



April 2015

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Newsletter

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

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**We here at the Fryeburg New Church invite you, your family and friends to join us this Easter!**

Easter is almost here! I hope you are looking forward to this celebration – what a beautiful time of the year it is, especially when the weather cooperates! I'm hoping our new plan to offer a sunrise service on Jockey Cap will be a success.

During this season of Lent, we've been using our time on Sundays to ponder Jesus' words from the cross – *truly famous last words*. It has been good for me, and I hope meaningful for you to spend time with these inspiring, thought-provoking words.

In contrast to Jesus' final conversations and last words, I was reminded of a different kind of communication (or perhaps lack thereof) – silence. It is a rather small detail, a portion of a verse, that is nearly identical in Matthew, Mark and Luke. As many of you know, the Pharisees and other religious leaders spent much time questioning Jesus

about what he was doing and why and who He was. Sometimes they seem sincere in their questioning...at other times, they appear only to be trying to trick Jesus or make Him say something that would be reason enough for arrest. At the end of Jesus' ministry it seems that there came a time when this questioning was at an end. For example, in the Gospel of Matthew's version (22:46), we read, "*And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.*" (this was Tuesday of His last week).

This doesn't strike me as a good thing. Even if their questions had never been asked with pure hearts or genuine sincerity...in speaking with Jesus, they were still in a relationship with Him – it wasn't a good relationship, but it was still a relationship. And then all of a sudden, it is as if they have had enough. They were no longer asking, and so Jesus is no longer answering.

To add to this bit of silence, let us turn to Matthew 27:12-14.

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

12 Oxford Street • Fryeburg, ME 04037

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

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

*Office Hours: Pastor ~ Wednesday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,*

*Saturday by appointment*

*Secretary ~ Wednesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

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

*When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?"<sup>14</sup> But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor.*

Jesus refuses to answer. I feel for Pilate, who is trying in vain to convince Jesus to say something on his behalf. It is shortly after this that Pilate's wife sends him a message – *"don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."*

What is the silence about? Clearly, the Lord could still be a presence in the lives of those who doubted as long as the door was cracked, at least a little. But it seems that when the questions turned to outright accusations (as it did with the Pharisees), and the desire to do away with the Lord's presence was made obvious, it was as if that door was sealed. The Lord could not respond. It occurs to me that there was no place, no opening, no real invitation for that presence. I'm also reminded of the words, *"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."* The Divine is with all of us no matter what, but the quality of that relationship truly depends on us.

The way one of our church's commentaries (written by William Bruce) explains the moment of silence *with Pilate* is this: at times, (and I would add particularly stressful times), we want to demand an instantaneous and direct answer; and when that answer is not revealed, we are liable to experience great perplexity (like Pilate). In addition to this thought, he adds "...the Lord...leaves every person to work out his own conviction..." This is part of the gift of freewill.

Jesus represented such a loving approach to life. I can only imagine that we all have

those Pilate moments, when we have to decide what to do with this loving approach to life. Unlike Pilate, I'm not so sure we can simply wash our hands of it if we decide to let the Lord's presence perish.

Soon, we will celebrate the truth that the loving approach wins – and our life, when it is loving and wise and invites the Divine in as ruler, will keep the conversation flowing and a relationship with God growing.

**Many Easter blessings to you and yours!**

*Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen and family*

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Saturday by appointment

Email: [pastorfnc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfnc@gmail.com)

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## Make plans now to attend the 2015 Annual Convention in Bridgewater, MA!

191<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Convention of the  
New Jerusalem

**When:** June 27 - July 1

**Theme:**  
The Year of Regeneration: Toward a Newer  
Church

**Where:** Bridgewater State College,  
Bridgewater, MA



### Our Palm branches were ordered from Eco-Palms!

Eco-palms are sustainably harvested and fairly traded. That means the money you spend on the palms is directly benefiting the communities where the palms are harvested. The extra nickel you spend per palm can send young girls to school, employ women, and build community centers.

The palms are also being harvested in an environmentally friendly way. These new harvesting practices ensure that the same quality palms you see today will be there for years to come. Purchasing these palms protects the forests they are grown in.

## Holy Week Schedule

**Wednesday, April 1:** Seder (Passover) Meal  
@ Faith Community Church 5:30PM-7:30PM

What might Jesus have taken part in during his Last Supper? What do his kin, the Jewish people, continue to do to this very day? Come join us as we participate in a meal that has been observed for thousands of years! RSVP to Pastor Chaz at 240-6413. Kosher Potluck.

**Thursday, April 2:** Maundy Thursday  
Tenebrae (Shadows) Service with Communion  
@ Lovell UCC 7:00PM

**Friday, April 3:** Ecumenical Good Friday  
Stations of the Cross Service @ Fryeburg New  
Church 4-7pm

The exact origin of the devotional use of The Stations of the Cross is not entirely clear, though it is associated with Christian pilgrimages to Jerusalem in the early Christian centuries. Those who were able to walk along the path Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion were deeply moved by this experience. Yet, since the vast majority of Christians were not able to go to Jerusalem, The Way of the Cross enabled them to engage in a mini-pilgrimage of sorts, whereby they could focus on the key events (using pictures, objects) of Jesus' last day. This will be a time of meditation and prayer as participants make their way from station to station at their own pace.

**Sunrise Easter Service** at Jockey Cap  
**Exact time of service TBA.** Call the office for more information or find out more on our Facebook page.

Easter events at Fryeburg New Church:

Easter potluck brunch, 9am,

Easter egg hunt for the children 9:30

Worship Service, 10am

# Church Report

## The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 7, 2015 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
Stew Frost, <i>Vice Chair</i>	935-3344
Cindy Priest, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-3360
Dede Frost, <i>Secretary</i>	935-3344
Donnette Barnes, <i>Trustee</i>	935-2130
Jane Fullerton, <i>Trustee</i>	890-9454
Judy Hatch, <i>Trustee</i>	935-2223
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Patricia Swett	603-939-2262

## Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will be meeting **April 20th @ noon** at the Church. Please bring a bag lunch....all ladies are welcome!

2015 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

*President..... Jean Cressy*  
*Vice-President..... Claire Kiesman*  
*Secretary..... Sally Harnden*  
*Treasurer..... Patty Swett*  
*Chaplain..... Betty Baker*

## In our Prayers

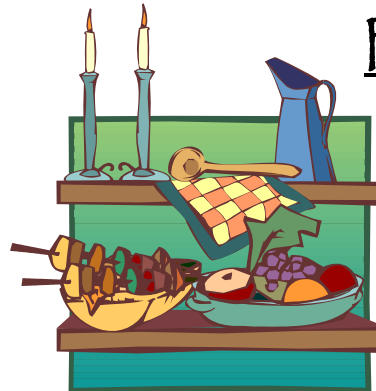
We keep the Ferguson family in our prayers – Brenda Ferguson, a wife of Scott's brother Doug, recently passed into the spiritual world, as well as Dawn Ferguson's father Wayne. Also in our prayers is Charlotte Stevens, a sister of Martha Richardson, who recently passed into the spiritual realm. Prayers for those battling cold and flu season!

## Fish and Game Supper

Apr 6th, 6:30  
2015  p.m.

*Cindy Priest, Chairperson*

*All suppers are \$9.00 each*



## Potluck lunch!

Please join us after worship on the first Sunday of every month for a "Potluck with a Purpose"

**Our next potluck is a brunch on Easter morning! See below:**

## Easter Breakfast and Children's Easter Egg Hunt

**Please join us on Easter Morning @ 9:00 a.m. for a potluck family breakfast and special Easter egg Hunt for the kids**



(See John 20:1-18)

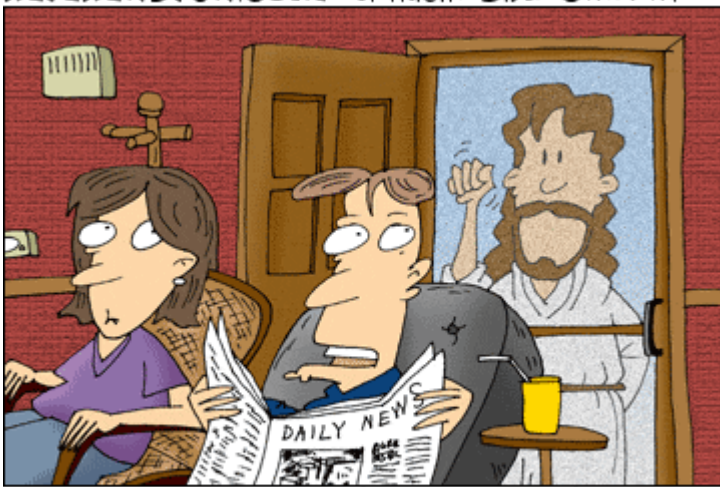
04-09-2012

WELL PLAYED

### *Sunday School teachers needed*

Do you have a desire to teach? We are looking for volunteers who could fill-in as substitutes for our Sunday School classes (which meet at 9am). If you are interested in helping to fill this role please contact the FNC office at 935-3413.

Thank you!



Thanks to Sharon in California (See Revelation 3:20) 03-22-2005

HOW LONG DO YOU SUPPOSE HE WILL KEEP KNOCKING?

### *New Address*

Sue Davidson wrote us a nice email from her new home in Montana. She says, "Please let everyone know that I miss them very much! I have tried a few churches here, but nothing can ever compare to MY FNC!! I'm pretty settled in now and have a daily routine. I made the right decision to move, and except for moments of homesickness, I'm happy here."

Her new address is:

**Sue Davidson,  
228 S Cottonwood Rd Unit 310,  
Bozeman, MT 59718**



(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

### *Calling all FNC children!*

Donnette Barnes and Rev. Alison are inviting all the children of the church (and any other children who would like to help) to join us at FNC on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am, to help make placemats for Meals on Wheels participants. We will have donuts!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love





## Welcomers for April

Apr 5 *open*  
 Apr 12 Debbie Dolley  
 Apr 19 Martha Richardson  
 Apr 26 *open*

**\*\*PLEASE use the sign up sheets in the back of church to volunteer to serve as a Welcomer, Coffee Hour person or Lay Reader. Thank you\*\***



## Ushers for April

Apr 5 Tom Barrett & TBA  
 Apr 12 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest  
 Apr 19 David & Jen Richardson  
 Apr 26 Jean Cressy & Dean Harnden

## Coffee Hour for April

Apr 5 Easter Potluck Breakfast  
 Apr 12 Jane Williams  
 Apr 19 Jen Richardson  
 Apr 26 Donnette Barnes

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
MARCH 1 - 29, 2015		
Date	Adults	Children
March 1	35	4
March 8	35	7
March 15	35	9
March 22	45	9
March 29	--	--



*April flowers  
 courtesy of  
 Larry Pangaro*

Calendar for April 2015 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
1	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
2	Thu	<b>Bible Study</b> <b>Maundy Thursday service</b> <b>@ Lovell UCC</b>	10:00 a.m.
3	Fri	<b>Good Friday</b> <b>"Stations of the Cross"</b>	4 - 7 p.m.
5	Sun	<b>Easter Sunday</b> <i>Sunrise service on</i> <i>Jockey cap</i> Adult Choir <b>Easter Potluck Breakfast</b> Family Worship	<b>TBA</b>  8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
6	Mon	<b>Fish and Game Supper</b>	6:30 p.m.
7	Tue	<b>Trustees' meeting</b>	7:00 p.m.
8	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
9	Thu	<b>Bible Study</b>	10:00 a.m.
12	Sun	<b>Communion Sunday</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 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	Thu	<b>Bible Study</b>	10:00 a.m.
18	Sat	Youth Group - Placemats for Meals on Wheels	10:00 a.m.
19	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
20	Mon	<b>Women's Alliance</b>	12 noon
22	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
23	Thu	<b>Bible Study</b>	10:00 a.m.
26	Sun	<b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> 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 p.m.



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a.k.a. *Fryeburg New Church*  
12 Oxford Street  
Fryeburg, ME 04037

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**Address Service Requested**