

Lift Every Voice 2022 Summary & Invitation

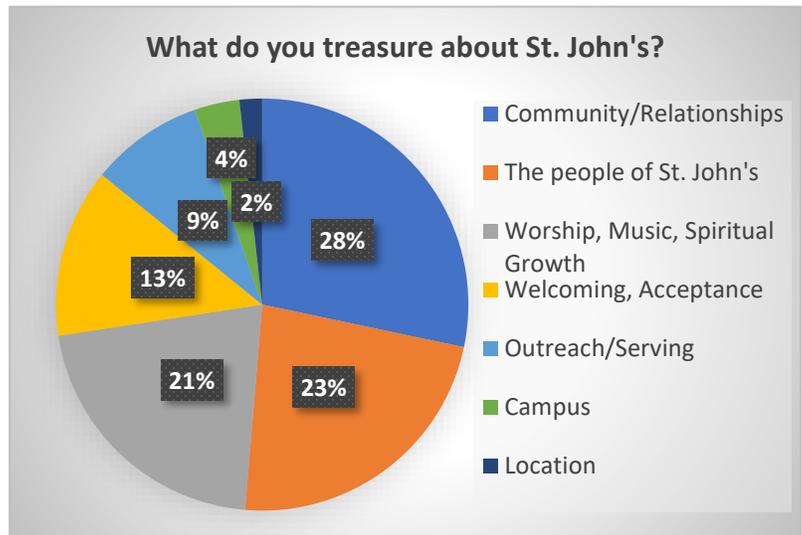
Discernment is time for prayerful reflection about the ministry strengths and hopes of St. John's as we assess the use of the space we currently have and learn about the parish's wants and needs regarding future development. To gather your input, the Vestry-appointed Discernment Committee spoke individually with as many households as possible during August - September 2022, in an effort called **Lift Every Voice**. 89 voices were heard – over 75% of the congregation. This excellent response rate lends credibility to the trends revealed.

If you participated in a Lift Every Voice conversation, you know what you said. To know what everyone else said, please review this summary and all of the answers posted on the church website: <https://www.st-john-aptos.org/lift-every-voice-2022.html>. (You can request a print version of this 25-page compilation from the church office).

The Discernment Committee invites you to shed more light on this input by participating in a **Lift Every Voice Reflection Gathering** on Sunday, January 15, 2023, following the 10:30 am service.

Lift Every Voice input reveals deep and holy reasons for making investments that will strengthen the capacity of St. John's to thrive into the future:

- The people of St. John's treasure each other, their relationships, and their sense of community, worshipping together with a "communion circle, and beautiful music. Longtime traditions are valued, as is how St. John's welcomes and includes diverse people and perspectives.
- Most people of St. John's embrace technology as a way to stay connected. Nearly half of those surveyed said St. John's online worship and communication during the pandemic provided meaningful and sometimes life-giving support. Personal communication (calls, cards, visits) is also highly appreciated.



- St. John's' physical space and campus, along with willingness to collaborate with others in or on the property is valued as one of the most precious gifts St. John's offers its neighbors. St. John's Outreach Ministries, such as the Helpful Shop, are also mentioned frequently as valuable to the community, and as opportunities for the people of St. John's to enliven their faith through service.

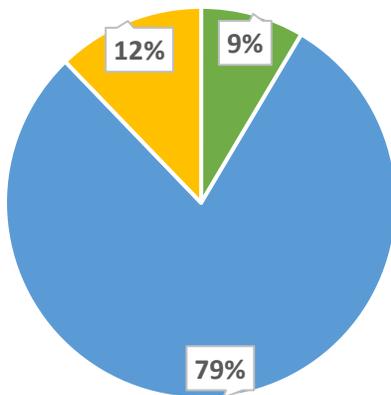
Note: 7% said they were uncertain about neighbors' needs or what St. John's could do.

Lift Every Voice asked people what they hope or long for regarding the future of St. John’s. The theme which was mentioned most often (24% of respondents) was *survival of the parish*. Hopes for the campus were mentioned by 20 people (22%), some hoping for a dedicated worship space, others hoping for completion of the existing and permitted campus plan, and still others wanting utilization of current space “in functional and inviting ways.”

That same variety of opinions surfaced when people were asked about existing plans for building expansion as mentioned in “St. John’s Vision 2025” (<https://www.st-john-aptos.org/our-mission--values.html>).

How Important is each of these strategic priorities?	Very	Some-what	Not
Transforming Lives Through Christian Formation (Adults and Children)	68	12	3
Pastoral Care: Response to Health & Emotional Needs	69	16	1
Dynamic Serving Presence in the Community	65	15	3
Life-Giving Spaces to Enable God’s Mission Expanding our meeting and worship space.	34	31	15
Abundance of Resources & Support	57	15	2

Lift Every Voice input reveals that many people support improvements to the church buildings and campus, particularly as relates to creating quality office space for the rector and church administrative staff and creating a dedicated place for worship rather than using multi-functional space. However, when asked about whether the existing campus development plan should continue to be implemented in its entirety, most people chose Option 2 as shown below:



Option 1: The plan is good as it is and should be implemented. 9% (7 respondents)

Option 2: It would be good to consider how to revamp it to align with our current congregation size, capacity, and ministry goals. 79% (65 respondents)

Option 3: I think the plan is no longer needed. Our campus is fine as it is. 12% (10 respondents)

Note: Lift Every Voice did not ask people whether they thought improvements could be made incrementally without an overall revised campus plan.

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Full Lift Every Voice results at: <https://www.st-john-aptos.org/lift-every-voice-2022.html>