



March 2015

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Preparing Ourselves for Easter

When we begin our worship services at the church, one of our most important rituals is to open the Bible – an act which serves to remind us that God’s presence is available to us in the Word. When I open that Bible on Sunday mornings, I find myself very curious to know where it will open. To be honest, I’m usually aiming for somewhere in the middle (just so the Bible stays balanced!), so it isn’t uncommon to open it and find myself looking at words offered by the prophets Jeremiah, Isaiah or Ezekiel. But last Sunday, I opened the Bible to Obadiah – a first! Obadiah happens to be the shortest book in the entire Bible: one chapter, only 21 verses, one page in our Bible.

No one knows much about the prophet Obadiah. His name means “servant of God.” The date of his ministry is believed to be in the 580s B.C.E. Obadiah makes it very clear that who he is speaking against is the Edomites: “Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom...I will surely make you least among the nations.”

Who were the Edomites and what did they do wrong? The Edomites were descendents of Esau (“who came out red”), the first born son of Isaac and twin brother of Jacob. You will probably remember how Esau and Jacob struggled against one another even in the womb. As an adult, Esau rashly sold his inheritance to Jacob for a bowl of red soup because he was so hungry (Genesis 25). Esau became the father of the Edomites (“Edom” comes from a Semitic word meaning “red”) and Jacob became the father of the Israelites; the two nations would continue to struggle through most of their history. One of those instances came when the Israelites were making their way through the wilderness to Canaan, they wanted to pass through the land of Edom, but Edom would not let them walk through their land. Talk about family squabbles! The Israelites struggled with the Edomites on many occasions.

Here is where my search became extra interesting (or perhaps I should say “wicked” interesting!☺)...it turns out that

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

Herod the Great was an Edomite! In 47 BCE, Julius Caesar appointed Antipater, the son of the Edomite governor, to be the governor of Judea, and Herod was one of Antipater's two sons.

Why is this so interesting? Because when Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg was writing about the deeper meaning of the Word, he saw the Edomites as representing self-intelligence.

"Of those who are in self-intelligence ...these are "Edom...They must be combated"

We know our human intelligence is a great gift from the Lord, allowing us the ability to manage our lives, our emotions, our relationships. We see how necessary it is to be able to acquire knowledge and think through our decisions and plans. As believers, we can also see how essential it is to add the Divine reality and eternal dimension into this framework. If we place supreme value on our self-intelligence, forgetting or purposely not taking into account the Lord's supreme wisdom and authorship, how far we can get off track!

I confess I wish combating self-intelligence was something we would seek more of - in our own lives and in national issues. Just yesterday, I learned that the first GMO apple has been USDA approved; this is the Arctic Apple, whose claim to fame is that it won't brown (which might leave one wondering how old it really is). Interestingly, the chemical compound that causes the apple to brown is the same compound that also fights off plant pests, which will probably mean we need more pesticides.

Didn't God already create beautiful apples?

Are we being careful, thoughtful enough about our decisions? Here I'm reminded of the blunt words of James, "You don't know

the first thing about tomorrow" (4:14, The Message).

Not asking for guidance, not taking into account "how much I don't know I don't know" is surely an attitude to combat. In our quest to grow closer to the Lord, can we see how much depending on our own intelligence could get in the way of our route to the "Promised Land" or would want to hinder the Lord's birth in our lives?

May we seek out the Lord's way - in this season of Lent and in all seasons of our life. And just so you know, dear reader, Obadiah ends very positively -
"And the kingdom shall be the Lord's." (verse 21).

With many Lenten Blessings,

Rev. Alison

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5,6

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<i>Fish and Game Supper</i>		
Mar 2nd,		6:30
2015		p.m.
<i>Cindy Priest, Chair</i>		

Worship Schedule

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

Upcoming Worship Calendar/Schedule

March 1 Words from the Cross: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise"
Luke 23:43

March 8 Words from the Cross: "Dear woman, behold, your son! Son, behold your mother!"
John 19: 26-27

March 15 Words from the Cross: ""My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34

March 22 Words from the Cross: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" Luke 23:46

March 29 Palm Sunday

HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week, there are a variety of services you are most welcome to attend. Consider participating in any of the following:

Wednesday, April 1:

A Seder is being held at the Faith Community Church on Old Stage Road in Lovell
Time TBA

Thursday, April 2:

Pastor Alison of the Lovell UCC Church is offering their traditional Maundy Thursday service.
Time TBA

Friday, April 3:

This year, in lieu of offering the traditional Good Friday service, The Fryeburg New Church will be offering a Stations of the Cross devotional. The object of the Stations is to help the faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's suffering and death. Doors will be open between 4-6pm.

Church Report

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 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

There will be no meeting of the Women's Alliance will in March. The next meeting's date will be announced in April's newsletter.

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

Prayers for healing for Tom Barrett, who has been sick with the flu. Continued prayers of healing for Barbara Ferguson. Prayers for the Hatch and Magee families in their time of loss, and all those who have recently lost loved ones. Prayers of gratitude for a safe move for Sue Davidson!

Coffee Hour Coordinator

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!

Grounds Committee

Roger and Jane Williams have lovingly taken care of the grounds for several years now and are ready to step down from this responsibility. Thank you for all your hard work! Do you have a green thumb and would like to take on this task? It would include weekly mowing the lawn, parking lot and weeding the sanctuary grounds. Let us know in the office at 935-1302 or talk to one of the Trustees. Thank you!

We made the news!

Vow Renewal Ceremony, Feb. 13th

Renewing vows



Couples who participated in the Feb. 13 vow renewal ceremony at the Fryeburg New Church: (front row, kneeling) Jenny and Greg Huang-Dale. Back row (from left): Sally and Jim Gibson, Scott and Donna Ferguson, Pastor Allison and Adam Lane Olsen, Patty and Dale Heath, and Martha and David Richardson.

(correction: Donna Ferguson should read Dawn Ferguson)



2015 Annual Convention

You are invited to attend the 2015 Annual Convention hosted by the Maine Association at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, from Saturday, June 27 to Wednesday, July 1. Please mark your calendar! That the Maine Association can host a convention in Massachusetts is not a problem, as you will be treated to the best of both worlds: Maine hospitality in a university setting within reach of public transportation from Boston's Logan Airport.

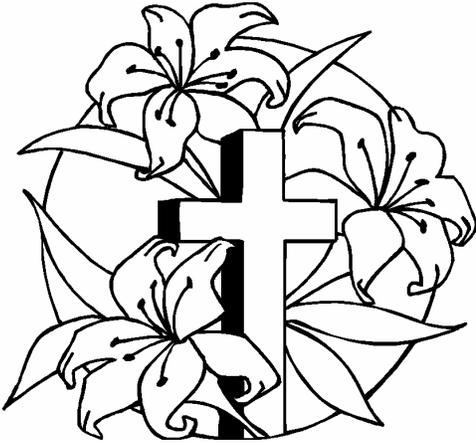
Our program highlights a keynote address by Rev. Dr. George Dole, who has engaged qualities of the New Church that he finds embedded in the inner meaning of Revelation, Chapter 21 – our own denomination's charter. There will be opportunity for thoughtful responses to Rev. Dole's ideas in several areas of denominational life: our digital presence; our response to issues of social justice; the traditional and emergent places where we engage in face-to-face ministry; youth programs; and our connection to the doctrinal roots of our tradition. It is important to note that our conversations in each area will be illuminated in light of this Year of Regeneration, and will be focused in the direction of our becoming A Newer Church. Moreover, in my role as chair of the Program Committee, I have asked presenters to engage the dynamic that pertains between individual regeneration and spiritual community renewal.

Please join the conversation! Consider yourself invited to attend our 2015 Annual Convention at Bridgewater State University and mark your calendar: Saturday, June 27–Wednesday July 1. See you there!

– Rev. Dr. Gard Perry,
Chair, 2015 Convention
Program Committee

Reprinted from February 2015 MESSENGER

Easter Lilies



Easter is Sunday, April 5th!! For those who wish to have a lily in church on Easter Sunday, please place your order early as we need to place our order by April 1st!

We will know the cost of lilies this year in early March. We will make the announcement as soon we know. Lilies can be picked up after church on Easter Sunday, left for the following Sunday, or for a shut-in or nursing home resident. Orders should

be returned to the office by April 1st, and may be placed in the collection plate, left in the church office, or call Dawn in the office at 935-3413. *Please indicate who the lily will be "In Honor" or "In Memory of".*



Fryeburg New Church
12 Oxford Street
Fryeburg, ME 04037
935-3413

EASTER LILIES

HOW MANY LILIES? _____ TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

In Memory/In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

PLEASE RETURN ORDERS BY: APRIL 1, 2015



Who was St. Patrick? St Patrick was born in Britain and that at the age of 16 was captured by Irish raiders who attacked his family's estate. He was then transported to Ireland where he was held captive for six years, living a solitary, lonely life as a shepherd. It was then that he became a devout Christian, embracing his religion for solace. From his writing, we know that a voice, which he believed to be that of God, spoke to him in a dream, urging him to leave Ireland. He did. Walking nearly 200 miles, Patrick escaped to Britain and undertook seriously religious training.

After 15 years of study, Patrick was ordained as a priest and sent to Ireland. His mission was to minister to Christians and to convert the Irish, then pre-dominantly pagans, to Christianity. Because Patrick was familiar with the Irish language and culture from his years of captivity, he chose to incorporate Irish ritual and symbols into his teachings rather than to eradicate Irish beliefs. Thus, was born the Celtic cross. Patrick superimposed the sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the traditional Christian cross so that the result would seem more natural to the Irish.

Read more at <http://www.hellokids.com>

Welcomers for March

Mar 1 *open*
 Mar 8 *open*
 Mar 15 Martha Richardson
 Mar 22 *open*
 Mar 29 *open*

Ushers for March

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

****Please use the sign up sheets in the back of church to volunteer to serve as a Welcomer.**

Thank you**

Coffee Hour for March

Mar 1 Potluck
 Mar 8 Cindy Priest
 Mar 15 Jodi Hesselein
 Mar 22 Mary Dysinger
 Mar 29 Jean Cressy

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY 1-22, 2015		
Date	Adults	Children
February 1	45	10
February 8	27	--
February 15	20	--
February 22	34	--



Calendar for March 2015 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
1	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship "Potluck with a Purpose"	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
2	Mon	Fish and Game Supper	6:30 p.m.
3	Tue	Trustees' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
4	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
5	Thu	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
7	Sat	Turn clocks 1 hour ahead tonight!!!	
8	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Youth Group	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4 - 7 p.m.
9	Mon	Cabin Fever Craft Night	6:00 p.m.
11	Wed	MSAD #72 Early release FNC Office closes early Dinner Bell North @SEAS	12 noon 5:00 p.m.
12	Thu	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
15	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship SS Teacher's Meeting	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
17	Tue	St. Patrick's Day	
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	10:00 a.m.
22	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
23	Mon	Cabin Fever Craft Night	6:00 p.m.
25	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
26	Thu	Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
29	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.



Turn your clocks 1 hour ahead
before bed on
Saturday night, March 7th



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Address Service Requested