



Waterford Congregational Church, UCC

2017
February/March
Worship and Church School
9:30 a.m.

From the Pastor:



We had a busy start to 2017.

January 8th, we joined the North Waterford Church congregation and participated in their new hymnal dedication service with joyful singing.

January 15th, we had our annual meeting with a potluck “bruncheon” celebrating God’s presence with us over the last year. During the meal we were encouraged to share one favorite memory of our church life in 2016.

The mood was festive and almost fifty people were in attendance.

Last week the hospice choir “Sing Now” sang several songs and hymns to the church activities committee. Their passion and talent are tremendous as they performed contemporary music as well as songs with roots in religious and spiritual traditions. They are a volunteer hospice choir for the Lakes Region of Western Maine whose ministry is singing to those who are nearing the end of their life. Please contact them at (207) 256-4351 or by e-mail: singingsoothes@gmail.com for more information or to schedule a time for them to sing.

As “Sing Now” brings light to patients and their loved ones, we are in the season of Epiphany and listen to stories about Jesus bringing light to the world. We too are charged to bring light to others. Over the next few weeks may you ponder the following quote from Ajahn Chah:

Somebody once asked Thai meditation master Ajahn Chah, “How can you find happiness in a world that’s so full of change? Where is there joy in all this suffering? How can you be happy in a world where pain is so inherent and such an integral part of everything?”

He picked up a glass and he said, “You see this glass? For me this glass is already broken.”

He said, “So I enjoy it, and I drink out of it, and it holds my water, and then when it’s broken — of course. When this glass is already broken, every moment with it is precious.

Blessings on this Epiphany season,
Rev. Petra Smyth

Sunday - JANUARY 29

Wilkins house

Special Mission meeting

on Dominican Republic

w/ refreshments!



Calendar Events

FEBRUARY

- 5 - "Souper" Bowl Sunday after
Worship service - Wilkins house
- 16 - 3:45 Mission Comm at Pam's
- 16 - Pot Luck at the Wilkins House



MARCH

- 16 - Pot Luck at the Wilkins House

Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY

1 Bob Ross

27 Jayme Lane



MARCH

2 Jared Whichard

28 Happy Chapman

Church Council: voted in January 15

Pastor Petra Smyth

781-3783

Church Office: 583-6381

Organist: Joann Fillebrown 583-4673

Church Council - 2017

Moderator: Al Struck **Clerk:** James Long

Treasurer: Ralph MacKinnon

Assistant Treasurer: Lois Grigg

Deacons:

Myra Maltby

Joy Plate

Sally Holm

Gail Nixon

Trustees:

John Wait

Kerry Johnson

Jeff Winslow

Rich Maurer

Stewardship Chairperson: Dodi Wait

Church School Superintendent: Myra Maltby

Missions:

Nancy Engdahl (Local)

Pam Williams (Global)

Communications Coordinator: Sally Holm



Letter from the Moderator

Good snowy morning. As I write this I am looking out the window at our latest snow event. It isn't significant enough to get a name, when did that start?!

A week has passed since our Church celebration meeting. That was such a successful event I have to pinch myself. We had over 40 people in attendance. The food was wonderful and added to the good spirits.

If anyone still wants a printed copy of the annual report please contact me. I will send an email file and you can print it or the parts you would like.

Thanks to all the committee chairs for getting their reports to me in time to get to the printer.



The Council has had another successful change of various leadership roles. Thank you Karen for your 14 years of service as Clerk and welcome James to that role.



One position we need to be planful about is that of Treasurer. Ralph is thinking of leaving that role at the end of this year. Unless we sedate him and hypnotize him, I think he is serious this time. He promises to write down good instructions and will mentor the next victim, volunteer. Seriously, this is an important member of the Council, and so we would appreciate folks with business experience to consider this role for next year. For more information, please call Ralph to answer your questions about what the Treasurer duties exactly entail.

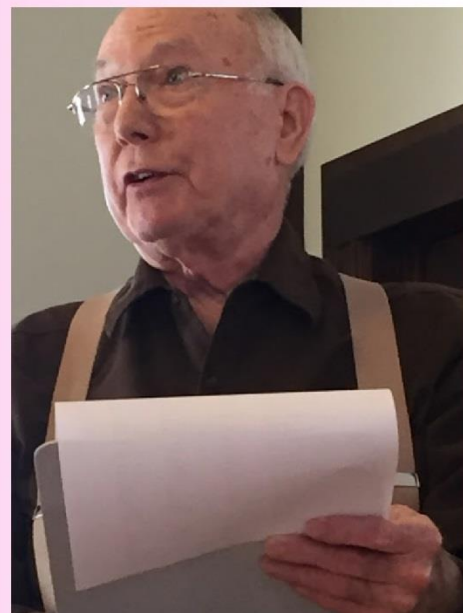
May God continue to bless our work to the betterment of his church. See you in church! --Al Struck Moderator

Finally, I want to let folks know the Long Range Planning Committee is still working hard and will be having an event in March to move our plan into a more doable focus. Thanks for all your input during the conversation phase of this work. It is exciting to see the energy this congregation has for "doing" not just talking! Ask the ladies at the Town Office and our Head Selectman. They all think we are a very strong link helping our larger community with the various funds and outreach events we hold.

Financial Snapshot

The books are now closed on 2016, but before we turn our attention to 2017, let's take a quick look at last year's budget results. We ended the year with a surplus due to several factors. Operating Income increased over 8% from the previous year and, on the expense side salaries, fuel costs and trustee project costs were all lower than anticipated. Add to this the extra savings we found just by being prudent and the bottom line became a \$4,582 surplus which has been placed in the Future Needs account to be used against future deficits. But now we start 2017 at zero and go from there. We can only trust that the level of pledges and donations will be sufficient to carry us through 2017.

This is why the pledging process is so important. Understanding what monies will be coming in allows us to manage the outflows in a timely fashion. The 2017 Pledge Drive got off to a good start but has slowed since January 1st. At the moment we have 30 pledges that total \$38,704. Our Operating Budget for 2017 is \$66,514 so we certainly have a ways to go if we are to cover projected expenses. --Ralph MacKinnon, Treasurer



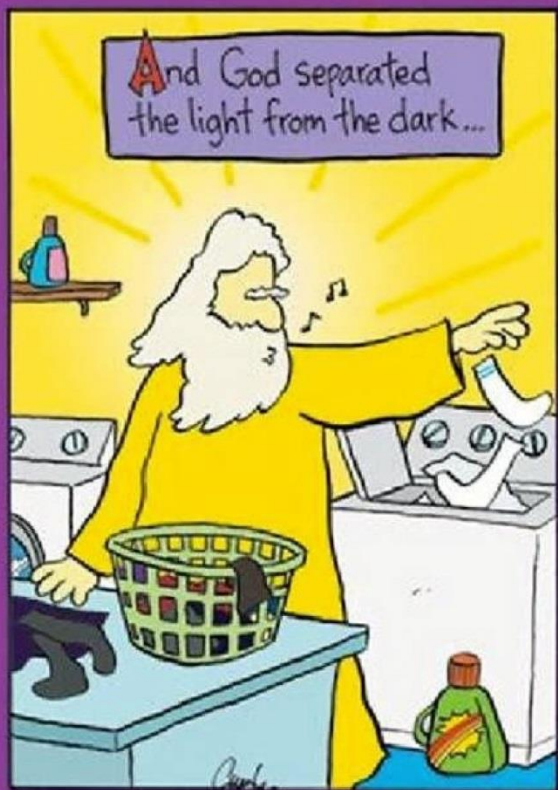
Trustees report

The trustees, Kerry Johnson, Jeff Winslow and I, thank the people who helped us with the maintenance of the Church in 2016: Henry Plate, Al and Jean Struck, and Ted Nixon.

We welcome Rich Maurer as a member of the trustees.

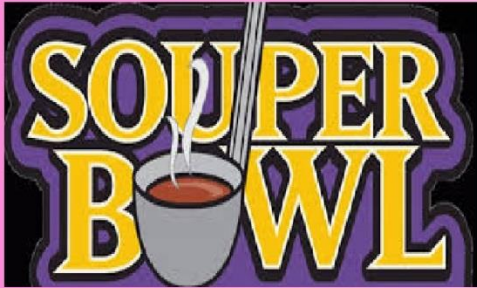
During the past two months there have not been any major maintenance issues in the church or Wilkins house.

If there are any issues that need to be addressed, please contact one of the trustees or write the issue on the sheet on the church bulletin board. --John Wait



Church Activities Committee

For our first meeting of the new year, the CAC was serenaded by “Sing Now” , a hospice choir for our region. This talented group of volunteer singers does choral and bedside singing for those nearing the end of life. Music is very soothing for the terminally ill. If you know of anyone who could use their services, Petra has the information.



Our next event will be Souper Bowl Sunday on February 5th right after the service. Myra will be baking loaves of her delicious breads and 5 volunteers will make a variety of soups for you to sample. There will be some yummy repeats from last year. Remember to bring a bowl and spoon to this soup tasting event. The dishwasher is on vacation .

We welcome Gail Nixon to our committee. We shall be planning future events such as a Lenten Program which Dodi is exploring and fun gatherings in small groups at various houses which Petra is exploring. If you have any ideas to share, please contact one of us.(Denny, Dodi, Myra, Petra, Joy, Nancy, Gail, Sally) Social events are especially welcome in the “cabin fever” months.

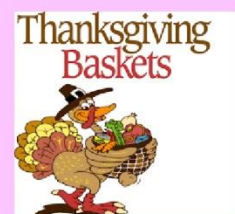
--Nancy Engdahl

News from the Mission Committee

We had a successful first year; *this committee strives to help the church engage in mission opportunities, collectively and individually, doing God's work both with in our community and throughout the world.*

Here is a quick look at our Missions opportunities for 2017

January	*Our Churches Wider Mission
February	
March	*One Great Hour of Sharing
April	
May	*Pentecost Sunday (Strengthen the Church)
June	
July	*Christmas in July - Retired Minister and Employee Fund
August	
September	Church World Services and Sunday School project
October	*Neighbors in Need
November	Thanksgiving Baskets
December	Christmas Eve; local needs



Our next meeting will be in February 16th at 3:45 at my house. Please feel free to join us or give us any suggestion for opportunities we might be able to work on. --Pam Williams - Chair



Picture by Cynthia Hamlin

From the Pews:

Dear Friends:

So many of you have sent warm wishes, notes, flowers, yummy food, and prayers! Thank you so very much! It all makes us feel so loved. We are healing and will be back at it soon.

Love, Sally and Kerry

Local Students

Help Students in Dominican Republic

Join us on Sunday, January 29, at 10:30 a.m. at the Wilkins House next to the Congregational Church in Waterford Flat. The Mission Committee has invited Mody Botros of the Lake Region Rotary Club and liaison to the Lake Region High School Interact Club to speak about the students upcoming mission to the Dominican Republic. High Schoolers from Lake Region, Fryeburg Academy, and Bethel are organizing a mission where they will support some of the poorest children in the Dominican Republic with school and sanitation projects. Some of these youngsters are returning for their 2nd or 3rd time.

Refreshments will be served.



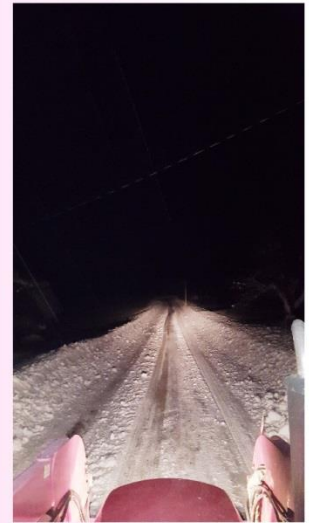
News from the Deacons.

Caren and James' terms of being deacons has ended. It has been a full and enjoyable time to serve the church and be involved with the other church members. We had a busy time once Labor Day came. It was a time to reflect about the upcoming Holidays and what it means, and try to fit all the wonderful activities that are offered to us, with programs at our church and other organizations. We had so many events we wanted to attend this year, but once again we did not get to them all. But, there is always next year. Nice to have something to look forward to in the future; it is what keeps us moving forward in our life. Not looking back, doting on what we have missed.

We want to thank Petra, Karen F. and all the other deacons we worked with this year, in supporting our efforts to get the deacons' job done competently, thus making every thing enjoyable for our church family. It is a joint effort and was well appreciated by us. Thank you all!



Winter has reached us and left us again and again this year. Strange to go from a clear road to a completely filled in and narrow road in one storm, (see attached photo) I am glad all the storms are not this severe. Of course we had a newly tarred road this summer and are so spoiled to drive on a smooth road again after 20 years of a broken up bumpy road. But it will be back in the spring and we will enjoy it once again. Thank God for spring time and the rebirth of it!!



James is going to be the new clerk of the church, replacing Karen Fillebrown after her many years of serving in this position, Thank you again Karen. It will be a job to follow her as she has done it for so long and knows exactly what to do. James will have to learn all the steps that go with the job, but Karen will be right there to help him through the hoops. Whoops he fell again, tripped on the hoop. (NOT REALLY, DON'T WORRY, HE'S ALRIGHT!) Just good humor!

Well, that wraps up a wonderful year for us and we look forward to another year without being so busy with emails and arranging people to get it all done. We can sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds of a busy, mission-filled church that loves each other and our village.

Blessings to all --James and Caren



Once again we have our rainbow in the church, this time high-lighting our Christmas tree.



Clarinet quartet

Photo from Church Service,
December 11, 2016

Dick, Al, Heather & Randa

Music Director Report

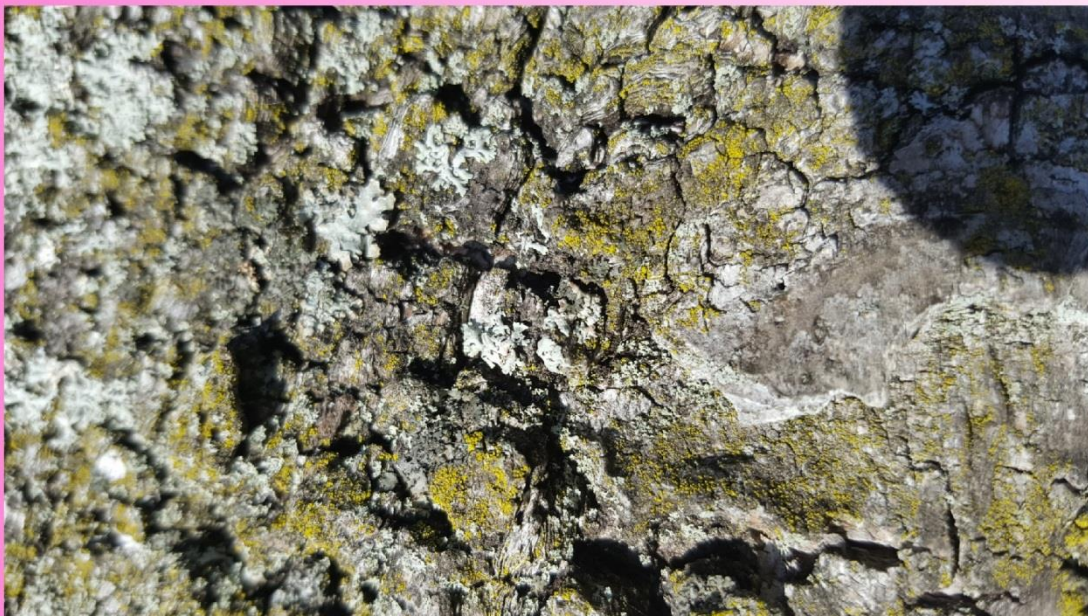
Choir is singing well during the cold winter months! We rehearse at 8:30 on Sundays prior to worship service. All are welcome to join us! There is no audition, so don't worry...

During Lent we will replace the standard *Gloria Patri* with *Dona Nobis Pacem*, something we started last year with Gabe. Don't worry, I will lead everyone and, it will be beautiful!

Please let me know if there is a particular song you would like to hear the choir sing.

Also, if anyone would like to perform during a worship service, please let me know and we will schedule a time for your special music.

Yours in song --Jane Morse



Can you guess?

What is this photo with
the gnarly texture is
???

Hint: It is of something
in the village.

--James Long

“Souper” Bowl Sunday

February 5

Immediately following 9:30 worship

at the Wilkins House

BYOB&S*



Come and enjoy

homemade soups, breads, fellowship

and speculate on who will win the big game!!

****Bring your own Bowl & Spoon***

Wilkins House

Thank you for your continued support of the Wilkins Community House.

Our Thursday Pot Luck suppers continue. The January supper was hosted by some of our Harrison/Bridgton friends (Marilyn Crowley, Linda Bradstreet, and Peter and Jane Whitchurch). Suppers are the 3rd Thursday through June at 6 pm. If there is a SAD 17 school closing due to snow or weather that day, the supper is also cancelled. The next supper will be February 16 hosted by Ralph and Joan McKinnon with Tony and Donna Butterall. It is always a great time to see friends and meet new ones. Everyone is always welcome. Please bring a favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share.

The Wilkins House is a wonderful venue for birthday parties, anniversaries and any other special occasions. Please contact Joann Fillebrown at 583-4673 to schedule your event.

--Denny Raymond, Asst. Manager

News from the Pews



Office help, checking to make sure the church is in order for Sunday.

--JazzBo



Garrett Fillebrown has been accepted into the class of 2021 at the University of New England College of Dental Medicine!!!

We are so proud of him.

He made the deans list all through his four years at St. Joseph's.

--Karen Fillebrown

News from the Pews

Joan Fillebrown became a great grandmother on Dec 11th to Brystol Bennett daughter of Brittany (Hunt) and Travis Bennett, granddaughter of Susan (Fillebrown) and Tony Hunt. --Karen Fillebrown



Four generations!



Great Auntie KK



News from the Pews



Hope all is well with our friends.
Jayme Lane and Ed "Gabe" Gabrielsen

More Pew News



So pleased to announce the birth of our grandson, Owen Carter Raymond, born, January 16, 7 lb 6 oz. Owen resides in Ft. Worth with his parents, Will and Susan and sister Olivia.

Looking forward to visiting them all soon....

--Ginny and Denny Raymond



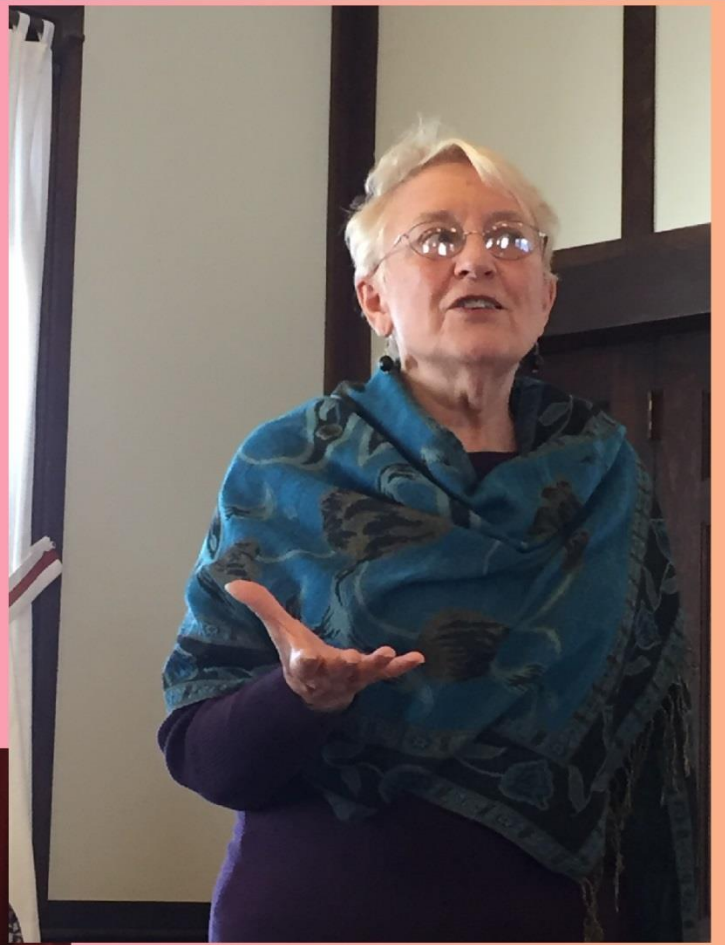


ANNUAL MEETING

January 15, 2017



**M
O
R
E**



**ANNUAL
MEETING**





**Children at
Annual Meeting**

