

Lyall Memorial Federated Church, Millbrook

Newsletter February 2020



Pastor's Letter

I listen to financial and tech programs on television and hope you do too. It is something of a miracle what has evolved over the course of the past fifty years. I remember our house being on a party-line when I was a kid. I'd pick up the phone and my neighbor Mrs. Lundell would be talking to her friend. I'd say: "Sorry Mrs. Lundell." She'd say: "Is that you Thom Fiet? It's ok honey and I'll be off in

a minute." And then I'd hang up the phone and try to make a call when I thought Mrs. Lundell would have finished her call.

Fifty years later, things have certainly changed. We can call from a remote trout stream in Montana, to a goat herder in Timbuktu. A wounded climber can call his wife from the top of Mount Everest to tell her he won't be making it home. We have access to any and all of our friends, even if they are scattered around the four corners of the earth.

We can be anywhere and still be connected every moment of every day.

With that in mind, isn't it peculiar that there are just a few centers of technology? Silicon Valley, maybe the Boston area. Isn't it a little strange that if we can communicate from anywhere, people who are at the forefront of the tech revolution are clustered in very few places? How come? Why the clustering of innovative persons when they could live anywhere?

They need face to face communication, that's why. It is not enough to share ideas over the phone, even if we can see each other on our hand-held screen. We simply need to be in physical proximity. We need to see each other, touch each other, share a meal, a drink...share some oxygen.

The importance of physical community has been on my mind for a long time. As a pastor, I have seen this local church excelling at this vital need in a person's life. Here at Lyall, we see this in nearly everything we do. Face to face interaction, sharing a meal, a drink, some oxygen. Hearing an unfiltered voice across the table, passing the peace, cooking together, singing together.

In this way I think we are doing God's great work here. We are an antidote to estrangement by doing what we do at Lyall. It is an important aspect of salvation. God bless you for putting a human face on what we believe. Isn't this exactly the thing God has done by sending Jesus Christ to us? It is not enough to send a book. Not enough to send an emissary or a prophet or factotum. No, God will send a person, Jesus, to be with us. Face to face. He's going to touch us, eat with us, die with us. Such a visit rightly transformed the known world. And the Spirit of God echoes this intimate relationship even to this very day.

So keep up the good work. Get your hands dirty. Know. Be known. It will, over time, change the world around us. Even now, thanks to you, Lyall is seen as a place of safety and sanctuary. That is because of you and your willingness to become a center for the human heart.

Bless you for it.

Warmest regards,
Thom Fiet, Pastor at Lyall

February Dates to Remember,
details and a contact person can usually be found in the weekly announcements

- . February 1, Church Re-Imagined, February “Jesus' Love”, 4:00-6:00 PM
- . February 2, Buildings and grounds meeting, 9:00 AM
- . February 4, Board of Spiritual Life meeting, 7:00 PM
- . February 6, Kitchen Pow Wow, 1:00 PM
- . February 7, First Friday Lunch, Millbrook at Home, 12:00 – 2:00 PM, Maura's Kitchen
- . February 8, Stephen Ministry meeting, 1:00-4:00 PM
- . February 14, Saint Valentines Day
- . February 14, MECEC Annual Valentines Concert, 11:00 AM
- . February 19, Coffee & Connections, Millbrook at Home, 1:00-2:00 PM St. Joe's Parish Hall.
- . February 19, Night Out Book Club meeting, 6:30 PM
- . February 22, Stephen Ministry, 1:00-4:00 PM
- . February 25, Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:00- 8:00 PM, Grace Church Parish Hall
- . February 25, Board of Trustees meeting, 7:00 PM
- . February 26, Ash Wednesday
- . February 26, Creation of Ashes, 11:00 AM
- . February 26, Soup Supper, 6:00 PM
- . February 26, Imposition of Ashes, 7:00 PM



First Saturday of the month, join us from 4-6 pm

- February 1: Theme will be “Jesus' Love”
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6

Activities for all ages, informal worship and fellowship over a light meal.

Please speak with Kristen Reid or Lynn Grainger for more details, and if childcare would be helpful.

Bob's Bistro...Bob Tierney's "Lyall Lunch" Letter



During January 2020, the first month of our new year, Lyall Lunch served, Beef Vegetable, Split Pea and Ham, Italian Wedding, Chicken Mulligatawny and Minestrone Soup.

We are pleased to report that without a pause in service our kitchen was upgraded with a new commercial refrigerator and freezer, during January as well.

The first meal of February will be on the Thursday the fifth, and we will serve Pork and Bean soup.

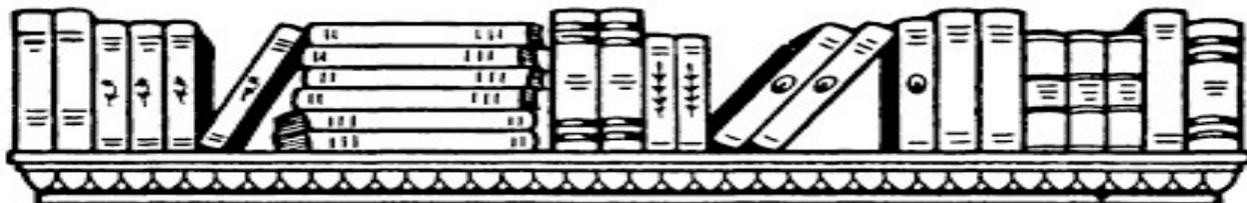
Lyall Lunch serves a meal every Thursday, 11:30 to 12:30, and *all are welcome*. You will find joy, food, good company and conversation every Thursday (except on major holidays) at Lyall Lunch. We always cook and serve enough to have leftovers to share with those who might like them, but might not be able to join us. At present, we provide more take out portions than those being eaten here. Most of our take outs go to friends and neighbors involved with Meals on Wheels and A.A., and the rest go to sincere requests. Many thanks to the team, our sponsors, Walbridge Farm and Upland Farms.

Team leader and cook, Bob Tierney. Loyal Crew, Mary Jane Tierney, Helen Lomangino, Sandy Beaumont, Guy Lavallee, Marion Bennett, Penny Wieser, Karen McLaughlin, Adelaide Jasmine, Louise Roeller, Rafi Mohammed, Jim Demus, Patty Larkin, Irene Delaunay, and Pastor, Thom Fiet- Pastor.

If you have a soup you would like me to make, or have comments, please send me a note via my email bobtier03@gmail.com. If you would like to help make the soup, please show up on Thursday morning after 9:30, any amount of time you can spending helping will be appreciated.

Yours in Christ, Bob Tierney

Book Discussion Group, a reason to get out of the house!



This group meets on the third Wednesday of each month and is led by our friends Danielle and Cindy (Small Circle of Friends). Meetings are held in the Social room, at 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, and the plan is to discuss *Still Life* by Louise Penny. Cindy and Danielle are open to suggestions, so please, get in touch and share one.

Grief Circle by Cat Greenstreet

Grief is a dynamic ever-changing reality. There is no check-list to get through, ticking off each task as we complete it, at the end of which we are all better. It is a life-long dance, a constant opportunity to open and grow. The trick is to approach our grief with as much awareness and compassion as we can muster. – Mirabai Starr

Grief is not a linear process. It is full of surprises yet has its own individual rhythm in our lives, depending on who died, who they were to us and our dynamic of family and friends. Does the sorrow ever go away, or does it transform with grace as we do?

In Grief Circle we meet one another, sharing and growing, as we witness our own and each other's vulnerability and resilience. With a touchstone to not fix, save, or advise, we are free to meet one another as we are. Gratitude flows from our time together. We practice listening. We practice understanding. We practice being honest with ourselves and each other. We practice compassion with self and the others. Over time fondness weaves and grows.

If you are grieving a loss – recent or more distant, natural or traumatic, about a person or the earth or our nation – give Grief Circle a try. Everyone is welcome. Come every time or whenever you feel moved to join us. Maybe you will feel less alone.

In 2020 Pastor Thom and Cat Greenstreet plan to offer four series, a total of 15 grief circles, on the following Sundays:

- March 1, 8, 15, and 22 (during Lent)
- June 28, July 26, and August 23
- September 13, 20, and 27, October 4
- November 29, December 6, 13, and 20 (during Advent)

Please join us from noon – 1:00 p.m. in the library. Let your friends and relatives know that we offer this. Even one circle can be a great support.



Stephen Ministry: The Stephen Ministry team continues to meet regularly. The next meetings will be Saturday, February 8, and Saturday, February 22 from 1:00 -4:00 PM, in the library. The group is more than halfway through their training, and preparing for their work helping others, which will begin before the summer. We continue to be grateful to Diane for her leadership, and to her team for their hard work: Betty Doyle, Pastor Thom Fiet, Louise Roeller, Brad Roeller, Debby Falk and Penny Wieser.



Two Millbrook at Home Programs continue in the Village

- ***Coffee & Connections:***

This “Coffee and Connections” program will be held on Wednesday, January 15, beginning at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, 15 North Ave., Millbrook, NY.

Are you concerned about how to fulfill your New Year’s Eve resolutions to start eating right or to lose weight? Nimesh Bhargava, MS, RD, is the Nutrition Services Coordinator at the Dutchess County Office for the Aging. He will present information about the best ways to make those important changes in your diet in order to start the year off right. All seniors and and caregivers are invited to attend.

- ***First Friday Lunch with Millbrook At Home: The First Friday at Maura's Kitchen, 18 Alden Place, Millbrook, 12:00 PM, noon - 2:00 PM.***

Join us for our monthly First Friday Lunch and learn more about Millbrook at Home, meet new friends, hear our featured speaker, and enjoy a delicious lunch.

Our featured speaker Valerie LaRobardier will present “Where to Begin” - Studying Your Family History. Valerie is a professional genealogist, President of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society, and Historian for the Town of Dover. She will help you to answer the question...”Where do I begin” to study my family genealogy?

Millbrook at Home, and these programs are open to seniors and their caregivers, who reside in Millbrook, and surrounding areas. Email connect@millbrookathome.org for details.

Missions: Betty Doyle and Nancy Greer

Update from the Salays: Susan is excited to be serving the Lord again as facilitator and presenter for another Intercultural Communications Course.

We ask you to join us in praying for the Lord to work in the lives of participants preparing them for the mission field, and for discernment for the facilitators and Susan, so they may see where participants need to grow and how to help them forward.

Following the course, Susan will rejoin her mother in Virginia.

Where her mother is regaining strength at home, after being released from the hospital. We pray for safe travels and continued healing.

Meanwhile I am traveling to a remote town in Colombia, called Puerto Carreno, on the Venezuelan. This will be my first time there, and the Lord has provided me with a pastor who will be my contact. He has offered to help in any way he can. The plan is to meet with the Yeral/Neengatu team and work together translating the book of Acts.

This team, of two men and one woman, have recruited two others, to help with this workshop. Please pray for our safety, from mosquitos, parasites and guerillas. I am bringing some hygiene items and cash for my companions. Basic necessities are still scarce in this area, if you would like to contribute something to assist in funding this please let me know.



A Note From the Hicks :

College Aged Students are Needed this Summer for Internships- Especially in Spain!



This summer, discover how God can use you, your gifts—even your brokenness—as a vessel to pour out His grace to others in cross-cultural ministry. Serge’s internship program is your opportunity to spend eight weeks of your summer serving others overseas, under the guidance of one of our missionary teams.

In addition to hands-on ministry work, you’ll experience personal discipleship through the Christ-centered, grace-based teaching and mentoring that shapes the vision, mission, and culture of Serge. While there are different options of field placements, we are especially needy for summer interns in Spain to help with our summer English Camp. Would you pray about coming or tell someone you know?

You Will Learn

- How to build relationships and share the gospel cross-culturally
- Live in deep community alongside missionaries and fellow summer interns
- Be discipled to understand your ongoing need for God’s grace and power in your life
- Explore your gifts in a cross-cultural context
- See how God’s kingdom is growing and deepening across the world

HOW TO APPLY

Our application deadline has passed, but we are still accepting applications on a case-by-case basis. You can fill out the application

<https://serge.submittable.com/submit/48876/summer-internship-application-2020> !

For more information, please contact Ashland Arnold via email at aarnold@serge.org

YOU ARE INVITED!!

ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER



GRACE CHURCH PARISH HALL

3328 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MILLBROOK, NY

COME ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

HOSTED BY THE MEN AT GRACE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

6 PM – 8 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME & NO RESEVATIONS NEEDED

CONTACT 677-3064 OR OFFICE@GRACEMILLBROOK.ORG FOR ANY QUESTIONS.

Our Prayer List

Friends and Family Struggling with Health Concerns and Other Challenges

Families and Friends Grieving

Families with losses; may positive memories fill the void where their family member is missing and may they be comforted by friends and family

Families working through a divorce and/or separation

Our Missionaries

Aaron and Holly Hicks in Spain, and their children

Karen Stockton

The Zagami Family, and for continued improvement in Sarah's eye

Bakoly, who leads services in Malagasy (in collaboration with the Zagamis)

Three French-African families and the North Sudanese neighbors, and acquaintances of the Zagamis

The Salay Family

Our Church Ministry

For all who attend our services to feel welcome and accepted as they are

For our Christian Education program and the teachers

For a leader for our Christian Education

For all engaged with Meals on Wheels, preparers, drivers & recipients

The students in our preschools, their parents and teachers

Family members, friends, and neighbors participating in AA; prayer for their ongoing recovery

Our church boards as they hold discussions and make decisions

The families we serve through the food pantries and at Lyall Lunch, and all engaged in Lyall Lunch

The continuing training of our Stephen Ministry participants with Diane DeGroat

Ongoing guidance for the Church Re-Imagined program family/child-centered worship

Those in Service to Our Country

Matthew Fauci

Christopher Jasmine

Jacob DeLuca

Jonathan Edmonds

Kristopher Edmonds



Guidance and Jobs

People seeking employment

People seeking support as they make changes in their lives

Those who are caregivers, those grieving losses, those in chronic pain, those in trouble, those in recovery, those in transition, and those who are lonely

Joys and prayers answered

- Grateful for all who attended the Annual Congregational meeting.
- Grateful for all who have taken leadership roles on our boards, and in our committees
- Thankful for the growth and continued success of the Church Re-Imagined program.
- Thankful for the sustained work being done by our Stephen Ministry team, may they continue to grow in their studies and succeed in sharing their new understandings and skills with others.
- We continue to be ever thankful for the blessing of our call to assist our fellow human beings, the material support and human strength of mind, body and soul to do what is needed.
- Thankful for all who enter our doors and open their hearts and join us in serving others.
- Thankful for the continued generosity of those within and beyond this community who donate both their service and/or their financial gifts to our many programs and ministries.
- Grateful for answers to prayers, even when the answer is to wait, not now, or no.
- Grateful for this very special community which is Lyall, those who attend church, our preschools, those who volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Food for Folks, First Harvest Pantry, Millbrook Community Festival Choir, and all those who attend the meetings

held here each day of the week.

Stay in Touch with Friends

Is there anyone you'd like us to add to our list? Below are a few people we would like to stay in touch with. We hope you will reach out, and share our greetings and best wishes with. All are friends and all are missed, - they surely miss us as well, and would welcome some news about all that is going on, and everyone here at Lyall.



Helen Doland is at Ferncliffe. Her address is 21 Ferncliff Drive, Rhinbeck, NY. Please speak to John or Henry, or call and confirm she is available before you go to visit.

Tom Paolo is currently living at the Sapphire, 37 South Meiser Avenue, Wappinger's Falls, NY 12590; 845-297-3793 (switchboard). He is much better, and is looking for a place in Millbrook - so if you know of someplace please reach out to him, or speak with the pastor.

Christopher Jasmine's new address is 2816 Ross Street, Clovis, New Mexico, 88101.

Anne Van Vlack Please get in touch with Anne, she misses getting out to see you. Her address is 29 College Lane, Millbrook, NY 12545.

Flora Jane Hilderbrand would love to hear from you, she misses everyone. You may write to her at: 691 Jura Court, Shallotte, NC, 28470-4595.

Anna Belle Secor is at The Cascades Assisted Living, 13 Parklawn Drive, Apt. 46, Bethel, CT 06801. Her phone number is 203-791-4046.

Joyce Heaton and Steve Ouellette 38 Quimby Avenue, Westbrook, ME 04092.

Jacob DeLuca SR DeLuca, Jacob, A., SHIP 06 DIV 157, Recruit Training Command, 3510 Illinois St., Great Lakes, IL 60088-3119. Please note Jacob's new address is MM3 DeLuca, Jacob A., 406 Walsingham Way, Norfolk, VA 23503. His fiancée, Jasmine, is also MM3 Ayllon, and stationed in Norfolk. Please join Jacob, Jasmine, and Jacob's Mother in announcing ...Jasmine and Jacob are expecting 'Sofia-May', who is due in March, 2020.

Gloria Rutlin Mountain Valley Adult Care, 397 Wilbur Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401; her number is 845-663-2435. Please, leave your name and number, she will call you back.

Dick Cole would welcome visitors at home. Brenda and her family live next door. Please call Brenda at 845 242-1032, to set up a good time to visit.

Jean Armstrong 119 Meadow Lane, Bridgewater, VA, 22812, or phone 540-828-3796.

Elizabeth and Rev. Karl Esmark, 2803 Webb Road, Lafayette, NY, 13084; 315- 696-5706.



The Garden Path, February 2020

Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, for the glorious trees are ruined! Wail, oaks of Bashan, for the thick forest has been felled! Zechariah 11:2

Is the Hebrew prophet Zechariah's prophecy made over 2000 years ago about to descend upon us? God willing, I won't be struck dumb by Gabriel as was Zechariah so I can, like his son John the Baptist, forewarn readers to prepare themselves for an impending threat to one of the most important trees in our forest, the oak. No, not in Bashan, right here in our woods.

Ah the oak, one of the most loved trees in the world, the undisputed "king of trees" of folklore may be eradicated from our forests in our lifetime. Oaks have helped shape culture, diet and ecosystems across the world yet are now facing significant threats to their ability to survive. Today, oaks are struggling to regenerate, and diseases are spreading from the West and Midwest that could bring ecological devastation if they take root here in the East.

I can't think of a species that have been more venerated and symbolic than the oaks. Since man's arrival of this planet the oak has been associated with honor, nobility and wisdom. To many they are a life-affirming symbol as many species of oaks easily surpass 300 years of age. A couple species can live to be over 1000 years old! Perhaps no other tree is as iconic as the mighty oak. Throughout ancient and present day cultures the oak is recognized as a symbol of strength, morale, resistance and knowledge. In Christianity the oak tree is the symbol for the tree of life. In Greek mythology, it is the symbol of Zeus, the God of Thunder. The so-called "king of trees" is undoubtedly one of the most loved trees in the world.

Ecologists have identified the oak as a "keystone species". Keystone species affect human lives, either for the good or the bad. For instance, whitetail deer were labeled a keystone species in the early 1980s due to their quantifiable negative impacts on forests. Unlike deer, oak forests play a significant beneficial role in the health and functioning of forest ecosystems. Their benefits are many, ranging from the ecological, economic, and cultural or social levels. On the ecological side, oak forests, and even individual oak trees, play a major role in moderating temperatures, helping to recharge groundwater, controlling storm water runoff, reducing groundwater and air pollution, and helping sequester carbon. Since the dawn of man, oaks have provided food for indigenous peoples. Native Americans and early European settlers utilized oaks for reliable sources of warmth, shelter and, most importantly, food. Acorns were the world's first staple crop and were highly prized for their nutritional value. Native Americans actively managed oaks for maximum acorn production. Individual trees possessing high acorn yields were fiercely guarded and ownership often passed down from generation to generation. The bark of certain species of oaks is recognized for its therapeutic properties.

While on my daily walks with Rollo and Louise I routinely pause by this 200+ year old white oak. I wonder what this tree has witnessed over the course of its life? Such venerable old specimens remind me of Ents in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. I sure hope the fate of our oaks is not similar to those in Tolkien's lore. Did local Native Americans harvest its acorns or seek shelter under its canopy? Did early settlers build their homes in close proximity to it? If left undisturbed (and unthreatened by exotic insects or pathogens), this tree could live another 75+ years, providing a sense of wonder and appreciation for generations to come. Due to hundreds of years of expansion, our once vast oak forests have been fragmented and degraded. While development and climate change have, and will continue to put oak forests at risk, perhaps the greatest threat to the species are two virulent imported diseases which, over the last decade, has killed tens of millions of oaks out West. Ecologists are on the lookout for these diseases but it's just a matter of time before they arrive in our area.



Next month: Sudden oak death and oak wilt



Lyall Memorial Federated Church

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

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday through Friday 9:00 am until 12 o'clock.

30 Maple Avenue, PO Box 426, Millbrook, NY 12545. Telephone 845-677-3485
Email Communications@Lyallmemorial.org Visit our website at www.lyallmemorial.org

Celebrations for this month!

February Birthdays

- 4 Gloria Rutlin
- 6 Jen Strang
- 8 Mike McCracken
- 11 Charles Fauci
- 13 Nancy Greer
- 15 Ann Marie Strang
- 24 Ren Adams
- 25 Jean Ham



