

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, portage 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!

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press, September 2021

Opportunities for *Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward...*

Join **Bethel Strawser** as she leads a lectionary Bible Study group by Zoom on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. The lectionary readings are available on the **PCUSA website**. Please RSVP by emailing **Bethel Strawser** to have access and join in on zoom.

Taco and A Prayer—join a lively group of adults to make and serve breakfast tacos to those that come through the Kimberley Lane driveway on Friday mornings once per month. The cooking begins at 6:30 and they are usually ready to serve around 7:30. You can help at either time. This event will start back up (having been off for the summer) on September 10th. Due to the Labor Day holiday, this first time back is on the 2nd Friday.

Normally all TAAP events are on the 1st Friday of the month. Should you seek to get involved with this ministry, please contact Margaret Schafer!

Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study - 7:00 am. We gather by Zoom video conference every Tuesday morning to discuss the upcoming Sunday's scripture. To take part in this lively and informative study please call 425-436-6260 then enter 543 4471 when prompted for the pass code.

Back to School Drive The 2021/22 school year is quickly approaching. This time of year, Pines has a long history of stepping up to support Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM), Sherwood Elementary and the Mission of Yahweh. Your generous donations are used to purchase necessary clothes and supplies needed to start the new school year. The smiles you have helped place on the faces of these students and parents are heart-warming. Please help our neighbors by donating to "Pines Back to School Drive". Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent directly to the church office. Please indicate "Back to School" on your check.

OCTOBER 23rd, 9 AM—Winter Freeze Workday with Cindy and The Restoration Team!

We invite you to come and join Cindy Houlihan and The Restoration Team as they work on a winter storm project on October 23rd. There will be painting, possible sheet rock or flooring work. The work day should be complete by 1 PM. All work can be done by anyone willing to help...there is work for all skill levels. Cindy is trying to gather 6 to 8 people to assist on this day as a gift in remembrance of her birthday...and no I am not telling you which birthday it is! Show up and I will tell you! Please call Cindy in the church office (713.467.2234 x110) if you would like to join in on this project and help a family that has been waiting to get back into their home. If you would like to know more about the work you will be doing and how it helps our community, please go to the website below and watch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=To7eCTdOk0c>. We hope to hold sign ups sometime in early October, but don't wait on that to sign up...CALL CINDY NOW!

A Galactic Gathering
 An afternoon on the lawn with **Space City Sound**
Sunday, September 12 — 2:00 PM —

Memorial Drive Lutheran Church • 12211 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77024




Our first-ever outdoor picnic show!
2 Options to choose from:

\$10 - Feel free to bring your own lawn chair, blanket, and snacks!
Limited Premium Tickets
\$20 - Includes a blanket or lawn chair, snack box, and preferred seating!




Tickets Scan **QR code** above or visit **tinyurl.com/spacecitysound**

Pines address: 12751 Kimberley Lane, Houston Texas 77024. Our phone number is: 713-467-2234.

Pines Family News & Current Events



Please keep the family of **Nancy Robinson** in your prayers. Nancy passed away on July 12th. Nancy and her husband (also deceased) joined Pines in 1984. Nancy was a member of the Interiors Committee for many years.

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!

Speaking of Chelsea, please stop by and introduce yourself. Chelsea is our new receptionist and she is absolutely wonderful! She is a college student and also one of our sitters on Sundays. Please help us welcome her to Pines!

Have you borrowed Channel Locks from the church? Patrick purchased some for the church and they are missing. Please let us know if you have them and when you will be returning them. Thank you!



Wondering how to order flowers for the Sanctuary?—cost for Narthex flowers is \$50 and the Sanctuary is \$75. We offer the option to give to a benevolence or order a live arrangement. Please email: Melissa Gravett at mgravett0123@gmail.com or Linda Aldred at lindaaldred1@aol.com. You may also call the church office to get a message to either one of these ladies.



Often when I leave the church I drive through City Centre to the eastbound service road, and pass by the new office building that's in the final stages of construction. I've logged many a day on projects like that one, from ground to roof and everywhere in between. Unlike all those others, though, the sight of this one never fails to remind me that a few months ago 3 men died here in a stairwell-to-be, under tons of collapsing concrete and steel. There is an extraordinarily clear image in my head of that accident happening – right down to the terrifying roar and the suffocating cloud of concrete dust. I imagine the clumps of family members a few hours later pacing back and forth at the fence line desperately hoping for news of survivors.

It's a painful scene, and I wonder how those families are dealing with their losses. Nobody ever sends a loved one out the door in the morning to the jobsite expecting never to see them alive again. Period. Never. No one. The world is different now. Forever. Do they know that their stories need to be told over and over as they long for that peace that passes all understanding? Do they have someone to listen as they stumble through it again? I pray earnestly that indeed they do.

This all races through one part of my mind while other parts sit and chafe at the long wait for a small break in the traffic. Why did I come this way *again*? There are plenty of other ways to jump into this vehicular river! Why? Just pick one, dummy!

No. *I need* to come this way. So what about you? What do you need? Do you need someone to listen, too? Someone who will listen to you tell your story again – the story of your heartbreak or your frustration or your despair? Stephen Ministers at Pines are available to walk and speak with anyone who is grieving any type of loss – the loss of a loved one; or of good health; or of a relationship; or of a job. If you would like to explore the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister on a CONFIDENTIAL basis, please contact Rev. Bill Willis at bill.00.willis@gmail.com, call him @ 318-548-4414, or call the church office.

**Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:
September 17 (for the October issue)**

Missions

We're Celebrating 60 Years of Helping Homeless Women and Children Rebuild Their Lives!

You're Invited

60
Serving God, Renewing Hope, Rebuilding Lives

COME JOIN US!

GAMES FOR THE KIDS

DOOR PRIZES

LIVE DJ

FOOD AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 9, 2021
10AM - 2PM**

**PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
BY CALLING 713-930-0665 OR EMAIL:
TAMMIE.JEFFERS@MISSIONOFYAHWEH.ORG**

**THE MISSION OF YAHWEH
10247 ALGIERS RD.
HOUSTON, TX 77041**

MAM Resale Store & Boutique

MAM is in need of volunteers to work in their resale shop. If you have a few extra hours to spare, please give them a call to see where you can help out. It is such a fun place to volunteer and a great place to shop while you are there!



Staying Connected: --- You can now find upcoming opportunities to connect by visiting our website: pinespc.org. Join in on the next scheduled meeting, class or event by signing up for your free Zoom account: zoom.us/signup. View our archived videos anytime and also join in "live"!



Live Worship Services: --- Pines Worship Services on Sundays are live streaming! 10:45 am worship services can be viewed by visiting our website: pinespc.org You can also catch us on Facebook for the same live streaming worship services.



Online Giving: ---As always, we thank you for your generous sharing of treasures in the spirit and practice of stewardship. Please visit our website for online giving: pinespc.org

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

My Father's favorite scripture was Psalm 91. It has become a favorite of mine. The hymn "On Eagle's Wings" joyfully paraphrases the scripture in song.

The first verse reminds us that if we live under God's shelter, we can say "God is my refuge, God is my rock, I trust in God!" "You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life, say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

The second verse tells us that as we soar, God is our shield, and no harm can come to us, and we will never go hungry. "The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear: Under His wings, your refuge, His faithfulness your shield."

The third verse tells us not to fear. As we face wars of life, and many may fall around us, we will be safe. "You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come."

The fourth verse tells us that He has given us angels to watch over us, and they will help us in times of trouble. "For to His angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

And the majestic chorus affirms the promise that God will make us rise like eagles, each morning He will make us shine like the sun, always holding us in His hands. "And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand."

Thanks be to God for this wonderful scripture and tremendous hymn of hope!

Keep a song in your heart!
Tim Holder

INCARNATION

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

CASUAL all ages!

SUNDAY EVENINGS mingle

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

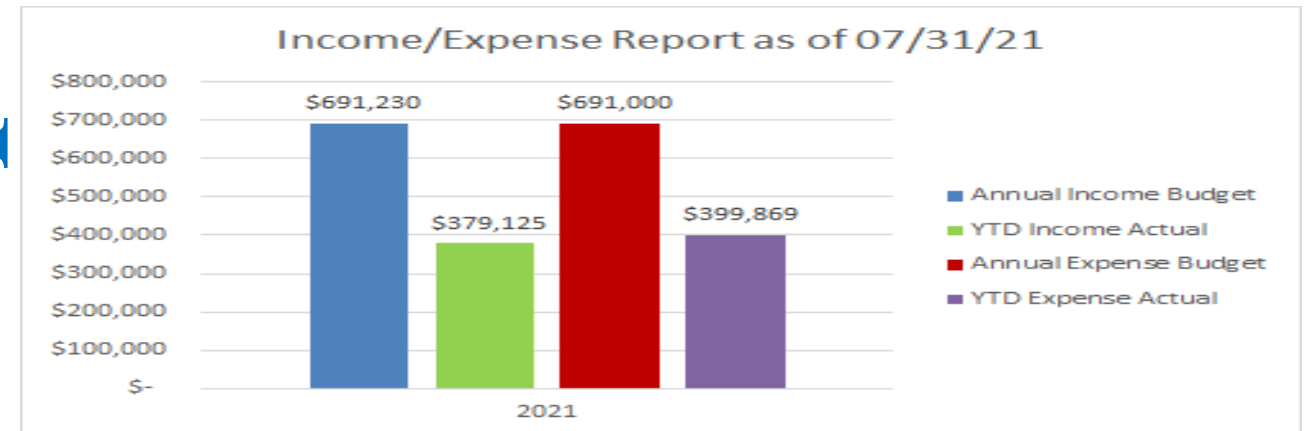
Mosaic Village Church

PINESPC.ORG 12751 KIMBERLEY LANE, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

Incarnation meets at **5:00 p.m.** on the **last 3 Sundays of each month.** Come join us for a lively hour of praise and worship!

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Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

July 2021 financial results can be summarized as follows:

1. Total Income for the seven months is \$379,125, 55% of Total Income budgeted for the year. This is just slightly below target (58%) for this time of the year.
2. Expenses for the five months are \$399,869, 58% of Total Expenses budgeted for the year and right on target.
3. In looking at our top 3 expenditure areas, Staff, Property and Missions, Property is over budget for this time of year, Staff is right on 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. All other committees are under budget for the seven month period.
4. Total Expenses exceed Total Income for the seven month period, generating a negative Net Income of (\$20,744). 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 only on first seven months of income and expenses.
5. Pledge statements were sent out to members in late July. August income will improve some as those who were a little behind are trying to catch up their payments.

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular stated meeting on August 23. Here are some highlights:

- Elected to hold the 2022 Session and Staff Retreat in the Fellowship Hall in March 2022, to cancel the reservation at Camp Allen, and to transfer the 2022 deposit to March 2023.
- Approved the Christian Education Committee's motion to approve *The Story* curriculum for all age groups. *The Story* is an abridged version of the NIV Bible as one continuing story of God and His people in chronological order. There are various age-appropriate learning levels for children, youth and adults.
- The Property Committee is seeking a moderator to succeed Bob Miller following the Millers' move to North Carolina. You do not have to be a currently serving elder to serve as moderator. Contact Cindy Houlihan if you are interested.
- The Stewardship Committee reported that pledges continue to be submitted. With extensive air conditioning repairs and replacement, the Property surplus account has been depleted. There is a slight net income deficit through July.

Craig Walker, clerk

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Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace,

It's hard to believe September is already here and we are kicking off our fall programs and missions. This is a very exciting time for the church as friends reunite after summer vacations and extended weekend getaways. This is the time we all get to catch up and hear each other's stories of the past few months. I have enjoyed seeing the growing crowds each Sunday gather in the hallways prior to worship. There is great joy in seeing people huddled in groups of two, or three, or four, listening intently as experiences are shared and plans are made to gather after worship. This is the time when faith is alive and we experience the Spirit gather us in.

Part of our mission at Pines, as we seek to serve Christ, is to "Look Upward, Grow Inward, and Serve Outward." As the Spirit gathers us together again, our committees have created multiple opportunities for you to be involved and gather as a community of faith so we can live into that mission. The Christian Education Committee has worked extremely hard to provide the congregation with several Sunday school class and fellowship options. Adults will have possibly two or three classes that will provide a breath of engagement levels. Keep your eyes open for the class descriptions that will be most inviting to you as you grow your faith. Our Children's and Youth programs are still moving forward with great leadership that are dedicated to keeping these programs going even in the absence of staff leadership. We have a Children's Ministry team that has researched and selected great curriculum that will grow each child in their knowledge and love of Jesus and the Bible. Our Youth Ministry leadership team is creating engaging lessons and opportunities for fellowship for our Middle and High Schoolers. Nothing will stop this incredibly caring and loving group of volunteers! They are ready to listen, support and guide our youth through the school year.

Our Missions Committee continues to be extremely active and has multiple opportunities and commitment levels for you to be involved. There are a significant amount of Mission related service projects coming up in the last few months of the year. To engage more members of the congregation and to help those already serving sign up for additional service, the committee will be creating a volunteer board outside of the Mission Room (C5). The board will list the various groups we partner with and the type of help we need. In the meantime, we have 2 current mission volunteer requests where help is needed soon. They are: Taco and a Prayer which will resume preparing and handing out tacos with a side of prayer on Friday, September 10th. Check with Margaret Schafer if you are interested in joining the fun. The Restoration Team also needs our help to assist with the final step of allowing a fellow Houstonian, James Tatum, back in his home after sustaining significant damage from Harvey and the winter freeze. Check with Margaret or John Work if you are interested.

But none of this amazing, God serving, Kingdom building learning and work can happen without **YOU!** We need you to attend, get involved, be on one of these committees and share your wisdom. This church is alive and well only when you are an active part of the body. There are great rewards when you are involved, we get to know you, you get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ, and the Kingdom of God is a better place because it has **YOU** as an active participant. Don't you want to be a part of the Kingdom?

In His service,



Andy

Youth Happenings

Happy September! School is well underway and you are all settling back into school routines - maybe in person, on- or back on Campus after a long COVID break. A lot has changed. But the important things remain. It's a great time to review, renew and rejoice.

At Pines our new Fall Programs will kick off September 12.

Sunday School is still here for you. Every Sunday at 9:15 you can gather to take a fresh look at the Bible and the Word, AND enjoy the company of your friends in fellowship and prayer. Come! It isn't complete without you.

We will also be planning great monthly Special Events -sports, movies, service, lock-ins, beach!

Now's the time! Tell us what you'd like to do and then come! Bring your friends along.

See You There,

Your Youth Ministry Team,

Ron L., Diane W., Melissa G., Margaret S., Marley L., Melissa S., and Pastor Andy

Children at Pines

What's New with the Children?

The children have been very busy this summer getting to know some of our favorite Bible Heroes. With God's help, David defeated the giant Goliath with a smooth stone and his slingshot. And with God's help, Gideon and his men were able to save Israel from the Midianites with trumpets and torches. And then there was the story of Samson and how he received his strength from God with his uncut hair to save Israel.

Who can deny the God-given courage of Queen Esther as she saved her people? And recently the children have heard about Saul and his encounter with Jesus to become Paul, a believer. They are learning that Paul and the early Christians spread the teachings of Jesus far and wide.

We have met some awesome Bible heroes!

And, guess what? Fall is coming and there will be two classes for the children, one class of pre-k – 1st graders, and another class for 2nd - 5th graders.

We will continue our journey as we grow in our faith together.

Hope you will join us!



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