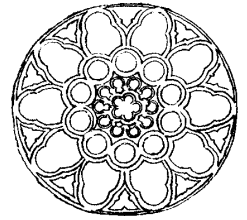


# St. Paul's United Church



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*"The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."*

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Dear Friends at St. Paul's:

January 22, 2009

This is another update about the activities of the four Task Forces that have been working diligently on your behalf to renew St. Paul's. The ultimate result of the work of the Task Forces is to leave a legacy of faith for future generations. The challenge is to determine how to best deliver God's message in our ever-changing world

The Vision Task Force has prepared a draft vision statement that has resulted in recommendations about the configuration of the building. Using a variety of St. Paul's studies over the past 20 years, the Vision Team has identified a desire of the congregation to focus more on mission than maintenance. The congregation has articulated their desire to worship in a multi-functional facility, which would allow us to fulfill our mission and to free us from the burden of building issues that have consumed our energies.

The Transition Task Force has prepared a working document detailing the space requirements needed by St. Paul's to effectively carry out its worship, administrative and outreach needs.

The Fundraising Task Force has met with a professional fundraiser who has conducted a preliminary survey of St. Paul's giving habits and determined how much could be raised by our congregation.

The Development Task Force has met with the developers and is beginning discussions with them about their concepts and our worship requirements and space needs. This has been a complicated assignment as they have struggled with the pros and cons of each proposal.

The issues are complex and the work has taken longer than expected. However, we are drawing near to a final decision, which is targeted for the end of February. It is anticipated that information sessions will be held during the month of March with a congregational vote in early April.

We have had discussions with Hamilton Conference about how we can include all St. Paul's members in the voting process. At the Annual Meeting on February 8, 2009, we will entertain a motion to widen the vote to include congregation members who are out of the country.

As you can imagine, the jobs of the Task Forces have not been easy and it is only with God's guidance that we have accomplished so much so quickly. We know that you are all eager to know more. However, the Task Forces must have time to complete their work and we ask that you continue to be patient.

In closing, we would like to thank the 29 members of the Task Forces for all of their efforts to date. The congregation holds you in our prayers as you continue to forge St. Paul's' future path.

John Benham  
Chair of Trustees

Kathy Sellers  
Chair of Council