

St. John's Cottage Meeting Summaries

May 2006

Administration

High on the list of things people like is the leadership of the current minister. George Howle has been described as a forward-thinking minister with a vision. They have expressed the hope that he will stay in Aiken so he can build up St. John's and nurture all of us. Participants were also pleased with the associate minister, with Terry's vision for youth, with Neil's influence on the youth programs, and with the fact that we have retired ministers in our congregation. There were some who feel that the staff is professional while others feel that the staff should work closer together and that some changes are needed.

Several groups suggested that we make greater use of volunteers in the church. Other changes suggested included the following:

- More input from church members
- Opportunity to vote on "big items" if absent
- Improvement in the nomination process and selection of church leaders; a more democratic process
- Rotation of jobs in the church (e.g., ushers)
- More workers in the kitchen
- More visits to homebound and nursing homes
- Better representation at conference
- Pastor-parish committee more responsive to the will of the congregation
- Limit influence of special groups
- More hymnals in the balcony
- More bulletins at the 11:00 o'clock service.