



SAINT ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Saint Ann's Survey Summary February 2010

What You Are Going to Hear

- How the survey was generated and distributed
- Breakdown of the survey responses

How the Survey Was Generated and Distributed

Generating the Survey

- Reviewed samples of other surveys conducted
- Appointed a subcommittee to generate the survey
- Subcommittee presented and reviewed the survey with the entire Search Committee to create a final Saint Ann's survey

Distributing the Survey

- Survey was provided to all parishioners both electronically, using Survey Monkey, and via hardcopy* for those without computer access
 - Adult Survey
 - Youth survey
 - Elementary survey
- Surveys were available January 13 through February 3
- Computer sessions held January 24 and 31 to assist parishioners with completing the survey online

*data from hardcopy responses were entered into Survey Monkey ³

Current Search Status

The Surveys are complete:

- 147 Parish Surveys submitted
- 16 Youth Surveys submitted
- 4 Elementary Surveys submitted

A series of Focus Group sessions to expand our base of information are nearing completion.

Adult Survey Responses

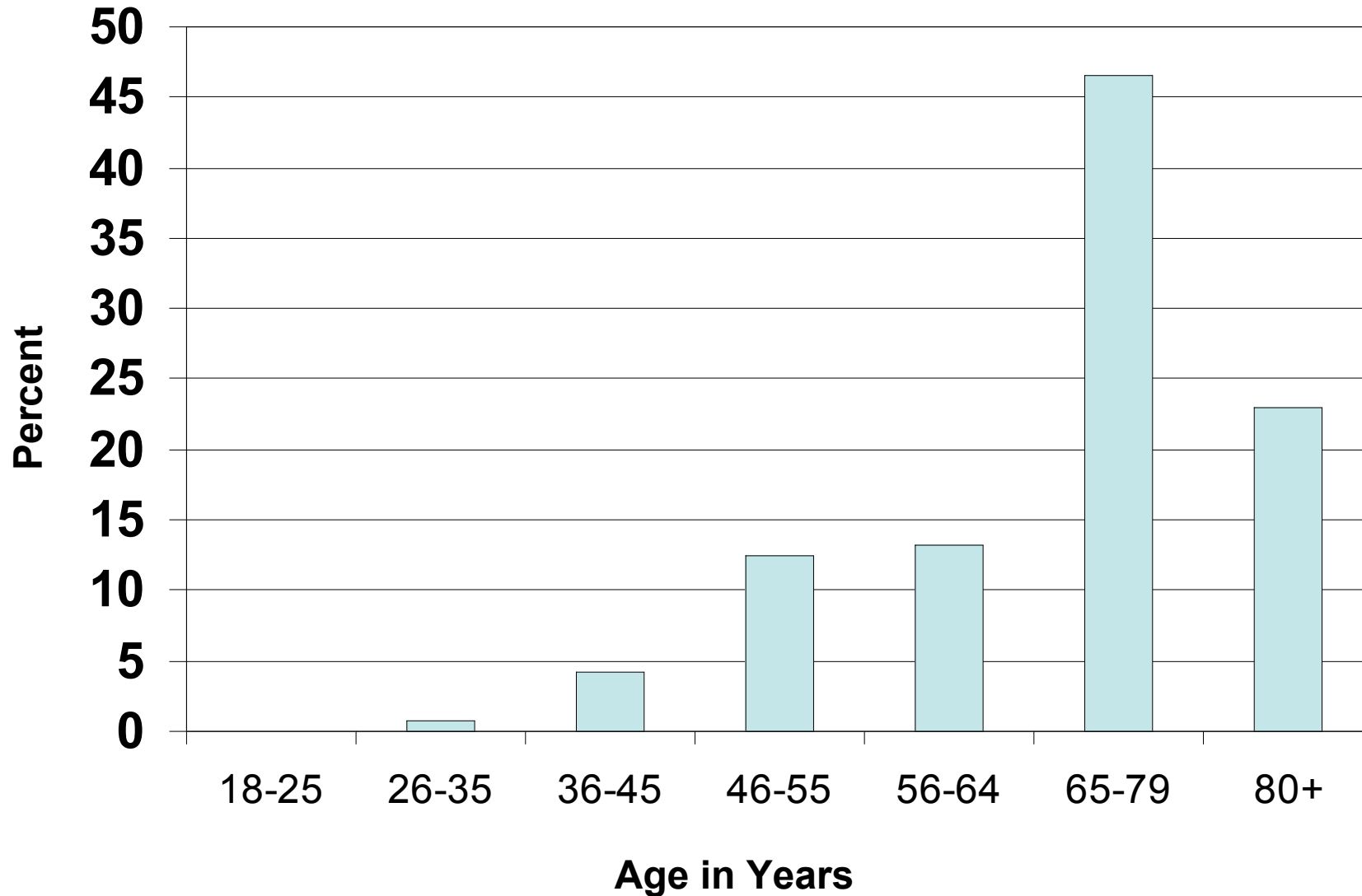
Breakdown of Survey Responses

- Demographics
- Evaluation of Parish Worship & Programs
- Attributes of Potential Rector Candidates

Demographics – The Numbers

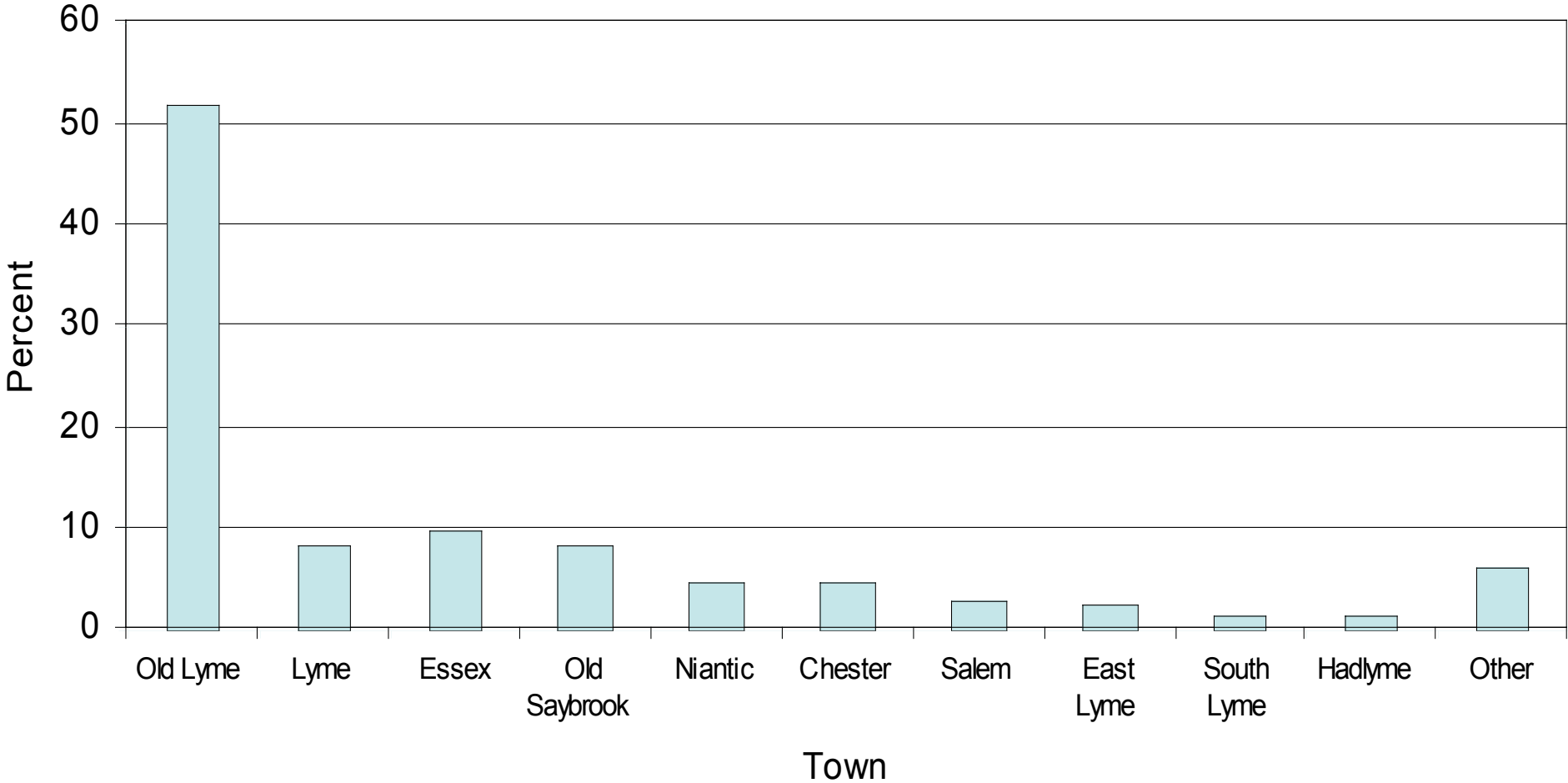
- 147 respondents
- 32% men, 68% women
- 31 respondents have children under 22
- 50% were raised in the Episcopal Church
- Of those who were not, 33% came from a Roman Catholic background
- Of those who responded, 30% attend 8:30 service, 70% attend 10:30 service

The highest percentage of respondents are over the age of 65

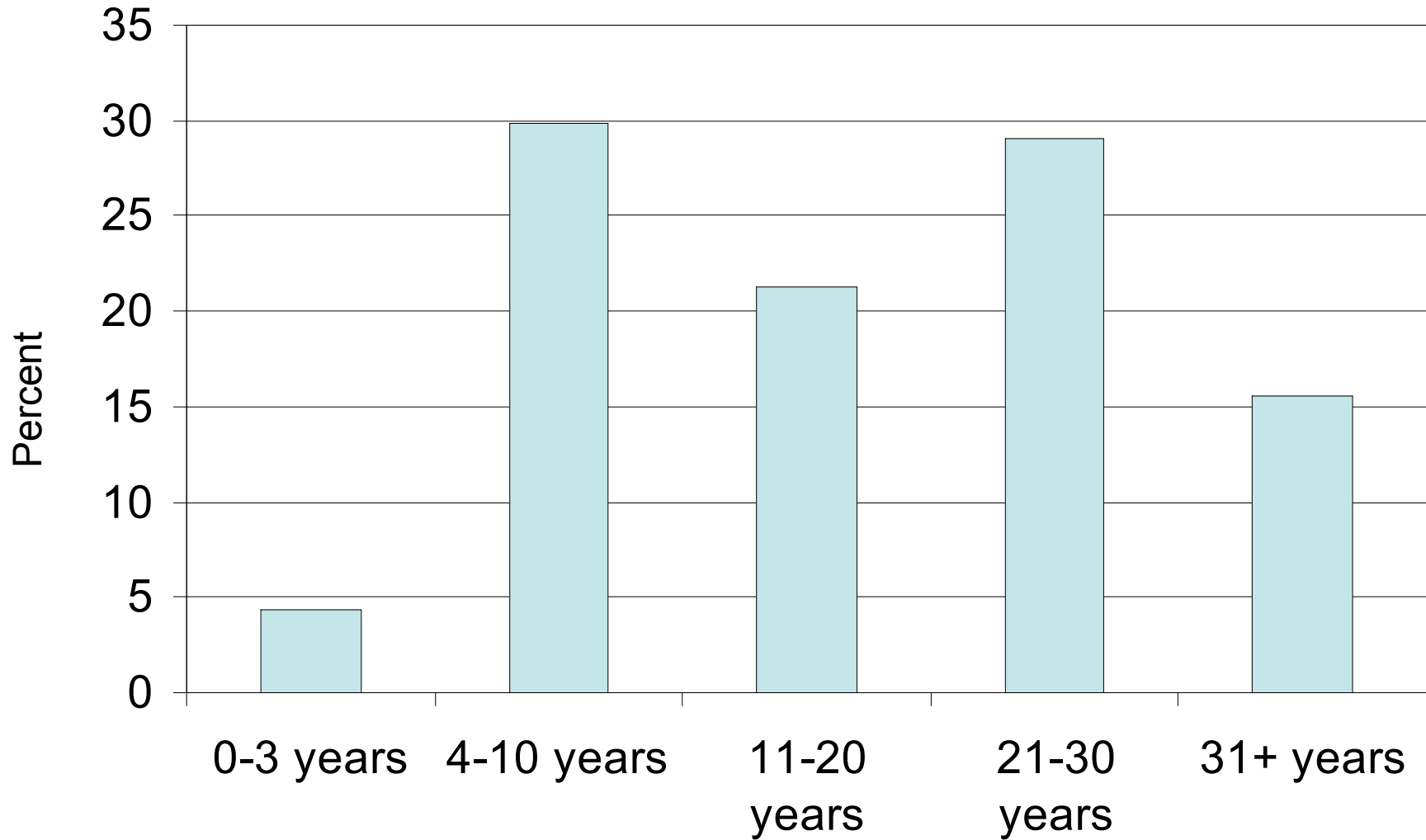


60% of respondents come from Lyme/Old Lyme

Residence of Respondents



66% of respondents have been members of Saint Ann's for more than 10 years



Demographics

Our Impression of the Essay Responses

“What first brought you to Saint Ann’s?”

Most common responses:

- Location
- Rector
- Episcopal Liturgy
- Friend/Relative

“What keeps you at Saint Ann’s?”

Most common responses:

- Sense of Community/People
- Liturgy/Spirituality
- Music
- Clergy

Breakdown of responses based on categories:
Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important

Worship

- Top 2 items listed as “*Very Important*”
 - Preaching/Quality of Sermons
 - 10:30 AM Sunday Service
- Top 2 items listed as “*Not Important*”
 - Liturgical Style: Exploration of contemporary/alternative liturgy
 - Music: Exploration of contemporary music

Music

- Top 2 items listed as “*Very Important*”
 - Music as a component of worship
 - Adult Choir
- Top 2 items listed as “*Not Important*”
 - Children’s Choir
 - Concerts

Breakdown of responses based on categories (continued):
Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important

Christian Education

- Top 2 items listed as “*Very Important*”
 - Sunday School
 - Youth Group
- Top 2 items listed as “*Not Important*”
 - Retreats
 - EFM – Education for Ministry

Community Fellowship

- Top 2 items listed as “*Very Important*”
 - Coffee Hour
 - Lenten Program
- Top 2 items listed as “*Not Important*”
 - WSA (Women of Saint Ann’s)
 - Saturday Men’s Group

Breakdown of responses based on categories (continued):
Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important

Outreach

- Top 2 items listed as “*Very Important*”
 - Nearly New Shop
 - Shoreline/Essex Soup Kitchens
- Top 2 items listed as “*Not Important*”
 - KnitWits
 - Prayer Shawl Ministry

Parish Governance

- Top 2 items listed as “*Very Important*”
 - Budget explanation/transparency
 - Financial/budget management
- Top 2 items listed as “*Not Important*”
 - Having a good relationship with the Diocese
 - Rotation of committee leadership

Breakdown of responses based on categories (continued):
Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important

Pastoral Care

- Top 2 items listed as “*Very Important*”
 - Spiritual Guidance
 - Baptism
- Top 2 items listed as “*Not Important*”
 - Premarital counseling
 - Trained parishioner support in time of need

Summary of Parish Life

Of the aspects of “Parish Life” that you rated “Very Important”, please pick the top four most important aspects, in order of importance

1. Spiritual Guidance
2. Youth Programming
3. Financial Management
4. Music/Choir

Also mentioned frequently:

- Mission/Outreach
- Clergy support in time of need
- Communication from Vestry

Summary of Parish Life

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with how well Saint Ann's delivers on the four most important aspects

- Most respondents were generally satisfied, with a few aspects needing improvement
- Though no strong trends, most often mentioned as areas of satisfaction: worship, music, fellowship, pastoral care
- Though no strong trends, most often mentioned as areas of dissatisfaction: youth programming, finance, communication from vestry

Summary of Parish Life

If you are not satisfied with how well Saint Ann's delivers on an aspect that is important to you, we welcome your suggestions.

- Only a third (33%) of respondents offered suggestions. No strong themes dominated, and suggestions echoed earlier comments. Most frequently cited suggestions include:
- **Better Communication** (especially from the Vestry, and between adults and youth/children in the parish, opportunities for small group discussions)
- **Recruitment** (attract young families to the church)
- **Rector qualities** (good preacher, deeply engaged, good leader)
- **Better Community Exposure** (to let people know the church is there and what it has to offer)

80% of respondents feel there are opportunities for them to utilize their talents in a ministry of their choice at Saint Ann's

- Most responded that there are plentiful opportunities – “something for everyone” – at Saint Ann's
- Many responded that their participation has diminished due to age and disability
- Due to family obligations and time pressures, many feel unable to do more than they are currently doing.
- Some expressed a desire to utilize their talents in areas they had not participated in before

Other Church Issues

What are the best features of Saint Ann's that you would like to see continue and grow?

Top 6 Responses

- Caring, friendly, spiritual community; fellowship
- High quality, brilliant, devoted clergy
- Continued development of youth programs
- Excellent music/choir programs
- Traditional liturgy/dignity of worship
- Commitment to mission/outreach

Other Church Issues

What do you feel should be changed at Saint Ann's?

Out of 147 respondents, 56% answered this question. Of those who did offer suggestions, the following were the most frequently cited, and most echoed earlier statements:

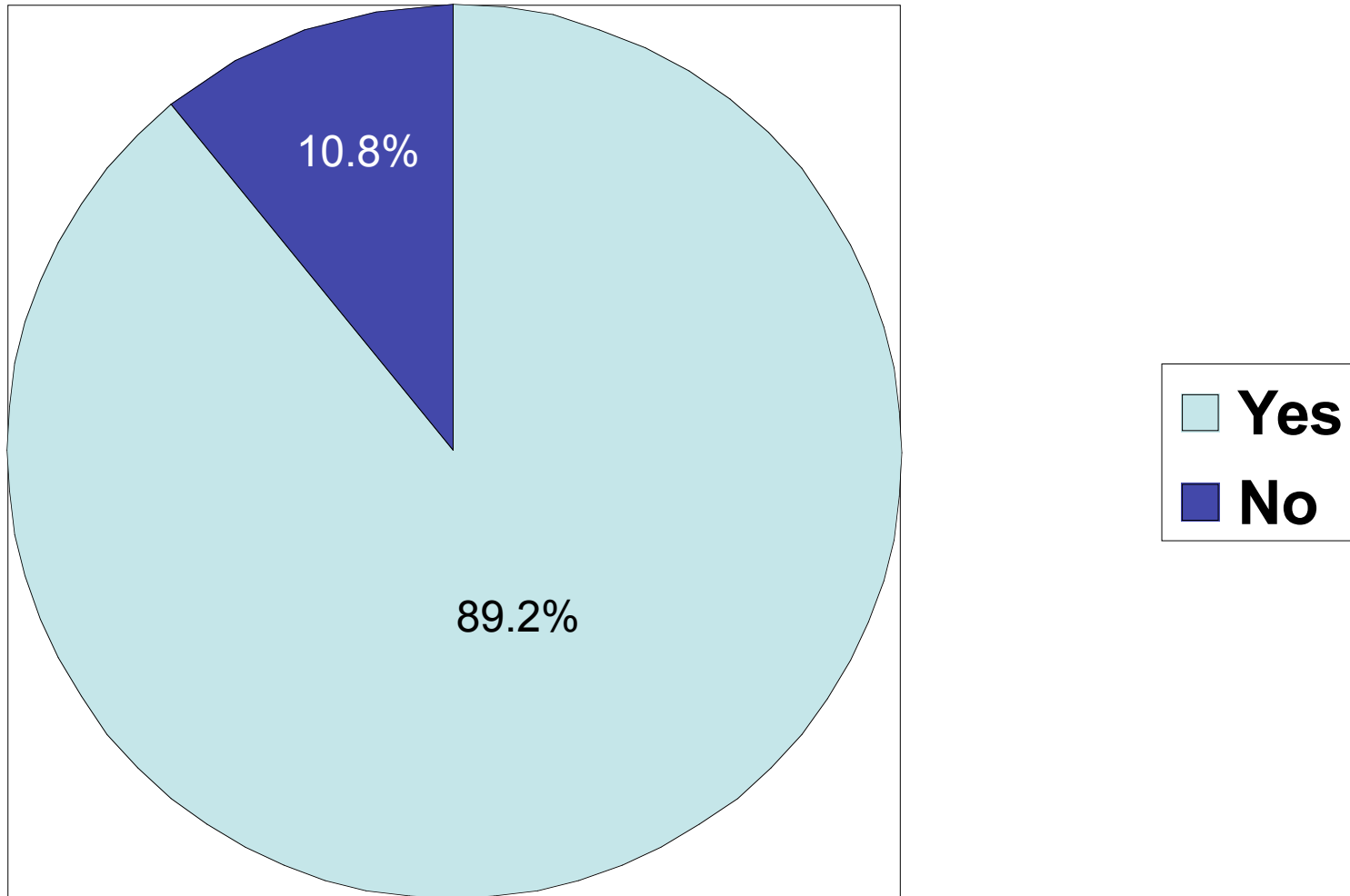
- **Growth** (focus on attracting new families; consider alternate/supplemental service for families followed by fellowship such as pot luck)
- **Communication** (from vestry, with larger community, revamp newsletter)
- **Stewardship** (more emphasis on and effectiveness of stewardship)
- **Physical Facility** (improve acoustics, handicap accessibility, lighting; encourage volunteers for grounds upkeep)

Other Church Issues

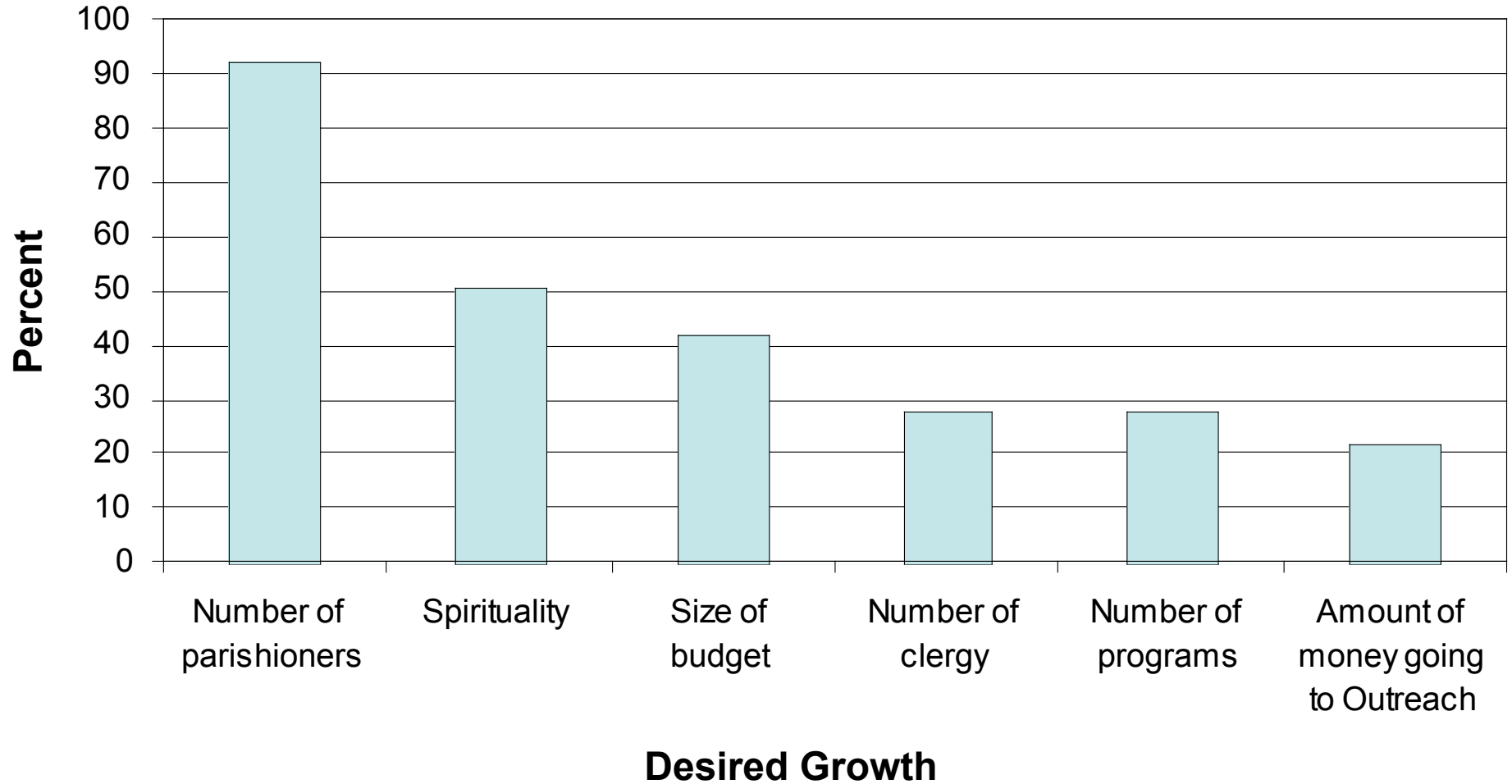
What are the challenges facing Saint Ann's today and over the next five years?

- **Finances**
- **Aging parish**
- **Growth in membership/attracting younger members and families**
- **Finding and retaining new Rector/strong leader**

Do You Want Saint Ann's to Grow?



If yes, please choose the ways that you would like to see Saint Ann's grow:



Rector Candidate Attributes

Breakdown of Responses (in order)

Top 6 items listed as “Very Important”:

1. Spiritual Leadership
2. Trustworthiness
3. Approachability
4. Being an inspirational preacher
5. Showing strong personal religious commitment
6. Being an effective counselor

Top 6 items listed as “Not Important”:

1. Use of inclusive (non-sexist) language in worship
2. Ability as a retreat leader
3. Emphasis on more global outreach
4. Encouraging flexibility in worship
5. Formal preaching style
6. Informal preaching style

Youth Survey Responses

- 16 respondents (6 boys, 10 girls)
- Ages: Age 12-13 (5), Age 14-17 (6), Age 18+ (5)
- 50% attend church services almost every week
- 69% participate in Sunday Night Youth Fellowship, 50% serve as acolytes, 64% participate in Youth Worship
- Rated as “Very Important” (in order):
 - Youth Group
 - Youth Group Social Events (3 way tie)
 - The people/friends I’ve met there (3 way tie)
 - Whole Parish Events (parish picnic, etc.) (3 way tie)

(continued)

Do you feel welcome in church on Sunday morning?

100% responded YES. Most common reasons were because they know many people, feel loved, people know their names, friendliness

What do you think would make the worship services better?

Better sermon, reassuring parents about youth programs, more music and singing than talking, more fun and active services with everybody, livelier hymns, have youth sing, have youth make something to put up in the church, more social time, shorter services, do something to bring in families and young children

Do you like the music?

92% responded yes, 8% responded no

Yes: sounds nice, profound lyrics, like the choir and organ

No: want fun, lively music, less repetitive, some hymns tough to sing

(continued)

What are 3 things you like best about Saint Ann's?

1. People/friends
2. Food
3. Activities/social events

If you could change Saint Ann's as a whole, what would you do?

1. I would not change anything
2. Involve youth more
3. Make church more active; more small-scale ways to help
4. Break barrier between generations; more ways for youth/adults to connect
5. Encourage parish to reach out to others
6. Make it more retro; make teen lounge more fun
7. Add programs that focus on youth
8. More organization with some events

(continued)

What characteristics would be most important for our new Rector to have?

1. Likes teens/kids
2. Enthusiastic, nice, helpful, happy, kind, good teacher
3. Exciting sermons; communicate to all in the sermons
4. Looks out for all of us; relates to majority of members of parish
5. An open mind; willing to change old ways; have modern ways
6. Keep youth program strong
7. Knowledge of the church
8. Be involved
9. Be young; married; have children; understand families
10. Good party planner for church activities
11. Lets kids/teens have a voice in changes

(continued)

What characteristics would you not want to have in a new Rector?

1. Big ego; intolerant
2. Mean, stupid, different
3. Dull, hates youth, no spunk, very strict
4. Old, grumpy, won't change ways, doesn't like kids, doesn't let teens/kids have a voice in changes
5. Don't come in and change everything right away
6. Short temper, mean
7. Someone who is not quiet
8. Angry and mean and not involved

What 2 questions would you like us to ask the potential new Rector?

1. What would make you a good rector for this church?
(characteristics)
2. How would you work to encourage youth? Do you like kids?

The Youngest Amongst Us

Results of the Elementary Survey

- 4 respondents; 3 boys, 1 girl; all attend church school at Saint Ann's
- Age 4-5 (1), Age 6-7 (1), Age 8-9 (1), Age 10-11(1)
- Attendance: Almost every week (3), 1-2 times monthly (1)
- *I go to church/church school mostly because (check all that apply):*
 - My parents make me (2)
 - My brothers and/or sisters go (2)
 - I like the other kids (3)
 - I like what we learn, like bible stories, information about the church (3)
 - I like what we do, like crafts, projects (3)
 - I feel welcome here (4)

(continued)

What are the 3 things you like best about Saint Ann's?

- Playing with my friends (2)*
- Doing the crafts in church school (2)*
- Coffee hour (2)*
- I found neat stuff (1)*
- Everything (1)*

What are 2 things you do not like about Saint Ann's?

- Nothing (2)*
- Leaving (1)*
- Communion (boring) (1)*
- Too busy (1)*

Focus Groups Interviews

17 interviews, 23 groups

Liturgical Assistants, Altar Guild, Worship Committee, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Choir, Intercessory Prayer, Beyond Coffee Hour Groups (2), Saturday Men's Group, Youth Education Teachers, Parish Life Committee, Women of Saint Ann's, Nearly New Shop Board, Property Administration, Memorial Garden, Knitters, Staff, Youth Group, Vestry, Investment Committee, Stewardship Committee, Outreach Committee, Mission Development Committee

Questions Asked

1. As you think about the major contributions your committee makes to the life of our church, can you tell us how the new rector could help to make your work even better? As far as your committee is concerned what would be the most important attribute of a new rector?
2. Working as you do on this committee, what would you want to tell the new rector that your new challenges are? What changes would you like him/her to make?
3. Is there anything else that we need to know about experiences in this group that would be helpful in the process of calling a new rector?

Next Steps in the Search Process

- Complete focus group interviews
- Review the survey findings with the parish
- Transitional Ministry Newsletter Posting
- Develop a parish profile

Questions?