



January 2014

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

From the Minister

I was sorry to see the snow keep so many away from church (on Dec. 15th), but what a beautiful snow it was! All of a sudden, winter had arrived, and with it – snow forts, snow angels, sledding and skiing. So many things to do, so much snow to play with! The snow in the backyard at the parsonage hadn't even been touched until yesterday afternoon when I put on my boots and shuffled around the yard, creating a M-O-N-R-O-E in the snow, so that when my son Monroe would look out from his bedroom window at night (onto the backyard), he might find a surprise in the snow.

I've always so enjoyed hearing my grandpa, Rev. Eric Zacharias, tell stories about the snow and the winters in Saskatchewan when he was growing up. There were wide open spaces in Saskatchewan, and after a heavy snowfall, he loved to be the first one to walk onto a field after a new-fallen snow. Seeing an unmarred, just-fallen blanket of white, my grandpa would step onto that untrodden snow. Trampling a circle here, shuffling a straight line leading over there...all according to whatever his mind and heart desired.

We are now entering 2014, and like that blanket of peaceful, gleaming, unmarred white, so too for us, the New Year lies in front of us...untrampled and waiting for our footsteps. Footsteps we will all be walking according to

the desires of our hearts and minds. In thinking about these choices of ours, I can't help but think of the words of Emanuel Swedenborg, what said that the consequences of all of our actions are felt unto eternity. This year, we will be continuing to make choices that will determine our very character, and map out the designs of our lives across the span of time.

In this year ahead of us, we do not know what joys we will encounter; we do not know what sorrows might befall us. The nature of these events and our future chosen responses are concealed in the mystery of the future. Many of these future events will be out of our control, but it is comforting to me to know that we all have the freedom to choose how to *respond*, and that our responses are not without influence. With this thought in mind, I can't help but think of Helen Keller. Instead of despairing for the rest of her life because she faced both blindness and deafness, she learned to transcend her disabilities and became educated with the help of her teacher, Annie Sullivan. In 1904, she became the first deaf-blind woman to graduate from college. She went on to write several books, helped others who found themselves in her situation, and even performed on stage to help pay for living expenses; she influenced numerous lives with her angelic presence. Her belief in God and her spiritual life was everything to her, and provided her with joy and the impetus to be of great use in the world.

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

12 Oxford St. • Fryeburg, ME 04037 • Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen, Pastor

Office: (207) 935-3413 • Email: revlaneolsen@yahoo.com cell phone (620) 960-6748

Office Hours: Pastor ~ Tuesday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Fridays by appointment

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

We all have our own path to walk in this life. And I can only believe that if we can hold Helen Keller's same goals of growing spiritually (despite our circumstances), and trying to be of use in the world, we will help make the world a more peaceful and kinder place. Keller, in wondering about her own path, commented on destiny. She said, "There are two ways to look at destiny, one from below and the other from above. In one view, we are being pushed by irresistible forces, obsessed by the fear that war, ignorance, and poverty will never be abolished. But looking up at the clock of Truth, I see that man has been civilized only a few minutes, and I rest in the assurance that, out of the problems that disturb thinking minds and warm hearts, there shall break the morning star of universal peace."

As we enter the New Year, may we be ever thankful for the gift of Life we each possess, and the freedom to choose our path. May our paths be filled with kindness, goodwill, hope, and peace. Happy New Year!

New Year Blessings!

Rev Alison

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

Email: revlaneolsen@yahoo.com

Office phone: 935-3413

Cell phone: 620-960-6748(CEL)

Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

Calendar for the New Year:

When January arrives, it isn't uncommon to enter a store and find that the candy and treats of Christmas have been replaced with exercise gear and health foods. While many of us may be making plans to become more physically fit in the new year, this may be a perfect time to take a closer look at the inner meaning of some of the athletic feats in the Bible!

January 5: "Epiphany Pageant"

~ Celebrating the Prince of Peace.

Growing Strong and Fit!

Jan. 12 Moses in battle Ex. 17 Strengthening our arms!

Jan. 19 Samson...Judges 16...pushing down the pillars...more arm exercises!

Jan. 26 1 kings 19...Elijah the long distance runner

Feb. 2 David the stone thrower 1 Samuel 17

A note from the office...

Please help us keep our records current. If you have moved or changed your phone number or e-mail address over the last year, please notify the church at 207-935-3413 or office@fryeburgnewchurch.org so we can update your information.

If you still want to receive this newsletter by mail please return this slip by January 20th as we would like to update our mailing list. Or if you are currently receiving your newsletter by mail and would like to be on our monthly e-mail list, please let us know. You would help us save on mailing and printing costs and have your newsletter 2 to 3 days earlier!

YES! I want to receive the Fryeburg New Church by mail.

Name & Address:

Valentine's Day isn't too far away!!!

Looking for a great gift for your partner and relationship?



Couple Checkup™

Powered by PREPARE  ENRICH*

Join me for a Couple's Checkup! Couples complete an online questionnaire; the assessment will identify relationship strengths and growth areas across key areas (including communication, conflict resolution, flexibility and more). The "Couple's Checkup" is based on the work of David H. Olsen Amy K. Olson-Sigg, and Peter J. Larson.

Why "Checkup" a Relationship?

"People and relationships are always changing. Almost all relationships begin happily, but many do not remain so. When couples are first getting to know one another, mutual curiosity creates an atmosphere of sharing and personal reflection. After some time together, there is a tendency to believe they know their partner and conversations shift from each other to events, other people, or ideas. The problem is that, much like a river, a relationship may look relatively stable, but deeper examination reveals undercurrents that change from moment to moment. This explains how a couple can, after many years together feel as though they no longer know one another.

The Couple Checkup generates deep and productive conversations that couples would not otherwise have about their relationship. These conversations restore insight and understanding about one another. The Couple Checkup can help to revive a relationship and increase intimacy."

To learn more, visit: <https://www.couplecheckup.com>

The online assessment will cost \$35 per couple. We need at least 5 couples to create a group assessment. Please let me know if you are interested! Depending on interest, we could meet weekly (3 or 4 sessions) in February or have one longer seminar.

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 7, 2014 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>	
Patricia Swett	603-939-2262

Women's Alliance

There will be NO Women's Alliance meetings in January. The next meeting will be on February 17th at 12:00 noon at the FNC, please bring a bag lunch.

2014 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

PresidentJean Cressy
 Vice-President.....TBA
 SecretarySally Harnden
 Treasurer.....Patty Swett
 Chaplain.....Betty Baker

From the Treasurer



Anyone wishing to receive a copy of their contributions for the year 2013 for tax purposes please contact Cindy Priest.

Annual Reports

Although the annual report won't come out until later in the year, we are asking that you please forward your reports to the office while 2013 is still fresh in your mind. You can e-mail them to office@fryeburgnewchurch.org or leave a copy for Dawn in the office. Thank you so much for your time and effort.



A Choral Invitational Concert
 will be hosted at the Fryeburg Congregational Church on Sunday afternoon, January 19, time TBA, to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Participating choirs include our New Church Choir and other choirs and bell choirs from the Fryeburg area. The public is invited to attend. Posters will go up after Christmas.

Welcomers for January

Jan 5 *Open*
 Jan 12 Debbie Dolley
 Jan 19 Martha Richardson
 Jan 26 *Open*

Ushers for January

Jan 5 Tom Barrett & Donnette Barnes
 Jan 12 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Jan 19 David & Jen Richardson
 Jan 26 Jean Cressy & Dean Harnden

Coffee Hour for January

Jan 5 Debbie Urgese
 Jan 12 Jodie Hesslein
 Jan 19 Cindy Priest
 Jan 26 Dawn Ferguson

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
DECEMBER 1-29, 2013		
Date	Adults	Children
December 1	37	8
December 8	32	3
December 15	7	0
December 22	ice storm	--
December 29	--	--



January flowers
Jean Cressy

Calendar for January 2014 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
1	Wed	New Year's Day	
2	Thur	Bible study	10:00 a.m.
5	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship "Epiphany Pageant" Youth Group post-Xmas party	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4 - 7 p.m.
7	Tues	Trustee's Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
9	Thur	Bible study	10:00 a.m.
12	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
15	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
16	Thur	Bible study	10:00 p.m.
19	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Choral Invitational Concert @ Fryeburg Cong. Church	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. TBA
22	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
23	Thur	Bible study	10:00 a.m.
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.
29	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 pm



As much as we want every Sunday to be bright and sunny, it is winter and sometimes the weather will make it necessary to cancel our classes and worship service. Please check the following stations to see if they have been cancelled before heading out on the road:
 TV Channels 6, 8, 13 and the following
 Radio stations: 560AM, 93.1FM, 93.5FM, 100.9FM, 101.9FM, and 104.5FM.
 It also will be posted on our FNC Sunday school Facebook page. Thank you!

Due to inclement weather on December 22nd we unfortunately had to cancel the children's Christmas Pageant and are hoping you all may join us for a special "Epiphany Pageant" on January 5th when we will celebrate the day the three kings came to adore the Christ child.

