



Waterford Congregational Church, UCC

2016
October/November
Worship and Church School
9:30 a.m.

From the
Pastor:

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:



*a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

Again, we find ourselves in a time of transition and change. We say farewell to our summer families and look forward to seeing them again next spring. Fall is a beautiful time of slowly transitioning from being in nature to living inside. Yes, there is a time for everything, and it appears that we are always racing to keep up with everything that is important to us. Do put time aside for all that has been mentioned in the scripture above.

As you read the Ecclesiastes passage, I encourage you to spend time with God, appreciating what is easy for you to take time for and meditating what is challenging for you to take time for.

Perhaps you could do this alone, or with your partner, your spouse, your friend. You might be surprised about what you discover.

--Blessings and Peace, Rev. Petra Smyth

From the Moderator:

It's a beautiful fall afternoon. The equinox was over a week ago and the change in the amount of daylight is significant. But, in good Mainer fashion, we are making the most of that light harvesting the last of the garden produce, cutting, splitting and stacking wood, starting that first fire of the season because of the temperature going below 40, removing screens, washing windows and putting that last coat of wax on the car before the snotty weather really hits.

That hustle and bustle is happening around the church too. A crew of volunteers scraped and painted the outside of the new windows, power washed the front of the church and trimmed the lilacs. The sign in front is getting a new paint job and will be back soon. Inside the last new window has finally been installed.

The Council has been busy reaching out into the community.

- * The fall activities started with the Bible scavenger hunt.
- * Mission made soup for the Sweden Food Pantry.
- * The Trustees have been busy as the list above attests.
- * The CAC is coordinating with the Library Trustees to host another Halloween party preceded by "Trunk and Treat" and Library activities.
- * The Long Range Planning Committee will be hosting conversations at the homes of members to talk about our church now and in the future.
- * The Choir continues to provide music at services as we find ourselves searching for a new Director following Gabe's departure.

That's a pretty impressive list for a little church in the foothills of Oxford.

Petra's energy, stamina and faith guide us weekly. She helps us find that quiet still voice that replenishes our inner strength to do what we need to do during the week and season to come.

Ayuh, we'll be ready.

--Al Struck



Ted Nixon
working on the
Church windows

From the Treasurer

Do you remember, back in the day, when you had to pay taxes on the interest your bank savings account earned? Don't you now wish the account earned enough for you to pay taxes? Your Waterford Church doesn't pay taxes but it has a similar problem...we think it's prudent to have a percentage of the church's assets in a cash account. Therefore, we have a savings account that houses all our mission funds as well as some reserve funds. In 2015 we had an average balance in savings of \$29,109. The interest for the entire year was \$10.41. The interest rate was (and still is) 0.03%. At least we don't have to pay the bank to take our money. By the way, this is called the "New Normal" which means things aren't going to change much soon. It's a good thing we have some endowments that can help us cover our budget deficits. **Or can they?**

Endowments are structured to do two things: make annual payouts and retain enough earnings to cover these payouts and allow the funds to grow over time. But most of our endowments were written when the "Old Normal" was in effect. That was when it was accepted that stocks would increase in value, on average, 10% a year. This meant endowments could payout 5% and the remaining 5% would grow the fund. Now we're in the "New" territory but over time, recipients became dependent on the 5% and fund managers struggled to meet the goals of the fund and satisfy all involved. Our situation was a little easier to resolve...it was a period where we had few, and small, deficits in the operating account. While we welcomed the dividends we saw the value of our endowments decline. We stopped the automatic withdrawals until the

situation clarified (it hasn't). We used other, internal, sources to finance church operations. The reinvesting of our dividends has put our endowments on a healthier path.

It is important to note that the key to having this degree of flexibility is the financial support the members and friends of this church have shown over the years. Pledging and other contributions have helped provide the stability needed as we plan for each coming year. In this vein, to help project costs more accurately we are taking a different approach to our budget process. Past budgets have allowed extra allocations for unexpected events without too much concern for the income prospect.

The budget for 2017 will allocate for just the expected...We will handle the surprises one at a time.

As the Stewardship Committee readies the Pledge Drive this fall, we want you to be aware that you will be asked to help finance church operations only. Major building or property improvements (\$1000 or more) are funded through the investment account or a special fundraiser. A budget deficit, however, would have funding priority over the bricks and mortar projects and could cause an unwanted delay in some projects.

It's too soon to know what the operations deficit will be, but at the moment we are running about \$100 shy per week. Too bad there's still 52 weeks in each year.

--Ralph MacKinnon, Treasurer



Calendar Dates

October (Neighbors in need offering taken all month)

- 1 - Food Pantry
- 19- CAC Meeting
- 20- Pot Luck Supper
- 30- Sign up begins for Thanksgiving Baskets
- 31- Trunk or Treat festivities
(Library, Common, Wilkins house)

November

- 6 - Food Pantry
- 6 - Fall back - French Toast Breakfast
- 6 - Pledge drive begins
- 13- Church History Window Dedication
- 13- Agnes Lahti Birthday celebration
- 17 - Pot Luck Supper
- 20- Thanksgiving Baskets come to church

December

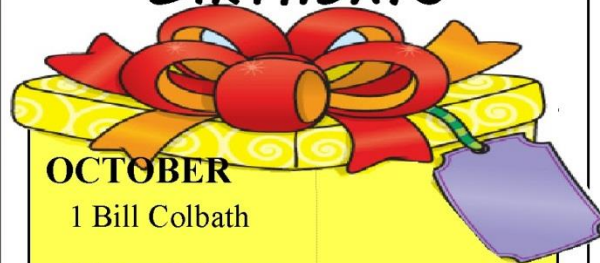
- 9 - Amahl and the Night Visitors

FOOD PANTRY

Mark your calendars for the FIRST SUNDAY of each month to bring items to church for the Sweden Food Pantry.

Non perishable food needed such as juices, soups, tuna fish, Hamburger helper, fruits and vegetables, along with items they can't get from using food stamps, such as tooth brush, tooth paste, soap, dish detergent, laundry detergent, Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper.--Karen Fillebrown

BIRTHDAYS



OCTOBER

- 1 Bill Colbath
- 3 Isaac Sylvester
- 4 Joseph Sylvester
- 5 Colleen Winslow
- 6 Chyanna Millett-Cordwell
- 7 Bobbi Whichard
- 10 Peter Leslie
- 12 Henry Plate
- 18 Gail Nixon
- 18 Bruce Bedard
- 24 Hanna Thibodeau

NOVEMBER

- 6 Eli Ross
- 7 Jeff Winslow
- 11 Shelia Durgin
- 12 Agnes Lahti
- 14 Gabe Gabrielsen
- 15 Arlene Whichard
- 20 Marian Morse
- 25 Brian Sylvester
- 26 Sally Holm

Pot Luck Suppers

Our potluck suppers will begin on Thursday, October 20, at 6 pm. The suppers are the 3rd Thursday of each month from October through May. There is no supper in December. If Oxford schools (SAD 17) are cancelled due to weather, then the potluck supper will be cancelled as well for that evening. This is a great opportunity to meet new folks and all are most welcome. Please come and join us at the Wilkins House next to the church and bring a favorite dish, salad or dessert to share!

Mission Committee Launches New Initiative

After months of exploring how to expand its scope, the church Mission Committee created and carried gallons of homemade vegetable soup to the Sweden Food Pantry last week. They served it, piping hot, to more than 50 folks who showed up for their regular food shopping in the Sweden Church basement on Wednesday, Sept. 21.



Local Mission committee chair Nancy Engdahl and volunteer Mary Colbath heat the soup in the Sweden Church kitchen.

Led by Nancy Engdahl, chair of the local missions part of the committee, volunteers Myra Maltby, Karen Fillebrown, and Mary Colbath used the Wilkins House kitchen the day before to chop vegetables donated by Weston Farm in Fryeburg to make a thick, savory soup. They followed a recipe from the University of Maine County Extension Service provided by extension agent Karen Toohey.

Toohey was on hand the next morning in Sweden to hand out copies of the recipe and teach Food Bank beneficiaries how to use the food provided. Dishing up the hot soup were Engdahl, Maltby, Colbath, Carol Madsen, and Pastor Petra Smyth, who drove up from Falmouth for the inaugural run. Left over soup was packaged up for clients to take home.

The reaction was very positive. “Oh, that’s delicious!” someone said. Another carried a gallon bag away, happy to have dinner ready for her family that evening. “Even my kids are eating it,” said a third woman as she went back for a second round for her three homeschooled youngsters. One of the Mission Committee’s primary goals, Engdahl said, was to provide an opportunity for committee members to socialize with the users of the Food Bank, getting to know them on a more personal level. ...cont New Initiative

Aided by UMaine County Extension agent Karen Toohey, Pastor Petra helps Myra fill bags with fresh soup for clients



...cont. *New Initiative*

The committee plans to meet later this week to evaluate the first trial outreach project, and begin working on additional projects to serve the local community. A group within the committee is also exploring national and perhaps, international mission opportunities.

The Sweden Food Pantry has operated under the auspices of the Sweden Church since 2014, after moving there from its original location on Knights Hill where it began in 2008. It is open every two weeks, and clients representing some 80 households come to a room full of donated foods from which to choose. Since Joan Fillebrown has retired as director of the Waterford Congregational Church food pantry, church members have brought food donations to the worship service on the first Sunday of each month to help fill the shelves in Sweden.

--Sally Holm



At the Sweden Church Food Pantry, Waterford Church Mission Committee members, Carol Madsen and Myra Maltby, served and packaged, aided by UMaine County Extension agent Karen Toohey, homemade vegetable soup for clients.

The Stewardship Committee

Fall has arrived with leaves turning their glorious colors, nights turning cooler, and schedule changes for many of us. At our Waterford Congregational Church, fall signals that it is time to consider the coming year with our annual Pledge Drive. As the Stewardship Committee reflects on last year's theme "Move Forward Together" we know that we did as witnessed in our worship, programs, and activities.

We will be starting our Pledge Drive on Sunday November 6th. The Stewardship Committee is passionate about our mission at the Waterford Congregational Church – we hope you are too! Let your pledge give wings to the work of the Lord. With your continuing support amazing things can happen.

--In His Service, Dodi Wait, Stewardship Chairperson



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

Trustees Report

The new windows for the church were finally completed on Wednesday September 21st.

This was a long process due to the damage that occurred to one of the large windows, but the installation is now complete and we should see a decrease in our heating costs and a more comfortable building this winter.

With the extra money that was raised with the Windows over Waterford fund raiser, the Church council voted to appropriate those funds to insulate the ceiling of the church. This project has been completed; Hollis Construction was the vendor for this project. This project also will help decrease our heating costs.



As of this report the painting of the outside trim has been completed on all but six of the windows and the front of the building has been power washed. The trustees want to thank Al Struck, Ted Nixon and Henry Plate for their help with this project.

You might have noticed that the church sign has been taken down. The sign is being updated with the name Waterford at the top. Thank you Jane Morse for your help with the update of the sign. (See page 9)

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



Come Celebrate Agnes Lahti's 100 Birthday

Church's History to Be Honored at Window Dedication

On Sunday, Nov. 13 a confluence of special events will dedicate our church's new windows, unveil a special historic artwork honoring the previous church building, and celebrate the 100th birthday of a very special, long-time member.



Agnes seated on a Waterford Common Bench

Agnes Lahti grew up in Waterford and in the church. At the age of 10, she was attending a 4-H meeting at the Wilkins House when fire broke out next door. As part the service on the 16th, she will tell that story, and that of the artifacts she and her father saved from the ruined church building, and make a very special presentation to the church.

She will be joined by her extended family and a number of other speakers who will bring the history of the little church on Plummer Hill Road back to life with stories, poems, and reminiscences. The new Pella Windows installed over the summer will be dedicated. Special music will be offered by the choir.

Following the service, everyone is invited to the Wilkins House for a light lunch and birthday cake to continue what promises to be a wonderful celebration of the church's 180 years and Agnes's landmark birthday. --Sally Holm

News from the Mission Committee

On September 21st we put on a luncheon of vegetable soup at the Sweden Food Pantry. This was a big success and we will be reviewing where to head next. Thank you to all who work to provide this meal.

We continue to meet and look at the opportunities of mission that we can bring back to our congregation. Over the next few weeks we will have the opportunity to support the Neighbors in Need Offering. One of the programs supported by NIN is **The Potato Project** near Reading, PA. Volunteers dug 153,000 pounds of potatoes and 4,855 of carrots, all which were donated in the battle against food insecurity. -Pam Williams



The new Church sign is in place. Thank you Trustees and Jane Morse for your good work!

THANKSGIVING BASKET TIME!

Our goal: to fill 20 Thanksgiving baskets for our neighbors in need.

Sign up begins: Sunday, Oct. 30

Baskets to be filled and returned:

Sunday, Nov. 20

Ready for pickup that afternoon

THANKS TO ALL!



Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering, taken throughout the month of October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. This includes the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries.

This we believe....no child should go to bed hungry.

--Pam Williams

New Members



Barbara Allen of Waterford, and Ted and Gail Nixon of Waterford are welcomed as new members of the church by the Rev. Petra Smyth and Deacon Myra Maltby on Sunday, Sept. 18.

Peace Candle

August 14

Karen

Fillebrown

gave
church attendees
each a string of
4 or 5
Origami Cranes
as part of her
Peace Candle
sharing.



Peace candle/cranes

The Origami Crane is the international symbol of peace and hope.

News from the Church Activities Committee

On September 11th about 19 people met at the Wilkins House for a Bible Scavenger Hunt and Loaded Baked Potato Supper event. Each team was given 24 Biblical verses in which to find an object for the scavenger hunt (see next page). The competition was fierce with contestants running helter-skelter. The winners would be the teams that found the most correct objects in the time allowed. 1st place went to Petra and Karen, 2nd place to Marion and Lois, and 3rd place to Denny and Ginny. Everyone had worked up an appetite, picking yummy toppings for their baked potatoes from the many offerings. Dessert followed: cookies and ice cream with homemade fudge sauce! A very enjoyable time!!



Our next activity coming up on Sunday, November 6th will be our 2nd Annual French Toast Breakfast which will be served free of charge at the Wilkins House between 8:30 and 9. Remember to turn your clocks back before you retire Saturday evening and then spend that extra hour the next morning having breakfast with church friends.



Haunters on the Common at the TRUNK or TREAT (2015)

Representatives from the CAC are working with the Library Committee to finalize plans for Halloween evening. The program will start at the library with storytelling followed by trunk-trick-or-treating. Cars will be parked all around the common, and offering candy treats from their trunks. Participants have as much fun as the kids while giving out their treats and sampling what other trunks have to offer. The last stop will be the Wilkins House for games and cupcake decorating. Consider being part of this fun evening. Final details will be available on posters .

We shall again be putting together Thanksgiving baskets for 20 families or more. Once the families are chosen, Sally will explain and put out the information. You can pick a family and provide the meal yourself, or you could team up with other people to fill a basket. Last year we were able to shop to fill extra baskets, as requests came in, with the use of money donated for the cause. If you are unable to shop and wish to donate, send your check to WCC...PO Box 59...Waterford, ME 04088. Remember to note at the bottom of the check: Thanksgiving basket.

Another topic that we shall discuss will be the presentation at our church of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on Friday evening, December 9th at 7:00 pm. This performance is open to the community at no charge. --Nancy Engdahl

BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT

On September 11, we had a church gathering where participants collected the following...
The pew Bibles must be used to find the answers.

1. A piece of Genesis 18:5
2. One of the items in John 13:4
3. Just a little 2 Chronicles 1:9
4. One of each of James 5:3
5. An article of Leviticus 13:47
6. Get either one of Romans 9:33
7. A pinch of Job 6:6
8. I need one of a pair of Matthew 3:11
9. Any kind of Song of Solomon 4:14
10. Not the whole mount, just one Acts 1:12
11. Look for a Proverbs 19:24
12. You can read a Galatians 3:10
13. A little bit of Ezekiel 47:1
14. One of twelve Mark 6:43
15. Find an empty 1 Corinthians 11:25
16. On Keoka Beach you'll find plenty of Psalms 78:27
17. Bring me a 1 Samuel 2:13
18. Find an empty John 2:7
19. Either one of Judges 16:12
20. Any amount of Nehemiah 5:4
21. You will find one in 2 Samuel 5:2
22. A Zechariah 6:12
23. Look for a Matthew 19:24
24. Last, but not least, bring me a treat from Psalms 34:8

1(bread) 2(towel or robe) 3(dust) 4(gold & silver) 5(clothing) 6(stone or rock) 7(salt) 8(sandal) 9(spice) 10(olive) 11(dish) 12(book) 13(water) 14(basket) 15(cup) 16(sand) 17(fork) 18(far) 19(rope or thread) 20(money) 21(ruler) 22(branch) 23(needle) 24(get treat from Happy Chapman)

Afterwards we had enjoyed a baked potato dinner where we could stuff the potatoes with chili, cheeses, bacon bits etc. The meal was followed by a hot fudge sundae dessert. Yummmmm...



Children's Moment

On September 14, Reverend Petra Smyth blew Strawberry, banana and apple scented bubbles with the children during the Children's moment. With each bubble the children would say a prayer word.

"When we can say a prayer, God will hear them. The Holy Spirit is in every breath we take." Blowing prayers help the world...and each other..



News from the Pews

We recently went to Boston on the train, just to ride a 1955 built dome Vista car. Once we got there we did the usual tourist stuff, except we came upon a group of break dancers performing on the street next to Faneuil Hall.

They pulled Caren into the dance and one guy danced with her to a wonderful song. This guy was so funny, look closely at his face and see how much they both were enjoying it.



The dancers put on a fantastic show for about an hour. Some young children and older men like me and some woman were included. Everone had a great time!

The group's name was, 7 black guys and one white man. They were good dancers and also did lot of acrobat tricks--James Long

News from the Pews

Here is some news from Thomas!! He is currently stationed at Marine Corps Air Staion (MCAS) New River in Jacksonville North Carolina. He has been promoted to Lance Corporal (LCPL) and is the Crew Chief on a CH-53 Superstallion helicopter. He is doing quite well and is enjoying doing his job! He is in a squadron which is deployable and he looks forward to seeing outside of the US.

When I talked to him about what I could write to you all he wanted me to be sure to say Hello from him! Attached are his picture from flight school graduation and with his permission a picture of the type of helicopter he is assigned to!! --Stephani Michaud

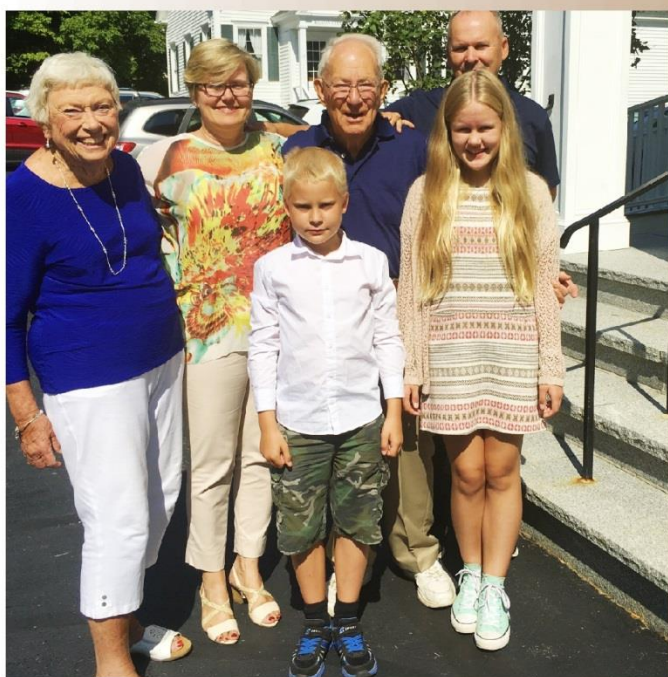


News from the Pews

From Sally Holm & Kerry Johnson

Little Gabe had his first horseback ride recently at the Lovelane Riding Academy in Lincoln, MA. His mom enrolled him in a therapeutic riding program to help strengthen his core muscles.

He LOVED it!



From Joy and Henry Plate

Visitors to our September 4 worship service were guests of Henry and Joy. Edda ros Karlsdottir and her husband and two youngest children were from D.C. but are formerly from Iceland..

Edda ros was Joy and Henry's foreign exchange student in 1982.

From Mary Ross Colbath



Mary at a fun "Girls Only" get together in Naperville, IL.

Oxford Hills Musicians and Performing Artists Association

PRESENTS

Amahl AND THE Night Visitors

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS OPERA BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

The debut production of the Hallmark Hall of Fame in 1951, Menotti's one act opera tells the story of a crippled boy and his mother, who are visited by the Three Kings on their way to Bethlehem to greet the Christ Child. It was the first opera specifically composed for television in America. The composer struggled with a theme for the production but was inspired upon viewing "The Adoration of the Magi" by Hieronymous Bosch at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. After the dress rehearsal, NBC Symphony conductor Arturo Toscanini told Menotti, "This is the best you've ever done." The play runs 45-minutes and features some of the most beautiful music ever written.

Waterford Congregational Church UCC

Friday, December 9 2016

7:00pm

FMI

OHMPAA website or Facebook page

Terry Cole and Tom Littlefield, Producers

Cynthia Reedy, Director - Karen Chapman, Music Director

