

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ADRIAN NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SURVEY**

The First Presbyterian Church of Adrian has conducted a self-study in association with the Natural Church Development Institute. Using their survey instrument and computer generated results, which have been tested to be an accurate reflection of the health of thousands of Churches around the world, has been an enlightening experience for our congregation. The survey reflected our congregation in both gender and age groupings accurately.

The Natural Church Development survey and a survey conducted by the session affirmed many of the gifts of our Church. Many of our members have described our congregation as a loving community of believers who care about each other, pray for each other, and assist each other. Mission is also described by our members as an important part of our Church. Giving to local charities and need based groups has been a long tradition in this congregation. Helping those in our nation and the world through Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly has also been part of our heritage. The results also affirm that God is truly at work in our Church through our members. They know that God uses them for the work of the Church in a way that their gifts may be used to glorify God. The Lord's presence is with them as they continue the days outside the worship service. The worship service provides an inspiring experience enabling our members to connect with God in meaningful ways. The members enjoy working together to do the work of the Lord and are praised by others for their faithful efforts.

The minimum factor (Natural Church Development Language) is the quality of a healthy Church that should be addressed to remain healthy and to grow in the Lord. Concentrating on this factor while not ignoring the positive influences will raise all of the factors in the survey. Natural Church Development uses the analogy of the wooden bucket filled with water. The bucket has different lengths of staves. The water will only fill up to the smallest stave. Thus the quality of a Church can only be raised to the minimum factor.

We are excited about the possibilities for our Church and the insight Natural Church Development Survey has provided. The NCD survey will be a useful tool for the ongoing reflection and inspiration to maintain a healthy environment in our Church.