

## Historian's Notebook

by George Blanchard

Do you know who Thomas H. Dodge is? No, neither did I.

As I was looking through a copy of *Images of America: Worcester*, I was interested in the information next to the picture of a bearded, long-haired gentleman by the name of Thomas H. Dodge. "He was a distinguished lawyer, inventor, and public benefactor. His generous contributions ... helped to build the new Union Church" in 1890 which became Chestnut St. Congregational Church in 1936 after the merger with two other churches. That building is now the home of the Dream Center of Liberty Church.

Mr. Dodge was born on a farm in Eden, VT in 1823. At the age of 14 his family relocated to Nashua, NH where, at the Nashua Manufacturing Company, he learned the technique of spinning, weaving, dressing and cotton-carding.

He invented several improvements in machinery including the process of printing from a roll of paper. This is the process used by newspapers such as the Worcester Telegram & Gazette which can print 240,000 16 page newspapers an hour on their two huge rotary presses.

He studied law and was admitted to the bar in Manchester in 1854. In 1855 he was appointed assistant examiner of patents in Washington, soon becoming chief examiner and chairman of the Board of Appeals until 1858 when he retired. He was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court specializing in patents. He was also associated with several manufacturers of

agricultural machinery and barbed wire fencing. I am guessing that because barbed wire was invented here in Worcester, that may be one of the reasons that he moved here in 1864.

While in Washington he proposed that any letters which could not be delivered be returned to the sender. His plan was adopted.

Mr. Dodge acquired considerable real estate in Worcester of which he donated 13 acres off Randolph Rd., between West Boylston and Burncoat Sts., which of course is called Dodge Park.

A picture taken at that time shows open fields - no houses and few trees. He also donated the land on which the Odd Fellows Home stands.

Historian Franklin P. Rice wrote that Mr. Dodge was "a man of impressive personality and dignified presence, yet of a genial disposition, finding his chief satisfaction in the contemplation of a past life usefully employed." Mr. Dodge died in 1910 at the age of 87.

In our archives is a fluted, handled china plate with the images of "Central Church" and the "Odd Fellows Home." I have found no connection between the Odd Fellows Home and Central Church and it is interesting that they would appear together on the plate.

*Much of this information was found on the Internet.*

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



<b>Mar 20</b> <b>\$12</b>	<b>SLO GRASS</b>
<b>Mar 27</b>	<b>THE WPI BIG BAND and THE WPI JAZZ COMBO</b>
<b>Apr 10</b>	<b>MIKE DUFFY REMEMBERED! – 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (starting at 7:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>Apr 24</b> <b>\$15</b>	<b>BILL STAINES</b>
	<b>Thanks for dropping in! We always need volunteers.</b>

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAKE EASTER COFFEE HOUR SPECIAL!!



We are asking members and friends to bring Easter goodies to share at Coffee Hour following worship.

Two people are needed to make the coffee, set up and serve the goodies. Volunteers are also needed to help with the clean up.

For planning purposes, please call the church office (508-752-3785) to let us know what you will be bringing or how you can help out.

## Spring flowers will adorn the Sanctuary Easter Sunday, April 4.

Following worship, the plants will be distributed to ill and less mobile members of our congregation as well as those who have lost a loved one since Christmas. Spring flowers may be given



**"To the Glory of God" and**

**In honor of living person[s]  
In memory of someone who has  
died**

**In celebration of the season**

If you are interested in donating a plant, please mail your payment, to the office by March 19. The cost of a plant is \$12.50.


## I.H.N. HOSTING IN MARCH

United will be hosting homeless families for the **Interfaith Hospitality Network** the week of **March 28 – April 4**. Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts, cook dinner, or unload supplies.



If you are interested in serving, or just want to find out more about I. H. N., stop by the information table in the church parlor after worship, or call

coordinator, Tim Camp at 508-798-6997.



Judith Page	2
Warren Page	16
Shirley Hines	
Peter Dzaugis	19
Doug McAllister	23
Carolyn Dik	25
Marion Erickson	28
Frederick Kimball	

Dear Members of United

Thank you for your kind expression of support for our UMass Memorial Hospice program. We deeply appreciate United's recent gift.

Please know that your gift directly benefits people who are in need of comfort and compassionate support during the end of life process.

We could not provide our services without your support, so thank you sincerely for assisting us in all of our efforts.



Sincerely,  
Richard C. Reid  
Hospice Administrative Manager

Dear Members of United,

Thank you for your contribution in the amount of \$300.00 for The Fund for Andover Newton.

It is much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Priscilla C. Deck, Vice President  
Institutional Advancement  
Andover Newton Theological School

**COMING TOGETHER IN PRAYER**

Tuesday, March 23 and

Thursday, March 25

3:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

Please feel free to stop in during these hours to be together in silent prayer for this congregation and its members.

A Scripture passage and reading will be read every half hour.

As we face difficult changes and exciting new ways of being, we continue to center ourselves in the One who has guided us on this journey.

Dear members and friends,

Thank you for the many prayers, cards, calls, and visits throughout the weeks I was away from church. They meant a lot to me.




Joan Kielinen

**RESURRECTION TEAM MEETING**

The Resurrection Team, members and friends, have been meeting to plan, envision, and work on how the congregation will continue to move forward. Some of the issues under consideration include staffing, possible changes in worship and mission and outreach to the larger community. United Congregational UCC is an important part of the United Church of Christ in Worcester and will continue to be so.

The next meeting will be Sunday, March 14 in the Robinson room following worship. All are invited to join us. For further information call co-chairpersons Tim Camp (508-798-6997) or Dorista Goldsberry (508-791-6169).

**BIBLE STUDY**  
WE MEET ON FRIDAY MORNINGS at  
10:00 a.m. IN THE SMALL PARLOR.



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**THE FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS**



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

**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.



**DO YOU CURRENTLY USE THE INTERNET TO FOLLOW CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS TRENDS?** Would you like to be part of an email group that shares information about religion? If you are unsure or undecided, check out the Politics Daily website: [www.politicsdaily.com](http://www.politicsdaily.com), click on topics, then religion and check out an article or two.

Email the church at [staff@ucc-worcester.org](mailto:staff@ucc-worcester.org) if you want your name and email address added to a new email group for those who are interested in learning more about current religious trends. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

**WAYS** (Workdays for Adults and Youth in Service) is the **Mission Travel Bureau** of the **Worcester Area Mission Society, UCC**. We are committed to creating an environment in which adults and youth may foster relationships while using a diversity of skills and talents to offer much needed services requested by local residents and area agencies.

**April 17-24**

MACUCC partner church in Louisiana

**May 1**

Central Massachusetts WAYS day

**July 10-17**

Native American Reservation, Yakama Christian Mission, WA

**July 24-29**

Worcester Area Local Mission Retreat

For more information, please call the church office/508-752-3785