



Waterford Congregational Church, UCC

2018
August/September
Worship & Church School
9:30 a.m.

In June, I attended a week-long course “*Re-igniting the Servant Soul*” in N. Eastham, MA.

Our instructor, Dr. Gloria Burgess, writes this about leadership:

“The ultimate goal is to be conscious and intentional about our values, choices, and behaviors, because how we live is how we lead.”

She shared a list with us of how to best track and affirm our progress on our leadership. Yes, I intentionally wrote **our** leadership since everyone at the Waterford Congregational Church is a leader in the faith life of this church.

Gloria Burgess asks each one of us to make time each day to review her list of core leadership values, practices and behaviors. I share with you only a portion of this list below:



Live from gratitude

Acknowledge and affirm my gifts, talents, and skills

Assume others good intent

Collaborate with others

Speak openly and truthfully without blame or judgment

Hold multiple perspectives, using “both/and” thinking

Make life-affirming actions a priority

Be open to and curious about exploring differences

Embrace an attitude of service and helping others

Take a stand, refusing to oppress, minimize, or humiliate others

Invite others to invest in and care for their well-being

Be comfortable with paradox and apparent contradiction

May some of those qualities challenge you, because they are the ones that will stretch you into being an even more effective leader.

Summer blessings, Rev. Petra Smyth

Letter from the Moderator

Dear Friends,

We are in the heart of summer in Maine now. Our numbers have swelled sweetly each Sunday, and we are having no problem making a circle around the sanctuary at the end of the service. We have seen some new faces on a regular basis and hope they make it a good habit of joining us on Sundays throughout the year.



We, Jean and I, just finished having 55 people here for a family reunion. We had at least five different denominations represented in that group along with the countries of Japan and Portugal.

As I look back through the settling dust, I think about how we all respected each other in so many ways. We made sure folks had food they could eat, that we took into account “jet lag” and culture shock in making people feel welcome. That folks were invited to participate in events, but if they wanted to just observe that was fine too. I don’t believe I heard a cross word the entire week most of our guests were here. I don’t think that was an aberration either. I think, I believe actually, that people want to get along, hug, eat, laugh and enjoy the fellowship of other human beings.

We need to be actively engaged in making sure that these relationship building behaviors aren’t snuffed out by suspicion of the “others”, by fear of differences and the constant bombardment of electronic noise telling us what we should think. We are so fortunate to live in this great little town where we can share the beauty of our land and lakes and love for each other with others. Don’t take this sharing for granted, live it daily for the betterment of our town, our society and ourselves.

What is the church doing to set good examples? Check out the huge number of volunteers working on the breakfasts, the folks who planned the “Make a Joyful Noise” service, the Music Committee planning the concerts at the church in October and in December, the guys from the congregation beautifying our grounds by constructing a space for meditation, the Mission Committee planning outreach through the Heifer Project and of course the weekly message from our Minister about how God loves us all. This is how we do it. God love you all, for all you do.

Well, thanks for reading this. I know you will enjoy the bounty of information Ginny packs into this wonderful newsletter. But, as the T-shirt slogan says, “The Lake is calling and I must go.”

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer. See you in church, Al Struck, Moderator

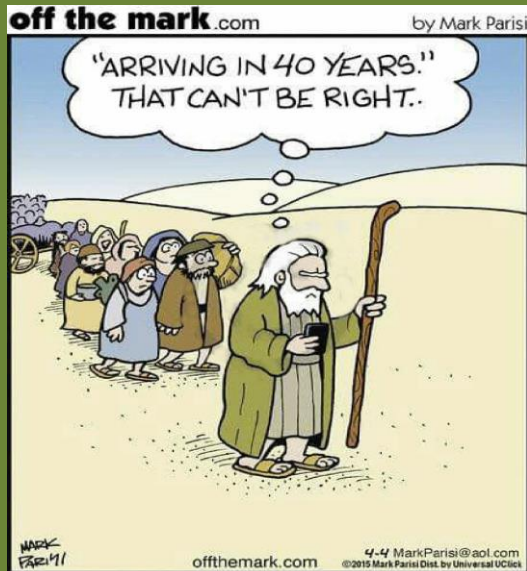
Calendar

Wednesday, August 15th, 7:30-10: Wilkins House Breakfast
Sunday, August 19th: Serrv sale after the service

Sunday, October 14th at 3 pm: Maine Music Society's
Chamber Choir

Saturday, October 20th, 10 to 2 - Mission Fair & Luncheon

Tuesday, December 11th, 7 St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble



Birthdays

AUGUST

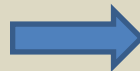
1 Ralph Sylvester
3 James Long
3 Diana Wright
9 Lauryn Bedard
10 Meg Wheeler
19 Lydia Sylvester
21 Marion Brennan
23 Ellie Winslow
24 Denny Raymond
27 Caren Long



September

10 Elaine Sylvester
27 Ginny Raymond
29 Bruce Whichard
29 Ted Nixon

Send a Guess To Baby Picture



WaterfordCongregationalChurch@GMAIL.com

Or a note to Ginny

The answer will be in the October/November Newsletter

Along with the winner's name



Last
month's
winner:

Karen
Fillebrown

Last Month: Henry and Joy Plate

Who is this Sun Pixie?



This little girl is visiting the store
near her home...

Next stop: THE BEACH!



From the Trustees

The meditation garden was completed on Thursday July 12. I thank Gail and Ted Nixon for the use of their tractor. It was a great help in spreading nine yards of gravel. I also thank Ted Nixon and Al Struck for their help in completing this project. The next step is for volunteers to place planters in the meditation area. Dodi has put two planters in this area. I hope people take the time to spend a few minutes in the garden.

During the past two months the floor in the Wilkins House has been cleaned and buffed. It was well overdue, and it looks very good. The trustees have also reviewed all the chairs in the Wilken House and put new felts on the chairs that required them.

For the Trustees, John Wait



Meditation Area with new planters!

The pots were donated by Jane & John Traill and Joy & Henry Plate.

John and Dodi Wait donated the flowers.

Others may donate to the area, but must care for their own plant pots.

Dodi Wait photos

Treasurer Corner

The first six months of the year have been a learning experience for both of us. Thanks to the mentoring and help from Ralph MacKinnon, we have been able to pay all the church expenses on time and closed the church monthly financial statements on a timely basis.

After the first six months, the income is on schedule and if all the pledges are met, we should meet our operating income plan.

Please check with us if you are not sure where you stand with your yearly pledge.

On the expense side, we are holding our own. We need to continue to be judicious with our expenditures for the remaining six months. The operating plan called for a deficit of \$4522. If we are to break even for the year we need to reduce our operating plan expenses by that amount.

John and Dodi Wait



"They always pass me these collection plates at church, so I started collecting them."

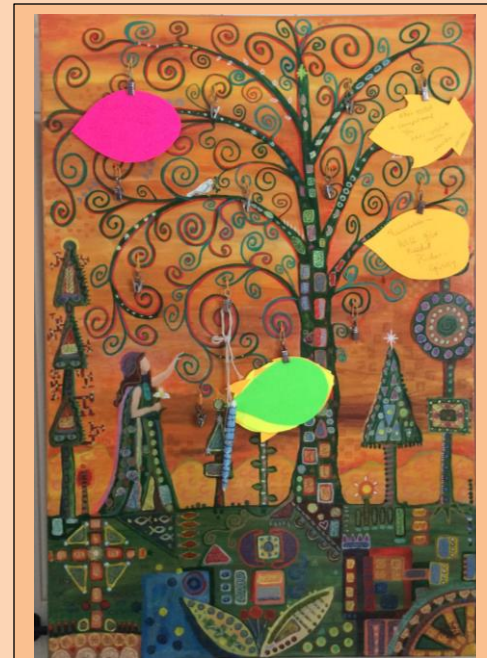
GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICE TREE

As you stand in the narthex of the church, before or after a worship service, please take a moment to consider adding a leaf to the Good Neighbor Tree, that is hanging on the inside front door next to the ramp door.

This tree is a program that allows us to help one another; just as our Christian faith would want us to do!

The leaves work two ways:

- We can either offer a service or an item others might need or
- You can request a service that would assist you in some manner.



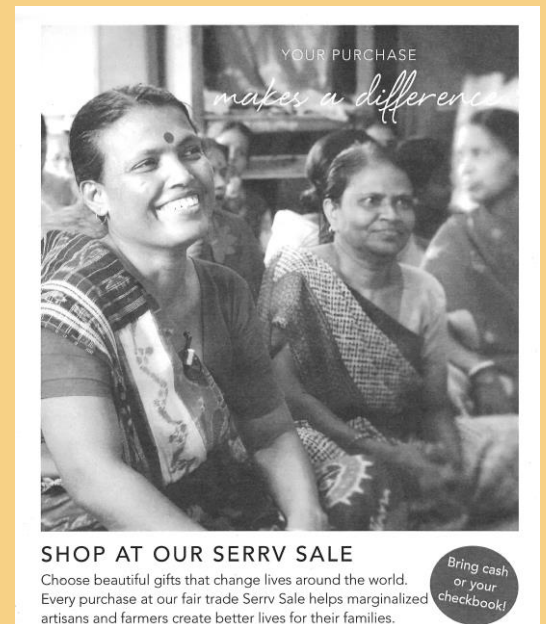
The services and requests are limitless, but sometimes it can be the simplest offer or request that can provide much needed assistance.

Let's try to make the board a habit by looking and adding to it often, so we can be Good Neighbors.

News from the Mission Committee

It has been a busy summer for the Mission Committee. Below, I have listed the many opportunities that we are working on and encourage our church family and friends to take part in as they can. There are lots to choose from. What excites you? What do you feel passionately about? Please contact anyone on the committee with thoughts and ideas.

***SERRV** (Creating connections to break the cycle of poverty), SERRV creates long-term connections with marginalized artisans and farmers in 25 countries, including the US. Together they build handmade products that serve as a tool for positive change worldwide. We have been hosting our Fair Trade sales during the Community Breakfasts at the Wilkins House. Please visit our tables to see these beautiful items. On Sunday August 19th we will have the remaining items on sale after church, so bring some extra cash to do some birthday and Christmas shopping.



October 20th we will be having a Mission Fair featuring SERRV with a Luncheon from 10:00 to 2:00.

Save this date, more info to follow.

***Christmas in July & August** As we continue to share the UCC Special Mission Offerings, the Mission Committee and the Church Council decided to hold this offering over the summer. It helps provide pension and health premium supplements to lower-income retired church workers and emergency assistance to clergy or lay church employees in times of need. This is one more way to say thank you to our retired employees.

***Collecting used eye glass:** Please leave used glasses in the box in the back of the Church. These are recycled and used in many countries.

***Fuel Emergency Fund:** These funds are for local/community families in need of heating assistance.

***Good Neighbor Fund:** These funds are for our local children to be used to help with back to school supplies, clothing, medications, eye glasses, as well as other needs.

As I write this article, I feel the spirit move through our church as we live our mission statement *“to strive to help the church engage in mission opportunities, collectively, and individually, doing God’s work both with in our community and throughout the world.”*

Shalom, Pam Williams - chair

From the Deacons

It is wonderful to have our summer people back in Waterford and also to have some new people join us on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please see one of the deacons. The deacons do get a little “down time” during the summer months before a busy fall but are always available if needed.

The Care and Calling Committee is in contact with people who need help. If you or anyone you know within the congregation who is in need of support, please contact a deacon at any time.

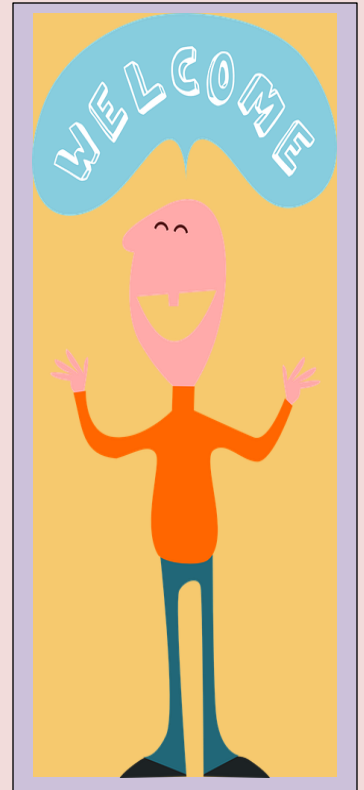
I am always looking for people who would like to be greeters on Sunday mornings. Just show up with a smile on your face and greet people with our bulletins as they enter the narthex. It's that easy!!!

I am also looking for anyone who would like to read scripture during our regular worship services.

Please let me know if you are interested in doing either of these things.

Hope you are having a great summer!

Myra Maltby



MUSIC COMMITTEE - CONCERT SERIES

The Music Committee has finished plans for a concert on October 14th at 3pm.

They have engaged the Maine Music Society's Chamber Choir to come and perform at our church.

The opening group will be a Clarinet Quartet who will play a variety of musical numbers. Following intermission, the Chamber Choir will perform.

Donations are gratefully accepted at the door. Refreshments will be provided by the CAC during the intermission between acts.



There will be a concert on Tuesday, December 11th at 7pm featuring a Russian quartet - the St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble. Be sure to put that date on your holiday events calendar! We will have more information about that program as we get closer to the date.



Make a Joyful Noise Sunday, July 29, 2018

Waterford Congregational Church & Sweden Community Church
United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison and North Bridgton
Oxford County United Parish, North Waterford and Stoneham

Gail Scott with Don Chase, musicians



Waterford Choir, "Parish Hymn" & "You Are Mine"



North Waterford/Stoneham Choir,
"In The Lord Alone"



Rev. Petra Smyth with Karen Fillebrown



Preston Harrison, "When your Work is Done"



Al Struck with Kay Leslie
playing a piece by Pokorný



Waterford Choir, with Don & Gail
"Where the Soul of a Man Never Dies" & "Sing unto the Lord a New Song"



Opening Prayer from Joyous Noise church bulletin

We gather as God's community for we are the Body of Christ. We come as gifted people, to worship our God. We come as a community, to be strengthened in our gifts. We come united as friends of the one spirit who calls us to hope and build each other up in love and pray together the prayer of our community

Jane Morse, Choir Director



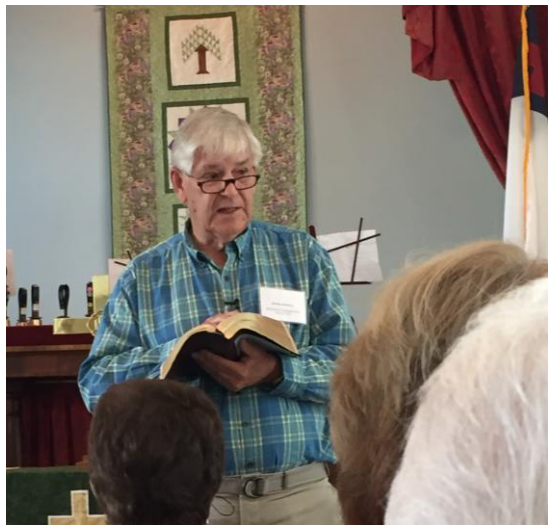
Joann Fillebrown, organist



Denny Raymond, Handel's "Lead Me, Lord"



Kerry Johnson, Scripture reader



Kerry Johnson, Ginny Raymond photos

United Parish Church of Harrison
& North Bridgton Bell Choir
"Let there be Peace on Earth"



The Congregation of 100 souls!!





Music news

This summer has been both busy and quiet in the choir. Many choir members have been spending time vacationing. Kay has played for small groups and others have played clarinet and piano. I will take a few Sundays off in August and the fall.

On July 29, pictured earlier, we had a great time with our neighboring churches and other guests for our second annual *Make a Joyful Noise Sunday*! Thanks to all of our special friends for participating in this fun event!

Again, we are planning a fall *Sharps on the Flat* concerts for October 14 and December 11! Mark your calendars!!

Let music bring peace to your world.

 Jane Morse, Music Director 

Ted Nixon
Food scraper



Nancy Engdahl
Muffin dispenser



Petra Smyth, Jelly/Syrup specialist
with Jo Lynn Johnson, server



Jane Kimball
Cashier



From the Wilkins House

Thank you for your support of our Wilkins Community House by attending our events. The summer breakfasts are well underway. The 3rd breakfast was on Wednesday August 1 while the last breakfast is scheduled for August 15th. Volunteers play a very important part of these breakfasts, both in the kitchen and the dining room. They are truly dedicated, efficient and thoughtful in everything they do and are appreciated. Please enjoy the fun photos of some of these faithful folks. For volunteering to help, please contact Ginny at 583-7357.

The Wilkins House is a wonderful venue for birthday parties, anniversaries and any other special occasions. Please contact our building supervisor, Joan Eaton, at 756-9522 to schedule your event.

Thank you – Denny Raymond

Dick Lyman
Clean up



Gail Nixon
Dining Rm. Manager
Sally Holm, Clean-up



Kerry Johnson
Clean up



Ginny Raymond photos

Dianne Morse-Leonard's memories - growing up in Waterford

Sunday school memories: the Sunday school booklets were filled with stories and colored illustrations from the Bible. My mother, Elaine Morse, was Sunday school superintendent for several years when I was young. Being an avid gardener, every spring she would plant marigolds to give to each child in Sunday school. We would have a special presentation, and everyone would have a short part to say. All of us would be recognized and presented with a marigold.

We had a busy Sunday school. At times we had so many classes held in the Wilkins House that we even had to have classes on the stage and upstairs in the attic room!

One of my favorite things was changing from the Waterford Church to the South Waterford Methodist Church, which we did during the warmer months. There were different deacons for each church, and it was fun to switch buildings and have new places to run around and play games outside! But all the while, we were still one church community.

When Rev. Lewis Jones came (in the late 60's), he started the Hanging of the Greens special service on the first Sunday of Advent. Many community people came to help. We dressed in blue choir gowns and even practiced ahead so our motions would be seamless as we decorated the church for Christmas. We had delicious refreshments at the Wilkins House, and the church was filled with people from around the area for this special event.

When the Pegels came from Germany, via a missionary stint in Micronesia, in the 70's, they started a youth group. With their five children it was easy to pull together area youth for fun activities such as ice skating, sing-alongs, overnights in the Wilkins House and trick-or-treating for UNICEF.



Church mornings always seemed to start with a huge rush to pile all of us Morse's into our station wagon and get to church in the Flat before the service started. We usually sat somewhere near the back so we wouldn't be real obvious coming in.

In this picture, I was in Jr High or High School. Maybe 1972?

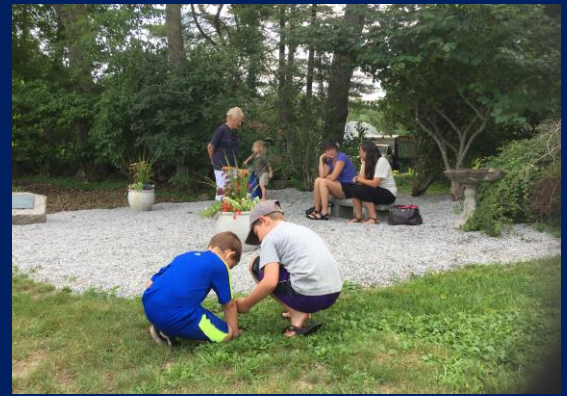
I made the dress I had on for a 4-H fashion show

I won third prize in county for it!



One thing that has always been emphasized: Church is the people worshiping God. It is not just a building, even though we do have a beautiful, well-kept building. This focus on who we are as a church continues to make us stronger in our faith as we work to help other and make meaningful memories for the people who worship with us today.

This piece was part of 2016 Windows commemoration service.



Children in the Garden

(Left) New friend Duncan with Jonathan, James & Jack Slade (Bobbi Whichard's great grandsons).
August 1 – Ginny Raymond photo



My vacation – Clara Hamlin

During my recent vacation, I went to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA to see the production of Jesus. This has been in the works for over three years. It is not only a story of his life but of his love which we believe is his life.

The Sight and Sound Theater is a large theater with a front stage nearly twice the size of Oxford Hills stage with sets on the sides. The aisles are used by the actors and the animals. They have large parking lots for cars and buses.

The production is going on from now to the first of January and starts again in March to September 2019.

If you are going to be in that part of Pennsylvania, you will not be sorry if you take the time to see this. They have 2 shows daily from Tuesday to Saturday. If you want to check it out, go to <https://www.sight-sound.com>.

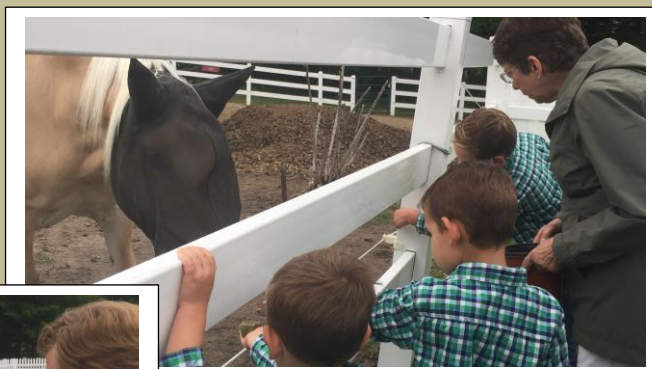
Walk in the Garden – Arlene Whichard

At the service on July 22, 2018, Petra invited the congregation to take a walk to enjoy the garden. So, after service, Jared took his three younger cousins from California for a stroll to the garden. It was a place where, as a small boy, Jared had helped collect and place the flat rocks for a walking path. Jared has memories of Meg Wheeler taking the young Sunday school children to the "memory garden" where she shared her love of gardening and gave herbs to the Sunday school participants.

The garden is now much different than it had been when Jared had strolled about in his earlier years, but the magical memories remain and opportunities for adventure are still there too! As Jared's cousins enjoyed their recent time with him in the garden, they sat upon the bench and gazed out to field where they saw horses!! Jared was able continue to share the beauty of nature with his cousins, and despite the ensuing rainfall, Gail and Ted Nixon graciously allowed the boys to feed their horses treats! Surely, this was a fun experience for Bobbi Whichard's great grandchildren James, Jack, and Jonathan Slade, as well as another opportunity to build connections and memories to this community.

Just as Jared has many fond memories of growing up in and around WCC, there are many others who have their hearts and minds filled with treasured memories of the beauty of the "Little Church with the Big Heart". It was a delightful service, which even allowed Jared the opportunity to share the tradition and honor of ringing the church bell with his younger cousin, James!!

For me, it was all a "surprised by God" adventure!!

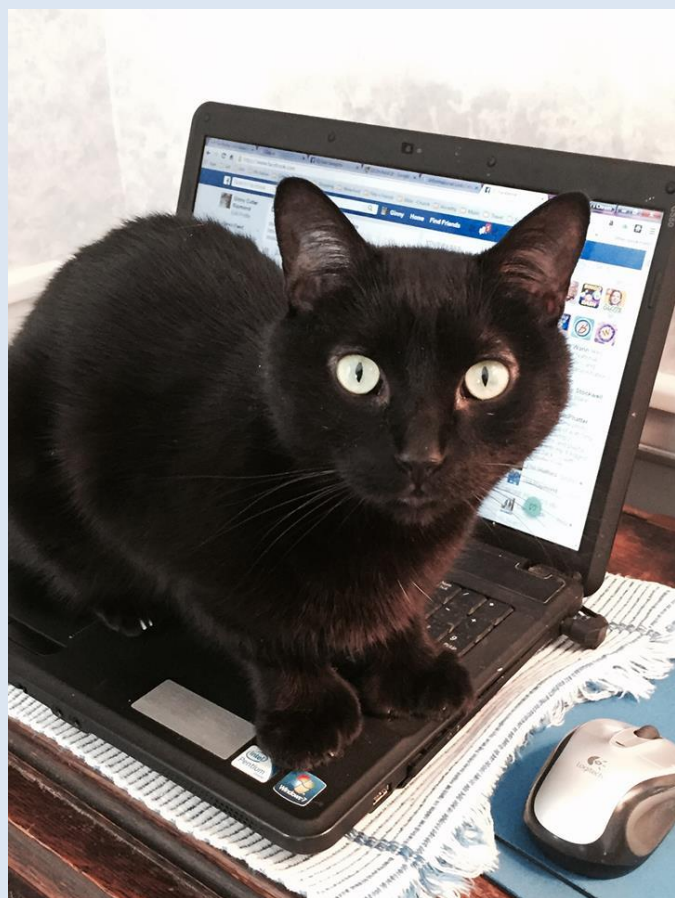


Arlene Whichard photos

Showing off Jameson

Kathy Plate (Bob's wife)

with their daughters Kelsey (holding her son, Jameson, Joy and Henry's great grandson)
Jessica, with Joy and Petra.



A Sad Goodbye! Maybe?

My cat, Boo, is fine, but my friend the laptop has gone the way of all old techie objects.

It was a sad and sudden parting. And though my computer colleague tried to revive him, Lenovo said *I'm done!!* And I know you are wondering, did I get his memory (my stuff!)? Indeed I did!

But I did not get back my very best, long-time sweetheart, PrintShop, though perhaps antique in today's world, she was the software package that was the life-blood of much of my computer fun, including this Newsletter, since before Y2K.

So, alas, if you noticed this paper is off schedule, or that it looks slightly different from its predecessors, you now know much of the reason. And frankly, it has been an emotional struggle.

BUT NOW, the fun begins: FINDING A NEW FRIEND!

~Ginny Raymond