

Mission Study, Westminster Presbyterian Church,
Fort Worth, Texas
November, 2024



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church USA
7001 Trail Lake Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Mission Statement:

Through God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we embrace all who seek a place of spiritual growth and Christian fellowship. We express our Christian values through service and worship

Church History

Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) has been an institution in the DFW metroplex since April 1, 1888 with the founding of a non-denominational Sunday School founded on South Alston Street becoming a mission of First Presbyterian Church in the spring of 1890. In October of 1890 the Sunday School relocated to a small building on College Avenue and was then known as College Avenue Mission. On December 15, 1897, the College Avenue Mission became the College Avenue Presbyterian Church. The church has had several ministers during its history starting with the Reverend C.L. Altfather in 1898 and the most recent, and longest serving, being the Rev. Dr. Don Hogg from 1997 to 2024. Other notable events throughout

WPC's history includes:

- • The formation of the Women's Auxiliary in 1919 (the foundation for today's Presbyterian Women)
- • Movement from College Avenue to Eighth Avenue in 1928
- • The move to Southwest Loop 820 in 1956
- • Mrs. Donna Poe ordained and installed as the first woman elder in 1973
- • The unicameral system of local church government was adopted in 1976
- • Annual Penny collection initiated in 1977
- • Relocation to the corner of Trail Lake and Altamesa in the early 1980's
- • Church building expansion completed in 2008
- • The 130th anniversary celebration in 2018.

Summary

Westminster Presbyterian Church provides multiple opportunities for community growth and Christian development through Worship, Bible Studies, 5th Sunday lunches, Mariners, Presbyterian Women, and Vacation Bible School. The church also provides multiple opportunities for people to share their talents and time through Project Linus, Handbell Choir, Praise Team, Choir, and Tech Arts Volunteer opportunities. Additionally, the church is involved in several outreach programs including Christian Community Assistance, Meals on Wheels, The Market, National Night Out, Scouting, and Fort Worth Writers Group.

The current participation in the majority of the programs has been consistent and enthusiastic. In recent years, as the average age of the church has increased, therefore we have had fewer children and youth participants on Sunday mornings. However, special events throughout the year including Vacation Bible School, church Christmas parties, Easter, National Night Out, etc. have seen younger demographic participation in the dozens.

Westminster has an active group of volunteers that keep the church going. As the congregational membership has changed, it has been noted that the volunteer pool has reduced to frequently having the same members filling all the volunteer slots.

Through the years, the people of Westminster have always been conscious of God's leading. The church has survived four major relocations. Four times its people have embarked, largely on faith, on seemingly impossible building campaigns. Each time that faith has turned dreams into reality. Always, in every circumstance, there has been a core of dedicated Christians leading Westminster into new areas of service in God's kingdom.

Church Membership Profile

We currently have a total of 202 members on the church roll, roughly leaving approximately 77 active members. 48 are women (61%) of our active members and 29 (36%) are men. The racial composition is 94% Anglo and 6% non-Anglo, which includes African Americans, Asian, and Hispanic members.

Our focus moving forward depends on a growing membership role with younger families to attract a larger number of youth and children.

Our location in a suburban neighborhood, with local schools from elementary through high school conveniently situated within a five minute drive from Westminster, provides the opportunity to increase our numbers.

Congregational Health

Our sense of identity is grounded in our long history, and membership including longtime WPC members as well as many newer additions. We have a large number of elderly congregants. The median age of the active Church members is 73.

Our Music Program includes a traditional Chancel Choir, a more contemporary Ensemble, Men's Choral Group, and a Handbell Choir.

WPC supports Meals on Wheels, Samaritan Purse Christmas Child Boxes, Salvation Army Angel Tree program, Christian Community Assistance, and Caring Bears. On the

Presbytery level, we contribute to the General Mission, Presbytery Disaster Fund, World Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, and National Prayer Day.

Included in community outreach opportunities we have held a community-wide choir seminar. Recently we opened our doors to the Goldtones, a senior choir for a fund raising concert. Each October we host a National Night Out gathering for the community. November brings the Historical Kirkin of the Tartans and The Market, which allows local craft artists to share their talents with the community and provide items for a raffle to fund our missionary outreach programs.

During the Christmas Season we welcome additional voices from the musical community for Christmas Cantata and in the Spring is offered the Easter Cantata.

We strive to be a welcoming community and offer our facility to the Boy Scouts, Al-Anon, Fort Worth Writers Club, Goldtones, Meals on Wheels, Project Linus and Early Learning Place, our on campus preschool program for thirty plus toddlers through four years of age.

Congregation Questionnaire

*What programs are important enough to you individually and for your family that you are willing to participate in and make happen?:

Comments:

Drama	Kid's Hope	Mentoring of High School Students (including choir interactions)
Vespers	Community Garden	Sunday School
Christian Fellowship groups	Friends & Neighbors	Bible Study
Tech Arts	Music (choir, handbells, Praise Team)	The annual Market
Morning Men's Group	All Church Field Day	Dinners at church

Worship Experience: Which of these do you find most satisfying: (if you select more than one, please number your choices in order of preference)

- Meditative worship
- Participatory worship = 42.8% surveyed stated this was most satisfying

Comments:

57.2% surveyed stated that both options are necessary with an emphasis on Participatory. As stated "It is more interesting when everyone is involved."

Purpose Emphasis: Out of these functions of the church, rank in order which are most important to you personally:

- A place where I can socialize openly and comfortably with like-minded believers = 50%
- A place where I will be taught new spiritual truths and encouraged to grow spiritually = 18.75%
- A place where differences of opinion can be discussed freely, openly, and respectfully = 0%
- A place where I have an opportunity to use my personal gifts in service to God = 25%
- Other: Worship = 6.25%

What programs would you like to see provided at the church?:

Comments:

Dramatic presentations	Wednesday Night programs	Mariners
Friends & Neighbors (x2)	Parents night out	Making church environmentally responsible (involve scouts)
Social Group	Vespers	Volunteer at schools
Lunch & speakers (x2)	Community Garden (x2)	More handbells in worship

Social group at night	Sunday School	Love and acceptance of open expressions of faith (i.e. hand raising, clapping, etc.)
Deep dive Bible Study (x3)	Christian Fellowship Group	Outside of Sunday worship activities (National Night Out, movie nights, hangouts, etc.)
Men's Bible Study	Lectures over a variety of topics to inform/educate	Elder Care Programs
Senior Programs during day	Music!	Host students for school inservice days
Friday night babysitting for community	Senior day out	All church Field Day

What type of outreach do you feel is important or desired?:

Comments:

Sunday School for kids	Keeping up with visitors	Programs for senior (i.e. chair yoga)
Utilizing existing facilities for outside groups (x4)	Presbyterian night shelter	The Market
CCA	Meals on Wheels (x4)	National Night Out (x3)
Vacation Bible School	Preschool (x2)	Evening Outings
Phone Calls to Elders	Habitat for Humanity	Talent Shows

What are your feelings on types of Fellowship opportunities (other than worship and Sunday school)?:

Comments:

The Church has a lot of excellent programs already provided such as Presbyterian Women, Bible studies, Vacation Bible school, and Sunday lunches. However, the congregation would like to see even more options such as social groups, movie nights, Young adult groups with childcare, dinner gatherings, small group dinners, Trunk or Treat, and a community garden.

What are three greatest assets?:

Comments:

Answers in order of popularity:

1. Relationships / Friendly People
2. Spacious and beautiful Building
3. Music Program
4. Sunday School Programs
5. Lawn / property / location
6. Tech / Streaming abilities
7. Opportunities to serve

What are three greatest challenges?:

Comments:

Answers in order of popularity:

1. New Members / visitors
2. Aging congregation
3. Facility upkeep / aging building
4. Small numbers for volunteer base
5. Getting stuck on "my way to worship is the only way"
6. Classes

Church Programs and Activities

<u>Activities / Programs</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Number of Years in existence</u>
Coffee & Fellowship	To strengthen the Christian family through community	20+ years
Pathfinders Adult Bible Study	To strengthen the Christian family through community and biblical studies	20+ years

Worship	To provide a communal opportunity to praise and glorify God, and to express love for the creator	Over 100 years
Climbers Sunday School (K - 5th Grade)	To provide biblical understanding growth to children	5-6 years
Crossroads Youth Bible Study	To provide christian learning, growth, and community to the youth age members of the congregation	5-6 years
Connect+ Adult Bible Study	To strengthen the Christian family through community and biblical studies	3 years
Friendship Adult Bible Study	To strengthen the Christian family through community and biblical studies	20+ years
5th Sunday Lunches	To strengthen the Christian family through community and delicious food	20+ years
Mariners Social Club	To provide a community opportunity for adults who enjoy food, fun, fellowship, and an occasional cultural or service project.	15+ years
Men's Breakfast	To provide a community opportunity for the men in the congregation to get together for a meal	20+ years
Presbyterian Women	To offer opportunities for women of all ages to connect, grow in their faith, and deepen their connection to Christ.	20+ years

Project Linus Make-A-Blanket	To provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need, through the gifts of new, homemade, washable blankets and afghans, lovingly crafted by volunteer "Blanketeers"	30 years
WPCFW Dinner Club	To provide a monthly dinner gathering in small groups	8 years
Christian Community Assistance (CCA)	To provide an outreach opportunity with a food pantry and clothing closet ministry	20+ years
Early Learning Place (ELP)	To provide an outreach program partnership with a local preschool	40 years
The Market	To provide an event that supports local and international causes such as Christian Community Assistance, Safe Haven, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Missionaries, and support local vendors.	10 years
National Night Out Texas	To provide an annual community-building opportunity that aims to strengthen police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.	15 years
People 2 People	To provide a group whose main ministry focus is the homebound members of our community.	–
Scouting	To provide a community outreach opportunity to local boys and girls	20+ years

Vacation Bible School (VBS)	To provide a Christian education program for children that takes place during the summer	20+ years
Handbell Choir	To provide special music at select worship services throughout the year	20+ years
Praise Team	To provide praise and worship music for the Sunday morning worship service.	20+ years
Choir	To add cantatas, anthems, and anything else musically possible to the worship experience	20+ years
Tech Arts Volunteer Opportunities	To provide Audio/Visual equipment and services for worship each Sunday, and during special events	5-6 years
Fort Worth Writers Group	To provide a community service and safe place for local writers to meet	4-5 years

Early Learning Place Preschool

Early Learning Place began as a Mother’s Day Out program in the early 1980’s with children from 18 months to four years old attending. It was considered an Outreach program at Westminster Presbyterian Church by the Missions and Outreach committee. ELP became a State licensed preschool in 2007 under the guidance of the director that was here for 38 years before retiring in 2022. The current preschool has those same age groups attending two or four days a week September through May. Known as the ‘best kept secret in southwest Fort Worth’, ELP has families from all parts of the city bringing their children to us each day.

Social Media

Through our technology program, Westminster Presbyterian Church Fort Worth has an active online community allowing our homebound members to participate in real time with their church’s worship services. Our Tech Arts Team is made up of volunteers from the church and

community, providing a unique outreach ministry. After participating in rehearsals throughout the week, on Sunday mornings our Tech Arts Team, musicians, and speakers begin worship prep several hours before the service begins. We stream our services live to Facebook, YouTube, the church website, and the church app for smart TVs (including Apple TVs, Roku, and firestick devices). Our estimated online attendance runs between 50 – 75 people during the worship hour every week (10am-11am Sunday mornings). The church also provides updates and information about events to the congregation through pictures, videos, and emails using Facebook, Instagram, and a weekly email e-News blast. Our Facebook currently has 409 followers, and our Instagram has 111 followers.

Music Programs

The Music Department at Westminster Presbyterian Church Fort Worth offers a wide variety of worship participation opportunities for musicians of all levels. The Music Department and all music programs are a collaborative effort with the Director of Music & Multimedia and church accompanist, in conjunction with the minister, Worship Team, and Session where applicable. All music is carefully tailored to each worship service to provide a cohesive worship experience with hymns of all genres being represented. Westminster offers a Choir, Praise Team, and Handbell Choir, along with solo opportunities for all ages and abilities. We have spent many years working to create an integrated worship service that brings all types of music into the Sunday morning worship experience, with multiple styles of worship present in as many worship services as possible, while still maintaining time-off for the musicians to attend worship and feed their souls with God's Word. The Handbell Choir meets on Sundays after worship all year long (with one month off for summer vacation). During these rehearsals, we work on special music for Sunday services, and seasonal special music. The Praise Team meets on Wednesday evenings all year long (with one month off for summer vacation). During these rehearsals, we work on special music for Sunday services, and seasonal special music. The Choir meets once a week on Thursday evenings all year long (with one month off for summer vacation). During these rehearsals, we work on anthems for Sunday services, and seasonal Cantatas/special music.

Lay Staff

Westminster is fortunate to have a very talented and enthusiastic lay staff. It includes:

Samantha Logsdon - Director of Music & Multimedia

Samantha has taught, worked with, and led different vocal and instrumental groups of all types, age ranges, and skill levels all over Texas since 2007. She has studied various styles of music, including opera, jazz, gospel, and sacred music. Samantha and her husband also enjoy several other pastimes, including cooking, hiking, crocheting, technology, and spending as much of their free time with their son as is possible. In addition to her music

responsibilities she is our guru for social media and technology. Music is not only her job, it's also her favorite hobby, and what brought Samantha and her husband together!

Jamisen Collier - Organist & Accompanist

Jamisen has many hobbies including spending time with her two sisters, trying new foods, and- of course- music! Jamisen graduated in 2020 from Furman University with a BA in Music and History. She has a deep love for piano and organ music, and has been accompanying WPCFW on these instruments since joining the church in 2022.

Debra Bell - Early Learning Place Preschool Director

Debra joined the WPCFW staff during the summer break for Early Learning Place Preschool in 2022. Debra worked for local schools in technology and H.R. for many years, and was a teacher in the Early Learning Place Preschool at Westminster many years ago.

Julie Cosgrove - Office Administrator

Julie graduated Cum Laude with a BA in religion from Trinity University in San Antonio then studied in seminary for two years. Besides being in church and behavioral health administration for over thirty years, Julie is an award-winning Christian fiction and devotional author, editor, and lecturer for Christian women's group and writers. She loves wordplay games and clean mysteries. Widowed, she lives with a very spoiled Guinea pig.

Larry Bartlett - Treasurer

Larry and Debbie have been married for 45 years and have been members of Westminster since 2004. Larry served as an Army officer, owned his own business in El Paso, Texas, and taught history at Texas Christian University. A man of many talents, Larry is still trying to decide what he wants to do when he grows up.

Facilities

Westminster is located at the southeast corner of Trail Lake Drive and Altamesa in the southwest part of Fort Worth, Texas. The church is in a primarily residential area.

The main entrance from the parking lot is a covered walkway that leads to the narthex. The spacious narthex provides an excellent gathering place before entering the sanctuary. The sanctuary has a large center aisle leading from the narthex directly toward the chancel. The sanctuary is divided into six seating areas. The pulpit occupies the central place on the chancel. The sanctuary is much wider than it is deep. The pews are in a semi-circle around the chancel. The organ pipes are placed at the back of the chancel and the choir normally sits in front of the organ pipes. A stylized cross hangs from the vaulted ceiling over the center of the chancel. The sanctuary has a seating capacity of approximately 350.

The Fellowship Hall is located at the end of the north corridor that runs from the narthex and sanctuary. It has high ceilings which makes it appear a little larger than it is. Maximum occupancy is approximately 300. The Boy Scout Troop and Project Linus utilize the Fellowship Hall for their meetings. The kitchen is adjacent to Fellowship Hall. The kitchen is relatively small but has two ranges, two refrigerators, and a double sink. It hosts the current fifth Sunday church wide lunches. Between the narthex and Fellowship Hall there are three good size rooms that currently house the church library, Project Linus storage and the Bell Choir room. The choir room is located next to the narthex across from the sanctuary.

The south corridor has nine rooms, two of them were formerly the church office, which are being used for the broadcast studio and the technology control room. Other rooms down the corridor serve as the nursery, storage rooms and classrooms for the Early Learning Place (ELP), a preschool ministry of the church.

The newer building has one group of two classrooms set up for youth activities and two adult classrooms. One of the adult classrooms doubles as a conference room. The office suite in the newer building is spacious and thoughtfully laid out. It includes a reception area, a spacious and well-laid out staff work room and a small room used by the treasurer that contains a small safe. There are individual offices for the office administrator, a Minister in Training, the pastor, and currently an unused office. In the hallway leading from the classrooms to the office suite, there is an ELP workroom, Director of the ELP's office and a storage area.

The facilities are well maintained and there are no deferred maintenance items. The building has an "L" shaped parking lot on the south and east sides of the building.

Financial Profile

The availability of adequate financial resources is vitally important to support the staff, ongoing facilities maintenance, daily operations and the mission and outreach programs of our church. Westminster has been most fortunate to have received that support from our congregation.

Westminster is blessed with a caring and generous congregation. One of the major financial objectives for the past several years has been to retire the \$ 1,200,000 mortgage from the renovation and expansion of the Narthex and the construction of the classroom and office complex which was added to the East end of the building. Construction started May of 2007 and was completed in 2008. March of this year that mortgage was retired. Westminster is blessed to be debt free.

The Finance and Stewardship Team conducts an annual Stewardship drive normally in the fall of the year. For the past few years it has been a letter campaign with additional information provided during the announcement portion of the morning worship.

Annual income for the last few years is reflected in the table below:

Income source	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (6 months)
Number of Pledges	72	61	54	54	49	50
Pledges	\$ 304,424	\$ 294,190	\$ 312,967	\$ 349,356	\$ 327,601	\$ 166,717
Open Plate	50,178	77,410	76,761	47,234	68,045	30,716
Other income	34,030	35,807	52,205	15,172	11,722	36,413
Total Income	\$ 388,632	\$ 407,407	\$ 441,933	\$ 411,762	\$ 407,368	\$ 233,846

Budgeted Expense for 2024 are:

Staff: \$ 209,712 or 52%, which includes the Pastor, Director of Music and Multi Media, Organist, and the Office administrator.

Building and Grounds: \$62,920 or 16%

Session Teams: Membership, Outreach & Mission, and Christian Education & Worship: \$11,005 or 3.0%

Finance & Stewardship: Includes Office Expenses, Insurance, Mortgage, and Information Technology: \$110,418 or 28%

In addition to the operating funds, presently we have approximately \$63,000 in restricted or dedicated funds. Examples of these funds are Capital Improvement, Celebration, and Memorials Funds

The level of giving and financial support we receive is an example of the commitment and generosity of our congregation. We are most fortunate to have the ability to maintain our facilities with no significant or deferred maintenance issues. Throughout the past five years the number of pledges and attendance has declined, but the income has remained relatively stable.

Westminster Presbyterian Demographics

As part of our Mission Study, we have obtained census data for the area immediately surrounding our church. This data is presented in detail below. A review of this data shows that the area, which hereinafter we will refer to as our "neighborhood," is highly diverse in many ways, including ethnicity, age, family structure, and even language spoken. Our church, on the other hand, can be fairly described as homogenous, consisting almost entirely of white, non-Hispanic, English-speaking families aged 55 or older, with no minor children living in the home.

Here are a few highlights of the ways in which the demographics of the neighborhood differ from the demographics of our church:

(1) Race/Ethnicity. While white non-Hispanic is the most common ethnic group in this area, it is not a majority, being only 42.0% of the total population. Non-Hispanic Black or African American is the next largest group at 27.2%, with Hispanic or Latino close behind at 23.6%. There is also a small but not insignificant population of other ethnicities, mostly Asian, numbering over 10,000 individuals (of a total area population of about 169,000). None of these non-White groups has significant representation in our current congregation.

(2) Age. According to the data provided to us, the two largest groups by age are 5 to 17 and 35 to 54. Note that age groupings are somewhat arbitrary, but intended to reflect so-called "phase of life" such as Before Formal Schooling (0 — 4 years), Singles and Young Families (25-34), Retirement Opportunities (65 & over), etc. The "Required Formal Schooling" age group (5-17years) amounts to 32,275 individuals, or 19.1% of the total population, while the "Families and Empty Nesters" group (ages 35-54) includes 41,342 individuals which is 24.4% of the total.

Neither of these groups is well represented in our current congregation, which consists almost entirely of the two oldest groups, ages 55 to 64 and 65 & older. In the neighborhood as a whole, these two age groups represent only about a quarter of the total population (26.7%).

(3) Family Structure. Of a total of about 65,000 households, 20,460 include children. Of these, 12,995 are headed by a married couple, while 5860 are headed by single mothers and 1605 are headed by single fathers. Thus, and perhaps somewhat surprisingly, single parent families represent over one third of the households with children. While obviously essential to the future growth of a church, children are conspicuously absent from our congregation.

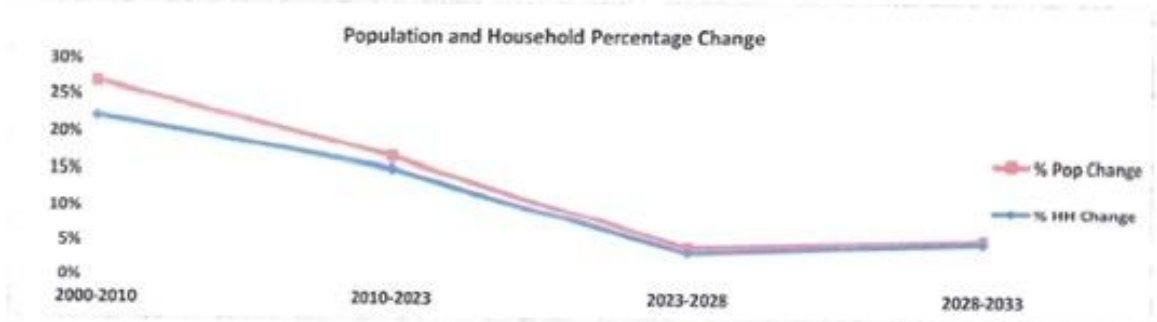
Note that other useful demographic information also includes Level of Education and Level of Financial Resources. However, we do not have any data about these matters relative to our own congregation, so we are not able to make any meaningful comments about them.

We believe that it is necessary for the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian, as a whole, to decide whether it is our calling and our mission to impact the spiritual lives of the people living in the physical neighborhood in which the church is located. We do not presume to dictate what that decision should be; but if the congregation decides it does wish to have such an impact, clearly it will be necessary for us to broaden our membership to more closely resemble the demographics in the neighborhood around us. This will certainly have to involve the development of new outreach ministries, created specifically to address the demographic realities discussed above. We also believe that it is beyond the mandate of this committee, and probably outside the expertise of most of its members, to determine what these new ministries should be. But if the church decides to pursue this path, we recommend forming a new study group for the specific purpose of identifying promising outreach ministry opportunities. Such a group should obviously include members with a wide range of experience in church ministries, especially those targeted toward current non-

members. We also would encourage the group to reach out to members of other churches who have successfully tackled this challenge in the past.

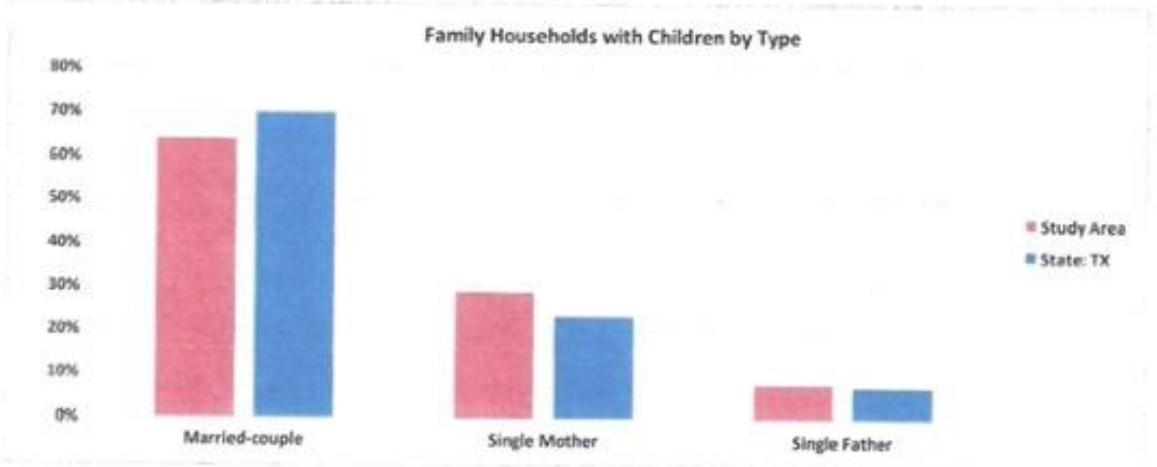
Please refer to the charts on the next few pages.

Population and Household History with 5 and 10 Year Projected Percentage Change



Family Households

Family households with children are changing. The traditional married couple structure is evolving into many different family expressions in which children are being raised. These data provide an insight into the family structures within the study area and then compares them to the state.



This table presents both the history and projections for family structures in the study area. Take note of the change column to discern how these family structures have changed and are projected to change in the future.

Family: Married-couple	12,979	12,995	13,091	112	63.7%	63.5%	62.6%	-1.1%
Family: Single Mother	5,853	5,860	6,080	227	28.7%	28.6%	29.1%	0.3%
Family: Single Father	1,531	1,605	1,733	202	7.5%	7.8%	8.3%	0.8%
Total:	20,363	20,460	20,904	541	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Sources: US Census Bureau, Synergis Technologies Inc., Experian

Age Theme

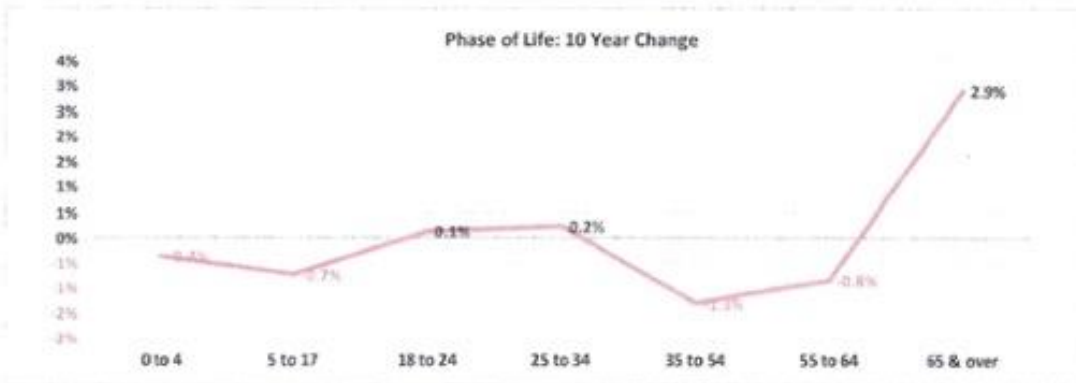
10 Year Average Age and Children 0 to 17 Trends

The age history and forecast reflect changes in a community. For example, two demographic trends currently in play are the aging of the Baby Boom generation and the decline in live births in the late 20th and 21st centuries.



Phase of Life

The Phase of Life 10 Year Change graph highlights life phases that will increase or decrease as a percentage of the total population in the forecasted 10 year future.



Phase of Life presents how a community changes and people age through their various life phases.

Before Formal Schooling: 0 to 4	11,221	12,766	12,805	13,294	7.7%	7.5%	7.3%	7.2%
Required Formal Schooling: 5 to 17	28,024	32,275	33,270	33,997	19.3%	19.1%	18.9%	18.3%
College/Career Starts: 18 to 24	13,857	16,434	16,777	18,239	9.5%	9.7%	9.5%	9.8%
Singles & Young Families: 25 to 34	20,893	21,455	22,921	23,940	14.4%	12.7%	13.0%	12.9%
Families & Empty Nesters: 35 to 54	39,190	41,342	41,286	42,861	27.0%	24.4%	23.4%	23.1%
Enrichment Yrs Singles/Cpls: 55 to 64	15,284	19,773	19,744	20,089	10.5%	11.7%	11.2%	10.8%
Retirement Opportunities: 65 & over	16,895	25,365	29,472	33,160	11.6%	15.0%	16.7%	17.9%
Total:	145,364	169,410	176,275	185,580	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Sources: US Census Bureau, Synergis Technologies Inc., Experian

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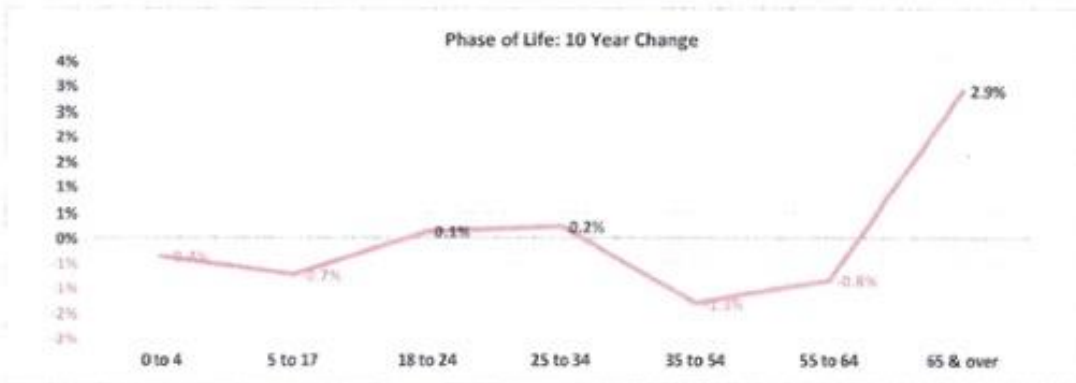
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