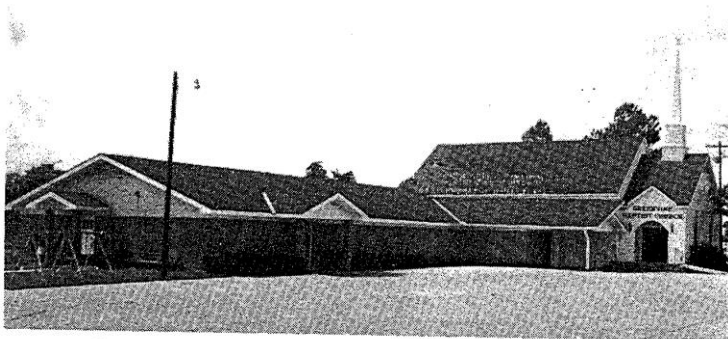


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Greenville Baptist Church as it appears today.

Greenville Baptist Church, Burton, Texas

If you are tempted to think that you, as one person, can't do much, consider the story of this church's beginnings: A seventeen-year old German Catholic, Frank Kiefer, came to Independence, Texas in November of 1850. Converted in a revival meeting in 1854, he determined to become a preacher of the Gospel, and studied at Baylor University in Texas. In 1861 he preached in revival services among German immigrants. Eighteen persons accepted Christ, and in October of that year they organized a church! First known as the Ebenezer German Baptist Church, it is now known as Greenville Baptist Church. The church motto is the name *Ebenezer* which means "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," from I Samuel 7:12. Through the years, though the membership has remained small, the church has been a real "mother church" to many congregations. When members moved to other places they took their faith with them, starting other churches wherever they went!

Adapted from *Heritage Horizons*, Vol 19 No 3, Fall, 2012.

Bibliographical sources:

90th Anniversary of the Greenville Baptist Church, Greenville, Texas 1861-1951 (12 page history)

Greenville Baptist Church 1861-1961 – 100th anniversary

"Centennial of a Texas Baptist Church", *Annual*, 1961, pp 59-60

Greenville Baptist Church 125th Anniversary Celebration 1861-1986 (copy of part of book)

Zorn, Mary Jane; Effenberger, Franklin and Knuckles, Alan. "A Growing Church in Bluebonnet Country", *Baptist Herald*, 61:6:16-18, June 1983, pp 16-18.

1861

Archival sources in the North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Effenberger, Franklin. "History of the Greenvine Baptist Church of Burton, Texas." Typed manuscript with footnotes and references.- late 1980's



Church building in 1899



The Greenvine Baptist Church as it looked in 1941 at its eightieth anniversary. The Sunday School building on the left was destroyed by fire in 1960. The steeple and entrance on the main building was replaced by the present entrance in 1951.

Church building in 1941