

P I N E S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 2020

Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving



RUMMAGE

S a l e

for charity

Date & Time TBD
[Proceeds benefit the Feed My Starving Children Mission Project]



~ Location ~
PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
12751 Kimberley Ln.
Houston, TX 77024
[in the Family Life Center]

In back of the church – look for signs in the parking lot.

**IF YOU ALSO WANT
TO DONATE ITEMS FOR SALE:
START COLLECTING NOW!**



PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wondering what to do with all that stuff you've been cleaning out? Donate it to the Benefit Rummage Sale coming up this Fall (COVID-19-permitting, date to be determined), organized by Miriam Circle, to benefit the *Feed My Starving Children* project. **You can help:** save up items to donate to the sale.

We will also need volunteers to help with Friday setup or during the Saturday sale, including strong men and a pickup truck to help with larger items.

Contact Bethel Strawser or Karen Davis, or call the church office.

Pines Family News

Thank you to Pines Prayer Committee and others who sent notes of comfort and encouragement and brought food after my eye surgery.
Blessings, Georgette Person

thank you!



Please keep Eleanor Loose and family in your prayers with the passing of Eleanor's husband Harry. Harry passed away on July 5th. He was a long time devoted member of Pines and will be missed by many. A notice will be sent out once services are scheduled.

To our dear Pines friends:

Our family would like to express our sincere thanks to all who so kindly and lovingly have shown their love for Harry through notes, calls, etc. It is overwhelming to know how much he is remembered by so many good friends. With thanks to our Pines family of about 50 years.

May God bless each one of you.

With our love,

Eleanor Loose and family



Our custodian Patrick found a few things in the storage room in the church. Do any of these items belong to you? If so, please call Cindy in the church office to arrange a pick up. The painting is on canvas and is 11" x 14". The guitar is in a case. The clarinet is also in a case.



REMINDER: Please, if you move to a new address, change your phone number or your email address, please call or email the church office so that we can update our files. Also, if you feel you are not receiving communications from the church, **please** contact the church office! Thank you.

Please mark your calendars with
the **NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:**
August 21 (for September 2020 issue)

Pastor's Page

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Let me start by saying how much I miss you all, and it hurts my heart that we can't be physically together worshipping our living God and sharing smiles as we hear about each other's lives. It's hard to believe that we have been apart for four months! I don't know about you, but I am experiencing what I call COVID fatigue. I'm tired not being able to worship and be together with you, I'm tired of not being able to make home visits, I'm tired of not being able to move about like we used to, I'm tired of Zoom meetings, I'm tired of the news, and I'm just plain tired. I'm sure to some this sounds like I'm whining because there are other people in the world, even this town, who have it much worse than me and you'd be right. I know I am very blessed for what I do have.

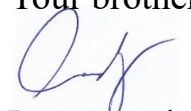
I know this pandemic has affected us all in different ways. Some of us are fatigued, some of us are angry, some of us are afraid and anxious, and the list could probably go on and on. One of the things I worry about during this time is what are we paying attention to. Many of you know that I worked several years in television news. I used to watch the local news from beginning to end. Once I got out of that industry I watched less and less, and now I watch maybe one minute. Television news began to depress me and I found myself wondering "what else bad can happen," or "how bad is this going to get?" Lately, just hearing anything about the virus sends me into despair and I wonder if there is any good news.

I eventually realized my attention was on what the world was telling me and not on what God was, and still is, telling me... and you. One of my devotions recently really struck me as it talked about our attention. The devotion used Psalm 9:1-2 which says: "I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I will talk about all your wonderful acts. I will celebrate and rejoice in you; I will sing praises to your name, Most High." This psalm hit me right between the eyes. If my attention is on God, and what God is doing, then I will have a lot to talk about. "I will talk about **ALL** your wonderful acts." You see, we have to turn our attention away from what is pulling us down. We have to open our eyes to what God is doing because God **IS** doing something in the midst of our fatigue and struggles. My devotion said, "God doesn't stop working around us. We just become blind to God."

I believe if we look for where God is at work we will see some amazing things happening around us that can bring us joy and happiness in these crazy days. If COVID has you fatigued, stressed, anxious or angry... look for the blessings in your life during these days, be thankful for how God is at work in your life and the lives of others. When you see where God is at work do as the psalmist suggests, "... celebrate and rejoice in you; I will sing praises to your name, Most High." By celebrating, rejoicing and singing our attention and attitude will change. We will be healthier people who are ready to take on the struggles of life. Most importantly we will be able to tell people there is good news in the world, and that Good News is Jesus Christ.

May your days be filled with celebrations, singing and good news!

Your brother in Christ,



Pastor Andy

Current Events

The Network for Dismantling Racism Presents:

First Steps to Dismantling Racism



The Synod of the Sun Network for Dismantling Racism presents a series of four webinars on **First Steps to Dismantling Racism**, led by Warren Chalklen, Ph.D.

This four-week webinar is the first presentation by the Network for Dismantling Racism, a group of concerned Presbyterians from all 11 presbyteries of the Synod of the Sun. In the coming months, N4DR will present additional programs and events that will address the issues of anti-racism and structural racism.

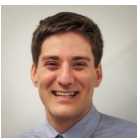
The webinars will be held on four successive Fridays, beginning August 14th and going through September 4th. Each webinar will be held from Noon-1:30pm. These sessions include:

- Session 1 - What Does it Mean to be Anti-Racist?
- Session 2 - Engaging Colleagues and Students in Anti-Racist Learning Moments.
- Session 3 - Identify and Combat Institutional and Structural Racism.
- Session 4- Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression.

When you register for any of the webinars, you will be provided with a workbook for the program.

Sponsorship for this and future N4DR events has been provided by the Presbytery of Arkansas, Cimarron Presbytery, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, Indian Nations Presbytery, Mission Presbytery, Presbytery of New Covenant, Palo Duro Presbytery, Presbytery of the Pines, Presbytery of South Louisiana and Tres Rios Presbytery.

For more information about these webinars or on how to join the Network for Dismantling Racism, contact: Kyle Walker - walkertexasrev@gmail.com or Kristy Rodgers - Kristy.Rodgers@fpcbok.org



Presenter:

Warren Chalklen, Ph.D. is the Manager for Cultural Competence, Diversity, and Inclusion for CHRISTUS Health. He is published on issues related to anti-racist practice, critical literacy and leadership, and applications of Ubuntu as a pedagogy of liberation.

Youth Happenings



Let's gather for physical-distanced fellowship!
Come and join the Youth Ministry in the Pines back parking lot on Saturday, August 15th at 6pm for a physical-distanced outdoor cookout! We have missed gathering in person and are looking forward to safely enjoying each other's company. Masks will be required, except for when you are eating and drinking, and please bring your own camp chair so we may space ourselves out while we eat. If you have any questions, contact Jesse at jesse@pinespc.org!

Children at Pines

Families of children three years and up, this one's for you!

Connect as a family and with your church family through a take-out kit program! Pastor Cindy has been tailoring the Presbyterian Outlook's Staycation program, "Feet that Follow," for you to enjoy five simple lessons at home. She is offering to hand-deliver the take-out kit to your family while maintaining safe-distancing practices. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity to grow as a family, email Cindy at revcindy@pinespc.org. She would love to get you started with a special Zoom session and journey with you, "exploring the places Jesus traveled and discovering the ways we can travel and share God's love while staying right in our own homes."



We need you! Loving grownups to watch over our little ones from birth to 4 years old on Sunday mornings from 9 to 12 once we return to church. If you could commit to once per month, it would be much appreciated. Or you could substitute, all are welcome. You will need a background check and will need to take a Protect My Child test online. Talk to Rev. Cindy for more details. No worries, you do not need experience. We will have a lead teacher in the nursery with you. You will get plenty of hugs and laughter from our little ones!

The Music Department

Greetings from the Music Department!

In 1969 Kurt Kaiser was working with Ralph Carmichael on a new musical for teens. "Tell It Like It Is" was meant to get the youth more involved in the church. The men felt the musical needed a closing song... something like a modern version of "Just As I Am." Kurt was sitting in front of the fireplace one Sunday evening with the fire dying down to embers. The thought struck him that "it only takes a spark to get a fire going." He wrote the first two verses and shared them with his wife. She thought there should be something said about shouting the message from the mountain tops, so the third verse was born. Mr. Kaiser said the whole song was written in about 20 minutes.

Today these words are sung all over the world in churches, youth groups, around campfires, and in youth camps....simply telling the world of the Great Commission referred to in Matthew 28:19-20.

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it;
you spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming,
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it;
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found,
you can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

So friends, where ever you are during this troublesome time, remember to shout it, and pass it on!

Keep a song in your heart!
Tim



Have you been cleaning out your house during this COVID season? If you happen to have extra knitting or crocheting yarn, please bring it to the church office. Our knitters are in need of more yarn while knitting from home. Items will be donated to several of the Pines benevolences upon completion. Thank you!

— Missions



Brookwood needs your help! Poinsettia planting begins soon

Horticulture need your help! Due to the current Texas Health and Human Services guidelines many of our Citizens will not be able to plant or care for our beautiful poinsettias.

This is our most important crop of the year. We now look to our friends and families to help sustain the operations and The Brookwood mission to supporting adults with disabilities.

Starting the week of July 27 through September 30 we will begin to plant and care for over 50,000 Holiday Poinsettias. We would love for you to have a part in planting this year's Poinsettias. Please consider signing up or making a donation to help support our growing season.

Poinsettia Planting & Care

15 Volunteers needed daily

July 27 - September 30

8:30am - 2:30pm

Contact Karen Pollard at 281-375-2220 or

[Signup.com](https://signup.com/go/OMWZdqP) - <https://signup.com/go/OMWZdqP>

The Brookwood Cafe will offer a \$10 box lunch to all Volunteers. You will have the opportunity to purchase a lunch at Volunteer check-in

Regarding Pines' Back to School Drive for July and August, we are relying on our partners at MAM and at SBISD for updated information. Below is a communication from MAM regarding the community needs for Back to School. While this information is subject to change, here is the latest:

"After careful review, we (MAM) have been counselled by all stakeholders that the Back To School campaign should continue as before. Both Communities in Schools and SBISD feel the need will be greater this year than ever, regardless of when classes resume, since so many families have been impacted by COVID layoffs and furloughs. There also will certainly be some dress code restrictions even if classes are conducted remotely; kids can't be on Zoom lounging around in their pajamas. And finally, if SBISD determines there are other ways besides clothing vouchers to help these kids get a good start to the school year, MAM is committed to working with the district to put the funds where they are needed most."

As you can see, the need this is year is still great. Your Pines Missions Committee thanks you all in advance for your generosity towards the July/August Agape Offering benefitting the local Back to School effort.

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES (MAM)

Back to School Clothing Drive

SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE MISSION OF YAHWEH

Mission Backpack Blessing



JULY & AUGUST AGAPE

Please consider donating to "Pines Back to School Drive" that benefits 3 of our benevolence organizations Back to School Programs.

Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent directly to the church office. Include notation "Back to School" with your donation.



visit PinesPC.org for more details.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW! We have several members in need of meals for various reasons. Some of our members are ill, some are injured, and some are recovering. If you can bake a small meal and bring it to the church, please call Shirley Bollich. Shirley could really use some help with this ministry. Pines has always had a caring heart and assisted their church family. Let's all pull behind Shirley and help her provide these meals to our members. If you need Shirley's phone number, please call the church office. Thank you!!



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 now 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



ONE SET OF FOOTPRINTS

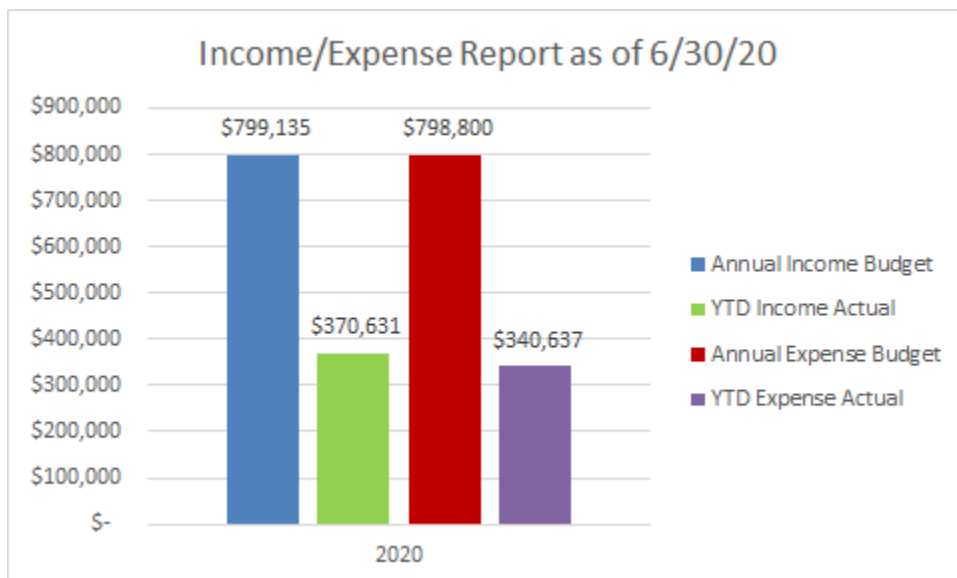
One night a man had a dream.
 He dreamed he was walking along a beach with the Lord.
 Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
 For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand...
 One belonged to him; the other to the Lord.
 When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
 He looked back at the footprints in the sand...
 He noticed that many times along the path of his life,
 There was only one set of footprints.
 He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.
 This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.
 "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way.
 But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life,
 There was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you
 the most you would leave me."
 The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and I would never, never leave you
 during your times of trials and sufferings. When you see only one set of footprints,
 it was then that I carried you."

When you are in need of a friend who will listen to your story and be a reminder of the enormity of love God has for you, be a giver of hope and hold you in prayer, Bill Willis is the person to call. He can connect you with a Stephen Minister and can be reached by calling the church office.

Thank you for your great photos!
visit **PinesPC.org**
to view the new slideshow...



Stewardship



Session Meeting Notes

The Session did not hold a regular Stated meeting during July. However, the Moderator continued to call Special meetings so that the Session could monitor the public health situation, pray for members and continue to support efforts to stay connected during these times. In a recent meeting, the Session:

- Decided that while interior spaces would continue to be closed to in-person gatherings, the exterior grounds, such as playgrounds, parking lots and the Columbarium, would be available to members for personal events, subject to public health guidelines and safety protocols.
- Discussed the effectiveness of the streaming worship services and ways to make them more visible on the website.
- Discussed planning for Sunday School in the fall, with contingencies for both in-person and virtual classes.

Dan Schafer, Clerk of Session

Service Beyond The Walls

How are you active and serving in God's Kingdom? Send your thoughts to cindy@pinespc.org.

CONVEYING GRATITUDE TO THE PINES FAMILY

Pastor Andy's note in the July newsletter encouraged all of us to be intentional in looking for ways in which God is at work during this pandemic that has been challenging, frustrating and painful for many of us. After reading the article, I sent Andy a brief email thanking him for a timely message and admitting that, while I try to be on the lookout for "God Sightings", I needed the encouragement that Andy provided.

A couple of days later I received a voice mail message from one of the two men who were responsible for my going to work for Exxon in 1975. The man who called me is named Ray and he is now 88. In summary, he is one of the finest Christians I have met because his words and actions were consistent and always reflected his faith. Given that he was at a much higher job level than mine, we did not work closely together. However, I had the opportunity to observe his leadership skills on many occasions and, as a result, he greatly influenced the "managerial style" I tried to follow, including a passion for working to develop the skills of younger employees.

I finally returned Ray's call and we had a delightful 30-minute conversation. I used the opportunity to again thank him for being a Christian "role model" for me and for influencing the traits I tried to exhibit as a manager. In addition to thanking him, I mentioned a couple of things he did involving me which I still am grateful for four decades later. Ray was so appreciative of my words of gratitude that he asked me to write him a letter summarizing what I had said so that he could share it with his family in order for them to better know the type of person Ray was in the business world.

While writing that letter, it occurred to me that God was using the conversation with Ray to encourage me to convey gratitude to another group of people –the Pines church family. While I have tried to share those sentiments with some of you, I have not done it for everyone. **Thus, I decided to write this note to thank each of you for the countless ways you have blessed my life.**

I have learned from you by listening as well as observing the loving and caring acts you perform; you have reached out in love to provide comfort during difficult times; some have celebrated mountaintop experiences with me; some have forgiven me for acts which were not consistent with our faith; many have prayed for me and my family as we have faced life's challenges; and some have listened patiently when I needed to discuss issues impacting my heart.

Each of you has a unique set of gifts which has blessed me in some way. I am a bit embarrassed that it took Andy's note, a phone call from a former boss, and the pandemic to finally lead me to **convey a heartfelt and collective THANK YOU**. However, I believe it underscores Andy's message that God is at work, even in these challenging times – a gift for which I am very grateful. Thanks be to God for His continuing work amidst our lives and for those who respond to His calls for action!

Phil Wetz



If the church staff can help you in any way, please call the office. Even though we are not gathering in our normal way for Worship at the moment, we are still at work in the office and here for you!