



KINGWOOD

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Family History



Our church began in 1971 in the home of John and Dalphene Bruton as the Trailwood Church of Christ. John was instrumental in encouraging Church of Christ families to move to Kingwood. The small church grew steadily, and in 1972, it moved to the Trailwood Service Center and later to the cafeteria at Foster Elementary. Chester Grimes began preaching part-time on Sundays for \$75 a week. The first worship service under the name Kingwood Church of Christ was held on March 19, 1972.



In August 1972, the first elders began serving: John Bruton, Raymond McDaniel, and John Goodrum. Plans were initiated to acquire a permanent building site.

In February 1973, **Harold Poland** moved his family from Corpus Christi to become our first full-time minister. Within a year, attendance grew from 19 to 102. He served until May 1975.

In 1975, the church, blessed by God, purchased property and moved to its current location in the heart of Kingwood.

In July 1975, **Carl Power** preached the first sermon in the new building. He continued preaching until 1990. In December

1990, **Bob Ethington** preached his first sermon and served as our minister until May

2010. In August 2010, **Steve Parker** became

our interim preacher while the search for a full-time minister continued. In September 2011, **Scott Thibodeaux** preached his first sermon. He served as our minister until April 2025, when he moved to Granbury, Texas.



C. Grimes
1972-73



H. Poland
1973-75



C. Power
1975-90



B. Ethington
1990-2010



S. Parker
2010



S. Thibodeaux
2011-2025



Over the past 53 years, our church has grown from just a few families to a vibrant congregation. While many members still live in Kingwood, others come from nearby communities such as Atascocita, Humble, Porter, and Cleveland. Today, Kingwood Church of Christ has approximately 540 members, led by six elders and ten deacons. Our staff includes ministers for preaching, youth, and children's ministries, as well as administrative support.

We are deeply thankful for the many faithful members who have helped this church grow. God has blessed us richly, and we give Him all the praise and glory.



Since our beginning, the Kingwood family of faith has worked to serve others and share the message of salvation. Below are four of the many ministries our church has developed and supported over the years:



Impact Church of Christ—Local Mission

Founded in 1987, Impact serves families in need and the homeless in downtown Houston's First Ward. Our church provides financial support, meals, and Christmas gift donations. Impact ministers that our church has supported over the years include Calvin Henry, Ken Lewis, Steve Austin, Steve Wells, and currently Carlos Ingles.

All ages in our church family have served at Impact. Children helped stock the food pantry and serve meals. Teens participated in VBS and summer intern programs. Adults tutored children in reading and other services. Families donate gently used items to an annual yard sale fundraiser at Traders Village.

Impact's facilities include a worship center, education building, food and clothing distribution center, youth center, and two houses used by recovery programs.



C. Henry 1987-92





Venezuela – Foreign Missions

Our church began supporting foreign missions in 1975. Bill Cervas led support of Venezuelan Missions. Missionaries in Venezuela we have supported over the years include Isaac Torres, Oswaldo Rodríguez, Fernando Colina, Benito Holguín, Carlos García, Leon Bergoderi, Pedro Fidel Rodríguez, Eduardo Mujica and Edison Quevedo.

Currently John Walker oversees our support of three missionaries in Venezuela; Omar Méndez in Los Sauces, Santos Marcano in Carúpano, and Alirio Ortega in Maracaibo.



Texas International Bible Institute (TIBI)

Our church has supported TIBI since its beginning in 2004. Founded and directed by Steve Austin, TIBI has been at the forefront of online ministry education. Through classroom teaching and distance learning TIBI equips Spanish-speaking Christians to plant and grow churches in the U.S. and around the world. Their mission is to make disciples who will make other disciples, planting and nurturing churches that are biblical, evangelistic, mature, and relevant.



Medical Apartments Ministry

Launched in 1992 by Max and Jean Gambill, this ministry began with a single one-bedroom apartment. Its mission is to provide affordable housing and support for families receiving medical treatment in the Houston Medical Center.

In 2001, during Tropical Storm Allison, all apartments were flooded. The ministry relocated to a newer complex, and all furnishings were replaced. Over the years, the ministry grew to ten apartments, including several two-bedroom units. To date, it has served more than 1,430 families.

Church members maintained weekly contact with our guests, offering prayer, sending personalized encouragement cards, and checking in on their medical progress. We worked with other churches in the Houston area through a shared website for housing applications: www.InSpiritHousing.org

