



# Waterford Congregational Church, UCC

2016  
December/January  
Worship and Church School  
9:30 a.m.

## From the Pastor:



November 27th marks the first Sunday of Advent, a period of four weeks during which we prepare for Christmas. Historically Advent was a somber season, a mini Lent, a time for deep penitence. We have moved from viewing Advent as a season of fasting and penitence to a time of expectant waiting and preparation. It is no surprise that we are an impatient culture, and Advent challenges us and encourages us to be reflective and learn how to patiently wait. For the child who lives in all of us, it could be like waiting to see what is under the tree on Christmas morning. What will the surprise gift be? For the adults it might be waiting to spend time with family members and close friends as well as connecting with loved ones via Skype, Face-time, Instagram, or even snail mail.

When my brother and I were children, we would sit at the kitchen table with our parents every Sunday afternoon during the season of Advent and light the candles on the Advent wreath. We enjoyed eating special cake and drinking hot chocolate, and our anticipation grew with each subsequent week. Each candle lit brought us closer to the celebration on Christmas day. As we grew up we realized that our simple Advent traditions were also a reminder of what the season was really about.

The Advent candles we will light at our church represent four inspirational themes: hope, peace, joy and love. During this busy season, may you find time to reflect, write, dream, paint or share any other artistic gifts and express new possibilities and new hopes.

May you also ponder upon scriptures to find hope for our future.

**First Sunday of Advent:** *"The days are surely coming, says God, when I will fulfill my promise"* (Jeremiah 33:14).

**Second Sunday of Advent:** *"The dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace"* (Luke 1: 78-79)

**Third Sunday of Advent:** *"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving let your request be known to God"* (Philippians 4:6)

**Fourth Sunday of Advent:** *"And they shall live secure..."* (Micah 5:4c)

Blessings on this Advent season,  
Rev. Petra Smyth



## Letter from the Moderator

Good Afternoon.

Just getting done with the cleaning that has to be done after company leaves. Washing, vacuuming and straightening. Gotta love those volunteers who do the dishes after the big meals and then “bless” them for a week looking for things put away somewhere other than where you keep them. All the Pumpkin pie is gone, sigh. And, looming just beyond the horizon is another holiday. But this one... boy, it is so special in its anticipation and final celebration that we find ourselves on the balls of our feet doing that little hoppy thing without even realizing it.

This little church community has been getting into high gear for that celebration since before the beginning of this month of November. First, there was the collaboration with the library to make Halloween safe and memorable for the children of our town. Next, there was the planning of French Toast Sunday as the clocks changed. Then came the celebration of giving as we enjoyed our new windows, seeing them through the eyes of a new centenarian who saw this church literally rise from the ashes. All the while a well-practiced team got us busy building Thanksgiving Dinner baskets. A lot of folks were willing to share their current good fortune with those on their back-foot at the moment ... because that's what we do.

The Long Range Planning Committee has had a number of conversations with congregants and members of the community about who we are and what we could be known for. These have been stimulating talks with tons of good feelings and ideas. The Committee is getting these comments into readable form for sharing with all of you.

Your Church Council has met and hammered out a budget to see us through next year. A date for celebrating all we have accomplished has been set for January 15th. Stewardship reported at our meeting today that pledges have started coming in. A good sign of trust in the continuity of our worship and fellowship.

Our town will enjoy another opportunity to get together at an event co-sponsored by the Church and the Library as we sing, listen to music and stories of the season on December 17th. All this is a lead-up to the reason for the season, the birth of our Savior. What better way to celebrate than to see the sparkle of promise in the eyes of a young child as we hear the “Good News” from on high. I hope you all can be with us for the wonderful events being planned by our Church for this special time.

See you round the Christmas Tree! --Al Struck



## Calendar Events

### December

4,11,18 - Advent Sundays

9 - *Amahl* and the *Night Visitors* -7pm

14 - Waterford Santa slips  
due at Town Hall

17 - 4:00 Church music-activity  
4:30 Caroling on the Common  
5 pm Santa at Library

18 - Christmas Tea - 1:30 pm WH

24 - Christmas Eve Service - 5 pm

25 - NO SUNDAY SERVICE



### January 2017!

1 - 10:30 New Years Day Service

15 - Annual Meeting - Celebration  
with Pot Luck Lunch to follow

19 - Pot Luck supper - 6pm - WH

22 - Snow date for Annual Meeting  
and Lunch Celebration



### DECEMBER

1 Eva Brannan

21 Carol Madsen

29 Kerry Johnson



### JANUARY

5 Joy Plate

17 Sherry Bedard

21 Petra Smyth

27 Mary Colbath



*Who can resist a baby picture!*

*Baby Owen, Jane and Peter Morse's grandbaby boy.  
at our Trunk or Treat*



## Trustee News

The Church sign has been updated and repainted as best we could and has been placed back on its posts. Thank you Jane Morse for your help with this project.

The painting of the last six windows and the basement entrance have been completed. This completes the outside work for this year. The trustees thank Henry Plate and Al Struck for their help with this project.

The window sills and chair rail inside the church have been refinished and the plaques have been installed just in time for the dedication of the new windows. Again the trustees thank Al and Jean Struck and Henry Plate for their help with this project.

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 with Kerry Johnson & Jeff Winslow



## Stewardship Theme:

*"Go and do the same, Luke 10:37"*

Our church's Mission Statement is as follows: *The Waterford Congregational Church is an open and loving congregation of seekers of spiritual growth and knowledge of God. Together we worship God, share community, honor our history and endeavor to heed Jesus' call to minister to our brothers and sisters everywhere through our local, national and global outreach.*

It is a call for the congregation's members and friends to **"Go and do the same."**

The church opens its doors every week of the year because of an operating budget – the expenses we incur daily running our church. Those open doors allow us to fulfill the Mission Statement. Your pledges really do matter. It is because of your financial support that we will be able to **"Go and do the same," as a church.**

Prayerfully consider your financial support of our church, and in the next few weeks, if you have not already done so, return your pledge card.

Stewardship Committee: Dodi Wait (Chairperson), Ralph MacKinnon, Lois Grigg, Jean Struck, Barbara Allen, Kerry Johnson, Petra Smyth



## MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Deacons

As the year comes to an end we are celebrating the Advent season, our most beautiful and meaningful time of our year. We have had the church decorated by our children with the help of Pam, Stephanie and Myra, and our usual children. It is seasonably beautiful once again! We will be lighting another advent candle every week. Please join us and celebrate the birth of our savior.



There will be a Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM

But there will **NOT** BE A Christmas DAY SERVICE.



Our New Years service will start at 10:30

On January 15, we will have a Pot Luck Lunch following our Annual Meeting, at the Wilkins house. Please bring a hot dish, soup, rolls cold dish or dessert of your choice to share. If you are not able to bring food, please come anyway as there is always enough to share, as we are the church of good food, and God supplies us with an ample amount of it to share with everyone.

--James Long



*Please join us on  
Sunday, December 18th  
at 1:30 p.m. at the Wilkins House for  
"A Cup of Christmas Tea".*

*Pam, Myra and Petra along with the deacons will be hosting this event. Please join us for a time of relaxing and reflecting on this wonderful holiday season as we share a cup of tea and memories of past Christmas'.*

*We will be listening to the book "A Cup of Christmas Tea" by Tom Hegg. Enjoying the fellowship, memories and the miracle of Christmas with each other. There will be light refreshment and of course tea.*

*A sign-up sheet will be on the back choir rail the beginning of December for this event. Hope to see many of you there.*

*--Pam Williams*



## News from the Church Activities Committee

Halloween celebrations in the Village were lively with little goblins going from library activities to trunk trick-or-treating to the Wilkins House for fun and games. Along the way, they stopped at the church for a treat and a look at all the pumpkins lined up on the steps with Halloween music in the background.

On November 6th, on time-change Sunday morning, cooks Myra and John did a splendid job with the French toast breakfast. Over 30 people enjoyed breakfast together before the church service. What a wonderful way to spend that extra hour!



The CAC assisted with the 100th birthday party for Agnes Lahti. After an inspiring historical service and new window dedication, about 125 people attended the luncheon and birthday celebration at the Wilkins House.

A big thank-you goes to all the people who helped 20 families have a happy Thanksgiving. As each basket was picked up Sunday after church, the recipients were very grateful and excited as they looked at all the wonderful things in their

Waterford Santa's organization attended the community supper this month and made gift-request cards available. There were several cards left after the supper, and, in addition, Melissa Lassard has received late requests from needy families. If you would like to take part in making a child's wish come true, cards are available at Town Office. Wrapped gifts are due back to Town Office by December 14th.

--Nancy Engdahl





## Remembrances



I joined this church at the age of 12 on April 25, 1942. I was very active in Pilgrim Fellowship which was held in the parsonage with Rev. Wilbur and Anna Bull on Sunday evenings. Waterford then was part of the Oxford County Larger Parish consisting of Lovell, Stoneham, Albany, No. Waterford, So. Waterford and Waterford. There were three ministers that served the six churches. There were many social gatherings like square dances, choirs, winter activities, musicals and Pilgrim Fellowship. At the age of 14, Charlotte Fillebrown taught me to play the pump organ, and I played the piano at the parsonage for Pilgrim Fellowship Sunday Nights.

As you can see this church and community were a big part of my life and still are. I was married here in 1950 and my first two children were baptized here by Rev. Bull and later by Rev. Herbert Houghton. The Bull family was here from 1925-1953 and was missed by many when they moved to New Hampshire.

One thing I remember about the church building was the heat registers half way down both aisles. It was a favorite spot to stand. The choir sat up back near the pump organ. In 1975 the church was given a spinet organ which is still in use. Sunday school took place with a lot of children and I ended up teaching.

Bill and I and our children lived in So. Portland for 33 years but we were here a lot in the summer.

We resumed our active membership here after we moved here in 1983. The church continues with a lot of dedicated members, and I am so glad to be a part of it. I can really say this church has been and is the center of my life. --Joan Fillebrown



## HELP!! LOST!!

When I gathered my treasures from the World Sunday celebration, I did not notice I was missing my Kenyan wooden club--smooth blond hard wood with a knot about the size of a tennis ball on one end, about 14" long. I have since looked through the church and cannot find it. Has anyone seen it? It means a lot to me. --Dell Foss



## Music

I am very pleased to be directing the choir again! We are getting ready for the Christmas season - a magical musical time of year! Recently I was thinking about singing in choirs and the preparation necessary for concerts this time of year. Most choirs start singing Christmas songs way back in September to be ready for our big performances! How lucky singers are to be able to enjoy these wonderful songs for months, rather than just the short time between Thanksgiving and the New Year!

Remember that we always encourage new singers to join us at our 8:30 a.m. choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings. Speak to me if you are interested in becoming a choir member.

Also, if anyone would like to perform music for a service, please let me know so we may schedule it!

I am thankful for beautiful music, our wonderful musicians, and the songs of the season.

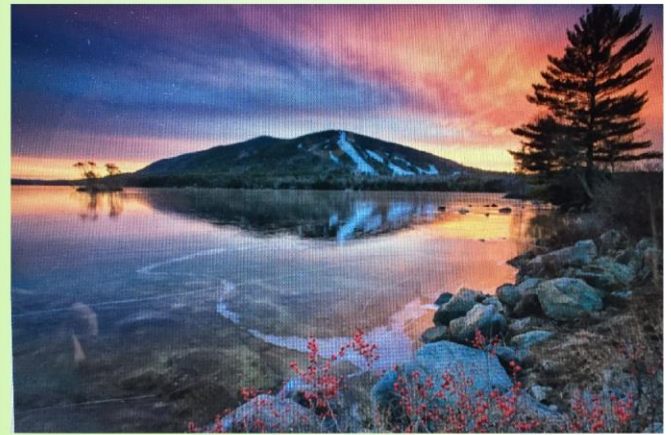
Enjoy. --Jane Morse

## News From Pews

A photo by Darylann Leonard is again featured in the "Where in Maine" section of December's Down East Magazine. She also had a photo chosen for one of their 2017 calendars. --Nancy Engdahl



Down East magazine



Down East Calendar

## Wilkins House

Our potluck suppers will continue each month (except December) through May, the 3rd Thursday at 6 pm at the Wilkins House. All are most welcome. It is a great venue to meet new friends, socialize with current ones and enjoy a super evening. Thank you to Nancy Engdahl and Jane Kimball for hosting the October event and to Lois Grigg and James and Caren Long for the November supper, both successful! If there is a snow cancellation at the Oxford schools (SAD 17), there will be no pot luck supper that evening.

Our next Pot Luck is January 19. Please bring a favorite dish to share. The food is always wonderful. Thank you for your support. See you in January. --Denny Raymond



Oxford Hills Musicians and Performing Artists Association

Presents

# ***Amahl AND THE Night Visitors***

**A FAMILY CHRISTMAS OPERA BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI**

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. The play runs 45 minutes and features some of the most beautiful music ever written.

**Waterford Congregational Church UCC**

**15 Plummer Hill Road**

**Waterford, Maine**

**Friday December 9th/ @ 7:00PM**





## News from the Mission Committee:

This first year we have developed our Mission Statement and the Goals for this committee. We have looked at the calendar for next year's opportunities for giving.

We have funds in the Emergency Fuel Fund and the Good Neighbor Children's Fund. Please let Nancy or anyone on the committee know of a need for this assistance. We continue to share with our neighbors in Waterford as we share the Good News.

In January we are hoping to help host an event with the Lake Region area Rotary and teens from Lake Region and Fryeburg to support a trip the teens took to the Dominican Republic.

The Sunday school (see below) kids have put together shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Many mission projects take place throughout our church by all of our committees.

Thank you to everyone's heartfelt Mission gifts.

--Pam Williams, Myra Maltby, Nancy Engdahl, Carol Madsen and Petra Smyth



## Sunday School Operation Christmas Child Mission Project

Eight large shoe boxes have been filled and are being delivered to a collection site in Naples where they will then ship all collected boxes to Samaritan's Purse (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/operation-christmas-child-processing-center-events-2016/>). The shoeboxes have been filled with every thing from small stuffed animals, puzzles, toys, school and hygiene supplies, socks, hair accessories and some very special lollipops. Thank you to all of the people who left donations in the narthex for this mission project. --Myra Maltby



## Witnessing Our Past

A boxful of old etched glass carefully saved from the fire that destroyed the old Waterford Congregational Church building in 1928, and the centennial birthday of Waterford's long-surviving resident came together on Sunday, November 13 for a joyful celebration of two treasures.

Agnes Lahti was the tie that bound them both. She turned 100 years old on the weekend of November 12-13, and more than 160 people came out to celebrate her and relived the church's 217 years as the heart and soul of the Waterford community. Agnes was 10 when the catastrophic fire destroyed the church and the community center. She and her friends, including Ginny Tyler and Barbara Fillebrown, were at the 4-H meeting in the community house when fire broke out in the church. The sexton, Dennis Gardner, ran in and told them to run up Plummer Hill and wait in the meadow until the all clear came. They watched as the precious Revere bell crashed to the ground.



*Agnes Bancroft, Barbara Fillebrown & Ginny Tyler - 1924*

Agnes's father, Moxie Banroft, picked through the rubble in the days that followed, saving pieces of the etched glass that lay among the ruins. He put them into a box and gave them to his young daughter with these instructions: Keep this always. And she did.



*Agnes at her birthday celebration....*

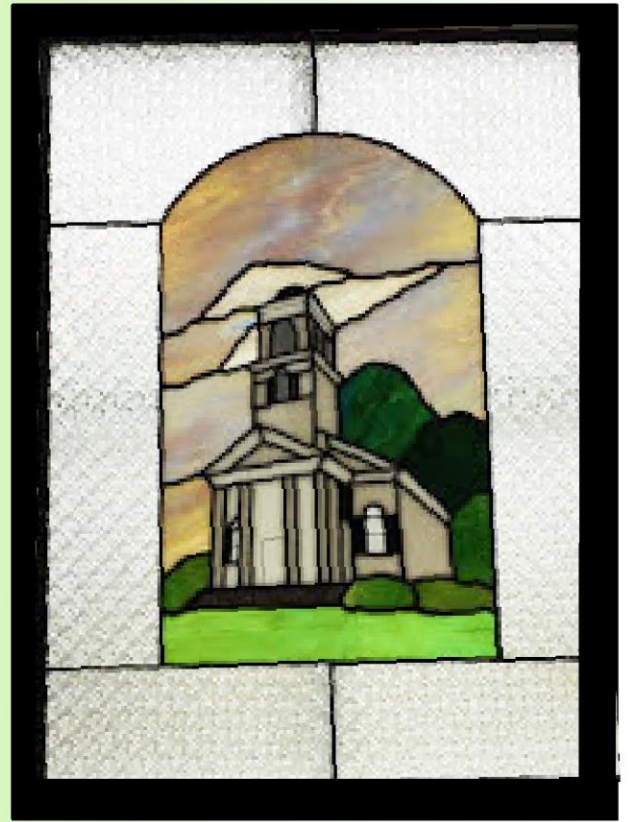
On Sunday the 13th Agnes stood before the congregation and told her story, with a bit of humor and an unmistakable twinkle in her eye. She explained that she had moved them with her wherever she went in her life, even to London! Finally they ended up at her daughter's home in Waterford. Janet Truman offered them to the church, thinking "we might want to make something of them." An idea was born, linked to the new thermal windows the church had installed last summer. Why not have an artist create a piece using the old glass to hang on the new glass and dedicate them together? And then, another idea. Why not combine those dedications with Agnes birthday celebration and invite the town?

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And so it came to be. An oral history of the church that went back to its very beginnings in the wilderness in 1775 was pulled together using old sermons, letters, articles, poems and hymns. After the tolling of the beloved bell, different voices from the church and the village read parts written by the Rev. Lincoln Ripley, Rev. John Douglas, Rev. Truman Perry, Rev. A.C. Townsend, Charlotte Fillebrown, Mabel Gage, Nellie Stone and Virginia Tyler Cutler. Joan Fillebrown read a poem about the church written by her mother-in-law Charlotte. Diane Morse Leonard shared remembrances of her Waterford childhood in the church. Nancy Marcotte added historical notes about its architecture. The choir sang the "Parish Hymn" that was written for the church in the 1950s and was long a mainstay of every service.



*Sainglassed artwork of the Church*

At the end, the new windows were dedicated and Agnes Lahti and Janet Truman unveiled a beautiful stained glass artwork of the church created by glass artist Jane Croteau, based on the iconic photograph by Darryl Ann Leonard. It was hung in the southeast window with a plaque describing its provenance.

As the service ended, the bell tolled again as members of the congregation, villagers, and more than 60 members and friends of Agnes's filed out for the birthday celebration next door at the Wilkins House. There, everyone joined in singing a rousing "Happy Birthday," lunch was served, the candles blown out, and cake was cut and passed around. Throughout it all, Agnes beamed. And the community beamed back, making it a very special Waterford kind of day! --Sally Holm



*Church service moments: AgnesLahti with her daughter Janet Truman and with Reverend Petra Smyth*

*Photos: Bill Haynes*



# Agnes Lahti's Birthday Party!!



**1** With daughter, Janet Truman

**2** Reverend Petra Smyth

**3** Great Great Granddaughter

**4** Daughter, Linda Blackwell, seated, with friends

*Photos: Nancy Fenton*







## News from the Pews:

We miss Maine's beautiful fall season and our friends in the Waterford church. We are doing well. Gabe is buried in books and I am working and creating. We wish all a happy thanksgiving with their friends and loved ones. --Jayme Lane



Introducing MAGGIE, a Maltepo! Our newest addition to the Waterford Community.

--Nancy Engdahl

Sunday December 18th, 2016  
at 3.00 p.m.

## 'A DEERTREES CHRISTMAS'

Join us for our annual festive celebration of words and music,

Harrison Congregational Church

(Entrance by donation supporting a local charity, plus an item(s) for the food pantry) --Kay Leslie



## Lake Smart Award



Living Lightly on the Land  
For the Sake of Our Lake

[www.MaineDEP.com](http://www.MaineDEP.com)

## News from the Pews:

The Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) announced the 2016 recipients of LakeSmart Awards in the Lake Region. Proudly, two Waterford Church families received 2016 LakeSmart Awards: Sally Holm and Kerry Johnson for their Woods Pond property in Bridgton and Dell Foss for her Keyes Pond property in Sweden. These awards recognize individuals and families for helping to ensure that the beautiful lakes and ponds of this area stay pristine for generations to come. Seek out Dell, Sally or Kerry if you are interested in learning more. --Dell Foss



# World Communion Sunday

## It is Just a Wicker Ball

I received this wicker ball in the jungle village of Bontang, in East Kalimantan, on the island of Borneo. I spent 11 years in the Far East transporting Liquified Natural Gas from Indonesia up to Japan, on a 49,000 horsepower, 1,000 foot long ship, (longer then 3 football fields

This one particular time, we arrived in Bontang on my father's birthday, December 24. We did not have to load LNG the next day, Christmas Day, as we had the day off. So a couple of crew members and I, went into town early Christmas morning to the home of the "ice cream man". The "ice cream man" had built a tricycle, one wheel in the stern two wheels up front.



Between the two front wheels, he had installed a large cooler, to carry ice cream. Every afternoon he would put some ice cream in the cooler, pedal the streets of the village, and sell ice cream to earn some extra money. I bought his tricycle, with the understanding that the cooler had to be full of ice cream. We American Merchant Marines then rode our new tricycle around those same dirt roads of Bontang, on Christmas Day giving away our cargo of ice cream to the children of the village. This was before cell phones and texting, but you would be amazed how quickly word traveled that a few Americans were giving away free ice cream to all the children. It did not take too long before there were many happy smiling children and our ice chest was empty, but now what do I do with my new tricycle? I rode it back to the home of the "ice cream man", and tried to give it back to him. A custom in the village is that you can not receive something without giving something.

The children of Indonesia play a game resembling our volleyball with this wicker ball, but it is also like soccer, they can not use their hands to touch the ball, only their head and feet. I have watched the children play this game many times and am amazed at how good they are. Plus how happy they are with just simple toys. The ice cream man would make these wicker balls for the children to play with. So he and I made a deal, I would give him my ice cream tricycle, and he would give me a wicker ball in return.

I know that we Americans made a lot of children happy that Christmas morning in Bontang, Indonesia, and those huge happy smiles on the children made us all happy and proud, on our ship. Many of us that sail, have missed so many Christmases and birthdays with our families, but being away from home and our loved ones, we do the best things that we can.

--Bruce Whichard



## Images from World Communion Sunday



Dell Foss with a rock containing fossilized Burning Bush leaves, given to her by Father Paulos at the Monastery of St. Katherine, on Mount Sinai, Egypt.

Dell Foss with her favorite icon of Christ. The original 6th century icon, Christ Pantocrator, is at the Monastery of St. Katherine, on Mount Sinai, Egypt. Dell and her husband John (deceased in 2008) were married by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Sinai at this monastery in 1987.



The Breads represented 9 countries: Sweden, Germany, China, Ethiopia, Hungary, Tunisia, Ireland, Israel, and Czechoslovakia

Carol shared this dress during global communion Sunday. It was a gift from her maid for the 2 years she spent at the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, Morocco.



## World Communion - part 3



Items shared  
from these  
places:

Alaska  
Antarctica  
China  
Canada  
Costa Rica  
Egypt  
Ethiopia  
Germany  
Greece  
Iceland  
India  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Netherlands  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Russia  
Sweden  
Thailand  
Turkey  
Vietnam







**Enjoy these Halloween images  
friend, Kerry Hewson,  
shared with us of the Church and  
from the Wilkins House party..**

