

Historian's Notebook

by George Blanchard

Every so often I receive a request for information about our church or one of our predecessor churches, a former

minister or a long ago member. This person may be doing research for a degree or possibly working on family genealogy. Several that stand out in my mind are described below.

A few years ago a woman in Ohio wanted information about a member of Central Church by the name of Emory Washburn. We exchanged e-mails for several months but I could never find out what she was working on.

Emory Washburn came to Worcester in 1824, was a trustee of the church and a leader in the movement for the purchase of an organ. He later became governor of the Commonwealth. Although he was a trustee, his name does not appear on the membership roles.

While researching Washburn at The American Antiquarian Society, I met a woman whose great-uncle, Shepherd Knapp, was pastor of our church from 1908-1936. She suggested that I talk with her 93 year old uncle, George Vondermuhll (Dr. Knapp's nephew). I did and had a very pleasant one hour telephone conversation with him. Perhaps you remember a previous article that told about this.

Another request came from a member of the First Congregational Church in Southington, CT. where Dr. Knapp was pastor from 1897 'til 1900. They were planning an anniversary and needed

additional materials about their former pastors. They were particularly interested in Dr. Knapp's death notice and where he was buried. I made copies of about fifty pages from our scrapbooks including his obituary but I have no information about his burial site.

A month ago an e-mail came to the office from a woman who stated that "I am a doctoral candidate working on my history dissertations. I have been referred to your church by the librarian at the Congregational Library in Boston. . . 'the Calvinist Society' of the 1820's became Central Congregational Church, which after several mutations, became your church. Thus . . .the records for that early Calvinist Society are likely in your collections.

"My particular interest. . . is that a Boylston family that I am studying removed from Boylston to Worcester & asked for a letter of dismissal from the Boylston church. That family (the David Dakin family) had recently had one member excommunicated for drunkenness and profanity, and when they asked for a letter of transfer, they were granted only a 'qualified' letter. I am hoping the records indicate what that qualification was."

I informed her that all of the old records are at the AAS including records, correspondence and reports; membership registers; lists of subscribers, both to church membership and for the building the new meeting house; valuations of member's property.

The most recent request was from the Worcester Art Museum re: Helen Bigelow Merriman, the wife of Daniel

Merriman who was pastor of Central Church from 1878 'til 1900. They were both founding members of the museum - Dr. Merriman served as president and Mrs. Merriman as a corporator and trustee. WAM is planning an event this Spring which I will tell you about when I have more information.



WOMEN'S LENTEN COMMUNION
followed by coffee and...
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 11:00 a.m.



Easter Coffee Hour


A Special Coffee Hour will follow the 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service. You can help make it special by bringing your favorite Easter treats to share.

****To help us in planning, please drop off your contribution at the church office by noon, Friday, April 10****

The
GREEN ROOSTER
CoffeeHouse
Doors open 7:30
All shows 8:00 p.m.
508-798-3010



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

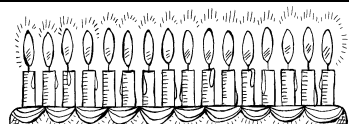
PALM SUNDAY
April 5 10:30 a.m.
Sanctuary

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 9 7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY
April 10 12:30 noon
Large Parlor

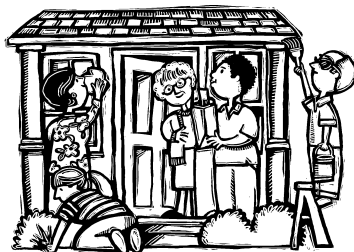
EASTER SUNDAY
April 12 10:30 a.m.
Sanctuary
Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.
Front of Church

Apr 4	<i>Is it Duffy time?</i>
Apr 18	THE LATIN ENDORPHINS – AIDS Project Worcester benefit.
Apr 25	MICHAEL PARENT , Renown storyteller.
	<i>Thanks for dropping in! We always need volunteers.</i>



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Robin McDowell	2
Ann Lewis	4
Eric Bradley	9
Chuck Demers	10
Violet Hammerbeck	11
Emily Mott	12
Bob Berry	13
Melanie McCorison	14
Meredith Maki	14
Pat Ermshausen	16
Rob Prunier	19
Amanda Gaspari	21
Stacey Mott	
Pat Keck	
Alissa Mott	22
Andrew Murray	24
Dorista Goldsberry	
Jonathan Farr	29
Jolina May McConville	
Stan Porter	30
Beverly Osborn	
Ray Gaspari	



What can our congregation do to help homeless families when they move into new homes?

How can we make their move a little easier?

Let's start with the little things.....

- Cleaning Supplies**
- School Supplies**
- Grooming Supplies**

Look for the sign up posters and "shopping lists" to take as a reminder in Robinson Room during Sunday Coffee Hour. When you are shopping, pick up an item or two on the list. The Wider Church Ministry will use these items to assemble gift baskets of Cleaning Supplies, School Supplies and Grooming Supplies for homeless families moving into new homes.

Food Cupboard



THE FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS:

- CANNED MEATS & FISH**
- CANNED BEANS • SOUPS**
- PEANUT BUTTER • CEREAL**
- MAC & CHEESE • PASTA & SAUCE**
- POWDERED MILK**
- CANNED FRUITS & VEGGIES**

For use in printed publications, Right-Click

To United Congregational Church,

On behalf of the people we serve who are living with HIV/AIDS disease and at risk for the disease, as well as our staff and board of directors, I wish to thank the United Congregational Church for its very generous donation of \$500 to support our work.

For all those who have come before and for all those who are still coming, we will be here – with your help. We thank you for your compassion and support.

I invite you to visit our website at www.aidsprojectworcester.org to learn more about us.

With warm regards,
Joe McKee, Executive Director

To United Congregational Church,

On behalf of The Bridge of Central MA, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$300.

This will go towards helping provide food and supplies at our two drop in centers, and also emergency food, transportation vouchers, and personal care items to a homeless youth.

Thank you so much to all the members of the United Congregational Church for all your support of Safe Homes.

Tina Hyland
Director of Marketing and Resource Development

To United Congregational Church,

I continue to be in awe at the generosity of our donors! In 2008, the United

Congregational Church was listed as one of our principal supporters. Because of your generosity, our Summer Program became a very successful reality.

Our new website is about to be launched. Please visit us at www.marieannecenter.org. It will give you a good sense of our involvement in our Lincoln Street neighborhood.

Sincerely and gratefully,
Sister Michèle Jacques
Director

To United Congregational Church,

Thank you for your generous sponsorship of our fundraising efforts for the many programs and activities "Why Me" and "Sherry's House" offers. You have helped support the many important programs that we share with our families. All of these services are provided free of charge.

Please visit our website at www.whyme.org to learn more about us.

Warmest Regards,
Terence Shepherd
Volunteer Executive Director

Dear United,

Thank you for your donation. We really appreciate all your help.

Pleasant St. Neighborhood
Network Center

To United Congregational Church,

Thank you for all you have allowed us to accomplish. We wish you a new year of health and prosperity.

From your friends at the
UMass Memorial Foundation



mark
your
calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 17

24th Annual

WALK for the Homeless

Central Mass Housing Alliance,
Inc.