



Waterford Congregational Church, UCC

2016
August/September
Worship and Church School
9:30 a.m.

From the Pastor:

Here is a riddle for you---Who in our congregation is learning a second language? The short answer: All of you are learning a second language right now and have been for years. Can you guess?

Learning a language can be challenging. Our German friends Swen and Roland came to visit us several years ago. It was long before cell phones were part of our daily lives. Their estimated time of arrival was lunchtime; unfortunately it took them two hours longer to make it to our home. Swen had been practicing his English skills and proudly announced: "We were stuck in a traffic jelly."

So you might be curious as to what language we are learning at this time. Jesus is always challenging us with stories that appear so simple on the surface. Jesus asked many questions making us think very carefully about how to answer them. Last month Trey Hall wrote in the *Christian Century* magazine about "The gospel as a second language"

We all have something to add about our experiences of how the gospel is lived out in our lifetime. Recently we listened to the gospel stories about *The Good Samaritan* as well as *Mary and Martha*. Each of those stories evoking your different viewpoints of what it means to be a Good Samaritan as well as different times in your life when you have been a "Mary" or a "Martha"



Trey Hall writes: "*The church includes first-and second language speakers, with a myriad of gorgeous accents. Let's practice together, all testifying to what it's like to encounter God.*"

On a lighter note, when you receive this newsletter, I will be on Cape Cod visiting with Scott's family and practicing "Sabbath" which is a great church word too. May you experience 'Summer Sabbath' moments and I look forward to hearing your interpretation of what Sabbath means to you.

Summer Blessings,
Rev. Petra Smyth

FROM THE MODERATOR

Hi Folks,

“Summer Time and the livin’ is easy”. Well maybe for *Porgy and Bess*, but if your house is like ours in the summer we need a revolving screen door so the company doesn’t run into each other coming and going.

The church continues its mission of reaching out and making this a place people can come to, to ease their minds and refresh their souls. Quietude, prayer, music to make the heart sing are a few of the things we share in our “Church with the big heart”.

Our extended community and year- rounders stepped up and made the **Windows over Waterford** a stunning success! Thanks so much to the committee led by Kerry and Dodi for all the hard work organizing this project and making it a truly community wide effort.

John Wait has been on site making sure the refit was of high quality. He had help from Ted, Kerry and me painting the trim to put on those finishing touches of paint.

Music Sunday was amazing. It was great to have the area churches get together to sing God’s praises with such gusto and joy! The ice cream afterwards was the cherry to top of Music Sundae. Pardon my pun.

The Wilkins House breakfasts continue to draw folks from all around the area to what I have heard called the most welcoming breakfast in the area. Well Done!

So, as we go into the *dog days* of August the church will continue to provide us with a cooling balm for our sun burned exteriors and a centering point for our spirits.

Thank you all for all you do. I may not have listed your name but please know how much the whole congregation and I appreciate each person who gives time energy and love to our church.

--Al Stuck, Moderator



New Windows Look Out on Waterford's Future

If you're looking for evidence that some small, rural churches in Maine are thriving, look no further than the foot of Plummer Hill! The historic Waterford Congregational Church has been graced with new windows that are a combination of all that is good—beautiful, high tech, and energy efficient. The \$25,000 that was necessary to replace the 88-year-old windows has been raised in record time. In fact, the total to date surpasses the goal by nearly \$3,000, as the congregation and members of the wider community responded quickly and generously to the call.



On Sunday, June 5, window campaign co-chairs Dodi Wait and Kerry Johnson launched the fund drive, appealing to the congregation to raise needed funds to replace all 24 windows. A large wooden sign, featuring a beautiful color photo of the church by our own Daryl Ann Leonard, was unveiled, and donations began to flow in that very morning. In three weeks the goal had been reached, but the donations continued.

Once the cost of the windows is covered, Trustee John Wait says the additional funds raised will go toward the Church's goal of making the iconic building even more energy efficient. The next project up—insulating the ceiling.

Co-Chair Dodi Wait was overwhelmed with the response. "It's been a joyful experience to see this wonderful outpouring of generosity," she said. "It's clear evidence of what this small, vital church means to the congregation and to the community. Obviously, the town's history and the church's central role have stirred the passions of today's year-round and summer residents." Eighty-three donations came from nine different states, she added.

Co-chair Johnson said that the success of the campaign demonstrated "our dedication to maintaining the building and the spiritual mission of the church into the future. As we see other congregations in rural parts of the state struggle to stay vital, we feel very blessed with the energy and enthusiasm."

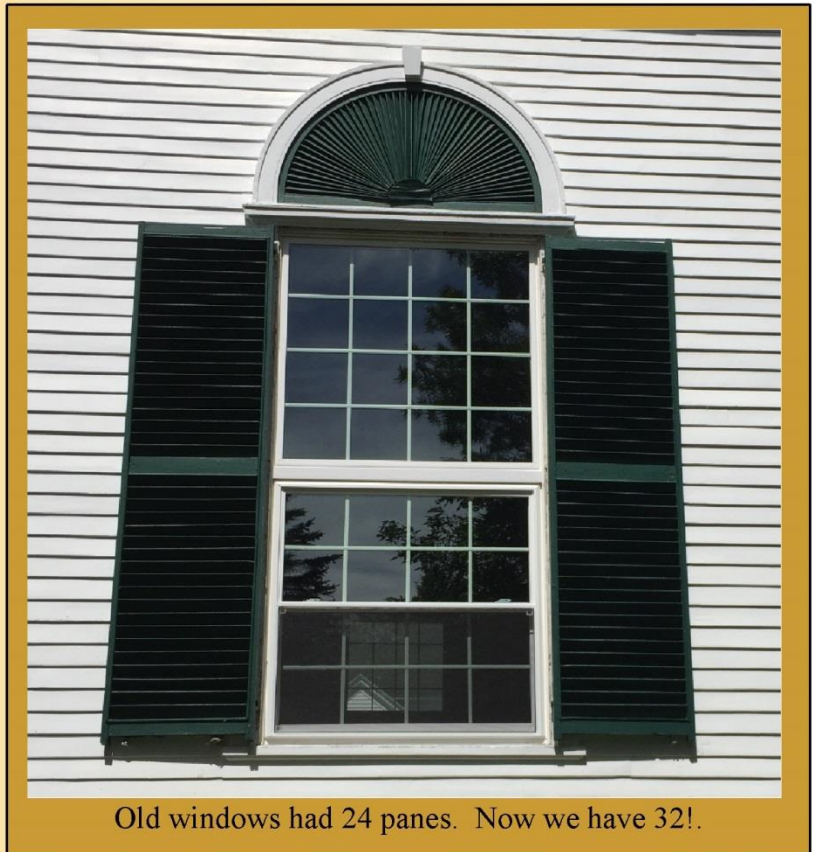
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Windows cont...

That sentiment was echoed by the Maine United Church of Christ Conference Minister, Rev. Deborah Blood, who expressed great enthusiasm for the success of the Waterford campaign. “Something is happening across the state, and this is a great example. It feels like churches are reclaiming being parishes, recreating strong community ties, and finding new life.”

Pastor Petra Smyth called the Waterford community’s enthusiasm for the more than 200-year-old church “an abundance of generosity.”

Installation of the new windows, with their ion-filled center to increase energy efficiency, began with phase one in mid-June. Those remaining were installed the second week of June. The last of the large sanctuary windows sustained a large crack during the work. It should be replaced in the next few weeks, completing the job.



Johnson praised Pella, the nationally-known window manufacturer, for a great job. One of the installers, James Parkhurst of Brentwood, New Hampshire, said he “fell in love with the village.” He’s promised to come back for vacation, Johnson said.

The campaign received a significant boost when the family of former church moderator and long-time parishioner Fred Engdahl, who died on June 2 at age 79, suggested that anyone wishing to make a donation in Engdahl’s memory should contribute to the WCC Windows Fund. Johnson said that those donations reflect appreciation for the many contributions he made to the overall community.

Donors who gave \$1800—the cost of each of the large windows— were offered the opportunity to be acknowledged for their gift placed with a small plaque on the sills of the sanctuary windows. Ten families or individuals contributed at that level, and the plaques will be installed in the near future.

--Sally Holm

From the Trustees

The parking lot was sealed in late May.

The first phase of the window installation for the church was completed during the week of June 13th. The painting of the trim around the windows was completed first week in July. Trustee Kerry Johnson and I were grateful to Allen Struck and Ted Nixon for all their help with this painting project. On July 14th the second phase of the window project was completed. There is one window that needs to be repaired and the trustees are working with Pella on this repair. The trustees have the inside trim on one window to complete and the outside trim to paint. This will be completed in September.

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

Calendar Dates

First Sunday of the month: Food pantry

Bi-monthly Communion - First Sundays:
February., April, June,
August, October, December

Summer Breakfast:
August 10: 7:30-10

September 11th at 4
Bible Scavenger Hunt and supper

November 6th
Time change Breakfast

From the Treasurer

On July 13th we sent an e-mail captioned Midyear Financial Report. This report compared the June 30 income/expense figures to the budget approved in January this year. (If the report did not find its way to you, please let us know.) While it is usual for us to start a year with a projected deficit - we soften reality by calling it a *faith budget* - we may have pushed the envelope too far this time. A \$13,000 deficit doesn't disappear when the budget contains only about \$5,000 that could be labeled "discretionary" spending. However, the six month figures indicate income could improve by \$4,000 over initial estimates but we would still have a sizeable deficit: \$9,000. Church financial statements are available upon request

--Ralph MacKinnon, Treasurer

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

AUGUST

- 
- 1 Ralph Sylvester
 - 2 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

From the Choir...

We are singing our way through the summer months and rejoicing in the beauty of God's creation here in Western Maine as we lift our voices in praise and thanks on Sunday mornings. We have several new friends joining us to sing, and the choir loft is getting happily crowded.



Our annual hymn sing, with a congregation of about 125 from Harrison, No. Waterford, and Sweden churches, filled the church with singers and song.

The Congregational Hymn Sing was a great success, thanks to good teamwork among pastors, congregations, choirs, accompanists. Our church was filled with people singing together, including visiting family of all ages, and visiting congregations from North Waterford, Harrison, and Sweden. We made a joyful noise together as we marched into the sanctuary singing with guitar, drum and tambourine. We heard the handbell choir from Harrison play beautifully. After church service everyone headed over to the Wilkins House for ice cream Sundaes and all the toppings, especially hot fudge, homemade by Nancy Engdahl. For this day, in extra rehearsal time, our choir prepared one of the more difficult

anthems we have sung so far this year. I was very happy with the way it turned out, and the patience and hard work that went into learning the music. But more than that, I was happy to be a part of this music making day in Waterford.

And every day that we can make music is a good day. Each time I walk into our church, I say to myself, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." (Ps 122:1) --Gabe Gabrielsen



Everyone enjoyed the ice cream and toppings served after the service at the Wilkins House.

July 29, 2016

Dear Friends in Waterford,

I am so very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to be your music director at Waterford Congregational Church. During the past year I have grown to love this beautiful church and community. You have made me feel welcome and appreciated, and we have shared our lives together. In our worship time together, in our singing and praying, and in listening to Petra's sermons about God's love and grace, I feel renewed in my faith journey, and I am inspired to take the next step toward what is calling my heart. This year in Waterford has helped me find my direction. I am going to seminary, and I am going to seek ordination for ministry.

This has been a long process of spiritual discernment for me, and being a part of the Waterford Church community has helped me to realize that I love God's church, and I want to devote the rest of my life in service, in helping others, and in sharing the Gospel, the good news of our Lord Jesus. For he is the Lord of my heart. And his is the most lovely of all hearts.

Earlier this year I started the process of applying to seminary, and this past Monday, the day after our congregational hymn sing, I received a phone call from Dallas, Texas. My application was accepted. So this was happy news indeed. But it also means that I am moving right away. This will be my last Sunday in Waterford. The school's orientation begins August 17th, and the first day of classes for the fall semester is August 22nd. I will be a first year student in the Master of Divinity program at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

I was able to talk to Petra about this before she went on vacation, so she knows what is going on. She is a mentor and an inspiration to me.

I wish that I could have given the standard two weeks notice of leaving. I know this is short notice. But I could not say anything until I knew for sure. I hope that you will be understanding, given the circumstances. My heart does ache about leaving Maine-- I so love it here. Perhaps someday I will be able to return. But I feel this is God's call to me. A door is opening-- one that I have prayed about for a long time. It is the opportunity to find the training, education, and credentials I will need for church ministry. I have everything I need to follow this call, and for this I am grateful. Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers. And I will pray for you all too, that you may continue to sing together, that your church music program will continue to be uplifting and joyful, and that you may continue to know God's peace and love, through our dear Lord Jesus, in whom we rest, and in whom we find strength.

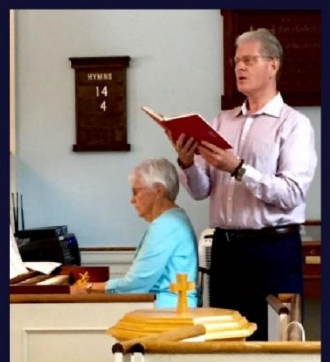
--Edward C. Gabrielsen, "Gabe"

An End and a Beginning

Gabe Gabrielsen came to church last Sunday, as he has every week for nearly a year, to fill our sanctuary with music, and with love. But this Sunday was different. He also came to say goodbye.

As he led the determined little choir through the peace anthem, tears came readily to some of us in the choir cove and in the sanctuary. The song was a beautiful contemporary piece by Don Besig called "Go Now in Peace". It filled the moment with meaning, ending with the phrase "Go now in peace, in faith, and in love." In peace because Gabe brought peace to whatever he did and was a frequent speaker during the peace candle. In faith, because he helped to deepen all our faith, and because, in his words, we helped deepen his. In love, because Gabe is all about spreading love and acceptance and good will throughout all the corners of his varied life. We will miss all of this. We also will miss that warm, soaring baritone, or tenor, or bass--whatever was called for. He gave each service life and depth and beauty with his gifts. His generosity lifted us all. And there will never be another like him.

Gabe will begin his next chapter in Dallas, at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, in a couple of weeks. His wonderful soulmate Jayme will join him as soon as possible as they step out in faith to begin new lives together. Gabe has felt God's call to a deeper ministry than music alone, although we know that will always play a major role in anything he takes on. We'll be watching, Gabe, and waiting for news with full hearts and fervent prayers that you have found your path, and that it leads you where you are most needed to help heal our hurting world. May God Bless you and Jamie. And thank you for all you have meant to us. --Sally Holm



Thank you to my Waterford Church Family. You are such a beautiful community of believers. You are in my heart. I will write to you, you know, just like writing home from college. Keep singing. --Gabe

A THANK YOU FROM FRED'S FAMILY

Our family would like to thank everyone who helped make Fred Engdahl's service a celebration of his life. We would like to thank the multitude of people who attended the service on a sunny Sunday afternoon. A thank you to Petra who helped our family through the sadness of Fred's decline, and for the service she helped to plan. To Jane Morse and the choir and Kay and Joann who were willing to do that extra so that we would have music in the service. To Karen and all of you who were willing to to enhance the luncheon with your contributions. To everyone who contributed to the Windows Fund in Fred's memory.

All of this helped ease the pain of Fred's passing. He would have been so pleased. This is another example of how our church family comes together whenever the need. I wrote a poem for my buddy that I would like to share.

His Spirit Lives On

He is no longer with us
But I see him in the things he loved
I see him in the wildflowers
That appeared abundantly this spring
The pair of cardinals with a flash of color
Visiting our feeder for the first time
I see him in the smiling faces of our children
In the wooden deck he built
So his family could enjoy the lake
I hear him in the church's music
In the wind that gently rustles the trees' leaves
He is no longer with us
But his spirit lives on in our hearts.
He is no longer with us

BUT HIS SPIRIT LIVES ON IN OUR HEARTS

--Nancy Engdahl

News from the Mission Committee

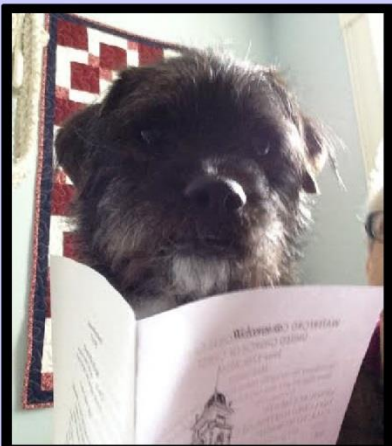
We have been busy looking at ways for the local churches to work together supporting our neighbors. We are hoping to have a Harvest Soup & Stew free meal at the Sweden Food Pantry in September.

We continue to collect old eye glasses; there is a box in the back of the church. Along with encouraging people to bring items for the Food Pantry, remember when you go on trips that you can bring the little soaps and shampoos back to the Food Pantry for people to pick up as they need.

We will be updating the Flyers that Nancy has been handing out at the local schools for the past number of years. We will also have these in the Library, Town Office and other local locations.

If you have any suggestion or ideas, please feel free to share with any of us, we will continue to meet about every 6 weeks to look at the Mission opportunities that are available to support.

--Shalom, Pam and the committee



*JazzBo Fillebrown
helping his mama fold the weekly bulletins...*

History Comes Home

Jane Seeds and Jill Ghi came to Church on Sunday, July 24, to participate in the annual hymn sing and ice cream social. Over ice cream, they were introduced to Dodi Wait, co-chair of the Windows over Waterford campaign. They were moved by their history, their love of the old church, and their wish to honor Fred Engdahl. And before the ice cream could melt, the windows fund had grown yet again.



Jane and Jill are sisters, whose grandfather was once Waterford's physician, Dr. A.J. Stimpson, who lived in the home now owned by Alan and Jean Struck from 1901 to 1917. Stimpson was called into service in World War I, and when he returned from the war, Dr. Hubbard had become the town doctor. So Stimpson moved on.

But Waterford still resonates with his granddaughters. The sisters are wonderful examples of the almost mystical hold Waterford has on its citizenry, years and generations later. Now summer residents of Harrison, the sisters spend the winter a nation apart—Jill in Connecticut and Jane in California. But summer, it seems, will lure them back to the little church with the big heart at the base of Plummer Hill.

--Sally Holm

NEWS FROM THE CAC

The ice cream social, after that great music service on July 24th, seemed to be a big hit with the folks from our church as well as all our visitors from the other churches in the area.



Several people mentioned that we should get together more often. Our next event will be the Bible Scavenger Hunt and supper on September 11th at 4. Save the date. More information will be coming.

Also, since we received requests for a repeat, the CAC will again serve breakfast on Sunday, November 6th, which ends daylight savings time. The French toast and sausage breakfast will be served between 8:30 and 9. Remember, it is "spring ahead and fall behind".

--Nancy Engdahl

WILKINS HOUSE BREAKFAST

We do have our last summer breakfast coming up (Wednesday, August 10). We very much appreciate all the volunteers who help in the kitchen and dining room to make the breakfasts run as smoothly as possible. We do apologize for the July 4 stove problems which caused a slow down in the kitchen and caused a much longer line outside, as well as a longer delay inside for those patiently waiting to be served. The stove problems have been addressed, and we have installed some protocols to prevent such issues in the future. We also appreciate all those who support and continue to support these breakfasts. They are a great venue for all as a social event as well as one of the important fund raising activities for the Wilkins Community House. Thank you all. -Denny Raymond



Emmi

Our youngest staff member

FLASH FROM THE PAST: What we know... from Karen Fillebrown

Can anyone fill be blanks?

What: This was a Christmas Caroling event...

When: December 2000

Where: Unknown...but one guess was Phyllis's Jordan's house....

l to r: Fred Engdahl, Del Leonard, Nancy Engdahl, Ben Leonard, Anita White, Jane Morse, ??, Lois Grigg, Sue Van Dehey, ??, Joann Fillebrown, Sarah Leonard, ??, Meg Wheeler



Church Mugs for Sale



The beautiful Daryl-Ann Leonard photo mugs are now for sale. They are dishwasher proof and selling for just \$9.00 a piece or 4 mugs for \$32.00. We only have 72 mugs in the first order, so get them soon! We may reorder again, but that takes time. I plan on buying a set for Caren and myself. They are being sold at the Wilkins House breakfasts and at church.
--James Long

Origami Cranes Around the Peace Candle

"... I'm trying to make a thousand of them to bring peace to the world." --Karen Fillebrown



More are added each week...

Father's Day



Children's Moment on Father's day....

"This is what 80 donuts look like. James and Caren were the ones who brought them"

--Petra



DEAR GOD,
SO FAR TODAY,
I'VE DONE ALL RIGHT.
I HAVEN'T GOSSIPED.
I HAVEN'T LOST MY TEMPER
I HAVEN'T BEEN GREEDY, GRUMPY,
NASTY, SELFISH, OR OVERINDULGENT.
I'M VERY THANKFUL FOR THAT.
BUT IN A FEW MINUTES, GOD, I'M
GOING TO GET OUT OF BED...
AND FROM THEN ON, I'M PROBABLY
GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE HELP.
AMEN



News from the Pews

This is the story. I was at the Deertrees Gala Event for the 80 years anniversary. I kept noticing this beautiful lady dressed in a silver outfit. She kept catching my eye, over and over again. As I was leaving the event, I noticed her beside her antique truck. A fair damsel in distress, I thought! She put her foot up on the running board of the old truck and immediately caught my attention. I asked her if I could be of assistance, and she replied she needed a ride home. Get in my car girl, "James at your service". I took her home, and you can figure out that I kept her. --James Long



a: Peter Leslie, Martha Jean Long, Kate Long, Kay Leslie (Stilt Lady behind the car)

b: Caren

c: Caren & Molana Oei

d: Stilt lady -Shannon Wade

e: Cool old car setting the mood....

f: Caren

g: Kay & Peter Leslie, James & Caren

