



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, May 2023

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234



TRT

THE RESTORATION TEAM

TRT's latest AmeriCorps NCCC team



Please give a warm welcome to our latest AmeriCorps NCCC team, Fire 4!

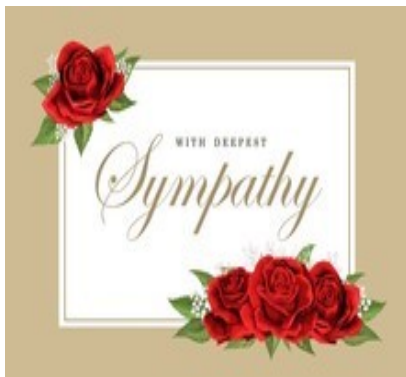
This group will be serving with us on our worksites for the next six weeks and we've got a lot lined up for them. The team is made up of young adults from Seattle to New Hampshire and has spent the past nine months traveling the country serving at different nonprofits and ministries. This is the team's fourth and final round of their service year so let's be sure to make it count.

We spent the first part of this week walking the team through training and "Tool School" to learn all of the ins and outs of our repair steps, power tool safety, and team building. Today is their first day on site and they are raring to go!

We are quite fortunate to carry on this sustained partnership with the NCCC. Every team that we have hosted since 2019 has served our clients with high energy and a tremendous work ethic. If you would like to show some good ol' fashioned Houston hospitality to our new friends, they would love a meal! AmeriCorps members live on a \$4-a-day food stipend and we need them nice and well-fed for our projects. Learn more and sign up to be a Welcome Host at <https://www.therestorationteam.org/volunteer>

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.



Please hold the family of **Doreen Boyd** in your prayers. Doreen has been a member of Pines since 2001. When she was still well enough to attend church, she was a member of a circle and involved in the church.

Please hold the family of **Tony Rexrode** in your prayers. Tony joined Pines in 2004. He always had a smile and a joke every Sunday morning.

Please hold **Toshi Hayre** in your prayers in the loss of her sister Bhajo Purewal. Bhajo was Toshi's older sister who lived in India. She was 91 years old.



We would like to express our gratitude for all your cards, love, and prayers expressed to our family. We are definitely blessed by our Pines Family.
Sue Master and Family



Your help is needed for next year's Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. We are looking for a few people who can help us research for grants to help pay for our Mobile Pack. This task will NOT include writing the grant, just looking on the internet for suitable grant opportunities. You will be trained on how and what to look for. If you are interested in researching grant opportunities please contact Tony Samper or Pastor Andy.

Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE:
May 26 (for the June 2023 issue)



Please join us as we gather for more Bingo in the Fellowship Hall on May 18 at 6:30 PM. 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.



Welcome to **Mackenzie Elizabeth Mitchell**. She is the daughter of Alison and Dustin Mitchell and granddaughter of David and Sara Timms. Mackenzie was born on March 30th in Portland Oregon. We look forward to seeing you in person when you come for a visit!

Pastor's Page

Greetings Easter People,

I want to thank everyone who made our Lenten and Easter seasons a wonderful worship experience! I was truly moved by our small group gatherings and discussions surrounding our all-church Lenten book study of the *Sacred Echo*. I was equally moved by the times we gathered for worship during Holy Week, especially the choir's offering during the Maundy Thursday service. Needless to say Easter Sunday worship was outstanding and really blew me away with the high energy and great joy that filled our worship that fantastic day!

Now that we have journeyed through Lent and given witness to the Resurrection, I have been reflecting on our times together and wondering how those days, those worship services, the message of Jesus' life, death and the cross have changed me? Have the events of Easter changed me or transformed me in any way, or are they just events on a calendar we have to celebrate because we call ourselves Christian?

So how am I, how are we, being transformed? How are we being changed by Jesus' words and his life, and how are we transforming the world? The book of Acts talks about what the disciples did after Jesus. The scriptures talk about how the disciples, and others, went out and shared how Jesus transformed their lives. By doing so they are following the charge by Jesus to "Go and disciple"... to teach... to tell the stories... to live the life Jesus taught them to live. Where are we doing this? Is Easter a transformative event in our lives and faith, or just another religious box to check and a guilt trip to come to church? If Easter is to have any meaning for us, and transformative affect upon us, then we have to live differently. We need to be the difference maker Jesus wants us to be. Easter has to make a difference in the way we live, treat others, and treat creation otherwise we cannot call ourselves Easter People.

Let us all follow Jesus' charge. Let's all be like the Disciples and go out and share, in actions and words, how Jesus has transformed our lives. Let's be difference makers! Let's be the Easter people we claim to be... risen and transformed!

Great Easter Blessings,



Family Ministry Calendar for May

PLEASE HELP!

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

May Family Ministries:

May 5th Parent’s Night Out

5:30-8:30pm Free- Must RSVP

Cinco de Mayo theme- Mexican food, games and movie!

Drop off Fellowship Hall, pick up Senior High Room

May 7th Mission Trip Training day- All those going to Tulsa come prepare and get ready for our trip!

Noon-2pm Youth Rooms (lunch provided- order your Quizno’s sandwich with Kristin ahead of time)

May 21st Graduate Sunday- honoring all our graduates! Brunch after service- rsvp

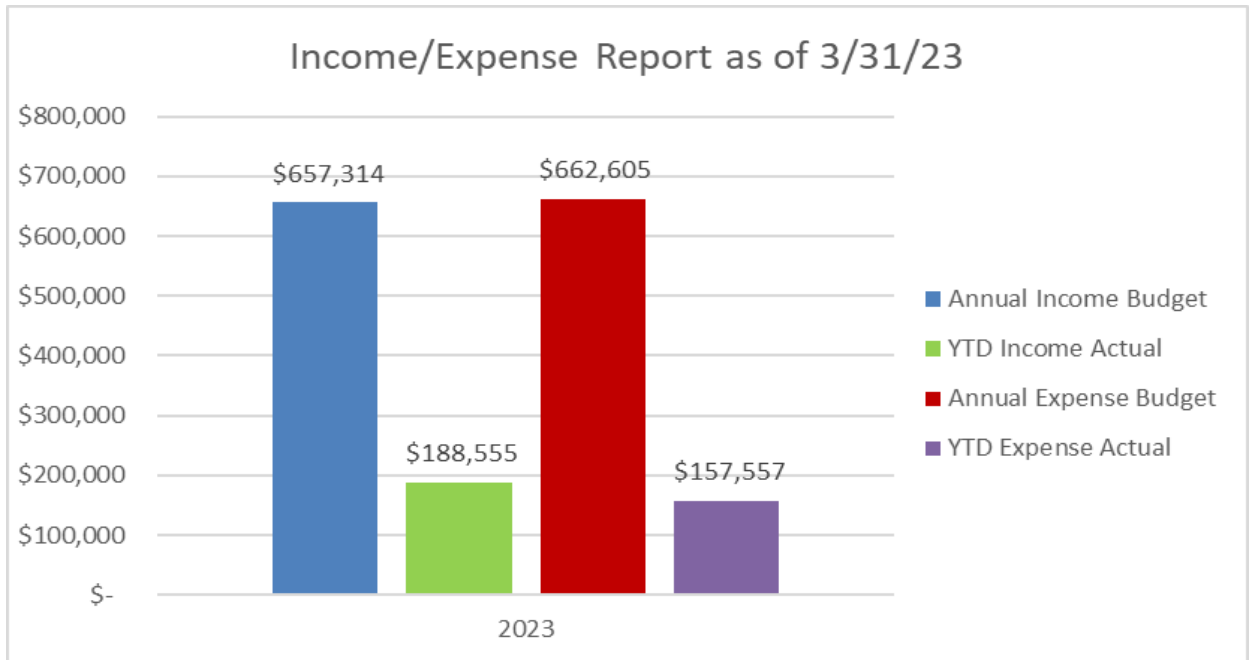
End of the Year Youth Party- 6-7:30pm youth rooms- outdoor splash zone and indoor games

No Sunday School classes Memorial Weekend- Happy summer! Summer SS classes for children and youth in Senior High room starting June 4th.

HUGE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE YOUTH CAR WASH



Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Pledge income for 3 months is slightly ahead of budget. Non-pledge income received through March is 40% of the year's budget due to unexpected early gifts.
2. Overall expenses were slightly underbudget for three months.
3. Total Income was \$188,555; total expenses were \$157,557; leaving a Net Income of \$30,998 for March, still a good start for the year.

Session

Due to the late date for the session meeting in April, session notes will be included in next months newsletter. Please see the Clerk of Session if you have any questions.



AN OFFERING OF PRESENCE AND PRAYER

Joy Kreider recently wrote about the meaning she found in a familiar story about Jesus. She has graciously given me permission to share the italicized excerpt below from her article. The sentence which impacted me the most reads, “What we have to offer each other is a willingness to lovingly stay and pray”. It struck me because it summarizes what Stephen Ministers do – be present, listen and pray.

For some of us, it is hard to acknowledge the need for such help during difficult times. Thus, I was also struck by Joy’s observation that Jesus asked his disciples for the same gifts which Stephen Ministers pledge to provide – to stay and pray. In so doing, Jesus modeled the behavior we hope care receivers will emulate, which is to ask for support.

In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus asked his disciples for two precious gifts--to stay awake with him and to pray, and they failed miserably at both. A few days earlier Jesus rode into Jerusalem with celebration in the streets. To the disciples messianic freedom from Rome must have felt like it was moments away, and now, instead, the disciples were huddled in the cold, trying to support a leader who was in profound emotional travail. Would they see another morning, or would they be carried off to imprisonment and death?

When we walk with the hurting, we often struggle to stay present and to pray. It's far easier to slip into "fix-it mode", or distance ourselves from pain that seems too extreme. Someone else's deep suffering can elicit anxiety within us, putting us in touch with unresolved hurts in our own lives, and causing either agitation or emotional shut down. All too often, trauma survivors describe speaking truthfully about their suffering only to find their friends and family running the other way. Jesus’s request for prayerful presence, I believe, welled up from his deep humanity. He did not want to face the worst night of his life alone, even as the agony of a necessary but excruciating choice caused him to feel a profound need of care.

*What we have to offer each other is a willingness to lovingly stay and pray! To touch an untouchable, to listen to the silenced, to acknowledge and offer personhood to the dismissed, to tend the wounds of the sick, and fervently stay and love even when we want to run away is a central call of the gospels! And, now in the garden, Jesus longed for presence and prayer in the night-time of his own fear** (to borrow from Gillard's hymn).*


If you feel a need for such support from a Stephen Minister, please contact either Ann Guerra or me and we will discuss the possibility of your experiencing the gifts of presence and prayer.

Phil Wetz

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!

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!

**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**

 **Do you have any orchestra or band instruments taking up space in your closet? Want to find a safe place to keep them where they will be used and appreciated? Call Laurie or the church office and they will help you with that.**

YOU'RE INVITED!

GUEST SPEAKER
"The Godwink Guy"
Squire Rushnell
Best Selling Author
Exec. Producer

Miracles of The Mission
Fundraising Luncheon
TUESDAY May 16, 2023
The Junior League of Houston

Contact Kari Work for more information.

The Mission of Yahweh
Serving Homeless Women and Children Since 1981
www.MissionofYahweh.org



May Agape Offering

Donate New or Like-New Children's Books



Books Between Kids serves Houston's at-risk children by providing them with books to build their own home libraries.

DROP OFF DONATIONS

IN THE MISSIONS BIN NEAR FELLOWSHIP HALL

OR

PLACE A CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR BRING IT TO THE OFFICE (NOTE: "BOOKS BETWEEN KIDS" IN THE SUBJECT LINE)

YOU CAN ALSO GIVE ONLINE AT PINESPC.ORG

Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!

Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team for school year 2023-24, and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is. We have the privilege of giving fresh breakfast tacos to folks who might have missed breakfast, or who might not have any other food for the day, or are just hungry for a taco and maybe a prayer. Our cheerful team members bring smiles and warm food to our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ. We are rewarded with smiles, occasional cash donations, tears of gratitude, and sometimes even songs (from a school bus driver)! Join us May 5th!

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



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MAM Congregation Council
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Shred Days: Coming up **SOON**...Saturday, April 29, 2023, 8:45 am – Noon (or until the truck is full). **MAM in Action: Volunteer for MAM Shred Day (signupgenius.com)**

ESL Registration: Volunteers needed at several registration sites and dates. Greatest Need is Tuesday, 05/02/2023; 5:30pm-9:00pm, at FairHaven United Methodist Church, 1330 Gessner Rd. Houston, TX, 77055

Literacy Advance Department: New Student Registration - Summer 2023 (signupgenius.com)

Work the Quarterly Half-Price Sale: Help with the sales, Friday, May 19 & Saturday, 20, at the Blalock Campus.

MAM in Action: Volunteers for MAM Resale Store -Working the Quarterly Sale (signupgenius.com)

Restock the Resale Store: following the Half-Off Sales held quarterly. The first opportunity is Sunday, May 21.

MAM in Action: Volunteers for MAM Resale Store - Restocking after Quarterly Sale (signupgenius.com)

Questions? Contact Kathie Hartzog khartzog@mamhouston.org

VOYAGE
ACAPPELLA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTED BY
SPACE CITY SOUND
FEATURING A CONSTELLATION OF CHAPTER QUARTETS!

Saturday, April 29 @ 5:00PM
John Wesley Methodist Church
5830 Bermuda Dunes Dr
Houston, TX 77069

Sunday, April 30 @ 2:00PM
Moody Methodist Church
2803 53rd St
Galveston, TX 77551

GET YOUR TICKETS! Available at scs.simpletix.com