



*THE* **PINES PRESS**  
*HOUSTON, TEXAS*

September 2011

## **Evangelism Workshop**

*Purpose:* To focus on evangelism as we start the new program year at Pines. The goal is to train and equip every person to understand and express the essentials of the gospel. As we grow in our understanding of the essentials of the gospel, we will explore ways to communicate this good news to as many as possible, as often as possible, in as many ways as possible. Workshop will be led by Wayne Eberly.

**Date: Sunday, September 18**

**Time: 4-8 pm**

**Place: The Fellowship Hall**

**For the children: Games and  
activities with Miss Cathy**

- All are invited
- Come and experience the joy of sharing your faith
- Dinner will be provided

# ***Feasting on the Word***

We are excited to introduce a new resource to Pines.

## ***Feasting on the Word***

is a wonderful commentary series that follows the lectionary.

The four lectionary readings each Sunday come from the Gospels, Psalms, the Old Testament, and the letters of the New Testament.

### **Preaching**

The preaching beginning in September will follow the cycle of the lectionary. The sermon will usually focus on the Gospel passage, and the Psalm and other readings will be reflected in the liturgy, prayers, and music.

### **Study and Teaching**

For those who want to dig deeper into the Bible, there will be a weekly studies developed by the writers of Feasting on the Word. We will have two Feasting on the Word classes.

- **Sunday mornings 9:30 am in room C-3.** Leaders are: Barbara and Steve Retzloff, Rachael Moffett, and Luis Guerra.
  - **Wednesday morning at 10 am in room C-3.** Leaders are: Wayne Eberly, Linda Johnson, and Shirley Bollich.
- Wednesday class begins September 14.

### **Reading and Reflection**

In an effort to engage our whole church with the passages of scripture that will guide our worship on Sunday morning, we will make available the four passages for the coming week for your reading and reflection. The lectionary follows the liturgical calendar, and also gives readers a chance to explore the depth and breadth of God's Word.

# A Message From Our Pastor

## CONFIDENT EVANGELISM

There is a wonderful story told about a young girl who grew up in China, far from the reach of Christian missionaries. After a long struggle and years of hardship, a group of missionaries finally reached her tiny village. When they shared the good news of Jesus Christ with the little girl, her response amazed the missionaries. She said, "I have always known Jesus. Now I have finally learned his name."

Could it be that God goes before us in all of our efforts to be evangelists? Could it be that long before the name of Jesus is preached and shared in testimony, somehow, in God's mysterious and marvelous grace, hearts have already been touched?

On September 18, I am offering a workshop on evangelism. My hope is that every member at Pines will participate. It is my belief that we are all evangelists in one way or another. The goal of the workshop is to help each person discover their own unique gifts and calling.

But even as we share together in a workshop on evangelism, the story of the little girl in China is good to remember. One author writes this about evangelism.

***"In principle God in Jesus Christ has already reached all of humankind with his salvific action. Because 'while we were yet sinners Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8), it follows that 'we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died' (II Corinthians 5:14). I encounter the human being for whom Christ died not just in the sister or brother in the Christian community. I meet him in every person with whom I come together; in Jesus' death the love of God has already reached everyone."***

I recently met with a young woman who went away to university several years ago. The school was out of state, far from her home. She went to school without faith in Christ. Her parents did not attend church, and so she was never brought to church. She got to her university and immediately encountered struggles. She said she felt extremely down and discouraged. And then the strangest thing happened. It was as if someone was there with her. It was as if someone was there for her. She could not explain how it happened, but she came to realize that person who was there with her and was there for her was Jesus Christ. She came to faith and is now walking closely with her Lord. In God's grace and mercy she too learned the name of her Savior is Jesus Christ.

Evangelism is intimidating and even overwhelming to many. But it seems that we can take great hope, even confidence, in knowing God has gone before us. God has already sent his Son into this world as the Savior. Christ is already at work in the hearts of man, woman, and child all over this world. Stories are told of Muslims who have powerful encounters with Christ, encounters that change the direction of their lives.

Stories are also told of students in Houston who come to know the salvation of Jesus Christ. It was such a meaningful day when Quinn, a high school student, stood before our congregation and confessed his faith in Jesus Christ. Someone invited him to church. Someone else taught his Sunday school class. Someone else mentored him in the Confirmation Class. Someone else was by his side on a Mission Trip to Guatemala. Someone and someone and someone...and then one day, all of us shared in the joy of hearing his testimony.

I really do believe there are people all around us, people in our lives, people whose hearts have already been touched by the gracious hand of God. Knowing that God has gone before us, may we with confidence be so bold and daring as to tell people the wonderful name of the one whose life, death, and resurrection has brought salvation to the world, and salvation to the searching heart. With confidence may we share the name that is above all names. With confidence, may we share the name of Jesus.

Wayne

# YOUTH PAGE SEPTEMBER

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).



## What's Happening in SEP. and OCT.?

Sep. 11: Pines Rally Day (9:30 am in the classrooms) and Youth Leaders' Commissioning during the 11 o'clock service

Sep. 18: Youth Community Service (3-6 pm)

Sep. 30-Oct. 2: National Youth Workers Convention at San Diego (youth leaders)

Oct. 1: Focus (Presbytery Event) (9 am-4 pm)

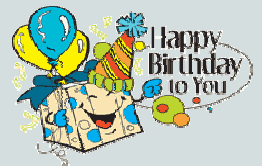
Oct. 2: Presbytery's Youth Rally at Pines P.C. led by PYCC (3-5 pm)

Oct. 19: Jordan Burnham Event at MDPC (6:30-7:30 pm) Jordan Burnham is an engaging speaker and mental health advocate, and he will describe his secret depression and attempted suicide. Jordan has appeared on CNN, ESPN, and Dr. Phil. Interested youth and youth groups and

2011 Summer Youth Mission Trips



**Happy Birthday to all who are born in September,** and especially to the youth and youth leaders, Payton Wood (9/5), Deborah Bowerman (9/15), Lindsey Hand (9/26), Stephan Sibley (9/23), Michael Fallon (9/15), David O'Connor (9/30)



## Getting back on T.R.A.C.K.

Back to school routines is often a welcome change from the days of summer. We pray that you all had a great time of refreshment. As you begin your school time routines be sure to put in time for God and family.

Here's a couple of resources that can help guide you to a wonderful time with the Father and one another.

### Our 24 Family Ways: A Family Devotional Guide

By Clay Clark  
Whole Heart Press  
[www.wholeheart.org](http://www.wholeheart.org)

### The Beginner's Bible

The Book Jacob Cerda read and talked about that he and his family read Together. Go to [christianbooks.com](http://christianbooks.com)

Both of these are in Cathy's office if you would like to look at them first.



September 2011

School begins the day after Labor Day, Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. The doors will open to the preschool and the precious children will come through the door!! What an exciting time to see little ones arriving hand in hand with their parents. We are very excited as we watch the west playground construction get underway. It will be ready in the Fall so I encourage you to find time when the weather cools off to observe the children explore their new environment. Also take a stroll down the hallway Monday thru Friday and see the wonderful children that God has brought to the Pines! It will make your day to see the children of God!!! Thank you for your dedication to the preschool.

We still have openings in the Toddler (must be 18 months by March 1<sup>st</sup>) through kindergarten class. For more information call 713-467-9358 or [Dorothy@pinespc.org](mailto:Dorothy@pinespc.org).

### WESTSIDE HOMELESS PARTNERSHIP

John (not his real name) and his family were made homeless by economic forces out of their control. After John lost his job, they lost their house and land to foreclosure. They decided to come to Houston to find work. The family could not afford an apartment and lived on the streets. CPS removed their four children, because they had no place to stay. After a few weeks, with the help of several agencies' emergency financial assistance, they were able to rent an apartment on a weekly basis, which allowed their children to be re-leased back to their parents. When the family was referred to Westside Homeless Partnership in August, they had no electricity and very little food. Since entering the WHP program, John has found a full-time truck-driving job with local assignments. They and their severely autistic nine-year old son and their three daughters (ages 2, 5, and 10) have moved into an apartment and are now receiving Food Stamps and social security benefits for their son. The mom is receiving training to learn to care for her son more effectively. All of the children are doing much better in school.

Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in Houston. Many are hard working parents earning minimum wage. Most lack education or job training. Many don't work because they cannot afford to pay for childcare or transportation to and from work. The average age of the homeless person in the United States is 8 years old. At two-thirds of the elementary schools in the Spring Branch School District, 83% of students live in very low income households. The very poorest of these families are homeless.

Recognizing that homelessness is more than just a housing issue, Westside Homeless Partnership (WHP) was founded in 1994 to prevent and end homelessness for families by providing them with resources and supporting services that lead to self-sufficiency. By collaborating with area non-profits, WHP helps empower families with children in Spring Branch ISD to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

WHP provides nine-months of comprehensive case management services including an assessment of needs, development of a self-sufficiency plan, constant monitoring, and advocacy. While clients work on their individual goals and seek or retain employment, WHP assists with basic living expenses, including rent, utilities, transportation, childcare, and job-related education and training. Families are placed in apartments within the SBISD area, which ensures that the children remain in the same schools for the entire school year. WHP assists clients in finding sustainable employment and obtaining job-related education and training. WHP also ensures that clients learn and practice job retention skills, financial literacy, good parenting, and life skills. Since 1994, WHP has helped 322 families with shelter and supporting services. To date, 84% of its clients have graduated from homelessness to independent living and 10% have become homeowners. Call 713-973-8083 to learn how you can volunteer at WHP.



CONGRATULATIONS to John and Janan Plush on the birth of their great-grand-daughter, Audrey Plush, who was born on August 17, 2011.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

**Hanako Wilson, and George & Linette Harwell** have new addresses.

**Dave Sibley** has a new e-mail address.

If you need their new information, please contact the church office at 713-467-2234.

**Bob & Emma Brownlee** – when addressing an envelope, do not show their apartment number.

**Ralph (Pat) Wilson** – when addressing an envelope, do not show his apartment number, and address to “Ralph” not “Pat”.



Who are we looking for?  
Cancer Survivors and Caregivers

What will you do?  
Provide one-on-one support to others newly diagnosed with cancer or caring for someone with cancer.

How much time will it take?  
You can support as few or as many people as you like. Most support is provided over the phone or email.

What if I want to do more?  
Opportunities are available to make hospital visits by volunteering in a number of Houston-area hospitals.

What makes CanCare special?  
CanCare volunteers realize the blessing of using their own experiences to make the journey less frightening for someone else who may just be starting a battle with cancer.

Is the service free?  
Yes. We are a nonprofit organization and our services are provided free to anyone fighting cancer.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

**If you or a loved one has experienced cancer and you have a passion for helping others, we need you!**

For those fighting cancer...  
**HOPE MATTERS**

Become a  
**CanCare Volunteer**  
by attending training:

**October 14-16, 2011**

Contact us for info:  
713-461-0028  
volunteer@cancare.org  
www.cancare.org

CanCare, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Houston, Texas.



As you read this, our Chancel Choir and Pines Pealers are already back at work. We hope to provide you with a lot of inspirational music for your worship enhancement this year. The Children's choirs will begin in October.

If you know someone who should be in one of our groups, please let me know and I will make the contact. We always welcome new members.

Thanks to Natalie Wright for filling in for Annie this summer. Annie had a great vacation with her family and we are happy that she is home and back with us as our Chancel Choir accompanist. Dana and Denise will also continue as our early service accompanists.

Our "Pines Orchestra" will play on the second Sunday of each month and our bell choir, "The Pines Pealers", will play on the third Sunday of each month.

We always appreciate your thoughts on our worship music and appreciate your support. It is truly a pleasure and blessing to serve as your Minister of Music and it is my personal blessing to be able to be here at Pines.

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

## BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

**COLUMBARIUM:** It is almost complete. The stained glass in the Sanctuary doors is now installed as designed. Still have the exterior canopies to be installed over the doors into the Sanctuary. The design is done and we have an estimate as to cost of constructing and installing the framework. They are designed to have a metal roof matching the one on the building. Some of the sprinkler system has been modified to a drip system to prevent the spray on the marble, leaving water stains. Total expenditure thus far--\$300,000 toward a budget of \$335,000. Now, if we can just keep the sprinkler system going properly and keep the plants alive!

**PLAYGROUNDS:** The contractor moved in to begin work on the west playground on August 8. They did a nice job of opening the fence into the Town and Country alley in order to have access to the work area since the new building closes it in from the north. The fencing was changed to a gate which can be locked at night to prevent material and equipment being "borrowed". Work is expected to take about 2 months.

**NEW BUILDING:** Lots has happened recently. The new air conditioning compressors and required fresh air equipment were lifted to the roof using a crane. The doors are installed. The city electrical inspector approved the wiring so the sheetrock can now be installed and the interior air conditioning equipment hooked up. This will be a great help to the workers since it has been very hot in that nearly closed up building. Window frames are in and glazing should not be far behind (although it has been a blessing to have the window openings there for a little breeze). Plumbing is roughed in and the metal roof is installed. Hardie plank siding rather than brick is being used on the west and south sides to save about \$13,000. It is now in place and will be painted to match that on the gym walls. Since we could not match the old brick, we are going with the same brick used on the columbarium so we will have bookends. So far, we have paid American Services approximately \$1 million under a contract with a maximum of \$1,562,098. If you have not walked through the building I encourage you to do so. I think that you will like what you see. It is open on Sundays.

**CONSULTANTS, FEES AND PERMITS:** We have paid a total of \$94,000 thus far with a budget of \$100,000. We may exceed that. The long delays in our construction have worked to our advantage. We have only had to borrow \$100,000 so far. In many cases, when we receive an invoice I'll check with Cindy to see how much money we have in the Building fund and find that miraculously, we have enough money on hand to pay that bill. The Lord and Pines members' generosity have provided. My guess is that we might be done by mid-October. Stay tuned and take a tour. Herb

---

Pines Presbyterian Church  
12751 Kimberley Lane  
Houston, Texas 77024  
713.467.2234  
[www.pinespc.org](http://www.pinespc.org)