

St. Paul's Letter

July-August 2011

Deep Listening

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

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The lull of midsummer conjures up images of rest and relaxation: lazy evenings, long weekends, opportunities to calm our minds, let go of our tensions, refresh our sense of wonder and play. But in the easing of our busy schedules we find more than just diversion from our ordinary cares. Beyond the hum of July cicadas or the quiet of evening, we begin to sense the possibility of a different way of living, the whisper of a deeper peace, a source of renewal that seems at once elusive and very near at hand.

Indeed, the Scriptures tell us that we are not the only ones to leave our familiar routine in search of times and places where the possibility and challenge that God whispers in the needs of our own spirit can be heard. Part and parcel of our humanness is the stirring to seek out—in weariness or hope, longing or excitement—a deeper listening that affirms and shapes our life's journey.

In our summer worship we hope to provide a variety of worship experiences that will help us break out of our "normal" routines and places so that we can hear in new ways the voice of God that sometimes gets lost in the busyness of our lives. Through quiet contemplative Taizé services to joyful hymn sings, to thoughtful reflection on the things that clutter our souls, we hope you will join us in worship as we seek together for clues to sharpen our listening and strengthen our spirits in this and all our seasons.

In anticipation of some new ways of being together in this mysterious and creative Pentecost season I welcome you and your summer visitors and friends!

Margie

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



*Lectionary Readings for July-August:***July 3, 2011**

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49,
58–67
Psalm 45:10–17 or Ps. 72
Romans 7:15–25a
Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

August 7, 2011

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28
Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22,
45b
Romans 10:5–15
Matthew 14:22–33

July 10, 2011

Genesis 25:19–34
Psalm 119:105–112 or
Psalm 25
Romans 8:1–11
Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

August 14, 2011

Genesis 45:1–15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1–2a, 29–
32
Matthew 15: (10–20)
21–28

July 17, 2011

Genesis 28:10–19a
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24
Romans 8:12–25
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

August 21, 2011

Exodus 1:8–2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1–8
Matthew 16:13–20

July 24, 2011

Genesis 29:15–28
Psalm 105:1–11, 45b
Romans 8:26–39
Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

August 28, 2011

Exodus 3:1–15
Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26,
45c
Romans 12:9–21
Matthew 16:21–28

July 31, 2011

Genesis 32:22–31
Psalm 17:1–7, 15
Romans 9:1–5
Matthew 14:13–21

*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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Assistant Organist

Andi Merrill

Director of Church Ministries

Jacqueline F. Bonner

Rehearsal Accompanist

Ellie Phillips-Burdge

*Administrative Ministries**Coordinators*

Kevin Miller & Sarah Crossgrove

Chancel Choir Director

Jayne Demakos

*Loving Care Ministries**Coordinator*

Eunice Tabor

Bell Choir Director

Dorothy Preston

*Children's & Youth**Choir Directors*

Lydia Dolch &

Beverly Stokes

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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

St. Paul's Letter (USPS 477-060) is published monthly, except August, free, by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora St., Ithaca, NY 14850. Copy deadline is the fifteenth of the month. Editor is Julie Schnepel.

Volume 56, Issue 6

Postmaster: Please send all address changes to: 402 N. Aurora St.
Ithaca, NY 14850.

Periodical Postage Paid at Ithaca, NY 14850-9998



SUMMER WORSHIP

July 3 Communion and Worship in the Taizé style, which involves a lot of quiet music sung repeatedly to allow for the words and tunes to draw us ever deeper into the depths of our hearts where the Spirit resides. For more information on Taizé go to <http://www.taize.fr/en>

July 10 The Sung Word...Enjoy singing and learning about God's Creation through the sung word. Favorites as well as some new hymns will help us see our role in enjoying and stewarding God's beautiful creation.

July 17 A Moravian Love Feast...We will meet in the Dining Room for an experience that forms a unique part of our heritage and opens up the meaning of "community."

July 24 A three-part series begins on De-cluttering Our Lives and Making Room for the Spirit. This Sunday we will focus on clearing out the physical obstacles in our lives.

July 31 De-cluttering our Lives, Part 2 will focus on clearing out the emotional/psychological parts of our lives.

August 7 De-cluttering our Lives, Part 3 will focus on making space for a healthy spiritual life.

August 14 The Sung Word... Enjoy singing and entering into the journey of faith as we sing our way through honest confrontation of our fears and weaknesses and honest reception of God's grace and forgiveness.

August 21 Again, we will enter into the mystery of God's presence through a repeat of a Taizé worship experience.

August 28 We resume regular worship hours and begin our Fall season with a fervent and joyful coming back to God and worship through music, prayer and spoken word.



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 info@stpaulsithaca.org. In an emergency, please call the parsonage, 256-8587.

Around the Church



We heartily thank all of you who remember to “pay ahead” during these summer months, especially as you travel and are unable to be present in worship! This enables us to stay current with our bills and provides a solid foundation for our ministries to continue.

Thank you!

Giving (through pledges, donations and cash) was at 96.31% of the budget at the end of May. This is a drop from last month's great report. However, we are ahead of 5 of the last 6 years. We are \$742 short of budget for income, but under-spent in the expense section by \$11,280, giving us a total of \$10,468 to the good.

Trustees Hard at Work

Some of you may not be familiar with St. Paul's **Trustees**. The St. Paul's Trustees is a group of 10 members who are responsible for maintaining the buildings and property of the church. To help with this maintenance responsibility the Trustees have access to an endowment that it uses to fund repairs and improvements. The Trustees strives to manage that endowment as efficiently as possible.



It has been an especially active time for the Trustees, starting with the replacement of the boilers last year, to the preparation for the new bathrooms and roof repairs scheduled for this year. In between we have addressed a myriad of issues including

- ◇ Negotiating a lease for the Waldorf School to use some St. Paul facilities for the 2011-2012 school year
- ◇ Adding a handicap automatic door opener for the Aurora St. door leading to the elevator
- ◇ Planning and coordinating improvements to the kitchen to allow the church to again host events that require the kitchen
- ◇ Cleaning the carpets
- ◇ Fixing the hot water heater
- ◇ Coordinating inspections of the elevator and the fire protection systems
- ◇ General painting, electrical, plumbing, furniture, and grounds maintenance
- ◇ Removing of burdensome trees
- ◇ Analysis of the options for restoring the stained glass windows
- ◇ Research into purchasing an AED Automated External Defibrillator; including planning for the training of church staff and members

More work awaits us as we venture into the implementation phases of the major renovations. We appreciate your prayers to help us make the best decisions for the church.

Capital Campaign Launches

June 19th marked the official launch of the Capital Campaign for the renovation of St. Paul's bathrooms, as well as fulfilling the Priority One items of the Trustees maintenance items. In addition to the work that will be going into upgrading and caring for this beautiful historic building, we are also anticipating new and exciting ministries to emerge as we plan and move forward with the capability of being able to offer even greater hospitality. To that end, a \$50,000 component of the campaign has been designated for new community outreach ministries.

During the summer months of July and August, we hope that everyone will take the opportunity to meet with another member of the congregation when they call, to talk about our life together at St. Paul's and to consider supporting this new step in our journey together. Together we can proudly build on the rich legacy our forebears left us when they so generously provided to build this wonderful building and all its ministries we have come to know and love.



**Our Hearts
go out to...**

Word has been received of the death of former St. Paulian, **Beverly Churchill**, who died on May 23, 2011 in Dayton, Ohio. Bev is survived by her husband, Raymond, two daughters, and three grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Ray at 5363 Oakvista Pl., Dayton, OH 45440.

Our sympathies are extended to the family of **Marian Forester** who passed away on June 13, 2011.

With a new season comes transition. We offer blessings to those individuals and families who have been such a special part of our church family and now journey elsewhere.

Sarah Mkhonza
The Steidel family
The Pestar family
Matt Agler and Miriam Rosenbaum



A Special Invitation Saturday August 20, 2011

This summer Wes and I are especially excited to celebrate the wedding of our daughter, Jessica Mayson Perkins, to Diego Suquillo on **Saturday, August 20th at 1:00 p.m.** here in our beautiful sanctuary. We would love to have the congregation join us as we celebrate this momentous occasion in our lives. A light reception will follow.

Jessica and Diego met many years ago when she was studying Spanish in Ecuador, and they reconnected two years ago via Facebook. Currently, they work and live in Uganda in East Africa. Diego manages an agricultural micro-finance project that is focused on improving the lives of HIV positive patients and their families for Massachusetts General Hospital as part of an international collaboration with a local university in Mbarara, Uganda. Jessica directs a research project on person-to-person social networks, health, and development as part of data collection for a Ph.D. dissertation in the area of global health policy. They have visited St. Paul's several times a year ever since we moved to Ithaca. Both Diego and Jessica have met many of you and now call it home and are excited to share this happy day with you! *Margie*

Lay Speaking Ministries Course Offered

A Basic Lay Speaking course is being offered this summer at the Truxton United Methodist Church. The course runs Sunday evenings, July 17, 24, 31 and August 7 and 14 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. This foundational course discusses the processes to help individuals discern and respond to God's particular call on their lives. For more information, please contact Lorrie Spence, 315-462-7192 or revspence@juno.com. A informational flyer is on the table in the hallway.

St. Paul's Connections

Older Adult Picnic
 Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Rain or Shine
 11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Home of Mary Lou and Dick Tenney
 220 Banks Road

Salads, sandwiches, dessert & beverages
 will be provided for \$8.00



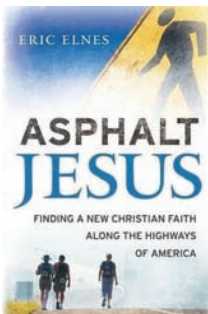
Grill 'n Games! Summer has begun, and it is time to relax on Cayuga Lake with Church friends and family. Come to **Pavilion F in Myers Park, Friday, July 15, at 6:00 p.m.** for a fun evening of **Grill 'n Games!** Hamburgers (veggie too), hot dogs, and lemonade will all be provided. **(Just bring a side dish or dessert, if you wish.)** We will also have lawn games (Bocce ball, Frisbee) and our favorite board games (Apples to Apples, Taboo), and feel free to bring any games that you want to share.

Grill 'n Games!
Friday, July 15
6:00 p.m.
Myers Park

At the close of the evening, **Pavilion Prizes** will be handed out to lucky attendees!

We look forward to connecting by the lake on Friday, July 15th. Directions to Myers Park in the Town of Lansing (on Myers Road off Ridge Road/Rte. 34B) are available in the Church Office. **Carpools** to the Park will leave from St. Paul's at 5:30 p.m.

Asphalt Jesus Book Study



On Easter Sunday in 2006 a small group of people set out to walk from Phoenix, Arizona, to the nation's capital. They hoped to foster conversations about what it means to be progressive Christians in an age of Fundamentalism. *Asphalt Jesus* tells the story of their journey, and further articulates a joyous and loving faith that moves beyond the labels of "Christian Right" and "Christian Left." Please join us for a discussion of this exciting book, and its companion book *The Phoenix Affirmations*. It will be an opportunity for fellowship and a chance to get to know your student pastor Pam Carey better, while we learn from the experiences of this brave group of people who set out on a journey to spread the message of God's love.

We will meet from 7:00 until 8:30, on Wednesday evenings in the Durham Room, starting on July 13 and going through August 17.

This book is available in hard cover for a little less than \$25 from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. St. Paul's has located and ordered 5 used copies which we will be able to offer for **\$10**. Contact Jacqueline, jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org or 273-5971, to reserve one of these copies or to sign up for the book study.

From St. Paul's Reconciling Ministries Team

A thank you for our \$300 donation...



Dear Reconciling Friends:

Because of your support and ministry a place of true welcome for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender exists in The United Methodist Church. Additionally, your support of Reconciling Ministries Network does much to change the policies of The United Methodist Church. Thank you! Your witness grows hope!

- Rev. Troy Plummer
Executive Director
Reconciling Ministries Network



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



A Word from the Second-ever Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church held June 7-11 in Rochester

Your church was well-represented among the 2,000+ participants at the Upper New York Annual Conference, fittingly held on the eve of Pentecost, otherwise known as the "birthday" of the early church.

Four St. Paulians--Jacqueline Bonner, Debby Wells-Clinton, Jami Breedlove and Karen Kaufmann--served as lay members of Conference, and Eunice Tabor represented our active and affiliated clergy. In addition, Danette Johnson and Diana Crouch were there to staff a display table for the conference Reconciling Ministries Network, distributing rainbow stoles and bearing witness to the message of invitation and inclusivity across lines of gender and orientation that unites Reconciling United Methodists.

Not coincidentally, the Conference theme was "Moving in the Spirit," based on the movement of the Holy Spirit into and out through the early church at Pentecost, as chronicled in the opening chapters of the book of Acts.

The mighty wind and tongues of flame you may recall from the story of Pentecost in Acts 2--the manifestations of the Holy Spirit that led the disciples to boldly proclaim the Gospel in a multiplicity of languages so that *everyone* could understand--figured at Conference in bold and vivid symbols and actions. The Spirit was invoked in many ways:

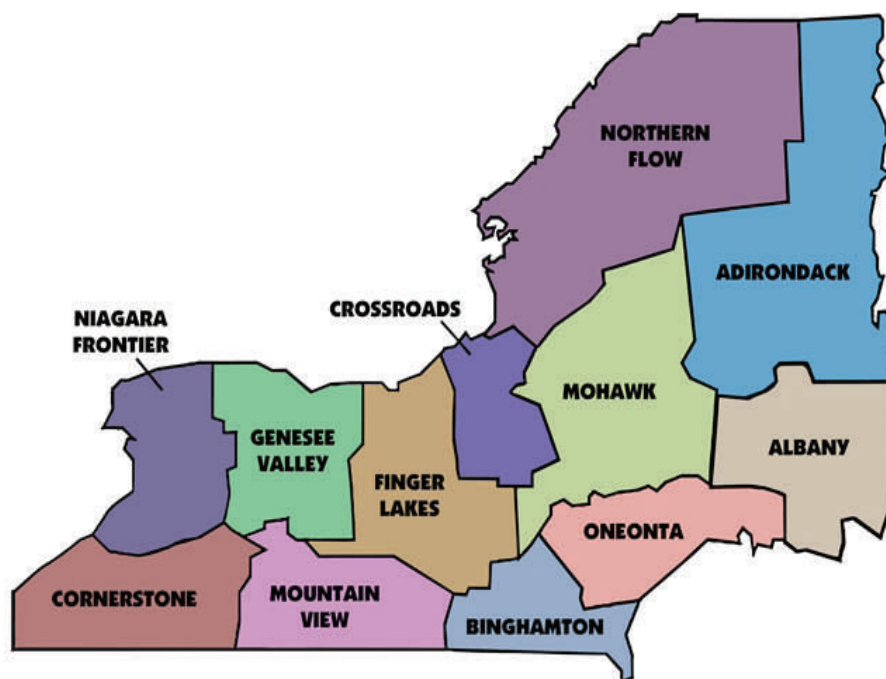
- ♥ in the rolling drums and swirling banners of opening worship,
- ♥ in the stirring rhythms and soulful prayers of the Africa University Choir, which sang, danced, prayed, cheered, laughed and cried with Conference over four days of "holy conferencing,"
- ♥ in the bold and inclusive preaching of guest Bishop James McCleskey of South Carolina,
- ♥ in the music of Drew University professor Mark Miller and his ensemble, who played, sang and spoke to the diversity of Conference members,
- ♥ in the colorful and open witness of Reconciling rainbow stoles,
- ♥ in prayerful voting for delegates for next year's General Conference (our delegation will include folks broadly representative of our Conference area's diverse membership and church cultures),
- ♥ in the buzz and hum of faith stories shared over lunch and ministries modeled in Powerpoint and public testimony,
- ♥ in holy moments of courage and prophetic proclamation when Conference considered petitions to remove exclusive language about orientation from our United Methodist Discipline,
- ♥ even in persisting tensions around issues of finance, leadership and sexuality, as the new Conference and its 900 some churches worked to create common polity and policy.
- ♥ You will be pleased to know that Conference took some bold and powerful actions:
- ♥ It committed to a million-dollar scholarship endowment for Africa University, beginning with a spontaneous floor offering of \$14,000. (Another floor offering raised \$7,000 for the ever-transforming Youth Mission of Peace trip to Nicaragua in December.)

- ♥ It kicked off a million-mouth local hunger project for the coming year, beginning with a collection of goods for the Open Door Mission in host city Rochester.
- ♥ It ordained a dozen new elders and deacons, including our own Harold Wheat, now serving a two-point charge in the north country.
- ♥ It adopted a steady \$10 million budget, a new shared ministry formula, and a uniform "Safe Sanctuaries" policy for the protection of vulnerable children and adults in our midst--trusting that congregations will keep faith despite economic and logistical challenges.
- ♥ And, by a 5-4 voting margin, it endorsed 5 of 9 petitions to move the church to full inclusion by removing hurtful and exclusionary language about homosexuality from our Discipline--spurred on by Bishop McCleskey's bold proclamation that, given the witness of Pentecost, he could not see "how anyone could be so narrow as to exclude anyone." These petitions and others like them that Conference did not reach with time for full discussion will go on to the General Conference next April. Between now and then, we can pray for the movement of the Spirit of bold inclusion in the hearts of all of the people called United Methodist, so that our denomination will join our Presbyterian, Episcopal, Congregational, and other mainline peers in declaring the love of God for *all* God's children.

And yet--there was a bittersweet side to our Conference's holy boldness, made manifest in the fear, discomfort, sorrow, even anger of folks whose faith and faithfulness were challenged by unfamiliar patterns of giving and leadership, even more by new understandings of human sexuality and Biblical interpretation.

As Conference works in the coming year to empower the diverse congregations and individuals of our Methodist connection in the upstate New York region, let us also pray for the presence and guidance of the Spirit. May it continue to unite us, nudge us forward in understanding and compassion, and--as our Wesleyan forebears would have put it-- lead us "on to perfection" in the love of God and neighbor, both within our congregations and Conference and in outreach to the wider world.

Meanwhile, I'm happy to have been a part of a great movement of Spirit in the long hours of holy conferencing, and to have shared the week with so many wonderful St. Paulians. Thank you all! -- Karen Kaufmann





Congratulations
St. Paul's 2011
High School Graduates

Emily Breedlove-Crouch is graduating from Dryden High School on June 24. At Dryden she has participated in her school's drama club, both on and off the stage, for the past four years. She has also been involved in Dryden's a capella group, art club, and National Honor Society, and for the past two years she has been the student representative for the school board. Outside of school Emily has been working at Wegman's and participating in St. Paul's Youth group. She has been attending St. Paul's for six years and has been involved in many of the youth group's events, such as fundraising, camping, the Red Bird Mission Trip, confirmation, and other fun activities. After graduating, Emily plans on going to SUNY Fredonia, where she will start to earn her Bachelor of Fine Arts. Before leaving she would like to thank members of the church for their support and loving smiles, but most importantly she would like to thank her moms for their tremendous support through late night art projects and troubled times, and also for their constant love.

Jennifer Cook is graduating from Ithaca High School. Horses have been a major part of her life since she was little, and she looks forward to attending Morrisville State College in the Fall for equine studies. Her other passion is music. She plays the harp, as well as clarinet, bass clarinet and contrabass clarinet in the Ithaca High School band and orchestra and Ithaca Concert Band. Some of her fondest memories are of ringing in the bell choir here at St. Paul's with her mom, the flower sales, festivals, and "girls' night." Good friendships were forged over the years and she will miss everyone very much. Thank you, St. Paul's.

Ken Windstein is graduating from Lehman Alternative School and going to SUNY Oneonta in the fall. His interest is environmental studies.

Clinton Denman is graduating from Trumansburg High School this year. He participated in football, basketball and baseball. Here at St. Paul's he was in the youth groups and participated in many community service projects, such as raking yards and painting in the church. Next year he will be going to Tompkins Cortland Community College and will be enrolling in General Studies, taking many Business Classes.

Geoff Preston is graduating from Ithaca High School. While at Ithaca HS he participated in football, cross country, and track and field. Geoff was also the sports editor of the high school newspaper, the *IHS Tattler*; and participated in the Link Crew program. Geoff has been a member of the St. Paul's family for his entire life; his parents were married here, he was baptized here, and last year he participated in confirmation classes. Geoff will continue his education at Michigan State University next fall, studying journalism.

Loving Care Ministries

Summertime is a time for rest and relaxation for many of us, a time to take a break from some of the responsibilities we have during the rest of the year. And, yes, it is important to take some time for rest and rejuvenation.

Yet...for many of our members who are unable to attend church, their needs go on just the same. They still live with the difficulties that continue to confront and confine them. Even though it's summer, our loving care needs remain. There are still those who face medical treatments, surgery, pain, and suffering. So, what can you do?

- ♥ **Remember to keep on praying for those on our prayer list.** The list of those with the most current prayer needs can be found in the weekly bulletin and the complete list on the table in the hall outside the sanctuary.
- ♥ If you hear of anyone with an illness, surgery or other need for pastoral care, please, **please notify the office** or me so that we can try to meet those needs.
- ♥ Spend some time in prayer this summer to consider if **God is calling you to be a part of Loving Care Ministries**, perhaps as a visitor, home communion server, phone caller or in our card ministry. The rewards are many.

Come and be a part of a ministry that helps keep the church connected to many of our members who are unable to get here in person. Thanks, Eunice

To contact me – email – etabor@stpaulsithaca.org or call the office and leave a message.



Gadabout

Wanted

Persons for our Sunday Gadabout Ministry...to serve on the Transportation Team or to become a driver for the Gadabout bus or to assist with scheduling and pickup. Training available. Contact Eunice Tabor – 273-5971

Wanted

Persons interested in sending cards monthly to those who cannot attend church as part of our Card Ministry program.

Resources and supplies provided if needed.

Contact Eunice Tabor at etabor@stpaulsithaca.org



Christian Education

Celebration and Recognition

In recognition of Teachers, Guides, and all Leaders and Assistants in our 2010-2011 programs for Children, Youth, and Adults.

St. Paul's has a rich ministry of education and programs for the children, youth, and adults of our church, providing exciting, Biblically based learning opportunities at all age levels. Three- and four- year olds attend the Faith Discovery Group class. School-age children, K-6, enjoy the Faith Explorers program. Middle and high school youth participate in the morning and afternoon programs. And a variety of adult classes are offered throughout the year, including Bible studies, discussion groups, retreats, and workshops.

Today we recognize and thank the many, many, members and friends of St. Paul's United Methodist Church who have reflected God's love to the rest of us by offering their leadership and support.

Adult Spiritual Growth

Sylvia Bailey	Ashlee McGandy	Jeff Shepardson
Lydia Dolch	Michael McGandy	Christine Stockwell
Greg Eells	Leslie Meyerhoff	Mary Lou Tenney
Karen Kaufmann	Beth Miles	Dick Tenney
Pam Gillow	Mike Miles	Debby Wells-Clinton
Nancy Lovell	Kevin Miller	David Westlake
Glenna Margaris	Amie Patchen	Teresa Yatsko
Bob McCune	Larry Roberts	Lesley Yorke
Dave McCune	Julie Schnepel	

Faith Discovery Group

Denise Beeners	Phyllis Highland	Andrea Russo
Jennifer Colvin	Steve Johnson	Jody Steidel
Lydia Dolch	Sallie Pure	Frost Travis
Angela Gaige	James Rodriguez	Kate Travis



Faith Explorers

Matt Agler	Bev Hartz	Leslie Meyerhoff
Adrial Albro	Paul Jennette	Tim Meyerhoff
Stephanie Atkins	Danette Johnson	Mike Miles
Ali Beach	Steve Johnson	Stacey Pestar
Amy Benedict-Augustine	Karen Kauffmann	Emma Preston
Audrey Bradburn	Jason Keagle	Kelly Richards
John Bradburn	Sue Kiner	Miriam Rosenbaum
Jennifer Colvin	Lisa Lennox	Patty Sipman
Sarah Crossgrove	Lori Livengood	Mary Ellen Stewart
Michael Culotta	Nancy Lovell	Christine Stockwell
Fred Deppe	John Marohn	Heather Williams
Rebecca Dolch	Cheryl McGraw	Lesley Yorke
Michelle Eells	Mike Miles	Andrea Downing Zheng
Pam Gillow	Beth Mudge	
Gayle Gleason	Dwight Mengel	

Youth Ministries

Amanda Baker	Jason Keagle	Jeff Shepardson
Kris Baker	Amie Patchen	Drew Tennant
Duncan Cooper	Heather Sanford	Teresa Yatsko
Kristen Cooper	Sarah Sanford	Parents of Youth

Children's Ministries

Backyard Bible Club

The summer program for elementary age children is Backyard Bible Club. Each week will feature fun games, a Bible story and lesson, and free play on the playground. Children meet their teachers in the Marketplace after Time with Young Christians.

Volunteer adults are still needed for this summer. Will you consider committing to one (or more) weeks? Prep work is minimal and the lessons and supplies are all prepared ahead of time for you. Contact Laura Dolch at lauradolch@stpaulsithaca.org if you are interested!

**Childcare**

Summer hours for childcare: 9:15 — 11:00 a.m. every Sunday.

Children can meet their childcare providers in the preschool room.

Youth Ministries

A Small Reflection of the Youth Year

As I sit in my office, aka the Middle School Youth Room, with the new coat of paint, “autumn harvest” (orange), the middle school youth picked out, I am enlightened to think back and reflect on this year in the life of youth programming here at St Paul’s. I am indeed amazed at all that our youth can do together!

This year’s highlights have included raking leaves, fall camping in tipis, corn maze adventure, winter lock-in with a theme of “It’s Your Birthday,” ice skating, sledding, soup/salad brunch, bake sale, the fabulous Starry Night event, cleaning the pews for Palm Sunday and Easter, repainting their rooms, tool usage workshops, and the annual Middle School Mystery Trip. Middle School Youth made their way this year through the Bible Lessons for Youth curriculum. The Senior Highs took a look at how versions of the Bible can be different and discussed 1 John. Senior High also spent time throughout the year discussing our Mission Trip on various levels to prepare ourselves for the July 3 through July 9 week at Project Crossroads.

As the school year draws to a close and we say our goodbyes for the summer, I hope the youth take with them memories of their time together this year and to always remember to think about God always being with them through their daily life. We can look to an exciting program next year as we look to ways to make room for God in all that we do! Best wishes for a safe summer.

Rue Keagle, Youth Ministries Coordinator

Congratulations to all our Graduating Seniors!

Our seniors this year are Emily Breedlove-Crouch, Clinton Denman, Geoffrey Preston, Ken Windstein, and Jennifer Cook. They were recognized on June 5th during the 10:30 a.m. service. Please be sure to wish them well as they venture on to the next chapter in their lives.

Many thanks to those who volunteer their time to help with our youth this year

Senior High Youth Leaders: Amanda Baker, Kris Baker, Duncan Cooper, Kristen Cooper, Amie Patchen, Drew Tennant

Middle School Youth Leaders: Heather Sanford, Sarah Sanford, Jeff Shepardson, Teresa Yatsko, Jason Keagle

And the Parents of our Youth

Kris Baker instructs Senior High Youth on tool usage and safety in prep for mission trip.



Norm Pure instructs Senior High Youth on tool usage and safety.

Mystery Trip 2011

This year's mystery trip for our middle school youth began with a service project for Camp Good News in Afton, NY. The youth, who indeed are hard workers, braved the mud and muck to pull out cattails, lilly pads, and overgrown clumps of grass along the edge of their pond. After 2 hours of work, we headed over to Nathaniel Cole Park in Harpursville, NY for a nice long swim and some fun in the sand complete with a cooling ice cream snack. Finally, our adventure lead us to our final clue Genesis 24:23: "Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" in which we pitched tents in the yard of John and Carol Sanford, the father and step mother of Heather one of our leaders. One of the highlights of the evening for the youth was when Rue, Youth Ministries Coordinator, fulfilled her promise that if they raised more than \$100 at the car wash, then one of the youth would be allowed to put a whipped cream pie in her face. Eliot Deppe was given that honor and in mid relaxing breath Rue received that pie! During our evening campfire, John spoke of "how big is our God," talking about his mission trips and encouraging youth to think about how incredible our God is and that he is always there for us. Sunday morning the youth were challenged again to look around that beautiful wooded space to see what stood out for them that reminded them of God. Youth found symbols everywhere they looked, from the campfire in front of us to the clouds above us. We all had a great time and the youth shared many laughs, and made great connections and friends. We are sure they indeed eagerly await next year's mystery trip and its journey!



Katie White and April Carroll work together to remove roots of a cattail during service project on Middle School Mystery Trip.



Eliot Deppe getting the honor of putting a whipped cream pie in Rue's face at the Middle School Mystery Trip!

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

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; 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 Miranda Gillow (Pam Gillow's



daughters); Alan and Laurie Hahn (Nancy Potter's friends); Keith Hamm (Josette Garrison's friend); 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 (Marilou Slattery's friend); 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).



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