

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

We Welcome St. Paul's Newest Members

Please add this insert to your copy of the 2006 pictorial directory.

Don't have a directory? Contact the church office.



Matt Agler grew up Presbyterian in a small, conservative town in southern Illinois. In college, he encountered people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, took classes on other religions, and realized that he had a lot to learn, even about Christianity. While living in St. Louis, his interest in church was renewed by his involvement in a diverse religious group called Holy Ground, which respects the many spiritual paths. Matt is a grad student at Cornell, working for a PhD in Environmental Engineering. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and hiking, as well as spending time with his fiancé, Miriam Rosenbaum. Matt tells us that he has been church shopping around Ithaca and has found that he really likes what he has been seeing and hearing at St. Paul's.

510 East Seneca Street, Apt. 4, Ithaca, NY 14850; 314-625-2633; mr625@cornell.edu, mta42@cornell.edu

Alison Beach grew up in Ithaca, attending both Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and School. Both her parents and her church community emphasized the importance of connecting faith with social justice issues. She has carried that commitment into her adult life. In her college and graduate school years, Ali investigated various faith congregations, seeking answers to her questions. When she returned to Ithaca, family friend, Amy Benedict Augustine, encouraged her to try St. Paul's. Ali's 7 year old daughter, Clara, loves Faith Explorers, and both Ali and her wife, Heather, enjoy Margie's sermons. As a married couple and parents, they deeply appreciate that St. Paul's is a reconciling congregation. Alison has been practicing as a clinical social worker for 15 years on both the East and West coasts.



Heather Williams also grew up locally, in nearby Speedsville. She attended the Hillside Alliance Church, which provided her with a good background in the Bible and Christianity. In college she drifted away from participation in organized religion, but maintained a deep spiritual connection with God, especially through nature. She came to St. Paul's with her wife Ali and step-daughter Clara, wishing to develop a deeper understanding of what is necessary to help guide a child along a spiritual path and to nurture her own spirituality. She loves the positive energy she find at St. Paul's! Heather has been a faculty member of Dryden Central School District for 17 years.

P. O. Box 136, Freeville, NY 13068-0136; 607-592-9849 (Heather) **and** 607-229-8202 (Ali); hwillia1@dryden.k12.ny.us (Heather) **and** alisonbeach18@yahoo.com (Ali)



Susan and Jim Eyster were both raised in the Philadelphia area. They first became friends when they joined their Narberth Presbyterian Church youth group in 1957 and married in 1963 after college and Jim's military service. They moved to Ithaca in 1972 when Jim accepted a position at Cornell and while here raised their two children—Jennifer and Jamie.

Susan was a social-worker therapist for many years, first with Family and Children's Service and later in private practice in Ithaca and Aurora, where she specialized in family-systems therapy. Jim taught financial management and real estate at Cornell's Hotel School and developed the School's Housing and Feeding the Homeless Program, which engages both private and public-sector expertise to improve housing and feeding services for people at risk. Both Susan and Jim are now retired.

At present, Susan teaches art after school at Enfield Elementary School on a volunteer basis and sings with VOICES—Ithaca's multicultural chorus. She loves sketching and painting and is an active participant in a reading and a poetry group. Jim has been a literacy volunteer at the Louis Gossett Center, a board member for Loaves & Fishes, and is currently an Advisory Board member for the National Park Service. Susan and Jim both enjoy hiking, skiing, sailing, birding, reading, and taking extended road trips.

Their reasons for choosing St. Paul's include the openness, warmth, and inclusiveness of the congregation and the approach both Rebecca and Margie have taken in exploring the essence of Jesus' teachings and its implications in today's world. They are both very pleased to become members of St. Paul's.

Sarah Crossgrove grew up Methodist outside of Buffalo, NY. Her mother worked at the church, so Sarah learned early on that church was more than a Sunday morning experience. The church staff and members provided good role models for her. Sarah attended a Methodist College and then worked at Cornell for 10 years, attending St. Paul's during that time. She met her husband at the Y, married at St. Paul's, and moved to Trumansburg.



When Sarah and her family moved to Moravia, they lived 3 doors away from the Methodist church there, and began attending that church. For several years, Sarah served as the Church Secretary and Christian Ed Director there, developing the rotation model Sunday School program. She and her daughter Courtney have recently returned to St. Paul's. Sarah connects with God here each Sunday, refueling for the week. Sarah owns a café in Moravia, and she and her husband John have two children, Courtney, age 13, and Jordan, age 9.

Courtney Crossgrove is graduating this month from eighth grade at Moravia Central School, and was confirmed last year at the church in Moravia. Courtney participates in volleyball, basketball and track. She plays saxophone in band and jazz band and sings in the chorus. She helps out with the Moravia youth basketball program and volunteers at Casowasco. Courtney is looking forward to continuing to grow spiritually here at St. Paul's.

P. O. Box 179, Moravia, NY 13118; 315-283-3692; jscrossgrove@verizon.net