



November 2011

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Dear Friends,

While much of the colorful foliage that begins the joys of fall have already passed, and the leaves are piling up in my yard, still the air is crisp and I am enjoying unpacking the scarves and sweaters, making plans for Thanksgiving pies and Sunday afternoon stews. Autumn is hands down my favorite time of year.

When I think about how much I love the fall, I can't help but consider the irony of loving the time of year when everything is dying. The leaves turn beautiful colors as they lose the green hue of aliveness and start to fall from their branches. The piles of pumpkins and apples being sold on the side of the road are the lucky ones that have been harvested, others lay fallen on the ground to rot and be eaten by roving critters.

This is the season of decay. And it is so beautiful.

The spirit of life that animates plants, animals and humans, comes in and goes out. Anything that is alive is born and dies, and in the middle grows, growth necessitating a constant series of births and deaths. We could perhaps call all of these processes "life," and yet we make a BIG differentiation between the two sides of the process, birth and death, one to be celebrated, one to be avoided.

But while this may be our natural experience of the two the spiritual reality that Swedenborg explains to us is that: "In a spiritual sense, by dying, resurrection is meant....Natural death is nothing else but resurrection; for when the body dies, a man rises as to his spirit; and thus death is only a continuation of his life." Apocalypse Explained n. 899. Birth and death, two sides of the same coin.

The part of our life span that centers around our end, our time of death, while most often feared, ignored, and denied, is a necessary, inevitable part of the journey of "aliveness." Could we consider it beautiful?

Death is with us from the moment of our birth. We experience daily small deaths, every time we change, watching die a younger self that a slightly older one might be born. This happens on a physical level as our cells are constantly being traded out, some dieing, others being created, so that roughly every seven years our whole body is "replaced," with new material. On a spiritual level this occurs as we choose to actively allow the deep transformation that regeneration requires, actively shunning the evil/unhealthy/cruel parts of our personality and familial heritage, actively letting and encouraging these parts to "die," to allow God to give us a new heart, new eyes, and "renew a right spirit within." Psalm 51:10.

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

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

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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. – 10:30 a.m.

This leaves us with the basic truth that to be happy, to be fully "alive," we have to be willing to let ourselves change, and this necessitates a willingness to get comfortable with death.

And I say live! As we age, as we say goodbye, as we recognize our own mortality let us do all we can not to fear it, but to stay open to it's mysteries. We are a people that believe in eternal life, that means an eternity of births and deaths, it means a continuation, forever. We might as well lay back and become present, grateful, open to the ride.

Many blessings this autumn season!

Rev. Sage

**Saturday November 12th, 2011
Maine Association Annual Meeting**

*Gather at 11:00am at the Fryeburg New Church
for Communion Service followed by a Potluck
Lunch and meeting of the Association.
All are welcome!*

Worship Schedule
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Family Worship 10:00 AM

November 6 ~ Isaiah 6, Matthew 5:1-12

November 13 ~ Jeremiah 1, Ecclesiastes 12:1-5

November 20 ~ Ezekiel 1, *Communion Sunday*

Thursday, November 22 at 7:00 pm ~
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship at FNC

November 27 ~ Michah 4, *First Sunday of Advent*

**Adult Sunday School Resumes November 6th at
9:00 am before Worship!**

Come gather in the library at FNC to discuss New Church teachings and the bible lessons of the day. Rev. Sage along with other members will take turns leading this discussion and learning time.

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 8, 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

Women's Alliance

There will be NO MEETING in November. The next Women's Alliance meeting will be on **Monday, December 19, 2011** at NOON. 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

In The Hospital

Barbara Ferguson and **Martha Richardson** were both recently in the hospital. We are praying for their quick recovery and return to good health.

Many Thanks!!

Christmas
Saturday,
Nov. 19th



Cupboard
9:00 a.m. till
12:00 noon

Remember to get your crafts and donation in for the annual *Christmas Cupboard* which will be on Saturday, November 19!! Items for sale should be brought to the Church by, Friday, Nov. 18th at 9:00 a.m. We will be setting up on Friday so any helpers would be welcomed and appreciated. Baked items can also be brought in anytime on Friday, or Saturday morning no later 8:00 a.m.

Wreath Making



Please join us on *Sunday, November 13 after church* for Wreath Decorating. It's a lot of fun and the fresh smell of pine will surely get you in the Christmas spirit!!!

You are Invited to Rev. Sage's Second Annual Christmas Party



Friday, December 8th at 7:00 pm.

For those interested in ringing in the Christmas Season in song meet first at 6:00 pm at the parsonage to go caroling through the neighborhood before the party!

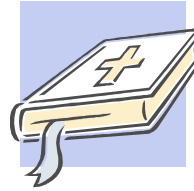
For the rest we will gather at 7:00 pm at the parsonage to share a potluck meal, Christmas treats and the fellowship of one another. Kids very welcome!

Many thanks to all of you who came to help make pies and stews for the Fryeburg Fair booth. Many hours were spent rolling, peeling, chopping, stirring, and baking. The delicious smells coming up from the kitchen were absolutely heavenly ☺ We would also like to thank everyone who worked shifts at the booth, cleaned, delivered items... The work is endless but so is the fun!



And a very special thank you to *Cindy Priest* and *Stanley Dolley*, co-chairs of the Fair Committee, who put in endless hours making sure every item was ordered and delivered, every form was filed, and every shift was covered. We couldn't have gotten it done without them.

Thursday Brown-Bag Bible Study Continues...



Come by the Church on Thursdays from 12 noon until 1:00 and let's have lunch! Bring a sandwich, or some leftovers and enjoy a little community time with church friends and Rev. Sage. This will also be an opportunity to share our initial thoughts and impressions of the Bible lesson for the upcoming Sunday.

Second Tuesday Stories of the Spiritual World Canceled: It seems that this gathering has not been something that has been well fitted to people's schedules or interests so we will be ending this series.

Fish and Game Supper

Nov 7, 2011  6:30 p.m.

Cindy Priest, Chair



Welcomers for November

Nov 6 Debbie Urgese
 Nov 13 Debbie Dolley
 Nov 20 Sally Harnden
 Nov 27 Sally Gibson

Ushers for November

Nov 6 Billy Holt & Donnette Barnes
 Nov 13 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Nov 20 David & Jen Richardson
 Nov 27 Jean Cressy & Sue Davidson

Coffee Hour for November

Nov 6 Sally & Dean Harnden
 Nov 13 Cindy Priest
 Nov 20 Jean Cressy
 Nov 27 Sally Gibson



November flowers
 courtesy of
Sally Harnden

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
OCTOBER 2 - 16, 2011		
Date	Adults	Children
October 2	23	4
October 9	--	--
October 16	40	16



Reminder!!
 Turn clocks back
 before bed on
 Saturday, Nov. 5th

Calendar for November 2011 (held at our Church unless indicated)				
2	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.	
3	Thu	Brown Bag Bible Study	12 noon	
6	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Community Giving Tree tags on trees today	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	
7	Mon	Fish & Game Supper	6:30 p.m.	
8	Tue	Trustees Meeting	7:00 p.m.	
9	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.	
10	Thu	Brown Bag Bible Study	12 noon	
12	Sat	Maine Association Annual Meeting ~ Communion Service and Potluck Lunch	11:00 a.m.	
13	Sun	<i>Thanksgiving Basket Sunday</i> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Wreath Decorating	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship	
16	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.	
17	Thu	Brown Bag Bible Study	12 noon	
18	Fri	Christmas Cupboard Setup Rev. Sage @ Maine Council Youth Group Weekend Retreat in Sandwich, MA	8:30 a.m. All day	
19	Sat	Christmas Cupboard	9am-Noon	
20	Sun	Communion Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	
22	Tue	Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service	7:00 p.m.	
23	Wed	Rev. Sage @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	
24	Thu	Thanksgiving Day		
27	Sun	First Sunday of Advent Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Gifts for Community Giving Tree due today!!	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	