



**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*

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

March 2011

Vision 2015

Dear Friends,

Several years ago, the congregation of St. Paul's put together a beautifully written and well thought-out theological statement that was wisely called BASICS+. While our theology remains the same, time has passed, and recently Church Council decided the time has come to revisit and renew our vision of who God has called St. Paul's to be.

This process actually began this past Fall when the Council approved the formation of a small group of people to take the lead in discerning God's future for us. This January a team was finally formed (see below for the names of those who have committed to being on the team), and we began meeting in bi-weekly meetings. Over the course of the next few months, this team will meet to study scripture, talk about faithful discipleship, explore the purpose of the church, and hopefully "hear what the Spirit is saying to the church." However, this team, aptly named Vision 2015, is not the only group entrusted with this discernment project. Rather all members and friends of St. Paul's are invited to share your thoughts and reflections with us as we really want this to be a vision that is given to the church and not just to a select few! Believing that God does have a plan for us and that God's wisdom is wiser than our own, we want to listen for any and all suggestions about our future, so that we can prayerfully discern a vision that can help us move in the direction God wants for us. Our hope is to be able to present Vision 2015 to Church Council by the beginning of the summer so that each committee and organization and outreach within the life of St. Paul's can join together to make Vision 2015 a reality.

In the coming weeks, you will continue to hear more about this exciting process. I look forward to all of us, together, refreshing the vision for St Paul's United Methodist Church.

Faithfully,

Margie

Vision 2015 Team Members

Jacqueline Bonner, Dwight Carroll, Jennifer Colvin, Sarah Crossgrove, Angela Gaike, Arlene Hewitt, Paul Jennette, Lloyd Johnson, Karen Kaufmann, Ruth Lovelace, Leslie Meyerhoff, George Preston, Larry Roberts, Becky Stoltzfus

*Lectionary Readings for March:***March 6, 2011**

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

March 9, 2011

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 13, 2011

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 20, 2011

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 27, 2011

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

*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*

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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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Worship in Lent — Characters Welcome

The USA TV Network station has a wonderful tag line that the Worship Committee decided was perfect for our theme for Lent this year and it is “Characters Welcome.”

After all, we're all characters of one sort or another, and it fits with our desire to grow in hospitality and help folks open to God! But even more importantly, we want to spend some time this Lent looking at some of the key characters who play a role in the life of Jesus during his last few weeks on earth. Some of us think we know the Passion story of Christ, yet how many of us have actually given thought to the individual characters who surrounded Jesus and played an important role in the events that unfolded? What do they have to tell us, teach us? What lessons can we learn for ourselves as we live out our lives?

Join with me on Wednesday evenings during Lent, for *Bible, Bread and Broth*, a light supper and some time spent together reading and reflecting on a portion of scripture about a particular character. My hope is that together we will share our personal reactions, questions and thoughts about these characters to provide richness and perspective for the Sunday sermon. And remember, Characters Welcome!

Our series will begin prior to the start of Lent on Sunday, March 6. *Bible, Bread and Broth* will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 9 with a light supper, and our service, followed by our first Character discussion on the servant in the courtyard (see March 13 scripture below.) Take note of the following outline and read the scriptures in advance. Come with your thoughts to share each Wednesday during Lent!

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 6 | Characters – Peter and Judas
For Peter, read Luke 22:31-34, Luke 24:1-12, 54-62; John 21:15-19; Acts 2:37-42
For Judas, read Luke 22: 1-6, 47-48; Matthew 26: 14-16; 27: 3-5 |
| March 9 | Ash Wednesday (Light supper before the service, Character discussion following) |
| March 13 | Character – Servant in the courtyard that calls out to Peter
Read Matthew 26: 69-70; Luke 22:54-57 (for Wed., March 9 Character Discussion) |
| March 20 | Character – Pontius Pilate
Read Matthew 27:11-26; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16 (for Wed., March 16) |
| March 27 | Character – Simon of Cyrene
Read Matthew 27:32; Luke 23:26 (for Wed., March 23) |
| April 3 | Character – Two Thieves
Read Matthew 27:38-44; Luke 23:32-43 (for Wed., March 30) |
| April 10 | Character – Mary Magdalene
Read Matthew 27:55-56; 28:1-10; John 19:25; 20:1-18 (for Wed., April 6) |
| April 17 | Palm Sunday |
| April 24 | Easter |

Around the Church

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:

- The LaBella Associates firm has been hired to provide architectural services. The first phase of their work will be to provide a number of design possibilities for 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 has been 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 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.

Members of the **Feasibility Team** include George Gull, Greg Hartz, Phyllis Highland, Karen Kaufmann, Margie Mayson (Chair), Dave McCune, Kevin Miller, Dick Tenney, Mary Lou Tenney, Frost Travis, and Barbara Wernham.

Shared Ministries



St. Paul's was recently listed in *The Upper New York United Methodist Advocate* of having paid our full portion of the shared ministry payment. Our payments to this ministry have far-reaching affects throughout our conference and the United Methodist Church ministries as a whole. Thank you for helping us to achieve this noteworthy goal!

St. Paul's Alumni Network (SPAN)

The St. Paul's Stewardship Committee has launched a new initiative to reach out to the countless people who have attended St. Paul's over the years. The St. Paul's Alumni Network (SPAN) is a no-dues alumni e-network that will keep them informed about major developments in their former church family.

The initial message welcoming alumni to participate went out in early February, and we anticipate following up with another message within the next month.

Here's what you can do — We welcome any submissions for future issues, including updates from various ministry areas, personal stories about St. Paul's and pictures of St. Paul's events. And, of course, please send us names and e-mail addresses for anyone who might be interested in being an "alum". **Send names, pictures, stories to alumni@stpaulsithaca.org.**

Reconciling in Action

St. Paul's decision to become a Reconciling Congregation in 1998 put our congregation in intentional and creative tension with policy language in the UMC Book of Discipline declaring that homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching." We now have an opportunity to join the Upper NY Methodist Federation for Social Action to petition our annual conference and then the UMC General Conference to "manifest God's hospitality to all persons" by revising and removing this position and language from our official Book of Discipline. After consideration of the petitions (available at <http://mfsaweb.org/?page_id=4930> click on **RMN-GC-2012-Templates**), St. Paul's Reconciling Ministry Team (RMT) unanimously recommended that St. Paul's approve and join as signatories on this petition. The Church Council is now considering the petition and the RMT's recommendation.



Some additional context is the recent (January 31, 2011) letter (<<http://mfsaweb.org/?p=5195>>) from 33 retired UMC Bishops calling for an end to the "incompatibility" clause in the Book of Discipline. Additional commentary of interest can be found at the Methodist Federation for Social Action at <http://mfsaweb.org/?page_id=5206>.

We would like to hear what you think. Please send your comments to Leslie Meyerhoff (mls73@cornell.edu).

Wednesdays in Lent 2011

"Bible, Bread and Broth"

March 9 — Ash Wednesday

Light Supper at 5:30 p.m., Memorial Rooms

Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for worship in the sanctuary where we will participate together in a service of anointing, first with ashes and then with the healing waters of baptism. Special music, communion and time for prayer will all come together to mark this entry into the season of Lent.

7:30 p.m. — Characters Welcome

The first in a series of discussions on Characters from the Passion story. We begin with the servant in the courtyard who calls out to Peter.

March 16 - April 13

Characters Welcome

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Memorial Rooms

Each Wednesday night join with others in the Memorial Rooms for a light supper of soup and bread as well as conversation, study, prayer and thoughts towards the upcoming Sunday sermon.



Please read scripture in advance. See "Worship in Lent" on p. 3 for schedule.

St. Paul's Connections

Lift Every Voice 2011 needs some Helping Hands and Hearts

This annual community-building concert, which we are sponsoring in collaboration with Calvary Baptist and First Congregational Churches, needs volunteers for the planning team.

Great music, high energy, and warm connections mark this event to benefit The Village at Ithaca and its mission to affirm, inform, encourage, and inspire students to achieve. The Village advocates for excellence and equity in Ithaca's public schools, by developing strategic community relationships, programs, and services to ensure that students, particularly Black, Latino, and low-income students, consistently meet or exceed local and New York state standards of achievement. For St. Paulians, working on this team is a chance to walk our talk of social justice and inclusivity.



Choral groups have included gospel choirs from Cornell and Ithaca College, area churches, Vitamin L youth choir, Hip Hop, an audience sing-a-long of Peace Like a River, and more. Students from Village programs share their stories, and educational leaders are highlighted. The Community Resources Reception brings local organizations into our church to staff information tables and share refreshments with concert-goers. People discover opportunities, make new connections and renew friendships. The church hums with the sounds of celebration, and last year we raised \$8,800 for The Village at Ithaca.

The 2011 date is tentatively set for October 22, National Make-A-Difference Day. The planning team meets monthly. Your role could be to help select musical groups and orchestrate the program, to generate publicity, to plan the Community Reception, to secure advertising or to help manage the project overall. To volunteer, or for more info, contact Sara Culotta at 273-1287, sara.culotta@gmail.com, or the church office.

Help us lift every voice and gift every student with the support they need to succeed!



Tuesday, March 8, 11:30 a.m.
Older Adult Shrove Tuesday Lunch
 and
"Ash Wednesday" Service

Enjoy the 5th annual older adult pancake and sausage lunch downstairs in St. Paul's Dining Room with your friends. For just \$7 per person, this feast will be prepared for you with love by the Older Adult Ministry Team and Griddle Meisters Dick Tenney and Howard Longhouse. After lunch, we will move from the celebration of Shrove Tuesday to the more introspective season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service (*yes, on Tuesday afternoon!*) designed especially for you by Pastor Margie Mayson. For more information, contact Mary Lou Tenney, 277-6510 or mlt6@cornell.edu.

Bell Concert



St. Paul's Festival Chimes will be performing a bell concert on March 13 at 5:00 p.m. here at St. Paul's. We will be joined by the St. Thomas Community Ringers from St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath, NY under the direction of Carl Johengen. Please come and enjoy a concert of wonderful bell music. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken. Contact Dorothy Preston at 539-6293 for more information.



www.TCHabitat.com

Chocolate Sales

Thank you, St. Paulians, for the successful chocolate sales. You helped raise over \$350. The profits of the sales will go directly toward the build of three houses this year.

Women Build

Interested in learning how to do some home handy work? Habitat for Humanity offers four classes a month. Learn how to put in flooring, how to put up siding, interior painting techniques, framing skills, etc. Classes are offered at LOWES every 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. & again at 7:15 p.m.

TC3 Home Show

The TC3 Home Show is March 4th, 5th, & 6th. Volunteer to help run the Habitat for Humanity booth and meet the families/future homeowners!!

Building Opportunities

Volunteer in Cortland

Cortland Work Schedule: Work is wrapping up! Call for specifics!
Address: 33 Arthur Ave, Cortland, NY 13045

Volunteer in Lansing

In January, a team of volunteers helped clear the lot at 85 Sperry Lane in Lansing.
Lansing Work Schedule: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00-12:00 (starting date for this work schedule is Saturday, February 19th)
Address: 85 Sperry Lane, Lansing



Volunteer in Groton

Starting this summer!

Groups of five or more must first call the office at 607-898-4148 to schedule a build day.

Contact Information

Get involved, St. Paulians! If you have questions about volunteering for Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties, please do not hesitate to call the office at 607.898.4148 or e-mail tompkinscortland@habitatnys.org.

A Concert Event Not To Miss For Healing Ithaca!

Wednesday March 2, 7:00 p.m.

The following is a piece Rabbi Scott Glass from Temple Beth El wrote when asked why he wanted to bring Neshama Carlebach and the Green Pastures Gospel Choir to Ithaca. For tickets please stop in our office. Donations will be gratefully accepted before or after the performance...the most important thing is just to be there. As he says, the concert is something we won't want to miss!

Over the past several days I've been at meetings where people have asked me to tell them more about the March 2nd concert. It made me realize that providing some of the back story might help people understand why this concert is so special.

The music of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach is spiritually uplifting and speaks to people's souls in a unique way. This was just what happened at a rally for unity in the Bronx after the February, 1999 shooting of Amadou Diallo. Rabbi Avi Weiss was invited to deliver a prayer at that gathering and he began his prayer by singing a Carlebach melody. The melody touched the soul of Reverend Roger Hambrick who introduced himself to Rabbi Weiss after the rally and asked him about the melody. Rabbi Weiss and Reverend Hambrick met, Rabbi Weiss shared the song, Brother and Friends, and a few other melodies with Reverend Hambrick who decided to incorporate some of them into the repertoire of his Baptist choir. Subsequently, Rabbi Weiss invited Reverend Hambrick and the Green Pastures Baptist Church Choir to sing at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale (H.I.R.). The choir has sung there every year for the last eleven years as part of the congregation's tribute to Dr. King.

I first heard the Green Pastures Baptist Church Choir at H.I.R. in 2007. Two years later I was back to hear them again but this time they were singing together with Neshama Carlebach, a famous artist in her own right both because of her efforts to keep the music of her father alive but also because of her own talents. The synergy of Neshama and the choir singing together, the spiritual uplift, was amazing. After that performance, Reverend Hambrick and Neshama decided they should cut an album together. The collaboration resulted in a rearrangement of nine melodies by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach and an original piece written especially for this album, as Neshama has said, "ten pieces of hope." The album, *Higher and Higher*, is soulful, joyful, hopeful, incredibly moving. The styles range from gospel to African to rock. The album reflects a true melding of cultures and an update of Carlebach's classic "soul music." When the group performed to open the Rabbinical Assembly convention last May, they brought the house down. It was amazing but a short time later, something even more touching would happen.

The death of our friend, James Miles, brought together the very diverse worlds of which he was a part—the Jewish world, the academic world, his friends and family from here and from far away. James' funeral was difficult for all of us but probably most difficult for his out-of-town family, very religious people, who couldn't quite fathom a funeral service officiated at by a rabbi and a young, white minister. They were visibly uncomfortable, almost angry, until the music. At the urging of the hospital chaplain, Tim Dean, who was officiating, we decided to find a piece of music that reflected James' life. I suggested the first cut from *Higher and Higher*, a setting of Psalm 121. As the music began, the whole atmosphere changed. People were drawn together, we were lifted up by the music; it was a transformative moment. It was at that moment that I appreciated the power of this music and began to think about the possibility of bringing Neshama, Reverend Hambrick and the choir to Ithaca.

This past January 17, I heard the group again, this time at Symphony Space in Manhattan at a very moving Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event. It confirmed what I'd suspected—that each time this group performs together, they get better.

I look forward to seeing you and a large and diverse audience on Wednesday evening, March 2, at 7 p.m. I promise you, you won't be disappointed.

Reception for the Opening to God Art Project

Everyone is invited to join the artists and crafters of St. Paul's for the opening reception to this year's Opening to God Art Project. This gala opening will feature live music and readings of poetry to delight the mind. There will also be hors d'oeuvres and refreshments to please the palate. Please join us directly after the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 13th, and celebrate the creativity of our community.



Opening to God

The Opening to God Art Project reminds us that 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 hand-saw. Our creations are also the outward and visible signs of an inward state of grace. This year's exhibit gives us all a chance to appreciate the varied and beautiful ways that God works in our lives and through our talents..

Loving Care Ministries

Gadabout... What do you know about this very important ministry? The Gadabout Ministry is the bus service we provide for those who cannot get to the Sunday service on their own. Some are in wheelchairs, others have difficulty getting in and out of cars or can no longer drive themselves. Charlie Tilton and Pat Woodworth are the volunteers who each week contact, schedule, and pick up those who would not otherwise be able to attend. To rent the bus for a year costs the church \$250 up front and \$5.00 a week plus 60 cents per mile. Recently, they estimated driving 80 miles a Sunday. This cost is offset somewhat by donations from the riders. In 2010, the church paid \$2750 to use the bus, and were reimbursed \$960, bringing the actual expense to about \$1790.

Gadabout Ministry



Did you know that ...

....the Gadabout Ministry has been a part of St. Paul's for 18+ years, thanks to volunteer drivers—Gadabout provides the bus, but St. Paul's must provide the drivers;

....Charlie Tilton began driving in 1993, along with his wife, Pat (scheduling) and son, Michael (assisting). That's about 900 Sundays, give or take a few – an amazing commitment to this ministry. Many, many thanks, Charlie and Pat, for your years of incredible dedication to this ministry of caring;

....For quite a few years, Cheryl McGraw's father, Paul drove as a backup driver. For the past several years, there have been no back up drivers;

....For most of the time there have been two runs each Sunday morning, one for Sunday School and choir practice and the second trip for worship;

....Currently there are 9 members who regularly use the service, 2 in wheelchairs;

....Over the years, the service has picked up members in Slaterville Springs, Alterra (now Brookdale), Kendal, Lakeside (now Cayuga Ridge), Titus Towers, Longview, past the mall and many places around town;

....Some are willing to ride for more than an hour as the bus makes it rounds, just to get to church. One member would get picked up at 8:40 at Longview, ride to Slaterville to pick up a rider to bring to the church for choir practice and then ride around for another hour while everyone else was picked up.

Are you interested in getting involved in this ministry???

Drivers.... We need more drivers, ideally at least two. To become a driver, a CDL (commercial driver's license) is required. This means taking a written test and a driver's test (driving a bus) and a physical exam. Gadabout can help with all these requirements. The church will help with the costs involved. Also, Charlie is willing to help anyone who is interested in becoming a driver.

Schedulers and Assistants... Pat usually calls riders every Saturday morning to set up the schedule for Sunday. She also assists by helping people to get from their home up onto the bus. Some need the lift as it is hard for them to climb the stairs.

The Benefits...

Pat and Charlie say:

"We really like all the riders. They are our friends. We like helping them get to church. (We have invited them to our home for dinner a few times.) We are like a small group."

From the Riders:

....Bill Schoch says, "If there wasn't Gadabout, I probably wouldn't be at church. Besides, it's fun chatting with our church friends. I can't say enough about the personalized service we receive, above and beyond just getting on and off the bus."

...Tina Champion says, "This service is a true blessing! Without this service, a lot of us would not be able to get to church. It gives me a sense of peace and freedom to be able to get to church."

If this ministry is of interest or you know someone who might be interested, call the church and let us know. Thanks!

Rev. Eunice Tabor, Loving Care Ministries

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.



New Adult Class!

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 or 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.

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. 9). "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)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. *Galatians 5:22-23*

The Faith Explorers have just finished their unit about the Lost Coin, Lost Sheep, and Prodigal Son.

Next up is another unit about parables—the Kingdom of God stories, the workers in the vineyard, the rich fool, and the parables of the house on the sand and the house on the rock.

On March 20th, we'll welcome staff from Camp Casowasco. They will teach us some new games and we'll learn more about the summer programs for kids at Casowasco.

Faith Discovery Group

The preschool class will be starting a new unit on March 6th – The Fruits of the Spirit. Each week they will learn (through movement, music, crafts, sign language, and games) about one of the fruits of the spirit.



The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23.

There are a few slots left in the spring for anyone that is interested in helping with either Faith Explorers or Faith Discovery Group. Please contact Laura Dolch at lauradolch@stpaulsithaca.org for more information!



Children's & Youth Music Ensembles

The Youth Music Ensemble and Children's Music Group will continue to rehearse Sunday mornings in the Carpenter Room at 9:05 and 9:45 respectively. The Children's Music Group will be performing during the service on March 6th and 27th.

Bible Voyagers

Each spring we invite the third graders (and fourth/fifth graders who are new to the church) to participate in the Bible Voyagers Class that meets for 6 Sundays during March and April. The class will take place during the time the children would usually be in the Faith Explorers rotation (10:45-11:45). Sue Kiner will be teaching this year's class.



The children will receive their Bibles in the service on Sunday, March 6th and will have their first class that same day. They will also meet on March 13, 20, 27 and April 6 and 13.

Youth Ministries

Mission Trip News.....

The Senior High Youth are looking for prayer partners! We are hoping to match each youth with a prayer partner. These partners will pray for the youth they are matched with and the youth for them as they prepare for their Mission Trip and during the trip. If you are interested in being one of our prayer partners contact Ruth "Rue" Keagle, Youth Ministries Coordinator, at rkeagle@stpaulsithaca.org.



Also, as you know, we are going to Project Crossroads in Marion, Virginia as our Mission Trip this year. We are wondering if anyone in the congregation might know someone we might connect with in or near Marion. Please contact Ruth "Rue" Keagle, Youth Ministries Coordinator at rkeagle@stpaulsithaca.org.

Upcoming Youth Fund Raisers.....

Middle School Youth will be holding a bake sale in conjunction with the Chili Cook off on March 6th. Please visit the Middle School Youth's table to purchase baked goods as a tasty treat after your chili! Proceeds will go towards the Middle School's Youth's annual Mystery Trip.

Senior High Youth will host Starry Night on March 26th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Please see insert in this newsletter for more information. Proceeds will benefit the Senior High Mission Trip to Project Crossroads.

Senior High Youth will be offering vouchers for a special dining-to-donate event at Applebees in Ithaca on April 11th. Each voucher should be presented to your wait staff. A percentage of the cost of your meal anytime from 11:00 a.m. until closing will benefit the Senior High Mission Trip to Project Crossroads.

Youth Events for March

Middle School Youth Group will meet:

Morning youth group on March 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 9:45 — 10:20 a.m.

Afternoon youth group on March 6 and 20

Senior High Youth Group will meet:

Evening youth group March 6, 13, and 20 from 4:00 — 6:00 p.m.

Starry Night event March 26 beginning around 1:00 p.m.

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

St. Paul's Letter

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Ithaca, NY 14850

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Ithaca, NY 14850

Please pray for these members of our church family: Virginia Ainslie; Don Cameron; Tina Champion; Roy and Alma Coats; Jeanne Corbit; Dockstader Family; Dora Fratelli; Kay Friedlander; Jessie Helton; Priscilla Lawrence; Betty Mathe-
ney; Jane Mazurek; Lucille McBean; Onale Mente; Connie McDowell; Bonnie Meyerhoff; 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); David Bell and family on the loss of his sister; 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); Terry Gladstone (friend of the Highland's); Alan and Laurie Hahn (friends of Nancy Potter); Keith Ham (friend of Josette Garrison); Melissa Hollister and family (friend of Jeff Shepherdson); Craig Kitchner and family (Lisa

Harris' family); Larry Mayfield (Carolyn Longhouse's brother); John Nobles (Bob Nobles son); Arlene Preston (mother of George Preston); Joshua Oxford and family (Alison Beach's cousin); 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); Abby Springhorn (Maria Magill's niece); 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