

Appendix P - Gratitude Offering Description and Summary

During the Sunday worship service on July 24, 2011, the congregation was invited to participate in a Gratitude Offering. Through this offering they were to identify in a word or phrase what they value most about Forest Hill Church. The 88 Gratitude Offerings received fell into 8 groupings:

- Community
- Spiritual Growth
- Meeting Social Needs
- Youth Services
- Pastoral And Staff Leadership
- Music
- Caring
- Hospitality

Community was mentioned far more than the others. Expressions of community included the word itself (community) but also safety, friends, a supportive place to grow up in, acceptance, inclusivity, openness, relationships, and belonging.

Gratitude for Spiritual Growth was mentioned about half as much as Community. Expressions of Spiritual Growth included worship, spiritual and theological stimulation, a feeder of hope, and deepening faith.

All other categories were mentioned with the about the same frequency and all much less than the previous two. Examples from each are:

- meeting social needs - empathy for homeless, improving race relations
- youth services – childcare during service!, inspiring youth to discover new ways to serve the world community
- pastoral and staff leadership – leadership team of John, Clover, Anne; dedication and skill of **all** our staff
- music – children’s choirs, great music
- caring – support during recovery from surgery, a dinner delivered in time of need
- hospitality – welcoming but not pushy, warm smiles