

StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

This Mission Study, carried out by StoneBridge Community Church (a.k.a. Simi Valley Presbyterian Church), will characterize the church's context, describing the people living in the church's proximity, and the city and unincorporated areas of Simi Valley. It will describe the particular strengths and challenges of the congregation. Lastly, this Mission Study will recommend a future strategy for mission, growth, and service.

Purpose Statement of StoneBridge Community Church

To reach the lost, to make disciples, and to send them out.

Three Core Values of StoneBridge Community Church

Worship Growth Groups Serving

StoneBridge Historical Milestones and Highlights

1963: Simi Valley Presbyterian Church founded

1963: Fred Wills called as Pastor

1968: Fred Wills retires; Darrel Meyers called as Pastor

1969: Worship Center built

1980: Darrel Meyers resigns

1981: David Tritenbach called as Pastor

1983: Built Family Life Center

1986: Frank & Jill Robertson called as Co-Pastors

1987: David Tritenbach retires

1989: Frank & Jill Robertson resign; Jeff Cheadle called as Pastor

1996: Added a Sunday evening service called "Sunday Night Live" held at the Board of Realtors in Simi Valley

1998: Jonathan Lusche called as Associate Pastor-Youth

1998: Changed "Sunday Night Live" to a Saturday evening service held at our campus

2000: Purchased property next door, to the west of original property

2000: Start of "Touching Heaven, Changing Earth" (capital campaign #1)

StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

2000: Bob Coppock called as Associate Pastor-Adult Ministries

2004: Start of "A Time to Build" (capital campaign #2)

2006: Session approves paying off the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) loan for the Family Life Center and the adjacent property

2007: Start of "Such a Time as This" (capital campaign #3)

2009: End 11:15am Traditional Service; Changes service times to 9am and 11am

2009: Church name changes to StoneBridge Community Church (following church-wide vote)

2011: Changed the 11am worship service to 10:30am

2012: Bob Coppock retires

2012: Jonathan Lusche transitioned from Youth Pastor to Adult Ministries Pastor

2012: Cynthia Purvis called as Associate Pastor-Youth and Young Adults

2013: First What's Important Now (WIN) team process

2014: Second WIN team process

2015: Third WIN team process

2015: Start of "Reach Campaign" (capital campaign #4)

2017: Fourth WIN team process

2018: Pastor Jeff Cheadle retires

2019: Neal Nybo called as Interim Pastor

StoneBridge Community Church - Today

Church Services

StoneBridge currently offers three identical contemporary style worship services every weekend on Saturdays at 5:30pm and Sundays at 9am and 10:30am

Programs

Listed in alphabetical order, the following is a list of some of StoneBridge's programs-

- Children and Families
- Congregational Care and Deacons
- Encounter and Foundations
- First and Lasting Impressions
- Global Missions
- Group Life
 - Sermon based Growth Groups
 - Independent and Long-Term Growth Groups
 - ALPHA
 - Financial Peace University
 - StoneBridge Christian Recovery
- Local Missions
 - ACTION Serve Day
 - Ashlee Manor Senior Apartments
 - Christmas Shoppe
 - North Hollywood Dinner to the homeless
 - P.A.D.S.
- Youth and Young Adults
- Worship Ministries

Leadership and Staff

StoneBridge's Session is made up of 15 elders and three pastors with the senior pastor serving as moderator. Per The Book of Order, the Session maintains relations with the greater Santa Barbara Presbytery, the Synod of Southern California, and the General Assembly. Within StoneBridge, Session shares leadership through multiple Ministry Teams.

StoneBridge's Deacon Board is made up of 12 deacons. The deacons administer over all aspects of congregational and community care. Congregational care includes, but is not limited to, caring for the sick, the elderly and homebound, the bereaved, and those struggling financially.

There are currently seven full-time paid staff positions. They are senior pastor, associate pastor of adult ministries, associate pastor of youth and young adults, children's and family ministry director, worship director, office manager and business manager. Additionally, there are several part-time childcare providers.

CHURCH FACILITIES

Worship Center / Sanctuary

Designed to serve the dual purposes of worship and fellowship, the Worship Center was completed in 1969. Consequently, attached to the downstairs worship space is a kitchen. The current balcony space, which houses the tech booth and sound board used for worship services, once housed an organ (destroyed in the 1994 Northridge Earthquake). Over the years, a series of modifications have been done to both the interior and exterior in order for the building to best serve our worshipping community. Currently, the building's sole use is worship and it seats a maximum of 240 people.

Family Life Center

The FLC is a two-story building built in 1983. Its current configuration consists of six classrooms, a youth space, the children's theater, a meeting room, two offices, library, storage and bathrooms.

Offices

In the early 1990s, the office wing was added onto the Family Life Center. There are four private offices, a central work space and copy room.

Wills Chapel

One of the original buildings on the property and named after the founding pastor, Wills Chapel was originally a garage. On weekends, Wills Chapel is equipped with a flat screen television and serves as an overflow room. Throughout the year it is also used as a meeting room and a chapel for smaller sized weddings and memorial services.

Front House

Originally intended as a pastor's parsonage, over the years the front house has been used for various purposes but in recent years, primarily for storage.

Exterior Park-Like Setting

StoneBridge's grounds are known for their park-like setting, which include plentiful parking, patio space, green space and two children's play structures.

Future Site Development

In 2000, the church bought the property adjacent to its west property line. Over the course of several years, the property was ready to be developed to increase the size of the campus. When the economy collapsed in 2008, the church was unable to move forward with the proposed construction. However, leadership had already started site improvements, leveled a building pad and installed temporary utilities to prepare for construction. These site improvements remain and will be used for future construction. The proposed, new facilities and renovated structures will have state-of-the-art

technologies to enhance the worship and teaching experiences, and to provide an engaging and safe environment for the children's and youth ministries. The proposed facilities are designed to create an open and welcoming environment that is contemporary, relevant and inclusive to first-time guests and our long-term members.

OUR MISSION STUDY PROCESS (SELF STUDY)

I.W.I.N. Processes Summary (Years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017)

II. *What's Next?* Summary

III. Prayer Drive Summary

I. W.I.N. (*What's Important Now?*) Summary

The *What's Important Now?* processes were discernment, vision and strategy development weekends. Active church elders and program staff participated. Each event lasted for a total of 12 hours over three days where participants were led by church consultant Daryl Cripe.

2013: Three WIN Teams were created at the conclusion of the leadership retreat. They were:

1. **Discipleship Path Team:** Charged with creating a member path from first-time visitor to fully-surrendered Christian.
2. **Weekend Experience Team:** To develop a weekend experience, "from curb to curb," that appeals to, and attracts, our distinctive target member and family, and then launches them onto the Discipleship Path.
3. **Communications Team:** To create a clear process and methodology for how communications will take place at StoneBridge.

2014: Three WIN Teams were created at the conclusion of the leadership retreat. They were:

1. **Breaking the 400 Barrier Team:** Church weekend attendance has never broken beyond 400 participants for any sustained period of time. This team addressed the issues that may cause this attendance ceiling.
2. **Weekend Experience Team:** Continued the work started in 2013 to develop a weekend experience that appeals to, and attracts, our distinctive target member and family.
3. **Discipleship Path Team:** Partially continued the work from the previous year that specifically addressed transitioning 3s to 4s, (committed Christians to fully-surrendered Christians).

2015: Two WIN Teams were created at the conclusion of the leadership retreat. They were:

1. **Discipleship Path Team:** Continued the work from the previous year that specifically addressed transitioning 3s to 4s, (committed Christians to fully-surrendered Christians), and created an individual mentoring program.

StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

2. **Facilities Team:** An outgrowth of *Breaking the 400 Barrier Team*, this team worked on adding seats to the worship center and optimizing all space to attract our distinctive target member and family.
3. **Funding Team:** 2015 conclusion led to 2016 Reach Campaign to help fund a new worship center and Family Life Center construction.

2017: Two WIN Teams were created at the conclusion of the leadership retreat. They were:

1. **Messaging & Media Team:** Create a streamlined communication of vision that includes pulpit, public relations, social media and advertising.
2. **Volunteer Systems:** Create a system applicable to all StoneBridge ministries that matures individuals in their serving and transitions leadership.

II. What's Next? Summary

On Saturday, April 27, 2019 and Saturday, May 4, 2019, 170 people (49.4% of average weekend worship attendance and 35% of church membership) participated in a corporate discovery process that StoneBridge called *What's Next?* Based on published materials he developed, Pastor Neal Nybo led *What's Next?* From this discovery process, there were two driving categories that dominated the final results: OUTREACH and DISCIPLESHIP. These two categories fall within and coincide with StoneBridge's Purpose Statement and Three Core Values.

Weighed by a factor of nearly 75% of those who participated in *What's Next?*, OUTREACH was understood to be the predominant characteristic of StoneBridge and is something that ought to be held on to. There was a clear call to continue OUTREACH to Simi Valley by being an attractional community of faith as well as a missional community of faith.

An attractional church reflects God's love by *being* a loving community. This was expressed by being a congregation that winsomely invites and welcomes others, by being a congregation that shares the truth of the Gospel clearly and Biblically and by being a congregation that provides a safe environment for people from all walks of life to explore the Christian faith.

A missional church takes God's love out into the broader community. This was expressed by the congregation's desire to creatively engage with growing families, teens and young adults, as well as serving within the local community.

For those who attended *What's Next?*, there were three commonly perceived impediments to StoneBridge's OUTREACH. The three impediments are cliques, a lack of diversity, and an unclear strategy. Relationships and a strong sense of community are some of StoneBridge's strengths. However, when misconceived as closed cliques, these strengths serve as deterrents to newcomers. Similarly, StoneBridge desires to improve as a more welcoming environment to minority groups and younger families. StoneBridge also wants to operate more intergenerationally. Lastly, although

StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

OUTREACH is held as StoneBridge's predominate characteristic, a successful strategy seems unclear as of now.

Weighed by a factor of nearly 48% of those who participated in *What's Next?*, DISCIPLESHIP is the second valued characteristic of StoneBridge. It was clearly communicated that DISCIPLESHIP at StoneBridge is successfully accomplished through Christ-centered Biblical teaching, Growth Groups and serving.

The primary source of Christ-centered Biblical teaching comes from the weekend worship messages. Communicated as something StoneBridge ought to hold on to, discipleship is reinforced by sermon-based growth groups. For those who participated in *What's Next?*, personal discipleship is bolstered by growing deeper within healthy relationships with other committed Christians.

Whether expressed within the life of the church, within the local community or globally, serving is also recognized as a means by which individuals at StoneBridge grow deeper in faith and obedience. Therefore, serving is a viable means of DISCIPLESHIP.

For those who attended *What's Next?* there are two perceived impediments to StoneBridge's DISCIPLESHIP: Thinning volunteerism and new leadership development. If serving is recognized as a means by which individuals at StoneBridge grow deeper in faith and obedience, then it should follow that people would, as an offering to God, eagerly volunteer to serve in the church, in the community and in the world. Furthermore, experienced and competent volunteers would naturally ascend into leadership roles. Currently, StoneBridge Community Church is experiencing a disconnect between these concepts. Therefore, this is a DISCIPLESHIP issue.

Lastly, there were miscellaneous topics identified from *What's Next?* that do not fit in with the two topics addressed above. These two miscellaneous topics are COMMUNICATIONS and REACH CAMPAIGN / FUTURE CONSTRUCTION / PASTORAL TRANSITION. Initial analysis indicated that these two topics are actually interconnected. In the last three years, *the means* by which StoneBridge communicates has actually improved. However, it is clear that the congregation is not receiving *the content* that is cared about the most. In this season of StoneBridge, the content that the congregation cares about most is The Reach Campaign, future construction plans and pastoral transition. Not to be overlooked, these concerns require focused attention for improvement.

III. Prayer Drive Summary

Consisting of StoneBridge members, elders and pastors, a group participated in a Prayer Drive on Sunday, May 19, 2019. This event began at StoneBridge and then, based on impressions gleaned from prayer, the group proceeded to drive through several neighborhoods within a one-mile radius of the church. Specific prayer stops were made at Simi Valley High School, a new neighborhood development within the Texas tract and the Metrolink Station / Rancho Santa Susana Community Center.

Observations from the Prayer Drive included:

- Cochran Street is StoneBridge's primary marketing corridor.
- There are three retirement housing complexes within a one-mile radius: Ashlee Manor, The Foothills, and Mountain View.
- There are many schools within the vicinity.
 - Phoenix Ranch Day School (Infant - middle school)
 - Little Explorers' Preschool Academy
 - Big Springs Elementary School
 - Katherine Elementary School
 - Santa Susana Elementary School
 - Township Elementary School
 - White Oak Elementary School
 - Valley View Middle School
 - Simi Valley High School

While praying about these schools, the group recognized that there are students and families who walk and/or drive past StoneBridge every day. In addition, there are Christian groups on some of these campuses.

- There are numerous strip malls within the vicinity.
- There are two residential mobile home communities nearby.
- Providing community activities and sports activities for all ages, the Rancho Santa Susana Recreation Center is a half-mile away.

While praying about the recreation center, the group discussed how today's families are busier than ever with their kids' sports. The busy-ness factor is multiplied when both parents work and commute.

- A major commuting hub, the Amtrak/Metrolink Station is a half-mile away

While praying about the significance of the Simi Valley Amtrak/Metrolink Station, there was a deeper sympathy for our bedroom community and the many people who commute to work upwards of two hours a day. Specific to commuting by rail, the untapped potential of rail car "community" and/or small groups was considered.

- Tapo Street appears to be a corridor for the city's homeless population. This may be due to its proximity to the Simi Wash, PeopleReady Employment Center and Simi Social Services.
- There are many churches within a one-mile radius, and StoneBridge is part of "church row" on Cochran Street.
 - Baptist (2)
 - Cornerstone Community Church
 - Korean
 - Lutheran
 - Mormon (2)
 - New Hope
 - Saint Peter Claver Catholic
 - Simi Covenant

- Spanish-speaking congregations (2)
- Surrounding neighborhoods are a combination of rental apartments, condensed housing and single-family residences.

While praying about these neighborhoods, how to best reach out to the many young families who live here was considered. Some ideas included specific outreach to the new, Bellwoods development, church members within the neighborhood being more intentional about meeting new neighbors, and spending time outside.

SIMI VALLEY AT A GLANCE

The City of Simi Valley, with an estimated population of 126,788 (as of July 2015) is the third largest of Ventura County's 10 cities. There are additionally about 2,000 residents living in the unincorporated Ventura County areas adjacent to the city who receive some of the same services as city residents. Occupying an area of about 42 square miles, it is located in southeast Ventura County, adjacent to the northwestern perimeter of the San Fernando Valley (Los Angeles City and County), about 37 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Simi Valley was incorporated in 1969 under the general laws of the State of California and operates under a general law/council-manager form of government.

Three Chumash settlements existed in Simi Valley. These villages were named Shimiji (or Shimiya), Kimishak, and Ta'apu. It is believed that the name of the Chumash Indian Village "Shimiji" is the origin of the city's name. Ta'apu is the origin of the names of Tapo Street and Tapo Canyon. The official city tree is the Coastal Live Oak, whose acorns were used by the Chumash Indians for food. The official city flower is the California Wild Rose, from which the Chumash Indians ate vitamin-rich rosehips. In 1795, San José de Nuestra Señora de Altagracia y Simí was granted to Santiago Pico, one of 240 colonists from Mexico, by Spanish Governor Diego de Borica. This land grant, approximately 113,000 acres in size, was one of the largest ever made. The spelling of Simí in the records from the time of the land grants places the emphasis on the second syllable of Simí, indicating that the proper way to pronounce Simí sounds more like "suh-MEE" rather than "SEE-me."

Transportation Options

Highway: Highway 118 runs East/West through the Simi and connects with State Highways 23 and 101, and Interstates 5, 405 and 210.

Air: Los Angeles International Airport, 42 miles; Burbank Airport, 26 miles; Camarillo Airport, 25 miles.

Rail: Union Pacific Railroad for freight service; Amtrak and Metrolink for passenger service.

Bus: The city operates a local bus system, with connections to Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) and Ventura Intercity Service Transit Authority (VISTA). Taxi services are also available.

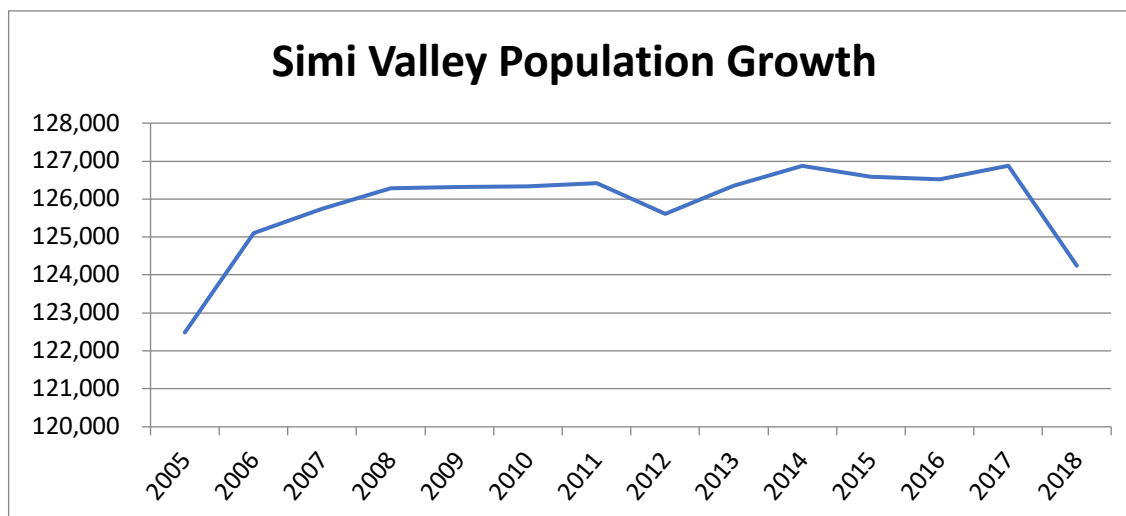
StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

Housing Availability, Prices & Rentals

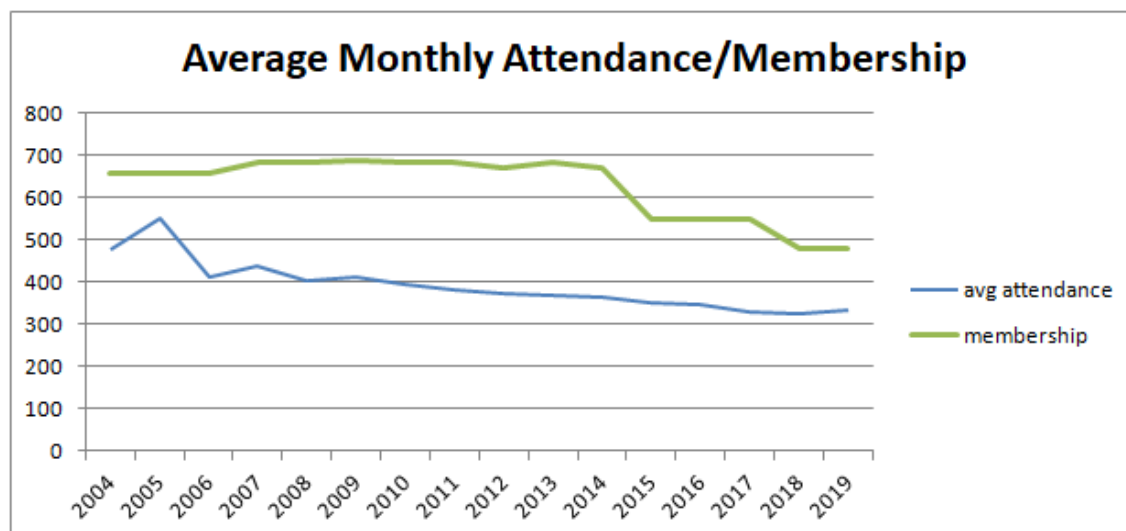
Rentals for one- and two-bedroom apartments and duplexes ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per month. Rentals for two- and three-bedroom houses range from \$1,600 to \$2,750 per month. Sales prices of existing condominiums range from \$180,000 to \$550,000. Sales prices of existing detached homes range from \$275,000 to well over \$1,000,000. There are seven mobile home communities in the area.

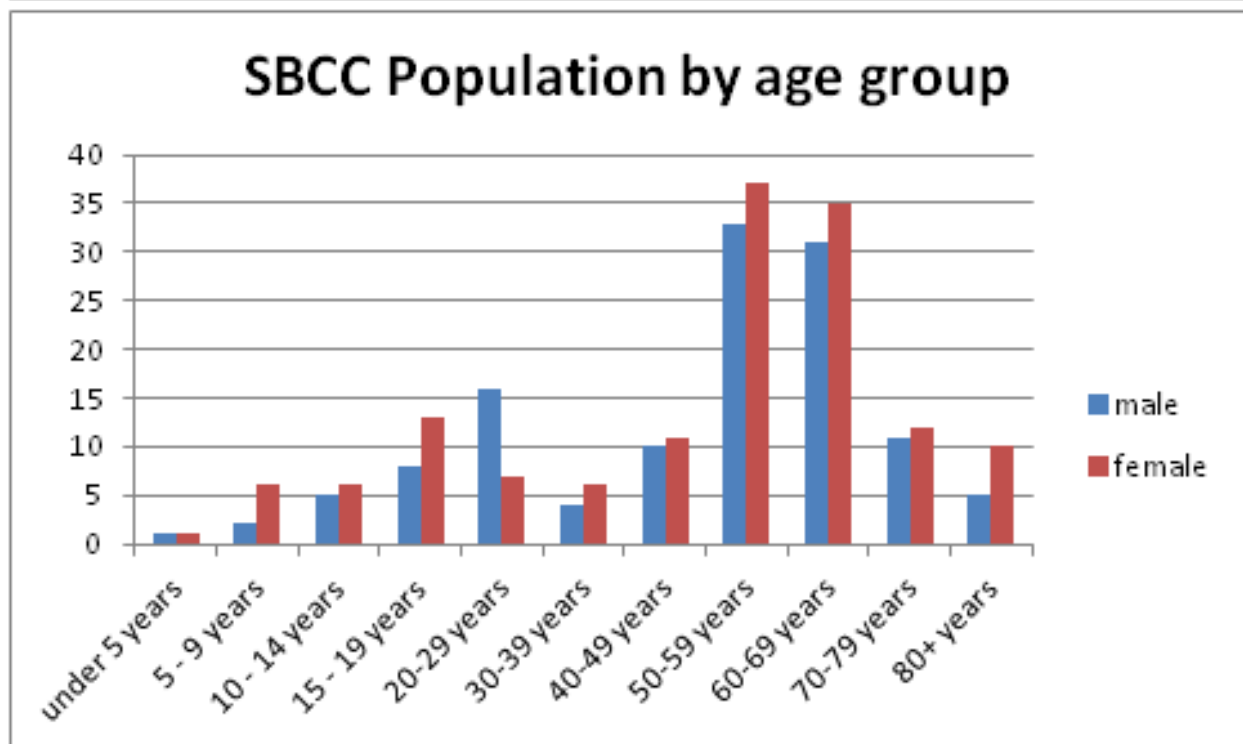
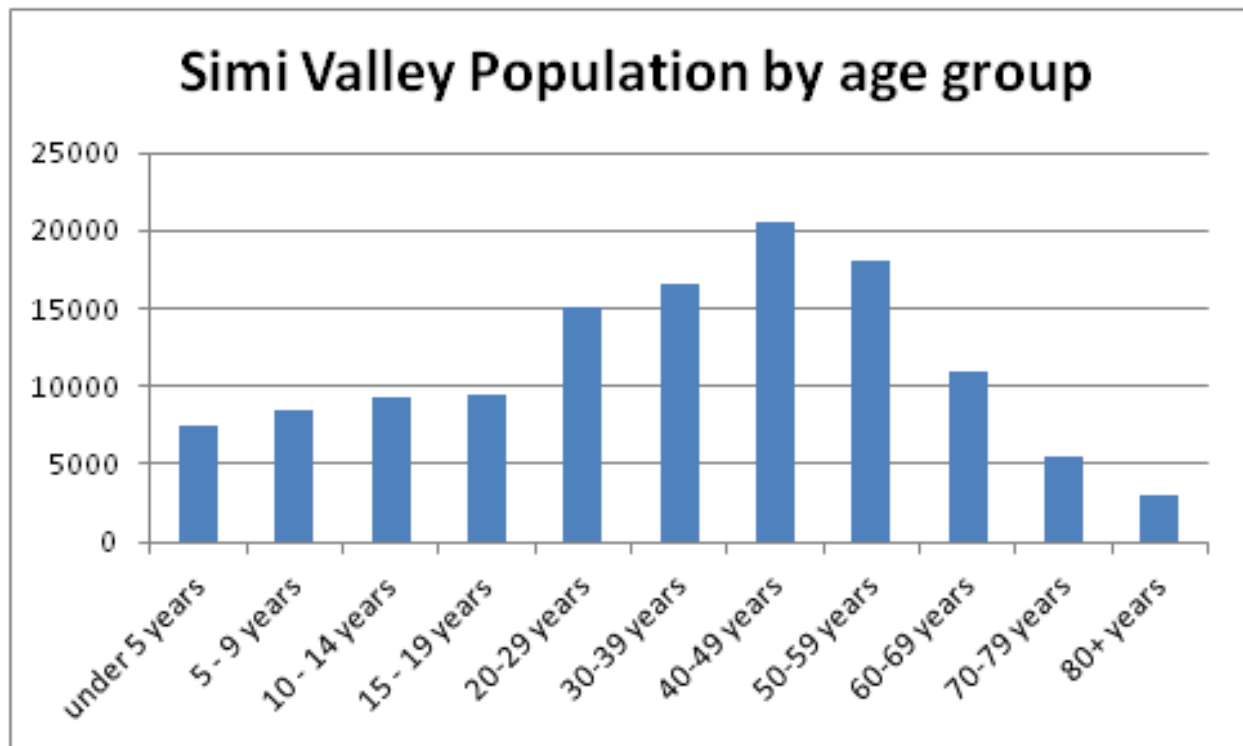
- Owner-Occupied Dwellings 77.1%
(2009 U.S. Census Bureau)
- Median Housing Value \$326,000
(CA Association of Realtors, 2012)
- Median Household Income \$87,502
(2009 U.S. Census Bureau)

SIMI VALLEY AND STONEBRIDGE POPULATION COMPARISONS



StoneBridge Membership and Attendance





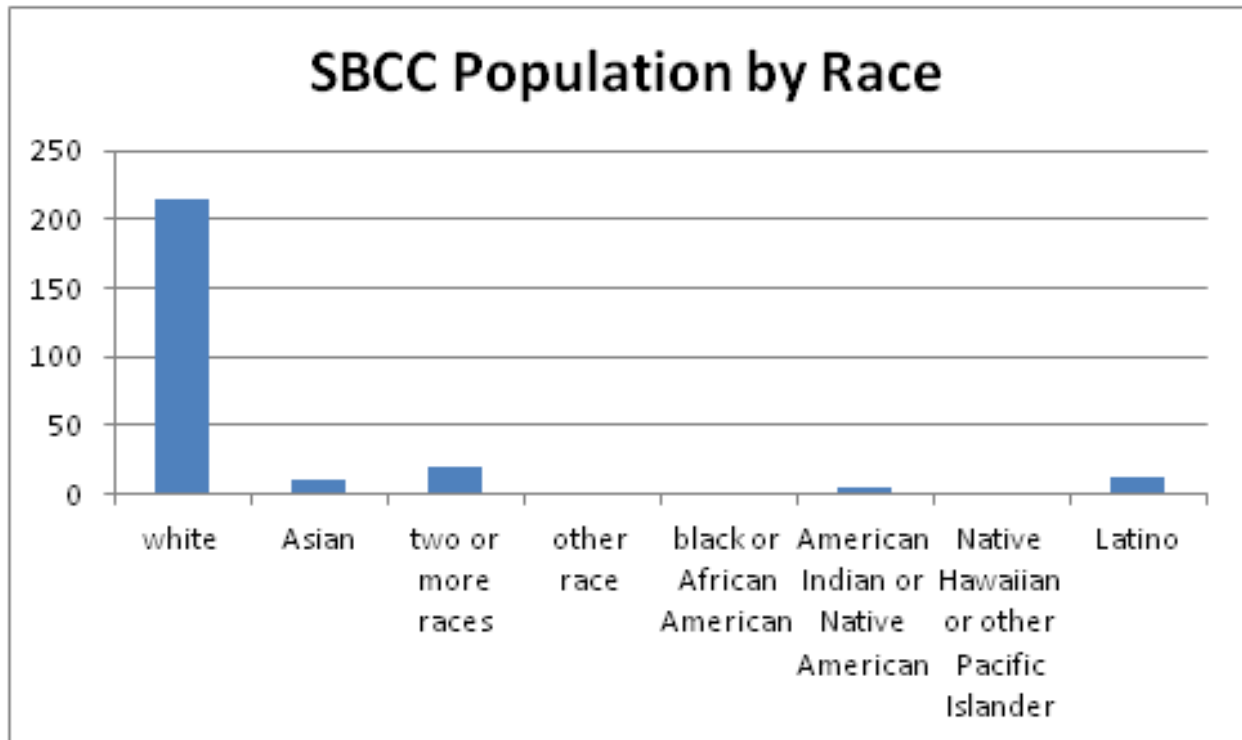
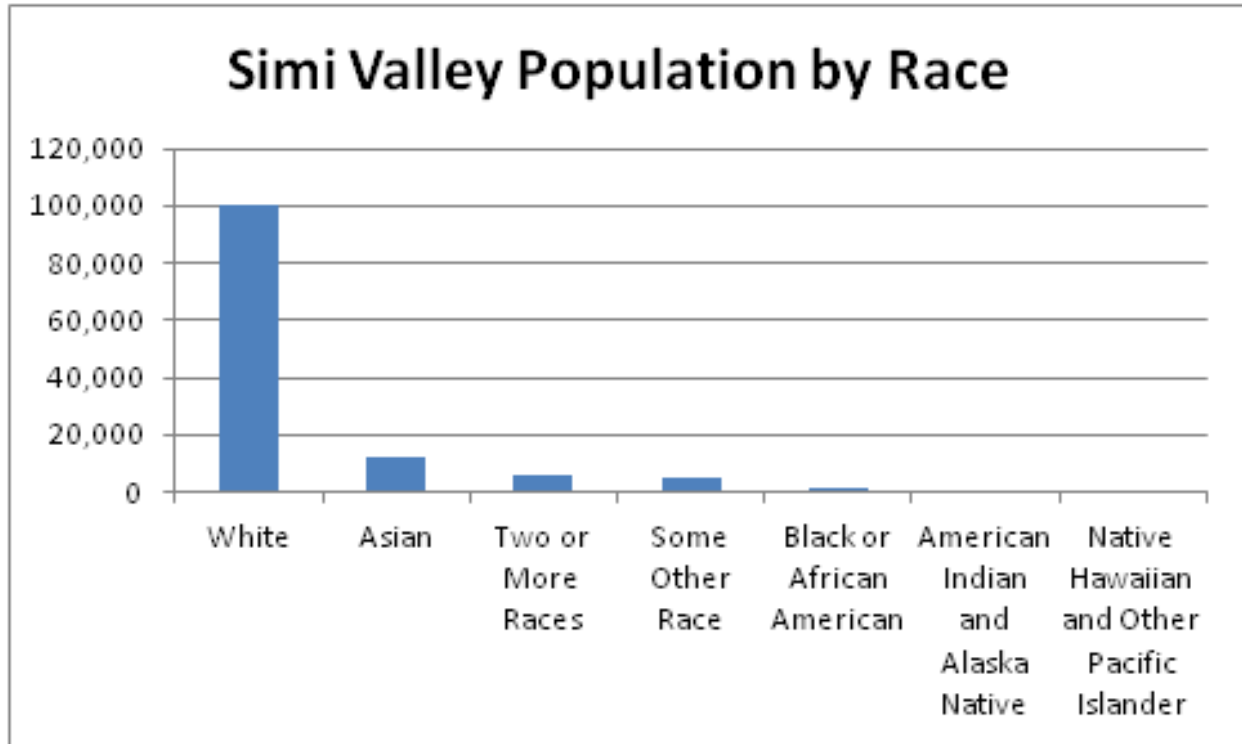
Simi Valley Median Age

40.3 Total
39.6 Male
41 Female

StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

Simi Valley Adults

There are 98,382 adults (including 17,523 Senior Citizens) in Simi Valley.



StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

Simi Valley Households

Nearly 72% of homes in Simi Valley are owner-occupied and that figure increases to nearly 85% for attendees of StoneBridge Community Church. The average household size in Simi Valley is 2.99 people and at StoneBridge that figure is 2.47, slightly smaller than the city as a whole.

Education Levels

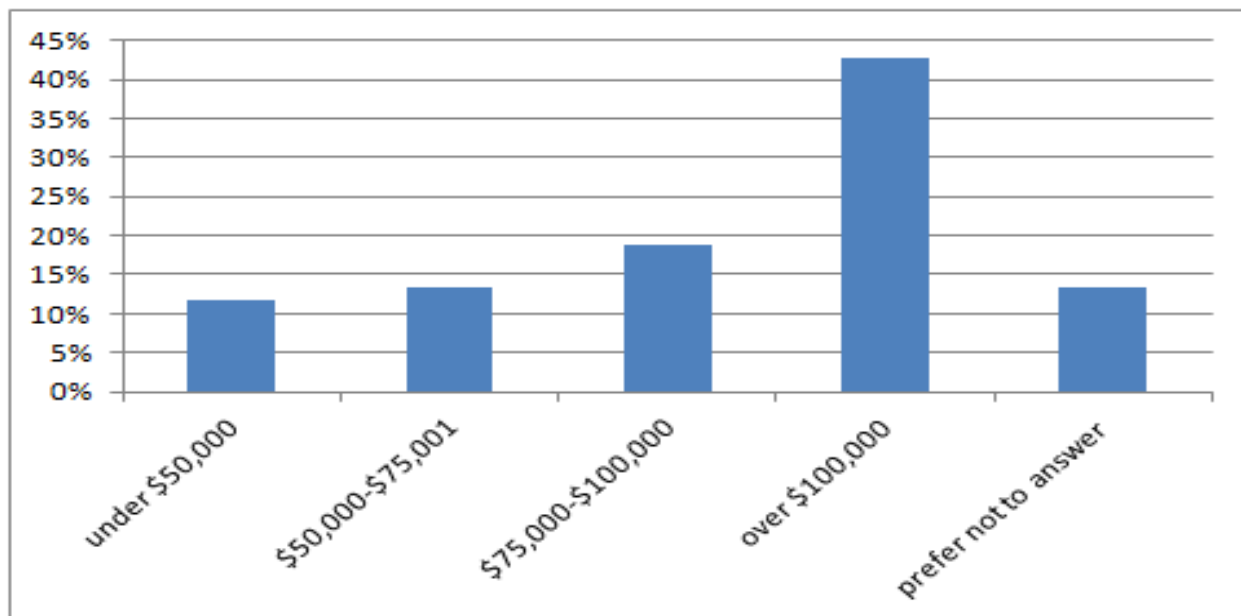


StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

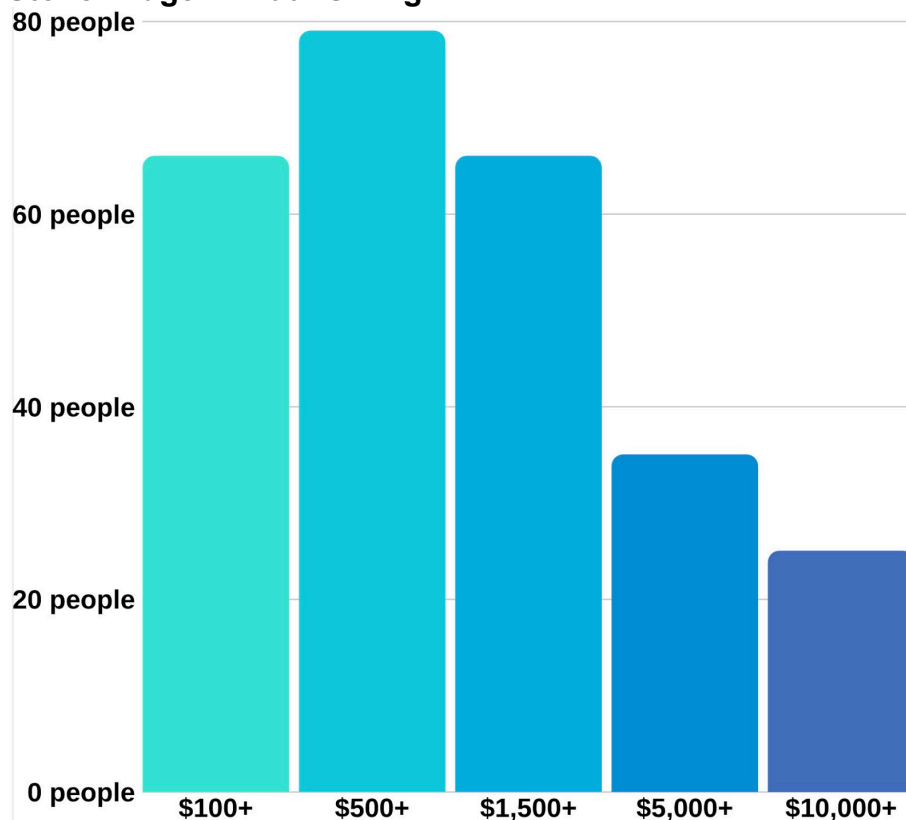
Income Levels

Average personal earnings in Simi Valley are \$50,654.

Among StoneBridge households, income levels are as follows:



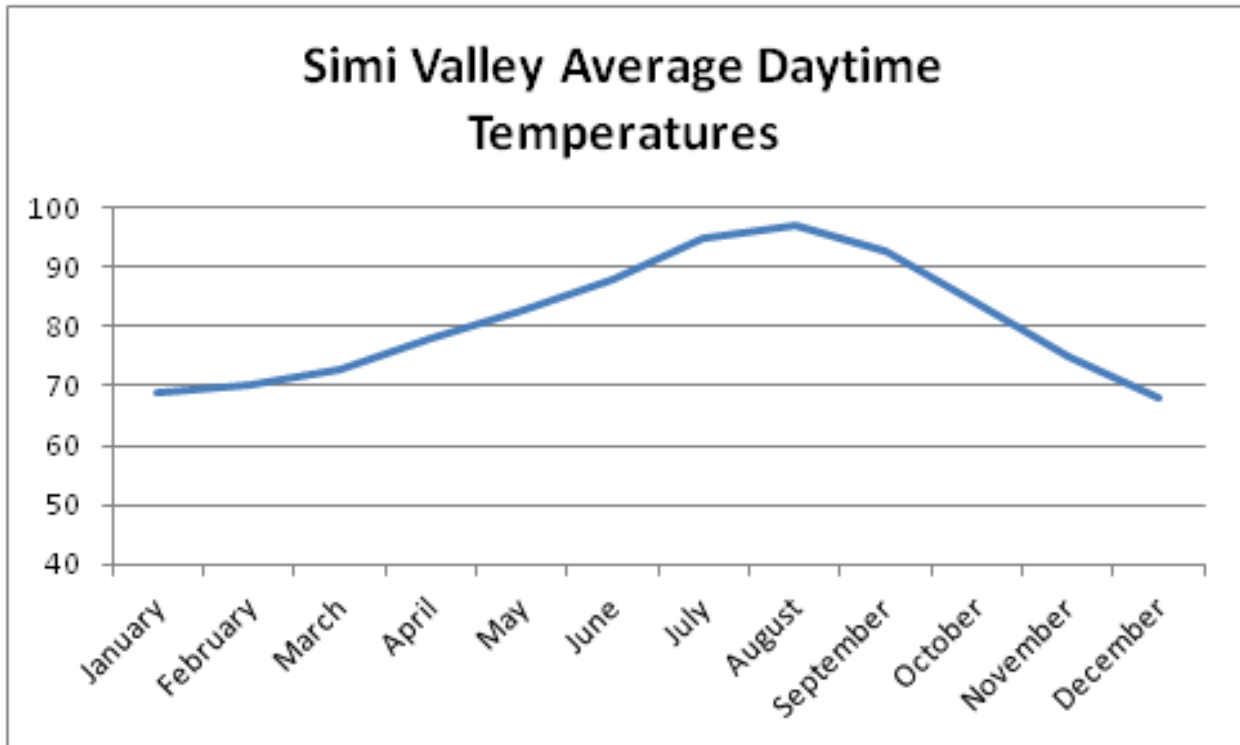
StoneBridge Annual Giving



Place of Birth

81.49% of Simi Valley residents were born in the United States, with 61.81% having been born in California. Of those not born in the United States, the largest percentage are from Latin America. Among our StoneBridge family, 93.5% were born in the United States and 75.1% are native Californians. Again, the majority of our church family who were not born in the United States were born in Latin America, but Asia is a close second.

Weather



Simi Valley receives an average of 14.37" of rainfall yearly.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Simi Valley Unified School District

- Annual Enrollment 16,476 (2018-19)
- 18 Elementary Schools (Junior Kindergarten to 6th Grade)
- 3 Middle Schools (6th, 7th & 8th grades)
- 3 High Schools
- 1 Continuation High School (Apollo High School)
- 1 Adult School (Simi Institute for Careers & Education)
- 1 Independent Study School (Kindergarten to 12th grade)
- 1 Preschool (Justin Early Learners Academy)

StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

RECREATION & CULTURAL

- 38 Parks
- 3 Golf Courses
- 1 Performing Arts Center
- 3 Movie Theaters (35 screens)
- 2 Swimming Pools
- 1 Library (140,000 vol.)
- The Ronald Reagan Library

HOSPITALS

Adventist Health-Simi Valley has 144 beds.

Sources: <https://www.simivalley.org/about-simi-valley/at-a-glance>, <https://suburbanstats.org/population/california/how-many-people-live-in-simi-valley>, the Simi Valley Unified School District, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/simi-valley-ca/> and the results of StoneBridge Community Church "What's Next" survey.

SUMMARY

Since its earliest beginnings, Simi Valley Presbyterian Church, (aka StoneBridge Community Church) has been eager to reach the residents of Simi Valley with the good news of God's redemption made possible through the Son, Jesus Christ. In many ways, the lifespan of the church has mirrored the lifespan of the broader community. StoneBridge has always sought to engage Simi Valley in partnership with the Holy Spirit's leading, entrepreneurial creativity and winsome strategies. One clear thread within this Mission Study is StoneBridge's commitment to remaining both attractional and missional in its outreach strategies. Another clear thread is StoneBridge's commitment to ministering to young families.

With these things in mind, a present and future challenge that the congregation faces is an increasing number of "empty nesters" and soon-to-be retirees. Retirees often move out of Simi Valley to more affordable living in other states. StoneBridge Community Church is in the midst of becoming an aging congregation. With a sense of immediacy, StoneBridge must seek to inject future generations into its lifestream. This, too, will be challenging as this Mission Study notes Simi Valley's young families are often dual income households with at least one parent commuting up to two hours a day. Family time comes at a high premium and StoneBridge competes within the community and within the region for how family time is spent.

StoneBridge Community Church
MISSION STUDY
June 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Prayerfully enter into the process of calling a head pastor who shares StoneBridge's missional mindset and is attractional, not only to the existing membership, but also to the future generations of the church.
2. With attractional outreach in mind, continue to maintain and/or develop the church facilities in such a way that will appeal to future seekers and members.
3. With attractional outreach in mind, relentlessly pursue church programming that appeals to and meets the felt needs of Simi Valley families. This includes ongoing consideration of worship and weekend programming, continued Biblically-based and creative preaching; childrens, youth, and family programming, to name a few.
4. Prayerfully consider new ways that StoneBridge members can be missionally, "sent out" into the community in order to make a lasting impression of God's love through Jesus Christ.

BUDGET

<u>EXPENSES</u>	12 MO BUDGET 2019-20	12 MO BUDGET 2018-19	12 MO ACTUAL 2018-19
			(May budget #'s)
<u>Mission Giving</u>	28,964	31,655	29,945
Heart of Christmas Special Offering	(7,685)	(5,982)	(5,982)
<u>Per Capita/Presbytery Oper. Costs</u>	18,485	20,420	20,421
<u>Childrens Ministries</u>	16,485	22,216	13,544
<u>Youth Ministries</u>	13,065	12,920	7,554
<u>Music & Worship Ministries</u>	39,300	41,725	31,147
<u>Discipleship/Spiritual Growth Ministries</u>	5,350	6,385	2,207
<u>Evangelism Expenses</u>	19,950	34,150	15,916
<u>Clergy Salaries & Housing</u>	220,297	216,069	190,787
<u>Clergy Allow/Reimb Expenses & Benefits</u>	127,214	167,911	133,164
<u>Staff Salaries & Benefits</u>	322,469	354,037	296,902
<u>Administrative & Office Expenses</u>	54,200	59,880	50,396
<u>Building & Grounds</u>	53,654	69,700	51,854
<u>Mortgage, Taxes & Ins.</u>	13,985	13,350	12,787
<u>Utilities</u>	42,450	42,910	35,607
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 968,184	\$ 1,087,346	\$ 886,249