

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

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# St. Paul's Letter

June 2011

## Pilgrimage of Faith

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, PBS aired a program that showed the yearly pilgrimage of members of a small group of native Latin American persons to conduct a worship ritual that has endured for centuries among their people. The group included men, women, and children who walked for several days to the holy place where the rites would be enacted. The trip was arduous and demanding. When asked why they do it, the answer was, "If this ritual is not performed, the world will come to an end." And so they gave all they had to carry out this ancient legacy of commemoration, dedication and honor, as had those who had gone before.

We may not believe that the world will end if they do not perform this ceremony, and literally, we may be correct. But in another sense, perhaps they're right. The world as it is and has been for them, rooted in meanings that have shaped their lives, might well end, and something very central to who they are would be lost. For it is in such legacies of faith and practice that the world is given a shape and meaning and purpose that other sources do not provide.

In our gathering as a worshipping community, we, too, claim a legacy that has been given to us, over many generations, by those who have made the pilgrimage of faith before us. Through the daily bombardments of the media, the ubiquitous requests for our presence at other events and through sheer familiarity, it is easy for us to lose track of the roots and the richness of this gift.

So this summer, we encourage you not to lose the habit of Sunday morning worship. Continue to come each week, that you might be grounded in the things that have long nourished the faithful...the presence of the Divine, the Spirit within the community, the joy of music and song, the words of faith which speak to mercy, grace and forgiveness and which remind us of who we are and whose we are.

See you in church!

*Margie*

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

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

Acts 1:1-11  
 Psalm 47  
 Ephesians 1:15-23  
 Luke 24:44-53

**June 19, 2011**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
 Psalm 8  
 2 Corinthians  
 13:11-13  
 Matthew 28:16-20

**June 12, 2011**

Acts 2:1-21  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
 John 7:37-39

**June 26, 2011**

Genesis 22:1-14  
 Psalm 13  
 Romans 6:12-23  
 Matthew 10:40-42



*Child Care*  
**Sunday, 9:15 a.m.**

*Adult Fellowship Class*  
**Sunday, 9:15 a.m.**

*Worship Services*  
**Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.**

*Church Office Hours*  
**Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

*Eunice Tabor*  
**Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**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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 Ellie Phillips-Burdge

*Director of Church Ministries*  
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*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

*Assistant Organist*  
 Andi Merrill

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## Making Room for the Spirit

As we look forward to the summer season,

As we continue the visioning process for St. Paul's

As we embark on a Capital Campaign to improve our physical space

As we organize ourselves efficiently into combined work areas

We are making room for the Spirit to be at work in our midst. This new theme speaks to the desires that have been expressed in a variety of ways and places across the church...that we attune ourselves to the movement and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. It invites us into slower times of rest and reflection, and encourages us to engage in those opportunities where we see the Spirit already at work. At both a spiritual level and a practical, physical level, we hope to make room for the Spirit in our hearts, in our homes, in our church and in our community in as many ways as we can. To that end, we hope to explore some different ways of worshiping and gathering that we hope will help us open ourselves to the Spirit.

The Adult Spiritual Growth Team will meet in collaboration with the Worship Committee this next year so that together we can plan integrated worship and study opportunities. This newly formed Spiritual Life Team will increase our creative endeavors while cutting down on meeting time.

Likewise the Spirited Connections Team is considering joining with the Local and World Missions Team to explore ways we can actively engage in more hands-on ministries. It's an exciting time to be at St. Paul's, for the Spirit is moving in our midst! And when the Spirit is moving, there are always surprises in store!



A majority of folks appreciate early worship in the summer, so, beginning **June 19 and running through August 21**, our Sunday morning

worship will once again change to **one service to be held at 9:30 a.m.** Backyard Bible Class will begin then as well.

We will use the 15 minutes prior to the service to sing a variety of songs from *The Faith We Sing*, our new hymnal supplement. We invite you to come early and learn some new tunes, as well as find some older, dearly loved ones.



Beginning June 20, through August 19, the church office will be staffed between **9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday**. 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.

## Summer Worship

Believing that summer is a season of senses, and wanting to honor the theme *Making Room for the Spirit*, the Spiritual Life Team (formerly the Worship and Adult Spiritual Growth committees) is looking at ways we might incorporate more of our five senses into worship. The introverts among us would like to try a service that involves a lot of silence and Taizé music; the extroverts among us like the idea of building community within the service. Some like the idea of exploring other kinds of music (depending on what our musicians can and want to do), and some want to make sure we have visuals, allow for movement, and work in taste and smell, as well. The Spiritual Life Team is committed to finding ways to help us stay fresh in our expressions of worship. As we continue in our planning, this summer will be a season full of surprises and moments of connecting with the Spirit! God doesn't take vacations, and neither will we!

## Around the Church

### New Intern in Our Midst

Meet Pam Carey, who will be joining our staff beginning this summer as an intern from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, where she has just completed her second year. Pam is a member of the Trumansburg United Methodist Church, where she currently chairs the Staff Parish Relations Committee. She is married to Chris and has three adult children.

Pam is excited to join the St. Paul's staff and looks forward to leading in worship, engaging in some small groups, participating in pastoral care opportunities, outreach and even some administrative committees! Please welcome Pam as you see her around, and you will gain a new friend!



### New Chancel Choir Accompanist

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee welcomes **Ellie Phillips-Burdge** to the St. Paul's staff as the new Chancel Choir Accompanist. Ellie is an accomplished musician and an active St. Paulian, who brings both heart and talent to this role.

This spring, Andi Merrill stepped down from this position to pursue an exciting new endeavor, creating the Opus One Music School. Andi will continue to serve as our Assistant Organist, sharing the Sunday morning music with Music Director and Organist John White.

### Trustees Hard at Work

With steadfast dedication to caring for the physical plant of St. Paul's, the Trustees meet monthly to consider the challenges of the building and find ways to keep it in the best possible state of repair. Some projects they are currently working on are:

- ◇ Replacement of the grease trap in the kitchen
- ◇ Installment of an AED (automated external defibrillator) device
- ◇ Installment of new automated accessible door on Aurora Street
- ◇ Installment of new time-controlled thermostats around the building
- ◇ Possible new dedicated hot water heater for the kitchen



In addition to these ongoing projects, they also are responsible for large space usage requests and are currently in conversation about renting space to the Waldorf School, as well as Andi Merrill's soon-to-be Opus One Music School. All these uses require serious conversations among all those who use our church building on a regular basis, formal contracts and lots of negotiations. If you see any one of our Trustees, thank them, for they work hard so that we can all enjoy this beautiful sacred space!



### Finance Update

We are grateful to our fellow St. Paulians for their faithful financial support in 2011. Financial Secretary Dick Tenney reports that giving (through pledges, donations, and cash) was at 99.05% of the budget at the end of April. This faithfulness, in conjunction with the careful management of expenses by St. Paul's staff members and substantial savings in utilities due to the new energy-efficient boiler, has left us in solid financial standing as we approach the summer months. Total income, as of April 30th, is \$4,202 above budget, and total expenses are \$4,505 under budget, creating a healthy \$8,707 cushion.

## Capital Campaign Update

At the congregational meeting following the worship service on April 29th, there was enthusiastic support for moving ahead with the proposed Capital Campaign for the renovation of our bathrooms, priority maintenance on our property, and the development of a Community Ministries Fund to support future outreach ministries. Following this show of support, the Church Council voted to approve a Capital Campaign. Since then, the core of the former Feasibility Team agreed to transition into a formal Capital Campaign Committee. This committee currently is in the process of inviting members to join the team, so that over the summer months every member and friend of St. Paul's can be personally invited to join in supporting this campaign.

With early gifts meeting two thirds of our goal of \$650,000, we hope to be well on our way by our formal launch on June 19th. While the campaign is being planned, the Trustees, in conjunction with representatives from the Nursery School, Faith Explorers program, staff and the congregation at large, have pulled together a Design Team to work with our architects to find the best possible layout for our new bathroom renovation project. There has been great collaboration on everyone's part, and they are close to reaching a final design! If you would like to see the design, you can always stop in at the office to see the latest version.

## Anticipating Upper New York Annual Conference

From June 7 to June 11, 2011, clergy and lay members of the new Upper New York Annual Conference (the regional governing body of United Methodism) will gather in Rochester for the 2nd-ever Session of the Conference. Our official St. Paul's "delegation" this year includes lay members Debby Wells-Clinton and Jacqueline Bonner, "equalization" members (to balance out laity and clergy across the Conference) Karen Kaufmann and Jami Breedlove, and all clergy affiliated with our "charge" (or congregation).

Conference is framed around the good Methodist concept of "holy conferencing"-- doing the governing, teaching, administrative and supervisory work of the church in a spirit of reverence and faithfulness. Conference sessions combine worship, study, heady conversations about the work and fruits of ministry, connection-building, public witness and ministry challenges, reports from church agencies (such as the pastor-deploying Cabinet, our six UNY church camps, UM campus ministries and mission outposts in our area), budget-setting (to support and extend the work of local churches through collective ministry and oversight), leadership development, and a round of retirement, memorial and ordination celebrations.

This year, in addition to its newly-emerging regional agenda, Conference will also be preparing for the United Methodist Church's General Conference, which will be held next April. Among the preparatory actions are an opportunity to consider resolutions to eliminate exclusive language and policies in our denominational Discipline (church "law") relating to sexual orientation (including resolutions endorsed by our own Church Council) and, most importantly, to elect clergy and lay delegates who will shape the next four years of United Methodist ministry through the work of General Conference.

Participation in Annual Conference is always a privilege, and particularly so this year, as we from St. Paul's join others from Albany to Buffalo, Binghamton to Plattsburg in efforts to invite our church, our new Conference, our denomination, to be the emblem of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" it yearns and strives to be. Please keep your "delegation" and the whole Conference, in your prayers!

Karen Kaufmann, Lay Leader



Sympathies are extended to Jim Leet on the death of his wife, Terry; to Jacqueline Bonner on the death of her mother, Hazel Bonner; and the family of Dr. C. Lee Sprinkle. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Congratulations to Dick and Mary Lou Tenney on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on June 11, 2011!



We would like to offer a special blessing to those who are moving away from Ithaca and will be leaving St. Paul's. Please let the church office know when your last Sunday will be so that we can plan to bless you that day and send you on your way with traveling mercies.

## St. Paul's Connections



**bikeandbuild.org**

This June, St. Paul's has the wonderful opportunity to host a group of 34 Bike & Build riders as they pedal their way from Providence, RI, to Seattle, WA, raising money and awareness for affordable housing groups. The bikers will be staying at the church Wednesday,

June 22 to Friday, June 24 as they stop in Ithaca to work on a Habitat for Humanity project.

We'll be hosting a potluck dinner for the group on **Wednesday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m.** Come share in fun and fellowship, learn more about Bike & Build, and cheer on these young riders as they make their way from coast to coast. At the potluck, the team will do a presentation about Bike & Build. In the meantime, learn more at [bikeandbuild.org](http://bikeandbuild.org).

For planning purposes, please let Ashlee McGandy ([ashleebeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ashleebeth@sbcglobal.net), 607-280-1963) know if you will attend the potluck and what kind of dish you'll be bringing (dessert, vegetable, main, etc).

The Child Development Council offers an Emergency Child Care Scholarship to families who have gotten behind in paying their child-care bill. Please contact the Child Care Council, 273-0259 for more information on accessing assistance or to donate funds.

## Emergency Child Care Scholarships

## International Exchange Students

Youth For Understanding programs in the United States is searching for host families for international exchange students. For more information, you may visit their website at <http://yfuusa.org/> or contact Miranda Cavanagh at [mcavanagh@yfu.org](mailto:mcavanagh@yfu.org).

**"Healing Through Music" Benefit Concert**  
**June 11, 2011, 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's**



All are invited to attend a fund raiser benefit concert by St. Paulian, Imani Perry Atkins (age 10). Imani has become aware of a young man who is struggling with cancer and has planned this concert as a way to raise money to help with his medical expenses. Imani has prepared more than a dozen pieces that she will perform on her violin. Come enjoy some beautiful music and support Imani's compassionate and creative efforts!



**From St. Paul's**  
**Reconciling Ministries Team**

**Sing A New Song**

August 25-28

Sawmill Creek Resort

Huron, Ohio

Join Reconciling Ministries Network for Convocation (bi-annual convention) held this year in Huron, Ohio. Convocation is a great way to connect in worship, plenaries, and fellowship in an inclusive environment for three days. LGBT people, along with friends, allies and family members meet and form relationships.

Join United Methodist united in love to find family, create community, break bread, share stories and mobilize for mission.

More information and costs are available at web site: <http://sans2011.org/>

Limited scholarships are available from Reconciling Ministries Network and also from St Paul's UMC. For scholarships at St. Paul's UMC, contact Jacqueline Bonner at: [jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org) or 273-5971.

**Annual Conference June 8-11**

St. Paul's UMC invites you to attend Annual Conference at Rochester Riverside Convention Center 123 East Main Street Rochester.

Reconciling members of the annual conference team will be hosting a reconciling information table in the Grand Hall, where stoles and other "swag" (*items worn or displayed to show support*) will be available, along with brochures and other pertinent information. **Volunteers are needed to staff the table from 7:45 in the morning to 8:45 in the evening.**

Several motions will be brought to the floor hoping to help change language in the *Book of Discipline*. If the *Book of Discipline* could be changed, ALL people would be welcomed in the United Methodist Church.

**If you would like to volunteer at Annual Conference contact Jami Breedlove at 347-4427 or e-mail at [dietmt Dew@juno.com](mailto:dietmt Dew@juno.com).**



**The Reconciling Ministries Team  
& the Spiritual Life Team\* Co-host  
*transACTION* Class**

***transACTION... a three-week study in July*** inviting interested St. Paulians into a place of understanding, acceptance, and welcome of transgender persons in our congregation and community.

***transACTION.... using a format of readings, reflection and facilitated discussion,*** the three sessions will explore the concept of gender, how church and culture approach questions of gender identity, and suggestions for congregational action toward welcome and inclusion.

***transACTION... the study materials come to us from The Institute for Welcoming Resources*** of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, working with member programs of the Welcoming Church movement.

***transACTION.... a chance to explore, stretch, engage, expand*** our understanding of the rooted and radical love of Jesus Christ.

***transACTION....Sundays, July 10, 17, 24, 10:45—12 noon,*** led by Larry Roberts and Pastor Margie Mayson in the Memorial Rooms following worship. Refreshments will be provided.

***JOIN US IN A SPIRIT OF OPENNESS TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER!***

\*The Adult Spiritual Growth Team and the Worship Committee have combined to form the Spiritual Life Team



## Loving Care Ministries

What if...you could not get to church on your own and had no other way to get here? How would you feel about missing this vital part of your life of faith?

Some members of our congregation depend on the Sunday Gadabout Ministry for transport. **Charlie Tilton and Pat Woodworth have been providing this valuable service for the past 18 years. What an incredible commitment!** Now that they are both retired from Ithaca College, they have decided it is time to retire from this ministry at the end of June. They have served faithfully and lovingly on our behalf, and for the last few years there have been no substitute drivers. Now it is up to us to determine how we can continue this ministry!



Our Sunday Morning Gadabout Ministry Needs Your Help!

Could YOU...

Serve on the Transportation Committee?

We need people to help us put together a plan for the transportation needs of our congregation.

Provide a ride for someone who needs a ride to church?

This summer we will not be using the wheelchair bus so those who ride will need to be picked up for church and returned home following the service.



### Gadabout

Become a Driver for the Gadabout Bus?

We are hoping to have several drivers to rotate duties. We are willing to help anyone obtain a CDL license and be trained in the procedures for driving the bus, etc.

Be an Assistant and/or Scheduler?

We will need a person each week to assist the riders getting on and off the bus. Also, someone to make phone calls on Saturday to find out who will be riding in order to determine the route for the week. This could be the same person or two different persons.

If you are interested in helping in any of these ways, please contact me at the church or by email ([etabor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:etabor@stpaulsithaca.org)). This ministry is an important part of who we claim to be as we try to be faithful in welcoming ALL people into our fellowship.

Rev. Eunice Tabor, Loving Care Coordinator

# Children's Ministries



## FAITH EXPLORERS (K-6th grades)

The Faith Explorers are wrapping up another year of lessons. This year we've studied Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, the Christmas story, the lost parables, the kingdom parables, and Saul on the road to Damascus.

We also have done a service project assembling 30 school bags for Haiti using the offering money the children have collected. The bags will be sent to Haiti through the Wyoming Conference School Bag Project.

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 12th, we will be having our 5th 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 19th for children entering grades 1-6.

## Faith Discovery Group

Thank you to Denise Beeners, Angela Gaige, and Phyllis Highland for teaching this final unit of Faith Discovery Group. The children will finish with their lessons on June 12th.

Thank you also to the 13 teachers who helped with the Faith Discovery Group program this year. The children had a great time learning new songs, playing games, doing crafts, and building friendships. Some weeks we had as many as 15 children (3-5 years old)!



While there is no formal Faith Discovery Program during the summer months, there will be childcare available for the preschoolers.

## Family Worship Sundays

Now available: On Family Worship Sundays (the next one is on July 3), there will be Children's Bulletins in the back of the sanctuary. The activities are appropriate for ages 3-12 and will relate to either the service topic or the Faith Explorers/Faith Discovery unit. Pencils/markers are also available.

### Childcare

Summer hours for childcare (9:15-11:00 a.m.) will begin on June 19th in the pre-school classroom.

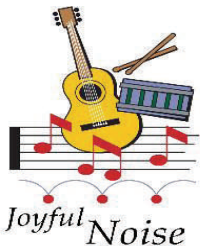
## Summer Camp

There are still spaces left for many 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.



We have some scholarship money available. See Laura Dolch for more information.

## Children's & Youth Music Ensembles



We have had a wonderful year of making music in both the Children's Music Group and Youth Ensembles. The Children's Music Group had up to 17 participants and performed an average of once per month. The music they learned included popular children's songs as well as selections from *The Faith We Sing*. The children welcomed the addition of new instruments and learned to sing in rounds.

This year the Youth Ensemble wrote 2 pieces and arranged one more. They performed at a special Thanksgiving Youth Service as well as at St. Paul's. Their pieces increased in complexity—both theologically and musically. The group is looking forward to welcoming the upcoming 6th graders to join in this fall.

We are so grateful for an incredibly committed group of children and caregivers that make this ministry possible. We look forward to the year to come!

Lydia and Beverly

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

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**Please pray for these members of our church family:** Sylvia Bailey; Don Cameron; Tina Champion; Roy and Alma Coats; Jeanne Corbit; Dockstader Family; Dora Fratelli; Kay Friedlander; Melissa Gould; Jessie Helton; the Hymes family; Priscilla Lawrence; Jim Leet; Betty Matheney; Jane Mazurek; Lucille McBean; Connie McDowell; Bonnie Meyerhoff; Calissa Mosher; Ocello Family; Ellie Phillips-Burdge; Nancy Potter; Elsie Price; Sallie Pure; Bill Schoch; Ruth Shannon; LaVerne Snyder; Mary Ellen Stewart; Elaine Weiss; Andrea Downing Zheng

**Please pray for these members of our extended church family:** Beverly Allen (Elaine Weiss' cousin); Bill Arden (Tina Champion's friend); Alex Arnold (Ellie Phillips-Burdge's nephew); Esther Bailey (Sylvia Bailey's aunt); Priscilla Barber (David Barber's mother); Jordan Boardman (Mary Boardman's grandson); Matt Boardman (Mary Boardman's son); Larry Burke & Marilyn (Josette Garrison's friends); Dianne Cornish (Elaine Weiss' cousin); William Deming (Melissa Gould's nephew); Mark Downing (Andrea Downing Zheng's brother); George Eberhardt and Larry R. (David McElrath's friends); Kip Flint and family (Kevin Flint's



brother); Maria Isabel Garcia (Ellie Phillips-Burdge's great niece); Sheryl and Myranda Gillow (Pam Gillow's daughters); Alan and Laurie Hahn (Nancy Potter's friends); Jeffrey Howarth; Craig Kitchner and family (Lisa Harris' family); Larry Mayfield (Carolyn Longhouse's brother); Amanda Miller (Ruth Keagle's niece); Ev Morgan (John & Elaine Weiss' friend); Arlene and Arthur Preston (George Preston's parents); Sallie Pure's brother John; Melody Ramey (James Haines-Burnham's sister); Emily Reynolds (friend of Marilou Slattery); John Saltsman & Thelma Saltsman (LaVerne Snyder's friend and his mother); Dorothy and William Schumacher (LaVerne Snyder's aunt & uncle); Abby Springhorn (Maria Magill's niece); Cathy Waddington (Susan Eyster's friend).



**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

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