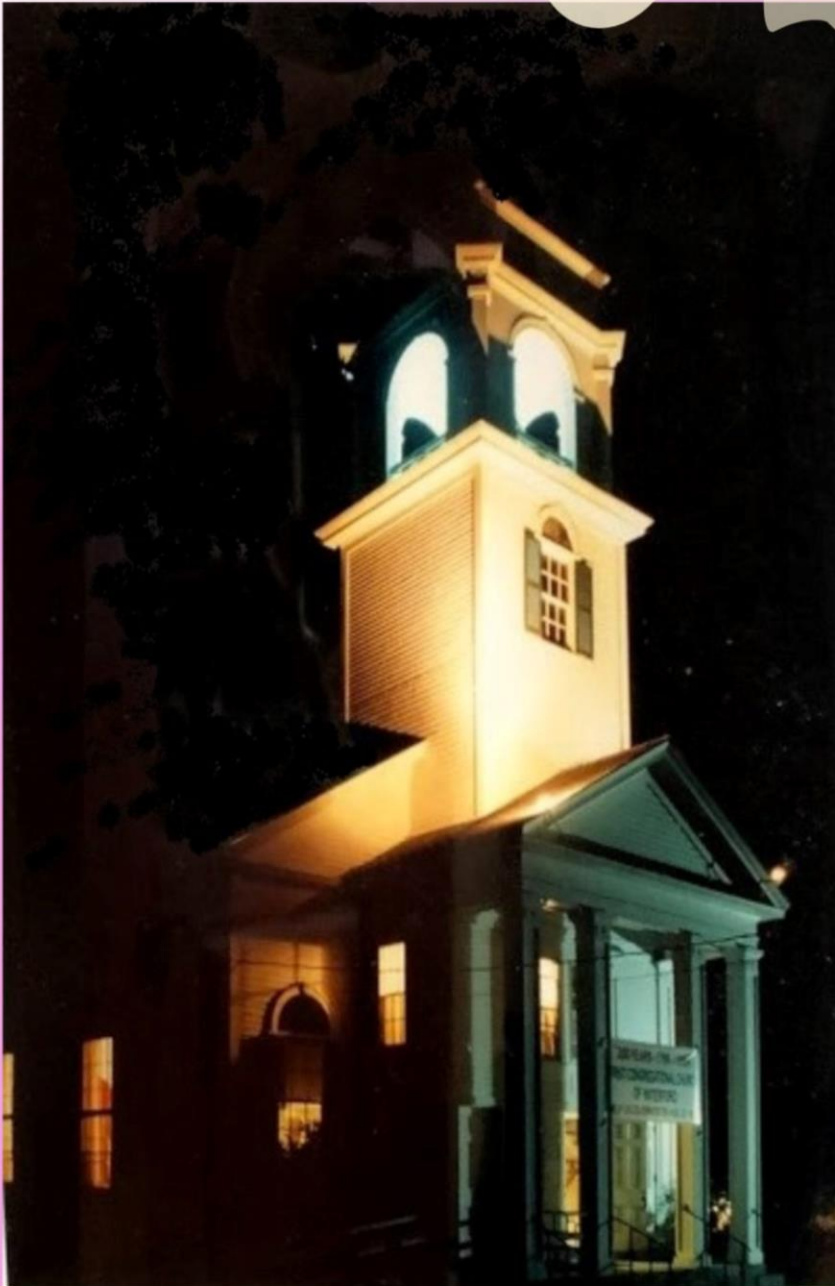


Waterford Congregational Church, UCC

2019
February - March
Worship and Church School
9:30 a.m.



Waterford Congregational Church, Bill Fillebrown photo
Taken 1999, for our 200th birthday

Surprise on New Year's Eve

This year was my first New Year's Eve in Waterford, my new home. I'd already watched the New Year arrive in other parts of the world, in other time zones. It was almost time for the ball to drop in Time Square. I was already in bed, half-dozing ... when suddenly, from the bottom of Plummer Hill, sounding through the snowy, silent night, I heard the church bell begin to ring and ring and ring. It was so beautiful and so unexpected. I was transfixed. I imagined the bell would cease, after 12, or 13 rings. "Please don't stop," I thought. And it didn't, until it had rung for what seemed a long time.

There was something so brave and hopeful about this bell tolling out into the silent dark night as it snowed. Ringing out the old, welcoming the new, whatever it brings-- the known and unknown. A blessing at the beginning.

Afterwards I wondered, if I might ring that bell sometime? Then I heard a rumor that there was a video of the bell ringers that night. I was able to watch it. And there they were, all of them folks we all know - up there in the belfry, having a wonderful and joyous time, ringing out the old, ringing in the new. Sending out peace and love and goodwill and more to all of us.

Unforgettable.
Sandy Fitz-Henry

ALERT!

To see 2018 bell ringing, log in to the church
website: <http://uccwaterfordme.com/posts>

From the Moderator

Good Frigid Morning,

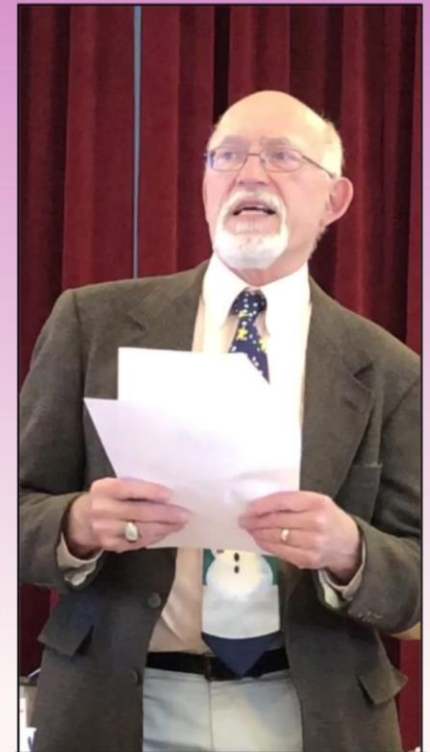
Ahh, winter in Maine! Ya gotta love it! The Sunday's Patriot victory certainly warmed me up. Had to change the battery in my pacemaker...TWICE!

It was too snowy for services as well, that weekend but we had a beautiful day for the Annual Meeting on January 13th.

The "Bruncheon" has become a tradition for our church. As I looked over the gathering, I think most everyone who was in church was at the meal and the meeting. We heard the final report from Petra which was very uplifting and positive. We are an energetic group doing great things in this community. As we listened to the highlights of the year from each of the committee chairs, I was struck (pun intended) by the efforts of this small congregation. Undoubtedly the "worker bees" on the Church Council led the charge, but everyone in their own way has contributed to our successes. The attendance at this meeting attests to that.

The first piece of business, the election of officers, contained many members who continue to be strong leaders of their committees. As well, some new folks have stepped up to the challenge. The full annual report has been emailed out. I hope everyone received it successfully.

We are in good shape financially and the physical plant is also looking very good thanks to our Treasurers and Trustees. The CAC keeps us hopping with all kinds of events. The Music Committee has just finished a successful first year of concerts dubbed "Sharps on the Flat", and the Mission Committee has held events that have helped our neighbors near and far with fuel assistance, and SERRV, supporting artisans from other countries.



Al Struck at Annual Meeting
Ginny Raymond photo

During the church service on the 13th, we all learned that our wonderful organist for over 37 years, Joan Fillebrown, has had to step down for health reasons. We had planned to honor her at the annual meeting, but since she was unable to attend, Jean and I carried the best wishes of the congregation to her in the form of a card signed by all present and a picture of a weeping Japanese Cherry Tree, pictured below, which will be planted in her honor in the meditation garden behind the church this spring.

At the annual meeting, I also reported on the status of the search for the new minister. At that time, the search committee had been in deep discussion with a candidate; but after more than 6 hours of meetings, both the candidate and committee agreed to step away from the call. As a result, I have contacted Rev. Darren Morgan from Maine UCC asking him to forward the names of other available candidates that the committee could contact.



We have been very fortunate with the selection of supply ministers who have come to fill our pulpit each Sunday this winter. This process has been more involved than we have previously experienced. We are very much dedicated to getting the best match possible for our community. We are an attractive congregation as our annual meeting attests.

We must keep faith, and we MUST keep coming each Sunday to keep that spirit of community alive. I hope to have better news about the search for the next newsletter. In the meantime, stay warm, stay safe and remember to bring your bowl and spoon to "Souper" Sunday on February 3rd.

We are all working together to do God's work.
Sincerely, Al Struck. Moderator



Birthdays!



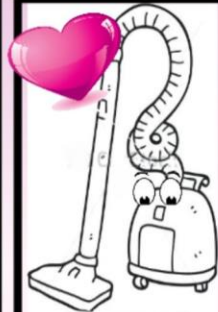
February

1 Bob Ross
13 Gabe Johnson
27 Jayme Lane



March

2 Jared Whichard
28 Happy Chapman



MYSTERY: WHERE IS IT? Gone Missing!! Church Vacuum!!

Needed badly to pick up sand tracked into the church.
We are using a plethora of sand with the crazy weather
that Mother Nature is providing us!
The vacuum is really needed!!

Please Return!

A request directly from the Church Trustees



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

1st, or shortly there after...

Lenten Book 'Challenges' due to Sally

3rd, Sunday 11 am

Souper Bowl Sunday at the Wilkins House

Bring a bowl & spoon!

10th & 17th, CWS Collection for Blankets

17th, Sunday following the service

Council Meeting at the Wilkins House

21st, Thursday, 6 PM

Potluck Supper at the Wilkins House

March

6th, Lent begins

17th, Sunday following the service

Council Meeting at the Wilkins House

21st, Thursday, 6 PM

Potluck Supper at the Wilkins House

April

18th, Thursday, Tenebrae Service

21st, Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service, Breakfast at the Wilkins House

9:30 Worship service at the church

June

1st, Saturday, 7PM

Sharps on the Flat

WHO IS THIS?

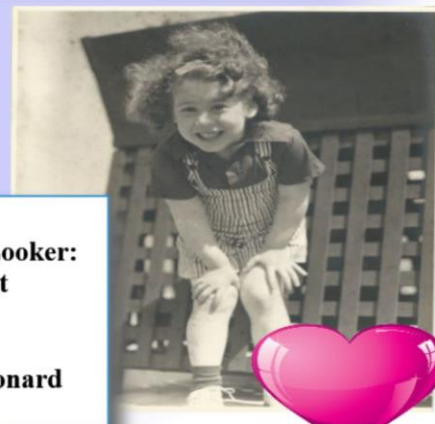
Tell Ginny or send your answer to
WaterfordCongregationalChurch@GMAIL.com



The answer will be in the April/May
Newsletter along with the winner's name.

P.S. There is a prize for the first right answer!

**HINT! She was too big for her pony!
But she sure knows how to play!**



Last Newsletter's Looker:
Karen Wright

Winner:
Dianne Morse Leonard



Myra Maltby
Pam Williams
Dianne Leonard

From the Deacon



The Deacons launched into a new year eager to fulfill our role as spiritual guides of the church—an especially daunting task given our lack of a pastor to inspire and lead these efforts. But first, we have to thank Myra for her two terms on the Diaconate. Job well done! Thank you, Myra for all you have given to the role. Enjoy your Caribbean vacation!

We welcome our newest deacon, Dianne Morse Leonard, to the team this year, joining Gail Nixon, Pam Williams, and myself. Among our responsibilities are finding supply ministers, arranging for the Bulletin to be organized each week after which it is ably created by Kaz Grigg, preparing the sanctuary for worship each Sunday, preparing for and serving Communion on alternate months, assisting the pastor meet pastoral care needs in our church community, creating special services for Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise, Hanging of the Greens, and Christmas Eve. We also find scripture readers, snack suppliers, flower arrangers, and greeters for each Sunday. (Anyone interested in helping with these roles should speak to one of us!) And myriad other jobs that go unnamed and largely unnoticed.

For the Deacons,
Sally Holm



Sally Holm
Gail Nixon



Nancy Engdahl
Annual Meeting
Ginny Raymond photos

News From the CAC



This coming Sunday, February 3, we shall celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday after church. Bring your bowl and spoon and sample five soups and homemade bread....and enjoy the fellowship that our little church always has on hand.

The Lenten booklet will be going to the printer soon. It isn't too late to submit your reflection. I know it is a challenge to write your piece about a challenge which you had to meet, but it is much appreciated. We shall be offering three evening discussion groups based on our reflections starting on March 13th. More information will follow.

Mark June 1 at 7:00 pm on your calendar! The Music Committee (Sharps on the Flat) and the CAC will be presenting a music fest featuring six local groups. This is a fundraiser for the Emergency Fuel Fund. Our last music fest in 2014 drew a large crowd, so we are hoping for the same this year.

Our committee would like to get some input on your thoughts about the activities we have been presenting. We'd also like to get some new ideas about events for the future. Put your thinking caps on for the survey questionnaire that will be handed out soon.

Nancy Engdahl



News from the Mission Committee

Blanket the World with Love:

This Valentine's Day, you can help to provide blankets to people in need.

Every year, Church World Service gives away blankets, and they need your help to make this possible. The warehouse of supplies is starting to get empty, and they need your help to provide more blankets to people around the world.

For only \$10.00, you can help to immediately provide a blanket for someone in need to give them comfort from the cold. Not only does a blanket bring warmth, shelter and security, but it also comes with a promise that we the Waterford Congregational Church will be with them, to care for them while they get back on their feet.

You can help to keep people warm, so please give generously and help to blanket the world with love. We will be taking this offering on February 10th and 17th.



Pam Williams at Annual Meeting
Ginny Raymond photo

Other Missions

The WCC is also helping families in our community who need assistance with their heating expenses as we slowly move through this winter season. Thank you to everyone who has supported this local mission.

During the month of March we will be participating in **"One Great Hour of Sharing"**. Please watch for handouts and envelopes for everyone.

In the next few weeks, the committee will be meeting to look at other projects we will support the year. If you have any ideas or questions please contact any of us on the committee: Nancy Engdahl, Myra Maltby, Carol Madsen, Stef Michaud, or myself.

Shalom, Pam Williams



Blankets for Church World Service

Music News



January is proving to be a cold month with a Sunday off due to a storm!

Choir has been learning new music, so that is really fun! Choir will continue to practice new music and welcome anyone who would like to sing or play special music during the offertory. We always welcome new singers in our choir. We rehearse at 8:30 AM prior to the Sunday service.

Jean and Brendan Bass have sung with us a couple of times recently. It is wonderful when they can join the choir!

I am working on a few things with trustees to improve the spacing and lighting in the choir area. Stay tuned!

The music committee and CAC are working on upcoming Sharps on the Flat concerts. We will have more news later, but please hold the date of Saturday evening, June 1, for a concert to benefit the fuel fund.

In this deepest, coldest time of year, use music to warm your hearts!

Jane Morse, Music Director



Jane Morse
at Annual Meeting
Ginny Raymond photo



Denny Raymond
at Annual Meeting
Ginny Raymond photo

Wilkins House Activities



The ever-popular potluck suppers continue and the next one will be Thursday, February 21st at 6 PM. If SAD 17 schools are closed, there will be no supper that evening.

Thank you to all who host these suppers. February's hosts are our friends, the Murphy's with Sandy Fitz-Henry & Doretta Colburn. The March 21 supper will be hosted by our friends, Patti and Chris Brennan.

We are looking forward a super "Souper Bowl" Sunday, February 3. Remember to bring your own bowl and spoon! More details in the CAC news article.

The Wilkins House is a wonderful venue for birthday parties, anniversaries and any other special occasions. Please contact Nancy Eaton at 747-8572 for details and to schedule your event.

Thank you – Denny Raymond, Asst. Manager

An Interview (in part) with Joan Fillebrown

Church History
Ginny Raymond

You came to Waterford as a little girl? You were not born here?

I came to Waterford after the Library burned and we moved [there] in 1938. ...[First]we rented a house [in South Waterford] from Mrs. Hapgood....Nobody would believe it had been taken down,. [It was] down by the Big Hamlin house... on the main road going down to Sweden...



The Hapgood House. where Joan first lived in 1936.

So did your family join South Waterford Church?

...No, I don't remember that church running [at that time], but it must have.... [Later]I played [the organ] down there some.



Bill's mother, and former organist, Charlotte Fillebrown

Oh, you did too. Was [Charlotte Fillebrown] here in Waterford when you were born? Or did she live some place else at that time?

She always lived in that house. In the big house, over there, where Sally [Holm] lives?

Mmmmm....After Walter [Charlotte's husband] died, She sold it to Margaret Doore and Charlotte moved. She did not like living under the face and eyes of the porch, so she had this [house] moved over here.... I've got [a] book that my mother kept. From the very beginning, the very first minister, right up through... I sort of kept it up, but I don't know what to do with it....



Bill and Joan's wedding party which includes Martha Jacobson, school friend and maid of honor Itchy, Bill's brother Stephen, and in front of him, Bill's nephew Charlie Gus Fillebrown. 1950

Down there was a factory that belonged to Albert Hamlin. Albert Hamlin had a mill, up there in the V as you went to South Waterford, where Clara lives now.... Albert would haul stuff he'd sawed out down through town. Then he'd go down on that road to store it in a big building.... I don't know if that big building is [still] there or not? Well, anyway, Mother used to put us [Joan and Mac] down for a nap, and we'd each have a little dish of crackers or something. And Mac and I decided we would count the number of times Albert went by with his noisy tractor. Then we would get up and say we were awake. I wish I remember how many times but, it was busy. It was back and forth and back and forth. We must have lived on the first floor. I think she [Mrs. Hapgood] must have lived on the second floor. (See: Waterford Maine, 1875-1976, Page 35).



Ed & Irene Bean, Joan's parents, at their 50th wedding celebration



Joan & Bill, visiting at the Library, where Joan lived before marrying. (circa 1950)



Fillebrown family (R - L)
Karen, Shannon, Susan (Hunt), Joan,
Paul, Marlene, Garrett

Photo taken during the lighting of the
4th advent candle (Peace), 2018

It used to be that you could run down to the store and get candy, and you cannot do that anymore.

I can't remember the name of the bread company.... Well, [the breadman] came in the store. And us kids were there, and he handed us each a little box of cigarettes. It was either 3 or 4 cigarettes

It was like a toy he gave you.... But you never smoked? No. I went home and I said, *I'm going to try this if it kills me*. So I lit them all up at once, and put them in my mouth. That was the end of that!

So you guys were never members down at South Waterford.

Not too many memories. I was friendly with Happy and Buelah Brown. [The Browns] lived there at the house across from Kimball's store....

[Charlotte] played in both places [the Flat and South Waterford]. I think maybe up on our organ there may be the date [when she started playing]... [I think] her mother played before her.... I know I was 14 when she taught me to play.

Did she teach you piano as well?

I don't think so. I don't think we even had a piano.

So you learned directly on the organ?

So that would have been the organ, and of course that was pump.

So you learned to play on the old pump organ on the church?

Yup...And I really took to pumping, Really. That was fun!



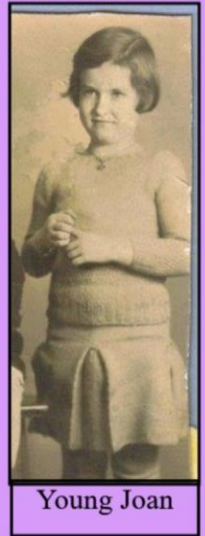
Joan with her three children, Paul, Karen and Susan (Hunt)
All photos provided by Karen Fillebrown

... And then they got the electric organ...

When the Earl Brown's split up, they gave them the organ we have now...I want to say 1950... This was Earl and Cornelia [who lived in what is now Kedarburn]....

I can't remember when [Charlotte] retired from playing. It was during my school years here. Well, Wanda Hamlin played... Kay Leslie played. I don't know if anyone else played... I played during the time I was in High School, and then we were married in 1950 and moved away: But off and on.

[When we were first married], Bill worked at the weather bureau in Caribou. We lived in Caribou for almost a year....He got transferred to Portland. And they made me fly down. Bill was working that day and came down to take me to Presque Isle. He knew what the weather was. I guess he was on pins and needles. I'd go along and [the plane went]whoop, whoop. The stewardess...I was alright, but I guess she was worried. ... I think we made four stops before we got to Bangor.... I had to wait to get on [the next plane]. Then it was just shshshsh [smooth].... Which was a good thing for me, because I might never had wanted to get on [a plane] again....[We went] from Bangor to Lewiston... Yup, my mother and brother were there waiting for me. We came to Waterford... I stayed here and it wasn't too long before I had Karen.



Young Joan

Christmas Celebration

December 15, 2018





*Christmas Celebration
December 15, 2018
Continued...*





Ralph MacKinnon



Bob Ross



Carol Madsen



**Ralph Sylvester
Ted Nixon**



Stef Michaud



Arlene Whichard



Jane Kimball



Dodi Wait



Kerry Johnson



**Kaz
Grigg**



Dell Foss



Annual Meeting January 13, 2019

Ginny Raymond photos
(Apologies to those not included. Some pictures were poor.)



Birthday Fun

News from Jane Morse

Jane and Peter's grandson Owyn turned 3 on Jan 10th and celebrated with a superhero party at the Wilkins House with his friends.

Here is Owyn and sister Ivy as superheroes!



Too Old?

News from Ginny & Denny Raymond

Last weekend, we were invited to a roller skating party put together by Emmi's elementary school. We thought it a bit dull to just sit and watch, so we all put on skates and had some fun!

Shown here, our granddaughters, (L -R) Ella, Eva, and Emmi Brannan, us and our daughter, 'Ginia.

Yes, Denny did skate too!