

December 1, 2016

## Lyall Memorial Federated Church, Millbrook, New York

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### *Pastor's Letter*

Newsletter December 2016

After this election cycle there are and will be many heated debates and lessons learned, perhaps some fearsome. But one grave matter that has already surfaced comes from those who run polling agencies. In a word, they got it wrong. Nearly every single agency got the American people wrong. We were told that Hilary Clinton would win the election by a very comfortable margin, even the word *landslide* was used, enough so that the U.S. Senate would flip over to Democratic control.

Such revelations were profoundly wrong. Indeed, it can be said that the pollsters do not know the American people. Their statistical models, algorithms, sophisticated questions and sampling data were not worth the paper they were printed on. The dark art of polling was found to be a fraud. As it turns out, the 21<sup>st</sup> century prophets have cataracts.

Who knows us? Who knows what makes us tick? Who knows the deep secrets and yearnings? Who knows the history and propaganda of our lives? Who knows the whispered hopes, the wars we have waged against the furies? Who knows the lost wars we have waged, the capitulations, the surrenders?

God knows.

God gives a true appraisal, a true assessment and reckoning of our lives. God knows and tells. His is a revelation of the human family, created and bound for a love story that has gone sour. We discover that we struggle with our calling to be partners in stewarding our lives and our earth. God knows all about it. God also knows the wreckage wrought because of this lost love and calling. We are not ourselves anymore, but are in need of redemption and rescue. God knows this as well. In order to redeem us and return us to our proper place, someone from heaven must come and do the work of redemption. This God knows. And God will swallow hard and spit and send the best heaven can offer, Jesus, his Son. It is the best hope heaven has.

God knows us. We attempt to read God; but it is God who will read us like a book.

In some ways, the Christian life is about knowing and being known. It is about naming and clarity. The thought being that if one is clear about the present day, then what happens tomorrow should not be much of a surprise. It is something I suspect the polling agencies are brooding over just about now. But for us, as Christians, we understand that God knows and loves, and we rest in all things because of it.

Here's to you, Lyall, God bless you as we enter the wonderful season of Advent and Christmas, where we celebrate the God who knows who we are and what we need.

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### Special points of interest...

- Calendar of Events  
December 2016
- Prayers and Joys
- Birthdays and Anniversaries



• **Dinner & Homework Help**

September 22, 2016  
5:00-7:00pm  
Assembly Room  
For information contact:  
Lynn Grainger  
266-8178  
lynng125@optonline.net  
Sue McGinnis  
677-6273  
susmcginnis190@aol.com

• **Lyall Lunch**

Thursdays @ 11:30am

• **Food for Folks!**

Please contact  
Diane Moretti 845  
-242-6508 for  
information

• **Electronic Giving**

We want to encourage our members and friends to consider being a regular giver to Lyall Church. This is a team effort and we need every person to contribute time and treasure. If you need a box of giving envelopes or would like to contribute electronically to our church, this will be a great and important step for us. Simple contact our Treasurer Kristen Reid or our Church Administrator, Susan Tirante to make it happen. We also want to encourage each person in our church to express and exercise their own particular callings here by getting involved in something important (and it is all important). We are a great team and getting better all the time. Is it time that your spread your wings and join us?

• **Beautification Committee**

We are beginning a group to do a little more in terms of decorating the church for holidays and special Sundays. If you have a flare for this and want to join up with others in our congregation also so inclined, please contact Pastor Thom.

• **Grief Circle**

Will continue to meet through Sunday December 25th. We meet each Sunday at noon in the Library. All are welcome.

• **New Members**

We welcome Jim & Lyn Demus officially to our church. We have received their transfer from St. Peters By the Sea. Welcome to you both. We also welcome Jim as a Board of Trustees at Lyall.

• **Recognition**

Thank you Sue McGinnis and Len Lomangino who are cycling off the Board of Trustees after completing their final term at the end of 2016. We thank them both for their leadership, wisdom, and care for our church. Blessings to you both and please accept our heartfelt love and gratitude for all that you have done for us. So many important matters have gone on during your tenures, we owe you such a debt of thanks.

• **New to Leadership in 2017**

**Board of Trustees**

We welcome Bill Bremiller as a marvelous addition to our team. Bill is married to Ellen.

**Board of Spiritual Life**

We welcome Mary Jane Tierney to the BOSL. Mary Jane and Bob are well known to our congregation, and thanks to Bob, we are well fed. Cat Greenstreet will also join our BOSL team, bringing formidable experience and creativity.

• **Tea and Art**

January 29th at 3:00pm. This is to benefit Partners in Development and Cheryl Giles trip in March to Mississippi.

• **In Memoriam....**

Our sympathy goes out to John Kading and his family for the loss of his beloved Marilyn. Bless you John and all the Kadings everywhere.

Our hearts go out to Erin Wynkoop and her family who lost her father suddenly this past week. Bless you Erin.

• **Congratulations**

To Nancy Greer for being recognized for her dedication to Operation Christmas Child over many years.

• **Greening of the Church ...**

And the chili cook off is Friday, December 9th at 5:30. We are asking those who would like to bring a treasured tree ornament to bless a loved one that they are most welcome to do so. We have something of a Remembrance Tree during the holiday season, standing tall and beautifully in our Social Room.

• **Christmas Eve**

Lessons & Carols Service at 7:00pm in Sanctuary

• **Christmas Day Service**

Regular time 10:25am

• **Community Choir**

We are pleased and excited to welcome Soprano Robin Clifford and Alto Rachel Weishoff back to the Community Festival Choir for our Christmas Concert on December 11th at 7:00 pm. Please plan to be to the church early to be seated. We will be streaming the concert live as well.

If you missed Robin and Rachel's performance in the spring concert, please go to [www.Lyallmemorial.org](http://www.Lyallmemorial.org) to view it for the first time, or again~

• **A Nativity Song**

Please join A Nativity Song composer Dan Koch and Friends on December 18th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

• **Confirmation**

Confirmation Class will be offered beginning in late January, 2017. Those who are interested please speak to the pastor.

• **Congregational Pot Luck**

Sunday January 22 following worship. This is to approve our 2017 budget.

• **Tree of Remembrance**

We are again setting up a beautiful Christmas Tree for the Social Room dedicated to those we have loved and now lost. If you would like to contribute an ornament that reminds you of your loved one, to be placed in the Remembrance Tree, the please do. There will be a bowl set out in the sanctuary on the communion table where you can place your ornament.

# *Bob's Bistro ...*



## Letter for December 2016 Lyall Lunch

In November Lyall Lunch served

- Awesome Chicken Soup
- Chili with Hot Dogs
- Ham & Pea Soup

Sandwiches are always served, with a variety of luncheon meats tuna, egg salad, and peanut butter and jelly.

The first soup of December will be Kale Chicken Sausage Soup.

Special thanks to Walbridge Farm for the beef and my support team. I have been blessed with food, and help.

Yours in Christ, Chef Bob

## Team Leader & Chef

Bob Tierney

## Loyal Crew Members

Sandy Beaumont  
Marion Bennett  
Linda & Peter Blasini  
Betty Doyle  
Thom Fiet  
Nancy Greer  
Adelaide Jasmine  
Guy Lavallee  
Louise Roeller  
Helen Lomangino  
Mary Jane Tierney



# *Shout Outs...*

- To all those who have helped with the reception for Marilyn Kading, Betty Doyle, Nancy Greer, Kate Quirk and all your helpers did a good and gracious thing. Bless you all.
- To our farmers Doug & Cheryl Giles, Ken Holtzberg & Tom Kopfensteiner, and Jason Marino, a shout out to all of you for gracing our worship service on November 13th all receiving a Lyall Key for your largess in providing fresh produce and meat for those who are without.
- To Danielle Szalewicz & Cindy Guardiola Small Circle of Friends, and Catherine Baron and Perrin Martin, members of the Board of Directors at MECEC, who spearheaded their own food drive in concert with our own well done and we are proud to have you as partners here at Lyall. Thanks to SCOF & MECEC moms and dads for being magnificent and big hearted.
- A shout out to Kevin McGrane our neighbor across the street, who dropped off seven of the most beautiful crock pots to augment our First Harvest at Lyall. In addition he then donated a Chromebook from Homework Help!
- To Victoria Oppenheim who put together a glorious Christmas tureen as we enter the main door to the new building.
- To all those who descended on our church for the Autumn clean-up, the grounds and interior of the church look great-bless you for this tangible help.
- To the intrepid Roellers, Brad & Louise. Brad who organized a roof replacement in record time—its beautiful Brad, and so are you. Louise Roeller and sister-in-law Dawn Blackburn made it their business to create the most spectacular cornucopia on planet earth, and we have the pictures to prove it.
- Dan Koch, who is lovingly building a musical empire here at Lyall. Thanks Dan for your great talent, and your willingness to apply it to us here at Lyall. We are deeper, more thoughtful, even more devoted to our good God because of your efforts.
- Carol Poles, who gave wisdom to us as we successfully worked through new leases with those who share space with us here at Lyall. Bless your good mind and heart Carol.
- Cat Greenstreet for facilitating our Grief Circle week after week. You are doing the work of angels, Cat, and we are humbled by your fine efforts in helping us with our losses.
- Thank you to our fantastic choir and to all those who contribute so beautifully to our gathering music.
- Lastly for those who have escaped our gaze, we bless the many, many who give selflessly and so very well: those who gave time, talent, treasure, heart. God love all of you, and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thanks for making Lyall such a great place to be.



# The Garden Path

## By Brad Roeller



### The Garden Path

by Brad Roeller

*"Then God commanded, 'Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear - and it was done. He named the land 'Earth,' and the water which had come together he named 'Sea'. And God was pleased with what he saw. Then he commanded, 'Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit' - and it was done. So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. Evening passed and morning came - that was the third day. Genesis 1: 9 - 13.*

Every time I read the first few chapters of Genesis I must admit I get a chill up my spine. How poetic and fitting to end each day of creation with "Evening passed and morning came." What a beautifully simplistic and inspiring story of the creation. Currently, Kristen and I are covering a couple of the Lyall 50 stories, God the Creator and Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and I must admit we're having an awesome experience with it. Interestingly, according to theologians, the stories in the Book of Genesis were written during one of the darkest times in the people of God's history when all seemed lost, the Babylonian Captivity period (around 600AD). They speculate that the leaders who recorded these stories wanted to affirm that God was good and his creation was likewise good and even in captivity God had a plan for them.

Before the ground freezes we have the opportunity to "create" out of an almost "formless and desolate"

thing (sorry, I'm hooked on Genesis), a little Garden of Eden of our own to enjoy during the long winter months. I enjoy making terrariums this time of year because I know in those soon-to-be-upon-us bone-chilling days, my terrarium will remind me of god's gift of spring. Terrarium: Latin *terra* ("earth") + *arium*, by analogy with *aquarium* or as in *vivarium* (a place where live animals or plants are kept under conditions simulating their natural environment). That's the ticket - creating a damp, moist woodland environment and introducing woodland plants, some of which you can trick into blooming, and perhaps even a red elf which are still present under the leaf litter. It's fun and simple to do. If you are lucky enough to have access to some woodland like I do, I'll provide you with some of the best plants for your terrarium. If you don't have access to a wooded property, you can purchase small tropical to plant in your terrarium. Actually, any plant which prefers high humidity will work. Adams Fairacre Farms has a great selection of small tropical plants and ferns in 2" pots, just the right size for planting in your container.

#### Materials:

- A glass or plastic fish bowl, or that leaky aquarium which is collecting dust in your basement.
- A piece of glass cut slightly bigger than the top opening of your container. Reardon Briggs will cut you a piece to fit.
- Any sort of potting soil. Note: you will amend the potting soil

with a little leaf duff, the broken down leaves of almost soil consistency found just below the leaf layer in the forest.

- A tablespoon or so of "activated" charcoal. You can find this in most garden centers (Adams should have it). In a pinch, take a briquette and smash it with a hammer to get pea-sized and smaller pieces.
- A trowel or an old tablespoon for digging and planting

**Plants:** On your foray into the woods head to the darkest, dampest parts and look for the following plants. Have a trowel or garden knife and a couple of "Bodega" bags or a large zip lock plastic bags in your knapsack. Collect your sheet moss first and put the plants inside it to keep them moist until you have a chance to plant your terrarium. OK, here's what to look for:

- Sheet" moss. Go to the dampest, darkest part of the woods and look for old rotting logs or stones where you can peel-off this moss. Adams and Michaels sell a similar moss which is fine to substitute for the local thing. Small (<6" tall) evergreens such as white pine or hemlock seedlings.
- Partridge berry. A great little native ground-creeper with attractive red berries. Invariably I think of Christmas when I enjoy this plant in my terrarium.
- Spotted and true wintergreen. Two diminutive woodland dwellers. Sacrifice a leaf of the true wintergreen and crush it. Oil of

# The Garden Path



wintergreen was derived from this plant before the chemical industry replaced it with synthetics.

- Round leaf hepatica. You can see where it gets its moniker from; the leaves are liver-shaped. Why not enjoy the bloom from this harbinger of spring in January instead of April?
- Dutchman's breeches. Often found in the same habitat as the hepatica, another harbinger of spring; and yes, the leaves are indeed shaped like an old Dutch patrol's breeches.
- Princess pine or ground cedar. A couple of our native lycopodiums which will thrive in your terrarium.
- Various small ferns such as rock polypody, grape ferns, oak ferns, fragile ferns, or spleenworts. You don't have to be a taxonomist, any small fern will do, but the above ones will remain in scale in your terrarium.
- Various small pieces of lichens, often found growing on old rotting pieces of wood and bark

Let's make a terrarium:



Materials for terrarium

Line the bottom and sides of your terrarium with the sheet moss. Mix 3 parts potting soil with 1 part leaf duff with no more than a tablespoon of your charcoal. Take a "spritzer" bottle and dampen the soil mix. Add about 3" – 4" of the mixture to the bottom of the terrarium. You can cut excess sheet moss from the sides and retain it to fill-in between your plants.

Using your tablespoon, "dig" a hole large enough to accommodate the plants. Start with your "trees" first. Place them upright in the hole and firm the soil mixture enough to support your plants in an upright position. Do your herbaceous plants next. No rules here, enjoy being "God the Creator"! Lightly water the plants once planted; I'm talking a couple ounces of water here for all of them. Remember that there are no drainage holes in your container and if you saturate the soil, your plants will most likely die. The goal is to have a damp, slightly moist environment and that condition will be largely accomplished by periodic spritzing of the foliage and moss. With the glass covering the top of the container, the soil will most likely not dry out over the winter months. Add your lichens and pieces of bark and a red elf if you found one. of tiny insect.



"Woodland plants, lichens and fungi for planting"

That's it. Set the terrarium in a (ideally) sunny spot where you can enjoy it all winter. "Spritz" the foliage a little and place the glass over the opening for a day or two. When you see condensation forming on the underside of the glass and the sides of your container, your plants are happily transpiring and growing.

At this stage you can "vent" your terrarium by leaving an inch or less of the top uncovered by the glass.

The key is to keep the humidity level high so "spritz" the foliage every couple of days and cover the top completely if needed.



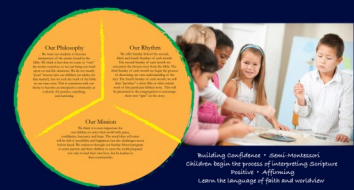
"Finished terrarium"

**Next Month** – How to be a good steward of the land.



# Christian Education

## Christian Education at Lyall Memorial Federated Church



Christian Education Newsletter  
December 2016

### Upcoming Holiday Events

Our Christian Education children are spreading their jolliness throughout the church. During our children's worship Sunday, the children were everywhere! Ringing the bell, acolytes, carrying the Bible, ushers, greeters, reading the scriptures and lectors.

The children sang. Let's not forget the most amazing skit the children performed, with help from our professional actors from our congregation. Our next children's worship Sunday will be January 29th, 2017.

#### Sunday Dec 4th

12:00 Join Kristen and Bob Reid for Christmas Tree Cutting  
Leaving from the church. Contact Kristen for more information.

#### Friday Dec 16th

4:30pm Pizza Dinner, Bake Cookies and Christmas Caroling

7:00pm We will Christmas Carol around the neighborhood and return to the church for hot chocolate and fresh baked cookies.

8:30pm Pick time

Parents night out!!!! Have a date night or Christmas Shop! Feel free to join us for the evening.

May you have a healthy, happy and blessed New Year,

Linda Blasini

Christian Education Coordinator

## Music Events....



*Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 7 p.m.*

*Millbrook Community Festival Choir presents*

*Vivaldi's Gloria*

*Lyall Memorial Federated Church, 30 Maple Ave Millbrook, NY*

*Festive family event with the choir, accompanied by professional orchestra and soloists, singing Vivaldi "Gloria" and other Christmas pieces.*

*Reception follows. Donations welcome.*

*For more information, call 845-677-3485.*

*Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 7 p.m.*

*The Lyall Memorial Federated Church Presents*

*A Nativity Song Cycle*

*Lyall Memorial Federated Church, 30 Maple Avenue, Millbrook, NY*

*Premier of a new, musical telling of the Christmas story by  
Millbrook musician and Lyall Church*

*Music Minister Dan Koch.*

*Reception follows. Donations welcome.*

*For more information, call 845-677-3485.*

# December 2016



## Schedule of Events

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1

2

3

MAG Concert

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Building &  
Grounds  
Grief Group  
Festival Choir  
Christmas Tree  
Gathering Noon

Bible Study  
Nine Partners  
Mtg

Board of  
Spiritual Life

Youth Choir  
Bible Study

Lunch @ Lyall  
Dinner & Homework  
Adult Choir

Hanging of  
the Greens  
5:50  
Chili  
Cook off

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Grief Group  
Festival Choir  
Concert

Bible Study

Youth Choir  
Bible Study

Lunch @ Lyall  
Dinner & Homework  
Adult Choir

Christian Ed  
Diner,  
Cookies &  
Caroling  
4:30

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Grief Group  
A Nativity Song  
Dan Koch  
Concert

Bible Study

Board of  
Trustees

Youth Choir  
Bible Study

Lunch @ Lyall  
Dinner & Homework  
Adult Choir

A Lesson in  
Carols 7:00pm

25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Bible Study

Youth Choir  
Bible Study

Lunch @ Lyall  
Dinner & Homework  
Adult Choir



- **AA**  
Gathering Room  
Weekdays 12:00 pm  
Saturday's 7:30 pm  
Sunday's 8:15 am
- **Bible Study**  
Monday 11:00am  
Wednesday 7:00pm
- **Board of  
Spiritual Life Mtg**  
Tuesday 12/6  
7:00 pm Library
- **Board of  
Trustees Meeting**  
Tuesday 12/20  
7:00 pm Library
- **Choir**  
Adult Thursdays  
7:30pm Assembly  
Junior Wednesday  
4:30pm Assembly
- **Junior Choir**  
Sings Sunday of  
each month
- **Dinner &  
Homework Help**  
Thursdays from  
5:00- 7:00.  
Assembly Room
- **Historical  
Society**  
No Meeting in Dec.
- **Lunch at Lyall**  
Thursdays  
11:30-12:30pm
- **Music  
Committee**  
Will meet again in  
January
- **Festival Choir  
Rehearsals**  
Sunday Evenings  
Junior Choir 6:30  
Adult Choir 7:00  
Assembly Room
- **Festival Choir  
Concert**  
Sunday 12/11  
7:00pm
- **Dan Koch  
Concert**  
Sunday 12/18  
7:00pm
- **Mag Concert**  
Millbrook HS  
7:00pm



*A Church whose only label is Christian  
and whose only Head is Christ. A  
federated interdenominational  
congregation that welcomes all Christian  
traditions.*



**Pastor's Office Hours:**

*Monday-Friday 9:00 am until Noon.*

*30 Maple Avenue*

*PO Box 426*

*Millbrook, NY 12545*

*Phone: 845-677-3485*

*Fax: 845-677-1023*

*E-mail: [Lyallmemfed@gmail.com](mailto:Lyallmemfed@gmail.com)*

*Find us on the web...*

*[www.lyallmemorial.org](http://www.lyallmemorial.org)*

4 Kayleigh McGinnis

17 Brianna Deluca

21 Brenda Sidaras

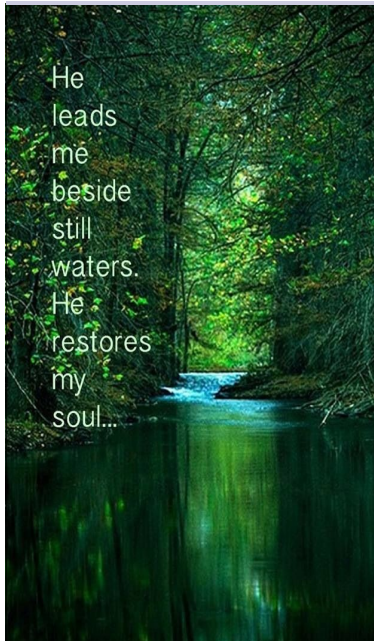
24 Miles Blackburn

26 Lucia Curcio

John Kading Jr

28 Darleen Walsh

27 Richard & Diane Moretti



**Prayers.....**

**Prayers for:**

- The Kading Family remembering them in the loss of Marilyn Kading, wife, mother, aunt, and friend to so many.
- Erin Wynkoop and family at the sudden loss of her father.
- Bill Toole, a dear friend of Cat Greenstreet who has brain cancer.
- For all those suffering in the congregation and beyond.
- For our nation as we discern political leadership in the fall.

• **Church Calendar**

A reminder that the church calendar is available in real time on the website. If you are trying to plan a meeting or an event, you are able to access the calendar through any of the following: the touch screens located in the building, your smart phone, or ipad etc.

- <https://www.lyallmemorial.org>