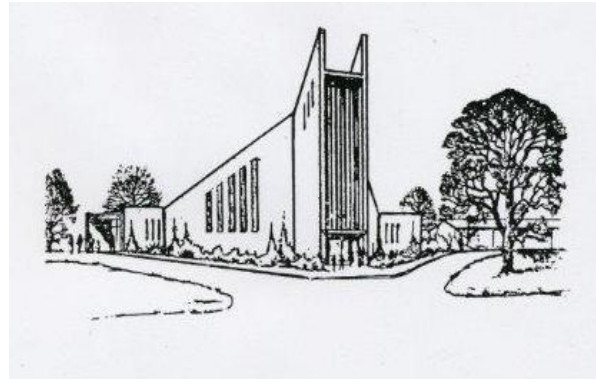


1879

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon — 135 years in 2014

Eighteen charter members are listed in the inspiring materials found in our NAB Archives. Some of the members came from Switzerland, and on their arrival on the west coast of the US, they banded together with other Christians who were German-speaking, to eventually form “The First German Church of Baptized Believing Christians (Baptists) of Bethany.” The 100th anniversary booklet states that “This became the first German Baptist church on the Pacific Coast.....and the first organized German Baptist church west of the Rocky Mountains.” The date: June 22, 1879.

The members contributed funds and erected a church building in 1881.

By 1890 there was need for more space, so a second building was erected in April of that year. Other records indicate that on November 11, 1928, a Spanish style sanctuary was dedicated and the transition was made from German to English. The current sanctuary of the church was dedicated in 1976, and a multi-purpose building, the Ambassador Recreation Center, was opened in 1991

Throughout the years Missions has been “the heartbeat of Bethany” and the church has been at the forefront of sending out pastors and missionaries. Also the church birthed four daughter churches: Trinity Baptist, Stafford Baptist, Family Baptist, and Golden Road Baptist. A wonderful heritage!

Adapted from *Heritage Horizons*, Spring, 2014

Bibliographical sources:

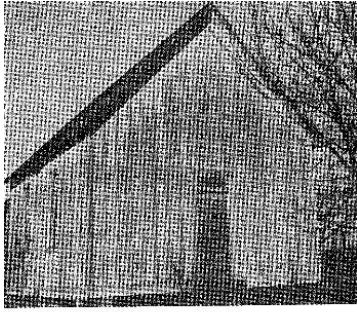
Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

75th Anniversary, Bethany Baptist Church – June 25-27, 1954

One hundred years of ministry 1879-1979 – Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon

Selected newsletters and annual reports

1879



Original church building, erected 1881.

Original building 1881



Second church building, erected 1890.

Second 1890



Current – erected 1976