



February 2015

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

February greetings, dear readers!

One of my favorite hymns has always been "This is My Father's World." The words were authored by a minister from New York, a Maltbie Davenport, who passed away in 1901 at the age of 42; a friend put the words to music in 1915. Davenport liked to take frequent walks, telling his wife he was "going out to see the Father's world."

These are the words that stay with me... "in the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere." Something about God's very physical feet rustling the grass makes God so tangible, reachable.... knowable.

How tangible, reachable, knowable is our Creator to you? Certainly, it is easy to understand why we might find ourselves on the side of "not so knowable." So much of our existence appears to be quite our own. God doesn't seem to be making any demands on how we spend our days or what we think about. Maybe we even think of God as *aloof*. (I just noticed an invitation

in my inbox to read a new book entitled, *Aloof: Figuring out Life with a God Who Hides*). This is also a sentiment we find often in Scripture, whether it is Job or a psalmist wondering where God is, or even Jesus on the cross, repeating the words of David's Psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

To be honest, I'm not convinced that God is hiding at the moment. In fact, I'm feeling as though God's desire to be known and seen and felt is more reminiscent of how small children play hide and seek - "I'm over here!" they like to shout before the searcher can even begin to look.

I'm feeling this way at the moment because I recently had the privilege of meeting someone who had a near-death experience; this particular woman still feels very connected to the spiritual world. She shared that her life is quite different now; she feels like she has experienced two lifetimes - her life before the event and her life now. This last week, she was able to share her story with those of us meeting at the parsonage

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

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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

for the *What Would Love Do* series. I will admit that I've often asked God, *why can't you just send an angel to come sit on my couch and talk to me about life?* ☺ Wouldn't that be nice? And in a wholly unexpected way, I think that prayer was answered! Hearing her story brought out other's stories and experiences with the spiritual world. We might not talk about these events often – but they are alive in our pasts (or for someone we knew) and happening in the present. These experiences may come in the form of near death experiences, angel and spirit sightings and stories, powerful dreams, visions, or even an awakening awareness that certain events are more than coincidences.

Certainly these were everyday occurrences for Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg, who assured his readers that he had been gifted the experience of being in the spiritual world and our earthly world at the same time, so that he might reveal important truths we had lost sight of.

This mystical side of the tradition has been an attraction to many as they have looked for an explanation for these “out of the ordinary” occurrences. Perhaps not so “out of the ordinary”?

I might just add that while the mystical side of the teachings have been a draw for many, others of us have also found the church so essential because of the biblical approach and emphasis on how we are engaging the world in the here and now...taking on the personal responsibility of shunning evils as sins and welcoming into our hearts that neighborly love from the Lord.

I like to think that appreciating both avenues can lead to a deepening faith and awareness of reality that includes our place in the larger scheme of God's creation and afterlife.

As Lent approaches, may we all be open to the Lord's presence in our lives and in our study and prayer,

With many blessings,
~ *Rev. Alison*

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

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Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

Feb. 1: What Would Love Do: Love Visits
"I was sick and you visited me"

Feb. 8: What Would Love Do: Love is Present
"I was in prison and you came to me"

Feb. 15: TBA

Feb. 22: First Sunday of Lent: Beginning of Series on Jesus' last sayings
Luke 23:34: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do"



Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 3, 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 next Women's Alliance meeting will be on **Monday, February 16th** at the FNC. 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 Betty Baker



Coffee Hour

Coordinator needed

After many years of dedicated service our dear friend Jean Cressy has decided to step down from the responsibility of coordinating who will take care of coffee hour after church every Sunday. If you are interested in filling this roll please contact the FNC Office at 935-3413. Thank you very much!

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 2014 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.

From the Treasurer



Anyone wishing to receive a copy of their contributions for the year 2014 for tax purposes please contact Cindy Priest.

Potluck with a Purpose

Our next potluck with a purpose will be after worship on Feb. 1

What is our Purpose? Good question! We will use some of our time together to brainstorm our church's purpose, mission and outreach possibilities.

Thank you!

Dear FNC community,

We thank you so much for the gifts for our family this Christmas! The children love their new toys, and Adam and I appreciate the gift certificates to Spice & Grain and 302 Restaurant! Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

With much gratitude and love,

The Lane-Olsen's

Dear New Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the wonderful going away party and all of the good wishes you've given me. Much of my life has revolved around this church and you over the past 25 or so years and I am taking many happy memories along with me to Montana. If anyone is planning a trip out west, my door will always be open! Here's my new address if anyone wants to drop me a line: Sue Davidson, 3020 Healy Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715 My email and phone number are still the same as in the directory. Best to all of you and much love,

~Sue

In Our Prayers

Prayers to Sue Davidson for safe travels and a smooth transition as she makes her new home in Montana - we will miss you! Healing prayers to Barbara Ferguson and Jen Richardson and family. We are glad to share that Redwing is back home after a brief stay in the hospital. We also have several families in the church who have lost a cherished pet - our prayers are with you too!



I do, still!

Special Service

February 13th, 7pm

It's almost Valentine's Day! Are you looking for an extra special way to celebrate with your spouse?

On Feb. 13th, we are offering a Reaffirmation of Vows Service.

This will be open to the community for couples who would like to remember and cherish the vows that marked the beginning of their married life.



02-23-2009

YOU BUILT AND STAFFED AN ENTIRE FACTORY JUST SO THAT YOU COULD MAKE THE "MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN" GAG???



(See Genesis 6-8)

07-02-2010

TWO ANTS? YOU HAVE ONLY TWO ANTS?!? MY WIFE AND I EAT LIKE 100,000 PER DAY EACH!



02-15-2013

JESUS STOPPED BY AND NOBODY LOVES MORE THAN HIM, BUT BEFORE YOU GET JEALOUS OR ANYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IT IS FOR YOU TOO

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. If you take the online assessment, be sure to enter our group code: 14730-1001

A "Check up" class will be offered Feb. 14, 9-11am at FNC.

Welcomers for February

Feb 1 *open*
 Feb 8 Debbie Dolley
 Feb 15 Martha Richardson
 Feb 22 *open*

Ushers for February

Feb 1 Tom Barrett & Sue Davidson
 Feb 8 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Feb 15 David & Jen Richardson
 Feb 22 Jean Cressy & Dean Harnden

Coffee Hour for February

Feb 1 Potluck
 Feb 8 Lee Dyer
 Feb 15 Sally Gibson
 Feb 22 Donnette Barnes

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE JANUARY 4 - 25, 2015

Date	Adults	Children
January 4	14	4
January 11	46	8
January 18	32	5
January 25	41	1

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!

February Flowers

Jean Cressy



Calendar for February 2015

(held at our Church unless indicated)



1	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship “Potluck with a Purpose”	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
3	Tue	Trustees’ Meeting	7:00 p.m.
4	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
5	Thu	Bible study WWLD class at Parsonage	12 noon 7:00 p.m.
8	Sun	Communion Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
9	Mon	Craft Night	6:00 pm
11	Wed	MSAD #72 Early release FNC office closes early	12:00 noon 5:00 p.m.
12	Thu	Bible study WWLD class at Parsonage	12 noon 7:00 p.m.
13	Fri	Valentine’s Day Service	7:00 p.m.
14	Sat	Happy Valentine’s Day! Couples’ Checkup	9 – 11 a.m.
15	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship SS Teacher’s meeting	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
16	Mon	Women’s Alliance Craft Night	12 noon 6:00 p.m.
18	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS Worship Committee	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
19	Thu	Bible Study	12 noon
22	Sun	Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
25	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
26	Thu	Bible Study	12 noon



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Address Service Requested