

2019 FISCAL YEAR REPORT



Our Mission:

TO KNOW
Jesus
AND MAKE
KNOWN Him

Friends,

There is much to be thankful for as we reflect upon this past year at Pennington Park Church.

We have experienced God's grace in countless ways, from life change, to answered prayers. Our prayer is that the stories shared here bring about praise and thanksgiving in your heart to our God.



BEAUTY IN A BACKYARD

Months before the start of (Backyard Bible) clubs, questions raced through our family's mind- Should we host? Is it worth our time? Would anyone come? After praying, we decided we would dive in. I called and asked my team to serve, choosing not only church members, but also neighbors and friends- people who we walk through life with.

With the team sending out invites to children they knew, two weeks before the club began, we had 40 kids committed. The supplies were dropped off at my house, which was a miracle alone because I am a common procrastinator. Remarkably, the club was ready to go early, only because God knew what was coming.

The Saturday before the club was set to begin I got a call that my dad had been hospitalized. We immediately departed for Evansville. By Sunday, he had a major heart attack and emergency open-heart surgery. The prognosis was grim.

Of course, I was going to cancel the BYBC, but my husband, Matt, reminded me that our house is not ours, seeking to still use it for God's glory. After all, these were people we trusted, and they not only ran the club but also cleaned the house inside and outside before we returned.

45 kids came during the week, and my dad is doing well. Looking back, I can see God's presence from the beginning. He led me to plan early. He knew I would need to be with my dad, needing others to lead in our place and providing everything the club needed. Emily and Andrew Johnson, the Bookwalters, the Steiners, the Brinkmans and Hunter Sweet helped keep the club running smoothly, along with an art teacher friend of Karisa Steiner. Even other unbelieving neighbors stayed to pitch in, hearing the gospel along with the kids.

About half the kids from the club do not have a home church. I heard 2 specific stories of kids singing the songs all week, enjoying praising the Lord. Following the club, new friendships began with Carol B., myself, and a neighbor lady that continued at the neighborhood pool the rest of the summer. And while in Evansville, my husband and I prayed with my dad to assure him of his salvation in front of my entire family.

God's plan was well before mine. I think back to how these ladies became my friends, beginning with Michelle's email on the Nextdoor App. to start a neighborhood Bible study which led us and other neighbors to Pennington Park- our BYBC Team. Now, all but one attends Pennington Park Church. We are friends who live in the same neighborhood, united by Christ- neighbors loving neighbors! What a beautiful picture of the body of Christ working together! Blessings way beyond the club! -Janelle W.

God's plan was well before mine, which resulted in a beautiful picture of the body of Christ working together.



REACHING THE NATIONS

SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP

Last fall I had the opportunity to take a vision trip to Southeast Asia with a team from Pennington Park. Over the course of two weeks, we were able to serve missionaries from all over by providing an intense, but incredibly rewarding, child care program during their annual conference. Later, we were able to visit the missionary families that Pennington Park supports in S.E. Asia and learn about their work and day-to-day lives.

“Through this trip, I developed a stronger appreciation of the sacrifice and hard work the missionaries encounter each day.”

Through this trip we learned how God is at work in S.E. Asia. In the midst of persecution and suffering, the Gospel and name of Jesus is still being shared in this closed-off country. We were able to meet national missionaries, hear their personal testimonies, and pray over them, even as they prayed over us. For me, it was a great firsthand view of overseas missions. I developed a much stronger appreciation of the sacrifices and hard work the national and the sent missionaries encounter each day and the work that God is doing through them. I am definitely very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this vision trip! - Nicholas Woodhouse

MINISTRY UPDATE

Early last year Tina and I wrestled with the Lord leading us off Cru’s campus ministry and into working with Cru’s Jesus Film Project. Twenty-five years of campus ministry overseas & in the USA meant we were established with our job. The Jesus Film Project role was a mostly unknown opportunity. However, while both are strategic and important, the Lord kept stirring our hearts towards resourcing, training and equipping those working with Unreached People groups globally and specifically in the 10/40 window.

“The Lord has opened new doors and we are so excited to help accelerate the completion of the Great Commission. ”

Over the past few months we have been amazed at the Lord leading us to connect with diverse denominations & mission agencies. We have listened closely to their needs and then helped to equip them with recent evangelistic, discipleship and church-planting tools developed by the Jesus Film. With the advent of Covid-19, we have been asked to join “Zoom” calls and Google Hangouts with leaders all over the world to discuss digital ways to share the gospel and plant churches globally. The Lord has opened new doors and we are so excited to help accelerate the completion of the Great Commission with our new role! - Darin and Tina Bufkin, Pennington Park Missionaries with Jesus Film Project



GOD AT WORK

We believe the Lord has brought us together at this moment in our church in order to reach our neighbors, our city, and the world with the Gospel.

This past year at Pennington Park Church has been full of God's goodness in the lives of our church family and in our community. Let's stop and thank the Lord for His blessings this past year.

TRUSTING THE LORD IN UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS

It is in the unexpected situations that our hearts are often drawn closer to God and He is most glorified in and through us. Mary Novotny's story is a reflection of God being at work in her life and her family's life. Mary was in the midst of preparing and setting up for the long-awaited Women's Retreat, when she received a phone call that was devastating.

Her youngest son had an accident and was being taken to the ER. Hours away and feeling helpless, Mary had no where to turn but to God for peace and strength. In a moment where she felt so far removed from helping her son, Mary could see that God was "doing a good work in both her and her husband's life."

Through wisdom from the Lord and assurance from her husband, Mary decided to stay at the retreat. While at the retreat, the women were encouraged to shape an image that reflected an idol in their life. The image that Mary put together was a clenched fist symbolizing control in relationships and control in the safety of her children. The Lord taught Mary that all things were never hers to begin with and to have an open hand to the Lord. God needed to be her strength and to trust Him to keep her children safe, guard her marriage, and to be with her in the day-to-day.

Through this experience it allowed both Kurt and Mary to trust in the Lord. It brought Mary closer to the Lord, closer to Kurt in their marriage and closer to other women at Pennington Park because of the Women's Retreat.



COOKOUTS, CONVERSATIONS, AND CHRIST

Will and Katrina Doublestien hosted a cookout in their neighborhood with the aim of building relationships with those who live in their community. God worked in many different ways through their faithfulness, and helped the Doublesteins develop several new relationships with those in their neighborhood.

Out of the 60 houses they delivered flyers to, 50 people ended up coming! There were young families who recently moved into the neighborhood and families who had lived there for 60 years.

God worked in the Doublesteins' lives in multiple ways that evening. God helped them to learn to rely on Him and trust Him, no matter the outcome. God's grace was evident all throughout, from the weather, to having the right amount of food, to cultivating conversations that led to praying with everyone before the meal started.

The cookout was just one small way that God worked in the Doublestein's lives this past year and they are excited to see what He does next.



REACHING NEIGHBORS IN SMALL WAYS

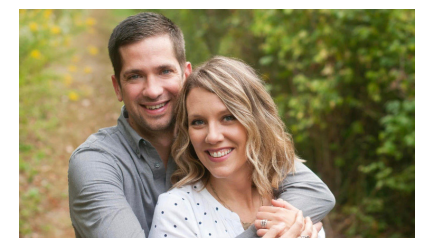
Brett and Megan Kraftson and their four boys prayed for God to bring new friends into their neighborhood. After several months of praying, God sent a special family into their lives.

The family that moved in had two kids, both her oldest boy's ages. The mom, Kay, came over one day to introduce herself and said that she and her husband were missionaries in Chile. They moved back to the States to care for her parents, while her husband remained in Chile to work.

Throughout the conversation, Megan learned that the family had little to no furniture in their home, due to their sudden move. This led Megan to gathering Kay and her families' needs and posting it on Pennington Park's Women's Facebook Page.

The response from that posting was overwhelming. The women of Pennington Park provided couches, tables, and everything they needed. Kay was blown away by the generosity of these ladies who didn't even know her, but came together as the body of Christ to help.

Out of this experience, their friendship has grown and led to having a neighborhood cookout with others in their cul-de-sac. God was in the midst of this situation and allowed the body of Christ to step in and love on this family.



OUR IDENTITY IS IN CHRIST

Whether positive or negative, we all have pre-conceived notions assigned to church women's retreats. Mine, unfortunately, were mostly negative. When I first heard about the retreat on stage, I scoffed, imagining kleenex boxes, arts and crafts, and "fluff" content. As the retreat drew closer, and I heard more about what was planned, my silent judgment continued to grow. Judgment ranging from the weekend activities all the way to the name of the resort continued to swirl around in my head, and as does with most sin, started to spill out into my words and actions. I began to resent signing up for the retreat at the encouragement (read: volun-telling) of my husband and small group friends. Pair that with the fact that the weekend retreat was sandwiched between two crazy weeks, and I started to believe I had made a huge mistake in signing up for it.

Y'all. Sin is ugly, and I was knee deep in it.

But God.

From the moment I stepped onto the campus until weeks after, the effects of the retreat continued to make ripples in my life. I met and re-connected with several women in the church. Every Sunday, it is easy to fall into our "holy huddles" and pour into the relationships that are easy and safe. This retreat forced me to meet women whom I had never met before or only knew from a distance. From the assigned table seating arrangements to the Saturday late-nighter we pulled with 40 women stuffed into one hotel room, the atmosphere was centered around relationship building. And do you know what I discovered? The women of Pennington Park Church, of all stages of life, are funny and strong. They are humble and vulnerable. They are brave and faithful. They stand firm in their identity in Christ, and whether they knew it or not, they spurred me on to be the same way. I am grateful to know and be known by them.

The women who planned the retreat knew the tendencies of the heart. Every message and every prayer reminded us that if we got to know one another better, but we didn't get to know our Savior better, then we didn't accomplish the most important thing. And that's how I left the retreat, and how I stand even today. Treasuring the memories and the relationships built, but always centering back to how God showed up that weekend. Breaking down the walls of a silently (and sometimes vocally!) critical and judgmental woman – showing me that God is faithful even when I am faithless. That florals do not necessarily mean fluff, and that God is in the business of breaking chains, rooting out idols, and declaring freedom.

-Leanne F.

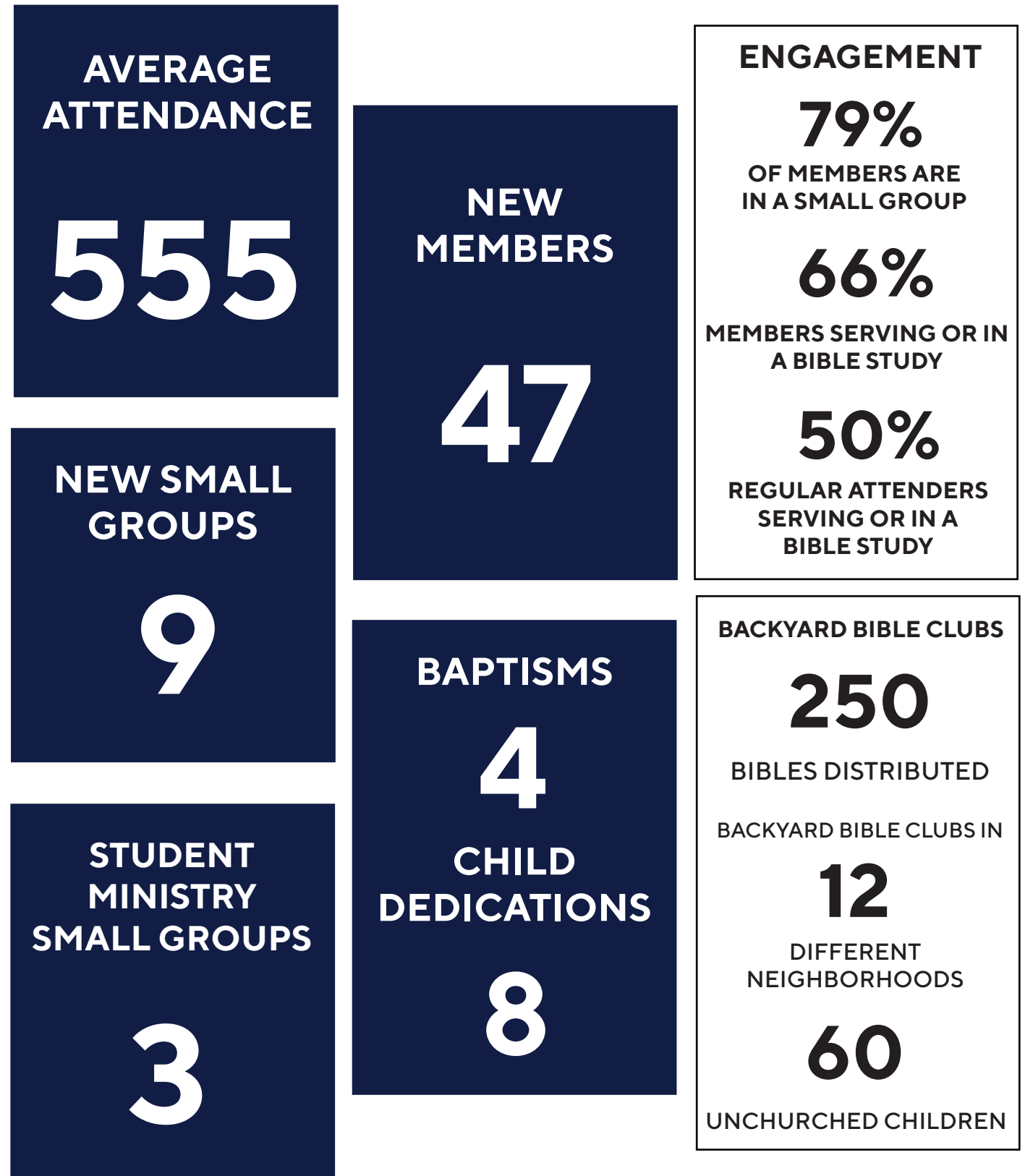
"Florals do not necessarily mean fluff, and that God is in the business of breaking chains, rooting out idols, and declaring freedom."



SERMON SERIES

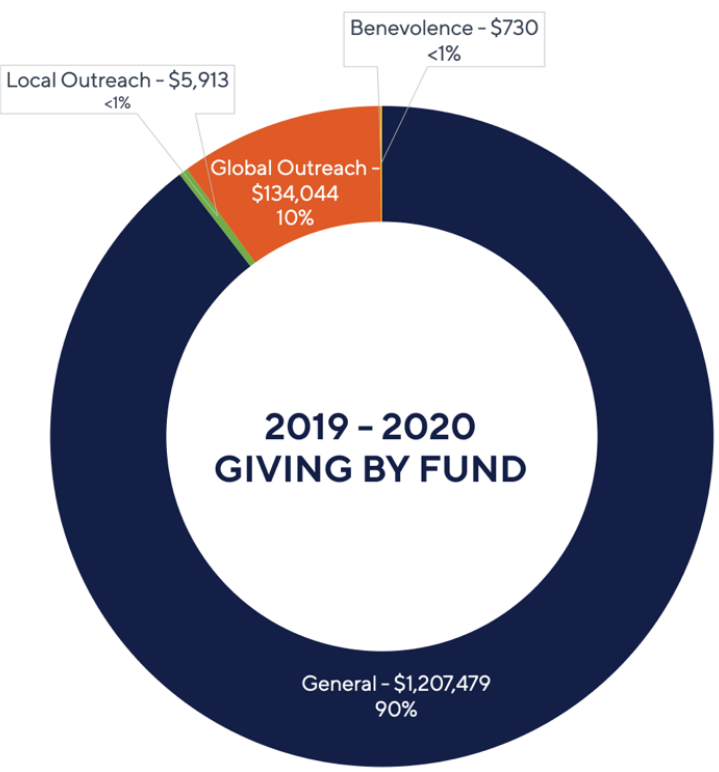


BY THE NUMBERS



2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2019-2020 GIVING



\$1,348,166
TOTAL GIVING

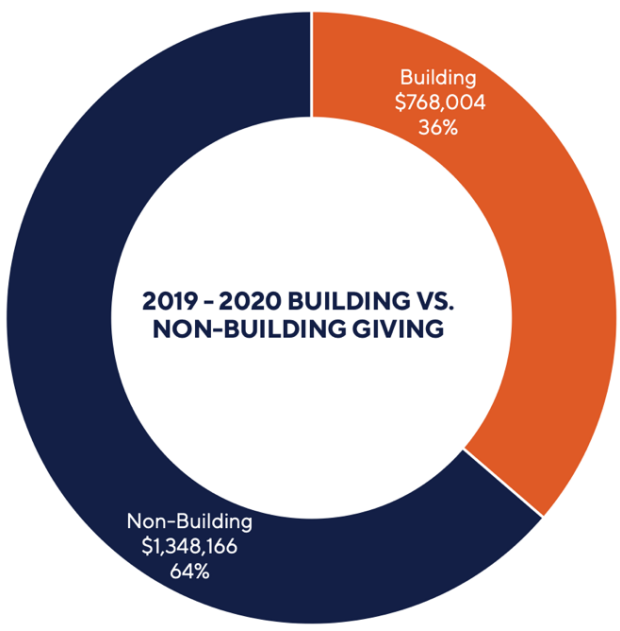
\$1,207,479 (Budget = \$1,113,000)
GENERAL

\$134,044
GLOBAL OUTREACH

\$5,913
LOCAL OUTREACH

\$730
BENEVOLENCE

2019-2020 GIVING BUILDING VS. NON-BUILDING



\$2,116,170
TOTAL GIVING

\$768,004
BUILDING

\$1,348,166
NON-BUILDING

2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SUPPORTING

8

MISSIONARY FAMILIES

2

STRATEGIC GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN

6

COUNTRIES

2019
CHRISTMAS OFFERING
TOTAL

\$93,199

**GLOBAL
OUTREACH**

CHRISTMAS GIFTS DONATED
THROUGH HANDS OF HOPE

25

**LOCAL
OUTREACH**

FOOD4SOULS
PARTNERSHIP
MEALS PACKED
AND HANDED
OUT IN 2019

100

2019-20 Fiscal Year Report

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