



December 2009

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Bulletin

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

---

Dear Friends,

In twenty-five years of writing "from the minister" this one is the hardest I have ever had to do. As I look back in time and look forward, I find myself thinking about the present Advent Season and the celebration the birth of Jesus in the world. And naturally that thought leads to the unfolding of his life and ministry. His ministry culminates in his death and yet that is not the end, as one might think, but only the beginning. For without his willingness to be born into the world to undergo the death he did, there would be no resurrection. And it is in the resurrection that we find life.

So as I write this, I think back over the past fourteen years (actually thirteen and half rounded up) and look to the ending of my ministry here. There is a sense of death as our time together is coming to an end: life is never going to be the same again! There is a finality to it that is more than just a little intimidating. What is more, there is more than just a little pain in having to let go and say good-bye to the people of this community and a way of life I have known and loved for so long. Oddly, as we prepare to celebrate the joyousness of the Lord's birth, his prayer in Gethsemane is in my thoughts: Father, if this cup could be taken from me, but not as I will . . ."

I feel, even as Jesus must have felt in that moment in the garden, the temptation to sink into sadness and fear and longing to escape the test ahead. And yet, taking comfort in the Lord's struggle and trying to follow in his example, by offering one's life, faith and hope to God, those feelings are pushed aside as the vision and promise of what is to come brings a lifting of the spirit and a sense of expectation. For while our time together is ending, and it is a death of a kind, it is also a birth of a kind as well. And in that there is renewal and regeneration. It is in fact the very essence of salvation: the ongoing life and death and rebirth of the spirit that brings us forward on the journey here on earth and that leads to the heavenly home in the hereafter. It's just that some transitions are harder than others.

And so it is with a heart that is overflowing with deep joy and overflowing with deep sadness, and knowing that my words can't even come close to expressing all I would say to you, I wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessings,

*Rev. Ken*

**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

## *From the Minister's Wife*

I had a very interesting phone call the other night while emptying yet one more dresser drawer at the parsonage, packing one more box of memories of our time in Fryeburg. I had recently been reading the parsonage history in the book "O, Jerusalem", which was written in the 1970's when Dave and Carole Rienstra were still living there. Ola Mae Wheaton and Margaret Briggs wrote it together. I had read various sections of it through the years, but more recently, I've been reading about all the ministers who have lived in that house since the turn of the 1900's, up to the Rienstras.

As I emptied a tall wooden cabinet, I started wondering who had originally left it in the parsonage, how many families had loved it and stored their precious items in it. I began thinking about how many items of furniture, books in the attic, letters to loved ones and childhood mementos were left there, how many ministers' families had called it home and then had to pack up their things and move on when the minister's position changed. (You may guess that I was having a hard time leaving behind nearly 14 years of memories of that house, where both my children were raised.) In thinking these things, I felt a calm reassurance come over me, knowing that our family was yet another link in the long legacy of people who have loved that house. But at the same time, I felt a deep sadness and a sense of grieving for a truly blessed period in my life that was soon to be over.

Not more than half an hour later, the phone rang...Carolyn Rice (Barnes?) was looking for Rev. Jim Lawrence!!! I had to tell her he hadn't been in the parsonage for close to 20 years now, that there had been two ministers there since he and Rev. Rachel had left, and that we were actually finishing our time there ourselves, and a new minister was due to begin her ministry soon. The phone number remains the same, even though different ministers come and go. Carolyn's family has property in Fryeburg, and she was seeking information on lawyers and realtors, etc, because she's looking to sell it, and I was able to help her out with the phone

book...easily enough done, and the phone call could have easily ended there.

But as we got to talking, although I hadn't recognized her name at first, I realized that she was the daughter of Wilfred and Ethel Rice! Wilfred was minister in Fryeburg in, I think, the 1930's, maybe? (I'll have to consult the book!) I told her that I remembered her parents. Indeed, I still have a baby quilt that her mother made for Emily when she was first born! We got to talking about her life and memories of growing up in Fryeburg. We talked about how much we had both loved the parsonage...she grew up there as well, just like my children. We talked about how hard it was to pack up and leave, what furniture was still there, what woodstove and chimney weren't there any longer...that kind of stuff.

Turns out, she had lived there exactly 13 and 1/2 years, just like us.

How very like God to send that phone call to me just when I was thinking about former ministers and their families, just when I was feeling a sense of longing and melancholy that this most poignant and memorable stage of my life was coming to a close. How very like God to send an angel, just when I needed her the most, to remind me that all is well, that change, while it comes with painful separation and regret in some measure, also brings about growth and new life in another.

How very like God to send that gentle reassurance to us all.

This church community has been a blessing beyond measure to Ken and me and our children during our time in Fryeburg, a blessing that I can't even begin to express in words. Through times of joy and times of trial, our lives here have been enriched by the loving members of this community. As Ken and I move on and take our memories with us, I hope that we leave good memories for you as well. Some of you have already expressed to me your sadness and regret at our leaving, and undoubtedly there are those of you who feel energized by the unknown potential that change inevitably brings. I suspect that most will feel a mixture of emotions. I know I do. I know I am both sad to leave, and

also looking forward to what is ahead of us, with a heart full of fondness for a time and people I have loved and felt loved by in return. But now, especially, I feel more and more reassured, since God sent an angel to whisper in my ear through the voice of a former minister's daughter, that change is a natural part of everyone's lives, and we can look ahead to the future with hopeful and trusting eyes.

I wish for you all a Christmas season with many blessings and reminders of God's reassuring love, and a New Year full of promise and continuation of the ongoing legacy of a rich and vital church community, with one lucky minister to be next in line!

With love to you all,

*Laurie*



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

## *Worship Schedule*

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

### *The Season of Advent*

- 11/29** 1st Sunday of Advent: The Prophecy  
Isaiah 11:1-9  
Luke 21: 25-28
- 12/06** 2nd Sunday of Advent: The Angels  
Malachi 3:1-2  
Luke 1: 11-20; 26-33
- 12/13** 3rd Sunday of Advent: The Shepherds  
Psalm 23  
Luke 2:8-20
- 12/20** 4th Sunday of Advent:  
Christmas Pageant  
Presented by the Sunday School  
Christmas Party follows downstairs
- 12/24** Ecumenical Candlelight Service  
1st Congregational Church 7:00 PM
- 12/27** The Visit of the Magi  
Micah 5:2-5  
Matthew 2:1-12

### *Poinsettias*



Orders for poinsettias need to be called in or sent to the office by **December 16<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

# Church Report

## The Trustees

The Trustees' next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 1, 2009 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 21, 2009 at NOON.** Please bring a bag lunch. **There will be NO gift exchange this year.** We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church. All ladies are welcome!!

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

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

## In The Hospital

*Tiffany Stevens* and *Melvin Eastman* were both in the hospital last month.

*Jo Cressy* fell and broke her hip last week and is doing well at CMMC in Lewiston.

We wish them all a quick and comfortable recovery.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup>** during Worship Service. It is sure to be a wonderful presentation!! Christmas Party to follow.

## Slideshow to China

Please join us on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 after worship to see an amazing presentation and slideshow from Greg and Jenny Huang-Dale on their trip to China this summer. It promises to be extremely interesting and also educational.



Please join us at the church for a surprise *Farewell Party* for Rev. Ken and Laurie on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. Oooops!!! I don't think it's a surprise anymore 😊

## Youth Group

### *Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service*

Please join us on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Ecumenical Service at the First Congregational Church at 655 Main Street in Fryeburg. All are welcome.

### *And the Winners are:*

The winners for this year's Christmas Cupboard raffle prizes are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize:** Hand Crocheted Afghan won by Sally Harnden
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize:** Decorated Christmas Wreath won by Cristina Ferla
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize:** Lap Robe won by Joan McBurnie
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize:** Clock won by Janice Purslow

Congratulations to all our lucky winners!!!

## Choir

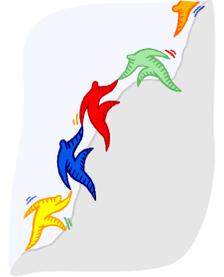


**Ecumenical choir** will continue to meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at the church. We will rehearse songs for Sunday

morning services as well as for the Christmas Eve ecumenical services.

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

Our next gathering is an exciting overnight retreat and **Christmas party!** We will meet at **4pm on Saturday, Dec 5th** at the Fryeburg New Church and stay until 11am, after worship, on Sunday, Dec 6th. 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 our theme, "Holy YouTube!", future work projects and the upcoming retreat at Almont, Michigan! As in the past, I am happy to bring teens (up to 4) from Portland to Fryeburg.



If any teens from Portland would like to go to this youth group, please e-mail me at [kfekete@hotmail.com](mailto:kfekete@hotmail.com) to let me know. Portland teens can arrange to meet me at the N. Windham Hannaford at 3:00 pm. Feel free to bring friends! Please let me know so I can send them a registration form). I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

## Lost and Found

Jean Cressy is looking for someone by the name of "Joan" who brought *Vegetable Soup* to Warren's memorial service. Jean has your bowl and would like to return it. There's only the name Joan on the bottom of the bowl and she's already checked with all the "Joans" we know!!! Thanks.





<b>Calendar for December 2009</b> (held at our Church unless indicated)		
Nov 29	Sun	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
Dec 1	Tue	<b>Board of Trustees Meeting</b> Ecumenical Choir 6:45 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
2	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ SEAS 5:00 p.m.
5	Sat	<b>Youth Group Sleepover</b> 4:00 p.m.
6	Sun	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship China Slideshow by Greg and Jenny Huang-Dale <b>Tree Lighting-Bradley Park (to be confirmed)</b> 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
8	Tue	Ecumenical Choir 7:00 p.m.
9	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ SEAS 5:00 p.m.
13	Sun	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
15	Tue	Ecumenical Choir 7:00 p.m.
16	Wed	Rev. Ken @ FHCC Dinner Bell North @ EAS 10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
18	Fri	Rev. Ken @ Maine Council 8:00 a.m.
19	Sat	<b>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</b> 9:00 a.m.
20	Sun	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship and <b>Christmas Pageant and Party with Santa</b> <b>Farewell Party for the Turley's</b> 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
21	Mon	<b>Women's Alliance</b> Noon
22	Tue	Ecumenical Choir 7:00 p.m.
24	Thu	<b>Christmas Eve Ecumenical Service @ 1<sup>st</sup> Cong Church</b> 7:00 p.m.

25	Fri	<b>Christmas Day</b>	Office closed
27	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b>	8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

### Welcomers for December

Dec 6 Debbie Urgese  
Dec 13 Martha Richardson  
Dec 20 Debbie Dolley  
Dec 27 Sally Harnden

### Ushers for December

Dec 6 Billy Holt and Donnette Barnes  
Dec 13 Mary Dysinger and Lawrence Perry  
Dec 20 Chuck Priest and  
Dec 27 Dean Harnden and Jim Harrington

### Coffee Hour for December

Dec 6 Jean Cressy  
Dec 13 Debbie Dolley  
Dec 20 Christmas Pageant and Party  
Dec 27 Cindy Priest

<b>WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE</b> <b>NOVEMBER 1 - 24, 2009</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>November 1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>November 8</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>November 22</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>November 24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>



December flowers

*Advent Wreath*