



January 2012

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Dear Friends,

January has always been a special month for me because it is the month in which I celebrate my birthday. But as this first month of the year approaches I am realizing that January has become special for a much different and more striking reason, as it is the month when I remember first coming to serve here in Fryeburg! I can't believe I will have been with you all for two years!

Time is always effected by perspective, and I'm sure for many of you two years feels like some small drop in the bucket hardly worth mentioning. For me, having in the 17 years since I left home lived in seven different states and at seventeen different addresses, two years settled in one place feels quite significant.

The path that has lead me to Fryeburg has been quite winding, it has covered some external territory, it has had ups and downs, and I've lost a lot of furniture along the way :) I wouldn't trade any of it, as I'm sure each part of the journey has taught me something that will be useful. And as I come to this anniversary date, which coincidentally is also the first of the year, it is an opportunity to stop and consider: Where have I been? Where am I now? Where am I going next?

In the past this question usually had a geographical answer. For me today, my answers are much more about internal geography, now that I have found a physical place in the world to land and meaningful work to do. It would be quite unlikely that any two people would have exactly the same answers, or that any one person would have the same answer more than once. Because our human nature is such that we are living beings, and to be living is to be growing,

to be changing. And when we take that one step further to say that we are living spiritual beings we understand that to be fully alive is to be growing towards God.

I'd invite you at the dawning of this new year to answer these three questions for yourself.

Where have I been? - What have I experienced? What have I learned from? Where was I one year ago? 10 years ago? 50? What has led up to this point in my life? What have I left behind? What have I carried? How has God been with me along the way?

Where am I now? - What am I grateful for in this moment? Who is in my life? What is the work I am involved in? Who am I caring for? Where is God in my life?

Where am I going next? - What do I want to do more of? What do I not want to repeat? What am I resisting? Where is God calling me? What is God calling me to do?

These are three big questions, and I wouldn't recommend trying to answer all three every day. But along the journey of life it is recommended by some (Swedenborg encouraged doing a full review, self examination about once a year) to stop and take stock from time to time, to get your bearings. You wouldn't take a trip and just start driving, never looking back at the map to check that you are headed in the right direction. And the same is true for the spiritual life. Weeds grow wild, but plants that bare much fruit must be well tended.

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

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.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Perhaps during these winter months you might wish to take some time to check your map. Self examination, spiritual inquiry can occur in many different ways. In prayer, journaling, through talking and sharing with others. It can be as simple as stopping for a moment and considering these three questions.

For those reading this who are interested in doing some of this inquiry in community with others, beginning the week of February 12th we will be going through a seven week series called Journey to Spiritual Freedom, a spiritual growth program based on the Exodus story.* This will be similar to the Pause series we did last year.

But however you choose to make your inquiry, if you choose to at all, know that the first answer to the second question, Where am I now?, is in the arms of the Lord. Where you are right in this moment, is good, it is right, is it in the stream of providence, it is exactly the right spot to get to the next place where the Lord may guide you. Where you are right now, whether you are full of joy, despairing, angry, alone, overwhelmed, anxious, excited, or even bored, the Lord's providence is flowing underneath your very feet and is opening up before you a path to further goodness, to change, to new life. You have learned much on the journey thus far. You are amazing just as you are. And there is still more yet to come!

Many blessings for 2012!

Rev. Sage

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

*I am currently looking for people who might be interested in helping to host one of the weekly discussion groups that go along with this series. Anyone who'd be willing to open their home, act as a facilitator (a role of being the one to carry the book and make sure the group starts and ends on time), etc. Please contact me if you are interested in finding out more. There will be a meeting after worship on January 22nd for those interested in helping to put on this series.

Worship Schedule

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

January 1, 2012 ~ NEW YEAR'S DAY

"The Lord's Baptism"

Isaiah 40:1-5, Mark 1:1-11

January 8, 2012 ~ "New Wine"

Joel 2:12-14, Mark 2:18-22

January 15, 2012 ~ "The Twelve Apostles"

Revelation 21:14-14, Mark 3:13-19

January 22, 2012 ~ "Parables"

Psalm 78:1-7, Mark 4:1-20

January 29, 2012 ~ "Miracles"

Jeremiah 17:13-15, Psalm 30:1-5, Mark 5:21-42

Swedenborg's Birthday Smörgåsbord Potluck after worship ~ Including a special presentation from the Swedenborgian House of Studies



A note from the office...

Please help us keep our records current. If you have moved or changed your phone number or e-mail address over the last year, please notify the church at 207-935-3413 or office@fryeburgnewchurch.org so we can update your information.

Also, if you are currently receiving your newsletter by mail and would like to be on our monthly e-mail list, please let us know. With the price of postage going up again in January, you would help us save on mailing and printing costs *and* have your newsletter 2 to 3 days earlier!

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 3, 2012 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

| | |
|---|----------|
| Cindy Priest, <i>Chair</i> | 935-3360 |
| Deneane Frost, <i>Vice Chair</i> | 935-3344 |
| Donnette Barnes, <i>Treasurer</i> | 935-2130 |
| Scott Ferguson, <i>Secretary</i> | 925-3207 |
| Jennifer Richardson | 935-4509 |
| Jean Cressy | 935-7093 |
| Jon Crowe | 925-1302 |
| <i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i> | |
| Carol Andrews | 935-1007 |

Women's Alliance

There will be NO Women's Alliance meeting in January.

2012 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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

Passages

Everett "Herb" Eastman entered the spiritual world on Saturday, December 17, 2011. A graveside service will be held in the spring at Chatham Center Cemetery. Herb was loved by many and our prayers and condolences go out to his family and friends.

Fund-Raising Committee

There is a new committee at our church which was born at our Fall Annual Meeting. The new Fund-Raising Committee will work closely with the Trustees to plan and implement a fund-raising campaign to raise money for some large expense items needed for our church, as well as to raise funds to help meet our operating expenses for our new budget in 2012.

The committee consists of:
Redwing Wilderbrook, Chair
Jane Williams
Jane Fullerton
Jen Richardson

We met once in November to brainstorm ideas and reported to the Trustees in December. We'll be meeting again after the holidays in January and throughout the year on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm starting on January 4, 2012.

We welcome new members to the committee and will probably need volunteers to help us with some of our tasks. We are looking forward to sponsoring some fun, special events in 2012 and to working together to help make some improvements to benefit our community. If you have any ideas or questions, please feel free to contact Redwing at 935-4385.

From the Treasurer



Anyone wishing to receive a copy of their contributions for the year 2011 for tax purposes, please contact Donnette Barnes.

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 2011 is still fresh in your mind. You can e-mail them to office@fryeburgnewchurch.org or leave a copy for Jen in the office. Thank you so much for your time and effort.

Welcomers for January

Jan 1 Debbie Dolley
 Jan 8 Debbie Urgese
 Jan 15 OPEN
 Jan 22 Debbie Dolley
 Jan 29 Martha Richardson

Ushers for January

Jan 1 Billy Holt & Donnette Barnes
 Jan 8 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Jan 15 David & Jen Richardson
 Jan 22 Jean Cressy & Sue Davidson
 Jan 29 OPEN

Coffee Hour for January

Jan 1 Debbie Dolley
 Jan 8 Debbie Urgese
 Jan 15 Sally & Dean Harnden
 Jan 22 Jean Cressy
 Jan 29 Pot Luck

| WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|
| DECEMBER 4-25, 2011 | | |
| Date | Adults | Children |
| December 4 | -- | -- |
| December 11 | 53 | -- |
| December 18 | 80 | 22 |
| December 25 | -- | -- |



January flowers

Jean Cressy

| Calendar for January 2012 (held at our Church unless indicated) | | |  |
|--|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Sun | New Year's Day Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship | 8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |
| 3 | Tue | Trustees' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 4 | Wed | Dinner Bell North @SEAS Fund-Raising Comm. mtg | 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. |
| 8 | Sun | Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship | 8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |
| 11 | Wed | Dinner Bell North @SEAS | 5:00 p.m. |
| 15 | Sun | Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship | 8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |
| 18 | Wed | Rev. Sage @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS | 10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. |
| 20 | Fri | Rev. Sage @ Maine Council | All day |
| 22 | Sun | Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship | 8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |
| 29 | Sun | Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <i>Swedenborg's Birthday</i> <i>Smörgåsbord Potluck</i> <i>after worship</i> | 8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |