



December 2012

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

From the Minister

The word Advent means “to come” and the season of Advent for Christians is one of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In these four weeks that proceed Christmas the Church year begins. The church year begins not only preparing to remember the day of the first birth of Christ into the world but also preparing for the Lord’s Second Coming.

This is why this season has historically, and still today for many Christian churches, focused on waiting, and preparation, as so many are still waiting for the return of the Savior. For some Christians they wait for this return in a very physical way, living in anticipation for Christ’s physical return to earth, when the Last Judgment will take place, and the events foretold in the book of Revelation will unfold on the earth in a physical way. Other Christians wait for the Second Coming of the Lord in a less literal way, but still are waiting with the belief that this event is in the future, with the belief that they live between the times, waiting for a world to come.

But for us New Christians we are no longer waiting! For us the Second Coming is not an event in the future! For us we are not living between the times, in a liminal space that could be tipped over and turned inside out at any time! For us, we are living in the world that is right NOW being transformed! For us the Second Coming has and is occurring in the world this very moment. The world will not tip and turn anymore than it already is and has. It is tipping and turning and transforming in our midst, as the Lord is coming again, coming anew now, in the second coming in spirit that is at work at this very moment all over the earth, and in the deepest recesses of our hearts and minds.

This Second Coming is happening now in the birth of the value that we place on human freedom in the world today. The Second Coming is happening now in the unearthing of evils in the world as they rise to the surface to be made known and named and expunged from our human community. The Second Coming is happening now as information and knowledge is exploding at an uncontrollable rate. And the Second Coming is happening now in innumerable ways as the Lord welcomes each of us to approach him with the freedom of our own experience, understanding and will.

Since Emanuel Swedenborg first witnessed the Second Coming in the spiritual world in 1757 our world has been changing and transforming at an exponential rate. We are still today in the midst of that change, change that invites our participation. We are each today living in a new freedom that invites us to participate in the world’s transformation. We are a part of the Lord’s Second coming in so far as we each decide of our own free will to invite the Lord in.

So I invite you this Advent season, as a New Christian, to spend this season not waiting for the Lord, but waking up to the Lord! I invite you to wake up to the Lord’s coming around you, and to the ways and nudges that the Lord may be bringing to you to help you open more fully to him. I invite you to wake up to how you may be a part of the new earth that is being created. That you may wake up to how the events of your life contain the seed of your own transformation. That you may wake up to where the Lord is coming anew in your heart and in your mind and express that and share that with the world in your actions. That you may wake up to the Lord’s coming in your neighbor as

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

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Secretary ~ Wed. thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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well, and deepen your ability to love and accept and appreciate the other.

Swedenborg teaches that the past always contains the seeds of the future. In the beloved story of the Lord's first birth into the world we can see the seeds for how the Lord is birthing into the world today. Let us over these next four weeks, as we prepare for Christmas day, consider how this story is happening in a new and larger way, today, NOW, in our own experience, and in the world around us.

In all of the seemingly mundane events of our day the Lord is coming, and the Lord wants us to wake up to the joy and blessing that he has for us. In our morning coffee, in our drive to work, in the choices that are before us, and in all of the unforeseen events that meet us each day, in all of the stuff that fills our days, and nights. In all of it the Lord is coming. Let us during this season wake up from our sleep of selfishness, fear and mistrust. Let us stay awake that we may see the star that will guide us to where the Christ child is being born right now in a most unexpected place. There is no more waiting. Only awaking to what is ever before us.

Many Advent Blessings,
Rev. Sage

Rev. Sage Currie
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

December 2, 2012 ~ First Sunday of Advent "The message comes to the prophets,"
Isaiah 11:1-9, Jeremiah 23:3-6,
Micah 5:1-3

December 9, 2012 ~ Second Sunday of Advent "The message comes to Mary,"
Luke 1:26-55

December 16, 2012 ~ Third Sunday of Advent "The message comes to the shepherds,"
Luke 2:1-20

December 23, 2012 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent "The message comes to the World,"
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24, 2012 ~ *Christmas Eve Service* 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service at the First
Congregational Church at 655 Main Street in Fryeburg.

December 30, 2012 ~ Lay Led New Year's Theme
Worship organized by Sally Gibson

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 4, 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
Jon Crowe, <i>Vice Chair</i>	925-1302
Donnette Barnes, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-2130
Scott Ferguson, <i>Secretary</i>	925-3207
Jennifer Richardson	935-4509
Jean Cressy	935-7093
Judy Hatch	935-2223
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i> Patty Swett	603-939-2263

Women's Alliance

The next meeting of the Women's Alliance will be on **Monday, December 17, 2012 at 11:30am at Beef and Ski** each will pay for own lunch. Meeting and exchange of gifts to follow (not to exceed \$10:00) We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church. All ladies are welcome!!

2012 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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

Children's Time

Beginning December 2nd we will be asking Sunday School Children parents to be present in the sanctuary with their child after Sunday School has ended through the Children's Time. It has become a bit too much for the Sunday School Teachers to continue to supervise the children while they are in the sanctuary. If parents or guardians are unable to join their children for this time, they are welcome to pick them up at 9:55 am in their child's Sunday School classroom. Thanks so much! We love having the children as a part of worship, and appreciate your help!!!!

Moving!

As of December 1st Debbie and Stanley Dolly will have a new address: 306 Vagabond St. Scarborough, ME 04074
Telephone: 207-510-1900 Good luck both of you!



Poinsettias

Orders for red poinsettias need to be called in or sent to the office by **Thursday Dec.13th**. 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 23th** during Worship Service. It is sure to be a wonderful presentation!! Christmas Party to follow.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service

Please join us on Monday, December 24th 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.

And the Winners are:

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

- 1st prize:** Pocketbook made by Debbie Urgese won by Betty Baker
- 2nd prize:** Afghan won by Hopsing
- 3rd prize:** Decorated Wreath won by Ralph Guptil

Congratulations to our lucky winners and thank you also to everyone who donated items, helped set up and worked at the Christmas Cupboard sale! And thank you to the Dutton Family for the donation of the artificial Christmas tree in the dining room.

Advent Dream Group Begins

There will be a three week Dream Work Group meeting on the first three Mondays in December (the 3rd, 10th, and 17th) at the church from 8:30-10:00 am. Led by Rev. Sage this three week series will offer some instruction on working dreams in a group setting and on your own, ways of understanding dreams, and the potential they hold for our spiritual growth. The size of the group is limited, but there is still room for those who are interested and have not yet spoken to Rev. Sage. It is requested that you commit to attending all three weeks of the series. It's going to be fun, and Advent is a great time to be listening to our dreams as we consider the ways that the Lord spoke to Mary and Joseph, to prepare them for their part in welcoming the Christ child!

Youth Group

Youth Group is alive and active in the church! Youth Group is for all youth in grades 6 and up. We meet at the church once a month on select Sundays from 4 pm - 7 pm for dinner, discussion, fun and games. Leone Dyer and Kurt Fekete lead the group. Our theme this year is "Finding God in Popular Culture". We are talking about what popular culture is, why it is important, and how to find and learn from images of Jesus and God that are often hidden in popular movies, books, artwork and television. On November 11 the youth group traveled to Flatbread Pizza in Portland to gather with our Portland friends and enjoyed great conversation and a great meal. We were happy to be joined by Chris Woofenden from Massachusetts who was up for the weekend visiting Celie Bauer.

chees-y [chee-zee] adjective, chees-i-er, chees-i-est.

1. of or like cheese

2. Slang. inferior or cheap; chintzy

As a tribute to our pop culture theme and in honor of Leone's lavishly cheesy mac and cheese, we are celebrating our first annual very cheesy Christmas! **Dec 23, 4 - 7 pm** at the Fryeburg New Church. Please bring a cheesy dish to pass and a cheesy wrapped gift to swap (valued at less than \$10). Fun, games, discussions and cheese ball shenanigans are promised. Don't you dare miss it!

We are also planning a January Karaoke sleepover party. More information on that coming soon. If you want to receive information about youth group happenings you can search for and request to join our Facebook group (Fryeburg New Church Youth Group) and/or send an email to Kurt at kfekete@hotmail.com. We hope see you at one of our gatherings soon!

Kurt



Welcomers for December

Dec 2 Cindy Priest
 Dec 9 Debbie Urgese
 Dec 16 *open*
 Dec 23 *open*
 Dec 30 *open*

Ushers for December

Dec 2 Tom Barrett & Donnette Barnes
 Dec 9 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Dec 16 Jen & David Richardson
 Dec 23 *open*
 Dec 30 Dean Harnden & Jean Cressey
(We are in need of an ushering chair person. Please talk to Cindy Priest)

Coffee Hour for December

Dec 2 Jane Fullerton
 Dec 9 Jane Williams
 Dec 16 Donette Barnes
 Dec 23 Jenny Huang-Dale
 Dec 30 Jean Cressey



December flowers
 courtesy of
Jean Cressy

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER 4-25, 2012		
Date	Adults	Children
Nov 4	35	14
Nov 11	36	4
Nov 18	37	5
Nov 25	38	2

Calendar for December 2012 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
2	Sun	First Sunday of Advent Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
3	Mon	Advent Dream Group	8:30 am
4	Tue	Trustees' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
5	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Ecumenical Choir	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
7	Fri	Rev. Sage @ MCC Christmas Caroling and Potluck Party with Rev. Sage at the parsonage	All day
9	Sun	Second Sunday of Advent Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Congregational Care Team mtg.	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Aft. worship
10	Mon	Advent Dream Group	8:30 am
12	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Ecumenical Choir	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
13	Thur	Poinsettia orders due	9:00 a.m.
16	Sun	Third Sunday of Advent Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Sunday School Teachers meeting	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 am after worship
17	Mon	Advent Dream Group Women's Alliance @ Beef and Ski	8:30 am 11:30 am
19	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Ecumenical Choir	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
23	Sun	Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant and Party Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Christmas Party Youth Group- <i>Cheesy Christmas</i>	8:30 a.m. 9:00 am 10:00 am after worship 4:00-7:00pm
24	Mon	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ First Congregational Church	7:00 pm
25	Tue	Christmas Day	
30	Sun	Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 am 10:00 a.m.

