



January 2011

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Newsletter

*A community united by faith in God and love to the neighbor*

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Dear Friends,

If you are anything like me, over the years, you've probably made your share of New Year's resolutions. Looked at yourself and your life and decided on certain aspects that you would like to change, and that you were ready to resolve in yourself to change. It's a new year with no mistakes in it, (yet), and a good time to take your life in new directions.

But can we, in and of ourselves, really take our lives in new directions?

One of the foundations of our Christian faith is that just as our cells are created by the Lord to grow in a certain sequence to create our physical bodies, so too is the Lord the creator and maker of our spiritual bodies. We do not overcome our temptations on our own, we do not change on our own, we submit ourselves to the Lord that he may overcome these temptations and make these changes within us.

A person must fight against false rationalizations and cravings when in temptation; *but it is really the Lord who fights, through the angels who are adjoined to each person.* As soon as the falsities are separated, and as it were dispersed, by these combats, the person is prepared to receive the truths of faith. Thus is it with the reformation or regeneration of the spiritual person. (Emanuel Swedenborg, Heavenly Secrets, n. 653)

While we may believe the best way to fulfill our New Year's resolutions is through the strength of our will power, our faith would tell us otherwise. Our faith

would tell us that the only way we can truly turn our lives in a new direction, make real and lasting change, is with the help and grace and strength of the Lord. That whether we wish to lose weight, become more patient with our spouse, quit smoking, improve our grades, be more generous, make a career change, whatever changes we yearn for, we step into these changes, not through pushing and forcing ourselves, but through surrender to the Lord.

I'm going to use losing weight and becoming more active and healthy as an example (because it is a resolution near and dear to my heart).

Why is it that as December 31st rolls around, and I look at all the days of too much couch sitting and too much sweet eating through the previous year, could I think that somehow I have the skills come January 1st to turn that all around and live a whole new life where going to the gym and eating 8 servings of vegetables every day comes easily! It's kind of a ridiculous belief (that I have fallen prone to many a year, only to be disappointed come February). The truth is we don't have the skills, ability, or freedom to live that new healthy life style. If we did, we'd be doing it! But we can have all of it.

To wish for change is first to admit that how we have been living is not working for us and that somehow we have not had the skills or ability or freedom up to this point to live as we truly wish to. We cannot snap our fingers and magically find this new ability and freedom within ourselves but the Lord can give them to us. The Lord can fill us up with more confidence, strength, and motivation than we can imagine! All we need do is ask.

**The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem**

12 Oxford St. • Fryeburg, ME 04037 • Rev. Sage Currie, Pastor

Office: (207) 935-3413 • Email: [Pastor@FryeburgNewChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@FryeburgNewChurch.org)

Parsonage: (207) 935-4500, cell phone (207) 256-7529

*Office Hours: Pastor ~ Wed thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Saturdays by appointment*

*Secretary ~ Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.*

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8*

*Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20*

As we begin 2011 with our list of resolutions, may we humbly submit these yearnings to the Lord. May we be honest about the places in us that need to be filled, the strength and hope and abilities that we haven't had before. To try to make these changes by ourselves, is like trying to clear the road of snow with our bare hands, when the snow plow is right there. All we need do is get in!

Take the time to ask for the Lord to bring the changes you wish into your life. Make those changes with the Lord's help. And miracles will await us all!

Happy New Year!

Many blessings,

*Rev. Sage*

Office Hours: Wednesday-Friday  
8:30am-12:30pm,  
Saturday by appointment  
Email: [pastor@fryeburgnewchurch.org](mailto:pastor@fryeburgnewchurch.org)  
Office phone: 935-3413  
Parsonage phone: 935-4500  
Cell phone: 256-7529



## *Worship Schedule*

**Sunday School 9:00 AM**

**Family Worship 10:00 AM**

*January 2, 2011 ~*

**"Wisdom, the Word and the world"**

Sirach 24:1-12, John 1:1-18

*January 9, 2011 ~*

**Guest Preacher Anna Woofenden,**

Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

*January 16, 2011 ~*

**"Lamb of God: Pardon and Promise"**

Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42

*January 23, 2011 ~*

**"Saying yes without hesitation"**

Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23

*January 30, 2011 ~*

**"The blessings of heaven"**

Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12

### *Our Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Fryeburg New Church is to illuminate the path for people seeking God in their lives. We offer a place for those seeking regeneration and spiritual growth. We support each other as well as those in need in the community.*

This Mission Statement was ratified by the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Fryeburg New Church on Sunday, October 29, 2006.

# Church Report

## In The Hospital

*Bryson Herlihy and Dot Ela* were both in the hospital last month. Many prayers go out for a full recovery and return to good health.

## The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 7:00 pm**. The meetings are open to all, but you should contact the Chair prior to the meeting to get an item on the agenda. Also, please speak to any of the Trustees with your questions, concerns, compliments or complaints. We are here to serve you.

### Currently Serving Trustees

Patricia Swett, <i>Chair</i>	603-939-2262
Cindy Priest, <i>Vice Chair</i>	935-3360
Deneane Frost	935-3344
Scott Ferguson	925-3207
Jennifer Richardson	935-4509
Susan Wheaton Logan	603-694-3743
Donnette Barnes, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-2130
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Sally Harnden	935-2546

## Annual Reports

Although the annual report won't come out until later in the year, we are asking that you please forward your reports to the office while 2010 is still fresh in your mind. You can e-mail them to [office@fryeburgnewchurch.org](mailto:office@fryeburgnewchurch.org) or leave a copy for Jen in the office. Thank you so much for your time and effort.

## From the Treasurer



Anyone wishing to receive a copy of their contributions for the year 2010 for tax purposes, please contact Donnette Barnes.

## Women's Alliance

The next Women's Alliance meeting will be on **Monday, February 21, 2011 at NOON**. **There will be NO meeting in January.** Bring a bag lunch. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church. All ladies are welcome!!

*2011 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:*

*President ..... Jean Cressy*  
*Vice-President ..... Carol Andrews*  
*Secretary .... Sally Harnden*  
*Treasurer.... Patty Swett*  
*Chaplain..... Betty Baker*

## Serving You and Our Church

With all the holiday activity over the last 6 weeks, Annual Meeting seems like months ago instead of weeks ago.

Please congratulate *Jennifer Richardson* and *Sally & Jim Gibson* who were voted in as new members at the Annual Meeting in November.

*Scott Ferguson* and *Cindy Priest* were elected to another 3-year term serving on the Board of Trustees, and *Jennifer Richardson* was elected to a 2-year term. *Donnette Barnes* will remain on as Treasurer for the coming year.

*The Nominating Committee* for 2011 is Cindy Priest, Dede Frost, and Billy Holt. *The Women's Alliance* officers for 2011 remain the same as last year.

Thank you all so much for your time, effort, and especially love for our church that you put forth serving as Trustees and making our church the best place to worship!

## Welcomers for January

Jan 2 Sally Gibson  
 Jan 9 Debbie Urgese  
 Jan 16 Debbie Dolley  
 Jan 23 Sally Harnden  
 Jan 30 Martha Richardson

## Ushers for January

Jan 2 Billy Holt & Donnette Barnes  
 Jan 9 Chuck Priest & Stanley Dolley  
 Jan 16 David & Jen Richardson  
 Jan 23 Lawrence Perry & Mary Dysinger  
 Jan 30 Dean Harnden & James Harrington

## Coffee Hour for January


Jan 2 Brenda Brackley  
 Jan 9 Jean Cressy  
 Jan 16 Donnette Barnes  
 Jan 23 Lee Dyer  
 Jan 30 Claire Kiesman

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
DECEMBER 5 – 26, 2010		
Date	Adults	Children
December 5	--	--
December 12	--	--
December 19	104	27
December 28	--	--



January flowers  
 courtesy of

*Jean Cressy*

Calendar for January 2011 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
2	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
4	Tue	<b>Trustees' Meeting</b> Drumming with Redwing	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
5	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
9	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
11	Tue	Drumming with Redwing	7:00 p.m.
12	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
16	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
18	Tue	Drumming with Redwing	7:00 p.m.
19	Wed	Rev. Sage @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
21	Fri	Rev. Sage @ Maine Council	All day
23	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
25	Tue	Drumming with Redwing	7:00 p.m.
26	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
30	Sun	<b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.