



# Euodia and Syntyche: Disunity in the Church

*"Christians may not always see eye-to-eye, but they can walk arm-in-arm."*  
— Anonymous

Two devout women, Euodia and Syntyche, had worked closely with Paul but had come into conflict at Philippi. Their personal and emotional differences threatened to disrupt the church (Philippians 4:2). With heartfelt love and concern, the apostle urged these women to be bound together in Christian love.

The city of Philippi in Paul's day was a busy metropolis. It was a chief city of Macedonia and a Roman colony, which gave its citizens special privileges.

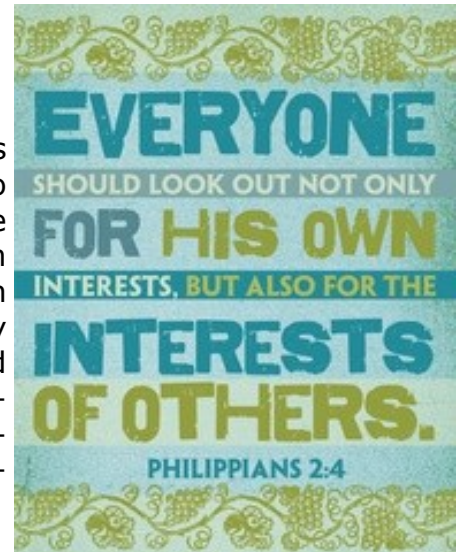
Paul had not planned to visit Philippi on his second missionary journey, but God led him there, along with Silas, Timothy and Luke. At Philippi the gospel went forth for the first time on the continent of Europe (Acts 16:6-15).

## Disunity in the Church

The Christians at Philippi were generous and on several occasions sent gifts to Paul (Philippians 4:14-18). Yet the church was not without problems. From Paul's letter we learn that two women were not getting along. Apparently negative reports of their behavior had been brought to Paul in prison by Epaphroditus, and Paul used his apostolic authority to urge them to resolve their personal differences.

We really don't know what their differences were. All that we know for sure is that their public expressions of differences were adversely affecting the entire church. Paul's call for like-mindedness (2:2) and humility (vv. 3-4) must certainly have been given against the background of this controversy. To show these women how far afield they had strayed in their attitude and their behavior, Paul held up the example of Christ. Paul's call to humble Christlikeness most certainly was meant as a cure for the prideful disunity and disharmony in the Philippian church.

Paul was not writing to and about persons that he knew only by second-hand reports. Euodia and Syntyche had *"labored with me in the*



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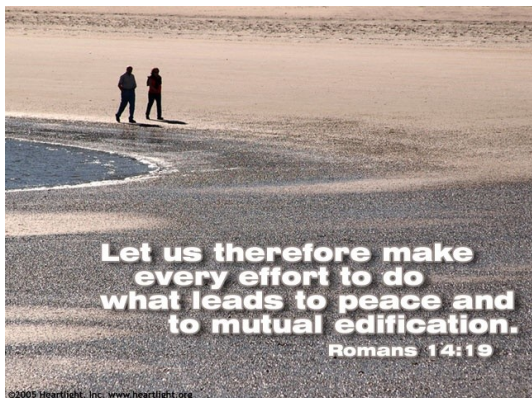
*gospel*” (4:3). They had worked with Paul in the past and no doubt had a great deal of love and respect for him. But they had allowed out-of-control emotions to undermine their faith.

Paul’s **call for like-mindedness** in Philippians 2:2 was not a call for uniformity of thinking. There is room in the church for differences of opinion and diversity of service (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). What caused the problem in Philippi was the way the differences were being expressed. Pride and self-centeredness were being displayed. Apparently Euodia and Syntyche were **disagreeing disagreeably**.

## Helping to Heal Disunity

When sharp differences divide two people, those involved usually are too close to the situation and too emotionally caught up in the issues to be able to see the problem objectively. This was the case at Philippi. A neutral third party, a mediator, was needed to show Euodia and Syntyche just how damaging their disunity was and to help bring them together.

Paul charged a “loyal yokefellow” (Philippians 4:3) with the responsibility of helping the two women set aside their differences and do what needed to be done so that the wounds caused by disunity could be healed. The fellow worker is not identified, but possibly he was Epaphroditus since he was from the Philippian church and also carried Paul’s letter to that church (2:25-30).



Regardless of who the yokefellow was, the principle emerges that **sometimes we need help from others in overcoming personal differences**. A natural corollary is that sometimes we need to be helpers.

Being a helper does not mean going around sticking our noses into everyone else’s business; yet we should be sensitive to situations where we can be of help. Are two persons in the church feuding? Why not try to bring them together on neutral ground? Have someone’s feelings been hurt because of an unintentional slight? Why not go to the

unwitting offender and explain the situation? Does one group in the church feel alienated? Why not act as an advocate of that group?

The Holy Spirit may want to use any one of us as a catalyst to aid in healing wounds. But to be used by the Spirit we must be sensitive to the Spirit’s direction. If we try to do things on our own, we may make a bad situation worse.

Nowhere in the New Testament are we told to stop being emotional. But we are told to be willing to set aside personal preferences and differences for the sake of the Gospel (Romans 14:1-15:7).

**Pastor Lars**

# Youth Ministry

The high school students and leaders of CCoE retreated to Lake Champion [New York] once again the first weekend of January for WinterFest. What a way to start the new year! 450 students and leaders gathered for worship, teaching and encouragement.

The speaker this year was Covenant pastor Michael Carrion from the Bronx. Some of you may have met him at the East Coast Annual Meeting hosted by us last April. He is a charismatic, intelligent, big-hearted individual with an amazing story. He spoke on pain and God's grace and redemption. Michael's parents were heroin addicts who used him, as a small child, in their crimes to support their addiction. He spoke of the pain of neglect, abuse, and exposure to violence and addiction.

Our students were encouraged to experience the healing that God desires to bring to their pain. He spoke from his deep experiences of letting go of his pain and bitterness, of forgiving his parents and God, and being used by God to bring healing to



others. So many students today carry enormous burdens of life's struggles. It was a message of hope and freedom to them as he encouraged them to bring their pain to God and experience the healing of his love demonstrated on the cross.

Every year the retreat features a half dozen seminars that students choose from to attend Saturday mid-day. This year the different seminars that were spoken of highly by our kids were on justice, innovation, hearing the voice of God, and a Q & A with Michael Carrion. The innovation seminar was led by Kevin Olusola. I'm not going to tell you about him; you have to check him out for yourself: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySTlp6qz7aI>

Pray for the JHAMS students who are on their winter retreat about the time you are receiving this issue of the Saltshaker.

**Pastor Cary**



# How to Attract Guests

The most sought after parking places for any gathering are those closest to the building. This is also true for churches. Therefore, we ask that you leave at least the six parking places closest to the building (upper parking lot) for guests. We rightly do this for the handicapped and we should also do it for our guests who are not handicapped. If we are to attract guests, we must give them the **best parking places!**

The most popular seats on an airplane are the aisle seats. The reason? People like to have a sense of openness rather than one of being trapped.

Like wise, guests prefer the aisle seats and the seats in the rear of the auditorium. However, that's the exact place most

regular attendees like to sit! If we are to attract guests,

we must give them the **best seats!** We must give our guests the **aisle seats** and the **rear seats**. As regular attendees, please sit in the middle of the longer rows and reserve the last two rows of pews for our guests. This is a small price to pay to show that we really care about our guests.

When you come to church next Sunday

please move up a pew or two if you usually sit in the back and move toward the middle of the pew if you tend to sit in the aisle.

Another idea to attract guests is the **Five Minute**

**Rule.** This means that we are to speak to guests during the first five minutes following each worship service. Let us not do any church business or talk to our friends until five minutes have elapsed. If we are to be a friendly

church we must give guests our **best time.**

One last suggestion is to **wear your name tag.** When people attend large meetings, name tags are part of the routine. Where there are potential new faces, name tags help break the ice. Name tags are actually friendly and create a sense of community.

**Name tags invite people to greet one another.**

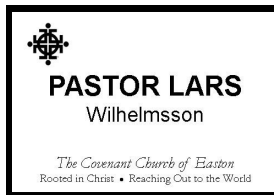
If you don't have a name tag, be sure to contact the Church Office so we can make one for you.

Albert Einstein was once asked what he considered to be the most important question in the world. He replied, *"Is the universe a friendly place?"*

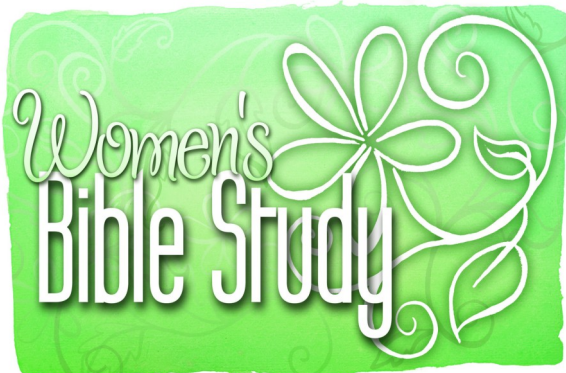
Guests who visit a church are asking a similar question: *"Is this church a friendly place?"*

What answer do they receive when they visit our church?

**Pastor Lars**



**Best SEAT in the House**



## 10:30 am Sunday Women's Bible Study

Beginning Sunday, February 3rd the 10:30 am Sunday Women's Class will begin studying the book of Philippians. All women are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Bobbie Morgan.

# Pilgrim Pines

## Your Covenant Camp & Conference Center

Pilgrim Pines is dedicated to providing fantastic programs for campers of all ages. From our children's and youth camp, to our men's and women's conferences, the goal is the same – to create exciting experiences, memorable moments, and a safe place to meet God. Whether it is through our faith-stretching ropes course, phenomenal worship and teaching, unforgettable camp activities, or simply relaxing by the lake, a camping experience at Pilgrim Pines provides a breath of fresh air in the midst of our hectic world. We hope you can join us soon! For more information pick up a brochure in the Welcome Center or visit [www.pilgrimpines.org](http://www.pilgrimpines.org).



## Camp Squanto Summer 2013 Dates

### PATHFINDERS

(entering grades 2-3)

**June 26-29**

### NAVIGATORS

(entering grades 8-10)

**July 28-August 3**

### TRAILBLAZERS

(entering grades 4-6)

**Session 1: June 30-July 6**

**Session 2: July 14-20**

### JUNIOR HIGH

(entering grades 7-9)

**Session 1: July 7-13**

**Session 2: July 21-27**

### SENIOR HIGH

(entering grades 11-12)

**June 30-July 27**

### VOYAGER

**Session 1** (grades 7-9)

**July 14-20**

**Session 2** (grades 10-12)

**July 21-27**

## Family Winter Weekend



### February 15-18, 2013

Come see what winter is like at the Pines. Broomball, snow sculpting, ice skating, and dogsled rides are just a few of the fun opportunities planned with families in mind. Enjoy wonderful teaching, great food, worship and fellowship. Your mug of hot chocolate is waiting.



# The Reversible List



Evil  
Lack of caring  
Lack of compassion  
Single parent families  
Latch key kids  
Not eating together at the table  
Too much TV  
Too much time on the Internet  
Not enough school involvement  
No social interactions  
No morals  
No prayer in school  
No values  
Bad deeds  
Bad lyrics in songs  
Bad language  
Bad thoughts  
Violence  
Not caring about your neighbor  
Crime  
Sex  
Drugs  
Hatred  
Bullying  
Fighting  
Revenge  
Arguing  
Rebellion  
Worshiping false gods  
Anti-Christianity  
No role model  
No hope

If you reverse this list, you will reverse the world.

***Snoopi Botten & Blake Roberts***



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2/2 Ryan Koenig  
2/3 Devin Spisto  
Lana Pryde  
2/5 Helena Zima  
2/8 Jill Diana  
♥Jean & Fred Chapman♥  
2/9 Ron Gibbs  
2/12 Andy Thane  
2/13 Wiley Mullins  
2/14 Jack Gustavson  
2/15 Kim Rieger  
♥Marsha & Bob Merritt♥  
2/17 Bob Kellerman  
2/18 Janet Munley  
George Sheridan  
Chris Stetson  
2/19 Richard Rosa  
2/20 Gloria Bannay  
2/21 Betty Lindahl  
Evan Soderholm  
2/22 Sami Meyer  
Victoria Tomasky  
2/24 Markell Vines  
Antoinette DaCruz  
Sandy Koenig  
Cary Slater  
Abigail Slater  
2/25 Nancy Domyan  
2/27 Marsha Merritt  
2/28 ♥Amy & Roger Wiemer♥



# New England Seafarers Mission



*He was the last visitor in our seafarers' center following a very busy and stormy last few days to the cruise season in Boston, extended by the many extra ships coming to Boston looking for safe haven from Hurricane Sandy. He was Indian and his English was very limited, so I never learned his name. He had bought a few items in the store and then one last phone card to call home. Through a series of hand gestures and pointing out numbers, I was able to help him understand how to use a phone card. Nearly all the seafarers I have met already know how to accomplish this, so the fact that he did not told me he was new on the ship and probably to seafaring. That would have explained the fear and trepidation in his eyes. He left and I began the task of closing the Mission for the season, praying for all those beloved seafarers who entered into our care for a few short moments. I locked the Mission doors, ending the 2012 Cruise Ship Ministry season.*

*As my wife and I left the building, the young man was still on the pay phone outside our front door, huddled to protect himself from the cold wind. He had to be onboard the ship in a few minutes, but he probably wanted one last call home. As I passed him, I placed my hand on his shoulder. He turned, saw me and smiled, giving the universal thumbs up sign for success.*

*He was no doubt talking to his loved ones at home, but he wanted me to know he had gotten through the maze of instructions and the thousands of miles. I smiled back and left him to his call. I will probably never see him again, but someday he will come to know that my hand was upon his shoulder not just to say goodbye, but also to bless him and pray for him. "Father, ease his loneliness and fear, and extend your grace into his life." For now, all he knew was that he found a little bit of strength to get him through one more day, a little bit of kindness to help him with the life he has chosen. When I returned the next day, I found this small pouch of full pennies hanging on the Mission door, an offering left by our last visitor.*

Dear Friend & Partner in Ministry,

Time and time again I hear the same phrase from men and women whose paths I cross while visiting ships or serving at the Seafarers Center in Boston. "This is the life of a seafarer, the life I have chosen." That sentiment is usually brought about after trying to assist them in their difficult life. Perhaps by making sure they can send their wages home to pay bills, tuition, food and rent. Perhaps they say it after I pray and counsel with them as they struggle through a hardship in their life. Sometimes we hear it after listening to a serious problem onboard their ship that needs legal or medical advocacy. Perhaps I hear it after helping them with their loneliness by reconnecting them with their families.

In the past I have shared with you many dramatic ways that God has intervened in the seafarers life through our ministry on the waterfront. There was a young woman from Kiribati who had to come off the ship for an emergency C-Section to give birth to her daughter. There was the young man from Malaysia whose thumb was crushed and the ship would have left if we had not intervened and forced them to get him some medical attention. There was the Russian seafarers working on a bulk carrier who had not been paid in months, wearing old dress shoes because he could not afford work boots. The junior officers showed me their paperwork as proof and asked for help. As the captain walked by the officers stiffened, afraid they would be punished. But the Captain turned to look at me. I could see the plea in his eyes before he turned and left me, "Please help my crew, for I cannot."

We value and cherish your contributions, knowing how hard you work for them. There are opportunities to volunteer at one of our centers. Go to [www.neseafarers.org](http://www.neseafarers.org) for next year's Cruise Ministry calendar. I rejoice that we can count on you as a friend to the Seafarers' Mission.

**Stephen R. Cushing**, Executive Director and Senior Chaplain

# Children's Ministry

*Children's Ministry  
Valentine's Party  
Tuesday, February 12  
6:30-7:45 pm*



## Save the Date

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

**EASTER EVENT**

**Saturday, March 23**

**VBS 2013**

**JULY 22-26**

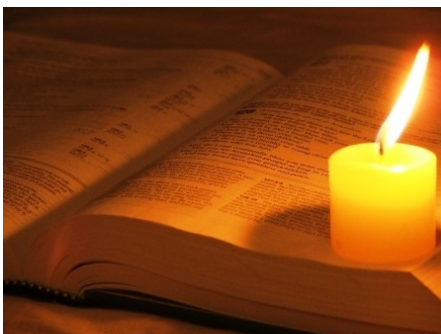
## TrailBlazer Winter Retreat



Tyler Forstrom, Kylie Forstrom, David Pittera,  
Spencer Hatfield, Paolo Santos, Lily Shive,  
Victoria Tomasky, Roseann Slater

# Children & Family Ministry Spiritual Day Retreat

Sponsored by the Evangelical Covenant Church



**Thursday, February 21  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Trinity Covenant Church  
302 Hackmatak Street  
Manchester

RSVP:  
[pcroasmun@gmail.com](mailto:pcroasmun@gmail.com)

This free event, specifically designed for those in Children and Family Ministry, is sponsored by the Evangelical Covenant Church and is their way of saying thank you for your ministry.

# HANDYMAN MINISTRY



## ***Can We Help With Your Small Repair Needs Around Your Home?***

Covenant's Service Ministry has put together a Handyman Ministry (of skilled & unskilled people) to assist church members with small repair needs around the house; such as: **easy plumbing/leaks, installing safety grab bars, home safety walkthrough checklist (to make your home safer against falls), etc.**

If you need help with a small project or repair, complete the form below & return to Carl Otten (203.858.6692).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

REPAIR/WORK NEEDED \_\_\_\_\_

# Bible Study for Women

Sunday mornings at 10:30 am beginning February 3rd, Room A

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF

# PHILIPPIANS

Contact Bobbie Morgan for more information.

**WHEN:** Thursday mornings  
**TIME:** Early Morning, Exact Time To Be Announced  
**WHERE:** Covenant Church Room A  
**CONTACT:** Ann Boyle (203.255.5387)

*C.S. Lewis*  
Mere Christianity

With Workbook



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Monday Mornings at 9:30 am



We will begin by studying the book of  
**Ephesians**

Hosted by Lori Swindon

163 Deerfield Drive  
Trumbull

Phone: 203.445.9201  
Email: [loriswindon@att.net](mailto:loriswindon@att.net)

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

- 8:00 am Worship Band Rehearsal
- 9:00 am Traditional Worship Service
- Sunday School All Ages
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time
- 2nd Worship Band Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Women's Bible Study
- Adult Sunday School
- 10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service
- Children's Worship
- 11:45 am Fellowship Time

**THESE EVENTS OCCUR WEEKLY, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE**

**TUESDAY EVENTS**

- 9:30 am CBS Leaders
- 5:45 pm King's Kids
- 6:30 pm Friends Night Out
- 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study
- 7:00 pm 2nd Service Band Rehearsal
- 8:15 pm Prayer



# February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters	<b>2</b> 6 am Men's Prayer Group 8 am Men's Breakfast
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm AA	<b>5</b> 5:15 pm King's Kids Sing for Your Supper	<b>6</b> 7 pm OASIS	<b>7</b> 6:45 am Women's Bible Study 6:45 pm JHAMS	<b>8</b> 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters	<b>9</b> 6 am Men's Prayer Group
<b>PASTOR CARY &amp; ROSEANN – MID-WINTER CONFERENCE</b>						
<b>GAIL LENT ON VACATION</b>						
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7 pm Council 7:30 pm AA	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> 7 pm OASIS	<b>14</b> 6:45 am Women's Bible Study 6:45 pm JHAMS 	<b>15</b> 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters	<b>16</b> 6 am Men's Prayer Group
Gail Lent on Vacation	<b>18</b> OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 pm AA 	<b>19</b> SALT SHAKER DEADLINE NO CBS Leaders	<b>20</b> 3:30 pm Outside Group 7 pm OASIS	<b>21</b> 6:45 am Women's Bible Study 6:45 pm JHAMS	<b>22</b> 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters	<b>23</b> 6 am Men's Prayer Group
<b>17</b> 12:15 pm Worship Theatre Arts	<b>25</b> 7:30 pm AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7 pm OASIS	<b>28</b> 6:45 am Women's Bible Study 6:45 pm JHAMS		
<b>24</b>						

# FEBRUARY



## Covenant Church of Easton

1 Sport Hill Road  
Easton, CT 06612

[www.coveaston.org](http://www.coveaston.org)

Phone: 203.371.8335

Fax: 203.373.9025

E-mail: [gail.lent@coveaston.org](mailto:gail.lent@coveaston.org)

Rooted in Christ - Reaching Out to the World

## February Worship

**TWO SERVICES EACH SUNDAY – 9:00 am and 10:45 am**

February	3	<b><i>The Church &amp; Spiritual Gifts, part V</i></b> 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11	Pastor Lars
February	10	<b><i>The Church &amp; Spiritual Gifts, part VI</i></b> 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11	Pastor Lars
February	17	<b><i>The Church &amp; Evangelism, part VII</i></b> (The Parable of the Lost Sheep, Coin and Son) Luke 15:1-32; 19:1-10; Matthew 28:18-20	Pastor Lars
February	24	<b><i>The Church &amp; Evangelism, part VIII</i></b> (The Parable of the Sower and Soils) Luke 8:1-15; Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20	Pastor Cary