



December 2015

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Newsletter

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

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Hello, dear readers! As I write these words, the Christmas Cupboard preparations are going on, and I can hear the faintest hum of Christmas music (hopefully helping everyone to get into the spirit before Thanksgiving!). Clearly, the Christmas season is almost upon us, and once more we will be hearing stories of Mary and the angels, shepherds and a stable, distant travelers, and of course, a newborn King.

Those distant travelers have been on my mind lately. We can't be sure how far they travelled, or even how many of them there were; we do learn from the Gospel of Matthew's account that these wise men were "from the East" and set out, following a star, to bring their gifts to the newborn Messiah.

In our own way, we as a church have also begun offering gifts from afar to a people and place most of us may be unfamiliar with. As many of you may well know, we began a fundraising effort in late summer to help the **Loving Arms Mission** in Nepal. The purpose of the Loving Arms Mission is to provide exceptional care to orphaned, abandoned and at risk children on all levels of their being – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. They currently have two orphanages built on a family model with a mother, father, and "small" number of children

– ten to twelve. The following description comes from their website:

*"at the Loving Arms Mission homes, our children are very well cared for. We don't have more than three children per room whereas some orphanages have up to forty per room. Our yard includes a basketball court and many fruit trees. We even have a little fish pond. Our children have shoes and clothing which are washed regularly. We provide a nutritious Nepali diet, including fruit, meat and vitamin supplements. Our homes are kept clean and are decorated as homes, not as institutions. We have clean bathrooms and good sanitation. Because of substandard infrastructure in Nepal and because of the scarcity of water, we are not supplied with water. Therefore, we buy trucks of water every week to keep our cisterns full. Our water is UV-radiated and filtered so that it is pure and sanitary."*

This note about the lack of water reminds how much I take for granted! We thank those of you who have been able to contribute to this project thus far. We received a thank you note for a recent donation, and I would like to share with you some of that letter:

*The parents and kids are doing well, but daily life is almost totally disrupted because of the blockade by India at the border. The blockade means that there is no fuel for cars and for cooking, so many businesses*

## **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)

have had to close. The city does get occasional deliveries of fuel, causing lines of cars and motorcycles which are literally miles long waiting and hoping to get a little fuel. Kent, Rajendra and Prem waited for 13 hours for fuel one time and then got nothing after all that. This story is repeated over and over across Kathmandu...it was heartbreaking to see the suffering being caused to a country that was already on its knees.

Kent (Rogers) has been working hard to get a company in Nepal that does earthbag construction connected to some of the outlying villages, so that the money we collected can be used to help them rebuild their schools. The fuel embargo has disrupted this effort also, but he hopes that he can take the man from Kathmandu in charge of the project out to a nearby village and bring in the leaders of the far-away villages to learn the technique. We will then supply them with what they need to build the schools themselves. Hopefully, they will also be able to use the knowledge to build better houses for themselves too. Right now, most of the outlying villages are either living under tarps or are rebuilding the old, unsafe way with the earth and stones.

How good it is to help a neighbor far away, to offer a gift. Like the Magi following the star to reach Jesus, is this giving not part of walking in Christ's Light and a path that will lead us to a heavenly state? There is so much more to be said about the good work the Loving Arms Mission is doing. You can learn more at lamchildren.org. We will continue to offer our support! (The hug patrol shirts and handmade cards in the narthex have been part of the fundraiser; next time you need a card, don't forget to shop at the church first! ☺)

**Advent Blessings to you and yours this holiday season! May you be a light for the world this Christmas,**

*Rev. Alison, Adam,  
Monroe and Elin*

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

Email: revlaneolsen@yahoo.com

Office phone: 935-3413

Cell phone: 620-960-6748

## Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

Nov. 29: Hanging of the Greens

Dec. 6: Advent Stories: Prophecies and the Jesse Tree

Dec. 13: (Communion Sunday)  
Advent Stories: the Annunciation

Dec. 20: Children's Pageant

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,  
7pm, First Congregational Church

Dec. 27: Christmas Stories: The Wise Men



Thank you for your donations to the Sweden Food Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets and for donations offered to the Brownfield Food Pantry during the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to those of you who were able to help out with the *Community Giving Tree!*

We hope you remembered direction #7 on the tag, where the instructions read, "Thank you for showing the Christmas spirit and for praying for your recipient."

☺ Thank you for your gifts and prayers!



# Church Report

## The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 1, 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



## POINSETTIAS

Orders for red poinsettias need to be in to the office by Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost for each poinsettia is \$6.00, you will find an order slip and envelope enclosed. Office phone #935-3413. Thank you!

## Women's Alliance

The next meeting of the Women's Alliance will be on **Monday, December 21, 2015 at NOON**. Bring a bag lunch. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church. 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* ..... TBA



*Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Ecumenical Service*

Please join us on Thursday, 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:** Tree skirt by Debbie Urgese  
won by Donese Oliver
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize** Decorated Wreath  
won by Ann Walker
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize:** Gift Certificate to Jonathan's  
Seafood won by Renie Chaplin

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

*In Our Prayers*

Prayers to Susan Logan for a speedy recovery from hip surgery; prayers for Edie Leach, recovering from the flu. Prayers for safe travels for those in our congregation who are traveling for the holidays or leaving the area for the winter. Prayers go out to those who have recently lost any beloved pets - to the Ferguson family, sorry about Henny!



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**New Fundraiser...you just have to  
shop at Amazon.com!**

When you shop online through Amazon.com, there is a very easy way to donate to our church.

First, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and follow the directions to choose a charitable organization: ours is **Fryeburg New Church**. Then each time you go to Amazon, be sure you enter the site through '[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/)' and your purchases of eligible products will automatically count toward a donation of .5% of the purchase price to our church. That's all you have to do; everything else is exactly the same, no extra fees to you as consumer, or to the church. The only thing that's different is that our church benefits! So thanks!



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM



## Christmas Pageant

Please join us for a special puppet show and see our children reenact the Christmas story with sock puppets they designed themselves! The show will be at the Fryeburg New Church on **Sunday, December 20th** during the Worship Service. It is sure to be a wonderful presentation!! Christmas Party to follow.



Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2010

THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!



12-07-2012

I WANT TO GET GOD SOMETHING AWESOME FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR, BUT WHAT DO YOU GET THE GUY WHO MADE EVERYTHING?



## Fa la la la....

It's almost time to go caroling!!!! This year, anyone interested in going caroling is invited to gather at the Parsonage at 4:30pm, Friday, December 11th. Homeowners along the caroling route will be notified in advance that we will be coming their way! Our plan is to go caroling and then return to the parsonage to warm up and enjoy some food and fellowship! Please feel free to bring a food item to share!



## Welcomers for December

Dec 6 *open*  
 Dec 13 Debbie Dolley  
 Dec 20 Martha Richardson  
 Dec 27 *open*

## Ushers for December

Dec 6 Tom Barrett & TBA  
 Dec 13 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest  
 Dec 20 Jen & David Richardson  
 Dec 27 Dean Harnden & Jean Cressy

## Coffee Hour for December

Dec 6 Potluck  
 Dec 13 Jean Cressy  
 Dec 20 Christmas Party  
 Dec 27 TBA



Calendar for December 2015 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
Nov 29	Sun	<b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>"Hanging of the Greens"</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
1	Tue	<b>Trustees' Meeting</b>	7:00 p.m.
2	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m. .
3	Thu	Gratitude Group	10:00a.m.
6	Sun	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>"Potluck with a Purpose"</b> <b>Community Tree Lighting</b> <b>@ Bradley Park</b>	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship 6:00p.m.
9	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
10	Thu	Gratitude Group	10:00a.m.
11	Fri	Poinsettia orders due Christmas Caroling	4:30p.m.
13	Sun	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
14	Mon	<b>Women's Alliance</b>	12 noon
16	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
17	Thu	Gratitude Group	10:00a.m.
20	Sun	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Christmas Pageant and Party</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Christmas Party</b>	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 am after worship
24	Thu	<b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Candlelight Service @ First</b> <b>Congregational Church</b>	7:00 pm
25	Fri	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
27	Sun	<b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 am 10:00 a.m.
31	Thu	<b>New Year's Eve</b>	



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Fryeburg, ME 04037

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**Address Service Requested**