



March 2014

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Preparing Ourselves for Easter

Easter is beckoning! Yet it will not come before the passage of forty Lenten days.

Lent still feels a little foreign to me, I have to admit. I have never attended an Ash Wednesday service, never had my forehead smudged with ash (I was fascinated to learn one year that the ashes come from the previous year's palms from Palm Sunday). While I count myself a novice in this department, I feel it is quite worth the effort to learn more about Lent; I feel sure that the power and beauty of Easter morning will shine that much brighter if I can engage this season as it is meant to be engaged.

But how is it to be engaged? Our book of Worship offers the idea that the six weeks of Lent are *"a special challenge to greater consecration, through self-examination, repentance and a fuller Christian life, especially in view of what the Lord endured for our sakes. They should lead to a more complete subjugation of our selfhood, that we may know the depth of his love..."* A tall order!...and a worthy calling.

If we seek to make this time of Lent sacred, we will be following in the footsteps of centuries of Christians who have spent time preparing to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Those footsteps lead us back to the year 325 CE, when for the first time in history, it was suggested that the period of preparation for Easter last forty days; the Greek word used for "Lent" meant forty.

As many of you probably know, the length of time – forty days – was adopted in imitation of the Lord spending forty days and nights in the desert at the beginning of his public ministry.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.
Matthew 4:1-2

It is the waiting that strikes me in this moment. Jesus fasts forty days and nights, preparing and waiting for the struggle and the ministry that is to come. No quick fix; no "need to get it over with now" attitude; there is patience. In this season of Lent, we too can try to feel something of this patience. In the words of Rev. Sarah Buteux, "during Lent we are reminded of where we are going, but given the space and time to come to terms with the fact that we are not there yet...like so many of us waiting for greater light and warmth at this time of the year, yearning for green leaves and blue sky. It is a time to sit quietly with our own personal longings, our struggles and temptations...it is time to attempt to make peace with the fact that life does not always give us everything that we want right when we want it, but that is okay. We do sometimes feel empty, feel hungry, feel tired, feel wanting...and at the same time, we are still blessed."

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

12 Oxford Street • Fryeburg, ME 04037

Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen, Pastor • Email: pastorfnc@gmail.com

Office: (207) 935-3413, Cell phone (620) 960-6748

Office Hours: Pastor ~ Tues. thru Thurs. 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Fridays by appointment

Secretary ~ Wednesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

www.fryeburgnewchurch.org

It is my prayer that the Lord help us all with these wilderness, desert experiences when we feel we are truly in need. In a way, we can see Lent as something of a practice run – many will choose something to give up in the spirit of fasting as the Lord did – and we certainly hope it deepens our spiritual life if we choose to do so. Still, how well we know that there are and will be those times when we will not have the luxury of choosing what we lose. In these times, may the Divine give us the patience and the courage not to seek out any quick fixes or some kind of *substitution* for the peace that only God can give. In the Bible story, after the forty days and nights had passed, this was the devil’s first temptation for Jesus – to accept some kind of substitution for the spiritual life, to settle for less; the tempter asked Jesus to accept stone for bread.

The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” (Matthew 4:3)

Jesus answered, “It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Jesus as the ‘bread of life’ is where I will find my answers – substitutions will not do.

When we feel empty or hollow or in need, this might be helpful to think upon:

That “hollowness we sometimes feel is not a sign of something gone wrong. It is the holy of Holies inside of us, the uncluttered throne room of the Lord our God. We can’t fix that emptiness or fill it, nor should we try, because that is where God meets us.” (Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopalian minister and professor).

May our Creator be with us in these days of Lent ahead, so that we may truly feel the depth of His love on Easter morning.

Lenten Blessings,
Rev. Alison

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." St. Augustine

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm,
Friday by appointment

Email: pastorfnc@gmail.com
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Worship Schedule

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

Each Sunday in Lent, we will be focusing the messages on the several of the symbols of the Lord’s last week.

March 9 - (first Sunday of Lent) Symbol: 30 silver coins.

March 16 - Symbol: Crown of thorns

March 23 - Symbol: Vinegar (offered to the Lord on the cross)

March 30 - Symbol: Lamb

April 6 - Symbol: foot washing

April 13 - Palm Sunday – Symbol: Palm branches!

April 20 – Easter Sunday!

Fish and Game Supper

Mar 3rd,  6:30

2014 p.m.

Cindy Priest, Chair

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 4, 2014 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

Jon Crowe, <i>Chair</i>	925-1302
Dede Frost, <i>Vice Chair</i>	935-3344
Cindy Priest, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-3360
Jennifer Richardson, <i>Secretary</i>	935-4509
Jane Fullerton	890-9454
Jean Cressy	935-7093
Judy Hatch	935-2223
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Patty Swett	603-939-2263

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will be meeting **March 17th @ noon** at the Church. Please bring a bag lunch....all ladies are welcome!

2014 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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

Passages

Our beloved friends Ada Kiesman and Clifford "Cush" Mulherin have recently passed into the spiritual world. Services will be held in the spring, sincerest condolences and prayers for their friends and family.

The Fryeburg New Church
is partnering with Equal Exchange!!



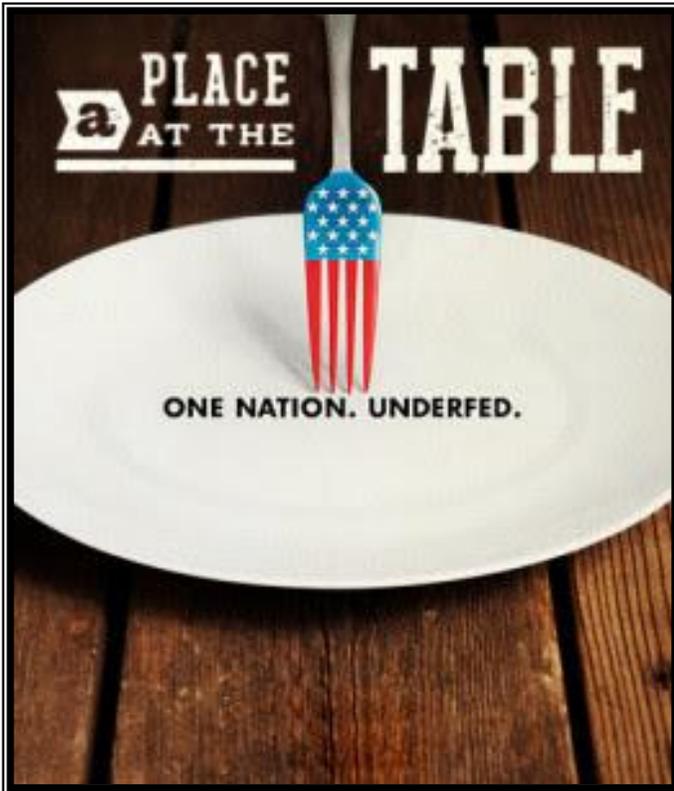
We are selling coffee, tea, chocolate,
gifts and more online at:

<http://fundraiser.equalexchange.coop/?fundraiser=FRYE006W>

Join us this Lenten season
if you are wishing for a
greater understanding of
our church's teachings or
want to become a member!



This is a six-week
introduction to New
Church teachings - time
still to be determined.
Please call the office if
you are interested!



This spring the Sunday School children are going to be working with Heifer International. Since 1944, Heifer has helped more than 18.5 million families in more than 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through the gift of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture.

We had a ballot this last Sunday and the choices were: Chicks and seeds, goat, sheep, or water pump.....And the winner is.....Chicks and seeds! If you have any creative fundraising ideas, let us know! We need to raise at least \$80.

You are invited to watch **A Place at the Table**, on Saturday, March 22nd, at 6pm, at the Congregational Church. The Fryeburg New Church and the Congregational Church are working together to promote this film about hunger in America. The Anti-Hunger training at the church on Feb. 22nd was extremely enlightening, and left us feeling like we would like to do more. Please join us!



Welcomers for March

Mar 2 *open*
 Mar 9 Debbie Dolley
 Mar 16 Martha Richardson
 Mar 23 *open*
 Mar 30 *open*

Ushers for March

Mar 2 Tom Barrett & Sue Davidson
 Mar 9 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Mar 16 David & Jen Richardson
 Mar 23 *open*
 Mar 30 Jean Cressy & Dean Harnden

****Please use the sign up sheets in the back of church to volunteer to serve as a Welcomer.**

Thank you**

Coffee Hour for March

Mar 2 Dede Frost
 Mar 9 Debbie Dolley
 Mar 16 Cindy Priest
 Mar 23 Claire Kiesman
 Mar 30 Sally & Dean Harnden

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
FEBRUARY 2-23, 2014		
Date	Adults	Children
February 2	35	10
February 9	36	9
February 16	39	10
February 23	40	1



Calendar for March 2014 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
2	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship "Potluck with a Purpose"	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
3	Mon	Fish and Game Supper	6:30 p.m.
4	Tue	Trustees' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
5	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
6	Thu	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
8	Sat	Turn clocks 1 hour ahead tonight!!!	
9	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Youth Group	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4 - 7 p.m.
12	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
13	Thu	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
15	Fri	Rev. Alison @ Maine Council	All day
	Sat	St. Patrick's Day	
16	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship SS Teacher's Meeting	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
17	Mon	Women's Alliance	12 noon
19	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS Worship Committee	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
20	Thu	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
22	Sat	"A Place at the Table" @ Fryeburg Cong. Church	6:00 p.m.
23	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
26	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
27	Thu	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
30	Sun	Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.



Turn your clocks 1 hour ahead
 before bed on
 Saturday night, March 8th