



# PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*The Pines Press* January 2025 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / [www.pinespc.org](http://www.pinespc.org)



## MOBILEPACK™

Coming to Pines  
February 21-22

Come be one of the 500 volunteers who work together to feed starving children around the world. We will be packing over 120,000 meals over the course of 5, two hour, packing shifts. There are opportunities for everyone from the age of 5 to 105. We'll have sit down jobs, carry jobs, and packing jobs available for whatever your ability.

Funds are also needed to make this a successful MobilePack. Your financial support can save a child's life. Each meal only costs .29 and look at what each dollar given can do.

**\$106**

Feeds a child for a  
year

**\$424**

Feeds a family for a  
year

**2,255**

Feeds a class for a  
year

**Other**

Everything helps

To volunteer or to give, please go to [www.pinespc.org/fmsc](http://www.pinespc.org/fmsc).

# 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.



## 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 or Linda Aldred to sign up.



## Next BINGO...January 16

6:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

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



Want to learn to play Mahjong, or are you already a seasoned player? Suzi Wolfe has begun a Mahjong group in room W12 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. The next night is January 9th.

If you would be interested, please email Suzi.

## Something exciting is coming back!

“Friends Night Out” (which was formerly known as “Date for Eight”) will begin in February 2025.

This event has been a long-standing tradition at Pines usually involving a potluck type of experience with a small group of 6 – 8 people. Sign ups will be right outside Fellowship Hall continuing in January. Look for Chris, Linda or Patsy.

If you have any questions please reach out to Linda Aldred, Patsy Jackson, or Chris Wolfe.

**Second Sunday Lunch Bunch**...will meet at Newk's on January of 2025. We look forward to seeing everyone!

## 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

## Happy New Year,

As we enter this new year many people have made New Year's Resolutions, you actually may be one of them. These resolutions are good reminders of what we want to do, how we want to change, and they're a good indication of what's important to us in the coming year.

So what is important to you this coming year? You and I just got finished celebrating God breaking into this world to bring peace, to show us all how to live better towards each other and towards God. Jesus changed the world with his ministry of compassion, reconciliation, and justice. How has that ministry changed you, and what will you do to continue Christ's ministry today?

One thing I hope each one of us tries to do this year is to work towards peace. Our nation and world are so divided at this time, more so than ever. Peace doesn't seem to be one of the words or actions many people seem to be working towards. It seems it's easier to criticize, complain or spue words of hate than it is to work towards welcoming others and creating dialogue between people whom we don't always agree with. Working towards peace is not an easy thing. Working towards peace means we have to forgive others. It means we have to put ourselves aside and work for the greater good. It also means standing up and making our voices heard. If we don't stand up and make our voices heard for those who have no voice; if we don't work for peace and reconciliation then Christmas has had little impact on our lives.

This New Year's make a resolution to be an advocate for the hungry, for victims of wars, child abuse, child trafficking, abuse of any kind, and gun violence. If we as the church don't stand up and speak up, then we are not fulfilling the ministry of the Prince of Peace. We have to quit looking for someone else to step up... that person needs to be you.

Make your voice be heard... What is your resolution?

In the name of the Prince of Peace,



Andy

# Family Ministry Calendar for January

## PLEASE HELP!

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

### January Calendar:

- 5 Pines Youth 6-7:30pm
- 12 Youth Hand on Hand noon
- 22 Pines Youth 6-7:30pm
- 26 Pines Youth 6-7:30pm

Youth Sunday School 9:30-10:30am in Senior High Room- Spice Rack Bible

Kids Sunday Mornings getting NEW stuff!

Every first Sunday of the month will be Music Sunday for our kids ages 3- 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Special art Sundays will include a seasonal craft as well as a service project- these will happen every 4-7 weeks.

The other Sundays 9:15am-10:15am will be a new curriculum Holy Moly- a fun way to learn the Old Testament Bible stories in new creative ways with their own language!

We are looking for leaders for kids and youth- see Kristin for availability and how you can help!

Big thank you to all who helped with ornament making, Christmas caroling the neighborhood, and gift wrapping all the Sherwood families presents! Our families have all spread the Christmas cheer and love this season!

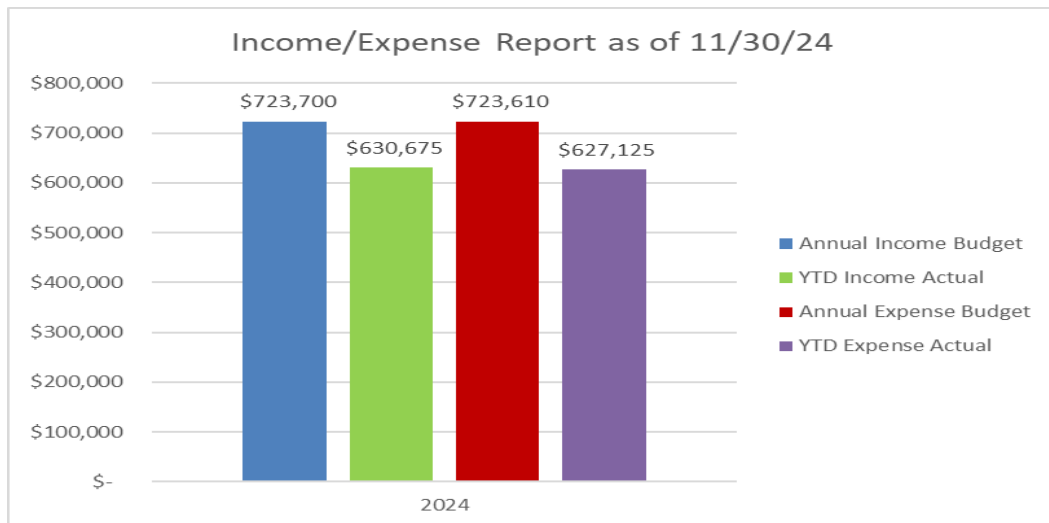
Big thank you to all who supported youth both in going 30 hours without food to raise money to help 480 kids through World Vision AND purchasing from the BBQ fundraiser to help support next summer’s mission trip to Puerto Rico!

See pictures on page 12 from the Family Advent Night and the 30 Hour Famine Event.

# Stewardship

### Stewardship Notes:

1. Pledge income is on track to finish the year on budget.
2. December is generally a strong month for non-pledge income. While we finished November nearly \$44,500 below forecast, prior history would indicate that additional revenue is likely to come in during December.
3. Interest income is well above budget (\$17,627 vs. \$13,500) for the 11 months of 2024.
4. Net Income is a positive \$3,550 for the 11 months.
5. Expenses are well below budget (-\$35,000) for the 11 months. All committees are at or below budget through November, contributing to the positive net income.
6. Many thanks to all families who pledged for 2025. Total 2025 pledge income is currently \$544,660.



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.

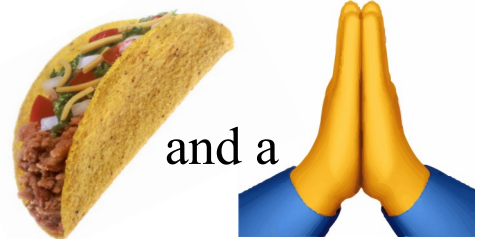


### Calling all Taco Makers and Prayer Warriors!

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 January 10th..

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



### The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

Monday through Thursday. We have 3 volunteers currently, but we need one more and 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!

### Corny jokes of the month...

Why did the octopus have to stop writing his book? Answer...He ran out of ink!!!

Why did the man bring a ladder to church? Answer...Because they heard they were going to lift God's name on high!

Have a beautiful day!!!



### Brown Bag Lunch Sunday Social

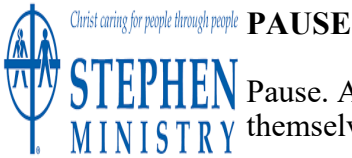
Bring your own lunch and meet in Fellowship Hall each Sunday after worship. Socialize while you eat and maybe play cards or a board game! Kids are welcome! Feel free to drop in and come-and-go as your schedule permits. We will meet every Sunday except on "Second Sunday" when you can join your Pines Family at the restaurant of the month.

### Brown Bag Book Club

If you are making plans for the New Year, mark your calendar for our next Brown Bag Book Club meeting. It is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon. Beth Patterson will be leading us in a discussion of the book, "The Ways We Hide," by Kristina McMorris. This is an action-packed novel about a female illusionist tasked with devising techniques for the Allies to evade Nazi capture in World War II.

Happy New Year! See you at our spring Brown Bag Book Club meeting!  
Shirley Bollich





PAUSE

Pause. As the new year begins and everyone is all about what they want to change about themselves, pause.

How about honoring something you enjoy (or use to enjoy) and living into that instead? Pause and reflect on what gives you joy. Has time and the busyness of life taken it from you? Have you stopped playing the piano? Are your golf clubs dusty? Are your tennis shoes in the back of the closet? Have you stopped reading books by your favorite author? Is your needlepoint stuffed in a drawer? Do you owe someone a lunch date? Have you stopped your crafting?

Pause and remember- it's important to find ways to have fun and joy in your life. For some that's is not easy.

If you are finding yourself in a season where you feel overwhelmed or just need someone to walk with you, a Stephen Minister may be helpful. Please reach out to Ann Guerra or Phil Wetz for more information.

**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!

# RENOVATIONS

## UPDATE ON BATHROOM REPAIRS

As most of you know, the bathrooms at the back lobby in the building have been out of order due to a leak from an air conditioning overflow line. Since the leak and damage were discovered, a lot of assessment and planning work have been done by the Property Committee, the Trustees, and church staff in consultation with our contractor and insurance company.

The positive news is that a contract has been signed which calls for work to begin on January 6, 2025. As that work proceeds, we wanted you to be aware of a few issues:

- There will need to be a partial closure of the back lobby whereby the contractor will have exclusive use of the southern entrance and all others (including Pines members) will use the western entrance under the covered walkway. We apologize for the inconvenience but this is done for safety reasons.
- A dedicated team of Pines members is working to identify fixture upgrades for both bathrooms. Even though Pines will bear the incremental cost of the upgrades, everyone involved felt this was an opportunity to do this important work.
- Although we are hopeful that the work will be completed by March 6, there may be new challenges that are discovered as the remodeling takes place. Of course, this means additional interactions with our insurance company and may impact the completion date.

We appreciate your patience in dealing with this inconvenience and will advise if there are any major changes in the plan and timing which have been developed.

Pines Property Committee and Trustees

## 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">www.therestorationteam.org</a>
<b>Taco and A Prayer</b>	Make tacos for and share prayers with neighbors	Usually 1 <sup>st</sup> Fridays -(anytime between 6:30-7:30am) Next is Jan 10	Pines	Margaret Schafer
<b>Sherwood Elementary</b>	Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20 lb. bags)	Beginning in February	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
	Reading Buddies	Fall/Spring	Sherwood	Cindy Coles; Dave Coles, Val Aldred
	Bulletin Board Team	Beginning spring semester	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

### Pines Needles Stitch Ministry

December 11 Judy Shamp and I took knitted and crocheted hats and scarves to Mission of Yahweh to contribute to their Christmas celebration for the women and children living there. Women in Pines Needles crocheted or knitted scarves and hats in a variety of styles and colors. As Judy and I were leaving Mission of Yahweh, one of the women who lives there spoke with us. She was so appreciative of a scarf she had received in a previous year. She said she loved it and it was very warm.

At Christmas time, we are thankful to God for the gift of His Son. I am also thankful to work with everyone who is part of Pines Needles. They are an incredible group of knitters, crocheters, and supporters who create beautiful hats, scarves, and lapghans for others throughout the year.

Valerie Harelson



# Session

**The Session** met for its regular stated meeting on November 25, 2024. There was no stated meeting in December. Here are some highlights from the November meeting:

- Heard a report from the Commissioners to the November 16, 2024 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant and discussed actions taken at the meeting;
- Approved a motion to enable spending in January and February prior to the approved 2025 Budget;
- Heard a report on the November meeting of the Trustees;
- Heard a report that several people took advantage of the opportunity to pray in the Sanctuary on Election Day;
- Heard a report on the status of the repairs to the Fellowship Hall bathrooms. Construction is scheduled to start in January.

Dan Schafer  
Clerk of Session



**Something exciting is coming back next year.**

“Friends’ Night Out” (formerly known as “Date for Eight”) will begin in February 2025. This event has been a long-standing tradition at Pines usually involving a potluck type of experience with a small group of 6 – 8 people. Contact one of the following people to join in: Chris, Linda or Patsy. If you have any questions please reach out to Linda Aldred, Patsy Jackson, or Chris Wolfe.



It was a full house for the Christmas Sing Along in the Preschool.



# 2024 POINSETTIAS

## *Given By*      *In Memory Of*

Sandra Johanneman	Lillian Yackel
Priscilla and Sam Singer	Our Son Andrew Singer
Sam and Priscilla Singer	Our Grandson Jonathan Singer
Lynda and Bob Barr	Parents, Brothers, Sister and Nephew
Dan and Margaret Schafer	Ben and Ann Craig, Cleyon and Susan Schafer
Phil and Linda Johnson	Phil and Ginny Johnson
Phil and Linda Johnson	Bill and Ann Daniel
Phil and Linda Johnson	Linda's Sister Martha Demaree
Fred and Pam Ellis	Marie and Fred Ellis
Fred and Pam Ellis	Jessie and Warren Titel
Val and Linda Aldred	Val's Parents Jack and Martha Jane Aldred
	Linda's Parents George and Nora Manthos
Marcia Welsh	My Parents John and Lauree Gerber
Steve Ballard	Barbara and Allen Ballard
John and Magali Candler	Ralph and Sue Candler
Jerry Paulson Family	Sherri Coop
Scott Greene	Carol Greene
Leslie Friedrich	Great Aunt Victoria Carle
Leslie Friedrich	Her Parents Helen and Leland Carle
Tim and Sharon Timmons	Tim's Parents Pat and Virginia P Timmons
	Sharon's Parents David and Marilyn W West
Roger Mowell	Jerry Mowell
Roger Mowell	Louise and Addison McElroy
Morriss and Donna Partee	George and Donna Markle
Morriss and Donna Partee	Charles and Mable Partee
Nancy Watler	Mother, Father, Sister and Brother
Linda Crowl	Her Parents George and Dorothy
Carol Schneider	Beloved Granddaughter Emmie
Angela Bullock	Grandma Spradlin
Janice Spradlin	Mom and Dad
Shirley and Nick Bollich	Our Parents
Patsy Jackson	Dr. Paul Jackson and Mittie McLean
Ann Guerra	All Those Remembered at the Tending to Grief Meetings
Allie Guerra	Luis Guerra, the Best Dad
Suzie and Art Otermat	Carol Greene
Liz and Herb Schulze	Walter and Jo Rae Crofton
Nete Sundt	Dick and Kathleen
Alcala Family	Martin's Grandparents and Nohemi's Father
Amanda Hofstetter	Brad's Mother Becky Hofstetter

## *Given By*      *In Honor Of*

John and Kari Work	Pines Mission Volunteers
Susan and Mark Babineck	Elizabeth and Thomas Babineck
Dan and Margaret Schafer	Our Pines Family
Ron and Bethel Strawser	Our Pines Family
Val and Linda Aldred	Our Children and Grandchildren
Scott Greene	Pines Family and Friends
Violet O'Brien	My Children
Walter Penberthy	Punky and Wally Penberthy
Ben and Sandra Johanneman	James and Lily
James Johanneman	Mom and Dad

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia to decorate our Sanctuary in December!



## You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Pines Presbyterian Church

When: January 8, 2025

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

*Trusted by over 10 million customers.*

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

### Who should attend:

Anyone over the age of 40

### Special Member Pricing for \$159

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Plus a **FREE** Hypertension Screening

### 4 ways to book your appointment...

Call 888-814-0466 and use  
promo code HSCA001

Visit  [LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA](https://www.llsa.social/hzca)



Text the word "circle"  
to 216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.



# TRT

## THE RESTORATION TEAM



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from The Restoration Team Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers! We hope you have a joyous and safe holiday sharing and creating lasting, special memories with your families.

**All donations are tax deductible.  
TRT 501c3: 83-2427982**

**Checks may also be mailed to: The Restoration Team  
3911 Campbell Rd, Houston, TX 77080**

***Your donations are greatly needed and appreciated!***

Questions about TRT? You can go to their website at [www.therestorationteam.org](http://www.therestorationteam.org). Their website tells many stories of how TRT and the volunteers have helped hundreds of our neighbors in the Houston area. They are also the ones that provide work for the mission groups that come to Pines to help after storms in the surrounding area.

You may speak to John Work or Cindy in the church office for ways you can donate or volunteer with TRT.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Family  
Advent  
Night



30  
Hour  
Famine  
Event



What are your goals for 2025?