



More than Sunday

2008 Congregational Survey Results

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Edmonton



Introduction



The purpose of this report is to provide the parishioners of St. Paul's Anglican with an overview summary of the results from the 2008 Congregational Survey conducted by its Vestry.

In total, 176 full surveys were returned, and over 1,300 comments. The comments ranged from simple words of encouragement and praise to very specific exhortations and points of discussion on how to consider going forward from where we are. Concerns, hopes, frustrations, and interests were all voiced, and were taken back to the Vestry to consider for the church's strategic planning activities.

This report provides the basic summation of the responses to the 20 questions asked. If you'd like more information, or points of clarification, please talk to Pastor Michael at michael@stpauls-anglican.ca, or contact Gaetano Mazzuca, gae04@telus.net.



Demographics – who are we?

The first few questions asked: Who are we, how old we are, where are we coming from, how engaged in programming are we.

This information gives us a demographic vantage point of the make-up of the church, and a means to segment other questions along age and other perspectives.

How far are you coming to get to church?

Less than 10 min	46%
10 to 20 min	34%
20 to 40 min	18%
Over 40 min	3%

How often do you attend?

Every Sunday	56%
Most Sundays	42%
Once a month or less	2%

What area of town are you from?

West side	60%
North side	8%
East side	5%
South side	13%
Out of town	13%

What this tells us is that the majority of the congregational is local to the area, and are regular attendees of St. Paul's.

What are our ages?

Age	% of responses
Under 18	11%
18 to 30	14%
31 to 45	23%
46 to 64	35%
Over 65	17%

Who are we coming with?

The responses are not exclusive to each other, thus someone that comes with a family, and a spouse may have checked both options

With	% of responses
As individual	29%
As a family	54%
With a spouse	72%
With children <18	35%

Engagement

Engagement is how involved people are in the various activities and programs of the church. There are boundaries, as people can also become *over-engaged*.

The results were that:

- **18%** of respondents did not check off any activities or group involvement
- **32%** of respondents said that they were involved in 3 areas of activity
- Children's ministry, music, small groups, and prayer were the top areas of activity in terms of participants

What is important to us?

There were two exercises on the survey that dealt with ranking the relative importance of various aspects of the church: a listing in which participants were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5; and, "if you had 100 points/dollars", what ministries or aspects of the church would you allot those resources to?

What's important, rated 1 to 5 (sorted, higher number is better)

Missions	1.82	Social commitment	1.14
Worship	1.57	Pastoral leadership	1.11
Church as family	1.49	Local community	0.99
Local evangelism	1.49	Lay leadership	0.96
Christian education	1.42	Church unity	0.88
Spiritual growth	1.29	Theology & doctrine	0.84
Giving as a church	1.25	Church upkeep	0.73
		Anglicanism	0.63

What we value...

"I love that the children are respected and valued and allowed to be children!"

What we hope for...

"That it would be a beacon of light in this part of the city"

How much people placed within the \$100 question is not necessarily a definitive marker on a priority, but potentially an indication of where congregants see the need to invest resources.

What is important - Overall average 'payments' (out of 100)

Respondent Age	Children	Youth	Young Adult	Outreach	Missions	Music/worship	Small groups
<18	16.06	20.53	7.59	13.35	16.59	17.29	7.88
18-30	10.05	14.00	9.52	26.95	16.29	6.38	4.00
31-45	14.50	15.09	6.85	17.44	17.35	7.06	8.44
45-65	11.53	11.25	6.92	18.64	17.04	5.64	6.72
Over 65	14.52	14.72	6.92	18.64	17.04	5.64	6.72
Overall	12.78	14.13	7.79	18.35	17.07	8.11	7.03

Summary of Written Responses

The phrases below are a compilation of responses (over 1,300!) to the questions asked in the survey. A statistical scale was used to consider the likelihood of how strong the congregation would agree with the comments.

- **Very strong** – many people mentioned similar statements and there is a very strong response rate to agree with this statement
- **Strong** – a good number of people mentioned similar statement, and there is a good chance that the majority of the congregation agree with the statement
- **Weak** – this is a minority statement, and there is no proof that the congregation agrees or disagrees with this statement, but enough mentioned it to be worth adding.

What do you value most about St. Paul's?

Very strong	Christ centeredness – focus on Christian devotion, faith, piety, etc. of the church and its congregants
Strong	Feeling of community
Strong	The leadership of the church (lay and clergy comments combined)

What would you not change about St. Paul's?

Very strong	Christ centeredness – focus on Christian devotion, faith, piety, etc. of the church and its congregants
Very strong	Missions and outreach focus
Strong	Theological and doctrinal stand
Strong	Sandwich Sundays – <i>highest ministry commented in this section</i>
Strong	Sense of community
Strong	Worship
Weak	Children's Ministry

What are your biggest hopes for St. Paul's?

Very strong	Increased/continued Christ centeredness – focus on Christian devotion, faith, piety, etc. of the church and its congregants
Strong	Continued strong community within the church
Strong	[Continued] missions and outreach
Strong	Solidarity, unity within the church

What would you change about St. Paul's?

Strong	Concern over providing connections for newcomers
Strong	Increasing, broadening lay leadership and/or lay sermons
Strong	Increase missions and outreach
Strong	Connections for/with families
Strong	Increase worship investment (on staff, add drums, etc.)
Strong	More opportunities for youth (in service, during the week)
Strong	Addition of lay sermons, involvement of lay in the service
Weak	Concern of burnout of clergy and staff
Weak	Limiting the length of the 10.30 service

What are your biggest concerns for St. Paul's?

Very strong	Loss of Christ centeredness – apathy, spiritual decline, consumerism, etc.
Strong	Loss of building due to Anglican issue, or road widening
Strong	The desire to keep a small church feel
Weak	Deterioration of the physical building



Spiritual self-assessment

Finally, we asked seven questions about where you felt you were doing spiritually, and how St. Paul’s was helping you with your faith walk.

The questions were how positive (or negative) you thought you were doing in regards to:

- Overall spiritual health / spiritual strength
- Dependency on Christ
- Prayer life
- Bible study
- Talking to others about Christ
- How well St. Paul’s was serving your spiritual needs
- How well St. Paul’s was nurturing your spiritual growth

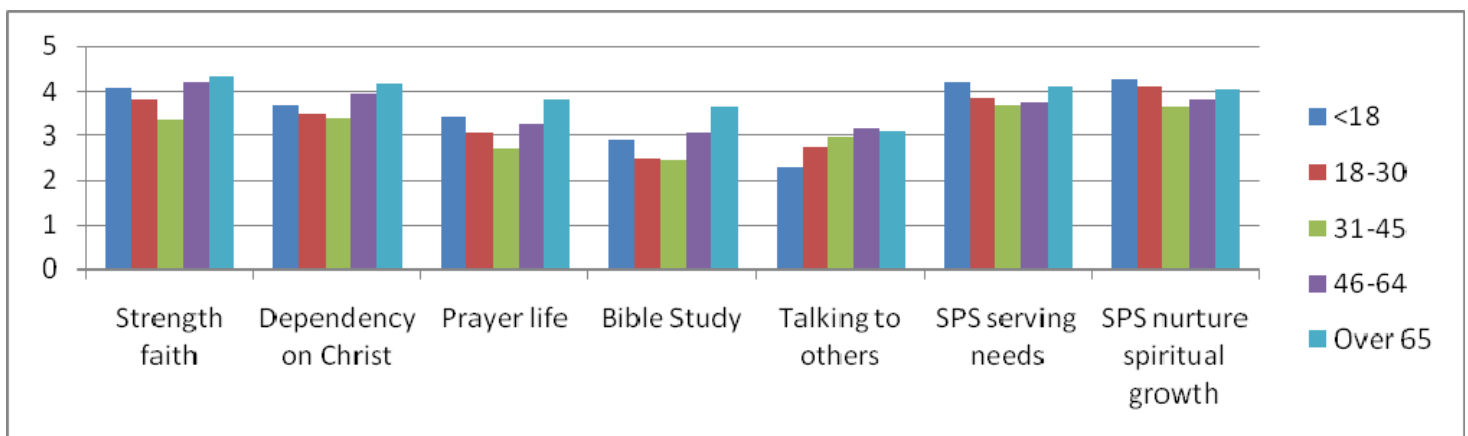


The responses below are broken up in respondent ages, and the full totals regardless of ages. The responses were out of 5, with 5 being best.

	Strength faith	Dependency on Christ	Prayer life	Bible Study	Talking to others	SPS serving needs	SPS nurture spiritual growth
Under 18	4.06	3.67	3.40	2.87	2.27	4.20	4.27
18 to 30	3.80	3.47	3.04	2.47	2.76	3.85	4.09
31 to 45*	3.36	3.39	2.70	2.45	2.96	3.69	3.63
45 to 64	4.19	3.94	3.25	3.06	3.15	3.73	3.82
Over 65	4.32	4.18	3.81	3.64	3.09	4.09	4.04
Total, regardless of age	3.77	3.58	3.06	2.77	2.81	3.66	3.72

* The 31 to 45 age group had the widest variance of answers, with a large number of strong (4s and 5) and weak (1s and 2s) choices to the same question

Overall, in chart format



Vestry response to the survey / where do we go from here?

The Vestry has worked with the results of the survey, and has prioritized several major issues and short/long term responses based upon them.

Short term activities

1. Strengthen newcomer welcome and integration
2. Strengthening individual Bible study and small group ministries
3. Planning for church growth in every area of ministry
4. Design and facilitate a process for discipleship
5. Encourage local evangelism and outreach

What we value...

"Our church has a place and group for all ages"

Long term focus issues and focus

1. Newcomer integration
2. Venue and physical space issues
3. Address the Anglican Church of Canada concerns and the role we play
4. Christian life cycle – engaging people at every part of life
5. Growing as a church spiritually, also in numbers – then plant a church

Who do I talk to if I have questions or want more information?

Please contact Pastor Michael Williamson or Gaetano Mazzuca, (gae04@telus.net) who compiled the survey results. We'd be happy to go through the results, or talk further about the process(s).