



July/August 2012

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Dear Friends,

A lot of my sermons, as we've moved from Spring into Summer this year at FNC, have been on the topic of the Kingdom of God, how it's growing in us, around us, etc. The image that has stayed most prominently with me, perhaps due to the extra attention I am paying to growing things in my garden, is the parable of the kingdom of God being like the mustard seed.

"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

Mark 4:30-32

Of the many implications of this parable, my favorite this year is the idea that as this mustard seed grows into a large garden plant it provides branches upon which the birds of the air can perch in its shade.

Emanuel Swedenborg teaches us this about the correspondences of birds:

"'Birds' in general signify man's thoughts, in both senses good and bad."

Heavenly Secrets n. 3901.

When I consider a tree with many branches providing rest and shade for the birds of the air, i.e. my thoughts, there is an incredible sense of calm and promise that comes along with this understanding.

I know I am not the only person in the world that struggles with an over active mind. This has been long spoken of in many spiritual traditions as one of the greatest challenges of the human condition. In Buddhism, this condition of having a mind that cannot rest, is referred to as "Monkey Mind." A title I find quite fitting. When my mind is especially restless I often think of the children's song:

*"10 little monkeys jumping on the bed,
one fell off and the other one said,
9 more monkeys jumping on the bed,"*

Often our mind is about as useful to us as monkeys jumping on a bed.

Our thoughts can become so jumbled, and almost always the reason that they get out of control, more chaotic than useful, is that somehow we are being motivated by fear. While fear at its source is a useful emotion to encourage us to move quickly out of danger, it is only useful to motivate short, quick movement, it is not at all useful when attempting long range planning or decision making. When fear lingers and pushes us to attempt to solve the problems of tomorrow, or even the problems of an hour from now, it leaves us spinning our wheels seeking "the perfect solution," our minds overflowing with every eventuality, it leaves us with millions of monkeys jumping on a bed, the only eventuality being that they will certainly all fall off.

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 ~ Tuesday & Friday 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., Wed. & Thurs. 1:30-4:00 p.m.

www.fryeburgnewchurch.org

Our minds and the thoughts they entertain can only be useful to us, when held in the correct perspective, when able to rest on the branches of that great mustard tree, held securely within the kingdom of God.

Jesus assures us over, and over, and over, and over again that we are not to live in fear.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Matthew 10: 29

"My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more."

Luke 12:4

"Then Jesus said to his disciples: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.'"

Luke 12:22-23

"Do not be afraid little flock for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

Luke 12:32

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

Fear is a natural human instinct that saves us from dangerous situations. If we do not nurture the kingdom of God within and deepen our trust in the Lord all of life can start to feel like a dangerous situation. Our thoughts will be left with no place to rest. Let us all together this summer nurture this growing mustard tree within and make sure there is sufficient space for our thoughts to rest within its branches. If life starts to feel more and more dangerous and out of control, perhaps we need to have a faith refresher, get back to the basics, and remember that God is the gardener and there is nothing to fear.

In love to the Lord,

Rev. Sage

Rev. Sage Currie
Office Hours: Wednesday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm,
Saturday by appointment

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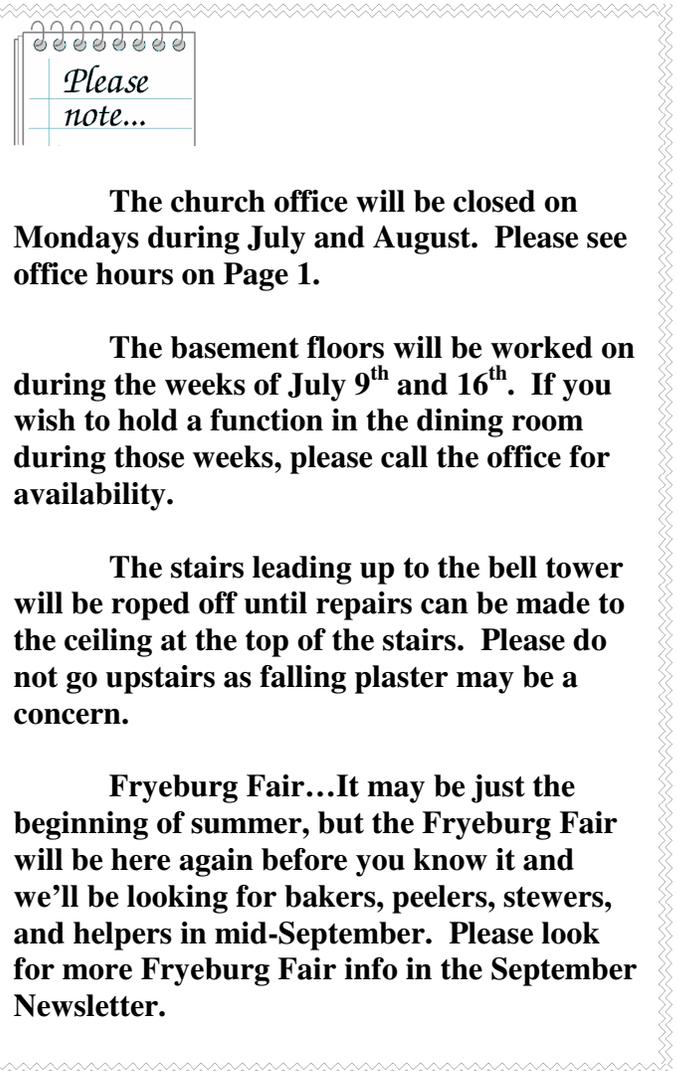
ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR

SUMMER WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JULY 29th &

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26th at 9:30 AM.

This summer we will be participating in two Ecumenical Outdoor Worship services in lieu of our regular FNC service. These services will be held on July 29th and August 26th in Bradley Park at 9:30 am. We hope you will join us and bring a friend! For more info refer to the Worship Calendar on the following page.



Please note...

The church office will be closed on Mondays during July and August. Please see office hours on Page 1.

The basement floors will be worked on during the weeks of July 9th and 16th. If you wish to hold a function in the dining room during those weeks, please call the office for availability.

The stairs leading up to the bell tower will be roped off until repairs can be made to the ceiling at the top of the stairs. Please do not go upstairs as falling plaster may be a concern.

Fryeburg Fair...It may be just the beginning of summer, but the Fryeburg Fair will be here again before you know it and we'll be looking for bakers, peelers, stewers, and helpers in mid-September. Please look for more Fryeburg Fair info in the September Newsletter.

Summer Worship Schedule

Family Worship 9:00 AM

Church Report

SUMMER WORSHIP CALENDAR

While we are on our summer schedule worship themes and scripture will not be announced ahead of time to allow Rev. Sage and our guest ministers some freedom to preach on what the spirit moves them to share.

July 1, 2012 ~ Rev. Rueben Bell presides while Rev. Sage takes a short vacation before attending Convention in East Bridgewater, MA

July 8, 2012 ~ Rev. Sage returns from Convention

July 15, 2012 ~ Rev. Sage will lead worship with special guest Rev. Rachel Rivers

July 22, 2012 ~ Rev. Andrew Stinson presides while Rev. Sage preaches and lectures at the Almont New Church Assembly in Almont, MI.

July 29, 2012 ~ FIRST SUMMER ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP HELD IN BRADLEY PARK AT 9:30 AM.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and prepare to worship the Lord with gladness with our brothers and sisters from the First Congregational Church of Fryeburg and the Brownfield Community Church. Rev. Tim LeConey will be preaching. If you'd like to sing in an Ecumenical Choir that morning arrive at 8:30 am to rehearse. If the weather is bad we will be gathering at the First Congregational Church of Fryeburg on Main St. And bring a friend!

August 5, 2012 ~ Fryeburg New Church Assembly Begins

August 12, 2012 ~ Rev. George Dole preaching COMMUNION SUNDAY

Middle weekend of Fryeburg New Church Assembly

August 19, 2012 ~ Last weekend of FNC Assembly

August 26, 2012 ~ SECOND SUMMER ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP HELD IN BRADLEY PARK AT 9:30 AM.

Again bring a blanket or lawn chair and prepare to worship the Lord with gladness with our brothers and sisters from the First Congregational Church of Fryeburg and the Brownfield Community Church. Rev. Sage Currie will be preaching. If you'd like to sing in an Ecumenical Choir that morning arrive at 8:30 am to rehearse. If the weather is bad we will be gathering at the New Church. And bring a friend!

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 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
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

There will be no meeting of the *Women's Alliance* during the *summer*. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 19, 2012 at NOON. All ladies are welcome!!

2012 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

Sally Harnden, Renie Chaplin, Vicki Emery and *Jeff Walker* were all recently in the hospital. Please keep them in your prayers for a quick recovery and return to good health.

Summer Bible Study

Due to summer travel and Rev. Sage's schedule we will be taking a break from our regular Thursday Bible Study this Summer. Rev. Sage may decide to hold Bible Study when possible and will announce that it will be held the Sunday before.

www.NewChurchNews.org

If you've been checking our new website recently you may have noticed that it has not been updated for a while. Sadly Rev. Sage has been having difficulty with her computer's editing software. If there is someone with a little extra time, and experience editing sound files and using Wordpress, this would be an excellent volunteer opportunity! Otherwise, be patient, and keep checking back ☺

Fryeburg New Church Rainy Day Change Fundraiser

Due to increasing expenses and those rainy days at the Fryeburg Fair the past couple of year, we are looking for new ways to meet our expenses. Currently, the Fund Raising Committee is looking for all of your loose change that might be around your home, in your purse, pocket, or car! Please show your support by bringing to church any spare change you have to add to our Rainy Day Change Fundraiser bottle. We will tally each month and have a grand total at the end of September. Let's use this to make the change!

Fryeburg New Church Assembly

August 4~19th, 2012



Summer is here and FNC Assembly begins on Saturday, August 4th!

If you haven't registered yet, please visit the Assembly website at www.fryeburg.org. You may also contact Nancy Little at registrar@fryeburg.org or (413) 247-0046 with questions about registration or housing.

Summer Concert Supper

This year's summer concert supper held at the Fryeburg New Church will be on *Tuesday, July 24th* at 5:00 p.m. with *Jon Sarty* performing at Bradley Park at 7:00 p.m.

Maine Street Festival Arts & Crafts Fair

Please join us on *Saturday, August 25th* from 9:00 am till 2:00 pm in Bradley Park for the annual *Maine Street Festival Arts & Crafts Fair*. There will be wonderful homemade crafts and baked goods for sale, plus music, hot dogs, popcorn, and lemonade to enjoy.

Want to participate as a vendor?? Please contact Jen Richardson, Craft Fair Chair, at 935-4509 for vendor application, guidelines, and registration form. Early Bird Registration (prior to August 3) is \$45/space, Late Registration (after August 3) is \$55/space. Application will be accepted until spaces are full, however spaces are limited so don't delay.

There will be no Dinner Bell North during the months of July and August.

Welcomers for July

July 1 Debbie Dolley
 July 8 OPEN
 July 15 Martha Richardson
 July 22 OPEN
 July 29 OPEN

Ushers for July

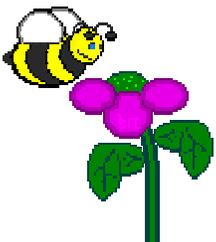
July 1 Tom Barrett & Donnette Barnes
 July 8 Chuck Priest & Stanley Dolley
 July 15 Jen & David Richardson
 July 22 Jean Cressy & Sue Davidson
 July 29 Mary Dysinger & Lawrence Perry

Coffee Hour for July

July 1 Mary Dysinger
 July 8 Jen Richardson
 July 15 Martha Richardson
 July 22 Jean Cressy
 July 29 OPEN

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
MAY 27 – JUNE 24, 2012		
Date	Adults	Children
May 27	50	1
June 3	52	3
June 10	43	12
June 17	--	--
June 24	24	--

*July flowers
 courtesy of
 Edie Leach*



*August flowers
 courtesy of
 Jane Williams*

Calendar for Summer 2012 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
July			
1	Sun	Guest Minister, Rev. Rueben Bell Adult Choir Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
4	Wed	Independence Day	
8	Sun	Adult Choir Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
15	Sun	Rev. Sage and Rev. Rachel Rivers leading worship Adult Choir Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
18	Wed	Rev. Sage @ FHCC	10:30 a.m.
22	Sun	Guest Minister, Rev. Andy Stinson Adult Choir Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
23	Mon	Rev. Sage at Almont New Church in Michigan	7/22-7/28
24	Tue	Concert Supper @FNC Concert at Bradley Park following supper: Jon Sarty	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
29	Sun	Outdoor Ecumenical Worship at Bradley Park	9:30 a.m.
Aug			
4	Sat	FNC Assembly Begins 8/4-8/19	
5	Sun	Adult Choir Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
12	Sun	Guest Minister, Rev. George Dole Adult Choir Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
19	Sun	Last Sunday of Assembly Adult Choir Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
25	Sat	Maine Street Festival Arts & Crafts Fair at Bradley Park	9 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.
26	Sun	Outdoor Ecumenical Worship at Bradley Park	9:30 a.m.