

**St. Thomas' Church  
2018 Parish Survey  
Summary Results  
February 9, 2019**

We received 53 responses to the December 2018 – Parish Survey. A heartfelt thank you to all who shared their thoughtful, gracious feedback and counsel. The 2019 Vestry will utilize these results to help set the priorities for St. Thomas' in the coming year.

The survey asked how parishioners valued six areas of our parish life (Administration, Christian Community, Christian Education, Outreach, Pastoral Care and Worship). Respondents to the survey indicated:

- Pastoral Care and Worship were most valuable, with over 90% indicating either very or extremely valuable;
- 80% found Administration and Christian Education as either very or extremely valuable; and
- 70% found Christian Community and Outreach as either very or extremely valuable.

Respondents identified the need to grow the parish membership. They observed community, employment patterns and family life continue to evolve. They urged St. Thomas' develop additional Worship, Christian Education and Christian Community offerings to meet these evolving and growing needs of its members, including young families. They encouraged St. Thomas's to be more outward focused and engage with the greater Camden Community, through partnering with other parishes and community organizations. Recommending we open our parish and church hall to more community-oriented activities and events.

Respondents identified the need to engage the hearts and talents of all members of the congregation. They talked of the importance of Christian Education for all members; in forms which meet the members' spiritual needs and recognize the complexity of daily life. Further, they talked of the importance of recognizing the unique talents and perspectives of our parishioners. We need to be welcoming of all. We are proud and anchored in our traditions, but we must be willing to embrace new perspectives and approaches. We need to provide opportunities for all members to participate in parish life. Further, we need to act as one parish, not as 7:30am and 10am congregations.

Respondents also noted the importance of being good stewards. They reinforced the importance of preserving our Church, including its care and maintenance. They also commented on being wise stewards of our talent. The need to respect and care for each other. The need to expand parish leadership. The need to include and hold each other accountable. To engage all parishioners' talents.

The priorities identified by respondents are very much in line with their comments and include:

- Grow St. Thomas' membership, including young families
- Increased parishioner engagement; more opportunities to participate in existing ministries, as well as creation of new ministries and/or events
- Expand adult and youth Christian Education opportunities
- Increase our presence in the community, including outreach activities