

Ascension Parish Survey - 55 responses

1. Why do you worship at Ascension? (Check your top three reasons.)

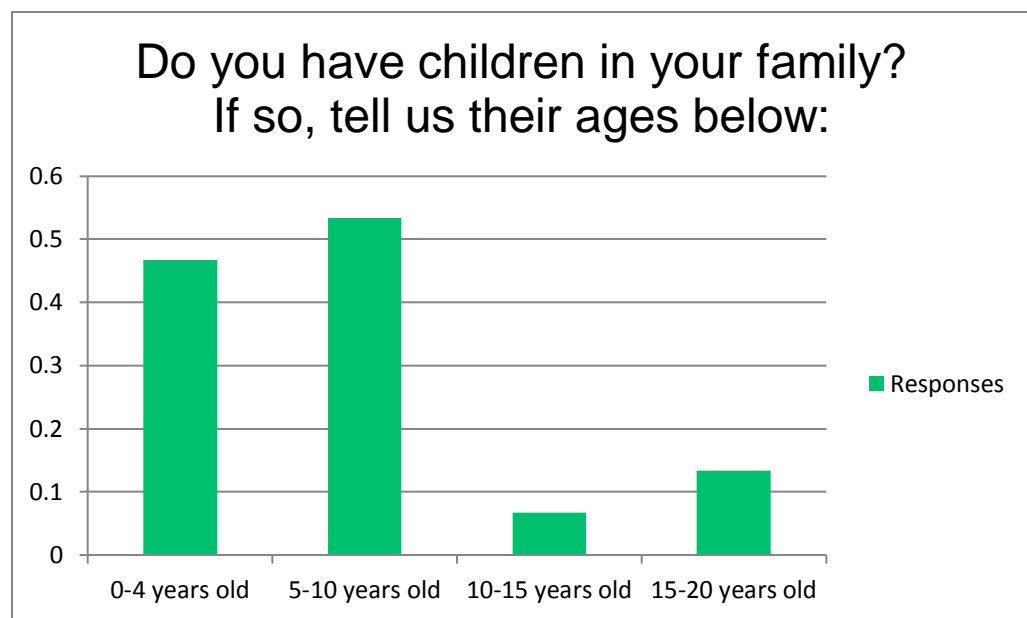
Answer Choices	Responses
Style of worship	39
Location	20
Friendliness	19
Sermons	18
Inclusion	14
Music programs	13
Friends worship here	13
Sense of the Holy Spirit	13
Clergy	10
Outreach activities	6
Other (please specify)	6
Christian education	2

Other responses: liturgy, family history, been a member for 60 years.

2. What is your age range?

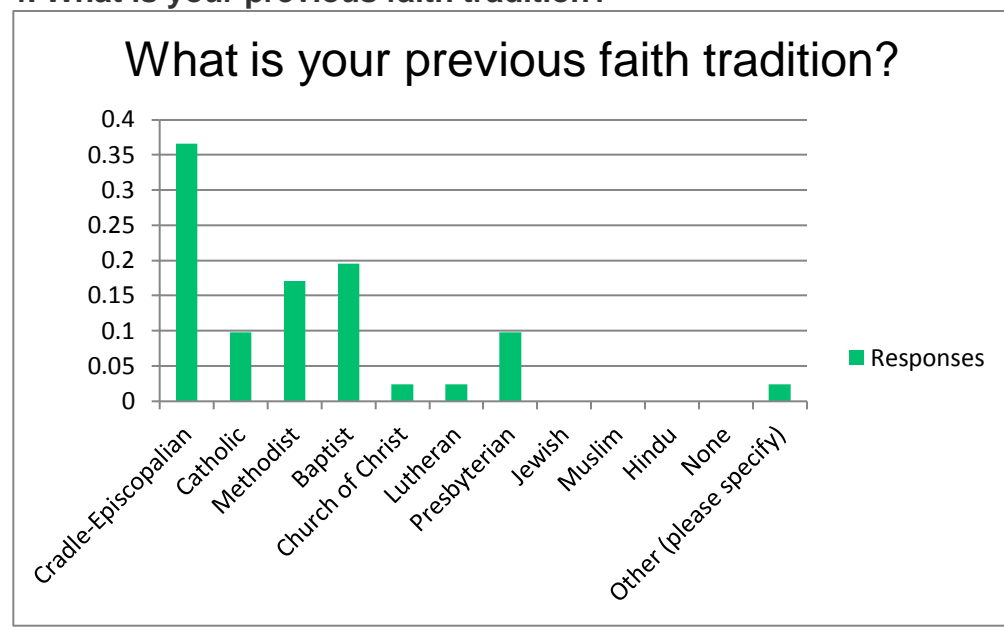
Answer Choices	Responses
15-29	1
30-40	12
41-65	14
66-80	22
81+	5

3. Do you have children in your family? If so, tell us their ages below:



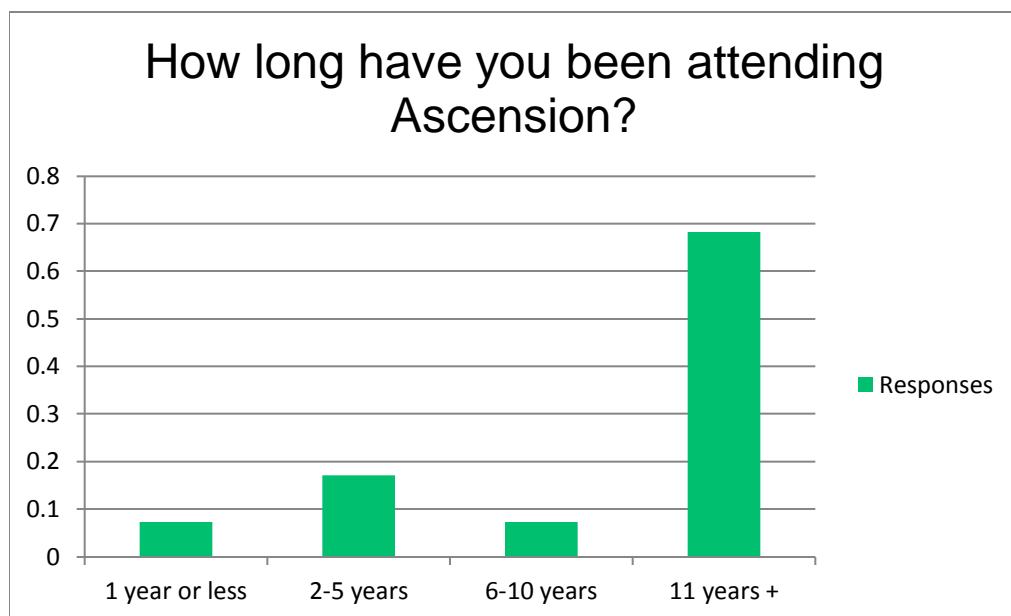
Answer Choices	Responses
0-4 years old	7
5-10 years old	10
10-15 years old	1
15-20 years old	3

4. What is your previous faith tradition?



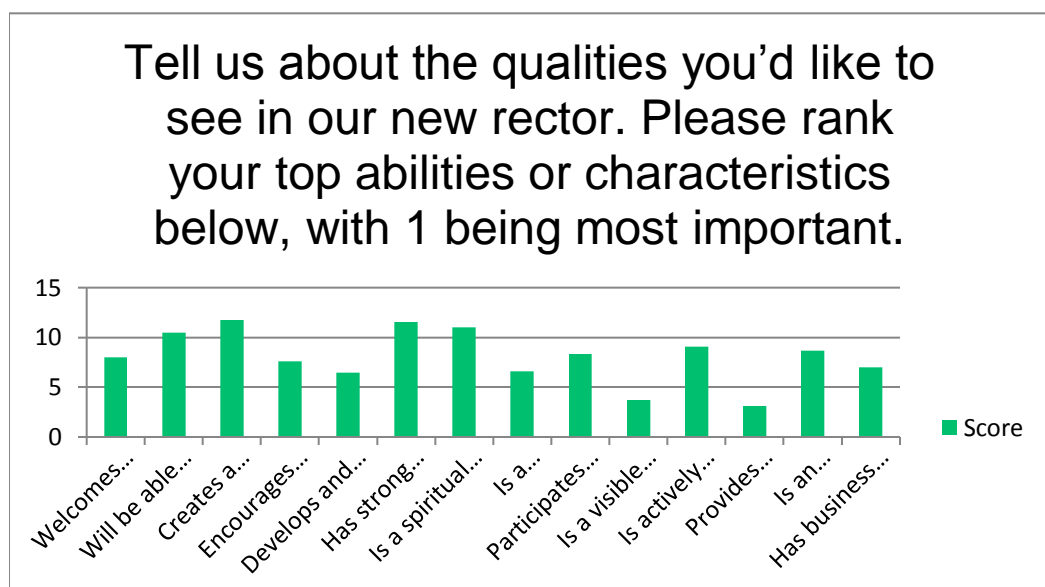
Answer Choices	Responses
Cradle-Episcopalian	17
Catholic	7
Methodist	12
Baptist	9
Church of Christ	1
Lutheran	1
Presbyterian	6
Other (please specify - Congregational)	1

5. How long have you been attending Ascension?



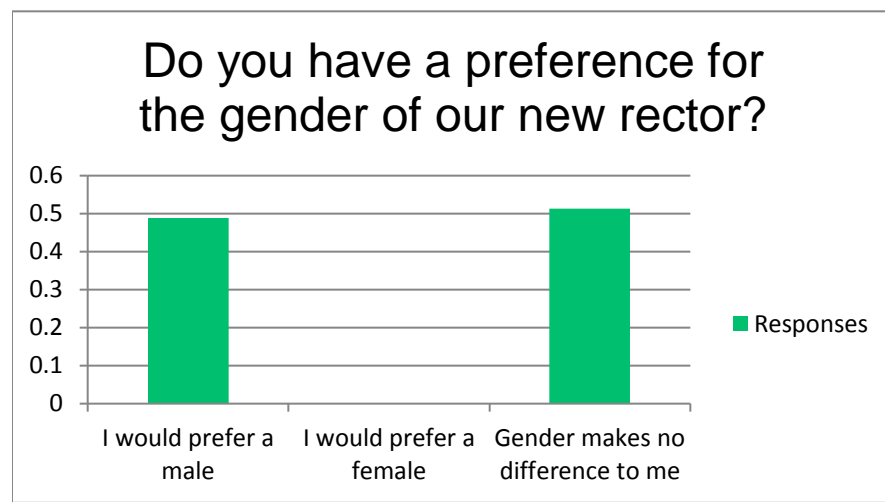
Answer Choices	Responses
1 year or less	3
2-5 years	8
6-10 years	10
11 years +	33

6. Tell us about the qualities you'd like to see in our new rector. Please rank your top abilities or characteristics below, with 1 being most important.



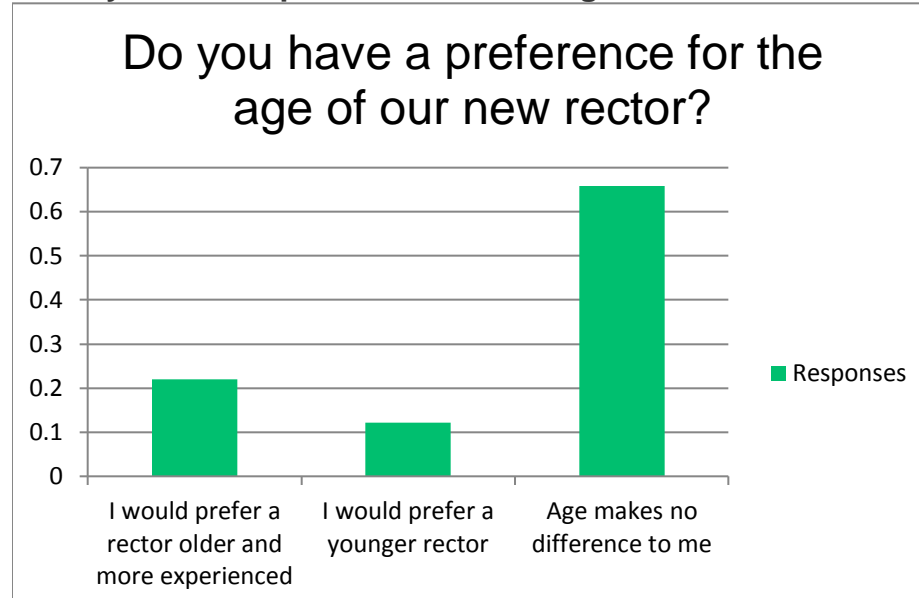
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Welcomes the diversity and inclusion of all people	8	2	5	5	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	4	2	4
Will be able to develop a clear plan for growth and progress	6	7	5	4	4	6	2	3	3	0	0	1	0	0
Creates a sense of community within the congregation	8	11	9	5	3	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Encourages volunteerism and lay ministry	0	3	4	4	2	3	0	19	3	1	4	2	1	0
Develops and supports lay leadership	0	1	2	2	4	3	3	1	4	9	2	2	0	1
Has strong preaching skills	13	6	8	4	3	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
Is a spiritual guide; leads others in formation and development	10	6	3	7	4	3	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Is a consultant for stewardship, bringing together time, treasure and talent	1	0	0	1	4	2	5	6	6	2	4	0	3	1
Participates in outreach activities; fosters awareness in the community	0	3	5	2	6	3	3	4	5	4	3	1	0	0
Is a visible community leader in the greater Birmingham area	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	3	3	4	8	8
Is actively involved in pastoral care and counseling	3	3	1	5	4	7	2	1	2	2	1	4	1	0
Provides guidance and education to seminarians (clergy and lay leaders)	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	11	8
Is an effective administrator and manager for the parish	0	6	5	2	5	2	4	2	5	5	2	2	1	0
Has business sense and practical awareness of budget	3	1	3	6	2	3	3	2	1	3	6	2	2	5

7. Do you have a preference for the gender of our new rector?



Answer Choices	Responses
I would prefer a male	25
Gender makes no difference to me	27

8. Do you have a preference for the age of our new rector?



Answer Choices	Responses
I would prefer a rector older and more experienced	12
I would prefer a younger rector	6
Age makes no difference to me	33

Q9 Give 4 words you would use to describe our new rector – personality traits and/or leadership style, for example

Engaging ^{Wise} Approachable ^{Preacher} Spiritual
 Traditional ^{Caring} Leadership ^{Leader} Welcoming
 Friendly ^{Sermons} Outgoing Compassionate

This is a word cloud based on most popular responses - see tab 2 for all answers.

What do you see as Ascensions' biggest strengths and weaknesses?

Strength	Weakness
facilities, music, "core" congregation	financial resources, age of congregation, engagement outside "core"
Traditional	Not inclusive
Location	Rector has never been a visible presence in community and church does a poor job of retaining your families.
Potential for growth	Parish leadership
	Not a part of the greater Episcopal circle in Birmingham. Not many other Episcopalians know about Ascension. Meet with other Episcopal leaders such as Advent, St Mary's etc.
Middle of the road, wants to do the right thing, willing to help.	
It's members , its friendliness.	None that I know of
Outreach	Administration and management
Community	Unwillingness to make changes
Tradition, The Choir, the people of the congregation.	Youth programs (though they are improving), Appearance of our grounds (not cohesive)
Caring congregation, spiritual congregation, music program	weak ownership of building and grounds upkeep
The people	
Increase in outreach	Lack of communication - miss vestry minutes in newsletter
Friendliness	Lack of growth
Feels like family	Programming for younger members (children, youth)
Inclusivity	Children/youth programming
rector, sense of community, beautiful church	
A sense of community, good musical programs	Diversity
Care that parishioners have for each other	Lack of younger parishioners and families
Inclusion and welcomeing	Lack of financial support for youth
community spirit	youth program
Wonderful worship space, music program	Failure to attract new members . I dont have an answer for why we dont
Traditional worshop	Lack of communication between ages
Great congregation, Jane Ellis	Wish their were more young families and programs for them
Caring community	Lack of growth
Opportunities to get involved	Attracting new members
friendly, caring, inclusive, strong music program	midweek activities, Adult Christian formation/Bible study
Liturgy and music	Lack of volunteer spitit
welcoming	
friendly	very few peers my age (mid 50s - children grown)
buildings and grounds, dedication of parishoners	aging population
caring and compassionate	lack of growth
Sense of community; facilities	Decline in membership; vision for the future is not clear
Community of faith.	Not enough younger fsmilies.
Outreach	Newcomer involvement
We are a family	Not enough willing indians
I don't think we have a lot of strong areas anymore, we use to be strong in our worship, but this has been lacking the last couple of years.	Lack of transparency by the vestry. Under former leadership we received minutes of all meetings, now we have to go look for them unless more money is needed then magically they are mailed to us again .
diversity	recruiting members
Outreach/Inreach within the ministries of the diocese and community organizations	Visibility in Vestavia Hills and the Greater Birmingham area
	Poor attendance
variety of service times, friendliness, welcoming	not enough fellowship opportunities for young adult (20s-30s) parishioners or those who work during the day.
friendliness	pastoral leadership
friendliness	small congregation
diversity of ages	small group of volunteers
Sanctuary, choir, and all things worship; dedicated guilds/staff with limited financial resources; traditional	Sunday school for children; church grounds lackluster; financial resources (which is what it is)
Choir, flowers, fellowship, & facilities	Getting and keeping young families
Good facility and music program	Funds to maintain the facility are needed
Outreach	Youth support, growth, and activity
outreach	
people are friendly	need membership growth
community, friendliness, music	ability to bring in new members (visitors) and grow the congregation
clergy	clergy
friendliness	