



February 2012

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Dear Friends,

We are preparing as a church to delve deeply into the story of the Israelites Exodus from Egypt, their Journey to Spiritual Freedom as well as our own. Are you ready?

The topic of freedom is a favorite of mine. As Americans freedom is a strong cultural value and one that is instilled in us to protect and often demand for ourselves and for others. We all wish to be free to speak, to travel, to worship as we would have, without a dictatorial authority telling us to do otherwise. Our nation's Declaration of Independence names as unalienable rights: Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. We are each endowed with these rights as Americans. Are we not already free?

If you delve at all deeply into the nature of freedom, you will quickly see that it is not as simple as doing what you want when you want to. In a social sense in order to protect our rights to Life and Happiness our Liberty must be limited to a certain extent, and is with the many laws that exist in our country. We have freedom to live within the constraints of our societies laws. And I doubt any of us would say that we would be more free if all of these laws were lifted.

In a spiritual sense, what true freedom is becomes an even more interesting and sometimes complex subject because true

spiritual freedom is actually a relinquishing of power and control into the hands of God. To be truly spiritually free is to let God rule our lives. Seems almost the opposite of how we understand societal freedom. Societal freedom is the freedom to rule our own lives! But as we travel the spiritual path what we come to see is that the true dictatorial authorities that we wish to be free of, are not outside of us, but are the hellish task masters that reside in our own thoughts, feelings and impulses. While it may seem that we are in freedom when we are doing exactly what we want when we want to, what we realize as we grow spiritually is that what "we want," is often exactly the thing that is keeping us enslaved.

I will never be free as long as my life is dictated completely by my "wants." If that were still the case entirely (and of course it is still partially the case as I am not in heaven yet) I would go to work in my pajamas and eat ice cream after every meal.

But don't think that it is as simple as giving up doing what we want entirely, because not all of our wants are bad. I also want to be healthy, I want to be an effective minister, I want to help people, I want to take care of myself. To follow the Lord is not generally a simple task.

I'm sure many of you can see how your spiritual freedom has increased throughout your life. Perhaps you can think of "wants" that used to

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.

rule you, that no longer have the same control they once did. Hopefully many of you can see where you have let go of the adolescent need to be “cool,” that drives so many youth to tease others and obsess over their own image. But while you are no longer 14 (thankfully) it's likely that you can still identify certain “wants” that continue to have sway in your life in a way that you know is not serving you, your neighbor or the Lord.

I look forward to these winter months of intentionally working to bring more spiritual freedom into our lives. As February 12th approaches, and the kick off of this series, consider in what areas of your life you may be feeling “enslaved” by certain “wants” to the extent that they are getting in the way of a larger purpose that the Lord may be calling you to. Consider making this journey with others in the community by joining in one of the small groups that will meet throughout the series.

To being free!

Rev. Sage

Office Hours: Wednesday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm,
Saturday by appointment
Email: pastor@fryeburgnewchurch.org
Office phone: 935-3413
Parsonage phone: 935-4500
Cell phone: 256-7529



Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

February 5, 2012 ~ Communion Sunday

The Fishes and the Loaves

Mark 6:30-44

February 12, 2012 ~ The Journey to Spiritual Freedom: Slavery in Egypt

Exodus 1:1-14

February 19, 2012 ~ The Journey to Spiritual Freedom: At the Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-12

February 26, 2012 ~ The Journey to Spiritual Freedom: Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 12:14 and 17, 13:21, 14:5-16

Journey to Spiritual Freedom ~ Small Groups

There will be two small groups meeting throughout the eight week Journey series. (Seven weeks of lessons and one wrap-up meeting.) Consider joining one of these groups to help expand your experience of this Exodus exploration.

**Monday Nights at 6:30 pm
(Starting February 13th)**

Sue Davidson and Tom Barrett will host a group at their home, 39 Battleground Rd.

Thursday Noontime (Starting February 16th)

The Brown Bag Bible Study Group will begin the Journey Series at the Church.

If you are interested in one of these groups please let Rev. Sage know and/or sign up on the sign up sheet at the back of the church.

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 7, 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

Women's Alliance

The next Women's Alliance meeting will be on **Monday, February 20, 2012** at NOON. Bring a bag lunch. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church. All ladies are welcome!!

2012 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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

In The Hospital

Billy Holt was recently in the hospital. Please keep him in your prayers for a quick recovery and return to good health.

Movie Night

When: Friday, February 10th 2012 6:00 pm

Where: The parsonage, 22 Elm St.

The tag line for the film ***What Dreams May Come***, released in 1998, was "After life there is more. The end is just the beginning."



This feature film, starring Robin Williams and Cuba Gooding Jr. explores this *beginning* taking the audience on a colorful journey through heaven and hell. The creators of this film consulted Swedenborg's works extensively in developing their depictions of heaven and hell and this film will surely give us lots to talk about!

The film is rated PG-13, explores grief and loss and depicts hell quite graphically so parents please do not bring young children but older youth are welcome with parents ready to discuss these more difficult issues.

Feel free to bring popcorn or your dinner if you didn't get a chance to eat yet! R.S.V.P. to Rev. Sage either in person or at 256-7529 so that she can make sure there are seats for everyone. See you then!

The Fryeburg New Church Photo Directory

For over a year now members and friends of the church have been asking for a church directory to stay better connected to each other in between Sundays. Prodded on through efforts by the Worship Committee a Photo Directory is in the works! A DRAFT of this directory is in the church narthex and we are asking everyone to check and add to their information so that they are listed correctly. That and we are asking you to get your and your family's picture taken to be included as well. Volunteers will be taking pictures after worship. You are also welcome to email a picture directly to Rev. Sage at sageserene@gmail.com. If you are not interested in being listed in the directory you can cross your name off the DRAFT or let Rev. Sage know directly. If you are a member of the church who is no longer able to come to worship but interested in being included in the directory please email Rev. Sage a picture along with Name, Phone, Address, Email, Birthday (year is optional), Special Anniversary, and any special roles you may have played in church life that you'd like listed. We hope to have this directory completed and ready to publish and distribute in the Spring 2012.



Welcomers for February

Feb 5 Cindy Priest
 Feb 12 Debbie Urgese
 Feb 19 Martha Richardson
 Feb 26 OPEN

Ushers for February

Feb 5
 Feb 12
 Feb 19
 Feb 26

There are NO dates indicated on the Usher sign up sheet making it very difficult for me to figure out who I should put in on what date

Coffee Hour for February

Feb 5 Claire Kiesman
 Feb 12 Donnette Barnes
 Feb 19 Mary Dysinger
 Feb 26 Sally Gibson

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE JANUARY 1-29, 2012		
Date	Adults	Children
January 1	37	7
January 8	43	4
January 15	36	12
January 22	40	3
January 29	44	1



February flowers
Sally Harnden

Calendar for February 2012 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
5	Sun	Communion Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
7	Tue	Trustees' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
10	Fri	Movie Night (@ the parsonage)	6:00 p.m.
12	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
13	Mon	Journey to Spiritual Freedom (with Tom Barrett and Sue Davidson, 39 Battleground Road)	6:30 p.m.
14	Tue	Valentine's Day	♥♥♥
15	Wed	Rev. Sage @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
16	Thu	Brown Bag Bible Study – Journey to Spiritual Freedom (at the church)	12 noon
17	Fri	Rev. Sage @ Maine Council	All day
19	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
20	Mon	Women's Alliance mtg Journey to Spiritual Freedom (with Tom and Sue, 39 Battleground Road)	12 noon 6:30 p.m.
22	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
23	Thu	Brown Bag Bible Study – Journey to Spiritual Freedom (at the church)	12 noon
26	Sun	Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
27	Mon	Journey to Spiritual Freedom (with Tom and Sue, 39 Battleground Road)	6:30 p.m.