the air conditioning and other property issues.
- Approved the 2025/2026 Budget for Pines Preschool.
- Approved the 2025 Stewardship campaign, with the theme "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love." Sandra Johanneman is leading the campaign, which will run September 14 through October 5.
- Heard a report that YTD income and expenses are on track with the budget.

In Peace,
Dan Schafer – Clerk of Session

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

The July 2025 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

1. Total income received through July 31 was \$420,186 (58% of budget, on target.) Pledge income was \$332,999 (ahead) and unpledged income was \$37,354 (behind). Interest income was \$12,523 (behind).
2. Overall expenses were on target at \$425,648 (58% of budget).
3. Net income through July was almost flat at (-\$5,462).

Calling all Pines Women:

We invite you to be part of one of our circles, both following the PW study, **Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ**. This study is written by women, for women.

Miriam Circle is a lively group of (mostly) professional (or formerly professional) women, who meet at 6:30pm in room C-8 the second Tuesday of each month.

Contact Bethel Strawser for more information.

Clara Gay Circle meets from 11:30am-1:00pm in room C-3 **also** the second Tuesday of each month. We're a fun group of retired ladies who share great stories and experiences! Contact Marcia Welsh for more information.

Both circles share snack and lesson facilitating opportunities.

We welcome all interested women!

SAVE THE DATE -

Sunday, September 21st we'll have a picnic lunch in the fellowship hall with hot dogs, chili, chips, watermelon, and ice cream. Celebrate the end of the summer with your Pines Family!
Everyone is welcome!!



Want to learn to play Mahjong, or are you already a seasoned player? Suzy Wolfe has begun a Mahjong group in the café, near the receptionist desk each month at 7pm. The next night is August 14th. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.

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.

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.



Presbyterian Children's Homes and ServicesSM

Stuffing Backpacks for a New School Year 🏠💛

Volunteers from Spring Branch Presbyterian, Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church, and Pines Presbyterian Church joined us at the PCHAS Cypress/Houston office to pack backpacks full of school supplies 📖✍️ We are grateful for their support in helping students start the year confident and ready to learn!



Look who made the PCHAS (Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services) newsletter!



Next BINGO...

September 18, 6:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us in

September

when we begin

Bingo again!

Looking for *Things To Do*...

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2025
9:00AM - 11:00 AM

MINI COW CUDDLES

WITH WINE & DIRTY SODAS

- **PLENTY OF COW CUDDLIN'**
- **A GLASS OF WINE OR DIRTY SODA - YOUR PICK!**
- **PLENTY OF TIME FOR PHOTOS, FUN, & RELAXING RANCH VIBES!**
- **ALL AGES WELCOME!**

LIMITED EVENT
TICKETS STARTING AT \$40

**Milk & Honey Ranch – 8202 Brandt Rd,
Burton, TX**

Gather your friends for a limited and totally unforgettable experience that includes:

One glass of wine or a handcrafted dirty soda — your choice!

Plenty of time for cow cuddles with our sweet and sassy mini Highland cows

Endless photo ops, relaxed ranch vibes, and space to unwind

Fun for all ages — whether you're bringing the kids, your besties, or treating yourself to a unique weekend outing!

Sip, smile, snuggle — and soak up the magic of life at Milk & Honey Ranch. This is a feel-good event filled with laughter, farm charm, and lots of moo-ments you'll never forget.

Tickets start at \$40 – spots are limited, so don't wait to book!

Grab your tickets here: <https://milkandhoneyranch.com/event/cow-cuddles-09-13-25/>

**Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: September 19th (for the October 2025 issue)**

Want to share a favorite recipe? Send Cindy an email and she will publish it in the next newsletter. This one was sent in by Marcia Welsh. Thanks Marcia! Bon Appetit!

Quick Quiche

This quick quiche is for when you don't have time to make a pastry crust. It is an excellent idea for a quick lunch. You can customize this quiche with other goodies, such as ham, chicken, crab, shrimp, or broccoli.

Ingredients

- 8 slices bacon
- 4 ounces shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup finely chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon salt

Directions

1. Gather all ingredients. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9-inch pie pan.
2. Place bacon in a large skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes.
3. Drain bacon slices on paper towels. Crumble and set aside.
4. Cover bottom of prepared pie pan with shredded cheese and crumbled bacon.
5. Whisk together milk, eggs, flour, onion, butter, and salt in a large bowl until smooth. Pour mixture over cheese and bacon in pie pan.
6. Bake quiche in the center of the preheated oven until golden brown and firm in the center, about 35 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

Important Info...

In the event that the doors are not open for your group, please leave a note on the door to ask group members 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.