

LYALL MEMORIAL FEDERATED CHURCH

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Stand up and praise the Lord your God. Nehemiah 9:5

SEPTEMBER, 2013

SAVE THESE DATES

Sun., September 8th, Rally Day BBQ, after church service

Mon., Sept. 9th FWSCS Meeting, 7 pm

Thurs., Sept. 12 Bible Study Begins, 3:30 & 7pm

Sunday, Sept. 15th Stories of Faith Night 7pm

Sun., Sept. 29' Installation Service for Pastor Donna, 3 pm

Sun., Oct. 21st, Spaghetti Supper, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

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The deadline for the October Newsletter is the second week in September. 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 call me at 677-0430 or send me an email. Thank You.

Pastor's Ponderings

by The Reverend Donna Frischknecht-Jackson

SCRIPTURE TO REFLECT UPON: "And God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

In August, I moderated my first Spiritual Life board meeting as pastor of Lyall Memorial Federated. It was indeed a Spirit-filled meeting as ideas were shared, concerns lifted and many praises given to God who is clearly at work in our midst through the questions, the celebrations and the challenges.

It was exciting to feel God's presence so strongly at the meeting table that night for it was exactly that presence that came through so strongly during my interviews with the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee months ago. It was that sense of God leading Lyall Memorial Federated into new and exciting ways of being Christ's body that opened my heart to saying "yes" to God's call and which soon had me packing up the U-Haul and heading out of New York's Washington County for that of beautiful Dutchess County.

Something, though, was mentioned at my first Spiritual Life meeting that has really stuck in my head, so much so I just had to share.

When it came to the update on the Special Events team, Caroline Reid reported about the Rally Day picnic, taking place following worship on September 8. (Make sure to mark your calendars!) As she talked about the logistics of the event and the menu, I just couldn't get out of my head the word "rally." I first heard of Rally Day while working as a Christian Ed director at a Baptist church prior to entering Princeton Seminary. For those not familiar with the term, it is basically the term used for the

celebration in which the new church school year begins and all the children and families are welcomed back after being gone all summer.

But why "rally"? Wouldn't a simple "Welcome Back!" be sufficient? What are we saying when we use "rally"?

Here's some background: Rally Day began at the turn of the 20th century when Sunday school in America began to be shaped to model that of public school—complete with church school superintendents and even church school report cards! In the 1905 book, "How to Conduct a Sunday school," Rally Day is mentioned as a "festival used as a means of rallying the forces again for the work of fall and winter." The book goes on to explain: "When a general is preparing for a battle he is said to rally his forces. When a sick person begins to recover it is said of him that he is rallying. When a bookbinder brings together in one place the different sections of a book to be bound into one he is said to be rallying the book. All of these phrases may be applied to the Sunday-school work; we are rallying our forces for the great campaign of the fall and winter."

Hmmm...I never thought of the work we do for Christ as something that needs forces to be rallied. But forces to be rallied are exactly what are needed if God's light is to shine out into our community. For you see, the work of Christ's church just doesn't happen magically. Nor does it happen with just a few stepping up to the plate to seek and serve the lost as Christ came to do (see Luke 19:10).

Now I'm not one who tends to use military language, but it does seem fitting to say we need to rally the troops for aren't we in a battle of sorts to spread the word of God to others in a world that doesn't take the church and what it has to say about God seriously? The apostle Paul told his young protégé, Timothy, to fight the good fight. That fight continues for us as a faith

