Church/Spiritual Survey
NERC

Of the NERC members answering the survey, nearly 65% were over 60 years of age, and nearly 28% were between 40 and 59 years of age. That is probably representative of our congregation. Some comments after each question were helpful and insightful.

Church Attendance
Most people feel that church helps them develop their spiritual life and also believe that attending church helps them celebrate and worship God’s goodness with other believers.

More than 80% have attended NERC for more than 10 years. Most people answering the survey are members and say they attend church on a weekly basis. They believe that church attendance is important. They were drawn to NERC because; they were raised here, liked the enthusiasm of the congregation, the youth programs, and the sermons. They stay at NERC for the same reasons plus the focus on making disciples. What was surprising was that 15% said that they stay at NERC because of the absence of another suitable choice. We have to do a better job of giving people a reason to stay.

Spiritual Life
Many of the comments regarding the spiritual life of NERC included the use of small groups to help strengthen and develop their relationship with God; to be able and devoted to truly serving God as He is asking me to serve; and to become a disciple who in words and actions is able to witness and disciple others. It was also important to learn to love and forgive others while learning what it means to be a Christian. Revitalizing ministries that grow meaningful relationships and encourage spiritual growth and discipleship was also important.

Church Life
As a church we need to do projects together. We are not modeling to our community with our work, our engagement, and our presence. There is a need to strengthen and broaden our community presence and visitation with our fellow members.
Community

When asked if members encourage those who don’t have a church home to attend NERC, 85% said that they do, at least occasionally. If that is true, we must not be very good at asking, because there do not seem to be many new faces at worship services. We need to physically invest in our community with our presence and engagement. Relational commitment both in the church and community are needed.

My Relationship with God

Most people prioritize their time to reflect God’s importance in their life, and practice a regular quiet time with God. They seek God’s will and see His work in their lives. People turn to God in spontaneous prayer, but don’t always have a consistent time of prayer. Many admit that they don’t always listen to what God is saying to them, but are willing to serve God by volunteering in the church. While trying to model their life after Christ, only 62% seek opportunities to share their faith. Those who do not seek opportunities to share their faith cite; not having opportunities, not comfortable doing so, or don’t know how. 82% of respondents said that they would attend an activity, such as a small group, designed to teach them how to share their faith. A significant number of people said they would agree to share, at a Sunday worship service, how God has impacted their life.

Youth

The congregation is, and always has been, committed to the youth of the church and community. They understand the importance of quality youth programming and will support those programs.

Conclusions

There is an interest, within the church, for small groups. However, one size may not fit all. Some want small groups for bible study, while others are looking for fellowship from a small group. It is possible that some people may be involved in more than one small group. Church attendance is important to people, yet many seem to find a reason to not attend regularly. We need to make the worship service is inviting with a style of worship that helps to praise God and show our love for Him.
Conclusions Continued

People have a desire to serve God and become a disciple who in words and actions is able to witness and disciple others. Our witness to the community lies in doing projects together for the good of the community. This could be another small group endeavor. There is a desire to reach out to the community and invite them to be a part of our fellowship. A relational commitment both in the church and community are needed. We do not do a good job of sharing our faith with others. Some of the reasons we give are convenient excuses, but generally we don’t feel confident that we know how to share our faith. People responded that they would be willing to attend an activity that would teach them how to share their faith.

Summary

- Small groups for Bible study
- Small groups for fellowship
- Worship services that inform and challenge us to create disciples and to live out our faith
- Become a disciple and disciple others
- Outreach to community
- Learn how to share our faith