



# MISSION & VISION

THE KINGWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

VISION 2022

"Fearlessly Making Disciples"

SCOTT THIBODEAUX

Preaching Minister

## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The Kingwood Church of Christ was established in 1972 in the home of John and Dalphene Bruton. Through the work in this community and the help of several sister congregations, KWCOG grew quickly and steadily, eventually migrating into an office building and then the Foster Elementary cafeteria. Blessed by God, the church purchased property and moved to its current location in the heart of Kingwood in 1975.

Even in those early days, the Kingwood church focused on touching lives both locally and abroad, being especially known for their support of orphans and missionary works in Thailand and Venezuela. Early leadership included W.T. Reynolds, John Bruton, and Floyd Campbell as elders, with Carl Power accepting a preaching position in 1975. Bob Ethington became the preacher in 1991 and Scott Thibodeaux became the preacher in 2011.

Today, while many of our members live in Kingwood proper, others live in several of the surrounding communities, including Atascocita, Humble, Porter, and Cleveland. The church currently has approximately 350 active members and is served by ten elders and eleven deacons. We also employ preaching, youth, and children's ministers as well as administrative support staff.

Over the years, the church has encountered significant and, at times, challenging transitions impacting leadership, membership, and facilities. Despite inevitable change, the one thing that remains the same is the desire to reach out to others with the message of salvation!

# THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28: 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## THE MISSION

Why We Exist

# THE GREATEST COMMAND

Mark 12: 29 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'



## VISION 2022

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# THE MISSION

It's all about discipleship! Jesus' first words were "follow me" and his last words were "go and make disciples". It does not matter how excellent the vision is for any congregation, unless the congregation is firmly committed to the mission of discipleship, they will remain an unhealthy organization.

God outlines the need for both in...

## EPHESIANS 3

10 His (God's) intent was that **now (the vision)**, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his **eternal purpose (the mission)** that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# THE CHURCH'S MISSION

01

Is eternal and unchanging

02

Is a call to fearlessly make disciples

03

Is the foundation for the church's vision

04

Will always be blessed by God





THE KINGWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST EXISTS TO

**FEARLESSLY**

**MAKE AND**

**GROW**

**COMMITTED**

**DISCIPLES OF**

**JESUS**

# EVERY CHURCH NEEDS A VISION BECAUSE...

*Proverbs 29: 18 Where there is no vision, the people perish...*

## THE VISION

God's Plan for the KWCOG

## THE CHURCH'S FIRST VISION

*Acts 1: 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

# THE VISION

## THREE PARTS

THE  
PATHWAY

VISION  
GOALS

FAMILIES  
WITH AT  
LEAST ONE  
CHILD 12TH  
GRADE AND  
YOUNGER





# THE VISION

THREE PARTS

## THE PATHWAY

VISION  
GOALS

FAMILIES  
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YOUNGER

# THE PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP

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## EPHESIANS 4

*11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

## GET ON THE BUS!

Sadly, too many Christians limit their faith to a handful of events that rarely call for spiritual growth and risks very little. We have a tendency to measure faith by how often we attend a church service in a year, how nice we are to people next door, and how much we give from our income.

This approach to faith has a tendency to produce Christians that are "10 miles wide and 2 feet deep". In other words, there's not much depth to our faith.

The KWCOB believes faith should be as deep as it is wide. We are not looking for Christians who sit on the sidelines. Instead, we are looking for Christians who will "get on the bus" and start heading down the path of real...discipleship.

## LUKE 9

*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*

# THE PATHWAY

01

WORSHIP TOGETHER  
REGULARLY

02

ENJOY GOD'S  
PRESENCE

03

GIVE GENEROUSLY

04

SERVE OTHERS

05

SHARE YOUR STORY

06

DO LIFE TOGETHER

07

LIVE DIFFERENTLY



## WORSHIP TOGETHER

We believe worship (corporate and personal) is the place in which we demonstrate our love for God by offering praises to Him and loving our neighbor as ourself. As a result, corporate worship is for us a place of grace, forgiveness, exaltation, and outreach. Our goal is to make sure that everyone who walks through our doors for corporate worship feels loved, accepted, safe, and comfortable.

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## THE PATHWAY

Worship is a powerful method to express love to God. Whether your worship is in a corporate setting or it's a life of worship (Romans 12:1-2), worship is the manner in which God dwells in our midst through love. Jesus states the Greatest Command is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength" (Mark 12). But then he says "and the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself". In Jesus' mind, the two commandments are not mutually exclusive and should always be held in conjunction with each other. Worship in any form is that place where loving God and loving our neighbor come together as one.

*1 John 2: 9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.*

# FEARLESSLY MAKING DISCIPLES

## ENJOY GOD'S **PRESENCE**

*"The Disciplines allow us to place ourselves before God so that He can transform us . . . The inner righteousness we seek is not something that is poured on our heads. God has ordained the Disciplines of the spiritual life as the means by which we place ourselves where He can bless us."*

*-Doug Foster Celebration of Discipline*

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## **THE PATHWAY**

Christ died to atone for our sins. As a result, it is only through the blood of Christ that we stand before the Lord. As a result, no one can earn a presence with God by behaving spiritually. This is why so many struggle with spiritual disciplines. We attempt to make them do something they were not designed to do.

So often the average christian believes spiritual disciplines accomplish the task of gaining God's presence. The truth is spiritual disciplines do not bring us into the presence of God; they allow us to enjoy it. Therefore, our goal is to train Christians with regard to spiritual disciplines in order to seek out the presence of God and celebrate in that presence.

# FEARLESSLY MAKING DISCIPLES

## GIVE GENEROUSLY

Jesus loved to talk about money. He talked about money and giving more than he did about Satan and sin. He understood money's power to increase and decrease the quality of our life in this world as well as our relationship with God. Maintaining a Christian perspective on money and wealth is essential to understand what it means to serve a generous God.

*2 Corinthians 9: 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

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## THE PATHWAY

John 3:16 tells us that “God so loved the world that He gave ...” This declaration isn't simply an evangelical promotional slogan or an effective witnessing tool. It's a revelation of the heart of God and a summation of the meaning of the Christian life. The New Testament demonstrates again and again that God is love. Those who claim to believe in Him ought to love one another as He has loved us (1 John 4:8, 11). Therefore, disciples are called to give in love as God gave because LOVE GIVES.

This is the basis for Christian giving. But how does it work itself out in the context of everyday life? On the practical level, we give because we know something. In Christ, we have realized three inescapable truths: 1) We belong to God; 2) We have received much; and 3) Money matters.

# FEARLESSLY MAKING DISCIPLES



## SERVE OTHERS

It's not about you. The more you make life about you, the more blind you become to the Kingdom of God. The best way to see and experience the Kingdom of God here and now is to see it in loving service to others.

*1 Peter 4: 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*

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## THE PATHWAY

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus model serving. As Mark 10:45 explains, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Our savior did not come seeking to be served, but instead, He continually served those the world rejected.

The ultimate example of Jesus serving others, of course, is when He died for our sins. While we must understand no amount of service will lead to our salvation, Christians recognize the reason we serve others is because of all He did to forgive us. It is because of our belief in His love and His great salvation that we love others. John 13:35 tells Jesus' followers, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

## SHARE YOUR **STORY**

If you asked a Jew to tell you about God, they would reply, “Let me tell you a story”. Narrative has always been the preferred method in scripture for growing the kingdom through evangelistic efforts. As smart as the apostle Paul was, when telling non-Jews about the Messiah, he always told them his conversion story. You don’t have to know Hebrew or Greek to know how God has worked in your life and brought you unto salvation through Christ. Sharing that story is a crucial element of your discipleship.

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## THE PATHWAY

Maybe you’re afraid to share your faith because you don’t know what to say. Or maybe you’re sharing the Gospel but nothing is happening. Are you doing something wrong?

You can’t open someone’s heart to the truth of the Gospel—but God can. Moses was a self-proclaimed poor communicator. Paul said he was not eloquent in speech. And yet, God used both of them and their testimonies, not because they were gifted, but because they were willing. **God does not call the equipped; He equips the called.** Are you willing to put yourself out there in boldness of faith and share your story(ies) of faith when God gives you that opportunity? We believe it's a key part of being a disciple.

## DO LIFE TOGETHER

*1 Thessalonians 2: 8 Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.*

Christians today must be intentional about making and fostering those spiritual relationships required not only to remain faithful but to grow in faith as well. Our Connect Groups serve as the primary manner in which we accomplish this goal.

VISION 2022

## THE PATHWAY

Fellowship comes from the Greek word, *KOINONIA*, which means “to share in common.” Christian fellowship is more than attending Church — it is “assimilating” into the body of believers, becoming “one” in worshiping, loving, caring and sharing.

According to the scripture, fellowship is not optional. Scripture says, “if we walk in the light [in fellowship with God]... this causes us to have fellowship with one another.” And from the outcome of this fellowship, “the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

# FEARLESSLY MAKING DISCIPLES



## LIVE DIFFERENTLY

Scripture calls us to live “as children of light” because the world is a dark place in which the Evil one has power. People will see the light of Christ in us when they observe that our lifestyle is fundamentally different than the life offered by worldly culture.

*1 Peter 2: 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*

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## THE PATHWAY

Christians are supposed to live differently. James 2:26b says, “Faith without works is dead.” Then in Matthew 7:21 we read, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.” And then in Luke 6:46 He said, “And why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

“We are the same as the world” is not the Christian motto. We do not champion a powerless grace. To do so empowers those who are idle in the church to ignore holiness. When holiness is pushed aside, the power of the Holy Spirit to sanctify us is marginalized. We then become tempted to take our lamps down from atop the hill, normalize the loss of our saltiness, and remove our shining stars from a morally corrupt world.

# THE VISION

## THREE PARTS

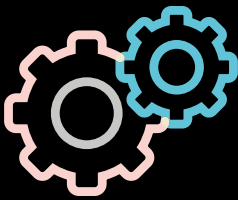
THE  
PATHWAY

**VISION  
GOALS**

FAMILIES  
WITH AT  
LEAST ONE  
CHILD 12TH  
GRADE AND  
YOUNGER

# FIVE YEAR VISION GOALS

2022-2027



## CONNECT GROUPS

In 5 years, our goal is to see 75% of all members sharing life together in a Connect Group.



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In 5 years, our goal is to raise monies for a project that will directly support the vision.



## OUTREACH

In 5 years, our goal is to have 60 Outreach Events aimed directly at our community.

## OUR MISSION

The Kingwood Church of Christ exists to fearlessly make and grow committed followers of Jesus.



## FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

In five years, our goal is to increase the number of families in the congregation that have at least one child in 12th grade or younger by 50%.

# CONNECT GROUPS



One of the seven "Pathways" for our congregation is to "Do Life Together". Connect Groups offer an easy and effective manner in which to accomplish doing life together. Connect groups are any official groupings (formal or informal) that meet with regularity for a designed purpose. Examples include:

- Life Groups that meet at various locations for fellowship and discipleship
- Accountability groups that offer mutual support in the struggle against sin
- Life Stage groups that provide a way to get to know people in similar life circumstances

**VISION GOAL:  
CONNECT GROUPS**

**75% OF ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS IN A  
CONNECT GROUP**



# OUTREACH



When a congregation becomes more focused on itself (members, facilities, preferences, etc.) it begins to consume itself. Jesus designed the church to grow and become healthy by focusing on others and reaching the world with the gospel message.

Our goal is to have at least 60 outreach events over the next 5 years. This comes out to an average of one outreach event per month. An outreach event is any event whose primary purpose is to reach others with the gospel message. If the primary purpose of an event is service or fellowship, it will not be considered an outreach event.

**VISION GOAL:  
OUTREACH**

**60 OUTREACH EVENTS IN 5 YEARS.**



# FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



As the gospel began to spread throughout the known world in the book of Acts, one of the key aspects is the focus upon reaching out to families, especially young families. Whether it was Cornelius' family or the family of the young jailer, it was clear the gospel needed to be preached and taught to the next generation of believers.

The church is always one generation away from dying. Therefore, in order to preserve the health and legacy of the Kingwood Church of Christ, we will seek out that next generation of believers with the gospel and the call of the Great Commission.

**VISION GOAL:  
YOUNG FAMILIES**

**50% MORE YOUNG FAMILIES IN  
ATTENDANCE**

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Few things create excitement and momentum like building something new. Having a capital campaign is not merely a way to create congregational momentum. It also is an opportunity to show the community we are serious about our investment in them and their families, while at the same time challenging our members to "give generously".

Although we have yet to determine what the capital campaign will be specifically, we can state with certainty the campaign will reflect the values and overall direction of the vision.

**VISION GOAL:  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

**FINANCIALLY INVEST IN OUR FACILITIES IN  
A WAY THAT REFLECTS OUR VISION.**

# THE VISION

## THREE PARTS

THE  
PATHWAY

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**FAMILIES  
WITH AT  
LEAST ONE  
CHILD 12TH  
GRADE AND  
YOUNGER**

# THE DIRECTION

Prepared by The KWCOG Leadership Team

## **EVEN JESUS HAD A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT BEGAN WITH A SINGLE GROUP**

Matthew 15: 24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

Mark 2: 17 "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

## **KINGWOOD TODAY...AND TOMORROW**

According to recent demographic studies of Kingwood, TX., the fastest growing demographic is the family unit with at least one child 12th grade and younger. These are the people God has brought to our front door and we believe God is calling us to minister to them.

## **OUR DIRECTION: FAMILIES WITH AT LEAST ONE CHILD 12TH GRADE AND YOUNGER**

By focusing on restoring the family unit by intentionally reaching out to all families, we are actively participating in God's restorative justice. When sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden, the first victim was the family unit.

However, through Christ, what was broken can be renewed. This is our direction.

## **PRIMARY AND PERIPHERAL VISION**

Establishing a direction for our vision does not mean the KWCOG will turn a blind eye to any one person or group for any reason. We will not minister with blinders on but will remain vigilant in ministering to anyone God brings to us. Identifying families with at least one child 12th grade and younger as a direction merely establishes our "primary" vision. We still recognize the function of the church to be a hospital for the sick and not a country club for the privileged.



# THE AGING OF THE CHURCH

1. When respondents gave their age, we found the age distribution for these churches was significantly skewed towards the older end of the age continuum.

- Overall, the largest cohort in these churches was >70 (20.17% of respondents), followed closely by 60-69 year-olds (20.14%) and 50-59 year-olds (20.15%).
- **60.5% of respondents reported being 50 years of age or older.**
- **Respondents who reported being under 30 years of age accounted for just 13% of the population-just over one-fifth the percentage of respondents over the age of 50.**

The implications of these data for our congregations over the next two or three decades are sobering. **Lots of funerals and few spiritual births** will combine to form a demographic tsunami that will radically alter the landscape of our churches.

2. Respondents indicated the number of years they had been a Christian. The distribution, again, was heavily skewed towards long-term believers.

- 47% of respondents reported being Christians for more than 40 years.
- Those indicating they had been Christians for less than 5 years amounted to 2.8%--1/17th the size of the >40 years group.
- Only 11% of respondents indicated they had been Christians for 15 years or less.

3. Respondents were asked to indicate the number of years they had been members of their present churches. Once again, the distribution was significantly skewed toward longer-tenured members.

- **37% of respondents said they'd been members of their congregations for >20 years.**
- 63% indicated they'd been members for 10 years or longer.
- Just over one-third of respondents indicated membership of less than 10 years.

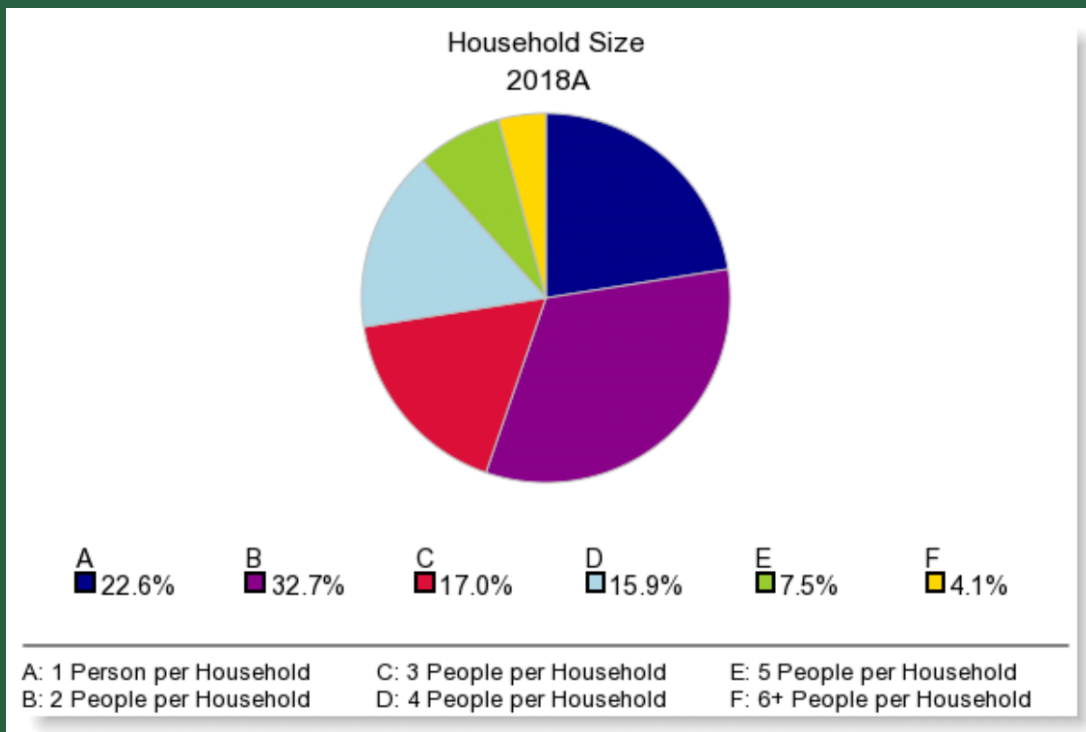
*Information provided by Tim Woodroof, Ph.D, Interim Ministry Partners*



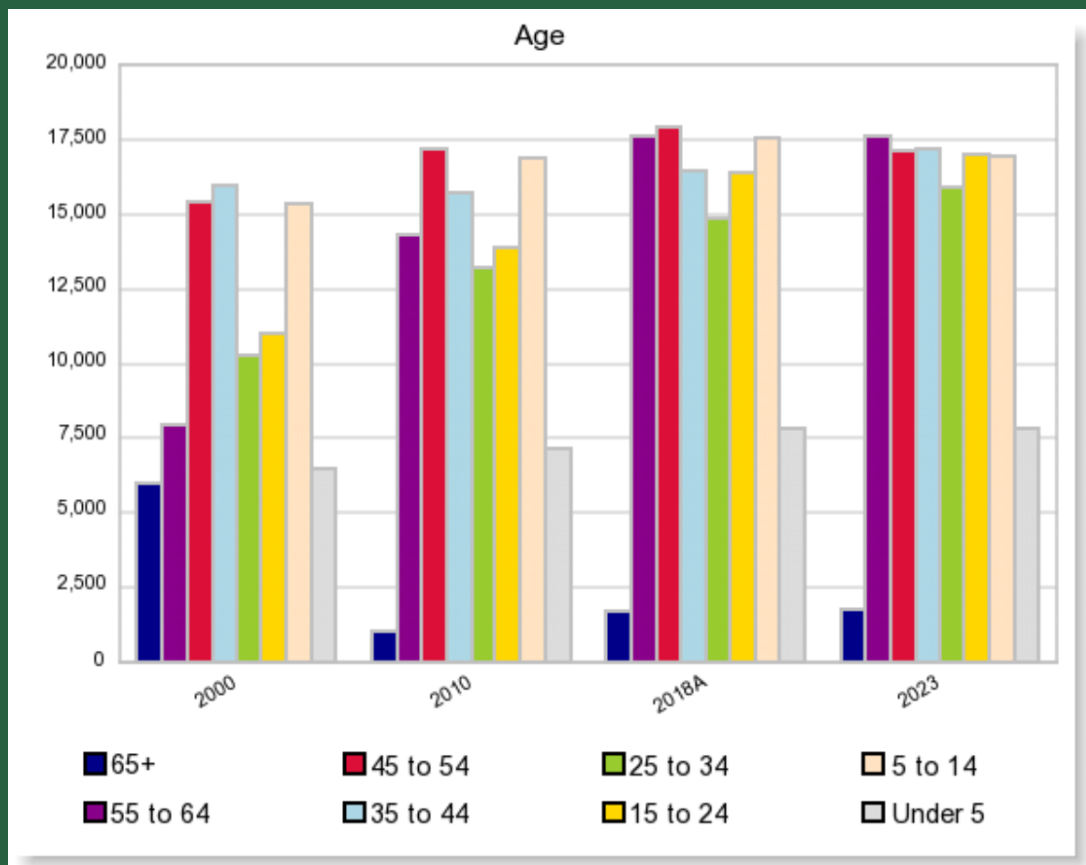
# DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP OF KINGWOOD







The average household (55.3%) has 1-2 people. However, based upon previous years numbers and projected numbers, households with 3 or more people will become the strong majority.



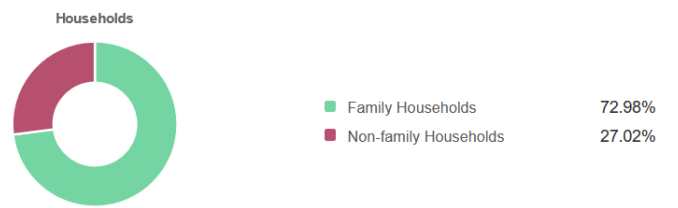
Over the next 3-5 years in Kingwood, those 65+ who currently comprise the smallest age range will decrease by more than half. Although those 55-64 will increase significantly, those in 14-45 age range will increase in commensurate fashion.

# DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP OF KINGWOOD

## How many households are there in Kingwood?

There are a total of 22,914 households in Kingwood, each made up of around 3 members. Family establishments represent 72.98% of these Kingwood households, while non-family units account for the remaining 27.02%. Additionally, 35.98% of households have children and 64.02% of households are without children.

		Y-o-Y Change
Total Households	22,914	0.5%
Average People Per Household	3	-2.9%
Family Households	16,722	-2.6%
Non-family Households	6,192	10.1%

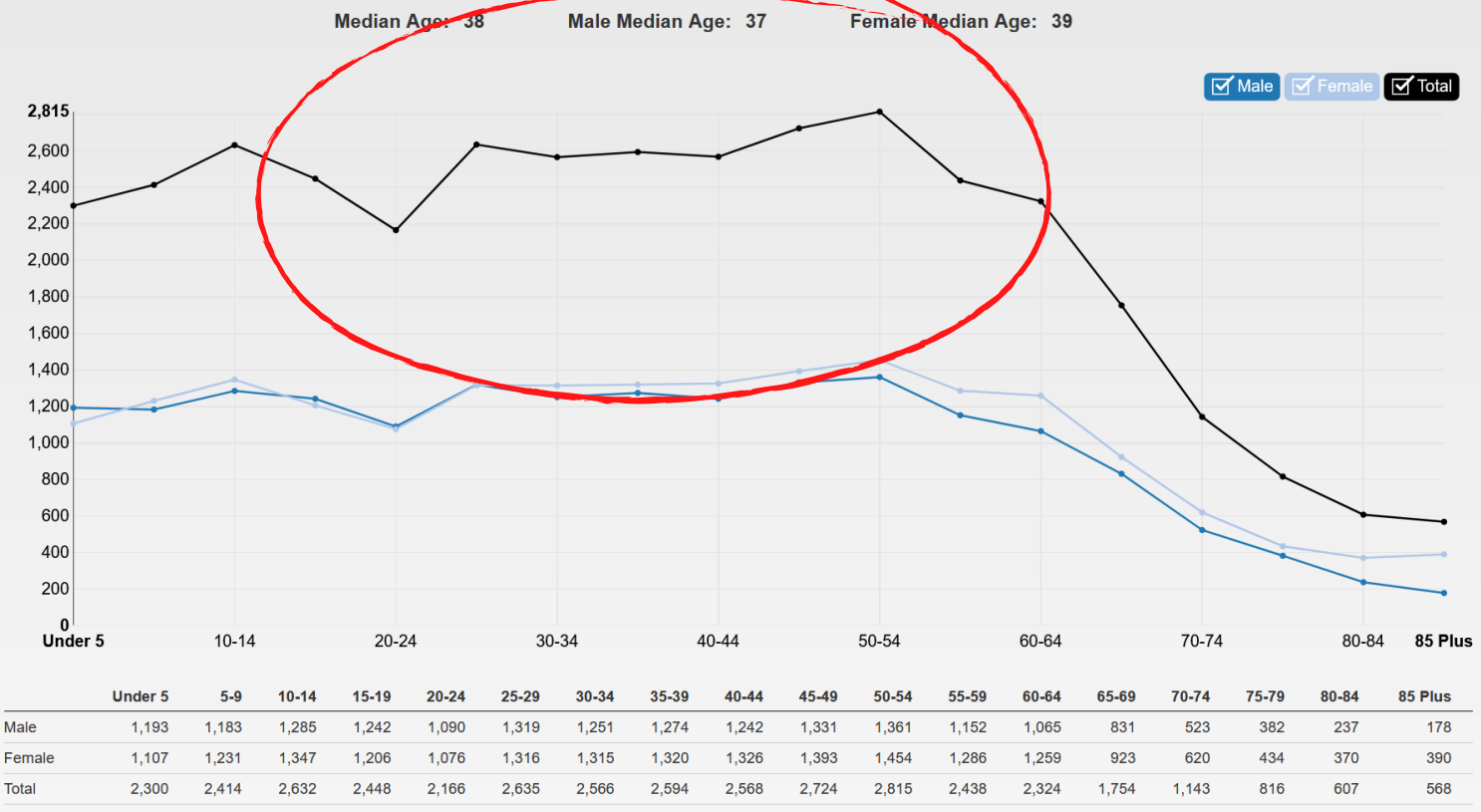


		Y-o-Y Change
Households with Children	8,244	-2.8%
Households without Children	14,670	2.5%



point2homes.com

## Total Population by Age



unitedstateszipcodes.org

# THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28: 19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## THE VISION AND YOU

Step Into Faith

# THE GREATEST COMMAND

Mark 12: 29 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." 31 The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself."



# STEP INTO FAITH

## BECOME A VISION CHEERLEADER

*Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Phil. 4:8).* It might seem small but your willingness to encourage and support this vision will go a long way toward its success.

## TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VISION

In scripture, visions were given to one person, usually a prophet or disciple. However, the implementation of the vision rested squarely upon the shoulders of the listeners. You didn't come up with this vision, but this vision will fail if you do not take responsibility for it. God's will is not a one-man show. He requires the hearts and bodies of his disciples to bring his plans to fruition.

## EMBRACE THE VISION PERSONALLY

Take the time to commit the vision elements to memory.

Memorize the Mission Statement, the Vision Goals, and the Pathway Points. Once you have done this, live into the vision. Take inventory of your faith and see if there is more you can do to align yourself more into the will of God by participating in this vision.

## FOLLOW THE ELDERS' LEAD

As your shepherds, the elders seek to provide the spiritual foundation needed to take on such an endeavor as a vision. The elders humbly ask you to fully participate in every spiritual action they put before the congregation.





# MISSION & VISION

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"Fearlessly Making Disciples"

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Preaching Minister