



February 2008

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Bulletin

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

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Dear Friends,

**The Maine Council Of Churches' Mission:**  
*To inspire congregations and persons of faith to unite in good works that build a culture of justice, compassion and peace rooted in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.*

As you may know, the Maine Association of the Church of the New Jerusalem, which includes The Portland New Church, the Fryeburg New Church, The Fryeburg New Church Assembly and various individual members at large, is now an active member of the Maine Council of Churches. I was elected at our last Annual meeting to serve as the representative of the New Church and sit on the MCC Board of Directors which meets monthly. This organization has been in existence since 1938. An interesting historical fact that we should not forget is that the Rev. Louis Dole (father of Rev. Dr. George Dole who was born in the Fryeburg parsonage and is now serving the Bath Church), who served as minister at both the Fryeburg New Church and the Bath New Church, was one of the Maine Council of Church's founding members! Since it's beginning, this organization has joined people from a wide variety of Christian denominations to work together for the common good. From the beginning its members have set aside theological differences and focused on

what we hold in common. And it has also from the beginning maintained a position of neutrality in regard to political parties, while vigorously engaging issues of social and economic justice bringing to bear the perspective of the Lord's call to "love thy neighbor as thy self" found in the parable of the Good Samaritan and the parable of the Lord's Judgment found in Matthew 25:31-46.

Currently there are a number of major concerns for the MCC. They include, but are not limited to, social and economic equality for the four Native American tribes here in Maine who, in spite of their legal victory in gaining "ownership" of a large amount of the land that was taken from them by the European "invaders" still suffer from poverty, discrimination and an oppressive lack of educational and employment opportunities. This, by the way, is not an issue specific to Maine. It is one of America's secret shames that many of the Native Tribes throughout the country live in some of the very worst poverty ridden, ghetto-like conditions to be found anywhere. While Black and Hispanic cultures have made real progress in finding equality and some modicum of redress and acceptance in white culture, the Native Americans remain our ignored and forgotten minority.

**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

Office: (207) 935-3413 • Email: [Pastor@FryeburgNewChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@FryeburgNewChurch.org)

Parsonage: 207-935-4500

Another area of concern the MCC has worked on in the recent past is what is called "Restorative Justice," i.e. working to help those incarcerated in our legal system find ways to achieve rehabilitation and education and freedom of religion within the system so that they may emerge not as hardened criminals who are an even worse danger to society and bent on a life-style guaranteed to return them to prison, but as people making a new start bent on a life-style of meaningful employment, committed faith and new social skills and prepared for a life-style that is not only compatible with, but a positive contribution to, society.

Also among the top issues of concern is educating and motivating people of faith to do some serious self-reflection and make life-style changes that positively reflect our Biblically based charge to be stewards of the earth. This involves the obvious things like recycling and conserving energy, but it also extends to our habits as consumers. The MCC is actively seeking to educate and encourage people to buy locally, to support products that involve the least amount of unnecessary chemicals, shipping and packaging, and to patronize companies and products that are committed to responsible use and care for resources and their employees. For example buying beef from local farmers instead of that which is grown in South America (i.e. almost all fast food chains), not only slows down the demand for grazing land which is the primary cause for the alarmingly rapid destruction of Rain Forest, it also eliminates the need to consume the great quantities of oil required to ship the product by boat and truck and the resulting pollution of their exhaust. More importantly, it also supports the local economy and the small business owners and laborers who are your neighbors. Ironically, it may cost a little more to buy local produce because most of the time local farmers are small scale compared to the mega-companies that dominate the market. But the positive contribution to the environment, the local economy and one's own health and spiritual well-being are well worth the small extra expense. Buying locally also helps ensure a food distribution system that is not dependant on large scale transportation and is therefore less vulnerable to disruption at a national level.

Other issues the MCC is involved in include the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and a coalition for humane

comprehensive immigration reform. There is much more which I hope to share with you in the coming months, but for now I encourage us all to do some serious self-reflection, repentance and reformation, which is the very process of spiritual regeneration, particularly around our personal life-styles and practices as consumers. We Swedenborgians understand that as spiritual beings living in a material realm, spirituality is not separate from life in the world. Rather our outward actions in the world are the expression of our faith and the confirmation of our inner spiritual relationship with the Lord. Keep the Greatest Commandment before you in all things: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self."

Blessings,

Rev. Ken

## *Winter Schedule*

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

- 2/3 Communion Sunday**  
"Cleansing the Temple" John 2:13-25
- 2/10** "The First Miracle" John 2:1-12
- 2/17** "Nicodemus: Seeker or Sycophant?"  
John 3:1-16
- 2/24** "John, Jesus and The Covenant"  
John 3:16-36

# Church Report

## The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 6:45 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
Stan Dolley, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-2887
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Sally Harnden	935-2546

## Women's Alliance

Women's Alliance will meet on **Monday, February 18th at 6:30 p.m. for Game Night.** Claudia Graves will be in charge of coffee. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church.

*Officers for the 2008 Women's Alliance are:*

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

The Women's Alliance raised \$25.00 at last month's Silent Auction. Many thanks to all who participated.

## Births

**Jackson Earl McBurnie** was born on January 4, 2008 to Brian and Joan (Cressy) McBurnie.

**Austin Dennis Day** was born on December 19, 2007. His family includes parents Jeffrey and Meggan (Webster) Day and sisters Meredith and Brittany.

Many blessings to these families and their new additions!

## Baptism



**Marie Elizabeth (Williamson) Archer** was baptized into the Lord's New Church on December 30, 2007 at the Fryeburg New Church. Rev. Ken Turley officiated.

## Passages

**Marion Spring** entered the spiritual world on December 27, 2007. There will be no calling hours. Burial will be this spring at Pine Grove Cemetery, Fryeburg.

Our deepest condolences are with her family.

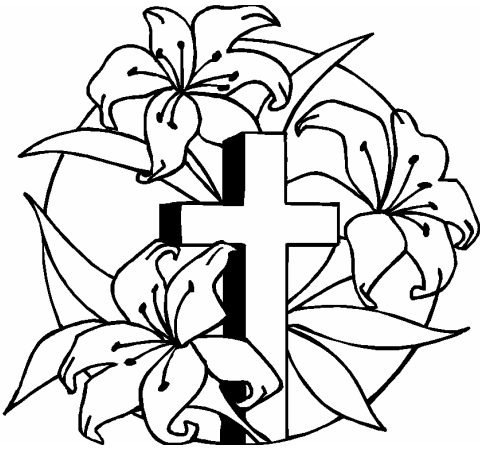
## Choir



**Adult choir** will meet on Thursday, February 7th at the church at 7:00pm to put music together for the month. We will continue to

rehearse every Sunday morning at 8:15. All are welcome to join.

## *Easter Lilies*



**Easter arrives early this year on March 23<sup>rd</sup>!!** 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 during the first week of March.

The cost this year is \$8.00 each. Lilies can be picked up after church on Easter Sunday or left for the following Sunday, or for a shut-in or nursing home resident. Orders should be returned to the office by **March 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you are receiving this by mail, **envelopes are enclosed. Or, if you are viewing this online or in an email, you can complete the form below.** You can mail your order to us, place it in the collection plate, leave it in the church office, or call it in to Jennifer in the office at 935-3413.

*Please indicate who the lily will be “In Honor of” or “In Memory of.”*



**EASTER LILIES: \$8.00 EACH**

*Fryeburg New  
Church*

*12 Oxford Street*

*Fryeburg, ME 0403*

*935-3413*

HOW MANY LILIES? \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

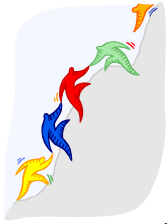
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN ORDERS BY: MARCH 7, 2008**

## Youth Group



Our Youth Group gathering will be Sunday, February 3 from 2:30-5:00pm at the Fryeburg New Church. Please note the earlier time to accommodate all those interested in watching the Super Bowl! We will have some Super Sunday snacks, discuss living in the afterlife, talk about our upcoming March Boston weekend retreat, as well as talk about joining with the UCC group for an activity this spring. As usual, I am happy to bring teens from Portland to Fryeburg. If any teens from Portland would like to go to this we can arrange to meet at the N. Windham Hannaford at 1:30pm. See you next week! Kurt

## Youth Group Blogspot

The Swedenborgian Church Youth League is pleased to announce their **blog page** on the internet is up and running! This is a great place to read about upcoming events, news, information, stories, and see pictures and videos of recent gatherings. You can also post blogs and share your experiences. The page can be accessed at <http://youthleague.blogspot.com>. A special thank you to **Kurt Fekete** for all he does for our kids!!

## The Giving Spirit



Nothing says  
"Merry Christmas"  
like a  
water buffalo!



Add to all the good cheer you've shared with family and friends this year and give a gift that truly reflects the meaning of Christmas. A Water Buffalo!! These four-legged tractors provide a struggling farm family with the power to significantly increase their food production, as well as a strong back to carry produce to market. A water buffalo translates into increased income, better health, and the chance for children to go to school. This big animal makes an even bigger difference!

Visit [www.cwsbestgifts.org](http://www.cwsbestgifts.org) for just the right fit!

## Be My Valentine...

Old or young, so many people are living alone today. Many of those people are very lonely during those "quiet times" at home. They really look forward to going to work, church, or volunteering in the community just to be around people and to have someone to talk to. This Valentine's Day, tell someone you love them, give someone a hug, make lunch plans, or just stop by to say hello! You could be giving a much needed boost to someone's spirit and to your own!!



## Did you know???

**Valentine's Day** also has regional traditions in other countries. In the **UK** a character called 'Jack' Valentine knocks on the rear door of houses leaving sweets and presents for children. Although leaving treats, many children were scared of this mystical person.

In **Wales** many people celebrate Dydd Santes Dwynwen (St Dwynwen's Day) on 25 January instead of or as well as St Valentine's Day. The day commemorates St Dwynwen, the patron saint of Welsh lovers.

In **Denmark & Norway** Valentine's Day is known as Valentinsdag. It is not celebrated to a large extent, but a lot of people take time to eat a romantic dinner with their partner, to send a card to a secret love or give a red rose to their loved one.

In **Sweden** it is called Alla hjärtans dag ("All Hearts' Day") and was launched in the 1960s by the flower industry's commercial interests, and due to influence of American culture. It is not an official holiday, but its celebration is recognized and sales of cosmetics and flowers for this holiday are only bested by those for Mother's Day.

\*Info from--[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's_Day)

*Symposiums*  
*Life Beyond Life*

**LIFE BEYOND LIFE**  
A Symposium on the Edge of Life, Death & Beyond  
Saturday, March 8, 12 - 4 PM  
with  
Dannon Brinkley  
Kathryn Brinkley  
Vaishali &  
Grant Schnarr  
The New York New Church  
114 East 35th St.  
(between Park & Lexington)  
New York City  
Tickets: \$10  
\$15 at the door

“...an exhilarating discussion about living at the edge of life and death, and beyond! Bring your most burning questions concerning what lies ahead. Listen to people who have died and lived to tell about it! It will impact the way you think about your life and your death.”

Tickets may be purchased for \$10.00 each through Smarttix at [www.smarttix.com/show.aspx?showCode=LIF9](http://www.smarttix.com/show.aspx?showCode=LIF9) Or call 212-868-4444. Tickets are \$15.00 at the door.

Please pick up a flyer from the information table as you enter the Church for more information.

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*Making the Connection III: Toxics and Tomorrows' Children*

**March 14, 2008, 8:30am-4:00pm**

Abromson Center at the University of Southern Maine, Portland

Young children and developing babies in the womb are uniquely vulnerable to toxic chemicals which also threaten wildlife development. Our federal safety system for industrial chemicals is badly broken requiring state leadership in chemical policy reform. Emerging science links chronic disease trends to preventable chemical exposures. The concerns around chemicals in children's products have flooded the news and are moving citizens and groups to unite across the county to ignite

change. This conference will bring together health and scientific experts, policy perspectives and on the ground activists to address the most pressing issues surrounding toxics and children's health.

Keynote speaker Dr. Phil Landrigan, MD, MSc., Director of the Center for Children's Health. In 1997 and 1998, Dr. Landrigan served as Senior Advisor on Children's Health to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He was responsible at EPA for helping to establish a new Office of Children's Health Protection.

REGISTER TODAY at [www.psrmaine.org](http://www.psrmaine.org)

A project of the Learning Disabilities Association of Maine, Environmental Health Strategy Center, American Lung Association of Maine, Maine Council of Churches, Toxics Action Center, University of Southern Maine Department of Environmental Science, Maine Public Health Association, and Physicians for Social Responsibility/Maine

*Morning Workshop Option: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN...FROM A FAITH AND POLICY PERSPECTIVE*

Pregnant women and children from low-income, minority communities disproportionately suffer from health problems arising from toxic pollutants in their neighborhoods. This workshop will examine these morally challenging problems in Maine and elsewhere, and discuss public policy and other opportunities for action.

*Presenters:* Jacqueline Brown, MD, MPH, Obstetrician & Gynecologist and MDiv candidate at Perkins School of Theology, and Fatuma Hussein, Director, United Somali Women of Maine

*Moderator:* Anne D. (Andy) Burt, Environmental Justice Program Director, Maine Council of Churches



### Welcomers for February

Feb 3 Martha Richardson  
 Feb 10 Debbie Urgese  
 Feb 17 Sally Harnden  
 Feb 24 Debbie Dolley

### Ushers for February

Feb 3 Stanley Dolley and Billy Holt  
 Feb 10 Kevin and Bonnie James  
 Feb 17 Dean Harnden and Donnette Barnes  
 Feb 24 Claudia Graves and Herb Eastman

### Coffee Hour for February

Feb 3 Debbie and Stanley Dolley  
 Feb 10 Mary Dysinger  
 Feb 17 Donnette Barnes  
 Feb 24 Jen Richardson

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
DECEMBER 30, 2007 THRU JANUARY 27, 2008		
Date	Adults	Children
December 30	36	0
January 6	44	2
January 13	54	2
January 20	40	3
January 27	36	0

### Reminder

It's never too early to start getting your reports in to the Church Office for the 2007 Annual Report.

### Calendar for February 2008

(held at our Church unless indicated)

2	Sat	<b>Groundhog Day</b>	
3	Sun	<b>Communion Sunday</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Super Bowl XLII on FOX</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
5	Tue	<b>Board of Trustees Meeting</b>	6:45 p.m.
6	Wed	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Dinner Bell North @ EAS	5:00 p.m.
10	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
13	Wed	Instrumental Group Practice Dinner Bell North @ EAS <i>Saving Jesus @ 1<sup>st</sup> Congo</i>	3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
14	Thu	♥♥♥ Valentine's Day ♥♥♥	
15	Fri	Rev. Ken @ Maine Council	8:00 a.m.
17	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
18	Mon	<b>Presidents' Day</b> <b>Women's Alliance Game Nite</b>	6:30 p.m.
20	Wed	Rev. Ken @ FHCC Instrumental Group Practice Dinner Bell North @ EAS <i>Saving Jesus @ 1<sup>st</sup> Congo</i>	10:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
24	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
27	Wed	Instrumental Group Practice Dinner Bell North @ EAS <i>Saving Jesus @ 1<sup>st</sup> Congo</i>	3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.



*February flowers will be done by Jean Cressy*