

January 1, 2017



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Pastor's Letter

Newsletter January 2017

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My friends in the police department tell me that witnesses to crimes and accidents are terribly unreliable. So often we see what we want to see. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but so is just about everything else. When we sit in on our first lecture in a psychology class, what we are likely to hear is an introduction to the matter of perception.

Human beings look at the world through many lenses. Some might go even a step further, telling us that perception IS REALITY. Truth itself is in the eye of the beholder. We are hearing that sort of thing a lot lately, that truth, even reality do not exist, until the powerful tell us what is real.

I thought about that in relation to my boyhood friend who fell through the ice, a couple of miles out on Lake Michigan. Jeff Vanderlaan fell through after midnight, we found him, pulled him out of there, and instantly he became a perfect replica of the Tin Man. Could Jeff's perception have changed that reality? I doubt it.

We could go on, but I wonder if our perceptions are so powerful as to change the weather, change the angle of the sun, change CO2 gasses, change gravity. I don't think so. The universe holds laws and truths that can be discovered, even manipulated, but not changed. Therefore, there are better perceptions than others; some perceive closer to the truth than others. This is and will be the basic issue of the human family: who sees reality as it truly is

I say this because if we get it wrong, then we may well see ocean levels rising six to ten feet. If we get it wrong, maybe a billion or more will starve to death. If we get it wrong, a tsunami of refugees will cross every border. If we get it wrong, then we shall see the ranks of the poor rising up and rather than demanding justice, they will demand revenge. It is important that we get it right, that we align ourselves with reality and truth.

Are there reliable witnesses? Who do we trust to tell us the truth about life, about God, about ethics, about justice? Whom do we trust? We know that Jesus did not write a single word of the bible. All of it was written by others-witnesses to the events around them. The gospels were probably written by a disciple of a disciple of Jesus, in other words, twice removed. Do we trust their perceptions? Do we take them with a grain of salt? Can they be believed, especially when they are asking so much of us-even our very lives?

The Gospels tell us that we have been loved by God from the beginning of time. They tell us that we can live lives of caring, stewardship and justice no matter our station in life. They tell us that we belong to Jesus Christ, that nothing and no one can sever this relationship. Even as we know the limitations of language, even so, can we trust our lives to them? If we can, then we are the most blessed, the greatest and happiest of debtors, standing as we do not on thin ice, but the firmest of ground.

Happy New Year, my darlings at Lyall and beyond.

Thom Fiet, Pastor at Lyall

Special points of interest...

- Calendar of Events
January 2017
- Prayers and Joys
- Birthdays and Anniversaries



- **Dinner & Homework Help**

September 22, 2016

5:00-7:00pm

Assembly Room

For information con-

tact: Lynn Grainger

266-8178

lynng125@optonline.n

et Sue McGinnis

677-6273

susmcginnis190@aol.c

om

- **Lyall Lunch**

Thursdays @ 11:30am

- **Food for Folks!**

Please contact

Diane Moretti

845-242-6508

for information

- **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 I inclined, please contact Pastor

- **Grief Circle**

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

- **New to Leadership in 2017**

- Board of Trustees**

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

We also welcome Jim Demus to the Board of Trustees. Jim brings many years of experience in leadership to the team.

- 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' mission trip in March to Mississippi.

- **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 and receive committee reports.

- **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.

Simply 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 you spread your wings and join us?

Bob's Bistro ...



Lunch at Lyall

December 2016 Lyall Lunch

This pass month , Lyall Lunch served on 12/1 Kale and Chicken, 12/8 Minestrone, 12/15 Italian Wedding (made with the help of two mothers from MECEC, 12/22 Mulligatawny soup and on 12/29 Ham and Bean soup, with rain ice, and snow 23 brave souls showed up.

My many thanks to all the giving of time and materials to make Lyall Lunch a success, in 2016.

Throughout the year the numbers have increased with an all time high for Awesome chicken soup gathering 54 hungry soup eaters. Happy New year 2017

Lyall Lunch has been blessed with food, and help. Sandwiches are served with lunch, with a variety of lunch meats tuna, egg salad, peanut butter and jelly.

The first soup of January 2017 French onion Soup.

Special thanks to Walbridge farms for the beef. Also, for my support team, which is like a well oiled machine, each member works with automatic efficiency. Making preparation a joy. As well as delivering a consistent tasty lunch.

Team leader and cook, Bob Tierney. Loyal Crew, Helen Lomangino, Nancy Greer, Betty Doyle, Sandy Beaumont, Marion Bennett, Adelaide Jasmine, Louise Roeller, Peter & Linda Blasini, Mary Jane Tierney, Guy Lavallee and Thom Fiet.

Yours in Christ Bob Tierney

Shout Outs...

...to our Music Minister Dan Koch, who brought so much glorious music to us over the holidays. A marvelous Christmas concert under his direction was well attended even with looming weather conditions. The very next week Dan conducted his own work, a musical gospel inviting us into the great birth narratives in the scriptures. Not to be undone, Dan continued his musical juggernaut and lifted us up once again on Christmas Eve, with his wonderful choir (and two lovely instrumentalists). Well done, Maestro!

...to the many, many adults and children who worked so happily and diligently, lending their voices to another incredible community concert. Well done!

...to our own Allan Decker, who helps so faithfully and well, for all the behind the scenes cleaning up, setting up, breaking down that so often needs doing. Bless you.

...to the many who showed up to green our church, what a lovely and magnificent job, and what fun (and to Sally Lavallee who won the chili cook-off, which was contested yet again)

...to the many who responded to our Christmas appeal. We raised over \$3,300 for our outreach programs. Well done!

...to Cat Greenstreet, who leads our Grief Circle in such a gracious, inviting and interesting way. Thanks for being a healer, Cat.

...to the Dyson Foundation, who sent a generous gift our way to bolster our mission here at Lyall.

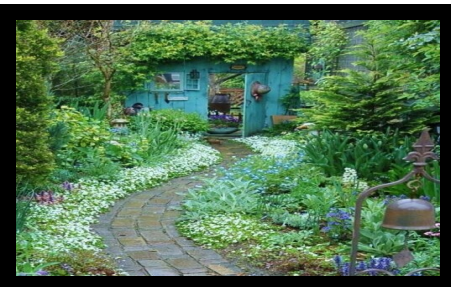
...to Kurt Pragman, who comes in and transforms our sanctuary into an amazing musical venue, our blessings to you.

...to Joyce Heaton, who through her Rotary involvement, puts on such a wonderful First Night here in the village of Millbrook. You are amazing, Joyce.

...to MECEC for assisting us with our Lyall Lunch, bringing with them a lovely children's' choir for all the diners. MECEC and Small Circle of Friends collected food for our neighbors at the Church Alliance Housing complex here in the village. Thanks for your generosity and thoughtfulness!

The Garden Path

By Brad Roeller



The Garden Path

by Brad Roeller

“And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.”
Jeremiah 2:7

Wow, Jeremiah certainly pulled no punches and told it like he saw it! Before Pastor Thom corrects me about the real meaning of this chapter in Jeremiah, I must admit that this verse taken with the rest of the chapter, actually tells about how the prophet was commanded to go and carry a message from God to the inhabitants of Jerusalem pointing out to God’s people their transgressions. However, taken alone, it speaks to what I want to talk about this month.

While I wouldn’t go so far as to say God’s heritage is an abomination, I do feel that each and every one of us should be more conscious of good stewardship of our planet. As such, and with winter being a time to reflect on one’s state in the universe, I came up with a few things you can easily do to “steward” your property. After all, we were put here to be caretakers of His heritage—body, soul, and planet. Who knows, if enough get on board and heed my challenge, we may become part of a stewardship movement that could change our neighborhood, our village, our town.... (Yes, I’ve got John Lennon’s *Imagine* is running thorough my head.).

Eight things you and I can do to make our landscapes more sustainable:

Reduce the amount of turf in your landscape (#1)

The majority of the 65 million pounds of pesticides used in our home landscapes are used in lawn care. Did you know that there and more than 50 million households in the USA maintaining lawns? Many cases of NCS linked non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in humans and pets have been directly traced to exposure to triazine, phenoxyacetic herbicides,

organophosphate insecticides (Diazinon, etc.), all of which are found in the active ingredients of popular lawn pesticides.

You would not believe how much these pesticides “move” from where they were applied. If sprayed they often are carried by wind currents onto nearby properties or if surface-applied, are carried with rainwater through the nearby environment finding their ways to rivers, lakes, wetlands, other down-gradient properties, etc. Pay attention, they also find their way into living spaces and the workplace. Once in a home they may last for literally years due to the absence of soil microbes, natural sunlight, or weather which break them down in the “outside” environment.

Investigate alternatives forms of grasses. Today’s lawns did not originate in our country. Rather, the grass seed varieties which make up the majority of America’s lawns originated in Europe and migrated over during the early days of colonization. Take a look at our adaptable and durable native grass species that can function as turf. These are making slow headway in the marketplace. There’s even a “no-mow” lawn which I’ve specified on several jobs with good effect. Yes indeed, a lawn which doesn’t need mowing! How about replacing those high-maintenance lawns with wildflower meadows? Wildflower meadows are diverse (species rich) and, in addition to their beauty, become a haven for insects (think pollinators) and other wildlife (think ground-nesting songbirds). Ecologists know that wildflower meadows using native grasses, sedges and wildflowers will enhance the ecological community’s structure and function. For the shady areas where turf generally fails, why not use ferns, shade-tolerant native grasses and sedges, shade-loving wildflowers, and even mosses (go to a botanical garden which has a moss garden and you’ll see a thing of beauty).

Reduce or better yet, eliminate the use of chemical pesticides and inorganic fertilizers (#2)

Eliminating biotic and abiotic stresses from your lawns and landscaped areas will go a long way in reducing the amount of pesticides, fertilizer and even water used to maintain them. One of my mandatory classes for “budding” horticulturalists is called “Site Analysis and Plant Selection”. If you do not thoroughly investigate the growing characteristics of your site how can you expect to select and grow “the right plant for the right place”? Be one with your property, take a walk outside and “see which way the wind blows”.

In order to become a better soil “manager” (#5 on the list), one has to greatly reduce, or ideally eliminate, the use of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. Yes, I’m talking “cold turkey”; I did it and the withdrawal symptoms were not too bad (take note Henry, you can wean yourself from Sevin!). The key is to take what’s called a biorational approach to disease and pest control. This approach is an environmentally conservative one, intended to protect the desired plant from pests and diseases while protecting other organisms (and you!) from the harmful side effects in the nearby and total environment. Don’t reach for the “one size fits all” pesticide (termed “road spectrum” pesticides). Rather, select ones which only target the pest insect or disease pathogen present so beneficial insects, birds and others will not be impacted. The popularity of organic and natural based pesticides and, my personal favorites, the biopesticides is growing throughout the country. They are available and they work!

Set damage thresholds for yourself, and if the damage has not reached your threshold, don’t intervene with a pesticide. How many of you run out and apply the pesticide of choice at the first sign of a bug. Worse yet, that bug may be a beneficial one which preys on harmful insects. Know your enemy! Pesticide usage of any sort should be the last action in an integrated approach to landscape management. (Fodder for another month, what is Integrated Pest

The Garden Path



Management [IPM], and how to enact this strategy for landscape care?)

Lower your expectations on the appearance of your landscape. There was a time when I just would not tolerate even one dandelion in my lawn. My flower borders had to look like a picture in a gardening magazine. Well, I've grown wiser and realize that my former expectations were just not sustainable and even detrimental to my and my family's health, and possibly my neighbors' health as well.

Reduce the amount of impervious surfacing on your property (#3)

The more impervious surfaces you have on your property (your roof; sidewalks and driveways made out of concrete or asphalt; brick, flagstone or concrete patios, etc.), the more storm water will runoff from your property. Typically, that runoff water will be laden with pesticides, fertilizers, lubricants, battery acids, antifreeze, oil, fuel, trash, sediment, salt, paints, solvents detergents, and pet waste.

When it rains on the undeveloped landscape (say a meadow or forest), 40% of that rain is returned to the atmosphere via evapo transpiration (remember the water cycle?). 25% of that rain will infiltrate into the upper sections of the soil; whereas 25% will infiltrate deeply through the soil profile, recharging the aquifer. Bottom line – only 10% of that storm water runs off the property. A typical residential property has anywhere between 35% - 50% impervious surfaces on it. When it rains on the developed lot, 35% of the rain is returned to the atmosphere, 20% infiltrates into the upper reaches of the soil, only 15% makes it to the aquifer, and 30% runs off.

The greater the amount of impervious surfacing on a lot, the greater the impacts on the hydrology, morphology, ecology, and quality of nearby streams and rivers. Many studies have highlighted the relationship between impervious cover and stream quality. Using biotic (living) indicators, if impervious cover is >13%, the health of the stream, as measured by living organisms, declined significantly. When impervious cover >27.1%, stream quality dropped below the Clean Water Act standards. Be aware that most medium – high residential neighborhoods

average 38% impervious cover.

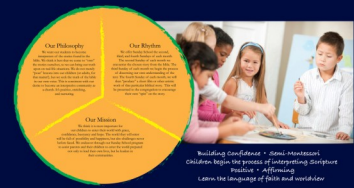
Next Month – Let's continue with the 8.



Christian Education

Christian Education

at Lyall Memorial Federated Church



Christian Education

Happy New Year and welcome 2017! "A Time to Laugh." A family that laughs together generally loves a lot! They don't laugh at someone's misfortune or make fun of, hurt, or tease each other. They simply laugh for fun.

Take a peek at Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 4, then think of these questions: Why do you think God created a time for us to laugh?

Start a family "Laugh it up" chart. Keep track of funny things that happen during the week. Over time, look over these charts to make you laugh!

With laughter comes love. This is exactly what we did when we baked cookies, ate dinner and went Christmas Caroling. We, (that is the children!) had powdered sugar on their cheeks and chocolate on their foreheads. Fun was had by all. It was requested by the children within the first 5 minutes making cookies if we could do this again!!! This is definitely on the radar.

At the end of this month, January 29th is Children's Worship in church. The children will be involved in all aspects of the service from ringing the bell to ushers and greeters. The children who did not have a chance in October to participate will be asked to help this month.

Save the Date: TBA Soon (For A Friday in February)

*** Sleepover in the Social Room ***

*** Valentine Baking, Crafts, Games ***

Happy & Healthy New Year!

Linda Blasini,

Christian Education Coordinator

Missions Events....



Please use the links to access the monthly newsletter of Missionary's we support at Lyall.

Aaron & Holly Hicks

[http://us2.campaign-
archive2.com/?u=b6fb4c18532ace7b0cc3313d5&id=416d82ca39&e=ec9a568e2f](http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b6fb4c18532ace7b0cc3313d5&id=416d82ca39&e=ec9a568e2f)

Karen Stockton

<http://www.thetunisiandoor.com/>

January 2017



Schedule of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Bible Study Nine Partners Meeting	Church Council Meeting	Youth Choir Bible Study	Lunch @ Lyall Dinner & Homework Adult Choir		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
New Member Sunday Grief Circle	Bible Study		Youth Choir Bible Study	Lunch @ Lyall Dinner & Homework Adult Choir		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Grief Circle Music Committee	Bible Study Nine Partners	Millbrook Seniors	Youth Choir Bible Study	Lunch @ Lyall Dinner & Homework Adult Choir Historical Society		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Church Potluck Grief Circle	Bible Study	Millbrook Seniors Board of Trustees	Youth Choir Bible Study	Lunch @ Lyall Dinner & Homework Adult Choir		
29	30	31				
Grief Circle Tea & Art	Bible Study	Millbrook Seniors				

- **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 1/3
7:00 pm Library
- **Board of Trustees Meeting**
Tuesday 1/24
7:00 pm Library
- **Choir**
Adult Thursdays
7:30pm Assembly
Junior Wednesday
4:30pm Assembly
- **Junior Choir**
Sings Sunday 4th
of each month
- **Dinner & Homework Help**
Thursdays from
5:00- 7:00.
Assembly Room
- **Historical Society**
Thursday 1/26
7:30 Gathering Room.
- **Lunch at Lyall**
Thursdays
11:30-12:30pm
- **Millbrook Seniors**
Tuesdays 10:00
Assembly Room
- **Music Committee**
Sunday 1/15 12:00
noon
- **Tools & Art fundraiser**
Sunday 1/29 2:00

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

Find us on the web...

www.lyallmemorial.org



1/3 Foord Munderback

1/8 Dick Burr

1/11 Linda Blasini

1/12 Serafina Fauci

1/14 Steward Anderson

1/16 Hannah O'Malley

1/18 FloraJane Hilderbrand

1/20 Harriet Cole

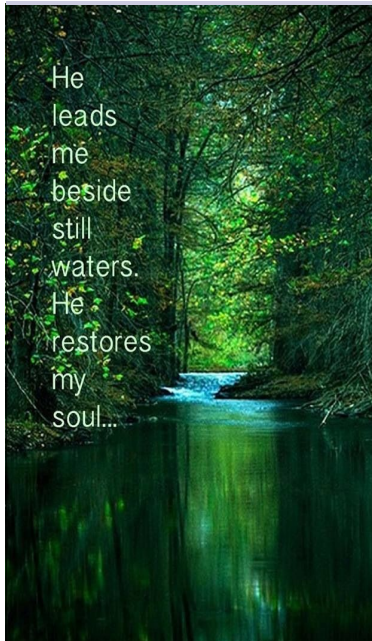
1/26 Christine Horihan

1/28 Karen Anderson

1/31 Matthew Fauci

1/15 Robert & Sarah Rizzo

1/24 Len & Helen Lomangino



He
leads
me
beside
still
waters.
He
restores
my
soul...

**Prayers.....
And Joys....**

Prayers for..

- Our country and our new President.
- Bob & Mary Jane Tierney's baby granddaughter Zella.

Joys

- The new members who joined our church family in 2016, and for those who find their way to Lyall in 2017.

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>