



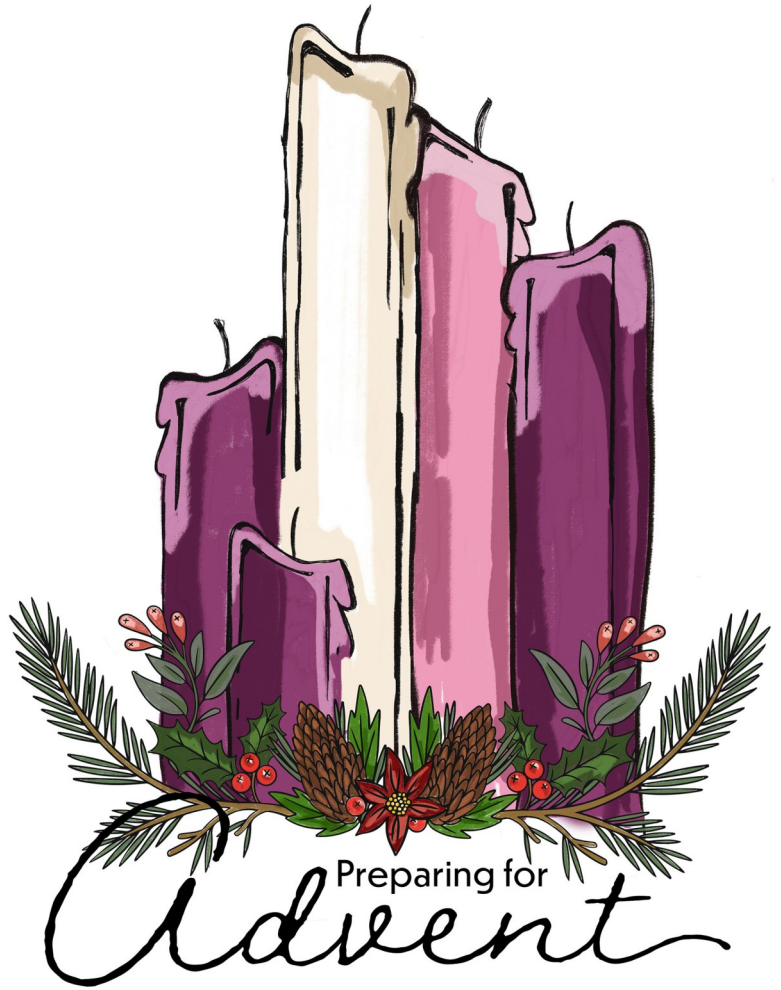
PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner, which means we will soon be producing our own Advent Devotional guide. This year's theme is *Love* and we need your story and your reflection on a verse of scripture to make this devotional come to life.

If you'd like to write a brief devotional to be included in this year's guide, please let Pastor Andy know, and he will help guide you to a scripture if needed. The deadline for submission is **November 10th**. Once the devotionals are printed, you will be able to pick yours up from the Narthex area any day of the week.



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.



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

noon. Many hands make light work! There will be yard work, closet cleaning, general sprucing up of the building in preparation for the coming holidays. We need your help! Join us as we work together, form new friendships and rekindle old ones. Call the church office if you need more details or speak to Property Committee members Walt Penberthy or Brad Hofstetter. Sign up in the Fellowship Hallway.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

November 16th is the Pines Property Work Day. This is an event that involves the whole family. There is work for everyone of any skill set. Please join us for coffee and donuts as we get started at 9AM. We will work until

Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: November 22 (for the December 2024 issue)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Well, almost. It's time for our annual Sign-ups for **Poinsettias** that we will be ordering from Brookwood Community to decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. The cost is \$12.00. You can either sign up in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall before the service on Sunday mornings November 17 through December 8th OR you can email or call Linda Aldred or Melissa Gravett with your information. Please designate whether the **Poinsettias** are "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" when you make your selection and you may order as many as you like. The **Poinsettias** may be taken home after the last service on Christmas Eve, December 24th.



Second Sunday Lunch Bunch...will meet again in January of 2025. We look forward to seeing everyone in January!

SAVE THE DATE!

Plan to attend our Pines annual **Christmas Cantata with Christmas luncheon** following the service on **Sunday, December 15th!** Invite family and friends!

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

Grace and Peace to you my Pines family,

Family can be a wonderful thing. This month millions of people will travel hundreds of miles to be with family for the Thanksgiving holiday. Many look forward to being with their family because their family welcomes, cares for, nurtures and supports one another. In a good family, you know your brothers and sisters will be there for you. You know they will love, support, welcome, care for, and nurture you. You know they'll, "have your back."

So if this is what a family does, then who is your family? Often times we'll immediately think of our biological family. For some people that's appropriate, for others it is not. For Jesus, his family became the twelve disciples. This group became a family because of what happened during their constant fellowship with each other. They grew to know and care for one another deeply. Through this fellowship, this relationship, these people became close and grew in their faith together. Jesus sets the example of a good family.

This church family is a good family. As a family in fellowship and relationship, let's make sure we have each other's back. Let's make sure we support and truly care for one another. Let's not be just a Sunday family, let's be an all-day, everyday family. A family that's involved with each other, a family that encourages growth, a family that holds one another accountable, a family that's glad to be with each other for more than just a few hours. Let's be the family Christ created us to be!

Your brother,



Andy



Don't forget to move your clocks back one hour on Saturday night November 2 so you will be at church on time on Sunday!

Family Ministry Calendar for November

PLEASE HELP!

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

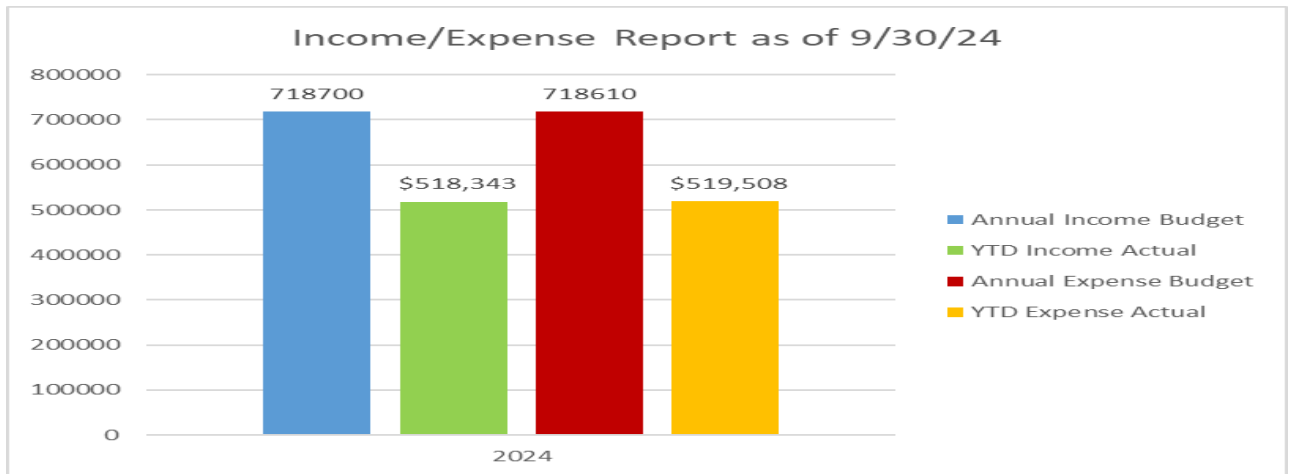
November Calendar:

- 3 Youth and Kids Mission Project during Sunday School hour
- 3 Pines Youth 12pm Burger and Bible lunch
- 9 PYCC Leaders off site
- 10 Pines Youth Presbytery Rally Day- off site
- 15-17 Youth Retreat- Lake House 30 Hour Famine and Hand on Hand
- 20 Pines Youth 6-7:30pm Nooma and Pavers
- 24 Pines Youth Friendsgiving 6pm (bring your favorite homemade dish to share!)
- Dec 1 Family Advent Night! 4pm Play rehearsal, 5pm Event!

Kids Families: If you haven't RSVP'd for the Christmas Play to be held during church on 12/22 please let Kristin, Laurie or Shirley know asap for part assignments. Also please RSVP for the next Parent's Night Out on Dec 6!

Youth Families: Please let me know if I may give your student a ride to Atascocita Presbyterian Church on Sunday Nov 10 for Youth Rally day fun! Also encourage your student to sign up for the Retreat on Nov 15-17th by Nov 10th! We will be having so much fun fishing/ lake play as well as doing cool educational and service projects to help fight hunger! Cost for everything is \$40 to Pines and \$40 to World Vision hunger program – see Kristin for more information, to register or for scholarships! We never want money to be the reason someone doesn't participate!

Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

The September 2024 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

1. Total income received through September was \$518,343 (72% of budget.) Pledge income was \$412,648 and unpledged income was \$43,586. Interest income has already exceeded the full year's budget. Total income is slightly behind budget through the first nine months of the year.
2. Overall expenses were right on target at \$518,508 (72% of budget). Property income has increased to \$52,461, which offsets gross property expenditures of \$211,550. Net property expenses, Christian education, congregational fellowship and worship expenses are below budget through September.
3. There was a Net Loss through September \$1,165, reflecting the slightly below budget income for 9 months.

REPORT FROM CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2024 congregational nominating committee met in late August to begin the process of selecting nominees for the Elder Class of 2028. Candidates were called and the committee is pleased to announce that the following members have accepted nomination to the Elder Class of 2028 for election by the congregation at the next congregational meeting: Mark Babineck, Steve Ballard, Terrie Caldwell, Fred Ellis, Roger Mowell

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. 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 November 1st.



The church office is looking for volunteers to answer phones:

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

Monday

(Corny) Joke of the month...

Have you heard the rumor about butter?
Never mind, I shouldn't be spreading it!



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 to 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

The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on October 28, 2024.

Here are some highlights:

- Approved a proposal for replacement of the projectors and screens in the sanctuary.
- Elected Commissioners to the November 16, 2024 meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- Approved having the sanctuary open for prayer on Election Day.
- Praised the success of the Trunk or Treat outreach.

Dan Schafer
Clerk of Session



Mike Lade wraps up our series on Reflections from the Stephen Ministry Class 2024. Should you want someone to walk alongside during a difficult time, please reach out to Stephen Leaders, Phil Wetz or Ann Guerra.

Stephen Ministry Reflection

I needed this in my life!

Friends Analogy: "Totally Worth It!"
Christ caring for people through people.
Jesus lives in us via the Holy Spirit!

Focus on the process of caring, and not on resolution of the crisis.
Trust that God will work through the process to bring needed healing.

Full of Faith - Pray
Presence
Service
Skills
Boundaries
Trust

Be present – Active Listening
Presence
Empathy
Composure
Skills:
Validate
Ask Questions
Reflect
Pray

Assertive Care
Distinctively Christian Care
God is the CURE-giver!

**"FOR I KNOW THE
 PLANS I HAVE FOR
 YOU DECLARES THE
 LORD, PLANS TO
 PROSPER YOU, & NOT
 TO HARM YOU, PLANS
 TO GIVE YOU HOPE &
 A FUTURE" Jeremiah 29:11**

Did you know we have amazing and wonderful employees on the Staff here at Pines?

This is month two as we explore a fun way to get to know them a little bit better. If you are familiar with the "Stro Poll" that comes up on the screen during every Astros game, then you know that they list 4 fun facts about an Astro; you can text in and guess who it is. Along those same lines, we are going to list a few fun facts about staff members and ask you to participate by guessing who you think it might be. We will continue this month with two more of our staff members.

1. Can you guess who this person is?

He/she loves to travel to Mo Ranch. Favorites include the color green, Indian food, the book 'The Lord of the Rings', and Fred Rogers when he said "You are special just the way you are." This person has a BookTube channel on YouTube and their favorite part of working at Pines is being with all the people here. They are most joyful when they are around family, friends, and food. They feel God most in their life when they are on Mission trips.

2. Can you guess who this person is?

He/she loves the color navy blue and adores popcorn. Their favorite places to travel are Colorado and Paris. Not many people know how much they love snow. They see God most in their life in the little things like when they are working with a child, walking their dogs, or enjoying quiet time reading. Speaking of which they like reading *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin.

We will have a specially decorated box near the Sunday Coffee table in the narthex, along with pieces of paper to write your answers. If you think you know the answer(s) please leave them in the marked box, along with your name.

The answers will be listed in the newsletter in December. Thank you for participating.

Session/Staff Committee

SHERWOOD ELEMENTARY READING BUDDIES

Pines Presbyterian members are volunteer *Reading Buddies* for Sherwood Elementary second graders who need a bit of help and encouragement on their journey to becoming proficient readers. As a Reading Buddy, you work one-on-one with a student during the school day for approximately 30-60 minutes once a week. Sometimes your student will read to you, and sometimes you will read to your student – it all depends on what seems needed at the time. The Reading Buddies program is especially attractive to people who are retired or otherwise have some free time during school hours. If you would like more (no-obligation) information, please contact: Cindy Coles, Dave Coles, or Val Aldred.

Sherwood Christmas

TWO WAYS TO GIVE:

- Take an angel from the Christmas Tree.** (Fellowship Hallway) Then start shopping!
- Make a donation.** [Place in the offering plate, drop off at church, visit pinespc.org/giving, or use Zelle] Please note "Sherwood Christmas".

Return unwrapped gifts (with angel) or donations by Sunday, November 17th.

questions: **JOHN WORK** more info: **PINESPC.org**

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER AGAPE

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
The Restoration Team	Assist with storm recovery efforts	Ongoing	TBD	www.therestorationteam.org
Sherwood Elementary	Deliver Monthly Food Bags (requires lifting 20 lb. bags)	Around Oct 21 and continuing periodically	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
Sherwood Elementary	Reading Buddies	Fall	Sherwood	Cindy Coles; Dave Coles, Val Aldred
Sherwood Elementary	Bulletin Board Team	Aug 9, then quarterly	Sherwood	Cindy Coles
Montrose Street Reach	Shop for and deliver food to street ministry	Every other month Thursday evening	Pines to Montrose location	Kathy Ropshaw
Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)	Assist with clean-up/seasonal re-fresh after 50% off sale	Sunday, November 10, 1-4pm, 10 volunteers needed	MAM	Margaret Schafer
Raise Up Families	Christmas Party	Dec 8th 3-6pm Be a Greeter Help in Santa's Wonderland Help with Holiday Bingo	Pines	Sign Up RUF Christmas Party
Raise Up Families	Adopt a Family at Christmas			Sign Up RUF Adopt a Family

Intergenerational Worship Workshop

Pastor Andy, Laurie, Patsy and Ann attended the conference Wonders of Worship (WOW) at Camp Allen in early October. The workshop was underwritten by Lilly Pharmaceuticals and Pines members were able to attend free. The focus of the conference was **intergenerational worship**.

This does not mean creating a “kid friendly worship.” Two days were spent brainstorming over ideas of how to include **all** ages in worship and help everyone claim roles in the church family. Participants were encouraged to find joy in working in “holy chaos.” What a perfect word to describe church life!

Takeaways included reminders from these scriptures (and many more!) along with discussion on how to implement them in the Church:

1Cor 12 reminds us the Body of Christ has many members who have many gifts.

Revelation 4 and 5 reminds us the final worship will welcome ALL creatures.

Prov 22:6 reminds us to train up a child in the way he should go.

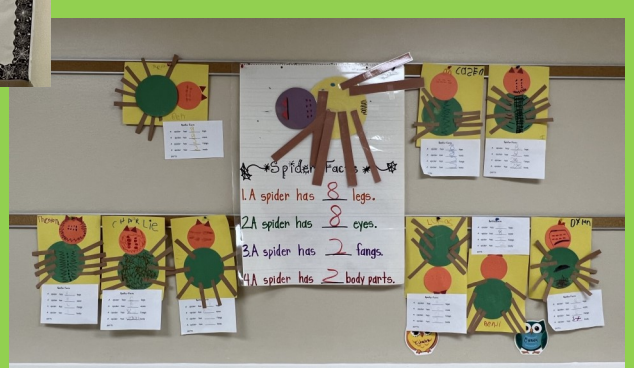
There were so many things to bring back to Pines. Participants were affirmed for our Children’s Area in the Sanctuary, heard Pines is not the only one having the children taking up the offering, and discussed creative ways to do intergenerational worship with art and music.

Participants were encouraged to look at their worship spaces and buildings with fresh eyes and ask- are there adjustments needed in the physical space? Discussions centered around recognizing we are learning from each other when we focus on leaning into be **intergenerational** not just *multi-generational*. One speaker said, “We have a changing God, and we are not easily changing people.” If you have ideas on how we can be creatively intergenerational and inclusive, share them with us, please!

Submitted by: Ann, Laurie, Pastor Andy and Patsy



The preschool artists are raking in FALL!





Something exciting is coming back next year.

“Fun and Food with Friends” (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 beginning in December. If you have any questions please reach out to Linda Aldred, Patsy Jackson, or Chris Wolfe.

Be a Pines Prayer Pal! All that is required is prayer. We strive to assign all children and youth ages 4-18 a prayer pal. We have several openings right now that could use your help. They will know who you are, and parents are encouraged to share things going on to pray about. Cards are encouraged but not required. We have an annual potluck dinner to celebrate this ministry but you can attend their events or a meal any time. It's a great ministry to expand Christian mentors in the lives of our kids. If willing to be part see Kris-tin@pinespc.org Thank you!



Next BINGO...November 21

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!

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 and we will update your record.

Thankfulness LUNCH

Join us!

Nov. 10th

After church in Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited for **homemade soups**
& to meet our **MISSION PARTNERS.**

Together @ PINES⁺

A special insert from the Mission Committee...

Sherwood Food Bags... Feeding Children to Whom the Kingdom of Heaven Belongs

Question: What do these things have in common:

A box of cereal, two cans of soup, two packages of ramen noodles, a handful of fruit cups, a box of spaghetti and a can of sauce, a small bag of rice and a small bag of beans, eight cereal bars, a can of tuna, a can of vegetables, two cans of cocktail sausages, a jar of peanut butter and a jar of jelly, a can of ravioli, and two boxes of mac-and-cheese?

Answer: It is what Pines provides to 40-some Sherwood Elementary families each month. *And it only costs Pines about \$1 per family per day!*

Why is this important? In Matthew 19:13-15 Jesus went east across the Jordan River into the Jewish region of Perea. The adults brought their children to Jesus so he could lay hands on them. But the disciples told the adults to get their kids to quit bothering Jesus. True to form, though, Jesus said (in so many words), “Let the kids come to me because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.”

Boom! Jesus let the disciples and the other adults know that kids are important... very important... in fact, kids are so important that they come first in his heart.

What has this got to do with Pines food bags for Sherwood Elementary students? Everything becomes clear when you remember that about 65% of Sherwood families are below the poverty level. And even though the kids get breakfast and lunch at school, what is on the table at dinner and every meal on weekends depends on the families’ monthly earnings. As you can imagine, if a family has two, three, four, or more kids, there likely is not always enough to fill the tummies of those growing children.

And that is where the generosity of Pines people like you comes in. The list of food mentioned at the beginning of this article is far from enough to feed a family for a whole month. But it sure can help fill in the gaps each month.



Every month the process starts with placing the food order.

When the order is ready for pickup, some lucky person gets to load and transport the food to Pines.

You are the heart and hands of Jesus. Thanks to your generosity, Pines has been able to provide monthly food bags to deserving Sherwood families for six years. And your continued generosity helps keep those kids' tummies full, so they can concentrate on their studies.



When the food order arrives at Pines, other lucky folks get to stock the food bag shelves in the Missions Room.

And I would be remiss if I did not mention the invaluable assistance of the Pines members who help order the food, pickup the food, stock the Pines food bag shelves in the Missions Room, fill the bags, and deliver them to Sherwood Elementary... *every month*. If you would like to help with the Sherwood Food Bag ministry, give Cindy Coles a jingle. Your help will be appreciated... and especially appreciated by the kids you will be serving.



Then the filled food bags need to be delivered to Sherwood Elementary

When the food bags arrive at Sherwood Elementary, the staff distribute them to Sherwood families

