

## Survey Comments

Survey Name: Expanding to Three Services		Date: 02/07/10				
1. Think of those people you know who don't regularly attend church or other worship service. What do think are their reasons?						
	Answer	Type Respondent				
		AM	IA	IM	FM	NM
	Most people did not grow up going to church. Their past experience with Christians or Christian groups, or their impression from media reports, is that committed Christians are likely to be judgmental, rules oriented, and/or intolerant, OR that going to church is boring, and at church you have to act a certain way & can't just be yourself. They may think people like them don't go to church, & church-going people won't understand them & their concerns. They may think they have too many vices or aren't "good" enough to fit in at church. They lead very busy lives & treasure Sunday mornings as a time to sleep in & relax OR to get certain things done. Some people have to work on Sunday mornings. Some people may be hurting & looking for spiritual solace or insight, but they feel reserved & want to avoid answering awkward questions or acting sociable with people in church. They may be tired & overwhelmed, so avoid being asked to get more busy & responsible at church.	1				
	Out of the habit. Don't know anyone there.	1				
	My sister, who lives in Montgomery Village, doesn't attend church because she's still working out the community part of her faith. (She's someone who is steadfast in her personal practice and prayer life but has become very circumspect when it comes to Christian community. May be due to her being a P.K., and more) As for others I know : Absolutely no interest. They've never even thought about attending church. They've been raised secular through and through. Others I know have been hurt by church community in the past. My friends in this category were either once R Catholic (esp those who attended Catholic schools) or were once a part of a conservative brand of Protestantism that erupted.				1	
	Most likely because they feel they are too busy or because the times are too early/too late for them. Evening service interferes with sports.			1		
	Time. I know for our family, both of us commute a total of 2 to 2 1/2 hours a day, have almost 2 year old and there just doesn't seem to be any time to do anything other than the weekends.		1			
	Inconvenient.	1				
	Bad weather & with the entrance and parking lot not paved, it creates a danger to auto tires & subsequently could cause serious accidents (especially with areas not plowed or treated after winter storms). That, coupled with family holiday event conflicts & the current need to put my car in the shop have caused problems getting to church. However, w/spring weather coming, my regular attendance will return.		1			
	They don't like/approve of organized religion	1				
	Do not want to participate in organized religion. Choose other family interests above church. Sleep in on Sunday as their only day of rest.	1				
	Services too early in the morning to get the whole family going.	1				
	Weren't brought up in a church, so it doesn't seem important or relevant to them. Busy with children's sports and other activities Time might be too early for them on a Sunday	1				

## Survey Comments

Too little free time. Services are not child friendly.		1			
Lack of time. Pressure of involvement.	1				
I am one of those people, and my reason is that 9 is too early and 5 is too late.			1		
Life is very complicated and the weekends are when folks get a chance to unwind and working adults get chores done. Therefore, most folks I know want a convenient, one-stop approach to church (service, fellowship and sunday school). Unfortunately, 9 AM is very early, especially for teens. The 5 PM service is too late, especially if the kids have homework. Perhaps a later start time would be helpful.	1				
Lack of faith, claims of inconvenience, not having found a congregation that "fit", Not liking the feeling of being "preached to" (meaning being told everything they are doing wrong).	1				
Schedules too busy; kids' sports and other activities (e.g. birthday parties) cut into weekends, including Sundays. Some stay out later on Saturday evenings, making early Sunday morning difficult for church, even without kids. Others "dress" for work six or seven days a week and don't relish the thought of putting on their Sunday Best. Still others have simply forgotten the value of worship, or the pleasure of a church community, and are fully immersed in the secular world.	1				
I will speak for my family. We have not attended mass nearly as often as I would like in some part due to timing. Saturday night is the only night our kids stay up "late." As a result, often they are not up early enough on Sunday to make 9:00 mass (and we hate having to wake them up since we wake them up every day for school). We tend to have busy weekends and have some difficulty making 5:00 as well as we are often no longer at home in the afternoon. When we were attending Ascension, we typically attended the 10:15 mass - I think we would be able to make it far more often to mass if there were a late morning mass on Sundays.		1			
Lack of time, over committed on "days off" work, tired, other family members not interested, need the "sleep in" day			1		
It is difficult to find a church home and "break into" the friend circles that have been long established within a church community. I found St. Nicholas because a friend brought me in; she introduced me to the nuances of the service and several people and now I am comfortable enough to do things within the church on my own.	1				
They haven't seen much that would benefit their attending church on a regular basis. Most do not trust the church and would rather stay home and worship in their homes.	1				
Time of service: prefer 11AM. Service seems routine, doesn't hold my attention. Something engaging for children.					1
9 is pretty early. 5 gets in the way of other events.					1
Too busy; don't believe in organized religion.	1				
Time conflicts.			1		
Different views of spirituality and religion. For me it's the prevalence of the idea -that I have never failed to encounter in my forays in different church experiences- of "My religion (e.g. Christianity) is the only true one therefor anything and anyone else is wrong."					1

### Survey Comments

<p>Their lives are very busy already; they feel no need for organized religion in their lives; were not exposed to it in their youth or were turned off by exposure they had; they are secular-- don't believe in God.</p>	1				
<p>Don't know.</p>					1
<p>Lack of interest, not part of their routine, think all churches are conservative/fundamentalist</p>				1	
<p>It is difficult for them to feel connected, as it may be hard to enter a new place alone. They haven't been to church for along time and are not sure how to become involved. Their lives are very busy and they don't make church a priority. Flexability is an excellent way to include people with hectic schedules. Families are always trying to balance, work, school, sports, extra curricular activities and family time. Flexability is key.</p> <p>Some people feel that if they can't attend church weekly, that they are not welcome. If these families and individuls are given more flexibility they may be encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Many people in the society are sleep deprived. Sleeping in late on the weekend is a pleasure they include in their lives. This is expecially true for teens.</p>	1				
<p>Either they don't feel they belong to the host faith community. Or they feel the "price" is too high to belong.</p> <p>Then there are those who believe their relationship with God does not require participation in a formal religion.</p> <p>And finally, I assume there are those who don't believe in God. Although, I have never met anyone.</p>					1
<p>Not fan of organized religion.</p> <p>Short worship services (under an hour).</p> <p>Semons geared to everyday living without religious overtones.</p>					1
<p>Various:</p> <p>Not interested in or believes in God/religion</p> <p>Caught up in worldly issues</p> <p>Previously turned off to a specific church/pastor or congregation</p> <p>Belief that church is not relevant to their every day needs or the needs of their family</p> <p>Belief that church benefits the church and not the congregants</p> <p>Belief by younger people (&lt;30?)that the services and programs offered by the church are not vibrant, engaging and yes even entertaining but stiff and stodgy.</p> <p>Lazy (Sunday is the one day to sleep in for many)</p>					1
<p>Convenient time of service.</p> <p>Length of service.</p> <p>Need to sleep.</p> <p>Don't want to miss other opportunities and/or obligations.</p>					1
<p>Not in the regular routine of going weekly, other priorities, haven't found the right church or just don't do church even though they are Christians.</p>					1
<p>Other activities and commitments conflict with times service is offered.</p> <p>Not easily accessible due to location or transportation.</p>					1
<p>Too busy all week, want a day to unwind.</p> <p>The 9 am time is too early.</p>		1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

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2. What advice would you give churches in our area if they wanted to be helpful to these people?					
Answer	Type Respondent				
	AM	IA	IM	FM	NM
Offer things that are social in nature, like concerts, etc. so they become familiar with the surroundings. It's easier to come that way.	1				
I would ask the clergy to begin with hizzer neighborhood and begin to knock on each door. I am always amazed how grateful people are that the priest/pastor himmer self stopped by. This is one of the best ways to grow a congregation. I also believe this method is very effective when members of the laity do the same, but for some reason both those normally hostile and those sympathetic to church respond in great measure very favorably. Oddly enough, I've often been a part of churches when clergy don't even visit hizzer own congregants in hospital or otherwise, let alone strangers. And then there's that church I was a member of in Kansas City where the senior clergyperson liked to conduct classes on discovering your piritual gifts, one of which was (perhaps) the gift of pastoring. He was very confident in his having discovered that although he had the gift of teaching, he didn't have the gift of pastoring.				1	
Add a service at a more convenient time. Even though you currently have 2 services, only one is the Traditional St. Nicks service. This may not feel like choice to people who like that service but don't want to get up that early. Adding a similar service later in the day would help to remedy that.			1		
Have two morning services rather than just one.		1			
Create methods that enable people to participate.	1				
Pave all entrances and parking lots and a mid day service at 11:00 AM.		1			
Stop preaching, start doing.	1				
Help them identify the longing in their life for God and community. Help them see that they benefit from spiritual life/God/community.	1				
Offer a mid-morning mass.	1				
Have other worship times in addition to Sunday mornings. Have activities that aren't only religious in nature.	1				
Offer non-traditional services.		1			
Be open, continue to advertise services, don't be pushy.	1				
Please do have a later in the morning service! I speak as a lapsed Catholic, who had several times a day to choose from.			1		
Three services is very nice - an early service in case folks need to free up the day for a special event, a mid-morning service (with music, sunday school and fellowship) for regular Sundays and an evensong, for those that prefer that approach. I believe that the mid-morning service woulda attract more families if it were scheduled for a little later -- 10am with sunday school after or at 11am with sunday school before at 10am. Church should definately be over by noon.	1				
My concern is that if we go to 3 services now, we will lose the wonderful fellowship that we have at the am service. Would it be possible to stay with 2 services and just move the 9am to 10am?	1				
Some inexpensive direct mailing to remind families that there is a caring community waiting to support in good and bad times.	1				

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<p>Reach out! In an accessible and non-threatening way that says "come as you are...whatever your place on the spiritual journey -- or even if you don't know you need one -- and be part of our searching community." Many people have preconceived notions of what will be expected from them in a church community...for instance many hear Episcopal and think "high church," and not "casual" or "open and embracing theology."</p> <p>I also think churches could host non-church community events to get people physically in the building. This integrates the church into the larger community and breaks down the first barrier of "I don't know that place, or what goes on in there."</p> <p>The last thought is to advertise a bit more through fliers and postings, have a newcomers' Sunday.</p>	1				
<p>I think St. Nick's is an extremely open and welcoming church. As indicated above, the biggest difficulty is that given the size of the church, the mass offerings have - understandably - been limited. I think that would have an impact on folks.</p>		1			
<p>Add a later Sunday morning service - 10:00 or 11:00, and maybe even a Service during the week - 7:00-8:00. Only problem with this is that members of St. Nick's may never be able to meet each other and form friendships.</p>			1		
<p>Encourage members to bring in their friends and be their "mentors" while they become comfortable with things at the church.</p>	1				
<p>Find some way of seeking them out and give them added reasons to want to attend church.</p> <p>Churches in our area must not only focus on the residents of the area in which the church stands, but must also try to bring residents from other areas in and around the church. That would require some strategic thinking. If we are to bring people into our churches, we must provide for ALL; those may prefer a more traditional service and those who may like something a little more upbeat. I remember that there used to be youth services with lots of musical instruments, etc. and the children loved it and remained committed to being a part of church. It would be best to let young parents know that a great Sunday School program was available for their children, and about the many many programs and ministries available.</p>	1				
<p>I attend a church that focuses on a special topic over 6-8 services, one builds on the other. They give handouts, with fill-in-the-blanks and references to Bible passages; so I'm actually engaged, listen, and learn something from the service.</p> <p>If St. Nicholas had such a format, I'd attend more often. I feel like I'm betraying my Episcopal roots by attending another church, but . . .</p>					1
<p>Saturday afternoon</p>					1
<p>Offer more flexible service times.</p>			1		
<p>I don't have any good ideas here; it's hard to fill a need if there isn't one.</p>	1				
<p>Don't know.</p>					1
<p>Clearly publicize what is distinctive about their own traditions and beliefs, emphasize inclusivity and hospitality.</p>				1	
<p>Make church service times as flexible as possible, with services at various times on Sunday. The Saturday late afternoon option is a good one for larger churches, but it may not work with a small congregation. It would seem that Saturday services would be used on and off as the need arose, rather than on a regular basis.</p>	1				

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<p>It's tough, you want those who invest in your faith community to feel special.          Yet I think you have to find a way to give the newcomers a voice.          At St. Rose of Lima they had a group called "Another Look." It was an evening meeting for people taking another look at the Catholic Church. Just by the nature of the group one understood questions were allowed. You could come to the community with doubt. This was a helpful service for my return to organized religion.          I think providing opportunities for service is a great way to engage people in a faith community. Extend the opportunities beyond the registered members. Acknowledge it as a way for people to learn about you.</p>					1
<p>Short services.          Variety of courses in addition to the services.</p>					1
<p>TV spots with a 10 second homily (i.e. Church of the Redeemer.) I don't attend this church but it catches my ears as I get dressed for work.          Post card mailings announcing a list of upcoming messages/programs (several churches in Montgomery County use this approach &amp; it does get people in the door.)          Gazette Religion Page ads if they are still doing that. That's how I found a church.          My church regularly designates a 'Bring a Friend/Family Memeber to Church' Sunday.</p>					1
<p>Offer other options - Saturday afternoon is extremely popular with the Catholic church as opposed to Sunday afternoon.</p>					1
<p>From reading many of your surveys it sounds like there are many who would like you to add a later service...and this is the trend to have more services for sure....but especially for a small church the other consideration is that is will make the attendance even less per service...I have heard others from other churches also complain about this.....I remember when in NC a traditional type church added a contemporary service which I assume was supposed to attract the younger set.....          As far as getting people to the church being open without being pushy is a challenge...advertising in some way....word of mouth is good but may not be enough.</p>					1
<p>Keep the service to 1 hour.          Add later morning services.</p>		1			
<p><b>Totals</b></p>	15	5	4	2	8
<p><b>3. If you were looking for a worshipping community, what kind of things would you look for (or what questions would you have)?</b></p>					

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Answer	Type Respondent				
See #2! When I look for a church community, I look for a good music program, friendly, down to earth people, a meaningful liturgy, and preaching and teaching that's down to earth but also at least occasionally inspiring. I would only accept a place where all kinds of people are welcome.	1				
Does it have a broad demographic in terms of age, race, etc.? Are there opportunities for adult education? Are newcomers welcomed to use their gifts, or is it run by the stodgy 'old-timers' who won't share their ownership of the parish? Is it a place of welcome? Is there outreach? Are there different worship styles available? e.g., Traditional, Youth, Taize, etc? Do they know how to laugh? Do they make an intentional effort to include the outcast who does not seem to fit anywhere else? Do they take Christian education seriously?	1				
Eucharist: if not daily, then as often as possible, whether alone or with hundreds of congregants. Church are open on weekdays where one can enter to pray alone and where one can mold one's day around daily eucharist. Theology: basic & fundamental Christianity but progressive too (I think St Nick's fits this, as far as I know). Not interested in having my faith challenged by Borg & Crossan, for example. I can watch them on PBS.				1	
What are the people like? What activities do they do/have? Is it easy to get involved? Are there people there my age?			1		
The Bible analysys,study and application for the individual and for the community - community volunteer opportunities helping those in need i.e. homeless and hungry.	1				
I'm very happy with my church: St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Darnestown, MD., which is a non-pressure but loving and encouraging environment.		1			
Would you be welcoming to me? Would you help meet my spiritual longing? Would you want my contribution?	1				
Feeling welcome and being able to pray to and with the Lord in a peaceful place.	1				
Friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Different oppotunities for fellowship and service.	1				
Time, location, whether the other attendees seem "normal" and whether they were friendly. Whether my children fit in.		1			
Primarily interested in worship rather than "busy work" or "social club." What kind of learning resources available?	1				
I would want a community that was truly inclusive of everyone from every walk of life. I would want a community that promoted women in leadership positions. I would want a community that asked questions rather than gave answers. I would want a community that was active in caring for the entire community.			1		
A small, active, open minded and service oriented congregation - like St. Nick's. I want sunday school/youth group for my kids. I love the choir.	1				

## Survey Comments

<p>An inclusive environment where I did not feel judged for being a perfect Christian.  A community that is willing to accept me and my family for who we are and not reject us because we don't have exactly matching beliefs.  A community where all members are treated as equals.</p>	1				
<p>What if I can't come every Sunday?  What if family commitments, a football game, or a hangover take precedence sometimes?  What if I'm financially stretched and can't contribute much?  Will I be pressed on my religious beliefs?  Will I be pressed to take on church duties?</p>	1				
<p>Openness and caring. A welcoming atmosphere.  An "interesting" clergy/lay education leadership - knowledgeable about scripture, theological and historical underpinnings of scripture, ways to tie it to / make it relevant to today's challenges, etc.  Since I have children, a sense that children are welcome - accepting that children will be children sometimes.</p>		1			
<p>A "buddy" assigned to new members for the first month or so. The buddy/mentor can sit with the member during church service, exchange phone numbers, introduce to other members.  Education just like St Nick's has every third Sunday.</p>			1		
<p>I prefer traditional services that include readings from the Old Testament and New Testament, confession of sins and absolution, statement of faith, and the Lord's Prayer as weekly standards. In addition to the service content, I look for a worshipping community that gives back to the community - locally, nationally, and internationally.  I prefer earlier services - 9 am is great for me - it gets my Sunday and week off to a great start!</p>	1				
<p>1. A welcoming congregation.  2. Not too big a congregation.  3. A priest who cares about his/her congregation.  4. A congregation of caring people.  5. A variety of church services.  6. Programs of interest and ministries in which I can serve.</p>	1				
<p>Diversity (age, race, gender).</p>					1
<p>Diversity, inclusion, acceptance.</p>					1
<p>An open and welcoming congregation, an easy transition into becoming part of the community, a familiar liturgy</p>	1				
<p>A GOOD CHOIR!!! and a lot of singing!!!</p>					1
<p>When we looked for St. Nick's, we were looking for community, partly because we felt a bit lost in a new neighborhood, partly because the first church we attended didn't seem to have need for us or to particularly welcome us, partly because being an active member of a church was always part of our lives.</p>	1				
<p>Good rector with a warm personality and a good approach to pastoral care.</p>					1
<p>Theology, ritual, preaching, community character, and what work the parish is doing outside of worship</p>					1
<p>1. Sense of community  2. Acts of Christianity as well as talk of Christianity.</p>	1				

### Survey Comments

3. Lack of rigidity in beliefs, openness					
4. Friendliness					
5. Non-judgemental atmosphere					
6. Stuctured worship services					
7. Pastoral care					
8. Formalized rituals for rites of passage,(baptism, confirmation, marriage, death)					
9. Excellent working relationships between clergy, vestry and congregation. (No feuds)					
I am looking for a worshipping community. And I do not know how to answer this question. I don't know what I am looking for at this point of my life. I am recently divorced and my children are launched. My relationship with God is central to my life. I don't feel lost or without purpose. But I do believe God wants us to be in community. And I believe I can learn from others how to be more aware of God in my life.					1
How do you serve the community? How are your services different than the traditional churches? What can I take away that allows me to live a life devoted to humanity? Can I choose not to attend every Sunday or the designated day of worship?					1
What is the underlying doctrine that is preached. What is the demographic of the church community? I would look for one that is multicultural and if not one that is more heavily of my ethnic background. The style of message delivery. I flourish under teachers, not preachers. What are the established ministries of the church that I might want to be involved with. Access to ministry services on request What is the structure of the leadership of the church including Boards. I am approaching senior citizen status but I would have to have a service that is vibrant and engaging just like younger folk. An excellent choir or workship team that is, yes, vibrant and engaging.					1
A wonderful Pastor who gives an interesting, informative, bible based sermon, and is an excellent speaker. A wonderful chior with alot of beautiful music: hymns and traditional but adding in a little contempory would be ok. A service that lasts for one hour, that starts and ends on time.					1
"Buddy" transportation link ups for those who do not drive or require transportation.					1
Options for children. Sunday school during church for kids Location (not big commute).		1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6. How have you heard about us (check all that apply)?</b>					
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Type Respondent</b>				
I've attended.					1
Through diocese.					1

### Survey Comments

Knew Clergy.	1				
I am a FOSNick.				1	
I think the ad was in the Gazette, but not sure.				1	
We found St. Nick's info and location online and decided to try it out.	1				
Was aware of St. Nick's, but had always gone to a Lutheran Church.	1				
I'm in the odd position of starting out as a lapsed Episcopalian. I would love attending a service later in the morning!			1		
As a current member, I am very excited by the addition of a mid-day service. We are a "late" family (ie: I like to sleep a little later on the weekends) and although I try to get us to church by 9am, some weekends I just can't get myself moving in time. The 5pm service is too late since I need to get the family fed and transitioned to thinking about school for the next day. Also, I prefer the music in the morning.	1				
I was co-chair of the original Mission Committee.			1		
While I knew of the church through a good friend who is a member and for whom I am doing this survey, honestly, I didn't know the name. If she told me the name in talking about her involvement in the church, which she has, it did not stick with me. So the correct answer to #5 should be, I have heard of the church, but not by name.					1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>9. If there are children in your household, what are their age ranges?</b>					
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Type Respondent</b>				
20's	1				
College 18-25	1				
19 years old-Starting Colidge			1		
None!	1				
2 adults			1		
Grown children/grandchildren	1				
None at home.					1
College					1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>10. If you would like to receive follow-up emails regarding the results of this survey or about St. Nicholas Church, please provide the following information (if not, please leave blank):</b>					
10 "Yes" answers					