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Pastor's Letter

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I want to thank you for conspiring together as a church. Last month, on June 14th, the congregation (without me) gathered after worship and voted to suspend the By-laws of the church and offer me an extended and open-ended relationship as your pastor here at Lyall. For me, it doesn't get much better than that. I am so proud to be a part of Lyall. You are a remarkable congregation and to be your pastor is an honor I hold dear. I'll do what I can to live up to it and to do you proud.

We are in the process of working out the details with our higher judicatories for what this means in terms of my official title, but we are asking our denominational entities to honor the congregation's wishes and therefore agree for me to serve as your called pastor.

Many of us have seen this as a natural evolution over the past six months or so. A good fit between pastor and people is important and so often comes down to chemistry. But in addition to pheromones, it comes down to action as well. From my side of things, this is what has impressed me about you.

You've been *willing to meet one another again*. After a time of stress, you have found it in your hearts to act in a myriad of redemptive gatherings. This is impressive and speaks highly of your character as individuals and as a congregation. We are rediscovering our voice together, and it is a voice of healing, hope and encouragement. This bodes well for us and our future.

You've embraced Christ as the Head of our church. It is not just an empty slogan here at Lyall. We seek the mind and will of Christ as best as we can, and we act on it. This is hugely important.

You're *seeking a deeper understanding of the scriptures*. I am struck by your persistence to study the scriptures and with so much enthusiastic attendance. You have a real generosity of mind that is impressive; we are truly on the way to becoming an interpretive community.

You have been *tremendously generous financially*. People vote with their wallets and their attendance. Both are up very significantly. Gratitude to God and to each other has grown so much, I see it officially and so often hear the word "thanks" spoken all over our beautiful campus. And look at all that's been done, even as we were limping and hurt for a while.

I see so many of us really *digging in and working out our callings*. We've got people cooking, singing, digging wells, tutoring, crawling around crawl spaces, working through financial papers, up on ladders, trying out talents thought long atrophied or worse. It's been fun.

Special points of interest...

- Calendar of Events August 2015
- Prayers and Joys
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Operation Christmas Child
- Hudson Valley MADD Walk

Healing Habits of the Heart for Community Life

Using the Circle of Trust® Approach

Five sessions, every other week for two hours (Wednesday evenings, 7 – 9) September 23, October 7, October 21, November 4, and November 18

Are you looking for a way to increase your experience of belonging? Could a different way of being together in solitude and in community support you in all aspects of your life? In this biweekly group, we will explore five habits of the heart essential for creating vibrant community life. We will create a respectful space in which all points of view are welcome and where we can nurture what is healing and transforming in each of us, supporting one another on the journey.

We will contemplate five “habits of the heart” described in Parker J. Palmer’s *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*.

- understanding we are all in this together
- appreciating the value of “otherness”
- holding tension in life-giving ways
- generating a sense of personal voice and agency
- and strengthening our capacity to create community

Parker Palmer is a Quaker, an author, a lecturer, and the founder of the Center for Courage & Renewal (www.couragerenewal.org), which developed The Circle of Trust® approach, based on specific principles and practices

that nurture personal and professional integrity and the courage to act on it. Participants experience a trustworthy space, explore their inner lives, and share voluntarily with others, who are practicing openhearted listening. Everything in a circle of trust is invitational. People leave more in touch with their “inner teacher” – a Quaker term for the quiet inner voice, the better self, the soul. They gain greater clarity about what they value in their lives and work, what they must change, and how to go about it individually and within our community.

Cat Greenstreet, a facilitator prepared by the Center for Courage & Renewal and a member of Lyall Memorial Federated Church, will facilitate the circles. She was an educator for over 25 years.

It is important to commit to all five sessions. You will need a journal and a pen.

Operation Christmas Child

The Shoeboxes will be given out in October and collected in November, but now is the time to watch for school supply sales. Also, we would like to make up 10 extra boxes like we did last year. If you would like to contribute extra school supplies and hygiene items for those boxes in addition to your own, a collection box will be outside the office. Nancy Greer will answer any questions about the project that is a part of Samaritans Purse.

Hudson Valley MADD Walk

The Hudson Valley MADD Walk will be held on October 24th. A Team will again walk on the Fishkill Rail Trail in honor of Carolyn Reid’s injuries, and long recovery after being hit by a drunk driver. Please sign up early so Nancy Greer can coordinate plans. Also, if you would like to contribute to MADD and be a “virtual” walker, that would be appreciated. The money is used for victim services, and to work for more public awareness of the problem of DWI, which claimed over 300 lives in NYS last year.

From the Pastor....

- Pre-worship musicians are needed. If you or someone you know plays an instrument and would like to offer your gift in church, please tell Dan Koch or Pastor Thom.
- Pre-service Fellowship is taking place in the Social Room from 9:30 –10:30 am, and Post Service Worship Chats are held in the Pastor’s Study (unless there is a business meeting) from 11:45—12:30pm. All are welcome to join in!
- Care Notes - our church provides Care Notes for any and all who enter our building. Care Notes are brief pamphlets on a wide variety of pastorally sensitive subjects ranging from grief, depression, addiction, even abuse. Anyone may take one. Just to let you know, these are flying off the shelf, just next to the church office. It’s a quiet way for us as a congregation to say: We care too.
- The 60 Necessary Stories of Faith - The pastor has taken on this project to frame up the needful stories in the bible that every Christian might find helpful as we live out our faith (this does not include the Christmas or Easter stories, these will be handled separately). We will be unveiling these at the Education Forum for your thoughts, critiques, and additions.
- Lobster Bake! September 26th. Details to follow.



Other News and Happenings...

- Do you Tweet? Well we are on the brink of beginning a Twitter Account, just to reach out to give the congregation a little encouragement during the week. More information to follow.
- Touch Screen update-awaiting touch screen #2, and the 3rd will be installed soon.
- Audio System update – All monies have been received! Work to complete the audio system will commence forthwith.
- Update on Denominational Assessment -We want to thank the congregation for their generosity regarding our denominational assessments. Checks will be sent out forthwith. Blessings to you all, this was a terrific help.
- Logo Contest- all entries will be judged by and the winner decided by the Board of Spiritual Life. All entries must be received by August 11.
- Lyll Lunch Update. We want to thank the congregation for their generosity in response to our Lyll Lunch Program. \$200.00 was received with a single request. God bless you, dear ones. Wow!
- Food for Folks! For more information please contact Diane Moretti at 845-242-6508.
- Mike Castaner has agreed to do a little painting this summer to freshen up our appearance. Thanks Mike!
- Bylaws Update Our President, Jan Miller, is spearheading a concentrated look at our by-laws, and how we might want to update them. What Jan has suggested is that in order to sufficiently attend to the by-laws, we first must have greater clarity regarding our vision and purpose as a congregation. How we do things here at Lyll depends on who we are as a congregation and what work we are called to. According to our present by-laws, the council of the church (both the Board of Trustees and Board of Spiritual Life) has the burden of updating the by-laws (finally approved by the congregation). But we are expanding this conversation, inviting any and all to help us name who we are. So far, these discussions have been very well attended and vital, with a mixture of dead seriousness and good humor. We would like to make sure that all feel welcome to this important work. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23rd at 7pm in the Gathering Room.
- New Outreach Office - As many know, we are broadening and deepening our outreach programs here at Lyll. We thought it wise and prudent to create a space for ideas to germinate and expand. We are now reserving a special space for our Outreach Ministry here at Lyll by creating office space reserved for this purpose. It is the brainchild of Lynn Grainger, Kristen Reid, and Sue McGinnis. You can find the New Office of Outreach off the Assembly Room. If you want to join this merciful initiative, don't hesitate to get involved. Lynn, Kristen and Sue can assist you in helping mercy take form.



Food for Folks-Diane Moretti

A huge thank you to everyone for the really cool and very unexpected certificate of appreciation. Thanks also for the donation to the American Cancer Society in honor of my great friend Maureen Murphy. During the ceremony, Pastor Thom asked me why I am the pantry coordinator. I'd like to share a story... Many years ago the Boy Scouts did their first of many food drives for us at Maronas. It was a Saturday and I had agreed to pick up the collected items. The boys were there and loaded my car with the bags of groceries. Upon arriving home I unloaded all the bags into my closet with the intention of re-loading them in the morning and taking it all to church when I was going for worship. I did not realize I had left one bag at home. Three weeks passed and the bag remained in my closet. I finally remembered to grab the bag and brought it to church. On my way, there was a man standing at the light with a sign *I need food.*

I stopped and offered him the "forgotten bag" I had left in my house all this time. The Lord had planned for me to forget that one bag for three weeks. The Lord provides for all of us as long as we trust and believe him. This bag was specifically for this man; it was provided for him by the Lord through me.

This is only one example of why I continue to help with the food pantry. We are not the biggest; we don't hand out tons of food every week; we don't ask for financial records; we don't "qualify" people; we don't advertise. Yet, people find us and we never turn them away. I believe the people who visit our little pantry are sent there by God and He expects us to help them. We do what He expects one person, one family at a time.

Thank you for all your continued support. We couldn't do it with you and your generosity.

Electronic Giving - Kristen Reid

In July we set up a bank account that our members can use for their giving if they wish to use automatic electronic deposits. There was an email that went out the week of 7/12 that included a document with all the instructions. If you need to see that email again feel free to contact Kristen Reid at lyallchurchtreas@gmail.com. If you need a hardcopy there will be some copies in the church office. You will also see in the instructions that there are other ways to automate your giving. Many banks offer some kind of automatic bill pay - this kind of system has a paper trail where an actual check is cut and mailed. Usually at little or no cost to the account holder. The information you would need to set that up is also included in the same set of instructions. Susan Tirante and Kristen Reid will help you with any questions about this kind of automatic giving.

Choir News—Helen Lomangino

Have you ever enjoyed singing with a choral group, perhaps in your former church, school, or community? Do you play an instrument, and would you like to share your talent with others? You have an opportunity to do that in our church's music ministry. We are always looking for new talent to join our ranks, and September is the perfect time to join. How about "trying us out" when choirs begin rehearsals? We have a wonderful choral director, Dan Koch, and a talented, friendly, and welcoming group of singers waiting to include YOU in our fun-filled rehearsals and activities!

CHANCEL CHOIR: Adults rehearse Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:00, beginning September 10th, and Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:00 beginning September 13th.

JUNIOR CHOIR: Grades 1 through 5, will rehearse Wednesdays, 4:30-5:15, beginning September 16th.

At present, there is no Middle/High School choir. If there are singers this age that would like to start a singing group, we will be glad to get one going!

If you have any questions, see Dan or any choir member after church, or call the church office.

Floral Arrangements - Dawn Blackburn

If you would like to donate a floral arrangement for one of our Sunday services, there are still three open dates: August 30th, and November 1st. The cost is \$45.00, payable to Lyall Memorial Flower Fund, and remember to include the acknowledgement to appear in the bulletin.. If you have any questions, contact Dawn Blackburn, 266-3650.

August 2015

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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- *Lunch at Lyall every Thursday 11:30—12:30pm*
- *8/11 Board of Spiritual Life Meeting 7:00 pm Library*
- *8/25 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm*
- *AA meets weekdays at 12:00 Noon in the Gathering Room*
Saturday's 7:30 pm
Sunday's 8:15 am

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9	10	11 <i>Board of Spiritual Life</i>	12	13	14	15
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16	17 <i>Bible Study</i>	18	19 <i>Bible Study</i>	20	21	22
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23/30	24/31 <i>Bible Study</i>	25 <i>Board of Trustees</i>	26 <i>Bible Study</i>	27	28	29
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A Church whose only label is
Christian and whose only Head is
Christ.

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00 am until Noon.

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Find us on the web...

www.lyallmemorial.org



Birthdays

1 Nancy O'Leary

4 Kristen Reid

7 Emily Reid

8 Betty Doyle
Dorothy Myler

13 Len Lomangino
Anne VanVlack

21 Lynn Grainger

22 Louise Roeller

23 Cory Cole
Debra Fauci
Shannon Fauci

26 Carlo Curcio

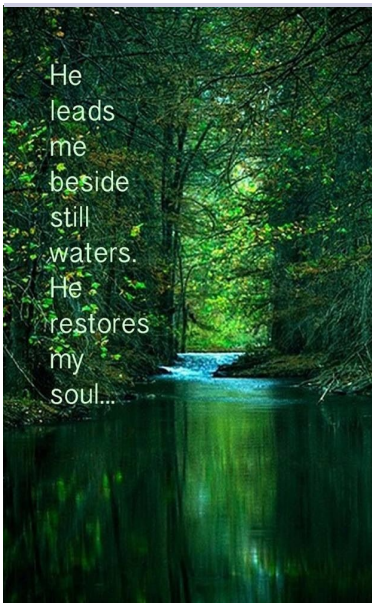
31 Alyce Cole

Anniversaries

8 George & Marie Bauries
51 years

14 Richard & Alyce Cole
60 years

25 Brad & Louise Roeller
42 years



He
leads
me
beside
still
waters.
He
restores
my
soul...

Prayers

And

Joys

Prayers and Joys

Prayers for:

- A woman named Sue who is having tumors removed from her bladder.
- Glen Herman, brother of Mary Jane Tierney. Prostate cancer is spreading, and now is in his backbone and ribs. He is also on kidney dialysis.
- Missionary Sarah Zagami, for healing from her eye surgery, and for regaining sight in the affected eye.

- Please continue to pray for Shirley, friend of Maria Bauries. She is so miserable in the nursing home.
- Maria Bauries' sister, Margie. She is also in a nursing home, but does not know what is going on.
- The family of Scott Meyer who recently passed.

Joys!

- Mary Jane and Bob Tierney on the birth of their new granddaughter Anastasia.