



PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

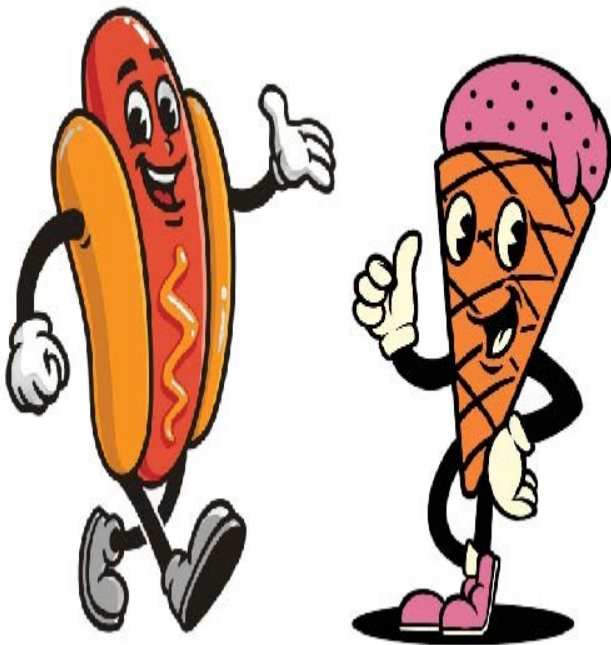
The Pines Press September 2024 / 12751 Kimberley Lane 77024 / 713-467-2234 / www.pinespc.org

Picnic Lunch!

Celebrate the End of Summer

Hot Dogs!
Chips!
Ice Cream!

Watch Slides
of
VBS Fun!



September 22
After Worship
ALL AGES!

Together @PINES+

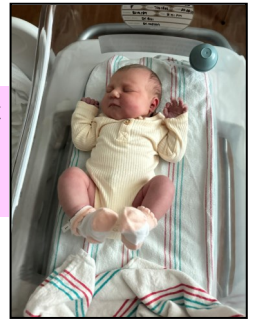
Pines Family News & Current Events

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.



Welcome to the world **Everett Jay Smith!** Everett is the son of Emily and Connor Smith, and grandson of Jim & Beth Patterson and Jay & Donna Smith. Everett was born on August 12th and weighed in at 7 lbs, 11 oz. Congratulations to everyone!

Welcome to the world **Daniella Marie Barr.** Bob & Lynda Barr have a new great granddaughter. She was born on August 19th here in Houston at 8:57 pm to parents Jeremiah & Stacey Barr. Congratulations to everyone!



September 22nd: Picnic Lunch in the fellowship hall with hot dogs, chips, watermelon, and ice cream. Celebrate the end of a fun summer with your Pines Family! Have fun watching slides of Fiesta VBS!



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 or Linda Aldred at lindaaldred1@aol.com to sign up.

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch...meets on September 8th following worship:

Meet us for pizza at Via 313 Pizzeria, recently voted top 20 pizza places in Houston! The address is 10201 Katy Freeway #350 (next to Goode Co. Seafood). See you there!

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.

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

Greetings in the name of our Lord,

Well, summer is over and school has now begun. I was looking back at some of the newsletter articles I have written for September over the years and I came across an article I had written nine years ago. I wrote about Catey's first day of school as a high school freshman. I spoke about how both of our nerves were probably measuring off the Richter scale as she entered this new chapter... this new challenge and adventure of her life. Well, this summer nerves and emotions were high again as I walked down a grassy aisle with that same beautiful girl holding my arm, then taking her hand from mine I placed it in the hands of the man who would become her husband in just a few minutes. As I hugged and kissed her one last time as a single woman, a tear came to my eye, ok let's be honest, several tears flowed down my cheek as I wondered where the time had gone!

As tearful as these milestones may be, I know they are good and important. My girls have grown up... they've become successful independent women. They have been challenged... and they have been stretched these past several years. As we celebrated Catey's milestone in her life we also look anxiously and joyfully towards she and her husband Simon's future. Something we also do as the Pines family as we look towards this family of faith's 65th anniversary in 2025.

65 years of ministry on the corner of Kimberley Lane and West Bough! Who of the original members would have thought when they gathered across the street at Bendwood Elementary School to worship for the first time that we would become the family of faith we are today! Over the 65 years the ministry, members of this church have been challenged, stretched and grown in their faith journey, worship and mission to the community and beyond. We are not the church we were 65 years ago, but where is God leading us next? The Session continues its visioning for the future as it looks ahead to where God is leading us by 2030.

Over the years this church family has been blessed with great wisdom from its membership and leadership. That wisdom helped this family of faith to grow and make an indelible impact on this community and on the lives of each of our family members. The growth we have experienced in faith, commitment and mission has all been spurred on by the joy we have when we gather together to worship, serve and fellowship as the people of Pines.

As scary as that first day might have been for Catey and those original worshipers at Bendwood, we know great things will come because we trust in our Creator God. As we enter into Stewardship season this month, think about where we've been as a church and where God is leading us as a family of faith. Think about the wisdom, growth and joy we've experienced as followers of Christ at this place called Pines. Think about how that wisdom, growth and joy will lead us into the future as we continue to make a positive impact on the Kingdom of God.

Your brother in Christ,



Family Ministry Calendar for September

PLEASE HELP!

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

Family ministry calendar for September:

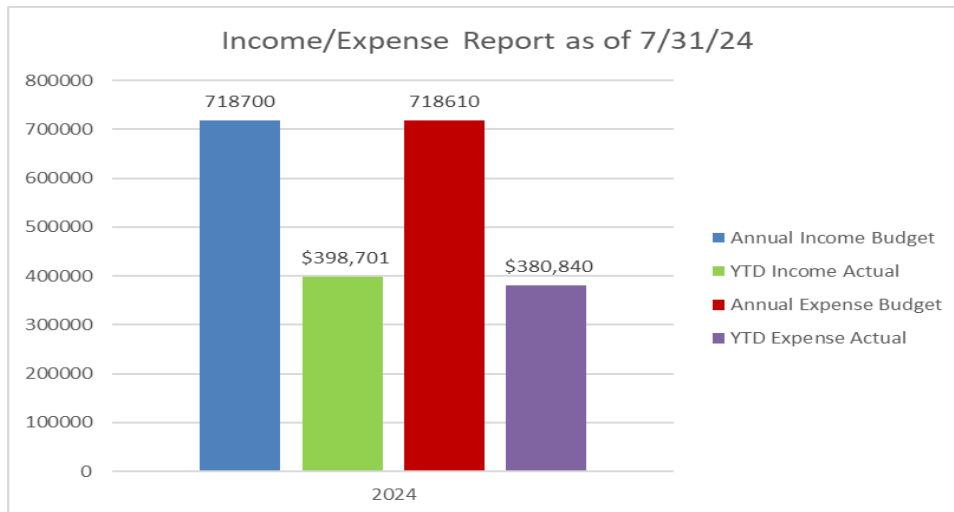
Calendar:

- 8 Pines Youth Hand on Hand apartment outreach noon-2 Youth Group 2-3pm youth rooms!
- 13 Parents Night Out 5:30-8:30pm End of Summer (water play) FH main playground and youth rooms
- 14 PYCC meeting offsite 9am
- 18 Pines Youth 6-7:30pm
- 22 Church Wide Family Picnic Lunch
- 22 Pines Youth Council dinner and meeting
- 27-29 Pines Youth Retreat

Sunday school each Sunday at 9:15am kids (w 13-14) 9:30pm youth (senior high room)

Presbyterian Women's Clara Gay Circle invites all women to join us this year as we begin a new study, Let Justice Roll Down. We'll learn about "God's call to care for neighbors and all creation" and will be led by circle members who use video presentations by author Patricia Tull. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month (September-May) at 11:30AM in room C-3. We bring our own lunch and share goodies provided by a monthly hostess. Please call me if you have questions! Marcia Welsh
1st Meeting is September 10th! Hope to see you there!

Income/Expense Report as of 7/31/24



The July 2024 financial statements can be summarized as follows:

1. Total income received through July was \$398,701 (55% of budget.) Pledge income was \$318,018 and unpledged income was \$30,807. Interest income has already exceeded the full year's budget in only 7 months. Total income is ahead of budget through first seven months of the year.
2. Overall expenses were right on target at \$380,840 (53% of budget). Property income has increased to \$46,743, which offsets gross property expenditures of \$159,454. Net property expenses are below budget through July.
3. Net income through July was \$17,861... continuing a good start for the first seven months of the year.

Stewardship

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 September 6

For more information contact the church office or Margaret Schafer.



and a



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!

Joke of the month...

How many of each animal did Moses bring onto the ark?
None! Moses was never even on the ark!

Come on, didn't you Noah that? Gotta love those corny jokes!!

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 August 19.

Here are some highlights:

- Received an update on the 2025 stewardship campaign, which kicks off in September.
- Heard a report from the commissioners to the July meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- Approved Sunday School curriculum for the new school year.
- Received a positive financial report for the year to date through July.
- Endorsed a recommendation for a process that will increase the time the session spends during its regular meetings in discussion and discernment of God’s ongoing purpose for Pines.

Dan Schafer – Clerk of Session



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

As we continue to share the reflections from the Stephen Ministry training participants this Spring, this month you will hear from David Sibley. Should you need someone to walk alongside during a difficult time, please reach out to Stephen Leaders, Phil Wetz or myself. Blessings! Ann Guerra

Reflection- David Sibley

Stephen Ministry training has made a significantly positive influence on all of my relationships. I have learned the tools to greatly improve my listening skills. As I reflect on the Stephen Ministry process, the most impressive take aways for me were; servanthood as opposed to servitude, assertive behavior as opposed to aggressive or passive attitudes, confidentiality is paramount, healthy boundaries and caring visits are only about the care receiver.

The time with my trainers and fellow students over the past four months has been a blessing to all of us!

The basis of Stephen Ministry is that the Holy Spirit is always with us and that we are the caregiver and God is the cure giver!

I Book Club

Ten ladies attended our first book club meeting in July for a review of the book, "The Red Tent." We enjoyed our time together and our discussion. Mark your calendars for our next meeting scheduled for October 22nd (12:00 noon). when we will discuss the book, "The First Ladies," by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. This novel is based on the friendship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and the educator and civil rights icon Mary McLeod Bethune – a forbidden friendship that changed the world! Plan to come. Don't forget to bring your brown bag lunch. Drinks and cookies will be provided. Questions? Call Shirley Bollich



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!

Parent's Night Out!

End of Summer Party!

**Wear Your Swimsuit
and Bring a Towel!**

Sprinkler / Water Games!

Indoor Fun if it Rains!



Friday, September 13 | 5:30-8:30pm

Drop Off: Fellowship Hall | Pick Up: Youth Rooms

FREE but Must RSVP By Sept. 9

Availability based on Volunteers for Maximum Safe Fun

Spaghetti Dinner | Movie: Disney's "Surf's Up"

Nursery - 5th grade

RSVP / Questions to kristin@pinespc.org



September Agape

Collecting items
for
New Home Kits

Mission@PINES+

Bring any size:
 Paper Towels, Toilet Paper,
 Window Cleaner, Sponges,
 Toilet Brushes, Bathroom Cleaner,
 Dish Soap, Garbage Bags,
 Dishwasher Detergent,
 Laundry Detergent,
 Laundry Baskets



Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate, made online (pinespc.org/giving or Zelle), or sent to the church office. Include "September Agape" with your donation.

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 (CindyLColes@comcast.net), Dave Coles (DaveLColes@comcast.net), or Val Aldred (valdred1@aol.com).

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)	Will re-start in fall	Pines to Sherwood	Cindy Coles
Sherwood Elementary	Reading Buddies	Will re-start in fall	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 August 18, 1-4pm, 16 volunteers needed Sunday, November 10, 1-4pm, 16 volunteers needed	MAM	MAM website or Margaret Schafer
CanCare	Assist CanCare staff to bundle and deliver donations from June Agape Offering	Fall – TBD	CanCare offices and hospitals	Beth Patterson

June Agape Offering for CanCare

Pines Needles is a group of ladies, both Pines members and non-members, who knit and crochet throughout the year. Items they created were donated to CanCare through the June Agape Offering. Beth Patterson met with CanCare in July to give them the stitched items. Beth told Pines Needles, "on behalf of the Missions Committee, heartfelt thanks to all the Pines stitchers who contributed blankets, caps, and scarves to the Wrapping Up Cancer Agape offering in June. The quantity of beautiful hand-made goods was unbelievable and constituted the majority of our overall offering, so we are very grateful. The CanCare volunteers will be packaging the individual items and distributing to patients in treatment... Receiving chemo can be a chilly experience and being in treatment generally often just makes you feel cold, so these items, stitched with such love, will definitely be appreciated!!"



GIVING THANKS FOR A PRAYER-FOCUSED CHURCH FAMILY

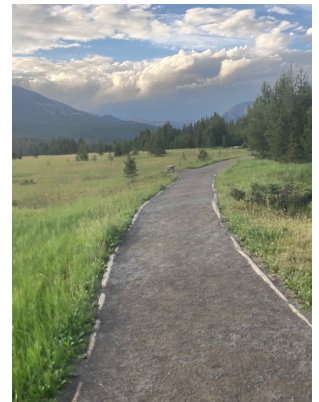
When I am able to enjoy hiking in the Colorado mountains, the beauty of God's creation (see photos) often leads me to pray. Yes, I continue to pray for those facing challenges in their lives, but when surrounded by God's majestic creation, I am often overwhelmed with gratitude for His blessings.

This year, circumstances led me to identify a new blessing for which to give thanks. That blessing is the **VIBRANT** prayer life at Pines and how it has led me to be a more faithful prayer partner with our Lord. Some of the attributes I see in the impactful prayer life at Pines include:

- The detailed weekly prayer list many of us receive which is a wonderful guide to praying for our church family and beyond (THANK YOU BETHEL!)
- The dedicated group of prayer warriors which meet weekly to pray for those on the prayer list
- Stephen Leaders who pray on a monthly basis for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one
- The meaningful and heartfelt prayers which are offered to open and close meetings at Pines
- The blessing of having a sacred space like our Prayer Room which is conducive to prayer as well as heartfelt conversations which end with prayer
- The sharing of prayers with the members of the community who participate in Taco and a Prayer
- Those who prayed for me before and after my back surgery and I know of similar prayer efforts on behalf of others who have faced medical challenges

I have been guilty of taking this incredible gift for granted because the church is so consistent in its prayer life in a multitude of ways. My hope is that writing this brief article will help me to be grateful to be part of a praying church family and hopefully to participate in meaningful ways.

Phil Wetz



Children's Sunday School Room Refreshed!

Thank you to those of you that generously gave to the Luis Guerra Memorial Fund in 2017!

The Pre-K Sunday School room was refreshed with new shelves, tables and chairs this summer!

If you get a chance, go take a peek!

**Please mark your calendars with the
NEWSLETTER DUE DATE: September 20 (for the October 2024 issue)**