

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

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*We welcome St. Paul's Newest
Members...*

February 2011

Legacies We Leave Behind

Dear Friends,

From time to time I have heard comments that the church is becoming preoccupied with money. Especially as we contemplate whether or not we need a capital campaign (read elsewhere in this newsletter for more news about this), I know this sentiment will arise again.

That is why I wanted to share with you a couple of articles that have spoken to me. The first comes from a CPA, Brandon Pope. His article was published in the *Dallas Business Journal* and was sent to me by a friend. He wrote:

"I'm a financial guy, but I'm learning that there are elements to our balance sheets that have nothing to do with money. The more you spend, the more you think you need. The less you give, the more you think you need and want."

The article details how his life was changed by a mission trip to Mexico, and how he now helps clients focus not just on making money, but on the *"legacies they will leave behind."*

The other article is one I clipped from another United Methodist Church in Whittier, California. It addresses this issue in a straightforward, faithful and loving way.

I'M GLAD THIS CHURCH NEEDS MONEY!

If it didn't, it would mean it wasn't supporting missions and sharing good news.

I'M GLAD THIS CHURCH NEEDS MONEY!

If it didn't, it would mean it wasn't doing anything to provide wholesome and meaningful activities for our youth.

I'M GLAD THIS CHURCH NEEDS MONEY!

If it didn't, it would mean it wasn't interested in educating our children in their impressionable, formative years.

I'M GLAD THIS CHURCH NEEDS MONEY!

If it didn't, it would mean that it doesn't care about keeping in touch with our homebound or visiting the sick and helping someone in need.

I'M GLAD THIS CHURCH NEEDS MONEY!

The fact that it does means it has not forfeited its enthusiasm, compassion, vision, or concern for our future.

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

Continued on page 3

*Lectionary Readings for February:***February 2, 2011**

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

February 6, 2011

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-10
I Corinthians 2:1-12
(13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

February 13, 2011

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
I Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 20, 2011

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
I Corinthians 3:10-11,
16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

February 27, 2011

Isaiah 49:8-16a
Psalm 131 or Psalm
62:5-12
I Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34

*Child Care***Sunday, 9:15 am***Durham Class***Sunday, 9:30 am***Adult Fellowship Class***Sunday, 9:15 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 Fridays
Jacqueline is off on Fridays**

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

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E-Mail: info@stpaulsithaca.org<http://www.stpaulsithaca.org>*Senior Pastor*

Margie Mayson

Assistant Organist &

Rehearsal Accompanist
Andi Merrill

Director of Church Ministries

Jacqueline F. Bonner

Chancel Choir Director

Jayne Demakos

*Administrative Ministries**Coordinators*

Kevin Miller & Sarah Crossgrove

Bell Choir Director

Dorothy Preston

*Loving Care Ministries**Coordinator*

Eunice Tabor

*Children's & Youth**Choir Directors*

Lydia Dolch &
Beverly Stokes

Children's Ministries Coordinator

Laura Dolch

Childcare Coordinator

Laura Dolch

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Ruth Keagle

Custodian

Suzanne Orzel

Pastor Emeritus

Robert J. McCune

Bookkeeper

Maureen Anguish

Music Director & Organist

John W. White

Ministers

All The People

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Legacies We Leave Behind — continued from p. 1

The qualities of enthusiasm, compassion, vision, expansion and concern for our future are marks of a living, growing church. What price tag could be placed on such qualities? As we have been faithful in our giving even during these difficult economic times (and you can read more about that elsewhere in this newsletter), we have claimed that we care about each other, about what we are doing in the community, as well as in the world at large. And what price tag could be placed on that?

This is an exciting time to be a part of St. Paul's as we prepare to move into the future with a Vision/Discernment Team, as we study the possibility of a Capital Campaign, as we continue to explore what it means to Open Ourselves to God. I am grateful to all who so generously and faithfully find hope and meaning here, and who contribute to make sure that the same will be true for generations to come.

I'M GLAD TO BE A PART OF THIS GREAT CHURCH!

Margie

13th Reconciling Anniversary Celebration — February 6th



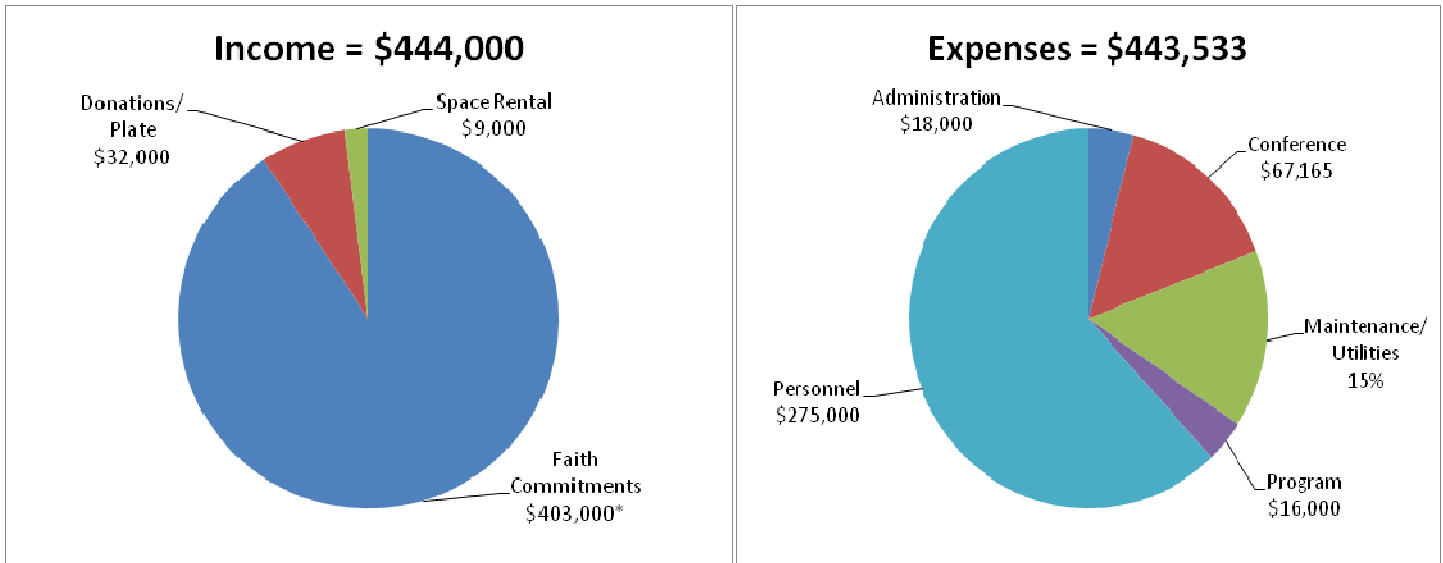
St. Paul's will celebrate the 13th Reconciling Anniversary on February 6th. For those who may be new to the St. Paul's family, in February 1998 the church voted to be a Reconciling (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual inclusive) congregation. This has meant that all people have been included in worship and the life of our church.

It has been the understanding of most of us at St. Paul's UMC that all people are included, and this understanding is true. In 1998, when the Reconciling statement was voted on, it was brought to the congregation as an inclusion of LGB. While all people are welcome at St. Paul's, the Reconciling Team, as well as others in our congregation, would like the statement to accurately reflect the correct inclusion of our congregation and become **LGBT** inclusive.

It is our understanding that to be correctly inclusive we must have a better comprehension of the Transgender subject and to do that we hope to have a series of teachings from a Transgender Curriculum Sunday mornings in the spring. Our goal is to have All people feel welcome pursuing a relationship with Christ in the midst of our congregation.

Be sure to watch the bulletin for details regarding the celebration. **If you bought rainbow stoles at our 10th year anniversary, pull them out of storage and wear them proudly on February 6th.**

Finance/Stewardship 2011 Budget (Approved January, 2011)



*174 Faith Commitments totaling \$409,000, less \$6,000 in pledge loss.

2010-2011 Budget Comparison

2010 Budget		2011 Budget	
Income		Income	
Pledges	417,764	Pledges	409,000
Pledge loss	(4,000)	Pledge loss	(6,000)
Donations/Plate	32,000	Donations/Plate	32,000
Space Rental	<u>12,000</u>	Space Rental	<u>9,000</u>
Total	457,764	Total	444,000
Expenses		Expenses	
Administration	19,000	Administration	18,000
Conference	78,101	Conference	67,165
Maintenance/Utilities	79,400	Maintenance/Utilities	67,368
Program	20,000	Program	16,000
Personnel	<u>283,000</u>	Personnel	<u>275,000</u>
Total	479,501	Total	443,533

On Tuesday, January 18th, Church Council approved a **balanced budget for 2011** (see left).

We were able to accomplish this through savings, both anticipated (from our energy-efficient boiler) and unexpected. The latter includes lower insurance on our building and our staff, and a one-time reduction of \$11,000 in payments to the Upper New York Annual Conference due to the reorganization of the conference. The reduction in the personnel budget does not reflect any cuts in staff or salaries. These savings allowed us to reach a balanced budget even though we received fewer Faith Commitments than we have in the past and even though we were shy of our original goal of \$430,000.

Even as the finances of St. Paul's remain strong, we are a growing and vital church, whose ministries depend on the commitment of all of our members. The Stewardship Committee is issuing a challenge for the coming year to **increase the number of Faith Commitments** to 200+ in 2011. We have had over 200 pledges each year for many years. If you have not made a Faith Commitment to St. Paul's yet, we ask you to consider doing so during the coming year. It is never too late to contribute to the growing and exciting programs at St. Paul's. Even if you already give but have not made a Faith Commitment, we challenge you to do so whether you are a new member, a non-member or a long-time member. **Your willingness to express your commitment to God and your church family is the most important step.** No amount is too small.

We also challenge you to **bring someone new to St. Paul's**. In order to continue to grow our ministries we must grow our population. New people mean new and exciting ideas and a more vibrant and alive community. God calls us to be witnesses to our faith and this means going out into our community, telling people of the wonderful things happening at St. Paul's and inviting them to an experience that can transform their relationship with God and others. By increasing the number of Faith Commitments and by inviting newcomers to St. Paul's, we will not only grow in our financial security but we will grow in our faith and service to the world.

We are grateful to you all for your faithfulness and generosity. We have ended 2010 on secure financial footing and are starting 2011 with a balanced budget. In these times of economic uncertainty this is a success that should be celebrated by all.

Thank you St. Paulians

Reaching Out to St. Paul's Alumni

The St. Paul's Stewardship Committee is launching a new initiative with endless possibilities for spiritual growth, renewed connections, and new support for the church.

The **St. Paul's Alumni Network (SPAN)** will include the countless people who have attended St. Paul's over the years. For many of them, St. Paul's has been an anchor during tough times, or a special place while they were raising their families, and they often have a profound loyalty and affection for St. Paul's.

Simultaneously, we remember them, and we care about them, for they are part of St. Paul's life and times.

A no-dues alumni e-network will keep them informed about major developments in their former church family, and also, on occasion, provide the opportunity to contribute to the church on special projects, annual appeals, or (in the worst-case scenarios) a fire or emergency situation.

If you have a friend or family member who attended St. Paul's and who might be interested in being an "alum," please send their name and e-mail to alumni@stpaulsithaca.org as soon as possible. We will reach out to these former St. Paulians, tell them about our plans, and ask if they'd like to receive an occasional electronic newsletter, which may include a details on current church challenges and opportunities.

Bathrooms & Beyond for the Body of Christ - UPDATE

A building renovation team has been meeting over the past two months to discern whether St. Paul's should undertake a capital campaign to raise funds for a significant restroom renovation and to accomplish some critical maintenance items that the Trustees have identified. Steps completed or in process include:

- Trustees contracted with Egnor Architectural Associates in 2008-09 to conduct a thorough inspection and report of building conditions—particularly roof areas, windows and exterior doors.
- Proposals were requested and received from three architectural firms for possible restroom renovation.
- Church Council has approved the temporary use of endowment funds to hire an architect for the restroom renovation. If the capital campaign is undertaken, the endowment funds will be replaced.
- Trustees are reviewing the proposals to choose one architect who will work with us on the design and cost estimates of the restroom renovation.
- A “case statement” is being prepared that provides details about the work to be done, why it needs to be done, and expected costs.
- A feasibility team is being formed to assess the congregation's readiness for a possible capital campaign and to gauge our ability to raise the necessary funds.

Members of the Building Renovation Team are excited about the proposed work and are ready to answer any questions you might have about the process. And we welcome your comments and advice. Members: David Bell*, Jim Eyster, Greg Hartz, Phyllis Highland, Kevin Miller, Frost Travis*, Heather Williams*, and Jane Zimmer* (Chair). *also a member of Trustees.

Special Thanks!

A **Special Thanks** goes out to those supporting our St. Paul's Casowasco Spring Retreat by attending dinner on January 22. We hope you had an excellent evening and will continue to support programs at St. Paul's.



Spiritual Direction Opportunity

Spiritual Direction is a contemplative process that focuses on the conscious development of one's relationship with God. A Spiritual Director helps a person to notice and respond to the already present, ongoing movements of God in his/her life. The process might include exploring prayer, listening for or noticing God's activity, discernment for decision-making, becoming aware of images of God that influence the person's connection to God and bringing wounds or life patterns to God for healing. If you are interested in more information about Spiritual Direction, please contact Jeff Shepardson at 607-592-2370.

Around the Church

St. Paulians in the News



This just in....The people of St. Paul's are doing wonderful things; at home, at work, in our community! A new bulletin board outside the Memorial Rooms now highlights your acts outside the church itself. If what you are doing is newsworthy, we want to know. Our staff regularly scours the *Ithaca Journal*, and we welcome other submissions from alumni newsletters, local papers, professional journals...anywhere. Stop, read, and get to know the individuals of St. Paul's just a little more.

The presence of God is truly with us as we go about our daily lives.

Faith and our Health
Sunday, February 27th
Dining Room — After Worship



We are reminded in I Corinthians 6:19 that we are called upon to be faithful stewards of our physical selves just as must care for our spiritual selves. It says, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own." Like all the abundance that God has blessed us with, our bodies come from God. What does it mean to take care of our bodies? Can we be faithful stewards of our bodies and our health, applying equal measures of discipline and compassion? What does it mean to us as individuals to view our bodies as God's temple?

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



The Stewardship Team invites you to join us for spirited, intentional conversation about Faith and our Health.



From Loving Care Ministries

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make Christmas brighter for our seniors and homebound. We appreciate all who have given the gift of poinsettias to beautify our worship services and special thanks go to all those who faithfully delivered the beautiful poinsettias to our seniors and homebound. These lovely plants will not only brighten their winter days but be a reminder of our love and care. Thank you for taking time out of a busy season to help with our caring ministry.

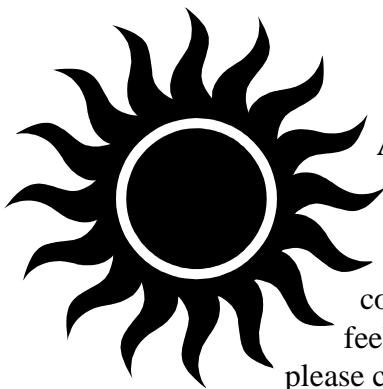
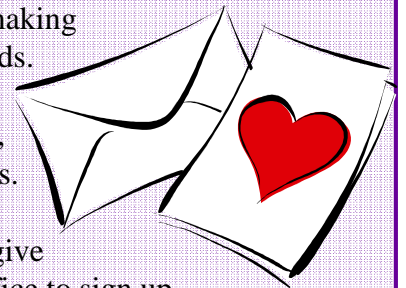
Valentine Card Making Workshop - January 29, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

For the past two years, Loving Care Ministries has sponsored a Valentine card making workshop where several creative persons enjoyed creating beautiful greeting cards.

If you weren't able to attend last year, another workshop will be offered on Saturday, January 29th 10:00 a.m. - Noon. We will mainly be using rubber stamps, but a variety of other materials will be available to make handmade, unique cards.

All the materials including paper, inks, and Valentine stamps will be provided.

You will be able to make as many cards as you'd like, but I am asking that you give at least one card to our Loving Care Card Ministry. You may call the church office to sign up ASAP or just come if it is too late to call. We are looking forward to encouraging your creative side and having fun. In case of weather problems, we will move the workshop to the following Saturday, February 5th.



Brighten Someone's Day!

As we begin this New Year and contemplate the long winter days, that may seem colorless and confining for many of our homebound, may we think about how we can bring some joy and color into their lives. Perhaps a phone call, a visit, or a lovely card can help to bring light and life to those who cannot get out to come and be with us. It will help them know that we do remember and care. If you feel God calling you to connect with these special persons through this ministry, please contact me. Thanks!

Rev. Eunice Tabor, Loving Care Coordinator

St. Paul's Connections

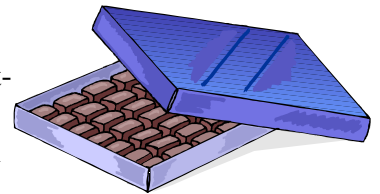
A Spicy Evening!



Winter weather calls for some hot (and spicy) food. Join us on **Friday, February 18th** at **6:00 p.m.**, for a meal of tortillas and burritos to start, and then board games and good company. We will provide the basics of corn and flour tortillas, yellow rice, spiced beans, shredded greens, and savory meat. **You can bring your favorite ingredients** in order to finish your tortilla or burrito: tomatoes, avocados, cheese, cilantro, hot sauce, sour cream, onions, salsa, olives, peppers. Bring what you like and bring enough to share with others. (And, yes, **desserts are welcome**, too!) After our meal, we promise games and conversation.

Chocolate for Charity

Local and World Missions is sponsoring a chocolate sale to benefit Tompkins Cortland Habitat for Humanity. Just in time for Valentines Day, you can help us raise \$2500 towards a home to be built in Lansing. High quality chocolates are provided by two local makers. Contact Monica Sherman for more information: 844-3435 or monica.sherman@icsd.k12.ny.us. Orders will be taken through January with delivery in early February.



Soup and
Sandwich
Lunch



Older Adult Lunch

Tuesday, February 8, 11:30 a.m.
Ramada Inn on Triphammer Road

Join St. Paul's older adults for a mid-winter lunch of hearty vegetable soup, chicken sandwich, cole slaw, cherry pie and beverages, all still for just \$10. Following lunch, we'll learn about our local library's programs from Jennifer Schlossberg of the Tompkins County Library and Corinne Weible of the Finger Lakes Library System.

In keeping with our focus on books, we're hosting a book swap! Here's your opportunity to clear out and/or add to your bookshelves. Bring books you've finished to exchange for new (to you!) books, if you like. Any books remaining after the exchange will be donated to the Friends of the Library Book Sale.



Healing Ithaca

The purpose of Healing Ithaca is to create healing and connection within Ithaca and Tompkins County through prayer and community-building. It began following the arson at the home of police officer Bryan Bangs and the death of community member Shawn Greenwood. Healing Ithaca is also embracing those affected by the murder at Maple Hill Apartment complex and all in our community who have faced issues of racism and classism. Healing Ithaca prayer services are continuing on the first Tuesday of each month. The next service is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 1, from 5:15 - 5:45 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 309 Highland Road in Cayuga Heights**. For more information or to get involved, contact Leslie Meyerhoff at HealingIthacaNY@gmail.com.



Opening to God Art Project

Expressions of devotion, meditation, and prayer are not limited to formal prayer and liturgy. We open to God and connect with God in many ways—with a paint brush; with crochet hooks; with a camera; with poetic words; with flour, water, and yeast; with a chisel and a handsaw. Our creations are also the outward and visible signs of an inward state of grace.

Opening to God

The Spirited Connections Team invites you to share your spiritual expressions in craft and art with your fellow St. Paulians. At the beginning of Lent we will celebrate the spiritual expressions of our community by displaying the painting, knitting, photography, poetry, and woodwork (just to note some examples) created by St. Paulians young and old, expert and novice. Consider sharing your work and helping us show the manifold ways in which we speak to God and God speaks to us. We will have an opening celebration on March 13 in which all works will be on display and then there will be a standing exhibit so that all St. Paulians can appreciate our spiritual expressions.

Please return the participant form (attached below) to the Church Office by **February 13**. If you have questions, feel free to contact Ashlee McGandy, Michael McGandy, or Jacqueline Bonner of the Spirited Connections team. Your spiritual expressions should be brought to St. Paul's no later than March 6.

Please note that St. Paul's cannot guarantee the security of displayed items. While it is unlikely that any items will be stolen or damaged, expensive, or irreplaceable items should not be left on display after the opening celebration. We hope that you will allow your work to be on display for the entirety of the Lent season.

✂ -----

Opening to God Art Project Participant Form

Name _____

E-mail address _____ Phone number _____

Describe your art project

Title of work _____

Materials used _____

Size _____ How should this be displayed? _____

More details (optional) _____

Please feel free to share your thoughts about your work



An Update - Activities of St. Paul's Older Adults

Do you think older people aren't active? If so, you don't know your fellow St. Paulians who are 65 and over. Forty-eight of these folks met at the Ramada Inn on December 7th and enjoyed a festive holiday luncheon. A relatively much younger St. Paulian, Patty Sipman-Marohn, entertained the group by playing the hammered dulcimer. Not only did she play beautifully, but she provided entertaining commentary about the songs she played. Thanks Patty, you were great!

Another feature of the day was an interesting display of miniature Christmas scenes, provided by Dick and Eunice Tabor.

And then, Santa Claus came to the Ramada! It was amazing that he knew not only the names of many of the St. Paulians, but also shared special tidbits of information about them. If he felt they had been good (and all of them passed) he presented them with a bag of candy. Santa's visit put everyone in a great holiday mood.

If you are in that "over 65" stage of life, come join us for our next activity. It will be lunch again at the Ramada Inn on February 8th. We will have an opportunity to learn about Library Services for Older Adults, as offered by Tompkins County Library and the Finger Lakes Library System.

Christmas Eve Noon Service and Luncheon

For the past three years, Margie has conducted a noon time service on Christmas Eve day. It is followed by a light luncheon, which is sponsored by the Older Adult Ministry Team. This activity was initially planned with the older adults in mind, thinking that they might find a day time service easier to attend. It is true that some have found this to be so. However, many other folks have enjoyed it, as well. This past December we served a light lunch to about 40 folks who attended this special service and also wanted to be a part of the meal. The fellowship was great, and the Older Adult Ministry Team hopes that many more people will join us in 2011 for this very special Christmas Eve celebration.

Submitted by Mary Lou Tenney, Older Adult Ministry Team Chair

Adult Spiritual Growth

Adult Fellowship Class

Sunday Mornings, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Durham Room

Do you read the headlines and ask where God is in the news? Do you struggle with how you, as a Christian, can respond to current events? Or do you wonder what the role of the church can be in these daily occurrences?

Plan to join the Adult Fellowship Class on Sunday mornings 9:15 a.m. Using *The Wired Word* curriculum, participants reflect together on a current event in a biblical context. Relevant Scripture helps provide a Christian framework for lively and engaging discussion.

This weekly class, led by Greg Eells and Nancy Lovell, is open to those who attend once, occasionally, or every Sunday.



Exploring Membership at St. Paul's
Sunday, February 27, 9:15—10:15 a.m.
Memorial Rooms

Join us for an introduction to the process of exploring membership here at St. Paul's. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the 8-week series of membership classes, meet Pastor Margie Mayson and Lay Leader and class host Karen Kaufmann, ask questions, and sign up. The Spirited Connections Team will offer coffee and snacks to welcome you, and childcare will be available. Questions? Contact Jacqueline Bonner, 273-5971 or jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org.

Exploring Church Again for the First Time!
Sunday mornings, beginning March 6
9:15—10:15 a.m.
Memorial Rooms

On Sunday mornings this spring, **new and seasoned St. Paulians** are invited to go deeper into faith and our faith tradition with a series of Sunday morning "conversations" about the Church, the Christian tradition, United Methodism, spiritual practices, and other hallmarks of the Christian life.

The series--sponsored by the Adult Spiritual Growth team, hosted by Lay Leader Karen Kaufmann, and led by a roster of passionate St. Paulians--will help orient folks who are exploring membership to our unique faith community, and, at the same time, offer a chance for all of us to explore dimensions of faith and practice that are central to our life as a church.

If you've ever wondered, deeply, what it means to be a Christian or part of a Church, or how (and why) we at St. Paul's read the Bible, gather for worship, commit to prayer, service, or stewardship--now is the time to dive in. We guarantee that the format will be lively, interactive, and informative, a good way to start your Sunday and your week.

Our topics will include:

- * **Christianity and the Church**
- * **Reading the Bible**
- * **Worship**
- * **United Methodism**
- * **Spiritual Growth**
- * **Stewardship**
- * **Service and Action**

You are welcome to join in all of the "conversations," or as many as you wish. The series runs through May 8th, **Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the Memorial Rooms.**

Going deeper, revisiting, exploring anew--these are an integral part of our Christian adventure, whether we're newbies or old-timers. Join us on the journey! Questions? Answers? Your Adult Spiritual Growth team—Chair Kevin Miller (kwmhome@yahoo.com), Lay Leader Karen Kaufmann (tunafiki@twcny.rr.com), and staff liaison Jacqueline Bonner (jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org or 273-5971)--is standing by, eager to hear from you.

Opening to God: Claiming the Creative Within Us

Adult Retreat, March 18-20, 2011

“Art can show us both beauty and can illuminate the darker side of life. When our creativity is awakened within us and shared, it can shine out into the world and in that creative process make something new ... transforming both self and the community around us.”

Chuck Hoffman, Sunday January 16, 2011 entry of Genesis + Art blog. www.genesisandart.blogspot.com

This year’s St. Paul’s Adult Spiritual Growth Retreat continues the theme of “Opening to God” that we have explored in worship this past fall and during Advent. In addition, the Adult Spiritual Growth Team was inspired by the “Opening to God Art Project” being organized by the Spirited Connections Team (see p. 10). “Claiming the Creative Within Us” is our theme for this year, and we are invited to discover how claiming our creativity helps us open our hearts and minds to God’s leading, as well as how being open to God contributes to our creative efforts.

Our leader for the retreat is Rev. Natalie Scholl, an ordained United Methodist pastor who is currently on sabbatical leave and attending St. Paul’s. During this time, she is studying a variety of creative methods for helping people discern their calling and grow in their relationship with God. Natalie was St. Paul’s Pastor of Visitation Ministries 1996-97, and is looking forward to working with St. Paul’s again!

A variety of workshops will be offered, led by fellow St. Paulians, giving us opportunity to learn from others’ experiences of how their creativity interacts with their sense of openness to God. In addition, we will be invited to participate in the particular creative work (or creative play!) being presented in a given workshop. Our hope is that through our interactions with fellow St. Paulians who are talking about and demonstrating their creativity, each of us will discover and claim the creative within us. Further, it is our expectation that we will discover, or deepen, our openness to God’s leading in our lives.

The beautiful Inner Light Lodge at Light on the Hill Retreat Center in Spencer has been reserved for this “adults only” event. The retreat will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and end before lunch on Sunday. Cost per person is **\$99 for lodging, meals and all retreat materials**. An optional Friday night stay is available for an **additional \$50**. The retreat is limited to the **first 25 paid registrants**. Some scholarship assistance is available. For more info, contact Jacqueline, 273-5971 or jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org.



Opening to God

Claiming the Creative Within Us

Weekend of March 18-20, 2011

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please check here if you would like to include the optional Friday night stay at Light on the Hill _____

Please make your **\$99 check (or \$149 to include a Friday night stay)** payable to **St. Paul's United Methodist Church**, include **“Adult Retreat”** in the memo line, and return this form with your registration fee to the church office. Participation is limited to the first 25 paid registrants.

Children's Ministries



FAITH EXPLORERS (K-6th grades)

Let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!

Luke 15:24

The Faith Explorers are working their way through the first of their 2 back-to-back parable units. The current unit – The Lost Stories – involves exploring the parables in Luke 15.

The children are playing games, working on puzzles, cooking, performing a puppet show, and searching for lost objects in their classes.

The memory verse for this unit is from Luke 15:24 – *Let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!*

Thanks to teachers and guides for this unit:

David Bell
John Bradburn
Michelle Eells
Beth and Paul Jennette
Lisa Lennox
Nancy Lovell

Leslie and Tim Meyerhoff
Beth Mudge
Emma Preston
Mary Ellen Stewart
Lesley Yorke



Children's & Youth Music Ensembles

This semester, the Youth Ensemble will continue to rehearse from 9:05-9:45 and Children's Music Group gathers to make music from 9:45-10:15 every Sunday morning. Questions - call or text Lydia Dolch 607-339-8092 or Beverly Stokes 703-863-4010.

Bible Voyagers

The 2011 Bible Voyagers class will start on Sunday, March 6th. This class is designed for 3rd graders, but older children who have not participated are welcome to join. Please contact Laura Dolch for more information.



Faith Discovery Group

The Faith Discovery class is in the middle of their "Jesus Called Them" unit. They have been learning a new song: *Jesus Called Them One by One*. They also continue to use sign language to help remember a memory verse. The verse is "*Jesus said 'follow me'.*" Ask your child to show you the sign language that goes along with the verse!

Thanks to Andrea Russo who has been guiding the Faith Discovery Group preschoolers through this unit!

Youth Ministries

Youth Fundraising Updates

The Sr. High Youth Group is happy to report they have sold all the Dewey Neild Waterfall Calendars!! This brings \$250.00 towards our Mission Trip! Also they raised \$774.00 at their November soup and salad brunch. Thanks to all those that contributed ingredients for salads, breads and soups for this event which kept our costs very, very low. This means the Sr. High Youth has raised a total of \$1024 towards their Mission Trip!!!

Mission Trip Update

The Sr. High Youth Group has received registration confirmation from Project Crossroads, Marion, VA. We will be going there July 3rd through July 9th. Project Crossroads is affiliated with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. They are located in Marion, VA which is in the southwest area of Virginia in the heart of the Appalachians. The projects that are available to us are building porches, steps, or handicap accessible ramps, exterior painting, floor repairs, interior painting, and window or storm door replacement. The Sr. High Youth will be discussing which of these projects we hope to do, in addition to planning their meals, evening activities, and work day during upcoming youth group meetings.

Youth Events for February

Middle School Youth Group — Sunday mornings Feb. 6th, 13th and 27th, 9:45 to 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Afternoons Feb. 13th and 27th, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Youth should bring a bag lunch for afternoon youth group

7th and 8th grade NOOMA class — Feb. 13th and 27th

Sr. High Youth Group — Sunday Feb. 6th, 13th, and 27th, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

STARRY NIGHT

Finalized date to be announced soon, tentatively March 26, 2011!!

7:00-10:00 p.m.

Evening of musical entertainment and art!

Delectable appetizers, desserts and coffee and teas included in your ticket price

\$20 per person or \$35 per couple

\$5.00 per child for childcare for the night (toddlers and up)

Proceeds to benefit the Sr. High Youth Group's Mission Trip to Project Crossroads

Watch for fliers coming soon with list of entertainers...See youth group member, youth leaders, or Ruth "Rue" Keagle, Youth Ministries Coordinator for tickets!

Looking for a way to help the youth, consider donating a delectable special dessert for our Starry Night Fund Raiser...please contact Lisa Waldrop at ltwaldrop@gmail.com

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

St. Paul's Letter

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Ithaca, NY 14850

Please pray for these members of our church family:

Virginia Ainslie; Tina Champion; Roy and Alma Coats; Jeanne Corbit; Dockstader Family; Dora Fratelli; Kay Friedlander; Priscilla Lawrence; Betty Matheney; Jane Mazurek; Lucille McBean; Onale Mente; Connie McDowell; Ocello Family; Doug Payne; Ellie Phillips-Burdge; Elsie Price; Sallie Pure; Ben Richards; Carol Sammis; Bill Schoch; Ruth Shannon; LaVerne Snyder; Mary Ellen Stewart; Elaine Weiss; Andrea Downing Zheng



Please pray for these members of our extended church family:

Bill Arden (friend of Tina Champion); Alex Arnold (nephew of Ellie Phillips-Burdge); Esther Bailey (aunt of Sylvia Bailey); Jordan Boardman (grandson of Mary Boardman); Matt Boardman (son of Mary Boardman); Hazel Bonner (Jacqueline Bonner's mother); Maryterese Pasquale Bowen & Magda (friends of Nancy Potter); Larry Burke & Marilyn (friends of Josette Garrison); Janet Cole (friend of Ellen Weatherholt); William Deming (nephew of Melissa Gould); Evelyn Downs (Pam Gillow's mother); George Eberhardt (friend of David McElrath); Florence Fox (John Crossgrove's grandmother); Maria Isabel Garcia (Ellie Phillips-Burdge's great niece); Alan and Laurie Hahn (friends of Nancy Potter); Meghan Murphy (friend of

Rebecca Dolch); John Nobles (Bob Nobles son); Arlene Preston (mother of George Preston); Joshua Oxford and family (Alison Beach's cousin); Rob Pearson (friend of the Ordway's); Sallie Pure's brother John; John Saltsman (friend of LaVerne Snyder); Elton Schaal (Dorothy Preston's father); Dorothy Schumacher (LaVerne Snyder's aunt); George Smits (Ruth Keagle's father); Shirley Snyder (LaVerne Snyder's mother); Stephen Taylor (nephew of Bill Sammis); Aleta Tessaglia-Hymes (Sara Jane Hymes granddaughter); Cathy Waddington (friend of Susan Eyster)



A complete prayer list may be found on the table in the hallway. Please take one so you can pray for our members and friends during the week. To add a name to the **Prayer List**, call the church office at 273-5971 or email info@stpaulsithaca.org.

Requests for prayers to be added to the **Prayer Chain** may be directed to **Elinor John at 273-0915**.

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