

Church Histories



Sketch and photo provided by Aplington Baptist Church

Aplington Baptist Church, Aplington, Iowa

The great migration of German speaking people of Ostfriesland, Germany, began in 1848, with the first families arriving in Stephenson County, Illinois. As the Iowa territory opened up, several families decided to move westward into Grundy County, Iowa. Meetings were held in homes and when more families came, church services were held in the schoolhouse of Pleasant Valley #4. On December 12, 1874, 71 members signed the first charter that organized the Congregation of Baptized Christians of Pleasant Valley, Iowa. In 1883, the congregation voted to move to the town of Aplington and construct a new building. That building was destroyed by fire in 1912. A new building was constructed and that burned down in 1933. In 1934, the congregation decided to build a new building 2 blocks east on 10th and Nash. In 1953, a new parsonage was constructed on the site of the previous 2 churches. Since 1876, 6 congregations in Iowa and South Dakota were established by members moving to new territory and beginning a work of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The congregation grew to about 300 members by 1960. An Education Unit was added to the west side of the church building at a cost of \$53,000.

During World War I, 10 men of the church served their country, 32 men and 2 women served during World War II, with 4 giving their lives for their country. Since 1950, 25 have served in the Armed Forces.

1874

Vacation Bible School, Holy Week Services, Community Youth program and the AWANA program were all started at A.B.C. and have been supported by the other churches in the community.

On December 14, 2014, Aplington Baptist will hold a celebration to commemorate 140 years of God's leading and His blessing on the faithful work of spreading the gospel in the community and around the world by the people of Aplington Baptist Church.

This document was prepared by a member of Aplington Baptist Church in November, 2014. Picture taken in 2013.

Bibliographical sources:

Funfzigjähriges Jubiläum der Baptisten Gemeinde [50th anniversary jubilee], June 14-15, 1925, Aplington, Iowa 1875-1925

Souvenir Program Seventy-fifth Anniversary, Aplington Baptist Church, Aplington, Iowa Sept 22-23, 1949, 1874-1949

Aplington Baptist Church, Aplington, Iowa, 100th Anniversary 1874-1974.

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Articles and pictures published in *Baptist Herald* and *Der Sendbote*

Article published in *Der Wegweiser*, in 1910