

# St. Paul's United Methodist Church



# imagine...

## Seeing what God has in Store



David Livingston, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

Thirty years ago, a small group of people joined Rev. Jeff Allen to begin a church in Lenexa. Together, they imagined a church that would be open to a new way of being church. I want to invite you to continue imagining with us!

St. Paul's has always been a church that has openly welcomed all people. Imagine what would happen if, like many of our original families years ago, a young family entering our building for the first time today could immediately see a first-class nursery prepared for



them and their children. Imagine a sanctuary that feels inviting, and coherent, regardless of where you are sitting. This reconfiguration will satisfy our needs until the time comes when we are ready to build a new sanctuary.

Imagine meeting these needs while also eliminating the debt that we've carried for 25 years!

Achieving even *some* of these goals will move St. Paul's forward towards the future we believe God is imagining for us. If we **fully commit** to what God is calling us to do and continue to pray, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" we can complete all of these goals.

I imagine thirty years from now the people of St. Paul's will look back on us and on this time as a pivotal moment in the history of our church.

Now is the time for us to step up and fulfill what God is calling us to do!

Dear Friends,

The theme of St. Paul's Capital Campaign is **Imagine...Seeing what God has in Store**. What a wonderful theme! Our church can't think of a better way to describe where we are, how we got here, and where we're going. Our church is growing and our programs and ministries are thriving. We are poised to *sprint* past the next milestone in our spiritual and financial journey!

From simple beginnings, to the beautiful space and grounds we occupy today, we have enjoyed living in the realized dreams of those who came before us. Now it's our turn to do some imagining of our own, both for ourselves and for the ones who will follow us.

We're excited about what we will accomplish together through this campaign. Our goals are multiple, ambitious, and achievable: Pay off our debt, reconfigure the sanctuary, build a nursery, and plan for the future. Sounds like a lot. Remember, "With God's power working through us, God can do much, much, more than anything we can ask or imagine."



Don & Pat White, Co-Chairs



Angie Myers & David Yu, Co-Chairs

We ask you to pray for the entire campaign team as we respond to what God has asked of us. Please join us in being fully committed to the success of this campaign. Feel free to reach out to any member of the team if you have questions about the campaign.





Imagine what God can do through you! As we enter this three-year capital campaign, we're united in asking God to guide our imaginations and the actions that spring from them. We're trusting God to work through us in this special, member-led effort.

We're asking you to join us in praying, "Lord, help me imagine what you want to do through me." Prepare your heart with this prayer as you imagine how God wants you to respond to this spiritual and personal invitation to participate.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church began in 1984 with forty-five charter members. Today, over 650 members call St. Paul's home. We average over 375 people worshipping here every week. In contrast to a nationwide decline in younger people's church attendance, more than 30% of our new members since 2012 are families with young children. In 2013 alone we welcomed 13 new babies into our church family! We really need more and better nursery space. The number of preparatory members – those who've been baptized but not yet confirmed – has more than doubled over the past 10 years. Moving the nursery will allow more space for all of our children.



These are more than just numbers. These are people who have found their spiritual home. These are people who express their gratitude in having found a place where they feel welcomed no matter who they are.

These are people who demonstrate God's grace as they offer themselves in service to one another and to the world beyond our doors.

**...more than 30% of our new members since 2012 are families with young children.**



## we imagined...

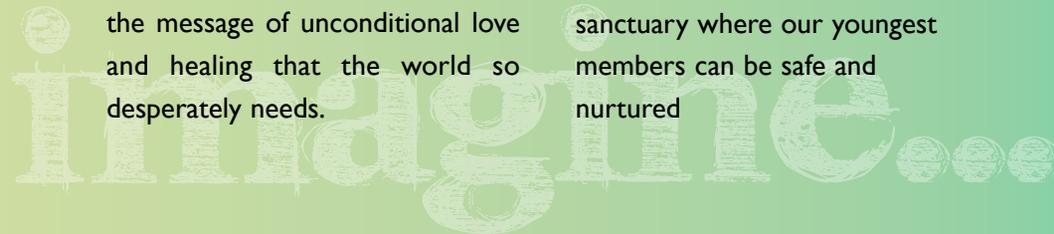
Who we are today is possible only because of those who followed God in preparing the way.

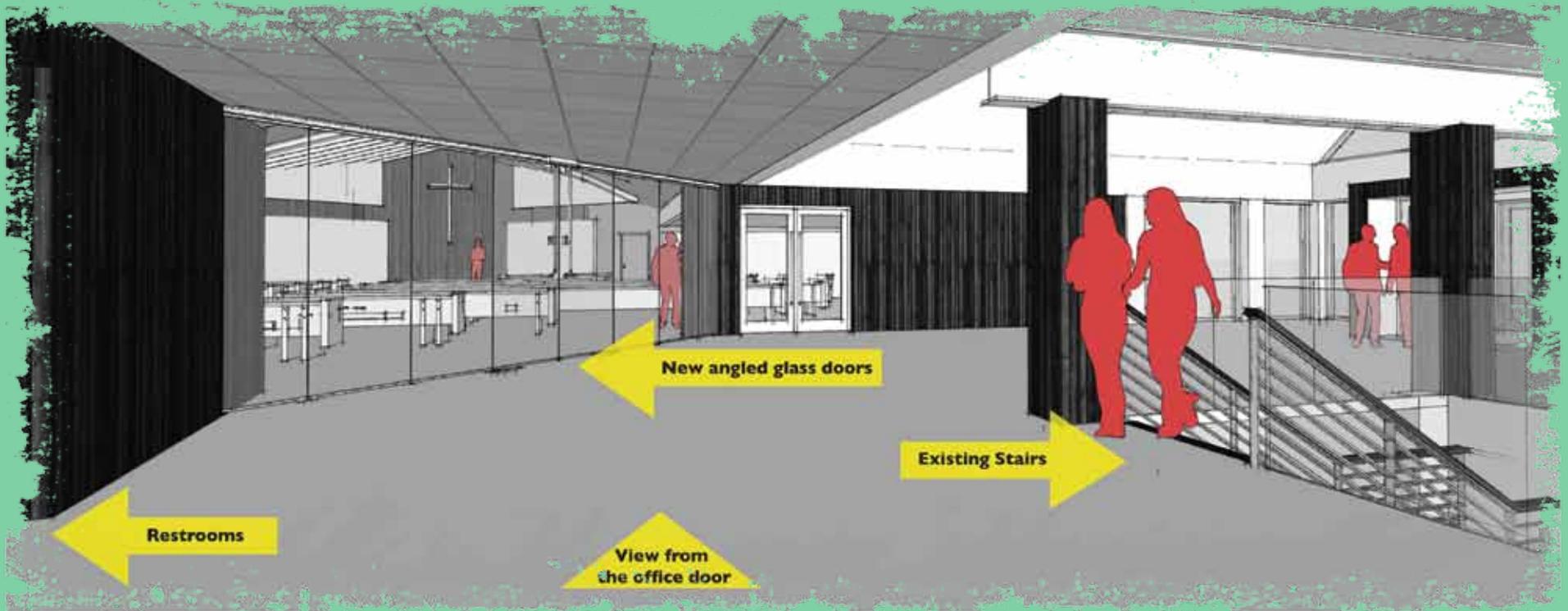
- 1984 Meeting in a private home for our first worship service
- 1985 Meeting Sunday mornings at Mill Creek Elementary
- 1990 Holding our first Easter Sunday worship service at our present location
- 1994 Adding worship space, back offices, Student Center, and additional parking to accommodate the needs of our growing congregation and ministries
- 1997-99 Acquiring four separate properties totaling ten acres, so that we had space to respond to our growing congregation. We now have 17 acres at the corner of 79th and Lackman to carry out God's vision
- 2004 Adding the "Bridge" meeting and office space, an elevator, and the lower parking lot
- 2012 Refinancing our mortgage debt at a lower interest rate, saving us about \$19,000 per year
- 2013 Adding another parking lot, walkway, and community garden to serve and beautify our ministries, and since 2011, lowering our debt by more than \$600,000

## we are imagining...

As we've realized these dreams, we've witnessed the power of God in transforming lives through love, service, and connection. We've conducted multiple capital campaigns to continue God's ministries. Now God is calling us to imagine new ways to carry the message of unconditional love and healing that the world so desperately needs.

- Being free from debt so we can dream about what God has in store for us
- Reconfiguring the sanctuary to better serve newcomers and meet the needs of our growing congregation
- Providing a place near the sanctuary where our youngest members can be safe and nurtured





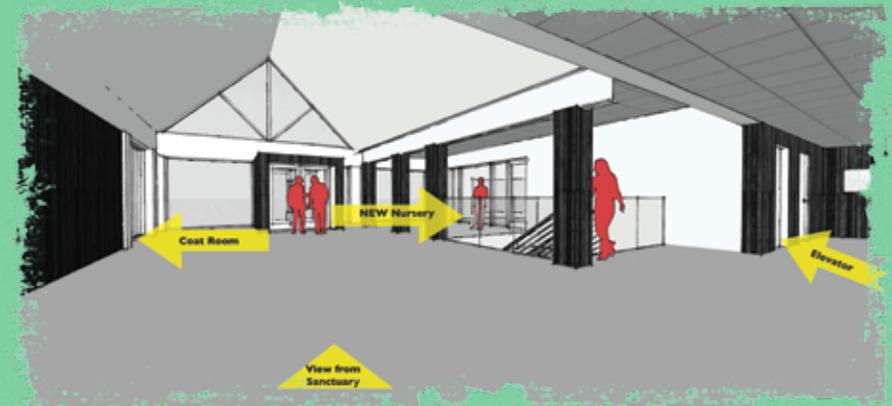
*Proposed architects rendering of the sanctuary updates.*

*Note: Existing chairs will still be used, not new pews.*

We're imagining these things so that more people can hear a life-giving message in a world full of life-draining messages. We trust that God guides the steps we take. We know that as faithful stewards, God has more in store for us than we can imagine.

God is calling us to pray, "Lord, help me imagine what you want to do through me." Please pray this prayer thinking not about money, but about God's power working through us to fulfill our mission to **LOVE God and all others unconditionally, SEEK answers to our questions, and SERVE God by serving others.**

We're at our best when we imagine the lives that will be touched and transformed by God's power working through us.



*Proposed architects rendering of the entrance and location of the nursery.*

imagine...



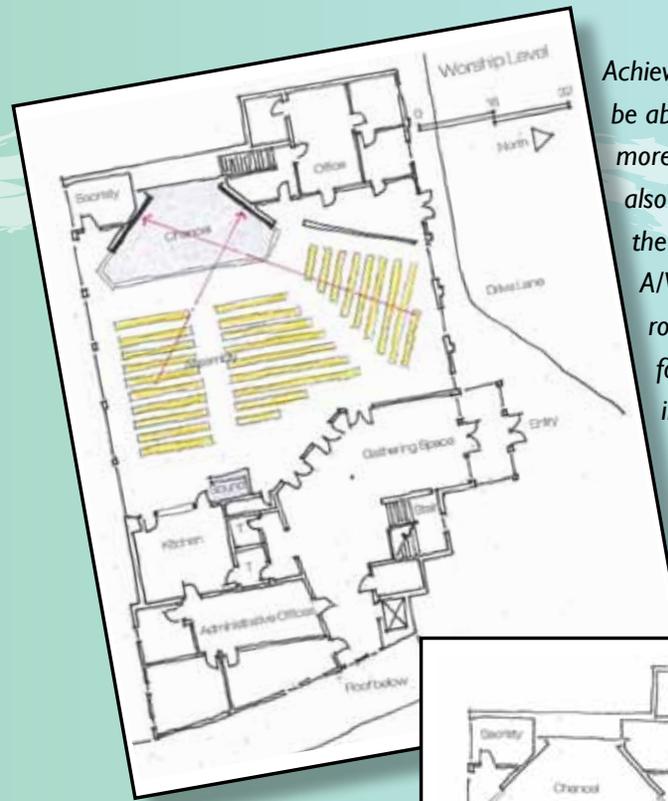
Our past campaigns at St. Paul's have repeatedly demonstrated our willingness and ability to do much more than just meet our minimum debt service requirements. That history, plus some early commitments from the campaign leadership team and a few other families suggest we will once again go well beyond "the minimum required." Using these factors as a guide, the campaign leadership team has set two campaign goals. The chart below shows what impact achieving those goals will have on

our debt reduction efforts and our ability to create the sanctuary and nursery space we're imagining. While none of these goals will be accomplished without some sacrifice, the enthusiasm we see and hear for the campaign suggests the top goal is definitely within our grasp. Reaching our top goal means we will be debt-free before the campaign ends in 2017. As we reach and exceed that milestone, we can only imagine what God has in store for us next!

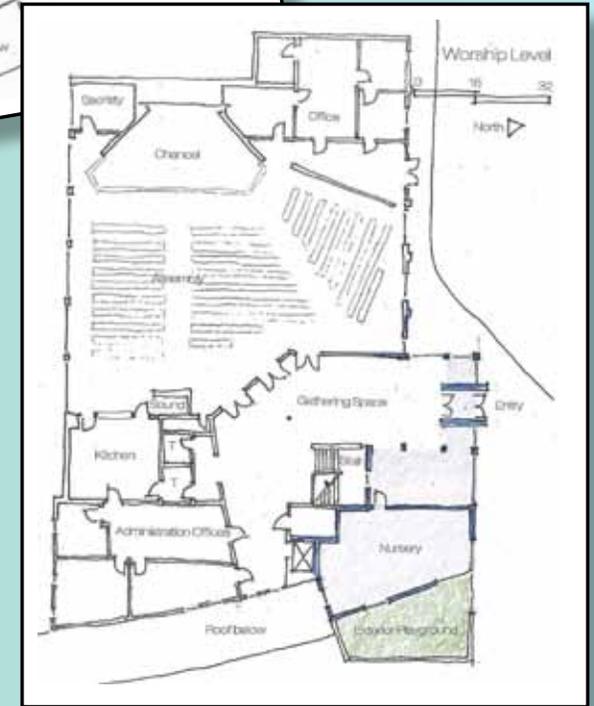
If we receive this from the campaign...	we'll be able to do...	with this as the remainder of our loan.
\$1,000,000	Debt reduction & Sanctuary updates	\$350,000
\$1,500,000	Debt reduction, Sanctuary & nursery	\$0

**"With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine."**

*Ephesians 3:20*

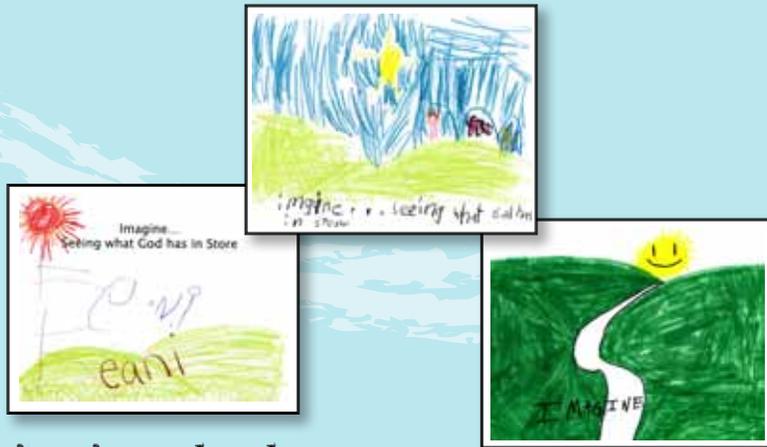


Achieving our first goal we will be able to reduce our debt by more than \$700,000. We will also be able to reconfigure the sanctuary. Moving the A/V booth and changing the roof of the annex to allow for a more unified and inviting space.



The second goal includes everything above, **and** building a nursery on the main level, near the sanctuary. **This will leave us debt free.**

imagine...



## we imagine a church

Throughout the week, we serve in ministry together with the intent to live out our mission to LOVE God and all others unconditionally, SEEK answers to our questions, and SERVE God by serving others. Each day of the week, children, youth, young adults, men and women are experiencing worship, growing spiritually, serving in mission and gathering in fellowship. These ministries are supported by the resources of our church family. They come in all shapes and sizes, working together for a common goal of fulfilling our mission.

## Worship & Music Ministry

We believe that we are called to praise God in song, prayer, Word, and Sacrament through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul's has three weekly worship services and an exceptional music program with a variety of musical groups for children and adults.

## Congregational Life

We believe we are called to provide opportunities for being together and enjoying God's goodness, that we may be healthy, happy, and whole. We also believe that a major cornerstone of our faith lies in the strength of our member families. We strive to acquaint and involve all families with the life of the church through social, recreational and enrichment activities.

love

## Christian Education

We believe that God is calling us to foster spiritual growth in persons that they may know Jesus Christ; that they may learn of the Church's historic faith; that they may be enabled to live in response to God's leading. Headed by our Christian Education and Faith Formation team, St. Paul's offers many opportunities to grow in faith and discipleship. Children, youth and adult educational opportunities are offered throughout the week. St. Paul's also has preschool and children's day out programs.

## Children's Ministry

St. Paul's has a vibrant array of programming for children of all ages. There are opportunities for children to worship, study, serve and be in fellowship.

## Youth Ministry

St. Paul's UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) provides youth in grades 7-12 with opportunities to deepen their faith relationships, develop and express leadership skills, and experience countless activities for having fun and fellowship.

## Mission and Outreach

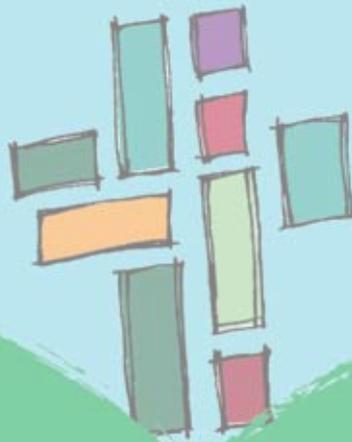
We believe that we are called to demonstrate God's liberating power by touching people's lives through ministries of peace and justice and to care for each other as God would have us care for ourselves in community. St. Paul's provides a variety of local, national and global opportunities for people of all ages to serve God by serving others.

seek

serve



imagine...



For more information on the Imagine Campaign, go to  
[stpaulslenexa.org/home/imagine](http://stpaulslenexa.org/home/imagine)

### **imagine team**

Campaign Co-Chairs	Don & Pat White, Angie Myers & David Yu
Advance Commitments	Dave & Sue Platt and Art & Cindy Neely
Celebration	Sarah Feyerherm and Rhonda Rudicel
Children Team	Carol & Tracy Dawson
Communications	Barb Hardwick
Coordinators	Shari Breckenridge and Judy Christiansen
Follow Through	Brian & Ronda Anderson and Paul & Diane Ginther
Gratitude & Ministry	Claudia Mayorga and Brad & Mary Footh
Prayer Team	Larry Michael and Gordon Zoesch
Youth Team	Sonder & Todd Crane

Special thanks to St. Paul's Sunday School  
for providing the inspirational artwork.

