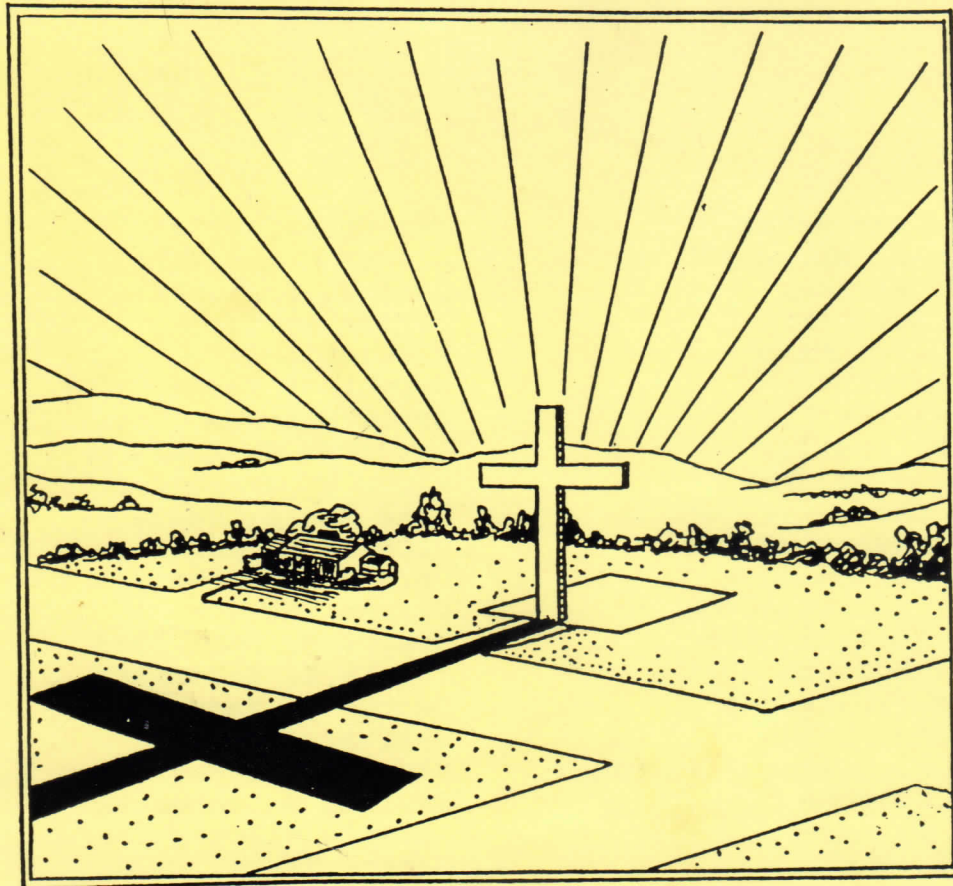


# *The Dunbar United Church*

HAMDEN • CONNECTICUT



*"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing  
of the Lord Thy God which He hath given thee."*

Deuteronomy 16: 16-17

REMEMBERING DUNBAR CHURCH

by

Audrey C. Linke

CHARTER MEMBERS DUNBAR UNITED CHURCH

November and December 1947

Elsie I. Baumgardt	Norman Lafayette
Frederic H. Baumgardt	Gladys E. Lelasher
Doris C. Beecher	John J. Lelasher
Raymond Beecher	Arline Lewis
Edna E. Blanchard	Harold Lewis
Bruno Braacker	Kenneth D. Lewis
Pearl Braacker	Leonard Lewis
Norton H. Bradley	Margaret R. Lewis
Ruby Adams Bradley	Alice C. Macher
Herbert Carlquist, Jr.	Edna Megin (Holz)
Herbert Carlquist, Sr.	Richard E. Megin
Ruth E. Carlquist	Dorothy Perkins
Hagen J. Christiansen	Warren Perkins
Harriet Christiansen	Andrew M. Robertson
James A. Eggleston	Jessie T. Robertson
Joanne M. Eggleston	George L. Russell
Bruce Gordon	Ella A. Seavon
Eleanor J. Gordon (Sturtz)	Manny O. Seavon
Hazel G. Gordon	Pauline P. Schwartz
Carolyn L. Hurd	Estelle Slack
Robert B. Hurd	George Slack
Anna D. Iversen	Margaret B. Stratton
Arthur Iversen	Robert A. Stratton
Edna O. Iversen	Mads Ullerup
John Iversen	Marie Ullerup
Frances M. Fiore	Theodosia Urbach
Louis W. Fiore	William F. Urbach
Ethel W. Giering	Jennie E. Warner
George Giering	Shirley May Warner (Mattson)
Grace May Hansen	Donald Williams
Alice E. Jones	Rose A. Williams
Dorothy S. Landers	Harold Witcher
Louise Lafayette	Marion Witcher

## FORWARD

When the Dunbar Church historian's mantle was passed to me, I began my duties by delving into the earliest minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees. I scanned the pages, looking for anything that might stand out, any item that would be of interest.

Suddenly I saw a cow!

A cow! I must be mistaken. I went back to scrutinize the page more thoroughly. But a cow there was.

Seems the members of Dunbar United Church had purchased land on which to erect the edifice we now hold dear to our collective hearts. The people who sold the land had a cow and were permitted to maintain it on the property until such time as the barn could be torn down.

In the meantime, members used the meadow for softball games, picnics and the like. The cow's presence created quite a problem, however, if you get my drift. Thus the cow turned up on the pages of the very first meeting of the Board of Trustees on record.



So began a love affair with the history of Dunbar Church.

I loved talking with the "Old Timers" about the early days of the church. I loved hearing about their escapades as they planned and worked to bring those plans to fruition.

Eventually I started to write about their anecdotes and the stories were published each month in the Dome. I think it was fun for the early members to reminisce and many newcomers spoke of how the stories helped them to feel connected to the earlier days of the church.

Much of what is in this little book has already appeared in The Dome but much of it is new. My files were bursting with tales to be told. I hope these stories bring enjoyment to all who read them. I share them with much love and happy memories.

Audrey C. Linke

World War II brought rationing of gasoline--and many other commodities, as well--but it was gas rationing that was instrumental in the formation of Dunbar United Church. Without gas, residents of the Dunbar area of Hamden could not get their children to Sunday School in New Haven. It's an interesting story, the beginnings of the founding of a church in the Dunbar Hill area of Hamden, Connecticut.

The following is an outline of important steps in the formation of the Dunbar United Church, taken from the Secretary's minutes of the earliest meetings and from the Church Register. This list was put together by church historian, Louise Lafayette, in September of 1980.

February 21, 1945

A meeting of concerned families was held at the home of Harold and Arline Lewis to formulate plans for a community Sunday School.

March 25, 1945

A community Sunday School held its first session in the Community Hall, Dunbar Hill Road, with 25 children and 10 adults present.

November 2, 1945

The group, now more organized, called itself the Dunbar Sunday School Association, and it received assistance from both Methodist and Baptist home missions.

January 27, 1946

The first Sunday morning worship service was led by Richard Stein, a Yale Divinity School student, now helping with the project.

May 3, 1946

The New Haven Council of Churches welcomed the new group into fellowship.

May 12, 1946: First Annual Meeting.

March 23, 1947

First baptisms: Mark and David Landers, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Landers.

First dedication: Carl Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lewis.

May 29, 1947

Temporary Articles of Association were drawn up, and the group

changed its name to the Dunbar Community Church Association.

June 8, 1947

The temporary Articles of Association were adopted at this special meeting, and there were forty-one (41) signatories.

July 17, 1947

This is an historic date, as the signatories of the Articles of Association voted to join with the Methodist, Baptist, or Congregational-Christian denominations. Balloting resulted in affiliation with the Congregational-Christian Church.

October 12, 1947

The Association voted to adopt the name of DUNBAR UNITED CHURCH.

November 2, 1947

The Dunbar United Church was received into fellowship of the New Haven Association of Congregational-Christian Churches, Connecticut Conference.

November 9, 1947

At an evening worship service, forty-six (46) charter members signed a covenant and were received into membership.

December 21, 1947

At the Sunday morning worship service, fifteen (15) additional charter members were received into membership, and the charter membership roll was closed.

March 3, 1948

A parcel of land on the corner of Dunbar Hill Road and Benham Street was purchased for future church development.

May 23, 1948

At 8:00 A.M. an old barn on the newly purchased property was razed with cheers and picture-taking by members of the congregation.

1948: First Youth Choir, directed by Marion Whitcher.

January 19, 1949: First meeting of the Women's Guild was held.

April 10, 1949

On Palm Sunday, the first confirmation class with Doctor Ralph Woodward officiating, was taken into membership: Joan Benham,

Joan Iversen, Judith Stratton, Betty Warner, Barbara Witcher, and Joanne Williams.

May 7, 1950: Final mortgage payment on land purchase.

June 1951

Edward Powers, who had been serving on a part-time basis, graduated from the Yale Divinity School in June and became the first full-time minister of the Dunbar United Church. First adult choir was organized by Mrs. Edward Powers.

November 25, 1951

First ordination: Edward Powers by the New Haven Association.

February 1952

The new parsonage, though unfinished, was occupied by the third minister, Rev. Edward Powers and family.

February 1, 1953: First Bylaws adopted.

September 19, 1954

Installation of the fourth minister, Rev. James A. Smith, Jr.

March, 1953 to January 1956.

First Moderator, Norton Bradley. \_

September 19, 1953:

First wedding: Shirley Warner to Joseph Mattson.

June 3, 1956:

Groundbreaking for church.

November 18, 1956: Laying of corner stone for present church building.

March 31, 1957: Last Sunday morning worship service in the Community Hall.

April 7, 1957

10:00 A.M. First Sunday morning worship service in the present Church building.

3:30 P.M. Dedication Day services.

Fall, 1968: First Apple Festival.

Here are some Famous Firsts for Dunbar Church:

Don Williams was the first custodian. Polly Parmelee remembers a time when Don was painting Fellowship Hall. There were paint cans on the floor and Don was stirring the paint with an electric food mixer.

Don also played the piano for worship.

Richard Stern was the first child to be baptised in the new edifice in 1957. Richard is the son of George and Barbara Stern, grandson of Marion and Harold Witcher, charter members.

Al Ruwett of Olive Branch Masonic Lodge, gave Dunbar its first organ--a pump organ--through Marion Witcher, who was our first organist. Later, she taught some of the Sunday School children to play it. Some of the boys were "pumpers." One would stand behind the organ and pump it with his feet. (A note from Lois Beardsley reads: "In 1956 the church bought the original organ from Olive Branch Lodge for \$500, installation cost \$2,000. The Children's Care Jar contributed \$28.00.)

Justin Warner's daughter, Shirley, was the first bride to be married in the Dunbar Community Hall. She and Bill Mattson were married in 1953.

The first couple to be married in the church edifice was Ruth Carlquist and Richard Hamel.

Dunbar United Church - First Wedding  
June 1, 1957



Ruth Carlquist - Richard Hamel

attendants: Annette Carlquist - Robert Hamel

January 1993

In a recent sermon, our pastor, Dan Johnson, reminisced about the beginnings of our church. In the late 40's and early 50's, he said, the Community Hall across the street from the present church, had to be converted from a dance hall into a "sanctuary" every Saturday night. One story related by Nort Bradley was of the recently varnished pulpit which was still tacky on Sunday morning and the visiting preacher from Yale Divinity School got stuck on it.

Don Williams told me the story of painting the shutters for the new church. His helpers were the young men of the church, probably members of Pilgrim's Fellowship. One had the bright idea to lean the shutters up against Don's car and he then proceeded to spray-paint them in that helpful position. Don discovered too late that much of the paint wound up on the car!

February 1993

Nort Bradley tells about the early days of Dunbar Church. The parsonage was built before the church. A minister was hired and all was ready for his occupancy. Before he moved in, however, he loaned the use of the building to his friend and bride, a pleasant retreat for their honeymoon.

The plan was to leave the door unlocked so the bride and groom could let themselves in whenever they got there. But Nort, checking up on the house, discovered the open door and locked it. He had no knowledge of the arrangement between the new pastor and his newlywed friends.

The groom found a cellar window open in the rear of the house and slid into the basement--right onto the recently painted floor! His tuxedo picked up a good bit of gray paint as the floor was not yet dry. A memorable way to start a marriage--they're probably talking about it still.

Thanks for sharing. We love early Dunbar Church stories.



Dot Landers tells the story about when Bill and Teddy Urbach first held Sunday evening services on their lawn on Dunbar Hill Road. There were chairs on the lawn and they sang hymns and held some kind of a service. Bill Urbach had been trained for the ministry but didn't work at it, making his career as director of the YMCA in New Haven instead.

Arline and Harold Lewis were among those present; it was before these good people started a Sunday School in the Community House.

Well, Dottie and Dick Landers were newly married and moved next door to the Urbachs. There was a big hole just outside the back door of the Lander's kitchen and it needed a lot of dirt to fill it. A. C. Gilbert had a big pile of dirt left over from his development in the area, at the corner of Hill Street and Dunbar Hill Road. Mr. Gilbert told Dick he could take all he needed and loaned him a dump truck to move it. Dick worked on Sundays to accomplish this feat, but Teddy Urbach asked him not to run the truck on Sundays while they were having their service.

Thus it was that the Landers made a "quiet" contribution to the beginning of what eventually became Dunbar United Church.

January, 1991

Dot Landers shared this interesting bit about her neighbor, Pauline Schwartz, charter member and benefactor of Dunbar Church. (That was her Oriental rug that now graces the floor in our parish house.) (More on her other gifts later.)

"Pauline came from a poor farm family in Iowa. When she was graduated from high school, her mother gave her five dollars and told her she was on her own. Pauline left home, got a job in a college cafeteria, got a room, and earned her way through college."

She eventually taught college and I was fortunate enough to have her as my professor for two semesters--at the Teachers College on Howe Street in New Haven in 1940/41.

Pauline was a close friend of the Urbachs (also founders of our church) and bought their home on Dunbar Hill Road.

January 1992

It was the custom of Dunbar Church members to create a living crèche on Christmas Eve. It was displayed prior to the service on the lawn of the church, next to the walkway. Some 10 years ago this scene touched me in an unforgettable way.

As I walked toward the church, I stopped to admire the scene: Wise men, Mary and Joseph, a lamb or sheep, various other barnyard animals and, of course, in the manger, the baby Jesus. I expected the Christ child to be portrayed by the usual doll, but this time it moved--kicked its feet, moved its arms and was awake and looking all around.

It startled me! A real live baby! My image of the Christ child was changed forever. No longer do I think of the baby Jesus as a statue or a doll. He's real to me now, thanks to Matthew Johnson and his mom, the late Debbie Larsen Johnson, who consented to his playing the role of the Bethlehem Babe.

Matthew is the grandson of member Kris Larsen and his wife, Barbara.

March 1993

I met Harold and Harriet Rice at our soup luncheon in January. The Rices were active members of Dunbar Church from 1954 to 1963 and they lived on Dunbar Hill Road.

Harriet told me how the women of the church earned money to build the church. Arline Lewis was in charge of putting on Rotary Club dinners, which she and the other women did once a week for years. Arline would work all day, running the school cafeterias for the Town of Hamden, then come to Dunbar School and start cooking.

It was hot during the summer months and there was no air conditioning in those days. Everything had to be homemade--no store-bought pies or rolls for Arline. And the kitchen had to be left in immaculate condition before they left.

Harriet concluded: "We were all whipped, but Arline left there to go bowling!"

Ever wonder how our church got built? Well, now you know.

Here are some notes given to me by Lois Beardsley.

The land where the Dunbar United Church stands belonged to Thomas Thompson. The family came to the land in February of 1888 during a blizzard. Some of the Thompson descendants were affiliated with the church: a daughter, Mrs. Edwin Fredricksen, a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Charles Thompson, and Edwin Fredricksen, a grandson.

The congregation decided to buy the land, May 12, 1946. It was bought December 18, 1947 from the Frank Grosser Family. There were three and one-quarter acres for which the church paid \$4,500, Myrtle Gorham assuming a mortgage of \$3,000. The church budget at that time was \$1,775 and they were paying a student pastor \$500. There were 61 Charter Members in November of 1947.

Three-eighths of an acre of land was given to the town of Hamden to make the corner better and safer. The barn was right on the edge of both roads, Benham and Dunbar Hill, and made the corner blind.

Before the barn could be torn down, we had to convince the Grosser family to remove their animals.

In 1946 church income was \$481.47.

Arthur Iversen and Fred Baumgardt were in charge of tearing down the barn on May 22, 1948. Everett Warner was directing where to attach ropes for pulling the barn down.

The Women's Fellowship gave pews in memory of:

Ruth Carlquist, mother of Ruth Carlquist, whose marriage to Richard Hamel was the first wedding to be held in the new edifice.

Louise Esposito, mother of Rose Williams, Don William's first wife

Edna Stowe, mother of John Stowe, wife of Charles Stowe

Violet Humiston Warner Moore, mother of Lois Beardsley

(The last three women helped in church activities but were not members. Ruth Carlquist was a charter member.

Eighteen members of Dunbar Church signed to guarantee the church mortgage -- two women, 16 men - six still living in 1991.

Robert Hurd  
Harold Whitcher  
Eugene Umbricht  
Manny Seavon  
Mrs. Arthur Iversen  
Robert Scholz  
Norton Bradley  
Norman Lafayette

Harold Lewis  
Warren Perkins  
Donald Williams  
George Giering  
Mrs. William Urbach  
Angelo Marcarelli  
Walter Parmelee  
Louis Fiore

In 1971, the evergreen branch was nailed to the first rafter

of the parish house. Kris Larsen, the builder, said they were hurrying to be able to put it up by Christmas Eve. The day turned cold and it started to rain. By the time they put it up, everything was coated with ice and they had a hard time getting down.

The church bell was given by William Urbach's brother, Henry Urbach, who was president of the Burlington, Quincy, and Chicago Railroad Line. He got the bell from Engine #2956.

The above notes from Lois Beardsley are to be added to the dialogue on the Video tapes on the church history put together by Bill and Lois Beardsley.



Edna Iversen served as Superintendent of Sunday School for 13 and a half years, according to a January 21, 1959 item in the Hamden Chronicle. Ruby Bradley was her assistant and had many good ideas for building up the Sunday School.

Edna was the one who introduced the ministers who came from Yale Divinity School to preach at the Community Club house. One Sunday morning the guest minister was a woman from Puerto Rico. As the children gathered at the front of the hall, the woman asked them if they knew the 23rd Psalm. They had just studied the 23rd Psalm so all the hands went up. "We were so proud of them," Edna said.

Edna said the women had a wonderful time working on activities and committees for the church. It was before TV so it gave them something interesting to do. Their husbands took care of the children while the women held two or three meetings a week. "We used to hold fund-raising activities and were so proud to earn a few dollars toward the building fund."

Edna gave me a post card inviting people to send their children to the Vacation Bible School at Dunbar Church. I'm guessing the year to be 1954. The fee mentioned was \$1.50.

Edna told me about Rev. Ebersole's daughter, Sue. When Sunday School was held in the basement of the parsonage, Sue would put on her hat and coat, take her pocketbook, go out, walk around the house and then come back and go down to Sunday School. She felt she had to go out so she could come in like every body else. She didn't want to be different.

One time Edna asked the big boys to take up the collection. Up popped little Billy Beardsley who was convinced he was one of the big boys because he was the oldest child in his family and probably told often by his parents that he was a "big boy."

June 1994

The Dunbar area has long been a lively section of Hamden. Before our founders established Dunbar United Church, they were active members of the Dunbar Community Club--which they also founded and help build. They cut their organizational teeth on the activities of that now defunct club. An old news clipping that surfaced recently gives us a pretty good insight into the fun they had.

"Dunbar Hill Community Club reports a most enjoyable outing was held at Lake Quassapaug by over one hundred members of the Dunbar Hill Community Club. Besides a bountiful repast, athletic events, swimming and the entertainment of the Park were enjoyed by one and all. The men just managed to beat the ladies 6 to 5 in a spirited playground ball game. The single men took the measure of the married men 2 to 0. Mrs. Harold Lewis, with a mighty heave, won the flat iron throwing contest for the ladies. P. Hansen and J. Iverson won the men's wheelbarrow race. In the children's events, Miss Smith won the 30 yard dash, James Feurer won the 30 yard dash for boys. Helen Emerson won the girls' 30 yard dash. Florence Emerson won the peanut race, Herbert Carlquist won the ball rolling contest and Kenneth Lewis won the Short Stop event."

The following year a write-up included another mention of the prowess of our founder, Arline Lewis.

"From a field of 16 contestants, Mrs. Arline Lewis again won the flat-iron hurling contest, thereby practically clinching the town championship in this event." I like how they ended their day: "A splendid day wound up with watermelon, ice cream and dancing."

Another item of interest about Arline Lewis was a report of the P.T.A. Ways and Means Committee, of which she was chairman. She earned \$6.15 for putting on a card party and \$8.00 for a second card party. An amateur play netted \$10.17 and a Traveling Market Basket added \$11.83 to make a grand total of \$36.15.

Arline and her cohorts were well prepared to earn funds needed to build first, a parsonage, second, the church, and third, the parish house. I find their example downright inspiring. I hope our founders and those who followed know we are grateful for their efforts which now bless us all.

Dunbar was ever active and its members creative and talented. From the beginning, there were fairs, plays, and all kinds of programs to promote fellowship. Some of the more recent programs I recall with a smile:

In 1989 there was a wonderful "Gong Show" in which many of us made fools of ourselves to the delight of our audience. Our minister, Dan Johnson, was booked to play a bagpipe but couldn't get the thing to work, so he stood there and "played" a quiet solo. He gave his name as Sandy MacTavish--he said "I thought if I didn't give my right name, no one would know me." A memorable Dunbar moment.

A Youth Talent Night and pizza supper was given in 1993. The program played to a full house of enthusiastic supporters and was a huge success--enough to repeat it the following year.

A Hobby Night was held after a supper of corned beef and cabbage. A great variety of hobbies were presented, all ages being represented.

The Women's Fellowship presented a doll show in 1990, which turned into a display of antique toys. Musical events added to the fun and helped make it another memorable evening.

My own personal favorite was the Ms. Dunbar Church Pageant, held in 1991. There were Ms. Congeniality and winners of the evening gown and bathing suit competitions. Four ladies performed in the talent finals and then all the competitors hid behind the sound-proof sheet while Ronnie Kivela interviewed each entrant, one at a time. All the banners the ladies wore were made of Ace bandages emblazoned with red letters. In the end, the judges couldn't decide on a winner, so the crown was presented to Elsie Ayre, our newest member, a part of the audience and not an official entrant. Elsie made a very swish Ms. Dunbar Church; I believe she still holds the title.

On June 11, 1978, a jazz cantata, entitled 100 per cent Chance of Rain, was presented by the combined children and adult choirs. This memorable event was part of the Sunday morning church service and was truly magnificent.

The piano, used officially for the first time that same Sunday morning, was a brand new Wurlitzer, the purchase of which was made possible through a donation of \$500.00 from an anonymous donor; the rest of the amount was made up from the memorial fund for Carol Williams who was throughout her life a faithful member of the choir and active church member.

More recently the Sunday School children and several adults presented a play, When God Was Born, by Rev. George Manukas and members of the Board of Christian Education. This was a highlight of the Advent Sunday program on December 4, 1994.

# Dunbar United Church Honors Architect



Members of the Building Committee of the Dunbar Hill United Church above, left to right, are: Front, Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Witcher and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller; rear, Mr. and Mrs. Norton H. Bradley, Warren Perkins, chairman, Mrs. Harold Lewis, Mrs. Warren Perkins, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scholz.

This picture and article were carried by the New Haven Journal Courier in the July 3, 1957, edition. See for yourself the wonderful people who planned and directed the building of Dunbar United Church. These good and enterprising people conceived and executed a monumental plan and reached their goal within a remarkably short time.

Architect Richard Miller is the brother of our member Esther Warner. He gave his services to the cause of Dunbar Church even though he was not a member, a generous and remarkable gift.

Dunbar Church is proud and grateful to its founders and its architect.

I thought you'd like to see this publicity from 27 years ago. The clipping came from the Saner scrap book of which I have spoken before.

Audrey Linke, historian

Richard F. Miller, architect for the \$150,000 Dunbar United Church, was honored at a surprise supper, the first such family affair given in the Fellowship Hall of the new church, on Sunday evening.

The surprise covered dish supper, attended by more than 200 members and their families, was also a celebration of the success of the new edifice, which was dedicated in April.

#### Donated Services

Mr. Miller, a member of the Woodbridge Congregational Church, donated his services to the design and building of the Dunbar United Church. In recognition of his generous and personal exertions, the Building Committee of the church, with Warren Perkins as chairman, planned this supper.

Toastmaster for the evening, Harold E. Witcher, introduced chairman Perkins who presented Mr. Miller a set of matched golf clubs and carrying cart. Mrs. Norton H. Bradley, chairman of the research and planning committee of the building committee, presented Mrs. Miller a sterling silver necklace, bracelet and earring set. Church organist Mrs. Harold Witcher presented Mrs. Miller a corsage.

The invocation and benediction were pronounced by the Rev. James A. Smith Jr. Building Chairman Perkins spoke briefly, relating the many incidents of progress in the Dunbar United Church construction in which Architect Miller took such an active part.

At the close of the presentations, recent films of the first events in the new church building, and the actual dedication ceremonies were shown by William Beardsley.

Arrangements for the supper and program were made by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Witcher, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scholz and Mr. and Mrs. Norton H. Bradley.

March 13, 1955

March 13, 1955

# News From HAMDEN

## Anniversary Sunday For Dunbar Church

The 10th anniversary of the formation of the church school that paved the way for today's Dunbar United Church in Hamden will be marked by an all-parish covered-dish supper at 5:30 p.m. Sunday in Dunbar Community

Hall.

General chairman is Mrs. Harold Lewis, in whose Dunbar Hill Road home in 1945 was held the first meeting discussing plans for the church school.

She will be assisted by a dinner committee headed by Mrs. Harold Whitcher and Mrs. Robert Scholz.

### Program Listed

The program, planned by Norton Bradley, Norman Lafayette, and the Rev. James A. Smith Jr., will have Harold Whitcher as master of ceremonies.

Arrangements will be by Donald E. Williams and historical displays by Mrs. William Urbach, church historian and Mrs. Donald B. Williams, church clerk.

Supper arrangements will have the children in the hall's basement rooms and the adults in the upstairs hall.

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship members will assist with serving the children and will help with the special entertainment for the children in the form of movies, to be shown by Wade Wilkes and Walter Parmelee.

A word of welcome will be tendered by Whitcher, who will introduce the guests of the evening and the members of the church who have joined since the last parish supper.

He'll also introduce the founders of the church, among whom were those present at the first meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lewis. Those were Mrs. Donald E. Williams, Mrs. William Matteson, Mrs. Robert B. Hurd, Mrs. Leonard Lewis, Mrs. Fred Sturtze, Mr. and Mrs. William Urbach, Mrs. James Robinson, Mrs. Ralph Megin, Mrs. Henry T. Godfrèy, Jack Molton, the pastor at that time of Hamden Plains Methodist Church, the Rev. Ralph Wiborg, and Mrs. Wiborg.

The evening program will include hymn selections led by Louis Fiore and accompanied by Mrs. Harold Whitcher, remarks by the first school superintendent, William Urbach, and response by the present superintendent, Mrs. Arthur Iversen.

Movies of the growth of the church and the church school will be shown by William Beardsley.

The menu will include baked ham, Dunbar Hill style potato salad, deviled eggs, rolls and butter, and cake and coffee and milk, according to the chairman, Mrs. Harold Lewis.

The telephone squad, under the dinner committee chairmen, Mrs. Robert Scholz and Mrs. Harold Whitcher, included Mrs. William Anderson, Mrs. Louis Fiore, Mrs. Arthur Iversen, Mrs. Woodrow W. Clark, Mrs. Warren Perkins, Mrs. William Urbach, Mrs. Wade Wilkes, and Mrs. John Lelasher.

The Rev. James A. Smith Jr. will close the program and will give benediction.





October 1991

Once upon a time there was a train and the train's name was 2956. It chugged along the tracks of the Burlington Line in the mid-west for some 35 years before it retired in 1953 when diesel engines came into use.

2956 had a bell. This bell was made in the eastern part of the country, traveled to the far west and lived the greater part of its life traveling in the mid-west. The bell is made of solid brass and weighs nearly 400 pounds.

The bell was the voice of the train. It gave the message to farmers to get their cows and sheep off the train tracks. It told people to stay away from the crossings while the train passed. It was a voice to warn people, to make them aware of danger.

Now that bell is the voice of Dunbar Church. It's up there in the steeple and it calls people to worship. It could also be used to warn people in time of trouble, but mostly it just tells the world that it's time to come together to worship God at Dunbar United Church.

This is now Dunbar Church came to get the bell: one of Dunbar's founders, William Urbach, went to visit his brother, Henry Urbach, in Lincoln, Nebraska. The bell had been retired, along with Engine 2956, and was no longer needed to be the voice of the train. So Henry Urbach had the bell sent to Hamden, in care of his brother. And that is how the bell came to be a part of Dunbar Church.

At that time, no one yet knew there would be a steeple and a bell, but when the bell was offered, the founders voted to put the bell in a steeple. The architect, Richard Miller, incorporated their requests in the final plans of the church.

(Incidentally, the architect is the brother of our own Esther Warner.) He had always wanted to design a colonial-style New England church. This he did, and never took a penny in payment for his services.

Even before the bell was placed in the new church, it was used to call people to worship at the Dunbar Community Club House. It came complete with bracket, or cradle, from which it was suspended.

Don't you think this is a proud story of a proud bell, put to a proud use by the proud founders of Dunbar Church?

At the close of the service, December 24, 1956, the bell was rung for the first time, proclaiming the gladness of Christmas.

December 1993

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE - The beautiful holly trees on either side of the front doors of the Dunbar Church were given by the Lewis family in 1963 in honor of Kathy Lewis who died over 30 years ago. Kathy was the daughter of Ken and Betsy Lewis and the grand-daughter of Harold and Arline Lewis, founders of Dunbar Church.

Kathy was a very special young lady who died of a rare cancer at the age of 12. She was a loving and much loved member of our Sunday School.

Next time you look at the lovely holly trees as you enter the church, remember the child in whose memory they were given.

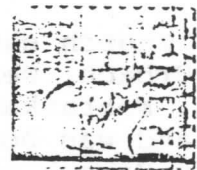
Audrey Linke, Historian



*Come!  
Bring a Friend*



*Vacation*  
**CHURCH SCHOOL**



*New Haven 6-*

POST CARD



*Kenneth Jeffries  
Calamita Marlow Park  
Hamden 14, Conn.*

Inviting you to—

DUNBAR UNITED CHURCH

July 12-16, 19-21

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

For Age 4  
through Grade 6

Fee: \$1.50

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78 E. ADAMS ST., CHICAGO 3, ILL.

Ever wonder where the seed money came from that gave Davenport/Dunbar Residence its start? Pauline Schwartz had a piece of land which she gave to the church. Kris Larsen's brother bought it from the church for \$10,000. And that is the money that went into the fund for seed money.

**OPEN HOUSE**

**DAVENPORT - DUNBAR RESIDENCE**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8**

**7:00pm - 9:00pm**

**DID YOU KNOW?????**

**a ministry to celebrate . . .**

The Davenport-Dunbar Residence is a social service ministry of the United Churches of Christ (UCC), providing safe, dignified, and affordable rental housing for low and moderate income elderly persons in south-central Connecticut. All persons must qualify under HUD nondiscriminatory guidelines. Original sponsorship for the Davenport facility, which opened in 1970, came from 42 UCC congregations in the New Haven Association and the New Haven East Consociation. Davenport Village, Inc. was the resulting not-for-profit corporation which provided leadership for this facility. In 1980 the Dunbar United Church of Christ joined Davenport Village Inc. in sponsoring the Dunbar facility. Dunbar United Church contributes annually to the residents' support services budget.

**a home to consider . . .**

***Davenport Residence***

55 one-bedroom apartments for married couples; 162 efficiency apartments for single persons. Rent: One-bedroom apartment \$272 per month. Efficiency apartment \$235 per month.\*

***Dunbar Residence***

126 one-bedroom apartments (11 handicapped units, 7 for wheelchair residents). Rent (under HUD Section 8 requirements): 30 percent of applicant's income.\*

Further details are available from the Ushers or can be found on the table in the Narthex.

November 1992

I had a lovely visit with Ethel Giering at pie-making session on Wednesday. Ethel grew up not far from Dunbar Church, at the top of the hill of Dunbar Hill Road, at the bend of the road, opposite High Ridge Road and not too far above where Dunbar Hill Road connects with Cooper Lane.

Ethel was one of seven children and attended the Dunbar Hill School, one of three graduates who went on to high school in New Haven. An early assignment was to read the electric meter, which she could not do. "I was so embarrassed," she confessed, "to have to admit our home did not have electricity as yet." The other children laughed at her, she said.

Ethel's father, Everett Warner, owned a great deal of property in this area, farming fruit and vegetables. It was her father who donated the land for the one-room school that was built across from what is now Dunbar Church. Of course the church was not there then, and the school is long gone. And it was Everett Warner who donated the land for the Dunbar Hill Fire Company and Community Hall.

Ethel said her mother's father was in charge of the building project and all the work was done by volunteers from the Dunbar area.

Ethel's father was the first captain of the Dunbar Fire Company. Ethel recalled that the phone for the fire company was in their house. "When my boy friend called," Ethel remembers, "my father would remind me not to talk too long as someone might be wanting to get through to report a fire."

The Dunbar Community Club was started by the local women. They met in the school house and put on various events to raise funds for the eventual building of the Community Hall. The club continued for many years and only disbanded in recent years.

All this about the Community Club and the hall they helped build, is of special interest to us because Dunbar Church had its beginnings in the Community House. After getting a start in local living rooms, Dunbar Community Hall became the setting for Sunday services for the adults who brought their children to Sunday School there.

I think it's nice to remember our roots and give a special prayer of thanks for the generosity of the man who donated the land so it could begin to bless the community. And let us remember the men and women who worked so diligently to bring this project to fruition. It's a wonderful accomplishment--and I bet they had fun doing it.

Norton Bradley was a neighbor or Pauline Schwartz and a fellow founder of Dunbar Church. He had some interesting stories to tell about her and I quote:

The first time I met Pauline Schwartz was at the Dunbar Community Center. Through her friend Bill Urbach, she was a speaker at a meeting of the Civic Club. She was a dynamic speaker and we were all impressed with her knowledge and her personality. Pauline later bought a house from Bill Urbach, on Dunbar Hill Road.

Whenever I went to Pauline to ask for a donation for some cause or other, she would give generously if the money went a hundred per cent to someone or something in the community. She was not as eager to give to something like the Red Cross that had a lot of overhead. I remember one time, when someone died, she wrote out a check for a hundred dollars with no hesitation.

Many times Pauline would invite people in the Dunbar community to meet foreign students and/or foreign professional people. One time some German fellows wanted to be taken on a tour of Connecticut. We showed them the tobacco fields and other places that were different from their own country. They were impressed with our being able to stop to pick up a gallon of milk at a dairy store. We once gave a picnic in our yard for visitors from Australia. She kept the activities of our neighborhood fascinating.

When we were building the parsonage for Dunbar Church, Pauline gave a stove and refrigerator for it. I went with Art Iverson to pick them up in his truck. They were in her garage and as we were driving out of the garage we heard a snap--we had left the plug in. Pauline had measured incorrectly and we had to build the cabinet over the refrigerator a little bigger.

Pauline wore exotic hats--some she had gotten from India and other far away places. She even had a fez with a tassel.

We used to pick up apples from farms in the Dunbar area to use at the church apple festival. Pauline had her trees sprayed so her apples were quite nice. She also had a nice quince tree and she gave Ruby (Bradley) some quinces and we made jelly.

Ruby went back to school when she was in her sixties and Pauline was her professor at Southern Connecticut State College.

When Pauline moved to 3030 Park Street in Bridgeport, we used to visit her quite often. She lived on the thirteenth (top) floor and someone there told us Pauline could get a committee going on a ride down the elevator.

We used to call first before we visited and Pauline would meet

us in the lobby. Ruby always brought her a bouquet of flowers but her hands shook so hard I took them from her and carried them up to her apartment.

Pauline wanted to give Ruby something that was hers and they finally decided on a lovely flat plate, reddish in color with a kitten on it. It was lacquered as Chinese plates often are. We had it for years, hanging above our fireplace.

When Pauline died I went to 3030 Park Street with Chris Larson's son and we got a lot of things that had been in storage. They were auctioned off in the basement (Fellowship Hall) of Dunbar Church and we raised quite a bit of money. Harold Witcher was the auctioneer. She gave some beautiful oriental rugs to the church, one of which is still in use in the parish house. Some were sold.

Polly Parmelee shared this story about Pauline Schwartz, one of our founders.

"I worked with Pauline Schwartz on the Dunbar Vacation Bible School--she headed it up that summer. She insisted we invite some children from the inner city to join with our children for the week of classes. She said, 'We must do this. We must learn to live together.' We took maybe six.

"One mother wouldn't send her child because he didn't have decent clothes. So we bought him some new clothes and then the mother said the clothes were too good for the child to play in!"

Pauline Schwartz was also active in the founding of Paradise Park. Walter Parmelee told me that he and Pauline were on the original Board of Directors of the Park. "That was in 1949, I think. It was our job to provide a list of rules under which the park would operate.

"One of the rules Pauline was adamant about was that there should be no drinking, no alcoholic beverages of any kind, at any time, for any event. And so that was part of the rules and that rule held for many years. Of course new people had new ideas and eventually drinking was allowed at the adult social functions that were held in the evening."

February 1991

At an Adult Forum session recently, we enjoyed a lively discussion about the Holy Spirit and how we can figure out whether or not we have it here at Dunbar Church. One person offered the thought that love is one quality we should have to demonstrate the Holy Spirit. Another suggested "giving" as a prerequisite for being a Christian. Still another mentioned joy as an important part of our Christian faith and mission. One quoted this: You can give without loving but you can't love without giving.

On the way home that day, as I drove past Hindinger's Farm and the old Lewis farm and homestead, I was reminded of Harold and Arline Lewis and how much they gave to the church and the community. I thought of the story Vera Anderson told me about a blizzard that snowed her and her family in for days. Arline Lewis was, at that time, head of the school cafeterias in Hamden, so, at the end of each day, she brought home food to send over to Vera and her family. Ken Lewis, Arline and Harold's son, made the delivery via snowshoes, picking his way from the farm on Dunbar Hill Road, down Calimus Meadow Road, along Main Street, and thence to Mountain Road to the Anderson home. This was done daily until the emergency was over. Vera remembers a large tray of tuna-noodle casserole that was brought to her door. She recalls, too, that her husband, Bill, fashioned some home-made snowshoes and made his way to Dixwell Avenue to buy milk.

And Arline didn't confine her giving to the church and its members. I remember when she and Harold operated the hamburger/hot dog stand at Paradise Park. At the end of each season, they donated any and all profit back to the club treasury. She explained, "What would I be doing with my time if I didn't do this? I'd be home, missing all the fun!"

Arline, one of the founders of Dunbar Church and my own personal heroine, possessed and expressed all the qualities of the Holy Spirit. Her cup raneth over and I'm so glad some of it spilled over on me.

March 1991

Vera Anderson shared the following bit of personal history:

"When my twins were born I already had a baby in diapers--Pete was a year-and-a-half. So my very best present was from the Women's Fellowship: they gave me diaper service for three months! Gifts don't get any better than that!"

September 1991

Dunbar Church's beloved Don Williams went home to be with the Lord on April 20, 1991. Don was a Charter Member of Dunbar Church and was its first custodian. I don't know how many years he sang in the choir but it was a good many. We all have special memories of Don; Ronnie Esposito shares some of hers with us here:

"I had just turned 18, wasn't headed for college, and jobs were scarce in Vermont. My parents agreed that I might have better opportunities in Connecticut, living with my older brother, Richard Hamel. He had recently married Ruth Carlquist and was working for IBM in the area. So, on September 2, 1957, I made the big move.

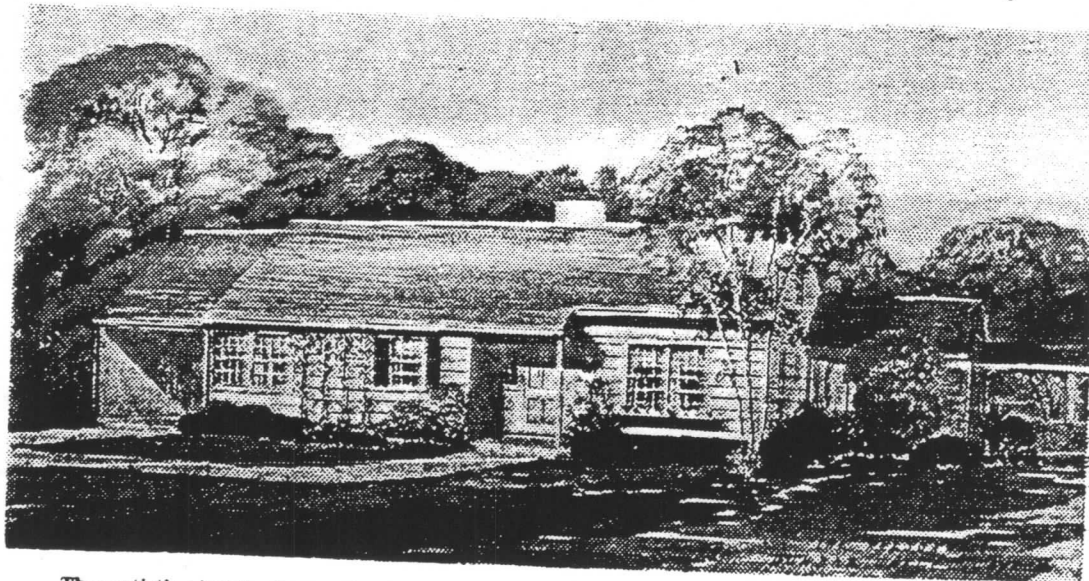
"I was terrified of Hamden--it was so BIG! Ruth was wonderful in helping be adjust. She knew I was a "church-goer" so she took me to hers--Dunbar Church, where I met many warm, friendly people. I particularly remember Don Williams. He introduced me to his daughter, Louise, who took me with her to the Friday night dances in the fire house across the street from the church. It was a great way to meet people my own age and reduce the terrible homesickness. I've always appreciated their kindness in helping me survive the changes in my life I went through at the tender age of 18.

"I recently learned that Don's birthday was September 2nd. I'll always think of him on his birthday and remember how his kindness and concern helped make that date special for me, too."

Veronica Hamel Esposito

NEW HAVEN REGISTER, SUNDAY, JULY 8, 1951

## Ground Breaking For New Parsonage To Be Held Today

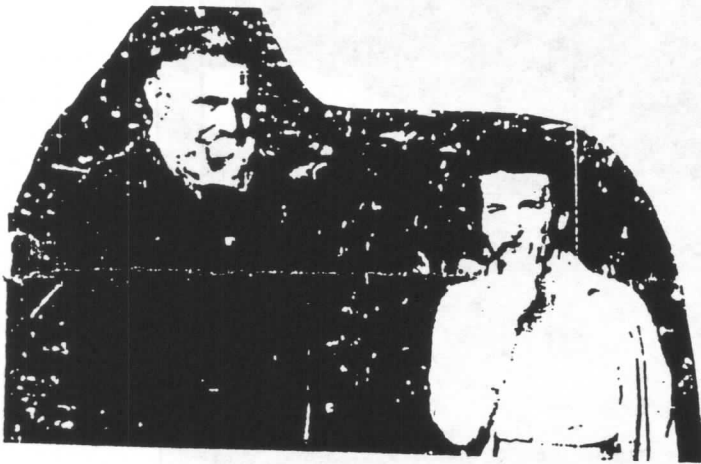


The artist's sketch shown above is how the ranch style parsonage of the Dunbar United Church, Hamden, will look when completed. Ground breaking exercises will be held today and basement digging will start tomorrow.



**HISTORY COMMITTEE:** A scrapbook of newspaper clippings, covering church activities from January 1954 to February 1965, was given recently to your church historian. The book was kept by Viola Bradley Saner (Norton Bradley's sister) and donated by her husband Fred Saner. The book is a welcome resource of our church history and I'm having a wonderful time going through it. I've discovered the first Apple Festival of Dunbar Hill was held in October of 1963--30 years ago, a joint effort of Dunbar United Church, the Dunbar Community Club and the Dunbar Volunteer Fire Association. The publicity for that event, from the Hamden Chronicle of October 10, 1963, is charming. (right)

The October 17 Chronicle carried a picture of the co-chairmen eating apples. (below)



HAMDEN CHRONICLE - October 10, 1963

There must have been a Johnny Applesed among the forefathers up on Dunbar Hill. One orchard after another sculpts the landscape in the panoramic view of Hamden from Dunbar Hill Rd. There's an active group up there! representing Dunbar United Church, the Community Club and the Volunteer Fire Assoc., who are combining their efforts to launch an original event, an Apple Festival, featuring their community's top product. Coincidentally that will be National Apple Week.



Mrs. Donald Williams and Wilfred Stevens are master planners with assistance from Mrs. Harold Lewis, Mrs. William Wade, Eugene Umbrecht and Peter Leonardo. The committee plans to set up in Memorial Park at the top of Benham St. where they'll have apples for sale in every conceivable form, by the bushel, right down to a gooey candied apple.

How do apple pancakes with syrup and a cup of coffee sound? Or do you prefer a piece of homemade apple pie with cheese? The savory treat is yours for the taking on Oct. 19.

On October 24th the Chronicle carried a delightful commentary on the successful event. (as follows)

Less than two hours after the Dunbar Hill Apple Festival opened Saturday, you couldn't buy a glass of cider nor an apple muffin and only a few of the 234 pies remained. The workers were apologetic. "We're really just feeling our way on this project," which they hope to make an annual event, they explained. Proceeds will be split three ways, to benefit Dunbar United Church, the Dunbar Community Club and the Volunteer Fire Assoc.

Mrs. Donald Williams, a co-chairman, who was bustling around the apple griddle cake, told me that they really had no basis for planning quantities. "We've gone through two barrels of cider, made fresh this morning up in Cheshire with our own apples. Fifty batches of batter went into apple griddle cakes. We baked the pies in the church ovens Friday. We thought 234 was an ample number, but they are sold out. What are we going to do until closing time at 4 o'clock?" We didn't stay around to find out, but we can vouch for the popularity of the festival which drew a crowd from far fields.

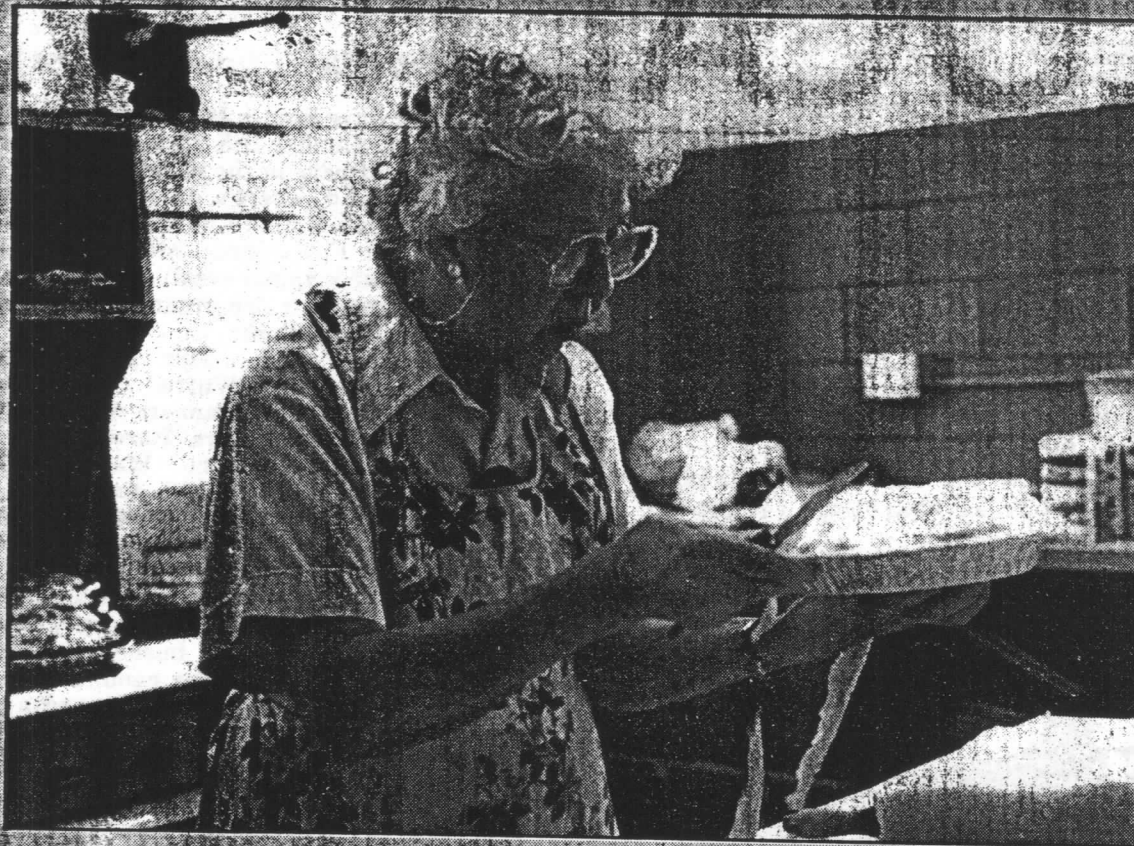
Isn't it fun to look back? Audrey Linke, historian

\* \* \* \* \*

On learning to make crust for the Dunbar Church Apple Festival:

"Each week she had to teach me  
Each week I had to let her  
It's not that I'm a slow learner -  
I'm just a fast forgetter!

by Audrey Linke



Ruby Bradley puts the final touches on one of the pies for Saturday's festival. Ann DeMatteo/Register

## Hamden church fosters 'family feeling'

By Ann DeMatteo  
Register Staff

**HAMDEN** — Family is a word commonly used by members of the Dunbar United Church to describe how they feel about their church and its people.

And why not? Seeds for the 40-year-old congregation were planted in 1945, when area families got together at the home of the late Harold and Arline Lewis to start a Sunday school.

"It feels like a family," said Audrey Linke, chairwoman of an anniversary celebration planned for next week. "The church has been a great joy in my life by meeting my social and spiritual needs."

"It's our second home," said Marge Jackson, another member.

The pastor, the Rev. Daniel L. Johnson, summed up what makes Dunbar United a special place for its 200 members: "It's the sense of family, the sense of being together in an extended Christian family."

On Saturday, congregation members will be pitching in at

the church's annual apple festival, an event held to raise money for the church and for charity. About \$8,000 is raised annually, according to Barbara Walters, apple festival chairwoman.

The festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church basement at Dunbar Hill Road and Benham Street.

Parish women started in August to bake the 2,000 pies that will be sold at the festival or have been ordered in advance.

They use apples from Blue Hills Orchard in Wallingford to make pies, other baked goods and cider that are sold at the festival. The pies are \$5 each.

The kitchen in Fellowship Hall is a beehive of activity on the baking days — the Wednesdays before the festival when 25 or so church members spend the day baking.

"It's a good, social time," Walters said.

On Oct. 30, members will get together to celebrate Dunbar United's 40th anniversary. After Sunday morning services, they will attend a noon roast beef

dinner in the hall.

The church's 61 charter members will be honored, said Linke, who also is the parish historian.

Two former pastors, the Rev. James A. Smith Jr. and the Rev. Eric A.G. Martin will attend, she said.

Members said they are celebrating the 40th anniversary this year because the land on which the church stands was purchased in 1948, said Jackson.

The Sunday school began on March 25, 1945, with 25 children and 10 adults present.

Nine months later, the first Sunday morning worship service was held, and on July 17, 1947, members voted to affiliate with the Congregational-Christian Church. In 1948, the church voted to merge with the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and since 1957, it has been part of the resultant United Church of Christ.

On April 7, 1957, the first worship service was held in the church, a white clapboard Colonial edifice.

October 1993

As we anticipate the 1993 Dunbar Church Apple Festival, I can almost "taste" the aroma of apple pies and see in my mind's eye the exciting vision of the festival in "full bloom." There will be pies, of course, and plants and baked goods, jams and jellies, cheese, candied apples, Grandma's Attic table, apples, apple cider, and the Christmas Bazaar table. Round tables will be set for serving apple crisp, apple pancakes, apple sauce, and apple pie. There will be big red apple decorations hanging from the rafters of Fellowship Hall and other signs of apples all over the festive hall. Special to me are the red and white checked tablecloths and the yellow and white ones, as well. And therein lies a tale.

For years my family ate several meals a week at the Ponderosa Restaurant on Route 72 in New Britain. We'd visit my mother and step-father nearby and almost always had our lunch at the Ponderosa. One day the red and white checked curtains were missing from the windows. When I inquired as to their whereabouts, I was told that they were in the attic. I asked if I might purchase them and a few weeks later was rewarded for my patience. I could have them for a dollar a panel. The panels were huge, yards and yards of gingham in each one. I bought all 19 of them.

But I didn't know why. Later I was offered the yellow and white curtains from another branch restaurant so I bought another 19 panels--and I still didn't know why.

When I became a part of Dunbar United Church I soon found out. Members were decorating the hall for the first festival of which I was a part, putting white paper on all the tables. Then I knew! God let me buy 38 panels of gingham so we could decorate Fellowship Hall for the Dunbar Church Apple Festival.

I know you'll forgive me for the pride I feel when I see those bright, cheery tablecloths in action.

#### IN THE NARTHEX

The Book of Remembrance, given by Manny and Ella Seavon in memory of their parents, Kaarlo and Aune Silvonon, and Herman and Maria Niemi.

The Guest Register, given by the Congregational Church in Leiston, Suffolk, England, whose minister, the Rev. B. Reita Searle, was exchange minister here during the summer of 1956.

Repositories for the Book of Remembrance and the Guest Register, made by Paul Warner in memory of Alvin Warner and Violet Warner Moore.



**PIECE OF PIE.** *The Women's Fellowship of the Dunbar United Church makes pies. Anyone interested in buying a frozen unbaked or baked pie can call Katherine Umbricht at 288-4020 or call the church at 288-2342 between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. every Wednesday. Proceeds will go toward church projects.*

Photo by John Ferraro

A great deal of the church's calendar revolves around the annual Apple Festival, held each fall. The entire community looks forward to and enjoys the festivities. I call it a gift to the community. The money earned from the festival also translates into gifts to the community.



**PIECE OF PIE.** *Eleanor Sturtze of the Women's Fellowship of the Dunbar United Church spices out a pie.*

Photo by John Ferraro

November 1991

RUBY BRADLEY

Ruby Bradley was a person whom other persons loved to know and to be with, special in so many ways it would be impossible to list them here -- or ever.

Ruby was the lady who painted the "stained glass windows" now on display in Fellowship Hall. I don't know who cut the shapes from ply-wood, but Ruby did the art-work on them. Nort, her husband, told me how Ruby's father came to visit and discovered these windows in progress. Not knowing their purpose, his reaction was that his daughter was getting a little strange...perhaps a bit over-religious.

These windows became part of the morning worship services held at the Dunbar Community Hall during the early years of the church, even before those involved knew there would be a church. Ruby's stained glass windows are an important and much loved part of our Dunbar Church history.

Norton Bradley has generously shared some of Ruby's published and unpublished writings which have been presented to our library. It is a joy to read them and remember.

March 1992

Some months ago I wrote about Ruby Bradley and the wood "stained glass" windows she painted and which are treasured artifacts from the early beginnings of Dunbar United Church. At that time I didn't know who cut out the shapes for the "windows." Polly Parmelee tells me it was Arthur Parmelee, Walters's brother, who bought the plywood and cut it to the desired size and shape. It should be noted that Arthur was not a member of the church but a generous supporter of same.

We owe much to many non-members, beginning with the church architect, Richard Miller, mentioned elsewhere.

A church neighbor, Mrs. Gorham, gave the Women's Fellowship \$25.00 each month. Originally, it was put in the treasury but later it was used to start a scholarship fund.

In July of 1957, Mrs. Gorham gave \$10.00 to each woman in the Women's Fellowship. The women divided themselves into 12 groups, according to the month of their birthdays. Each group then decided how to increase Mrs. Gorham's donation. Kay Umbricht, Dottie Perkins, Arline Lewis, and Marion Witcher, put on a picnic in Perkins' yard. They sold tickets ahead of time and the affair was well attended--crowded, in fact.

February 1992

There used to be a men's club connected to Dunbar Church. When the men were looking for a suitable project, some one suggested they build a room for Rena Scott. Rena was a widow (and church member) who lived on West Shepard Avenue. Her daughter was married and she and her husband and their son lived with Rena. They desperately needed more room. So, once a week the men got together and worked on finishing the second floor in Rena's house. Rena bought the materials and the men provided the labor. She served coffee and donuts, too. The men worked with a will and had a fun time as they did. When they were finished there was a large bedroom, a bathroom, and a small room for the baby. Ken Lewis and Don Williams were among the workers, but I can't seem to find out who else contributed their labors to this worthy project.

The following devotion seems especially appropriate for this time of year, as we look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas. It speaks of God in the kitchen, where preparations for the holidays begin. It was written by Ruby Bradley, Charter Member of Dunbar United Church. It was used in the first Dunbar United Church cook book as frontispiece and later published in a western newspaper.

Audrey Linke, Historian

#### A MOTHER'S DEVOTIONS

I love my kitchen, Lord,  
Its sunny maple wood,  
Its curtains crisp and starched,  
The smell of "sumthin' good."

How fine it is to stir  
And taste a simmering stew!  
To crimp a pastry's edge,  
To try a cake that's "new."

How good it is to hug  
My "littlest" as he grips  
My knees. How sweet his kiss  
All moisty--on my lips.

How grand it is to hear  
The children by the door.  
"Yuh got more cookies, Mom?  
Just give us each two more."



And then to spread the cloth  
When eventide has come.  
The climax of the day---  
Our DAD is coming home!

I give Thee heartfelt thanks,  
Oh Lord, for all this treasure,  
This treasure of the heart,  
*This joy beyond all measure!*

My Sanctuary's here.  
These simple kitchen walls  
Serve for Your purpose, Lord,  
As do cathedral halls.

Your teachings are a part  
And parcel of each day.  
Faith, Hope and Love abide.  
Here we first learn Thy way.

by Ruby Bradley

Dunbar Church members cherish each other and when one of us goes on to a higher reward, we are missed. The beautiful Book of Remembrance in the narthex of the church lists the names of those we have loved and lost. Ruby Bradley lovingly kept the book for many years and now Ray Smith is the one who keeps it current. He not only writes the names beautifully but adds his own special art work, as well.

Yes, we have lost many dear Dunbar friends over the past years, but the one that grieved us beyond belief or understanding, was the death of Lynn Walters, the missionary daughter of Chuck and Barbara Walters, on the day after Christmas, 1993. Nothing could ever prepare us for the shock of the sudden loss of one so young and so special. Lynn had kept us informed about her various missionary posts and we all felt a part of her interesting and Christly life. A beautiful church service in her honor helped lift us from darkness and despair and brought us into the light once again, grateful for her life in every way. Missing her has become a way of life for her parents.

The following tribute is from the January 1994 Dome report.

LYNN DOROTHY WALTERS

1966 - 1993

Most of us, because of the intense concentration of our lives, tend to be a bit provincial. But now and then there comes to us a child of the world whose spirit, like creation itself, soars beyond national boundaries. Lynn Walters was such a person. Her youth and her vitality were a gift to the world Christian community. Her teaching was an act of sharing. Her participation in the fellowship of the church in China was an affirmation that the ties which bind our hearts in Christian love cross the international date line and unite people in ways far beyond human understanding. The life of every one of us is more complete because Lynn's journey intersected with our journeys. She was of the very essence of the wider mission of our congregation.

Lynn's time was short, but her spirit was great and profound. Now it is for us to carry out in our own ways her vision of what the world can be like. Let us thank God for every day of her life.

Here are some thank you notes from the 1992 editions of The Dome. They give a sense of what Dunbar Church is all about.

Open letter to my friends at Dunbar United Church of Christ:

"Dear friends - I'm happy to report I'm getting better and stronger every day. As most of you know, it has been a long and difficult winter for me, followed by two sessions of surgery in May and August. During the worst days, I was depressed and could not pray. But I knew you were praying for me and that comforted and encouraged me. Your cards, calls, and visits cheered me and I enjoyed and appreciated your gifts of flowers and food. Your unfailing support gave me--and continues to give me--strength. Your generous spirit of love is an ongoing blessing. Thank you, dear friends."

What has this heartfelt message of gratitude to do with church history? Everything. This is what church is all about--loving outreach to fellow members and the community and constant communion with God. I love it and God must love it, too.

Yours in Christ - Audrey Linke, Historian

"Dick and I want to thank each one of our wonderful friends at Dunbar who extended themselves in order that our wedding day would be the happy success it was. We were so fortunate that so many of the people we love most could gather in one place - and all for us.

Again, our deepest thanks for all the memories of that day."

Ronnie and Dick Kivela

#### NOTES OF APPRECIATION

*"I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the friends and members of the congregation for their love, support and caring following the death of my dear Walter. You have surrounded me with so much kindness, and have helped me in countless ways during this difficult period. You are all true reflections of the light of Christ. Thank you and God bless you.*

*"With love and appreciation, Marge Jackson"*

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Here's some more of the Trower family history with the Dunbar Church. Joan was kind enough to share this and I quote her: Thank you, Joan.

"I remember when we moved into our house on Dunbar Hill Road, Jim Smith got into his old clothes and arrived on the scene and pitched right in and helped unload furniture."

(Note: Jim Smith was the pastor of Dunbar Church at that time.)

"When we were still having church in the fire house, I was chairman of the Bazaar one year. We were having dinners at night in those days and I was to make the baked beans. I made them at home, in big flat pans. I went out and opened the back doors of the car to load the pans in. I got them in on the car floor when out of nowhere came our dog. He jumped in one side of the car, waded through all the beans and flew out the other side because the beans were hot. That night, instead of homemade beans, I had to serve heated-up canned beans--after a frantic trip to the store. The dog wouldn't go near beans after that!

"When the church was built and being supplied, my mother (she was Kate Keller and also a member of Dunbar Church) and I made by hand (hem stitched) all of the communion linens. They were of pure linen and had two inch hems all around on the big cloths and one inch hems on the plate covers. I remember sitting with my mother in her back yard under a big maple tree for days and days that summer while we sewed on the cloths. We made a blue velvet case to keep it in but that's nowhere to be found. The linen isn't used any more because no one wants to wash and iron it. Can't blame them--linen musses up real easy.

"Both of my parents were buried from Dunbar Church."

June 1991

Our May third Salad Luncheon and Old Timer's Day was a resounding success, thanks to all those who shared in that special event. A special thank-you goes to Bill and Lois Beardsley who prepared a tape, made from old home-made movies, on the history of Dunbar Church. We all went over to the parish house to watch it and enjoyed it thoroughly. It was wonderful to see our early members (like Arline Lewis and the Urbachs) razing the barn that stood on the property where the church would be built. And we saw the church go up, and the parsonage and the parish house, as well. All very exciting for those of us who love Dunbar Church and its remarkable history.

Bill will be having copies of the tape made for those of you who would like to have it in your archives and/or for giving to your children. Be in touch with Bill, Lois, or me, to place your order. We think they'll sell for \$10.00 each with some portion of that going to the church.

GIFTS TO DUNBAR CHURCH

EXTERIOR - The Church Sign, given by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bogart in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. James MacKenzie and Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Bogart.

The Church Bell, given by Henry H. Urbach, Assistant Vice President of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

IN THE SANCTUARY

A gift of money toward the purchase of pews, given by the Women's Fellowship of Dunbar United Church in memory of their deceased members, Mrs. Ruth Carlquist, Mrs. Louise Esposito, Mrs. Edna Stowe, and Mrs. Violet Moore.

A pew, given by William, Lois, Karen, Billy, and Donald Beardsley.

The Dossal Cloth, given by the Public Worship Committee. Workmanship by Mrs. Robert Halstead.

The Carpet, given by the Women's Fellowship of Dunbar Church.

The National Flag, given by Hamden Grange No. 99. (This flag matches in design the Christian Flag which the Grange presented to the Church several years ago.)

The Candlesticks, given in loving memory of their son, Richard, by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Megin.

The Chancel Cross, gold-leafing done by Mrs. Robert Murdoch.

Hymn Books, given in loving memory of Mrs. Louise Esposito, by her children.

Hymn Books, given in memory of Clinton Wetmore, by Mrs. Clinton Wetmore, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Wetmore, and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Wetmore.

The Organ, given by the Women's Fellowship of Dunbar Church.

The Organ Mirror, given by Mr. and Mrs. George Stern.

The Baptismal Font, given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Lewis and Mrs. Caroline H. Lewis, by Leonard and Margaret Lewis, Wallace and Lucille Lewis, Raymond and Myra Lewis, Gilbert and Hazel Lewis Gordon, Robert and Carolen Lewis Hurd, Patricia M. Lewis, Harold and Arline Lewis, and Kenneth and Betsy Lewis.

The Communion Table, given by Mrs. Douglas Warner in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hindinger.

The Communion Linens, given in memory of Thomas B. Trower, by Mrs. Thomas B. Trower, Mrs. Walter J. Keller, and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Trower.

The Lectern, given by the Laymen's Fellowship of Dunbar Church.

The New Haven Register - May 27, 1953

## Church Burns Land, Parsonage Mortgages



The Dunbar United Church celebrated another milestone in the progress of the establishment of its church in Dunbar Hill on Sunday afternoon when ceremonies concerning the burning of the mortgage on the land and the burning of the Parsonage mortgage took place before some 150 church members, their families and friends.

Shown above are members of the committee in charge of the parsonage mortgage burning ceremonies. Left to right: Mrs. Kenneth Clark, president of the Women's Guild; Norton Bradley, moderator of the Church Council; Mrs. Donald Williams, clerk of the church; Mr. Louis Fiore, treasurer of the church, and Miss Karen Beardsley representing the Church Sunday School.

John 19: 28, 30, paraphrased:

Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, said, "It is finished." And he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.

Warren Perkins, chairman of the church building committee, gave his final report to the members of Dunbar United Church: "Assignment completed," he said.

That was on September 19, 1957.

In a way, it was only the beginning.

### *God Builds No Churches*

"God bulds no churches. By his plan  
That labor has been left to man.  
No spires miraculously arise;  
No little mission from the skies  
Falls on a bleak and barren place  
To be a source of strength and grace.  
The humblest church demands its price  
In human toll and sacrifice.

The humblest spire in mortal ken,  
Where God abides was built by men  
And if the church is still to grow,  
Is still the light of hope to throw  
Across the valleys of despair,  
Men still must buld God's house of prayer.  
God sends no churches from the skies;  
Out of our hearts must they arise."

Edgar A. Guest

Friends built this church -- not one of them could  
do it all alone.

## "Are Ye Able"

BEACON HILL. Irregular

EARL MARLATT, 1892-

HARRY S. MASON, 1881-

1. "Are ye a - ble," said the Mas - ter, "To be cru - ci - fied with me?—"  
 2. "Are ye a - ble" to re - mem - ber, When a thief lifts up his eyes,  
 3. "Are ye a - ble" when the shad - ows Close a - round you with the sod,  
 4. "Are ye a - ble?" Still the Mas - ter Whis - pers down e - ter - ni - ty,

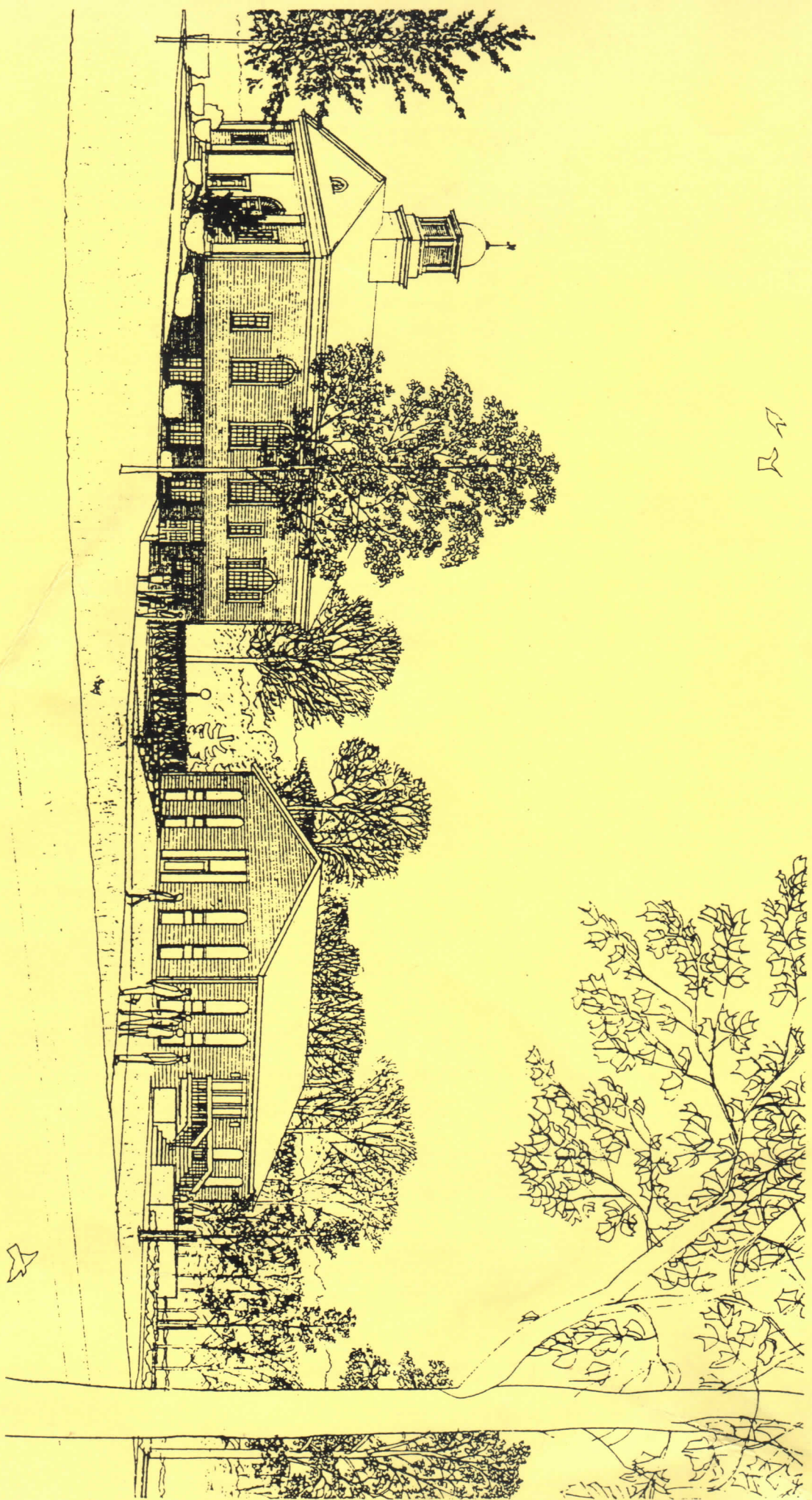
"Yea," the sturd - y dream - ers an - swered, "To the death we fol - low thee."  
 That his par - doned soul is wor - thy Of a place in par - a - dise?  
 To be - lieve that spir - it tri - umphs, To com - mend your soul to God?  
 And he - ro - ic spir - its an - swer Now, as then, in Gal - i - lee.

## REFRAIN

"Lord, we are a - ble." Our spir - its are thine. Re - mold them,

make us, Like thee, di - vine. Thy guid - ing ra - diance A - bove us shall

be A Bea - con to God, To faith and loy - al - ty. A - men.



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