



Pines News

APRIL 2019

Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving Outward...

April 14

Palm Sunday 10:45 AM

April 18

Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM

April 19

Good Friday 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM

April 21

Easter:

Sunrise Service 6:30 AM

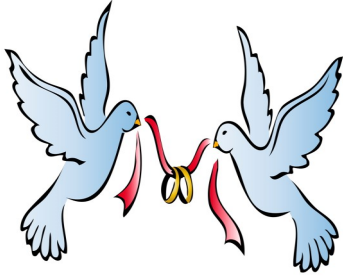
Easter Service 10:45 AM



Pines Family News



...to Pines member **Courtney Wilkinson** in the passing of her mother, Rosemary McCurley. Please keep Courtney and her family in your prayers.



Congratulations to proud parents Charlie and Cathy Bankhead with the marriage of their daughter Ellen to William Battles. Ellen and William were married on March 9, 2019.

Congratulations to Bill and Kezzie Deffebach. Bill and Kezzie were married at Pines on March 16th, 2019. It was a beautiful service for a beautiful couple.



Are you looking for a place to get involved? We are looking for someone to organize our keys for the building. If this is an area where you think you could help, we would deeply appreciate you. This volunteer position can be done at anytime day or night, whatever is convenient for you. Give Cindy a call in the church office if you can help!



Easter Lily signups have begun and run through April 14th. Please stop by the sign up table outside the Fellowship Hall to sign up for a lily to help decorate our sanctuary at Easter. The cost of each lily is \$10 and they may be taken home after the 10:45 a.m. Easter Service on April 21st.

JUST A REMINDER...

Please remember, this is your church home. We all want to be good stewards of the many blessings God has provided in our building. When you borrow something from the church, please return it to where you found it. Also, when you bring something into the church, please remember to mark it with your name in case you leave it here. Finally, ANY item/service that you would like to donate to Pines should first be approved by the Property Committee. With these thoughts in mind, we can all enjoy our church home!

Please mark your calendars with the following
NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:

April 19 (May 2019)

May 24 (June 2019)

June 21 (July 2019)

July 19 (August 2019)

Bible Quiz....

Who was the
mother of
John the Baptist?



Answer:
Elisabeth

Pastor's Page

Greetings in Jesus' name,

This Lenten season we have been reflecting on our faith in Jesus the Christ, and what the cross of Easter means in our lives. Holy week is an intensive time for us to reflect on this meaning. Holy Week is a very interesting time in the life of the church, and the faithful. We start the week with the excitement of Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Our excitement is quickly dashed as we enter the somberness of the Last Supper and His arrest on Maundy Thursday. We then experience the defeat of Good Friday and the crucifixion. Our defeat is then removed as we celebrate the empty tomb and the Easter freedom.

Holy week carries with it a lot of emotion, and/or passion. In fact Jesus' suffering is also known as Christ's Passion, or the Passion of the Christ. Many say his suffering was his passion for us, "that he died for us." Author Robin Myers, in his book *Saving Jesus from the Church*, gives us a different insight to what Jesus' passion really may have been. Myers says, "We are accustomed to hearing the death of Jesus and events leading up to it as his "passion," and we assume this refers only to suffering. But it is more accurate to say that his passion had to do with the revelation of God that consumed him. Justice was his passion. Healing was his passion. Gathering up the last, the least, and the lost and helping them stand up straight in a world that kept them permanently bent over was his passion."

After reading this I had to think, "if this was Jesus' passion then shouldn't it be mine?!" As we finish Lent, enter Holy Week and then celebrate the gift of Easter, let's reflect on our faith and remember to be faithful to Jesus' passion and think about what our passion will be in the light of Jesus' life and Easter.

Let's be passionate,



Experience the Passion of Christ in the world-famous Passion Play of Oberammergau! We are excited 20 people have already joined our list to travel to Eastern Europe and the Passion Play June 3-13, 2020. We still have a few spots left for you to join us on this once in a life time journey, but time is running out to apply. Applications and deposits must be in by **May 15, 2019**. For more information on how you can join this magnificent trip please contact Pastor Andy or checkout the church's' website at <http://pinespc.org/trip-to-eastern-europe/> . **See page 5 for more information.**

Youth Happenings!

Car Wash Fundraiser April 27th!



Need to get all of that pollen off of your car? Saturday, April 27th from 9am—2pm, come out to Pines for the Youth Ministry's annual Car Wash Fundraiser! All funds will support the mission of the Youth Ministry in 2019!



VBS Volunteers Needed:

- Prep Team
- Setup Team
- Station leaders
- Group leaders
- Greeters
- Floaters
- Registration Table Workers
- Actors
- Worship Team
- Tear Down Team

June 3-7, 2019
9:00 AM—12:00 PM

To volunteer, email Ashley Sullivan at Ashley@pinespc.org or call her at 713-855-1304.



Do you have a high school or college student graduating you want us to publicize in our end of the school year bulletin? If so, please send an email with a brief description of the student (where they graduated from, where they are going to college, what they graduated with a degree in, etc.) to genny@pinespc.org. We would love to congratulate these students!

SPLENDORS OF EASTERN EUROPE

Including The Passion Play Of Oberammergau

11 Days: June 3 - 13, 2020

Prague • Budapest • Vienna • Munich

Hosted By

Pastor Andy Gans

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\$4499 Per Person from Houston

(Air/land tour price is \$4049 plus \$450 government taxes/airline surcharges)

Visiting Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich, and Oberammergau

Price Includes: Roundtrip air from Houston, first class/select hotels, hotels & guesthouses in Oberammergau, first class (Category 1) admissions tickets for the Passion Play, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing with an English-speaking guide and more!!

For a brochure & more information, please contact: Pastor Andy Gans

Tel: (713) 467-2234 / Email: andy@pinespc.org

<http://pinespc.org/trip-to-eastern-europe/>

SPACE IS LIMITED - BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

*This is your last chance to experience the world-famous
Passion Play of Oberammergau until 2030!!*

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

As we approach Holy Week, there are so many hymns that I could focus on, telling of the trial and crucifixion of Christ our Savior. When we look at Good Friday and all His suffering, I am reminded of one of my favorites....."When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

The last verse, so meaningful, shares the thoughts of how we all should approach His sacrifice:

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

But the good news awaits! Charles Wesley's most exuberant anthem is the one he simply called "Hymn for Easter Day," published in 1739. It originally had eleven stanzas. The "Alleluia's" were added at a later date, but appropriately, for this is a hymn we never tire of singing, whether we know it as "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" or "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," let us celebrate His suffering, His death, and His glorious resurrection!

Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Keep a song in your heart! Alleluia!

Tim



Please join us for Camp Pines 2019!

3-WEEKS OF SUMMER CAMPS

PACKED WITH FUN, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, DAILY ART PROJECTS!

with *Linda Barber*

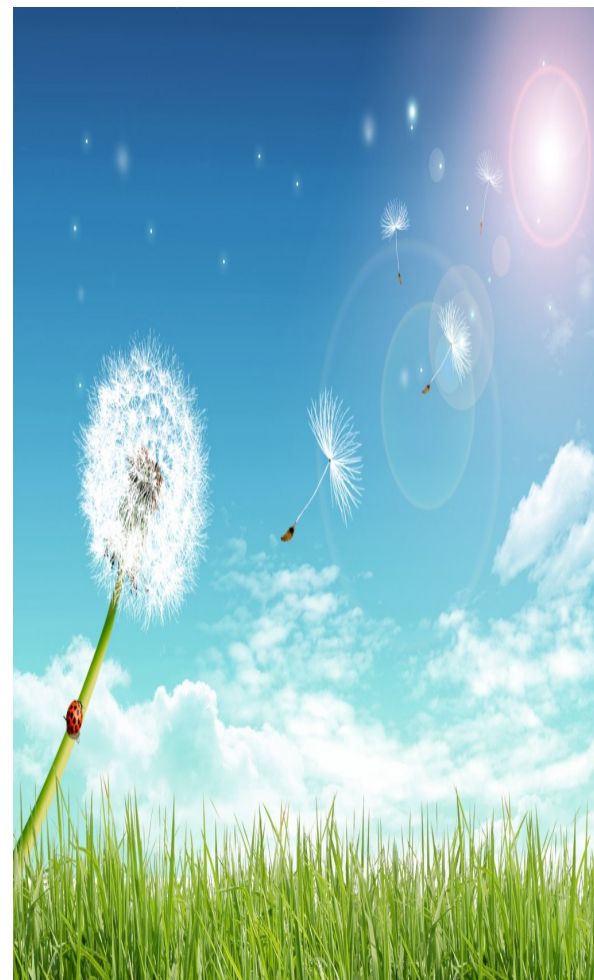
**SPACE IS
LIMITED!**

WEEK 1 (JUNE 10-13): **OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

WEEK 2 (JUNE 17-20): **TELL ME A STORY**

WEEK 3 (JUNE 24-27): **WET AND WILD!**

Pines Presbyterian
—PRESCHOOL—





W O R K D A Y A T T H E C H U R C H



WE NEED YOU!

The Property Committee will have a
work day on
Saturday, **March 30th**.

We will clean out the gym closets, take care of various gardening needs, and build a storage room on the back parking lot. This is a wonderful family activity so bring your family and come help beautify your church home!

AND, as always in the Presbyterian tradition,
THERE WILL BE FOOD for all!

The work day begins at **9 AM** and will end when the lunch bell rings.

Be sure to sign up in the Fellowship Hallway.

Come on out, we could really use your help!

Unrealistic Expectations

I recently was invited to preach an installation service for a pastor in a new call in our presbytery. Several people commented that it was a sermon that everyone ought to hear. I will try to summarize my thoughts here, which were based on Ephesians 3:14-4:6.

I have long been fascinated with the truth that is in these statements. Socrates said, "To be is to do." Jean Paul Sartre said, "To do is to be." And Frank Sinatra said, "Do be do be do." We all live in the tension between "human beings" and "human doings" since so much of our worth in society is based on what we do rather than who we are.

I find that many times there are unrealistic expectations placed upon pastors. Some people think that the new pastor will be the one who will save their church. There are those who want the pastor to grow their church, but the truth is they just want a chaplain who will care for their existing members, and might undermine any changes that will happen. A new pastor will come in with a vision for ministry that will unite the church and return it to the exciting place it was *50 years ago*. Congregations expect a decent sermon to be preached on Sunday morning. The pastor should be a caring person, and to be available whenever someone is going through a difficult time. You might expect that the pastor will baptize your children and grandchildren and bury your parents, even if they are not members of the congregation. The pastor should be an effective leader for your church. These are common expectations, and not necessarily wrong. These attitudes reflect and nurture an assumption that pastors are the real ministers and that church members are those who receive ministry.

A study showed minimum expectations included this time commitment each week:

- Prayer at the church: 14 hrs
- Sermon preparation: 18 hrs
- Outreach and evangelism: 10 hrs
- Counseling: 10 hrs
- Hospital and home visits: 15 hrs
- Administrative functions: 18 hrs
- Community involvement: 5 hrs
- Denominational involvement: 5 hrs
- Church meetings: 5 hrs
- Worship services/preaching: 4 hrs
- Other duties as assigned: 10 hours
- TOTAL HOURS EACH WEEK: 114, Total hours in a week: 168, Difference: 7.7 hours a day to sleep, eat, spend time with family and anything else not related to the Church.

In the Ephesians passage, there is an expectation that pastors and other church leaders are to do something for the church members. This may involve preaching, teaching, caring, and leading. But the primary task of pastors is to equip God's people for the work of ministry. Listen to that – the primary task is to equip YOU for YOUR ministry. Another way to say it is that the pastor's job is to equip YOU to live YOUR WHOLE LIFE as ministry. I once attended a church that had this line in the weekly bulletin, "We have one pastor, and (the number of church members) ministers."

Remember that your pastor is not a super hero. Your pastor is broken and bruised and made in the image of an almighty God who is in the process of being made whole, just like you are. Your pastor is not perfect, and please don't be disappointed when s/he is human.

What is your role as church members? Support your pastor in the pursuit of emotional and spiritual health. Pray for your pastor, and for your congregation. Encourage them to take some time off. Ask them about who they are, and not just what the church is about. Hang out with them because s/he is your sister or brother in Christ. Give them grace in their weakness. Don't assume that all they hear is nice compliments. Send a note with life-giving words. When your pastor is healthy and whole and maintains a good heart, everybody wins. That pastor will be able to love, serve and care for the congregation in the best way possible. Remember the balance between "human beings" and "human doings" and allow your pastor to be as you learn to help to share your gifts in ministry to your community and beyond.

Rev. Lynn Hargrove, General Presbyter +
Stated Clerk for Administrative Process
Presbytery of New Covenant



Sunday, April 7th

THE AGAPE OFFERING

*The AGAPE Communion Offering is **HERE!** The Greek word Agape 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, and we remember that example of sacrifice when we celebrate the Lord's Supper.*

In order to bring greater awareness of and participation in the Service and Outreach "outside our walls" ministry projects throughout the year, the **Agape Communion Offering** of small, tangible goods will coincide each month with the celebration of Holy Communion. Families are encouraged to participate together in selecting an item to donate and bring to the wagons in the narthex on the **first Sunday** of each month.



April Agape Offering will be held on Sunday, April 7th benefiting Pines Vacation Bible School. Items needed include: numerous sheets of green poster board, black oblong plastic table covers, Hobby Lobby gift cards for greenery, orange and yellow paper napkins, yellow round plastic table covers, pancake mix, maple syrup, rope/twine, and brown paper grocery bags. Please see the Agape display in the Fellowship Hallway with pull-off notes for specific items. The VBS needs display will stay up for several weeks. Please place your VBS donation in the coordinating box that matches the sticky note design your items were written on. The boxes will be lined up in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall. For additional information please contact Kari Work at kwork@mgcinc.net

ATTENTION:

CANCER SURVIVORS AND CAREGIVERS

Become a trained
CanCare Volunteer
and make a difference

Share HOPE with others
who are currently fighting cancer.
Support an individual with a similar
diagnosis, or make hospital visits.

June 22nd-23rd, 2019

Town and Country area

Apply at cancare.org/volunteer

CanCare has been providing cancer support for over 25 years.



More info about CanCare
or volunteer training: 713-461-0028

CanCare is a mighty community of survivors who lift up and inspire cancer patients
and caregivers through one-on-one support, empathy, and hope.

TAAP (Taco and A Prayer)

Would you like to serve our community but not able to attend our breakfast taco deliveries each month? Taco & A Prayer has a job opening! We need a volunteer to be responsible for putting out the banner the Sunday before delivery day. We also need a person who's job each month is to figure out what we want to share with the community as far as Pines events. That person would also create the flyer to go in the bags and would work with other committees to get info to announce. This sounds like 2 jobs but the same person could do both if they choose. Please contact me at lesa.j.smith@sbcglobal.net if you would like to join our TAAP team this way.



Stephen Ministers know the power of being there....



They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great. (Job 2:13)

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh.

"Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet," said Eeyore, in a Glum Sounding Voice.

"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."

Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now?"

Pooh looked at Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house. Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"

"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."

"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh." And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were there. No more; no less. Just... There.

Session Meeting Notes

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on March 25. Here are some highlights:

- Approved a motion from the Stewardship Committee to combine the Youth Mission Fund and the Youth "Other" Fund into a Youth Fund, to be used to fund youth programs, events, activities and other expenses, including mission trips, as approved by the Christian Education Committee.
- Approved a motion from the Stewardship Committee to accept a gift from the estate of Jo Combs and to allocate it and any future gifts from the estate 10% to the Missions budget, 50% to replenish the Capital Reserve Fund and 40% to the Sustaining Gift Fund, designated for the General Fund, to be held and invested for Pines by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.
- Approved a motion from the Stewardship Committee to allocate future estate gifts of at least \$10,000 similarly to the item above, unless specified otherwise by the family or by the current Session at the time of the gift.
- Approved Anthony Gairo as a member of the Stewardship Committee.
- Elected Phil Johnson to a one-year term on the Columbarium Committee.

Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session

Stewardship

February/March Finances...

1. Pledge income through February 28 was \$136,588, 20% of the total budgeted amount of \$695,000 for 2019. Total non pledge income received was \$11,946, 10% of the total budget of \$120,000.
2. Total income through February was \$164,197 and total expenses were \$137,953 with a cumulative net income over expenses to date of \$26,226.
3. March pledge and non pledge income are expected to continue at budgeted rates.
4. A generous estate gift was received in mid March. Session allocated that unexpected gift 10% to missions, 50% to create a reserve fund for property needs, and 40% to the Sustaining Gift Fund, an endowment fund managed by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, for the long term benefit of Pines.

Stewardship Committee



SPACE CITY SOUND
HOUSTON, TX

JOIN HOUSTON'S AWARD WINNING
A CAPPELLA GROUP FOR THEIR
2019 Spring Show
ORBIT

SHOW TIME
3 pm

Pines Presbyterian Church
12751 Kimberley Ln, Houston, TX 77024

TICKETS
\$17 Adult
\$12 Child/Student/Pines Church Member
For tickets visit tinyurl.com/SCSOrbit

**APR
13
2019**

Shopping = \$\$ for Pines

If you shop at Randall's, Kroger or Amazon,
YOU can help raise money for Pines Benevolences. Here's how:

1. Get a **Kroger** card & create an account at Kroger.com
2. Click on "Community" & "Enroll Now"
3. Enter Pines' number: **81486. Do this YEARLY!**



1. Get a **Randalls** card and/or take your card to a Randalls Courtesy Booth, and fill out a form
2. Ask to link Pines to your card with #2210



1. Create an **Amazon** account online
2. Go to Smile.Amazon.com
3. Click on "Supporting" & put in Pines Presbyterian Church



Contact Kathy Ropshaw kr@jhyi.com to RSVP



A day with the local fire department... All had a good time and learned not to be afraid of firefighters. Do you recognize firefighter #57?