

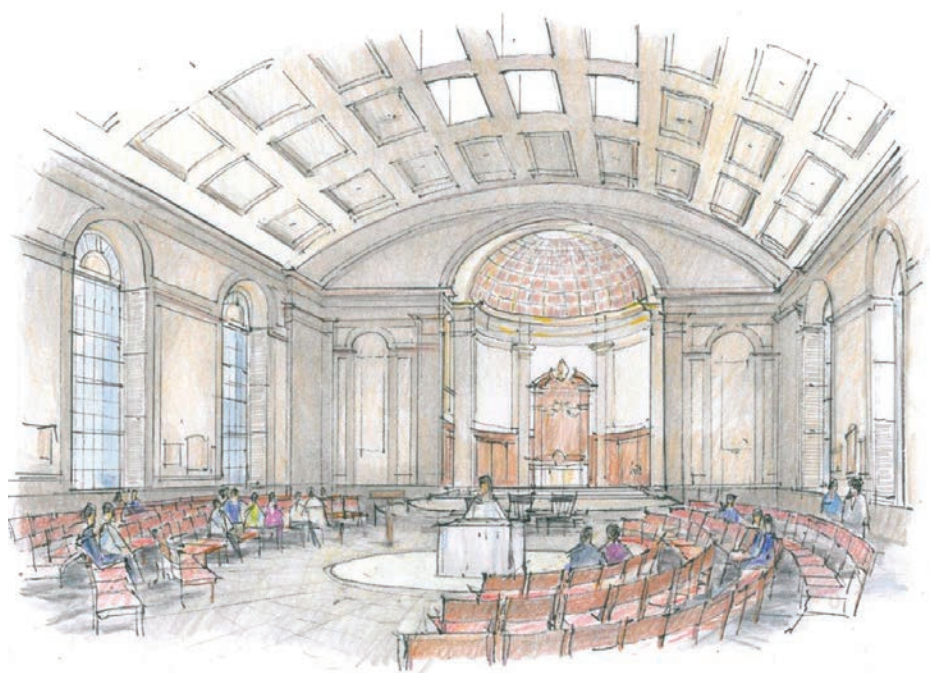
Renovations and St. John's merger bring renewal to Cathedral Church of St. Paul

While giving a stewardship talk at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston some months ago, Ann Page Stecker looked out from the pulpit and caught a glimpse of the Boston Common through the open doors behind the congregation.

"That's what I want," she recalls thinking. "I want the building where the worship happens to be connected directly to the world," she said.

Major renovations now underway at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul will help enhance that connection. Plans call for new glass doorways and a new glass-enclosed chapel "to make the many ministries that take place here visible to the wider world," said the project's architect, Brett Donham, a principal of the firm Donham & Sweeney.

The renovations also include removing the box pews to make way for chairs that can be configured around a centrally positioned altar; a glass elevator, so that all levels of the building will be fully handicapped accessible;



New seating will enhance the worship experience for congregations of all sizes.

an energy-efficient heating and ventilation system; and a skylight, LED lighting and chandeliers to brighten the sanctuary.

A labyrinth will be incorporated into the cathedral's new floor, as will tiles engraved with the names and founding dates of all the parishes of the diocese since the cathedral's founding (including those that have closed).

There will also be improvements to Sproat Hall in the lower level, including new bathrooms relocated from the back of the building to the front where they will be accessible and easy to find.

During the renovations, worship services are being held at the Church of St. John the Evangelist at 35 Bowdoin Street. The congregations of the two churches have officially merged into one and will eventually make the renewed cathedral church their permanent home. The St. John's building is being put up for sale to help pay for the cathedral

Our \$20-million campaign

\$2 million

Tithing for mission beyond our diocese

\$2 million

Caring for God's creation

\$4.5 million

Equipping congregations for strategic local mission

\$7.5 million

Raising up new generations in faith and service

\$4 million

Transforming our cathedral church

For more information about each of the campaign initiatives, please visit: www.diomass.org/together-now-campaign

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Cathedral renovations and St. John's merger (con't)

renovations, which are expected to take 10-12 months and will cost about \$9 million, according to the cathedral's dean, Jep Streit. The project received \$4 million from the diocese's Together Now fundraising campaign. Streit said the intention is to make up the gap through the sale of the St. John's property, being marketed by Jones Lang LaSalle, and, if necessary, some combination of endowment funds or other fundraising.

"One of the real gifts the cathedral has given to me has been faithfulness about bringing all kinds of people together, and that's something that's an important example for all of us," Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE said.

Follow the progress of the cathedral renovations at [instagram.com/stpaulboston#](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulboston#)

"With St. John's, there has been a kind of witness about the place that worship plays in our lives, how it feeds us for everything else. I think we should look at what we're being offered through this merger as an opportunity to do things differently. It's an exciting time to be part of the church," Shaw said.

"We're all gaining," the Rev. Canon Katharine Black, priest-in-charge at

St. John's and now canon for liturgies at the cathedral, said of the merger. "We've not yet dealt with saying goodbye to Bowdoin Street and that will be a sadness, but there is also the positive nature of new life that we had not anticipated. I think this is a story about extraordinary providence."

Ann Page Stecker, a St. John's vestry member who serves on the joint council for the merger, recalled that back in November 2012, when the merger idea was proposed, "We would have been, in another year or two, handing the keys to the bishop. We didn't have enough to sustain ourselves. There was within the vestry an almost immediate and unanimous sigh of relief and an idea that we could look ahead. It seemed to me this was such an opportunity for our parish to not die on the vine but be able to return, in new company, to our social mission, which we had practically had to abandon."

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul is home to the varied worship life of Sunday English and Chinese-speaking congregations; a young adult community, The Crossing, which worships on Thursdays; and guests of the weekly lunch program, many of whom are homeless, who worship on Mondays, as well as a Muslim congregation numbering several hundred who pray at the cathedral on Fridays.

"Our building is not as welcoming as the people who gather in it," Streit said. "I believe Episcopalians in the diocese are proud of the ministry and witness the cathedral makes, and I want them to be proud of our building as well," Streit said.

Architect Brett Donham said one of the biggest challenges has been "to meet as many of the needs and desires of different constituencies as possible--and I think we have done that--without losing a sense of a unified vision for the building."

"I believe very strongly in the importance of worshiping in community," he said. "It is a big space, so the patterning of the seating and the concentration of light in the middle over an altar will enable people to bond around the worship experience in a way that they won't scattered throughout directional pews."

And the new glass chapel, to be named the St. John the Evangelist Chapel, will extend the presence of the closed St. John's into the Cathedral Church of St. Paul while also opening a window on the world.

"People on the outside can look in and see that this is a church and not a bank," the Rev. Canon Katharine Black said.

"And we can look out and see the world that God is calling us into," Streit added.

—Tracy J. Sukraw

HEALING OUR ISLAND HOME

Green Loans program launches

The Creation Care Initiative, funded by the Together Now campaign, provides congregations with opportunities to make energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable improvements to their buildings in order to reduce their carbon footprint and resource consumption. After three years of encouraging and funding such projects through two Green Grants programs, the initiative is rolling out a new Green Loans program, approved by Diocesan Council in March, to provide support for more substantial projects.

In coordination with the Diocesan Loan Committee, the new Green Loans program offers congregations the opportunity to request up to \$100,000, or the amount equal to their annual budget (whichever is lower), at an interest rate that is lower than other diocesan loans: 2.75 percent, or 2.5 percent if paid via an automatic payment method. Congregations may request loans for up to a 15-year term and combine them with other diocesan property improvement loans (Stokes loans) to a combined total of \$150,000.

Qualifying loan projects include: energy-efficient boilers and furnaces, on-demand hot water units, energy-efficient windows, caulking, upgraded insulation, LED lighting and fixtures and solar or geothermal systems. In many cases, the monthly utility savings realized by these projects can equal or outweigh the loan payments, making this a potentially expense-neutral

program and allowing churches to apply those savings to other projects that further decrease carbon emissions and increase environmental stewardship.

The new Green Loans program complements the established Green Grants programs that, thanks to the generosity of donors to the Together Now campaign, have funded \$425,849 in grants throughout 2012 and 2013. Green Improvement Grants are designed for building-related projects, for which up to \$10,000 may be requested. Simple Acts Grants, as their name suggests, are designed to encourage smaller environmental outreach projects, liturgies and green spaces at churches and are available in amounts up to \$1,000. In the 2014 granting cycle, the Creation Care Initiative awarded \$160,000 in grants to 26 qualifying proposals—projects that ranged from training Episcopalians and local community residents on how to conduct a basic home energy assessment to several oil-to-gas furnace conversions that are expected to reduce carbon emissions by over 50 percent.

The Rev. Karen Montagno, Director of Congregational Resources and Training, hopes that the Green Grants and new Green Loans programs will continue to inspire congregations to become more involved with their local communities. “We hope that these grants and loans will give congregations opportunities to strengthen communities and build capacity,” she said. “These initiatives will enable more congregations to make energy-saving changes now, which are often expensive on the front end but yield great carbon and utility savings for decades to come. Successful projects not only reduce energy and cost, they also increase the comfort and usability of church buildings for both the congregation and community organizations that meet there.”

More information about Green Grants and the new Green Loans program (which accepts loan applications on a rolling schedule) can be found at www.diomass.org/creation-care-initiative.

—Mary Ann Lee and Ellen Stuart



The ministry we've had together

It's been nearly a year since we completed the fundraising portion of our Together Now comprehensive campaign. Since then as I have traveled throughout the diocese, I have been emboldened by stories of mission and renewal. Whether it is through one of the 39 collaborative campaigns and the new sense of identity that's been brought about through a refreshed building, or whether it is through a parish that is finding a new sense of its own calling through participation in a mission hub, God is revealing new ways of being community because of this campaign. The power to bring about transformation through Christ because of our deeper understanding of stewardship and giving certainly gives us glimpses of the generosity of God in all of our lives. And this generosity is a great gift that all of us offer as we welcome a new bishop.

So thank you for all you've given and all you will continue to give. Many of us labored very hard throughout the fundraising part of the campaign and thousands of us made financial commitments. Now is not the time to relax. Please, encourage your congregation to apply for campaign-supported grants, continue to pay your pledges, offer an increased annual gift to your congregation when your pledge is completed and, most importantly, pray. Pray for our campaign initiatives and all the congregations and individuals involved with them. Pray for our congregations. Pray for our new bishop. And please, pray for me as I continue to pray for you.

—M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE



Planting a grant-funded community garden at St. Andrew's Church, New Bedford



Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street
Boston MA 02111
617-482-5800
www.diomass.org

TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN COLLECTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Because of the generosity and faithfulness of thousands of donors, millions of dollars have gone forth to fund the priorities of the Together Now campaign. Thank you for carrying this work forward through your payments, participation and prayer.

TOTAL PLEDGE COLLECTIONS (AS OF 5/31/14)

49.5% of nearly \$32 million committed diocesanwide

\$15,844,207

DISBURSEMENTS

Parish share of collaborative campaigns	\$4,625,594
Tithing for mission beyond our diocese	\$614,975
Green Grants and Loans	\$439,674
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$674,850
Mission Institute	\$200,000
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	\$1,000,000
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	\$3,050,000
Total Disbursements (as of 5/31/14)	\$10,605,093

2014 PLANNED DISBURSEMENTS (AS OF 5/31/14)

Tithing for mission beyond our diocese	\$395,938
Green Grants and Loans	\$215,549
Mission Hubs (including Youth and Young Adult Ministries)	\$538,179
Mission Institute	\$200,000
Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center	\$0
Cathedral Church of St. Paul Renovations	\$950,000
Remaining amount scheduled to be disbursed in 2014 <i>(parish share not yet available)</i>	\$2,299,666