

**Table comments** recorded at Congregational meetings on 9/25/18, 9/26/18, and 9/30/18.

The comments are grouped together and are not separated by the time of the particular meeting. Whenever possible, the exact wording provided by the recorder is used. Repeated comments are noted with an \*asterisk.

Among all three groups, 87 people attended.

**1. Describe this parish community.**

- Older congregation – missing young families with children\*
- Congregation is fragmented, disjointed\*
- Not just local, neighborhood people anymore\*
- Confused, searching for purpose and identity
- Caring if connected to the right people\*
- Genuine concern for one another and the community\*
- Friendly and unassuming
- Educated; a “thinking man’s” church\*
- Somewhat typical mainstream church – settled, conservative, comfortable\*
- Good core group but not experiencing growth\*
- Don’t do small groups well like we used to
- Don’t involve as many people in planning events
- Number of people attending these meetings reflects the interest in this process
- Parish has a family feeling\*
- Less cliques that there used to be\*
- Still perceived as “snooty” by people outside the church
- Newport News is changing
- Cheerful, welcoming, friendly\*
- Recent loss of youth and children\*
- Mourning our losses – particularly the school \*
- Growing a little bit
- Considerate of people with differing abilities

- Older, less energy, more homebound people \*
- Strong outreach with Boy Scouts \*
- Young people not interested in liturgy
- School was reason for some people being here
- Open-minded parishioners, progressive \*
- 10:30 service more diverse
- Traditional dress\*
- Meals and hospitality are wonderful\*
- Geographically situated to serve the underserved
- Lots of outreach\*
- Safe place; place of comfort in times of distress
- History of commitment
- Strong music program\*

## **2. What is our mission?**

- Don't know
- Outreach and education
- Meet the community
- Serve our neighbors\*
- "Draw others into knowledge of and service to the Lord." (from the 90's)
- Spread the Good News
- Helping other organizations in the community, St. Paul's, etc.
- Turkey sandwich day; appreciation lunches
- Take care of ourselves and arm us to serve

## **3. Whom do we seek to serve?**

- Assorted new ideas were listed of things we could do to serve community but the question was not answered\*
- Homebound
- Children
- Shelter for the community
- Children on Halloween and assorted other extant programs like marathon runners, first responders, animals\*

- The school was the key
- Our local community rather vs. other states/countries
- PORT – homeless community/young people/VBS for the neighborhood\*
- We seek to serve ourselves!! We are too insular.
- Caring for our members and our youth\*
- Everybody who comes through the doors
- Prisoners, the poor and homeless and children in some way
- Christ and each other