

Sabbatical Time Gathering and Conversation Summary 8/13/2022

Distractions/ Difficulties/Lamentations at St. John's

Few people in church

Covid time

~ loss of congregation gathering

~ Not physically being together

~ No coffee hour, activities

~Worry, masks or no masks may deter people

Older members died

Decreased # donors

Less of a network than 40-50 years ago

People not brought up in the church

Not a critical mass anymore

Kids too busy to attend

No kids program/Sunday School

Few children in church

Service time 10:00 ???

Shy singers

Phones, computers lend to decrease communication with one another

So much to do to maintain St. John's

~ Zoom now, volunteer to run Sunday Service and programs

~ Stewardship to raise \$

~ Building and Grounds participation lacking

~Garden tending

~ Windows and building need washing

~ Participation in the service

Few vestry members, several who have been at SJ for a short time

Question is our service good enough to attract people, especially those unchurched

Celebration/Goodness at St. John's

People who attend, regular and visitors

Community outreach in many ways

Parishioners who volunteer in community, share knowledge/needs/experience

Gay priest

Friendly, 10 minutes to pass peace say hello to one another in days of old

Welcoming church

One service for us to be together

Asking parishioners to participate in a variety of ways

Gifts offered from many parishioners, acceptance of what they bring

Quality music in the service

~ Audrey and her music for so many years

~ Gabe musician

~ James and his charismatic music tradition

~ Natalie musician

Church as a gathering place, direct and indirect

~ AA

~Tag sales

~ Soup Suppers

Questioning congregation

~ Why do we crave to come together?

~ What is it to follow Christ?

Scripture preached

Episcopal church is open and accepting

Service is not performance, it is worshipful

Sermons

~ Consistency wanted in how scripture relates to our everyday life for us to go
out into the week ahead, more relational

~ Good explanations and understanding of bible and history

~ Sermons by Father Rick and Zarina are preached on the main floor

Father Rick is excellent at Pastoral Care, being with people and attending to them,

Strong connection with people

~ Funerals are very focused on the individual, the energy provides an excellent focal point

Small church that does much and cares about Stowe and the surrounding communities