

Cross View's Second Decade

1979-1988

A Period of Transition and Growth



In issues of the Clarion through February, we are looking back at Cross View's journey from our humble beginnings to our development and growth into the Church we are today.

Cross View's early years were full of rapid change, and through all of the shifts, our close-knit congregation held strong to God's mission. In our first 24 months as a church, members gathered together at our first worship service at Creek Valley Elementary School, took out a loan, broke ground on a church building project and then completed and dedicated the building.

By 1978, the congregation had grown to 293 baptized members as Cross View entered its second decade as a church. By then, Cross View offered myriad worship and ministry opportunities, and the church no longer required financial subsidy from the Minnesota South District. A "Grow Committee" was formed to help plan for additional church growth and expansion. The future was bright.

Much of the confidence and excitement was attributed to the leadership of Pastor Ray Halm. One original member recalled Pastor Halm giving Cross View an inspirational lift during his short time in Edina: "He really made it go." But Halm's tenure was brief. After coming to Cross View in 1978, he preached his last sermon in June 1980. Despite transitions through three pastors and four vacancy pastors during the church's first 12 years, the work and the people of Cross View carried on.

Families took turns cleaning the sanctuary every Saturday and mowing the lawn in the summer. But it wasn't all work, all the time at Cross View. The congregation also remained socially active. Original members of the congregation recall taking part in rummage sales, lake retreats, potlucks, skiing and canoe trips, and many other social gatherings.

Rev. Dean Nadasdy was installed as Cross View's fourth pastor in June 1981. At that time, a number of ministries were started that evolved over the years and still carry on today: the Living Nativity, Oktoberfest, and the Christian Art Festival, to name a few.

Pastor Nadasdy saw to it that the church congregation hosted showers for expectant mothers and brides. New members were invited to Pastor and Susie Nadasdy's home for evenings of fellowship and desserts. The MAKARIOS group was formed for the young married couples in the congregation.

Cross View's growth continued, and in May 1983, the congregation met to discuss the details of a potential church expansion project and consider making pledges to cover the construction costs. In early 1984, members approved the expansion and the sale of some land east of the church to help finance the building project.

Construction of the addition began the fall of 1985. Rebecca Waller was interviewed by candlelight (the electricity was off due to construction), and began as choir director in October. The newly completed addition was dedicated in 1986. The new addition opened up all kinds of new ministry opportunities. One in particular—the Early Childhood Center—also deepened Cross View's impact and connections with the community.



Right (top to bottom): Pastor Ray Halm's farewell (1980), first Passover meal (1980), Pastor Dean Nadasdy's installation (1981), groundbreaking (1985), Living Nativity (1981).