



March 2010

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Dear Friends,

There seems to be so much to be grateful for from our little corner of the world, as the Mid-Atlantic is pummeled with snow that they hardly know what to do with, and as the people of Haiti continue their struggle for survival amidst so much destruction. But while we may feel far away we have been reaching out with love and generosity, in our recent offering taken up for the people of Haiti, and in our prayers each week. The connections, spiritual and physical, that extend far beyond the walls of our church are innumerable.

One particular connection that will be spotlighted in March is that our very own Greg Huang-Dale will be traveling to Central America as a part of the *2010 Solidarity Delegation* to commemorate the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero. You can read more about his trip in his article "*Nearer to Each Other, Nearer to God,*" re-printed here from the recent edition of the *The Messenger*. There will also be a special commissioning time for Greg during worship on March 14th, and some time after worship to speak with Greg and find out more.

We each serve the Lord in so many diverse ways. The mark of our church community travels far beyond our corner of the world.

While we worship together on Sundays, work together on committees and projects, we each offer up our gifts to God primarily in all the times in between.

As we've been joining for our Simple Suppers, and experiencing the season of Lent together, much of our dinner time conversations have revolved around what we do between Sundays. How do we follow the Lord? Where do we hear the Lord's voice? And what are the spiritual practices that ground us in our own Divine nature?

What are yours?

May you be blessed in this Lenten season with quiet time to hear the whispers of angels and to see and cherish the special gifts that only you bring.

Many blessings my friends!

Rev. Sage

Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 8:00am-Noon
Email: pastor@fryeburgnewchurch.org
Office phone: 935-3413
Parsonage phone: 935-4500
Cell phone: 256-7529

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

Church Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 12 noon Tuesday - Friday
12 Oxford St. • Fryeburg, ME 04037 • Rev. Sage Currie, Pastor
Office: (207) 935-3413 • Email: Pastor@FryeburgNewChurch.org
Parsonage: 207-935-4500

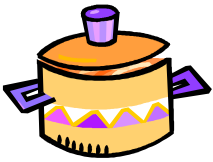
Worship Schedule

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

- 3/7 "Spiritual Pruning"
Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9
- 3/14 "The Prodigal Son"
Psalm 32, Luke 15:1-32
- 3/21 "The Raising of Lazarus"
Isaiah 43:16-21, John 12:1-11
- 3/28 "Palm Sunday"
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Luke 19:28-40

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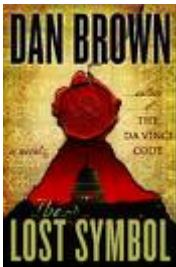
Simple Supper with Rev. Sage



Please join Rev. Sage at the parsonage throughout the Season of Lent to join in a **Simple Supper**. Please see front bulletin board for dates, times, sign-up sheet, and for more information on the Simple Supper.

Upcoming Book Discussion

I hope you have all had a chance to read Dan Brown's latest novel The Lost Symbol. (Or will be able to get to the end of it by March 21st!) Were you inspired, moved, challenged by its ending?



Please join me **Sunday, March 21st, 2010 at 1:00 pm at the Church** to discuss this bestseller, and consider the many New Church ideas reflected in it. And bring a friend! ~ Rev. Sage

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 2, 2010 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 |
| Nels Liljedahl | 935-3741 |
| Deneane Frost | 935-3344 |
| Scott Ferguson | 925-3207 |
| 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 of the Women's Alliance in March. Women's Alliance will meet again on **Monday, April 19, 2010 at NOON**. Please bring a bag lunch. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church. All ladies are welcome!!

2010 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

PresidentJean Cressy
Vice-President.....Carol Andrews
SecretarySally Harnden
Treasurer.....Patty Swett
Chaplain.....Betty Baker

In the Hospital

Dennis Emery was in Fryeburg Health Care Center but is now recovering at home. We wish him a quick return to good health.

| Calendar for March 2010 (held at our Church unless indicated) | | |  |
|---|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Mon | Fish & Game Supper | 6:00 p.m. |
| 2 | Tue | Trustees' Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 3 | Wed | Dinner Bell North @ SEAS Easter Choir Rehearsal | 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. |
| 4 | Thu | Simple Supper @ parsonage | 6:00 p.m. |
| 6 | Sat | Youth Group outing "Once Upon A Mattress" | 12 noon |
| 7 | Sun | Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship | 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |
| 10 | Wed | Dinner Bell North @ SEAS Simple Supper @ parsonage Easter Choir Rehearsal | 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. |
| 14 | Sun | Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship and Special Commissioning for Greg Huang-Dale | 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |
| 16 | Tue | Simple Supper @ parsonage | 6:00 p.m. |
| 17 | Wed | St. Patrick's Day Rev. Sage @FHCC Dinner Bell North @ SEAS Easter Choir Rehearsal | 10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. |
| 19 | Fri | Rev. Sage @ Maine Council Ret. Teachers Luncheon (full dinner served) | 8:00 a.m. 12 noon |
| 21 | Sun | Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship "The Lost Symbol" discussion group | 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. |
| 24 | Wed | Dinner Bell North @ SEAS Worship Committee mtg | 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. |
| 25 | Thu | Simple Supper @ parsonage | 6:00 p.m. |
| 28 | Sun | Palm Sunday Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship | 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |
| 31 | Wed | Dinner Bell North @ SEAS Easter Choir Rehearsal | 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. |

Fish and Game Supper

Mar 1st, 2010  6:30 p.m.

Welcomers for March

- Mar 7 Debbie Urgese
- Mar 14 Debbie Dolley
- Mar 21 Martha Richardson
- Mar 28 Sally Harnden

Ushers for March

- Mar 7 Billy Holt & Donnette Barnes
- Mar 14 Mary Dysinger & Lawrence Perry
- Mar 21 Chuck Priest & Stanley Dolley
- Mar 28 Dean Harnden & James Harrington

Coffee Hour for March

- Mar 7 Sally Harnden & Dean Harnden
- Mar 14 Donnette Barnes
- Mar 21 Jen Richardson
- Mar 28 Cindy Priest

| WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 21, 2010 | | |
| <u>Date</u> | <u>Adults</u> | <u>Children</u> |
| January 31 | No church | |
| February 7 | 48 | 3 |
| February 14 | 47 | 0 |
| February 21 | 41 | 3 |



March flowers
courtesy of
Jean Cressy

The Maundy Thursday Service and Potluck Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 1st at 6:00 p.m. at the Brownfield Community Church.



Youth Group

Kurt Fekete and Lee Dyer continue to lead our lively youth group for all youth aged 12 – 18. We encourage you to join us. We meet once a month, usually on the second or third Sunday of the month, from 4 pm - 7 pm at the Fryeburg New

Church for dinner, games and engaging conversation. We have fun!



Our next gathering is a special outing on Saturday, March 6th departing Fryeburg at noon. We will travel to Deering High School in Portland to see a performance of "Once Upon a Mattress" then go out to dinner at Flatbreads in Old Port. Youth interested in going on this outing should contact Lee Dyer to arrange transportation.

Our theme this year is **Holy YouTube!** We are viewing and discussing video created by teens or concerning relevant teen issues and/or spirituality from the popular website YouTube. We will explore how popular culture relates to Swedenborgian theology and consider how closely this reality matches our own personal experience.

Our December Christmas sleepover was great. Eleven of us gathered at the Fryeburg New Church to swap gifts, eat spaghetti, talk Swedenborg, play Sardines (of course), Apples to Apples, Psychiatrist, and other reindeer games. Gifts of Hungry Hungry Hippos and the Rudolph play set keep us entertained. Holly and Celie came from Portland and joined the Fryeburg teens. Ian was the only boy, so that was quite interesting (he did not stay overnight, but left late and returned in the morning).



As it was the first snowfall, once it got dark the teens made a little snowman and snuck around outside the church hunting each other and attacking with snowballs. This raised suspicion amongst the local residents who called the police suspecting foul play or a "B&E" in progress! A police officer crept in the church at 1 am and quietly came downstairs to observe what was going on (a rousing game of Apples to Apples). When we heard the upstairs door open and close, of course we suspected a ghost. When the officer came around the corner, all the girls screamed!

Once the situation was straightened out and the police officer left with a smile we all enjoyed a good laugh. We went to bed around 1:30 am and then got up to a bagel breakfast and worship. This was a really fun overnight. I hope even more teens can join us for our next sleepover in the spring.

If you would like to begin attending our youth group meetings and are not currently on our youth group email list please contact Kurt Fekete at kfekete@hotmail.com. I look forward to seeing all of you soon! ~Kurt



Nearer to Each Other – Nearer To God

Sometimes Fryeburg, Maine seems a long way from everywhere. My parents live in the Midwest, our close friends live in Georgia and we have lived and worked several years abroad in China. On the way home from our trip to China this past summer, my three-year-old daughter lamented the distance as we drove the final leg from the Manchester airport to our home in Maine. “Dad,” she said, “Fryeburg is *so far*.” It had been a long trip and we were all travel weary. Still, we had collected good memories of gatherings with kindred spirits half a world away.

Living in a variety of states and abroad has opened my mind to the reality that physical and spiritual distance are not equal. No matter where we go, God is nearby. When I started my career as teacher in the early 90s, I was living in a Christian community teaching English to recent refugees. No matter their origins – Central America, South East Asia, Eastern Europe – the refugees were extremely grateful for the kindness and generosity they met at Jubilee Partners, the community where I worked. I felt God’s spirit in our welcoming. And each time I have traveled abroad I too met a similar sense of the Holy Spirit working through people wherever I went, helping me and others in need. It wasn’t long before I started to seek God’s love in the places I lived and traveled.

Seeking this spirit, I traveled for the first time to rural mountainous Guatemala in 2000. I traveled with a delegation of church members from our congregation in Decorah, Iowa to meet the people of our sister parish in Nebaj, Guatemala deep in the mountainous countryside. The delegation was part of a growing relationship between our church community and the people of the Nazarene Church in Nebaj. While there, I stayed with Jose Torres and his family as he taught me his language, Ixil. I slept on the only bed in their home while they slept on the dirt floor; I ate the simple food of the Mayan people; I walked in the mountainside cornfields Jose tills with his heavy hoe; and I worshipped with them in a simple wooden church where sunlight through the cracks in the walls provides most of the lighting. In one of the most impoverished places I’ve ever been I felt the need for God and the presence of God stronger than ever.

Soon after that trip, a group of friends from Nebaj including Jose came on a delegation to Decorah. It was very difficult for them to get visas and most had never traveled out of their valley, but they came wanting to learn about our lives. During the 10 days they spent in our homes we saw our lives in a whole new light. We saw our homes, our church, our community through Guatemalan eyes. This too was a divine revelation. God revealed the truth of our blessings and our indulgences and we were grateful again for what we had and what we shared with our sisters and brothers from Guatemala.

It was through Sister Parish that I fully realized the truth of Christ’s promise, “where two or more are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20) It was in living the dependent life of rural Mayan people that I began to realize we are as dependent upon each other as we are on God. And it was a visit from poor Guatemalans that helped me understand the blessings God gives us to share. Through

personal relationships and our solidarity of faith and justice, God's message is clearly revealed. To love one another as he has loved us.

I grew from those experiences with a new vision and commitment to bring people closer in spirit despite geographic distances. I started teaching immigrant laborers in our Iowa community, documented and undocumented, who wanted to be better connected to their new home through English language. I went abroad again to teach English as a second language and then returned to the US, landing in Maine where I teach ESL in the local high school. Then this past year I was invited to join the board of directors for Sister Parish, the organization which connects then supports delegations and communications between North American churches and Central America Christian communities. As a board member I am excited to be traveling again this spring, to El Salvador.

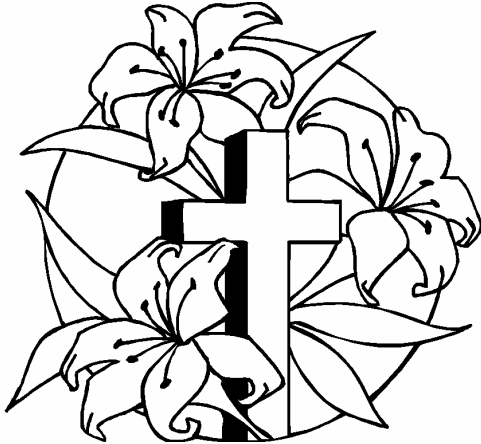
As a new board member I am writing to *you* with an invitation. Although the Fryeburg Church of the New Jerusalem has no Sister Parish, I am hoping to spark interest among our new denominational family. I am traveling this march on the *2010 Solidarity Delegation* to commemorate the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Unlike most SP delegations which are specific church delegations to their sister parishes, the people traveling with me will be from several different churches around the US. This unique "solidarity" delegation is designed to introduce Sister Parish delegations to new churches and new people in the US looking for new relationships with God and fellow Christians worldwide. This delegation trip is also an opportunity for members of current Sister Parish congregations in the US to come together and share an experience. This trip will also be an educational opportunity to learn about the historic links that bind us as Americans, North and South – politically, economically, socially and spiritually.

And so I extend an invitation to you, to experience a personal connection to the people of Central America and to meet God among the Salvadorans. We will visit common people in current Sister Parish communities as well as meet with Christian leaders and experts who will teach us about our connections as Christians, communities and countries. The delegation will travel from March 18th to the 27th led by experienced and knowledgeable Sister Parish staff who live in Central America.

Sometimes we feel far away from the rest of our world. It's hard to leave the comfort of home and easy to turn off the depressing global news on our media. But the world is also full of God's promise and God's people are full of love for each other. As the shepherds and angels and kings came to see the hope of a new world born in a stable, I hope you will considering an adventure to meet a new revelation come in human flesh to welcome us all into closer relationship with one another and with God.

If you would like more information about Sister Parish you may visit the organization's website at: www.sisterparish.org to read more about the mission, history and future of this vital movement.

Easter Lilies



Easter is Sunday, April 4th!! For those who wish to have a lily in church on Easter Sunday, please place your order early as we need to place our order by March 26th!

The cost remains the same this year at \$8.00 each. Lilies can be picked up after church on Easter Sunday, left for the following Sunday, or for a shut-in or nursing home resident. Orders should be returned to the office by **March 26th** and may be placed in the collection plate, left in the church office, or called in to Jennifer in the office at 935-3413. *Please indicate who the lily will be “In Honor” or “In Memory of”.*



Fryeburg New Church
12 Oxford Street
Fryeburg, ME 04037
935-3413

EASTER LILIES: \$8.00 EACH

HOW MANY LILIES? _____ TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

In Memory/In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

PLEASE RETURN ORDERS BY: MARCH 26, 2010