



January 2007

Church of the New Jerusalem

# Monthly Bulletin

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

Happy New Year! And I really mean it, even though, after twenty-two years of writing about the New Year, it's getting kinda old . . . Gee, maybe it's me that's getting kinda old! And yet this year truly is filled with expectations. The church is doing well with a lot of new people attending and getting involved. It is not just going along smoothly as it has for quite a few years now, but it is growing and gaining momentum. I am excited and hopeful and looking forward to holding a class in February for new people to get acquainted with the church and hopefully become members. More to come on that.

I did want to share that at our recent Maine Association Meeting we voted, as an Association, to become members of the Maine Council of Churches. This is an organization that brings Christian denominations of all kinds together to talk about, research, and respond to the issues that we are facing in our society today. It fosters harmony amongst the various groups, each with their own theology, but holding Jesus Christ and the Bible as a common center. It has access to and provides information and resources that would never be possible with everyone isolated and working on their own. And it provides a unified voice on issues that we as Christians must engage and address. We will be sending a representative to the monthly meetings to sit on the board and whether that is me, or

someone else, it will be a good thing for the New Church to step up and take our place amongst all of the other denominations in the state of Maine.

All kinds of things have been said about growing and changing, and certainly it is a central tenant of our faith. Spiritual regeneration IS salvation! As such, it is not an event, but a process. It is not trying to be who we aren't, but neither is it being limited to who we were. Rather it is, through learning, self-examination, repentance and effort and most importantly, prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit within us, gradually becoming ever more fully who we are. It means stretching our boundaries without betraying our identity. It means looking to the future without denying or forgetting the past. It means being in the present with presence while honoring those who have gotten us to this point and supporting those who are going to take us to the next step! All of us, whatever our role and however long or short our history with this church may be, can be proud, and I hope fulfilled, in being part of a spiritual community which has been in existence since 1878. Nearly one hundred and thirty years old and we are still the New Church in a new year! May yours and ours be filled with 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

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Happy Birthday Dear Emanuel!

Emanuel Swedenborg was a Swedish scientist, philosopher and mystic who lived from 1688 to 1772. His theological writings, which all came to be after a series of spiritual experiences when he was in his fifties, are an essential part of the faith foundation of this church. He was the son of a Bishop in the Lutheran church and was a very spiritually mature and intellectually advanced child. He went through a typical course of study for young man but at a very advanced pace, and traveled extensively throughout Europe. His early years were devoted to science where he excelled and made important contributions and discoveries in nearly every field. He was a creative inventor with an airtight stove, an ear-trumpet, a submarine, and airplane all to his credit, most of which preceded their familiar use by many years. His design for a plane was never realized, but research has shown that it would have flown if only it had had a source of power to make it go. He was well known throughout Europe for his scientific work and writings, became a member of the Swedish parliament and as Assessor of Mines, was the equivalent of a CEO for General Motors!

It was in his mid-fifties that he began to have a series of spiritual experiences in which he reported visitations from the Lord and an opening of the spiritual realm to his conscious awareness. From that point on, he abandoned his beloved science and devoted himself entirely to writing about spiritual things including an interpretation of the Bible as representing the spiritual growth process of human beings in relationship to the Lord; a detailed description of heaven and hell and the process of dying in this world, awakening and finding one's place in the spiritual world; and an understanding of the Lord God as one: the universal and unconditional love and wisdom manifest as Creator of all life, the divine human of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit which sustains all things; all that is good and true and loving and wise is of God, and all that is evil and false, and cruel and stupid is the human distortion, aberration and abandonment of God; and that final judgment is not imposed but rather a revealing of who we are and what we truly love and our own choice to embrace or reject God and heavenly existence with reward and punishment

being the quality of life we choose. All in all, in the last thirty years of his life, Swedenborg wrote, with quill pen and parchment mind you, thirty volumes of theological works. Initially published anonymously, they had a profound influence over Europe and the society being born in the New World, which would become the United States and Canada. His writings were an influence on Helen Keller, Robert Frost, Ralph Waldo Emerson, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and John "Johnny Appleseed" Chapman just to name a few. The Swedenborgian church, called the New Church, has been a small but profound influence on the growth of this nation from the beginning and continues today. So Happy Birthday, Emanuel, and thanks for all that you have given us, even though we know you would tell us you didn't give us anything, you only wrote down what the Lord saw fit to give you!

*There are two basic cosmic forces intimately determining our life as human beings. "Love" denotes the vital, valuing, and active powers of the soul, deciding the ultimate goals of our thought and action. "Wisdom", by contrast, represents the cognitive power of the soul, providing the technical means for the realization of goals.*

Emanuel Swedenborg

### **Books to Read by Emanuel Swedenborg**

Arcana Coelestia 2: Genesis 10-17 Heavenly Secrets

Heaven and its Wonders and Hell

Heaven and its Wonders and Hell from Things Heard and Seen

True Christian Religion

Divine Love and Wisdom

Angelic wisdom concerning the divine love and wisdom

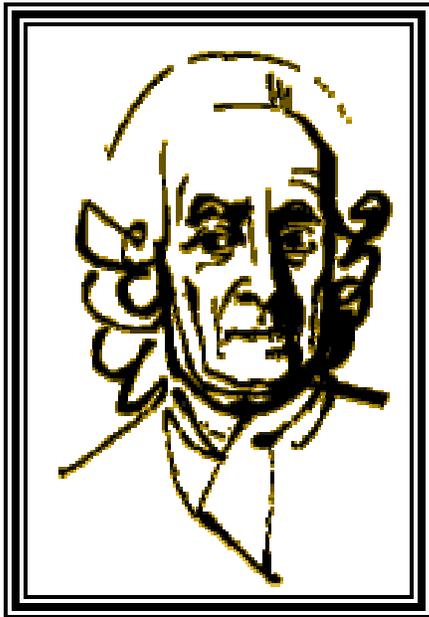
Miscellaneous theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg

# Worship Schedule

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

## The Ministry Of Jesus: Teaching

- 1/7 **1st Lesson: The Beatitudes**  
 Matthew 5:1-16  
 Communion Sunday
- 1/14 **2nd Lesson: The Law and The Prophets**  
 Matthew 5:17-48
- 1/21 **3rd Lesson: Faith and Charity**  
 Matthew 6:1-34
- 1/28 **4th Lesson: The Test of Integrity**  
 "Swedenborg's Birthday"  
 Matthew 7:1-28



**Emanuel Swedenborg**  
 January 29, 1688 –  
 March 29, 1772

## Calendar for January

(held at our Church unless indicated)



1		Happy New Year!	
2		Trustees Meeting	6:30
3		Dinner Bell @ EAS church	5:00
6		Rev. Ken @ FNCA Board Meeting in Boston	
7		Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Communion Sunday</b>	8:15 9:00 10:00
10		Dinner Bell @ EAS church	5:00
14		Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:15 9:00 10:00
15		Women's Alliance Silent Auction for games	6:30
16		Finance Committee Meeting	6:00
17		Dinner Bell @ EAS church	5:00
21		Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:15 9:00 10:00
24		Dinner Bell @ EAS church	5:00
28		Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b>	8:15 9:00 10:00
29		<b>Emanuel Swedenborg's Birthday</b>	
31		Dinner Bell @ EAS church	5:00

# Church Report

## *In the hospital*

**Ella Cressy and Roger Brown** have been in the hospital. Our best wishes for their good health.



## *Thank You!*

*Dear Church Members:*

*It is the season to be giving.*

*This certainly came true at the Community Benefit Diner and Dance held for Billy Holt on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Billy is recovering from Lung Cancer surgery and is still receiving treatments.*

*We served over 165 people for dinner and several stayed to enjoy the music and dance afterwards.*

*Due to the generous donations from the community members Billy has now received just over four thousand dollars to help defray his expenses.*

*The list is too long to thank each individual so please accept this as Your Personal thanks from the committee of the following churches: Fryeburg New Church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Assembly of God, Lovell United Church of Christ, and The First Congregational Church of Fryeburg.*

*You all came through to honor His Greatest Commandment To Love One Another As He Hath Loved Us.*

*I thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

*Happy New Year to All,*

Patricia J. Swett

## *Women's Alliance*

Officers for the Women's Alliance are:

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

We meet the third Monday of each month at the Church, except July and August, but please note: our next meeting date is **January 15 at 6:30.** This month coffee will be done by Jean Cressy and Claudia Graves. **There will be a silent auction to benefit the games program at FHCC.**



## **December 2006 Sunday Service**

Nov. 26	46
Dec 3	55
Dec 10	52
Dec 17	55
Dec 24	68

## **December 2006 Sunday School**

Nov. 26	10
Dec 3	20
Dec 10	15
Dec 17	15
	No Sunday School

A nyone who wants a copy of their yearly donations for tax purposes, please contact S tanley Dolley, T reasurer, FNC.

## *The Trustees*

The Trustees' next regular meeting is scheduled for **January 2 at 6:30 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	603-939-2262
Debbie Dolley	935-2887
Susan Wheaton Logan	603-694-3743
Cindy Priest	935-3360
Nels Liljedahl	935-3741
Deneane Frost	935-3344
<i>Women's Alliance Representative:</i>	
Sally Harnden	935-2546
<i>Treasurer:</i> Stan Dolley	935-2887



Fryeburg New Church  
Office Hours  
8-12 Tuesday – Friday

## *Gift Idea Reminder!*



Our limited edition, colored, 11"x14" matted print would make a beautiful and meaningful gift for that special person in your life.

Please visit our web site for more information and the mail order form:

<http://www.fryeburgnewchurch.org/orderform.html>

All proceeds from the sale of these prints go into our Capital Fund which makes many worthwhile projects possible. This truly is a gift that keeps on giving!



*Flowers in January*

*Will be done by  
Jean Cressy*

## **Ushers for January**

7	Donnette Barnes Dawn Ferguson
14	Chuck Priest Cindy Priest
21	Jean Cressy Sue LaPointe
28	Claudia Graves Pat Swett

## **Welcomers for January**

7	Debbie Urgese
14	Debbie Dolley
21	Martha Richardson
28	Karen Ela

## **Coffee Hour for January**

7	Dee Dee Frost
14	Debbie Dolley
21	Mary Dysinger
28	Martha Richardson

## *Dinner Bell North*

Dinner Bell North in Fryeburg is alive and well. Under the direction of Bebe Toor, it serves dinner to 80-120 patrons at the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton church at 5:00 p.m. every Wednesday. All of the help from shopping, prepping, setting up tables, cooking, serving, and cleaning up are volunteers. It takes quite a crew each week! It is truly an ecumenical and community involved activity. All are welcome to eat and/or to help. If you would like more information, or would like to become involved, please call Bebe Toor at 935-2068.

## *Special January Dates*

<b>Jan. 1</b>	<b>Happy New Year</b>
<b>Jan. 16.</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
<b>Jan. 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Emanuel Swedenborg's</b>

**Birthday**