

Our Church Extra

**Construction nearing completion
Up-Date Education Event**

**Sunday September 9, 2018
9:15 a.m.**

On Sunday September 9 during the education hour, 9:15 a.m. there will be an up-date education event for the congregation on our construction project. We will highlight the Capital Campaign, financial overages, use of new spaces, and how our congregation has been strengthened through this time of renewal.

The Capital Campaign Committee continues to meet and work toward securing additional pledges. We have accumulated nearly \$900,000 in commitments. While we celebrate the generous gifts received we still have a long way to go in meeting our goal. We had hoped to receive pledges pushing us to \$1.5 million. The committee is planning some activities and events to generate both revenue and excitement regarding the updates to our church facility. There is still time to make a commitment or to increase your initial gift. Many in the congregation are committed to our mission and are making additional gifts.



The workmen have been busy over the summer months bringing to completion the plans for our church building. There are still things that need to be finished. Throughout the process we discovered many things that called for creative thinking and additional expense. The Renovation Team consistently advocated for St. Paul's and worked collaboratively to keep costs in check. Some areas where additional costs were accrued were: additional steel framing to support the balcony, additional asbestos abatement, concrete work in the lower level community rooms, removal of trash and old building materials sealed up behind the former elevator wall, additional nave floor concrete, and the stabilization needed for the new elevator pit. These same items delayed the renovation schedule.

As members look around on Sundays, take tours of the building throughout the week, and attend meetings often held in obscure parts of the building, new ideas for ministry are springing forth. This was a hope and dream of members who participated in cottage meetings in 2012. Participants voiced their desires for their church building and ways in which it could be used to minister in the community. At that time we had just completed a 175th anniversary celebration and were envisioning St. Paul's ministry in the next quarter century. One such idea is "Hopes Closet." One of the lower level restrooms is equipped with an independent shower. It is

hoped that homeless individuals who stop at St. Paul's for a rest may also have the opportunity to shower and wash whatever clothing they may have with them (provisions have been made to have a washer and dryer in the Sexton's work room). We would also be able to provide some new clothing from "Hopes Closet."

Strengthening and renewing faith has been an ongoing theme during these days of renovation. A small group formed to discuss their faith and to discuss ways in which they can live the faith that we confess when gathered for worship. They met in member's family rooms during the summer. This fall a reading of C. S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity" will be the focus for a book discussion. The Christian Education Committee has embraced "The Lord and His Prayer" and "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" as two course offerings beginning in September designed to strengthen our faith in Christ Jesus. The AA Fellowship groups who meet at St. Paul's are eager to learn more about why we are refurbishing the building and what new meeting times might be possible through the creation of new spaces. However, it has been the robust participation in Sunday worship that speaks to renewal for the congregation. Our responses are strong and sung or spoken with conviction. Worshipers joyfully come in wheel chair, with walker or cane, with



children in arm, with beaming faces, to receive Holy Communion. And the fellowship times held in the enlarged narthex and in the new gathering space have become hubs for "mutual conversation and consolation" as our dear Dr. Martin Luther referred to such times of meaningful Christian fellowship.

Please join with your sisters and brothers at St. Paul's on this day of education and learning surrounding our ***Building in Faith for Future Generations*** campaign. Your presence is important as we learn and celebrate what has been done, what we are anticipating, and how we can achieve our goals together as God's beloved people.