



PINES TRAVELS TO THE HOLY LAND
October 26-November 4, 2011

A group of 43 travelers from Pines (and some wonderful friends of Pines) will leave Houston on Wednesday, October 26 and arrive in Tel Aviv on Thursday, October 27. The group will travel north to Tiberias, and in that region visit the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Cana of Galilee, Nazareth, and then make their way to Jerusalem.

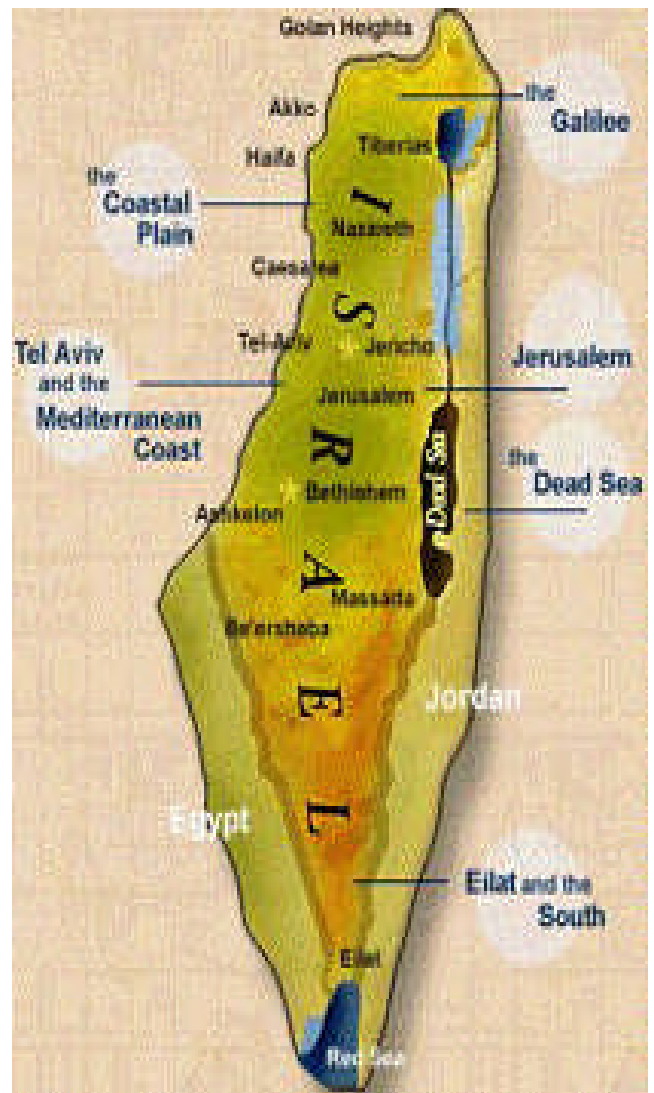
While in Jerusalem they will tour the Old City, visit the Pool of Bethesda, go to the Wailing Wall, follow in the footsteps of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa, and come to the Garden Tomb. The following days will include the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Upper Room, and Bethlehem. From Jerusalem a day trip will find the group at the Dead Sea and the Caves of Qumran.

The trip will have several special touches. We hope to connect with fellow groups traveling from Memorial Drive Methodist and Grace Presbyterian while we are in the Holy Land. Our little corner of West Houston will have three groups there at the same time. Imagine bumping into a friend on the streets of Jerusalem.

Andy Dearman, who has added so much to our life at Pines with his extensive knowledge of the Bible and the Holy Lands, will meet our group during our visit. He has put together some "Can't miss" things for us while we are in Jerusalem, and it will be a blessing to tap into his academic insights.

This will be a wonderful time to reconnect with members from Pines who have moved to other places. Dan and Margaret Schafer are traveling from Atlanta to join our group; Dortha Olney will return from Corpus Christi for the trip; and as an extra special bonus, Anne and Jim Beall are coming along for the adventure.

So much happens when a group travels together. Be assured, the things we learn on the trip will be brought back and shared with the congregation in a variety of ways. And know that we need the love and prayers of the congregation as we travel. Pray that we would be safe on our journey and as we make our way through the Holy Land. Pray also that this experience would be one that touches hearts in deep and meaningful ways.



Building News Report

We are making progress on the finishing touches for the building addition. The contractor has predicted that it should be complete by Thanksgiving, giving us another reason to give thanks. The only likely holdup is lead time in the event that the carpet has to be manufactured.

The Adult Sunday School wing is complete with the exception of the installation of the carpet which is on hand and will be put in place after the construction of the building extension is completed to avoid soiling the new carpet.

The playground work should be complete by the end of October. The smaller playground is already in use by the younger children and the north side of that playground is almost complete.

Exterior canopies over the doors to the Columbarium/Prayer Garden are to be installed soon, completing that project.

So far, we have borrowed \$415,000 toward the cost of our building program.

Herb Schulze



Stephen Ministry

*Because of the Lord's great love
we are not consumed
for his compassions never fail,
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness."*

Lamentations 3:22-23

To claim God's promises and to feel his presence in the midst of life's struggles is not easy for any of us. The need to be reminded that God loves us beyond anything we could ever imagine is universal. When we become aware that we need people in our lives to help us remember our preciousness there are folks who are prepared to share in the journey.

Stephen ministers have a deep desire to be vessels of healing and hope, It is a privilege to share in a person's journey and if it would be helpful to have a Stephen minister to come alongside, please call Barbara Retzloff at 713-467-2234.

Janitorial Services At Pines - We have a new daily Porter, Geovany, who does an excellent job for us between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. And just so you know, we also have a crew that comes in the evenings, Monday thru Friday.



A Special Thank You to all who made our **3rd Annual Tablescapes Luncheon Event** a success! The following twenty three hostesses did a wonderful job of transforming the Fellowship Hall into a decorator's dream:

Linda Aldred, Tracy Allison, Susan Babineck, Lynda Barr, Terecia Burgess, Karen Clingan, Carol Cullen, Laura Fallon, Colleen Foster, Carol Greene, Kezzie Kamp, Lodie Mueller, Becky Neisig, Janice Pannell, Virginia Rutherford, Connie Sipp, Donna Smith, Lesa Smith, Peggy Smith, Lynn Stauffacher, Angela Stinner-Trimble, Edith Stinner, and Yohanna Tirayoh.

And the following 18 men from Pines gallantly volunteered to be our waiters or helped out in the kitchen:

Val Aldred, Bob Barr, Rion Cascaden, Bob Cook, Steve Danbom, Elgin Deidrick, Wayne Eberly, Mike Foster, Scott Greene, John Kamp, Bob Lewis, Pete Neisig, Steve Retzloff, Lee Rutherford, Sam Singer, David Sipp, Edgar Smith, and Bill Vislocky.

Joel Wiens used his wonderful technical talents which enabled us to stay in the Fellowship Hall to hear our guest speaker, Shannon Perry. And **Janet Calhoun and Ann Guerra** did a fantastic job helping with set-up and check-in for the event.

Over 150 people attended the event and at least 75+ people were guests of our members. Warmest thanks again to all who contributed with their time, talent and treasure.

Representing the Pines Presbyterian Women, Linda Aldred and Colleen Foster



A Message From Our Pastor

WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS...

One day it was finished...finally finished. It was a Thursday. Almost like the rapture had taken place, the streets were all empty. No more trucks. No more workers. No more cones. Just a newly paved street and some incredibly beautiful sidewalks. Kimberley is open and not only can you drive with no distractions, you can walk from Pines to our bookstore, to any of the shops, to City Centre, to Mexican food, Sushi, houses filled with yards of certain beverages, a movie theater, and more than one yogurt shop. Life is good!

And what is even more exciting is that people can drive to Pines with no impediments, no delays, and no detours. They can walk right up to our church. It is not out of the question that people would walk by and decide to poke their head in to see just what those Christian people do on a Sunday morning, or during the week.

We have heard the testimony of a special family who were out walking in their neighborhood when they heard the bells of Pines chiming out. They walked over to see the source of those joyful sounds, were intrigued by this family-looking church across the street from a school and a park, showed up and found a church home.

A big tall fellow was out walking his dogs and he saw a sign about a Vacation Bible School for Adults. On the morning the Bible School began he dropped in, made friends in a hurry, and now is a mainstay of our congregation.

Others tell of driving through City Centre to see all the new dining and entertainment venues. They noticed the church as they were coming or going. When they showed up you welcomed them.

So we have new streets. We have new sidewalks. We have new opportunities to reach out and invite and welcome and practice hospitality.

I love the poem Shel Silverstein wrote about *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. He envisioned the place where the sidewalk ends as one of adventure and exploration in vast uncharted territories of the heart, the soul, and the mind. I wonder who will come to the sidewalk that ends right at the front door of Pines Presbyterian Church. What new adventure awaits them? What friendships will they discover? What spiritual hunger will they bring? What deep yearnings will fill their hearts?

This is a time of adventure for our church and our community. May we open the doors of our church in new and inviting ways. May we open the doors of our hearts to love this world with the depth of love Christ has shown us. May we be a place where the sidewalk ends and the joy of a life with Jesus Christ begins for people in ways that encourage each and every one to embrace the abundant life he promises.

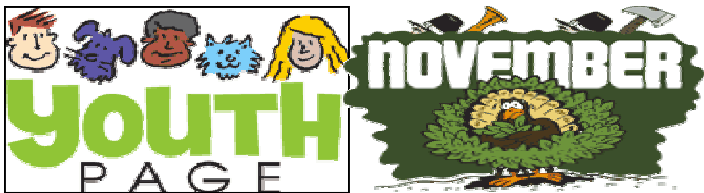
***There is a place where the sidewalk ends
And before the street begins,
And there the grass grows soft and white,
And there the sun burns crimson bright,
And there the moon-bird rests from his flight
To cool in the peppermint wind.***

There is a place where the sidewalk ends and the adventure begins. The address is 12751 Kimberley Lane. Thanks for sharing in this great and glorious life God has given us.

Shel Silverstein, "Where the Sidewalk Ends."

Wayne





HELP TEENAGERS FORM THEIR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Conformity and peer pressure threaten to squeeze the individuality right out of teenagers. As they're confronted with choices and expectations, kids are often terrified to be identified as different. Discouragement and hopelessness can leave teenagers even more vulnerable to unhealthy, unsafe pressures. In *The Religious Life of Young Americans*, George Gallup Jr. and Robert Bezilla offer these six things teenagers need when facing challenges and pressures:

1. **The belief that life is meaningful and has a purpose.** For Christians, the ultimate meaning and purpose are found in a relationship with Jesus.
2. **A sense of community.** "Radical individualism" leads to loneliness. Kids need deep relationships with positive, supportive role models and peers.
3. **To be appreciated and loved.** The closer people feel to God, say the authors, the better they feel about themselves. They also have a happier outlook.
4. **To be listened to and heard.**
5. **To feel like one is growing in faith.** Young people need support as they pass through various "faith passages."
6. **Practical help in developing a mature faith.** By partnering with your church and youth minister, you can guide teenagers into owning their faith.

Come join us for the **Youth Sunday Schools** at 9:30 am! For the 6th-8th graders, meet in the Jr. high class (W-13), and for the 9th-12th graders in the Sr. high class (W-14).

Nov. 6: "CROP Walk" (The walk starts at 2 pm at the Bagby Promenade downtown. For carpooling, please join us at the church by 1:15 pm. For more info, please talk to Alicia Rondenberger, Ron Langston, or Sam Jun.)



Nov. 12: "Paintball" (Invite your friends and family members! The sign-ups will be in the youth area, and then meet at the church on Sat., Nov. 12, by 8 am at the church; a minimum of \$25 is required to play, and a scholarship is also available upon a request; ask pastor Sam about it.)



Nov. 24: Happy Thanksgiving to y'all!!!

Happy Birthday to all who are born in November, and especially to the youth and youth leaders, Paige Wright (11/4), Brian O'Connor (11/22), Ali Barton (11/25), Jon Rodiek (11/12), James Snelling (11/16), Lizzy Kaufman (11/30), Aaron Turner (11/22), and Art Fallon (11/17)



Taking Root As Christian Kids

Our roots will go deep as our children prepare for our **Family Advent Night Christmas Musical** coming on November 27th at 5:00 including dinner. This is a great family time and a wonderful way to start the advent season. It's fun for all so put it on your calendars. This year's show will be "The Not So Silent Night". A new parenting class is going great guns and there is always room for more. We are learning wonderful practical ways to honor one another and build loving families.

Come join us in room C-8 in **the adult Sunday school hallway and bring your friends.** This covers children of all ages.



Some of our "Pumpkin Patch" kids.



The two prettiest pumpkins of all!



**MINISTRY TO THE PORT OF HOUSTON
CHRISTMAS GIFT BOX PROGRAM
2011**

We still need your help to fill 50 shoe-box sized plastic boxes for the Port Ministry.

Donations of some of the following items are greatly appreciated: band-aids, combs, dental floss, deodorant, disposable razors, flashlights, Kleenex, Q-tips, lotions, lip balm, nail clippers, needle & thread, shaving cream, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes & paste, small address books, small calendars, disposable cameras, gum, key chains, paper & envelopes, pencils & pens, playing cards, puzzles, games, postcards, socks, stamps, Texas souvenirs, T-shirts, baseball caps – unused items only, please. Most items should be for men.

Please place donations in the Port Ministry collection box in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, November 13th. Call Gayle Cook (281-398-9068) with any questions, and for more information, please visit www.houstonseafarers.com about this ministry. Thank you for helping to make the holidays brighter for seafarers from around the world!

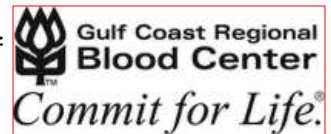


DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
Fall Back 1 Hour!

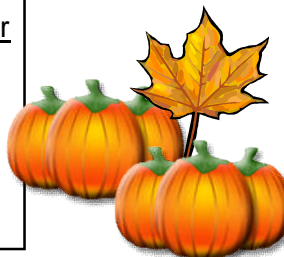
Results of the Blood Drive!

We had 28 donors come forth and a total of 26 units of blood given. Thank you all who do-



RANDALLS GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

The quarterly statement of account as of September 30, 2011 shows that total purchases made were \$14,469.50, which means a payment to Pines of \$144.75. Keep up the good work, folks!



Pines Family News

Dearest Pines Friends:

Yet again your generosity overflows! Sherwood is so lucky to have such an awesome partner. Your checks will be put to good use—we are already ordering books to help the teachers with reading! Please be assured of our gratitude and may all your gifts be returned to you seven times seventy! Fondly, Your Sherwood Family

Dear Pines Family:

Thank you so much for all the thoughtfulness and concerns during my knee replacement surgery and re-hab. Thank you for your prayers, cards and notes, phone calls and e-mails. All these things gave me good days. Helen Smith Graves

Please pray for the family of Adrienne Brown who passed away on October 19.



Please also pray for the family of Peter Neisig who passed away on October 21.



Shirley and Nick Bollich have a new granddaughter, Sarah Lillian Steeg, born on Monday, October 24. Parents are Jennifer and Richard Steeg.

PINES CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Each year, Pines sponsors a Christmas project to help the women and children at the **Mission of Yahweh**. Because these are so greatly appreciated, again our request is: bath towels, knit shirts for women and children, sweat-shirts, t-shirts, and sweaters. Adult sizes are medium, large and extra large. Children's sizes are 2 thru teen.

Please gift wrap all packages and place the size on the outside of the package. Place your gift in the Yahweh Cart in the Fellowship Hall by December 11. Cash gifts, payable to Pines and marked "Yahweh" may be left in the church office or placed in the Sunday offering plate. These monies will be used to pay Mission bills such as utilities, medicine, food, diapers, etc.



Your Assistance is Needed

The **Mission of Yahweh** would like to have a Wednesday afternoon Christmas Cookie Party in December for the women and children at the mission. If you can organize this small event, please give Cindy in the church office a call. Organizing the event involves the following: decorate the tree with decorations that are already at the mission, call and have a few members bake cookies (Cindy has a list of names), and buy some punch (Service & Outreach will reimburse you). You would need to grab a couple of volunteers to attend the event with you to assist you in serving.



This is a simple and yet much appreciated way to show the women and children at the Mission that we care. If you can organize this event, grab your phone and call Cindy at 713-467-2234 ext. 10.

It's my honor to play for the 5th year in the **BROOKWOOD GOLF MARATHON**. I'll be teeing it up on November 5th at Houston Oaks Country Club. I plan to play 100 holes of golf that day to help raise funds for Brookwood. Last year, they raised a total of \$550,000, and they're hoping to do the same in 2011. I'm hoping that some of the golfers at Pines will support me in this effort. Please call or e-mail me if you would care to participate. Any and all donations are appreciated!

Checks made payable to **Brookwood Community** can be sent to me:

Bob Smith
11530 Gallant Ridge Ln.
Houston, TX 77082
281-920-1399 Bobsmith99@sbcglobal.net



(Santa Bob and a Brookwood Citizen at the 2010 Golf Marathon)



WOW !!!!! Time moves so fast. As I worked on the music schedule yesterday for November, I was shocked to realize just how close Advent and Christmas were. All of our choirs are hard at work on special music to help us celebrate the many blessings of Thanksgiving and transition us right on into Advent and Christmas. We hope that our musical presentations highlight your worship experience and help to let all of us understand just how our great God walks with us on our pilgrimage.

My sincere thanks to all who serve with me in our music ministry and give of their talents in an unconditional way each week. The Children, Orchestra, Chancel Choir and The Pines Pealers all work very hard weekly to present our best to our God and you, the congregation.

It is a real joy working with all of our musicians as we prepare weekly, monthly and yearly to serve Christ through our music. We always appreciate your many comments and notes you send to us. And remember, if you have any suggestions as to how we could meet your needs better, we are always open to suggestions.

Here's wishing you a wonderful Fall season and a time of reflection on the true meaning of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

With Love and God's Blessings to each of you.....Walter

GET READY FOR ADVENT

Advent 2011 will kick off at Pines on Sunday, November 20, with a new twist on an old activity. "Hanging of the Greens" has been our chance to come together and decorate the church for the Advent Season.

"Hanging of the Greens" is again taking on the new name from last year with expanded activities. Our name is ADVENTures, and our activities will include the traditional hanging of the greens around the church and the sanctuary, as well as a Secret Gift Workshop for the young children of Pines, and decorating of the classrooms for our senior high and middle school youth.

Our schedule on Sunday, November 20:

9:30 and 11:00 Thanksgiving Sunday worship with our lovely cornucopia
12:00 All church lunch.

Following lunch, we will break into groups to work on the Secret Gift Workshop, the Youth Classroom decorations, and the Hanging of the Greens throughout the church.

ADVENTures is for the whole church family, all ages and all stages. Celebrate Thanksgiving in worship and help us prepare the church for the special season of Advent.

Christmas Share is Coming to MAM!

Planning is underway for the Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) Annual Christmas Share Program for children. The families we serve struggle to provide food and basic necessities for their children often without enough funds leftover for rent and utilities. We meet these families through our Family Assistance Programs, and assist with rent or utilities while also providing money management classes and job assistance. During the holiday season, we also want to bring the joy of Christmas to the children of these families.

During December 2011, our goal is to provide a bag of toys for 500 children ranging in age from newborn to age 16. We need to collect or purchase over 1500 toys or gift cards! This year we will also provide a twin size blanket for each child in addition to their toy bag. We hear from churches, schools and families that many children do not have blankets at home. To ensure that the children stay warm we will collect and distribute a thick blanket (not a comforter) to give to each child with their toys this year.

For information about adopting a child, donating toys/blankets, or planning a toy/blanket drive contact Elizabeth Krautkremer at lizstutts7@gmail.com or 979-575-7960. To make a monetary donation to Christmas Share go to <https://mamministries.ejoinme.org/MyPages/DonationPage/tabid/66977/Default.aspx>.



Christmas Progressive Dinner



It may seem like a long time to Christmas, but we have begun our planning for the annual Pines Progressive Dinner on the evening of December 3. We will have appetizers and the main course at the host family home, and then we will all come to the church for those fabulous desserts and coffee. The cost is \$5.00 per person, plus you will need to contribute an appetizer, side dish or dessert. Reservations are required. You can sign up today or November 6 in the Fellowship Hall between 10:30 and 11:00 or after the 11:00 service.

Pines Presbyterian Church
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