



Ministry Area Observations

Round Oak Baptist Church

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1. Ministry Area Definition

Members are scattered across 8 different counties, though 80% live within about 13 miles. Church type is flavored by the nature of the area served. Generally, it is not based on political boundaries, nor distance, but drive time. Fort A.P. Hill is essentially the eastern boundary, while a significant number of the church membership live along Route 2, a good number are scattered to the west into Spotsylvania relying on I-95. A couple wayward families live as much as 30 miles away, with extremes at the northern and southern edges of 50+ miles apart, from above Fredericksburg to northern edges of Henrico County.

2. Church Type

The membership distribution pattern, coupled with the distances folks are willing to travel to participate (while I don't know their frequency of participation) suggest this could be considered a regional church. Live into that role and function. Act like who you already are. This church is not driven just by a couple of families, nor is it a small country church anymore.

3. People (lifestyles) Groups – what kind of folks live in our ministry area?

47 (out of a total of 71) groups are NOT present in your ministry area. It is somewhat homogenous, making it easier to concentrate efforts by focusing your resources and time. This should focus your ministry offerings and allow for a measure of excellence in what you do. You have 4 of the top 5 groups present in the region represented in the church membership. Leverage their relationships.

4. Population Growth

Area has had significant growth in past 20 years, but future rate of growth is projected to gradually slow over the next 5 years. My hunch is that with continued (never really finished) expansion of I-95, further eventual growth will be triggered, as travel time to employment decreases (if that is actually possible on I-95....). The RVA to NOVA corridor is a powerful driver of growth. There are a host of people who want to live in open space, but need urban based employment. And with COVID driven WFH leanings, rural growth may well increase. Population growth may pivot as well. These next years will be interesting from an employment/housing redistribution perspective.

5. Race/Ethnicity

Population has some noticeable differences than the county at large. There is a noticeably lower proportion of AfAm households, but higher proportion of Hispanics than in the county. Anglos make up just over 2/3rds of total population, and just under 20% being AfAm. Hispanics will experience growth of about 2,000 by 2025. The diversity index will be pretty much as it was in 2020, but noticeably higher than in 2010. The diversity index will increase from 49 (in 2010) to 66 through 2025, but still below the county and certainly the state at large.

6. Households

The total number of households increased about 100 since 2000 census, and is projected to increase another 100 by 2025, with the number of families with children under 18 projected to decrease. There will be more, smaller households, (likely older) especially 1 or 2 person HH's. The number of large (5+ persons) HH's will decrease. The distribution of owner vs renter households will remain about 75%/25%. Median HH income is expected to jump to more than \$71K by 2025, slightly more than a \$10K since 2020. There will be a noticeable increase in the number of HH's with \$100K+ incomes by 2025.

7. Age

Increasing numbers of both young and median adults, but especially noticeable numbers of retirement age older adults. The median age will rise, especially for women, reaching right at 43 yrs. by 2025. Median age for men will reach 40. Slight decreases in school age children, but with noticeable increases in teenagers. There will be significant increases in all three age brackets above 65. Overall, area is aging.

8. Education

There has been a noticeable increase in educational attainment for adults 25+ since 2010 with a significant number achieving a college or higher degree. And while the number with less than a high school diploma has decreased, the proportion (of adults age 25+) without a diploma is still higher than the county and certainly the state at large. Over 8000 persons age 25+ lack a high school diploma.

9. Vehicles

The total number of vehicles has increased since 2010 by nearly 17,000 and is expected to increase further by 2025. Nearly all these increases are in households that already had at least one vehicle before 2010. Expect another 4,000 vehicles by 2025. Oh boy!

10. Mission Field Analysis

62.4% of the Caroline/Spotsylvania County population is not claimed by any existing church, which means some 78,009 folks are not connected to ANY local church. I think you all have a real shot at reaching and serving between 640 and 770 additional folks. Your mission field is larger than you might think. Don't let your past success stifle/restrain your efforts in the future. Leverage your existing posture in the community to serve your neighbors in some new ways.