



## 2016 Summer Worship & Refreshment Time Survey Results Full Summary

This survey was developed to help gauge the response of parishioners to the new summer worship and refreshment times implemented in the summer of 2016. It was open from the beginning of July to the end of August, and was advertised every week in This Week at St. John's, as well as in the Sunday pew bulletin.

There were 33 online responses and 9 paper responses, for a total of 42 responses. The questions, answers and comments were as follows.

**1. First, please tell us about your usual pattern of worship.**

- I only attend the 8:00 service **5% (2)**
- I only attend the 10:15 service **76% (32)**
- I usually attend the 8:00 service, and occasionally the 10:15 service **0% (0)**
- I usually attend the 10:15 service, and occasionally the 8:00 service **19% (8)**

**2. Did you take part in the new refreshment time?**

**Yes 50% (21)      No 50% (21)**

**3. If yes, did you meet/talk with people from the service you do not usually attend?**

**Yes 90% (19)      No 10% (2)**

**4. If yes, do you have any comments about how it worked or did not work for you?  
(16 comments)**

**Worked for me (7)**

- Enjoyable to chat before the 9 am service
- Worked well
- It was great to meet so many of the 8:00 congregation.
- I found it an early start for a relaxing summer service. I already know most of the 8 am folks from other contacts. Hence, I only attended a couple of times.
- It just meant being there a bit earlier than usual and allowed for a relaxed chatter, especially with the chairs in a circle.
- I liked it. It was more relaxed than the usual coffee time
- It involved getting up earlier but really enjoyed the coffee and fellowship.

**Qualified/Neutral (6):**

- This is a time when I would REALLY encourage ALL members to wear name tags; I met them, and forgot their names in 30 seconds as there were so many...
- I attended only because I was on duty as Hospitality Coordinator. I did indeed meet people from the 8 a.m. service who I had never met (I am a social persona and reached out to them). That was enjoyable but I not an early Sunday morning person so would not likely make the effort to get up early to meet the folks from the 8 a.m. service. No offence...just based on my daily life style habits. I also like to catch a bit of CBC's Sunday Morning Edition before going to church!
- I have nothing positive or negative to add, but I only participated once.
- An interesting experiment
- I should meet/talk even more than I did with the 8 a.m. attendees.
- I enjoyed it, although it seemed a bit early for me.

### **Didn't work for me (3)**

- I only came for the refreshments when it was necessary for me to be early for the 10:15 service. I found that the use of the Hall for refreshments wasn't very friendly to those arriving when things were already under way. There was something about mixing people with two different mind sets that I think didn't work too well. Those finishing up their church activities were moving on and those just starting their church activities were preparing for the service.
- I usually got there too late, at about 10. People were seated in a circle, not very inviting, or were leaving. Once, there was no coffee left
- We were only there once during that period, and we were doing the refreshments. Under other circumstances, we are unlikely to arrive before 9:45 - so will not likely have as much talking time.

### **5. If you did not take part in the refreshment time, please tell us why not. (24 comments)**

#### **Too early (11)**

- Never seemed to get to church early enough!
- If I didn't need to be early for some other reason, I wouldn't have made a special effort to arrive at 9:30 for coffee.
- Just had breakfast.
- Time constraints.
- I take the bus and during that period I could not arrive earlier than 10:15.
- Not often. Just too early. Usually need breakfast before church.
- Too early for me
- I really enjoy coffee hour after the 10:15 service and look forward to catching up with friends at that time. It's an important part of my Sunday morning and a nice way to end the church experience. I REALLY hope we will maintain the post church coffee - social hour tradition which is what most churches do. There may be some people who like an early church service but my feeling is that most of us like a relaxing Sunday morning and 10:15 a.m. is early enough!
- It is too early. Also I didn't know about it until too late, and you can't find out during the service as by then it is too late.
- It is too difficult for me to get to St. John's at that early time.
- Early enough for me to get there by 9!

#### **Other (13)**

- I like to do outdoor activities before church at 10:15.
- I was out of the country for all but a few days of that time, so did not have a chance to try it.
- I was busy
- I had just given up coffee for the summer and had started trying out a new breakfast routine as well so I couldn't get organized to be out the door for refreshments that would be contrary to my dietary experiment: sorry! I think it was a great initiative!!!!
- I do not arrive until just before the 9am service
- No particular reason
- I don't drink coffee and I was away for a few services.
- Did not attend services from Sunday May 29th through Sunday, June 26th.
- I didn't have much time and the only people I met were the usual 10:15 people.
- I was doing altar guild
- We need a quiet time before the service and a chance for fellowship and coffee afterwards
- I like to be part of refreshment time following worship.
- Too noisy in the Parish Hall.

### **6. Have you attended the new 9:00 service?**

**Yes 86% (36)**

**No 14% (6)**

**7. If yes, how many times have you gone?  
(Date of response in brackets, where known)**

<b>Once or Twice (16)</b>	<b>Three or Four (6)</b>	<b>Five or more (14)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once so far</li> <li>• Twice. (Aug. 24)</li> <li>• Twice, as of August 8 - will go again. (August 8)</li> <li>• Twice and we will not be back ONLY because we are out of the country for the rest of the summer. (August 1)</li> <li>• Once so far (July 29)</li> <li>• I attended once only to hear Beth's debrief on General Synod. I was late as it was I had a bad night's sleep. A coffee hour at 8:30 a.m. in the morning is really beyond the pale....far too early to be "social." Many of us are just waking up. I guess if you have kids, the timing is fine but many of us are beyond that stage. (July 22)</li> <li>• 1 (July 21)</li> <li>• 1 (July 21)</li> <li>• Once (July 15)</li> <li>• One week, missed the first one (July 15)</li> <li>• 2 (July 15)</li> <li>• 2 (July 15)</li> <li>• Twice (July 15)</li> <li>• Once. (July 9)</li> <li>• Once (August 2)</li> <li>• Twice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3</li> <li>• 4 (Sept. 2)</li> <li>• 3 (Sept. 2)</li> <li>• 3 (Aug. 21)</li> <li>• 4 (Aug. 9)</li> <li>• 3 (July 21)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most Sundays</li> <li>• All summer. (Sept. 2)</li> <li>• 5 (Aug. 31)</li> <li>• 5 (Aug. 16)</li> <li>• 7 (Aug. 15)</li> <li>• All Sundays, except when out of town (July 30)</li> <li>• Weekly (July 22)</li> <li>• 11 or 12</li> <li>• So far, twice; then I went on vacation. Now that I am back, I will be going every Sunday except August 21. (July 21)</li> <li>• Every Sunday except July 3 (July 21)</li> <li>• Almost every Sunday July 16)</li> <li>• I will attend all. (July 15)</li> <li>• All so far (July 17)</li> <li>• 6</li> </ul>

**8. If yes, did you join in the pre-service coffee time?**

**Yes 50% (18) No 50% (18)**

**9. If yes, did you join in the post-service lemonade time?**

**Yes 58% (21) No 42% (15)**

**10. If you have not attended the 9:00 service, do you plan to attend at some point this summer?**

**Yes 50% (3) No 50% (3)**

**11. Do you have any other thoughts you'd like to share about this year's summer worship and refreshment times?**

**(27 comments)**

**Re: Combined service at 9:00**

**Positive (9)**

- Summer worship at 9 am makes good sense. We would not be happy with one service only for the rest of the year. We did enjoy our brief encounters with members of the 8 am congregation.
- I really enjoy having an earlier service that's not as early as 8 am, which is too early. I would also like to suggest a late afternoon/early evening service on Saturdays because I think we need more flexibility in service time to meet the needs of modern day people and families. I would likely attend an evening service often and it may help bring new people to the church from the neighbourhood.

- I liked that the program included the names of those doing various roles as sometimes they were people I knew from 'my' mass, and sometimes not
- I love the 9am services and worshipping with the 8'ers! It's lovely to change things up for the summer and to allow for a longer day after church & to be all together!!!!
- I really like having a chance to meet the people who come at 8:00, and I like an earlier service.
- I think it works well. Seems to be well-attended, too.
- I enjoy attending a service later in the morning.
- I think this is/was a good idea especially having the 9 a.m. service starting in July and only 1 hour long.
- I like meeting the people from the earlier service. We form one single worshipping community. I also like finishing earlier on Sunday.

#### **Qualified (6)**

- The combined service is nice but would be better at 9:30. 9:00 is too early! (We had clothes to bring to the shop but we couldn't get them organized in time.)
- Would 9:15 be possible? I take the bus and have been fortunate to make an unreliable connection that gets me to the church by 8:50. If I don't make that connection, or miss my regular bus, I would not make the 9:00 time. Also, the current ending time of about 10:05 means I have to wait half an hour for my return bus (or walk in the heat or the rain some distance for an earlier bus). A 9:15 to 10:20 service would be much more convenient for me and not inconvenience, I think, people who travel by car.
- I find 9.00 very early to get myself anywhere, and earlier for the coffee time is even harder! The two times I went and tried to arrive in time for the coffee it was being packed up and people had gone inside the church - so I wasn't early enough. On the other hand, being finished at 10.00 is great, so I'm not totally opposed to 9.00am in summer. Or what about 9.30?
- The 9 am with coffee was trickier to get to.
- I'm indifferent to the time change, but it does interfere with brunching with friends as the service ends too early.
- Unfortunately, I am not in the city for much of the rest of the summer, because I would have liked to give it a few more tries.

#### **Negative (10)**

- Look forward to going back to two services at 8 and 1015.
- On the two occasions I attended, several people found the church to be too warm for comfort. I appreciate the early start was meant to avoid the heat but by August the church is warm no matter what time of day.
- 9 a.m. is too early for us.
- The 8 am people did not stick around, it would seem, since I only talked to one of them. Some of them clearly were not happy being in a longer service; some did not sing and left early
- Personally I like the 8:00 service as one focuses on "the Word."
- I don't like having to be out of bed so early on a Sunday. I prefer 10:15 and I prefer the Parish Hall in the summer -- more intimate and feeling connected with everyone.
- It was not always communicated clearly. I had people come up to me after the service asking about when the 10:15 am service was going to start (people who are not on the emailing list). Also one of the reasons I liked this church was it didn't make you get up early in the summer. For someone in the choir it was a break and a chance to sleep in some.
- Too hot in the church, please move summer services back to parish hall
- I can't attend the 9:00 because I would have to get a bus at about 8 am, which means I don't get breakfast at my residence – it's too early.
- Awkward regarding transportation. Leaves too little time for breakfast which is only served at 8 a.m

#### **Re: New refreshment times (2)**

- I liked using the nave and the front entrance for coffee. With good weather and the doors open the friendly activity was inviting to those walking by.
- The after-service refreshment feels too crowded in the Narthex. What about moving some of the refreshments to the back of the Nave so people can spread out.

12. Some have already suggested that coffee hour remain between the 8.00 and 10.15 am services in the fall so that we can continue to build our connections.



What do you think of this idea?

#### Positive (13)

- Great!
- Good idea
- I approve
- I think that would work.
- Cool
- Great idea!! More social and less business. Could have the few tables set up for Bridgehead, Loblaws, etc so people can stop by after the service, but more of a courtesy/business time than social
- Love it
- Great idea
- Great idea!
- A good idea
- A good idea - always good to connect with people and chat and catch up or meet new people
- It's a fine idea!
- Good idea, except acoustics in Parish Hall are poor for those with hearing problems.

#### Qualified (5)

- I think this is a good idea for keeping in touch otherwise the 8 a.m. people head to Bridgehead or elsewhere. However since I am in the choir we practice at 9:30 plus there is prep time I do for the choir from about 9 a.m.
- I think it is a good idea to see if people who weren't here in the summer like it or not. Make it a continued trial period though - perhaps until Advent, and see what the feedback is by then.
- It's a good idea. It's not very practical for me to attend, though, because of other obligations.
- It's OK, but it's a different experience from the after-service coffee (after 10:15 service, that is)
- Perhaps once a month

#### Negative (25)

- It will take some getting used to. I do think though that the 8:00 am crowd is leaving by the time the 10:15 crowd arrives. For the 10:15 crowd, coffee before the service doesn't lend itself well to conversations that might become more engaged and involved since there is a deadline with the service starting. Also difficult for the choir to join given that there is rehearsal during this time.
- We would definitely miss the fellowship of coffee after the service, sharing ideas prompted by the sermon, etc. Discussion in the church after the service is not the same – want to hear the postlude, etc.
- Not for me.
- I prefer after the 1015 service.
- The choir practices at 9:30; I have a feeling that choir members might not get there for 9:00 for coffee hour. Many of the younger choir members have been faithful about coming after the 10:15 service. I think we might not meet new-comers as easily. It would be strange to come to coffee hour if you haven't attended a service and had a sense of the congregation. I have time at the regular coffee hour to talk to people about Affordable Housing and the sale of Loblaws cards. I don't feel there will be the same exposure to the congregation between 9 and 10 but it may be that we would become accustomed to the earlier social time. I also think people will stay on for a social period but might not come early for it.

- I have to be at church by 9:30 for choir practice. That is already a rush to walk a dog and drive 15 minutes to get to church. 9:00 am on a regular basis is too early for me. As with the patio, we could give it a try.
- I would be more likely to be able to attend the post-later service coffee hour.
- No. The 8 am people are often there because they want a short service, do not really care for a lot of music and seem to have other commitments. The 10:15 service is meant partly for those who love to worship with lots of music. Are the two congregations compatible? As well, many of us at the 10:15 service really enjoy sharing coffee and refreshments for fellowship after the service, and then sometimes going to lunch. The 5th Sunday for both congregations to worship together is fine, as long as there is a process for us getting to really interact and know each other.
- I think this would limit our interaction with newcomers who come for the 10:15 service.
- It seems like a good idea, but we are not sure it will flourish on the long term. The 8 am'ers will start going home earlier, and the 10.15'ers will start arriving later and when all is said and done, we will no longer have the vibrant and busy post 10:15 coffee hour, which we really enjoy.
- I personally think it's a very bad idea....I was there once doing refreshments and I did not see a lot of folks from the 10:15 service. There were a few but it was pretty sparse. Perhaps there has been better attendance at other services. I really hope we restore the post 10:15 a.m. service coffee hour from 11:30 to 12:30. It is a lively and well attended event and I don't think can be matched by an earlier coffee hour. If you want to bring the two congregations together, why doesn't Parish Council restore the annual Parish Dinner which all parishioners have attended in the past? Or other social events which would bring the parish council together to share an event, some refreshments and a good time together? There are many possibilities.... Why try to do everything Sunday morning? Or have TWO coffee hours and let people decide which one they want to attend. Why try and fix something that is not broken (i.e. 11:30 coffee hour). If we do away with the main coffee hour, I know the quality of my church experience will be negatively affected. I hope that will not be the case. Thank you for soliciting our opinions....much appreciated.
- Not my cup of tea. I prefer the coffee time after the service in the hall.
- Do not like this. I enjoy the after service coffee time.
- Choir members would miss out on that.
- Dislike it. The 8am people are unlikely to hang around for that long, and the preparations for the 10:15 service start around 9, so to me it just seems like fuss and confusion.
- I see 2 problems with this. It will exclude people who need to do setup for the 10:15 service, like the choir. Also it is not nearly as visitor friendly, as they just show up for the service time at 10:15, and then there is nothing to welcome and get to know them after the service.
- Given that I sing in the choir, I appreciate having coffee hour after the service when I can join in the activity.
- I do not like this idea.
- Not a good idea – as a choir member means I would miss this social time & opportunity to sell Bridgehead!
- I would prefer to continue with the service at 9:00