



January 2016

Church of the New Jerusalem

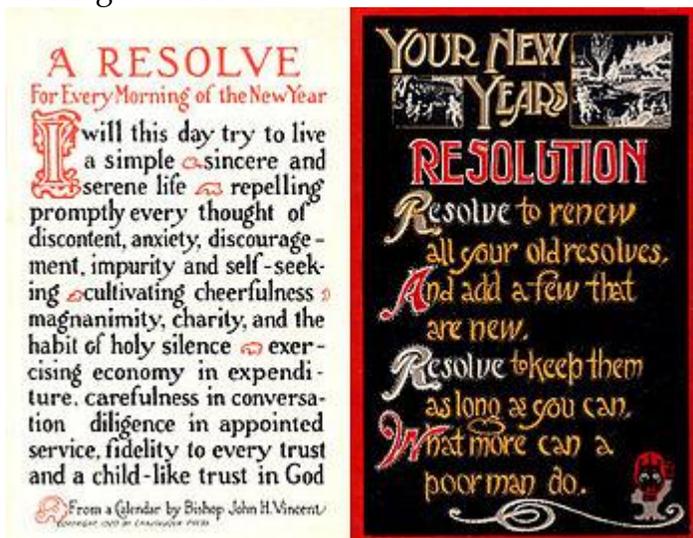
# Monthly Newsletter

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

## Happy New Year, dear readers!

I hope your Christmas celebrations were full of the love of family and friends. I hope as we begin a new year, that you will look back on 2015 as one full of gratitude and important lessons learned.

It is also that time when many will be making resolutions!



(early 20<sup>th</sup> century New Year's postcard)

Looking into the history of New Year resolutions, it appears that this is something humanity has been doing for a long time! For example (according to Wikipedia), Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus (for whom the month of January is named). In the Medieval era, knights would take a vow at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry.

Are you the kind to make resolutions? I wonder if the good in doing so comes from being intentional about our life hopes and dreams, and that there may be some power in naming specific goals rather than generalities. Or, perhaps one doesn't need to be specific if our mantra is "thy will be done." What do you think?

I recently came across a New Year's list for a church, written by Rev. Cameron Trimble,

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

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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)

and I thought I would take this space to share it with you (slightly adapted).

### **1. Ignore the headlines.**

Remember, headlines are designed for shock factor and never tell the full story. Read headlines about Mainline and progressive churches and we think the church is dying. That's dangerously disempowering. Yes, congregational life is changing and denominational structures are adapting, but the Church is not dying.

### **2. Dream bigger.**

My greatest concern for our churches is not that we are fading, but that we are dreaming too small. Obsessed with filling our Sunday pews, we fail to see the multitude of ways we make a difference in our communities the other six days of the week.

What we measure shapes what we collectively strive to pursue, and what we pursue determines what we measure. Which means we need to change the metrics of what it means to be a healthy, vital congregation in the United States today.

What if we used literacy rates, teen pregnancy rates, unemployment rates, and crime rates as our measure of the kinds of impact we could have in our communities? What can our church do to live its faith so boldly and powerfully that the world is changed by dreaming bigger? That is our metric.

### **3. Collaborate like it's 2016.**

We can't dream alone. Today we face societal challenges that are too large, complex and fast-changing for any one entity to adequately address alone. We live in an era that demands "collective impact," working with businesses, government, and

other faiths and non-profit organizations in our communities to address the great needs of our age.

### **4. Find your passion.**

I once worked with a coach who told me, "Everyone gets somewhere in life; the rare person gets somewhere on purpose." *You will go somewhere as a congregation this year no matter what; make sure it is where you want to go.*

What do you want to have created, accomplished, midwived, or supported – what do you want to be able to say on December 31, 2016 that you can't say now? As the theologian and civil rights leader, Howard Thurman, reminds us, "Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive." Where is your church going . . . with passion and on purpose?

### **5. Create your "Don't" list.**

Just because your congregation *can* do something doesn't mean that it *should*. Stop doing some of those things that take up too much time with too little result. For just one year. See what happens. I bet you will find the Spirit leading you in new, exciting directions.

### **6. Take voice lessons.**

Could we be influencing legislation, advocating for equality and working for peace? Perhaps it's time to reclaim and proclaim our story of a more just and generous Christianity.

... So let's give food and water to the least of these, ordain women, protect the environment, be a voice in #BlackLivesMatter, march in the protests, wave that rainbow flag, rally congregations,

host conferences, sing songs of hope, and realize our outrageously courageous, fully alive, faithful church.

I believe we can embody a living-boldly call to a more just and generous Christianity, guided by Micah 6:8: "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

What do you think of the list?

## New Year's Blessings!

~ *Rev. Alison*

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

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A graphic for the year 2016. The numbers are large and stylized with a multi-colored, geometric, low-poly aesthetic. Below the numbers, the words "HAPPY NEW YEAR" are written in a simple, red, sans-serif font.

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

## *In Our Prayers*

We continue to lift up Susan Logan as she recovers from hip surgery; we give thanks for healing – so glad Edie Leach has recovered from the flu, and thankful that Joyce Syracuse's daughter Sonia has been recovering from pneumonia. Prayers for safe travels home for the Huang-Dale family.

## *Worship Schedule*

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Family Worship 10:00 AM

### Calendar for the New Year:

**This January, we will be taking inspiration for our messages from Wilson Van Dusen, and his book *Returning to the Source*.**

Here is a bit about him: "Wilson Van Dusen (1923-2005) was born and raised in San Francisco, CA. A friend who examined his biography said he was really seven different people--one of these 'seven people' was a mystic with experiences of the Divine from infancy. Upon retiring, he surveyed the world's principle mystics, working across the great religions with eight books published in this area. He was a recognized expert on Emanuel Swedenborg, one of the greatest mystics who ever lived. He also loved the sea and held an unlimited master's license in the merchant marine. He spent sixteen years, mostly inactive as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Not too long ago, he retired after fifteen years of unpaid instructing in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. For recreation, he did navigation research. He also had a Ph.D. whose career as a clinical psychologist was in working with the mentally ill..."

From his book, *Returning to the Source: The Way to the Experience of God*, we'll be taking the following themes:

**January 3: Time and Eternity**

**January 10: The Microcosm**

**January 17: The Feeling Root of our Existence**

**January 24: Influx, Catching God in the Act**

**January 31: Your Personal Relationship to the Divine**

*I hope you enjoy our January series!*

# Church Report

## The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 5, 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

Stew Frost, <i>Chair</i>	935-3344
Jon Crowe, <i>Vice Chair</i>	925-1302
Cindy Priest, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-3360
Laurie Turley, <i>Secretary</i>	603-986-3611
Dede Frost, <i>Trustee</i>	935-3344
Judy Hatch, <i>Trustee</i>	935-2223
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Patricia Swett	603-939-2262

## Women's Alliance

The next meeting of the Women's Alliance is TBA. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church. All ladies are welcome!!

2016 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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



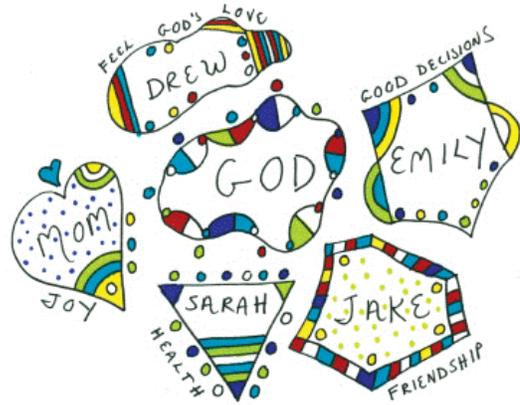
## From the Treasurer

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of their contributions for the year 2015 for tax purposes please contact Cindy Priest.

## Reminder: Potluck with a Purpose

January 10, 2016

Our purpose: learning to Pray in Color



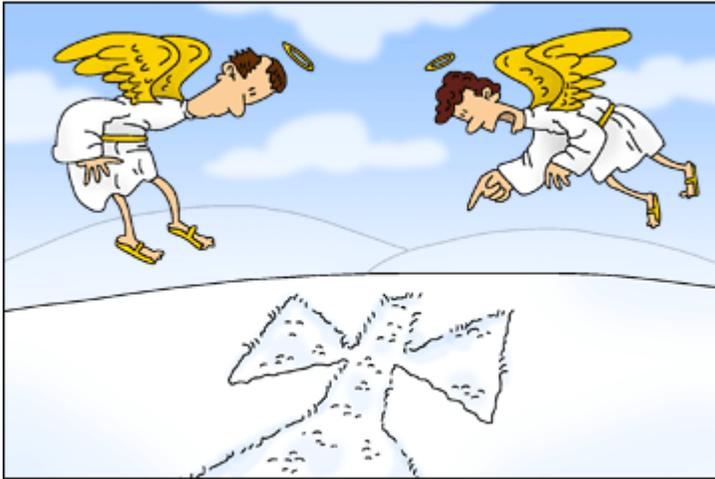
Why learn?

- 1) You want to pray but words escape you. **2) Sitting still and staying focused in prayer are a challenge.** 3) *Your body wants to be part of your prayer.* **4) You want to just hang out with God but don't know how.** **5) Listening to God feels like an impossible task .** **6) Your mind wanders and your body complains.** 7) You want a visual, concrete way to pray. **8) You Need a new way to pray.**



## A Choral Invitational Concert

will be hosted at the Fryeburg New Church on Sunday afternoon, January 24 @ 2:00 p.m. 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.



12-26-2014

DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE US



01-22-2007

I JUST FLEW IN FROM HEAVEN AND BOY ARE MY ARMS TIRED, HAH! ... C'MON FELLA, LOOSEN UP ... I CAN'T SHOW YOU A VISION WHILE YOU ARE ALL SCARED



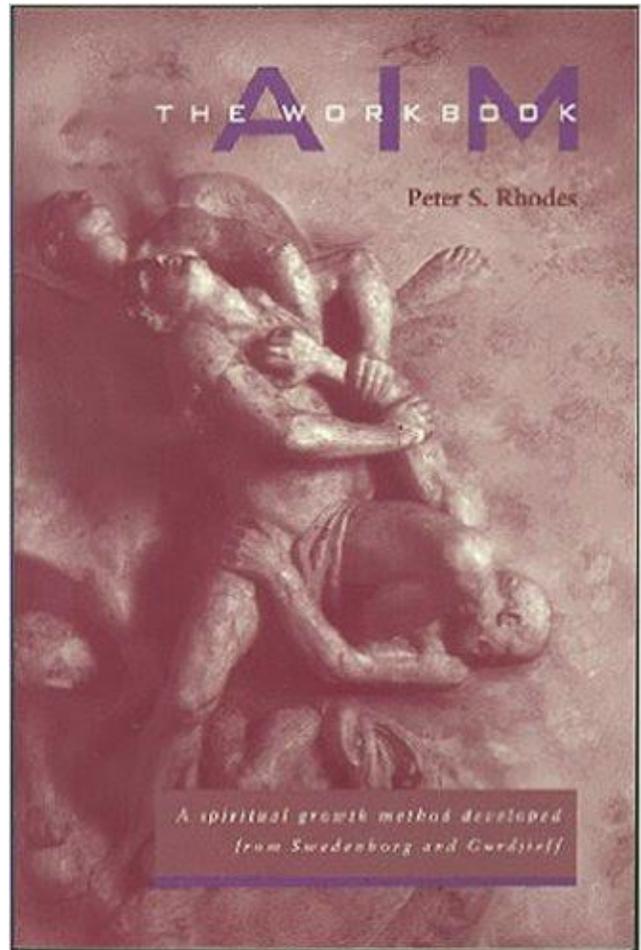
Thanks to Douglas Marsola

01-05-2006

THE KIDS PREFER TO PLAY HIDE AND SEEK WITH SOMEONE WHO IS NOT BOTH OMNIPRESENT AND OMNISCIENT

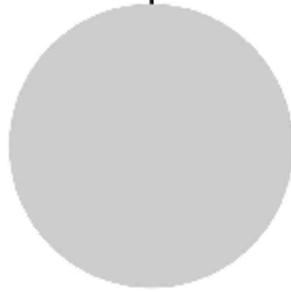
# New Small Group Forming!

The AIM Workbook,  
by Peter S. Rhodes



Beginning **January 7th**, we'll begin a Thursday evening small group that will meet at the Parsonage. We will use Peter Rhodes, *AIM Workbook: A spiritual growth method developed from Swedenborg and Gurdjieff*. Gurdjieff was an influential early 20th century Russian mystic, philosopher, spiritual teacher and composer. If you are interested in learning more about the Swedenborg and Gurdjieff, please join us! Meetings will be on Thursdays, 7-8pm. We have many copies of this workbook in the church library - come by and check one out (those left will also be available at the parsonage).

# FOR THE KIDS ☺



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## New Years Resolutions



I will learn more about God.



I will help my family with \_\_\_\_\_



I will invite someone to my church.



I will give some of my money to \_\_\_\_\_



I will tell a friend about Jesus.



I will learn \_\_\_\_\_ new Bible verses.



I will pray for others.

I will.....

## Welcomers for January

Jan 3 *Open*  
 Jan 10 Debbie Dolley  
 Jan 17 Martha Richardson  
 Jan 24 *Open*  
 Jan 31 *Open*

## Ushers for January

Jan 3 Tom Barrett & Sue Davidson  
 Jan 10 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest  
 Jan 17 David & Jen Richardson  
 Jan 24 *open*  
 Jan 31 Jean Cressy & Dean Harnden

## Coffee Hour for January

Jan 3 Dawn Canales  
 Jan 10 Potluck  
 Jan 17 Dawn Ferguson  
 Jan 24 Jane Williams  
 Jan 31 Joyce Siracuse

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER-29 – DECEMBER 29, 2015		
Date	Adults	Children
November 29	35	--
December 6	--	--
December 13	--	--
December 20	45	16
December 27	18	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!

Calendar for January 2016 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
1	Fri	<b>New Year's Day</b> FNC Office Closed	
3	Sun	<b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m..
5	Tues	<b>Trustee's Meeting</b>	7:00 p.m.
6	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
7	Thur	<b>AIM Workbook Group</b> @ Parsonage	7 – 8 p.m.
10	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Potluck with a Purpose</b>	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
13	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
14	Thur	<b>AIM Workbook Group</b> @ Parsonage	7 – 8 p.m.
17	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
20	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
21	Thur	<b>AIM Workbook Group</b> @ Parsonage	7 – 8 p.m.
24	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Choral Invitational Concert @ FNC	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
28	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 pm
29	Thur	<b>AIM Workbook Group</b> @ Parsonage	7 – 8 p.m.
31	Sun	<b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.





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

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**Address Service Requested**