

EMILY CLOSE LENT
(1982)

I am Emily Warner Close. I was born August 2, 1900 at Round Hill, Connecticut. I was the youngest of four children. My father, Frederick Warner Close, died 4 months before I was born. We lived with my grandfather, John Frederick Close, until I was 9 years old - when he died. He, my grandfather, and Mr. N. A Knapp owned the Round Hill Store. Next door to the store was Mr. Height's blacksmith shop. We used to love to go down there and watch him work.

We had to walk a mile to school. We loved it in the winter because we took our sleds. It was all up hill going. So, when we came home, we had the boys give us a good push and we coasted almost to our house!

My grandfather was a very religious man and we had to go to Sunday School and Church every Sunday. We went to the North Congregational Church over on the Ridge and again we loved the winter because we went in the sleigh and, of course, the horses had the sleigh-bells on. Sunday afternoons we couldn't race or play; we had to study our Sunday School lessons for the next week and we did have a couple of religious games we could play. Then we sat on the porch.

When I was 9 years old, up until I was married, I went to the Second Congregational Church. Dr. Huckel was the minister there. He married us - yes, I married Errol Leighton Lent on August 27, 1921. And it wasn't long after this, that Dr. Huckel suggested that Leighton and I ought to come to this church since we were living in Old Greenwich. Dr. Barney was the minister here then. Unfortunately, on most Sundays I don't think there were more than 10 or 12 people in the church. He was a very nice man but he didn't have the personality to draw the people into the church. He resigned in 1927.

And then came Allan Lorimer. Oh, he was a wonderful man. He was young. He had a way that drew the people to the church, and the church began to grow. It

was during Allan Lorimer's ministry, that the church received two important gifts - a set of twelve chimes for the tower given by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stewart in memory of their son, Robert, - and in January 1930, Reverend Lorimer informed the church that Mrs. Edwin Binney was giving the capital for the construction of a parish house in memory of her son, Edwin Binney, Jr., known to his friends and family as June.

Although the church continued to grow. Allan Lorimer only stayed with us for seven years. Alden Mosshammer came after him, and he was popular too, but he was different from Allan. He started the Fireside Fellowship. It was for the young people - high school age mostly - but when the college students came home, they'd come too. They would meet in the conference room. I remember after Christmas once, they burned the Christmas tree right in the fireplace and had a beautiful service.

And, of course, then there was Dr. Daniels. Oh, what a man! He loved people, he loved reading, he loved music and flowers and shrubs. He was a very erudite man - but a very humble one. He walked all around town calling on everyone, church member, or not. Later on, he had a bicycle, which helped him get around better. He worked so hard - he was always available any time, day or night. It was during his ministry that the three story wing was added on between the parish house and the meetinghouse. And later on, the chancel was enlarged and the undercroft was expanded for more Sunday School rooms.

When he died, and what a great shock that was, both to the community and the church - why, the church rolls numbered more than 2,000 and we were having two services every Sunday. The Sunday School numbered 950 pupils with 150 teachers!

I was teaching Sunday School here then and did so for many, many years. I taught mostly in the Primary Department and then later on I did work with the Senior Department. After the parish house was built we'd meet in the auditorium for a half hour of worship and then break up into our classes - the girls into their rooms and the boys into theirs. We had as many men teachers then as we had boys' classes.

Women's Fellowship then was very strong. We'd meet twice a month. The first Monday was the regular meeting, the third Monday was work day. Some members worked for Red Cross, rolling bandages, others made garments - material was given to us and we made garments for the poor.

And before the Rummage Room started, we had a rummage sale - a big one day event. We worked so hard, sorting, packing and storing - and then on the day before, getting everything out and unwrapping and getting ready for selling for that one day. We would make thousands of dollars in just that one day.

After Dr. Daniel's death, I took over the responsibility of the College and University Loan Fund. Dr. Daniels started this for boys and girls who were having financial problems going off to school and they didn't have the scholastic achievement to get other scholarships, or if so, still needed extra help. Each boy and girl could borrow \$500 a semester and they would sign an application that stated that once they were finished college, they would begin paying back with no interest. The money was first raised by each of the Church Committee members giving a certain amount to start the fund. And later, the Church Committee asked if the Christmas Eve collection could be given to the Fund and it was, and it still is.

When Francis Potter was the pastor, I started being the office volunteer. After Leighton's death I needed something to do and I thought I could help by answering the telephone at the church. I couldn't help financially as much as I would have liked. And I would enjoy being with the staff. For the Tuesday staff meeting, I used to make corn chowder, and I would make birthday cakes for those special occasions. I was still there when Tom Stiers came. We had a good time. I always enjoyed his Indiana farm stories. I loved those days, being with the staff, having lunch together. I loved First Church. It became my second home. I loved its music and I loved its hymns. One of my most memorable and moving moments was the reception you gave for me that Sunday in the Memory Garden, right before I moved away, and Cynthia sang the beautiful "Oh, Freedom." (Tape)

Intrvr - Good morning, Emily. It's nice to have you here.

Emily - Well, it's lovely to be here.

Intrvr - We were just wondering if you would mind reminiscing with us about First Church?

Emily - I'd be glad to.

Intrvr - When did you join First Church?

Emily - I believe it was 1922 or 1923.

Intrvr - I understand you came here from Second Congregational Church?

Emily - We came from Second Church. We were members over there. Dr. Huckel felt as long as we were living in Old Greenwich, we ought to come to this church. We were very happy to. Dr. Barney was the minister here. Most Sundays I don't think there were more than ten or twelve people in the church.

Intrvr - How did that compare with the attendance at Second Church?

Emily - Second Church was pretty well filled.

Intrvr - Could you tell us about Dr. Huckel.

Emily - I went to the Second Congregational Church, when I was about 9 years old up until I was married. Dr. Huckel married us and my oldest boy, Errol, was baptized there. Dr. Huckel was a wonderful man. He and Mrs. Huckel always came to our young people's meeting in the evening, and lots of times we went back over to the parsonage and Mrs. Huckel would play hymns. We'd all sit on the floor and sing hymns. Almost every Sunday night we did that, and the group looked forward to it. They wanted to go. If for some reason they couldn't, they were very disappointed. He was quite a man.

Intrvr - He wrote many of the hymns we still sing.

Emily - He started the sunrise service in Greenwich at Second Church. He wrote "Ode to Sunrise" and had a band up in the tower that always played the bugle to all four corners. It really was beautiful, and then when we moved to First Church, they started the Sunrise Service down at Tod's, which was lovely, very, very lovely.

Intrvr - What is your memory of Dr. Barney?

Emily - He was about medium height. He was a very nice man, but he just didn't have the personality to draw the people into the church.

Intrvr - Didn't he have long, white hair?

Emily - Yes.

Emily - The congregation at one time asked him to resign. They got up a petition, and I don't think I will ever forget the Annual Meeting when he was going to refuse the petition. But he didn't. He accepted it. Then we had Allan Lorimer, who began to build up the church very rapidly, because he was interested in the young people as well as the older. The church grew very, very rapidly, both the Sunday School and the church attendance. In fact, the church had to go into two sessions because it was so full. It made you feel good to see the church full where there had been so few there in the church in the past.

Intrvr - Would you talk some more about Allan Lorimer's style.

Emily - He was a wonderful man. He was young, which appealed to a lot of the younger people in the church. He had a way that drew the people to the church. I think that Allan Lorimer was the one that talked to Mother Binney about giving Binney Park. We sat on the front porch one day and he said, "What a horrible sight that is, that swamp with a great big 'For Sale' sign on it." And it wasn't long after that that Mother Binney bought it and made it a beautiful park. She's done a great deal for the church too. When we built the Parish House, she paid half and we had paid some and had taken out a mortgage-she held the mortgage. One time at the Annual Dinner (we always had a full turkey annual dinner and meeting), Mother Binney was there and after the dinner, Mother Binney got up and she said she wanted to burn the mortgage. So, in front of all of us she burned the mortgage and freed the church of all its debt. I don't think there was a dry eye in the place. Everybody stood and applauded. I don't think I will ever forget it.

Intrvr - Those were moments of high inspiration.

Emily - It certainly was. The church continued to grow from then on.

Intrvr - Then Mr. Lorimer left and Alden Mosshammer came.

Emily - Alden Mosshammer came and he was a wonderful fellow. He was a different type from Allan, but he went right along with things, and the church seemed to keep right on growing rapidly. They loved him very much. He did a lot for us. He was very interested in our young people.

Intrvr - Did he start the Fireside Fellowship?

Emily - Yes, he did. They used to meet down there in the Conference Room. I remember one Christmas when they burned the Christmas tree in the fireplace after Christmas and had a beautiful service.

Intrvr - What age group was that for?

Emily - That was for high school. I think it started with high school, and when Alden was there we had the Christmas party for the college students. They came and had a good time and visited with each other. It was amazing the number of college students who wanted to come back to that meeting. There was also a Junior Guild, which was older young people in their 20's. They were very active and met every week.

Intrvr - It's an amazing discipline- to go every week. Are there any stories that you recall around the beginning of the Second World War at First Church. Obviously a lot of the young men were going off into the service.

Emily - Dr. Daniels was here then and I know that he used to have a letter typed that he sent to all of our boys who were in the service. He was always there when the boys left, even though he was very busy.

Intrvr - The letter was called "News From Home" and there are copies in our archives, along with letters from servicemen sent to Mrs. Fish, church secretary.

How would you describe Dr. Daniels then.

Emily - He was a very humble man. I think he called on everyone on the street whether they were a member of the church or not. At that time he walked, since he did not have a car. Later he had a bicycle. He was never too busy to find time to sit down with you. At the Church Committee Meetings, and I imagine the Board of Trustees too, he used to go on til the wee small hours of the morning. Dr. Daniels was the kind that seemed to understand. He had been through a lot of the problems that a lot of the people were having, and he seemed to be able to comfort them a great deal. And the church still grew. That was when they decided that we needed a new church, because we didn't have room for all the members. Some of the special services, the overflow had to go into the Auditorium. That was just too much.

Intrvr - Some people have said that his preaching made them stretch a great deal. Do you recall any impressions of Dr. Daniels' preaching?

Emily - He was very erudite, and there were people who enjoyed having their minds stretched a bit, and there were others who couldn't understand just what he was driving at. I think that he was so busy taking care of people (he would be available at 2 o'clock in the morning, anytime, member or non-member) so that I think perhaps he didn't plan a time when he wrote his sermons, but he was so knowledgeable that he could just stand up there and talk.

Intrvr - I'm sure his death was a great shock to the church community.

Emily - It certainly was. He hadn't been well, but it was a very great shock. He was happy to see the addition to the church built. That was his dream, the one thing he wanted.

Intrvr - You've talked about some of the ministers. Maybe we could move into the more recent past. Would you talk about your remembrances of Merton Libby and Mr. Potter?

Emily - I think when Merton came, he was more of the executive type, and he didn't want to preach every Sunday. He took over for a while after Dr. Daniels died, and it worked out very well. Then we had Dr. (Francis) Potter come. He was a very different type than our former ministers, but very nice, very good.

Intrvr - I remember what you did, Emily, when Dr. Potter was here. Every Tuesday morning - noontime there would be a staff meeting and dear Emily would make corn chowder, so we always had beautiful corn chowder every week.

Emily - Yes, that went on for quite a while.

Intrvr - You also made birthday cakes for staff members when their birthdays came along.

Emily - When we had those lunches lots of times some of the members of the church would drop in, so they'd sit down and then it got to be a habit. They knew there was a lunch on that day.

Intrvr - When did you start your "third career" as the volunteer "Emily Lent's desk?"

Emily - It was right after Leighton, my husband, passed away, and I didn't want to just sit around home and do nothing. I thought, if I do something- at that time I felt I couldn't contribute financially the way I would like to for the church- so I could give my time and come out and answer telephones. I enjoyed it, and I miss it today very much.

Intrvr - How did you become involved the the work of First Churh?

Emily - We became interested in the Sunday School of the church and began working with the Sunday School children.,

Intrvr - Did you teach a particular class?

Emily - I taught mostly in the Primary Department and then later on I did work with the Senior Department. The Senior department met up in the back of the church, while the rest met down in the Undercroft. At that time we didn't have the Binney Memorial Parish House. After Mother Binney gave the Parish House, we had plenty of room for Sunday School. We still had the Primary Department down under the church, but the rest met in the Auditorium and in the few classrooms we had.

Intrvr - Did Sunday School meet at the same time as church, or did it meet before church?

Emily - It met at the same time as church. When Allan Lorimer was here, the Sunday School grew so fast that we had to meet earlier. We, at one time, had about 1,000 children in our Sunday School, so we had to have a larger place.

Intrvr - Regarding the Sunday School curriculum, in those days, did you study the Bible or was there a printed curriculum?

Emily - We had a printed curriculum. It was put out by, I believe, the Presbyterian and the Congregational Church. There were what we used to call, everyday stories and the Bible stories. We suggested that they tell the Bible stories and then explain how the everyday story can work into the Bible.

Intrvr - Sounds like modern theology. (laughter)

Emily - We also had memory verses. Children were awarded stars or some kind of reward for learning different memory verses. There were also a pamphlet with a Biblical picture and a story handed out every Sunday.

Intrvr - Was it difficult to recruit teachers?

Emily - No. We had no trouble at all. They seemed to enjoy doing it. We had a teacher's meeting once a month and discussed our problems. Then, when we went on two sessions, we had as many men teachers as we had boys' classes. I think we had almost 100 teachers.

Intrvr - So the girls were separate from the boys?

Emily - At that time, yes. But they had devotions together, and then they broke up into their individual classes. (A lot of those students have moved away now, but a lot of them are still around and active in the church.)

Intrvr - Stephen Bennis was active as a superintendent of the Sunday School at some time, was that after your term?

Emily - No, he was there when I was there, and Walter Firth was also superintendent of the Sunday school while I was teaching. But, except for the primary children, we had them all meet in the Auditorium after we had the Parish House built, and then they broke up into their classes. We had a half-hour of worship service and a half-hour of classes. We had no problem with teachers. They seemed to enjoy doing it.

Intrvr - One of the strong pillars of the church now is the Women's Fellowship. I'm sure women's groups were very strong at that point in the church's history too.

Emily - They were very strong. They used to meet twice a month. The first Monday was the regular meeting; the third Monday was work day. Some members worked for Red Cross, rolling bandages; others made garments - material was given to us and we made garments for some of the poor people around the town or in the schools that we heard of. The Fellowship was very active and we had a big crowd out for both meetings.

Intrvr - Were the regular meetings business meetings, or were there speakers?

Emily - We always had a speaker. We served refreshments first, and then we had our regular meeting. The first meeting of the month was always a speaker, either a missionary or some church worker.

Intrvr - Emily, I seem to recall that they would meet in the conference room.

Emily - That was where we had the meetings for a long while, because it was all one big room. Then we kept growing, so we had to move into the Auditorium. But at that time - when the only kitchen was downstairs by the gym - we had a problem serving tea. The Women's Fellowship worked hard to get a kitchen by the Auditorium, where two classrooms had been. It was fun planning it. And then we began serving dinners up in the Auditorium rather than down in the gym.

Intrvr - One of the interesting things to me when I came here nine years ago was the Rummage Room. I assume it must have some historical roots.

Emily - Yes, the Women's Fellowship started that. At first it wasn't the Rummage Room, it was a rummage sale. People would bring things in and we'd sort them out and put them in boxes and put them in the attic. Then the day before they were going to have the rummage sale, they'd get those boxes down and get everything out, unwrap it and sell it. The amount of clothing we had was terrific, so it was decided that it would be better if we could rent a store downtown and have it open a couple of days a week, rather than storing everything in the attic. We rented the store where we are now in Old Greenwich. It has grown in popularity, and I think it serves all of the community and the towns around.

Intrvr - Was the rummage sale a one-day event?

Emily - One day. And thousands of dollars were made in that one day.

Intrvr - Emily, you mentioned that the Women's Fellowship was instrumental in getting the kitchen by the Auditorium. Do you remember some of the other things that the Women's Fellowship has done over the years, like the lounge?

Emily - We furnished the lounge, yes, and made the curtains.

Intrvr - Of course they have contributed a lot of money.

Emily - Every year, we contributed a certain amount of money.

Intrvr - But they've also done projects around the church.

Emily - Whenever the church has needed anything, we have always been willing to give.

Intrvr - It has been a marvelous support for the church. We would be visually poorer had we not had this interest and commitment.

Emily - We have always felt that all of the money that the Women's Fellowship has taken in from the Rummage Room should go either for mission work or for the church. That was the main reason for the Rummage Room.

Intrvr - When you came here, Emily, was it the Women's Guild?

Emily - Yes, then they changed the name to the Women's Fellowship.

Intrvr - The Women's Fellowship became the name at the time that those of us who had been in the Evening Guild felt that we would like to come into the Women's Guild. And the Women's Guild felt that they needed younger blood because some of them were getting a little too old to put on suppers and things, so it was a joining together of the two. And at that time, I believe, the name was changed to Women's Fellowship. I think there was a feeling also that all the women in the church be one organization instead of two separate groups.

Emily - And that was also the time that they decided that we wouldn't have dues any more, that it was open to all the women of the church and not especially to those who had paid dues.

Intrvr - One of the other current pillars of First Church is the choir. There has been a long history for that, but I think that during Dr. Lorimer's time, it began to expand into the popular movement it is today.

Emily - Before that we usually just had two or three people sit up in the choir loft, and they had a part in the music in the church. Then when we began to grow the way we did, the choir began to grow also.

Intrvr - And Miss Worrell was organist and choir director?

Emily - Right. She was organist and choir director until we built the addition and we could have more room to spread out.

Intrvr - Was there an actual choir with Miss Worrell?

Emily - Maybe one Sunday we had two or three - four was the most that could sit up there in the choir loft.

Intrvr - She did try children's choirs, though, and a women's choir, but it wasn't very big. There were six people listed at one time.

Intrvr - One of the things we find in the modern era here is that children are baptized, go through Sunday School, are confirmed, and then kind of disappear. What is your impression over the years of that challenge that the church faces?

Emily - I think that has more or less always been the way it has gone, but I think that in a lot of circumstances you'll find that a little later on, they come back. It's just an interim in between. But I think an awful lot of them come back.

Intrvr - So, a kind of moratorium on church attendance.

Emily - Yes. Right.

Intrvr - After Dr. Daniels' death, one of the things that you took responsibility for was the College and University Loan Fund. Perhaps you could explain.

Emily - That had just started. Dr. Daniels felt something should be done for our boys and girls who were having financial problems going to college and couldn't get scholarship loans from high school or other sources because of their scholastic achievement, but who probably would stand just as high when they got out of college. So he started the College and University Loan Fund. The money was first raised by each of the Church Committee members giving a certain amount to build this fund up to \$500. You didn't have to have a scholastic A-plus standard to borrow. You signed an application that stated that when you finished college you would begin paying that money back with no interest, and you could borrow \$500 a semester. It was set up so that the boy or girl who wanted to borrow the money would sit down with Dr. Daniels and myself, as chairman. We'd talk about it and explain it all to them. Then it was up to them to decide if they wanted to borrow the money. One year 23 young people borrowed money from us. To raise enough money to finance the College and University Loan Fund, we asked the

Emily - Church Committee if the Christmas Eve collection could be given to the Fund, and it was, and it still is. Then, we had several people who had lost either young people or part of their family to death give money to the College and University Loan Fund, so that we were always able to keep our heads above water, and we could let our boys and girls have that money when they needed it.

Intrvr - It must have given you a lot of personal satisfaction to help.

Emily - From time to time I have had some of the most beautiful letters from the boys and girls who have borrowed money. I never had them come to the church where they were in contact with any of the other people. I had them come to my home. That's where I talked with Dr. Daniels. Every time one boy sent a check after he had graduated, he wrote me the most beautiful letter. Then he got married and he sent me pictures of his children. Another boy, whose aunt had borrowed money and financed him as far as she could, borrowed money from the College and University Loan Fund. When his aunt passed away, the family wrote a letter saying that she was so grateful for what the College and University Loan Fund had done for her nephew that she had left some of her money to the College and University Loan Fund.

Intrvr - It's a wonderful story. There's a story, Emily, that you've told about a boy from Darien, I believe it was.

Emily - One New Year's Day, Dr. Daniels called me and wanted to know if I could come up. He said, "I hate to bother you on New Year's Day." I said it was alright. I came up to the office. There was a young boy there who had just finished his freshman year of college. His father had just passed away. He had assumed that his father was a wealthy man, and found out after his father passed away that there was no money for him to go back to college; that they were very much in debt. We talked with him. Dr. Daniels called the college to talk to the Dean, and then we talked with the boy again, and he finally decided that he was going back to college and finishing. He had felt that he had to go to work to pay his father's debts, but Dr. Daniels persuaded him that college came first. And he went back and finished his college and then he wrote us and told us that he was paying back his father's debts.

Intrvr - A marvelous story. Emily, tell us a little about the mission mart.

Emily - Well, the mission mart was started with the young people. They wanted to do something for the church, so they decided to get articles from different mission stations and put them in the window there in the hallway and sell them. It went over very well. Then the church decided that they wanted to have some of the plates with the picture of the church on them, so they had those there and sold them. That particular group was finished with college and was working, so they didn't have the time to give to that project. Dr. Daniels asked if I would see that it was carried on. It was during the time that I was working with the mission mart that we heard about the pecans which we now sell. The Koinonia Farm, down in Americus, Georgia, was founded by Dr. Jorgensen, a former Congregational minister. Blacks and whites and all denominations worked there to farm. They had these pecans

Emily - for sale. At first we bought them in the shell because they didn't have them out of the shell, and we began selling them. Then they found a way to get them out of the shell and bag them, so we bought those, and the last I knew, we were selling almost 600 pounds a year of those pecans, especially from Thanksgiving on. So that was how the mission mart came into existence.

Intrvr - About the same time or even prior to that, the Women's Fellowship was packing boxes or barrels of clothing to send to missionaries to use.

Emily - Yes. We brought clothing and sent some of it to the schools in the South and to foreign missions who needed it for their people. Dr. Ida Scudder, at one time, took a lot of clothes to India with her.

Intrvr - Did they take books and things like that too, or was it mostly clothing?

Emily - Mostly clothing. Books were too expensive to ship. Mostly clothing, and for all ages. In fact, there was an Indian reservation out in the mid-west with an Indian minister whose house had burned. He had lost all of his clothes, his family's clothes, the bedding and everything. We collected pillows, sheets, pillowcases, and blankets, clothing. We had their ages. I don't know how many boxes we sent out to him, so that they could have clothing.

Intrvr - Emily, would you like to reminisce just a little bit about the church fairs? I think that it used to be fun. Can you remember the booths and things?

Emily - Oh yes. We set booths up all around outside with all kinds of things that had been made. They were all decorated very beautifully, and just drew everybody. Cars would stop to see and the people would get out. It was a very nice way of showing the town what the church was doing.

Intrvr - Well, we've been fairly serious and sober so far. Are there some humorous stories you'd like to share with us - things that got your funny bone going? You told me one the other day about Isaac Ferris.

Emily - Oh, yes. Isaac Ferris. He was Treasurer of the Sunday School. Of course he had lovely white hair. I was Superintendent of the Primary Department at the time. He used to always take the collection. One Sunday I thought well now we'll talk about Mr. Ferris, and I said, "You know the man who takes the collection; do any of you know who he is?" One little boy raised his hand and said "Yes, I know. He's Jesus, 'cause he gets all the money." I told that to Mr. Ferris afterwards, and he loved it. I had another little girl in the Primary, she was going to be promoted upstairs to the fourth grade, and she said, "Oh, Mrs. Lent, don't worry. We'll still be a part of your family, because my brother's coming next Sunday."

Intrvr - One of the concepts I believe Dr. Daniels introduced was that of a Founders' Day.

Emily - Oh, yes. He thought it would be a nice idea for our Founders' Day to be a special occasion on a Sunday. He asked all of those who had any of the old costumes, dresses, uniforms, or anything from the past to wear them that Sunday, and they did. The ushers had the long collection plates on the

Emily - stick, and we also had the tithing stick. We tried to go back to the original way that the church used to be. It really was a lovely thing to do. The men sat on one side of the church, and the women sat on the other. We still have it today, but we don't go into it as much as we did at that time. Today we have the special music and all the special things which add to it a great deal.

Intrvr - Emily, wasn't it under Vincent that what we now know as the Old Greenwich-Riverside Community Center was started?

Emily - Yes. That started here in our church in what is now the mimeograph room, which really was the balcony for the gym. We collected magazines and funny books and games and encouraged the young people to come there. We had a supervisor. Then it grew, so we had to move down over Lakes's Drug Store. I believe for a while the church financed the rental of it, and we had parents there to be chaperones, both afternoons and evenings. If there were any children who didn't behave, they could not come back for a certain length of time. Then the young people drew up their own set of rules and they abided by them. It grew to the point where we got a paid director. Then they moved over to Arcadia into the old post office.

Intrvr - That was Dr. Daniels' own idea. He started it with just a handful of people because of the children who would hang out at night, so to speak, at Lake's Drug Store and had no place to go. He saw the need.

Intrvr - Emily, there is a lot of discussion going on now in the Diaconate about the vision and purpose of the church. Would you care to give you feelings or philosophy of the purpose and vision of the church?

Emily - Well, I feel that it's very important that we have to live up to the times today, we can't live in the past and say this is what the church was. We have to remember that the young people who are coming up and are becoming leaders in our church have new ideas. I think that if the church is going to progress and keep growing, we have to listen to their ideas and try to go along with their ideas as much as possible. To me, this is very important. If we are going to hold our younger people in the church, we can't live in the past.

Intrvr - I like your phrase, "living up to the times." It has a poetic ring to it. Are there particular portions of the Bible that you think might be relevant today? Favorites of yours as a Sunday School teacher that you think you might be reminded of?

Emily - Well, of course I've always loved the Psalms. I think they're just beautiful, almost all the Psalms. But I think the Bible is something that, well I used to tell the young people in the Primary Department that the Bible is something that we use as an example for our way of living, that there are things there that are hard to understand, but when you come right down to everyday living today, a lot of those things are in the Bible.

Intrvr - Is there any sort of closing comment you'd like to give us, like a statement of your philosophy of life or something of that nature which we might pass on to other generations? What is it that has motivated you to be so committed to the church in a day and age today when most people hold the church at arm's length? You represent quite a different attitude.

Emily - It's what the church has done for me, more than what I have done for the church. Just that faith to me is the faith that we have in the way we live and the things that we do. I believe that faith is one of the finest things that we can live up to.

Interviewers: Thomas L. Stiers
Carolyn Colegrove
Evelyn Ferris
Hia Young