



St Monica's 2019 Survey Results

Earlier this year, the Rector and Vestry prayerfully began work to develop a strategic plan for the next five years. We agreed that we must intentionally and openly seek input from the congregation. We decided to practice community discernment (holy and prayerful listening) in order to seek God's will for the parish. We wanted to listen to you, our parishioners, and invite you to prayerfully consider where God is leading us.

Several weeks ago, the vestry published a simple nine-question survey, available for responses through either a paper or online format. Over several weeks, the survey was included as an insert in the weekly bulletins, and also offered electronically through Survey Monkey.

NOTE: There were fifty-six (56) total respondents to the survey.

QUESTION 1

Using a few words, please share what you feel are the top 5 strategic priorities for St. Monica's Episcopal Church, over the next five (5) years. Rank in highest priority order (1 - highest, 5 lowest) (Example: increase endowment, grow attendance, increase outreach, etc.) PLEASE, ONLY ONE PRIORITY PER LINE.

Results

- **Priority 1 - Grow Attendance**
 - 42% of respondents indicated *Grow Attendance/Grow the Church* as the number one priority.
 - Next largest percentage (16.1%) indicated *Outreach* as the number one priority.
- **Priority 2 - Grow Young Families/Youth Ministry**
 - 23.2% of respondents indicated *Grow Young Families/Youth Ministry* as the number two priority.
 - Next largest percentage (17.9%) of respondents indicated *Outreach* as the number two priority.
- **Priority 3 - Outreach**
 - 17.9% of respondents indicated *Outreach* as the number three priority.
 - Next largest percentage (12.5%) of respondents indicated *Grow Young Families/Youth Ministry* as the number three priority.
- **Priority 4 - Engagement/Social Activities**
 - 12.5% of respondents indicated *Engagement/Social Activities* as the number four priority.
 - Next largest percentage (8.9%) of respondents indicated *Outreach* as the number four priority.
- **Priority 5 - Outreach**
 - 12.5% of respondents indicated *Outreach* as the number five priority.
 - Next largest percentage (5.4%) of respondents indicated *Improve Communications* as the number five priority.

- **The following issues were chosen as one of the five priorities (regardless of ranking) by the indicated percentage of respondents.**
 - **Outreach – 73.2% of respondents**
 - **Grow Attendance – 58.9% of respondents**
 - **Grow Young Families/Youth Ministry – 50% of respondents**
 - **Engagement/Social Activities – 33.9% of respondents**
 - **Endowment – 25% of respondents**
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Five Priorities Updates and Ongoing plans

Service-Local Mission (Outreach)

Our Service-Local Mission Commission (Outreach) under the vestry leadership of Carol Hedman and Janet Ross has seen a resurgence in participation in local mission efforts.

- Through our existing *Guadalupe Soup Kitchen Ministry* new parishioners are serving monthly in this amazing local mission initiative. We also have seen renewed interest in our *Baby Basics Ministry* and two new parishioners are taking on leadership positions in this amazing ministry.
- In 2018, a team of 8-10 parishioners partnered with *Meals of Hope* to serve as a local mission team to man a mobile food pantry that serves our struggling sisters in brothers in one of the local neighborhoods. Monthly this team serves anywhere from 125 to 150 families by providing healthy, nutritious, and sustainable food provided by the *Meals of Hope* mission.
- At the April Vestry meeting the vestry voted to support a new local mission initiative partnership with *New Horizons of Southwest Florida*, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping at-risk children and teens who are growing up in an environment of poverty, academic failure, and hopelessness. Beginning in early Fall, St. Monica's will host a New Horizon's Super Teens club, which will utilize our facility to provide tutoring and development support through their after-school program, which focuses on the academic and social needs of at-risk teens from 6th through 12th grade in a supportive and exciting atmosphere. Monday through Thursday each week during the school year, the Super Teens Club provides an alternative to the negative influences surrounding our students. Every day at the Club, teenagers are making the decision to improve their grades, grow in their faith and become productive members of our community. There will be opportunities for members of St. Monica's to volunteer as mentors and coaches to these teens, to help them grow in faith, and to set them up for success in the years to come. More information will be forthcoming.

Grow Attendance

Our Evangelism Commission under the vestry leadership of Sarah Meador and Cooper Dearborn continues to work diligently to create a culture of Radical Welcome at St. Monica's, thus leading to continued growth and new member engagement.

- Since March 2018, the commission reported to the vestry that 308 new people have visited the parish, 86 newcomers are at some point in the process of becoming active/engaged members, and 31 newcomers are on an action list for follow up and engagement.
- We are about to host our fourth newcomers gathering, known as *Circle of Friends*, at the home of Fr. Eric and Terri. This gathering has proven to be an effective way for newcomers to get to know each other and to explore deepening their relationship to the parish.
- Average Sunday attendance for all three services continues to increase over last year (and over the last four-year average). We are running close to 70-75% seating capacity at our 9:30 am Sunday morning service.

- The Rector and Staff are evaluating and planning for the possibility of adding a fourth service on Sunday at 11:30 am to our worship offering. Indications are good that with our growth trend, we can continue that increase by simply adding another Sunday service.
- On Easter Sunday 2019, the new 11:15 am service boasted an attendance of 96 people. We are growing!

Grow Young Families/Youth Ministry

The Education Commission under the vestry leadership of Doug Ball and Jenny Wise continues to provide opportunities for Christian formation for all ages. There have been many formation offerings this past year for adults: Adult Formation on Sundays, Wednesday Men's Bible Study, Friday Bible Study, Rector Thursday Study, Lenten Soup and Study, Lenten Day Retreat, Confirmation classes, and much more.

- In August 2018, a group of parishioners began an intentional discernment process to consider the viability of re-starting our Sunday school program, forming a new Sunday school team led by Suzanne Bodley and Tess Willbur-Williams. Several new teachers have joined the team and currently we are offering the *Living the Good News* lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for both elementary, and middle/high school youth. Our average attendance in Sunday school is anywhere from 8-12 children each week.
- At their April 2019 meeting, the vestry passed a resolution to utilize the Youth Program Fund to create a part-time Lay Youth Minister position and to fund the new position fully in 2020 from the operating budget. This summer, Fr. Eric will begin the process of a search for this new staff position.
- With our new mission to support New Horizons, and with our existing youth and children, God is offering us an incredible opportunity to offer Christian Formation opportunities for people of all ages.

Engagement and Social Activities

The Parish Life Commission, under the vestry leadership of Tom Coté and Mike Kennedy, and with the coordination of parishioner Jill Ducatman, has started re-focusing our efforts to create opportunities to eat, play, and have fun together.

- Each week our Coffee Hour attendance is growing and the opportunity for conversation, fellowship, and friendships continues.
- Last summer we tried a new fellowship event when several of us attended a Fort Myers Miracles baseball game together.
- The potluck events of the Celebration of New Ministry and the Annual Meeting were such a success, that the Parish Life team scheduled another potluck for *May the Fourth*.
- The Parish Life team hosted a *Sunset Evening at Vanderbilt Beach* a few weeks ago. Twenty-three of us joined together for shared food, shared fellowship, and the shared beauty of this wonderful place we call home.
- We are eating, playing, and having fun together, however, we need team members to join our Social Activities Team, Coffee Hour Team, and Kitchen Team. With your help, more fun events will help us grow together as a community of fellowship and fun.

5. Endowment

From the Endowment Committee's report to the vestry: St. Monica's is experiencing a resurgence of growth in the many ministries that are part of our mission in the community.

- In 2019 Father Eric, Vestry and Endowment Committee established goals to increase the growth of the Endowment over the next two years.
- The Birthday Club will be expanded to include gifts that recognize many of God's special blessings in our lives: Anniversaries, Birthdays, and Celebrations and renamed the ABC Club.

- The goal is to increase current participation in the Club from 20% to 40%.
 - We will continue to grow Planned Giving and the Legacy Society through increased education and targeted communication.
 - Our Endowment Committee serves as stewards of the resources God has given us, and we will continue to see growth in those resources to help sustain our legacy into the future.
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QUESTION 2

“I am willing to commit and offer to God’s use my TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE to the support of the following strategic priorities”.

Results

The percentage of respondents willing to support their chosen ranked priorities are as follows:

- Priority 1 (82.1%)
 - Priority 2 (85.7%)
 - Priority 3 (76.8%)
 - Priority 4 (60.7%)
 - Priority 5 (41.1%)
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QUESTION 3

“Are you “Seasonal” or “Year-Round” Parishioner?”

Results

- 69.6% Year Round
 - 12.5% Part Time > 6 months
 - 12.5% Part Time < 6 months
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QUESTION 4

“Please indicate your age range”

Results

- < 18 0%
 - 19-24 0%
 - 25-34 1.8%
 - 35-44 0%
 - 45-54 7.1%
 - 55-64 25.0%
 - 65-74 44.6%
 - 75+ 33.9%
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QUESTION 5

“Do you have children enrolled in Sunday School?”

Results

- Yes 3.6%
 - No 87.5%
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QUESTION 6

“Ages of your Children if in Sunday School”

Results

- 0-4 0
 - 5-10 0
 - 11-13 1.8%
 - 14-17 1.8%
 - 18+ 0
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QUESTION 7

“Please check ministries in which you are actively serving. If not listed, please list as Other”.

Results

- Altar Guild 14.3%
 - Ushers 25.0%
 - Greeters 19.6%
 - Lay Euch. Visitors 7.1%
 - Lay Euch. Ministers 10.7%
 - Endowment Comm. 1.8%
 - Vestry Member 12.5%
 - Feeding Ministry 16.1%
 - Rector’s Study 5.4%
 - Women of St. Mon. 21.4%
 - Parish Life 14.3%
 - Sunday School Team 7.1%
 - Music Program 17.9%
 - Youth 7.1%
 - Healing Team 1.8%
 - Finance Committee 7.1%
 - Office Support Team 30.4%
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QUESTION 8

“Do you participate in the Annual Stewardship program?”

Results

- Yes 83.9%
 - No 0.0%
 - Give but not pledge: 10.7%
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QUESTION 9

“Would you please provide your name”.

Results

- Provided 89.3%
 - Blank 10.7%
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Summary

Using the data collected from the survey, the vestry has already begun and is continuing a process of developing and implementing new goals and objectives and enhancing existing programs and plans. The vestry is committed to support these top five priorities, which we have discerned as God’s hope for St. Monica’s over the next five years. Thank you for your input and responses. Please continue to keep our parish leadership in your prayers, as we continue to discern where God is leading us in mission.

Peace and Blessings,



The Rev. Eric Cooter, Rector

Tom Coté, Senior Warden