



# PINES

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

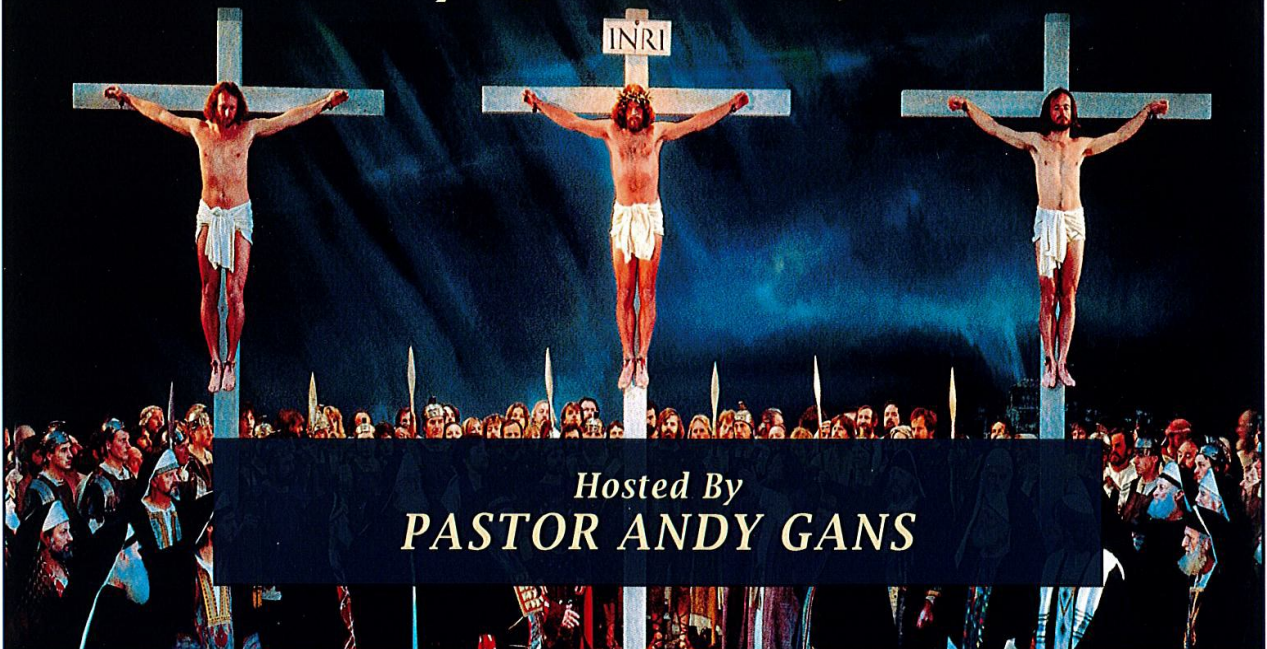
*The Pines Press*, January 2022

12751 Kimberley Ln, 77024 713-467-2234

### ***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 for the trip of a lifetime, please contact Pastor Andy Gans to get on the list! The bus is filling up and time is running out to sign up!!**

# Pines Family News & Current Events

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!



Welcome to Sophia Isabella Kusko! She is the daughter of John and Mary Kusko. Sophia was born on Nov 22, 2021. She is the grandbaby of Dave and Becky Kusko.

To All Pines' congregation: Thanks to everyone for all prayers, cards and meals during my recovery period from a heart attack and stent placement. Prayers were heart-felt caring words for this recipient in a time of need. Four weeks were taken for recovery before a follow up visit to the cardiologist and was time well spent. Being still and time to reflect were precious blessings given to me from my Lord and Savior. Greatest blessing during this time for recovery was having Lynda holding my hand as we walked and prayed through this challenging period. As a member of Pines' congregation, I am thankful for such a caring Christian community of believers toward all God's family. Yours in Christ, Bob Barr



## 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 order a live arrangement.

Please email:

Melissa Gravett at [mgravett0123@gmail.com](mailto:mgravett0123@gmail.com) or Linda Aldred at [lindaaldred1@aol.com](mailto:lindaaldred1@aol.com).

You can also sign up in the Fellowship Hallway on the flower calendar while at church.



Please keep Pines member, Leslie Friedrich in your prayers with the recent loss of her mother last week.

**The church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 27th and Tuesday, Dec. 28th.**



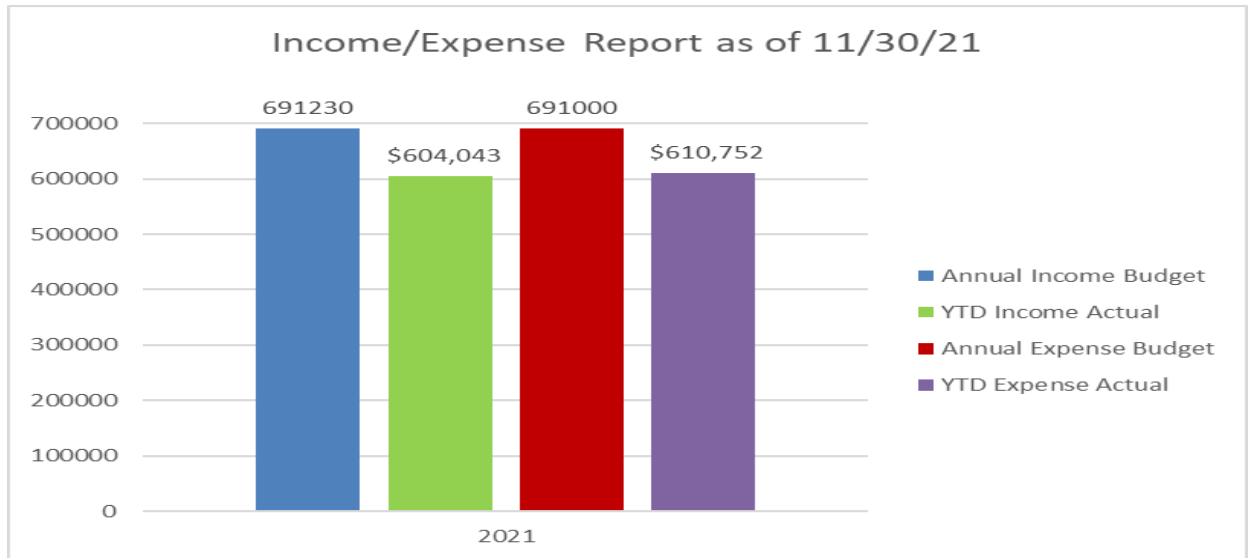
***Pines Family Campout:*** Are you and your family interested in a relaxing weekend camping out with other Pines families? A date has not been determined but will likely be sometime this winter when the temperatures are cooler. We will likely be staying in rustic state park cabins or bring your own 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](mailto: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:**  
**January 21st** (for the February 2022 issue)



# Stewardship



## STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

1. Total Income received through November 30 is \$604,043, 87% of the \$691,230 income budgeted for 2021. This is slightly below forecast for the 11 months, but December is typically a higher than normal month for income.
2. Total expenses through November 30 are \$610,752, 88% of the budgeted \$691,000 approved budget.
3. Net Income through November 30 is a negative \$6,709, which is significantly lower than the negative net income of \$20,541 as of October 31.
4. Special thanks to all who gave generously in November and continue to give in December. We are much closer to our budgeted break even Net Income goal for 2021.

**The end of the year is a great time to reflect on and share your blessings.** Year end giving must be received or postmarked by December 31 in order to be included on your 2021 donation statement from Pines. The church office will close at noon on December 31.

**The church office will also be closed** Monday, Dec. 27th and Tuesday, Dec. 28th.

## Session Meeting Notes

Although the Session does not have a regular stated meeting in December, Session met in a special called meeting on December 19. Here are some highlights:

- Session examined and welcomed Amanda Hofstetter, Brad Hofstetter, William Hofstetter and Patricia Jackson as new members of Pines.
- Session approved the baptism on December 26 of Kyros Aera Martinez, son of Olivia and Navarre Martinez, and grandson of Violet O'Brien.
- Session called a Congregational Meeting to be held on January 9, 2022 to elect elders for the Class of 2025.

Craig Walker, clerk

# Pastor's Page

Happy New Year!

I pray you had a wonderful Christmas and appreciated the joy the season brings, especially the joy in knowing that God has broken into the world through the child we know as Christ Jesus. God has broken into the world! Just knowing that God cared enough about you and me, knowing that God wants to be in relationship with us that he gave us Jesus to walk among us and teach us; that should bring us immense joy! But joy is not just a happy feeling. Joy is an emotional state that, I believe, goes deep into our soul and into our faith.

Joy is an important part of not only our emotional life, but our life in faith as well. The Old Testament mentions joy 136 times and the New Testament speaks about joy 60 times. One of the most familiar passages about joy comes from the book of Nehemiah chapter 8 verse 10 when it says, "... the joy of the Lord is your strength." If my strength, for all life throws at me, comes from the joy I have in knowing God, then I want that joy and I want a lot of it. This is why my New Year's resolution for 2022 is to choose joy. When difficulties arise, I will do all I can to choose joy in the situation. When negative emotions come my way, I will do all I can to choose joy in the situation. When I'm lost and don't know what to do, I will do all I can to choose joy in the situation. Too many times in my life I have allowed the emotions, the situation, the feelings overwhelm me. I allowed those times to pull me down and away from the joy God intended for me. I have learned that life without joy is overwhelming and oppressive, but a life that is lived joyfully is a life filled with more energy, creativity, hope and love. This is what I want for my life, and I pray this is what you want as well. I pray you will join me in seeking the joy of the Lord in our homes, at our places of work or education, at our church, and everywhere else this journey we call life takes you.

The journey to a joy filled life begins with getting to know God more. It means this year we will dedicate more time to building our relationship with God, getting to know the love God has intended for each of us. By getting to know God more and trusting God in all situations the joy we build within us becomes a forcefield around us to deflect or lessen the blows this world tries to throw at us. The joy of the Lord is our strength and shield. Remember, joy is not happiness it is much more than a feeling. Joy is a confidence in knowing God walks with you and has a purpose for you.

Won't you join me in choosing joy in 2022?

With great joy,



Andy



## Pines Youth & Children's Events | January

### Youth: ADULT HELPERS NEEDED in the fun!

Small Groups continue happening for youth on Sundays at 9:15 in the youth rooms. Awesome lessons told through 'The Story'. Don't miss out! \*Call Kristin at the church office: Ph. 713.467.2234

### January Calendar Dates and Happenings:

#### Jan. 8 | Escape Retreat at Pines!

5pm-10pm Saturday. Suggested cost is \$10 to help cover food and supplies.

#### Jan. 16, 23 & 30 | YOUTH GROUP STARTS!

In Youth Rooms 6pm-7:45pm, snack supper and a special time for fun, fellowship and the Lord.

\* To help provide a meal sign up at: [takethenameal.com](http://takethenameal.com) last name Youth, password 5135

### Coming Up...

Also don't forget next Family Bingo Night is Thursday January 20th, 6:30pm.

### Children:

Small Groups continue happening for children on Sundays at 9:15am in the Pines rooms in the preschool wing. Awesome lessons told through 'the Story'. Don't miss out!

Parents Night Out returns! Friday January 21st 5:30-8:30pm, drop off and pick up in Fellowship Hall! Games, Crafts, Dinner, Snacks and Fellowship with one another and the Lord!



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Houston, TX 77002

**Register Now**  
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QUESTIONS? email  
[info@volunteerhouston.org](mailto:info@volunteerhouston.org)

**B I N G O**

**at Pines!**

**Join your Pines family on January 20th at 6:30 PM.**

If you missed the last one, you won't want to miss this one! Food, prizes, fellowship. A wonderful, fun, family evening for all. Come and join us!





Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

## Stephen Ministry

When I finished a recent word puzzle, I found that the quote was by the English author George Eliot, from her novel Middlemarch. It was a good puzzle, but an even better quote. ***“What we call despair is often the painful eagerness of unfed hope.”***

I had never thought about hope needing to be fed, or, for that matter, that eagerness might be sometimes painful. Perhaps, though, the apostle Paul had these things in mind with his statement in 1 Corinthians 13 that faith, hope, and love “abide” – they survive, they grow, they last. Now *faith* and *love* we think about often, and we fully understand that each requires repeated attention and effort to flourish in our lives. They have to be nourished regularly – *fed*, if you will – lest they starve! *Hope*, though, is too easily overlooked as a quality sitting hungry at the training table of virtue development.

But Eliot rightly points out that neglecting to feed *hope* leads directly to despair. Many are the stories of people in desperate circumstances who managed to survive by the strength of their hope for favorable outcomes. They were willing to make the effort to put aside that deadly despair by nourishing their hope. And so it is with us. *Hope* needs to be fed.

One way to do this is to speak out loud both our miseries and our hopes for the future. It’s doubtful that we can speak the *reality* we seek into actual existence, but we can definitely speak the hope into existence! And that is what Stephen Ministers are for – to listen to you speak your hopes into existence. Don’t let despair control your life! Feed the hope that is yours to nourish. Ask for a Stephen Minister to listen. *Bill*

If you’d like to explore the possibility of working with a Stephen Minister on a CONFIDENTIAL basis – for a short time or a long time – please contact Rev. Bill Willis at [bill.00.willis@gmail.com](mailto:bill.00.willis@gmail.com), call him at the church office, or ask someone wearing a Stephen Ministry badge.

**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  
in the Fellowship  
Hall or sometimes  
the gym!



# Missions

The Taco Team has done it again! On Saturday, December 11th, we gathered in the wee hours of the morning to cook, roll and wrap over 500 tacos for the Rudolph Run in City Centre. We were grateful to have the Cy Ridge Key Club members assist in banding the tacos with cards. And of course, Santa gave moral support. Thank you Pines volunteers, you rock!







## Our Impact

The Restoration Team has been on the grounds engaging with our church partners in repairing families homes and lives since 2017. We have big goals moving forward. There are still thousands of families displaced and living in unsafe living conditions. Since our inception we have placed thousands of volunteers across Houston to help with the solution, impacted hundreds of our neighbors.

2,500+

### UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS

*Volunteers from Seattle to Boston and everywhere in between have joined us in our home repair mission. Some join us for a Saturday, a whole week, and some have come back again and again. We are immensely grateful for those who have partnered in our ministry to serve families in need.*

75,000+

### VOLUNTEER HRS SERVING COMMUNITIES

*Since November 2017 The Restoration Team has put over 55,000 hours of service into our Restorations projects. This time has been spent installing sheet-rock, cleaning up debris, painting, installing floors, praying, hanging doors, installing cabinets, and creating safe and secure living environments.*

516

### FAMILIES ASSISTED

*We are in the business of helping families. Whether it is volunteers serving the direct needs of a family, or providing financial assistance, The Restoration Team has served over 500 families.*

**Contact John Work through the church if you are interested in volunteering!**



Dear Pastor Andy,

On behalf of RaiseUp Families' Board of Directors, staff, and clients THANK YOU for your incredible hospitality this past Sunday as we celebrated Christmas with our families.

We cannot thank your team, John and Kari Work, and everyone at Pines Presbyterian enough for making us feel so welcome and special. It was truly a magical day for our families. In fact, as I was walking through the hallways as our families were changing stations, I heard one little girl say to her mom, "Mom, this is the best day OF MY LIFE!"

I do not have to tell you how hard it is for families who just days, weeks, or months ago were facing an eviction to confront the holidays. Limited resources and the inability to give their family what you would want for you own child leave our parents feeling inadequate and ashamed.

The kindness you all showed, from letting us use so many of your rooms, to John and Kari's food preparation and service, to the Santa photos made the day truly special.

We are so grateful for your incredible partnership and all you do to help us Raise Up Families right here in our community. May your congregation be as blessed in their Christmas as we were this last Sunday. Thank you, and thank you for spreading the lights of joy, hope, peace and love this Advent season.

Your sister in Christ,

*Angela*

Angela Burgess  
Executive Director

*We ♥ Pines!*







# OPEN HOUSE

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2022/2023 PINES PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE.** YOU WILL HEAR AN OVERVIEW OF OUR SCHOOL, MEET OUR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION.\*  
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED\*

## OPEN HOUSE DATES

### 2-YEAR OLD CLASSES

#### BEES & BUTTERFLIES:

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022  
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

### 3 & 4-YEAR OLD CLASSES

#### FROGS, RAINBOW FISH,

#### TEDDY BEARS & TURTLES:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022  
12:30 PM – 1:15 PM

### BRIDGE & KINDERGARTEN CLASSES | LADYBUGS & OWLS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022  
7:00 – 8:00 PM

WE WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING CURRENT **FAMILY AND CHURCH MEMBER PAPER APPLICATIONS** (CASH OR CHECK ONLY) AT **9AM** ON **JANUARY 24**.

OUR **ONLINE APPLICATION** WILL OPEN AT **2:00 PM** ON **JANUARY 26**. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND ONE OF OUR OPEN HOUSE SESSIONS.

**2022/2023**  
**PRIORITY REGISTRATION:**  
**JANUARY 24 – FEBRUARY 4**

\* FACE MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE BUILDING AT OUR OPEN HOUSE EVENTS. THANK YOU!

**more info** | **register:** [PinesPresbyterianPreschool.com](https://PinesPresbyterianPreschool.com)

**CENTER MINISTRIES**  
12645 Memorial Dr, #F-1163  
Houston, TX 77024  
[center-ministries.org](http://center-ministries.org)

I can't believe 2021 is almost over. But what a year – our biggest ever! We not only reached more kids with the Gospel but also helped feed around 1500 persons per month – all without ever compromising the Gospel. We stay true to Word of God by “speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). So how did this happen? Time and time again, the Lord opened new doors.

First, we connected the Houston satellite church of Open Doors Experience Church (“Open Doors”) (based in Burleson, TX) to the Outreach Center of West Houston (location where we minister to our students). Why does that matter? Open Doors feeds large numbers of the poor all over the world. Center Ministries ministers to “At Risk” kids in the Spring Branch area near Stratford High School. Result – the very people we minister too now receive free food including frozen meats on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Beginning in March of this year, Open Doors is up to feeding around 1500 persons per month. Although Center Ministries does not supply any food itself, we facilitate assistance to the families we serve, and we provide volunteer help each month which includes some of the kids we minister to.

Second, we are very close to achieving our long-term desire to become a full-time ministry and as it turns out, we were full-time for a little over 3 months this year. But the need is so great, 3 months isn't enough – it needs to be the full 12 months.

Third, Center Ministries stands as a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached based totally on the Word of God. Not with condemnation but also without compromise. Mark Trotter  
Visit us online at <http://center-ministries.org/>



## Pines Library “Book of the Month”



January's book of the month is:

The “Mitford Series” books by Jan Karon. Pines has the entire series. Excellent reading for those that enjoy a good fictional series. Enjoy!

Have you read any books from the Pines library?

If so, give Cindy a call and let her know which ones you recommend.

We can place them in next month's edition of the newsletter!

