

# 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



*Psalm 30:1*

*I will exalt You, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths.*

**March, 2015**

## **SAVE THESE DATES**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| February 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Post Worship Chats begin following service<br>Ecumenical Gathering at St. Joseph's 7:00 p.m. |
| February 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Monday Bible Reflection Group begins 11:00 a.m.  |
| February 25 <sup>th</sup> | Wednesday Bible Reflection Group begins 7:00 p.m.  |
| March 21 <sup>st</sup>    | Church Auction preview at 6:00; auction at 7:00 p.m.   |
| April 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Ecumenical Gathering at Lyall 7:00 p.m.  |
| April 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.  |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup>     | Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.   |

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Contributors: Church Family & Friends

Would you like to contribute an article, insight or poem to the newsletter? The deadline for the April Newsletter is the second week in March. 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, please

## **Pastor's Corner**

I have been in contact with my fishing buddies, Steve and Malcolm, both trout bums. Both fish two hundred days every year, sometimes more. Both their wives more than happy about this. Both tell me that now is the time to be tying flies, getting ready for the new season. X Caddis, Chin Emerger, Rusty Spinner, size 32 Griffith's Gnat, Blue Wing Olive, Midges, Partridge Wing Wet Fly-all should be tied and put away in fly boxes arranged as if by a surgeon. So I've been tying a few each week. I know they are right in sounding the alarm: Spring is just around the corner.

My friends urge me to see the piles of snow outside my window as the sign to get going with tying flies. Out my window my new Hemlocks are heavy and bent over with snow. The birds like it. I put seed under the bows for them. But nothing looks like trout season out there. Everything is buried under ice and snow. We are out of season. Still, my two friends consider this prime time to anticipate and make ready for wonderful moments on the stream, months from now. The process begins even as we are buried in snow. That season depends on what we do this season.

The Lenten season has the same quality. Over the centuries the Christian Church has set aside a period of time when we are invited to descend and take stock in the snows of our lives. We are invited to remember times when we were buried in grief and disappointment. We are permitted to brood over times when we were adrift and lost. Lent gives us entry to those times when our purpose in life gave way to a whiteout of disillusionment, even despair. Our lives get a chance to go from frayed to tied together, at least sufficiently. Tied enough to meet crucified and then risen Christ. That season, the season of Easter, depends on this season, the season of reflection and tying things together.

It is a fearsome thing to come in contact with such a tremendous character and the shattering truth he brings: Jesus has triumphed over Death. Lent gets us ready. In this regard, I am looking forward to the moments of worshipping together, of considering the scriptures in our Bible Reflection Groups, of having good conversation at coffee hour and after, in my office, talking about all manner of things. In other words, tying things up together and preparing for this astonishing Christ, who beats death, so we can as well.

So here's to you and those many things we need to get ready, all so we might enter the stream of the Risen Christ, where the fishing is easy, especially in the company of good friends.

Thom Fiet, Pastor at Lyall

## **Meet the Pastor**

Our new pastor is Thom Fiet hails from the shores of Lake Michigan. Thom grew up in Whitehall, Michigan, attended Calvin College, Western Seminary and the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He is the father of two daughters, Kathryn and Julia. Thom is a fly fisherman, his home waters are the iconic streams of the Catskill Mountains. Thom is married to Maria McCabe, who was born and raised in Poughkeepsie. Maria, a Skidmore College graduate, owns her own business and is also a dedicated musician. Thom and Maria make their home near Marist College.

## **Pastor's Office Hours**

Remember, Pastor Thom's office hours are Monday-Friday 9.00 a.m. to noon. Feel free to stop in and say hi.

## Food for Folks

Let's help our neighbors out. For more information contact Diane Moretti at 845-242-6508.

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

**March:** household cleaners and sponges

**April:** side dishes (rice, boxed potatoes, pork and beans) jello

## Worship Changes

We are in the midst of *modifying our Sunday morning liturgy*. As you will see, we are having *announcements after the postlude* as a way of extending our response to God's Word as we enter the coming week. We will notice also that the *time for children* will take place early on in worship (children will be invited to Sunday School following the second hymn). We will add two items to our worship time, one is the mutual greeting/passing of the peace of Christ following the Assurance of Pardon (we will gather back to our seats by singing the Gloria Patri). The other addition will take place earlier, at 10:20-10:25 a.m.. This will be a time of quiet instrumental "*gathering music*" giving space for centering meditation and focus for worship (the prelude begins at 10.25).

## Communion Bread

We are looking for those who would be willing to bake bread for communion. Please contact Christine Horihan for more details.

## Musicians Wanted

*The Worship Work Group* is **looking for musicians** who might be willing to consider playing gathering music from 10:20-10:25 to assist the congregation in preparing for

worship. If you are willing, please see Pastor Thom for more information (845-264-0205). Keyboardist, oboists, harpists, cellists, guitarist, stringed ensembles are encouraged to inquire.

## Thank You

Thanks to **Andrew Wack** for filling in for our Organist/Choir Director, Dan Koch, this past February 15th.



## 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.

## Ecumenical Gatherings

Two ecumenical offerings are being extended to the Lyall Community. The **first** is Sunday, **February 22** at 7 p.m. St. Joseph's Church, Millbrook. We are cordially invited to begin the Lenten season in the company of the greater Christian body. The **second** is Wednesday, **April 1** at 7:00 p.m. here at Lyall. We will be gathering together as we enter the deep waters of Holy Week.

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

Our own **Maundy Thursday Service** will be held at Lyall on April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

## **Easter Sunday**

Easter Sunrise Service will gather at Nine Partners Cemetery at 7:00 a.m. on April 5. Our second Easter Service is at 10:25 in our sanctuary.

## **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.

## **Pre-Service Fellowship**

We have a plan to open the Gathering Room (that's where the fireplace is) for coffee on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. beginning March 8. Come in early and enjoy a little fellowship prior to worship.

## **Bible Study**

*Bible Reflection Groups* will be offered during Lent. There will be a six-session group beginning Monday, February 23 at 11.00 a.m. in the pastor's study. We will also offer a five-week study beginning Wednesday, February 25 at 7.00 p.m. also in the pastor's study. We'll be looking at the beginning passages of the Gospel of Mark. No prior biblical knowledge is necessary.

## **Post-Worship Chats**

Unless there is a business meeting following worship, we are inviting any and all to meet after coffee for a time of discussion and friendship in the Pastor's Study. We'll end each meeting at 12.30 or so. Our first post-worship chat is Sunday, February 22.

## **Electronic Giving**

We are in the process of planning to offer a way for those interested to give to the church through electronic giving (we are trying to move into the 21st century!). We know that there are those who wish to stay current with their giving, even when they are away on holiday or playing hooky or when the weather keeps us from worship. Electronic giving solves this issue and is such a help in empowering the church to pay its bills and maintain a healthy financial outlook. Keep an eye out for more in the coming weeks. Thanks for your generosity!

## Help Needed

We are in need of **Nursery Attendants** during worship! On any given Sunday there are a number of young children needing attention in the nursery. We need your assistance by helping a few times a year to make this important ministry really take off. Please contact Meagan McGinnis for more details.

## Outreach Committee Meeting

On Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> Kristen Reid, Lynn Grainger and Thom Fiet met to discuss how we can address the needs we see here in our community, in our county and beyond. Many ideas were discussed including serving lunch weekly, supporting families and kids with homework help and a healthy meal,

The big questions we have to consider is:

*What do we, the congregation of Lyall Memorial Federated Church, want to be known for?*

Watch for upcoming opportunities to get involved.

## Recent Baptisms

Congratulations to **Ronan Begley**, who was baptized at Lyall on January 25! Ronan is the son of Caitlin and Robert Begley.

Congratulations to **Arden Pickles** on her baptism on Sunday, February 15 here at Lyall! Arden's parents are **Jon Pickles and Meagan McGinnis**. The baptism was assisted by Arden's sister, Harleigh and her cousin.

## Chancel Floral Arrangements

*Dawn Blackburn*

The flowers in the chancel each Sunday morning enhance our worship service and provide an excellent way to memorialize or honor loved ones. Please consider donating a flower arrangement for one of the open dates listed below. If you wish to contribute, please send a check for \$45, made out to "Lyall Flower Fund" along with the desired date, and indicate how you would like the bulletin acknowledgement to read: "Given in loving memory of....., In honor of....."

Open dates, which will be filled on a first-come basis, are:

March 1

April 19

June 7

August 16

August 23

August 30

September 20

November 1

Please contact Dawn Blackburn (266-3650, [blackburn2@aol.com](mailto:blackburn2@aol.com)) with questions or special requests.

## Easter Lilies

The lilies in the chancel on Easter Sunday are provided by donations made in memory of loved ones. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check payable to "Lyall Memorial Flower Fund" to the church along with a note indicating the memorial name(s) to be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

## **Christian Education**

*Lynn Grainger*

Movie production has begun on Heroes and Heroines of the Old Testament. Each child will choose one hero or heroine to portray. We will write the scripts together and then film the children acting in costume. Younger children will create a puppet show retelling the story of Noah. The class will meet during Sunday School. The project will conclude at the end of April.

We are in need of a teacher for the children beginning the second Sunday in May through the end of the school year.

## **From the Mission Field Sarah Zagami in Madagascar**

Yesterday (2/7/15) at 9:42am ·

The eye infection I wrote about last week turned out to be a more serious problem. I've been diagnosed with a corneal ulcer and have been evacuated to South Africa for further treatment. Daniel is in Madagascar with the kids. We hoped to send out an email to ask for prayer but are having some problems with our Outlook. So please pass the word! We would appreciate your prayers as we figure out the next steps.

2/10/15 here's more news from Sarah:

So begins my fourth night in the hospital... Hopefully I'll be discharged tomorrow. My eye is showing improvement with medication, but I still have a long road ahead to regain my sight. I'm thankful for a good doctor that communicates well, an amazing husband that's holding it all together in Madagascar, and the prayers of so many around the world. It's humbling...thank you

## **No Religion Necessary**

*submitted by Marie Burr*

*originally published in*

*Keeping God in the Small Stuff  
by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz*

*God doesn't give us rules for how to live;  
He gives us reasons for how to live.*

You probably know a lot of people who want nothing to do with religion. Don't be too quick to criticize them for their attitudes; they might have the right idea.

God doesn't want your life occupied with a lot of religious hoopla that you perform out of tradition without any sense of personal significance. If your "religion" is just a bunch of "do's and don'ts," then God isn't interested in it. (And maybe that's why your spiritual life has seemed so dry and unfulfilling.)

God wants your genuine faith, not your meaningless rituals. He wants you to respond to Him out of love, not out of compulsion, or guilt, or habit. He wants you to enjoy the freedom of faith, without dreading rigid rules.

Stop doing "religious" activities simply because you feel you have to. Instead, take pleasure in your liberty to worship God as a natural expression of your love for Him.

*"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

*JOHN 8:32*



**OUR PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN:**

**PRAYERS FOR:**

Nancy Cole, still recovering at The Pines in Poughkeepsie,

now has bronchitis.

Sally O'Brien, still in pain from shingles, fell and broke her hip.

Sally's address is:

190 Fox Hollow Ct. #C,  
Pinehurst, NC 28374.

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

**JOYS!**

Worship services with Reverend Thom Fiet!

Sylvia Hilderbrand recently received a kidney.

Mary Jane Tierney's eye surgery on January 14<sup>th</sup> went well. Thanks for your prayers!

*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.*