



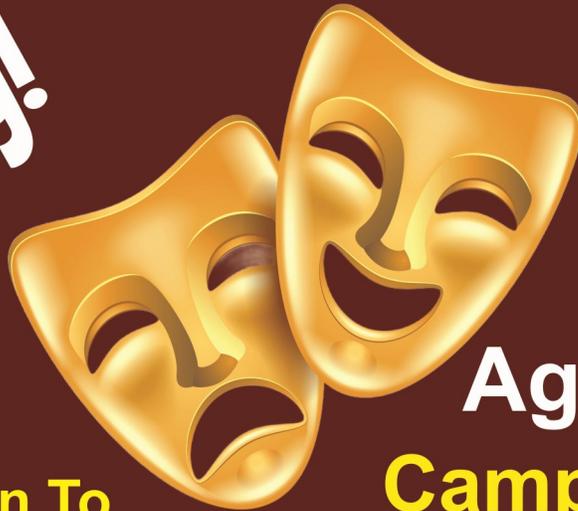
PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Music Theater Camp!

Singing!



Acting!



Scan To Register

Ages 6 - 18

Camp: June 2-6
Show: June 8

PINESPC.ORG/CAMP | 713-467-2234

Music Theater Camp is coming back!

Monday, June 2 through Friday, June 6, 8:30am-12:30pm, Pines Presbyterian Church offers a Music Theater Camp which is open to children who have completed first grade through high school who would like to sing, dance, and act. Don't worry if you don't have any experience – that's OUR job to help you gain it! The final production will be presented during 10:45am worship on June 8, followed by a reception/autograph party for all the actors and their families, as well as the Pines church family.

The cost is \$75 per student.

Sign up at pinespc.org or email laurie@pinespc.org.

Pines Family News & Current Events

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch...will not meet on June 8th at Café Express. Come to Worship that day to enjoy the performance of "Giant Slayer", the final product of Music Theater Camp. Join us in July for the next Second Sunday Lunch!



Dear Pines family of faith,

I write to share the sad news of the passing of our dear sister Darlene Wendt. Darlene had been an active member of Pines for over 16 years until her move to the east side of Houston a few years ago. Darlene had battled health issues for several years until her passing on Monday. Darlene's smile and positive attitude will be greatly missed by many. The family has decided on having a small private remembrance of Darlene's life. We are thankful for Darlene's life, her love of Pines and her faithful love of her Savior. May we hold Darlene's family in our prayers as they walk this difficult journey. With faith in the resurrection, Andy



Welcome new baby Selah Rose Penberthy

born to David and Adriana Penberthy (Ft. Worth TX) Granddad is Pines member Walt Penberthy. Selah was born on March 29, 2025 at 9:15 pm. She weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces! Congrats to the Penberthy's!!!

Welcome new baby Virginia Margaret Johnson,

born to Drew and Molly Johnson (Austin TX). Grandparents are Pines members Phil and Linda Johnson. Virginia was born on May 12, 2025 at 12:25 pm. She weighed 6 pounds and 14 ounces! Congrats to the Johnson's!!!



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 June 12. If you would be interested, please email Suzy.



Next BINGO...September 18

6:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us in September when we start Bingo back up again!

Brown Bag Book Club

Please join us for the Summer Brown Bag Book Club meeting on Tuesday, June 17th, at 12:00 Noon. We will be discussing the book, "Remarkably Bright Creatures," by Shelby Van Pelt.

Beverages and cookies will be provided. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Shirley Bollich



Pastor's Page

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord,

As I reflect on the gift of Easter and our worship that day back in late April, I am reminded of something a few people said to me that exciting day. Each of those people said Easter is like spring, it offers new life, new beauty, joy and a fresh start. How true that is! Spring has sprung and the proof of God's love is all around us and it continues to grow.

Spring not only represents a change in the seasons but also a change in life. Spring brings with it new flowers, fresh love, mother's day, and graduations. It also means we say goodbye to some in our church family as they exit the heat of Houston in search of cooler temperatures while vacationing for several weeks or returning to a summer home up north. This is an exciting time of year for many, but it can also be a scary time. Life transitions are not always easy. The newly married couple has to adapt to a life that includes the other. The new graduate has to figure out life out on their own, and the family has to prepare to say goodbye to their child who is now a semi-independent adult. Those who take extended vacations or return to a summer home until our Houston temperatures become bearable again now leave one life, one set of friends and comfort, to return to and re-establish their life up north. This can be a very difficult time for many as they navigate this new chapter in their life. As they navigate there is one thing that is their life preserver, their one thing that gets them through life changes and that one thing is love.

Love is what sustains us, love is what keeps us confident, and it is love that keeps us rooted in whose we are. We are a child of God; a child who is loved beyond all understanding. This month our scripture readings in worship focus on the love God has for each one of us. We will be reassured that God's love attends to our every need, that God's love through Jesus Christ shows us the way we can make it through these life transitions, and we will celebrate God's sustaining love with the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost in just a few days. It is this Spirit that will go with us wherever we go, sustaining us and reminding us of God's presence in every moment of our lives.

So this month as you try to figure out what gift you are going to get that special dad, or dad like figure in your life for Father's Day, or what to get that very special graduate, what gift you may give to a departing friend, or even what gift you're going to give someone just to let them know they are loved, know that God has given us all the perfect gift in the Holy Spirit. A gift that will sustain each one of us in all of life's seasons. May each of us enjoy the warmth of knowing the Holy Spirit goes with us wherever we go this summer, and always!

Happy summer,



Andy

Family Ministry Calendar for June

PLEASE HELP!

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

June Calendar:

Hand on Hand is growing in its new location! Upland Park is what is formerly known as Knights Landing. Come help us love on this community with food, supplies and playing various games and activities! May is kids bingo!

Sundays in June 9:15-10:15am ALL ages Veggie Tales in Senior High Room
(We will be taking the month of July off!)

Saturday June 14 VBC work day- youth rooms 10am-noon

Friday June 20 VBC set up décor 2pm-6pm

23-26 Vacation Bible Camp 9am-11:45am

28 June-July 4 Youth Mission to Puerto Rico





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

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



and a



The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Monday through Thursday. We have a few 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. 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!



Corny jokes for the month...

When someone needed a boat made, what did the people in town say? "We Noah guy."

Who in the Bible knew the most people? Abraham knew a Lot.



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



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

The Opportunity for an Unexpected Gift

I was touched by the May 6 Daily Meditation distributed by the Henri Nouwen Society on “Caregiving” and how it summarized the experiences of Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. The opening sentences stated:

To care is the most human of human gestures. It is a gesture that comes forth from a courageous confession of our common need for one another and the grace of compassion that binds us together with brothers and sisters like ourselves who share with us the wonderful and painful journey of life.

The concepts in those sentences which impacted me the most were:

It takes courage to confess our needs to another. We are often embarrassed because we feel our “confession” will be perceived as a sign of weakness. In reality, it is an affirmation of how God created us.

All of us have a common need to be linked with brothers and sisters to share life’s journey since God created us to be in community.

Our life journeys can be wonderful at times but they can also be painful.

The meditation concluded with this sentence:

And because we who offer care and we who receive care are both strong and vulnerable, though in different ways, our coming together in a caregiving relationship is an occasion to open ourselves to receive an unexpected gift.

Those words underscore some of my learnings from 15 years as a Stephen Minister:

Both the Stephen Minister and the care receiver have their strengths and vulnerabilities.

When a Stephen Minister and a care receiver come together, BOTH OF THEM receive an “unexpected gift”.

That gift can take many forms but most often it is a reminder of the power and presence of God’s love for His children and the healing that love provides.

If you are experiencing a painful portion of your life journey and want to explore the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister and receiving an “unexpected gift”, please contact either Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz for a **confidential** discussion.

Phil Wetz

RENOVATIONS

The end is in site! Work is being done and things are proceeding. We beg your patience for a bit longer as we hope to have completion on the new Fellowship Hall restrooms sometime in June. Thank you for your patience up to this point. The committees have worked hard to make this a renovation you will be pleased with. More updates to come soon.

CanCare JUNE AGAPE

A survivor by your side.

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.

Place a check in the offering plate or bring it to the office. Donate online at pinespc.org or via Zelle Note “CanCare Agape” in the subject line.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PINESPC.ORG

Wrapping Up Cancer.

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

| Mission Partner | Activity | Date | Location | Contact (for phone numbers contact Church Office) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Raise Up Families | Summer Camp Send Off | June 29 Noon-2 | Pines | www.raiseupfamilies.org |
| 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) Begins in Sept. | Pines | Margaret Schafer ga.schafers@comcast.net |
| Sherwood Elementary | Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20 lb. bags) | Spring Semester | Pines to Sherwood | Cindy Coles CindyL.Coles@comcast.net |
| | Reading Buddies | Fall/Spring | Sherwood | Cindy & Dave Coles, Val Aldred |
| | Bulletin Board Team | Spring semester | Sherwood | Cindy Coles CindyL.Coles@comcast.net |
| Montrose Street Reach | Shop for and deliver food to street ministry | Every other month Thursday evening | Pines to Montrose location | Kathy Ropshaw Kathyr@jhyi.com |
| 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 |
| Vacation Bible Camp | Various roles to be filled – group leader, crafts, and more | June 23-26 | Pines | Kristin Beall kristin@pinespc.org |

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

Pines Monthly Agape Offering

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



TRT Volunteer today!

THE RESTORATION TEAM

Hi there! We look forward to you joining our home repair efforts. Volunteering with us will be fun and fulfilling - and there is no experience required. Come muck out a home, install insulation, hang drywall, or just love on a family. We need you! We offer opportunities for individual volunteers as well as mission groups - complete with volunteer lodging. We also need Welcome Hosts to show hospitality to our out-of-town volunteers! Sign up to provide a meal for a group to show how appreciative we are of them coming to Houston to serve our community.

Go to <https://www.the.restorationteam.org> to volunteer or to donate TODAY!

Session

The Session of Pines Presbyterian Church met for its regular stated meeting on May 27, 2025. Here are some highlights:

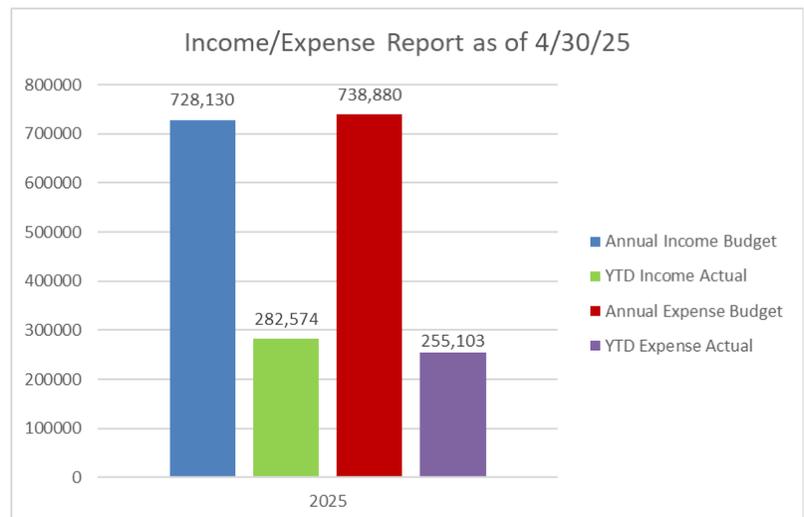
- Heard an update from the Property Committee on the air conditioner situation, along with possible paths forward.
- Head a report from the Stewardship Committee that pledge income continues to be ahead of budget and the prior year.
- Heard an update from the Trustees on insurance renewal and bathroom remodel.
- Approved a Memorial Service for friend of Pines Judy Siverson on May 7, 2025, in Fellowship Hall, officiated by the Rev. Bill Willis.

In Christ,
Dan Schafer
Clerk of Session

Stewardship

Stewardship Notes:

1. Total income received through April 30 was \$282,574 (39% of budget, ahead of target.) Pledge income was \$224,300 (ahead) and unpledged income was \$30,715 (slightly behind). Interest income was \$6,239, right on projections.
2. Overall expenses were almost on target at \$255,103 (35% of budget).
- 3 Net income through April was \$27,471.



Pines Directory...Folks, we are encouraging people to use our Breeze system to access member information. If you would like to have access to this information on your phone or computer, please contact Alexis in the church office on Mondays, or you may email her at alexis@pinespc.org. She will get you set up for access. Otherwise, if you would like to have a church directory printed, please send an email to Cindy and let her know. We are taking a head count for those that may want a printed directory. Please respond by June 30th. Accessing the directory online, saves paper and printing costs. Thanks for your patience, Cindy

The Pentecost Offering

is a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of children, youth, and young adults.

40% of the offering remains with our congregation to support youth and children ministries in our church and the local community. We will be collecting the offering during Pentecost season through Pentecost Sunday, June 8.



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.

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!

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

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.

Adult Sunday School

We invite you to join our Sunday School class called Explorers. We meet each Sunday in room C-3 @ 9:30 am. The class consists of short videos followed by lively group discussions. Come join in on any Sunday!

A Message from your Pines Staff Committee...

Did you know we have amazing and wonderful volunteers on the Session here at Pines? Our "Get to Know Your Staff" was so very well received that we decided to begin a "Get to Know Your Session" and this is month one as we explore a fun way to get to know them a little bit better. If you are familiar with the "'Stro Poll" that comes up on the screen during every Astros game, then you know that they list 4 fun facts about an Astro; you can text in and guess who it is. Along those same lines, we are going to list a few fun facts about our Session members and ask you to participate by guessing who you think it might be.

1. Can you guess who this person is?

2. They love almost any shade of blue and they love hunting and also Texas Hold 'Em. He/she also loves to visit Las Vegas aka Lost Wages. They really love the movie *Top Gun*. He/she said that they have a couple of favorite quotes including: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country" JFK; "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn". They shared that their favorite food is cheese enchiladas. The best part about their role here at Pines is that they never feel any pressure and that it is easy to fit in and help with any task. Something that is not known about he/she is that they drove for 13 years in the Auto Thrill Show and Destruction Derby in the Astrodome. A favorite childhood memory included accepting a challenge from a relative, Uncle Troy, to earn half the cost of a Schwinn 10-speed bicycle. They mowed lawns over the summer and earned the amount needed and they were the first kid in their neighborhood to get that fancy bike, when their uncle paid the other half and they got to go and actually pick it out. An example of when He/she feels God most in their life is when they talk to God while praying and asking for forgiveness and asking for God to use His healing power to be allowed if it is His will. Watching their grandkids grow into young adults and watching them participate in their high school/college graduations brings he/she the most joy. Their Dad instilled the greatest influence on them as he was a quiet man who believed in God and had a chance to visit the Holy Land and he lived his life as an example to others. He taught them the importance of family, instilled in he/she that work is a way of life, embrace it and always do your best to succeed.

2. Can you guess who this person is?

They love the color red and they love walking the dog. He/she also loves to visit everywhere because each place brings a unique pleasure. They really cannot pick a favorite movie, but if forced would select *Cast Away*. He/she said that their favorite quote is: "There's no limit to where a man can go or what he can do if he doesn't mind who gets the credit". They shared that their favorite food is barbeque. The best part about their role here at Pines is seeing how people's lives are touched through what we do. Something that is not known about he/she is that they can read upside down just as fast as they can read right side up. A favorite childhood memory included working on cars with a grandfather who was a retired mechanic. An example of when He/she feels God most in their life is during quiet times, like sitting in the dark and empty sanctuary. Seeing joy in others brings he/she the most joy. The leaders here at Pines that went on Mission trips when their kids were growing up at Pines instilled a great influence on them.

3. Can you guess who this person is?

Their favorite color is blue and their favorite hobby is playing rugby. He/she really like to visit Disneyland. Their favorite book is *Twilight at Mac's Place* by Ross Thomas and their favorite quote is "It's better to spend money like there's no tomorrow than to spend tonight like there's no money" - PJ O'Rourke. He/she shared that their favorite food is Mountain Dew. They love being a part of Session and witnessing everyone's, including their own, faith in action. Something that not many people know about them is that when they were in high school, they were a two-time qualifier for the National Championship Lincoln Douglas Debate Tournament. He/she feels God most in their life when they out in nature. A favorite childhood memory includes going to their grandparents' farm in east Tennessee. He/she feels the most joy when they receive vindication and validation of their opinions. The most influential people in their life includes his/her mother and grandfather.

4. Can you guess who this person is?

Their favorite foods include ribeye steaks cooked rare or medium rare. He/she loves hiking and traveling. Their favorite color is yellow and their favorite movie is *The Blues Brothers*. Something that not many people know about them is that they tried out for both *Teen Jeopardy* and the *Houston Astros*, but they didn't make either. Their favorite thing about their role at Pines is that a smaller church has allowed them to get involved in so many different ways over the years, and also to pull back at times when other volunteering opportunities took hold. They feel God most in their life when they are together with their family. Their dad and their maternal grandfather have had the most influence in their life.

5. Can you guess who this person is?

Their favorite color is blue and their favorite hobby is crafting of any kind. He/she really likes to visit Sedona, Arizona or any mountains of any kind. Their favorite movie is *Pretty Woman* and they love probably any romance novel. Also, their favorite quote is "If you dream it, you can become it". He/she shared that their favorite food is cheese. They love being a part of Pines and being able to form relationships with special people. Something that not many people know about them is that they are a certified scuba diver. He/she feels God most in their life when they outdoors on a beautiful day. But they really feel God mostly in real every day interactions with good friends. Favorite childhood memories include family camp outs at the lake which included grandparents, aunts and uncles. He/she feels the most joy when they see the hand of God working in their life. The most influential people in their life includes his/her mother and their maternal grandparents.

Continued on next page...

6. Can you guess who this person is?

Their favorite color is orange and their favorite hobby is gardening. He/she really likes to visit Taos, New Mexico. Their favorite movie is *Shawshank Redemption*. Also, their favorite quote is “*Nothing in Life is Free*” by Mr. Van Dyke, their past 8th grade History Teacher. He/she shared that their favorite food is Memphis barbeque. They love being able to sing in the choir and that is a favorite part of being at Pines. Something that not many people know about them is that they like to listen to Synthpop music. He/she feels God most in their life when they are here at Pines doing anything. Favorite childhood memories include riding their BMX bike all over the city with friends during summer breaks. (Their mother never knew they left the neighborhood!) He/she feels the most joy when they are singing, listening to music, or trying to play the keyboard. The most influential person in their life was their father. They can now see how much they are like him.

We will have a specially decorated box near the Sunday Coffee table in the narthex, along with pieces of paper to write your answers. If you think you know the answer(s) please leave them in the marked box, along with your name. This is the last month where our Session and wonderful volunteers are being high-lighted. Thanks to each of them for participating. The answers are listed below.
Session/Staff Committee

Thank you to all who participated in the “Get to Know the Session Better” Poll.

The answers are as follows:

January: Susan Babineck, Chris Wolfe, Linda Johnson, Walter Penberthy

February: Donna Partee, Emily Gairo, Tim Timmons, Linda Aldred

March: Beth Patterson, Patsy Jackson, Shirley Bollich

April: Marsha Deison, Phil Wetz, Roger Mowell

May: Fred Ellis, Dan Schafer, Brad Hofstetter, Mark Babineck, Terrie Cardwell, Steve Ballard



The preschool wishes to thank everyone for a great school year! Looking forward to seeing everyone next year. Have a safe summer!

Looking for something different to do???

[Get hands on at The Houston Interactive Aquarium & Animal Preserve](#)

The Houston Interactive Aquarium & Animal Preserve is a hands-on hidden gem in **Humble**. Here, visitors can get up close and personal with all corners of the animal kingdom. Among its many attractions, ranging from a lovebird aviary to a big snake enclosure, the venue's **Majestic Underwater World** attraction allows visitors the chance to dive with sharks, tropical fish, and stingrays. The venue also features a **bounce house**, arcade, Mermaids and Friends area, and more on the grounds.



Photo credit: @houstoninteractiveaquarium

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 Pines member Patsy Jackson. Bon Appetit!

Blackeyed Peas Casserole Jean Montgomery

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 ½ pounds ground chuck | 1 small can tomatoes with green chilis |
| 1 small onion, chopped | 1 cup grated cheddar |
| 1 small bell pepper, chopped | 1 pkg. Jiffy Cornbread, blended as pkg. directs |
| 1 10-ounce can peas | |

Saute ground chuck with onion and bell pepper. Drain grease and place in casserole. Add peas and tomatoes, mixing well. Top with grated cheese. Pour prepared cornbread mix over top. Bake at 350 for 35 minutes. Serves 8.



Val Aldred, Cindy Coles, and Dave Coles show off the handmade Thank You cards from the Sherwood Elementary 2nd grade "Reading Buddies" students they have been reading with every week. Cindy says, "It has been awe-inspiring to watch these Sherwood "Eagles" turn into proficient readers - ready to enter 3rd grade with reading skills to help them soar next year and beyond."

The Sherwood Reading Buddies program has concluded for this school year. But, let Cindy know if you would like more information about being on the Pines Reading Buddy Team for next school year. The time commitment is minimal - 1 hour a week during school hours - but the satisfaction is huge.

Important Info...

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.

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

**Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: June 20 (for the July 2025 issue)**

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.