

**Saint John's Episcopal Church
Parish Survey Report
March 14, 2010**



The participation rate for our Parish Survey was extraordinary. Sixty out of eighty eligible voting members responded giving us a 75% response rate. Few parishes achieve such a high level of participation. Our strong love and concern for the future of Saint John's clearly moved us to freely contribute our thoughts, making this survey very successful. Your Vicar Search Committee is truly grateful for your openness and gracious expressions of support.

Thank you,

Your Saint John's Vicar Search Committee,

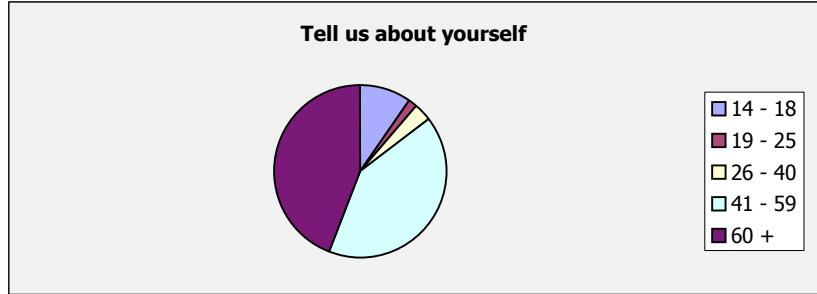
Dan Dunn
Marian Jacobs
Bob Lyons
Miguel Schon
Joyce Scirpo
Tony Shattuck
Henry Tichy
Susan Wall

Judy Castellano, Warden
Pam Naylor, Warden

Saint John's Vicar Search Survey Summary

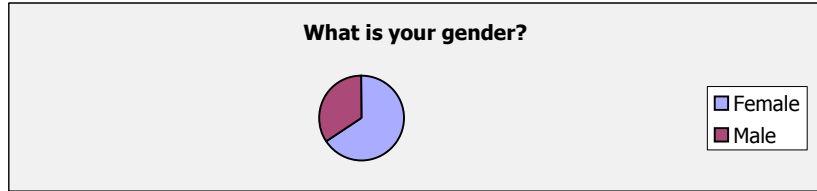
1. Tell us about yourself

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
14 - 18 age	9.8%	6
19 - 25 age	1.6%	1
26 - 40 age	3.3%	2
41 - 59 age	41.0%	25
60 + age	44.3%	27
answered question		61
skipped question		0



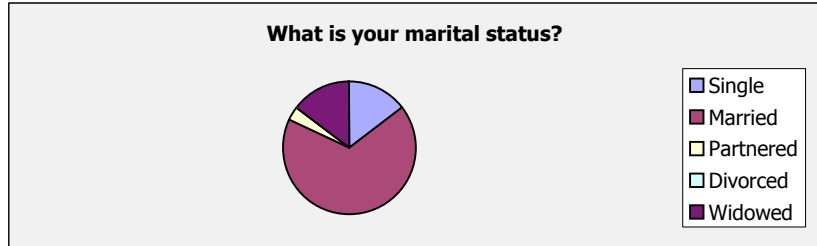
2. What is your gender?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Female	65.6%	40
Male	34.4%	21
answered question		61
skipped question		0



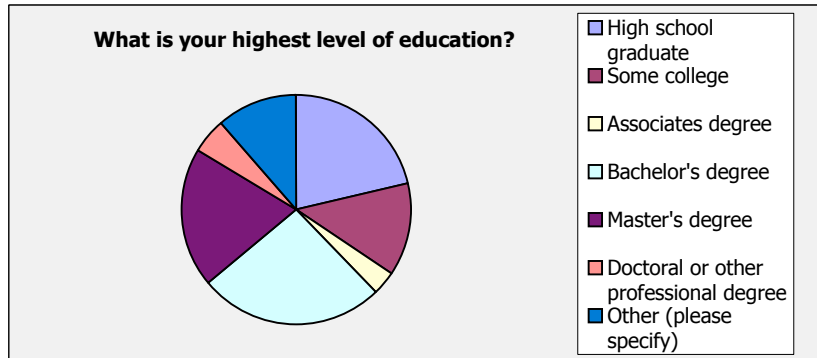
3. What is your marital status?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Single	14.8%	9
Married	67.2%	41
Partnered	3.3%	2
Divorced	0.0%	0
Widowed	14.8%	9
answered question		61



4. What is your highest level of education?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
High school graduate	21.3%	13
Some college	13.1%	8
Associates degree	3.3%	2
Bachelor's degree	26.2%	16
Master's degree	19.7%	12
Doctoral or other	4.9%	3
Other	11.5%	7
answered question		61
skipped question		0



Saint John's Vicar Search Survey Summary

5. What first brought you to St. John's?

Many of our parishioners have attended Saint John's all their lives. There are also many whose search for a new church ended with Saint John's. The vast majority indicated that family and friends were the main reason for first visiting our parish.

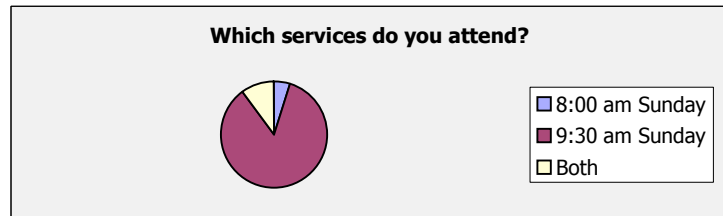
6. How long is your commute?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 15 minutes	65.6%	40
15 to 30 minutes	34.4%	21
Over 30 minutes	0.0%	0
answered question		61
skipped question		0



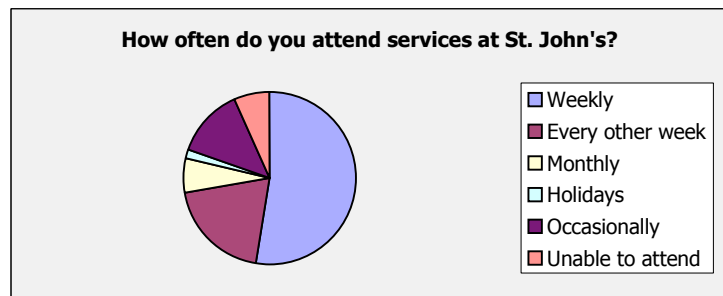
7. Which services do you attend?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
8:00 am Sunday	5.0%	3
9:30 am Sunday	85.0%	51
Both	10.0%	6
answered question		60
skipped question		1



8. How often do you attend services?

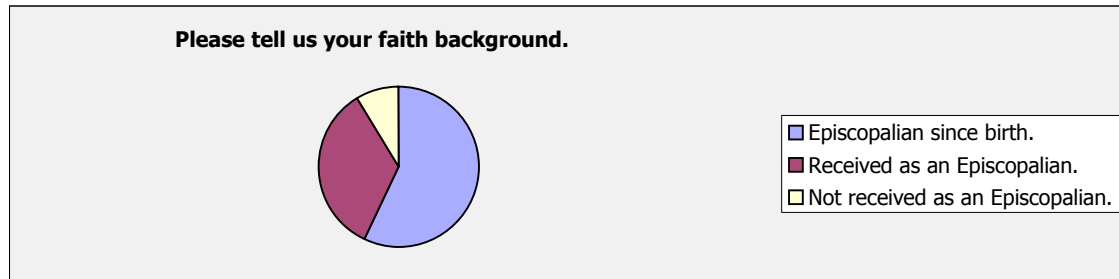
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Weekly	52.5%	32
Every other week	19.7%	12
Monthly	6.6%	4
Holidays	1.6%	1
Occasionally	13.1%	8
Unable to attend	6.6%	4
answered question		61
skipped question		0



Saint John's Vicar Search Survey Summary

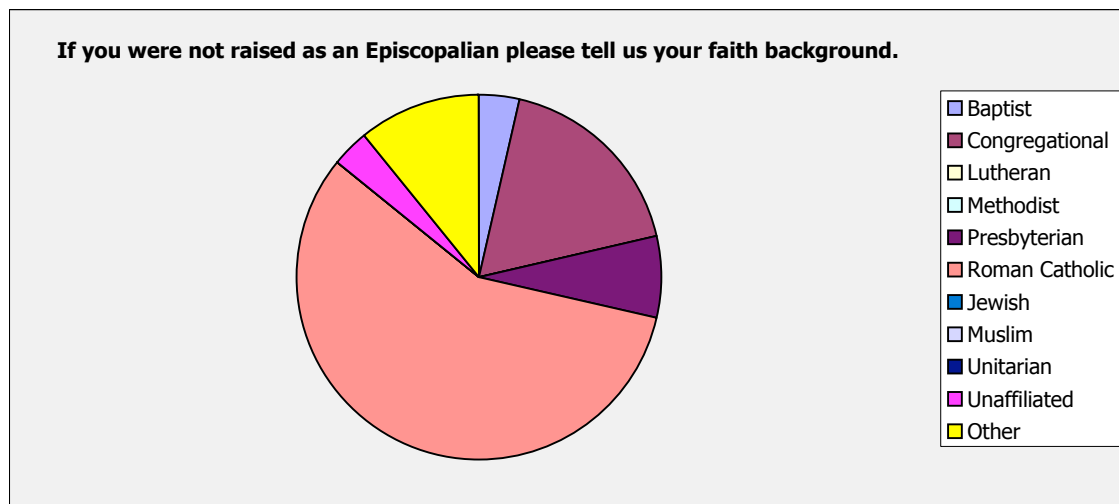
9. Please tell us your faith background.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Episcopalian since birth.	56.9%	33
Received as an Episcopalian.	34.5%	20
Not received as an Episcopalian.	8.6%	5
answered question		58
skipped question		3



10. If you were not raised as an Episcopalian please tell us your faith background.

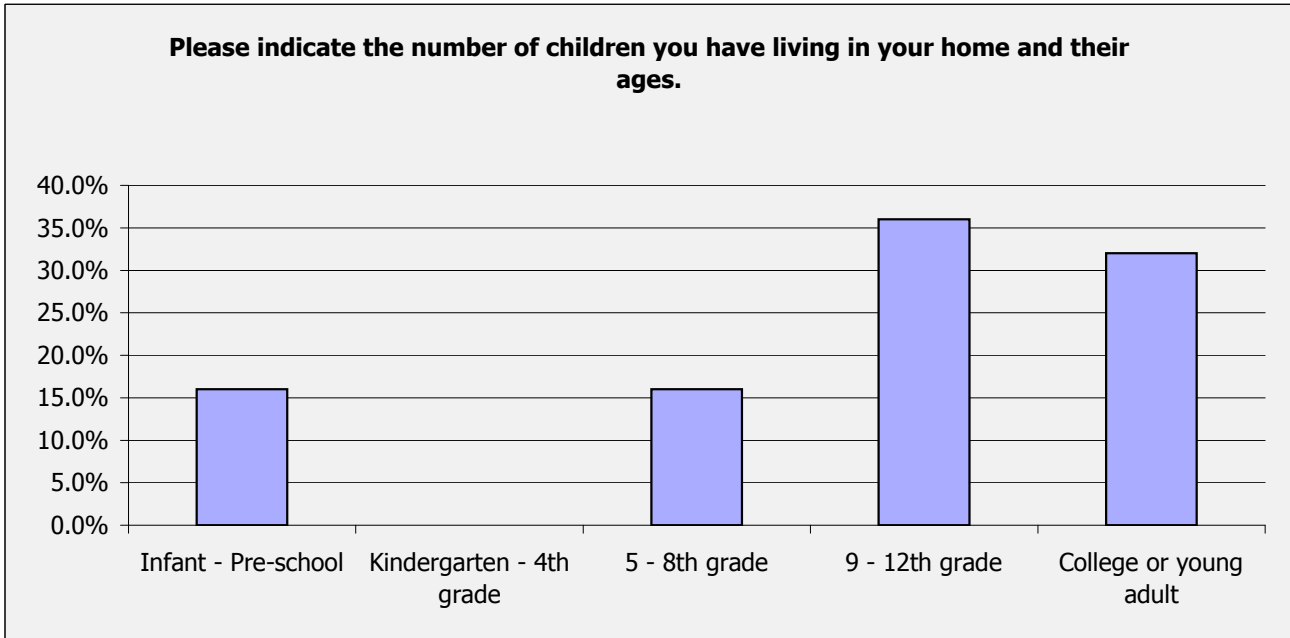
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Baptist	3.6%	1
Congregational	17.9%	5
Lutheran	0.0%	0
Methodist	0.0%	0
Presbyterian	7.1%	2
Roman Catholic	57.1%	16
Muslim	0.0%	0
Unitarian	0.0%	0
Unaffiliated	3.6%	1
Other	10.7%	3
answered question		28
skipped question		33



Saint John's Vicar Search Survey Summary

11. Please indicate the number of children you have living in your home and their ages.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Infant - Pre-school	16.0%	4
Kindergarten - 4th grade	0.0%	0
5 - 8th grade	16.0%	4
9 - 12th grade	36.0%	9
College or young adult	32.0%	8
TOTAL		25
<i>answered question</i>		13
<i>skipped question</i>		48



Saint John's Vicar Search Survey Summary

12. Indicate the importance of each of the following aspects of parish life.

Listed From Most Important to Least Important:
Clergy leadership
Pastoral care (counseling bereavement support, visitation)
Community outreach (Branford adult day care, food pantry, clothes closet)
Fellowship (foyer dinners, coffee hour, chicken bbq, home Eucharist)
Lay participation (vestry, ushers, choir, chalice bearing)
Church school (Living the Good News)
Youth group activities
Adult education
Multigenerational activities
Country setting

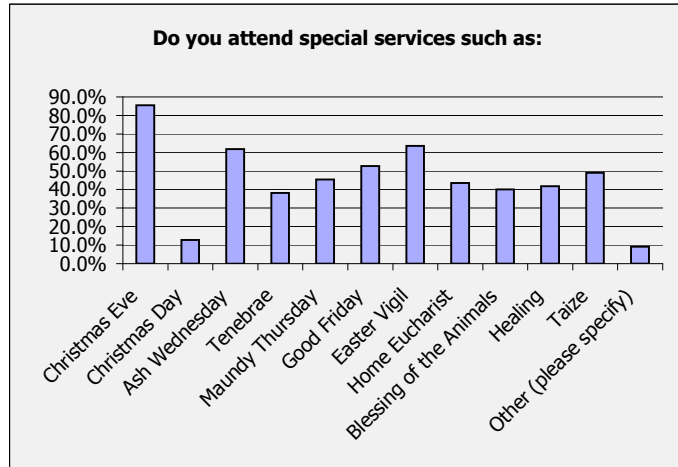
13. How important are the following to your worship experience?

Listed From Most Important to Least Important:
Sermons/ Preaching
Music
Prayerful environment
Faith community
Traditional rituals
Participation of children in the service
Character of the church building
Contemporary service

Saint John's Vicar Search Survey Summary

14. Do you attend special services such as:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Christmas Eve	85.5%	47
Christmas Day	12.7%	7
Ash Wednesday	61.8%	34
Tenebrae	38.2%	21
Maundy Thursday	45.5%	25
Good Friday	52.7%	29
Easter Vigil	63.6%	35
Home Eucharist	43.6%	24
Blessing of the Animals	40.0%	22
Healing	41.8%	23
Taize	49.1%	27
Other (please specify)	9.1%	5
answered question		55
skipped question		6

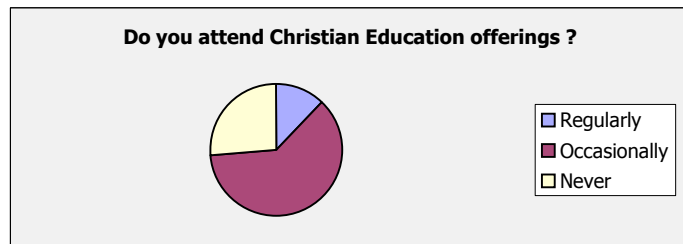


15. Indicate the importance of each of the following statements.

Listed From Most Important to Least Important:
I regard the Bible as open to interpretation
I prefer an emotionally uplifting worship experience
I prefer preaching with an informal conversational delivery
I prefer traditional worship and music
I prefer participatory music
I prefer theologically intellectual preaching
I regard the bible as the literal word of God
I prefer preaching with a formal authoritative delivery

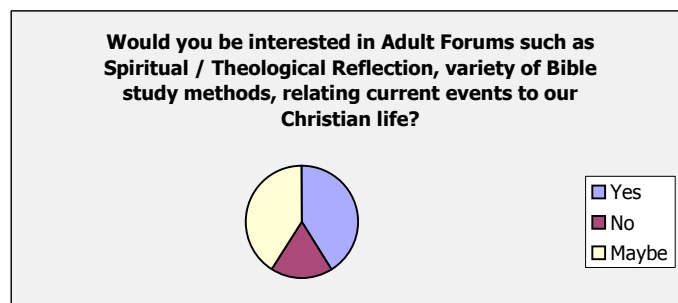
16. Do you attend Christian Education offerings?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Regularly	12.3%	7
Occasionally	61.4%	35
Never	26.3%	15
answered question		57
skipped question		4



17. Would you be interested in Adult Forums such as Spiritual / Theological Reflection, variety of Bible study methods, relating current events to our Christian life?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	41.1%	23
No	17.9%	10
Maybe	41.1%	23
answered question		56
skipped question		5



Saint John's Vicar Search Survey Summary

18. As a result of Worship experiences, Outreach ministries, or classes at St. John's, has your faith in God and / or Jesus been :

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Supported	47.2%	25
Deepened	34.0%	18
Challenged	5.7%	3
All the above	35.8%	19
Other	3.8%	2
answered question		53
skipped question		8



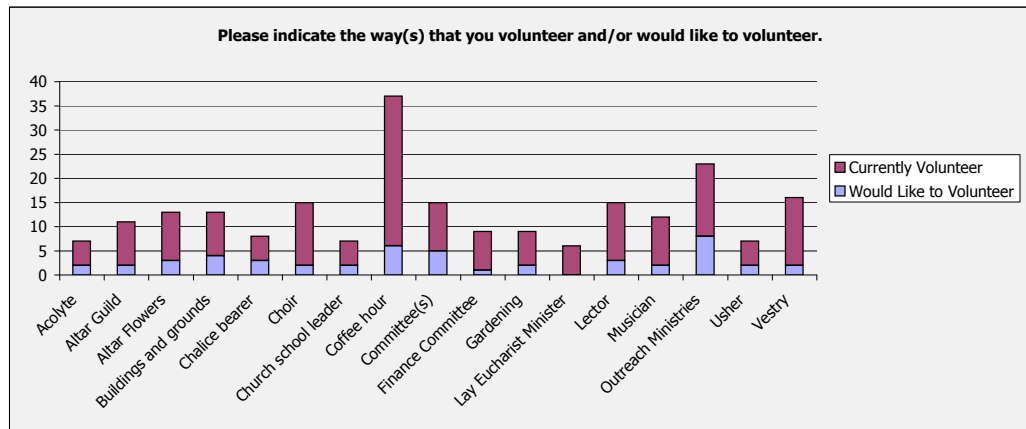
19. Stewardship is about giving your time, talent and treasure. How important or meaningful are each of the following to you?

Listed From Most Important to Least Important:

Making an annual pledge
Giving my time and talent
Making capital contributions
Tithing
Planned giving (legacy/will)

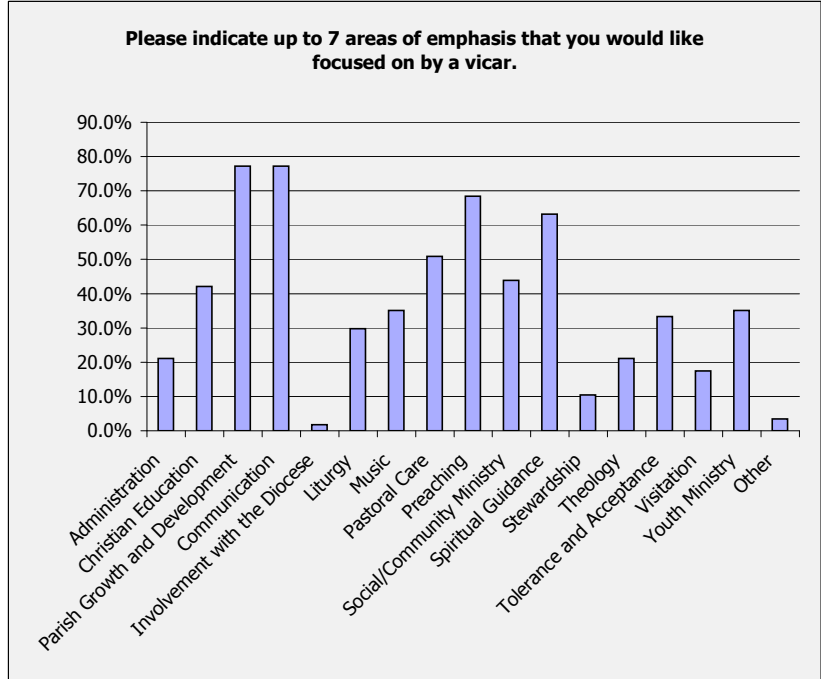
20. Please indicate the way(s) that you volunteer and/or would like to volunteer.

Answer Options	Currently Volunteer	Would Like to Volunteer	Response Count
Acolyte	5	2	7
Altar Guild	9	2	11
Altar Flowers	10	3	13
Buildings and grounds	9	4	13
Chalice bearer	5	3	8
Church school leader	5	2	7
Coffee hour	31	6	37
Committee(s)	10	5	15
Finance Committee	8	1	9
Gardening	7	2	9
Lay Eucharist Minister	6	0	6
Lector	12	3	15
Musician	10	2	12
Outreach Ministries	15	8	23
Usher	5	2	7
Vestry	14	2	16
Other ways you would like to volunteer			6
answered question		53	
skipped question		8	



21. Please indicate up to 7 areas of emphasis that you would like focused on by a vicar.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Administration	21.1%	12
Christian Education	42.1%	24
Parish Growth and Development	77.2%	44
Communication	77.2%	44
Involvement with the Diocese	1.8%	1
Liturgy	29.8%	17
Music	35.1%	20
Pastoral Care	50.9%	29
Preaching	68.4%	39
Social/Community Ministry	43.9%	25
Spiritual Guidance	63.2%	36
Stewardship	10.5%	6
Theology	21.1%	12
Tolerance and Acceptance	33.3%	19
Visitation	17.5%	10
Youth Ministry	35.1%	20
Other	3.5%	2
answered question		57
skipped question		4



22. If you could tell priest candidates one of your best experiences at St. John's, what would it be?

The experience most frequently mentioned was that of being welcomed on a first visit and a continuing feeling of acceptance and fellowship; of being part of a caring and spiritual community involved with each other, and reaching out in the local and world communities. Reference was also made to a wide array of special events and services, from baptisms / weddings of children, to Christmas pageants, to the all-night vigil, to Taize services; special times shared together or alone in the quiet peace of the church. Still others highlighted the deepening of their knowledge or faith through bible study, forums and teaching the youth of the parish.

23. What are the biggest challenges facing St. John's?

Nearly all responses referred to the challenge of retention, growth, development and financial well-being of the parish going forward; the need to attract new members, youth, and young families to assure that St. John's parish will thrive for generations to come.

24. What keeps you at St. John's?

Overwhelmingly the parishioners' answers were about the people of St. John's. Many who responded valued the warmth, love, loyalty, faith and spirit of their fellow members and named fellowship and a sense of family as reasons why they stay at St. John's.

Also listed as reasons, the feeling that St. John's is an intimate and tolerant spiritual home that is also very active in the larger community through the outreach efforts of the congregation.

To many, the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place is a very compelling reason for their continued worship here.

Though the answers to this question were as varied as the respondents themselves, three themes seemed to emerge most frequently. Love for God whose presence is deeply felt, love for each member as an essential and valued part of this faith community and love for the community outside our doors where there is opportunity to share the good news.

Thank you for your time, commitment and support during our search process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a Search Committee member or email us at stjohnssupport@gmail.com.