

# St. Paul's Letter

September 2011

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

**Inside this issue:**

Margie's Letter	1,3
Worship	3
Around the Church	4-9
St. Paul's Connections	10
Calendar	insert
Loving Care Ministries	11
Adult Opportunities	12-15
Children's Ministries	16-17
Youth Ministries	18-19
Prayer List	20

## Where Did the Summer Go?

Dear Friends,

As I quite regularly say now at this time of year... "Where did the summer go?" If I think about it, I know it went by, for me at least, filled with a lot of wonderful memories. Most recently, we enjoyed some great family time as we celebrated the marriage of our daughter.

Before that, I had a great time working with various members of the congregation on creating some different worship experiences this summer, many of which will stay with me for some time. I, along with many others, delighted in some wonderful conversations around our Capital Campaign. I witnessed all that it took to invite into our church home two new organizations: the Waldorf School of Ithaca and our own Andi Merrill's new Opus Ithaca School of Music (p. 6). I watched as devoted Trustees continued their work at prioritizing maintenance and repairs, while also cleaning up the curtains in the chancel, weeding the gardens around the building, and approving the restructuring going on in the kitchen downstairs.

I, along with you, welcomed our new intern, Pam Carey. We began exploring together what it might mean for us to add transgender persons to our welcoming reconciling statement. I spent some good hours de-cluttering my own home of books and clothes, as well as some more important time reflecting on where I am theologically, as I sought to de-clutter myself emotionally and spiritually, so that I could be ready for a new season.

Continued on p. 3

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

## St. Paul's Open House - Sunday, September 25

Invite friends, neighbors, co-workers and family to join us for worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 25 as we put our best foot forward to celebrate our worship and our building. Beginning at 11:30 a.m. refreshments will be served in two church building locations plus the parsonage next door. Watch for upcoming church work days to prepare. The trustees have several projects going and they need the entire congregation to do our part to prepare the building for this upcoming event.



**Invite a Neighbor  
Church Open House**

*Lectionary Readings for September:***September 4, 2011**

Exodus 12:1-14  
 Psalm 149 or Psalm 148  
 Romans 13:8-14  
 Matthew 18:15-20

**September 18, 2011**

Exodus 16:2-15  
 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78  
 Philippians 1:21-30  
 Matthew 20:1-16

**September 11, 2011**

Exodus 14:19-31  
 Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
 Romans 14:1-12  
 Matthew 18:21-35

**September 25, 2011**

Exodus 17:1-7  
 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
 Philippians 2:1-13  
 Matthew 21:23-32

*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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E-Mail: [info@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:info@stpaulsithaca.org)<http://www.stpaulsithaca.org>*Senior Pastor*

Margie Mayson

*Assistant Organist*

Andi Merrill

*Director of Church Ministries*

Jacqueline F. Bonner

*Chancel Choir Director*

Jayne Demakos

*Administrative Ministries**Coordinators*

Kevin Miller &amp; 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

*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 7

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

Periodical Postage Paid at Ithaca, NY 14850-9998

**Where Did the Summer Go? — Continued from p. 1**

And ready I am! I am excited about our overall theme *Making Room for the Spirit* and about sharing with you how I see that happening over the course of this next year. From informal dinners to potluck suppers, to teaching a Confirmation Class for our youth and a Living the Questions class for our adults, from continued opportunities for supporting our mission projects and gathering with new and old friends, this year is going to be great!

That doesn't necessarily mean, however, that it will be easy. Sharing a building while it is undergoing renovations will require collaboration, patience, grace, and, no doubt, humor on all our parts. Some of the things that we do and the way we do them may have to change, at least temporarily. We will all have to be flexible and learn to go with the flow...which may be a wonderful opportunity for us all to learn the lessons of trust!

All in all it will be a year unlike any other year, and I look forward to sharing it with you.

See you in church!

*Margie*

## Sundays in September

### September 4 — Labor Day

In conjunction with Gary Stewart, we will gather to give thanks for the summer that has been and look forward to a new season. We'll mark the beginning of another school year and prepare for a year of Making Room for the Spirit.

### September 11 — Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

Although it's been ten years since that fateful day, we still remember those who had their lives taken from them. We will pause to reflect on the sanctity of life and the invitation that arose out of those events to examine our common life as a nation in a global world. Special music, including our Chancel Choir will help us acknowledge this day.

### September 18

As we enter a new season I will begin a sermon series examining what has fondly become known as the *Beatitudes* or *Blessings* that Jesus addresses to his disciples. Modern translations use the word *Happy* in place of blessed and although it sounds a bit bland in the translation, it is something many people strive to be! So what are the things that can help make us happy in this world which struggles with volatile markets, unending wars, high unemployment and over-scheduled lives? Join me as we reflect together on Jesus' prescription for an abundant life.

### September 25

Now that everyone is settled into the new Fall season we will celebrate our being together with our Festive Open House following church. Using the Memorial Room, our Front Porch and the Parsonage next door we will welcome each other and welcome all to be a part of our beloved community.

## Around the Church

### Church Council Discusses Vision Statement

On August 27, members of the Church Council and the Vision 2015 Team met to reflect on the Vision Team's proposed vision statement for St. Paul's. The group studied and reflected on selected scripture passages that address discipleship and the nature of the church. We were reminded that a vision statement is brief and describes what the church will look like when it realizes its potential. The Vision Team's vision statement, still a work in progress, was crafted over six months by a dedicated group of fourteen people from across the life of the church. The statement reads:

*St. Paul's is a beloved community led and transformed by the Spirit.*

There was much support and enthusiasm for the simplicity of the statement, and as we began to "unpack" the individual words and phrases, many good ideas and strategies for how we might live into this vision began to be shared. The phrase "beloved community" has far-reaching implications, recalling how Martin Luther King Jr used the phrase to describe a community that stands for justice and equality. The phrase "led and transformed by the Spirit" was very important to the vision team as we began to understand and experience how powerful things can happen when we listen to and respond to the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Our hope is that while the Vision Statement will remain brief and clear, we will work on adding supporting paragraphs to help readers understand the full import of the statement. We welcome everyone's comments as we engage in this exciting progress as we move ever onward into God's future for St. Paul's.



### Trustees in Action Report

July and August may be called the Lazy Days of Summer but for the Trustees, the Office Staff, and the Capital Campaign Crew, there was "never a dull moment". The Trustees had enough on their plates that a special meeting was called on August 2 to address a half-dozen issues described here. We've been busy!!

The most visible thing to the congregation was probably the absence of the beautiful **draperies** that normally cover the pipes for the organ. It was a treat to see the movement of the baffles as John White played on Sunday, August 7th, but for the protection of our magnificent organ, the pipes must be covered. We were advised by the organ tuner that we absolutely could not clean the drapes in place because any possible moisture would damage the pipes. Thanks to Steve Beyers who climbed a very tall ladder and unhooked the incredibly dusty draperies after the August 2 meeting. What a cloud of dust flew when those drapes were released!! David Bell, Donna Gibson, Steve Beyers, Becky Terwilliger, Heather Williams and Jane Zimmer carried the dusty things to the balcony and draped them over the edge for cleaning by Classic Carpets. Thanks to these people plus Mary Boardman, David Allen, and Kevin Miller for helping get them back in place after worship on Sunday, August 7.

The downstairs **kitchen** is in an unrecognizable condition just now. It's being remodeled to install a new grease trap and correct several other chronic problems. When it's put back together the kitchen work spaces will be more efficient, the drains will work and there will be hot water!! Enough hot water!! The Trustees have also voted to install a poured resin floor in the kitchen for ease of cleaning and long term durability.

Many of you are probably aware that the **flat roof** of the educational wing (The 1957 addition) is in desperate need of repair. Steady drips and standing water need to be corrected before any further damage can occur. This item was moved to Priority #1 on the Trustee's list of repair items, and we hope to get this started before September 1.

As we move closer to starting the **restroom renovations** we recognized that a "Straw Boss" was needed to meet weekly with the selected contractor to answer questions or solve problems. Frost Travis and Heather Williams are both very well qualified and have graciously volunteered to act in our behalf once we get the renovations started. This is normally a paid position so their help is really appreciated. We are now in Phase 2 of our work with the La-Bella architects in which they develop detailed drawings that will allow us to request bids from contractors. We hope to be soliciting these bids by mid- to late September.

On Thursday evening, August 11, there was a **cleaning party** of great people helping to get ready for the opening of two schools that will utilize our church space in the 2011-2012 school year--Andi Merrill's brand new Opus Ithaca School of Music and the Waldorf School of Ithaca (grades 1-5). Some long deferred cleaning of the Faith Explorers classrooms was done and some minor changes made that will make the space more useable by both the new schools and our own Faith Explorers youth. Thanks to Laura Dolch and Kevin Miller for organizing this and for those who helped with the work: Carolyn and Howard Longhouse, Mary Lou and Dick Tenney, John, Audrey, John Jr., and Rosa Bradburn, David Allen, David Bell, Kevin Miller, Glenna Margaris, and Cheryl McGraw.

When you walk by the **gardens** on the East and South sides of the Church, take note that they are slowly being cleaned up. If you see a weed, stop and pull it out—this place belongs to all of us! Special thanks to David Bell and Donna Gibson for supervising two teams of college students who volunteered their time with gardening and clean-up on August 26-27.

Lots of work is done quietly with no report or fanfare. **Please thank David Allen** for his many hours of work in repairing and installing electrical service and **David Bell** who spends untold hours keeping our old house functioning. This is an exciting time for St. Paul's Church as we develop a new look in this old building.

Jane Zimmer

### **Capital Campaign Update**

*At press time we had raised \$589,395, or 91% of the "Building on the Past for the Future" goal. We have received 107 pledges and well over 100 St. Paulians are still considering their support for the campaign.*

Capital campaigns typically take a year or more to reach their goal. At St. Paul's we've been at it for a little over 4 months and we are getting close to reaching our goal of \$650,000. With its successful completion, St. Paul's will make investments in the building that will ensure its healthy future and create space that is dramatically more comfortable and inviting. Fixing broken windows and leaky roofs may not seem very exciting but they are essential to preserving the building that houses St. Paul's. New bathrooms on the main floor and basement level are improvements that also may not sound exciting but they are exactly the improvements needed to make our space much more welcoming.

The enthusiasm for this project has been inspiring and our goal is to have a very high level of participation regardless of the amount of the contribution. We hope that you will seriously consider supporting this project. In-person visits are taking place now. If you have not been contacted and you would like to learn more about the project, please call the church office. Let's get it finished!

Bev and Greg Hartz, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

## New Faces in St. Paul's Spaces

Beginning in September, if you happen by the church on any Monday through Friday, you may see some new faces making use of otherwise-unoccupied space. From 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the **Waldorf School of Ithaca** is holding classes for their elementary grades (1-5). They will be using the Promised Land and Carpenter's Shop rooms, the Harkness Room, and the Bell Choir Room. In addition, they have an administrative office located in the Jungle Room behind the stage of the Dining Room. Their office is a lockable, dedicated space, but they will be sharing the other rooms with other St. Paul's programs. They will be with us for this 2011-12 school year, but will be moving to a permanent facility next summer.

In the afternoons and evenings, Monday through Friday, our own Andi Merrill will be directing and teaching in the newly formed **Opus Ithaca School of Music**. She and husband Paul will be joined by a number of other teachers offering individual classes in piano and other instruments, as well as several ensemble groups. The School of Music will be using the Chancel Choir Room, the Dining Room, and the Harkness Rooms. They will also be storing some valuable musical instruments in the table and chair room, which will become a locked space. If you need frequent access to that room you will be issued a key, or the office staff will open the door for you.

Almost all of the spaces that are being used by these two schools are shared-use arrangements with St. Paul's. Our regular programming and special events will have priority use of the spaces, but we are committed to an attitude of flexibility and hospitality as we accommodate these groups in our midst. Having new folks entering our church building on a regular basis is a good thing, making new people aware of our church and congregation and demonstrating that St. Paul's is a vibrant part of downtown Ithaca! Be welcoming to the new folks you meet, and do pass along any concerns you might have to the office as we develop this new form of shared community.

Kevin Miller, Administrative Ministries Coordinator

### A Special Thank You from St. Paul's, Joplin, MO

Thank you so much for your donation. Your gift will make a big difference by helping us to restore lives and rebuild our community. We appreciate your gift and the prayers that accompany it. Please continue to pray for our church, community, and our needs as we continue to rebuild.

Thank you again from our St. Paul's family. May God Bless you!

(St. Paul's Ithaca sent a package containing several cards, many of our folded cranes and \$600.66.)



We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Don Cameron, who passed away on August 2, 2011, and to the family and friends of Don McKechnie, whose mother passed away on August 10, 2011.

*Thank You!*

I would like to thank all of this congregation that called or sent cards and notes during my recent surgery. I was quite touched knowing that some of you had just met me and others simply cared. Thank you one and all.

— Judy Johnston

*Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Alison Beach and Heather Williams on the baptism of their daughter, Shaelan on July 31, 2011; to Heather Gorman and Nicholas Pemberton who were married at St. Paul's on July 29, 2011.

**From Pam Carey, our seminary intern...**

September, with the start of the new school year, is often a time of new beginnings and fresh starts. In order to start fresh, we often have to let go of something—maybe an old way of doing things, or an old way of thinking.

Driving down Rt. 79 into Ithaca recently, I remembered the first time I traveled that road to Ithaca. I was beginning my freshman year at Ithaca College, ready to make a fresh start. I was leaving behind the security of home and family in order to move into a new phase in my life as a college student, with a goal of becoming a Physical Therapist. It was an exciting time, a little scary, knowing that I would be learning new things and facing new challenges. I knew that I would be changed by the experience, that at the end of my four years of college, I would not be the same person that I was when I started.

This summer, as I started my year of supervised ministry here at St. Paul's, has been similar. I am again making a new beginning. I am going to be leaving behind the security of a career in Physical Therapy, with the goal of becoming a full time minister. At the end of my time here, I will not be the same as when I started. It is exciting, and at times a little scary.

Thank you for being part of this time of new beginnings. May we all be changed, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to become whoever it is that we are supposed to be at this stage of our journey through life.

**Kitchen Shower - Sunday, October 2  
11:45 a.m., Church Dining Room**

The yard sale this summer made several hundred dollars to help replace some of the large cooking pans and needed equipment in our newly renovated kitchen. (Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.) We now all have the opportunity to help with the smaller kitchen items: dish towels, hot mitts, rubber spatulas..... Choose a tag from the display in the hallway, purchase this new item, wrap it and bring it to the party on October 2. We will take turns opening gifts for the kitchen and sampling some delicious light refreshments. Bring a recipe to share and a story to tell about it. The hallway display will include our selected kitchen colors and information about contributing towards group gifts if your small group or class would like to go in together to purchase a gift. Cheryl McGraw is coordinating this event. If you have questions contact her at [cherylmcgraw@cornell.edu](mailto:cherylmcgraw@cornell.edu).



**Celebrate Our  
New Kitchen**

**All Church Events Volunteers Needed**

We will be meeting early in October to select a theme for this year's Christmas reception. Volunteers are needed to take leadership for portions of our events and to help out on the day of events. Some of the events we will work on besides the Christmas Reception: Cupcake Cart for the Church Open House, support for the Christmas Reception: Cupcake Cart for the Church Open House, support for the Family Retreat at Casowasco and next year's summer picnic. We meet only when we have an upcoming event to work on. Contact Cheryl McGraw, [cherylmcgraw@cornell.edu](mailto:cherylmcgraw@cornell.edu), if you would like to help.



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## St. Paul's Connections

# Lift Every Voice for Success!

*Musical concert benefitting the Village at Ithaca and highlighting  
community resources for student success*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011 at St. Paul's**

**Pre-Concert Reception - 5:30 p.m.**

**Concert - 7 to 9 p.m.**

Fall is a wonderful time of hope, promise and expectation as our children return to school! Every child is gifted with talents and abilities that make her/him special and unique, and each has amazing potential to learn, grow and achieve success. But **a history of educational inequity in America means that low-income and students of color often need more support and advocacy to fully develop their potential.** The Village at Ithaca helps those students in a myriad of ways. Visit [www.VillageatIthaca.org](http://www.VillageatIthaca.org) to learn more.

The **Lift Every Voice for Success concert** is a major fundraiser for the organization, with a suggested donation of \$10. This year (our 8th annual) promises to be **even more inspirational** and entertaining than ever. In addition to a diverse line-up of musical performances, **video clips of Village students and families** will be featured. The **Pre-Concert Reception** will connect concertgoers with community resources helping all our youth to achieve success academically, vocationally, and socially. These **local organizations and programs will be tabling** in our Dining Room, sharing information about a range of services and opportunities, from 5:30—6:45. **Yummy snacks** and beverages will be offered. And you can take a sneak peek at handmade quilts being donated for a December **Village of Quilts** event. Everyone is welcome!

**Please mark your calendar to attend** on Saturday October 15th, and consider **helping out:**

**Volunteers needed to:** Donate baked goods for the reception ♡ Set up tables and chairs in the dining room Friday or Saturday ♡ Serve as a greeter 5—7 p.m. ♡ Serve as an usher 6:30—8 p.m. ♡ Post flyers around town ♡ Sell tickets at church or elsewhere ♡ Use your computer printer to make signs ♡ Advertise in the program booklet.

**Contact St. Paulians** on the Planning Team: Amy Benedict-Augustine [alb6381@gmail.com](mailto:alb6381@gmail.com) or Sara Culotta [sara.culotta@gmail.com](mailto:sara.culotta@gmail.com) (member of The Village Board of Directors)

## Casowasco Retreat

The Casowasco Retreat Committee would like to thank everyone in the congregation for supporting their fundraising activities this past year. We are also thankful for the 43 people (26 adults, 8 teens, 9 children) who participated in our April 2011 Retreat. Our "Club Casowasco" themed retreat featured hikes, cake decorating, scrapbooking, photography, storytelling, games, and other options for all ages. Participants could select a variety of these throughout the weekend or choose to have quiet time to walk or read by the lake. During the year, we held five successful fundraising events and raised a total of \$1672. Nine families donated a total of \$500 above their family's retreat cost. With these dollars, the Committee was able to offer every family a variety of discounts and scholarships to enable them to attend the retreat.

<b>Fund Raising Event</b>	<b>Earned</b>	<b>Discount Type</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>%cost</b>
<b>Can &amp; Bottle Drive</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>Early Registration</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Campfire Reunion</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Program Leaders</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Bon Ton Coupon Books</b>	<b>\$295</b>	<b>Participation</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Italian Dinner</b>	<b>\$731</b>	<b>Scholarships</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Chili Cook-off</b>	<b>\$585</b>			

We hope you will continue to support our events and welcome others to come and join us for next year's retreat April 20-22, 2012.

Casowasco Retreat Exec Committee: Wendy Johnson, Beth Mudge, Cheryl McGraw

## Feed My Starving Children Project

*"Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor."* Proverbs 22:9

The Feed My Starving Children project (FMSC), a non-profit Christian organization founded in 1987, has made the commitment to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach of the organization is simple: children and adults are invited to hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and then FMSC ships the meals to nearly 70 countries around the world. In September, the organization has planned a three-day work period in Ithaca during which 100,000 meals will be packed and made ready for distribution to the needy around the world.

The Spirited Connections Team asks you to join in this ecumenical effort. **On Saturday, September 10**, we will gather at Trinity Lutheran Church (149 Honness Lane, off Pine Tree Road) **at 3 p.m. for two hours** of critical work. (FMSC provides the food, but the food cannot reach its destination without careful packing.) Afterward all workers, St. Paulians and everyone else who has lent a hand, will be invited back to St. Paul's for a **hearty meal of soup, bread, and salad**. You are welcome to bring a dessert to share after the main meal.

Join us in this good work done in fellowship with the members of Trinity Lutheran and other Ithacans. Contact Ashlee ([ashleebeth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ashleebeth@sbcglobal.net)) or Michael McGandy ([mjmcgandy@gmail.com](mailto:mjmcgandy@gmail.com)) to indicate that you will be helping out on September 10. (You can also sign up in the Church Office.) We need as many hands as possible as FMSC needs to prepare the requisite amount of food for packing; so please get in touch as soon as possible in order to confirm your participation.



**Plan to join your St. Paul's Older Adult Friends  
on Tuesday, September 20th, 11:30 a.m.  
at the Ramada Inn.**

Our menu includes roasted pork loin, applesauce, veggies, spice cake and beverages, all still only \$10 per person. After lunch, we'll engage in table discussions about what *you* believe are the important issues facing St. Paul's today. Someone will be calling soon for your reservation. Would you like to share a ride with someone? Ask about carpooling!

### HEAR THE BELLS RING!



St. Paul's Festival Chimes will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 8 at 5:45 p.m. If you are interested in ringing with the group, or subbing occasionally, please contact Dorothy Preston at 539-6293 or [bdalepres@aol.com](mailto:bdalepres@aol.com). No ringing experience is required, but the ability to read music is necessary. We look forward to sharing another year of exciting handbell music at St. Paul's!

### Special Invitation to all St. Paul's Members from the Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir will return to sing for Sunday services on 9/11. This being the 10th anniversary of the attacks on the Trade Towers and the Pentagon, we are inviting all congregation members to come rehearse with the choir from 9 - 10 a.m. on the morning of 9/11, and then sing for the service. Don't be intimidated. Anyone can come, and we will make it easy for everyone to participate.

We will sing: **Al Shlosa D'varim** by Allen Naplan. This has a beautiful and fairly easy melody that we will teach you. The choir will take the harder parts. The text is "*The world is sustained by three things: by truth, by justice, and by peace.*" We will be singing the Hebrew words which are fairly easy to learn: **al sho-shah di-var-reem ha-o-lam kah-yam**. Remember: it doesn't have to be perfect! We just need to sing with love and a sense of community.



Come and help make this a meaningful event for us all!

## Lay Speaking Courses

**From Your Heart to Theirs - Preaching (advanced class)** — Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 4-6 p.m. Truxton UMC

**Dancing with Words, Storytelling as Legacy, Culture and Faith (advanced class)** — Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, Newark First UMC

**Basic Lay Speaking** — Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, Newark First UMC

**Basic Lay Speaking** — Nov. 5 & 12, Trumansburg UMC

**From Your Heart to Theirs - Preaching (advanced class)** — Jan. 8 & 15, 2012, Auburn First UMC

Course information can be found in the hallway or at [www.fingerlakesdistrict.org](http://www.fingerlakesdistrict.org).



## Loving Care Ministries

Even though Loving Care Ministries has been a part of St. Paul's for over five years, we are still often asked what we do. Our mission is to share God's love with the members of our church community, especially with those who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to actively participate in the life of the church. It is our intention to keep this connection active and provide spiritual care through programs such as those listed here, as well as other activities of a spiritual or educational nature. Some of our programs include...

**Visitation** – Members of our visitation team and the pastors make visits to those in the hospital, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and private homes on a regular basis.

**Home Communion** – Lay communion servers extend the table monthly by delivering communion to those unable to be present in worship on Communion Sunday.

**Card Ministry** – Our card ministry team members keep in touch by sending greeting cards each month to a small group of persons, most of whom are unable to attend church.

**Prayer Chain** – Prayer Chain members pray for the needs that arise for anyone in the church community.

**Worship Service CDs** – The weekly worship service is recorded on a CD and is available for delivery to anyone interested. CD players are also available.

**Gadabout Transportation** – This ministry provides a ride to church for those needing assistance. We are actively recruiting drivers and encourage you to contact the office for information about getting trained.

**Resources** – Loving Care Ministries has a library located in the Durham Room containing a variety of books on topics pertaining to caregiving. These can be borrowed by signing them out. Other resources include the *CARE NOTES*, which are booklets available at no charge to address spiritual needs such as grief and loss, health care, healing, and elder care. They are currently housed in the Welcome Room and Loving Care Library. Special Programs are planned occasionally such as healing services and seminars on end-of-life issues, i.e., planning a memorial service.

If you would like to know more about these programs, contact me or the church office. We are always looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to help with this ministry. We invite anyone with a heart for this ministry to come and join us. Contact Rev. Eunice Tabor, Loving Care Coordinator, at [etabor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:etabor@stpaulsithaca.org). As you bless others, you will be truly blessed as well.

# Adult Opportunities – Fall 2011

## Offered by the Spiritual Life Team

(The Adult Spiritual Growth and the Worship Teams have combined to form the Spiritual Life Team)

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**Sunday Mornings**  
**9:15 am – 10:15 am**  
**September 11 - October 16 & November 13-20**  
**NOOMA Video and Discussion**  
**Durham Room**  
**Greg Eells, Facilitator**



These 60-minute classes will start with one of the edgy and thought-provoking short films by NOOMA, an independent organization with a name based on the phonetic spelling of the Greek word for spirit. The class will include discussions and brief exercises to help participants reflect upon the role of faith in our lives.

*I find Rob Bell and the NOOMA series engaging to all my senses and invoking a variety of emotions. The in-depth study of the historic basis paired with contemporary images and sounds gives new life and meaning to the Biblical word. I find myself watching them over and over and glean- ing something new each time.*

Sarah Crossgrove



**Sunday Mornings**  
**9:15 am – 10:15 am**  
**October 23, 30 & November 6**  
**Durham Room**  
**Greg Eells and Pam Carey, Facilitators**

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

***transACTION...*** a three-week study this fall 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.

**Join us in a spirit of openness to God and one another!**

*The transACTION class reminded me how often I judge by, or rely on, externalities in my relationships and life of faith, and how Jesus calls us to a new way of relating that looks to the heart and takes to heart the uniqueness and experiences of others. Eye-opening, heart-enriching, culture-challenging-- an invitation into a deeper understanding of our faith and its call to hospitality and reconciliation.*  
Karen Kaufmann

*I felt very blessed to have the opportunity to learn about the experience of being transgendered, terminology, and how to ask some things (or not).... The enthusiasm and thoughtfulness was incredible.*  
Helen Closs

**Men's Adirondack Retreat**  
**Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2**  
**Dave McCune and Bud Dolch Adirondack Cabins**



Join other men from St. Paul's for this year's retreat in the Adirondacks! The theme is *Making Room for the Spirit*, and we will explore the topic through conversation, journaling, and enjoying the outdoors. You have the option of joining the group Friday evening, or during the day on Saturday-. Carpooling possible! The retreat will conclude Sunday morning. Registration is \$20 to cover costs for food and supplies. Contact Dave McCune ([DaveMcCune@aol.com](mailto:DaveMcCune@aol.com)) or Kevin Miller ([kwmhome@yahoo.com](mailto:kwmhome@yahoo.com), [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org)) for more information or to sign up.

*An amazingly peaceful environment and great fellowship—this special combination enabled the spirit of the Lord to move within each and among all of us.*  
Paul Eshelman

*I had such a fantastic time last year that I can't wait for the next retreat. The weekend was just the right balance between spiritual growth and recreation. I enjoyed getting to know some of the men at a deeper level through intentional conversation or just chatting on the hiking trail. It was so helpful to be surrounded by God's natural beauty in the Adirondacks. The setting created a perfect way to connect with other St. Paulian's and with God at the same time. For me it was very helpful to remove myself from my typical environment and allow myself the time to pause and appreciate the beauty of life and relationships. We also were able to cook up some pretty incredible meals, as well!*  
Adam Phillips-Burdge

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Sundays Afternoons  
September 11 through December 4  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Memorial Rooms  
Rev. Margie Mayson and Wes Perkins, Facilitators

*"Wisdom is asking the questions for which there are no answers." Harrell Beck*

**People know that Christianity has much good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a progressive "thinking" Christian, and that reclaiming Christianity from black-and-white theology is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.**

*Living the Questions, a 13-week small group study, provides a safe and open-minded environment where participants can explore beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people today seem to be stuck. This class will help newcomers, seasoned members, seekers and "church alumni" alike in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century, and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. We especially encourage newcomers to St. Paul's to participate!*

The format of each 2-hour session includes a time of centering followed by a DVD presentation, guided discussion, concrete spiritual exercises, Bible study and suggestions for engagement in acts of social justice.

Ongoing themes of the study include:

- Biblical authority
- Metaphor and how it shapes us
- The Jesus/Christ dichotomy
- What does faith look like in the 21st Century?

A **\$15 suggested donation** includes all class materials including the workbook. In order to have enough workbooks on hand for all participants, we encourage you to pre-register.

*This course is perfect for St. Paul's because it honors the diversity and inclusiveness that are such a basic part of our core beliefs. We learned about many of the paradoxes of Christianity, including the humanity and divinity of Christ, the essential truths and myths surrounding the Bible, the unity and diversity in a Christian community, and the appropriateness of questions to a life of faith.*

Julie Schnepel

*I was so excited when I first learned that St. Paul's was offering Living the Questions and I wasn't disappointed. I found a great group of people who were willing to discuss the questions that I have had for years but felt I had to keep to myself. And I discovered that it's OK to have the questions and to live with them and still call myself a Christian.*

Darlene De Jong

*It was very exciting to have a chance to hear and see (on DVD) the leading cutting-edge people in the progressive Christian movement today. Sharing this with a group of fellow St. Paulians made it very special; we got to know each other in a deeper, fuller way.*

Ruth Lovelace

*It has been a stimulating treat for me to be a part of this group.*

Elinor John



Invitation to the  
OLD TESTAMENT

Wednesdays, beginning September 14  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Pam Carey, Facilitator

Do you ever wonder why we as Christians read the Hebrew Scriptures? Is there anything in the ancient texts that is relevant for us today? This fall, Pam Carey, our seminary intern, will be offering an 8-week Disciple Bible Study called *Invitation to the Old Testament*. It will look at the story of God's call to the Hebrew people, and to us, told through the many voices and types of literature found in the Old Testament. It is an opportunity for fellowship and study, as we look at these texts together, exploring what they say to us as Christians, as well as what they said to the original readers of the stories. Pam is looking forward to seeing you there and sharing this journey with you.

A **\$10 suggested donation** includes all class materials including the workbook. In order to have enough workbooks on hand for all participants, we encourage you to pre-register.

For more information about any of these opportunities or to sign up, please contact Director of Church Ministries Jacqueline Bonner, [jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:jbonner@stpaulsithaca.org) or 273-5971.

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# Children's Ministries



## FAITH

### EXPLORERS

(K-6th grades)

We are preparing for a new year of Faith Explorers which will include some new lesson and revisiting some old favorites.

Classes begin on Sunday, September 11th. We'll meet in the Carpenters Shop after Children's Time. Your parents can meet you in the Memorial Rooms afterwards (about 11:45).

We'll start with a unit about some of the stories in Exodus. Come learn about Moses and experience some of the Bible stories such as the burning bush and crossing the Red Sea!

We are still looking for adult volunteers for the Faith Explorers program. Roles large or small, on weekdays or Sundays, hands on or behind the scenes. Please contact Laura Dolch ([lauradolch@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lauradolch@stpaulsithaca.org)) to learn more.

## Faith Discovery Group

All 3- and 4-year-olds are invited to Faith Discovery Group starting on September 11th. Each week we'll sing songs, hear a story, share a snack, and work on a craft or play a game. We'll also be learning some sign language this year.

We meet in the middle preschool room after Children's Time. Parents can pick children up there after the service.



## Child Care

Childcare is available every Sunday morning starting at 9:15. Parents are invited to drop their kids off and enjoy fellowship time with each other, join the choir, or participate in one of the Adult classes.

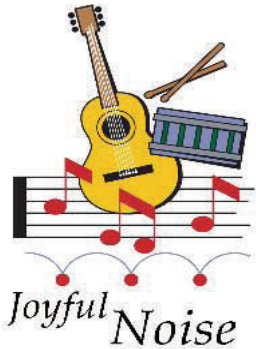
## Backyard Bible Club

Thanks to all of the adults who helped with backyard Bible Club this summer: Sara and Michael Culotta, Lydia Dolch, Sue Kiner, Danette and Steve Johnson, Lisa and David Lennox and Patty Sipman.



The kids had a great time playing games and hearing Bible stories.

## Children's Music Group and Youth Ensemble



It is time to start another spirit-filled year of the Children's Music Group and Youth Ensemble at St. Paul's! All children from Kindergarten to 5th grade are invited to come make music with the Children's music group. Youth in 6th grade and up are welcome to join the Youth Ensemble. Our first rehearsal will be Sunday September 11th. The Youth Ensemble will meet at 9:05 in the Carpenter's Shop. The Children's Music Group will follow at 9:45. There will be no rehearsals at church on Sunday September 18th; however, rehearsals will start up again September 25th.

This year, the Youth Ensemble will travel to the Adirondacks the weekend of September 17th and 18th for a beginning-of-the-year music retreat. Youth will spend time getting to know each other, setting goals for the year and composing their first piece of music for the fall. Everyone is encouraged to bring their instruments and/or voices, a sleeping bag, bathing suit, towel and food to share. Our hosts will be Dave and Sally McCune and the Dolch Family.

For more details, or to sign up, contact Lydia Dolch at [ldolch@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:ldolch@icsd.k12.ny.us) or 607-339-8092.

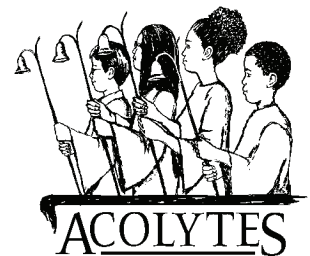
Blessings,

Lydia Dolch and Beverly Stokes

### Acolyte Training Party

September 11th, 11:45 am—1:30 pm

Church Dining Room



Calling all students in grades 2 through 8. Please consider becoming an Acolyte and taking part in our Sunday morning worship processions.

On Sunday, September 11th, we will have lunch together in the dining room, do some training in the Sanctuary and work on a fun craft project. Parent help would be appreciated. Sign up with Cheryl McGraw, [cherylmcgraw@cornell.edu](mailto:cherylmcgraw@cornell.edu) or call the church office, 273-5971 so we will know how many to expect.



St. Paul's Nursery School currently has openings in its program for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds. The nondenominational program features consistency and experience of teachers, with three of the four teachers having been with the school for over 15 years. There is no required commitment of time on the part of parents, and tuition is competitive with other area schools. Please visit [www.sites.google.com/site/spnsithaca](http://www.sites.google.com/site/spnsithaca) or contact Nursery School director Erik Shanton for more information.

Erik Shanton

Nursery School Director

# Youth Ministries

## Confirmation Class

This year, all 9th and 10th grade youth, (as well as any older youth that have not yet taken this class), are invited to be part of our very exciting confirmation class. Confirmation class will be meeting one Saturday morning a month from September through May.



This new scheduling will allow our confirmands to engage in projects that would be impossible on Sunday mornings and give them more time for in-depth conversations. We are excited to have Reverend Jeff Shepardson along with Reverend Margie Mayson facilitate our class this year.

Our confirmands will all be looking for adult mentors to work with them throughout the year. We hope you will consider joining them in their spiritual journey!

## Mission Minute



This July, twelve of our Senior High Youth and six adult leaders ventured forth to Marion, Virginia to work with Project Crossroads. The youth and leaders were able to replace the front deck and temporarily fix the ramp on the home of a family with a handicapped 17-year-old girl. We were able to replace the plastic skirting with a more durable metal underpinning surrounding the entire base of the trailer, wash the outside of the trailer, repaint their back deck and metal lawn chairs. In addition to this we scraped and painted Project Crossroads' tool shed at their project house, cut and stacked wood for their wood program, and pulled overgrown weeds at the church they use for worship services with teams that are working for them.

The youth also bonded with Project Crossroads summer intern, Dalton Luster, and learned while we were there of his unexpected lack of funding which would hinder his ability to continue his mission work with Project Crossroads. The youth voiced their desire to help Dalton in one of our nightly meetings and we quickly made a call back to St Paul's to see what we could do to help. Wednesday was to be our day off and because of the choices the youth made on where we were going to spend our afternoon, we were under budget with our "fun day" expenses and made the decision to donate some of those funds to Project Crossroads to be given towards Dalton's sponsorship. This is a true example of the faith-building community we have provided to our youth, enabling them to make such a giving decision.

This was truly a rewarding experience for our youth and their leaders and we hope to someday return to Project Crossroads.

Sometime this fall the youth will be hosting a brunch with a presentation of our trip! Watch the newsletter and bulletin for more information.

## **6th Grade Parents Orientation**

Attention all **parents** of youth entering 6th grade!

There will be an orientation for parents on September 11 from 9:45 to 10:15 am. Come hear about our exciting youth programming and what you and your youth can expect this year! We will meet upstairs in one of the youth rooms off the gym/balcony. We will have a light breakfast snack of bagels and fruit.

## **Middle School Youth Fall Kickoff**

Middle School Youth (Grades 6-8) will meet on September 11th from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m

to welcome new 6th graders into our group and talk about our very exciting year in the life of the Middle School Youth Group.

We will meet upstairs in the Middle School Room off the gym and have a light snack of mini bagels and fruit.

## **Senior High Youth**

The Senior High Youth Group will have their first meeting of the year on Sunday, September 18th, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Confirmation Class will begin on Saturday, September 24, from 9:00 am to noon.

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

St. Paul's Letter

402 N. Aurora Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

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Fax: (607) 275-0726

E-Mail: [info@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:info@stpaulsithaca.org)

<http://www.stpaulsithaca.org>

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Ithaca, NY 14850

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

Lenora Bradley and family; Tina Champion; Roy and Alma Coats; Jeanne Corbit; Dockstader Family; Doug Dockstader; Dora Fratelli; Kay Friedlander; Melissa Gould; Jessie Helton; Priscilla Lawrence; Jane Mazurek; Lucille McBean; 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); Margaret Arnold (Ellie Phillips-Burdge's sister); Priscilla Barber (David Barber's mother); Jordan Boardman (Mary Boardman's grandson); Matt Boardman (Mary Boardman's son); Diane Cornish (Elaine Weiss' cousin); William Deming (Melissa Gould's nephew); 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); Terry Gladstone (Andrew Highland's mother-in-law); Elaine Greco (Jason Ke-



agle's Aunt); Jeffrey Howarth; Julie Hughs' mother; Craig Kitchner and family (Lisa Harris' family); Larry Mayfield (Carolyn Longhouse's brother); Steven Mente (Shirley Murray's brother); Amanda Miller (Ruth Keagle's niece); Ev Morgan (John & Elaine Weiss' friend); Edith Nantz (Josette Garrison's mother); Arlene and Arthur Preston (George Preston's parents); Sallie Pure's brother John; Melody Ramey (James Haines-Burnham's sister); 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); Gerard Weiss (John Weiss' father).



**To add a name to the Prayer List,** call the church office at 273-5971 or email [info@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto: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*