

# Summary Report of Cultural Identity Tour

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the Cultural Discovery Tour!

As a Vision Team, we are on a spiritual journey looking for God to reveal what the next faithful step will be for St. Andrew. We know that “next step” must be rooted in our past and our congregation’s culture and your participation and responses have helped in that regard. We especially recognize the value of the group discussions that followed the “tours” and encourage you to continue those discussions. We know that God is not done with St Andrew. God has plans for our future in this changing world and we need to work to discern what those may be. We also know that our next step will be like a new chapter in the book of St Andrew and that it is important that it carries forward all the rich history of the previous chapters of that book.

We learned that, for those who have experienced much of the congregation’s history, that history is very important. There are memories formed in our building that are cherished by many. These memories and experiences include the meeting of new friends and the saying goodbye to old friends. There remains a deep appreciation for those that founded the church so we have a place to worship God.

We also were reminded that the items on our walls, the history behind them, our rituals, traditions and practices all give us insight to our cultural identity (and perhaps result in us having a hard time letting the less significant things go). We got great feedback from all the participants and responses – Thank You!

Like you might expect, there were preferences expressed based on an individual's past or their experiences with other congregations. We pray and have faith that God will reveal to us what that next faithful step will be independent of our preferences.

Some responses went beyond just answering the stated question and the participant provided suggestions for improvement and these were very welcomed.

Regarding items that were listed as standing out as significant in the different areas, here are the most popular overall responses:

### **Sanctuary**

- The Cross in the front of the sanctuary and view of God's creation through the windows
- Stained Glass
- Altar
- Piano

### **Office Wing**

- Sacristy
- Framed art on walls
- General Clutter
- Choir Room

### **Fellowship Wing**

- Kitchen, Food Buffet, Gathering space
- Quilting, quilting room
- Wood Sign over serving counter
- Youth Room Improvements

### **Outside**

- Prayer Garden

The primary question asked in the cultural discovery Tour questions was

#### **“How would you describe our culture?”**

The number one answer to that question was a culture which was “Traditional” or “Old Time” traditional (and that being a good thing).

Another common response was a “Welcoming and Friendly” Culture.

There were also some responses that stated our culture was “Tired” or “Out of date” and “Stuck in the past”.

One response bridged the above thoughts by stating our “Our culture reflects our history but looks to the future”.

The vision team invites you to continue in conversation about things you may have discovered during your tour or heard from others in their responses. We want to hear from you and learn from you as we continue on that Spiritual Journey to help us understand what God has in mind for St Andrew's future. Please reach out with ideas, visions, comments, prayers, and questions to [vision@standrewofcl.org](mailto:vision@standrewofcl.org).