

Historian's Notebook

by George Blanchard

On Sunday April 26, three members of our church joined with about 70 others at the Worcester Art Museum for the unveiling of a portrait of Helen Bigelow Merriman.

Who is she you may ask? She was the wife of Daniel Merriman who was pastor of our church from 1878 - 1900.

He came to Worcester with the understanding that a new church would be built to replace the Calvinist Church which stood on Main St. next to the present Elwood Adams Hardware Co. When no progress was made on the new plans, he submitted his resignation. However he withdrew it when land was acquired on Salisbury St. at the corner of Jo Bill Rd. (now Institute Rd.); an architect, Stephen Earle, was hired and the church built and dedicated in 1885.

During his pastorate the Merriman's also played an important role in the founding of the Worcester Art Museum, as they were among the 50 people who met for that purpose at the home of Stephen Salisbury III in 1896. Both of the Merriman's were named original incorporators and Daniel became the first president. Mrs. Merriman remained on the board until 1923.

After Dr. Merriman passed away in 1913, his wife donated a portrait of him to the Museum where it has hung in Salisbury Hall along with Stephen Salisbury. Now Helen Bigelow Merriman's portrait hangs beside her husband.

"When she died in 1932, the Art Museum was in the process of its greatest expansion. The Museum was now recognized as one of

the finest in the country, a major accomplishment and one that owes so much to the vision, intelligence and generosity of the Reverend and Mrs. Daniel Merriman. ". . . finally we have the great pleasure of reuniting the Merriman portraits in Salisbury Hall, the heart of the Museum's original building."

The above quotes were taken from Museum Director James Welu's wonderfully illustrated talk prior to the unveiling.

It was a special night and one that our church can take pride in.

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A history note #1: The painting of Mrs. Merriman was part of the Museum's first exhibition in 1909. It later became the property of The Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH, which was built in honor of her father, Erastus Bigelow. The painting was found in 2007 hanging in the hospital thanks to information passed along to Mr. Welu.

#2. Helen Bigelow Merriman was the daughter, and only child, of Erastus Bigelow of West Boylston. He is best known as the inventor of the power carpet loom which led to the founding of the Bigelow Carpet Company.

We have reached our goal of 375 reusable bags. Thank you for helping our Food Cupboard to go green!



Our Food Cupboard

Goes Green



An Operatic Recital

Mozart to Puccini & More

Soprano Karen Amlaw,
United's soprano section leader
accompanied by acclaimed pianist
Olga Rogach

Program to include arias from Don Giovanni, Cosi Fan Tutte, Simon Boccanegra, La Wally, Die Tote Stadt, Manon Lescaut, La Rondine, Suor Angelica, Turandot and more.

Briarwood Community Center
65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester, MA
Sunday, June 21st at 2:00 p.m.
(Fathers' Day)
Admission is free
(Donations accepted at the door)

32nd Annual PRIDE INTERFAITH SERVICE Saturday, June 13

9:30 a.m. – Jazz Performance
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Dr. Justin Tanis, Sermon
Community Education and
Outreach Manager

National Center for Transgender Equality
Old South Church, 645 Boylston St. at
Dartmouth Street, Boston
Pride Interfaith Coalition
645 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116-2804
617-425-5151

info@prideinterfaith.org
www.prideinterfaith.org

TOGETHER BUILDING BRIDGES

Look for new CONNECTIONS at the Women Leaders of New England CELEBRATION VIII, to be held in Burlington, VT on March 12-14, 2010. Women 14 years-and-up will learn to Build Bridges Together in a new workshop which will feature intergenerational, participatory time. Leaders will be Valerie Tutson, a renowned storyteller from Rhode Island, and Whendi Cooke, singer, songwriter, musician and visual artist from Connecticut. Together they will lead women 14 and up in creating expressions of the journey as sisters of spirit. Experience CONNECTIONS through art, music, dance, faith and fun! Check out the website for more information <http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org>. We look forward to seeing you at CELEBRATION VIII in Burlington.



2009 INTERNATIONAL FAIR
June 27 & June 28
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Heifer International
Overlook Farm

216 Wachusett St., Rutland, MA
Walk the Global Village
Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of different cultures
Learn about Heifer's global development efforts
Enjoy Dale Perkins' Horse Show
Great International food; hayrides; and musical entertainment
Fair-trade Global Goods gift shop.
\$5.00 per person
Children 12 and under, free
www.heifer.org/overlook



Dear Friends at United Congregational Church,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$500 from the Wider Church Covenant Ministry to Dismas House. We appreciate your generosity and goodwill towards the Dismas family.



Dismas House provides critical services and a welcoming hand to former prisoners in need. At Dismas, we strive to provide lasting opportunities for employment, housing and community to promote healthy reintegration.

This year presents challenges to Dismas House, as we adjust to the loss of \$80,000 in state funding, which represented 16 percent of Dismas House's overall budget. We at Dismas House are committed to sustaining the Dismas mission despite this loss. Your support will make sure that we can continue to meet the needs of the former prisoners and their families.

In Gratitude,

Colleen Hilferty
Co-Executive Director

Food Cupboard



THE FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS:

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

Make a Fruity Treat



Make this delicious dip to share with your family and friends.

You will need:

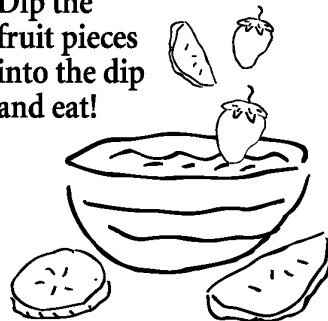
- small bowl
- spoon
- wire whisk
- cutting board
- knife
- 8-ounce carton of orange yogurt
- 1/2 of an 8-ounce package of pineapple-flavored soft cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- variety of fruits



How to make the treats:

- Put yogurt, cream cheese and sugar in bowl.
- Mix with whisk until smooth.
- Cut fruit into pieces. (Ask an adult to help with the knife.)

Dip the fruit pieces into the dip and eat!



What is God calling us to do, in light of our mission and vision statements, with our resources, especially our building?

We trust that, as God has led us to this point, God will continue to guide us to be the faithful, enlivened, empowered disciples that God desires us to be and calls us to be. We, United Congregational Church United Church of Christ, will continue to be the Body of Christ (perhaps joining with others on this great spiritual journey), and we will never cease witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ – in and to this world! Wherever the discussions lead, we have already felt the Spirit move in our meetings and discussions, in new partners in the conversation, and in you – patient, trusting, and faithful! Praise be to God!

Rev. Terry Fitzgerald, Pastor
Barry Jones, Moderator

**Sunday, June 7, during our 10:30 a.m. worship service we will be recognizing the Women's Fellowship generous gift to the Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS).
The Rev. Robert Bachelder, President of WAMS, will be joining us.**

DUE TO SOME SCHEDULING CONFLICTS, TERRY WILL NOT BE PREACHING ELSEWHERE IN JULY.



- Prayers of comfort for the Bourgault family on the death of Roy.
- Prayers of healing for Guy Metcalf, son

of Guy and Jo Metcalf.

- Prayers of strength for Cherie and her family.
- Prayers of comfort for the family of Rick Robillard's aunt, Mina, who died recently.
- Prayers of hope and healing for those living with HIV/AIDS.
- Prayers of courage and strength for all men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces, especially in areas of conflict.
- Prayers of courage and peace for the families of soldiers who have died and have been injured.
- Peace and hope for the people of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
- Prayers for the people of North and South Korea, the Congo, the Sudan, Kenya, Tibet, and for the people of the Middle East.
- Prayers of hope for all people and countries that are struggling with conflict and disease.
- Prayers of hope for all whose lives have been devastated in our struggling economy.
- Prayers of strength and wisdom for the leaders of our government and countries around the world.
- Prayers of courage in the midst of continued discrimination—in CA with the upholding of Proposition 8. We also pray for strength and courage for our transgender brothers and sisters.



SECOND SUNDAY

HEALING SERVICE



In accord with one of our most ancient of Christian traditions, the Diaconate would like to offer Healing

Services on a regular basis. Immediately following worship on the second Sunday of the month, the pastor and a Deacon will be available to anoint and offer a brief prayer for those of you who would like to receive this healing blessing. It is our desire as pastor and as Deacons to provide for your spiritual needs.

VNA CARE HOSPICE

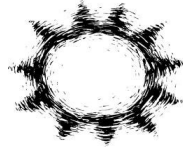
SUMMER GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A general support group for adults who are coping with the death of a loved one

When: *Alternate Tuesday evenings
beginning June 16, for
seven meetings (dates below)*

Time: *6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.*

Location: *United Congregational Church*



2009

June 16 & 30

July 14 & 28

August 11 & 25

September 8

*There is no fee for participating
in this group*

*New members accepted up until the
2nd or 3rd meeting.*

*To register please call Susan Tarantino
800-521-5539 ext.6657 or email
starantino@vnacarenetowrk.org*