



175th Anniversary Moment

“He who promised is faithful” (Heb 10.23)

CHICKEN DINNERS IN THE NEW CHURCH

After the new church building was dedicated in the fall of 1970, First Saint Paul’s learned to take advantage of the new building’s social spaces as well as its sanctuary. The Mary-Martha Guild held fried chicken dinners and tested the capacity of Fellowship Hall (then called the Multipurpose Room). For new members, these events presented a perfect opportunity to get to know some of the older members of the congregation who had just made a leap of faith to build a new, modern church in the middle of the then-novel Sandburg Terrace.

The women of the Guild worked for days to prepare a meal in the brand-new kitchen. They put on a full dinner featuring Juanita Tabor’s skillfully and lovingly fried chicken. Other Guild members mashed potatoes and cooked vegetables, and the dessert table groaned under the weight of so many slices of pie and cake. Pastor Manz led the group in a table prayer and then everyone lined up to have their plates filled at the kitchen’s pass-through window. Mary Degner, Jane Miller, Bobbie Hess, and so many other women served the food. Old and new members mingled at tables. There were tales shared of fond memories of the old building and no little amazement at the sparkling new church, how everyone had sacrificed to raise the funds to build it, and daunting political hurdles that had to be overcome. By the evening’s end, a thoroughly sated crowd gave a big round of applause to the Mary-Martha members who had exhausted themselves making everyone so happy.



The Mary-Martha Guild with Pastor Pauling, taken at a later date.