



*THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
VENICE, FLORIDA*

Parish Survey

March-April. 2019


WHAT WAS THE SURVEY?

- Hartford Religious Research Institute, a part of the Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
 - 185 survey emails were sent to parishioners
 - 135 responses were received (73%)
 - 90 of the 135 were complete (67%)
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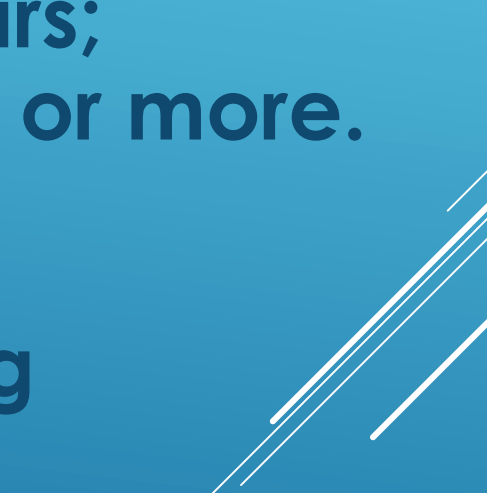
WHO ARE WE? SURVEY SAYS:

- **89%** of us are over 65 years old; **56%** are over 75.
- **50%** of us were raised Episcopalian.
- **22%** of us were raised Roman Catholic.
- **67%** are married; **18%** are widows/widowers.
- We have **2** members under the age of 20; we had **NO** respondents between 20 & 45 yrs. old.
- We are **98%** Caucasian.

WHO ARE WE? SURVEY SAYS:

- **65%** have a college degree (**40%** = post-graduate).
 - **91%** of us are retired.
 - **63%** have income over \$75,000; **47%** have income over \$100,000.
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WHO ARE WE? SURVEY SAYS:

- **82%** live within a 15 minute drive of Good Shepherd.
 - **84%** have lived in the area 5 or more years;
63% have lived in the area 10 years or more.
 - **70%** are couples living without children.
 - We are very similar to our neighbors living within a 5 mile radius.
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WHO ARE WE? SURVEY SAYS:

- Good Shepherd attracted us because of its Episcopal denomination, its worship style and its priest.
- **56%** of us have been a member of Good Shepherd for less than 10 years; **42%** for 10 yrs. or more.
- We are volunteers! More than **70%** of us are involved in two or more church ministries; **40%** are involved in 4 or more!

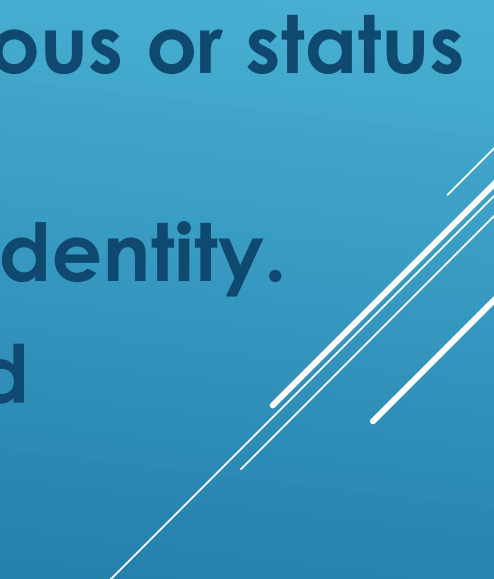
HOW DO WE SEE OURSELVES?

- **We try to be one big family, primarily oriented toward serving each other.**
 - **We support each other in times of need.**
 - **Members are encouraged to discover their unique gifts for ministry and service; and have equal opportunity to take on leadership roles.**
 - **Our leaders keep us informed.**
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HOW DO WE SEE OURSELVES?

- Like any family, we have our spats...and we haven't always been very good at resolving our conflicts.
 - We haven't been encouraged to try something new.
 - We insulate ourselves from other churches and the surrounding community.
 - We disagree about whether or not our morale is good.
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HOW DO WE SEE OURSELVES?

- We believe in our Anglican identity and heritage.
 - We work through our Episcopal Diocese.
 - We don't consider ourselves to be a prestigious or status church.
 - We're comfortable with our congregation's identity.
 - We believe our facilities meet our needs and are satisfied with the church's condition and aesthetics.
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HOW DO WE SEE OURSELVES?

- **We offer Godly, traditional Christian worship.**
 - **We provide fellowship, pastoral care and charity to the needy in our community and the world.**
 - **We share in the Good News of Jesus Christ.**
 - **We see ourselves on a journey to salvation through the grace of our savior, Jesus Christ.**
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WHAT DO WE PREFER?

- We like our worship services being at 8am & 10am.
- We prefer using Rite I at 8am and Rite II at 10am.
- We love our Anglican musical traditions, but would also like to see more “contemporary” songs.
- We love a good sermon from a great preacher.
- But we’d just as soon forego the incense, thank you!


WHERE SHOULD WE PUT MORE EMPHASIS?

- **57%** would like to see us provide more Christian education for children and youth.
- **45%** say we should participate more in activities and programs with other local religious groups.
- **32%** want to do more to bring the good news of the Gospel to the unchurched.
- **28%** feel we should do more to help members discover their own gifts for ministry and service.

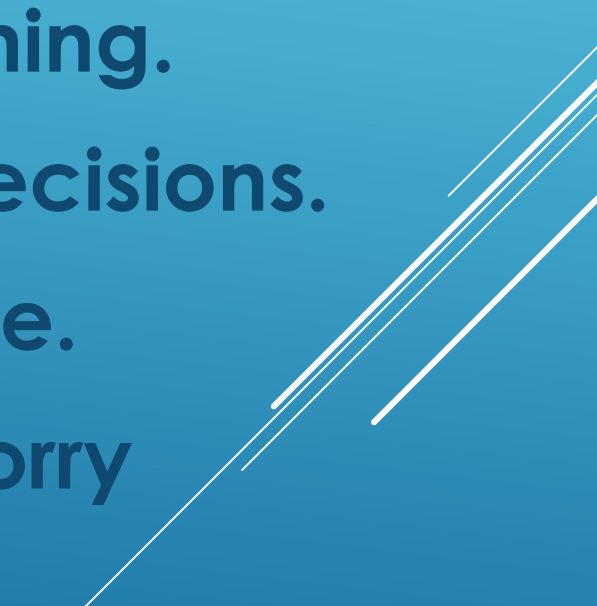
WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE?

- **15%** want to help members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God.
- **15%** want to provide better Christian education for children and youth.
- **13%** want to provide worship that expresses the Gospel in contemporary language and forms.
- **12%** want to help members discover their own gifts for ministry and service.
- No other suggested improvement topped 10%.

WHAT DO WE WANT IN A PRIEST?

- **99%** want a preacher who gives inspiring sermons.
 - **93%** want a priest who plans & leads a worship service that is sensitive to the needs of the parish.
 - **86%** want a priest who emphasizes the spiritual needs of the parishioners.
 - **84%** want a priest who involves the laity in planning and leading events and programs.
 - **82%** want a priest who visits the sick, the shut-ins and the bereaved.
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WE WANT A PRIEST WHO:


- **Emphasizes spiritual development vs. a Biblical scholar.**
 - **Emphasizes the Bible vs. contemporary issues.**
 - **Prefers to try new ways vs. the same old thing.**
 - **Encourages laity leaders vs. makes the decisions.**
 - **Has a relaxed vs. formal interpersonal style.**
 - **Aligns goals to budget vs. “Do it!” (and worry about the cost later).**
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WE WANT A PRIEST WHO:

- Is a strong Celebrant/preacher, at home leading the congregation in worship...vs. a social activist or evangelist.
- Is a gifted teacher committed to Christian formation.
- Is a spiritual guide with an exemplary spiritual life.
- Is outgoing and sociable... vs. reserved and reflective.


WHAT QUALITIES DO WE MOST WANT IN OUR NEW RECTOR?

The Three Most Important Qualities:

- 1. An effective preacher/speaker.**
 - 2. A compassionate and caring person.**
 - 3. A priest who encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives.**
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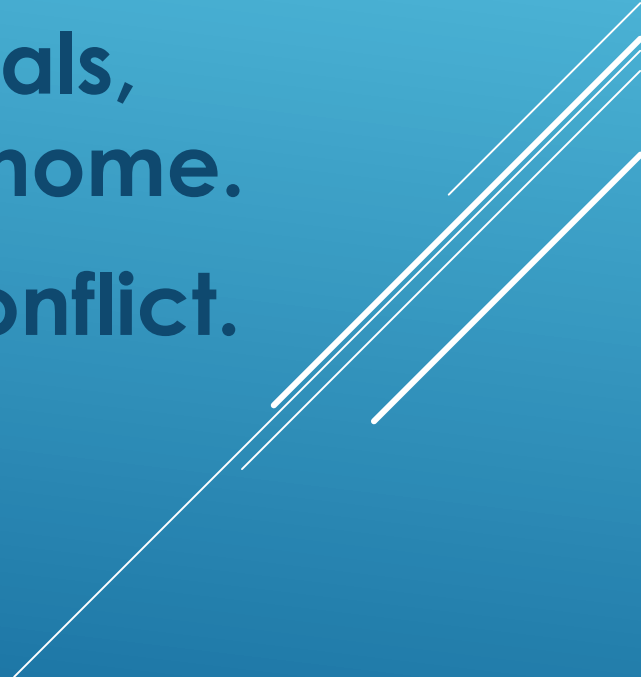
WHAT QUALITIES DO WE MOST WANT IN OUR NEW RECTOR?

The Next Three Most Important Qualities:

- 4. A mature, emotionally secure person.**
 - 5. Someone who builds fellowship among the people with whom he/she works.**
 - 6. A good leader.**
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WHAT QUALITIES DO WE MOST WANT IN OUR NEW RECTOR?

The Third 3 Important Qualities:

- 7. A pastor who calls on people in hospitals, nursing homes and those confined to home.**
 - 8. A person who deals effectively with conflict.**
 - 9. Someone who encourages others to assume and carry out leadership.**
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*QUESTIONS
AND
COMMENTS*

SO WHAT WILL OUR MISSION BE?

**WHAT DO WE WANT OUR NEXT
RECTOR TO KNOW ABOUT THE FUTURE
AT GOOD SHEPHERD?**

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WHERE SHOULD WE PUT MORE EMPHASIS?

- **57%** would like to see us provide more Christian education for children and youth.
- **45%** say we should participate more in activities and programs with other local religious groups.
- **32%** want to do more to bring the good news of the Gospel to the unchurched.
- **28%** feel we should do more to help members discover their own gifts for ministry and service.

WHERE IS GOD'S KINGDOM GOING?

<u>U.S. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>(+/-%)</u>
• Roman Catholic	23.9%	20.8%	-3.1%
• Mainline Protestant	18.1%	14.7%	-3.4%
• Unaffiliated (atheists, agnostics, “nothing” or “none”)	16.1%	22.8%	+6.7%

WHERE IS GOD'S KINGDOM GOING?


AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

	<u>2007</u>	to	<u>2017</u>	<u>+/-%</u>
• Diocese of SW Florida	14,981	-	11588	-22.6%
	<u>2008</u>	to	<u>2018</u>	
• Church of the Good Shepherd	172		132	-23.3%
• The Episcopal Church overall is down: (2007-2017)				-23.5%


CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- **We would ALL be happy to have more children and youth.**
- **But we MUST be realistic!**
 - We tried this with Father John... but we failed to keep young families after he left.
 - Traditional denominations are not attracting young families.
 - Those young families that attend church are most often attracted to evangelical, non-traditional churches.
- **We need to understand who we are and how we fit into God's plan. Where can we do the most good?**

WHAT WILL OUR MISSION BE?

- **50 members (45%)** say we should participate more in activities and programs with other local religious groups.
 - **36 members (32%)** want to do more to bring the good news of the Gospel to the unchurched.
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WHAT WILL OUR MISSION BE?

- **Are we called to a mission of Christian Renewal?**
 - **As people in our age range move into the area in their retirement, might they be ready to re-engage with God?**
 - **Can we seek to reach out to the unchurched in our midst?**
 - **Can we connect with them and welcome them into a fellowship of Holy Communion?**
 - **Are we called to reconcile our brothers and sisters to God and Jesus Christ?**
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