

# LYALL MEMORIAL FEDERATED CHURCH

Po Box 426, Maple Avenue, Millbrook NY 12545

845-677-3485 [www.lyallmemorial.org](http://www.lyallmemorial.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Matthew 3:16**

*Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him.*

**February, 2015**

## **SAVE THESE DATES**

### **January 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting**

- Immediately following the service. Bring a potluck dish to share.

### **February 11<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Meeting of the Outreach Committee**

### **February 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday**

- 11 am service with Rev. Thom Fiet in social room to prepare ashes
- 6 pm Simple Soup Supper followed by worship service including distribution of ashes.

### **February 18<sup>th</sup>-April 4<sup>th</sup> Lent ending with Holy Week**

- watch for details in weekly bulletins and in the March newsletter

### **April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**

Editors: **Marie Burr**, [maranburr@aol.com](mailto:maranburr@aol.com) & **Lynn Grainger**, [lynng125@optonline.net](mailto:lynng125@optonline.net)

Contributors: Church Family & Friends

Proofreader: Jan Miller

Would you like to contribute an article, insight or poem to the newsletter? The deadline for the March Newsletter is the second week in February. Please email your copy to me during that week or leave it in the Newsletter mailbox. If you are unable to meet the deadline, and need to submit an article,

## Pastor's Corner

Greetings one and all.

I like the idea of arriving at Lyall in the middle of Epiphany. It is the season of the year where the Christian Church, for many centuries, has encouraged all of us to come to new understandings about God, ourselves, our world, just about anything goes. Indeed, where would we be without our own epiphanies? They so often mark a clearer, firmer place in our lives, and also open ourselves to new questions that will surely be on their way. Questions never seem to take a holiday.

I come from a Reformed background, and in our very name we say that we are willing to have Christ reform our hearts in his likeness, and we also are willing to have Christ reform our wider society, also in the likeness of Christ. What could be more important in this day and age? So much is at stake. An inward reformation and societal change after the likeness of Christ is a very tall order. It is audacious and a marvel. The early Church somehow, amazingly pulled it off. May we be so ambitious and blessed at Lyall. At the very least, how we operate at Lyall, can it become more and more a place where outsiders notice something...Christ-like going on?

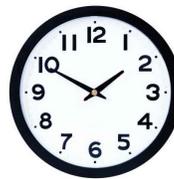
I have had the pleasure to meet many of you and other than your being lovely, funny and hospitable, you have also been very clear that Lyall has many people who take their faith seriously. If I were to take a line from St. Augustine, you are a people where *faith seeks understanding*. If that is true, then Lyall has a very great advantage, though the process can be a little messy. We will try to lend some leadership to that so we can be ourselves and feel safe enough to attempt a deeper understanding and more solid reading of the Bible, ourselves and our world. I've seen it work in a number of other venues, we'll just need to relax a little.

The Christian faith is a huge ocean and it is as intimate as a whisper, both are true. I am so happy to be placed in an office where I can help a little in unpacking these grave and happy matters with you.

One of the things needed most in the process of learning is the courage to let go of knowledge and certitudes that no longer are appropriate or workable. Like everyone else, I have struggled with that too. Certitude is so very important in our faith, but certitude must find that which is worthy of our certitude (we don't want to build on sand, as the saying goes). I want to unpack these things together with you over time. And the more we interact together and overhear one another, and the Gospel, we will discover a clearer voice for our faith as individuals and as a congregation. If we are successful, then we'll thrive as a church and have a great time together.

See you soon.

*Thom Fiet*



### Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Fiet will have ordinary office hours, 9-noon, Monday through Friday, come in and stop by anytime. If that is not convenient, then feel free to call the church office and make an appointment.

### Local Christmas Outreach Pastor's Tree

Thanks to all who contributed by purchasing gifts for the pastor's tree. Twenty-one families were assisted this Christmas!

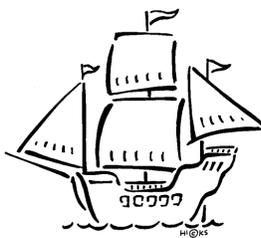
## Chancel Choir Outreach

*Helen Lomangino*

The Chancel Choir went to Green Briar on January 10th and entertained the residents with hymns and gospel songs. There were more residents present than at previous choir outings there, and they enjoyed the singing, and especially Dan's piano accompaniments!!

## "Sound the Ship"

*Pastor Thom Fiet*



Very soon we will be offering a number of times for all Lyall stakeholders (members, associates, staff, friends of the church) to have an

opportunity to "sound the ship". In other words, what needs to happen for our congregation to prepare for our next voyage of faith. What's broken, what's no longer needed, what's leaking, what sorts of administrative upgrades are wanted...anything goes. I'll have some questions too. We'd like as much participation as possible on this one. Watch the bulletin for upcoming times. Thanks.



**Food  
Pantry  
Needs**

Did you realize that most government aid to people in financial need cannot be used to purchase non-food items? Let's help our neighbors out. For more information contact Diane Moretti at 845-242-6508.

**January:** paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues)

**February:** soaps (dish, body, laundry)



## Lent Begins February 18<sup>th</sup>

Rev. Thom will be preparing the ashes for our evening service at 11:00 a.m. in the social room. Everyone is invited to attend.

At 6 p.m. there will be a simple, light supper of soup and bread followed by a service around 7 p.m. Beginning on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a sign up at the back of the church to provide soup or bread. Desserts will not be served. For more information contact Lynn Grainger 266-8178.

## Chancel Floral Arrangements

*Dawn Blackburn*

We are in the process of scheduling the chancel floral arrangements for 2015 and there are several open Sundays. If you would like to donate an arrangement for any open Sunday, please send a check for \$45, payable to Lyall Flower Fund, along with a note indicating how you would like your donation to be listed in the bulletin (In memory of...In honor of....etc.). If you wish to select a particular Sunday, contact Dawn Blackburn (at 266-3650 or [blackburn2@aol.com](mailto:blackburn2@aol.com)) for a list of available dates.

## Home Touch Contact

*Helen Lomangino*

If you know someone who is ill or housebound and would like to receive the weekly "Home Touch" packet from the church, please call the church office (677-3485) or email Susan Tirante, [lyallmemfed@gmail.com](mailto:lyallmemfed@gmail.com) with their name and mailing address.

## **Christian Education**

*Lynn Grainger*

3-2-1... take one! It's movie time for the Sunday School children. This year's project will be based on heroes of the Old Testament. Beginning February 8<sup>th</sup>, Lynn Grainger will work with the children to select heroes, research and write scripts. Children will work on the project culminating in costumed performances videotaped and put into a movie through the end of April.

Coverage for Sunday school is needed for February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please let Lynn Grainger at 266-8178 if you can help out. Lesson plan (books to read and discuss) will be provided.

## **Church Auction-March 21st**

*Sue McGinnis & Marie Burr*

The **Fundraising Committee** will be working on their next project - a huge auction and silent auction. There will be something for everyone, but in order for this to be successful, we need your donations of good quality items that no longer suit your lifestyle or needs. We will be handing out suggestions for auction items, but think in terms of services like a catered homemade dinner for 4 or cheesecake of the month for a year, babysitting, cord of wood, piano or other instrument lessons, alterations, sewing, hand knitted products or sweaters, specialty baskets and the list goes on. Strut your stuff! Our date is Saturday, March 21st. beginning 7 pm - - previewing & silent auction starting 6 pm. Donations can be dropped off at the church from March 1st to March 15th. We are a church family of many talents. We need the generosity and innovative ideas of our members to continue to reach out to the community for these special fundraising events.. We would like this to be the best auction ever. We would also welcome your ideas for fundraisers and even better, would love to have you on the committee.

## **Birthday Wish**

*Linda Lomangino-Fauci*

Serafina Fauci turned 9 years old on January 12, 2015 and she feels completely blessed. She has everything she needs in her daily life; a loving family, a house to live in, more than enough food to eat, dolls, and toys. Instead of having a birthday party where her friends will bring gifts this year, Serafina will have a "party with a purpose." She will invite her friends to come together to celebrate her birthday with games and cake, but instead of presents she will ask for donations for the food pantry at LMFC.

After speaking with Diane Moretti, who manages the pantry, she will attempt to focus the drive on hygiene and cleaning products. These are essential items that families may need, but cannot purchase with SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, (formerly known as food stamps). Serafina would like to invite her church family to help celebrate with her and contribute an item or two towards "her purpose". If you are able, a box will be available in the back of the sanctuary through the month of January to collect any contributions. Some suggestions are: shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving gel, lotion, Band-Aids, dish detergent, sponges, laundry detergent, 409 cleaner, glass cleaner, and bleach.

### **2 Corinthians 9:8**

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

## **Outreach Committee**

*Kristen Reid*

One of the objectives of the outreach committee this year will be to look at ways church can be "externally" focused. Connecting to our community is second nature to many of us at LMFC. A book a few of us read two years ago, "The Externally Focused Church" by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson started me thinking. In reading the first chapter I realized that we (LMFC congregation) already fit one definition of an externally focused church: "they (the church) would be greatly missed by the community if they left". The stories, suggestions, revelations in this book are great examples of other churches partnering with their community to serve beyond the church doors.

With Christmas only a few weeks past, I know all of you are remembering the JOY of giving: the joy on some person's face that opened that perfect gift, the grin on a child's face as they described some new toy (even though you may not have had a clue what they were talking about!), or perhaps, the face you had to imagine - the unseen face opening the gift you purchased for the Giving tree or packed in a shoe box. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." So in essence it is not only the person that opened the gift that you blessed, but you gifted Jesus with your action. Does that explain the "it is more blessed to give than to receive?" In your reaching out to help someone experience a small joy at Christmas you reached beyond our churches doors - to Millbrook, to Haiti, to the world where shoeboxes go!

With a new year started and a new interim pastor on board we hope to create a new definition of OUTREACH. Do we reach OUT of ourselves to each other? Do we reach OUT of our sanctuary to the groups that use the rest of our building? Do we reach OUT of our

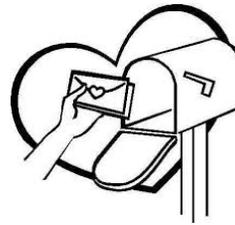
church property to the community and beyond?

If you would like to be part of this kind of discussion or part of the action please join Lynn Grainger and Kristen Reid in the church library on Feb 11 at 7 pm.

## **Valentine Boxes**

*Kristen Reid*

Every February we send a "Your Church Cares About You Packages" for Valentine's Day to the youth away at college or serving in the military. If you would like to contribute any Valentine type item (stickers, candy, etc.) give them to Kristen Reid or drop them at the church office by February 8<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday



School children will then assemble the boxes and create cards. Our young people enjoy hearing from home in the bleak of mid-winter.

## **Building and Grounds**

Have you noticed even more little things that are getting fixed around our church?

Many thanks for the many hands that made cleaning up the sanctuary on January 4<sup>th</sup> so quick and easy.

Watch for the upcoming Spring Clean Up and be a part of it.

Thank our Buildings & Grounds team for keeping our house of worship in good working order. Contact Brad Roeller to join the team.

## **Christmas Outreach to Haiti**

*Lynn Grainger*

Thank you to all the people who contributed small toys for our trip to Haiti. The children were thrilled and blessed by your gifts.

Evelyn and I met up with a couple from Minneapolis who have thrown the Christmas parties for orphaned and extremely poor children in the areas surrounding Port-au-Prince, Haiti for the past 4 years. The first Christmas following the massive earthquake Billy and Dru Secord assisted at Partner's in Development's (PID) clinic and came up with the idea of reaching children beyond the sponsorship programs. The weeklong trip has now become one of the annual events for the organization.

This year there were seven parties between December 21<sup>st</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup>. At least 472 children were served. Two teenage Haitians were employed as translators and assistants during their vacation time. Two PID employees assisted us with the children and the kitchen staff cooked and served meals for the children. We contributed to the local economy by employing individuals.

Some parties were held at the children's communities. Those were larger events with more children than we expected. Others were at the PID site where 50 children arrived by truck (tap-tap) and spent the day with us. Often I wondered how many other children were in line, but didn't make it on the tap-tap. A party consisted of children singing, making necklaces with beads, coloring and learning to play box it and tic-tac-toe in a booklet they got to keep. They had a meal of beans and rice with chicken and juice. If we were at PID we played games in the grass. All children received a bar of soap, a tennis ball and a choice of small gift.

Evelyn and I were fortunate to spend informal time in the community with our translators beyond the tour of the village. We saw the struggles people have with water and sanitation. We saw the effects of high unemployment and lack of food.

We decided to sponsor a child for \$30 per month through PID's program. The three year old we chose turned out to be a little boy we waved at on our walks through the community. He waited for sponsorship for more than a year. We met him on Christmas Day. Seeing the joy on his mother's face when she was told we were sponsoring him was the greatest gift I've received.

Evelyn is planning to return to the Blanchard neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti this summer as a team leader for weeklong service project groups from the United States and to research a future academic project. She will also work at learning Haitian Creole.

Evelyn and I plan to return to Haiti with PID for Christmas again. Pray for us as we consider how best to involve the community in this project.

A video Evelyn created about our trip is found on the main page of the church website and at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXkpkwZJ5KU&list=UUrBRJ2u90BDkXMxfjvmmcDw> .

For more information on Partner's in Development's work you can visit <http://www.pidonline.org> .

**OUR PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN:**

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Nancy Cole, still recovering at The Pines in Poughkeepsie.

Shirley, friend of Maria Bauries, who is in a nursing home.

Rachel Murphy, Granddaughter of Anne Van Vlack, recovering from foot/ankle surgery in December.

Harriet Cole, recovering from bronchitis.

Evie Grainger as she prepares for travel, related to school and summer internship to Haiti.



**JOYS!**

God has blessed us with our new interim minister, Reverend Thomas Fiet!

Glen Herman, Mary Jane Tierney's brother, is doing well after kidney dialysis and after getting a pacemaker on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dave Adam's shoulder is doing quite well now, Thank you!

Lynn and Evelyn Grainger had a safe, fun, meaningful trip to Haiti over Christmas week.

***The Prayers and Joys sign up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary. Please sign it if you or someone you know needs prayers, or have a special "joy" to share!***

*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Matthew 6:26*