



THE FUTURE OF ST. PAUL'S The Beacon Project Sunday, May 15, 2011

Dear Parishioner,

You are invited to a very special day at St. Paul's on Sunday, May 15, 2011: The Beacon Project Launch—the first day of our future together and the launch of our new vision. Your Vestry has worked diligently, and has been guided by the Holy Spirit since last spring to discern God's direction for St. Paul's through prayer, listening, input from the congregation, Saturday workshops, a weekend retreat, and through the talents of Cary Gray Kelly, our consultant through the process.

This discernment process has helped us to articulate a Mission Statement about who we are now in this present moment at St. Paul's. It is a description of our family:

Mission Statement:

We are a reflection of God's Kingdom, offering a place of faith and fellowship where people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and ethnicity come together as the family of God, using our gifts to bear the hope of Christ to the needs of the world.

This process has also helped us to hear God's call for our future, and to devise a road-map for the next three to five years of our life together that is expressed in our Vision Statement:

Vision Statement:

We will embrace all people by nurturing and engaging our gifts for the sake of sharing Christ's saving and redeeming love, within our parish family and beyond. We will offer a community of belonging, acceptance, care and transformation to our neighbors and all who enter, regardless of where they come from or where they are on their journey.

That Vision Statement is supported by a Strategic Plan that will give traction to our forward ministry, and will help us to sharpen our focus and our energy. The basic outline of the four-part Plan is listed here, and under each section there are a list of opportunities that we will consider during the next few years, but for the next 12 months we will focus on four main projects, one for each of the four strategies. Here is the four-part Strategic Plan:

Strategic Plan:

We will show our commitment to this vision by:

- I. Reaching out, inviting, welcoming and engaging all in our communities, locally and abroad, with love and acceptance.**
- II. Equipping disciples to carry Christ's love to others regardless of need or background.**
- III. Providing a rich, inspiring and life changing experience through the beauty and tradition of Episcopal worship.**
- IV. Generously caring for and ensuring the future of our parish family.**

Our Strategic Plan will begin with the following Strategic Projects, and during our special celebration on Sunday, May 15, you will have the opportunity to hear more about these projects, and to pledge yourselves to take part in them, so that together we can fulfill God's call on us to *shine the hope of Christ to Bailey's Crossroads and beyond!*

Strategic Projects:

(Corresponding to Strategic Plan Points I-IV)

Strategy I Annual Community Fair, Saturday, May 5, 2012

Chairperson: Nancy Calvert

Building upon the tradition of the former Bailey's Day and the Unity Fair of recent history, the extended time-line for preparation will give us an opportunity to be proficient and thorough in our planning, allow us to continue to build relationships with community groups, and give us an opportunity to be trained in welcoming our community to St. Paul's.

Strategy II Identification & Cultivation of our Spiritual Gifts

Chairpersons: Linda Simmons & Bill Fuchs

God has blessed us all with talents and gifts to help bring about His Kingdom in the world around us. The cultivation and nourishment of our God-given gifts are the bedrock of our sense of Mission and our sense of Vision. Starting first with the Vestry members, everyone in the congregation will have the opportunity to take part in a program to help identify and empower the talents with which God has blessed us.

Strategy III Multi-Cultural Engagement in Worship & Leadership

Chairperson: Esther Greene

Throughout our planning process, two themes were continually highlighted as the charism of St. Paul's: sense of family and diversity. Our congregation now represents all the continents of the world, except for Antarctica! While celebrating our Anglican heritage, we will begin planning worship to engage our multiple cultures, and also to invite individuals from our very diverse congregation to be more engaged in leading, serving and assisting in our worship services.

Strategy IV Development and Execution of a 3-Year Facility Preservation, Maintenance & Expansion Plan

Chairperson: Henry Hallie

This is a very practical step to make our facility as attractive and inviting as possible, to ensure the building is well maintained for our future, and to determine what capital projects will be useful for a successful ministry in Bailey's Crossroads. Planning will include routine care & maintenance, energy efficiency, disability access, space allocation, preschool needs, outreach needs, decorating & beautification, grounds-keeping, and the physical invitation & ease of entry from street to pew.

Your Vestry members and I are excited about launching this new plan. I hope you will join us on Sunday, May 15 to catch the excitement, and be a part of a milestone occasion in the history of St. Paul's: the first day of our new future.

Enclosed with this letter is a t-shirt order form. As part of our celebration day, we will all be wearing t-shirts emblazoned with a new symbol of our new life together (pictured on the front of this letter). This logo was first sketched by our parishioner June Jallah during our vestry retreat last October, and then another one of our parishioners, Emily Plimpton, graciously employed her graphic design talent to interpret June's handiwork as our new logo.

Praise be to God for the work He is doing in our lives and in our community at St. Paul's!

Faithfully yours,

The Very Rev. James C. McCaskill
Rector & Dean of Region 8