



April 2012

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Dear Friends,

Spring has arrived! I've enjoyed a couple of days in shorts and a tee-shirt and this morning I am awaking to a light dusting of snow. Ahhh, March in Maine. The weather is so predictably unpredictable.

I find I get a lot of information about the weather in this town. Perhaps in my role as pastor, seeing a lot of people at the church and in the varying nursing homes I visit. It seems talk and speculation of the weather and its possibilities is continual. Will it snow?

Rain? Get cold? Get hot? Icy? It's something that interests most of us, as the weather impacts us all, which jacket to wear, whether we work or not, how fast or slowly we'll get to where we are going.

The weather affects us all and it cannot be controlled. We can make preparations to deal with what comes our way, we can choose to move and live in areas with weather patterns that we prefer, but we cannot cause the rain to come or the sun to shine where and when we would have it no matter who we are or what we do.

"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth

rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:45

I like the double meaning of the word "weather." That it can be used to define the changing patterns of our environment, i.e. "Looks like it's going to be cold weather coming." And that we can use the word to define the way we deal with these changes, i.e. "I wonder how she'll weather this storm."

The same word is used to describe what is, and to describe the process with which we deal with whatever is.

While we are all well aware that we cannot control the weather patterns in the sky, somehow the question of where our control lies gets a bit more tricky when it comes to the patterns of our emotional and spiritual life.

When our marriages are "stormy," when our mood is "dreary," when our spirits are "sunny," in my experience of people there is often a great desire to discover where the cause of this state of being lies and a belief that we might use this information to cause moods and experiences that we prefer. Is my spouse causing this "storm," how can I change them so it doesn't happen again? Am I feeling "dreary," because something is wrong with me, how can I fix it? Are my spirits "sunny," because of this new success, how can I hold onto this feeling?

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

12 Oxford Street • Fryeburg, ME 04037

Rev. Sage Currie, Pastor • Email: Pastor@FryeburgNewChurch.org

Office: (207) 935-3413, 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.

www.fryeburgnewchurch.org

It is very human to want to know why and to at times believe that with enough information about the cause of something we can then have more control over what occurs in our lives. But using weather as an example it is really not knowing what causes the weather that gives us any useful information. Knowing that the cold "weather" is caused by a cold front moving up the coast does not help us in any practical way. But knowing how to "weather" the cold, by dressing warmly, looking out for ice and keeping wood in the wood pile is very helpful information. We grow in wisdom, and our lives improve not by learning how to control what occurs in our lives, but learning how to respond to the events that do occur in ways that bring about the best outcome, for ourselves for others, and for God. We are a boat in the stream of the Lord's providence, working to keep our bow pointed downstream. We do not get to direct the stream.

The root causes of the weather, do not really help us "weather" what comes our way. We weather the storms, the heat waves, the cold fronts, and the rain, by looking out the window and making choices in the moment about what to do.

If we find ourselves in a stormy fight, pointing fingers to find out who is to blame will do very little to diffuse the tension. Instead we can choose in those moments, to take shelter by walking away, taking a quiet moment, or breathing deeply.

If we find ourselves in a dreary mood, we could sit and blame ourselves or our situation, furiously seek answers about how to avoid all dreariness in the future, or we could make a choice to do something that will cheer ourselves, whether it's a warm cup of tea or a movie.

And when those sunny days come, we can appreciate them for what they are in the moment, more sweetly because we know they do not last forever.

As spiritual teachers have taught for centuries the more we are present and accepting of the current weather conditions of our physical, emotional, and spiritual life, instead of dwelling

on what caused them, or worrying about how long they will last, the better able we'll be to respond in ways that help us to "weather" the situation we find ourselves in. We may even begin to realize that our ability to face each day with trust in the Lord, contentment, peace, and gratitude has nothing to do with the weather outside.

Many blessings,

Rev. Sage

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

Email: pastor@fryeburgnewchurch.org

Office phone: 935-3413

Cell phone: 256-7529

Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

April 1st, 2012 ~ Palm Sunday Worship,
Mark 11

April 8th, 2012 ~ 9am Easter Family Breakfast
Easter Sunday Worship, Mark 16

~ *Series on the Kings begins* ~

April 15th, 2012 ~ Birth of Samuel,
1 Samuel 1:1-20

April 22nd, 2012 ~ Choosing of Saul,
1 Samuel 10:17-24

April 29th, 2012 ~ Anointing of David,
1 Samuel 16:1-13

Special Family Service and Potluck Brunch!

Church Report

Introducing
www.newchurchnews.org

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 3, 2012 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

For many years our church has had a beautiful website www.fryeburgnewchurch.org that outlines our history, our current life and activities and our faith. It is a static website that people can reliably visit to find out our worship times, contact information and a little bit about who we are. And it has been successful at bringing in new members! We are now entering the next phase of our web presence as a church community with www.newchurchnews.org, a dynamic web-log that will be updated weekly with recordings of different portions of our Sunday services. We are in hopes that this will make the message of our Church more accessible to the larger community, both members and friends who are not able to attend, and anyone else seeking to hear the Good News of our New Church!

Some feedback the sight has received so far!

“Thank you, thank you, thank you. I have so been waiting for this. Your sermons come through loud and clear-its wonderful. So many times I've wished I could go back over your sermon, cause I missed a point. I'm so bummed if I'm working and can't get to church, now I don't have to miss anything. I just played your sermon while I did my chores it was great!” ~ Patty Childs Health

Please visit www.newchurchnews.org and listen in! Right now in addition to service recordings you will find a calendar of events and activities and links to our church newsletter. You also can leave a comment by simply offering your name and email address. There is a short approval process the first time you comment but once you are approved your posts will go up much more quickly. Check back often as more features will be added regularly. And forward the sight on to your friends!

Please join us on Monday, April 9th at 6:00 pm in the church library as Melissa Duffy of Anderson & Duffy will be here to discuss the church's investment stocks. All are welcome.

Women's Alliance

The next meeting of the Women's Alliance will be **Monday, April 16, 2012 at 12 noon**. Please bring a bag lunch. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to join us.

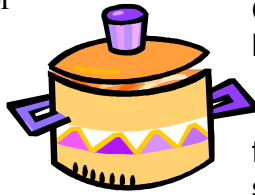
2012 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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

Benefit Supper for Billy Holt

Please join us for a Benefit Supper for Billy Holt and Family on Saturday, April 14th at 5:00pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.

Adults: \$8.00, Kids 5-12 \$4.00,
Kids 4 and under FREE



Fifth Sunday Family Service and Potluck Brunch

On April 29th, our worship service will be held in the fellowship hall! We will gather downstairs between 9:50-10:10 am to lay out our Potluck Brunch dishes and then from 10:10-10:30 participate together in a short worship service led by the Sunday School Children. Then we will eat! We will combine worship with fellowship around the table as we share in a Potluck Brunch together. Bring a friend!

Youth Group Update

Kurt Fekete and Lee Dyer continue to lead our lively youth group for all youth in the 6th grade up. We encourage you to join us. We meet once a month, usually on Sunday, from 4 pm - 7 pm at the Fryeburg New Church for dinner, games and engaging conversation. We have fun!

Our theme this year is Discovering the Beauty Within! We have been discussing what it means to be beautiful on the inside and how to find inner beauty. In the afterlife, our outward appearance becomes a direct reflection of our beauty within. The more beautiful our soul grows the more glorious we appear to others.

Our December Christmas sleepover was great. We gathered at the Fryeburg New Church to swap gifts, eat spaghetti, talk Swedenborg and play games. The midnight Mac and Cheese was delicious! Thank you Redwing for staying overnight and helping to lead this activity.

Our March gathering was so warm that we decided to spend a good part of our time outside. We took a walk around town and went over to the Parsonage to look at the tree fort platform. We hope to work on this tree fort over the coming months to turn it into a place that the youth can hang out in. Please let me know if you would like to donate supplies or help with this project.

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. Happy Easter!

Kurt

Fish and Game Supper

Apr 2nd, 2012  6:30 p.m.

Patty Swett, Chair





Welcomers for April

Apr 1 OPEN
 Apr 8 Debbie Dolley
 Apr 15 Martha Richardson
 Apr 22 OPEN
 Apr 29 Sally Harnden

Ushers for April

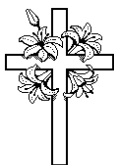
Apr 1
 Apr 8
 Apr 15
 Apr 22
 Apr 29 Sue Davidson & Jean Cressy

****PLEASE use the sign up sheets in the back of church to volunteer to serve as a Welcomer or Usher. Thank you****

Coffee Hour for April

Apr 1 Lee Dyer
 Apr 8 Easter Breakfast
 Apr 15 Susan Logan
 Apr 22 Dede Frost
 Apr 29 Potluck Brunch

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 25, 2012		
Date	Adults	Children
February 26	36	12
March 4	40	--
March 11	42	1
March 18	33	2
March 25	38	1



*April flowers
 courtesy of
 Edie Leach*

Calendar for April 2012 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
1	Sun	Palm Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
2	Mon	Fish & Game Supper	6:30 p.m.
3	Tue	Trustees Meeting	7:00 p.m.
5	Thu	Maundy Thursday service at Brownfield Church (soup and bread supper)	6:00 p.m.
6	Fri	Good Friday Ecumenical Service at FNC	4:00 p.m.
8	Sun	Easter Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Sunrise Service @ Fryeburg Harbor Church Easter Breakfast Family Worship	6:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
9	Mon	FNC Investments Meeting with Melissa Duffy	6:00 p.m.
11	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
12	Thu	Brown Bag Bible Study	12 noon
14	Sat	Billy Holt Benefit Supper @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
15	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
16	Mon	Women's Alliance mtg	12 noon
18	Wed	Rev. Sage @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
19	Thu	Brown Bag Bible Study	12 noon
20	Fri	Rev. Sage @ Maine Council	All day
22	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
25	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
26	Thu	Brown Bag Bible Study	12 noon
29	Sun	Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Potluck Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.