



Waterford Congregational Church, UCC

2017
August/September
Worship and Church School
9:30 a.m.

From the Pastor:

When you receive this newsletter, I will have entered my vacation time. It is with gratitude I say thank you to Rev. Anita White for covering pastoral emergencies while we are on Cape Cod visiting family. I will be returning on August 13th refreshed and renewed.

Our daughter Carolyn is getting married Labor Day weekend so I will not be preaching on September 3rd. It will be a very festive time in our lives. Carolyn is the youngest and the first to be married of the five cousins on both sides of the family. Yes, I will be officiating at my daughter's wedding so it will be very sentimental to wear two hats on this occasion: mother of the bride and minister.

Some of you have already had a very busy summer with traveling, hosting guests, attending weddings, participating in family reunions and celebrations of life for your loved ones. There is a danger not to take time off and to consciously slow down in order to be a "human being" and not a "human doing." It is a very challenging task to deliberately relax in New England during the summer time. In Maine we can count on two hands how many weekends we will be blessed with being able to swim, boat, waterski, kayak, sunbathe and not worry about being cold. Here is my full disclosure: I always bring a sweater to the beach even if it is 90 degrees.



I encourage each of you to practice Sabbath in your lives.

Perhaps meditate for two minutes every day, read a fun book, or spend time splashing around in the lake. Taking time to rest and relax is crucial to our well-being. Jesus disappeared many times to have some quiet time in order to restore his energy.

I encourage you to have as much fun as possible and also take time for yourself and renew your spirits in a way that feeds you best.

May you have a blessed summer!

Rev. Petra Smyth

Letter from the Moderator

We are in the best part of the summer now. This week has been especially glorious with cool nights and sunny days. The word from where I sit is: the Council has not decided to rest or kick back but instead grab onto the task of working on the long-range plan to move "the little church with a big heart" forward. The Council met with Doug Bate on July 9 after church for a facilitated session on visioning and planning. It was a wonderful experience with a lot of good ideas put down on paper and discussed.



Doug Bate

Photo: Sally Holm



July 9 meeting

Photo: Sally Holm

The next step as I reported the following Sunday is to set some priorities. The committee on Long Range Planning met Thursday, the 27th of July, to draft recommendations for the Council to move on. From there we will bring it to the congregation for a final discussion.

The other two items I would like to comment on are these: First, the change in the By-Laws. Thanks to all the members of the congregation who took the time to stay and vote for the recommended changes in the By-Laws. Hopefully, these changes

will encourage one of you to come forward to take up the position of Treasurer under the new description of that job. Know this if you are considering the job, you will be helped by the Finance Committee: the Council and especially Ralph as you learn your duties. We have pared down the scope of the job to mainly taking care of business and not the financial end of it. That will be taken care of by the Finance Committee. Please, if you have any inkling of interest get in touch with any member of the Council to learn more about the job of Treasurer.

The second item is "Make a Joyful Noise!" Sunday. I am so excited about this opportunity to make music with our sister churches I could burst! It should be a wonderful celebration of the music praising God and our wonderful place here on earth. I look forward to seeing and hearing all of you and your summer company this Sunday, the 30th, as we "Make a Joyful Noise".

Finally, all the best to Joy Plate as she fights her way back to good health. A tip of the hat to Henry for his steadfastness and energy helping Joy. As always they are both in our prayers.

Enjoy the wonderful weather, people, activities and place we have been given by our Lord and Savior.

--Al Struck



James Long with Father's Day Donuts...
Did you get one?



After 39½ years of wandering in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly asks for directions.



Calendar Dates

- Joyful Noise Sundaes - July 30
- First Sunday of the month: Food pantry!
- Summer Breakfasts: August 2 & 16: 7:30-10
- Church Picnic - August 20 at Whichards camp
- PieTree Tour - September 18: 9:30 at church

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

AUGUST

- 1 Ralph Sylvester
- 3 James Long
- 3 Diana Wright
- 9 Lauryn Bedard
- 10 Meg Wheeler
- 19 Lydia Sylvester
- 21 Marion Brennan
- 23 Ellie Winslow
- 24 Denny Raymond
- 27 Caren Long
- 30 Ginia Brannan

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Elaine Sylvester
- 27 Ginny Raymond
- 29 Bruce Whichard
- 29 Ted Nixon



Bristol with Gremee - Future organist

Comments from the Stewardship Committee

The following article is a reprint from one of our church newsletters dated July 2003. In April of that year, the church's first Stewardship Committee was formed.



Stewardship

A steward is a caretaker, someone who lovingly tends something which has been left in his or her trust. Stewards never truly own that which has been entrusted to their care; they understand that the true owner can request an accounting of their use of the resource at any time. We as people of faith understand ourselves to be people who have been given all that we have as a trust from God, not ours because we deserve it, not ours because of any particular virtues we possess, but because we are loved by our creator.

Stewardship is the name we give to our grateful care of all that we have been entrusted with: our bodies, our abilities, our relationships, our material resources, and our future. Christian financial stewardship means caring for the history, the community, the buildings, the program and the future of the church. We do this through our gifts of "time, treasure, and talent." These gifts are understood as our response of love and gratitude to God for all the blessings of our lives. As the Council for Ecumenical Stewardship Studies puts it, "Both for the individual and for the community, stewardship is a joyful act for the sake of God's world."

As active stewards of the Waterford Congregational Church, all financial gifts, (pledges, Sunday Offerings, and donations) given to this church make possible the good work that this church continues to do. GOD'S WORK IS NEVER DONE. True joy is in giving to the mission and the future of this church. -- Dodi Wait Stewardship Chairperson with Kerry Johnson, Jean Struck, Barbara Allen, Ralph McKinnon



*More pictures
from
July 9 meeting
with
facilitator,
Doug Bate*



News from the Mission Committee

It has been a busy early summer for the Mission Committee. Here, I list many opportunities on which we are working. I encourage our church family and friends to take part in them as they are able. There are lots to choose from. What excites you? What do you feel passionately about? Please contact anyone on the committee with thoughts and ideas.

***SERRV** – In working to break the cycle of poverty, SERRV creates long-term connections with marginalized artisans and farmers in 25 countries, including here in the US. Together they build handmade products that serve as a tool for positive change worldwide. We are hosting our Fair Trade sales during the Community Breakfasts at the Wilkins House. Please visit our tables to see these beautiful items.



***Christmas in July & August** – The Mission Committee and Church Council are holding this special offering during the summer. This fund helps provide pension and health premium supplements to lower-income retired church workers, and emergency assistance to clergy or lay church employees in times of need: a way to say thank you to our retired employees. Envelopes are available at our church services.

* **Fill the Suitcase** – We will continue to collect school supplies for this important project. Many children in the Dominican Republic will benefit from our gifts. Please bring in your school supplies and leave them in the basket marked “Fill the Suitcase” at back of the sanctuary.

***Grace Street Ministry** – We will also be putting a basket in the back of the sanctuary to gather items to share in this outreach ministry. All year long these items can be used: Dunkin Donuts gift cards, Subway gift cards, backpacks, packs of underwear, small soaps, lotions, shampoos and deodorants. As the seasons change, we will update the list of useful items. For more information, please go to www.gracestreetministry.blogspot.com.

***Collecting used eye glasses** – Please leave good, unneeded eyeglasses in the specially marked box in the back of the sanctuary. These will be reused by those in need, even abroad.

***Fuel Emergency Fund** – This fund is used locally, helping our neighbors in need..

***Good Neighbor Fund** – This fund is for our local children.

As I write this article I feel the spirit move through our church as we live our mission statement “*to strive to help the church engage in mission opportunities, collectively, and individually, doing God’s work both with in our community and throughout the world.*”

Shalom -- Pam Williams, chair, with Myra Maltby, Carol Madsen, Nancy Engdahl, Petra Smyth

Updates from Church Activities Committee

*On July 30, after the musical Sunday service, we all shall be gathering at the Wilkins House for a make-your-own ice cream sundaes social. Come and enjoy wonderful music and refreshments.



*On Sunday, August 20, the Whichards will be hosting our church picnic at their home on Lake McWain. Please come any time after the church service. Lunch will be served at noon. The Whichards will provide directions for those who need them. There will be a cabin available if you need to change into swim wear or use the facilities. The committee will provide paper goods, water, and soda. The golf cart will be in use for transportation to the lake as needed. Please bring the following:

- 1) Food to share such as main dishes, salads, finger foods or dessert.
- 2) Food to grill if you choose to do so.

Mark the date, August 20, for an afternoon of food, waterfront activities and socialization. There will be a signup sheet on church choir rail so the Whichards can get an estimate of the attendance.



*On Monday, September 18th, we shall be hosting a local outing to the Pietree Apple Orchard. We shall meet at the orchard at 9:50 or at the church at 9:30 if you care to carpool. Pietree offers a tour gratis. Our only cost will be for pizza from their wood fired oven or any items you wish to purchase.

Included will be a wagon tour of the orchard with an explanation of their operation by an orchardist. This will be followed by apple tasting of several varieties that they grow. Then we shall gather at the picnic tables to enjoy flatbread pizza, homemade donuts, or other purchased goodies.

This program will be available to the first 25 people to sign up. Pietree requires a count. Please sign up at the choir rail by September 10 or call 583-6677.

*Orders for ornaments are still being taken. We hope to fill orders soon. You choose a bell or a tree made from window glass from the original church. If you are interested, fill out an order at church or call me at 583-6677.

--Nancy Engdahl, Church Activities Committee Chair with Dodi Wait, Sally Holm, Myra Maltby, Joy Plate, Gail Nixon and Denny Raymond



Thoughts from the Clerk

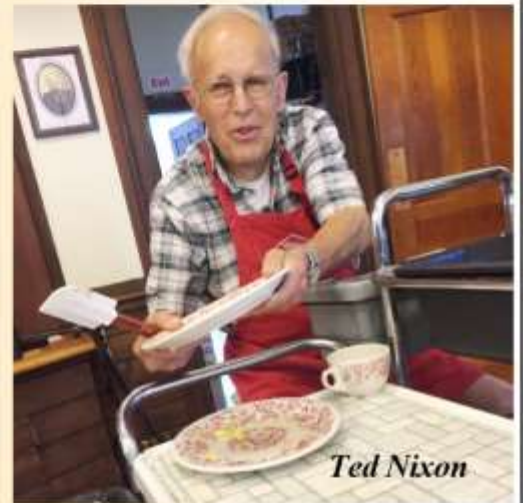
The council members are very busy exploring possibilities for a new treasurer to replace Ralph, as well as looking at church investments, the long range planning committee, the finance committee, stewardship, education for adults and children, our missions, bible related occasions, social events and gatherings. We have a very dedicated, hardworking group of people who are striving to advance the church in these fields. It is a strong group with a desire to see this church not only survive, but to advance into the future as a strong body in the village and as a pillar of the community. They get involved with the library summer programs for everyone and all the different seasons of Maine. It is what makes Waterford a strong village and community.

I recently talked to a woman who moved to Waterford a short while ago, and she stated to me that when she joined the knitting group and other groups, she was surprised that there is no "JUICY " gossip talked about during them. This just shows the care and concerns local people have for one another. That is the strength of Waterford: the Love and compassion we have for each other. That is why people are drawn to Waterford, besides it's beauty and history. It is the bond of humans doing what God meant us to do and to be: care about each other without criticism. Isn't it wonderful to be in God's special place with this troubled earth?? --James Long

Updates from the Wilkins House



Our summer breakfast season has seen two community breakfasts so far. We served 373 people on July 4, and 155 on July 19. Additional breakfasts will be held Wednesdays August 2 and August 16 starting at 7:30. We are grateful for all those who attended as well as all who volunteered in the kitchen and in the dining room.



Volunteers are the life blood of these breakfasts and we are always looking for those interested and able to serve. If you would like to help us, please contact Ginny Raymond at wilkinshouse1797@gmail.com or phone her at 583-7357. It's a great place to meet new neighbors and socialize with good friends. Thank you for your continued support of the Wilkins Community House.

--Denny Raymond, Assistant Manager



From the Choir

On June 25th, we had a great time making country music Sunday a success with Don Chase and Gail Scott leading the choir, accompanied by Kay Leslie and Jane Morse. All of the hymns and anthems were assisted by the choir and band, with Don playing intros on his guitar. The anthems were ones he had played many years ago with the youth choir at this church! Dianne Morse Leonard remembers singing them when she was a youngster.

It was great fun having Don and Gail's musical talents and we hope to do it again soon. -- Jane Morse



On June 20th, Rev. Petra Smyth teach and amuse the children during the childrens moment.



Pictures from Sunday, July 29 - Friends!

On July 29th, we were blessed with a visit from former pastor, Kim Marie and a visit from former Music Director, Gabe Gabrielsen and fiancée Jayme Lane. Big smiles everywhere!

A Quick Photo grab!



Al Struck, Myra Maltby, Jayme Lane, Gabe Gabrielsen, Jean Struck, Mary Colbath, Kim Marie, Jane Morse, Petra Smyth, Pam Williams and Dell Foss.



Happy Hour after Church

from Dell Foss

Happy Chapman, Karen Fillebrown, Dell Foss, Nancy Engdahl and Kim Marie

Hugs for all!

*Mary Colbath,
Jean Struck,
Dell Foss,
Gail Nixon
Jayme & Gabe
Bobbi Whichard
Al Struck*

photo: Sally Holm



*Jayme Lane with Gabe Gabrielsen & Jean Struck behind
Photo: Sally Holm*

*Kim exchanges laughs
with Dell Foss, Jean Struck
and Dodi Wait.*

Photo: Sally Holm





News from the Pews

Arrived safe and sound and trying to get unpacked, etc.

I am not doing anything social yet except going to dinner as I want to unpack all these boxes and get the apartment livable! Everyone is very friendly and asking if I need any help, etc. Food is fantastic. Up until today the temps hit 100 every day and very humid. I am so thankful the apartment has AC !! But I miss the fresh Maine night air! I always like my window open. Can't do that here.

Chloe is having a hard time adapting. I have a lovely little patio and right outside have large shade trees and a gorgeous "Memorial Garden" that the garden club takes care of. There are walkways to walk, but a LOT of walking so the cane gets good use!! Chloe has found that she can walk out onto the patio without going up or down steps! So, she spends a lot of time sitting out there watching the world go by.



Please tell everyone I said hello and I do miss everything that is Waterford. But, time will let me feel hopefully the same in my new surroundings.

New Address:

Marion Brennan
50 Lacey Road, Apt. A126
Whiting, NJ 08759



At Mt. St. Helens in 2014

Phone: 732 849 2226

Where's Mr. Long?



Roughly a month ago, during an extended stay in "the peaceful village," Gabriel Johnson found a new best friend. He was a perfect friend--warm and kind-- and he came with all the perfect toys to win a young man's heart--trucks and tools and an unmistakable twinkle. He was hard at work on the house across the road from the little guy's NanaPapa House on Plummer Hill Road. They first met one morning in May, and it was a match!

Gabriel kept his eye on his new friend all day. Then, that evening just before supper, he stood at the little windows by his front door, excited to catch one more glimpse of his friend. But not a sign of him! With not a little despair, Gabe exclaimed to anyone nearby, "Where did Mister Long go?" He put his tiny finger to his lips and frowned. "Hmmm, where DID Mister Long go?" We explained that Mr. Long probably went home to have his supper with Mrs. Long, but Gabe was not satisfied. He asked again and again.

The next morning it was the first thing out of his mouth, as he ran to the little window. With great excitement he saw that Mister Long's truck was back, so just maybe....

After breakfast, still in his pjs, we headed across the road to see if the elusive Mister Long had really come back. There he was, bigger than life, smiling and laughing and filling a little boy's heart with so much joy! And so it continued each night and morning, the asking for Mister Long, even when Gabriel and his mother returned to Cambridge. And continues to this day.

But now, Gabe has added something new. As he drifts off to sleep no matter where he is, he ends his day the same way: "Night night, Mr. Long!" A friend for life, I'd venture. Thanks, Mister Long.
--Sally Holm

Happy to pose!

The "gents" from WCC enjoying some summer 2017 refreshment time! Ralph Sylvester and Chuck Whichard were happy to pose for this photo!

--Arlene Whichard



Have Family, Will Travel!

May was the beginning of a busy time for Bobbi and Chuck Whichard. First they flew with their son, Glenn and daughter-in-law, Ruth from Tampa, Florida, to St. Maarten to enjoy the wedding of their granddaughter Amy Irene Knych to Todd Leonardis! A small family celebration of nineteen, gathered together and created beautiful family memories! They enjoyed the tranquil waters, sandy beaches, and one another during the magical celebration and family time.



At Amy and Todd's wedding!

Bobbi and Chuck then flew back to Maine with Jared, Bruce and Arlene to begin preparing for summer. But, before the rental season began at Cottages at McWain Point, Bobbi and Chuck were again traveling! A journey to California, flying with Jared, Bruce and Arlene to enjoy yet another wedding: their grandson, Douglas Charles Whichard, as he married Danielle Kovacich! They gathered with their three boys, daughter-in-laws and other family members for more family and celebrations. Time was also spent with their grandchildren and FIVE great grandchildren. It was very special! Bobbi and Chuck were thrilled to meet their newest great grandchild, Braden Charles Craven, just born in May!



At Doug and Danielle's wedding.

After all the active and happy days of travel, Bobbi and Chuck returned to beautiful Maine to once again enjoy their family and friends at camp on McWain Pond, and their church family at the Waterford Congregational Church, and perhaps a little bit of rest!!!

--Arlene Whichard



With Great Grandchild, Braden

A New Home for a Maine Mink



The newest addition to our household is this little guy (pictures above). It is a Maine Mink. He came to our house in the middle of the night about 2 AM, well... early morning. Our cat was frantically watching out the window, and when I looked, he stood right up on the exterior stairs and looked at me. I did not know what it was, but I looked it up on the Internet and realized it is a Maine Mink. I did not know we had them in the wild in Maine. Beautiful animal!

About 2 weeks later I found this mink, lying in the road on Route 118 near Pop's Place, hit by a car. I took it home and called the warden service to see if it had any value to the Maine museum in Augusta.

The lady sent out a nice game warden, and we discussed how healthy he was and what a nice specimen he is. They did not want him so the warden gave me a permit so I could keep him legally. I took him to Dick's taxidermy in Lisbon Falls to have him preserved. He did a wonderful job and is a beautiful decoration to our home.

Wild life is so pretty, and he is no exception to it.

--James and Caren