



First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church

From Generation to Generation: One Church, One Faith, One Lord

**"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make faithfulness
known through all generations."**

Psalm 89:1

Your Hand, O God, Has Guided

Your hand, O God, has guided
Your flock from age to age;
Your faithfulness is written
On history's open page.
Our parents knew your goodness,
And we their deed record;
And both to this bear witness:
One church, one faith, one Lord!

Your heralds brought the gospel
To the greatest and the least;
They summoned men and women
To share the great King's feast.
And this was all their teaching
In every deed and word,
To all alike proclaiming:
One church, one faith, one Lord!

Your mercy will not fail us
Nor leave your work undone;
With your right hand to help us
The victory shall be won.
And then by earth and heaven
Your name shall be adored;
And this shall be our anthem:
One church, one faith, one Lord!

Words: Edward H. Plumptre 1864

Tune: Jana Plaisier 1993



Pastor Swets

Dear Members and
Friends of First Cutlerville,

First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church has received and enjoyed the blessings of the covenant of grace for one hundred years. These years have been filled with a mixture of joy and sorrow and sometimes with both lively faith and sinful unbelief. The Word of our Savior has been read and preached, demonstrated and lived, and Christ has kept us by His Word. Sunday, August 8, 1993 is a special day of thankful celebration for all His blessings to us as a church. We give thanks to our faithful God who has built this part of His church. We thank and praise Him for guiding and keeping us "from generation to generation" and for making us a part of His One Church, and giving us the gift of faith and leading us to confess Jesus Christ our only Savior and Lord.

There is a tendency for us as we celebrate our hundredth anniversary to focus more attention than we should on what various members and pastors, both past and present, have done for our church. Instead of getting carried away with that kind of activity we need to direct our attention to God and to obey the command He has given to His church. Our Lord calls us to be faithful to Him and His Word until He comes. We are called to faithfulness in a world of economic crisis, where communism has been overthrown, where starvation and tension are daily realities, where moral permissiveness and seemingly overwhelming forces of unbelief are increasing, where the church has fallen upon hard times. At times our voice sounds strange even in the church world where thankful obedience to Christ is neglected and doctrinal ignorance and Biblical illiteracy are tolerated.

In just such a world First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church is called to

stand in the unity of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are challenged to take these teachings seriously in the way we live. We are challenged to be obedient to the great commission in our community. We are challenged to demonstrate the love of Christ, which He has created in us, for one another. We are challenged to bring the unique contributions of our Reformed faith to bear upon all of life. We are challenged to know and proclaim Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Let us meet these challenges by His grace, obeying His call to be loyal disciples and offering our hearts and lives in gratitude and service. May First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church truly and fully reflect the glory of Christ as we enter our second century. Dare to believe that God will do great things in and with First Cutlerville as we move into the next hundred years of service to our Lord. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)

In Christian Love,
Your Present Pastor,
Walter Swets

Because Christian education in the Netherlands was remembered as wholly important but with many struggles, it was a topic of much discussion in America, in Michigan, and in Kelloggsville in the 19th century. Rev. Koster, pastor at Kelloggsville and a proponent of Christian education, had followers and opponents. Because of the controversy a number of families left Kelloggsville and organized the "Hollandsche Christelyk Gereformeerde Kerk te Fisher Station". Permission was granted by Classis Grand Rapids with the condition that the church locate at least three miles from Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church! So on August 8, 1893, meeting in the new school house, the classis - appointed committee met with the first members to organize a church.

THE FIRST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on August 8, 1893, in conjunction with a committee of Classis Grand Rapids (consisting of instructors L. J. Hulst and W. B. Smith and Elder A. Van Bree) for purpose to organize a congregation of the Dutch Christian Reformed Church at Fisher Station.



THE AFTER MEETING

After the congregation obtained approval from the Classical Committee, proceedings to call an instructor were started. Rev. S. Koster of Kelloggsville was called unanimously.

The first year of activity, and the direct relationship of this new church and its Christian School Society, are evident in the following excerpts from consistory minutes - 1893 to 1894.

AUG. 11, 1893

Art. 3

It was decided to hold a congregational meeting on Thurs., Aug. 18 and to propose to build horse stables for the account of the congregation and to clear the pathway to the school.

Art. 6

Mr. L. Hofstra was appointed as custodian with a salary of two dollars a month, he will also be requested to function as reader and foresinger.

Art. 7

It was decided to start Sunday School on Sunday, Aug. 20. Superintendent P. v.d. Houten, helpers Mr. L. Hofstra and Jonker.

AUG. 22, 1893

Art. 6

The Committee (for horse stables) informed that according to their calculations the stables would cost over \$70.00. This was judged to be too high and was decided to go with a cheaper plan.

SEPT. 5, 1893

Art. 3

It was decided to give the instructors who serve us with their preaching during vacancy, \$4.00.

Art. 4

It was decided to start Catechism. Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 girls over 15 by v.d. Houten, Thursday evening at 7:00 boys over 15 by Jonker, Friday afternoon at 3:30 children under 15 by Boss, while Catechism for the older baptized members will be decided later.



Psalm 61:5b, 8

"...you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name."

"Then will I sing praise to your name, and fulfill my vows day after day."

*A transcription of
the minutes from the
first meeting,*

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Art I The meeting was opened by Rev. L. J. Hulst with prayer after singing of Psalm 72:4.

Art II Rev. Hulst addressed the meeting in regard to Ephesians 4:3.

Art III The articles of incorporation were read by Notary Public Dosker which were then signed by 20 individuals, members of the church.

Art IV Mr. C. Jonker was elected president and Mr. L. Hofstra was elected secretary.

Art V It was decided to name the congregation: "The Dutch Chr. Ref. Congregation of Fisher Station in Township of Paris."

Art VI It was decided to elect three elders, one for one year and the remaining months of 1893, and two for two years and the remaining months of 1893. Those with the least amount of votes or last elected will serve the shortest time period.

Art VII Elected as elders were Mr. P. v.d. Houten and Mr. C. Jonker until 1896 and Mr. N. Boss until 1895.

Art VIII The meeting decided to elect two deacons, one until 1895 and one until 1896.

Art IX Mr. J. Laninga was elected the first round but he declined.

Art X As a result of the second round Mr. J. Herrema was elected until 1896 and Mr. A. Bierma until 1895 as deacons.

Art XI Since there were no objections against the chosen brothers it was proposed by the classical committee to immediately install, which was approved. Rev. Hulst installed the chosen brothers after those who were indebted to the congregation Kelloggsville promised to pay their debt.

Art XII Rev. W.R. Smith asks the blessing of the Lord over the chosen brothers and the congregation.

Art XIII Rev L.J. Hulst closes the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing (benediction).

SEPT. 18, 1893

Art. 6

It was proposed and accepted that instructors when they come to preach will lodge by P. v. d. Houten.

OCT. 16, 1893

Art. 4

It was decided to buy some wood and request G. Fennema to pick it up.

OCT. 30, 1893

Art. 3

There appeared in the meeting a committee from the Choir Society with a request that (for reason that they couldn't get a teacher) one of the elders would speak a few words at the open meeting of Nov. 2, 1893.

NOV. 13, 1893

Art. 3

A member of the congregation requests the consistory approval to move among the congregation to obtain money to build a house. He was advised to do this himself (build house) if possible, if this was not possible the secretary would give a writ from the consistory.

Art. 4

It was informed that the choir society had decided to learn the singing of Psalms from now on.

Art 8

It was decided (if the school commission would let us use the school) to have catechism for the little ones at 2:30 instead of 3:30.

DEC.11, 1893

Art. 3

There appeared in the meeting a committee from the choir society with a request that the consistory use its influence to some

members who apparently wanted to quit the choir, encouraging them to stay.

Art. 5

Appeared at the meeting a committee of the school board with the request, if possible to have a collection for the school on each Sunday. It was decided to have a collection at the church door and for now to loan them \$9.00.

Art. 9

A committee was appointed to visit a member who did not partake in communion.

DEC. 25, 1893

Art. 6

It was decided to ask the approval of the congregation to help the school society financially if possible.

JAN. 1, 1894

(Congregational Meeting Jan. 1, 1894.)

Art. 4

Support for the school society was approved.

JAN. 8, 1894

Art. 6

It was decided to give to the school society \$18.27 to alleviate the shortage.

JAN. 22, 1894

Art. 2

The money given to the school society was not \$18.27 but \$17.04

FEB. 5. 1894

Art. 5

There was a discussion about collecting for the different church funds, however, it was decided to wait some time in view of our own financial circumstances.

Art. 6

There was a discussion on a proposal from

the school board regarding the idea to make our school a congregational school. The proposal was tabled.

FEB. 19, 1894

Art. 3

The majority was not in favor to make the school a congregational school.

APRIL 16, 1894

Art. 3

There appeared in the meeting a committee from the school board with a request that the consistory would allow them \$17.50 to pay interest for the money that was borrowed for the school building for reason that the school society was not able to pay and this amount was overdue. The request was approved.

JUNE 22, 1894

Art 2

There was a committee appointed to meet with the school board for reason to obtain screens for the school. If school unable to pay for them, the church would.

Art. 3

The Synodical meeting in regard to our congregation resulted in the continuation of our congregation. But that Classis with the help of a committee of two from outside Classis, would attempt to reunite our congregation with Kelloggsville.

Art. 4 & 5

There was a proposal to the consistory to propose to the consistory of Kelloggsville to recognize each other as lawful congregations and thus to come to a better understanding.

Art. 6

It was decided to appoint committees regarding the building of a church and a parsonage and to find out where to obtain the necessary grounds and to investigate how to obtain the necessary money.

AUG. 20, 1894

Art. 3

Classical meeting Aug. 14, it was reported that in regard to our congregation that no decisions were made but that Classis appointed a committee of three members to handle the case Kelloggsville/Fisher Station in accordance with the Synodical charge.

OCT. 22, 1894

Art. 3

A church of 30 by 40 would cost about \$900.00, a piece behind the school building 40 by 24 would cost at least \$400.00 and a parsonage at least \$450.00.

OCT. 30, 1894

Congregation Meeting

Art. 4

Art. 3 (above) was discussed. In regard to grounds for building it was informed we could obtain 1 acre from J. Cutler on the corner by Martins for \$150.00 and that we could get 1 acre for \$100.00 next to H. Snow and that we could get from Oostkerken and Herrema 3/4 acre for free under the condition that when the church and school would move, this property would go back to the owners.

CHARTER MEMBERS

1. Jan Mersman & Maartje Duisterwinkel
2. Jan Slot & Vrouwke Laninga
3. Willem van de Houten & Geesje de Jong
4. Pieter van de Houten & Roelofke Oosterhuis
5. Cornelis Jonker & Peetje Blom
6. Gerrit Palma & Neeltje Visser
7. Nicolaas Boss & Trijntje van der Leest
8. Jan Jonker & Elizabeth Blom
9. Gerrit Fennema & Wiepkje Visser
10. Arie Slot & Neeltje de Bree
11. Harm Noordhuis & Trijntje Kooi
12. Anne Bierema & Grietje Jonker



*Current Members:
Descendants of
Charter Members*

13. Sjouke Rodenhuis & Grietje Jaarsma
14. Gerrit van Tuin & Jantje Beute
15. Jan Herrema & Diewke Marra
16. Hendrik Boss & Trijntje Slot
17. Lammert Hofstra & Grietje Andringa
18. Hendrik Oosterhuis &
Aaltje Plaggemeier
19. Douwe Veenstra & Janke van der Sluis
20. Jurrien Laninga &
Louwke van der Molen
21. Kasper Tuinstra & (Auke Tuinstra)



The First Church

This church served a burgeoning congregation until 1914, when it was claimed totally inadequate. World War I raged, but through those difficult times a new church was built. Both church and school continued in remarkable growth.

In 1947, a large section was added onto the north side of the church. A new tower was built, and brick veneer added, "giving the church a more modern appearance."

Although the seating capacity was now doubled allowing for 535 people, an overflow area in the basement was later necessary, using a speaker system.



The Second Church



The Second Church is expanded

The little church family moved from the Fisher Station school house in 1886, to what later became known as Cutlerville. It didn't take long before the school was moved also, just east of the sparkling new church.



The Present Church

A new addition was built in the mid-seventies on the west side of church. Included are a large Fellowship Room, a kitchen, a fireside room that can be divided into classrooms, and a consistory room. A ramp for the handicapped was built for easier entrance into the building. A television screen in the Fellowship Room makes worship possible for them, but no access to the sanctuary itself is available. Today the government building codes rightly call for complete and easy access for everyone. The cost for renovation of the present facilities to such standards is prohibitive.

Now the church has reached the momentous decision to relocate and plan for new, innovative facilities to bring us into the excitement of the 21st century, and should the Lord tarry, the next one hundred years! Leaving the old church at 35-68th Street causes feelings at once nostalgic and traumatic. But new zeal lies in the proposed site for our new church, described as follows:

16.5 acres, with 553 feet of frontage, on the north side of 68th Street, S.W., located

3/4 mile west of Clyde Park Avenue. It is former farm acreage, mostly open land, gently sloping from the north to the south. It is wooded along the eastern border, which shields it from the adjacent newly developed residential area.

Purchase was completed officially on March 31, 1993.

Today

There are seven Christian Reformed churches in our community and there is a Christian School system from Kindergarten through grade 12 numbering 1,167 in 1993! Praise God for the many thousands of students educated through one hundred years, and the professions of faith, and love for the Kingdom, by myriads of God's people through these churches! Hosts of missionaries have been sent out. Teachers from these congregations teach in both Christian and public schools. Also, many members have worked at Pine Rest Hospital and their daily lives, counsel, medical, and psychiatric treatment were always given in God's name.



**Rev. Sjoerd S.
Vander Heide**
1899

He came as a candidate, the first pastor called by "Holland-sche Christelyk Gere-formeerde Kerk te Fisher Station." This new church gave the

young pastor impetus to preach and lead, and there came now a period of growth in our church. In December of 1901, Rev VanderHeide accepted a call to Beaverdam, Michigan. The vacancy that followed left the young Fisher Station church very busy as elders and deacons again faced the tasks of teaching, reading, visiting, planning, and conducting business. At the same time Classis had requested that our church be active in maintaining the work in Byron Center which was a mission station. Catechism and services were conducted there until Byron Center became an organized church.

Several attempts were made to get a reasonable salary agreed to by the congregation. In September, 1899, candidate VanderHeide was called at a salary of \$450.00, and when he arrived, a new parsonage was ready.



Rev. E. Vander Vries
1903

Our second pastor came to the church from the Dennis Avenue Christian Reformed Church. Rev. Vander Vries was experienced and encouraged our church to grow. The

congregation was thus inspired to more

activity and participation. The church building was improved with a new, stronger foundation of field stones. In 1906, the name of our church was changed to "The Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church." Rev. Vander Vries left the congregation in 1907, and so the young church had another period of vacancy.

Rev. Vander Vries encouraged the young people to begin an organ fund. By 1904, they had \$350.00 and bought a new reed organ. When the congregation outgrew that organ, an additional \$200.00 was collected to enlarge it.



**Rev. Tjeerd
Jongbloed**
1908

After a one year vacancy, Rev. Jongbloed accepted the call to Cutlerville. The congregation was led with earnestness and with vision.

"One day Rev. Jongbloed drove his horses onto our yard. He wanted to help start a hospital," an older member recalls.

A Christian Psychopathic Hospital was indeed started during this time, leaving a legacy of hope and healing for thousands of God's people. New families were added to the congregation as employees of the hospital found their way to the community.

Rev. Jongbloed stayed for three years and left for Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.



Psalm 95:6, 7

"Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker; For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care."

PONDER THIS...

Farmers worked hard behind their horses. They tended to fall asleep in church.

When the congregation met to discuss getting rid of the Dutch language, most agreed. But one of the garden farmers stood up and said, "If you take away the Dutch you slam the door in our faces."



Rev. John Post
1914

Three years later, Rev. John Post accepted the call after a second invitation from the Cutlerville congregation. The church grew numerically and spiritually during his ministry. Although the World War I years proved to be very difficult, a new church was built, larger, and sturdier. (Rev. Post's name is on a cornerstone preserved in front of our church.) During Rev. Post's pastorate it was decided that the English language should be used in some of the worship services, especially to encourage young people and children. Rev. Post agreed, but he felt inadequate to the challenge of preaching in English. At this time, he resigned from the church ministry to become pastor for the hospital. He remained a member of the congregation, often with the privilege of attending consistory meetings.

As Rev. Post returned one day from getting a haircut at J. J. Apol's home, he was struck and killed by a car on Division Avenue.



Rev. Harm Vander Woude
1921

Rev. Vander Woude was called as a candidate to the Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church. He was installed on September, 1921. He moved, as a bachelor, into a new "up-to-date" parsonage built after Rev. Post left. Memories of

a parishioner state that "Rev. Vander Woude was a very good preacher. He moved around on the pulpit, talking a steady stream, as he walked!"

Rev. Vander Woude stayed for three years, then accepted a call to Edmonton, Canada.

The story goes that when Rev. Vander Woude visited your home, he was likely to lift the cover of the pot on the stove to see and sniff what was cooking.



Rev. Lambert Van Haitsma
1924

With the arrival of Rev. Van Haitsma there came new growth in the church and financial prosperity. Church debts were reduced, and again, a larger organ was purchased, for \$800.00. Before and during his ministry, the young people agitated for an English service. Although the informal Sunday evening services conducted by the Young People were in English, they asked if one of the regular services could be in English. It was decided to have one English service a month, then two services a month, then in 1925, to have one Dutch and one English service each Sunday.

The newly organized Cutlerville Christian Volunteers, consisting of several young people with a vision for missions, started a Sunday School at Lamar Plat—back again at Fisher Station! Teaching and preaching and visiting in that area by these enthusiastic, dedicated people resulted in many folks

hearing and accepting the gospel, and the forming of Ideal Park Christian Reformed Church.

Rev. Van Haitsma wore a suit with tails! He was quiet and precise, and is remembered for his deep voice.



Rev. Zachary J. Sherda
1930

Rev. Sherda arrived in June, 1930. In his letter to the Cutler-ville Church before accepting his call, Rev. Sherda wrote that he would have to preach all three sermons in order to meet his finances, mentioning his growing family! The language problem had been solved "once for all" and the Dutch language was eliminated. The informal Sunday evening service became a regular service so that now the church had three English services.

Once installed, Rev. Sherda aimed for, and preserved, the richness of doctrinal preaching. Many parishioners today remember well his valuable and scholarly sermons.

In a consistory meeting one evening, Rev. Sherda suggested that the Apostles' Creed should be spoken in unison by the congregation. This was received with shock and uncertainty by the consistory. They were against it! After being adamant for a time, and with much argumentation, a majority voted to make the change. The congregation wasn't sure that the integrity of the Christian Reformed Church could be maintained with this new idea!

Catechism with Rev. Sherda meant memorization. Young folks could not make their profession of faith if they didn't know the answers well enough!

World War II and the Korean conflict were ravaging the countries of the world. A service flag with blue stars was hung in the church. A number of these turned to gold as lives were lost in battle. Rev. Sherda was much in prayer during these times and the congregation forged a closeness that is still remembered.

Rev. Sherda is remembered for his Prince Albert coat tails and winged collars, for his philosophical conversation with members in their homes, and for his cigars, pipe, and his great love for baseball!

"I remember his large white handkerchief and how he cleaned and polished his glasses with it, holding up the glasses to the light and then polishing some more!" someone recalls.



The 1943 Consistory

PONDER THIS...

When times were bad it was said by one consistory member that the church would not have made it financially if it were not for the hospital people.

Many couples met at Pine Rest, and are still members of the congregation. Pine Rest was the matchbox, it was said then.

PONDER THIS...

During house visitation, Rev. Sherda asked Henry Voetberg, "You know what it's like to preach a sermon, Henry? You throw a bucket of water over the congregation. Here and there falls a drop."



**Rev. Dewey
Hoytenga**
1954

In 1954, Rev. and Mrs. Dewey Hoytenga came to Cutlerville. After he had received the call, he telephoned one day from Lafayette, Indiana. "Please pray for me," he said. "We are so undecided - we have urges to stay and to come. We are between two powers." Several members of the congregation were called to prayer that day. The next day Rev. Hoytenga called and said, "I am coming. Thank you for your prayers!" The family arrived to occupy a brand-new, colonial brick parsonage.

Rev. Hoytenga was an active pastor. He loved teaching catechism. "I may have made them memorize too much!" he now says. He felt that mission outreach in the community was very important. SWIM teams were organized at this time, and several young people travelled away to help churches, as well as to work locally in witness for Christ.

Rev. Hoytenga was animated in his preaching, sometimes emphasizing a point with a pound on the pulpit. He used many graphic illustrations. He is remembered as a very humble and caring minister, and he was understanding and tolerant of shortcomings.

Workers from First Cutlerville helped at Pinegate Chapel. Vacation Bible School was popular there, and special music was often supplied from the congregation.

Because Cutlerville was part of the population explosion of the day, it became necessary for a second church to be organized. Cutlerville East was then established.

Rev. Hoytenga was our only pastor to wear a robe. He asked the consistory and they agreed to buy one.



**Rev. Jack
Vander Laan**
1962

After Rev. Hoytenga went to St. Joseph, Michigan for Home Missions Church Planting, the Cutlerville Church called Rev. Jack Vander

Laan from Leighton, Iowa. He came with the enthusiasm and energy of a young pastor. The young people of the congregation related well to him, and he to them. Rev. Vander Laan was active in all areas of church life and growth. He had little patience with argumentation in consistory meetings, and took care to handle the business at hand smoothly.

The charismatic movement of the "sixties" was influential in our congregation. Wednesday evening prayer meetings were held. There were many discussions on subjects such as the Holy Spirit, God's love to all men, and opening up our services to the neighborhood. Differences of opinion were prevalent.

Covenant Christian Reformed Church was formed early in Rev. Vander Laan's ministry, as both First Church and East Church were bursting at the seams.

The Vander Laan's fourth child, Dwayne, was born in 1964, the first baby to arrive at the parsonage in the church's history.



**Rev. Harold
Bossenbroek**
1968

Rev. Bossenbroek arrived at First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church with experience both as a pastor, and as a teacher in Christian High Schools.

With the diversion of the charismatic movement, and the influence of the "sixties," being a pastor required patience, love, and the courage to speak out in warnings and admonitions. In his words, "The sixties were turbulent years of change and social and ethical revolution. These were years in which everyone was supposed to live according to his own dress code. The age of individualism began and developed. Change was in the air, and if you were not taken in by it, you were odd and primitive."

The Evangelism Explosion movement of the Christian Reformed Church came during this time. Also, Project Philip, an excellent evangelism tool. Guidance and control of Pinegate Chapel passed from all Cutlerville Christian Reformed churches to First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church. Cutlerville Hills congregation was organized, with a few families leaving First Church. Wednesday evening prayer services were continued during the summer. "Our covenant God tells us that we are to pray always," Rev. Bossenbroek reminds us.

Growth of areas south of Grand Rapids was evident; churches were full; the use of local Christian School classrooms and auditoriums was necessary.

During Rev. Bossenbroek's ministry the publishing of the FOCUS was re-instated. It is still a fine link between members and the activities and ministries of the church.

Rev. Bossenbroek accepted a call to Leighton, Iowa, in 1972.

Being an avid gardener, Rev. Bossenbroek's visits often included conversation about flowers. His superb dahlias were often arranged in bouquets in our sanctuary.



Rev. Walter Swets
1973

Rev. and Mrs. Swets came to First Cutlerville in July of 1973. Two small children, Roger and Janet, came along!

The nation had experienced the Nixon-Watergate Era and Vietnam which brought waves of change in our country and in our denomination. Out of the Evangelism Explosion movement, came Key '73, a denomination-wide project. It was an evangelistic effort of the congregation to expand our ministry in the neighborhood, and to get to know each other better.

Rev. Swets recalls the Young Peoples' Society being instrumental in serving coffee and cookies after the morning service. This was held outdoors in back of the church. Sunday evening Bible Study groups were formed and were popular to members of all ages!

Our pastor remembers that he found several of the older boys had not made profession of faith. This perhaps resulted from the unsettled and confused thinking caused by the Vietnam War.

Today's ministries in our church include more openness and a spirited approach to congregational life. The Master Planning

The 1993 Council



Committee, with a thorough search of the congregation's values, gifts, needs, outreach, and responsibilities, promoted this exciting improvement. The church, pastor, and council members are learning how to cope with the "nineties." "There is a constant struggle with the problems of the churches today, how to work through them and be assured constantly that we are not contrary to Scripture. Dealing responsibly and decisively with the issues takes much prayer and cooperation," Pastor Swets says.

Providence Christian Reformed Church was organized in 1976, and Pinegate Community Church in 1990.

ASSOCIATE PASTORS



Rev. John Vander Ploeg served as associate pastor while he was editor of THE BANNER, and after he retired. He lived in Cutlerville and was a special neighbor to Rev. Sherda. Rev. Vander Ploeg died in 1983.



Rev. Ralph Heynen came as the first official chaplain to Pine Rest Christian Hospital (Christian Psychopathic Hospital), in 1943. Because so many members of First Cutlerville Christian Reformed

Church worked at Pine Rest, and in so many different capacities, Rev. Heynen was a very special member of our church community. His gentle spirit, obvious love for God's people, and his special gift for preaching will long be felt and remembered by our congregation. Rev. Heynen died in May, 1993.

It is exciting when population expansion in a community causes churches to grow! First Church's daughters and granddaughters are:

**CUTLERVILLE EAST
Christian Reformed Church**



In 1954, under Rev. Hoitenga's guidance, a second Christian Reformed church was organized. The first church was full, and plans were made for Cutlerville East Christian Reformed Church. After the organizational meeting in November 1954, the first services of the daughter church were held in the Pine Rest Chapel. It didn't take too many years before this swiftly growing congregation had built a beautiful church, and parsonage on 68th Street, SE. Rev. Rodney Westveer, a Seminary candidate, was her first pastor. Rev. Siebert Kramer, Rev. George Holwerda, and Rev. John Engbers served through the years. Rev. C. Vander Meyden is her current pastor.

**COVENANT
Christian Reformed Church**



In 1960, overcrowded conditions at both First and East were the reason a third church was considered. Property was purchased on the corner of 72nd Street and Willard Avenue in 1961. In 1962, First Church presented a list of people and signatures to Classis Grand Rapids South, and asked for a new church. This was granted, and Rev. Jack Vander Laan presided over the formal organization of Covenant Christian Reformed Church. Rev. Herbert L. Bergsma was called as her first pastor, arriving in February 1963. Rev. Menno Jorritsma, Rev. Gerald Van Oyen, and Rev. Douglas Van Essen have been her pastors. Today Covenant Church's pastors are Rev. Allen Petroelje and Rev. Herbert Bergsma.



Psalm 84:1, 4

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty!...Blessed are those who dwell in your home; they are ever praising you."

HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hillside Church was organized in May, 1968. This bustling new congregation, in its beginning, held services in the Cutlerville area in six different places during its first seven years! Included were Pine Rest Chapel, Children's Retreat Building, Kentwood High School, and in the gym, in the library, and in the auditorium of South Christian High School. Seven acres of property to be purchased in "Cutlerville Hills" was approved by Classis Grand Rapids South. A parsonage was maintained there. In the spring of 1989, ground breaking on property at 68th Street near Kalamazoo Avenue took place and today Hillside Community Church stands, with the worship center, classrooms, office facilities, and multi-faceted programs. Her first pastor was Rev. Harold De Jong. Rev. Marvin Vander Vliet came in 1976; Pastors George Mossel and Ron Kool minister to 200 families today.

**PROVIDENCE
Christian Reformed Church**

In May of 1975, a meeting was called to discuss the organization of a fifth Christian Reformed church in Cutlerville. The inevitable steering committee was formed and in November, 1975, the first "extension service" was held. Land was purchased at 7730 Eastern Avenue. Providence Church was organized on July 7, 1976, with 32 families and 118 total souls. An educational unit was built in 1977, and calls were extended for a pastor. Rev. Cal Compagner was the first pastor, arriving in 1979. The present sanctuary was ready for worship in September, 1985. A parsonage was also built. Providence's second pastor was Rev. Ronald Noorman and her present pastor is Rev. Leonard Riemersma.

IDEAL PARK



During the year 1927, a busy, enthusiastic group of young people from our church organized a society known as the "Cutlerville Christian Volunteers." They began with personal contacts in the Lamar Plat area. The first meeting place was a basement auditorium on the corner of 54th Street and Crippen Avenue, known as Lamar Plat Gospel Hall. Mr. Miner Tanis, a member of Cutlerville Church was very active at Lamar Plat calling on unchurched neighbors. First Byron Center Christian Reformed Church joined with Cutlerville Church in this mission project in 1948 and a full time lay worker was secured. Those laboring in this capacity through these years were: R. Van Laar, Miss B. Ebbelink, E. Postma, Rev. B. Spalink and Rev. V. Licatesi. During this time, with God's blessing, interest and growth necessitated erecting a larger meeting place. So in 1951, Ideal Park Chapel was built on the corner of 56th Street and Haughey Avenue.



The 1943 Cutlerville Christian Volunteers

Ideal Park was not to remain a Chapel. On April 13, 1961, 31 families, consisting of 131 souls, organized as a church. Four men were elected to serve as consistory members with Rev. V. Licatesi as missionary pastor. As work continued in the community, in January of 1962 permission was granted to become a calling church. In November of 1962 Rev. S. Werkema (who had worked there previously as a student) was installed as the pastor. Having grown to 50 families, the need for a larger sanctuary was evident. The church building as we have it today was dedicated in February, 1964. After the retirement of Rev. Werkema, a call was extended to Rev. J. M. Hofman, who was installed in December of 1967. In 1968 Rev. Hofman and family moved into a new parsonage built near the church. In October of 1990, Rev. Zachary Anderson was installed as the new minister to this congregation and continued to serve at Ideal Park until August, 1993.

PINEGATE



First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church hired Kasjen Tebben in 1966 to begin a Community Outreach program. Mr. Tebben had just graduated from Reformed Bible College, after twenty-five years of farming! Out of his efforts of neighborhood visits and persistent reaching out a small Sunday School resulted. Then a Mission Chapel was formed with two worship services every Sunday. From Mr. Tebben's account of the history of Pinegate we have the following:



Psalm 3:8

"From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people."

Pentecost Command Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Mark 16:15

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.'"

"The Sunday School was started with 30 children from unchurched homes. I (Pastor Tebben) talked to some parents who thought it was very important that their children receive Bible knowledge, but they themselves didn't really need it. After some time the parents saw the interest we had in their children and requested us to start a worship service. The first service was held on December 10, 1967. The first message for our first service was taken from John 12:21 'Sir, we would like to see Jesus.' This was a very fitting beginning for Pinegate.

"We could use a building on Division Avenue Sundays and Tuesday evenings. After every service or meeting we had to take our books and folding chairs home. Soon a building became available which we could rent full time. In this building we could set up Sunday school rooms, and so we began two services on Sunday. As Pinegate grew, we required more space, so Sunday School classes for the children were held in the Vander Ploeg home and adult classes were held in the basement of the Pinegate motel. Cadet and Calvinette Clubs were also started. Our first S.W.I.M. (Summer Workshop In Missions) team came to us in 1970 and consisted of 6 young people from Central Minnesota.

"In the fall of 1973, we broke ground for a new church. The church was finished in March of 1974 and was dedicated on March 24, 1974. This was a great day for Pinegate because we could hold all of our programs under one roof. We also had a nice auditorium for worship services. ...An addition was attached to the building in the fall of 1981 giving the added room that was needed. There was a larger room for Girls Club and Boys Club to use downstairs. The addition also provided a new nursery upstairs for babies and toddlers. We proceeded to grow to a point

where we had enough professing members that it was decided to become organized. So on November 26, 1990 we came organized. What a great day!"

Others who served at Pinegate are evangelists Al Bytwork, Henry Boehm, Seminarian Leonard Troost, Bill Maxey, Harley Farber, Edward Hommes, Marty Scheur, Edward Ensing and Kent Van Til. Many S.W.I.M. teams were sent to Pinegate through these years to assist in the ministry to their community. Rev. Gerald Van Oyen was the first pastor of the organized congregation of Pinegate Community Christian Reformed Church.

Not to be forgotten is the effective use of "The Pantry" located in Pinegate Church. It is supplied for the needy in the community by generous donations from a number of Cutlerville churches and individuals. Giving is done with joy and generosity. Many benefit from this program.

MISSIONARIES

There are several missionaries who were, or are now members of First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church, who have served around the world, and most were sponsored by our church.

In 1957, Harold and Vi Padding and son Paul left for Takum, Nigeria. Harold was a laboratory technician at the hospital. He also taught X-ray and other technical procedures to others. He became the hospital administrator at Takum in 1960, and after ten years, he was instrumental in organizing a buying co-op in Jos, Nigeria, known as the Christian Central Pharmacy. Vi worked in the business end of things as a bookkeeper. The Paddings' furloughs always brought interesting stories and pictures to our congregation. They returned to the United States in 1971.

In 1964, Herman and Helen Scholten and children, Bill, Linda, Carol, and Brian, went to Nigeria. Herm was active in construction and maintenance in both Mkar and Takum. There were wells to dig, mission homes to repair, scheduled improvements on schools, emergency "fix-it" problems to deal with, automotive maintenance and stocking of parts, generators, and so forth at the large station at Mkar. Helen was hostess to any visitors, government people, executive members of the church committee, and to many missionaries themselves. Spiritual retreats were planned at their facilities. Helen also was leader of "The Girls' Light Brigade." They met after school, and planned camp-outs, embroidery classes, and Bible reading.

At Takum, in 1968-1970, Helen worked in the "linen room", sewing and mending. She was also a hostess and baby-sat for others. While the Scholten children were away at school in Jos, Brian, the youngest, became very ill. He was flown to the hospital at Mountain View, where he died of complications following surgery for a ruptured appendix. God's mercy and love was shown to the Scholtens in countless ways through this experience. Brian was the first of Christian Reformed mission personnel in Nigeria to die on the field. (Johanna Veenstra died in Nigeria, but while working for Sudan United Mission.)

In 1963, Gerrit and Esther Van Vugt with their children left a large farming operation in North Dakota, to go to Jos, Nigeria, to serve as houseparents at the school for missionary children. They also taught catechism and Sunday School. They worked in the laundry, helped maintain the grounds and the classrooms, all the while loving and caring for the children who were away from parents and homes. While on furlough at one time they came to First Cutlerville Church, and stayed right here after returning from Nigeria in

1970! Gertrude Van Haitsma, daughter of former Pastor L. Van Haitsma, also worked with the Van Vugts in Jos. They were all there when Brian Scholten was taken to heaven as a student.

Dennis and Ruth Van Andel have "covered the earth" in their life dedicated to the cause of missions. Ruth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Dykstra. Their first venture was to Korea, where they taught in a school for missionary children as well as for those of military personnel. Then Dennis taught for a year in Gallup, New Mexico. Our church sponsored them as they went to Rehoboth, New Mexico, where they both were teachers. Dennis became principal of the Christian School in Rehoboth. In 1988, Dennis and Ruth went to Hillcrest School in Jos, Nigeria, for a year's experience of teaching and caring. Currently Dennis is superintendent of the school system in Rehoboth and Ruth is never sitting still, using her skills in many ways. They have two children, Kelly and Brent.

Gordon and Judy Brinks were sent by our church to Mkar, Nigeria, in 1978. Gordon worked in a large office as a treasurer for World Missions. Judy was at home with Scott, who was four years old, and Craig, who was two. But she had multiple jobs to perform. Mainly she entertained visitors to Mkar. Lots of committee meetings were held there. Executive personnel, missionaries from the bush, and visitors to the mission field came to Mkar for retreats, rest, and supplies. Judy cooked and baked and served for all of these activities. She recalls she baked bread daily. It disappeared quickly, so she had to start all over again each day! The Brinks were in Nigeria two years. Judy is the daughter of Brant & Jo Lanser.

Gene Ellens, who made profession of faith in our church, has been involved in two

different areas of mission work. In 1980, Gene, and his wife Jane, were sent to Honolulu, Hawaii, through World Missions outreach. There, for two and a half years they were directors of the Hospitality House. This ministry was a haven for military and mission personnel who were serving in the South Pacific area.

Gene taught art at South Christian High School for a number of years, and then, in 1991, the family went to Jos, Nigeria, to work at Hillcrest School. Gene teaches all of the art classes there. He talks to the students often as a friend and counsellor about their faith, and their lives as students at Hillcrest. Jane is a counsellor to natives and mission workers alike. She teaches Bible classes to members of the church, to natives, and to missionaries. They have two children, Kirith and Darrien. Gene's parents are Joe and Florence Ellens.

Rev. Fred and Betty Diemer left for Miami, Florida, to a pastorate at The Good Samaritan Christian Reformed Church, in 1969. They were there for ten years. Fred then went to the Reformed Bible College where he taught and trained in the Latin American Training program. Fred was a member of First Cutlerville with his parents, and brothers and sisters.

In 1983, Fred and Betty left for Honduras, Central America, where they worked in church planting, and in the Theological Education by Extension Program. Betty has assisted in countless ways with teaching Bible, calling on people, and working with the women of the churches. She also recently assisted in the establishing of a small new Christian School, beginning with the first few grades.

Fred and Betty have retired, and are living in Grand Rapids.

Rev. Mike and Lois VanderPol have long been in the hearts of our congregation. Lois is the daughter of Cora and the late Gerrit Warsen.

Mike and Lois went to Taipai, Taiwan, in 1966. They ministered there for almost twenty years sowing the seeds of the Gospel of Christ to the Chinese people. Lois taught English in the American School in Taipai. In 1985, Mike accepted a call to San Francisco, California, where he served a Chinese Church which had members consisting of people who spoke only Chinese, and also Chinese Americans. He was the English speaking pastor. Lois was a busy mother of three and also taught at Ridgmont High School. In 1993, the VanderPols left for the Philippine Islands, where they will be working in a church planting program for one and a half years. Their three children are currently in Michigan, China, and Hong Kong!

Rev. James and Alyce Vande Lune have given their lives to churches of the West. In 1982, they moved to Sun Valley, Colorado, and served the Sun Valley Community Christian Reformed Church. In 1988, they moved to Farmington, New Mexico, to serve the Christian Reformed Church there. This church membership is about 95% Navaho. Jim's work as pastor calls for preaching, visiting, counselling, and sharing with his flock. Alyce, a full-time teacher, helps at church as well, teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, helping with the music, and being a friend to many of the women.

They have twin daughters who are now married, and Benjamin, who is in high school.

Andy and Kris Ryskamp were supported by our church while ministering in the Philippine Islands. Andy is now serving the CRWRC in the line of diaconal out-

reach. Jim Vande Lune and Kris Ryskamp are children of Paul and Bertha Vande Lune.

Dr. Joel Nederhood and the far-reaching ministry of the Back To God Hour present us with awesome facts. Television programs are seen world-wide. The radio broadcasts reach millions daily, in the biggest of cities to the deepest of forests, and in mountain villages. Literature is distributed and telephone calls are answered. Many people of many languages are counselled and prayed for! We praise God that today the Gospel of our Lord, His plan of salvation, and hope, and the love of the faithful are so marvelously spread in this world of 1993! Joel is the son of Deane and the late Arthur Nederhood.

In the middle 1980s, John and Ihla Hooyer left a career in Boulder, Colorado, to do the Lord's service in Uganda, East Africa. There John worked in consulting and planning for projects through the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. After the terrible oppression of the Amin regime in Uganda, CRWRC began to help in rebuilding people's lives and homes. Land was sought, tools provided, and love and hope offered. Both John and Ihla taught Bible Classes and used talents received of God for this ministry of the church. John and Ihla were in an accident on the way to a CRWRC workshop. Ihla received severe injuries and John's life was taken in God's perfect timing of life and death. John was the first missionary from CRWRC to die in service. He is buried in Arua, Uganda. His parents are Frances and the late Henry Hooyer.

Angie Hoolsma lived and worked in Sierra Leone, West Africa, for many years. She was teacher, nurse, and counselor to native Africans, who loved her. Angie is a cousin of Mary and Betty Hoolsema.

MISSIONARIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:



Ivan and Joy De Kam
CRWRC, Quezon City, Philippines



Rev. Stephen and Belinda Kelley
Arab Outreach, Dearborn, Michigan



Dennis and Ruth Van Andel
Rehoboth, New Mexico



Rev. James and Alyce Vande Lune
Farmington, New Mexico



Gene and Jane Ellens
Hillcrest School, Jos, Nigeria



Rev. Robert and Heidi Rienstra
San Jose, Costa Rica



Dr. and Mrs. Frank Sawyer,
Hungary, Europe

**OTHER MISSIONARIES
WE HAVE SUPPORTED
THROUGH THE YEARS**

Rev. Gustavo De Leon:
Mexico

José Isabel Gomez:
Mexico

Rev. Jose Luis Miranda:
Mexico

Rev. Merle Den Bleyker:
Puerto Rico

Marvin Apol:
New Mexico

John De Jager:
Nigeria

Santiago Gonzales:
New Mexico

Angie Hoolsema:
West Africa

Rev. José Martinez,:
Dominican Republic

Rev. Peter Ipema:
Chicago

William Redondo:
Mexico

Kurt and Joann Ver Beek:
Honduras

Profession of our faith and creeds are evident in our Sunday worship services, our societies, our Bible Study groups, our music programs, and our care and fellowship assistance. From children's worship to Sunday School and catechism, from Girl's Club to Martha Ladies Aid, from Boy's Club to Men's Society, from Young People's Society and Young Adults to Golden Hour, from Young Marrieds and Young Couples to Bible Study groups, from our study books and outlines to our Library, and from bowling parties to softball games, we flourish and are renewed. We learn and reach out, we grow in love and acceptance.

Two examples of enthusiastic participation come from the Young People and the music department.

Especially delightful and rewarding in the last several years have been the service trips planned for the Young People and Young Adults. They have been to Mississippi to repair and teach, and to South Carolina for disaster relief. They have been to Rehoboth, to Chicago, and Appalachia. Most recently, in June of 1993, they went to Farmington, New



Farmington New Mexico church in progress



Psalm 5:11, 12

"But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those that love your name may rejoice in you. For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield."



The Young People's Society

Mexico, with their leaders and several families to help build a new church where Rev. Vande Lune is a pastor among the Navahos. What excitement! What beautiful country! What fulfillment, and what delightful stories told to the congregation when they returned home.



The Young Adult's Society



The Men's Society

Psalm 63:5b

“...with singing lips my mouth will praise you.”

PONDER THIS...

In the 1930s and 1940s the Cutlerville Church had a large community orchestra which played for programs, and in “the grove” at the hospital. Although only one or two stringed instruments were involved in the middle of all the brass, it was called an orchestra, because “band” sounded not so sacred.

Our choirs have been active in making worship joyful in our church. The Youth Praise Choir sings with spirit, and the Joy Singers with harmony and clarity. The Adult Worship Choir makes our hearts soar in glad praise, and an instrumental ensemble often assists and inspires us in the evening service. We thank Jana Plaisier for her cheerful and diligent direction.



Organists Sharon Vos, and Patricia Guikema

With the purchase of a new organ in 1986, congregational singing improved. It is an Allen Digital Computer organ, which was bought for \$45,000. Our skilled and faithful organists, Sharon Vos, and Patricia Guikema, have committed their talents not only to the Lord, but also for inspiration and assistance to a grateful congregation.



The Joy Singers



The Youth Praise Choir



The Adult Worship Choir

ORGANIZATIONS

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP CLASS



HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Small groups of families, meeting together to share their troubles and triumphs with each other.

HOME BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

For adults of all ages (married or single).

YOUNG PEOPLE

GIRLS CLUB



Meets for Bible study, prayer, and craft projects.

BOYS CLUB



Meets for devotions, prayer and various wood and craft projects.

YOUNG ADULTS

For all post-high young people.

MEN'S SOCIETY

For all men.

WORSHIP CHOIR

For all adults from high school and up.

YOUTH PRAISE CHOIR

For boys and girls in third grade through eighth grade.

JOY SINGERS

For girls from ninth grade through twelfth.

GOLDEN HOUR



For ladies of all ages (married and single)

MARTHA LADIES AID



For ladies of all ages (married or single).

SUNDAY SCHOOL



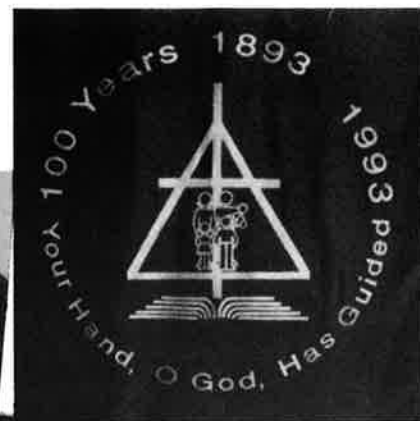
*Librarians
Betty Hoolsema,
Irma Fennema and
Linda Hoolsema.*

Psalm 86:11

“Teach me your way,
O Lord, and I
will walk in your
truth. Give me an
undivided heart,
that I may
fear your name.”

Chapter 6

Profession of Our Faith



**From Generation to Generation:
One Church, One Faith, One Lord**





The first "old" parsonage on 68th Street next to the present church was built shortly after Rev. Vander Heide arrived in November of 1899.

1914: Rev. Post

Seemingly dissatisfied with the old parsonage, Rev. Post built a house for himself on 68th Street. It served well as he soon became pastor at the hospital.

1921: Rev. Vander Woude



Rev. Vander Woude was the first resident in the new "up-to-date" parsonage. When John Laninga and his family lived with him for a time, while their new house was being finished, their three boys were often warned to behave, as the dominie was under the same roof! Fred Tiesenga and his family also lived with him for a while, serving as housekeepers for the bachelor preacher! Gardens were of great interest to Rev. Vander Woude and sometimes he was seen walking up and down the rows of flowers and vegetables, seemingly rehearsing his sermons. Rev. Vander Woude took long walks on Monday mornings and especially enjoyed stopping at Palma's farm by the railroad tracks, or going on to visit at the Fennema saw mill.

1924: Rev Van Haitsma

The nice living room and dining room are especially remembered. A neighbor remembers baby-sitting the Van Haitsma's

daughter. Mrs. Van Haitsma was a "jewel." On the table there was always a delicious lunch, neatly tucked under a white napkin, for the sitter.

1930: Rev. Sherda

It is with interest that friends and some former neighbors of the Sherda family remember the parsonage. "Mrs. Sherda was a very busy mother of four children. She kept an immaculate home. I remember the pretty lace curtains at the windows in the living room and dining room," recalls one former friend. "She was an excellent cook and baker. I remember her dark devil's food cake! One time I stayed for dinner (their daughters were my age). A tramp came to the door. Mrs. Sherda put a complete meal on a tray for him. He sat on the top step so he could hear scripture and prayer. Then he thanked her and left."

Mrs. Sherda was a registered nurse. She also taught the lesson for ladies' Bible study groups. The women of the church enjoyed her.

Rev. Sherda's study was upstairs. He had a large table filled with papers, and open books lay all about. Many of his handwritten sermons, with notations in Greek, have been preserved.

1954: Rev. Hoitenga



The Hoitenga family arrived in Cutlerville to inherit a new parsonage. (The old one

was moved.) They liked this lovely new red brick home, finding it spotlessly clean and accommodating to their family.

There was a big yard with lots of room for flowers. Mrs. Hoitenga especially remembers a patch of flowers by the kitchen window.

The Hoitengas invited four couples from the congregation to visit on Sunday evenings. Pine Rest was often the topic of conversation, as so many members worked there. Mrs. Hoitenga liked the gracious living room and the lovely fireplace where weddings occasionally took place.

Rev. Hoitenga reserved Monday mornings for Rev. Sherda whom he called "a great pal of mine". He often invited other ministers too, which Rev. Sherda appreciated.

Mrs. Hoitenga was a teacher in the Christian school. She remembers that occasionally, during busy dinner time, she fed wandering hobos who had come from the Interurban Track.

The Hoitengas laughingly remember getting their first TV set while in our parsonage. Henry Faber put the antenna in the big attic since this was less expensive than installing it on the roof. They were teased for a long time about hiding the fact that they had a television in their home!

Rev. and Mrs. Hoitenga, now in their nineties, live in Porter Hills. He often preached for the folks there. Today they are thankful for many good memories and blessings, and remind us to remember the Westminster Catechism: "What is the chief duty of man? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever!"

1962: Rev. Vander Laan

"I want to say that we have fond memories of our relationships with the members and those were great days for our family! Our family became complete with the birth of our last child, Dwayne, in October, 1964."

"Millie and I have often reflected on two reliable 'baby sitters' we had while in Cutlerville. Sharon Douma spent a lot of hours in time in the parsonage during our days there. Meetings we both needed to attend required someone to watch the children. Sharon willingly and ably filled that role often. Mrs. Feikens, our next door upstairs neighbor, could be counted on at odd hours to fill in. On several occasions when we would come home from a meeting and Millie and I wanted to get out for an hour or two we would check to see if Mrs. Feiken's light was still on. If it was, we would get a positive response when we asked if she could come over and sit for awhile. The Pizza Hut was new on 28th Street at that time, and we were happy to be able to enjoy a little time out knowing the children were well cared for.

"I performed 53 weddings during the time we were in Cutlerville, many of them were of Pine Rest nurses who attended the church in large numbers during that time. One wedding was especially memorable. Some weddings were held in the parsonage, as was the wedding of Ed Ellens. That ceremony was interrupted by the siren at the fire station, announcing that a tornado had been sighted. The entire wedding party joined our family in the tornado shelter, which was hardly prepared for formal company!

"Attendance was always encouraging at the services. The morning worshippers

were accommodated by basement seating with closed circuit TV. This wasn't so great for those who attended by rotation, but the members took their turns graciously.

"Millie reminded me of how well we were treated by the building and grounds committee. They were the best we ever had! They anticipated our needs, and took great care of the parsonage and grounds."

1968: Rev. Bossenbroek

"In June of 1968 when we came to occupy the parsonage of First Cutlerville, it was indeed a new experience for us after 14 years of teaching and living in our own homes. The parsonage of First Cutlerville is a fine house which makes a wonderful home.

"In June of 1968 the weather was warm and because of that the windows were open day and night. The first night in the parsonage we had a rude awakening as the fire whistle sounded in the middle of the night. All the lights went on and we watched the firemen come rushing to the firehouse and the engines leave with screaming sirens. The neighbors seemed not to have noticed for their homes stayed dark and silent. This was a strange and startling experience for us. Today the siren is silent during the night hours.

"In September of 1968 our third son, James, was married and when he returned from the honeymoon, his draft notice was there to report to Knoxville, Iowa for military training. It was a sad trip and a sad young man that we brought to Iowa. His wife of a few days stayed in Chicago with her parents. Jim had his training in Camp Polk, Louisiana, and it was a happy young man who called us on a Sabbath morning in the summer of

1969 to tell us that his company was divided into three divisions and his division was going to Germany. He was sad that some of his friends in training had to go to Viet Nam.

"Our sons David and Paul were also married when we occupied the parsonage. Our daughter Janice had many friends in First Cutlerville and enjoyed going to the grade school and South Christian.

"We came to Cutlerville shortly after Bub Lanser was severely injured in a car accident. This was an awesome burden for Bub and the Lanser family, but also for the congregation. A multitude of prayers went up for his recovery and hours of effort and love were put into the patterning activity day after day and even year after year. It was a labor of love and a growing experience in faith and commitment.

"Our first funeral was that of Mrs. Gerrit Fennema, who passed away suddenly in the fall of 1968. We had the sad experience of awakening Mr. & Mrs. John Fennema in the middle of the night to tell them of son William's tragic death at a railroad crossing. Mr. Herman Schiebout also died suddenly in an accident. When God's people pass away due to old age or an extended illness there is sorrow, but it is an understandable passing. When death comes accidentally and to a young and active person, many questions arise and there are no answers. The sovereignty of God is awesome in its operating in our temporal world."

1973: Rev. Swets

"The expectations of congregations for its parsonage occupants has changed over the years. When we moved into our first parsonage at the beginning of our ministry, we were expected to dress in a certain

way. I was expected to dress in a black suit for preaching and all other related activities. Albertha was expected to wear a dress at all times. It was considered improper for a minister's wife to wear slacks or shorts unless she was out of town on vacation. We were expected to plant a garden like everyone else. All the members of the congregation addressed me as Reverend and Albertha as Mrs. Swets.

"Life in the parsonage changed a bit when our children came along. They sometimes thought they couldn't do certain things that other kids in the church could do just because their dad was a minister. Both of them received a lot of attention in a good sense from the members of the various congregations we served. Their grandpas and grandmas lived in other states, but many members of our congregations were substitute grandparents for them.

"Once when we had family visitation here in Cutlerville one of the elders asked Rog and Jan if they had any questions for them. Jan said she did. She asked if we could have a swimming pool in our backyard. The elder said he would bring it up when he reported on his family visiting and let her know what the rest of the elders said. When no one showed up to put in a pool that year she knew what the answer was to her question."

Roger recalls: "One of my fondest childhood memories of life in the parsonage was working with my dad in the study. Before I was old enough to go to school, dad would let me sit with him at his big desk while he worked on sermons. This big desk had a pull out shelf which could be used for a typewriter. While my dad sat working on his sermons, I would sit at this little shelf and work on my sermons very quietly.

"One thing that is difficult for a child growing up in a parsonage is the need to move periodically. When we moved from Iowa to Cutlerville I was in the third grade. I remember being greeted in Cutlerville with a 'grocery shower' at the church picnic, and not understanding how it could 'rain' groceries.

"When Janet and I were smaller we would go along with dad and mom once in a while to do some calling. Sometimes Janet or I would sing or maybe read scripture. That was always an exciting time for us."

Janet vividly recalls that her father provided a red and blue go-cart for her, so that she could more easily be part of the Bicentennial Parade and festivities in 1976. Jan was so proud of this go-cart that she brought it over to "Grandpa and Grandma Ellens" for their enthusiastic approval.

"Basically we've enjoyed life in the parsonage and have never found it to be any kind of a hardship. People have learned to accept and take us the way we are and we are thankful for that. We have always found God's people to be very gracious and kind," says Pastor Swets.

The Kocsondy Family by Julia Kocsondy Nagy

A representative of the Church World Services came to my family and asked if we would like to come to Grand Rapids, Michigan. At the time we were living in a D.P. (Displaced Persons) Camp in Munich, Germany, after fleeing the Communist takeover of our homeland, Hungary.

The man said that there was a Reformed Church that was very puritan which would like to sponsor a large family. Since we were the largest non Catholic family the representative chose us. My father asked, "What do you mean by puritan?" and he said, "They do not drink, dance, go to movies and go to church twice on Sunday."

Well my father told him that was all right with us and so the First Cutlerville Chr. Ref. Church of Cutlerville, Michigan became our sponsor to the fantasy world called "America!"

A committee was set up by the church. The chairperson elected to this committee was Dr. Marinus Beukema. He was the contact person between the church and us. There was much correspondence and a whole lot of work.

The church bought property from the Voetberg family. They proceeded to build a house on 438 Fontenelle Street. Church members donated time after work and on weekends building the "Kocsondy house." The ladies canned apples and pears that grew on the property.

It took over 1½ years before we finally arrived. We landed in New York City on November 29, 1951. After waiting to get through customs all day we boarded buses and were taken to the rail road

station for our trip to Grand Rapids. We arrived in Grand Rapids on December 1, 1951. At the railroad station Dr. and Mrs. M. Beukema, Mr. Dan Vander Vliet, Mr. Herman Scholten and a Hungarian translator awaited our family.

Our family consisted of "Grandma Kocsondy," Julia and Zolton and their five children, Julia, Emese, Pearl, Zolton, Jr. and Julius. As we were ready to depart the railway station my father, an ex-soldier, noticed two flag draped coffins being wheeled by. He asked everyone to stop and wait for the coffins to pass. All the men removed their hats and waited in respect for the two soldiers killed in the Korean War. Later we found out that one of those heroes was a son of our church (Roger, son of Harry Lemmen). Our life was beginning and his had ended.

We all piled in three cars and headed for Cutlerville. The city was beautiful – all decorated in red, white and green (Hungarian flag colors). We were wondering if it was in our honor. No, it was only Christmas decorations we were told. We'll never forget our arrival at the house. The table was set. Chicken soup and southern fried chicken awaited our arrival. We children had never been in a house. We ran up and down the steps, room to room and were totally awed at the wonder of it all. All our young lives were spent in army barracks in one room. My father was thrilled that, when you moved a little gauge we had heat at our fingertips without having to chop wood or haul coal to heat the house. It was a day of wonder!

On Sunday, December 2, we went to church. It was Communion Sunday, a very fitting way to start a new life in this new land. God had richly blessed us when he chose First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church as our sponsor. My



Philippians 2:4

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

father always said, "With God with us who would be against us."

WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

"Grandma Kocsondy" went back to Hungary in 1960 and died in 1965.

Zolton Kocsondy Sr. still lives at 438 Fontenelle Street. He is 86 years old and a member of First Cutlerville Church.

Julia Kocsondy went to her Lord on April 20, 1991.

Julie Nagy lives in Cutlerville, has two daughters and still attends First Cutlerville.

Emese and husband Bill VanTuinen also live in Cutlerville and attend Hillside Community Church. Their daughter Kristi is married (Ian DenHartigh) and their son Bill is in college.

Pearl and husband Tom Diephouse live in Cutlerville and have three children. Tom is married and lives in Florida. Debbie and Dawn still live at home. They attend Covenant Christian Reformed Church.

Zolton and wife Karen live in Kalamazoo with their three sons, Zolton, Atilla, and Laszlo.

Julius lives in Hartford, Conn. and has four children, Rachel, Ryan, Adam and Tricia.

Louis, born one year after our arrival, also lives in Cutlerville and attends First Cutlerville Church.

The Tran Family

by Joyce Valk

With much political unrest in the country of Laos where this Vietnamese family lived, Phuc (the father) and Xuan (the mother) with their twelve children, nine boys and three girls, ranging in age from twenty-five years old to one year old and a pregnant daughter-in-law, fled the country becoming refugees. They arrived in Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania on October 17, 1975.

First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church, along with Bethel Christian Reformed Church and Millbrook Christian Reformed Church became their sponsors which brought them to Grand Rapids on November 22, 1975. First Cutlerville took four of the family into their care: Khang (the oldest son, a tailor by trade), Vinh and Amphono (a son and daughter-in-law) and Que (a 17 year old son). On January 9, 1976, a son, John, was born to Vinh and Amphono. They later had two girls, Diana and Julia. On a sad note, Vinh died very unexpectedly on November 5, 1987.

Many interesting and unique things have happened to the family in the eighteen years they have been here. Learning the English language, becoming U. S. citizens, etc. All but two of the children are married and there are nineteen grandchildren. Ut (a son, six years old when he came) graduated valedictorian of his senior class at Godwin High School and this past spring (1993) graduated from the University of Hawaii with a triple major and a 4.0 grade point average. Each one in the family has been very industrious and all have done well. The father retired last fall (1992) after working seventeen years at Westinghouse Corporation. Father and mother visited Vietnam in January 1993 to see family they left behind. What a reunion!

The family has remained in the Buddhist faith.

PATRIOTS

Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church was to celebrate twenty-five years of existence during World War I. It was a stressful time for the congregation, and there was no spirit for celebration. The flu epidemic raged and the government closed churches and schools. But by Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, permission was granted to reopen and the church celebrated its 25th anniversary and also dedicated their new building.

World War I

Nine young men of the church served their country in World War I. Among them were Gerrit Baar, Peter Bierema, Raymond Bruggink, Albert Piersma, Herman Scholten, Peter W. Tiemeyer.

World War II

Serving in World War II were the following: Charles Van Polen*, Ralph Bronsema*, Andrew L. Tiesenga*, Donald J. Helder*, John Fennema, Adrian Hoolsema, Hilbert Mennega, John Sherda, Peter Hoolsema, Alvin Fennema, John Brock, Alfred Apol, Peter J. Dykstra, Harvey Hyma, John Schans, Clarence Laninga, Herman Van Houten, John Lutke, John Slagter, Donald Visser, Lawrence Terpstra, Herman Mennega, Richard Herrema, John Selvius, Henry Sherda, Jack Slagter, Harry M. Helder, James H. Herrema, Marvin H. Apol, Raymond Bruggink, Jr., John W. Tiemeyer, Richard Andringa, Bernard Van Bruggen, Richard Zeeff, James L. Dykstra, Herman Dijkers, John Kuipers, John Wm. Tiemeyer, James G. Fennema, Daniel Vander Vliet, Pierson Apol, John Dykstra, Jr., Jerome Smith, Alfred Kuipers, Lawrence Bishop, Donald Bysterveld, Walter Fennema, John Dykhouse, Arthur W. Vander Ven, Alvin T. Lutke, Alfred J. Tiemeyer, Herman E.

Scholten, Allen L. Vander Molen.

Korea

Serving in the Korean conflict were these members: James Brock, Sid Brock, Ted Cook, Paul Fennema, Tom Jongert, Bernie Kuiphof, J. Roger Lemmen*, Joel Nederhoed, Bill Tiemeyer, Jack Tiemeyer.

Viet Nam

Serving in the Viet Nam War period were James Bossenbroek, Chuck Dykstra, Gene Ellens, Charles Fennema, Michael Fennema, Ron Garner, Len Menenga, James Orange, Larry Raad, Al Te Winkle, Ken Vander Bilt, James Vande Lune.

*Killed in action.



Psalm 16:1, 8

“Keep me safe,
O God, for in you
I take refuge.
I have set the Lord
always before me.
Because He is at my
right hand, I will not
be shaken.”

From a beautiful tribute to our servicemen in a MEMOIR OF WORLD WAR II written by Rev. Sherda, we quote a few paragraphs.

“The prophet of old saw in his vision a ‘people that walked in darkness,’ but he also saw ‘a light and a Prince of Peace, of the increase of whose government there would be no end.’ From the mouths of friend and foe the testimony comes forth that God is a great King. ‘He shall reign forever and ever.’ (Rev. 11:15) ‘His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.’ (Daniel 4:3)

“The peoples and nations of the world are being tried and purified by divine judgments. We should think they would be finding themselves at the end of their own strength, and that their sinful self reliance would have been shattered. Sometimes they become conscious of God’s universal dominion when in their tragic distress they have come face to face

“Sons of the Congregation”

Rev. Peter Van Tuinen

Rev. Peter Ver Maat

Rev. Fred Diemer

Dr. Joel Nederhood

Rev. Isaac Apol

Rev. James Vande Lune

with God. Then they realize that His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

“A young man visited his minister some time ago and said, ‘I want to forget that I have been in the service.’ Maybe you men who served in the armed forces of our country have a similar feeling. I doubt whether it can be done. But be that as it may. Lest you forget, I remind you that the Kingdom of man is dead, but the Kingdom of God lives forever. To that

Kingdom you have been dedicated. Fight the good fight of faith.”

Many young men continue to be on “stand-by” through the war periods by being in the service through the Guard Program, part of the various services of the military.

Today Russell De Jager is serving in the Navy at the U.S. Nuclear Energy Training Center in Utah, and now has been assigned to a submarine at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

THE OLDEST & YOUNGEST



Mrs. Corine Feikens

The oldest living member of First Cutlerville Church is Mrs. Corine Feikens. She is 101 years old and is a resident of Holland Home Fulton Manor in Grand Rapids. We remember her crossing busy 68th Street to church, and sitting in the first row of the balcony by the east wall.



Alex John Sterk

The youngest member of our church is Alex John Sterk, whose birth date is January 27, 1993. Alex is a fifth generation member, as he claims as his great-great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Baar. His great-grandmother is Mrs. Frances Sterk. His grandparents are John and Julia Sterk, and his parents are Ron and Lori Sterk.

Year	Minister	Families	Professing Members	Non-Prof. Members	Total Members
1893		21			
1895	Vacant	31	56	120	176
1896	Vacant	36	65	71	136
1897	Vacant	42	72	149	221
1898	Vacant	44	78	146	224
1899	S.S. Vander Heide	44	78	146	224
1900	S.S. Vander Heide	44	82	147	229
1901	S.S. Vander Heide	50	90	184	274
1902	Vacant	41	76	114	190
1903	E. Vander Vries	41	76	114	190
1904	E. Vander Vries	41	80	112	192
1905	E. Vander Vries	41	80	112	192
1906	E. Vander Vries	41	110	84	194
1907	E. Vander Vries	42	110	84	194
1908	T. Jongbloed	50	103	190	293
1909	T. Jongbloed	55	112	164	276
1910	T. Jongbloed	46	101	179	280
1911	T. Jongbloed	42	92	186	278
1912	Vacant	42	94	196	290
1913	Vacant	45	108	183	293
1914	J. Post	45	111	189	300
1915	J. Post	48	131	163	294
1916	J. Post	48	131	169	300
1917	J. Post	48	124	164	288
1918	J. Post	46	104	166	270
1919	J. Post	46	108	155	263
1920	J. Post	48	118	162	280
1921	H. VanderWoude	42	100	150	250
1922	H. VanderWoude	45	110	155	265
1923	H. VanderWoude	45	110	155	265
1924	H. VanderWoude	45	110	155	265
1925	L. VanHaitsma	55	165	172	227
1926	L. VanHaitsma	65	183	193	376
1927	L. VanHaitsma	72	197	216	413
1928	L. VanHaitsma	75	210	225	435
1929	L. VanHaitsma	85	217	228	445
1930	Z. J. Sherda	89	222	228	450
1931	Z. J. Sherda	89	222	228	450
1932	Z. J. Sherda	89	227	223	450
1933	Z. J. Sherda	85	219	216	435
1934	Z. J. Sherda	83	220	215	435
1935	Z. J. Sherda	83	222	221	443
1936	Z. J. Sherda	85	227	223	450
1937	Z. J. Sherda	87	232	219	451
1938	Z. J. Sherda	87	238	222	460
1939	Z. J. Sherda	88	241	224	465
1940	Z. J. Sherda	84	253	218	471
1941	Z. J. Sherda	90	262	221	483
1942	Z. J. Sherda	100	256	265	521
1943	Z. J. Sherda	102	288	251	539

Year	Minister	Families	Professing Members	Non-Prof. Members	Total Members
1944	Z. J. Sherda	110	290	270	560
1945	Z. J. Sherda	110	288	244	532
1946	Z. J. Sherda	135	300	268	568
1947	Z. J. Sherda	140	316	268	584
1948	Z. J. Sherda	145	332	373	705
1949	Z. J. Sherda	151	370	337	707
1950	Z. J. Sherda	154	403	370	773
1951	Z. J. Sherda	165	435	387	822
1952	Z. J. Sherda	170	450	390	840
1953	Z. J. Sherda	182	487	447	934
1954	D.J. Hoitenga	160	411	451	862
1955	D.J. Hoitenga	180	437	435	872
1956	D.J. Hoitenga	192	460	446	906
1957	D.J. Hoitenga	200	475	453	928
1958	D.J. Hoitenga	198	492	442	934
1959	D.J. Hoitenga	203	488	436	924
1960	D.J. Hoitenga	214	504	455	959
1961	D.J. Hoitenga	193	481	430	911
1962	J. VanderLaan	160	408	380	788
1963	J. VanderLaan	170	434	370	804
1964	J. VanderLaan	175	450	357	807
1965	J. VanderLaan	167	431	346	777
1966	J. VanderLaan	162	422	331	753
1967	J. VanderLaan	165	431	302	733
1968	H. Bossenbroek	159	427	283	710
1969	H. Bossenbroek	167	430	264	694
1970	H. Bossenbroek	170	432	257	689
1971	H. Bossenbroek	160	412	231	643
1972	H. Bossenbroek	155	395	215	610
1973	W. Swets	158	398	198	596
1974	W. Swets	164	423	225	648
1975	W. Swets	168	428	217	645
1976	W. Swets	168	428	227	655
1977	W. Swets	163	425	217	642
1978	W. Swets	163	421	222	643
1979	W. Swets	169	427	214	641
1980	W. Swets	165	421	209	630
1981	W. Swets	160	406	188	594
1982	W. Swets	155	393	186	579
1983	W. Swets	157	398	202	600
1984	W. Swets	154	390	206	596
1985	W. Swets	154	406	190	596
1986	W. Swets	153	413	185	598
1987	W. Swets	151	398	169	567
1988	W. Swets	149	402	169	571
1989	W. Swets	142	396	146	542
1990	W. Swets	142	396	146	542
1991	W. Swets	136	383	145	528
1992	W. Swets	134	392	137	528
1993	W. Swets	124	391	129	520



ALL ABOUT MASTER PLANNING: IN THE BEGINNING

In March, 1990, Congregational Master Planning was approved by our congregation. Five committees were formed to search out information about our church history, our present church family and organizations, our community, and our facilities. The committees started working in May, and continued to work throughout the summer months learning a great deal about our church and community. This information was put together to be shared at a congregational retreat in mid-October. Every one in the congregation, high school age and above, was invited.

New Task Forces were set up following the retreat to develop strategies for implementing goals from the retreat and assess other goals that might become evident. Two of these Task Forces have been busy developing goals and strategies for internal and external ministries.

During the summer of 1990, an extensive survey was taken by the congregation. Questions and statements were responded to by 247 members out of a possible 419. Categories such as worship/ prayer; education/discipleship; care/fellowship; services/witness/vision; leadership; the ministering body; and resources, were included in this survey. The Task Forces then began to list the characteristics and programs of our church in 1990. Goals and strategies were worked out and a time-line was established. To grow in kingdom effort beyond existing programs, the Task Forces considered witnessing programs, skill banks, prayer groups, speaker series, children's worship, Sunday School transportation, senior citizens' ministry, Stephen's Ministry, Home Fellowship groups, Vacation Bible School, more staff personnel, youth

night, Day Care program, financial resources, renewal of Coffee Break, Latch Key Kids and more.

Much to think about and consider for a congregation at a cross-roads of almost one hundred years.

RENEWAL FOR SERVICE IN THE 90'S

In May, 1991, the First Cutlerville congregation was challenged to look ahead with a vision of renewal. The Master Planning Committee and its Task Forces had been busy since 1989, preparing specific goals and strategies for renewal and outreach. A paragraph in the proposal booklet states:

"The hand of the past is the hand of the present and the future for it is the hand of God. Our future is secure for God has promised 'I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11

The congregation weathered the results of the survey and approved the goals of the committee. Renewed enthusiasm by most is evident. By 1993, a number of goals have been accomplished including: Children's Worship, Home Fellowship groups, expanded music worship programs, hiring of a youth director, tapes and videos for the library, Vacation Bible School, and Care and Fellowship schedules for the congregation.

Rejoicing in God's Word
Empowered by His Spirit
Nurtured by Christ's Love
Extending Our Hearts and Hands to All
Worshipping and Celebrating Together

VISION 100

Formation of Vision 100 for planning a new building has been an exciting venture for our church. Feelings and emotions run from rejection, to doubt, to tentativeness, to enthusiasm, and to positive excitement to go forward!

For many years the Building and Property Committee has struggled with implementing one of its clearly stated mandates, namely, "to make provision for projects which shall contribute to the efficiency, safety and value of the buildings and property."

In 1986, the committee made a proposal to the consistory to remodel the church basement. That proposal included creating more classrooms, some safety improvements, and modernizing.

This proposal was tabled in favor of establishing an Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee to consider the cost of improving the present facility and/or formulate a plan to build a new structure on the present site or on another site.

Since its appointment, the Long Range Planning Committee has been working continuously to fulfill its mandate. In April, 1989, they presented their findings and recommendations to the consistory, and in June, 1989, the consistory approved the concept to build a new church on a new site.

Key thoughts on the whole project were given on numerous occasions, and many questions were asked by our members, and answered ably by the Vision 100 committee throughout the last several years. Why? Where? When? How? The congregation has been asked often to pray individually and at meetings. We all need the "Vision for the 90s" and beyond, as to the place and work of First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church.

All the information has been important and of great benefit for our members. After sifting through all the facts, ideas have formed for the future.

Our able chairman, Alvin Dykhouse, has said, "The ultimate objective of the study is not the building of buildings. Neither is it the raising of money. The ultimate objective relates to fulfilling the Great Commission. How can we provide the means to lead more people to Christ and be able to better minister to our members and to those who join our congregation?"

The Vision 100 Committee



"...No one individual or consistory can know it all or do it all. It will take support, ideas, and encouragement of everyone! We want to provide an environment, or atmosphere, that you want, and feel called to be a part of. We want to provide an environment that you can say with pride that you are a member of. (Facilities play a key role in this.) Functional facilities will assist this, but some of the other important ingredients are:

- Being fed by the Word of God regularly
- Genuine hospitality
- Fiscal responsibility and stewardship
- Strong educational values
- Family values and denominational loyalty
- Inspirational music
- Growth programs which respond to the Great Commission

Psalm 115:1

"Not to us, O Lord,
not to us, but to
your name be the
glory, because of
your love and
faithfulness."

"These are the ingredients of the environment and atmosphere that people want to be a part of. The name of our congregation is First Cutlerville! In the past it was derived from being the first Christian Reformed church in the village. In the future, it has the potential to mean a lot more! With our involvement and support, it is possible and if our decisions are made by going to the altar of God, they will be correct!"

So...today...1993...Here you see the minutes of the council showing approval of new facilities, just as at the beginning of our book we noted the minutes of the very first meeting in 1893, looking ahead, to build, and serve!

With gratitude we look back on the generations responsible for our church. With humility we look ahead as a new generation prepares to carry on the Lord's work in His church.

In Christ our future is bright, our enthusiasm infectious. May our walk with Christ be a blessing for folks around us. The field ready for harvest is immense. We must work hard. Our field for our new church is also ready. It is large. It is tranquil. It is waiting.



ONE CHURCH,
ONE FAITH,
ONE LORD.

FIRST CUTLERVILLE C.R.C.
Minutes of Congregational Meeting held May 24, 1993

- Art. 1. Rev. Swets read from Psalm 143 and offered opening prayer.
- Art. 2. Count of members present indicated 145 voting members in attendance.
- Art. 3. Count of absentee ballots indicated 75 presented.
- Art. 4. The Clerk read the Council recommendation as follows:

The Council recommends to the congregation that a new church facility be built on the church property west of Clyde Park;

The Council further recommends that we utilize a phased construction approach which would include the building of a "fellowship room/education unit" in the first phase. At a later date, the sanctuary (Phase II), will be added. The final plans, costs and financing for any construction must be approved by the congregation.

The Council further recommends that we begin construction on Phase I when we have at least half of the funds available for a down payment. At that time the church must be able to demonstrate by existing giving patterns the repayment of borrowed funds, without causing undue hardship on the existing church program and operations budget.
- Art. 5. Motion was made and supported to approve the Council recommendation; and opportunity for discussion questions was offered.
- Art. 6. A count of all ballot votes indicated 154 votes in favor; 66 votes against the motion.
- Art. 7. Rev. Swets offered closing comments of appreciation to the committee and the congregation.
- Art. 8. Stan DeJager offered closing prayer.

Walter Swets
Walter Swets, Pastor

Ted Lyzenga
Ted Lyzenga, Clerk

Exactly one hundred years later, on the morning of August 8, 1993, the Centennial worship committee provided our congregation with a service of remembrance. Many aspects of the first services were emulated, such as the women and children sitting on one side of the church, and the men on the other. The consistory followed the "dominie" down the center aisle, then sat in the front row. The elders stood up during the "long" prayer. The deacons collected the offerings using long poles with black velvet bags attached. The Ten Commandments were read in Dutch (with translations), and Dutch Psalms were sung, with a "voor-singer," and no organ. Several members wore vintage clothing, including Pastor and Mrs. Swets, with Prince Albert suit and top-hat for him, and a luxurious "Sunday-best" velvet skirt and jacket, and plume-trimmed hat for her. In the evening we rejoiced in a praise service, assisted by our instrumental ensemble, a Centennial Children's Choir, and a large Centennial Worship Choir.

*All thanks to God, and
glory to His name.*

From generation to generation...



Psalm 72:18, 19

"Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever. May the whole earth be filled with His glory.

Amen and Amen."



*Rev. and Mrs. Swets with their
granddaughter Ashley Cunningham.*

Acknowledgements

With gratitude, we thank all who contributed to our 100th Anniversary Celebration – for their research, photographs, wonderful stories, artifacts for display, and cooperation on projects and programs. It was a great and rewarding year.

Centennial Committee:

James G. Fennema, Chairman
Joy Borst
Gordon and Judy Brinks
Jana Plaisier
Ida Sterk
Marcel VandenTop

Memorial Book:

James G. Fennema, Chairman
Joy Borst, History
Nancy Lautenbach, Cover

Photography

Robert Hoolsema
Arlyn Jansen
Elmer Raad

Archives Committee:

Herman Walcott, Chariman
Joan Dykema
Irma Fennema

Group Photographs

MEN'S SOCIETY: Page 23

Front row: L to R – Fester Smith, George Warsen, Roger Honderd, Joe Ellens, Herman Walcott. **Back Row:** L to R – Bert VandenTop, William Smallegan, Harold Jonker, Jay Apol, Rev. Isaac Apol, David Vandertill, Ted Lyzenga.

GOLDEN HOUR: Page 25

Seated: L to R – Mary Nagel, Jean Brouwer, Mary Dykhouse, Bonnie Hofman, Henie Brooke. **Standing:** L to R – Muriel Wolfe, Ruth Westra, Jackie Vander Laan.

MARTHA LADIES AID: Page 25

Row 1: L to R – Joan VanderVelde, Fanna Kuipers, Jennie Dornbos, Henrietta Tiesenga, Johanna Baker, Nellie Vander Veen. **Row 2:** L to R – Henrietta Raad, Sue Ver Merris, Wilhelmina Poelman, Rose Sikkema, Jeanette Baar, Alice Drenth, Christine Voetberg, Nelle Nederhood. **Row 3:** L to R – Florence Ellens, Bertha Vander Lune, Grace Vander Bilt, Mildred Van Tuinen, Lena Mae Wassenaar, Helen Scholten, Elizabeth Postma, Frances Sterk, Martha Drenth, Eleanor Whitney, Florence Douma, Patricia Guikema, Sylvia Meulenberg. **Row 4:** L to R – Sharon Vos, Alida Akker, Lucy Ybema, Mildred Van Tuinen, Josina Warsen, Wilma Boverhof, Lillian Dykstra, Bertha Ellens, Betty Herrema. **Row 5:** L to R – Etta DeGroot, Angie Van Goor, Betty Jonker, Bea Ter Haar, Esther Van Vugt, Muriel Tromp, Jeanette Dykstra, Loretta De Young.

GIRLS CLUB: Page 25

Row 1: L to R – Diane Van Vugt, Heather Van Vugt, Stephanie Warsen, Caren Jonker, Heidi Nieuwkoop, Heidi Hoolsema, Betsey Brouwer, Ruth Westra. **Row 2:** L to R – Wendy Nieuwkoop, Tammy Meulenberg, Amanda Fennema, Katie Dykhouse, Sarah Vidervol, Kristin Quakkelaar, Tara Meulenberg, Abby Nieuwkoop. **Not pictured:** Brandi Fennema, Stacy Bosscher, Becky Avery.

BOYS CLUB: Page 25

Row 1: L to R – Dave Fennema, Shane Miedema, Russ Jonker, Matt Fennema, Steve Zaagman, Rodney Bredeweg, Mark Plaisier. **Row 2:** L to R – Fred Miedema, Rick Pointer, Jason Brouwer, Scott Hesselink, Mark Fennema, Mark Westra, Mark Fennema, Sr., Dale Jeltama. **Missing:** Mike Plaisier.

WORSHIP CHOIR: Page 24

Row 1: L to R – Elaine Stroo, Wanda DeJager, Joyce Walstra, Judy Brinks, Helen Scholten, Mary Bredeweg, Sally Steenwyk, Laurel Bosma, Jana Plaisier, director. **Row 2:** L to R – Laura Schepers, Joan Nieuwkoop, Joanne Lyzenga, Karen Walstra, Heidi Vos, Lisa TerHaar, Joyce Fennema. **Row 3:** L to R – Sharon Vos - Accompanist, Mary Dykhouse, Luanne Nieuwkoop, Ruth Westra, Joy Borst, Ethel Lautenbach, Betty Herrema, Loretta

DeYoung. **Row 4:** L to R – Larry Plaisier, Tony Baar, Bill Steenwyk, Brian Vos, Ted Lyzenga, Stan De Jager, David Bosch, Daryl Dykhouse, Dan Baar, Eric Walstra.

JOY SINGERS: Page 24

Row 1: L to R – Sara Brinks, Wendy Nieuwkoop, Holly Fennema, Katie Dykhouse, Brandi Fennema, Stacy Bosscher. **Row 2:** L to R – Jana Plaisier - Director, Jenny Nieuwkoop, Kara Bosscher, Jill Jonker, Sarah Vos, Becky Dykhouse - Accompanist. **Row 3:** L to R – Lani Bredeweg, Lisa Tibbe, Lisa Ter Haar, Sarah Jonker, Heidi Vos, Melanie Plaisier.

YOUTH PRAISE CHOIR: Page 24

Row 1: L to R – Heidi Nieuwkoop, Tami Fennema, Stacy Warsen, Holly Hoolsema, Amy TerHaar. **Row 2:** L to R – Michael Bosma, Scott Warsen, Betsy Brouwer, Melanie Hoolsma, Lindsi Miedema, Lori Steenwyk. **Row 3:** L to R – Kristyn TerHaar, Stephanie Warsen, Heidi Hoolsema, Jimmy Hofmann, Steven Fennema, Jana Plaisier - Director. **Row 4:** L to R – Jackie Vander Laan - Assistant Director, Mike Plaisier, Shane Miedema, Matthew Fennema, Mark Plaisier.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS: Page 24

Leaders – **Row 1:** L to R – Melanie Plaisier, Linda Hoolsema, Stacy Bosscher, Katie Dykhouse. **Row 2:** L to R – Laura Schepers, Larry Plaisier, Joyce Walstra, Laurel Bosma, Julie Jeltama.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Page 25

Teachers: L to R – Pat Guikema - Superintendent, Joanne Lyzenga - Accompanist, Joyce Fennema, Kim Smith, Bob Hoolsema, Tim Ainsworth, Donna Bosscher, Jill Meulenberg, Deb Quakkelaar, Julia Sterk, Pam Seitsma.

Children: **Row 1:** L to R – Heather Meulenberg, Bethany TerHaar, Sarah Hofmann, Mark Hofmann, Chris Hoolsema, Abby Suarez, Danny Fennema, Peter Keyzer, Darlene Jonker. **Row 2:** L to R – Melissa O'Leary, Tammy Troutman, Kyla Salem, Jordan Ainsworth, Emily Bosma, Jessica Fennema, Jessica Steenwyk, Paula VanderLune. **Row 3:** L to R – Katie Ainsworth, Lindsi Miedema, Nicole Goeree, Tammy Fennema, Reneé Fennema, Erin Keyzer, Holly Hoolsema, Todd Meulenberg, Shawn Pointer. **Row 4:** L to R – Scott Warsen, Lori Steenwyk, Heather Pointer, Jim Hofmann, Steven Fennema, Katie Nieuwkoop, Melanie Hoolsema, Mike Bosma, Justin Quakkelaar.

Group Photographs

COUNCIL: Page 14

L to R – Don Westra, Tom Bosma, Bernie Bredeweg, Roger Walcott, Peter VanVugt, Ted Lyzenga, Dan Krommendyk, Glen Walsta, Rev. Swets, Will DeKam, Charles Ybema, Mark TerHaar, Charles Bosscher, Stan DeJager, Don Nieuwkoop, Ed Jansen.

Elders:

Bernie Bredeweg, Stan DeJager, Will DeKam, Ed Jansen, Dan Krommendyk, Ted Lyzenga, Mark TerHaar, Larry Vredevoogd, Glen Walstra.

Deacons:

Tim Ainsworth, Tom Bosma, Charles Bosscher, Don Nieuwkoop, Peter VanVugt, Roger Walcott, Stu Warsen, Don Westra, Charles Ybema.

Missing in photo: Larry Vredevoogd, Tim Ainsworth, Stu Warsen.

1943 CONSISTORY: Page 11

Row 1: L to R – J.J. Apol, H. Kleiboer, Rev. Z.J. Sherda, H. Scholten, R. Schans. **Row 2:** L to R – Geo. Warsen, B. Douma, H. Sterk, C. Beute, G. Laninga, M. Ellens.

1943 CUTLERVILLE

CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEERS: Page 17

Row 1: L to R – Geo. Warsen, Mrs. J. Wassenaar, C. Beute, M. Tanis, Mrs. T. Vander Ven, Mrs. H. Wyma. **Row 2:** L to R – Miss G. Wyma, Miss W. Johnston, J. Kuipers, H. Sterk, Mrs. H. Sterk, Mrs. P. Kuiphof, A. Kuipers, Miss M. Tiemeyer. **Row 3:** L to R – M. Brock, J. Wassenaar, Mrs. A. Kuipers, Miss A. Vander Slik, R. Schans.

DESCENDANTS OF CHARTER MEMBERS

WHO ARE CURRENT MEMBERS

OF FIRST CHURCH: Page 7

Row 1: L to R – Winifred Smallegan, Frances Hooyer, Lucy Ybema, Jeanette Baar, Rose Sikkema, Mildred VanTuinen. **Row 2:** L to R – Henrietta Raad, Bill Van Houten, John Fennema, James N. Fennema, Harold Fennema, Lena Wassenaar, Ruth Schans, Cal Schans, Wes Van Tuinen.

VISION 100 COMMITTEE: Page 37

Row 1: L to R – Tom Bosma, Jana Plaisier, Joyce Walstra, Pat Guikema, Herman Guikema, Jim Schepers, Don Fennema, Luanne Nieuwkoop, Don Nieuwkoop, Ronald Dykhous. **Row 2:** L to R – Stan DeJager, Wanda DeJager, Jan Vredevoogd, Cal Vredevoogd, Roger VanderLaan, Jackie VanderLaan, Joanne Lyzenga, Ted Lyzenga, Peter Quakkelaar, Jr., Alvin Dykhous, Nettie Dykhous, Gordon Brinks, Sylvia Meulenberg, David Bosch, Stuart Warsen.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY: Page 23

Front Row: L to R – Sarah Jonker, Heidi Vos, LeAnne Jansen, Judy Meulenberg, Mark Fennema, Julie Fennema, Melanie Plaisier, Robin Fennema, Jill Meulenberg. **Seated:** Chad Nieuwkoop, Joe Nieuwkoop, Brad Meulenberg. **Second Row:** L to R – Heidi VanVugt, Craig Brinks, Tim Sterk, Patrick Sterk, Sarah Vos, Jill Jonker, Marilyn Jonker, Jerry Jonker, Jenny Nieuwkoop, Holly Fennenma, Kara Bosscher, Lani Bredeweg. **Third Row:** L to R – Dirk Bischoff, Brian Westra, Andy Dykhous, Eric Fennema, Chris Fennema, Scott Bosscher, Mark Jansen, Dan Baar, Bob Stroo, Jim Meulenberg, Mike Bosma, Doug Nagel, Jeremy Krommendyk, Nick Westra, Ryan Sytsma.

YOUNG ADULTS: Page 23

Row 1: L to R – Stuart Jansen, LeAnne Jansen, Sue Krommendyk, Todd Guikema, Mark Jansen. **Row 2:** L to R – Dan Krommendyk, Peter Quakkelaar, Jr., Greg Nagel, Julie Nagel, Kim Smith.