

## **BRIEF UPDATE ON THE PATH FORWARD**

As you are aware, the path forward into a faithful future for us seems to be merging with Govans Presbyterian Church. The leadership of this church recognizes that many of you have questions about some of the merger plans and has tried to answer those questions as completely as possible. However, some of the specifics about the merger are decisions that can only be made at a later date in the process.

We have distributed to our active membership, to our weekly email recipients and to those on the newsletter mailing list a set of merger FAQs. At the present time that FAQ sheet is being updated with additional information which will hopefully answer more of your questions. All persons on the active membership roll will receive a copy of the updated FAQ sheet in the mail sometime after the Session receives the final draft of the Plan of Union on September 17. At the same time, persons on the active membership roll of the church should expect to receive a copy of the final draft of the Plan of Union, which will be the Plan presented to the congregation for approval on October 1.

Several folks have asked questions about Govans' finances. You may review a copy of Govans' most recent Annual Report, which will be on the table in the Narthex on Sunday mornings between now and October 1.

We have identified a location on Govans' property for our Prayer Garden statue as well as a location for a columbarium. While most of the decisions about what furniture will go with us to Govans has not yet been made, and cannot yet be made, included among the items we expect to take are our sanctuary piano (to be moved to the sanctuary at Govans), the piano in our Choir Room, our communion ware, and our paraments. This list will grow, however, as we continue to explore what the merged church will need in order to fulfill its mission and to enhance its ministry.

Baltimore Presbytery has recently formed an Administrative Commission which is a necessary part of the merger process.

The timetable for the merger process has not been altered. We expect that both congregations will have Congregational Meetings on October 1 to approve the Plan of Union. Only persons on the active membership roll of the church will be able to speak and vote in this meeting. At the September Baltimore Presbytery Gathering, there will be a presentation about the merger and the draft Plan of Union will be distributed to presbyters for a "first reading." We anticipate that Baltimore Presbytery will vote on the Plan in November. The effective date of the merger would be December 3, which will be the first Sunday that the merged church worships together. As of December 4, all church operations will be located in the Govans facility, except for our Weekday School which will finish out the school year in the North Charles Street property.

*Please see flyer on reverse side*