



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO

The Rev. Dr. ARVID STRAUBE, Lead Minister ♦ The Rev. KATHLEEN OWENS, Associate Minister
ELIZABETH M. JONES, Dir. of Religious Education ♦ KENNETH HERMAN, Dir. of Music ♦ THELEST STEWART, Church Administrator

November 26, 2007

Dear Members & Friends,

"In the 1950s the members of First Church took a big risk in order to buy our beloved church site and build on that site. They believed in the future, dug deep in their pockets and incurred a challenging mortgage so that they and future generations would have a place to worship, learn and fellowship together. Their vision became a reality that has served us for more than two generations.

"Now it is our turn. The facilities they built are aging and can no longer meet the needs of our growing programs — programs that they would be proud of. Now we are being asked to build for the generations to come."

--Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube, Lead Minister

For more than a year, the Campus Renovation Team has been studying various options designed to improve Bard Hall and the campus as a whole. After discussion with the ministers, the staff, and many members of the congregation, and after consultation with architects, engineers, city authorities, bankers, and others, the Campus Renovation Team has recommended that the existing Bard Hall be replaced with a two-story building on the same footprint. The plans include modernized kitchen and bathrooms, more meeting space, handicapped access, and a number of "green" improvements. They also include some needed enhancements to the patio and parking lot, as required by city code.

Our preliminary estimate for the cost of this project is \$4,800,000. If the Congregation elects to lend its enthusiastic support, we believe that a Capital Campaign could raise between \$3,500,000 and \$3,750,000 of this amount. The difference would likely be financed through long-term borrowing secured with our parking lot. The ministers and the Church Board have reviewed the effects that a Capital Campaign would have on Church program life, and enthusiastically endorse the idea. The Campaign would be a stretch for everyone. It's a leap of faith, and the ministers and Board believe that now is the time if this Congregation is to thrive and flourish in the future.

On Sunday, December 9, there will be a Special Congregational Meeting so that we can vote on whether to proceed with the construction of a new Bard Hall and with the fundraising effort that will be necessary to pay for the work. To prepare for the vote, there will be informational meetings after each service on Sunday, December 2. Members of the Campus Renovation Team will talk about the work they've done with an architectural firm to develop a visionary plan that will provide a "family room" for our congregation for generations to come. At the meetings on December 2, you will have a chance to ask questions, express your thoughts, and say whether this is the direction you'd like the church to take.

Please be sure to attend the information meetings after each service on December 2, and be present on December 9 for this important Congregational vote. Absentee ballots will be available the week before the vote for those members unable to attend in person.

Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube

Jan Gallo, President

John Holl

Kay Chandler

Everett Howe