



# PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Pines Press August 2024 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org

## Grownup Game Day!

An Afternoon of Fun for Adults!

Fellowship Hall **August 14**  
**3-5:00pm**

Bring your favorite game!



Together @PINES+

**Tasty Treats!**

## Ice Cream Social Hymn Sing!

Cool Down and  
Sing Out!



**Fellowship Hall!**

**August 18**  
**3:00pm**

# Pines Family News & Current Events

**The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. On Fridays, the office staff work from home. If you need assistance on Fridays, call Cindy at 832-489-5989.**



**Dear Pines family** - I want to thank each of you for the prayers and many forms of support and encouragement given to me prior to and following my May 30 surgery. Sensing the love and care of so many has strengthened me and enabled me to summon the energy to work on what will be a lengthy rehab process. As I thought about the gracious gift of your love, I was reminded of this piece of scripture which leads me to also give thanks to God for the love He has poured into your hearts.

*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).*  
Phil Wetz



## **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) to sign up.

**SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup>**—Calling both Men and Women for an afternoon of playing games from 3-5p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you want, bring your favorite game to share.

**SAVE THE DATE! Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup>** Rounding up all those who **love to sing** for an old-fashioned Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social—3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Such fun just tapping your toes and singing those beloved old songs!

## **Second Sunday Lunch...**

Do you love a variety of choices for dining out? Problem solved! Meet us at the Memorial City Mall food court on August 11th near the carousel where we can push our tables together and enjoy interesting food and super fellowship. Catch a movie or a great sale too! All are invited!

If you would like to opt out of receiving this newsletter, or if your email is going to change, please send a note to [cindy@pinespc.org](mailto:cindy@pinespc.org) and we will update your record.

## **Important Info...**

**In the event that the doors are not open for your group**, please leave a note on the door to ask them to call your cell phone for entry. Every group leader should have an entry card to come into the building. If you do not, please contact Cindy in the church office to assist with getting one for you. Propping the doors open not only wastes electricity, but also is a danger to those in the building in case of intruders. Please treat your church as your home. **And please, NEVER prop open the doors at any time!** Thank you.

**PLEASE help us conserve energy...**by remembering to turn off lights and AC when you leave the building. **If you turn it on, please turn it off!** Thank you so much! Your Property Committee

## Summer greetings Pines family,

What a summer it has been for us, so far! July was a month full of activities and opportunities for our family of faith. The month started out with our youth heading out on mission to Belize. I have heard some of the stories they've shared since being back, and they are filled with seeing and experiencing God's movement and amazing love. You should make sure you put Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendar when the youth will share their trip experiences during worship. One of the stories you might hear about is their experience of Hurricane Beryl as it struck Belize and how they got to experience the hurricane again as it hit Houston. Not many people can say they went through the same hurricane twice in different parts of the world.

Even though Beryl brought the Houston area incredible winds that caused multiple day power outages and downed trees across homes and roads that caused massive destruction, it also unintentionally brought with it great acts of love and service. This church family stepped up, once again, to provide support and love to our church family and beyond. We opened the doors of the church for our family of faith to find cool respite from the blazing heat during the day, places to charge devices, and even cots and couches to spend the night if it was needed. Because the church had electricity, we were blessed with an opportunity to house 60 members of Team Rubicon, a national disaster response team, for the whole month of July. By housing this team, we were able to provide a clean, safe, and cool place for the team to recover from its daily mission work within our community. These men and women are amazing volunteers who have an incredible heart for service.

I also saw and heard of other acts of service following the storm. So many of you with electricity opened your hearts and homes to multiple individuals, families, and pets in their greatest hour of need. You were the hands and feet... and air conditioning of God. You opened your heart up to your brothers and sisters in their greatest hour, or days, of need. No matter the situation you stepped up, and I am so thankful for your heart! This storm really helped me realize how valuable our building, our location, and our people are to our community in the midst of crisis. This made me think how can we be more available? A generator, that's how we can be available even when the church doesn't have electricity. If we had a generator to power the gym, we could be a cooling center in the summer or a warming center during an ice storm.

We could provide plugs to recharge devices. We could make space for staff to organize our response to the needs of our community, and we could provide a safe place for people to spend the night. Our reach to the community could grow even larger. To make this happen we would need to find a grant to pay the costs involved. If you know of any funding opportunities that would be willing to help us serve our community when it's in need, please let me know.

May we all continue to seek ways to serve and love our neighbors with the gifts Christ has given us.





# Family Ministry Calendar for August

## PLEASE HELP!

To keep growing and supporting our small but “growing” youth group we need help!

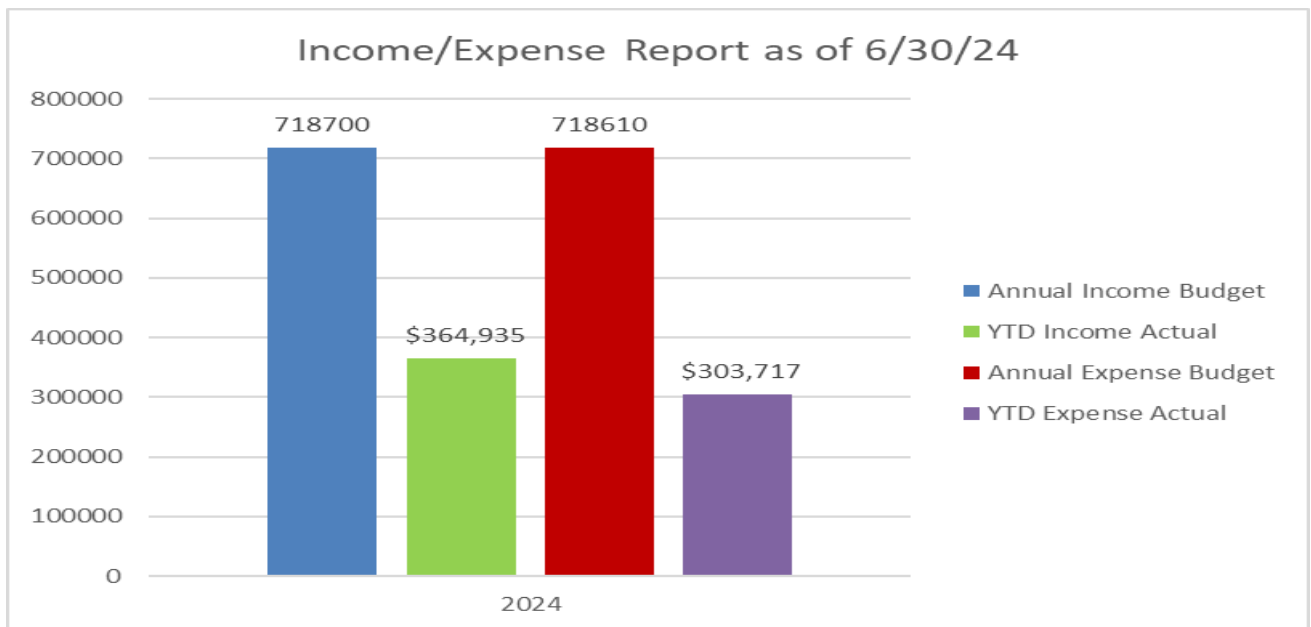
### Family ministry calendar for August:

#### Calendar:

Aug 4	All age Sunday School 9:15am Senior High Room
Aug 4	Pines Youth Hand on Hand Apartment Outreach 5:00pm
Aug 11	All age Sunday School 9:15am Senior High Room
Aug 11	Blessing of backpacks for all students, teachers and administrators: church service 10:45am
Aug 18	Promotion Sunday back in regular classrooms 9:15am
Aug 18	Ice cream church social with hymn sing 3pm Fellowship Hall
Aug 23-25	PYCC retreat for youth on presbytery council
Aug 25	Bible Sunday! church service 10:45am

Been a great summer! Come be part of Pines Back to School events! Bring your backpack on Aug 11<sup>th</sup> for the blessing and tag! Note all the locations and Sunday School times as well as church wide celebration of a hymn sing with ice cream on Aug 18<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see everyone soon- invite a friend!  
*See page 8 for youth pictures from summer youth events*

# Stewardship



#### STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

The June 2024 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

- Total income received through June 30 was \$364,935 (55% of budget.) Pledge income was \$296,366 and unpledged income was \$27,327. Interest income has already exceeded the full year's budget in only 6 months. Total income is ahead of budget through first six months of the year.
- Overall expenses were right on target at \$303,717 (42% of budget). Property income increased to \$43,412, which offsets gross property expenditures of \$130,401. Net property expenses are below budget through June.
- Net income through June increased to \$61,218... continuing a great start for the first six months of the year.

**Do you get our weekly prayer list?** If not, please call Cindy in the church office at 713-467-2234 x110 to get on the list. If you would prefer to send an email for prayer, you may send it to Bethel at [prayer@pinespc.org](mailto:prayer@pinespc.org). Cindy can also help you sign up to receive our monthly newsletter "The Pines Press" 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!

### Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!

Come join our Taco and a Prayer Team and see first-hand what a fun, rewarding, and precious ministry this is.

Join us for our next TAAP on September 6

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



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**The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:** Monday through Thursday. We have volunteers for some days currently, but we also want to create a list of substitutes. No experience necessary. We will train you. Bring a book or something to work on while sitting at the front desk. If you can help, please give Cindy a call to get on the list. By the way...one of our long ago male members (Jack Long) used to answer the phones on occasion...just to give you gentlemen out there something to think about!



## How do you stay cool in the summer?

Joke of the month...  
**Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath?**  
 It seemed like a *giant* ordeal.

**Your help is needed!** Pines could use a kitchen manager to check the kitchen once per month and make sure it is kept clean and check to make sure we have plenty of supplies. If you would be interested in doing this, please give Cindy a call at 713-467-2234 x110.

# Session

**There was no Session meeting in July.  
 We will have minutes in the September newsletter.**



*Christ caring for people through people*

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

***During the Stephen Minister training this Spring, the participants were asked to reflect on what it means to be a Stephen Minister. I will share their reflections over the next 4 months. Should you need someone to walk alongside during a difficult time, please reach out to Stephen Leader, Phil Wetz or myself. Blessings!***  
Ann Guerra

Reflection- Carol Schneider

Peter raising the disciple Tabitha from the dead. Acts 9:36-43

I was not familiar with this story until it was the subject of my last Circle study for this year. The Study title is People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples. Before this lesson I had not thought of any women as disciples.

Acts 9:36 “Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.” Tabitha was a Greek speaking Jew. I learned through the study that Tabitha is the only woman in the New Testament to be designated a disciple. Tabitha used her financial resources to support the widows in her community. She also opened the upper room of her home as a base for local and traveling Christians.

When she became ill and died, the widows she helped washed her body but instead of burying her, as was custom, laid her in a room. They sent for Peter (25 miles away, taking about 3 days). He came and raised her from the dead. Tabitha’s beloved community intervened in her behalf. They had great faith in Jesus and did not lose hope. They believed in the power of God to do something inconceivable. They waited for Peter to resurrect Tabitha.

The problems of the widows became Tabitha’s problems. She saw their suffering as her suffering. It was stated in the lesson summary that each one of us has the potential to impact many lives. Our goal is serving Christ, and the church should always be for others to flourish.

Isn’t this what Stephen Ministry is all about? This passage encouraged me to become a Stephen Minister to help others flourish. Stephen Ministry is an opportunity to help on a one-to-one basis. It will be doing God’s work through a ministry in which I am supported, supervised, and well trained. I am comforted knowing that God will be in it with me.

I will be allowing His will to be done through me. I am able to walk alongside someone, accepting and encouraging them, paving the way for God’s healing.



## Next BINGO...September 19 SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us in this opportunity for  
**Fellowship, Fun, Good Food, and Prizes!**  
Everyone is invited! Bring a friend!

### *Memories at Pines...*

*Participating is easy. Just jot down a few paragraphs and your memories will become part of the upcoming Pines History Book. We have pictures of most of our members and we’ll include those, too.*

Please tell us:

Your name, and the names of family members, along with the number of years (or months or weeks) you’ve attended Pines.

What attracted you to Pines and any volunteer work, and maybe a little about friendships made along the way.


Tell us your email address or phone number so we can be in touch with any questions that might arise. We have recent pictures of most of our members that we’ll include.

**Submit your memories to [sharondotson@gmail.com](mailto:sharondotson@gmail.com) with any questions. She’s here to help. In advance, thanks for your memories. They’ll be featured in the 2024 Pines’ History Book.**

## BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

**SHERWOOD**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**THE MISSION**

**OF YAHWEH**

Mission Backpack Blessing

**MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE**

**MINISTRIES (MAM)**

Back to School Clothing Drive

## JULY/AUGUST AGAPE

**Donations can be placed in the offering plate, made online at [pinespc.org/giving](http://pinespc.org/giving) or on Zelle, or brought to the church office.**

**PINESPC.ORG** Include "Back to School" with your donation.

**Mission@PINES+**

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST  
PINES IS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY – JOIN US!

Mission Partner	Activity	Date	Location	Contact
<b>The Restoration Team</b>	Assist with storm recovery efforts	Ongoing	TBD	<a href="http://www.therestorationteam.org" style="color: blue;">www.therestorationteam.org</a>
<b>Sherwood Elementary</b>	Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20 lb. bags)	Will re-start in fall	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
<b>Sherwood Elementary</b>	Reading Buddies	Will re-start in fall	Sherwood	Cindy Coles
<b>Montrose Street Reach</b>	Shop for and deliver food to street ministry	Every other month Thursday evening	Pines to Montrose location	Kathy Ropshaw
<b>Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)</b>	Assist with clean-up/seasonal re-fresh after 50% off sale	Sunday August 18, 1-4pm, 16 volunteers needed Sunday, November 10, 1-4pm, 16 volunteers needed	MAM	MAM website or Margaret Schafer
<b>CanCare</b>	Assist CanCare staff to bundle and deliver donations from June Agape Offering	Fall – TBD	CanCare offices and hospitals	Beth Patterson





A few pictures from the Hand to Hand Ministry, Mission of Yahweh, and from mission trip in Belize.

**Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: August 23 (for the September 2024 issue)**