

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Built and Dedicated in 1969

First Baptist Church, George, IA

Coming from the Grundy, Butler and Hardin counties, as well as Illinois, New York, and Minnesota, there was an influx of settlers that arrived in 1885-1886. They started to hold meetings in various homes and schoolhouses. On December 7, 1892, a meeting was held in the home of Brother Weert Krull to discuss organization as an independent congregation and to call Brother M. Swyter as their preacher. Thirty-two German members of the Baptists plus the Pastor's family of five gathered in March 23, 1893 to organize themselves as an independent congregation with the name, First German Baptist Congregation (Church) of George, Lyon County, Iowa. All services were in German. In 1945 the first Sunday service of the month was held in the English language, and in August of 1953 all German services were discontinued.

In February of 1894 they realized the need of a chapel, and in August of that year the decision was made to build. In September, Brother H. Dallmann came to serve. Dedication was held later that year. In November, the first Thursday prayer meetings were held in the church instead of in homes. At various times, numbers of members were released to start churches in other.

In 1954, the decision was made to eliminate the steeple and enlarge the church basement and building. Dedication services for the remodeled church were held in conjunction with the 60th anniversary on October 4, 1954. A new sanctuary/building was built with ground-breaking on June 2, 1968, and dedication on June 29, 1969. Old church furnishings were sold at auction.

1892

Edward Brandt, professor of University of Minnesota, was engaged to translate the old German minutes/ledgers from German into English. This was in conjunction with plans for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the church. Many events and activities were planned for this memorable occasion. In a quote taken from the First Baptist Church website, the purpose of this church “shall be the advancement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. It shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor and Christian education.”

Written by Phyllis Harms and Lucille Lengefeld, NAB Heritage Commission [March, 2016]

Bibliographical sources:

“1892-1992: Centennial Celebration, First Baptist Church, George, Iowa.” Copyright 1994 by First Baptist Church.

First Baptist Church, George, Iowa web history

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

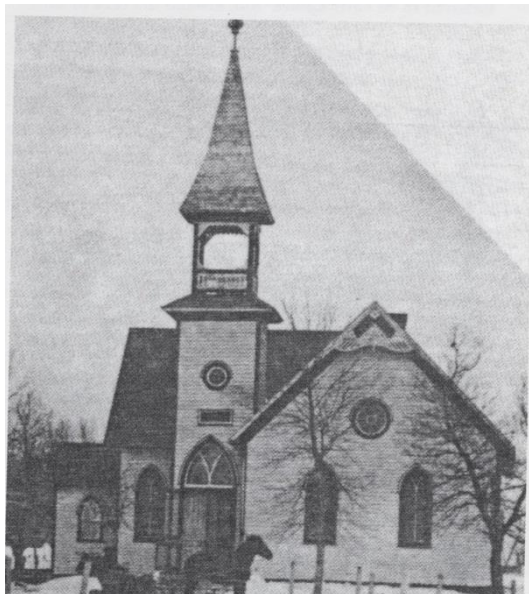
“The Old Country Church:” First Baptist Centennial Pageant presented July 23 & 24, 1992.

Written by Irene Eben, Helen Eben, Jo Block, & Mike DeLong

75th Anniversary Booklet

Bulletins of various important days/events in the history of the church

Correspondence, photos



Original building -1894



building 1954-68 (remodeled from 1894)

