

Church History Report 2022

This past year I worked on organizing the materials collected so far, focusing on 1799 (the start of the church) through 1999. I made copies of many documents that were not already copied. Just when I imagined I had collected and labeled all the materials available, I found more are stored at the old town office/ historical society. Unfortunately I was not able to work there before the weather turned too cold, so these papers will need to be investigated come springtime. I am excited to have more information to cull through and learn more about the history of our church, however.

I am in the process of recording all the members from the beginning of the church in October of 1799. It is interesting to see that some were excommunicated from the church. I will have to do further research to uncover possible reasons why. Letters seeking forgiveness for one sin or another, often in flowery, vague language may have something to do with the excommunications, but I am not sure yet!

This year at our church council meetings, I started taking assorted materials to share around the table. As a result of sharing information, we decided to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our reed organ in three years with organist George Weise working on restoring the organ and a plan for a special service at that time. We also are in the beginning stages of figuring out how to share the information, letters and ephemera with everyone in the church.

On the fourth of July, Ralph McKinnon and George Weise welcomed people into the church who were in line to go to the Community Breakfast at the Wilkins House. They gave people a look at our beautiful sanctuary and shared historical information as well.

I hope to continue talking to people who have lived here a long time, summered here or have fond memories of some aspect of our Waterford churches. If you would like to share your stories with others, please let me know and I will have a visit with you. Additionally, if you have any church-related documents or photos that you are willing to give or have us copy for our records, please contact me at dmorseleonard@gmail.com.

Thank You,
Dianne Morse-Leonard, Church Historian