

**St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church**

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*A Reconciling  
Congregation  
where all are  
invited to share  
the Basics of  
God's love with  
the world*

# St. Paul's Letter

**Ordinary Life**

June 2010

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but when I was growing up I never knew about Pentecost or its place in the church year. I do love Advent when, in the long dark nights of winter, we wait for the Light to be born again. And Epiphany is always special to me, as I see it as a season to really look for that Light in the world around me. And of course Lent has its way with us...forcing us inward, to reflect and redirect our steps. And the Church is nothing without Easter...that glorious triumphant Hallelujah of Good News! But it is the season of Pentecost and, surprisingly, what the church now calls "Ordinary Time," that intrigues me today. I love the day of Pentecost, when we celebrate Diversity and the Power of the Unifying Spirit that is shed abroad in the world. And I love the fact that the rest of the days until Advent are named *ordinary* because that's precisely where most of us live...in ordinary moments of washing the dishes, paying the bills, chauffeuring the kids around, searching for a job, caring for an elderly parent, surviving a death, enduring an illness. That is what is most real and most difficult for most of us, and the church says that these *ordinary* days are precisely where *God's Presence and Power* is to be found. The only catch is that we have to believe this is true...we have to have "eyes to see and ears to hear," as the scriptures say.

Esther DeWald, a favorite spiritual writer of mine, wrote about this ability to see the extraordinary in the ordinary in *Weavings*. She writes:

"Celtic spirituality was a practice in which ordinary people in their daily lives took the tasks that lay to hand but treated them sacramentally, as pointing to a greater reality which lay beyond them.

Ironically, when travel and the media have blown all horizons wide open, our own inner horizons seem to have become narrower and our vision contracted. How can we find again the seeing eye and the feeling touch? Essentially this is a spirituality which asks of us a return to greater awareness...What the Celtic understanding brings us is the chance to break down the barrier between the active and the contemplative life and instead to make the busy, boring, relentless daily life tasks the basis for continuous praying and for finding the presence of God...

Perhaps the first step is that we really should want to unearth God in our midst... Yet, if we can rediscover this vision, then we too may be able to transform what lies to hand, let the mundane become the edge of glory, and find the extraordinary in the ordinary."

**Continued on p. 3**

*Lectionary Readings for June:***June 6, 2010**

1 Kings 17:8-24  
Psalm 146  
Galatians 1:11-24  
Luke 7:11-17

**June 13, 2010**

1 Kings 21:1-21a  
Psalm 5:1-8  
Galatians 2:15-21  
Luke 7:36, 8:3

**June 20, 2010**

1 Kings 19:1-15a  
Psalm 42  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

**June 27, 2010**

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62



**June**

*Child Care*

**Sunday, 9:30 AM**

*Durham Class*

**Sunday, 9:30 AM**

*Adult Fellowship Class*

**Sunday, 9:30 AM**

*Worship Services*

**Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM**

*Church Office Hours*

**Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM—4:00PM**

*Eunice Tabor*

**Tuesday, 9:30 AM—11:30 AM**

**Note: Margie is off on Thursdays  
Jacqueline is off on Fridays**

*St. Paul's Letter***St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

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Andi Merrill

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*Custodian*  
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All The People

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## Extraordinary Life (continued from p.1)

So, I ask you...are you living an extraordinary life? Not extraordinary because of where you go or what you do but more about who you choose to be while doing the ordinary. Try praying with each dish you wash or bill you pay. Try finding five reasons to be grateful on a cold rainy day. Try seeing what other gifts there are in having to be patient when caring for a loved one. Try leaning on God for support when you feel you just can't take another step. Try staying with worship through the summer as a centering point for the week. Try making God a constant, inward conversational partner throughout the day. Try celebrating this season of Pentecost and Ordinary Time with me, and let's discover how extraordinarily full life can be when lived in the power and presence of God's Spirit!

Summer Blessings to All,

Margie

### A New Summer Service Schedule!

Beginning June 20th and ending September 5th, our worship hour will begin at **9:30 AM**. We will be combining our early and later worship services to worship together over the summer. This was approved by Church Council at their May meeting. Our hope is that this will provide an opportunity for folks from both services to get to know each other. It will also provide a "cooler" time in which to worship, and it will give us an opportunity to provide some occasional programming following the service while still allowing the remainder of the day for summertime activities!

### Worship Schedule for June

- June 6**  
**Leadership Sunday** You won't want to miss the Leadership Team offering a song to celebrate all those who have served in the life of the church during the past year as we recognize our leaders. In addition, a State of the Church address will be presented. As this is the first Sunday of the month, Communion will also be offered.
- June 13**  
**Children's Recognition** We want to honor the Children's Ministries and will do so by recognizing our Acolytes and all those Teachers, Leaders, and Guides who have given so much time to our Faith Explorers Program and Children's Music ministries.
- June 20 — Summer Service Hours Begin — Our own Rev. Robert McCune will be preaching!**
- June 27**  
**Earth Day Celebration**  
**Paperless Sunday** The Worship Committee will be leading a very special visual/audio service celebrating Earth Day. Following the service the Stewardship Committee will be offering opportunities for folks to gather around a light lunch for "faith-based" conversations centered on how our faith informs our caring for our environment. See p. 4 of this letter for more information.

## SPUMC Person of the Month — Beth Mudge

There are hundreds of young people in Ithaca and beyond who remember Beth Mudge as part of the beginning of their school careers. She has taught and directed the St. Paul's Nursery School for twenty years.

The St. Paul's Nursery School was born in 1956 under the direction of Virginia Ainslie as a ministry and outreach of the Christian Education committee of the church. Beth joined the staff in 1990 as a teacher and director taking over from Sue Gutelius. Since then she has seen the school become an established feature in the downtown Ithaca educational community. There is never a problem filling the 34 places available each fall. With the other three teachers, Beth provides nurturing activities for 2-4 year olds every weekday morning. During her tenure as director, Beth has enjoyed seeing "her kids" grow, and has especially been proud of seeing some of them in church on Sunday mornings, in the children's choir and being confirmed as members.

Beth and her husband, Ken, moved to Ithaca from Pullman, Washington in 1980. Their sons, Zach and Drew, were born in Ithaca and the family began attending St. Paul's and soon became active members. Beth has served on most of the committees of the church at one time or another, currently finishing a term on the Spirited Connections Team and joining the new Church and Community Connections Team, as well as continuing with the WIM small group, teaching Faith Explorers, providing baby roses and walking with Women Walking Waterfalls. Outside of church, she enjoys camping, hiking, gardening, and reading.

In mid-June Beth will be stepping down as director of the Nursery School, but she plans to continue as a teacher, passing on the administrative tasks to Erik Shanton. All of us at St. Paul's are very happy that Beth will still be teaching some of the youngest members of our community about taking turns, and holding hands, and caring about each other. Thank you, Beth!

**Thanks Beth!**



The Worship Committee is planning a special Earth Day celebration on Sunday, June 27th. We invite members of the congregation to submit digital images of the power and beauty of God's creation, the Earth. The most effective images will be high resolution (300 dpi) and sized at 1024 x 720 pixels. Please send images to Pam Gillow ([pamgillow@yahoo.com](mailto:pamgillow@yahoo.com)) as soon as possible, and no later than June 12th.

**For the Beauty of the Earth**

**Sunday, June 27th**

**Faith and the Environment**

**Sunday, June 27th**

**Dining Room — After Worship**

*The Stewardship Team invites you to join us for spirited, intentional conversation about Faith and the Environment.*

This is the first of several conversations planned for the coming year on **Faith and Life**—addressing our relationships as Christians with the environment, with our money, our time, our health, and our future.

We will meet after the Earth Day celebration in worship for about an hour to consider questions about how we, as Christians, are called to be faithful stewards of the Earth. **A light lunch will be served.**



Beginning June 20, through August 20, the church office will be staffed between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. We will respond promptly the following morning to messages left on our voice mail after 1:00 p.m. or sent via e-mail to [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org). In an emergency, please call the parsonage, 256-8587.

### Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard

The Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard is grateful for donations from St. Paul's totaling \$338. The efforts are appreciated by both Cupboard volunteers and hungry people in Ithaca.



### Bequest Gifts

With gratitude we recognize two gifts that we received in May. **Bob Fiske** was a long time member of St. Paul's and faithful Trustee, and he designated a portion of his estate to benefit St. Paul's. **Ann Schaff** began her association with St. Paul's late in life when she retired at Kendal. She was a life-long Methodist whose love for the church led her to name St. Paul's, UMCOR, and other Methodist causes in her will. We give thanks for these two individuals who were forward thinking in how they managed the "talents" that God had given them!

### 2009 End-of-Year Finance Update



2009 was quite a financial roller coaster for our church. As you probably remember, we checked in with the congregation quite often in terms of where we were with pledges. At the end of the year we caught up significantly, but were still short by about \$9,000. However, due to a very generous end-of-the-year donation, as well as holding back on spending in most program areas and buildings and properties, we ultimately ended the year with a surplus of \$18,500.

The Finance Committee and Church Council have given considerable thought to our management of this surplus, as well as the surplus of \$11,500 from 2006, which was committed to use for growth and invitational ministries. The following uses were approved at the May 18 Church Council meeting:

1. \$3,000, a tithe on the total surplus, will be made toward missions.
2. \$8,500, the balance from 2006, will go toward the new boiler (heat being very invitational).
3. \$1,500 from 2009 will go toward the new boiler, for a total of \$10,000 toward the boiler.
4. \$5,000 from 2009 will go toward the restroom renovation project.
5. \$12,500 will be placed in a general contingency fund, providing some flexibility to manage an un-planned shortfall or other, unexpected expense that must be met.

Thanks to all of you for making it possible to make these choices to take care of our infrastructure and support our missions.

## St. Paul's Financial Report Summary — January—March, 2010

	Mar '10 YTD Actual	Mar '10 YTD Budget	Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
Pledges	\$ 104,587	\$ 104,989	\$ (402)
Don/Plate/Other	\$ 20,681	\$ 8,000	\$ 12,681
Space Rental	\$ 1,460	\$ 3,000	\$ (1,540)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 126,728</b>	<b>\$ 115,989</b>	<b>\$ 10,739</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Administration	\$ 4,225	\$ 4,840	\$ (615)
Conf. Payments*	\$ 19,463	\$ 19,525	\$ (62)
Buildings/Property	\$ 13,863	\$ 19,900	\$ (6,037)
Program	\$ 1,223	\$ 5,076	\$ (3,853)
Personnel	\$ 71,643	\$ 70,588	\$ 1,055
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 110,417</b>	<b>\$ 119,929</b>	<b>\$ (9,512)</b>
<b>GAIN/LOSS**</b>	<b>\$ 16,311</b>	<b>\$ (3,940)</b>	

\*Conference payments are at 100% of our expected contribution. We have worked over a number of years toward this goal, finally accomplishing our objective in 2010.


\*\*We had a bottom line gain of \$16,311 for the first quarter. A couple one-time gifts contributed significantly to this gain. In addition, we are doing very well meeting our budgeted pledges to date. In the month of April we still had a bottom line gain, but somewhat less, at \$10,462. We continued to meet our pledges in April.

### QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK?

Jacqueline Bonner in the office at 273-5971/[jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org)

Lynn Martin (Finance Team Chair) at 591-3022/[lmartin45p@hotmail.com](mailto:lmartin45p@hotmail.com)

Dick Tenney (Financial Secretary) at 277-6510/[rwt1@cornell.edu](mailto:rwt1@cornell.edu).




### ~Sweet, Sweet Summer~

*Let's maintain the pledge momentum we have achieved through April!*

You can help St. Paul's get ahead of the summer slow-down in one of two ways:

- Pay your July and August pledge in advance, or
- Sign up for ACH, the monthly automatic payment.



**Act before June 30**, and you will receive a **sweet summertime gift** as a **“thank you.”**

Stop by the office or mail us your July/August offering before June 30 to receive this special treat. Submit a completed ACH automatic transfer form (contact Dick Tenney or the office for information) by June 30, and receive *\*two\** of these surprise gifts guaranteed to sweeten your summer.

**St. Paul's Connections**

**The NEW Directories**

**will be ready for you**

**to take home any day now**

**Watch the bulletin for details!**



**Suggested \$5 donation**

**Older Adult Luncheon**

**Tuesday, June 15**

**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**The Ramada Inn**

**On Triphammer Road**



Menu: Sirloin Tips with Mushrooms, honey-glazed carrots, green beans almandine, tossed salad, New York style cheesecake and beverages, \$10

Come and share your favorite childhood summertime and camping memories with us!

**2010 Conference School of Christian Mission**

**ATTENTION: Women, Men, and Children**

- The 2010 Conference School of Christian Mission is being held July 16-18 in Utica, NY. The theme is FAITH – HOPE – LOVE IN ACTION.
- There are three studies to choose from: “For the Love of God: John’s Letters,” “Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity,” and “The Beauty and Courage of Sudan.” There is also a program for youth grades 6-12 and children grades 1-5.
- Childcare is provided for children 6 months through 5 years. Youth and children are **free** when accompanied by an adult!
- Scholarships are available through the Conference United Methodist Women. For more information, pick up a brochure and registration form from the table in the narthex.

## Loving Care Ministries

**Visitation** is one of the vital parts of **Loving Care Ministries**. We have between 25 and 30 persons who could benefit from a visit from the church. We are currently seeking more visitors. Some of you might have an interest in visitation but have wondered what it involves. So here are some answers to the most FAQ's...

1. What is visitation and who are visited?

Visitation is all about **CONNECTION**. It is making a friendly visit to someone from our church who is unable, for a variety of reasons to attend church regularly. Through visitation, we bring the church connection to those in the hospital, retirement, and nursing homes and in private homes.

2. Who visits?

Members of our Visitation Team visit after participating in a session of training. The Pastor and Loving Care Ministries Coordinator also visit. We have a lay team of seven who are currently visiting.

3. How often do they visit?

There is a wide variety in the amount of visiting done by each visitor. Some visit once a month when they take Holy Communion to persons who have asked to receive. Others visit more often, especially if there is a special need. Some visit less frequently depending on their own schedule and the needs of the person(s) they visit. Sometimes a phone call makes the connection in between visits.

4. What happens during a visit?

Conversation is the most important part of the visit, especially listening and responding with care and concern. We also provide information about what is going on at church, and try to identify any special needs where we might be of help. If the person is agreeable, the visits usually conclude with a prayer.

5. How long are the visits?

The time varies with the individual circumstances. Visits can be as short as five minutes in the hospital setting to as long as an hour in homes. Twenty to thirty minutes is usually adequate. We try to be sensitive to each situation and detect when the person is tiring.

6. Why become a visitor?

When we come to those who are unable to attend church and show how much the church still cares for them, we witness to the love of Christ and share in that joy. Visiting helps us realize how important our church connection is and how much we can learn from those we visit. Most of our visitors will tell you how much more they receive from visiting than they give.

7. How can I become a visitor?

The first step is to contact the Loving Care Coordinator, Eunice Tabor at the church or by email. ([etabor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:etabor@stpaulsithaca.org)) She can set up a time to meet and discuss your interest and a time for the training session.

If you have a "heart" for this ministry, but aren't sure how it could work for you contact Eunice. With God's help, we will work it out!

## A Very Special Thank You...

Two of our faithful Visitation Volunteers for Loving Care Ministries are going off our team. Julie Weeks has been a visitor for the last three years and has been a part of our card ministry. Although Julie will stay with the card ministry, she has chosen to take a break from visitation. We appreciate her loving care and concern for all our people, and I know they will miss her.

Ruth Lovelace has been a part of lay visitation for many years, even before it became Loving Care Ministries. She has decided that it's time for a change, and we know that she will be truly missed by all who have been blessed by her loving presence with them. We appreciate her dedication to this ministry and her concern for our seniors.

When you see Julie and Ruth, say "thank you" for sharing our love and care with our St. Paulians by visiting. They have truly been a blessing!



## Adult Spiritual Growth



**Sunday Mornings, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

**and**

**Wednesday Evenings 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.**

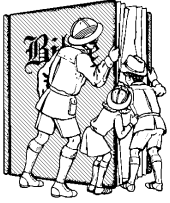
The Adult Spiritual Growth Team continues to offer the opportunity to experience an old (dating back to the 3rd century!) **Christian spiritual practice**. Lectio Divina, Latin for Divine Reading, spiritual reading or holy reading, is a **traditional practice of prayer and scriptural reading** intended to promote communion with God. Lectio helps us listen attentively to God, and encourages us to respond to what we hear. As we enter into Lectio, we are not attempting to quiet our minds, but rather to **listen with the "ear of our hearts."**

Sessions include a brief introduction to Lectio, followed by several readings of a selected scripture passage, silence to meditate on the reading, and opportunity to reflect briefly on the passage with the group. In opening our hearts to the Word, we invite God's transforming presence into our lives.

Each week there will be 2 opportunities offered to experience Lectio together with your sisters and brothers at St. Paul's. The **Sunday morning class** meets from **9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**, and the **Wednesday evening class** meets from **6:45 - 7:45 p.m.**, in the Durham Room.

Led by members of the Adult Spiritual Growth Team, the Sunday and Wednesday sessions are similarly structured, and you are invited to participate in either or both. **Sessions will continue through mid-June—come to as many as you are able!**

# Children's Ministries



## FAITH EXPLORERS (K-6th grades)

The **Faith Explorers** are wrapping up another year of lessons. This year we've studied Creation, Jonah, Christmas, the Prodigal Son, Daniel, Pentecost, and completed a service project for Habitat for Humanity.

It took 60 volunteers to teach, guide, develop lessons, substitute, and set up props and supplies. Thank you to the wonderful team that worked so hard to make the lessons memorable and fun for the children.

On June 6th, we will be having our 4th annual Faith Explorers phone-a-thon to sign up volunteers for the 2010-2011 year. Between 6-8 p.m., a team of experienced teachers and guides will call to ask you to consider being a part of the Children's Ministries Team. We have roles large or small, weekend or during the week, hands-on or behind the scenes.

**Backyard Bible Club will start on June 20th for children entering grades 1-6.**

## Faith Discovery Groups

Thank you to Steve Johnson for teaching this final unit of Faith Discovery Group. The children will finish with their lessons on June 13th.

Thank you also to the 13 teachers who helped with the Faith Discovery Group program. The children had a great time learning new songs, playing games, doing crafts, and building friendships. Some weeks we had as many as 17 children (2-5 years old)!

While there is no formal Faith Discovery Program during the summer months, there will be childcare available for the children in the preschool room.



## Summer Camp



There are still spaces left for most sessions at Camp Casowasco. As the school year comes to a close and you start to firm up summer plans, consider a week of camp to round out your summer fun! Check out [www.casowasco.org](http://www.casowasco.org) for more information or pick up a brochure at church.

## Children's/Youth Music

The year in **Children's/Youth Music** at St. Paul's is coming to a close June 13th. We will have rehearsals June 6th and 13th with a performance in the service on the 13th. It has been an incredible first year for us with great participation and amazing music making. Thank you for your support- We look forward to the year to come!

Beverly Stokes and Lydia Dolch, Co-Directors

**June 13th**

**Acolyte Recognition**

**Sunday**

All Acolytes are welcome to process this day and join us for a special ceremony during the service.

## Summer Hours — Childcare

Summer hours for childcare (9:15-11 a.m.) will begin on June 20th. The nursery will be open for children under 2 while children ages 2-5 will be in the preschool room.

## Youth Ministries

It is hard to believe that our year is drawing to an end. This year has been such a special one as we had 13 youth confirmed on May 2nd during a special Youth Sunday Worship Service. As I sat back and listened to the words of the youth, I was in awe of their spiritual way of connecting to each member of the congregation through their prayers, their songs, and their special messages. Sometimes, as adults, we need to be reminded that even though we may not think these teenagers are listening to us as we talk, and sometimes lecture them, they indeed are listening and their hearts are open, and they have indeed welcomed Christ into their lives. I encourage you all to take time to read their blurbs in the special insert. They all are doing some really amazing things, and are truly a great bunch of young people, and I am honored to be working with them.

I also wish to thank Rev. Margie Mayson, Drew Tennant, and Amie Patchen for their incredible role in guiding these youth through their confirmation classes. All their time, effort and dedication to these youth really shined through during the service. In addition we had some guest speakers that visited the confirmation class and shared their knowledge and their own spiritual stories. Thanks to Karen Kaufmann, Kevin Miller, and Dick Tenney!

Middle School Youth have also grown in their own spiritual path. Their favorite memory of this past year—which comes up often in conversation with them—is the overnight when we pitched tents in the Dining Room, and learned that indeed, “God digs tents.” Most recently, they had the opportunity to go for a hike at Tremen State Park in honor of Earth Day. On our way back down the hill, the youth were challenged to remain silent, walk single file, to empty their minds, and just be at peace with the woods taking the time to reflect on our world, and their lives. Sometimes in life, we need to “stop and smell the roses.” The youth were reminded that they too, within their busy lives, must remember to take time and listen, to reflect on what is happening in their lives, and think about how they are connecting with others, with themselves, and with God.



Peace,

Ruth “Rue” Keagle  
Youth Ministries Coordinator

**St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church**

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**Please pray for these members of our church family:**

Virginia Ainslie; Linda Barber and Family; Bradley/Cunningham Family; Don Cameron; Tina Champion; Roy and Alma Coats; Jeanne Corbit; Dockstader Family; Dora Fratelli; Kay Friedlander; Melissa Gould; Bruce and Elinor John; Betty Matheney; Frank Mazurek; Jane Mazurek; Lucille McBean; Connie McDowell; Teresa Motz; Ocello Family; Doug Payne; Ellie Phillips-Burdge; Ruth Shannon; LaVerne Snyder; Ben Richards; Elaine Weiss; Andrea Zheng

**Please pray for these members of our extended church family:**

Cindy Abbey (friend of Heather Williams); Alex Arnold (nephew of Ellie Phillips-Burdge); Matthew Boardman (son of Mary Boardman); Janet Cole (friend of Eleen Weatherholt); Colin Diehm (father of Julie Weeks); Ted Gull (brother of George Gull); Alan and Laurie Hahn (friends of Nancy Potter); Jim and Elaine King (friends of Suzanne Palmer); Sue Lajza (sister of Elaine Weiss); Arlene Preston (mother of George Preston); Motz Family; Maria Isabel Garcia (Ellie Phillips-Burdge's great niece); Maryterese Pasquale (friend of Nancy Potter); Sallie Pure's brother John; Emily Reynolds (friend of Mary Lou Slattery); George Smits (Ruth Keagle's father); Stephen Taylor (nephew of Bill Sammis); Bobby Tompkins (Ruth

Keagle's cousin); Ruth Tompkins (aunt of Sylvia Bailey); Marie Stoltzfus (mother of Becky Stoltzfus); Susan Welch (daughter of Pauline Cameron); and Jennifer Young (daughter of Mary Boardman)

To add a name to the Prayer List, call the church office at 273-5971.

**Deaths**

Our prayers and sympathies are with the family and friends of Gladys Alexander, who passed away on March 17, 2010 in Illinois; with the family and friends of Mary Thomas, who passed away on May 17, 2010; and with the family and friends of Kim Coats who passed away on May 19, 2010.

**Baptisms**

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on May 16th were Jacob Merrill (5 yrs.), Parker Benjamin Merrill (11 mos.), sons of Andrea and Paul Merrill, and Ruby Yantorno (6 mos.), daughter of Lindsay France and Sofia Yantorno.

*"Bear one another's burdens...." Galatians 6:2*