



March 2017

Church of the New Jerusalem

Monthly Newsletter

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

Hello, dear readers! We hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying these beautiful days of winter!

Recently, our local elementary school, the C.A. Snow School, had issued an invitation to parents to come speak with students about their careers, so that students would have broader ideas of what kind of work they could do when they grew up. My husband Adam and I volunteered, and found ourselves on Valentine's Day morning sharing about our particular lines of work with a group of 2nd and 3rd graders. Since we were both in the soul/sole business (ha!), it seemed fitting we were together! Adam went first, teaching the children how he would make a custom hiking boot, and I followed.

To be honest, I had been feeling some hesitation in this! I didn't want to step on any toes or cross that sometimes blurry line that separates "church and state" (a phrase first offered by Thomas Jefferson). Before I spoke, it occurred to me that in this school setting, it might be best for me to frame

church (and one of the reasons I like it so much) as a "a safe place to ask the really big questions in life." And that is exactly how I phrased it. And then I asked the children, "Do you have any questions like that?" I didn't know what I would hear...if anything (I didn't even have any fun props, so I wasn't too hopeful!). But I have to tell you, they are thinking of some pretty big questions!

"Who made God?" one girl asked.

"How long did the sun take to make?" asked a boy in the group.

"Why do you only have church on Sundays?" another boy asked. And one sitting beside him said, "I know why." To this I said, "please share!" He continued, "Because it says in the Bible that after six days God rested." (*This was going way better than I had expected!, I thought to myself*)

There were a lot of questions...including, "Does your job make you sad?"

The Fryeburg New Church aka The Church of the New Jerusalem

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Office Hours: Pastor ~ Wednesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.,

Saturday by appointment

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

www.fryeburgnewchurch.org

The last question I heard: "I know Jesus was born and that is why we have Christmas, but what does Santa have to do with it?"

And with that, I said, "Well, maybe that would be a good question for another time!"
☺

I loved their questions! I loved that they didn't hesitate in opening up; I loved their curiosity. With curiosity and children on my brain, my mind flashed to a book in our children's room at home, a volume of Curious George tales.



George is a curious and playful monkey...and I wonder if we couldn't learn a lesson here! Here is something to ponder from one my favorite mystics, Suzanne Giesemann:

Monkeys swing from branch to branch, oft jumping as if flying through the spaces in between. Such freedom they do enjoy. Their life seems like all play and games. They sit up high and view the world with curiosity...

Invite a bit of playfulness into your life. Monkey around a bit. Why so serious all the time? Be free to jump from branch to branch, exploring new ways of being, new ways of seeing from new vantage points. Rest a while in these new ways of being. Sit and scratch your head. It is quite curious, this new vantage point, is it not? Now screech. Let the world hear your voice, and do not forget to laugh. There is a lot to be learned from God's creatures, is there not?

Can we open up to such creativity and curiosity and wonder and light-heartedness as adults? I hope so!

By the way, I recently learned that the fictional monkey George had quite an interesting beginning. The story's authors and illustrators, Hans Augusto Rey and Margret Rey, fled Paris in June 1940, on self-made bicycles, carrying the Curious George manuscript with them!

Hold on to your wonder and curiosity, no matter how serious the times appear to be!

With blessings and prayers that you always allow yourselves to ask the big questions in life and to ponder them from different points of view,

REV. ALISON

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Saturday by appointment
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*All thoughts are seeds. Which will you sow? Many, which come from observing human behavior, will be seeds of discontent. Will you water and fertilize these, or brush them away? You are the Gardener of the garden you are growing. What fruit it bears is up to you. Tend it from moment to moment. Clear out weeds, most especially those that have grown so large that they have the appearance of plants that belong there. All have a purpose, this you know, but tell us, friend, how does your garden grow?
~ Suzanne Giesemann*

Worship Schedule

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

Lent begins March 1! Lent is a religious observance in the liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1) and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is to prepare ourselves for the events of Good Friday and Easter morning. We will look more closely at some of the stories surrounding Jesus' life during this time. Coming up:

March 5th: Matthew 4: 1-11,
Jesus in the wilderness

March 12th: John 3: 1-17,
Jesus and Nicodemus

March 19th: John 4: 5-42, Jesus at the well

March 26th: John 9: 1-41,
Jesus heals the blind man

Church Report

The Trustees

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

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.

2017 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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



In our Prayers

Prayers of joy and congratulations to those experiencing new life and love! Welcoming prayers for the new grandson of Chuck and Cindy Priest, Devlin – and his mom and dad! Prayers for continued love and friendship for those couples who renewed their vows with us here on Valentine's Day! We offer our prayers to those who have lost a loved one – our hearts are with the Harnden family. 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 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.

SOW TRUE SEED



Announcing our Spring Fundraiser!!

We are working with Sow True Seed!

They offer non-GMO, open-pollinated, heirloom seeds! 25% of the sale price of each order will be donated to the Fryeburg New Church!

Make money for our Church while supporting sustainable agriculture and heirloom seed preservation. You may order online or browse through the catalog we have at the Church and use the order forms available there. Thank you, Spring is just around the corner ☺

(When purchasing, type in "fnchurch2017" in promo code box)

<http://sowtrueseed.com/>



March 5: Hippo Squad Gathering!

Our new "tween" (4th-7th-graders) have decided to rename themselves the Hippos!

That stands for:

Hilariously Irresistible Positive Pals

Organization! Sounds pretty fun!! The Hippo Squad meets again March 5th, at 11:30-2:30pm.

The group had their first meeting in February with Youth Director Kurt Fekete leading the way! Last month's theme: unicorns...

Coming up: Pajama Rainbow Party!



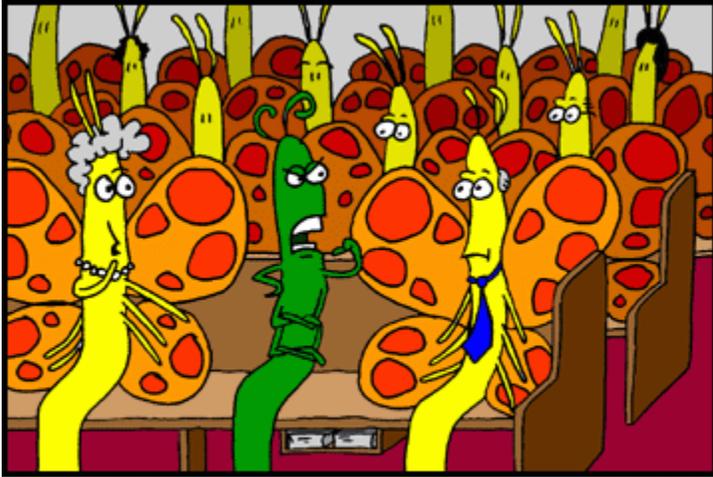
Crystals and Affirmations Class

Crystals of different types are mentioned in the Bible, like rubies (Proverbs 8:11), sapphires (Lamentations 4:7), and topaz (Job 28:19). The breastplate worn by the Levitical high priest contained twelve stones, each engraved with the name of a tribe of Israel: "The first row was carnelian, chrysolite and beryl; the second row was turquoise, lapis lazuli and emerald; the third row was jacinth, agate and amethyst; the fourth row was topaz, onyx and jasper. They were mounted in gold filigree settings" (Exodus 39:10-13). When it comes to the Holy City in Revelation, we read that the foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. "

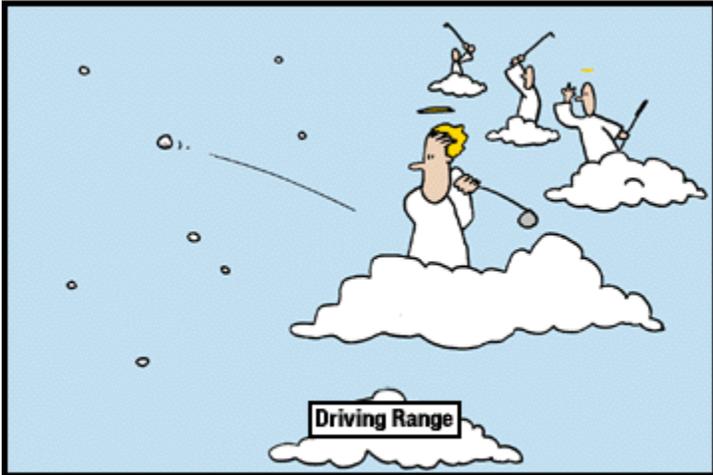
Do these precious stones mean something?

Can they be helpful in our life and reaching our spiritual potential? If you are interested in exploring this topic, please join me, Rev. Alison, on Wednesday, March 29th, at FNC!

Cost: \$10 for materials. Please let me know if you will be coming!



Thanks to Nadine Fafard 03-28-2000
I DON'T CARE HOW GOOD YOU ALL FEEL
... I HATE CHANGE



WHERE HAIL COMES FROM



Thanks to Albert (See Exodus 14) 03-09-2001
THERE WERE MIXED FEELINGS AMONG THE
INHABITANTS OF THE RED SEA

FAMOUS SWEDENBORGIAN of the month:



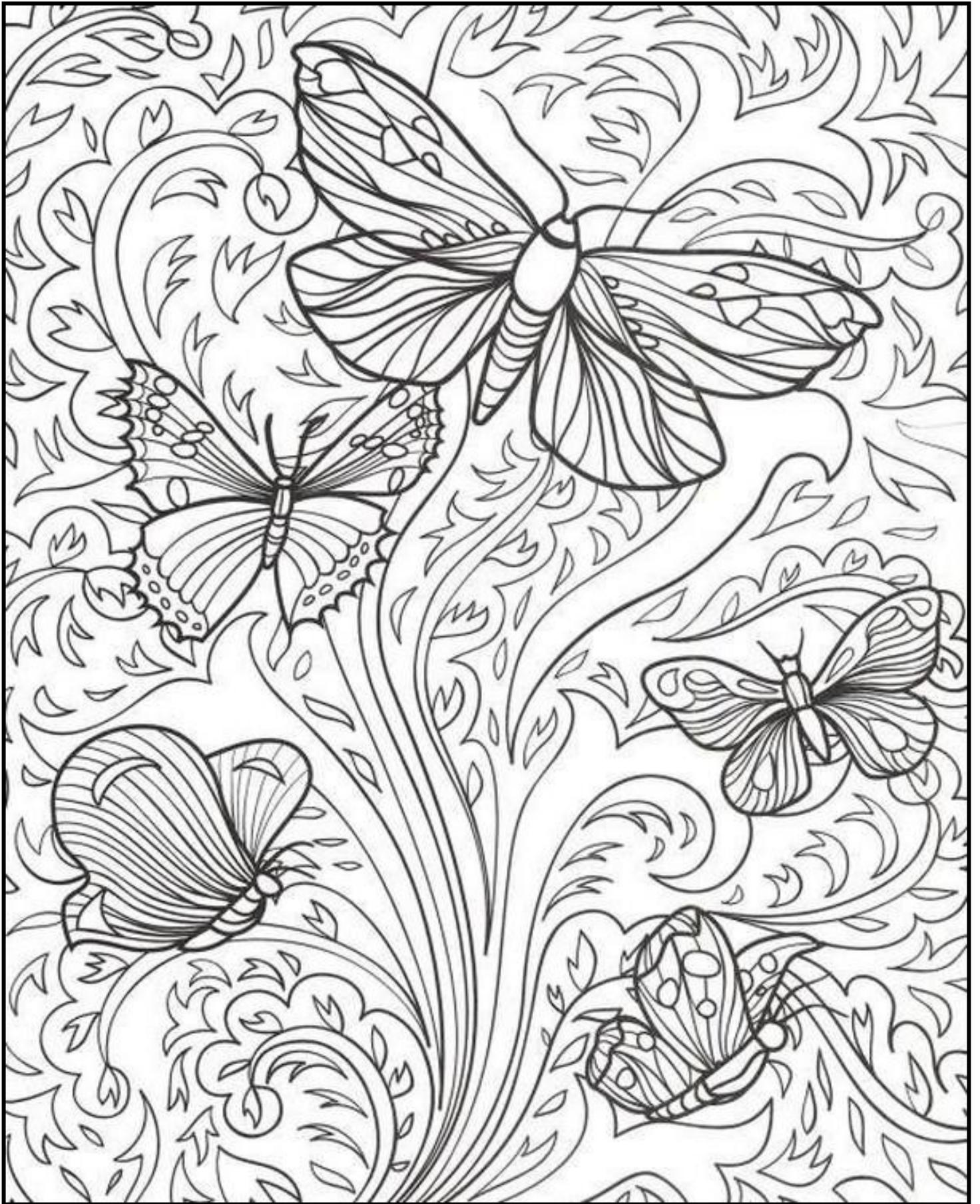
Daniel Burnham, 1846-1912: *An architect and city planner who created the model of the Swedenborgian heavenly city here on earth.*

Daniel Burnham, a renowned Chicago architect, was a pioneer in both skyscraper design and city planning. A lifelong Swedenborgian (and grandson of a Swedenborgian minister) he attended Swedenborgian schools as a boy and teenager.

After completing an architecture apprenticeship, he joined a firm and met fellow trainee John W. Root, who shared Burnham's enthusiasm for Swedenborgian ideas. They formed Burnham and Root, which became the leading architectural firm in Chicago, responsible for some of the most admired buildings of the renowned Chicago school, among them the Monadnock Building and Masonic Temple. After Root's death in 1891, Burnham designed the famous Flatiron Building, New York's first skyscraper, and Union Station in Washington, DC.

It was in the realm of city planning, however, that Burnham realized his greatest and most enduring achievements and it is there that the inspiration of Swedenborgian ideas is most profoundly imbedded. Burnham supervised construction of the great Chicago World's Fair of 1893, creating the "White City" as an ideal model for a modern city. His work, which strived to realize Swedenborg's heavenly city in stone, steel and concrete, has shaped much of twentieth century America's urban landscape.

Reprinted from www.swedenborg.org



Welcomers for March

Mar 5 Debbie Urgese
 Mar 12 Sally Gibson
 Mar 19 Martha Richardson
 Mar 26 Sally Gibson

Ushers for March

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

Coffee Hour for March

Mar 5 Jenn Richardson
 Mar 12 Erin Richardson
 Mar 19 Mary Dysinger
 Mar 26 TBA

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE		
FEBRUARY 5-26, 2017		
Date	Adults	Children
February 5	35	11
February 12	22	4
February 19	35	5
February 26	--	--

Calendar for March 2017 (held at our Church unless indicated)			
1	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 p.m.
3	Fri	MSAD 72 NO SCHOOL	
5	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Hippo Squad	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 – 2:30
7	Tue	Trustees' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Wed	MSAD 72 Early release FNC Office closes early Dinner Bell North @SEAS	12 noon 5:00 p.m.
11	Sat	Turn clocks 1 hour ahead tonight!!!	
12	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
15	Wed	Rev. Alison @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @SEAS Worship Committee	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
17	Fri	St. Patrick's Day	
19	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
22	Wed	Dinner Bell North @SEAS	5:00 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.
29	Wed	Crystals and Affirmations Class	7 – 8 p.m.



Turn your clocks 1 hour ahead
 before bed on
 Saturday night, March 11th





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12 Oxford Street
Fryeburg, ME 04037

Address Service Requested