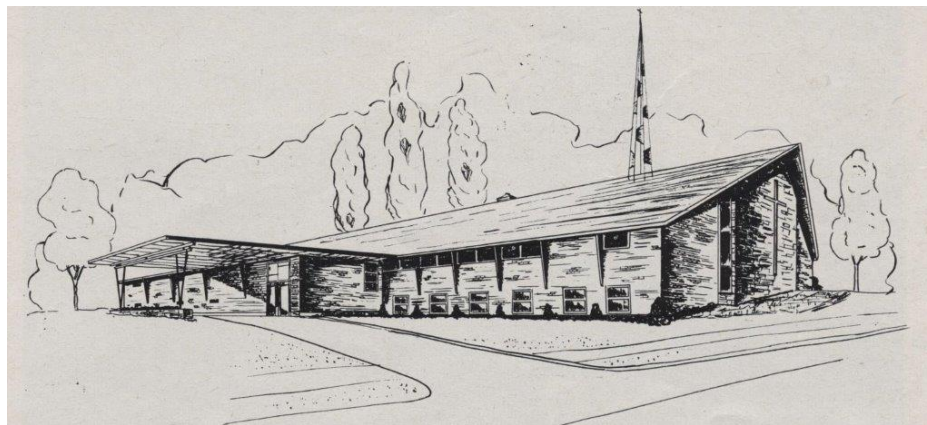


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Dorchester Drive Baptist Church, Erie Pennsylvania

Alexander von Puttkammer who was mentioned on page two of this publication, had much to do with the establishment on October 1, 1861 of what is now known as the Dorchester Drive Church. He was called to be its first pastor, of the group officially organized as The First German Baptist Church. Pastor von Puttkammer served only a few months, because the Civil War had started, and he volunteered for military service. Subsequent pastors brought a constant increase in members and the church relocated to a second site which was honored in 1901 with a gift of an Andrew Carnegie pipe organ! During the First World War with Germany, the congregation stopped the use of the German language and in 1920 changed the church's name to Central Baptist Church.



Alexander von Puttkammer

By the Spring of 1960, church growth necessitated another move to a new site on Dorchester Drive. The building was dedicated before Thanksgiving of that year. At the 1961 Centennial celebration, the church was known as The South Hills Baptist Church, and now is known as Dorchester Drive Baptist Church. May the Lord continue to bless its outreach.

Adapted from *Heritage Horizons*, Vol 19, No. 2 Fall, 2012.

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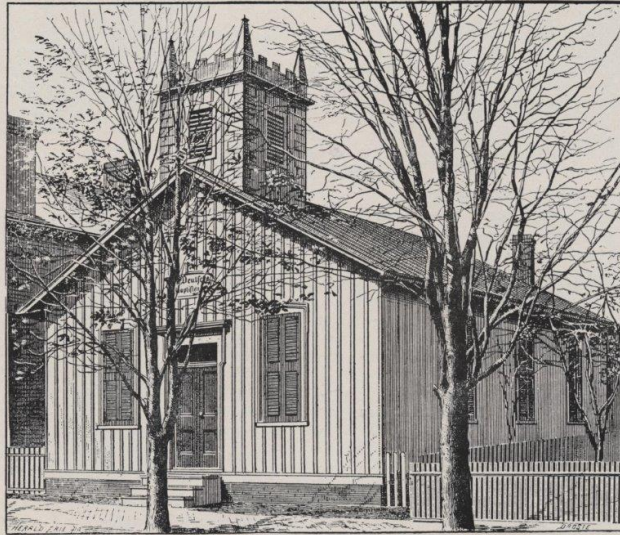
Central Baptist Church, Erie, Pennsylvania, Ninetieth Anniversary 1861-1961
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1861

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FIRST GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH.
Organized, October 1, 1861 Built in the Spring of 1864



The historical landmark and former building of the Central Baptist Church of Erie, Pa., (now known as the South Hills Church), which was used for many years for worship services.