



January 2015

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Newsletter

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

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## *From the Minister*

I recently found myself using the phrase, "ignorance is bliss." – the words just seemed to capture my feelings and thoughts so perfectly. A quick Google search tells me that this particular phrase came from the work of an English poet and scholar named Thomas Gray in 1742. He wrote, "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." The thought seems to have struck a chord with his readers and it caught on.

Why was I thinking it? What did I wish I didn't know? There are those moments, dear reader, when I find myself on the receiving end of phone calls from families whose heat has been shut off, or I hear from people in the loneliest of places (within).

They need to share, and it is my calling to listen...please know I find it to be a great privilege to be on the receiving end. I might also honestly add that these are very sad times. Perhaps as plainly as I can put it - It hurts to have your eyes opened to the suffering. I want everyone to feel happy,

healthy, and financially secure, to feel loved and ready to love. But it isn't reality.

Being open to the experience of suffering was one reason we (Rev. Tim LeConey and I) thought it would be helpful to have a Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 18th. While the turnout was low (and that is probably good, right?), offering a sacred space to acknowledge the difficulties that some of us might be experiencing during this joyous season felt worthwhile. We lit Advent candles, offered time for silent meditation, and read from the Bible. At one point in the service, when it was my turn to read, I shared these familiar words:

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30*

On this particular evening, these familiar words struck me in a new way. *"My burden*

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

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Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen, Pastor • Email: [pastorfnc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfnc@gmail.com)

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

*Office Hours: Pastor ~ Wednesday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,*

*Saturday by appointment*

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

[www.fryeburgnewchurch.org](http://www.fryeburgnewchurch.org)

is light," Jesus said. It occurred to me to think of "light" here not as something opposite of heavy (as in Jesus' burden is not heavy), but as enlightenment – eyes open – the gift and blessing of seeing truth and reality. Do you see what I mean? My burden is *light*. One of the greatest gifts we can receive from the Lord is a more accurate picture of reality – even if it is painful. Knowing what is really true allows us to see more clearly what is going on within us, it allows us to be more useful to others, and beyond the pains of the moment, the larger reality or Truth to see is that God is present and loves us and is trying to work in partnership with us to bring us into greater light and greater love towards one another.

When we don't know the deeper realities about our own lives or God's presence, Swedenborg equates our level of awareness to being in the clouds, or having clouds within. "We live in these clouds when we do not know what the truth of genuine faith is..." he writes. We all have these clouds to some degree – or maybe a lot! "As for their quantity, we have such large, thick clouds inside that if we were aware of it, we would be astounded to think that any rays of light from the Lord could ever shine through, or that anyone could be reborn. Those who believe they have the smallest cover of cloud sometimes have a huge amount, while those who believe they have a huge amount have less." (*Secrets of Heaven*, 1043)

That will keep us humble! But let us not feel too down about this. My hope is that our worship and time together in the New Year will be a vessel for shining some added light through our clouds.

In this New Year, we will be focusing our worship around a recently-developed New Church Journey Program called *What Would Love Do?* The program is based on the Lord's final parable in Matthew 25, where a king appears on a throne; he gathers all nations together, and then separates them

according to those who have shown compassion and those who haven't. This is where we hear these words:

*For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me. Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.* (Matthew 25:35-36)

The authors of the program, Sasha Silverman and John Ohdner, offer that this program is about putting love into action. "What kind of love are we talking about? The kind that is not blind, but wise. The kind of love that can survey a challenging circumstance, and offer what is needed." Unlike previous New Church journey programs that have emphasized one's own inner work, this program includes an awareness of the vast groups of poor, sick and hurting – our fellow brothers and sisters who need help.

We are being called to open our eyes, to invite the Light into our own lives as well as into our relationships and responsibilities as brothers and sisters of all of creation.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

**Blessings to you and yours,**  
***Rev Alison***

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Saturday by appointment

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## *Worship Schedule*

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

Calendar for the New Year:

### **New Series beginning on "What Would Love Do?"**

*"Love consists in wanting to share what we have, and in feeling the joy of someone else as our own joy. That is what it means to love."  
-Swedenborg, Divine Love and Wisdom 47*

Jan. 4: "What Would Love Do?"

Love Serves – I was hungry and you gave me food.

Jan. 11: "What Would Love Do?"

Love Brings Truth – I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

Jan. 18: "What Would Love Do?"

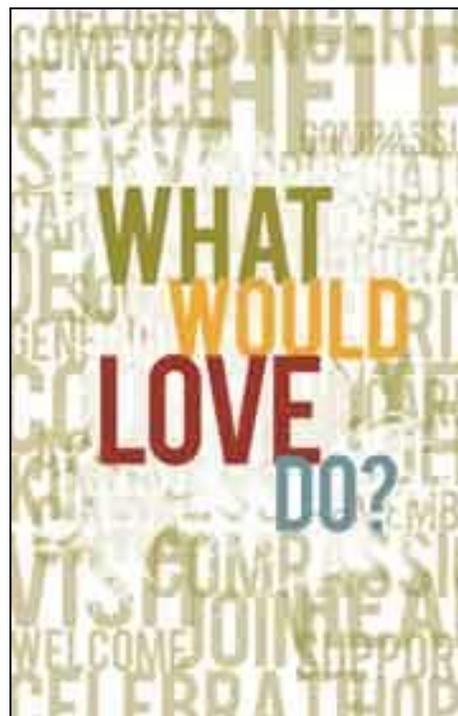
Love Welcomes – I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Jan. 25: "What Would Love Do?"

Love Comforts – I was naked and you clothed me.

## *In Our Prayers*

Prayers to Sue Davidson, Chuck Priest and Barbara Ferguson for a steady recovery; healing prayers for Jen Richardson and family. We are glad to share that DeDe Frost is back home and feeling better after a brief stay in the hospital. Continued prayers go out to Harvey Walker and Lawrence Pangaro, whose beloved wives recently passed into the spiritual world. Safe travels to all during the holiday season.



From the latest New Church Journey program:

"We know love is important. It is easy to see that we are to take care of those who suffer.

We understand to treat each other with kindness and respect. Few would deny that more love circulating in this world is better than less. But how we show this love is not always clear. Certainly there are many people around us who have needs, but how do we know where to put our efforts? This seven week program explores the biblical parable of Matthew 25, wherein Jesus speaks of the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. Jesus says that whenever we help others in these conditions, we help God. Join us as we practice serving the neighbor on both a physical and spiritual level."

Here at church, we will be using the book to guide our worship services for the New Year, and a Thursday evening discussion group at the Parsonage will be offered. If you are interested in ordering a copy of the book, go to the [newchurch.org](http://newchurch.org) website (click on "resources and sermons" to find the link). E-books are available for \$9.99. Paperback workbooks are available for \$19.99.

# Church Report

## The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 6, 2015 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
Stew Frost, <i>Vice Chair</i>	935-3344
Cindy Priest, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-3360
OPEN, <i>Secretary</i>	
Donnette Barnes, <i>Trustee</i>	935-2130
Jane Fullerton, <i>Trustee</i>	890-9454
Dede Frost, <i>Trustee</i>	935-3344
Judy Hatch, <i>Trustee</i>	935-2223
Women's Alliance Representative:	
Patricia Swett	603-939-2262

## Women's Alliance

There will be NO Women's Alliance meetings in January. The next meeting will be on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon at the FNC, please bring a bag lunch.

2015 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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

**Thank you to those of you who were able to help out with Milk and Bookies!**

We collected 35 books for the Mother Seton House and 25 books plus a nice puzzle for the Fryeburg Head Start. Thank you!

## From the Treasurer



Anyone wishing to receive a copy of their contributions for the year 2014 for tax purposes please contact Cindy Priest.

## 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 2014 is still fresh in your mind. You can e-mail them to [office@fryeburgnewchurch.org](mailto:office@fryeburgnewchurch.org) or leave a copy for Dawn in the office. Thank you so much for your time and effort.



### A Choral Invitational Concert

will be hosted at the Lovell United Church of Christ on Sunday afternoon, January 18, time TBA, to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Participating choirs include our New Church Choir and other choirs and bell choirs from the Fryeburg area. The public is invited to attend.

# Pajama

6:30PM  
CHURCH



# Prayers

January 2  
Fryeburg New Church, 6:30 pm  
12 Oxford Street

Calling all children for prayers in pajamas!

Hop into your PJs and come to church!  
We will have prayers, storytelling, music  
and a bedtime snack!

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Genesis 2:18-25)

01-30-2012

ADAM WRAPS UP THE VERY LAST OF THE  
ANIMAL NAMING PROJECT

Did you know that the  
Swedenborgian Church has an  
online church community?



[SWEDENBORGIANCOMMUNITY.ORG](http://SWEDENBORGIANCOMMUNITY.ORG)

If you or someone you know can't make it to church, and are feeling the need for Swedenborgian community, check out our online church! Led by Rev. Wilma Wake, of Kennebunk, Maine, you can connect with Swedenborgians and other interested seekers from all over the globe.

Their mission:

Welcome! *Our mission is to create a vibrant online spiritual community available 24/7 for Swedenborgians and seekers around North America and the globe to explore, share and deepen their faith and connection to the Swedenborgian Church. We aim to create a community where our members are known to each other, where they feel free to share openly their personal journey of faith, and where they feel nurtured and supported in their walk with the Lord. We aim to create an open and welcoming community for new spiritual seekers, introducing the Swedenborgian Faith in an accessible way through our own powerful testimony and life experience with it. [Register](#) to participate in Discussion Forums and receive regular newsletters.*

*At SwedenborgianCommunity.org, we are church not because of physical proximity but spiritual proximity. We welcome our many registrants and visitors of diverse perspectives and backgrounds to find inspiration, community and comfort here.*

Rev. Wilma Wake

## Potluck with a Purpose

Our next potluck with a purpose will be after worship on Feb. 1. Here is a featured recipe from our gathering in

December. If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share please let Dawn or Alison know. Thank you!



### Carrots with Horseradish

6-8 Carrots, peeled and cut in quarters lengthwise  
½ c. Mayonnaise or Veganise  
2 TBL. Grated Onion  
½ tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. pepper  
2 TBL. Horseradish  
¼ c. Breadcrumbs  
1 TBL. Melted Butter or Olive oil  
Dash of Paprika

Boil carrots(al dente) until they begin to soften when pierced with a fork. Remove carrots to a shallow casserole with a slotted spoon. Save the water that carrots were boiled in. Mix mayo, horseradish, onions, salt, pepper and ¼ cup of carrot water. Pour over carrots. Mix breadcrumbs with melted butter and a dash of paprika. Spread over top of carrots

Bake 20 minutes at 375 degrees.

**Valentine's Day isn't too far away!!!**

**Looking for a great gift for your partner and relationship?**



**Couple Checkup™**

Powered by PREPARE ENRICH®

**Join me for a Couple's Checkup! Couples complete an online questionnaire; the assessment will identify relationship strengths and growth areas across key areas (including communication, conflict resolution, flexibility and more). The "Couple's Checkup" is based on the work of David H. Olsen Amy K. Olson-Sigg, and Peter J. Larson.**

### **Why "Checkup" a Relationship?**

"People and relationships are always changing. Almost all relationships begin happily, but many do not remain so. When couples are first getting to know one another, mutual curiosity creates an atmosphere of sharing and personal reflection. After some time together, there is a tendency to believe they know their partner and conversations shift from each other to events, other people, or ideas. The problem is that, much like a river, a relationship may look relatively stable, but deeper examination reveals undercurrents that change from moment to moment. This explains how a couple can, after many years together feel as though they no longer know one another.

The Couple Checkup generates deep and productive conversations that couples would not otherwise have about their relationship. These conversations restore insight and understanding about one another. The Couple Checkup can help to revive a relationship and increase intimacy."

To learn more, visit:

<https://www.couplecheckup.com>

**The online assessment will cost \$35 per couple. If you take the online assessment, be sure to enter our group code: 14730-1001**

**A "Check up" class will be offered  
Feb. 14, 9-11am at FNC.**

## Welcomers for January

Jan 4 *Open*  
 Jan 11 Debbie Dolley  
 Jan 18 Martha Richardson  
 Jan 25 *Open*

## Ushers for January

Jan 4 Tom Barrett & Sue Davidson  
 Jan 11 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest  
 Jan 18 David & Jen Richardson  
 Jan 25 Jean Cressy & Dean Harnden

## Coffee Hour for January

Jan 4 Jean Cressy  
 Jan 11 Dawn Ferguson  
 Jan 18 Jane Williams  
 Jan 25 Jean Cressy

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
NOVEMBER-30 – DECEMBER 28, 2014		
Date	Adults	Children
November 30	30	2
December 7	37	11
December 14	44	12
December 21	58	16
December 28	20	--

As much as we want every Sunday to be bright and sunny, it is winter and sometimes the weather will make it necessary to cancel our classes and worship service. Please check the following stations to see if they have been cancelled before heading out on the road:  
 TV Channels 6, 8, 13 and the following  
 Radio stations: 560AM, 93.1FM, 93.5FM, 100.9FM, 101.9FM, and 104.5FM.  
 It also will be posted on our FNC Sunday school Facebook page. Thank you!

Calendar for January 2015 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
1	Thur	New Year's Day FNC Office Closed	
2	Fri	Prayers in PJs	6:30 p.m.
4	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m..
6	Tues	Trustee's Meeting	7:00 p.m.
7	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
8	Thur	Bible study WWLD class at Parsonage	10:00 a.m.
11	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
14	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
15	Thur	Bible study WWLD class at Parsonage	10:00 p.m.
18	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Choral Invitational Concert @ Lovell UCC. Church	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. TBA
21	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
22	Thur	Bible study WWLD class at Parsonage	10:00 a.m. 7:00 pm
25	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.
28	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 pm

January flowers  
*Jean Cressy*





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a.k.a. *Fryeburg New Church*  
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Fryeburg, ME 04037

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**Address Service Requested**