



December 2011

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Newsletter

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

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Dear Friends,

Another advent season has begun; preparations are underway, the lights are being hung, the smell of pine and baking cookies are in the air! While the traditions of this season are many, and varied from family to family, underlying it all is the anticipation of the coming birth of the Christ child. On December 25<sup>th</sup>, while not likely the actual anniversary of Jesus' birth, we recognize that special day, we recognize that there was, long ago, a point in history where God manifested in human form, where in the innocent fragility of human life, the spirit of God came into the world to dwell, to show us how we might live.

And I would venture to say that the spirit of God is continuing to be born into the world and making attempts to show us how we might live all the time. During advent we are invited the opportunity to look a little bit closer, to be just the smallest bit more attentive to our surroundings, to the quiet voice inside, to the words and wisdom of our neighbors, that we might learn a bit better how to live in this world with the fullness of the spirit of God's love.

We are invited to share in God's love in so many ways throughout this season. Giving and receiving gifts and cards with friends and family, cooking nourishing (and often decadent) meals for one another, singing carols, looking out for

ways we can bring a bit more love and joy to each other.

The "Spirit of Christmas," is full of magic and miracle, it is a time when we are invited to be the miracle of God's love for one another, transforming a moment or even a lifetime with kindness. Each time we do this, choose to give or receive a little love this season, we are celebrating that special birth of long ago that was never meant to be a one time affair. The birth of love continues, and in taking the time to celebrate December 25<sup>th</sup> every year, we are given the opportunity to remember this continuity. To remember that we are never done, that love is never complete, that it all will continue and must continue forever.

May your advent season be full of miracles and magic. May you have many opportunities to give and receive the love of God with one another. May you celebrate with singing, with eating, with fun and with joy, the fullness of this creation, the fullness of love.

*Rev. Sage*

Office Hours: Wednesday-Friday 8:30am-12 noon,  
Saturday by appointment

Email: [pastor@fryeburgnewchurch.org](mailto:pastor@fryeburgnewchurch.org)

Office phone: 935-3413

Parsonage phone: 935-4500

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

12 Oxford St. • Fryeburg, ME 04037 • Rev. Sage Currie, Pastor

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

Parsonage: (207) 935-4500, cell phone (207) 256-7529

*Office Hours: Pastor ~ Wed thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Saturdays by appointment*

*Secretary ~ Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

# Worship Schedule

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

**December 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
*THE FORERUNNER* Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6,  
Matthew 3:1-12  
Please bring with you a branch, flower, seed, or  
other representation of the plant kingdom for our  
advent altar this week.

**December 11<sup>th</sup> ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
*THE ANNUNCIATION* Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke  
1:26-38  
Please bring with you a stuffed animal, animal  
picture or statue for our advent altar.

**December 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
*CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT*  
Please bring to worship a photo of a person that  
you are thinking of this holiday season for our  
advent altar.

**December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ CHRISTMAS DAY**  
*WORSHIP at 10 am! NO SUNDAY SCHOOL*

\* \* \* \* \*

*During this Advent season you will  
notice we have a new nativity scene that  
was given to the church by Patty Heath's  
sister, Nancy Maher, in memory of their  
mother Evelyn O'Brien*

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# Church Report

## The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for  
**Tuesday, December 6, 2011 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

Cindy Priest, <i>Chair</i>	935-3360
Deneane Frost, <i>Vice Chair</i>	935-3344
Donnette Barnes, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-2130
Scott Ferguson, <i>Secretary</i>	925-3207
Jennifer Richardson	935-4509
Jean Cressy	935-7093
Jon Crowe	925-1302
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Carol Andrews	935-1007

## Women's Alliance

The next Women's Alliance meeting will be on  
**Monday, December 19, 2011 at NOON.** There  
will be no gift exchange. Bring a bag lunch. We  
meet the third Monday of each month at the  
Church. All ladies are welcome!!

*2011 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:*

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

## In The Hospital

*Dean Harnden* was recently in the hospital and  
*Tommy Hutchins* is currently undergoing  
medical treatments. Please keep them in your  
prayers for a quick recovery and return to good  
health.

## *Poinsettias*



Orders for red poinsettias need to be called in or sent to the office by **Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**. The cost for each poinsettia is \$8.00 each and you will find an order slip and envelope enclosed. **Office phone: 935-3413**

## *Christmas Pageant*



Please join us for the Christmas Pageant and see our children reenact the Christmas story! The Pageant will be held at the Fryeburg New Church on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** during Worship Service. It

is sure to be a wonderful presentation!!  
Christmas Party to follow.

## *And the Winners are:*

The winners for this year's Christmas Cupboard raffle prizes are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize:** Pocketbook made by Debbie Urgese won by Linda Hatch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize:** Decorated Wreath won by Cindy Priest
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize:** Teddy Bear won by Leslie Hicks

Congratulations to our lucky winners!!!

## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service*

Please join us on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service at the First Congregational Church at 655 Main Street in Fryeburg.



All are welcome.

## *Choir*



**Ecumenical choir** will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesdays** at the church.

We will rehearse songs for Sunday morning services as well as for the Christmas Eve ecumenical services. All are welcome and invited to attend our choir rehearsals. Merry Christmas!

## *Youth Group*

We will meet at **4 pm on Saturday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Fryeburg New Church, sleep overnight and stay until 11 am (after worship) on Sunday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>.

Along with your PJs, pillow, sleeping bag, nice clothes for church and sleeping pad, all youth are asked to **bring a wrapped gift valued at less than \$10** to swap (bring something that you would like to receive). At this overnight, in addition to our Christmas party and games, we'll also discuss our theme, "Discovering the Beauty Within" and the talk about the upcoming winter retreat at Almont, Michigan! As in the past, I am happy to bring teens (up to 4) from Portland to Fryeburg.

If any teens from Portland would like to go to this youth group, please email me to let me know. Portland teens can arrange to meet me at the N. Windham Burger King on Route 302 at 3:00 pm. Feel free to bring friends! (please let me know so I can send them a registration form).

See you there!



### Welcomers for December

Dec 4 Debbie Urgese  
 Dec 11 Martha Richardson  
 Dec 18 Lee Dyer  
 Dec 25 OPEN

### Ushers for December

Dec 4 Billy Holt & Donnette Barnes  
 Dec 11 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest  
 Dec 18 David & Jen Richardson  
 Dec 25 Jean Cressy & Sue Davidson

### Coffee Hour for December

Dec 4 Jane Rogers  
 Dec 11 Susan Logan  
 Dec 18 Christmas Party  
 Dec 25 Jean Cressy

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE OCTOBER 23 –NOVEMBER 20, 2011		
Date	Adults	Children
October 23	--	--
October 30	25	--
November 6	43	12
November 13	44	2
November 20	46	16



December flowers  
*Jean Cressy*

Calendar for December 2011 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
			
3	Sat	<b>Youth Group Sleepover</b>	4:00 p.m.
4	Sun	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
6	Tue	<b>Trustees' Meeting</b>	7:00 p.m.
7	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Ecumenical Choir	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
9	Fri	<b>Christmas Caroling and Potluck Party with Rev. Sage at the parsonage</b>	6-9 p.m.
11	Sun	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Congregational Care Team mtg.	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Aft. worship
14	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Ecumenical Choir	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
16	Fri	Poinsettia orders due	9:00 a.m.
18	Sun	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Christmas Pageant and Party</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
19	Mon	<b>Women's Alliance (no gifts)</b>	12 noon
21	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Ecumenical Choir	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
24	Sat	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ First Congregational Church</b>	7:00 p.m.
25	Sun	<b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.