Together With God We Have Grown

A History of the Cross Church of the Nazarene

Who Were the Nazarenes of Ancient Times?

The term Nazarene was used to refer to those from Nazareth, the town where Jesus grew up which is part of Israel. The Nazarenes in early times were known to have surly believed that Jesus of Nazareth was the true Messiah sent by his Father to redeem the world. The small town of Nazareth was not thought of as important, and one of Christ's first followers scoffed at town asking if "anything good can come out of Nazareth." Being called Nazarene's reminds us that: we are followers of Christ, the One who came to redeem the world; that our goodness is not our own but rather the work of God in us; and that we are called to share Christ's love with all people, even those disregarded by others.

Who Are the Nazarenes In Contemporary Times and Today?

The Worldwide Church of the Nazarene has a global mission to make Christ like disciples in the nations. But this mission comes from a strong history of social reform along side the building of God's Kingdom through a cross cultural ministry. The early Church of the Nazarene reverenced and practiced holiness as a rule and actively supported womens's suffrage, peace among the nations of the world and the plight of the less fortunate in America and abroad.

Early Church of the Nazarene in Delaware

Early 1900's-1940's

1907-The Church of the Nazarene of Harrington, De was built in 1907 on Mechanic Street. The building was remodeled in 1929.

1924- The First Church of the Nazarene in Delaware was built as a mission church and was located at 709 Poplar Street in Wilmington, DE. The church was moved several times and was incorporated in 1941.

1926-Church of the Nazarene in Smyrna was organized as a mission of the Harrington Church of the Nazarene and was located on Fraizer and Union Streets. The building was purchased in 1935.

1944- The National Church of the Nazarene was running two national radio programs called "Showers of Blessings and "Master Plan".

Harrington Church of the Nazarene

Cross Church of the Nazarene History

1950's

1953-The very first organized meeting was held at the home of Marie and Paul Clendaniel on August 17, 1953. Pastor Charles Jack, the father of Marie and Jean, was very instrumental in getting the church started. He contacted the District Representatives and scouted the site for the well attended Tent Revival which was situated at the heart of Route 13. 1953-Thirteen people between the ages of 20 and 60 years of age met together under a tent to praise the Lord and began their journey as new members of the Church of the Nazarene of Dover. A tent was set up at the corner of Loockerman and Route 13 highway where TGI Fridays is now located. Services were held at this site every night for a whole month and were lead by Pastor Nelson Hanks. Jean Krutenat, Marie Clandaniel and Loiuse Shrekengast sang during the tent meeting services for two weeks straight The revival was heavily promoted by a youth team from the district. They handed out leaflets in the local communities to come out to attend the revival services. Marie Clendaniel played the piano and would continue as the church organist for Dover Calvary for the next 20 years. The congregation moved from the tent meetings to Paul and Marie's house where they held Sunday afternoon services. Attending the services at this time were the original 13 members along with their families. After 6 months of services in the Clendaniel home services were moved to the Dover Century Club on the Green in Dover, DE in the center of the historic district. Oral history tells us that the first Church of The Nazarene meeting was started as a mission and was led by Minister Roy Spitzer whom traveled with his wife from Reading, PA to Dover to lead services . The first Christmas service of the Dover Nazarene Church were held at the club and was called a Christmas Pageant which were very popular at that time in America. Louise Shreckengast dressed up as an angel. Services were held at the Century Club for a year and a half while a new church was being built.

1953- A two week tent revival was organized and held by Superintendent Reverend Gross in an empty lot on East Loockerman Street near Route 13 Highway. The services were lead by Nelson Hanks. The revival was heavily promoted by a youth team from the district. They handed out leaflets in the local communities to come out to attend the revival services.

1954- The Calvary Church of the Nazarene in Dover, DE was incorporated 1954.

1955-The property located on what is now South Governors Ave. was transferred to The Calavary Church of the Nazarene from Martin and Julia Janeka for $2,500.00. The property included a church building and a dwelling known as the Annex which was converted to classrooms. This original structure was half the size of the church as it stood in 1996.

1956-Construction began on the renovation of the new Dover Calvary church site: The members began having services in the basement of the church until the sanctuary construction was completed. The building construction was paid for with donations, a loan from the Farmers Bank and the District Church of the Nazarene Headquarters, tithes and offerings.

Celebrating 70 Years of Worship The Cross Church of the Nazarene

Dover Century Club and Dover Church of the Nazarenes Charter Members

1960's

1965-The Pastors salary at the Calvary Church of the Nazarene in Dover was $65.00.

1968-Dover Calvary church requested permission to borrow money from the Washington District Church of the Nazarene to purchase property to expand the church grounds.

Mid to Late 1960's- Calvary Church of the Nazarene board members voted unanimously to donate money and resources to open a Black Mission Nazarene Church during the turbulent times of the racial segregation era in America.

1970's

1972-The original 6,000 ft Calvary of the Church of the Nazarene was constructed.

1974- The Calvary Church of the Nazarene purchased land from George and Marjory Records to continue to expand church property.

1973-A newsletter published on October 31, 1973 included a thank you for a surprise birthday party for Pastor Wayne L. Mustics and his wife. The bus ministry section reported they had 34 smiling faces that month and gave a special mention to Dave Krutenat and 11 others who assisted in "bringing people of our community to church and to God".

1980's A Time for Expansion

Early 1980's- Whenever a church steps forward it takes courage, faith, sacrifice and God. The Dover Church of the Nazarene did a major expansion and remodeling of the church on Governors Ave. The new church would be double the size of original church structure. Wayne L. Musatics was the lead Pastor at the time whom led the expansion campaign. They were beginning to outgrow their current building and they recognized the need for wise planning for present and future growth of the community and the church. Their theme "Together With God We Grow" pointed to the fact that the Calvary Church of the Nazarene were serving the community and intended to service more of the community in the future.

1980- An agreement was drawn up between H.L. Corp and the Calvary Church of the Nazarene. The Calvary Church of the Nazarene purchased land from George and Marjory Records to continue to expand church property. The Community of Hope Presented The Good Samaritan Award to the Dover Calvary for their efforts to provide generous support to people in need.

1981-83- The Annual Report of Pastors to the General Assembly made the following report: Membership/ church attendees included 10 Black attendees, 2 Koreans. 1, West Indian and 1 Jamaican.

1982- A Calvary Church of the Nazarene Directory was published under the direction of Reverend David J. Sparks. Text in the church directory mentioned "those people who's names and pictures appear in the directory truly are the Dover Calvary Church of the Nazarene. The church described themselves as a "church that cares for the lost, the needy and the hurts of mankind".

1985-1986- Mission and Stewardship Awards were Given to the Calvary Church of the Nazarene.

1987-The Annual Report of Pastors Report to the District Assembly for 1987 reported that at this time Dover Calvary has a membership of 181, a regular attendance of 104 (30 percent of the attendees/ members were Black). The pastor reported that year that "the church was encouraged and growing in God's love and grace". Dover Calvary received a budget award from Eastern Nazarene College.

1988-The regular radio spot which ran on the local WKEN AM 1600 Radio Station, "Master Plan" a regular program of the World Mission Radio Fund of the National Church of the Nazarene was cancelled after 44 years. Radio was loosing it's popularity for the U.S. population.

1989-Dover Calvary purchased land for further expansion from Barbara F. Marlin and Filomena G. Mullen. A letter to Reverend John H. Weller was received on June 16, 1989 confirming revival dates for the year. A Statement of Vision written by Reverend Weller included the theme: "Those Who Do Not Plan- Plan to Fail".

1990's

1990-1991Pastor's Report a Sunday evening attendance of 56, and mid week attendance of 41. The average attendance on Sunday morning was 123.

1995-Dover Calvary Church of the Nazarene was presented with several awards including: A Mission Award from the World Mission Society, and Award of Excellence for Giving above and beyond to World Evangelism, A Stewardship Honor Roll Award and a Gold Great Commission Award in all Areas Including Church Membership, Sunday School, Worship Attendance, Having a Fully Paid in Full Budget and for Giving above and beyond to World Missions.

1997- On September 1, 1997 the last church services were held at the Calvary Church of the Nazarene. According to an article that appeared in the October 1, 1997 Dover Post "It was pouring raining" reported Katie House "the rain matched the tears some of the church members were shedding" on that bitter sweet day. The story appeared with a photograph of some of the original Dover Calvary Church charter members including: . Norb and Louise Shreckengast and Jean Krutenat and Marie and Paul Clendaniel. During this period the church was being lead by Pastor Steven L. Wellman. A new church was to be built on North Little Creek Road. The Governors Avenue property was sold during a period when there were plans to run Route 1 express way right through the church property which never came to pass. Instead a developer purchased the property and eventually built a Rite Aid Pharmacy which still stands today. The new Dover Calvary church was to be built on 14.5 acres of land. The new church property would include a home for the pastor, a soft ball field and facilities for outreach programs. A metal building on the new property was remodeled to be to be used as a temporary chapel for the church services. Services were also held at William Henry Middle School in the cafeteria on Sundays and Wednesday night services were held at Victory Church on Forrest Road.

Dover Calvary Church of the Nazarene on Governors Ave in Dover (now Cross Church of the Nazarene)

2000 and Beyond

The Dover Calvary Church of the Nazarene would later change it's name to The Cross Church of the Nazarene. The cross is a symbol of the love of God for all mankind. The Dover church was, is and always will be much more then any structure or building it occupies.

2007- By December of 2007 the current church was in use for church services and Sunday school was held in a barn owned by the church. At this time the church was being pastored by Pastors Tim and Cheryl Evans

2017-January of 2017 Pastor Brian Miller began serving as Lead Pastor of the Cross Church. Pastor Brian and his wife Kristen are now the parents of three girls. Pastor Brian is a "gifted communicator, and is passionate about strategic leadership, leadership development and discipleship".

The heart and soul of the Cross Church of the Nazarene has always been found in the church family that serves the community and the community of people who fellowship in and with the church (adapted from the 1982 Dover Calvary Church of the Nazarene Church Directory).

Current Church: The Cross Church of Dover

Former Pastor: Pastor Brian Miller and wife Kristen

Current Pastor: Pastor Dean, wife Kristen, son Alexand daughter Hannah

The Cross Church Today and Beyond

Who Are We and What do We Believe?

Throughout it's history, The Cross Church of the Nazarene as an institution, has always felt a need and a responsibility to offer itself as a vessel through which answers flow which address the spiritual, psychological and social needs of our local community and our global society today. The Cross Church of the Nazarene has always been active in several different types of ministries including: worship ministries, evangelism ministries, discipleship ministries, fellowship ministries and mercy ministries. The worship ministries includes the musical praise and worship teams. The evangelism ministries includes home bible study, home calling and special programs for new families. Discipleship ministries includes Sunday school programs for all ages, Wednesday Night Prayer meeting and Christian Service (witnessing to non Christians) training. Fellowship ministries includes Sunday morning services, after service fellowship opportunities, church picnics, church dinners and youth programs. Mercy Ministries which has included ministering and assisting the displaced, the homeless and the impoverished. Over the years the church has operated a food and clothes closet, has offered hospital and bereavement ministries and actively participates in world disaster relief programs, a worldwide Church of the Nazarene missionary program and Christian counseling programs and all for the glory of God. The basic religious philosophy of the Cross Church has always been consistent in it's beliefs that have been handed down through the generations "A belief in One God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, A Belief the Old and the New Testament contain all the truths necessary to ones faith and Christian living. That because of man's fallen nature at birth whosoever repents and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ will be justified by faith and the mind will be renewed and regenerated and the spirit will be gloriously saved from the influence of sin" . The heart and soul of the Cross Church of the Nazarene has always been found in the church family that serves the community and the community of people who fellowship in and with the church (adapted from the 1982 Dover Calvary Church of the Nazarene Church Directory).