



February 2007

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Bulletin

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

Dear Friends,

It is sunny and bright, but very cold. And I am reminded of how often Swedenborg talks about faith in God without love to the neighbor and compares this to light without heat. This kind of light allows us to see what we are doing, but it gives very little comfort and nothing grows and bears fruit. So it is with faith in God without love: it allows a person to comprehend and understand many things, but without love in the heart, it brings very little comfort to the person or to others and it does not foster growth or bear fruit in action. For our faith to grow and prosper and bear fruit our comprehension and understanding must be coupled with compassion and affection for others. And what is more, these two seemingly different and yet inseparable inner qualities must be joined together in action. Then information and knowledge become wisdom and caring and passion becomes love and, joined together in our actions, they become the path and the means for spiritual regeneration. The joy and celebration of the Christmas season is behind us. The celebration of Easter is ahead of us. And in this rather quiet time in the church year we have an opportunity to look inward and upward. It is a time to renew our relationship with the Lord and infuse our relationships with our family and friends and neighbors, and even the stranger we meet in passing, with the

devotion we have toward God. There is no special event, no specific reason to do anything special, and yet that is all the more reason to make an extra effort. I once heard it said, "Ethics are what you do when no one is looking." And there is a certain truth to that. For when no one is looking, the only person you are accountable to is yourself and then it is your values, your priorities, and ultimately your loves that come to the surface and are expressed. This is the time of year when there are no special reasons to motivate us. And so it is the perfect time to look inward to our relationship with the Lord. And it is the perfect time to look for ways to express the love of God in our relationships with others in the world. Because it is times like this when nothing special is happening, that it will truly come from the heart. And it is actions that come from the heart that are like the coming of spring, the sun rises early and with the light comes a warmth that brings new life.

Speaking of warmth and new life, I saw in the news today that the conservative side of Christianity has taken up the issue of global warming and our responsibility of stewards of the garden we call earth. Do we really need a special event, let alone a crisis, to take seriously our affect on the earth? Must we be forced into appreciating the world God has so generously given us and our part in caring for it? Who in

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

Church Office Hours: 8 a.m.- noon Tuesday - Friday

12 Oxford St. • Fryeburg, ME 04037 • Rev. Ken Turley, Pastor

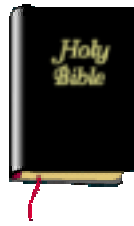
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their own household does not take proper care of their waste? What farmer would take crop after crop without returning something to the soil? Who would dump pollutants in their own water source? It is time for us all to extend the care and concern we hold for our own immediate living spaces and extend them to the community around us, to the country we are so blessed to live in, and to the world which supports us all. The number of people on the earth today has grown so much since even a few hundred years ago, and the demands and stresses we put on the earth, which hasn't gotten any bigger, have also grown so much more. It is not surprising that the effects are beginning to show. What is surprising is that so many seem so unwilling to consider what we might do to lessen the impact of our presence. During WWII we recycled extensively, we rationed what we had, and went without many things because we considered it a matter of survival. The time is fast approaching when our concern for the environment and our need to alter our habits will also be a matter of survival. If you are thankful to God for creating such a beautiful earth, and thankful for the opportunity to spend some time here, why wait for a crisis? Why not live in a manner that expresses that gratitude before we are forced to it? Simply as an expression of love for the earth as God's creation.

Blessings,

Rev. Ken



## *Worship Schedule*

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

### **The Ministry Of Jesus: Teaching**

- 2/4** "Parables Of Life"  
 Matthew from 20-22  
 Communion Sunday  
 Doctrinal Class after Coffee Hour
- 2/11** "Evolution, Regeneration, Glorification"  
 Matthew 5:17-48  
 Doctrinal Class after Coffee Hour
- 2/18** "Parables Of Life"  
 Matthew 22-25  
 Doctrinal Class after Coffee Hour
- 2/25** "Greatest Commandment  
 and the Seven Woes"  
 Matthew 22:34-23:39  
 Doctrinal Class after Coffee Hour

“No one should become convinced of truth instantaneously. The reason for this is that when truth is impressed upon someone in that kind of way, they become so fully convinced of it that it cannot be broadened in any way or qualified in any way. [Doubt is introduced so] they are led to think and ponder over whether it is indeed a truth, gather reasons in support of it, and so introduce that truth into their minds by the use of reason – for truths take varying forms as dietary circumstances.”

*Arcana Coelestia 7298 Emanuel Swedenborg*

# Church Report

## In the Hospital

**Delph Wood**, retired funeral director and long time friend of the Fryeburg New Church was hospitalized this past month for lung problems. He has recovered and is back home doing well.

**Richard Fox**, father of Karen Grey, was in Maine Medical for heart surgery. He is recovering well!

## Passages

**Roy Trombly**, from the Detroit Society, passed into the spiritual world on January 15. He was a faithful member of the Fryeburg New Church Assembly and played the organ for services here in Fryeburg on a number of occasions.

**Elizabeth Dewing** passed into the spiritual world on Friday, January 5th, 2007. She had a life long affinity for the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, but only became a member of the Fryeburg New Church in her later years. Her generosity to the Fryeburg church and to Convention was greatly appreciated.

## Women's Alliance

Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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

We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church, except July and August. Our next meeting date is **February 19 at 6:30**. This month coffee will be done by Sally Harnden and Edie Leach. The Silent Auction to benefit games for the FHCC was postponed until **February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

<b>Calendar for February 2007</b> (held at our Church unless indicated)			
2	Fri	Groundhog day	
4	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Doctrinal Class with Rev Ken</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00a.m. 11:30 a.m.
6	Tues	<b>Trustees Meeting</b>	6:30 p.m.
7	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ EA Seton	5:00 p.m.
11	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Doctrinal Class with Rev Ken</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00a.m. 11:30 a.m.
14	Wed	Happy Valentine's Day! Dinner Bell North @ EA Seton <b>Valentine's Day Bachelor Auction</b> on Channel 3	5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
18	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Doctrinal Class with Rev Ken</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00a.m. 11:30 a.m.
19	Mon	President's Day <b>Women's Alliance Meeting</b>	6:30 p.m.
21	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ EA Seton <b>Ash Wednesday Service at the Community Church in Brownfield</b>	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
25	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Doctrinal Class with Rev Ken</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00a.m. 11:30 a.m.
28	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ EA Seton <b>Lenten Service</b>	5:00 p.m. 12:30-1:30



## The Trustees

The Trustees' next regular meeting is scheduled for **February 6, at 6:30 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
Debbie Dolley	935-2887
Susan Wheaton Logan	603-694-3743
Cindy Priest	935-3360
Nels Liljedahl	935-3741
Deneane Frost	935-3344
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Sally Harnden	935-2546
<i>Treasurer:</i> Stan Dolley	935-2887



**Fryeburg New Church  
Office Hours  
8-12 Tuesday - Friday**

### Gift Idea Reminder!



Our limited edition, colored, 11"x14" matted print would make a beautiful and meaningful gift for that special

person in your life. Please visit our web site for more information and the mail order form:

<http://www.fryeburgnewchurch.org/orderform.html>

All proceeds from the sale of these prints go into our Capital Fund which makes many worthwhile projects possible. This truly is a gift that keeps on giving!

Flowers will  
be done by  
Jean Cressy



### Ushers for February

4	Donnette Barnes Jean Cressy
11	Chuck Priest Cindy Priest
18	Herb Eastman Jim Harrington
25	Claudia Graves Pat Swett

### Welcomers for February

4	Martha Richardson
11	Debbie Urgese
18	Debbie Dolley
25	Sally Harnden

### Coffee Hour for February

4	Karen Ela
11	Cindy Priest
18	Donnette Barnes
25	Dawn Ferguson

### Dinner Bell North

Dinner Bell North in Fryeburg is alive and well. Under the direction of Bebe Toor, it serves dinner to 80-120 patrons at the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton church at 5:00 p.m. every Wednesday. All of the help from shopping, prepping, setting up tables, cooking, serving, and cleaning up are volunteers. It takes quite a crew each week! It is truly an ecumenical and Community involved activity. All are welcome to eat and/or to help. If you would like more information, or would like to become involved, please call Bebe Toor at 935-2068.

### Special February Dates

February	2	Ground Hog Day
	14	Valentines Day
	19	President's Day
	21	Ash Wednesday

## Groundhog Day Why the Groundhog?

Since a groundhog (or *woodchuck* or “whistle pig”) hibernates for the winter, its coming out of the ground is a natural sign of spring. In Europe centuries ago, people watched for other hibernating animals, including badger, bears, and hedgehogs, as signs of winter’s end. Germans who immigrated to *Pennsylvania* in the mid-1800s began keeping an eye on the groundhog. The widespread population of the rodent made it a handy agent for this particular weather superstition. And a superstition it is. But there’s a grain of truth: the winter days when you can see your shadow clearly are often especially cold, because there are no clouds overhead to insulate the earth. Why now? Early February is midway between the *winter solstice* and the *spring equinox*. Throughout history numerous holidays have marked this seasonal crossroads. Among these is *Candlemas Day*, February 2, a Christian holiday that celebrates Mary’s ritual purification. Early Christians believed that if the sun came out on *Candlemas Day*, winter would last for six weeks more. (By: Holly Hartman)

### January 2007 Sunday School Attendance

Dec 31	No Sunday School
Jan. 7	12
Jan 14	14
Jan 21	17

*Genuine divine worship is unknown to those who think worship consists only in adoration and prayers, that is, from the mouth and thoughts alone and not in the work done from a good heart full of love and faith. True worship of God consists in living according to God’s ways. This is also true love of God and true faith in God. When we are in love and kindness, our life is continual worship.*

-From Heavenly Secrets nos. 10143(4) and 1618  
by Emanuel Swedenborg

## New Church Doctrinal Class Led by Rev. Ken Every Sunday in February at 11:30 to 1

Bring your lunch if you like, coffee and tea available. We will discuss the teachings of the church, the polity of the church, and the man Emanuel Swedenborg and his relationship to the church. We’ll have a specific agenda but free flowing conversation. Any and all questions are welcome.



**Valentine Days Bachelor Auction  
Feb. 14 at 7:30 on Channel 3  
To raise funds for  
Valley Vision programming**

**Four eligible bachelors, from 20 to 60, will be auctioned off. From 7:30 to 8 phone your bid in. Sponsors will provide transportation, dinner and a concert. Rev. Ken will interview the four and announce the results.**

### President’s Day

The original version of the holiday was in commemoration of George Washington’s birthday in 1796 (the last full year of his presidency). Washington, according to the calendar that has been used since at least the mid-18th century, was born on February 22, 1732. According to the old style calendar in use back then, however, he was born on February 11. At least in 1796, many Americans celebrated his birthday on the 22nd while others marked the occasion on the 11th instead.

By the early 19th century, Washington’s Birthday had taken firm root in the American experience as a bona fide national holiday. Its traditions included Birth night Balls in various regions, speeches and receptions given by prominent public figures, and a lot of revelry in taverns throughout the land. Then along came Abraham Lincoln, another revered president and fellow February baby (born on the 12th of the month). The first formal observance of his birthday took place in 1865, the year after his assassination, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. While Lincoln’s Birthday did not become a federal holiday like George Washington’s, it did become a legal holiday in several states.

Apparently, while the holiday in February is still officially known as Washington’s Birthday (at least according to the Office of Personnel Management), it has become popularly (and, perhaps in some cases at the state level, legally) known as “President’s Day.” This has made the third Monday in February a day for honoring both Washington and Lincoln, as well as all the other men who have served as president.