



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

Inside this issue:

Margie's Letter	1,3
Reconciling Ministries	3
SPRC	4
Loving Care Ministries	5
Calendar	insert
Connections	6
Adult Spiritual Growth	7
Children's Ministries	8-9
Prayer List	10

St. Paul's Letter

MAY 2010

Just Suppose

Dear Friends,

Out driving I once saw a church sign with the pastor's topic announced. It read:

"Suppose we Prayed!"

It was all I could do to keep on driving. Suppose we prayed? I'll have to admit it got to me. SUPPOSE we prayed in the church?

Somehow that's tantamount to Greyhound stamping on their bus tickets: Suppose we got you to where you want to go? Or the hospital announcing: suppose we try to heal? Or family members saying to one another: suppose I love you?

Some supposes we're just supposed to suppose...at least, I've always supposed so. Then again, as I wrestled with that word a little more, I recalled some "supposes" that maybe we're supposed to grow away from such as ...

- ♥ "But when they saw him waling on the sea, they *supposed* it was a ghost..." (Mark 6:49)
- ♥ "Mary, *supposing* him to be the gardener..." (John 20:15)

Maybe our suppositions on how Jesus has to look or act or be need some strong revisions on our part, or we'll miss him altogether.

Suppose, Just suppose... It's one of those sneaky little words, isn't it? Sometimes you are supposed to suppose; sometimes you are not! And sometimes it doesn't seem too clear which way to go.

Continued on p. 3

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

**Confirmation Sunday is May 2nd
Come and Celebrate with Our Youth**

*Lectionary Readings for May:***May 2, 2010**

Acts 11:1-18
 Psalm 148
 Revelation 21:1-6
 John 13:31-35

**May 9, 2010**

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

May 23, 2010

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Romans 8:14-17
 John 14:8-17 (25-27)

May 16, 2010

Acts 16:16-34
 Psalm 97
 Revelation 22:12-14,
 16-17, 20-21
 John 17:20-26

May 30, 2010

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
 Psalm 8
 Romans 5:1-5
 John 16:12-15

*Child Care***Sunday, 9:30 AM***Durham Class***Sunday, 9:30 AM***Adult Fellowship Class***Sunday, 9:30 AM***Worship Services***Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM***Church Office Hours***Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM—5:00PM***Eunice Tabor***Tuesday, 9:30 AM—11:30 AM****Note: Margie is off on Thursdays***St. Paul's Letter***St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

402 North Aurora Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone: (607) 273-5971

Fax: (607) 275-0726

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

Margie Mayson

*Assistant Organist &**Rehearsal Accompanist*

Andi Merrill

Director of Church Ministries

Jacqueline F. Bonner

Chancel Choir Director

Andi Merrill

*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

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 55, Issue 5

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

Periodical Postage Paid at Ithaca, NY 14850-9998

Just Suppose (continued from p.1)

For example, what do you do about this one:

“Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service?”

If so, answer: A) I WILL B) I SUPPOSE C) NEITHER

We now have the joyous opportunity to ask: **“Lord, will you support us in our daily lives in all we do, with your presence to us?”**

If so, God, answer: A) I WILL B) I SUPPOSE C) NEITHER

Now what do you suppose God will say?

This Sunday (May 2) the Confirmation Class will be leading us in worship as they come forward to respond to these questions of membership and commitment. They have studied together all year and while I *suppose* they are not yet fully grown in their faith, I KNOW that they are excited to be on this journey of faith. Come join us so that together we can all answer the membership question with a resounding **I WILL!**

Blessings,

Margie

Reconciling Anniversary Celebration

Pentecost, May 23, 2010

A very special day is being planned for Sunday May 23rd when we celebrated 12 years of being a Reconciling Church. Pentecost Sunday was deliberately chosen for this celebration this year because on Pentecost Sunday we recognize the beginning of the church as a time when many different people from many different places came together and each was recognized as valuable and each was honored and understood. This is a special time to invite friends and family, to gather and give thanks for God’s Love which embraces all people. It is a time as well to give thanks for the strides we have made and to seek guidance for the work yet to be done until All really does mean All!



Our Mission

Believing that God lives in and around us, and loves us all,
we celebrate the sacredness and abundance of creation
while equipping and sending people of God to carry their faith into the world
as followers of Jesus Christ.

Staff Person of the Month — Lydia Dolch

The members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) are continuing to sponsor a Staff “Person of the Month”. The purpose is to help the congregation learn more about our staff and recognize the work they do. Note the poster and photo on the wall next to the Memorial Room. Pick up the pen and write a thank-you to the person being honored each month.

Lydia Dolch is the co-director, with Beverly Stokes, of Children’s Music at St. Paul’s. Lydia has had a life-long passion for singing, both inside and outside the church. An excellent children’s music program, at her childhood church in Batavia, New York, made a deep impression. The example of Sallie Pure and Lisa Capello in later years at St. Paul’s was also salient: Sallie and Lisa loved children and wanted to inspire our children with music to awaken the soul.

Aware that the children’s choir at St. Paul’s was diminishing in numbers, Lydia resolved to reinvigorate it. She asked Beverly Stokes to join her, because she knew Beverly had had professional music training. With their complementary gifts of Beverly’s knowledge and Lydia’s teaching experience (she teaches students with autism at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School), these dedicated young women have made—and have allowed our children to make—a “joyful noise.”

Lydia’s goal is nothing less than to touch the children’s souls with music inspired by faith. She is not didactic in her approach, but seeks ideas from the children themselves, as well as the congregation. She and Beverly have made it possible for middle-school children to compose their own music. They have responded with three compositions, including an instrumental piece based on the Book of Daniel.

Ever modest, Lydia gives credit to the children’s parents for their support, and, of course, to the children themselves, who express their enthusiasm for the opportunity Lydia and Beverly provide without stint.

Lydia’s partner, Laura Dolch, is likewise active at St. Paul’s as the Children’s Ministries Coordinator. Their daughter, Freya, follows their lead: she may be seen in the pews singing along before she heads off to the Faith Discovery Program.

Thanks Lydia!



Welcome To Our Church Office

Kevin Miller and Sarah Crossgrove will be splitting the position of Administrative Ministries Coordinator temporarily. Kevin is in the office on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday; Sarah on Wednesday and Thursday. Stop by the office to “welcome” them when you have a chance!

Loving Care Ministries

What a **JOY** to hear from those who received the lovely Easter plants! If you were one of the plant deliverers, you experienced that joy first hand. One of our homebound wrote:

Thanks so very much for the nice flowers. I look at them all day long as I lie on my bed (bad back!!!)

Thanks again.

Lee Sprinkle

My thanks to all who made the deliveries, and special thanks to Elinor John, who spent many hours helping to make the special Easter cards that accompanied the plants.

Spreading God's love is part of what our Loving Care Team is all about. This month, we recognize **Ellie Phillips-Burdge** as a part of our team. You may know Ellie for her musical ability, as she has performed in church on piano and sings in the choir. Ellie has a degree in piano from Ithaca College, but her life has taken a different path in recent years. Following an overuse injury, Ellie discovered through physical therapy a new fascination with the human body and decided to pursue a new dimension to her musical career by earning a physical therapy degree focusing on "performing arts medicine." She is scheduled to finish school by the end of the summer after having completed her fourth affiliation/internship.

Ellie became involved in Loving Care Ministries when she began a course on practicing care and compassion in physical therapy and chose St. Paul's as an assignment. She also wanted to find a ministry at the church that she could continue after the course was finished. After organizing the Christmas caroling to the homebound in 2008, she began visiting and bringing home communion on a regular basis to some of our members. Ellie has also developed a special relationship with LC team member, Tina Champion, which includes the sharing of scripture, exploring prayer writing, and talking about whatever comes up. This has been especially important in the last couple of months, since Tina has been confined to bed rest, except for Sunday mornings.

Ellie has also signed up to be a "link" in the prayer chain and finds it to be a soulful way to connect with members and extended family/friends of St. Paul's members.

She says of her experience, "Being a volunteer for the Loving Care Ministry has taught me to be open to God's grace of service to and love for one another. When I get out of my own way and let the love of God move through me, it is amazing to observe the good it brings to others!" We are blessed by Ellie's care and concern for this ministry and her dedication to sharing God's love in this way. If you see Ellie, say "thank you for all you do for Loving Care Ministries."

Want to be a part of this "great team?" Contact me (Rev. Eunice Tabor) through the church office or by email at etabor@stpaulsithaca.org.

St. Paul's Connections



FESTIVAL CHIMES PLANT SALE (May 22-23 Pickup)

Please consider supporting St. Paul's Festival Chimes as we continue our community outreach presentations. Orders will be taken until **May 2nd**. See the poster/picture display in the hallway for an order blank. Checks should be made out to St. Paul's UMC-Festival.

Pickup dates in the Dining Room are Saturday, May 22nd, 11am to 12:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 23rd after church.

We will be selling the same exceptional quality flowering plants we have sold in the past—fresh from the greenhouse—not a “Box” store.



Phone 277-0759 if there is a particular variety of plant not listed, that you would like to special order.



Trustees Work Bee

Saturday, May 15

8:00 a.m. to ?

Please save the date for a working bee here at St. Paul's. We need you! We will be cleaning, painting, disposing of unwanted items. The Trustees will provide coffee and Danish pastries. Please bring a brown bag lunch.

Thank you,
The Trustees

Adult Spiritual Growth



Sunday Mornings, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
and
Wednesday Evenings 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

The Adult Spiritual Growth Team is offering a new opportunity to practice or experience an old (dating back to the 3rd century!) **Christian spiritual practice**. Lectio Divina, Latin for Divine Reading, spiritual reading or holy reading, is a **traditional practice of prayer and scriptural reading** intended to promote communion with God. Lectio helps us listen attentively to God, and encourages us to respond to what we hear. As we enter into Lectio, we are not attempting to quiet our minds, but rather to **listen with the "ear of our hearts."**

Sessions include a brief introduction to Lectio, followed by several readings of a selected scripture passage, silence to meditate on the reading, and opportunity to reflect briefly on the passage with the group. In opening our hearts to the Word, we invite God's transforming presence into our lives.

Each week there will be 2 opportunities offered to experience Lectio together with your sisters and brothers at St. Paul's. The **Sunday morning class** meets from **9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**, and the **Wednesday evening class** meets from **6:45 - 7:45 p.m.**, in the Durham Room.

Led by Lesley Yorke, Christine Stockwell, Dave McCune, and Debby Wells-Clinton, from the Adult Spiritual Growth Team, the Sunday and Wednesday sessions are similarly structured, and you are invited to participate in either or both. Sessions will continue through mid-June—come to as many as you are able!



Spirit Rising!
Friday, April 30
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The ASG Team is excited to begin a series of occasional evenings of experiencing the Spirit moving in our midst! We'll engage our whole beings--mind, soul, and body--in praising God through song, movement, and fellowship.

For this first event, we'll begin by sharing a potluck dinner, followed by singing and some simple circle dances (Dances of Universal Peace). We encourage people of all ages and abilities to join us in feeling the Spirit moving among us in a safe and fun, non-judgmental environment.

Come, let the Spirit be the wind beneath your wings on Friday, April 30, at 6:00 p.m.!

Children's Ministries



FAITH EXPLORERS (K-6th grades)

Coming Soon..... Our Final Unit, Pentecost

The Faith Explorers children have just finished a 3-week service project for Habitat for Humanity. They planted seeds and made welcome cards, made and painted bird feeders, and created mosaic stepping stones for the family moving into the new Lansing house.

A special thanks to Monica Sherman for helping to coordinate this unit and to Trevor Sherman, Kelly and Steve Richards, Amy Benedict-Augustine, Teresa and Jacob Yatsko, Fred Deppe, and Audrey Bradburn for their help during the lessons.

We will begin our final unit, Pentecost, on May 9th. We will continue collecting an offering from the children each week. The 5th/6th graders have asked that the offering from this semester be sent to help with Haiti relief efforts.

We have already sent one check to the American Red Cross to go toward Haiti relief. They wrote in response:

100 workers from the American Red Cross are in Haiti distributing food and water, and providing shelter and basic medical aid. For victims of this devastating disaster, our work is the hope for tomorrow. This is a result of generous gifts from donors like you.

Faith Discovery Groups



The Faith Discovery group class is working their way through an 8-week unit called "Things Jesus Did". They will hear a different story each week (such as *calling the 12 disciples*, *calming the storm*, and *feeding the 5000*), sing songs, and do a craft together. The song for this unit is "Praise Ye the Lord."

New and visiting children are always welcome to join the class!

Music

Sunday, May 9th Both groups will rehearse. **Children's Music Group** will perform "Count Your Blessings" and share some of their own blessings with the congregation as a special Mother's Day treat! **Youth Ensemble** will perform their composition about Daniel.

Looking Forward: This summer, children and youth will have an opportunity to contribute to church music as individuals and small groups. If any youth play instruments and would feel comfortable performing a piece as a part of Gathering Music (this can be a nice, low-pressure introduction to performing) or in other parts of the service, please get in touch Lydia Dolch or John White.



Summer Camp

Camp Casowasco is currently accepting registrations for summer camp for children and youth ages 6-18. More information and registration forms are available at

www.casowasco.org.

Many thanks in advance to the United Methodist Women for their generosity in giving scholarships to children who would like to attend camp. Please contact Laura Dolch for more information.

"Adult Time" with Zoey Keagle during Retreat Worship Service

by Phyllis Highland

This year's All-Church Retreat at Casowasco concluded with a wonderful worship service in the "Founders' Room" of the newly renovated dining hall. Our service opened with a call to worship, a hymn, and "Children's Time." Then six-year-old Zoey Keagle sat quite properly before the group and announced that it was "Adult Time". Several of us decided to sit at her feet as she read a beautiful story about God's world. What a pleasure to have someone so young read a story to me! I was touched by how seriously Zoey viewed her role in the worship service. Just the afternoon before, Zoey had been giggling with her peers, pestering her brother, playing basketball with "the old people" but now she was teaching each of us the lessons she had been learning from her family as well as her many friends at church. How humbling to be taught by the wonderful children and youth of our congregation...truly an intergenerational moment of sharing and yet more learning by "the old people" who only *think* they have all of the answers.

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

St. Paul's Letter
402 N. Aurora Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
Phone: (607) 273-5971
Fax: (607) 275-0726
EMail: info@stpaulsithaca.org
<http://www.stpaulsithaca.org>

Periodicals Postage Paid
Ithaca, NY 14850

Please pray for these members of our church family:
Linda Barber and family, the Bradley/Cunningham family, Tina Champion, Roy, Alma and Kim Coats, Jeanne Corbit, the Dockstader family, Dora Fratelli, Kay Friedlander, Melissa Gould, Bruce and Elinor John, Betty Matheney, Frank Mazurek, Jane Mazurek, Lucille McBean, Connie McDowell, Teresa Motz, the Ocello family, Doug Payne, Heather Sanford, Ruth Shannon, Ben Richards, and Elaine Weiss.



Please pray for these members of our extended church family: Cindy Abbey (*friend of Heather Williams*), Matthew Boardman (*son of Mary Boardman*), Joanne Denison (*relative of Alison Beach*), Colin Diehm (*father of Julie Weeks*), Terry Gladstone (*friend of the Highlands*), Ted Gull (*brother of George Gull*), Alan and Laurie Hahn (*friends of Nancy Potter*), Jim and Elaine King (*friends of Suzanne Palmer*), Sue Lajza (*sister of Elaine Weiss*), family of James Meyers (*friend of Patrick and Josette Garri-*

son), Arlene Preston (*George Preston's mother*), the Motz family, Maria Isabel Garcia (*Ellie Philip-Burdges' niece's family*), Sallie Pure's brother, John, and family, Emily Reynolds (*friend of Marilou Slattery*), Pat and Paul Shelhamer (*friends of Sylvia Bailey*), Stephen Taylor (*nephew of Bill Sammis*), Susan Welch (*daughter of George & Pauline Cameron*), and Jennifer Young (*daughter of Mary Boardman*).

Memorial Fund

We give our sincerest thanks for a contribution made **in honor of Bruce and Elinor John.**



To add a name to the Prayer List, call the church office at 273-5971.

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