



February 2017

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Greetings dear Readers!

We hope this newsletter finds you well, enjoying the beauty of life and finding peaceful moments during these winter days.

Planet Earth has certainly been an interesting place to live lately (I'm sure it always has been)! So if you are having a difficult time finding as many peaceful moments as you would like or if you are feeling confusion about life and world events, please know you have never been alone in that! In our part of the world, with a recent Presidential Inauguration, protests and marches, the stability of organizations and programs called into question, past Presidential decisions reversed, and even the introduction of "alternative facts" etc., there can be a lot of confusion!

With the state of our nation on my mind as I write these words, it seems particularly relevant that I am teaching the Sunday School children this next Sunday about a man named Nicodemus. (Every so often I

have the privilege of hopping into our Sunday School teacher rotation!)

Nicodemus is a man we meet in John 3. As some of you may remember, he is a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin (the ancient Jewish court system). He sees something extraordinary in Jesus' abilities and teachings, and wants to know more! But feeling the pressures to condemn Jesus, he makes a plan to seek him out under the cover of darkness. It is here that the two engage in a deep conversation about spiritual life and rebirth, and Jesus reminds Nicodemus, "*No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.*"



The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

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Saturday by appointment

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

www.fryeburgnewchurch.org

As I ponder these words myself, I wonder what the children in our Sunday School class will think of them! How does one become "reborn?" Images of different creatures come to my mind...and I wonder if it would help us to consider the chameleon, the frog, the snake shedding its old skin, or the ever classic example of the butterfly.

Nicodemus himself will become a changed man. In the Gospels we will hear of him two more times - in John 7, he attempts to stand up for Jesus, advising the chief priests and the other Pharisees to hear and investigate Jesus before making a judgment about him. And as a last reference, when Jesus is buried, it is Nicodemus who lovingly brings a mixture of myrrh and aloes for embalming the body according to Jewish custom.

So why did I think Nicodemus so relevant in these times? Because he was uncertain and confused by what he saw and heard as "truth." He was strongly entrenched in the religious institution of the time, and yet he admitted to himself that he might be wrong about Jesus. And he had the courage to find out more...and the darkness enabled him to find the "Light."

... the darkness enabled him to find the "Light."

Consider these words, if you will, about "darkness" that I recently read in a book about healing:

"...before, I would always try to get rid of my darkness. I discovered that I am a Divine being living in a human body. The density of the body itself is made of matter. The amount of light that I hold in my Soul will create the shadow, and from that shadow I will create my reality. And I also learned from the Angels, that if I fight the dark I will give energy to it, but if I love the dark it will lose its power. It is very tricky. Love does not mean giving in to it, just remembering that

within the dark also there is light and those Souls that chose to hold the dark do so so that we can know the light." (Angelic Reiki: The Healing for our Time).

I share all of this, dear reader, with the hope that whatever strikes you as confusing or difficult to face or understand, there is a way forward through this "night." Perhaps this time will lead to the most unified and loving phase of humanity's existence? I believe so! This is a time to move forward with our ability to love. For me, it is a time not to "fight," but to love all that has arisen so that that which is not serving the greatest good will lose its power. May we know the Light that always resides within.

With prayers for peace and healing for ourselves and the world,

Rev. Alison

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Do you like Potluck with a Purpose?

We would love your feedback!

Would you like to continue with Potluck with a Purpose? Or...

- Have a monthly movie night/afternoon with popcorn!
- Meet during the week for dinner and theological conversation?
- Have a different idea? _____

Church Report

Worship Schedule

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

February 5: Mindful Communication
Challenge: "Am I Willing?"

February 12: Valentine's Message

February 19: Message Theme TBA

February 26: Message Theme TBA



New "TWEEN" MEETING!

Sunday, February 5, 11:30am - 2:30pm

Theme of first meeting: Unicorns!

Did you know "unicorns" appeared 8 times in the KJ Version of the Bible before it was retranslated?

This new group is for 4th-7th graders, and is being led by youth group leader Kurt Fekete and Rev. Alison Lane-Olsen. If you have any questions let us know!

The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 7, 2017 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
Jim Gibson, <i>Trustee</i>	935-3676
Donnette Barnes, <i>Trustee</i>	461-2411
Susan Logan, <i>Secretary</i>	603-694-3743
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!!

2017 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

PresidentJean Cressy
Vice-President.....Claire Kiesman
SecretarySally Harnden
Treasurer.....Patty Swett
Chaplain.....TBA



From the Treasurer

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of their contributions for the year 2016 for tax purposes please contact Cindy Priest.

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 2016 is still fresh in your mind.

E-mail them @ office@fryeburgnewchurch.org or leave a copy for Dawn in the office.

Thank you so much for your time and effort.

Thank you!

Dear FNC community,

We thank you so much for the gifts for our family this Christmas! We so appreciate the gift certificates to Stone Mountain Arts Center and the movie theater, as well as the basket of goodies! Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

With much gratitude and love,

The Lane-Olsen's



**The Fryeburg New Church
is once more partnering with
Equal Exchange!!**

Say "I Love You" with a gift box of fairly traded and organic heart-shaped chocolates! Each box includes 24 Dark Chocolate (55%) hearts. Vegan. Soy- and gluten-free.

We will have this delicious chocolate available for purchase at the Church for \$7.00 a box.

In Our Prayers

We lift up many in prayer.

We continue to lift up those recovering from recent surgeries, including Neal Dow and family, and Bryson Herlihy and family. Healing prayers for Nels Liljedahl, Burt Chaplin and family, Sue Davidson, and the Richardson's. We also lift up those continuing to feel the effects of cold and flu season! Prayers for those suffering from hunger, cold, homelessness, pain, loneliness, and depression this season – may they find resources, warmth, and a loving embrace.



I do, still!

Special Service

February 14th, 6:30pm

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

On Feb. 14th @6:30 p.m.

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.

For the Kids! Happy Valentine's Day!





(See Genesis 6-8) 05-10-2000

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOT THAT KIND OF ARC"?



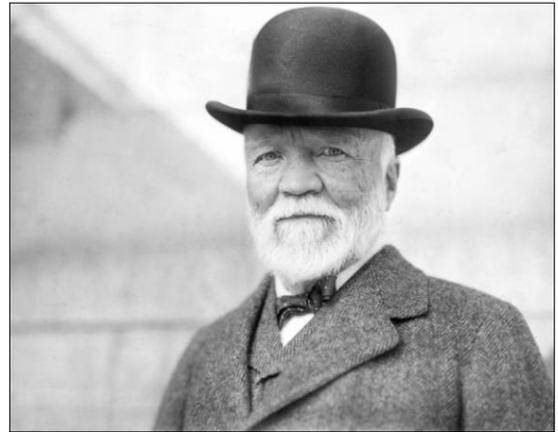
Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Genesis 6-8) 10-06-2004

GEE DAD ... I HOPE THAT PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE WON'T BE LOOKING FOR THIS ARK



Thanks to Marcine 02-11-1998

FAMOUS SWEDENBORGIAN of the month



Andrew Carnegie, 1835-1919: *A captain of industry whose philanthropy adapted the Swedenborgian "doctrine of uses" to the Industrial Age*

The son of a poor Scottish immigrant, Andrew Carnegie started out working at humble jobs but through his hard work and acute business insight he eventually formed the giant Carnegie Steel Company in 1892. In 1902 banker J.P. Morgan arranged to buy out Carnegie for \$250 million, making him the world's wealthiest man.

In his *Gospel of Wealth*, Carnegie set forth the idea that the wealthy should spend the latter part of their lives giving away their wealth. Carnegie established a pattern of modern philanthropy followed by later industrialists, and his Carnegie Corporation in New York continues to carry out his philanthropic work today.

Carnegie's social conscience was shaped in part by his mentors Matthew Arnold and Herbert Spencer, but he was also influenced by Swedenborg's Doctrine of Uses. As a young man, he attended the Sunday school of the Swedenborgian Church in Pittsburgh and was librarian of that church. Carnegie did not merely give away his wealth--he devoted considerable effort to make certain that his gifts would be put to proper use, an approach that fitted Swedenborg's doctrine to early twentieth century America in a remarkable way.

Reprinted from www.swedenborg.org

Welcomers for February

Feb 5 Debbie Urgese
 Feb 12 Debbie Dolley
 Feb 19 Martha Richardson
 Feb 26 Sally Gibson

Ushers for February

Feb 5 *open*
 Feb 12 Stanley Dolley & Chuck Priest
 Feb 19 David & Jen Richardson
 Feb 26 Jean Cressy & Dean Harnden

Coffee Hour for February

Feb 5 Jennifer Richardson
 Feb 12 Debbie Dolley
 Feb 19 Dawn Crowe
 Feb 26 Joyce Siracuse

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

JANUARY 1 - 22, 2017

Date	Adults	Children
January 1	21	--
January 8	43	12
January 15	30	3
January 22	34	10

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 February 2017

(held at our Church unless indicated)



1	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
5	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Tween Meeting No Potluck	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 - 2:30 p.m.
7	Tue	Trustees' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Wed	MSAD #72 Early release FNC office closes early Dinner Bell North @SEAS	12:00 noon 5:00 p.m.
12	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
14	Tue	Valentine's Day Renewal of Vows	6:30 p.m.
15	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
19	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship SS Teacher's meeting	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. after worship
20	Mon	MSAD #72 School vacation begins	
22	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS Worship Committee	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
26	Sun	Birthday Bank Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
27	Mon	MSAD #72 Back to school	





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Address Service Requested