



December 2008

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Bulletin

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

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Dear Friends,

With Thanksgiving behind us and the Christmas season under way, it is a time for thankfulness, gratitude, giving and generosity. It is a time to demonstrate our gratitude to God for all that is provided, beginning with the spiritual blessings that frequent our lives all the way to caring for the earth that cares for us. You will find a few articles in this month's bulletin that will further inform you about how others are helping to shift the way our society does business back toward an approach that functions in harmony with ecology rather than just seeking to take advantage of it.

As Christians, we put a lot of emphasis on treating our neighbor as we would like to be treated as one of, if not the most important way we worship God. It is important for us to remember that the earth is our neighbor as well. Not only is it the source of our survival and well-being physically, it is God's created gift to us. If we honor and respect God, why would we not honor and respect God's creation as well? There just is no aspect of life that is not an expression of our spiritual state, and an opportunity to grow and deepen our spiritual well-being. Please read closely the articles you'll find inside and see if

there isn't a way that you can express your gratitude and reverence for God in the way you relate to the earth we live on and from. Jesus words, "even as you have treated the least of these . . . so you have treated me" take on another level of meaning when we consider the impact of our "consuming." Let us praise God even with our credit cards! Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and blessings to all,

Blessings,

*Rev. Ken*



***MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL AND HAVE A  
HAPPY AND HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR!***

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

Church Office Hours: 8 a.m.- noon Tuesday - Friday

12 Oxford St. • Fryeburg, ME 04037 • Rev. Ken Turley, Pastor

Office: (207) 935-3413 • Email: [Pastor@FryeburgNewChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@FryeburgNewChurch.org)

Parsonage: 207-935-4500

## Worship Schedule

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

"The Coming of Christ"

- 11/30** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Prophecy of the Stars
- 12/7** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
The Voice of the Angels
- 12/14** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
The Heart of the Shepherds
- 12/21** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
The Children's Christmas Pageant
- 12/24** *Ecumenical Christmas Eve Service*  
1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church  
Wednesday evening 7:00 PM
- 12/28** The Sunday after Advent  
The Mind of the Magi

## Christmas Pageant



Please join us for the Christmas Pageant and see our children reenact the Christmas story! The Pageant will be held at the Fryeburg New Church on **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** during Worship Service. It is sure to be a wonderful presentation!!

## Church Report

### The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 2, 2007 at 6:45 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

Patricia Swett, <i>Chair</i>	603-939-2262
Cindy Priest, <i>Vice Chair</i>	935-3360
Nels Liljedahl	935-3741
Deneane Frost	935-3344
Scott Ferguson	925-3207
Susan Wheaton Logan	603-694-3743
Donnette Barnes, <i>Treasurer</i>	935-2130
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Sally Harnden	935-2546

### Women's Alliance

Women's Alliance will meet on **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m for our annual Christmas Party.** The Christmas Party will be a Potluck Supper and Gift Exchange. Gifts should not exceed \$10. Jean Cressy, Renie Chaplin, and Sally Harnden are serving on the committee.

*2009 Officers for the Women's Alliance are:*

*President .....Jean Cressy*  
*Vice-President.....Sally Harnden*  
*Secretary .....Sally Harnden*  
*Treasurer.....Patty Swett*  
*Chaplain.....Betty Baker*

### Poinsettias

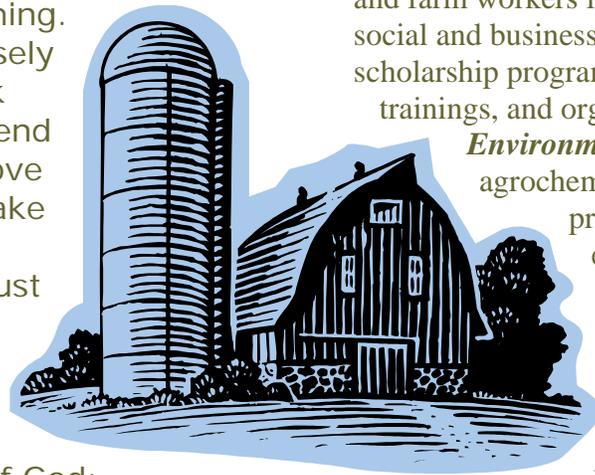


Orders for poinsettias need to be called in or sent to the office by **December 12<sup>th</sup>**. The cost for each poinsettia, which will only be available in red this year, is \$8.00 each. Office phone: 935-3413

## *For Christian Consumers and Spiritual Shoppers:*

As spiritual people, we are called to practice our faith in our daily lives. This means the way we treat one another, including family and friends and the stranger on the street. It also means the way we do business as we pursue our earthly endeavors. It also means the way we use our money. One of the ways we can practice our faith in our daily lives is by raising the standard of moral ethics in our purchasing and consuming. I invite you to read closely the following and check out the website at the end and see if it doesn't move you to examine and make some changes in your shopping habits. Not just to "save the earth", although caring for God's creation is one of our Biblical mandates as children of God; but also because how we spend money is a both a statement about and practical participation in the kinds of businesses and business practices we support and this has a direct effect on the people we interact with and our own spiritual growth and well-being. Purchasing products that have Fair Trade Certification on the label empowers farmers and farm workers to lift themselves out of poverty by our investing in their farms and communities, protecting the environment, and developing the business skills necessary to compete in the global marketplace, Fair Trade principles include:

**Fair price:** Democratically organized farmer groups receive a guaranteed minimum floor price and an additional premium for certified organic products. Farmer organizations are also eligible for pre-harvest credit.



**Fair labor conditions:** Workers on Fair Trade farms enjoy freedom of association, safe working conditions, and living wages. Forced child labor is strictly prohibited.

**Direct trade:** With Fair Trade, importers purchase from Fair Trade producer groups as directly as possible, eliminating unnecessary middlemen and empowering farmers to develop the business capacity necessary to compete in the global marketplace.

**Democratic and transparent organizations:** Fair Trade farmers and farm workers decide democratically how to invest Fair Trade revenues.

**Community development:** Fair Trade farmers and farm workers invest Fair Trade premiums in social and business development projects like scholarship programs, quality improvement trainings, and organic certification.

**Environmental sustainability:** Harmful agrochemicals and GMOs are strictly prohibited in favor of environmentally sustainable farming methods that protect farmers' health and preserve valuable ecosystems for future generations.

TransFair USA, a non-profit organization, is the only independent, third-party certifier of Fair Trade products in the U.S. and their rigorous audit system, which tracks products from farm to finished product, verifies industry compliance with Fair Trade criteria. Fair Trade Certification is currently available in the U.S. for coffee, tea and herbs, cocoa and chocolate, fresh fruit, sugar, rice, and vanilla.

The Fair Trade Certified™ label guarantees: The Fair Trade Certified label guarantees that farmers and workers received a fair price for their product. The Fair Trade price means that farmers can feed their families and that their children can go to school instead of working in the fields. By receiving a fair price, Fair Trade producers can avoid cost-cutting practices that sacrifice quality. The Fair Trade producers' traditional farming methods result in exceptional products. Most Fair Trade Certified coffee, tea and chocolate in the US is

certified organic and shade grown. This means that the products you buy maintain biodiversity, provide shelter for migratory birds and help reduce global warming by reducing the loss of rainforest. Empowered by the economic stability provided by Fair Trade, members of the COSURCA coffee cooperative in Colombia successfully prevented the cultivation of more than 1,600 acres of coca and poppy, used for the production of illicit drugs. In Papua New Guinea, the AGOGA cooperative, is investing in a medical team to meet the healthcare needs of its isolated rural community. In the highlands of Guatemala, indigenous Tzutuhil Mayans in the La Voz cooperative are sending local kids to college for the first time. Near Lake Titicaca, in Peru, the CECOVASA cooperative is assisting members from Quechua and Aymara indigenous groups in raising coffee quality and transitioning to certified organic production.

The Fair Trade Certified™ label is a one-stop shop for consumers who want to do good by the planet *and* by the people who call her home. Fair Trade Certified ensures that farmers obey internationally-monitored environmental standards, while empowering farmers and farm workers with financial incentives and resources for organic conversion, reforestation, water conservation and environmental education. To find out more about this wonderful way to be an environmentally and socially conscientious consumer, please check out [www.fairtradecertified.org](http://www.fairtradecertified.org). and begin to purchase more and more fair trade products. "True worship is the life charity." Living with love and wisdom in all things.

## *Some Good News for a Change*

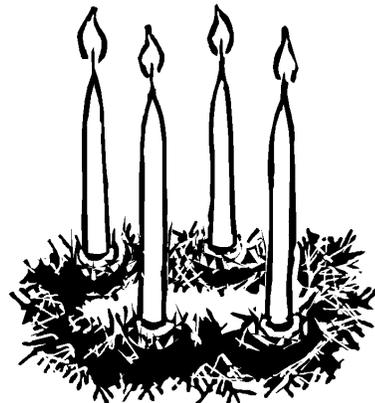
The headlines are so full of bad news, it is important we pay attention to the many good things that are happening in our world. Here is one of them.

TED started out in 1984 as a conference of experts on technology, Entertainment and Design, and has expanded to include innovators and creative thinkers from all walks of life. The TED conference challenges 1000 speakers each year to give the "talk of their life" in 18 minutes. People from Jane Goodall to Billy Graham to Dean Ornish and many great thinkers we've never heard of have presented at TED and these presentation are available for anyone to watch online at [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com).

I was recently inspired and awed by the short video of a paraplegic man, Dan Ellsey, who composed and performed his own music with the help of Tod Machover, an MIT professor and musician. They demonstrated how the power of music allows anyone to communicate and touch us all. This and many other great ideas are guiding the forces of good in our world. I hope you have time to look at these presentations and feel God moving among us even in difficult times such as these.

Homepage – [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)

About TED –  
[www.ted.com/index.php/pages/view/id/5](http://www.ted.com/index.php/pages/view/id/5)



## *In The Hospital*

**Claudia Graves** was admitted to Maine Medical Center. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she continues in her recovery.

**Warren Cressy** also had a stay in the hospital as he undergoes medical treatment.

We pray for their recovery and return to good health.

## *Choir*



**Youth Choir** will meet for the Christmas season beginning Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-6:00 p.m. at the church.

We will learn songs for the Christmas service on Sunday morning, December 21<sup>st</sup>. All children who love to sing are welcome to join us!

**Ecumenical choir** will continue to meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays at the church. We will rehearse songs for Sunday morning services as well as for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve ecumenical services.

All are welcome and invited to attend our choir rehearsals. Merry Christmas!

## *The Giving Spirit*



Nothing says  
**"Merry Christmas"**  
like a  
water buffalo!

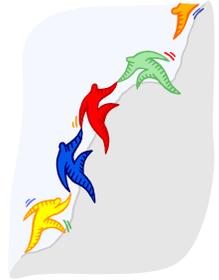


Add to all the good cheer you'll share with family and friends this year and give a gift that truly reflects the meaning of Christmas. A Water Buffalo!! These four-legged tractors provide a struggling farm family with the power to significantly increase their food production, as well as a strong back to carry produce to market. A water buffalo translates into increased income, better health, and the chance for children to go to school. This big animal makes an even bigger difference!

Visit [www.cwsbestgifts.org](http://www.cwsbestgifts.org) for just the right fit!

## *Youth Group*

Kurt Fekete and Lee Dyer continue to lead our lively youth group for all youth aged 12 – 18. We encourage you to join us. We meet once a month, usually on the third Sunday of the month, from 4 pm - 7 pm for dinner, games and engaging conversation. We have fun! For our theme this year we decided on "Journey to God". Throughout the year we will be discussing how to find and maintain a personal path to the Divine.



Our next gathering is an exciting overnight retreat and **Christmas party!** We will meet at 3 pm on Saturday, Dec 6th at the Fryeburg New Church and stay until 11 am on Sunday, Dec 7th. Along with your PJs, pillow, sleeping bag, nice clothes for church and sleeping pad, all youth are asked to *bring a wrapped gift valued at less than \$10 to swap* (bring something that you would like to receive). At this overnight, in addition to our Christmas party and games, we'll also discuss future fundraising efforts, work projects and the upcoming retreat at Almont!

If you would like to begin attending our youth group meetings and retreats and are not currently on our youth group email list please contact Kurt Fekete at [kfekete@hotmail.com](mailto:kfekete@hotmail.com). I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Kurt

## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service*

Please join us on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service at the First Congregational Church on Main Street in Fryeburg.  
All are welcome.



## Welcomers for December

Dec 7 Debbie Urgese  
 Dec 14 Sally Harnden  
 Dec 21 Martha Richardson  
 Dec 28 Debbie Dolley

## Ushers for December

Dec 7 Billy Holt and Donnette Barnes  
 Dec 14 Kevin and Bonnie James  
 Dec 21 Lawrence Perry and Mary Dysinger  
 Dec 28 Herb Eastman and Dean Harnden

## Coffee Hour for December

Dec 7 Jen Richardson  
 Dec 14 Sally Harnden  
 Dec 21 Christmas Party  
 Dec 28 Sally and Dean Harnden

### WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER 2 - 16, 2008

Date	Adults	Children
November 2	37	9
November 9	57	3
November 16	36	2



December flowers  
 courtesy of  
*Jean Cressy*

## Calendar for December 2008

(held at our Church unless indicated)



Nov 30	Sun	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
2	Tue	<b>Board of Trustees Meeting</b>	6:30 p.m.
3	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ SEAS Children's Choir Adult Choir	5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
7	Sun	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Tree Lighting-Bradley Park</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
8	Mon	<b>Women's Alliance Christmas Party</b>	6:00 p.m.
10	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ SEAS Children's Choir Adult Choir	5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
14	Sun	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
17	Wed	Rev. Ken @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @ EAS Children's Choir Adult Choir	10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
19	Fri	Rev. Ken @ Maine Council	8:00 a.m.
20	Sat	<b>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</b>	9:00 a.m.
21	Sun	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship and <b>Christmas Pageant</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
24	Wed	<b>Christmas Eve Ecumenical Service @ 1<sup>st</sup> Cong Church</b>	7:00 p.m.
25	Thu	<b>Christmas Day</b>	Office closed
28	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.