



# PINES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2021

*Looking Upward, Growing Inward, and Serving*

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Drive Thru Service:  
12 PM to 1 PM**

**In Person Service  
in the Sanctuary: 6 PM**

**Ash Wednesday**

# Pines Family News & Current Events



## **My dearest Pines friends,**

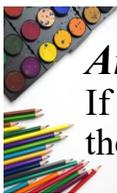
I hope you will excuse the tardiness of this note, I seem to be having trouble just getting things done lately, never mind on time. I want to thank everyone who brought or sent food, it was a God send, thank you Shirley so much for coordinating that. My daughter Tracey often had to work late and when she got home it was so wonderful to have food already prepared that we could eat. It helped so much and took a lot of worry off her shoulders. And having prepared things that I could just heat up for lunch was wonderful! Since I could not get around all that well when I first got home, it was terrific not to have to stand for very long fixing lunch or supper. The visits of those who brought food, or who just dropped by were so welcome by me (it was so boring not being able to do anything for myself). Tracey, was also very grateful for the visits, since it meant there was a "responsible" person coming by to check on me, it took some of her worry away (I told her I was a responsible person, but she was a bit doubtful about that at that time). I also want to say a sincere thank you to those who offered prayers for me and for the visits and phone calls (I loved hearing from you. They were a wonderful and interesting break in my day) from everyone (and our Scrabble games, Margaret). And for the lovely welcome backs I got when I finally got back to church. I don't know how to effectively express my love and gratefulness to all of you Pines angels! I've been thinking that if I had it I'd give each of you a \$1,000,000, but what you did is worth more than that. Thank you just doesn't seem enough, but that and my love for all of you is all I have. All of you made a huge difference. May God bless all of you. Marsha Deison



**Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Marge Harris** who passed on January 6th, 2021. Marge, who turned 90 last November, and her late husband Don, joined Pines in 1965. She will be missed from our congregation. No decision has been made at this time about a service. Should the family chose to have a service, the church will notify you all.

## **Are you looking for something to do in the church?**

The office has an area where help is needed...We have 2 boxes of labeled keys that need organizing. If you like to organize and are comfortable working on your own (Cindy is always available to answer questions), this is the job for you! This job can be done at anytime day or night. Please call Cindy in the office if you feel this is a place you could serve the church.



**Art at Pines...** Evelyn Shelton will be holding art classes again beginning February 11th. If you would like to join the class, please call Cindy in the church office to verify space in the class.

**Do you get our weekly prayer list?** If not, please call Genny in the church office at 713-467-2234 to get on the list. Genny can also help you sign up to receive our newsletter 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!



**With the end of the year comes the new flower calendars**—cost for Narthex flowers is \$50 and the Sanctuary is \$75. We will continue to offer the option to give to a benevolence or order a real arrangement.

Please email:

Melissa Gravett at [mgravett0123@gmail.com](mailto:mgravett0123@gmail.com) or Linda Aldred at [lindaaldred1@aol.com](mailto:lindaaldred1@aol.com). You may also call the church office to get a message to either one of these ladies.

**Please mark your calendars with the NEWSLETTER DUE DATES:  
February 19 (for March 2021 issue)**

# Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you,

It's hard to believe the month of February is already upon us! I feel we just packed up our Christmas decorations the other day. The month of February offers us all sorts of activities that will keep us mindful of our past and our future. This month we will remember our U.S. Presidents as we celebrate Presidents Day. The day of love, Valentine's Day, will appropriately fall on a Sunday this year. What better day to celebrate the love we have for each other than on the day we celebrate and worship the One who has loved us from the beginning of time. Just a few days later we will enter into the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service.

As I think about Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday being just three days apart, I think about the three days of love that changed the world forever, the days between the crucifixion and the resurrection. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent which is a time for us to reflect on our faith, to evaluate our commitment to our Lord, and recommit ourselves to God and the body of Christ. Basically, Lent is a season of love. The love we have for God, and the love God has for us as seen through Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul writes of love in his very famous first letter to the church in Corinth. First Corinthians thirteen reads, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

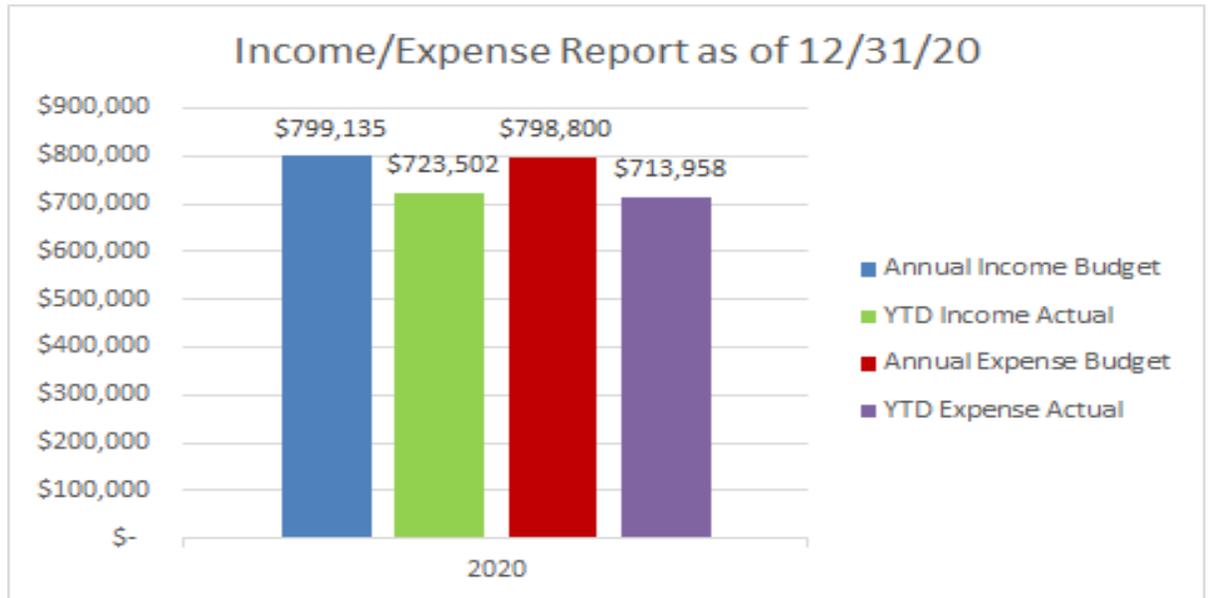
I believe 1 Corinthians 13 is a wonderful outline for us to consider when we think about our faith, and God's love for us. This Lenten season, instead of giving something up, why don't you think about taking on this passage as a model for your relationships with others and with God? What if we worked on being more patient and kind; thankful instead of envious, boastful, arrogant or rude with others. What if we were more intentional about not insisting on our own way; not getting so easily irritable or resentful; not taking joy in someone's misfortunes or brokenness? What would happen this Lenten season if we allowed God's perfect love to flow through us to others, because if we do, I believe we as an individual, church, nation and world would be a much better and happier place. Everyday could be Valentine's Day! A day where love is the answer and the norm, because everyday is Valentine's Day with God.

May your Lenten season be filled with a renewed commitment to experience and share the love of Christ with the world!

With love in Christ,



# Stewardship



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

1. Pledge income caught up closer to budget in December. Thank you! Pines ended the year below pledge and non-pledge income targets for 2020. 92% of budgeted pledge income was received. Non-pledge income also caught up some in December, but remained below budget with 78% of non-pledge income received at the end of the year. Total Income for the year was \$723,502, 9% below budgeted income of \$799,135.
2. Overall, committees managed expenses and were well below budget expectations. Mission expenditures were exactly as budgeted and every other committee kept expenditures below budget for 2020.
3. Total Income was \$723,502; total expenses were \$713,958; leaving a positive \$9,544 Net Income for the year.
4. In early January, Pines' \$58,925 PPP loan was fully forgiven.
5. As of year end, 2021 pledges totaling \$512,200 have been received from 87 families. Thank you for your generous response!



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

*Flesh Become Word*

*"The word must become flesh, but the flesh also must become word. It is not enough for us, as human beings, just to live. We also must give words to what we are living. If we do not speak what we are living, our lives lose their vitality and*

*creativity. When we see a beautiful view, we search for words to express what we are seeing. When we meet a caring person, we want to speak about that meeting. When we are sorrowful or in great pain, we need to talk about it. When we are surprised by joy, we want to announce it!*

*Through the word, we appropriate and internalize what we are living. The word makes our experience truly human."*

These words written by an unknown author are an invitation, a reminder that there is a Stephen minister available to hear the story of your journey. Bill Willis is the person to contact and is only a phone call away. He can be reached by calling the church office. Your story will be held in confidence and will be covered by God's grace.

# Youth Happenings

THE PINES YOUTH can't wait to share a soup lunch with you when it is safe to do so!

SM  
**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

MONETARY DONATIONS will benefit FAIR HAVEN Food Pantry & PINES YOUTH MISSION  
CANNED FOOD DONATIONS go to FAIR HAVEN Food Pantry

**PINES YOUTH FUNDRAISER  
KICK-OFF EVENT  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

along with soup... FAIR HAVEN Food Pantry is also asking for peanut butter, tuna fish & canned chicken.

PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser.** The youth ministry will be kicking off this year's Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser and Food Drive on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. While we are unable to share a meal at this time, we still want to use this season to lift up our neighbors in need. We'll be collecting canned food donations for Fairhaven Food Pantry, and monetary donations will be split between Fairhaven and Pines Youth mission work. We look forward to sharing a meal with you when it is safe to do so!

## Children at Pines

**What happened to Jesus after his birth?** Our Pines children and Moms have learned that the shepherds were the first to visit the newborn king...everyday shepherds! We learned what it was like to be a shepherd and we played shepherd/sheep tag. We were also herding sheep with sheep-faced balloons. Some of our balloon sheep blew away!! It is not easy to be a shepherd! And, we know that Jesus is our shepherd and we are his sheep.

What was life like for Jesus as a small child in Nazareth? We investigated and found certain similarities and differences. We know that he went to school with the other boys. The girls stayed home!!! He also learned skills from Joseph, his earthly father. Did Jesus ever get to play with other children? We learned that he probably played a game something like marbles, and maybe practiced with a slingshot. No soccer balls or video games for Jesus! We also decided that Jesus was kind to the other children. We are not perfect, but he was! In fact, He is the Light of the World, and to help us remember, we made luminarias.

We look forward to learning more about Jesus as he grows up and hope that you will join us on Sunday mornings. We are having fun as we gather in His name!



**Join us for Family-Style Sunday School in W-12  
as we continue "learning to love like God".**

# The Music Department

## Greetings from the Music Department!

In the month of February we celebrate love.....with Valentine's Day, cards, flowers, and heart shaped boxes of candy. In John 3:16 we look at the ultimate gift of love to us:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Kurt Kaiser wrote a beautiful hymn to help remind us of the love Christ showed for us:

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh how He loves you and me.  
He gave His life, what more could He give?  
Oh, how He loves you, oh, how He loves me, oh, how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calv'ry did go, His love for sinners to show.  
What He did there brought hope from despair.  
Oh, how He loves you, oh, how He loves me, oh, how He loves you and me.

We sing "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so," every Sunday before the Children's sermon. We also learned as children "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight." So that overwhelming love that He showed on the cross is meant for everyone.

During these troubling times, my prayer for you and me is to be kind, be generous, and show the love of Jesus to one another every day as we remember:

"He gave His life, what more could He give?  
Oh, how He loves you, oh, how He loves me, oh, how He loves you and me.

Keep a song and the love of Jesus in your hearts,  
Tim

**Pines  
In-car-nation**



*Join us for  
**In-Car-Nation***

**Sunday's at 5 PM**

**on our back parking lot!**

Bring your family...bring your friends...bring a chair, or sit in your vehicle...all as you tune into the service on your car radio! If you have not had a chance to attend, don't miss this wonderful Worship opportunity!

**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 at 713-467-2234! You may also email Cindy or Genny at [cindy@pinespc.org](mailto:cindy@pinespc.org) or [genny@pinespc.org](mailto:genny@pinespc.org) Thank you.

# Missions



27-Aug-2020 to 26-Nov-2020

24 households contributed \$73.56 to Pines by shopping at Kroger. If you haven't registered your Kroger card, please do so next time you are in the store.

**60** years strong  
Serving God. Renewing Hope. Rebuilding Lives.

**MISSION CELEBRATES  
60 YEARS**

**IN OTHER NEWS**

**2021 we celebrate the 60 Year Anniversary for The Mission of Yahweh**

We are so excited about celebrating 60 years of serving Houston's homeless women and children! God has been so good to us through the years, and we want to celebrate by sharing your stories, pictures, and videos, throughout this upcoming year.

**We need your help!**  
If you were a volunteer, organization, church, resident, former resident, friend of the Gay family, or had any engagement with The Mission in the last 60 years, please contact us.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Please contact Tammie Jeffers  
tammie.jeffers@missionofyahweh.org  
or call (713) 466-4785 ext 105

MAM is looking for volunteers to help in their Resale Store and warehouse. Individuals or groups can use the following link to sign-up for the most convenient time. Thanks in advance for your help!

So, here's the new Individual Sign-up Link for 2021:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b45a4a92ea7f85-2021>

Of course, groups are still abundantly welcome! If you have a group, you can schedule a volunteer date by contacting Stephanie directly:

**Stephanie Tippitt**

Resale Store Volunteer Coordinator

Memorial Assistance Ministries

1625 Blalock Road, Houston, TX 77080

Phone: 713-468-4516 x148 | Fax: 713-468-4702 | [www.mamhouston.org](http://www.mamhouston.org)

**MAM** Resale Store  
& Boutique



## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

The church is in great need of someone to clean out the pantry cabinet in the Fellowship Hall kitchen that contains the spices and kitchen staples. Many things need to be thrown away and the cabinet shelves need to be wiped and cleaned. If you can help in this way, PLEASE call Cindy in the church office to set up a time when you can come help. This would be a wonderful job for a group of friends to do together.



**2021/2022 Priority Registration** for Pines members through February 5th, 2021.

For more information go to **[PinesPresbyterianPreschool.com](http://PinesPresbyterianPreschool.com)**



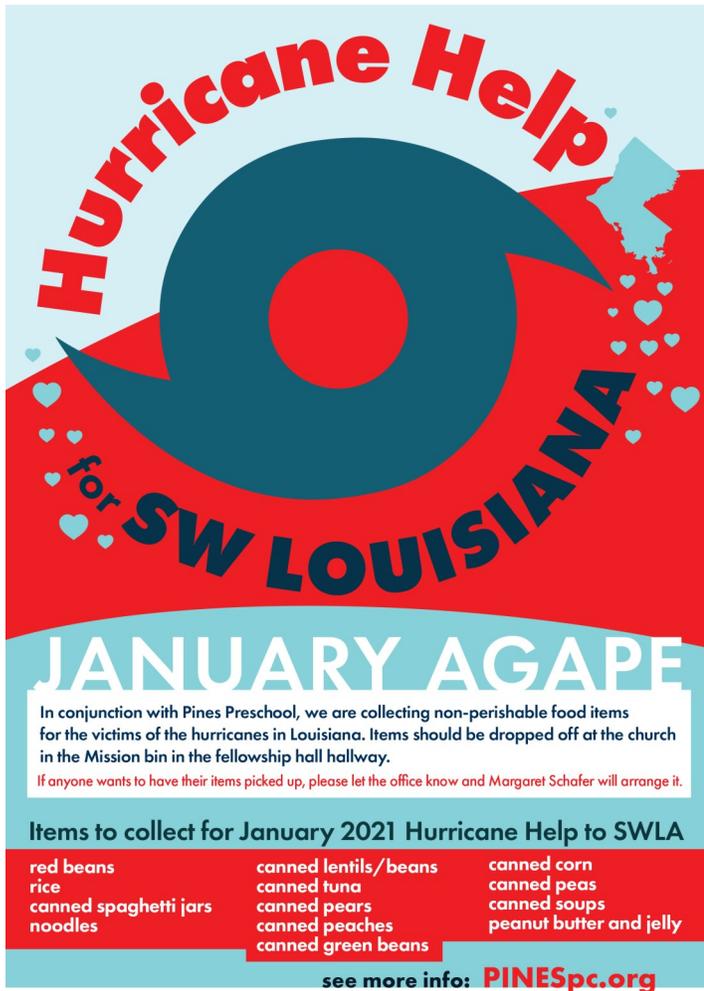
**Staying Connected:** --- You can now find upcoming opportunities to connect by visiting our website: [pinespc.org](http://pinespc.org). Join in on the next scheduled meeting, class or event by signing up for your free Zoom account: [zoom.us/signup](https://zoom.us/signup). View our archived videos 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](http://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](http://pinespc.org)



**Hurricane Help**  
for **SW LOUISIANA**

**JANUARY AGAPE**

In conjunction with Pines Preschool, we are collecting non-perishable food items for the victims of the hurricanes in Louisiana. Items should be dropped off at the church in the Mission bin in the fellowship hall hallway.

If anyone wants to have their items picked up, please let the office know and Margaret Schafer will arrange it.

**Items to collect for January 2021 Hurricane Help to SWLA**

red beans	canned lentils/beans	canned corn
rice	canned tuna	canned peas
canned spaghetti jars	canned pears	canned soups
noodles	canned peaches	peanut butter and jelly
	canned green beans	

see more info: [PINESpc.org](http://PINESpc.org)

With 47,000 houses damaged, 16,000 of which need major repairs, evacuees are nowhere near coming home. At year's end, churches and volunteer organizations continue to provide supplies to homeless people.



See the list of items needed on the note to the left. Please drop off your items in the Mission Bin in the Fellowship Hall hallway. Thank you!



## Session Meeting Notes

**The Session met for its regular Stated meeting on January 25.**

Here are some highlights:

- Examined and welcomed confirmands Thomas Babineck, Ryan Lade, Harris Timmreck and McKinley Wood to the Pines family.
- Heard a positive report on the year-end 2020 financial situation.
- Approved the 2021 budget.
- Received an update on early findings from the communications survey.
- Heard a request from the Missions Committee for members to provide input on the outside ministries in which they are involved. The input will be used as the committee plans the church's 2021 giving.

## Service Beyond The Walls

How are you active and serving in God's Kingdom? Send your thoughts to [cindy@pinespc.org](mailto:cindy@pinespc.org).



## WE ARE SEEKING AMBASSADORS TO JOIN THE SERVE HOUSTON TEAM

Building on the Serve Houston program of the past, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston is breathing new life into the next generation of innovative programming. Serve Houston, a program of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, is a service corps of diverse young adults serving together as Ambassadors to strengthen the health and well-being of Houston's most vulnerable communities. Through the successful completion of service projects in small teams, Ambassadors are prepared to become aspiring servant leaders in any industry.

- Are you a recent college graduate that would like to get some great experience for yourself and your resume?
- Are you taking a gap year from school to figure out your next move?
- Are your college plans delayed?
- Are you currently a student looking to work for a reputable organization serving the community?
- Is making a meaningful impact in your community important to you?
- Do you enjoy working with people from different parts of the world?

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be 18 years or older by the beginning of the service period
- Be able to pass a criminal history check
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent by the beginning of the service period
- Be a current student, recent graduate, or college aspirational student
- Current students are individuals currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program at an accredited college, university or trade school
- Recent graduates are individuals who have graduated within the last 2 years
- A college aspirational student is an individual with plans to attend college or trade school after completion of the service period
- Students between semesters or school years are eligible to apply
- Have a valid driver's license or photo ID
- Have access to a webcam and internet and be willing and able to work from home and in person
- Be able to convey a meaningful connection to the Greater Houston community whether by residence or some other affiliation
- Be willing to comply with the COVID-19 protocol and vaccination requirements at Interfaith Ministries, which could include proof of COVID-19 vaccination

Ambassadors are the Serve Houston program participants. Through their participation in the program, they will develop and gain the following skills, knowledge and financial benefits:

### LEAD AMBASSADORS

- Earn approximately \$900 per month (based on hourly wage)
- Receive a \$1,500 education award upon successful completion of the program
- Receive additional leadership development training prior to the start of the program

### AMBASSADOR BENEFITS

- Flexible schedule
- Project management experience
- Nonprofit operations experience
- Servant leadership mindset
- Compassion for underserved populations
- Teamwork
- Resume building experiences
- \$600 per month (approximate based on hourly wage)
- \$1,000 education award upon successful completion of the program

**Online application closes: March 31, 2021    Serve Houston Program ends: November 19, 2021**

### TO GET STARTED

Visit [www.imgh.org/servehouston](http://www.imgh.org/servehouston) to learn more about Serve Houston and to submit an application to be an Ambassador. To contact Serve Houston, send an email to [servehouston@imgh.org](mailto:servehouston@imgh.org).

# SPACE CENTER HOUSTON



## Clean Room Explorer Camps

### Register now for Spring Explorer Camps

**March 15-19**

Space Center Houston is bringing back its age-appropriate inspiring camp experiences with safety top of mind. Offered for children from 6 to 18, we have an experience perfect for your child.

Our Clean Room Explorer Camp experience was inspired by NASA clean room procedures to educate our campers in an immersive way while also maintaining health and safety. Additionally, class sizes will be limited to allow everyone to follow social distancing and sanitation practices.

Go to [Explorer Camps \(spacecenter.org\)](https://spacecenter.org) for more information.



## 2020 in Review

Thank you to each and every one of you who took part in our home repair mission this past year. With your support, we were able to get 37 families to safe, livable housing. Together we installed insulation to keep families warm, hung sheetrock to give families walls, replaced roofs to keep families dry, and painted to give families color and joy (among a lot of other things!).

2021 is going to be even bigger and better! To get involved with our program, you can learn more, sign up to volunteer, or donate at <https://www.therestorationteam.org/>.

37 projects completed

404 individual volunteers

15,850 volunteer hours

\$431,120

