

INTERVIEW WITH DEXTER BRUCE
IN PREPARATION FOR THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, OLD GREENWICH CT. 11/5/1989
BY ALETHA CARLTON

ALETHA: When did you come to First Church?

DEXTER: 44 years ago, something like that. (Martha: 1948, I think)

LYNN: What was it like when you first came?

DEXTER: Paul McCellan was infuriated when they changed the quorum to more than 20 people because we could not get that many people to come to an annual meeting. (Clerk of the Church.) Vincent Daniels was the minister.

ALETHA: How did you happen to start coming?

DEXTER: I was at a dinner party. Paul McCellan and Vincent Daniels dropped in and asked me to teach Sunday school. And, I said, yes.

ALETHA: Tell us about what you got into; that's what we are interested in.

DEXTER: My first memory of the Sunday school is "Tinky Daniels". At the end of the first service she walked up to me and said, "We don't sing Christmas hymns in September, Mr. Bruce". I picked it because it was the only hymn I knew in the book. I didn't know one hymn from another. (Much laughter) I was not a church goer.

LYNN: I didn't know it so I taught it!

DEXTER: That's exactly right, I didn't know it so I taught it.

ALETHA: That's how you came to know it. Right?

DEXTER: I worked at it.

LYNN: How did you decide what to teach?

DEXTER: I'm not sure. It wasn't too hard. I had read the Bible. I grew up a Presbyterian and they had good Sunday Schools. They have very good Sunday Schools; I imagine they still do,

ALETHA: We were wondering if they provided you with lesson plans.

DEXTER: It isn't any better then it used to be; it's no good very frankly. We had a curriculum study group - studied the curriculum from 10 different denominations. I mean we really studied. We finally came to the conclusion that what we had was the best there was. We didn't like it, but there wasn't anything any better on the market. We couldn't find anything any better. I think the church committee heaved a sigh of relief at that one. They weren't happy about that committee.

ALETHA: What were they afraid of?

DEXTER: What are they afraid of today? Anything new.

We had 1300 kids in the Sunday school.

We had 140 kids registered at 9:30 in the Senior Division; that's the 7th, 8th and 9th grades. We had about 120 attending. Then they split into classes. Then we got we got silly people around who didn't want worship services because it wasted time. They violated the one rule that no one should violate if they want to be successful; that's to forget the span of interest. An hour-long class is ridiculous; a child's span of interest won't go that long. So, we had a half hour worship service. Then we went to class. This made it much easier for everybody. Then by switching the various divisions we could get out of the auditorium and the Junior Division could come in. Then we went to the same classrooms they had just vacated.

ALETHA: Someone with whom we were talking said that they had classes in the house across the street.

DEXTER: Yes, we did. We had literally hundreds of kids there all the time and no place to put them. We used the little room by the side of the stage as a classroom. That's a tiny room. Up the bell tower. First class I ever had was up in the bell tower. Vincent Daniels said from the pulpit, "That's Dexter. He'll ring the bells in a minute."

ALETHA: Wasn't it cold up there'?

DEXTER: I don't remember that it was cold. It was inside. We could not actually see the bells. There was a room up there. Like any other room. It had a low ceiling, but other than that it was as good as any other.

ALETHA: What age group did you work with at the beginning?

DEXTER: Eighth grade. And, I taught the "Pastors Class" for three years.

ALETHA: That was like the "Confirmation Class".

DEXTER: Yes, and that was bad. No one should teach that but the senior pastor.

MARTHA: That was Vincent wasn't it?

DEXTER: Well, at that time we had two services. He was very busy the whole time. It was very hard to get him to come into the Sunday school. But he would come in two or three times a year. And walk from classroom to classroom and talk to everyone, so everyone knew who he was.

VINCENT DANIELS

This man could call 3000 people by their first names. Not only that but he knew the names of your children, what grade they were in and how they were doing in school. Every morning he would walk to the post office. And, he would talk to 50 people on the

way and another 50 on the way back.

LYNN: It sounds like a half a days work just going to the post office and back.

DEXTER: Well, that's the way he learned to see all of these people. He didn't sit and wait for them to come to his office.

LYNN: So, he would go out, just to talk to the people.

DEXTER: Yup. Anybody he met.

MARTHA: Not just his own parishioners. He knew everybody in town.

LYNN: And he didn't have the staff that we do now, did he?

DEXTER: (Laughter) No, that staff would kill him. He was the only minister (at first). Then we got an associate: Merton Libby. His carpentry was astounding. He made beautiful cabinetwork.

MARTHA: He had a beautiful voice and liked to read the scriptures. He really had a lovely voice.

DEXTER: Libby came to blows the first class he taught; that's how I taught the "Pastors Class". He was just not a good teacher; he would have been a marvelous carpenter.

LYNN: I remember the marvelous set of slides he showed of the building of the church, the stonework. He showed a great deal of interest in the construction and all the steel work.

DEXTER: He was an excellent photographer. He took the pictures at my daughter's wedding.

There was a lot of fire in Vincent Daniels. Vincent told me once, be sure you make some mistakes. People do not love the man who never makes a mistake. Be sure you make one, he said; call it C03 (instead of C02). Give the children a chance to laugh at you. They'll love you much more. This comes from - remember the poetry, "And still they stood, and still the wonder grew that one small head could hold all that he knew. But, the teacher, who knew all that was not the one they loved, it was the minister; the bumbling one". (Grey's "Elegy in the Country Church yard").

MARTHA: They had a big choir back then too in the Sunday school. (Jerry Mack was director of that too).

DEXTER: Vincent got a lot of kids to work in these things; Richard Rosan. Rosan's sister, Nancy Rosan. Peggy Dennison; she was my first organist.

MARTHA: Many of the other girls liked to pattern themselves after Peggy; she was a lovely person.

ALETHA: When did they do away with the worship service for the children?

DEXTER: Must have been twenty years ago. When they got rid of me they stopped it. I forget the name of the women who replaced me. Alice Berry, that's who it was. She liked to quote "dirty language" prayers and this kind of stuff. The kids used to squirm.

MARTHA: Emily Lent was active in the Sunday school.

DEXTER: Oh! Yes. She was superintendent for years and years and years.

LYNN: After than she was in the office for years and years and years.

DEXTER: Well, she never ended. She was 92 or something like that when she died.

MARTHA: When Dexter came in they had Ed Newton for the Junior Department and Dexter for the Senior; both very large departments, she did the Primarys down under the church. That was all one big room. I helped down there sometimes; that was a large group, a lot of little kids. They had the children all divided into about 10 little groups around the room.

DEXTER: Vincent Daniels towered over the people who have come after him; simply towered! With all of his faults! The one thing you have to say about Vincent Daniels; he loved people. There is no question about this at all. Vincent stood for me for twenty years. We were very good friends and I don't believe we ever had an argument. If you can get along with me for twenty years without an argument you're a saint!

MARTHA: I don't know if you've ever seen that, (an article about Viola Worrell). It's one I wrote for her when she retired. When she retired, it seemed to be quite frankly, they did not give her enough attention. Vincent Daniels gave her a little speech and presented her with something or other. And, suddenly there is this organist and choir director before Jerry Mack who is suddenly gone. I knew her very intimately because our children took piano lessons from her. Then I became her bookkeeper to pay for the children's lessons. So, I've been down there a lot. And, I thought the community including the church itself doesn't know this woman real well. So I wrote this up.

DEXTER: They didn't want to know her; they wanted to get rid of her.

MARTHA: Yes, they certainly did want to get rid of her. By that time she was sort of older. So I just think that would add to your material the article from the Village Gazette.

DEXTER: Jerry Mack used to say; "I can tell when they've studied under Viola Worrell, they can read (music)." He could tell when that person went into the school. (Presumably the High School where he also taught). "That person studied with Viola Worrell". He didn't like her. But, respect for her musical ability was a very different thing.

LYNN: You'd think with that kind of respect that he would have made a place for her somehow.

DEXTER: It's not very easy to make a place for a very old woman on her way down.

This is tough to do. Wait till you get there buddy you'll find yourself, there's no place to put you. It's easy to say, "find a place for her", but there is really not much of a place that you can find.

MARTHA: I don't know that she wanted a place.

DEXTER: She was not as good an organist any longer as she should have been. The church needed a better organist. There was just no doubt that this was true. My daughter was working at a church where the choir director was 84 years of age. She could hardly stand, but no one would fire her. She'd long sense gone beyond being of any use to anyone. Viola Worrell was let go before this point actually arrived. I didn't like it. None of the people there liked it at the time. We all sided with Viola, but, musically, I guess it was time she left.

ALETHA: Who was the minister then?

DEXTER: Vincent Daniels.

LYNN: Well, remember the problem with Victor, when Victor had to leave; Victor Smalley? He was a nice man, (our custodian). One thing he really knew how to do was to do where it showed. Every Sunday just before the crowds he'd be out there with his vacuum cleaner. So everybody would think he was doing a great job. But, they did let him go. There were a lot of people who had hard feelings about that. He had no savings program. And no place to go. I think he had to move in with his brother.

DEXTER/MARTHA: Yes, he did.

MARTHA: Well, Viola; let me tell you one story. I was doing her private bookkeeping for her. After she had been retired a bit she said that she thought it was too bad that she did not get a pension from the church. And, I said, "What, you don't get a pension of any kind, after all these years!" And, she said, "Well, I thought I was going to get Social Security." So, I thought to myself, there is something funny here. I checked into it and it seemed that the church had provided her with Social Security. But, they hadn't notified, and neither had she, the Social Security office. So, she wasn't getting it. We arranged then for her to get it (including the amount back due).

ALETHA: Dexter, you started in the Sunday school in 1948, and you were in charge of the Upper Division, is that it? You were there until Alice came?

DEXTER: Yes.

MARTHA: He didn't start out in charge; he was a teacher for a while.

LYNN: Did you see a lot of changes over the years while you were there?

DEXTER: No, there were few changes made until people began to come in from the outside.

LYNN: But, I mean, like changes in the character of the children.

DEXTER: No, I don't believe in that at all. I don't believe kids are any different today then they were fifty years ago. That's a firm belief of mine. Growing up is a full time project and they still grow up. It takes full time to do it.

LYNN: The world is a very different place now. We have AIDS and drugs. None of those problems existed when I was growing up.

DEXTER: You mean you didn't know they were there, because you were a child.

LYNN: There was no such thing as AIDS then. My parents never warned me about drugs.

DEXTER: No, but they had Syphilis. Lets be honest about it. When I was twelve years of age, a man named Wally Reed, who was a big time person in the movie business died of an overdose of heroin. Our parents were crawling on their hands and knees; this wonderful person with such influence has told the whole world he liked heroin. I never affected any of the children at all. All they thought was that the man was crazy to do such a thing. I don't think children are influenced by this at all. It's a good place to put the blame.

LYNN: Well, they weren't selling when I went to school. Now, they are selling something or other behind every bush. (Marijuana) I just think that the kids these days have all kinds of problems.

DEXTER: Oh, you're giving them more of a break than they need. Their big problem is how much money you're going to put in their pocket. That's no more problem than I had myself. I just don't believe this at all. I look at my 14 year old grandson and I can't see that he's any different than I am. Anyway, I think the world is in very good hands. I don't think it's going to go to pieces. I think it will be all right. If you sit home and worry about it, you can worry yourself into an early grave. And, all you can do is worry. There is not a thing you can do to change any of this.

ALETHA: When you were doing the confirmation class, what kinds of questions did you find the kids asking - worrying about?

DEXTER: You know something. I don't think they questioned things in the big world when I was there, I really don't. They have TV, Nintendo, They have Mick Jagger, but I don't think that has changed their lives. The average child grows up, goes to school, comes home and expects mommy to be there, and she damned better well be there! If she's not, he can be in trouble, but I doubt that he is very much. A lot of latch key kids get along just fine in life. If momma has to work, there's nothing momma can do about it, but work. I don't think it hurts all that much. It can hurt, but I don't think it needs to.

ALETHA: Did you run into things like this in the Sunday school?

DEXTER: No.

ALETHA: They didn't talk about these kinds of things?

DEXTER: Thank heaven! They shouldn't.

ALETHA: What was the emphasis in the Sunday school? Was it on the Bible, learning the books of the Bible and memorization or was it on learning to relate to people, etc.?

DEXTER: Yes, they did memorize quite a lot. I don't think that a Sunday school should go into social behavior. I have never thought that this is what a Sunday school class was for. It's a place where you learn about the Bible. And, if you can't learn what to do from the Bible, it's your problem, not mine. It's very clearly stated.

ALETHA: Your emphasis was on reading the Bible?

DEXTER: On what it says, yes.

MARTHA: Particularly the Sermon on the Mount. They almost memorized that didn't they?

DEXTER: Yes. That was really funny. When I started out, I told Vincent Daniels that I'd become an authority on the Bible. Then I decided that was a pretty big bite to chew and I would become an authority on the New Testament. And, that was still a pretty big bite to chew so I thought well, maybe the four gospels. Then I worked my way down to the gospel of Matthew. So after about 10 years or so I went back to Vincent Daniels and I said, "You know something, there is no such thing as an authority on the Bible." And, he said, "You are exactly right! It means to you what you get out of it and it means to me what I get from it. There is no particular authority on the subject." You can know a lot about it, its history, but the Bible itself, I do not think there is such a thing as an authority. I learned that much when I was teaching Sunday school. I learned it the hard way.

I set out to get stories. I thought originally that I'd start out with a hundred stories. That would get me through three years. I never did get more than 24 of them. And, of those 24 I would guess that maybe 18 were supplied by Vincent Daniels. They are not in books. He gave me a bunch of books to read. I said to him, "these books are no good." He said, "I know, that's why I gave them to you." He had already told most of the stories he told me, but he was no longer teaching Sunday school. He was too busy.

LYNN: You can tell the stories all over again. The stories people like best are the ones they have already heard.

MARTHA : Christmas Carol every Christmas, right?

DEXTER: It may be true that they like to hear it all over again, but there is a restless stirring when you tell them something they have heard before. It's not good. I tried to keep it so that they never heard the same thing twice. This is not easy to do. But, it can be done if you work at it. You can take three weeks with the Easter story. If you can't take three weeks with that, you're in trouble. We start out by naming the people in the story. There are 21 of them actually involved in the story and by the time we get to that 21, the half hour is done. Then the second week we take the story itself; the last supper and working our way through the crucifixion. Then the third Sunday we take up what happened after that. So that took care of three Sundays. And, "The Other Wiseman",

which I did tell every year, took care of one more Sunday. I could never make Christmas go more than one Sunday.

LYNN: Couldn't you stretch it out with the sojourn in Egypt, etc.?

DEXTER: That's the trouble. They stretch it out too much. And, the curriculum they wanted me to use had us spending three weeks on Paul. If you can't get rid of Paul in half an hour there is something wrong with you. What can you say about him for three weeks? This is just impossible.

MARTHA: His life or his teaching?

DEXTER: His life and his teaching. Remember we are talking about 8th graders here. We are not talking about people who are 40 years of age and want to learn something. This is a very different proposition. These are 3rd graders on their way to something and they want to get out of there as fast as they can get out. Always, they are never any different from this. No matter how good you are or how bad you are they still want to get out and go home.

LYNN: So, what did you start with in the fall?

DEXTER: Well, there was one sermon I really liked. We'd put the 10 commandments one at a time on the black board. Then you ask the children, how many of these commandments can we get rid of. Let's assume that there are only the twelve of us in all the world left. We don't have to go to church. We don't have to believe in God. There is not anything we have to do. Well, eventually they leave all the commandments there because they don't like to take them out. Nobody's going to take out, "for I the Lord God am a jealous god." No one takes this out. It just isn't done. And, when we get down to adultery. Actually, when they really come down to it, they won't take it out. You stand in front of them and say, "you really want this to work this way? You want anyone in your house anytime he wants to come in? Maybe we better leave it in. This is really a good way to teach, because you can drag the 10 commandments out of them. It's hard, but you find they are sensible enough that with a few suggestions they will actually put them all together. They eventually decide that they have to keep them all. The kids enjoyed it. It gave them a chance to laugh a little. Honor thy father and thy mother. Well, they weren't just sure about that. A half hour was never quite enough. That's what you need, a span of attention was not violated. They went away feeling they needed more discussion about it. This is the kind of thing that is very hard to get. It's the way you would like them to go, but mostly they don't.

ALETHA: What happened when you got around to comparing that with what Jesus said about His commandment to "love one another as I have loved you"?

DEXTER: Well, we are dealing with 14 year olds. It is a different story than dealing with you, but basically speaking the truth of the matter is that the Old Testament is very much, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." There is just no doubt that this is true. The New Testament is very much a matter of love. But, I think that a lot of the New Testament is allegorical. After all while Jesus did say that you should turn the other cheek, he also threw them out of the temple. So, he was not above losing His temper too. We all can

do this. I did tell the teachers, "If you don't believe it don't teach it". They will know instantly that you are not sincere. So, if you don't like the miracles, skip them. Teach something else. This did not endear me to a lot of people either.

LYNN: Well, did you skip over the miracles?

DEXTER: No, I taught the miracles; very much so. All you have to do is look at your children. They are miracles standing in front of me and you know they are. There is just no way out of this. They are unlike anything else in this entire world. No, I taught the miracles; I don't find them troublesome at all.

ALETHA: Dexter, what do you remember about the controversy around turning the church?

DEXTER: I think there was far less controversy than people would like you to think. Vincent Daniels wanted it, and that practically meant it would be done. And, I don't think there was all that much controversy. Actually there was very little controversy in the church during the more than 20 years I was there. 25 years maybe.

ALETHA: As I understand it, Fran Milne was the first person hired (to run the Sunday School).

DEXTER: No, before her was Miss Stickney. She was Religious Education Director (hired by Dr. Daniels).

There were 63 kids in the "Pastors Class" the year my son joined. Since then there has been a steady decline. They, (the present administration) don't like to look at this. I think we had an attendance of well over 1000 every Sunday for years. (See Helen Allen's explanation that other churches in town had no Sunday Schools and decline can be related to the activity of local churches finally forming their own Sunday school programs.)

LYNN: That must have been because they had so many people in the church.

DEXTER: Of course they filled it for two services every Sunday.

LYNN: We certainly don't have that many people now.

DEXTER: No, they certainly do not. They do not even have a second service anymore.

LYNN: Except for Christmas and Easter.

DEXTER: Well, Christmas and Easter when everybody goes to church. Even the sinners.

LYNN: I don't know what they must have done in those days. They must have had five or six services.

MARTHA: We had an overflow in the auditorium.

ALETHA: One thing I've been trying to find out about is the window in the church.

DEXTER: There was a window in the church that was very poor artwork. It was removed when they made the church larger. The education wing was put up at the same time the church was put up.

MARTHA: They moved that little window into the education wing, just the center of it. It's there now. It's in the South Eastern room behind the kitchen on the same floor with the parlor. They just saved that little bit. The big argument was - I think that it was a donated window. The people who participated in that donation thought that it had to stay where it was donated. So, the compromise was to put it in the education wing. There was a big article in the Village Gazette. Greenwich Library has them on microfiche.

DEXTER: They did do a long article on it. There was far more controversy about the organ then there was about the window. There was a huge controversy about the second organ. The one before that was an "angel" organ. It didn't last very long because they spent no money on maintenance. If you have an organ that you don't have maintaining money for you will not have much of an organ for very long. They are delicate instruments. Our daughter won't play unless it's a pipe organ.

ALETHA: I didn't know that your daughter played the organ.

MARTHA: She learned on the congregational church organ. In turn for her playing in the Sunday school they gave her lessons.

DEXTER: That was a standard procedure. In order to get children to play the organ in the Sunday school, the church paid for their lessons.

ALETHA: What kind of an organ did the Sunday school have?

DEXTER: It was an electronic organ. We paid, I think, \$15,000 for it. They long since threw it away. It had two huge speakers the size of a piano on either side. They abandoned it when they didn't have any more worship services. They had no use for the organ. They let it go to tatters. They also let go a grand piano player piano. They only got \$15 for it. They could have gotten \$5,000 for it in decent condition.

LYNN: That sounds about normal.

DEXTER: That's the way they handle things.

LYNN: They have abandoned the Congregators. The Congregators is no more. It used to be the Couples Club and then the Congregators. That whole organization has just been dropped.

DEXTER: Why shouldn't it be, it's in the way.

MARTHA: They gave us money for good causes; they had a Bridge club.

DEXTER: When I was Youth Director it was the Couples Club that put up the money for the dance. Do you know why they don't have a dance, New Years Eve? It's the expense. You have to put the money up to start with. You hire a band, \$300. If there is no party, if the streets are all slick, you still have to pay the band. You have to go out and spend \$500 for food. So you are out \$1300 before you bring in one penny. This is why they don't have these dances. When I was there the Couples Club gave me the money, in my hand. We had one of the most successful New Years Eve parties they have ever given. It was in the auditorium. We had 350 kids.

ALETHA: Well, that is the kind of thing the Congregators could do with their money. Oh, that's why it got dropped! Because they had money to spend like they wanted to spend.

DEXTER: They had piles of money.

LYNN: They didn't just turn it over to the Trustees and to Tom.

DEXTER: Potter was infuriated. They were going to buy me a camera, a Camcorder, so I could do versions of the scriptures with the kids. I was going to do the Good Samaritan in modern language. This kid would walk by, "look, look, look we are late for the party, let him die, damn him." - this kind of thing. And make movies of them. Potter was so infuriated. He went to the Couples Club and said, "Look, if you can afford to give this man a camera you can afford to give the church a new typewriter!"

DEXTER: It sort of fell apart. Anyway they fired me at the end of the year. But I was Youth Director for a full year. I must say, I'll never be on a church staff again.

LYNN: Well, there has always been controversy between the Congregators and the church. I was on the Congregators board for three years. They finally just forced us off. They wouldn't even invite us to meetings anymore. They just said, you people are off the board, period. They had a totally new board. Now they have disbanded the whole Congregators.

DEXTER: I don't doubt it, they are jealous of it.

LYNN: Because they would run the Christmas Tree Sale, and then they would have money. We had \$10,000. Tom could not stand it! There is a little bit of money here that they don't have control over. We would come around and want to do things.

DEXTER: They hate the Rummage Room. That's a million dollar profit organization.

LYNN: Well, they put about \$25,000 into the church every year.

DEXTER: That's blackmail.

ALETHA: Tom and the Trustees, I guess, don't like that. They don't like independent spending authority.

LYNN: When I was in, we wanted to put new lights up in the auditorium. And, we did. We put up lights in the parking lot and we did. I think the lights in the parking lot is

one of the best things we ever did. In this day and age when everybody is afraid to walk outdoors the minute the sun goes down. There was a big furor because the Trustees said, "Oh, we've got all these needs, we need a new bell tower." These needs have been there for twenty years. But, all of a sudden they see our money and we want to something that's helpful and they want us to do this other thing. They came up with a long agenda, "These are our priorities". I think the whole Trustees thing is like a closed loop anyway.

DEXTER: Oh! Yes, very much so.

LYNN: One time I went to one of their meetings on behalf of the Congregators, and they threw me out!

DEXTER: You should have been around when we were there. We had some of the most powerful people in the church in the Sunday school. When the Church Committee tried to tell us off, we just went in and told them off. This is the way we are going to run it; if you don't like it you can stay home. They were infuriated. They just could not take this. But, we had Phil Williams at the time. He was a go-getter. And Richardson.

ALETHA: What was that controversy all about?

DEXTER: I guess it was really about the fact that the Sunday school was so independent. They did not like our independence. Vincent liked it. Vincent would never have interfered with it at all. He thought it was just great, he'd built it. He appointed all these people, and he knew who they were. He knew darn well that Phil Williams would not take any back talk from anybody. And, as far as Bill Richardson goes, he never took any back talk at all either. He was with Young and Rubicam.

LYNN: Do you think that this controversy is constructive or is it destructive; to have independent opinions and groups that are semiautonomous operating in the church?

DEXTER: Oh, I think you need them. I think one of the worst things they ever did was to get rid of the Congregators. They never hurt anybody, you know. Maybe they didn't spend the money where "Joe Gluts" wants it, but, that's their privilege.

ALETHA: I wonder how they were able to do that without the knowledge of the congregation. I don't think it was brought before the congregation at all.

MARTHA: They do not bring it before the congregation unless the Constitution demands it.

LYNN: I remember years ago when you went to the annual meeting you would hear genuine live discussion about how we should spend the money. You go there today and it is nothing but a railroad, dog and pony show. Just entertainment. The real guts are all done in secret.

DEXTER: You can't tell how much the minister is making from the budget, either.

ALETHA: None of the ministers.

LYNN: You talk to people in other churches and they know exactly what the minister makes.

DEXTER: Well, in Steve's church, the Presbyterian Church, there is not one person in the congregation that does not know that he makes \$8,000 a year as choir director. Everyone knows this; it is open for them to see when the budget is presented. If they don't want to OK it, they do not have to. Fortunately they always do. It's open.

ALETHA: They are starting to do more with worship service in the Sunday school. Susie Craig is doing that. They're having the workshop service in the Daniels Center. That used to be the gym.

DEXTER: When I was there, the year I was Youth Director these people came to me from Stamford and ask if they could use the place (the gym). They had this black team with no place to practice. I said, "Sure you can use the gym". The whole world fell down on top of me. These black kids "broke the furniture, they ruined this, etc." Actually they never did one thing. There were four perfectly fine people there supervising them. The Church Committee finally told me, "you must tell them to leave". I never had to say anything. When I walked in there to tell them, they already knew. And when we walked out they said, "We know it isn't your fault". They never used that gym again.

ALETHA: They wouldn't put the money into it. (For supervision).