

Transforming our cathedral church: \$4^{million}

“BECAUSE WE ARE INCARNATE BEINGS, HAVING A spiritual center is not something we understand in the abstract. It has to be represented by a place, and we have this incredible place that God has provided, standing for us right at the crossing of government, commerce and university life.”

—BISHOP SHAW

TOGETHER we will show forth what it means to share Christ's common table as we reveal our cathedral church as a welcoming, unmistakable witness to our faith and a center for inviting and equipping leadership for ministry into the future.

HOW ARE WE CALLED TO SERVE?

In 1819, a group of influential Boston leaders sought to establish a new Episcopal church, commissioning Alexander Parris and Solomon Willard to create an edifice that would be wholly American and undeniably representative of democratic ideals. To meet that vision and charge, Parris and Willard turned to an architectural style seen as just such an expression and free from ecclesiastical and aristocratic associations; the result was the first Greek revival building in Boston and the only Greek revival cathedral in North America. It is an architectural gem.

We live into our prophetic witness through the ministry that takes place within and beyond these walls. Throughout its rich history, St. Paul's has been at the forefront of innovative and caring community ministry: Breadlines were established here during the Great Depression. A weekly meal for the homeless was initiated in 1983 which continues today with the help of partner churches from across our diocese. The first

healing services in Massachusetts for people affected by HIV/AIDS began here in 1985. The first female bishop in the Anglican Communion, Barbara C. Harris, was elected here in 1988. Muslims have gathered to pray in our cathedral's Sproat Hall each Friday since September 2000.

Today, our Cathedral Church of St. Paul truly lives into its mission as a "House of Prayer for All People." Each week more than 700 people pray at our cathedral, worshipers who share not only the space but often ministry. They provide an important example of how people of different ages, cultures, languages and even faiths can work together with respect and care. We seek to increase the number of people who worship at our cathedral, especially enhancing opportunities for Episcopal and young adult worship, both in existing communities and throughout the diocese. Each week, hundreds of people receive not just a meal but also opportunities to create a community where their skills and gifts are valued and put into action. Each year approximately 1,000 young people and their



mentors learn firsthand about homelessness through CityReach, an overnight experiential program based at our cathedral. Each year, thousands of Episcopalians from across the diocese assemble in our cathedral for worship and learning events which build community, praise God and strengthen congregational life.

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul aspires to carry out its ministry even more fully through a transformed space so that it becomes as welcoming and dynamic as the people and programs who call it home. Its location is ideal at the junction of four subway lines, directly across from the State House and fronting the Boston Common, the oldest public gathering place in the United States.

HOW WILL WE ANSWER?

Imagine a cathedral church for the future: energy efficient with flexible space that serves not only those who worship but also the surrounding community—a space inviting to all and beckoning all to worship and serve. The \$4 million raised through our Together Now campaign will initiate the first stage of our cathedral’s transformation, creating a model for environmental stewardship. And, with a cleaner and more welcoming façade and a reconfigured interior, our cathedral will become a better center for diocesan worship, ministry, teaching and experimentation.

Specifically, we will:

- Let our light shine, with a skylight and artificial lighting to make the interior brighter, warmer and more welcoming as we also shine our lights to the heavens.
- Welcome those who are outside with views of the interior by replacing two side doors with glass panels.
- Become the green space we believe is critical to our island earth as we upgrade the heating and ventilation system to make it efficient, reduce our carbon footprint and make the space more comfortable for meetings and gatherings.
- Create a flexible sanctuary that supports both liturgical and programmatic innovations by replacing pews with cathedral chairs, making it more useful for diocesan gatherings, including clergy days and learning events.
- Facilitate movement throughout the space by replacing the handicapped-accessible lift with an elevator and wide flanking staircase between the church, entry corridor and lower Sproat Hall.
- Display our faith with a cross mounted on the portico and finish the façade above the columns to make a well-lighted, bold and visually arresting public witness.

