

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STUDY REPORT

OVERVIEW OF MISSION STUDY

The John Calvin Presbyterian Church Mission Study Team began work in January 2019 and completed data collection in May 2019. This report summarizes and details what was learned. The first part of this report is the summary. The second part of this report is detailed data that was collected.

The team was guided by Interim Pastor Reverend Dr. Jonathan Barker. Team members were: Richard Britson, Bill Bottomley, Carolyn Calvin, Margaret Corcoran, Cindy Freudenthal, Sharon Fortin, Linda Lowry, and Sheryl Wise.

Data for this report was collected in the following ways:

- Demographics:
 - Church demographics came from membership rolls, church directory, & weekly attendance counts
 - Community demographics came from 2013 – 2017 American Community Survey - 5 Year Estimate
- Input from the community was obtained through interviews. Six community leaders were interviewed. These included: 2 public elementary school principals, Jefferson Parish Councilwoman Lee- Sheng, President of the Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce, Marketing Director of East Jefferson General Hospital, and Supervisor of the Kenner Hispanic Resource Center.
- Input from the congregation was collected using the following sources:
 1. Interested church members participated in a Bible Study / small group discussion after worship service one Sunday in February. Fifty-one people participated.
 2. An online survey with questions on positives and negatives of the church at present as well as ideas to make the church even better was emailed to all members and printed copies were handed out after worship. Sixty-one people responded. All responses were anonymous.
 3. A youth survey was conducted by Julie Hebert. Five youth responded.
 4. An online survey asking people to choose five of the forty-four vision statements that resulted from brainstorming during the small group discussions was emailed to all members and printed copies were handed out after worship. Fifty-one people responded. All responses were anonymous.

PART I

SUMMARY OF DATA COLLECTED

Demographics

Finances

Self-Analysis of John Calvin Presbyterian Church

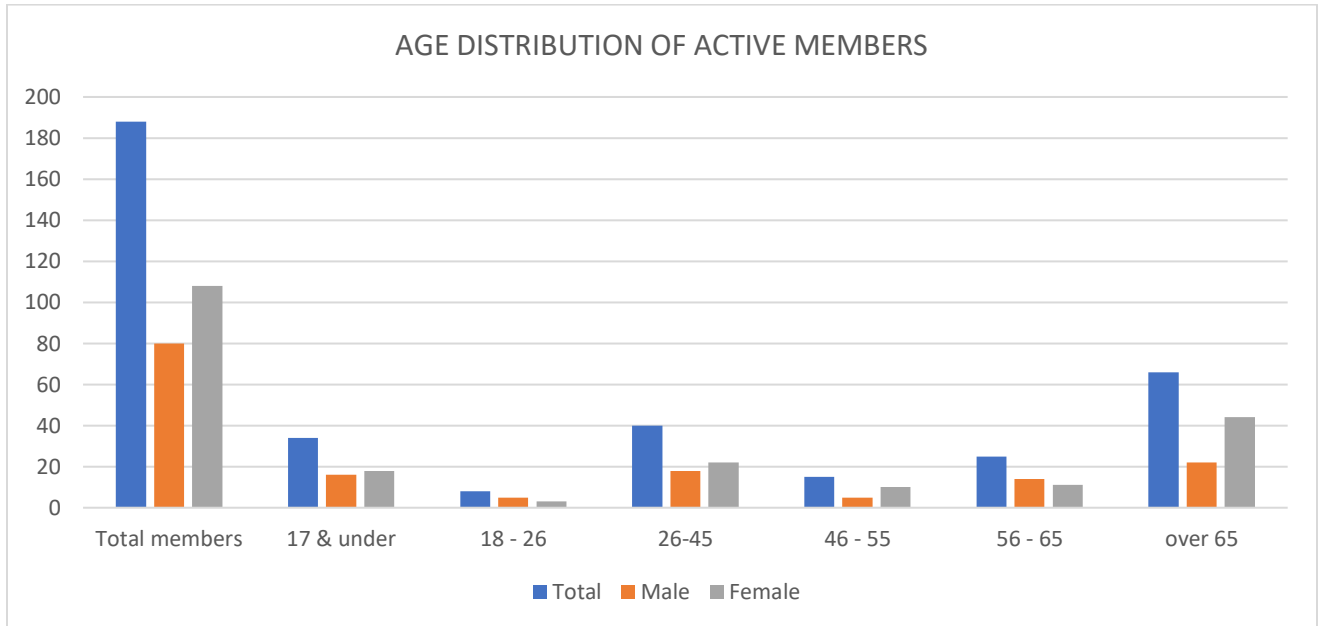
Congregational Assessment of John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Community Input

Vision

DEMOGRAPHICS

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Of the 188 active members of John Calvin Presbyterian Church, 108 are female, 80 are male. Sixty-six (66) of the active members are over the age of 65. Ninety nine percent of the active members are white.

John Calvin Presbyterian Church is located in Metairie, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans. The members of JCPC live mainly in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Of the cities in Jefferson parish, 50% of the church families live in Metairie and 23% live in Kenner. Five families live in Orleans Parish and ten families live in St. Charles Parish. The average worship attendance for the first quarter of 2019 was 77 people.

The church facility supports two main outreach ministries: a pre-school program (Playschool) and meeting space for anonymous groups. John Calvin's Playschool includes 29 teachers/staff members and over 160 children ages 1 – 5. The church provides meeting space for over 30 anonymous group meetings each week.

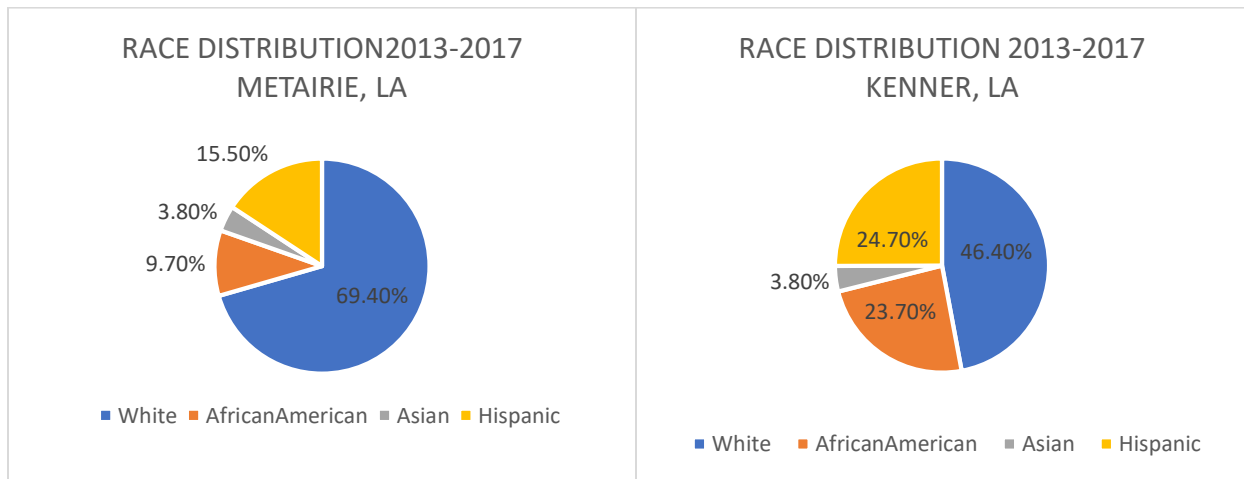
METAIRIE / KENNER, LOUISIANA

(Information comes from 2013 – 2017 American Community Survey)

Metairie and Kenner – Population and Age

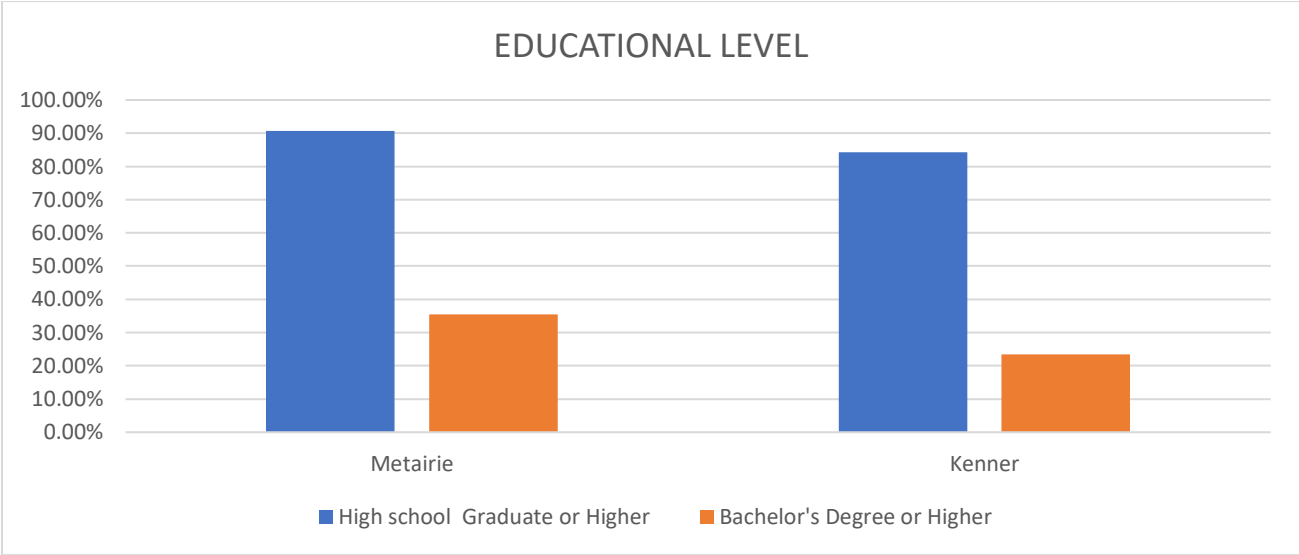
	Metairie	Kenner
2010 Actual Census Population	138,481	51,116
2017 Population Estimate	145,186	66,702
Median Age	40	38
% Under 18	19.7%	23.0%
% Over 65	18.5%	15.4%
Largest age Bracket	25 – 34	30 -34
% in Age Bracket	15.9%	7.6%

Metairie and Kenner – Race Distribution



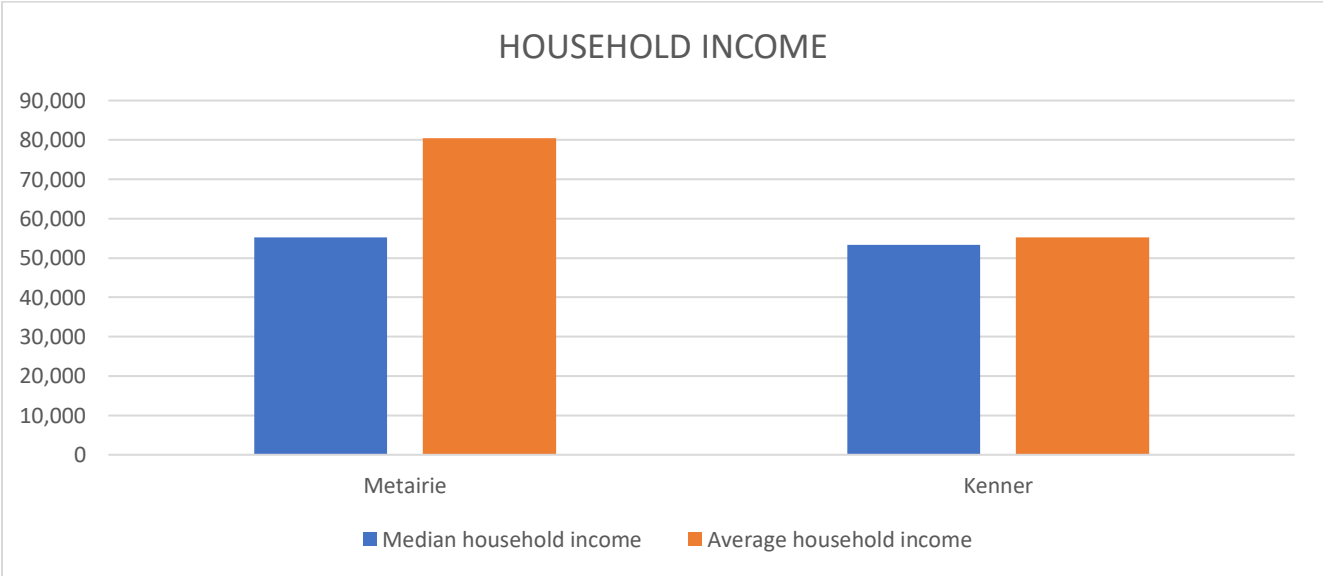
Since the 2010 census there has been a 3% increase in the Hispanic population in Metairie and a 2% increase in the Hispanic population in Kenner.

The area has a well-educated populace. In Metairie, high school graduate or higher accounts for 87% of the population with 29% having a college degree. In Kenner, 84.2% are high school graduates or higher and 23.5% have a college degree.



The median household income in Metairie is \$55,221; average income is \$80,394. A sampling of 145,186 individuals showed that 8.9% live below the poverty level. Of families with a female head of household with children, 33.1% are below the poverty level.

The median household income in Kenner is \$53,336; average income is \$55,221.



CHURCH FINANCES

John Calvin Presbyterian Church's financial position is above average compared to most PCUSA congregations of our size. The Church has no mortgage or long-term or short-term indebtedness. The facility was expanded and rebuilt from 1998 to 2002 except for one classroom wing which was refurbished during the same period. In 2005, additional refurbishment was required due to Hurricane Katrina.

The Church has had two cycles of negative budget bottom lines over the last 10 years. At present, during the Interim process, we are experiencing a negative budget bottom line. Removing the Playschool from the financials, salaries for 2019 are 68% of the annual budget with Church programs being 10% of the annual budget. We have recently outsourced janitorial services.

The Church is in the process of selling its investment real estate and when the sale is complete, the church will have 18 to 24 months of total budget in cash reserves. The Playschool produces a 10% or more budget excess revenue over expenses each year that is used to sustain its operations.

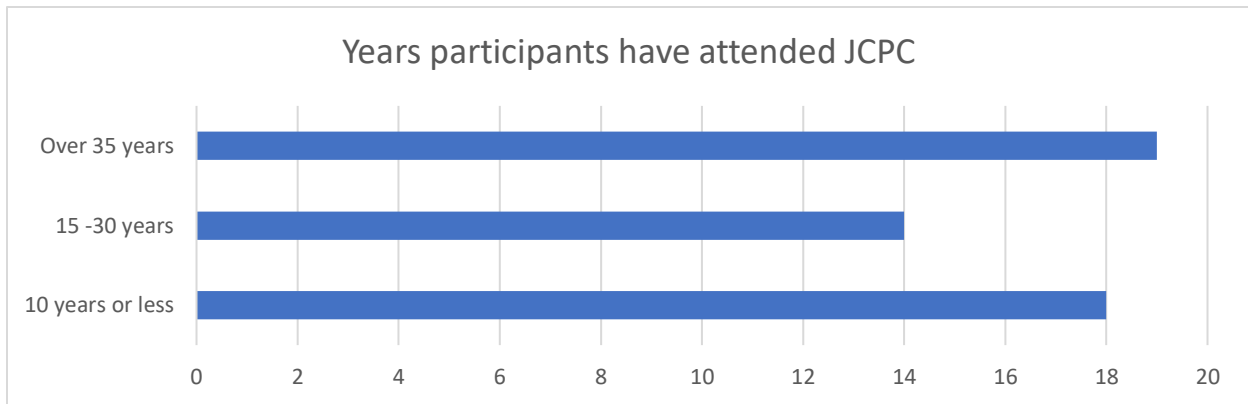
Pledge and non-Pledge giving has been consistent over the years. John Calvin Presbyterian is well prepared to support a new full time Pastor.

SELF-ANALYSIS OF JCPC

Aided by Bible Study & Small Group Discussion

DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

In February 2019, 51 members and friends of John Calvin Presbyterian Church were divided into small groups for Bible study and an analysis of the church and its mission. Of those attending, 18 have been at JCPC for 10 years or less, 14 have been at JCPC for 15 – 30 years, and 19 have been at the church for more than 35 years. 13 participants have been lifelong Presbyterians.



Bible passages read, specific questions discussed, and detailed responses from participants can be found in Appendix C.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

WHO WE ARE:

When reflecting on their earliest memories as well as what was important to them at JCPC, fellowship, friendship, and the warm and friendly atmosphere was at the top of the list.

Two events stand out as most important to the participants: 1. The way the congregation came together after the fire in 2000 that destroyed the church sanctuary a short time after the minister retired and 2. the church 's community outreach in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina.

When asked how JCPC has been “the light of the world”, participants named a variety of outreach activities the church participates in: Program of Hope, anonymous groups, Second Harvest Food Bank, STAIR tutoring, and Playschool topped the list.

The participants saw the “can do” attitude of the congregation as the church’s greatest strength. The people, the facility, and the music program were also strengths.

WHO WE WANT TO BECOME:

Reflecting on what it means for the church to be the “salt of the earth”, participants would like to see the church be a source of help and support, involved in the community, and open to talking about their faith.

When reflecting on the needs of the church, participation by younger people was the priority. Next on the list of needs was giving help to aging members.

In reflecting on needs of the community, help for the aging population was a top priority. The group as a whole recognized that church members need more information about the overall community to better understand community needs.

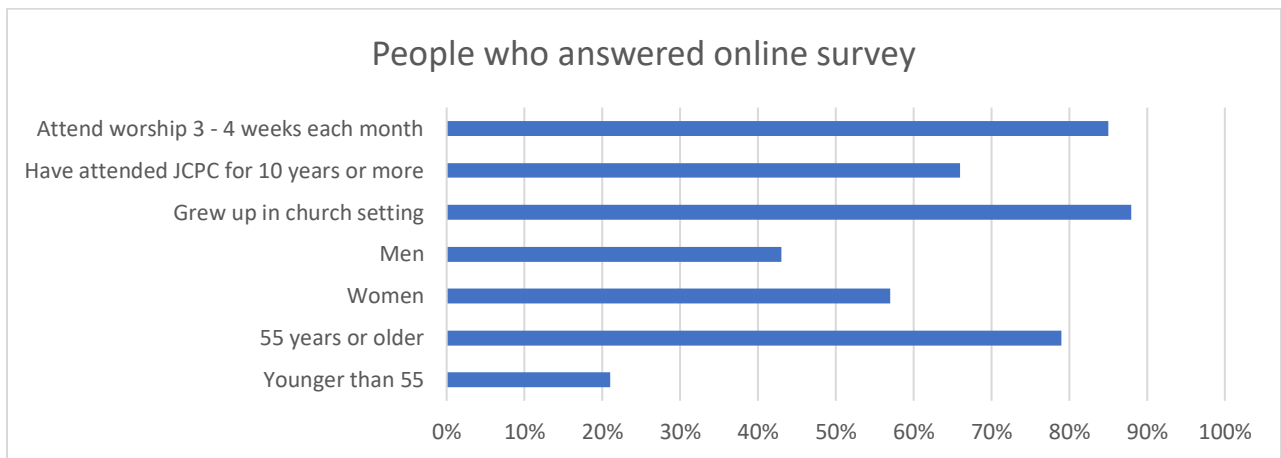
CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF JCPC

WHAT WORKS, WHAT NEEDS TO BE CHANGED, HOW WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

In late February early March 2019, an online survey was created and emailed to the congregation. Printed copies were also available after worship. Responses to the survey were anonymous. Sixty-one people (including 7 visitors) completed the survey. Seventy nine percent (79%) of the respondents were over the age of 55; thirteen of the respondents were younger than 55. Respondents included 57% women and 43% men.

Of the 61 respondents, eighty eight percent (88%) indicated that they grew up in a church setting. Two thirds (66%) of the respondents have attended John Calvin for 10 or more years. Eighty-five (85%) of the respondents attend the worship service 3 or 4 weeks each month.



The survey yielded a wide variety of responses. Many of the responses were open ended allowing respondents to voice their opinions. A detailed summary is in Appendix B.

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Why do you come to John Calvin?

When asked why they came to JCPC initially, the location of the church and the people were the initial draw. When asked why they attend JCPC now, the worship service and the fellowship /church community stood out as the main reasons. Children/youth programs and outreach

mission were least important to those who responded. Eighty-five per cent (85%) of those responding feel that JCPC is a welcoming place.

What are JCPC's strengths?

This was an open ended response question. In summarizing the answers, the greatest strength at JCPC is the people (the friendliness, talents, and dedication of the members). Next to the people, JCPC has a strong music program and a strong mission outreach that includes the Playschool.

What Needs to be changed?

Those who responded felt the music program enhanced the worship experience. Possible changes to the worship service focused on the traditional nature of the service. Seventy percent want the service to be less traditional while thirty percent feel it needs to be more traditional.

How can we make a difference in the community?

In answering the open-ended question asking for ideas for outreach/mission programs, 20 of the 61 respondents (33%) had suggestions. The suggestions were diverse, but six centered on keeping young people involved and six people had ideas for possible support groups.

Twenty-eight respondents (46%) answered the open ended question that asked for ideas to attract new members. The suggestions ranged from community interaction to advertisement to a more "inclusive" image for the church. Changing the worship service, interacting with Playschool families and anonymous groups were also suggested.

RESULTS OF YOUTH SURVEY

Five of the church's youth responded to the youth survey questions. All five were between the ages of 13 and 15. There were 4 females and 1 male responding.

The youth see fellowship, music, prayer, and organization as positives of the worship service. All five would like to see youth involvement in the service. All felt they were accepted as part of the congregation.

When asked about Sunday School and youth involvement, the youth had a variety of ideas to attract young people: art ministry, music ministry, Bible study, and more fun activities. Their biggest challenges in attending Sunday School were conflict with sports and other activities and a lack of interest.

COMMUNITY INPUT

DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

Two members of the committee interviewed a variety of Jefferson Parish leaders. Those interviewed included:

- Two school principals, Bonnie Hodgson of Harold Keller Elementary and Debbie Dantin of Alice Birney Elementary
- Cynthia Lee-Sheng, Jefferson Parish Councilwoman, Division B
- Todd Murphy, President of the Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce
- Rebeca Hasbun from the Kenner Hispanic Resource Center
- John Sartori, East Jefferson Hospital’s Marketing Communication Director

All of the people interviewed are in organizations that work for the betterment of Jefferson Parish. The two school principals work at public schools, the councilwoman represents the area in which the church is located, the hospital is a non-profit community hospital with no government funding, the Chamber of Commerce is privately funded but non-profit, and the Hispanic Resource Center offers services to residents of Kenner.

A detailed summary of each interview is included in Appendix A.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS

One area that the interviewees agreed upon was the positive direction of the new school board and superintendent. They felt the Board and Superintendent were tackling deficiencies in the educational system and moving the public schools toward success. The majority of the interviewees mentioned the Kiwanis “Dawn Busters” program that provided incentives to students to encourage reading performance. Those interviewed saw Jefferson Parish as a safe place to live.

One of the greatest concerns in the public school system was servicing the Hispanic population which has increased to near 60% in both elementary schools. This increase has led to a need for ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers and Spanish speaking teacher assistants to work with both students and their parents. Since both schools qualify as “high needs” they do receive Federal Title 1 funding.

The Hispanic Resource Center provides adult education and after school help for students in Kenner. The Chamber of Commerce is a strong supporter of teacher pay raises and is presently lobbying the legislature for more Early Childhood Education funding. (Note: Jefferson Parish voters did approve a teacher pay raise after these interviews.)

The Chamber and the Council has partnered with parish businesses to improve the appearance of certain business areas. Increases in housing prices and the number of Jefferson Parish families who pay for private schools has led to families moving to neighboring parishes with lower housing costs and better schools. For this reason, the Council has made housing and education priorities.

JCPC VISION

As the church begins to search for a new pastor, reflecting on the past and planning for the future includes choosing a vision that will lead the church forward. The last item of the small group discussion in February asked participants to brainstorm possible vision statements for the church. Forty-four statements were given. To narrow down the choice, the Mission Study Team again emailed an online anonymous survey (and also provided a printed copy available at church). The survey asked people to choose five of the forty-four statements they felt best represented John Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Fifty-one people responded to the survey. Seven possible vision statements stood out:

- To be a church inspiring, encouraging, welcoming, and family oriented
- Sharing Christ's love
- A Place of Joy and Hope
- Serving Members and the Community
- A neighborhood church for all
- Church community serving the local community
- Many gifts, one spirit

The committee agreed that the final choice of a vision statement will be determined after the hiring of a new pastor.

PART II

APPENDIX

This section includes:

Appendix A : Summary of Community Interviews

Appendix B: Congregational Survey Results

Appendix C: Small Group Discussion Results

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEWS – PRINCIPAL, BONNIE HODGSON, HAROLD KELLER

AND DEBBIE DANTIN, ALICE BIRNEY

February 28, March 23, 2019

by: Mission Study Team, Richard Britson, Bill Bottomley

Ms. Hodgson is in her 5th year at Keller, and Ms. Dantin is a new principal at Birney (although she has 27 years in Education). Both of these neighborhood schools are “*Hispanic Majority*” schools. Keller became one this school year, after absorbing “the other half of ‘Fat City.’” Both schools are at, or near 60% Hispanic.

At Keller, principal Hodgson notes that 50% of the students are ESL (English as a Second language). Each school is staffed with a few ESL teachers, who primarily teach English to the youngest of the students. Additionally, each school provides a much larger group of Spanish-speaking “para-professionals”/“teacher assistants”, who provide “intervention” in the classroom. They help students with translation. However, the testing of all students is done in English – with some accommodation, as appropriate. Much of the work that is sent home is translated into Spanish, as well. And, the “para-professionals” are available to help parents, as needed.

Both schools qualify as “high needs”, and are dependent on Federal “Title 1” funding. Principal Dantin explained how that funding enabled Birney to purchase 150 “Chrome’s” —small lap top computers. These have been assigned to the youngest students – no books – everything is done on the computer, including test-taking.

Harold Keller Elementary has a history of being well rated. It’s a “B” school, and has been designated last Fall, by the Louisiana Department of Schools, as a “Growth” school, one of a select number of public schools. Birney, most recently, was rated with a respectable “C” grade.

At Birney, it was good to hear that only 5% of the students are “special needs.” At the same time, Principal Dantin is quick to note that the children are well cared for at home, and dressed appropriately for school. She and her teachers and staff have great respect and love for these students – she proudly showed us a video featuring various students, as they represented Birney --they were precious!

At the end of our interviews with both principals. they praised the Kiwanis Club “Dawn Busters” for its important work in providing incentives to students to encourage reading performance. Everyone we have spoken with has mentioned this Kiwanis Club community outreach!

Finally, in response to “how can we help?”, Principal Dantin replied, “vote for the Jefferson Parish teachers’ pay raise!” (May 4th)

Interview – Mr. Todd Murphy, President, JP Chamber of Commerce

March 26, 2019

Mission Study Team, by: Richard Britson, Bill Bottomley

President Murphy was quite personable and informative. He first explained the relationship between the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce and the Jefferson Economic Development Commission (JEDCO). The latter is a public company, while the Chamber is a privately funded, non-profit. The two work collaboratively.

There are 18,000 businesses in Jefferson Parish. The parish is advantaged by its central location in the region, and its access to the Mississippi River and Lake Ponchartrain.

Currently, there is a parish initiative to improve the appearance in certain business areas. Since this interview, the Times Picayune has reported the allocation by JEDCO of funds for “façade facelifts” for numerous businesses in Fat City and Old Jefferson. There is more to come in “Phase Two.”

In education, a top priority of the Chamber is lobbying the legislature for a program of Early Childhood Education. The Chamber cites a study that such a program reduces student drop-outs, in turn, reducing the number of incarcerations.

The Chamber strongly supports increasing Jefferson Parish teachers’ pay. It is at the bottom on pay in our region. Jefferson’s poor competitive position means loss of good teachers. Pay is on the ballot in Jefferson, May 4th. President Murphy hopes to initiate a mailing in support.

Some good news. A new school board has been elected (supported by the Chamber), which has appointed a new, dynamic Superintendent. Cade Brumley has set out a detailed action plan (we have in-hand) with ambitious performance results expected by 2024. Meanwhile, he is appointing new school principals in underperforming schools in Jefferson (see recent report in the Times Picayune: “Brumley Appoints Six New Principals”).

There is other good news that should not be over-looked. The thirteen “selective admission, advanced academies” in the Jefferson Parish Public School system are “A” rated, and the majority of them are top rated in the state.

Mr. Murphy expresses the Chamber’s concern over Jefferson housing. He describes the housing as built primarily in the 50’s and 60’s, and needing improvements. At the same time, selling prices have increased. Education costs can be high – 31% of students are in private or parochial schools. Outlying parishes, such as Ascension, with lower housing costs and better public education are seeing significant population growth. A recent article in the Wall Street Journal reported evidence that, nationally, the “exurbs are back” – attracting young families.

President Murphy agreed that Jefferson is a “low crime” area. He suggested that the main crime issue is “unlocked doors.” He added that the parish police provide a quick response. The

many cameras that are stationed in the parish help explain the Sheriff Department's high level of solved crimes.

As with the other interviews, President Murphy praised the Kiwanis "Dawn-Busters Reading Club" in providing incentives for students who improve their reading. Obviously, Kiwanis has made quite an impact with leaders in our community.

INTERVIEW – REBECA HASBUN, SUP., HISPANIC RESOURCE CENTER

March, 2019

We spoke by phone with Ms. Rebeca Hasbun, Supervisor, *Hispanic Resource Center*, Community Development Department, City of Kenner. Note that the *Hispanic Resource Center* in Kenner was established in 2003. Kenner has had a rather long relationship with the Hispanic Community. See, online, "*Hispanic population booms in Kenner and . . .*"

The Hispanic Resource Center may be the only center of its kind in Louisiana. Please note that the information below is incomplete – more research/sources needed.

Here are services that are regularly offered – not limited to the Hispanic Community -- but in two instances, limited to "residents" of Kenner:

1. provides *adult education classes*;
2. Provides an *after-school program* (help with homework, et al.) for Kenner residents
3. *Pro bono attorneys* are available on Saturday's, every other month, for those who qualify due to low income;
4. *Homeless prevention program* for citizens or green card holders – will cover payment for one month of delinquent rent;
5. Coordinates with *2nd Harvest Food Bank* – food distribution events;
6. Provides periodic *diaper giveaways*.

INTERVIEW – JP COUNCILWOMAN, CYNTHIA LEE-SHENG

March 25, 2019

by: Mission Study Team, Richard Britson, Bill Bottomley

It should be noted from the outset, that Councilwoman Cynthia Lee-Sheng has been a “friend” to John Calvin, helping us with zoning issues, in the past. Ms. Lee-Sheng is a long time member of the Chinese Presbyterian Church. In the course of our interview, she noted that the Presbyterian Church helped with the early settlement of the Chinese in this area. (For more, on this issue. see online, *Chinese Presbyterian Church (New Orleans, La.) / Amistad Research Center.*)

The Councilwoman addressed several of the issues that we reported on elsewhere. She noted that the Parish is partnering with Business in the efforts to beautify (“façade facelift”) certain business areas. She also noted their strong support for the new School Board and new Board President. She lists the School Board and its President as a strength. She added that the Parish Government works well, is responsive to calls from its parishioners. Importantly, she felt that this community was a “safe place for families.”

As to “what could we do?” – She suggested that we could partner with another non-profit. Separately, she (as so many have done) cited the good work of the Kiwanis “Dawn-Busters” reading club, which provides incentives for public school students who improve their reading.

She mentioned issues that the Council cannot help with – such as calls asking for help in paying a power bill. However, individuals can make a difference. She spoke of a woman who is teaching her neighbors’ children, one at a time, how to swim – important, since we are surrounded by water.

Finally, “congregations can serve, by giving back.” John Calvin might partner – in mission – with Chinese Presbyterian Church. At this point, before we concluded, the Councilwoman raised the history of the Chinese and the Presbyterian Church in New Orleans (see above).

INTERVIEW - JOHN SARTORI, EJH, DIR. MKT. COMMUNICATIONS

March 27, 2019

by: Mission Study Team, Richard Britson

John has been with East Jefferson Hospital (EJH) for 13 years. He is extremely personable, informative, and an effective advocate for the hospital.

John Sartori (JS) dates the creation of EJH to the aftermath of the potential threat poised here by Hurricane Camille (1967). Camille, in combination with other forces, resulted in the “flight to the suburbs.” Whereas, Jefferson voters had rejected the creation/funding of a Community Hospital in Jefferson before Camille, shortly, thereafter, they approved it.

EJH, a non-profit, public, community hospital, opened its doors on Valentine’s Day in 1971. The board of the hospital is appointed by the Jeff Parish Council, and Parish President. EJH is large – 420 beds, 700 physicians with hospital privileges, and 3000 employees.

JS identifies EJH’s mission as providing “personalized care”, in accord with its status as a Community Hospital. He describes EJH as “people”, not “system” focused.

“Carechecks” (a reputable, national rating service) has rated – four years in a row – EJH as #1 in LA and #10 in the U. S. – in “care outcomes” (an important measurement).

EJH practices “minimal invasive” surgery (citing use of robotic techniques).

All that said, JS declares that our area is “Blessed” with a large number of “good hospitals.” At the same time, he feels EJH is “clinically” unsurpassed.

EJH is “community-oriented” – as, example, May 4, 9-4, the hospital is providing free “skin examinations.” He notes that EJH’s EMS service does not limit itself to returning patients to EJH.

Innovation – Doctors at EJH have developed a revolutionary “fix” for “atrial fibulation”, which eliminates or limits the need for medication.

Decreasing revenue sources: serving a community with an aging population, an increasing disproportion of patients is moving from private insurance to Medicare (with its lower reimbursement rate). EJH is a “Service District Hospital” – it can’t expand its territory, which limits its ability to create economies of scale. Contrast EJH with private hospitals that can merge with each other. Partnered hospitals are able to negotiate more favorable reimbursement rates. There are fewer “independent” hospitals, today.

While EJH can’t be sold, it can lease its management to another hospital group, allowing EJH the opportunity to benefit from economies of scale. Although there have been past failed attempts, negotiations are ongoing now.

EJH does not receive any government funding (!). It is solely supported by the revenue generated by its services, and through fund raising through its philanthropic Foundation, which provides numerous fundraising events during the year.

Last word - "Trust us for healthcare." (!)

APPENDIX B

SURVEY RESULTS

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Mission Team 2019 – Congregational Survey

In February and March of 2019, the Mission Team sent out a survey to help understand the views and ideas of our congregation. This work is intended as one piece of the information the Mission Team is gathering to create a picture of John Calvin Presbyterian Church and its community. The survey was distributed by e-Mail and with paper copies available. The information was compiled in the Survey Monkey on-line survey tool.

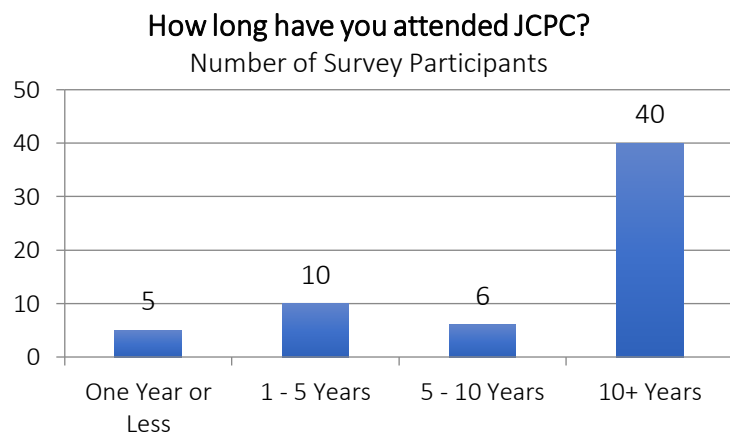
The survey gathered information from 61 participants, which included 7 visitors. This version of the survey was intended for adults, the young people were encouraged to fill in a separate survey designed specifically for them.

DEMOGRAPHICS

How long have you been attending this church?

Two-thirds (66%) of the people taking the survey have attended John Calvin for 10 or more years.

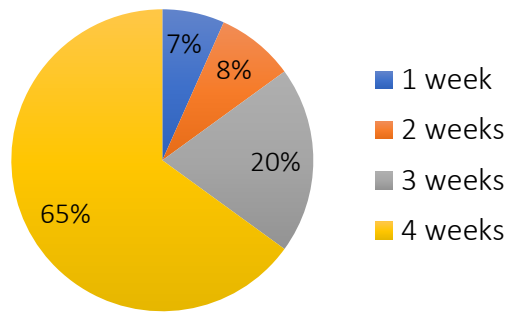
Data from an earlier table discussion found that the years people have attended John Calvin can be broken down in to 2 distinct groups: those attend for 0 to 20 years and those attending from 30 to 50+ years, with very few in the 20 to 30 year range.



In an average month, how many times do you attend worship?

Of the 61 people who filled out the survey, a full 85% say that they attend the worship service 3 or 4 weeks per month.

Weeks of Worship Attendance each Month



There is no correlation between weeks of worship attendance and gender, age, participation in a bible study or small group, or whether or not a person grew up in a church setting.

What is your age?

The age ranges that survey participants had to choose from were small groupings for those under 55, with one category for those over 55 years of age. Unfortunately the number of participants in the small-increment groupings for under 55 were too small to be of significance. For comparison purposes these are grouped together as “Under 55”.

Seventy-nine percent of the people who completed the survey are over 55 years of age (48 of 61). Thirteen people participating are under 55.

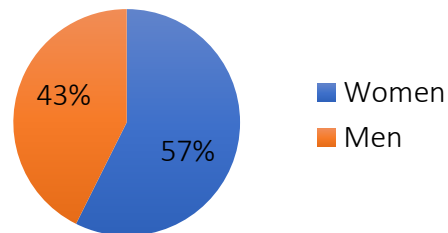
Only 2 of the respondents under the age of 55 currently participate in a bible study or small group, while nearly half of those 55+ participate in a bible study or small group.

Both age groups had the same percentage of men and women participants.

What is your gender?

A slightly larger, but not significant, number of women participated in the survey over the number of men who participated.

Men and Women Taking the Survey



Are you involved in a Bible Study / small group?

Twenty-two of the 61 survey respondents (36%) indicated that they participate in a bible study or small group. Of these 82% were women.

Did you grow up in a church setting?

Are we speaking to the un-churched? Are we bringing new souls to know God? It’s an interesting question. It appears that we used to, but not so much in recent years.

All seven of the people who did not grow up in a church setting are over the age of 55 and all have been at John Calvin for over 10 years! They all attend worship 3 or 4 weeks in a month. They are evenly split between men and women, and whether or not they participate in a bible study or small group.

For more detail on this interesting group, check the “Tidbits” section at the end of the report.

Are you a visitor?

Seven people who filled in a survey indicated that they were visitors. “Visitor” was marked on the top of the paper survey given to them following the worship service and they were asked if they might share their thoughts.

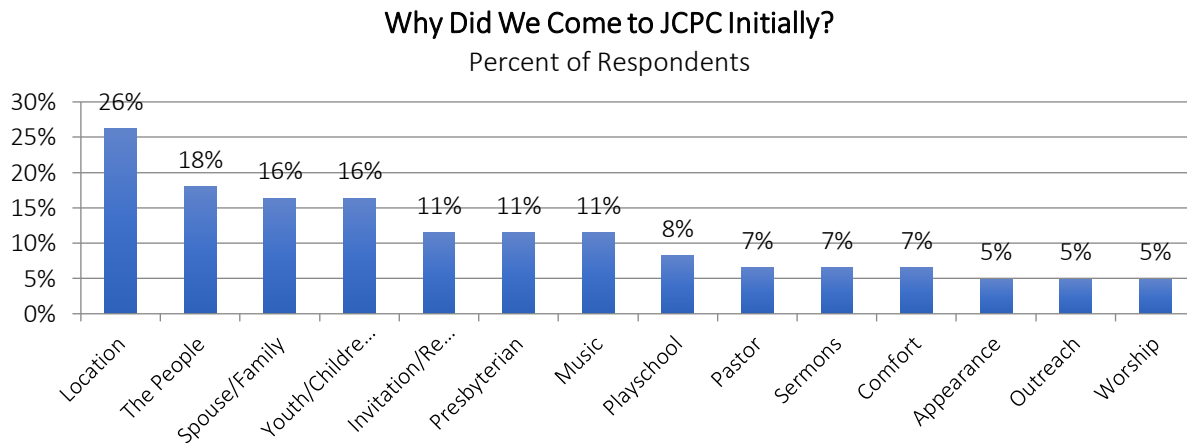
Of the seven people identified as “visitors”, 4 indicated that they have attended John Calvin Presbyterian Church between 1 and 5 years! Guess we need to ask them to join!

For more detail on our group of visitors, check the “Tidbits” section at the end of this report (page 13).

WHY ARE WE HERE AND HOW DO WE PARTICIPATE?

Why did you choose to attend JCPC [in the first place]? (Please explain)

People responded to this open question with a large variety of reasons. The reasons they gave can be grouped into general categories.



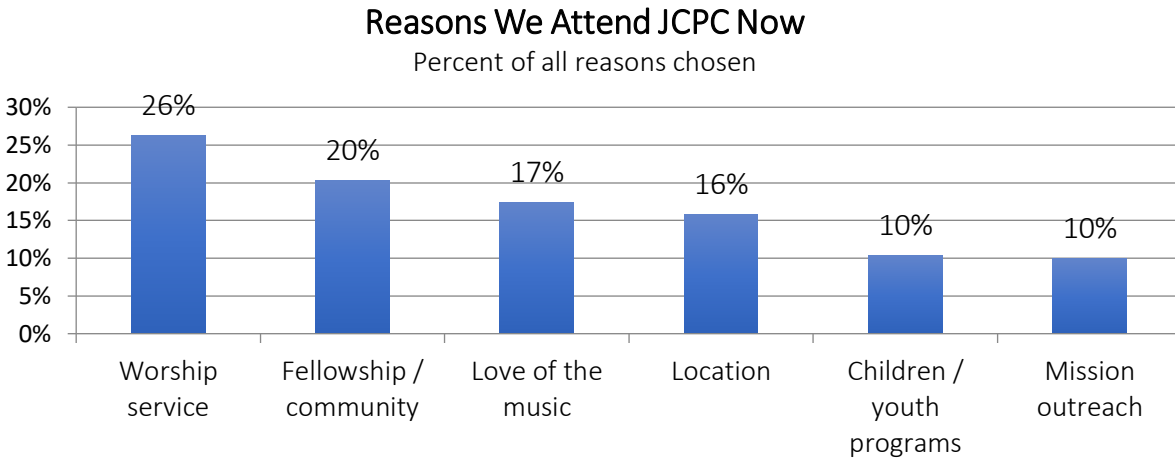
Twenty-six percent (16 of 61) of the survey respondents listed location as a reason they were initially drawn to JCPC.

People also listed that they chose JCPC initially: because of its people - our friendliness, our welcoming attitude, and the way we feel included (18%); for family reasons - spouse or extended family (16%); and because of the youth and children's programs (16%).

Why did the 7 “visitors” come to JCPC? While no particular reason is common to this group, One each listed: location; the people; they were invited; the music; and the worship service as the reason they came to JCPC. Let's hope they stay!

Why do you attend our church [now]? (Check all that apply)

The survey requested that responders choose as many as they liked from a list of 6 possible reasons they might currently attend JCPC. Sixty-one responders chose 202 reasons for attending our church.



The Worship Service is the top rated reason we choose to attend JCPC. Since 84% of the survey respondents say that they attend worship 3 to 4 times a month, this top rating should not be surprising! The people who filled in the survey generally attend worship regularly.

Secondly, the survey respondents attend JCPC: because of the fellowship and community they find at JCPC; the music; and our location. Children and youth programs and the mission outreach are important, but to a lesser extent.

All of the people under the age of 55 (who are not visitors) attend JCPC because of the Worship Service. They attend JCPC because of the children and youth programs much more than the general population and attend much less because of the location.

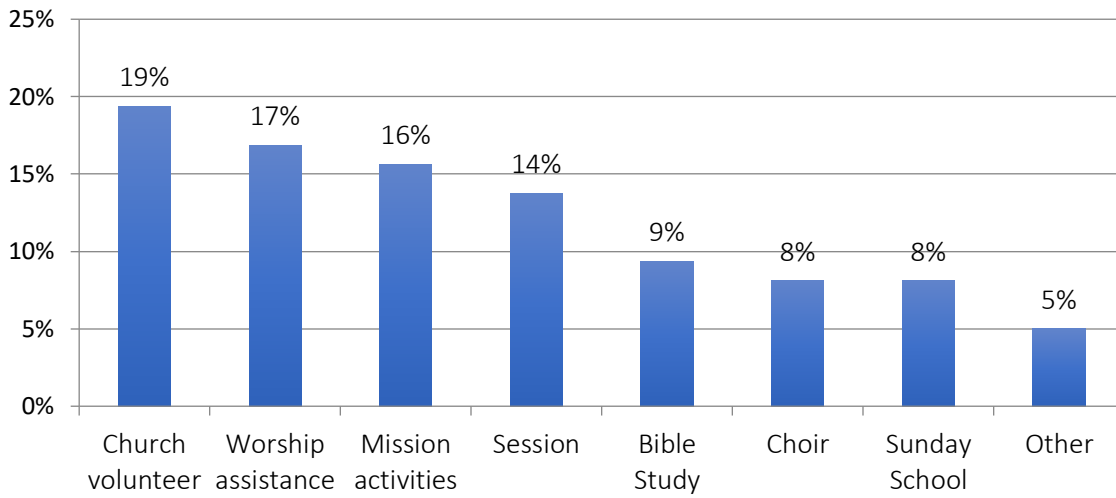
All of the people who attend only 1 or 2 services a month attend JCPC because of the Worship Service. The location is much less important to them than to the general population.

In which groups / organizations within our church do you actively participate?

The survey requested that responders choose as many as they liked from a list of 8 activities where they might be actively participating. Sixty-one responders chose 156 activities!

These people actively participate in church activities at the rate of 2.5 activities per person.

Where Do We Actively Participate? Percentage of Activities Chosen



The 7 people who did not grow up in a church setting participate in church activities at the rate of 3.3 activities per person, much than the average!

The people who attend worship 1 to 2 times per month participate at the rate of 1.6 activities, mostly as a church volunteer, at Sunday School, or on mission activities.

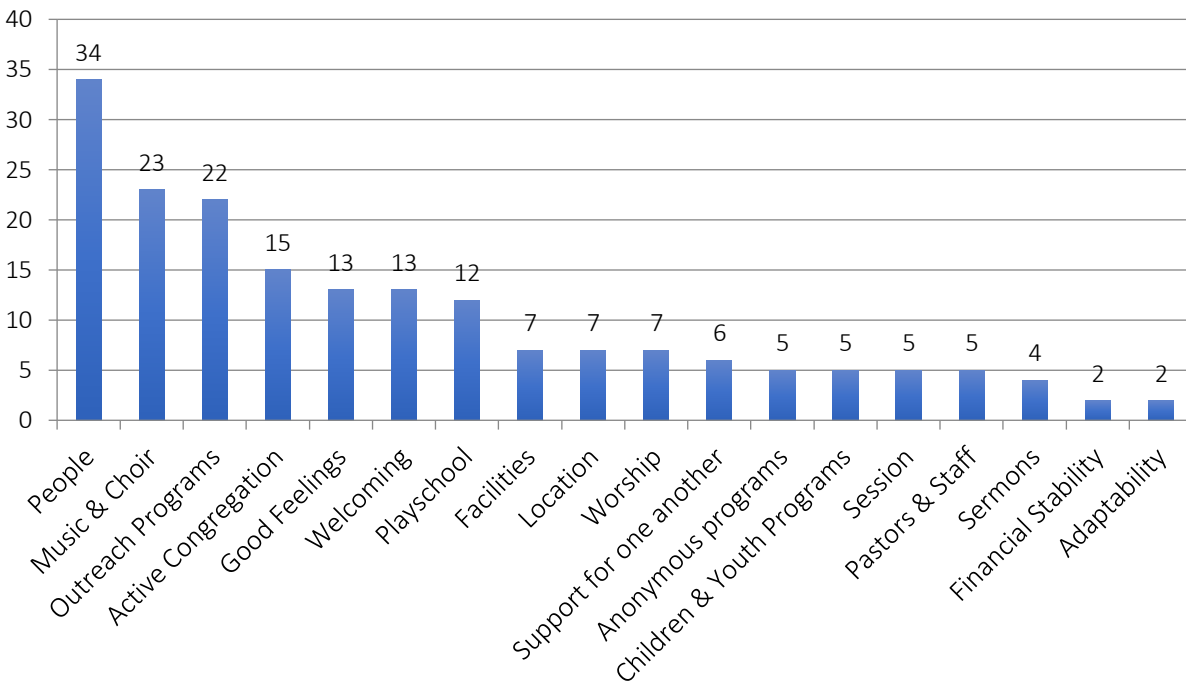
WHAT DO WE THINK OF OUR CHURCH?

What do you feel are the strengths of this church?

The survey respondents were asked about the strengths of this church. It was an open response question with a large variety of answers. These answers have been broken down by idea and grouped into categories. Many respondents gave several strengths, each of which was given equal weight. Only 4 respondents chose not to give an answer! All responses are listed in Appendix A.

Strengths of JPCP

Number of times each "strength" was mentioned



We think our greatest strength is our people: our friendliness; our talents; our dedicated, loyal members; our wonderful congregation.

Next to people, our greatest strengths are our music program and our mission outreach programs. The music program and the choir there highlighted. For the outreach programs, service to the community, and the opportunity to serve were mentioned.

Our church gives us a "good feeling": we feel we are open and accepting; we like the size of our congregation; and most of all we have a feeling that our church is like family.

We feel that we are welcoming and that we, ourselves, feel welcome at our church. We feel we welcome different views, and that we provide hospitality to others.

Also in the top group, we believe that our Playschool is one of our strengths.

There is very little difference of opinion on the strengths of our church among the different demographic groups.

Do you feel this church is a welcoming place? Why or why not?

On the survey this question required a Yes/No response, followed by an open answer question. When looking at the open answer portion, several people added “somewhat”, and others gave their answer a strong qualifier. These were moved into a new “Somewhat” category.

The people who filled in the survey overwhelmingly feel that JCPC is a welcoming place.

We believe that we are welcoming primarily to visitors and new members by talking to them before and after church, welcoming them, and striking up a conversation.

All of the seven visitors who filled in the survey indicated that they feel JCPC is a welcoming place. Four of those went on to comment on the affection and receptiveness they received and the pleasure at actually being talked to.

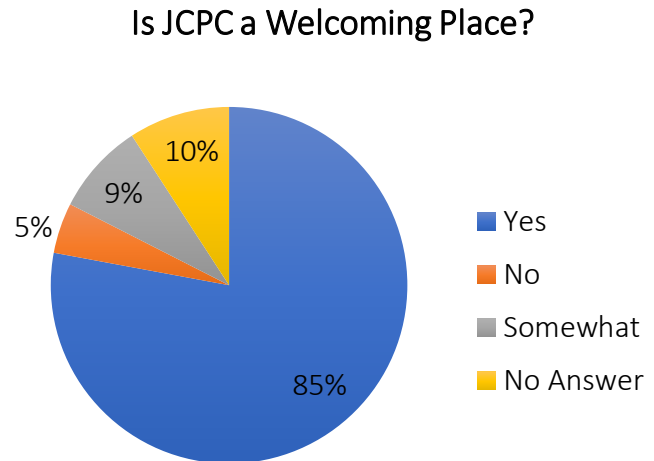
The people who have been attending JCPC for 5 or less years (who are not visitors) all indicate that JCPC is a welcoming place. None of them had any negative comments, though one misses the snacks!

There were two suggestions: to bring back the snacks, and to have bibles and hymnals in Spanish for bilingual families.

There were a few negative comments. They are centered around the idea that we may not be fully welcoming to people who are not like us: to families where both parents work and don’t look like the families of the 70’s. There is also a concern that we may not be following up on visitors sufficiently. There are sensitivities on the timing of the service and to generational concerns. The negatives comments all came from people who attend worship regularly.

There is very little difference of opinion in any of the demographic groups.

All responses are listed in Appendix A.



WHAT CHANGES WOULD WE MAKE?

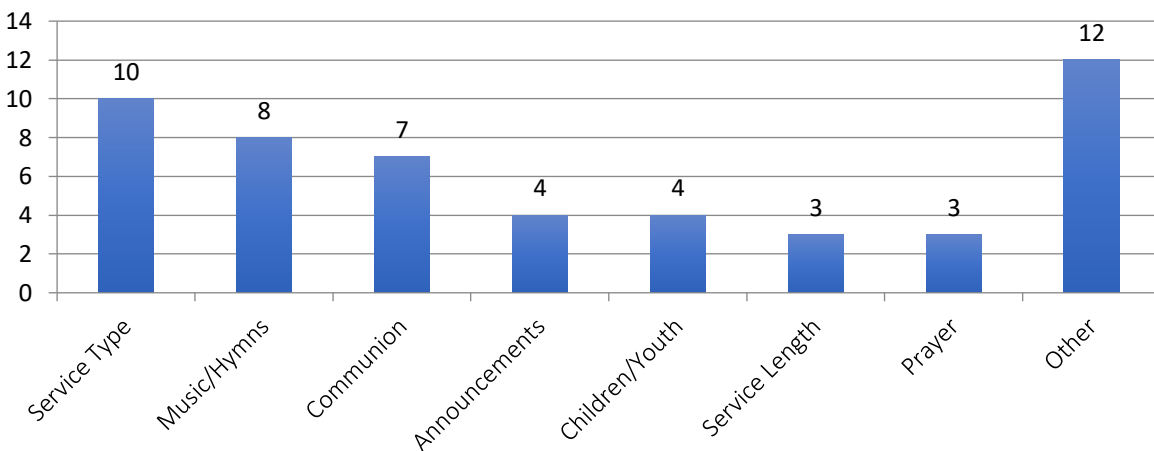
What, if anything would you change about the morning worship service here?

The survey respondents were asked about what changes they might make to the worship service. It was an open response question with a large variety of answers. These answers have been grouped into categories. Thirty-five people had 51 ideas for change to the worship service. Nine people didn't want to change anything!

All of the comments are listed in Appendix B and are best addressed by the Worship Committee and the Pastor.

Ideas for Changes to the Worship Service

Number of times each idea type was mentioned



Twenty percent of the ideas for change were about the traditional nature of the service. Seventy percent (7 of 10) want the service to lighten-up and become less traditional, while thirty percent (3 of 10) don't like any changes away from a traditional service, and think we've already gone too far. All of the people making these comments are over the age of 55. All but one attends worship regularly. The one that doesn't attend but once a month wants a more traditional service.

Sixteen percent had ideas for change about the music. Three want more music, two want music that is familiar, one wants contemporary music, and one wants the children to sing.

Fourteen percent of the ideas were about communion. Three people want communion moved back to once a month, while one person wants it every week. Three additional people had other comments: go back to "normal"; too haphazard; introduction too long.

Three people want the announcements about church activities back in the worship service. One wants to know more about the larger church's activities.

Four people mentioned the youth in worship activities, and all just want to see them more!

Do you think the music adds to the worship experience? What, if anything, would you like to see changed or added?

On the survey this question required a Yes/No response, followed by an open answer question. The responses do not lend themselves to categorization. There are a large number of positive comments, two negative comments, and a list of suggestions.

Overwhelmingly, the people that answered the survey think that the music adds to the worship experience!

"The music is great. Thank you!"

"One of the highlights of our service is lifting up of our musical praise to God!"

"Music is extremely important, motivating and uplifting. The talent of members is great."

"Music is fundamental."

"The importance of music is almost the same as the sermon."

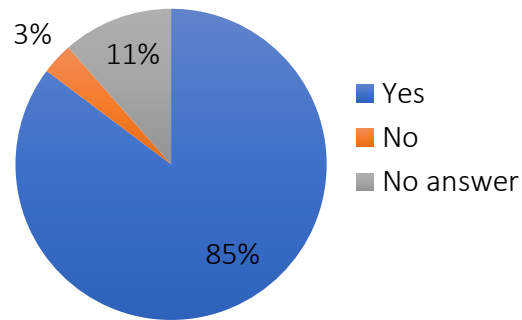
"I have always and still do enjoy the music the choir, the instruments. I feel that the people who participate are so talented and you can actually feel God's presence when they are performing. It's like my spirit is worshipping God with their spirits."

The entire list of comments and suggestions is in Appendix B. Several suggest we sing the old time hymns, and several suggest we get more uplifting contemporary music. Someone said, "No contemporary Christian, Please!", and someone else wants, "less old fashioned songs, and less singing." Good luck reconciling all of that! Several of the suggestions have already been implemented.

This survey was conducted not long after the former music director left. At the time of the survey, the new director had been in place long enough for the congregation to get a feel for the changes, but not long enough to know how permanent the changes would be. The majority of the comments reference this change in some way. There are multiple positive comments about the new director and the new direction the music has taken. There are no comments wishing the former director and the former music back. One negative comment is assumed to be referencing the former director, since the new director hasn't been in place long.

Since the data indicates an overwhelming trend in one direction, no analysis was done for the various demographic groups.

Does Music Enhance the Worship Experience?



Are there any new outreach / mission programs you would like to see started at this church?

On the survey this question required a Yes/No response, followed by an open space for the suggestions. Twenty people had 26 ideas for Outreach and Mission Programs.

These 26 ideas were very diverse, but many can be grouped into like-minded efforts. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

There were 6 ideas that centered around keeping the young people involved in outreach activities and expanding their existing opportunities. What about finding an outreach activity or two for the smallest children, and inviting the Playschool children and the community to join in? How about adding Scouting?

There were also 6 ideas for support groups - all the way from divorce, to aging, to physical health, to craft missions and beyond. What about starting groups we know we need for ourselves and then inviting the community, the Playschool families, and folks using the Outreach rooms?

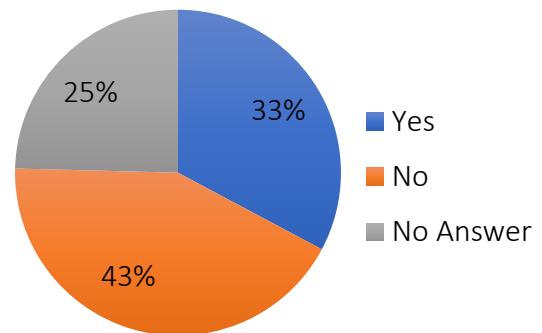
Several ideas (4) specifically center on support for the local community and inclusion of the community into our outreach activities. This brings us back to the idea of "Mission Central" and expands it to interacting with our neighbors and finding out what they need.

Three ideas centered around language. Sure, it would be great to start an "English as a Second Language", (ESL) mission, but what about getting language classes for us English speakers to learn Spanish? And how about getting a few bibles in Spanish?

Seven ideas didn't categorize with the others, though they are no less interesting. These range from becoming a "More Light" church, to providing hymn sings before after the Anonymous group meetings! How about using technology to increase our mission presence, Habitat for Humanity, working at the Animal Shelter, or partnering with a group outside the USA?

People who have been at JCPC for 10+ years had more ideas for new Outreach opportunities (38%) than those here for less time (21%).

Any Ideas for Outreach/Mission Programs?



WHAT IDEAS DO WE HAVE FOR THE FUTURE?

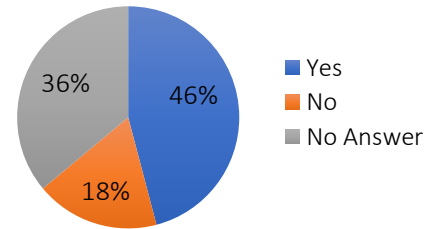
Do you have any suggestions for attracting new members?

On the survey this question required a Yes/No response, followed by space for suggestions. Twenty-eight people had 47 suggestions for attracting new members!

The 47 ideas sorted themselves into seven categories. All comments are listed in Appendix A.

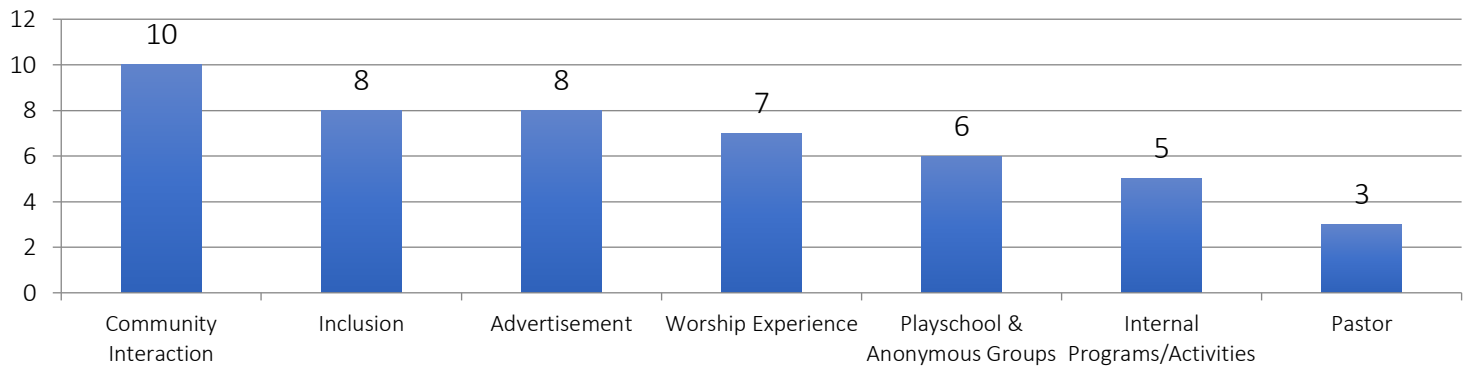
The most ideas (10) centered around direct interaction with and for the community in the vicinity of the church. These ideas

Any Ideas to Attract New Members?



Idea Categories on Attracting New Members

Number of times each idea type was mentioned



include ideas from a community picnic and “get to know you” activities, to programs for the community to enjoy, all the way to door-to-door canvassing.

Two categories all had the same number of ideas (8): Inclusion; and Advertisement. The ideas for inclusion center around developing a new image for a church open to everyone: the LGBT community; people ethnically different from our current population; and those with a different income level. Advertisement ideas cover everything from taking our on-line presence to a whole new level, to interaction with new homeowners in the area.

Changing the worship experience as a way of attracting new members was the foundation for 7 ideas all focused on what people see and experience once they get in the door. These ideas ranged from youth involvement, to better sermons, to changing the format of the service.

Six ideas centered around interactions with the Playschool families and possibly the groups that use the outreach rooms. These ideas ranged from speakers on a variety of topics, to focus groups, to other organized activities.

Five ideas focused on our internal programs and activities. These range from interaction and follow-up with visitors, to implementing a variety of social activities.

And finally, three ideas focus on ministerial support: getting a youth minister and obtaining a younger pastor.

Those under 55 more strongly favored increasing our inclusion of different kinds of people, interaction with Playschool and the Anonymous Groups, and changing our Worship Experience.

How do you envision our church in 5 – 7 years?

This was an open comment question. Forty-nine of the 61 survey participants chose to make a response, that’s 80%! All responses are listed in Appendix A.

Of those 49 people, 22 had a positive vision for JCPC.

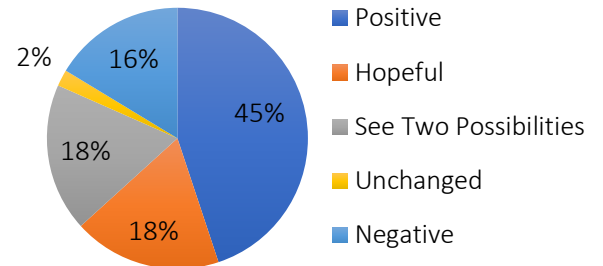
The people with a positive vision see us as a growing church, inclusive to all: an active part of our local community.

The positive vision includes a younger congregation involved in increased mission activities: a vibrant place with families, youth, and children.

JCPC within 5 to 7 years will have a great new minister, a great choir, a fabulous preschool, and be an established community leader.

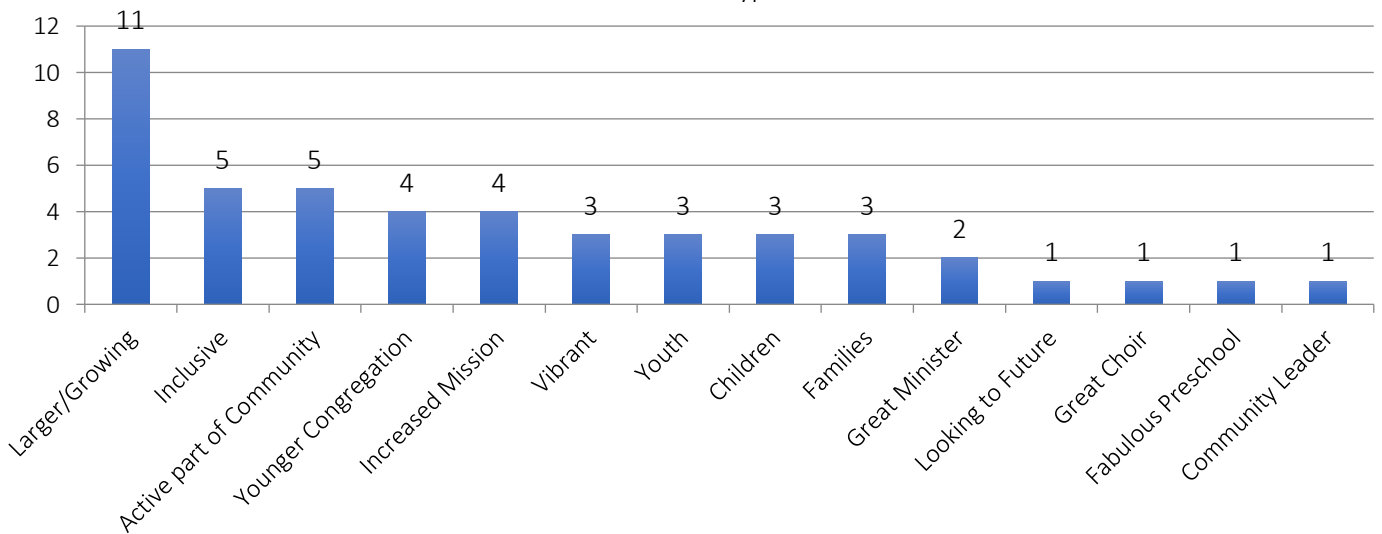
What a wonderful vision.... How do we get there?

Our Vision of JCPC in 5-7 Years



Positive Vision Ideas

Number of times each idea type was mentioned



Looking at action words in our vision ideas, to try to discern how we might realize this positive vision: we see ourselves reaching out to our community, becoming more involved, and contributing to its progress; we are more inclusive, welcoming LGBT people, Hispanics and other ethnicities, including women in ministry; maybe we are changing our worship format; maybe we are absorbing other Presbyterian Churches; and hopefully we are studying other Presbyterian Churches that are growing, and trying what they are doing.

The "hopeful" people are generally hoping for lots of young families, though they don't envision a way to get them to come.

The group whose vision for JCPC sees 2 possible futures has diverse ideas. One expressed the expectation that a new minister will bring new ideas for change, while another expressed that growth will only come from more inclusion and progressive ideas. The "both sides group" all saw the result of not growing and changing to be the same: no JCPC in a few years.

The people who could only see a negative future for JCPC expressed their discomfort with social change, and their frustration that what we are doing now doesn't seem to work.

The positive visions for the future mainly come from the over 55 group (19 of the 23)!

86% of the 22 people with a positive vision of the future attend worship 3 to 4 times a month.

Please share any additional comment or suggestions

The final question on the survey was to invite any comments or suggestions. Twenty-six of the respondents chose to make a final comment. All of these comments are listed in Appendix A.

Six actionable suggestions were given to improve our church and it's workings. Three additional comments on improvements are not actually actionable – they are expressions of desire.

Five general comments allowed a few people to “say their piece”. None of these are actionable. We need to pray that making these expressions of frustration has provided healing for these individuals.

Amazingly, one person chose to use this section to state what they will do to help: pray and assist as they can. Would that all of us follow this example!

Three comments were "thank you's" to the church, the Mission Study Team, and our Interim Pastor. A kindness at the end of the survey!

Three comments were commentaries about our changing world. These are expressions of reality as the responder sees it.

Three comments were expressions of things the individual wants to see happen at our church. These comments express what the responders would like others to do to make their own church experience better.

One person expressed that the things asked for in this survey be left up to others: the elders and committee members.

INTERESTING TIDBITS

There are two groups of people who are small in number but especially interesting in their views. These deserve a closer look.

Visitors

Seven people who filled in a survey indicated that they were visitors. "Visitor" was marked on the top of the paper survey given to them following the worship service and they were asked if they might share their thoughts. With only 7, not a lot of conclusions can be drawn, but there are interesting pieces of information.

Of the seven people identified as "visitors", 4 indicated that they have attended John Calvin Presbyterian Church for between 1 and 5 years! All but one of the visitors is a male. Their ages are mixed.

Why did they come to JCPC? One each of these seven listed: the location; the people; that they were invited; because of the music; and because of the worship service, as the reason they came to JCPC. Let's hope they stay!

Why have they come back? All seven attend JCPC because of the worship service and to a lesser extent the love of the music (3 of 7).

One visitor filled out the participation question, and that person said they actively participate on the Session, hmmm...

What do our visitors think are our strengths? One liked our friendliness, two thought we were welcoming, one liked the parking, one liked the music, one was impressed with our willingness to do outreach, one liked the sermons, and 2 highlighted the worship service.

The visitors fit in with the rest of us thinking that the music enhances the worship service.

All of the seven visitors indicated that they feel JCPC is a welcoming place. Four of those went on to comment on the affection and receptiveness they received and the pleasure they had at actually being talked to.

The seven visitors had suggestions for attracting new members. These cover: increased inclusion; getting to know our neighbors; approaching visitors to become members sooner; and getting the youth more involved in the worship service.

Four of our 7 visitors had a positive vision for John Calvin Presbyterian Church and one is hopeful. Hopefully they come back or continue to join with us to create the positive future!

Those that did not grow up in a church setting

It's great to be church trying to do God's work in our world, but one of the things we are called to do is bring God's message to others who have not heard or understood it. If we have people in our congregation who did not grow up in a church setting, what can they tell us about spreading our faith?

There are 7 people who filled in the survey who identified themselves as not having grown up in a church setting. All seven of these have been at John Calvin Presbyterian Church for over 10 years and all are over 55 years of age!

All 7 of these people attend John Calvin because of the fellowship and community. The general population of people taking the survey indicates that they attend primarily because of the worship

service, but this special group does not follow that trend. This group attends because of the fellowship and community (though 4 of them did at least check off the worship service as one of the reasons they attend JCPC).

The overall group of people who filled in the survey actively participates in the listed activities at a rate of 2.5 activities per person. The group that did not grow up in a church setting actively participates at a rate of 3.3 activities per person!

While the general population pointed to “the people” as one of the strengths of our church, the people who did not grow up in a church setting do not. This group is more impressed by the music and the outreach programs, and the fellowship activities.

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Youth Survey 2019

In February and March of 2019, the Mission Team sent a survey out to the congregation to understand their views and ideas. A separate Youth Survey was also sent out to the young people, asking for their views and ideas.

Five of our youth responded to the survey. While that is not enough for a statistical analysis, their responses give us an insight into how they view John Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Demographics

The five participants were between the ages of 13 and 15, with one male and 4 females.

Worship Service

Interestingly, the youth like the same things about the worship service as the adults: fellowship; prayer; the music; and the organization! And they would make similar changes to the worship service that the adults would make: shorten it; don't change anything; more recent music; and a sermon that covers things we can relate to.

Do they understand and can they follow the sermon? Two said, “Sometimes”, two “Usually”, and one said, “Rarely” – not unlike the adults! The things different from the adults that the youth said about the worship service are suggestions: start at 11:00; have more youth events; and more and different activities on Sundays.

What about participation in the worship service? Would these 5 like to see more youth participation? Two think the current level of participation is enough. The other three had a few ideas: “maybe every few weeks the youth can do a service”, “maybe add a time for teens”, and “the kids should try to play instruments or dance on certain Sundays”.

When given a list to choose from about an important factor in their worship, this group chose “Structured bible time”, and a “Committed adult to confide in”, two each, and one “Music praise”. No one chose “Friends attendance”.

Music

The love of music is clearly intergenerational!

"I enjoy the singing and I would not like to change anything"

"the music program is very good"

"I love the music program and I think it is done very well"

"I think the music program is okay"

"I like the singing a lot but would prefer to listen to Christian songs I hear on the radio/more modern instruments."

Sunday School

All three of the questions on Sunday school were multiple-choice. When asked what their biggest challenge was in coming to Sunday school, three chose "Conflict with sports and other activities", and two chose "Lack of interest". No one chose "Lack of transportation", or "Lack of parent participation".

What would the youth like added to Sunday school? Three chose "Build relationships (Games)", one chose "Include your parents", and one chose "Learn Biblical principles relevant to daily struggles". No one is looking for snacks or food!

What are they interested in? Three chose "Art Ministry", one "Music Ministry", and one "Biblical discussion". Sounds like some interesting things are likely to be happening in Sunday school!

Additional Thoughts

When asked if our youth feel that they are a part of this congregation, the response was a qualified, "yes".

"Yes, I feel included because I was just asked that I was welcome to play during service"

"yes, I feel like I am because of how sweet and welcoming everyone is"

"Yes because whenever I come to church I feel like I am apart of the family."

I guess we are doing something right!

In a more practical voice: "Yes sometimes no when I am not interested", and "Practically because most people in the congregation are elderly so I can't connect or become friends with them unlike if there are more people my age"

Does this group have any suggestions for youth activities that would attract families from our surrounding neighborhood? Yes! Everyone had a suggestion.

"I think maybe starting a fundraiser or a social media page for different causes we want to work with like ASPCA, Bridge house"

"Game night for teens"

"bowling, youth nights, movies, retreats"

"I am not sure Maybe ASPCA and Bridge House or Salvation army"

"just have more fun things to do" (!)

APPENDIX C

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION RESULTS

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Mission Team – Table Discussion Results

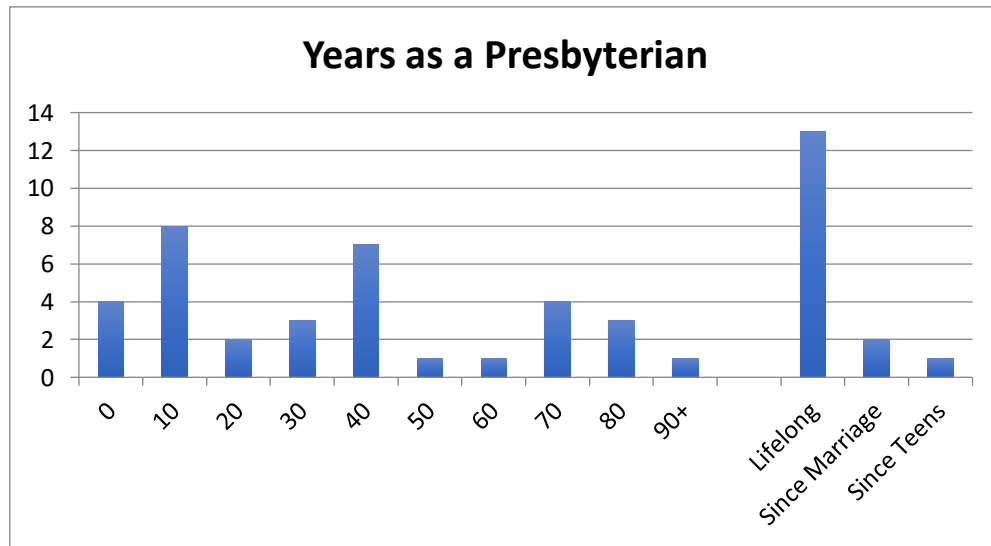
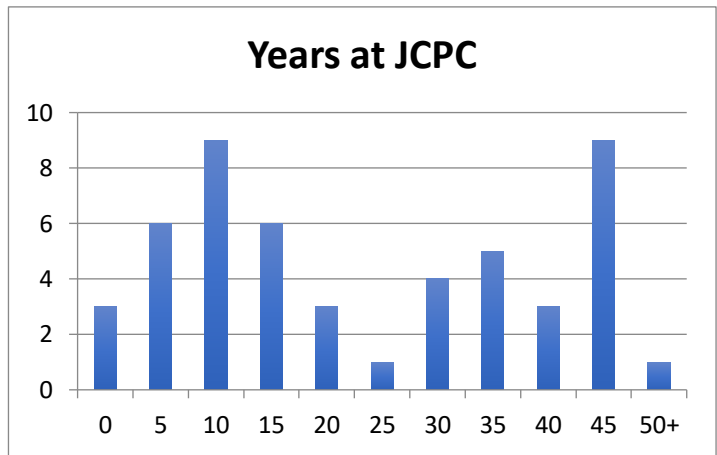
An Internal Retreat

On February 10, after a wonderful meal and some enriching fellowship, 51 members and friends of John Calvin Presbyterian Church discussed a pre-planned group of questions to begin the congregational transition in preparation for a new pastor. Bible study and prayer guided the questions and enlightened the discussion. Nine tables with 3 to 6 participants and a leader participant responded with ideas, thoughts, frustration, joy, trepidation, and excitement. The notes taken during these discussions are compiled here.

WHO WE ARE

Interestingly, the people gathered represented 2 different groups of participants, those with 0 to 20 years at JCPC and those with 30 to 50+ years at JCPC!

We represented from 0 to 90+ years as Presbyterians, with 13 considering themselves Lifelong Presbyterians.



We represented a group with diverse ways of approaching life.

Thinkers vs. Feelers	
Feelers	26
Thinkers	21
Both!	4

Extrovert vs. Introvert	
Introvert	27
Extrovert	17
Both!	7

We were evenly split between those that focus on the needs of the individual vs. those that are more focused on the larger church body.

These different approaches to life could create friction and trouble for a congregation going through change. How did this group think their diversity of thought would affect our ability to work together as a congregation?

When it comes to working together through our differences, many more comments calling these differences a “blessing” (24) were captured than comments expressing “concern” (13) about our ability to work together.

The comments calling our differences a blessing were nearly all, clear, definite statements such as: “Thank God we all think differently!” or “Differences of opinion are valued.” The comments expressing the challenge of our differences were more general: e.g. “Someone may not fit into the greater program”.

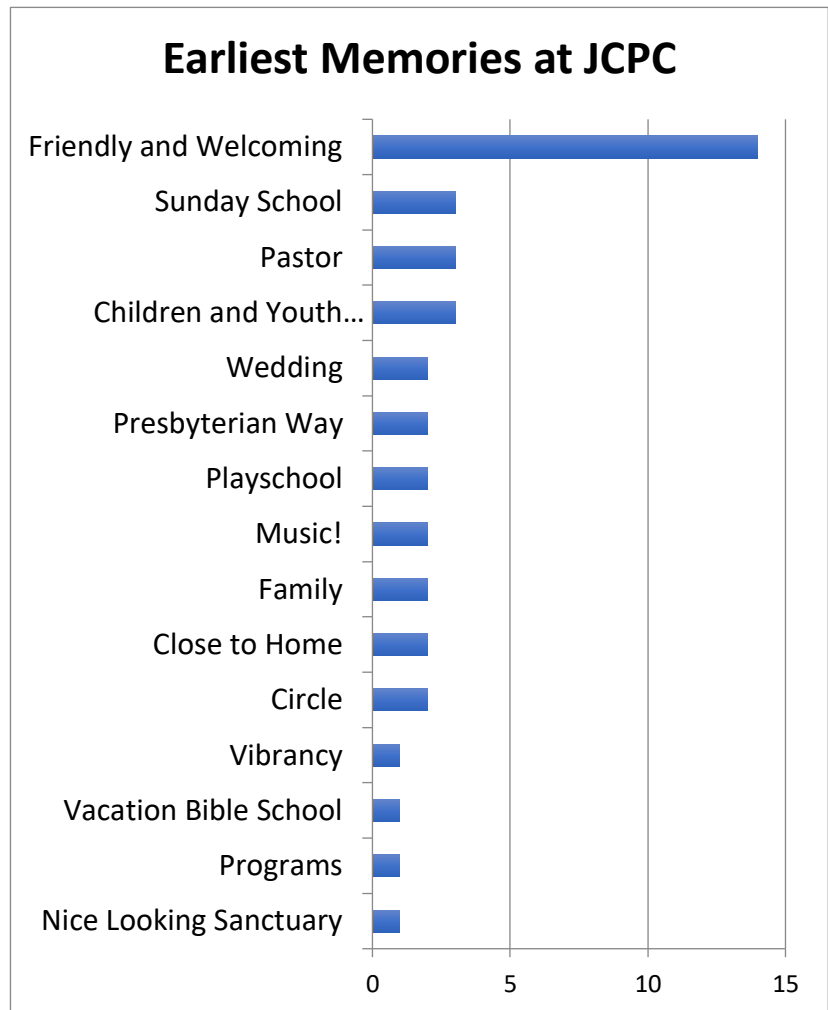
Focus on Needs of Individual vs. Needs of Larger Body	
Individuals	23
Larger Body	21

Individual 1st, then Larger Body	5
Both	1
Not Sure	1

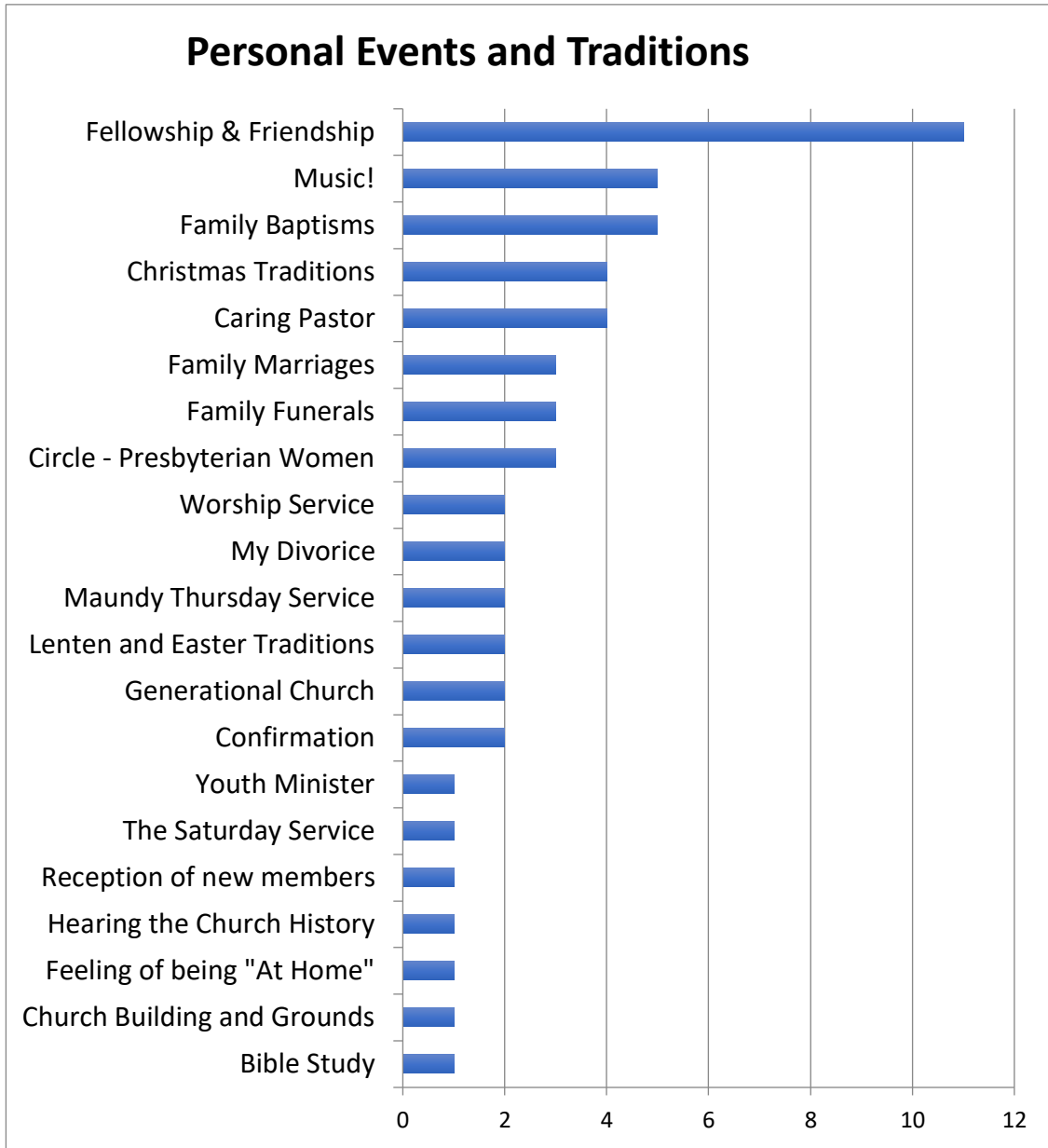
REMEMBERING

As we were reminded in Deuteronomy 6:10-12 – to not forget – the table discussion focused on remembering our past at JCPC.

Overwhelmingly, our earliest memories are of the warm and friendly greetings we received when we first came to John Calvin. Names were shared of the friendly faces welcoming us to their church home, which then became our church home.

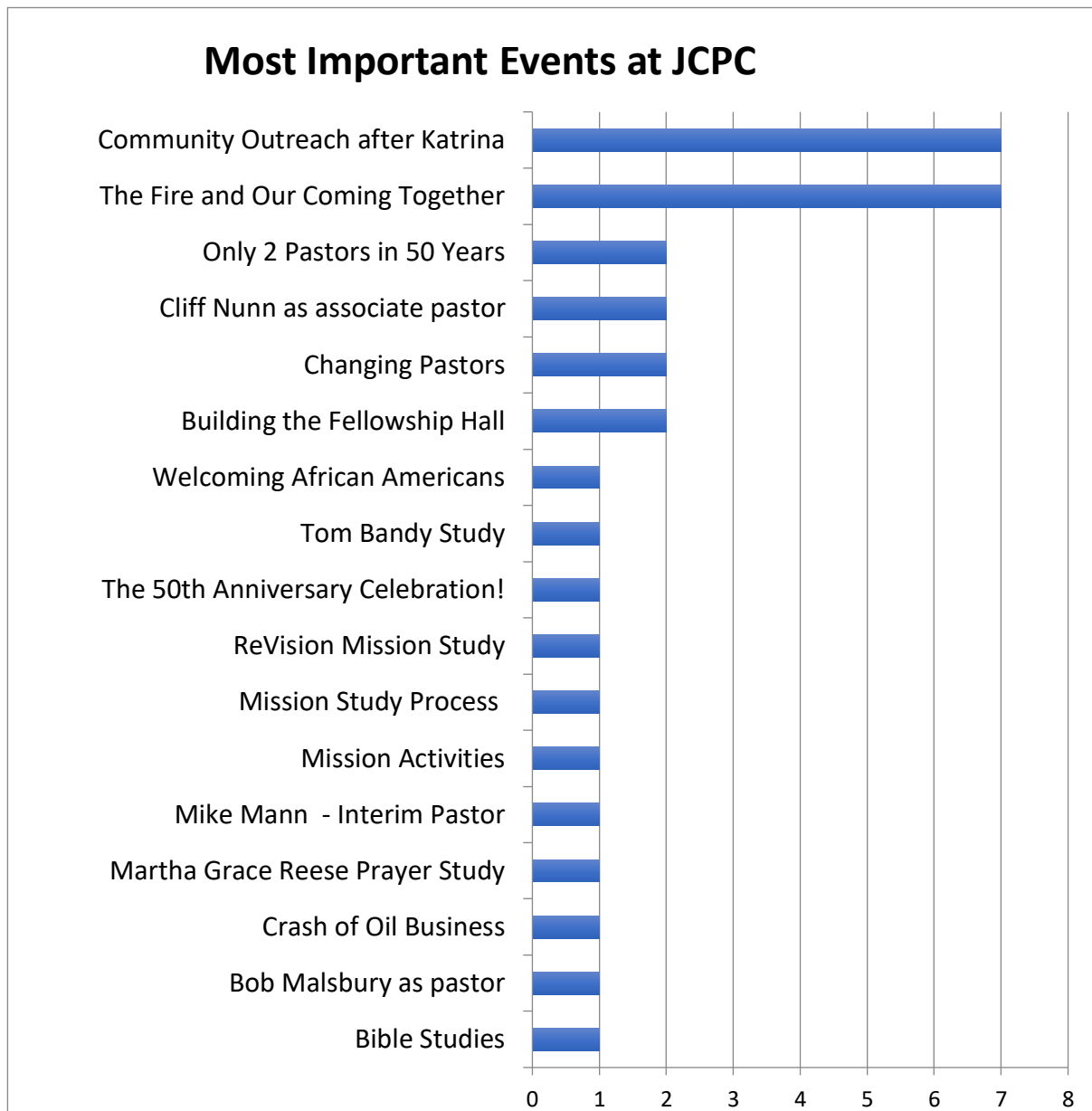


We were asked two questions about traditions and events important to us as individuals, and important events in the life of the John Calvin Church. Our answers to these questions were dependent on the table leader's interpretation of the instruction. Some tables answered one question, some the other, some both, and some neither. All of the comments captured were grouped together then separated out between the different ideas of personal events and those of church events.



As with the early memories, our relationships with each other take the top spot when we think of the most significant things that our important to us about our church.

The most important events in the life of our church are clearly The Fire and our response to Hurricane Katrina. These were understandably, on the minds of each group.

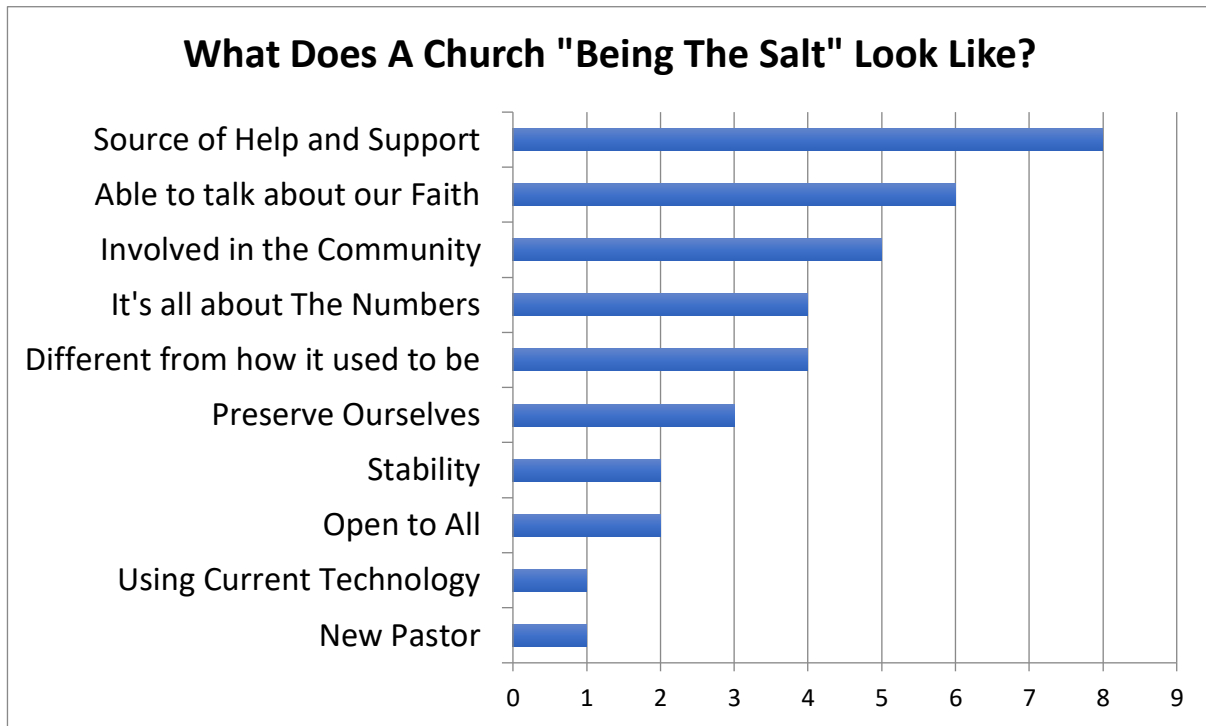


Representative comments captured in the discussion include:

- “Feeding the community after Katrina. I didn’t think I could do it, but I made myself and was glad.”
- “Fire (brought us together as a congregation)”
- “Katrina (tore us apart and we lost many active members)”
- “After Katrina having hosted people from all over the country. There were parties for young adults and the church did a lot for the community.”
- “Having only two pastors in our 50-year history has been a blessing – pastoral changes are hard”

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Now that we've remembered who we were in the past and the events that shaped our church until now, it's time to look to the future. Taking a look at Matthew 5:13-16, what does it mean to be "The Salt of the Earth", and what does "Being the Light of the World" look like?



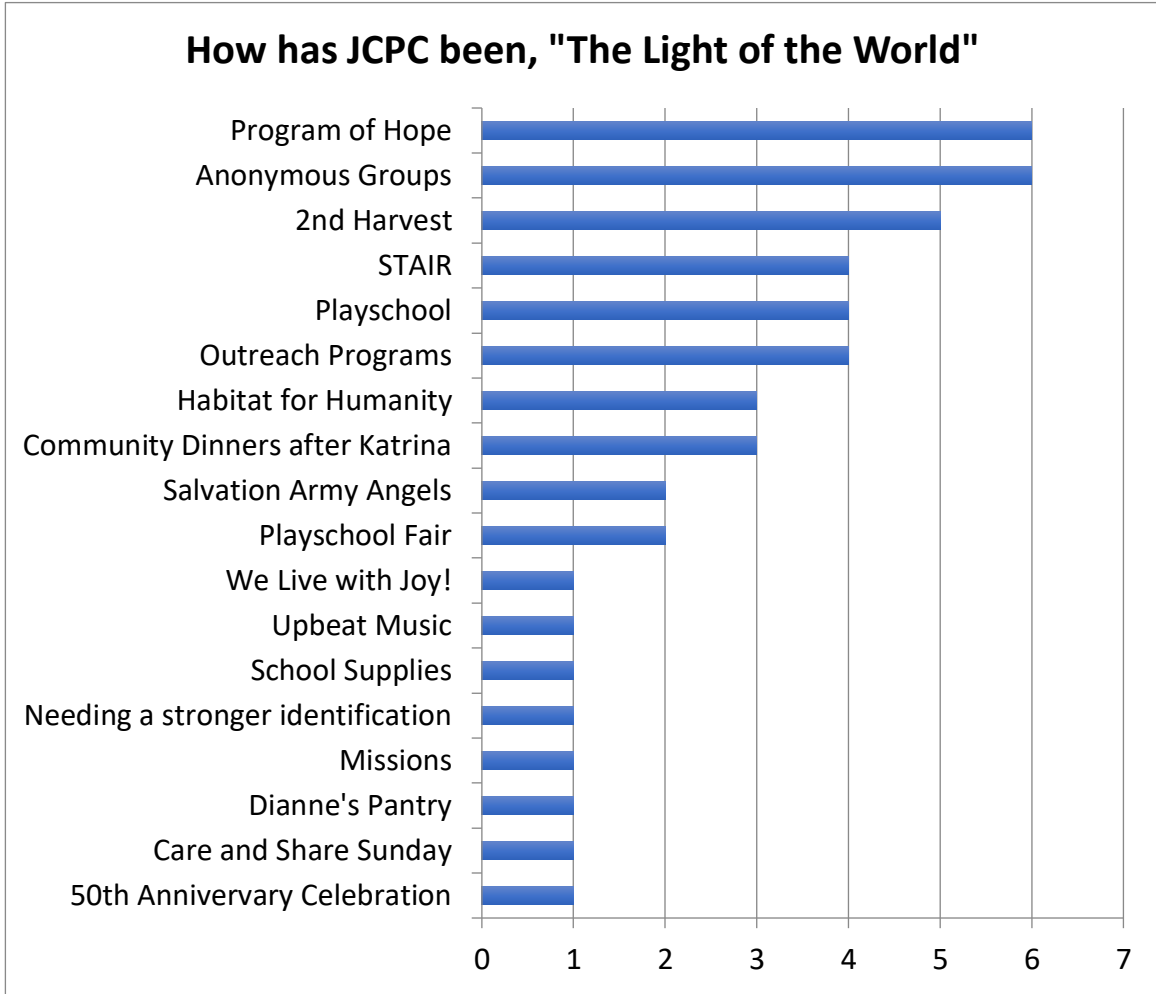
The analogy of being "the Salt" struck a cord with the participants in the table discussion. Several people used this idea to express their thoughts on what "Being The Salt" should look like.

- "Evaporate the water"
- "Flavor and presentation. These are what we should have."
- "The church is the one getting in there and getting their hands dirty."
- "The church and its members should set a good example and affect others positively just as salt brings out the best flavor in food. Should be pillars of the community."
- "Bring out the best in others we touch – add flavor to their lives"
- "So affecting (flavoring) the world, not being too like the world"

While we showed ourselves to be a clever bunch, the comments captured in this section of the discussion gave an indication of the differences of opinion of the participants.

Comments indicating that a church "being the salt" should be involved in the community and open to all, contrast with the idea that a church "being the salt" should be preserving ourselves or being all about the numbers.

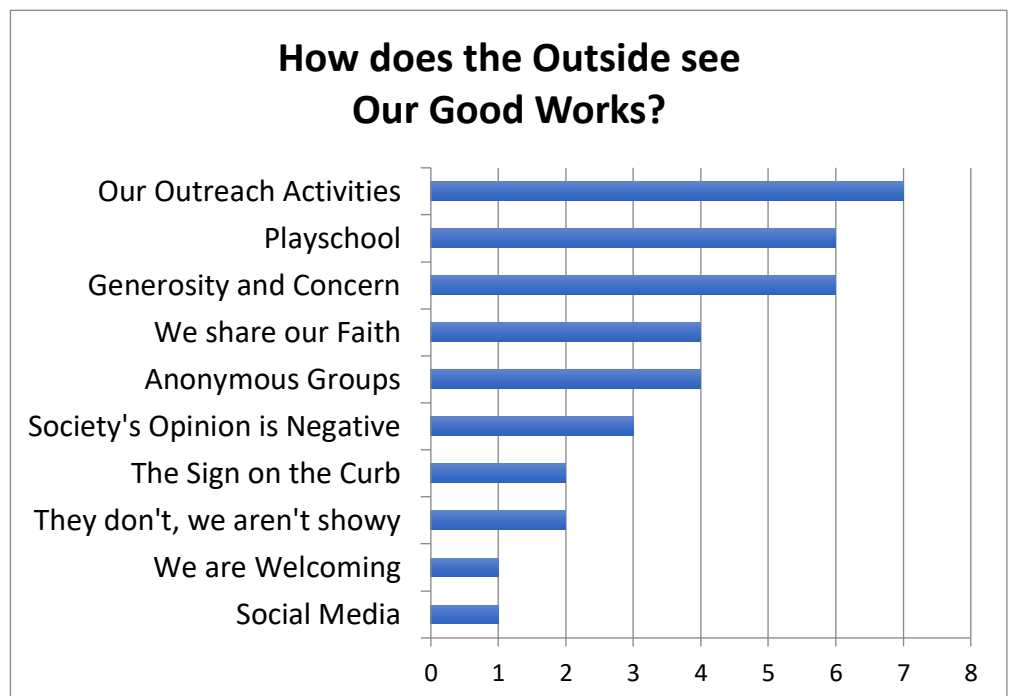
We see ourselves as being "The Light of the World" in many ways!

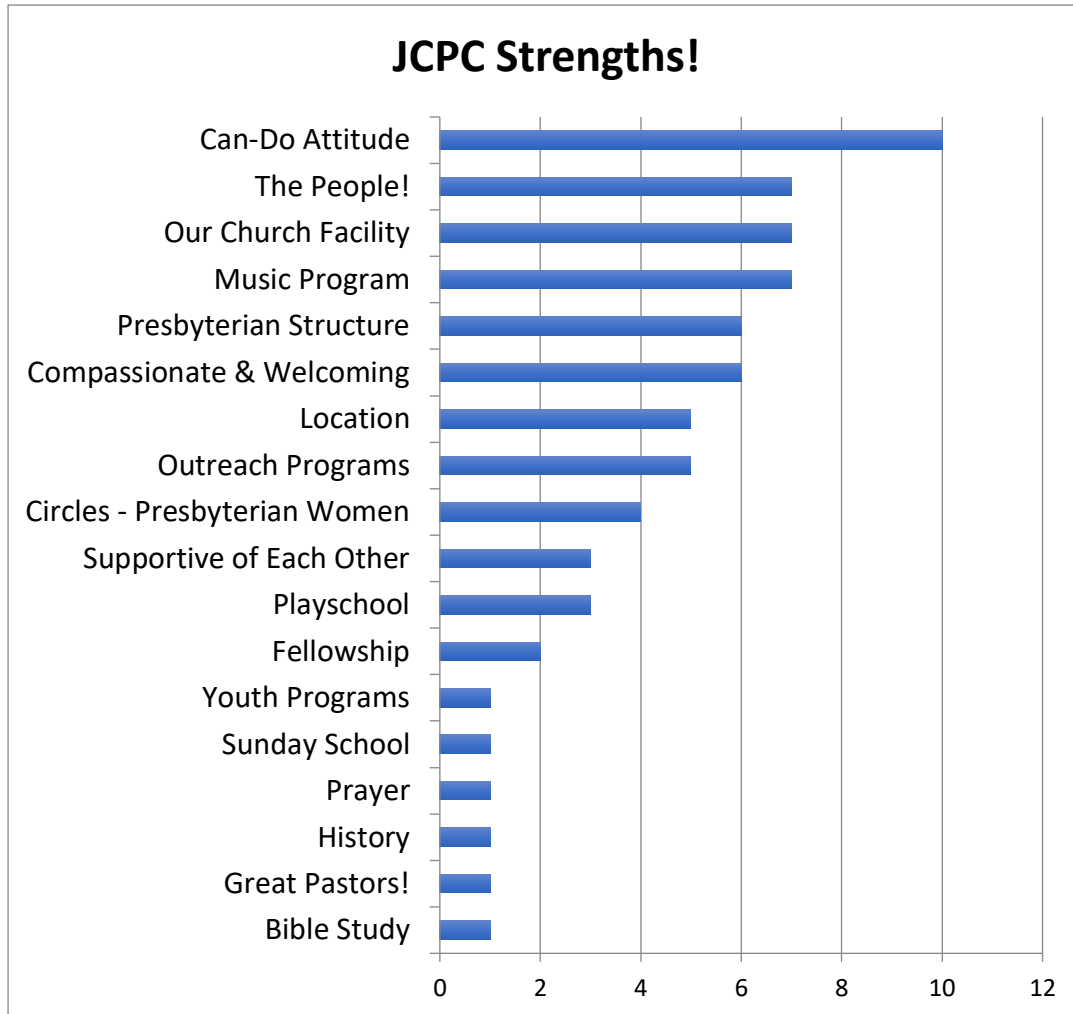


How do we think the outside world sees these good works?

Do they “Glorify your Father in Heaven”?

1st Corinthians 12:12-27 is about the One body of Christ. All parts of the body are needed and none are greater or lesser than the others. This passage helps us understand that all of our diverse ways of being are equally needed. This diversity shows itself in the strengths we see in our church.





Wow! Our table leaders captured many “strengths” from our discussions! Those indicating our “Can-Do Attitude” are:

- “This congregation will always step forward to do what is needed, or to join in, if someone will organize the activity!”
- “If you see a need and make overtures to fill that need, it can be done.”
- “No one says, “You can’t do that.”
- “Motivated, energetic in our gray hair.”
- “Volunteering to participate”
- “Ability to overcome adversity”
- “Members work for the church”
- “We have inspiration; we will do what needs to be done”
- “We embrace new ideas”
- “Older members are young at heart”

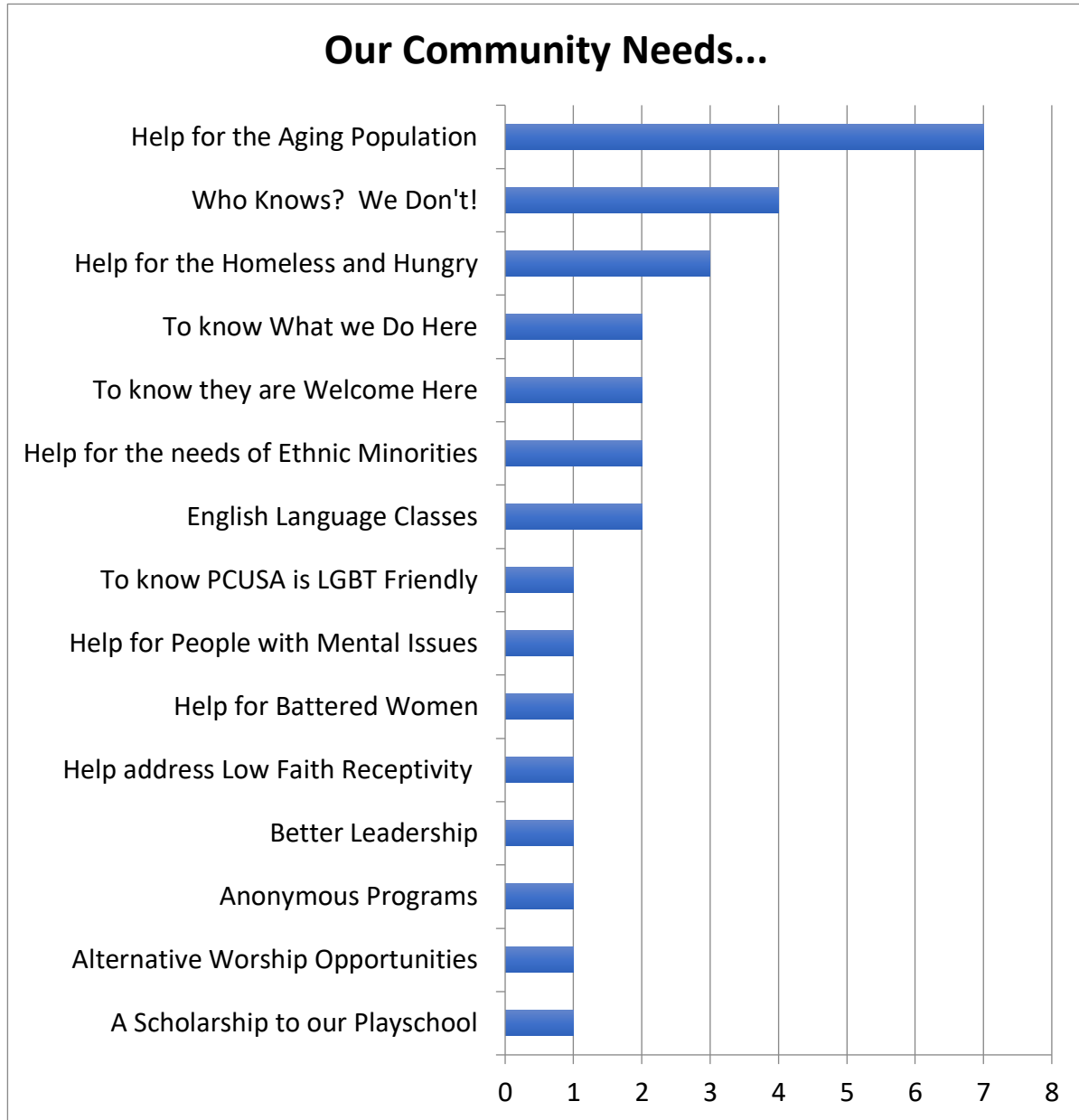
We know our strengths, but what are our needs and our perception of the needs of the community around us? How can we utilize our strengths to meet these needs?

Our Church Needs...



Thankfully the purpose for these conversations is to get us ready to bring in a new pastor to help us fill some of these needs!

What are our perceptions about what the community around us needs?



The continued work of the Mission Team should help us get an understanding of the accuracy of our perceptions about our community.

YOUR VISION FOR JOHN CALVIN

These groups discussed our differences, our history, our strengths, and our needs. If we put together a vision statement of our church for the future, what might it look like?

Vision Statement Possibilities:

“Freed by the Fire, Renewed by the Flood, Empowered by the Spirit”

(We like our current vision statement)

“Go ye onto all the nations and proclaim the gospel”

(These are the words on the big stained glass window.)

“A Place of Joy and Hope”

“A Place of Help and Care”

“Joy and Hope – Help and Care”

“Serving Members and the Community”

“Doing God’s Work Now”

“Sharing Christ’s Love”

“Close the Gap Between What Is and What Ought to Be”

“Evangelism from the Fire, Flood, and Spirit”

“Tempered by Fire, Cleansed by Waters”

“Jesus Calls – We Act”

“Let us help you find a way to God”

“To be a church inspiring, encouraging, welcoming, and family oriented”

“Uplifting hearts, minds and souls”

“Let’s grow together”

“Grace is contagious”

“A neighborhood church for all”

“A place where people feel welcome and included”

“Going forward – led by the Holy Spirit”

“Lighthouse of love”

“Walking in the light of Christ”

“The spirit of God is here”

“Many gifts, one spirit”

“Come and meet Jesus”

“Bringing the community together in Peace”

“Fellowship for all”

More Vision Statement Possibilities:

“Open hearts, helping hands”

“Being the place where all are welcome”

“Loving our neighbors as ourselves”

“Nurturing your personal relationship with God”

“Looking for God, Seeing God, Sharing God”

“Living God's Word”

“Appreciating and improving God's World”

“When the Bible Speaks, God Speaks, by John Calvin”

“Grow the faith”

“Serving God”

“We break eggs”

“Church community with Christ”

“Supporting our community”

“Church community serving the local community”

“Serving God; loving people”

“The JC way”

#the JC way

“Where the spirit works”

“Creating Christian Families”