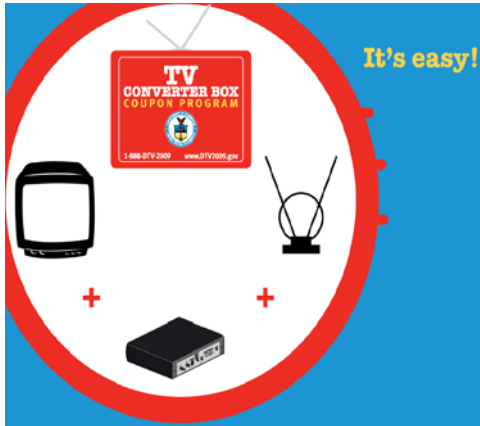




## Help Us Keep Our Seniors "Connected" to Their World!



Dear St Paul's Family and Friends,

As you may know, the FCC has mandated that all television broadcasters be converted to a digital signal by February 2009. The majority of viewers in our city have cable or satellite service and will not be affected. However, there are many, many of our senior citizens who still use analog televisions and antennas, and may not be aware of the FCC mandate and what it means to them.

Of particular interest to us are the seniors in the Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston program. These seniors are homebound and isolated and are at greatest risk of misunderstanding the information or not being aware of it at all. In addition, for these homebound, television is their primary and sometimes sole connection to the community, news and information. Losing this connection could have significant impact to their awareness of the world around them.

IM and a consortium of community organizations have come together to identify the seniors who will need the signal conversion box so that their current televisions will work properly after the conversion, ensuring that they will continue to be connected to this community. **We are joining twenty-five other congregations, across the faith spectrum, to address this need.**

To that end, I am requesting that members of our community assist by [registering online for the Federal DTV coupon program](#). Each of us can apply for two certificates, free of charge. Please do this immediately. When you receive your certificates, please bring them to St. Paul's and put them in the **DTV Box** that will be located at the entrance by our Receptionist's office. This is a time-bound project - the coupons have expiration dates so it is very important that you apply TODAY for your certificates, and then bring them to the church as soon as you receive them.

The goal of this collaborative project is to collect as many as 4,000 coupons. HEB has agreed to accept the coupons in trade, which means that there will be no cost to the seniors or any organization. Once the coupons have been collected, volunteers will install the conversion boxes in the senior's homes. Please apply online at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov), or call 1-888-DTV-2009, or [download an application](#) and fax it to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 or mail it to P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208. If you are interested in bringing the boxes to senior's homes and installing them - you can [register online with Volunteer Houston](#), who is coordinating this effort, by clicking on their [Digital TV Senior Initiative](#) link.

With your help, I know we can provide a valuable service and keep our seniors connected to their world.

Peace and grace,  
Jim

**Dr. L. James "Jim" Bankston**  
Senior Minister  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church



The average Meals on Wheels recipient is a female, over the age of 80 that lives alone.



Seniors in the Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston program are homebound and suffer chronic loneliness.



Many seniors depend on their televisions to keep them connected to the world.