



December 2013

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Newsletter

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

---

## *From the Minister*

Dear readers, Advent is almost upon us! The decorating has started at the parsonage; a beautiful wreath is already hanging outside (thank you Women's Alliance!). Now if only I could get rid of those pumpkins....

While I can't wait to add the tree and lights, one of my very favorite decorations is the Nativity. Each year, my husband's parents give us a new piece for our nativity set, and fortunately, our set is a rather sturdy one so we can keep it in reach of the children. We thought it would be a good way for them to begin to learn what Christmas is about. Since the figures are within reach of their hands *and* imagination, we often notice them on the move once they come out of the box. They've been on parade and they've been scattered. And then we'll find ourselves surprised to see that they have all made their way back to that most precious moment and place, huddling close together, each wanting to adore Baby Jesus.

Thinking on this moment, and this scene to come - with the figures of the wise men and the shepherds standing shoulder to shoulder - I'm struck once more by the vastly different routes they took in real life to arrive at this sacred destination. Scripture tells us that while both felt the call to find the newborn Savior, the

shepherds had a significantly easier route - they were in the fields nearby when the angel appeared with the news. How they must have felt when "a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God..." (Luke 2:13). Do you think they ever looked up at the night sky again, without remembering such a vision or the voices that shared a message that must have made their hearts stand still? They hurry off to find this newborn Savior, and they are changed forever.

The wise men, on the other hand, have quite a different journey in front of them. They see the star in the east and begin to follow it, but get lost along the way. They have to search out the wisdom of the past to find their way in the present; and how odd that they turn to the one who wanted to harm Jesus, to help them find their way. But their persistence is richly rewarded, and eventually, perhaps many months after Jesus is born, they do arrive to worship the Child, and to offer their gifts.

We too, find ourselves on this great and wonderful journey to know God as best we can, and to develop this relationship. We want the love and wisdom of the Lord to be born in our hearts and minds in newer and deeper ways. We use the Lord's teachings like the guiding star, to bring us to this destination, and to

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

12 Oxford Street • Fryeburg, ME 04037

Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen, Pastor • Email: [revlaneolsen@yahoo.com](mailto:revlaneolsen@yahoo.com)

Office: (207) 935-3413, Cell phone (620) 960-6748

*Office Hours: Pastor ~ Tues. thru Thurs. 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Fridays by appointment*

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

[www.fryeburgnewchurch.org](http://www.fryeburgnewchurch.org)

change our very selves. But we know this spiritual journey isn't exactly easy. Sometimes the road feels very long; Jesus' words haven't yet become like second nature...and yet, we travel on, sometimes having to stop and ask for directions. At other moments, perhaps we find ourselves more like the shepherds. A flash of brilliant light appears while we are simply doing the best we can...perhaps it is the experience of a compassionate moment that speeds us along. We feel God's love and are able to share it with those around us. At these moments, the Christ Child is very close...the way feels easy for a time.

I'm in no doubt that there must be countless paths to the Divine...and no matter the route, I love that both the shepherds and the Magi were able to make it to Jesus' side because that was their heart's desire. If it is our desire too, I hope that this Christmas season, we find ourselves having moved a little closer to the Divine.

~*Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen*

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

Email: [revlaneolsen@yahoo.com](mailto:revlaneolsen@yahoo.com)

Office phone: 935-3413

Cell phone: 620-960-6748

## *Worship Schedule*

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

**Dec. 1: *Hanging of the Greens Service to mark the beginning of Advent!***

On Dec. 1, we will have our first "Hanging of the Greens" Service. It will be a time when we ready ourselves and our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. As we decorate the church during the service, it will be a time to learn about the history of the symbols and to rededicate the symbols and ourselves to the service of God. I hope you will join us!

**Dec. 8: Speaking - *Fish swim and birds fly***

**Dec. 15: Loving - *Humans are created in the image of God***

**Dec. 22: Children's Pageant!**

**Dec 29: Guest Worship leader**

# *Church Report*

## *The Trustees*

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 3, 2013 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**

Jon Crowe, <i>Chair</i>	925-1302
Dede Frost, <i>Vice Chair</i>	935-3344
Cindy Priest, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-3360
Jennifer Richardson, <i>Secretary</i>	935-4509
Jane Fullerton	890-9454
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 16, 2013 at 12 noon at FNC** for a potluck luncheon. 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*

## *Milk and Bookies*

Please join The Fryeburg New Church on Sunday, December 1st for a Milk + Bookies Event from 4 pm to 6pm. Your child can bring or purchase, inscribe, and donate a book for kids ages 0 to 5.

The Book Warehouse from Conway will be available to help with purchases. All the books collected will be going to the Fryeburg Head Start Program. We will be enjoying cookie decorating and a special Christmas story from Mrs. Clause. After the event we will be walking to the Christmas Tree Ceremony at Bradley Park which begins at 6pm. Please come join us!

Please contact the Church at 207/935-4509 if you have questions.



### *Poinsettias*

*Orders for red poinsettias need to be called in or sent to the office by Thursday Dec. 19th. The cost for each poinsettia is \$5.00 each and you will find an order slip and envelope enclosed. Office phone: 935-3413*

### *Passages*

Our beloved friend *Dorothy "Dottie" Webster* passed away on Wednesday November, 20, 2013. A service for her will be held in the summer of 2014 in the Fryeburg area. Our prayers are with her family and friends.

### *Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service*

Please join us on Tuesday, 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.

### *And the Winners are:*

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize:** Afghan won by Ella Cressy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize:** Pocketbook made by Debbie Urgese won by Sue Davidson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize:** Decorated Wreath won by Hopsing

Congratulations to our lucky winners and thank you also to everyone who donated items, helped set up and worked at the Christmas Cupboard sale!

### **The Fryeburg New Church is partnering with Equal Exchange!!**

We are selling coffee, tea, chocolate, gifts and more at church or you can find us online at:

<http://fundraiser.equalexchange.coop/?fundraiser=FRYE006W>

## *Youth Group*

Youth Group has been going great this year. 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. Bethany Baylies and Kurt Fekete lead the group. While we miss Leone as one of our leaders, it is wonderful to have Bethany with us. She has such a positive, "can do", energizing spirit. Her laughter and excitement is contagious! It has also been nice to have Rev. Alison join us. She has come over to the church for our discussion and second half of youth group each time that we have a meeting.

Our theme this year is "Weird and Wacky Stories from the Bible". Our first bizarre Bible story was Balaam's Donkey (Numbers 22:1-35) It doesn't get much weirder than mixing a wizard, a king and a talking donkey! We look forward to hearing more wacky Bible stories that you don't hear very often on Sunday morning in our future youth groups.

Our next youth group is December 1 where we will join others at the church participating in the Milk and Bookies program. Milk and Bookies is a non-profit organization that exposes young children to how great it feels to give back while celebrating the love of a good book. Feel free to bring a book to contribute to the cause!

Youth group will be hosting our Second Annual Very Cheesy Christmas! Dec 22, 4 - 7 pm at the Fryeburg New Church. You are welcome to come for the Christmas pageant at 10 am, the party following, and then stay at the church until youth group meets.

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 talking about planning a January Church Carnival. 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](mailto:kfekete@hotmail.com). We hope see you at one of our gatherings soon!

**Kurt**

## Welcomers for December

Dec 1 Cindy Priest  
 Dec 8 Debbie Dolley  
 Dec 15 Martha Richardson  
 Dec 22 *open*  
 Dec 29 *open*

## Ushers for December

Dec 1 Tom Barrett & Donnette Barnes  
 Dec 8 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest  
 Dec 15 Jen & David Richardson  
 Dec 22 *open*  
 Dec 29 Dean Harnden & Jean Cressy

## Coffee Hour for December

Dec 1 Leone Dyer  
 Dec 8 Jane Fullerton  
 Dec 15 Dede Frost  
 Dec 22 Jodie Hesslein  
 Dec 29 Jean Cressy

## 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 22nd** during Worship Service. It is sure to be a wonderful presentation!! Christmas Party to follow.

### WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE OCTOBER 27- NOVEMBER 24, 2013

Date	Adults	Children
Oct 27	46	9
Nov 3	42	12
Nov 10	37	3
Nov 17	38	12
Nov 24	38	7

## Calendar for December 2013

(held at our Church unless indicated)



1	Sun	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <i>"Hanging of the Greens"</i> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Milk and Bookies</b> <b>Youth Group</b>	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4 – 6 p.m. 4 – 7 p.m.
3	Tue	<b>Trustees' Meeting</b>	7:00 p.m.
4	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m. .
5	Thu	Bible Study ~ "7 Practices of Peace"	10:00 am 7:00 p.m..
6	Fri	<b>Christmas Caroling and Potluck Party with Rev. Alison at the parsonage</b>	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
8	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.
11	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
12	Thur	Poinsettia orders due Bible Study ~ "7 Practices of Peace"	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m..
15	Sun	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Sunday School Teachers meeting</b> <b>Ecumenical Choir @ Cong. Church</b>	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 am after worship 11:30 a.m.
17	Mon	<b>Women's Alliance</b>	12 noon
18	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
19	Thu	Bible Study ~ "7 Practices of Peace"	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
22	Sun	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Christmas Pageant and Party</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Christmas Party</b> <b>Ecumenical Choir @ Cong. Church</b> Youth Group- <i>Cheesy Christmas</i>	8:30 a.m. 9:00 am 10:00 am after worship 11:30 a.m. 4:00-7:00pm
24	Tue	<b>Ecumenical Choir @ Cong. Church</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Candlelight Service @ First Congregational Church</b>	6:00 p.m. 7:00 pm
25	Wed	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
29	Sun	<b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 am 10:00 a.m.