

Transitions Conversation Night  
St. Simons Presbyterian Church  
October 11, 2017

# Transitions Timeline

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

- Elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) - Oct. 2017
- Nominating Committee Begins Work - Nov. 2017
- Bob's Planned Retirement - Spring 2018
- Call a New Associate Pastor - Spring/Summer 2018\*

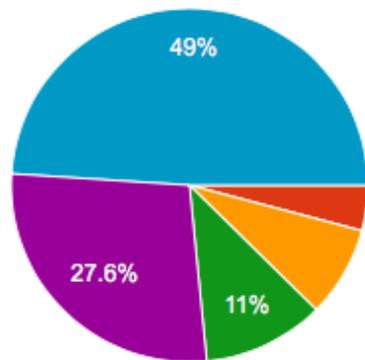
# 2017 Congregational Survey Report

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

### Overview of Survey Respondents: 145 Individual Responses (as of 10/10/17)

What is your age?

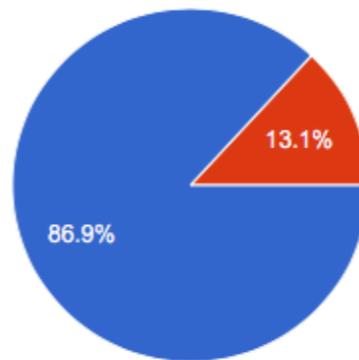
145 responses



- 17 and unde
- 18-25
- 26-40
- 41-55
- 56-70
- 70+

Are you a member or visitor/friend of SSPC?

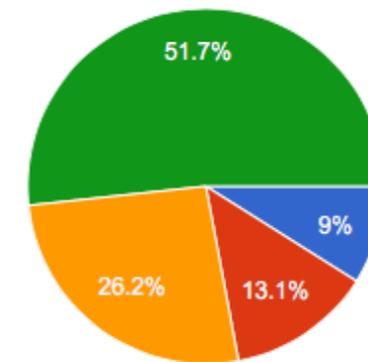
145 responses



- Member
- Visitor/Frien

In typical month, how often do you attend worship?

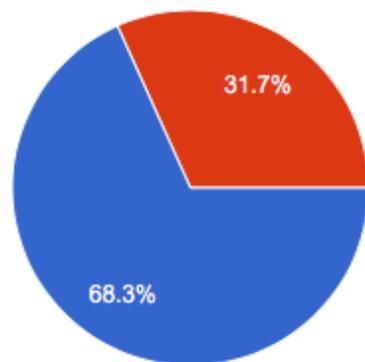
145 responses



- 1 time
- 2 times
- 3 times
- 4 times

What is your gender?

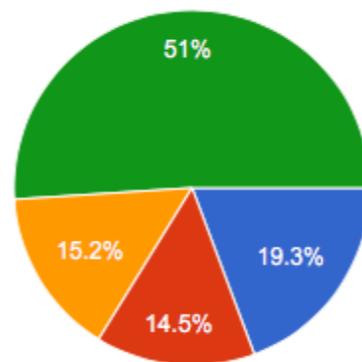
145 responses



- Female
- Male

How many years have you been attending SSPC?

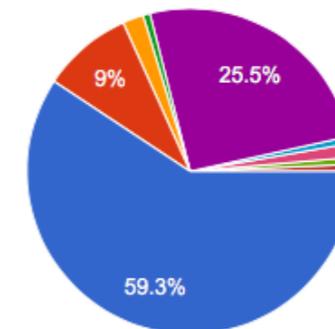
145 responses



- 0-4 years
- 5-9 years
- 10-14 years
- 15 years or more

What is your denominational background prior to attending/joining SSPC?

145 responses



- Presbyterian
- Baptist
- Nondenominational
- Catholic
- Other Mainline Protestant
- Methodist, Episcopalian,
- I am new to the church
- Methodist
- Methodist, Episcopalian,
- Methodist, Episcopalian,

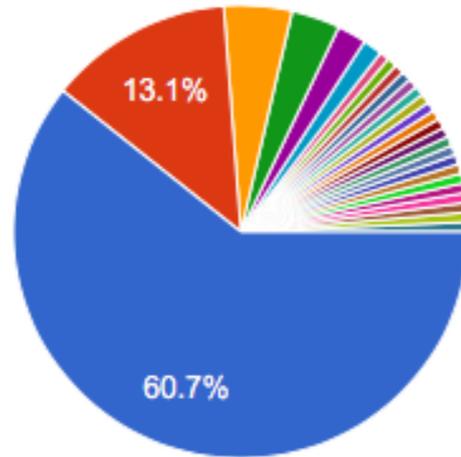
# 2017 Congregational Survey Report

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

### About Our Church

#### Why do you attend SSPC?

145 responses



- Sunday Worship Experience
- Fellowship Opportunities
- Mission/Outreach Programs
- Children/Youth Programming
- Christian Education Offerings
- All of the above
- spouse is a staff member
- Former GAC Executive Co...

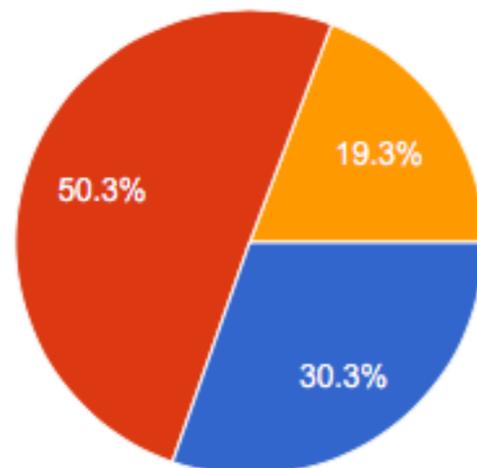
▲ 1/4 ▼

If your participation has INCREASED, which of the following are reasons for that?

- More time available (29%)
- Children (23%)
- Accepted Office or Other New Responsibility in the Church (44.2%)
- Stronger Faith (37%)
- More Positive Attitude Towards the Church (33%)

#### Has your participation in the congregation increased, decreased, or remained about the same in the last few years?

145 responses



- Increased
- Remained the same
- Decreased

If your participation has DECREASED, which of the following are reasons for that?

- Less time available (25%)
- Health Problems (28%)
- Left Office or Other New Responsibility in the Church (8%)
- More Negative Attitude Towards the Church (28%)

# 2017 Congregational Survey Report

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

### **About Our Church**

In thinking about what **ORIGINALLY** attracted you to St. Simons Presbyterian, select from the list below those reasons that most closely match your reasons for coming.

1. The Ministers (91 responses, 62.8%)
2. Worship Style (65 responses, 44.8%)
3. Denominational Ties (47 responses, 32.4%)
4. Music Program (36 responses, 24.8%)
5. Church's reputation (31 responses, 21.4%)
6. My friends are here (28 responses, 19.3%)
7. Social outreach programs (19 responses, 13.1%)
8. Small group ministries (19 responses, 13.1%)
9. Adult Education program (10 responses, 6.9%)
10. Others include preschool, married at SSPC, welcoming nature of congregation...

In thinking about what **KEEPS** you invested in this congregation, select from the list below those reasons that most closely match your reasons for coming.

1. The Ministers (115 responses, 79.3%)
2. Worship Style (85 responses, 58.6%)
3. My friends are here (63 responses, 43.4%)
4. Music Program (48 responses, 33.1%)
5. Denominational Ties (38 responses, 26.2%)
6. Social outreach programs (36 responses, 24.8%)
7. Church's reputation (32 responses, 22.1%)
8. Children and Youth Program (21 responses, 14.5%)

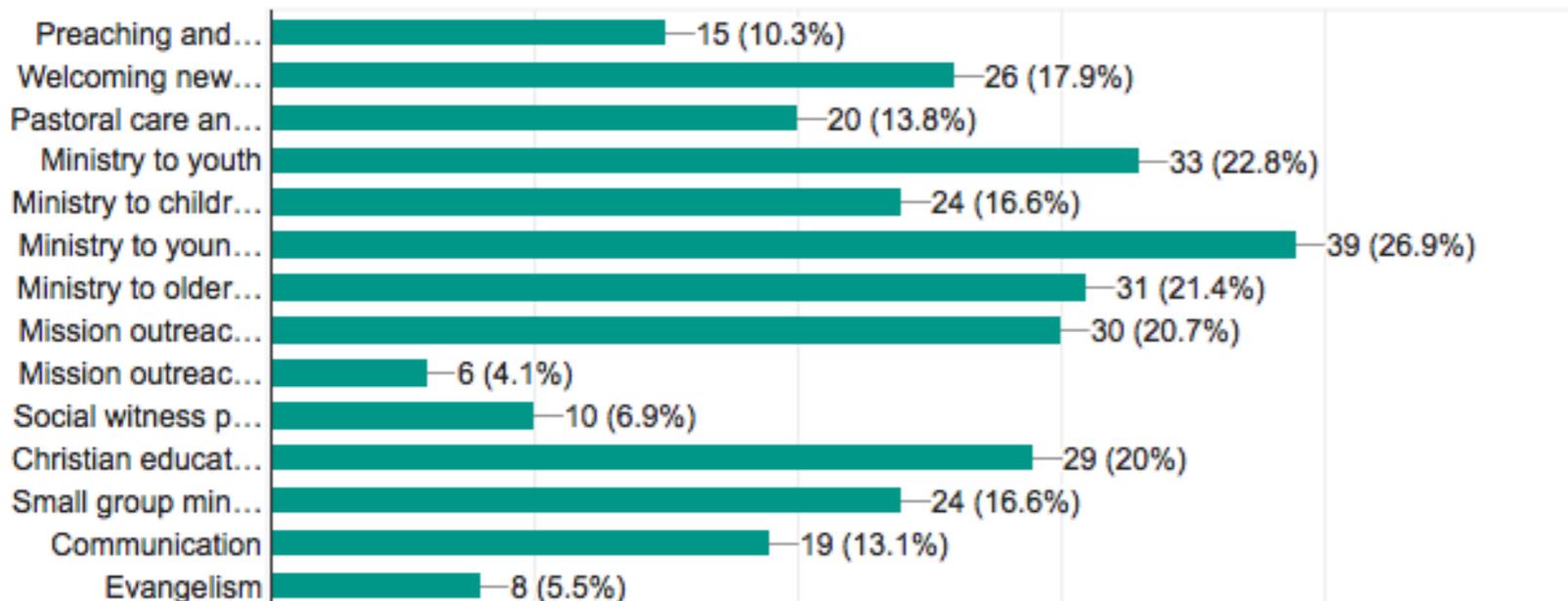
# 2017 Congregational Survey Report

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

### About Our Church

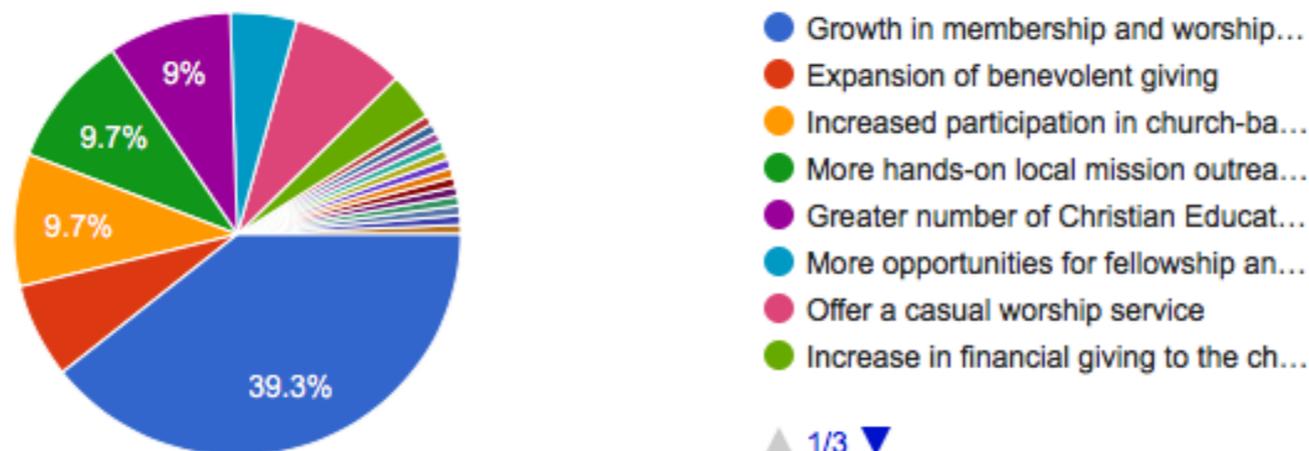
In what areas do you think our church could use the most improvement?

145 responses



If you were to pick one thing that should be an absolute priority for St. Simons Presbyterian Church in the next three years, what would it be?

145 responses



Based on these responses, the key priority for members of St. Simons Presbyterian is to grow both in membership/participation as well as in our generosity towards others. The argument can be made that these goals correspond closely to the areas identified as needing the most improvement. Namely, the chances of realizing some of these key priorities over the next three-years will be improved by aligning the role of our next associate pastor in the areas of ministry to our youth and young adults as well as community outreach.

# 2017 Congregational Survey Report

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church



A sampling of responses to the following questions

### **About Our Church**

**In a few words, describe what you love most about St. Simons Presbyterian Church?**

- Friendliness of staff, openness of congregants, activities offered.\*
- Caring ministers, friendly and compassionate congregation.\*
- The people and fellowship.\*
- It feels like family.\*
- I really enjoy the message from the pulpit and the members who make it a great place to worship.
- The Reformed Tradition
- Convenience, friendliness, and the love of Jesus Christ!
- I feel like the membership is like a family to me. They support me and pray for me and visit me.
- The level of commitment, acceptance, welcoming congregation that felt like home.
- Lack of conflict.\*
- Frieda and the music program.
- Openness. Being open to change and to speaking out for social justice for whoever is being discriminated against.
- Honestly...the people. From the ministers to volunteers, members. Fellowship activities.
- My relationships & youth offerings.

**If you could improve the worship of SSPC by adding, changing, or doing differently one thing, what would it be?**

- Add a contemporary or casual service\*
- Involve more members and lay leadership in worship\*
- More guest speakers
- Have more choices for Sunday school
- Bringing back members who have drifted away
- Proceed with the sanctuary renovation (widen side aisles, open chancel, make “lighter and brighter”)\*
- There should not be any politics in our sermons. I should not be able to tell your bias when you preach.
- Shake things up every now and then. The same gets old.
- Young adult education, improved youth programs, increase BRIDGE
- Sometimes the church misses the boat when it comes to understanding working people’s time constraints. Also, single adults (young or old) can feel like outliers.
- Shorter sermons and less music\*
- Add a “passing of the peace” and/or opportunity to greet those in the pew with you.

# 2017 Congregational Survey Report

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

### **About Our Future Associate Pastor**

What are the most desired character traits that you would like to see in a new associate pastor?

1. Thoughtful and pastoral (86 respondents, 59.3%)
2. Honest and trustworthy (66 respondents, 44.5%)
3. Gregarious and people oriented (52 responses, 35.9%)
4. Engaging and persuasive (48 responses, 33.1%)
5. Prayerful and wise (47 responses, 32.4%)
6. Faithful and steadfast (40 responses, 27.6%)
7. Intentional and focuses (22 responses, 15.2%)
8. Entrepreneurial and visionary (21 responses, 14.5%)
9. Other (Full of grace, conservative, good preacher, female...)

What ministry area(s) do you think a new associate pastor should be most passionate about and gifted for serving in?

1. Preaching and worship leadership (72 responses, 49.7%)
2. Youth ministry (53 responses, 36.6%)
3. Pastoral care and visitation (39 responses, 26.9%)
4. Christian education and teaching (34 responses, 23.4%)
5. Evangelism and attracting new members (31 responses, 21.4%)
6. Small groups and discipleship (26 responses, 17.9%)
7. Mission outreach (14 responses, 9.7%)

# 2017 Congregational Survey Report

## St. Simons Presbyterian Church

### Closing Thoughts

Please share with us about your hope(s) for the future of St. Simons Presbyterian. What are your dreams, desires, and wishes for our church over the next 3-5 years?

To continue broadening the diversity of our congregation, as well as the depth of reaching out to young families and their spiritual needs.

Growth in young families; growth in youth programming; growth in giving for budget

More community mission programs, build a new sanctuary, expand our membership

I would like to see SSPC become a more welcoming place for single adults, especially those of us who are middle-aged and are single due to divorce or death of a spouse.

Open our building to serve those in need and to learn how to care for one another both within and outside our community in the name of Christ.

We've been going for a couple of years off and on. We love the spirit of the church and we love the people there. It really does feel like a small close knit community. I would love to see the congregation attract more families with children of all ages.

We need to offer more non-traditional options for these families.

Good preaching and teaching from faithful, loving ministers will draw to us even more people wanting to live as Christ's hands and feet in the world.

That we would go ahead and update our facilities completely so that we could expand and add to the ministries that we already have. This update may attract new members and inspire current members. In addition, that we improve our giving and serving as a church by increasing benevolences and participating in local mission projects. Also, our church needs to be driven by faith, not fear.

I hope to see a greater percentage of our income going out for ministry to others in the name of Jesus Christ rather than serving ourselves. We are an Easter people and I dream of every Sunday worship at St. Simons Presbyterian Church being packed to overflowing just as it is on Easter Sunday once a year.

To continue its presence on St. Simons as a leader in the Christian faith

I want my family to be engaged in the study of Christ through more Sunday School and study options, and my kids to have options starting around 5th grade through high school

To plan ways for interactive fellowship including working together in community outreach and to provide strong, consistent leadership to the youth program.

Become more Christ centered in our vision