



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, November 2021

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234

Join us in welcoming

Kristin
Beall

our new Director of Family Ministries



Nov. 7th



After church in fellowship hall.

During The
Thankfulness LUNCH

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pines Family News & Current Events

PRAYER REQUEST

Prayers for the family of Eloise Moody who passed on September 24, 2021. A service was held at Pines on October 1st. Eloise was a longtime member of Pines and will be missed by many.



I just want to thank everyone who sent me cards and notes of encouragement all these months while at home or now at Treemont. The visits are a blessing and I appreciate every one that has been able to visit. Means a lot. I hope there is a time I can come back to church, but since I sold my car it won't be often. Thanks again and God Bless you all, Nancy

Do you get our weekly prayer list? If not, please call Chelsea in the church office at 713-467-2234 to get on the list. Chelsea 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!



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6th....

be sure to change your clocks back so that you make it to church at the correct time! See you on November 7th!

Join the Congregational Fellowship Committee on November 21st to thank Tim Holder for his service to Pines as the Director of Music Ministries. This gathering will take place right after Worship on that Sunday. Don't miss the opportunity to thank Tim for his time with us and what a blessing he has been to Pines.



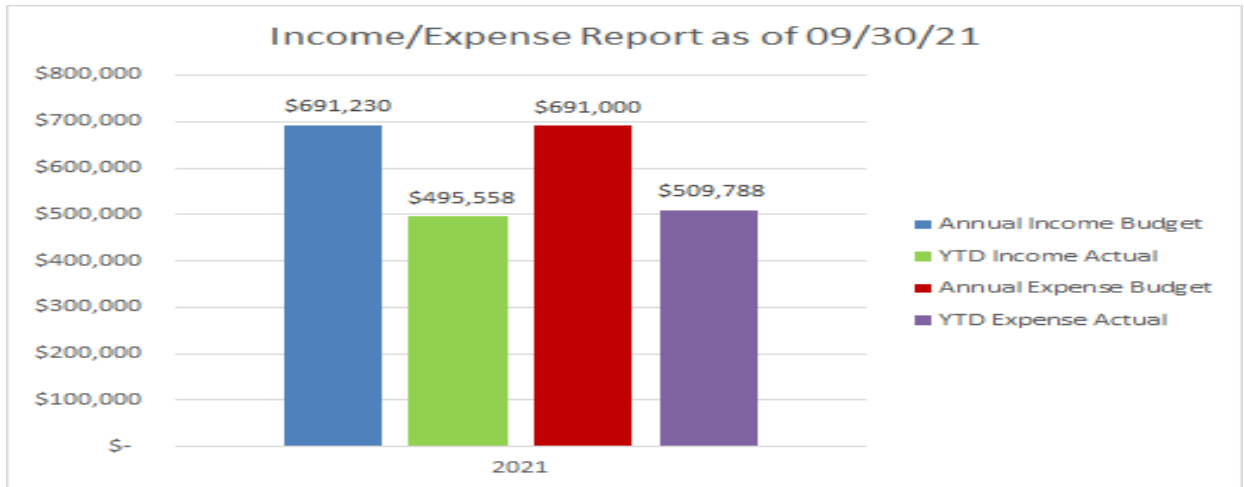
We will be ordering from Brookwood Community to decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. The cost is \$11.00. A sign-up list will be available outside Fellowship Hall. You may also contact **Linda Aldred** at: lindaaldred1@aol.com. You will need to designate whether the Poinsettias are "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" when you make your selection and you may order as many as you like. The poinsettias will be delivered to the church on 12/10.

Pines Family Campout: Are you and your family interested in a relaxing weekend camping out with other Pines families? A date has not been determined but will likely be sometime this winter when the temperatures are cooler. We will likely be staying in rustic state park cabins or bring your own tent or trailer if you desire. We will have fun and games for the whole family, hiking, fishing and, of course, s'mores around the campfire. Drop a quick email to the Pines *Adult Ministry* team (adults@pinespc.org) and let us know if this sounds like something your family would enjoy.



Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:
November 19 (for the December issue)

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Total Income for the nine months is \$495,558, 72% of Total Income budgeted for the year. This is just slightly below target (75%) for this time of the year.
2. Expenses for the nine months are \$509,788, 74% of Total Expenses budgeted for the year and right on target. Most committees (except Property) are under budget at this time of the year.
3. In looking at our top 3 expenditure areas, Staff, Property and Missions, Property is over budget for this time of year, Staff is under budget and Missions is accruing expenses, in preparation for paying benevolences when the committee has completed their review of our benevolence organizations for the year. The Property expenses are net of preschool payments and use of the capital reserve fund for gym air conditioning replacement. Property spending is on pace to overspend the budget fairly significantly, due to high costs for air conditioning repair and maintenance.
4. Total Expenses exceed Total Income for the eight month period, generating a negative Net Income of \$14,230. While a negative net income is concerning, it's still too soon to make generalizations about where we'll end up at the end of the year, based on nine months of income and expenses.
- 5 Stewardship Sunday is November 14. Please prayerfully consider your family's participation in the financial support of Pines for 2022.

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on October 25. Here are some highlights:

- Reviewed the recommendations of the Health Advisory Team concerning Pines' Covid protocols, and voted to make masks optional during Worship and in the building, effective immediately. As before, a section will be reserved in the Sanctuary for all who appreciate continued masking and social distancing. Coffee fellowship and meals in the Fellowship Hall will resume November 1.
- Supported the Adult Ministries' plan to have Bingo Night, an all-church, all-community event in November, with food and prizes, to reconnect with our Pines' family. More details to follow!
- The Property Committee reported an all-church landscaping event on November 13, with both outdoor and indoor projects, made possible by a generous anonymous donation for new landscaping.
- Session supported the Stewardship Campaign that kicked off on October 24 by prayerfully considering and submitting their 2022 pledges.

Craig Walker, clerk

Pastor's Page

Blessings to you,

November is a month that many people in the church either dislike or love. Some may dislike November because it's the culmination of a Stewardship Campaign, the church budget for the current year is getting stretched thin and next year's budget is going through its formation and trimming, and finally, the end of November marks the beginning of Advent and the race to Christmas. November is definitely a busy time in the life of the church.

I tend to be one of those who loves November and what it brings. I love this month because it is the one month that everybody knows they are to stop, reflect upon God's many gifts to them and give thanks. I am not one of those who has an aversion to stewardship campaigns, budget talks, and the approach of Advent. I actually love these events because they help me remember how wonderful God is in my life, the life of the church and the world. I don't think it's a mistake that November is traditionally Stewardship month. Stewardship is a time to celebrate and give thanks. In giving thanks to God for the multitude of gifts, we give a portion of those gifts back to God's church. I get eager to see how excited and thankful people are for God's actions in their lives and in their church. We will formally celebrate this giftedness on Sunday, November 14th.

After we celebrate on the 14th the sometimes daunting task of creating a budget begins. Some may see this as an arduous task, I see it as another gift from God. You have heard God's call to return thanks and you have promised to give a portion of what God has blessed you with back to the church. We as a church celebrate that and we now work to see how we can carefully budget your blessing to be a blessing to others in God's Kingdom.

The end of November offers us the opportunity to look back at the month of blessings and it allows us to look forward to the hope and blessing of Advent. This is a great time! Advent is the ultimate blessing for which to give thanks as it is the pinnacle of all gifts to each of us. The question is how do you and I share this gift?

In the spirit of giving thanks, I want to point out a couple of things I am thankful for and give thanks to God for this year. I am thankful for you, my church family. Your love and support of my family and me over this tumultuous year has been life giving! You have been the church Christ intended. I have also been blessed to see how you have loved God and shared that love in new and exciting ways. Even with the ups and downs of the COVID pandemic this church family continued its mission work in caring and feeding God's children who are in need. We continued with service projects and mission trips to support those whose homes have been devastated by floods and winds. This church family continued to be creative by providing Bible studies, gatherings and worship to an online community. I'm thankful to our Director of Family Ministry's search committee for listening to God and calling Kristin Beall to our family to lead our children, youth and their families. I also consider it a huge blessing to be able to once again gather in person for fellowship meals and activities. I give thanks for the blessing of our partnership with Mosaic Village Church and providing our Incarnation worship service on Sunday evenings. I give thanks and celebrate a church that is willing to try new things and reach beyond its walls. Make sure you stay tuned for some of those new opportunities such as Bingo to benefit our mission partners and an outdoor worship service featuring Space City Sound. The possibilities are endless! This year we sent young and old around the community and the world to serve God's children in need.

These celebrations and thanksgivings speak volumes about you and your thankfulness to God. As you know these events and opportunities cannot happen without you giving back to God. As you give thanks this month, please pray about how you can faithfully give back to God in 2022.

May God continue to use you and this church as a blessing to the Kingdom.



Blessings,
Andy

Pines Youth:

Here's your November and December Updates...

Nov. 7 You and your families are invited to meet your new Director of Family Ministry (AKA Youth Director), ***Kristin Beall***. Come to Sunday School that morning at the regular 9:15 time and we'll wrap up early at 10:00. Then, along with the Children and their parents, we'll do ***Donuts with the Director***. You and your parents will get a chance to meet her and to see what's ahead. If you can't make the whole SS hour just come by when you can between 10:00 and 10:30. Oh! And don't forget Daylight Savings time starts the 7th so you'll have been able to get an extra hour of sleep! So come and welcome Kristin to Pines!

Nov. 28 ***The First Sunday in Advent*** Pines Children's Christmas Pageant and Tree Lighting. Come help us welcome in the Christmas Season. And if any of you are interested in helping with the play, contact Shirley Bollich.

Dec. 12 (tentative depending on your availability) ***Youth Planning Lunch 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm***. Come meet with Kristin after Church on the 12th. Let her know what you want to see happening in your Youth Program -what you need, what you want and how you want to grow together as you grow closer to God.

Dec. 17-23 (actual date to be determined) Hold the Date for a Christmas Party with plenty of food, celebration and fellowship.



Children at Pines

What's New with the Children?

Now that fall is here and the children are settled into their school year and activities, the Pines kids are at home in their Sunday School classes. They are having fun together as we learn all about Jesus' love for all his children.

We had our first "Hands on for Jesus" Craft Day on Sunday, October 24th. Our theme was, What's Sweeter than Candy? We made pumpkin crafts filled with surprises! Nope, not just candy! Our pumpkins also had Christian inspirations for Halloween inside! A fun craft to make and special words to read! On October 31st, the children had fun "trick or treating" through the church and gathered candy along the way.

We are all excited to meet our new director, Ms. Kristin, in November! Our first event will be called, Donuts with the Director, on November 7th. We can't wait!



**Join us for Family-Style Sunday School in W-12 as we continue
"Learning to Love like God"**



Well, it's another year, another "Forward Together in Faith" stewardship campaign, and why not? So much seems the same from late 2020 as we continue to navigate our way through a global pandemic, economic and social uncertainty and, in many ways, a divided nation.

But that's where that motto comes in handy. Here at Pines we keep moving Forward. Together. In Faith. We follow God's lead and find the good in the world, that which binds us as a church family. And part of that is our fiscal stewardship, where we pledge to help our congregation continue its mission of "looking upward, growing inward and serving outward."

During this season of Thanksgiving we're hearing from difference-makers at Pines who embody those traits. In many cases it's our financial gifts – as well as those of our time and talents – that make it work.

By now you should have received pledge cards in the mail, although they're readily available around the church as well, and on November 14 we get the chance once again to renew our commitment to Pines. You can bring your pledge card to the front during the service, as always, and we'll also set up a station outside from 9:30-11:30am for those who are still more comfortable staying distant in their vehicles. Naturally you can always mail them or drop them by during the week when fewer folks are present, if you prefer.

In the meantime, we urge you to reflect on all that Pines manages to do any given week or month, whether it's the fellowship of our Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, outreach to mission partners like the Mission of Yahweh, Sherwood Elementary or Memorial Assistance Ministries, the Taco and a Prayer ministry on the streets each month or the never-ending repair needs joyfully filled by The Restoration Team.

Whether you physically participate in any, all or none of the ministries Pines attends to, you can be a part of them through your pledge that helps make them happen.

As Peter writes in 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." That's about as open-ended as it gets, as the NIV translates the letter using wobble-words like "whatever" and "various". But that does seem to be the spirit – there are so many ways to serve. It just so happens that in this season we're asking you to consider the financial side.

As we pray the pandemic fades into the background and the nation and world manage to heal their many wounds, we at Pines will keep moving forward together in faith. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

Mark & Susan Babineck



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Everyone has experienced some kind of life challenge – the loss of a job, death of a loved one, loneliness, illness, divorce, or just need someone to walk with you during a troubled time. Many people struggle alone, but this was never God’s intention. In Galatians 6:2 we are told to “Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.” This is why being in fellowship with other Christians is so important.

Many people are loved and cared for in small groups, but others may not have any support at all. In either case, Stephen Ministers are trained and willing to help people who are struggling and need individualized care, all of which is strictly confidential.

Who are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are trained lay Ministers who have experienced and have overcome difficulties in their own lives. Because of God’s grace and the love of people who have helped them heal, they have been called to serve others.

Pines Presbyterian church is a Stephen Ministry congregation with many members that have been trained. Thank you to all that so faithfully have served and continue to serve.

If by chance YOU need someone to walk with you on your journey, please call Bill Willis (contact the church for his number) and he will be pleased to visit with you and pair you with a Stephen Minister.



INCARNATION

**CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP**

CASUAL

**SUNDAY
EVENINGS**

all ages!

mingle

PINES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Mosaic Village
Church**

PINESPC.ORG

12751 KIMBERLEY LANE, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

IncarNation
meets at
5:00 p.m.
Come join us
for a lively
hour of praise
and worship!

Missions

Winter Agape Offering Christmas at Sherwood - 2021

A Pines Christmas tradition! Please join us once again in providing Christmas joy to our extended family at Sherwood Elementary. As with previous years, we need and appreciate your help in filling the Missions Room with wonderful gifts that bring so much excitement to Sherwood families on Christmas morning. An Angel tree will adorn the Fellowship Hallway decorated with angel ornaments with the age and gender of a child who will benefit from the love you show. There are several ways you can support Sherwood!

Enjoy some Christmas shopping!

- Take an angel from the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hallway. Register your name in the angel logs.
- Spend a minimum of \$50.00 per child keeping the age & gender as indicated in mind when shopping. You may purchase one gift for \$50.00 or several gifts totaling \$50.00 or more.
- We ask that the toys be new and unwrapped and that you include batteries when required to operate the toy.
- Please return unwrapped gifts to the Angel Tree or place in the Missions collection bin located in the Narthex by **Sunday, November 14th.**

Gift Wrap Party, Saturday, December 4th 9:00am to Noon

Financial Support! Make a cash, check, or credit card donation. Donations can be dropped off at the church or made online at www.pinespc.org. Please note **"Sherwood Christmas"** on your donation

Join the Elves! – We have these Mission Opportunities to coordinate putting this event together.

Gift Tracking – Inventory the Angel ornaments / children's requests / gifts received to see what shopping is necessary. You will help make sure all the children's requests are met.

Gift Wrapping – Recruit the wrapping day elves and oversee the wrapping day activities.

Gift Delivery – Coordinate filling the sleighs and the delivery of gifts to Sherwood.

Preschool Coordinator – Work with preschool to keep them updated on activities and deadlines.

Key Sherwood Christmas Dates:

Sunday, November 14th - Turn in date for gifts purchased.

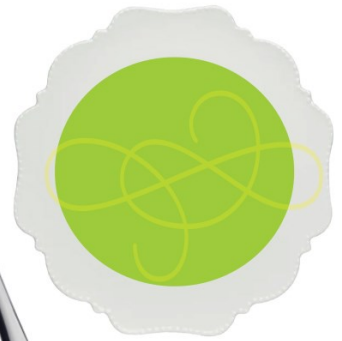
Saturday, December 4th, 9am to noon - Volunteer gift sorting and wrapping. We will have several wrapping stations for those who want to join in the fun but feel more comfortable spreading out.

Tuesday, December 14th – Gift delivery to Bonnie Reyes at Sherwood for distribution to families.

Thank you for your help with the Sherwood Christmas Store.

Questions - Contact Kari Work – kwork@mgcinc.net

Join us!



Thankfulness LUNCH



Nov. 7th



After church in fellowship hall.

Everyone is invited for **homemade soups**
& to meet our **MISSION PARTNERS.**

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

Please join your fellow church members on **November 13th at 9 AM** to spruce up your church home. There will be jobs for everyone of all ages. We will hold sign ups on October 31st and November 7th. Please stop by the Fellowship Hallway to put your name on the list! We will serve lunch at noon. Congregational Fellowship has offered to provide a **Sandwich Bar** in thanks for the work you will do on that day! This is a great family activity and a wonderful opportunity to show your kids how to care for their church home. We look forward to working alongside each of you! Your Property Committee



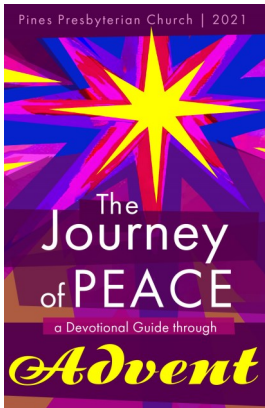
“It’s Gonna Happen”

JOIN US **December 5th**
for a class on preparing for the end.
12 noon, Fellowship Hall

You know “It’s Gonna Happen”...
God brings us into this world and brings us
back home one day. Are you prepared?
Come to this class led by Carol Greene and
Cindy Houlihan to learn about preparation
for end-of-life issues. This information will

cover planning, costs, and organization for your family or friends. Copies will be handed out for you to take home to start your planning. Your Stephen Ministry is sponsoring this class.

Sign ups will be held on November 14th and 21st. The class will begin right after church, so we are asking each participant to bring a sack lunch. We will provide the water. This is a two hour session. Looking forward to seeing you and even your friends, at this very informational presentation!



This year has been such an emotional year for many reasons and that's why we'd like to produce our own Advent Devotional written by our family of faith. Advent is the season in the church where we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. Our theme for this devotional is **"Peace"**. Please share with us a time when you needed or received Peace. What did it feel like? How did God comfort you in your time of waiting for Peace? Through people? Through scripture? If so, what scripture and why? Through a surprise encounter? How have you experienced Peace? Please write 3-4 *brief* paragraphs (up to 250 words).

It is not our intention that this should be an in-depth Bible study or scholarly commentary. Rather, we ask that you make this a personal expression of your faith. If there is a particular Bible passage that resonates for you, please give that reference within your devotional. **If you would like, we will offer or choose an appropriate scripture for you. Also, please close with a 1 sentence prayer.**

Again, thank you for your thoughtful contribution. We know these devotionals will be powerful reflections as we all prepare for the coming again of the Christ child into our lives.

Please submit your devotional no later than Nov. 12th to Pastor Andy at andy@pinespc.org.



Allow us to introduce you to one of our newest home repair projects: Stewart's home!

Stewart was born and raised in this Northeast Houston home back in the 1950s. He had lived here his whole life until Hurricane Harvey left the home unlivable. Since the flood, Stewart has been living in a single-wide trailer in the backyard of his lot. The family started work a few years ago but were victims of contractor fraud and are left with few resources. Fortunately, Stewart's case was recently brought to us by a local pastor in the neighborhood.

This will be a large rebuild that will need a lot of financial and volunteer support. We will be upgrading the electricity and plumbing, replacing the roof, and repairing exterior siding, flooring, sheetrock, insulation, cabinets, and the bathroom. We have had some fantastic volunteers join us at Stewart's house this past month but there is still plenty to do!

A few of our Pines members, friends of Pines, along with several folks from the Uruguayan Community (who will follow up and paint at a later date) worked together on Stewart's home on October 23rd. Everyone felt they received much more from the experience than they gave. Please consider helping with one of our upcoming projects through The Restoration Team. Contact John Work if you can spare a day or two and want to get involved!

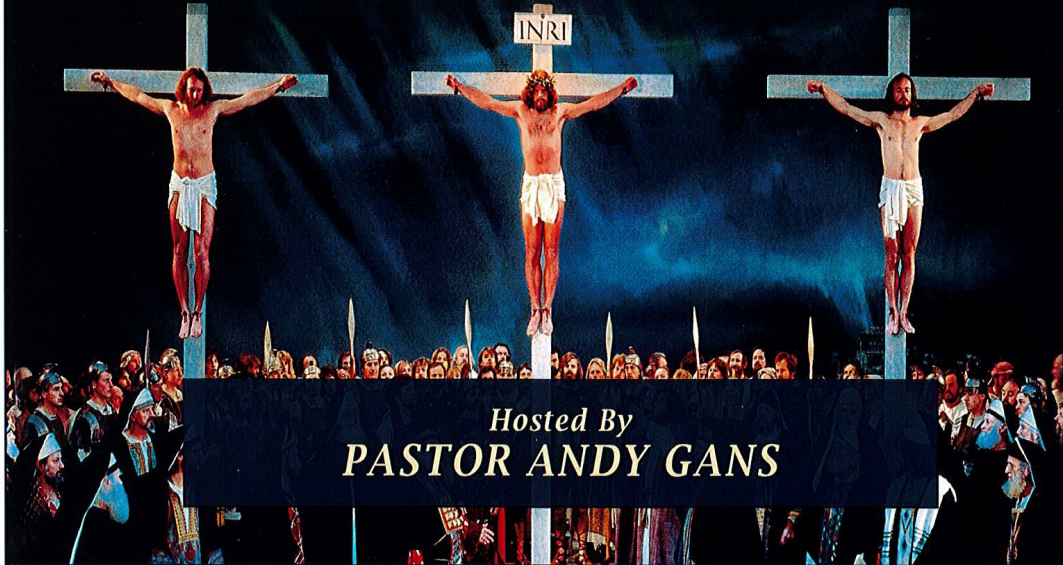


Thanks to John, Steve, Jeff, Tindy, Micah and Cindy for the work they did at the house on Saturday morning! Progress is being made, but your help is needed. If you can help in any way, please contact John Work!

SPLENDORS OF EASTERN EUROPE

INCLUDING THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU

11 Days: JUNE 1 - 11, 2022



Hosted By
PASTOR ANDY GANS

Visiting

Prague · Budapest · Vienna · Munich



**\$4666 FROM
HOUSTON**

(Air/land tour price is \$4121
plus \$545 government
taxes/airline surcharges)



Featuring: Roundtrip airfare from Houston, accommodations at first class/select hotels (hotels & guest-houses in Oberammergau area), first class (Category 1) admission tickets to the Passion Play, most meals, comprehensive services of a professional English-speaking tour director, all hotel service charges, value added taxes, portorage where available & entrance fees per the itinerary.

**If you are
interested in
joining this
group on this
trip of a lifetime,
please contact
Pastor Andy Gans
to get on the list!**



**By-Golly, a Big-Hearted, Big-Time, Beautiful,
Blockbuster Bingo Night!**

Let's Reconnect!! Mark Your Calendars.....

Thursday, November 18th at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

**An All-Church Event where you can invite your Family
Friends and Neighbors.**

First Bingo Card is Free, Additional Cards \$1 Each

Bonus: Bring a Friend and Get a Free Bingo Card

An Added Bonus: Proceeds Will Bless Our Benevolences

There will be Pizza and Prizes

Babysitters may be provided

**Be Brave and Be Bullish But don't be too Busy! Come Be a Bold, Bright,
Best, Beneficial Believer where you can Befittingly Belong at our
Brand-New Event.**

Bingo Bingo Bingo!!

Please RSVP as we need to make sure we have enough pizza and prizes.

Linda Aldred

lindaaldred1@aol.com

281-734-2043

