



May 2007

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,

It is, after seemingly unrelenting spring snow and rain, a bright and sunny day. The snow is receding and daffodils are beginning to push their way up and out of the rapidly thawing earth. On the one hand I'm filled with the joy and optimism of the spring season and the joyful spiritual uplifting of Easter and all that it celebrates. Yet on the other hand, I am filled with a great sadness. As I follow the unfolding story coming out of Virginia Tech I am unable to escape the realization that no matter how good things may be, there are, and will always be, those who will embrace the tools of destruction and in orgies of self indulgence wield them to bring pain and death to others. In his own mind, this troubled young man was no doubt convinced that his actions were justified and that he was bringing rightful retribution to those who deserved it. And there lies the rub. Most of us are convinced that we are right, that we see things as they are and as they should be. You listen to politicians of all stripes, you read editorials and people's letters to the editor in the paper, you hear people's conversations, and most of the time people express with amazing self-confidence their view of what should be and whose fault it is that it isn't. And it is this certainty in one's own rightness and the vehemence in blaming and condemning others that frightens me to the core. For it is only a few

steps over a line that is so often lost to sight that separates the committed from those who should be committed. It is because of this dangerous ambiguity that I will desperately cling to the teachings of Jesus Christ as my moral compass in all things. And from these teachings I hope I will never forget that *how* one pursues what is important is just as important as *what* one holds as important. If the young man in Virginia had focused his pain and anger in a constructive effort to improve the world around him, he might have been known as well as he is now for bringing about something beautiful and beneficial. As it is, he has sent a shock wave of death, horror and anguish throughout the world that has accomplished nothing. Perhaps that was his only intent. But for those of us who seek to serve God rather than ourselves, who desire to be of positive influence in the world, it is essential that we never forget that what we do and the manner in which we do it is inseparable from why and what we seek to accomplish. So I remind us all, myself included, that certainty of purpose and intensity of conviction do not justify destructiveness, or even insensitivity and hurtfulness, in pursuit of our ends. What is more, we must take care to be certain that our ends as well as our means are in harmony with our ultimate values and the purpose we hold for our lives. In other words, morals and ethics are not

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

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

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some theoretical philosophy that we discuss over coffee and forget when we go back to work, they are practical instruction and guidance for how to live and accomplish in the material world that which will be judged as loving and wise in the spiritual world. As all of this tumbles over and over in my mind I am comforted and encouraged by the thought that while this fellow's name and actions will soon fade into obscurity, the name and actions of Jesus Christ have been a source of comfort and inspiration to the world for over two thousand years. And so I will do my best to let the latter be what fills my head and heart and motivates the actions of my life.

Blessings,

Rev. Ken

### *Spring Schedule*

**Sunday School 9:00 AM**

**Family Worship 10:00 AM**

**5/6 Communion and Confirmation**  
 "Breaking Bread and Breaking Faith"  
 Mark 14:12-26

**5/13 Mother's Day**  
 "Birth Pangs of a New Church"  
 Revelation 12:1-6

**5/20 Ascension Sunday**  
 "Forty Days, Forty Nights, Forty Days"  
 Luke 24:44-53; Mark 16:19-20;  
 Acts 1:1-11

**5/27 FNCA Work Weekend "A Job Well Done"**

### **Ushers for May**

- 6 Jean Cressy and Donnette Barnes
- 13 Chuck and Cindy Priest
- 20 Billie Holt and Bonnie James
- 27 Herb Eastman and Claudia Graves

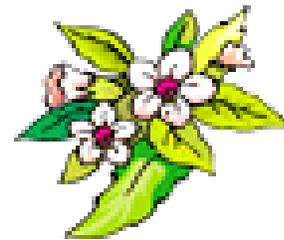
### **Welcomers for May**

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

### **Coffee Hour for May**

- 6 Donnette Barnes
- 13 Chuck Priest
- 20 Mary Dysinger
- 27 Jen Richardson

**May flowers will be done by Renie Chaplin**



<b>WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>April 8 (Easter)</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>April 22</b>	<b>42</b>	

<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Easter – No Sunday School</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>11</b>

# Church Report

## *In the Hospital*

**Elsie Hill, Dean Harnden, and Edie Leach** have been in the hospital. We wish them a prompt return to good health.

## *Choirs*

Please plan on an evening rehearsal on Wednesday, May 2nd, at 7:00 at the church, so we can get the remainder of the spring music rolling.

## *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. Our next meeting date is **May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00**, when we will be having a Potluck Supper at Church. Jean Cressy and Claudia Graves are on committee.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon we will be holding a bake sale at the Thriftway in Fryeburg Plaza. Hope to see you there!



## *Gift Idea Reminder!*

With wedding and graduation season upon us, 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!

## Calendar for May 2007

(held at our Church unless indicated)



1	Tue	<b>Board of Trustees' Meeting</b>	6:30 p.m.
2	Wed	Rev. Ken returns from Peer Supervision in Duxbury, MA Dinner Bell North @ EAS Adult Choir Rehearsal	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
6	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship Communion and Confirmation	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
9	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ EAS	5:00 p.m.
13	Sun	<b>Mother's Day</b> Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
16	Wed	Rev. Ken at FHCC & Hicks Dinner Bell North @ EAS	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
17	Thu	Brownfield Food Pantry Brownfield Lions Rte. 113	1-5 p.m.
20	Sun	Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
21	Mon	Women's Alliance Meeting Pot Luck Supper	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
23	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ EAS	5:00 p.m.
26	Sat	Assembly Work Weekend @ FNCA Bake Sale @ Thriftway at Fryeburg Plaza	9 - 12
27	Sun	Assembly Work Weekend @ FNCA Adult Choir Sunday School Family Worship <b>Birthday Bank Sunday</b>	8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
28	Mon	<b>Memorial Day</b>	
30	Wed	Dinner Bell North @ EAS	5:00 p.m.

## *The Trustees*

The Trustees' next regular meeting is scheduled for **May 1, 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, <i>Chair</i>	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



## Breast Cancer Fundraiser

An estimated 40,000 women will die from breast cancer this year, and the disease takes a life every 14 minutes. An estimated three million women are living with breast cancer. One million of them don't know it yet.

Several members of our church community are participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Massachusetts on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

In memory of their grandmother, Marilyn Bell, Tasha and Trisha Foster (daughters of Henry and Holly Foster and nieces of Kelly Bell Lloyd) are walking in this fundraiser, hoping to raise at least \$3,600 in donations. Donations may be made online: <http://tinyurl.com/2zu6cx>, which will take you to the team page and more information on the team and the fundraiser. Or, you can send a check, made out to *Avon Walk for Breast Cancer*, to **Tasha Foster, 111 Twin Brook Lane, Bellingham, MA 02019**.

Leslie Gibson, the daughter of Sally and Jim Gibson in Fryeburg, also is participating in this fundraiser. Donations may be mailed to Leslie at **202 Otis Street, Apt #3, Cambridge, MA 02141**. Again, the check should be made out to the *Avon Walk for Breast Cancer*.

Donations in any amount would be greatly appreciated by these generous young women,

and all donations must be received by May 12<sup>th</sup> for collection purposes. Thank you for anything that you can give!

## The 2007 SCYL Memorial Day Weekend Teen Retreat

**May 25-28 at the Fryeburg Assembly**

**Retreat Theme: Seasons of the Soul**

We watch with great anticipation and excitement the coming of each new season. The budding trees and fresh sprouts of spring, the warm, active summer afternoons, the ripe autumn harvest, the first snow of winter. Season after season, year after year, we are thoroughly engaged and in tune with nature's cyclical cadence.

But how many of us are aware that the seasons we experience in nature are also coursing through our body and soul? Each of us encounter our own personal spring, summer, fall and winter. Physically, our bodies go through the succession of spring's energy, summer's strength, autumn's beautiful maturity and winter's rest. Emotionally, we feel the joy of springtime rebirth or the introspective hibernation of winter. Our spirit also moves through seasonal periods. Our soul faces the challenges of the harsh coldness of winter and springs to life with love and delight. According to Emanuel Swedenborg, "In the natural world the varying seasons depend upon how far the sun is from the equator; in the spiritual world they depend upon how remote the affections of the will, and so the thoughts of the understanding, are from true love and true faith." [*True Christian Religion* n 185]. Our spirit experiences the bitter cold of winter when we turn away from the Lord's light and the pleasant warmth of summer as we move towards God's love. Understanding the different seasons of the soul helps to guide us to our true spiritual potential – our life calling or eternal use. In other words, recognizing your soul's seasons brings you closer to realizing the wonder and excitement of heavenly life.

For questions or information, contact Kurt Fekete at [kfekete@hotmail.com](mailto:kfekete@hotmail.com) or call Kurt toll free at (866) 333-SCYL (7295).