

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



First Baptist Church, Hebron – dedicated 1985

First Baptist Church, Hebron, North Dakota

In the spring of 1888, two families formed the nucleus of what was later to become the First Baptist Church of Hebron, North Dakota at a location ten miles south of the city. The two families were those of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Heinle and Mr. and Mrs. Christian Schmidt, who had immigrated from South Russia. Rev. and Mrs. Fredrick Brauns helped organize the church. In 1893, the German Baptist Church of Antelope was built. The first parsonage, also built on the prairie, was destroyed by fire in 1905. In 1916, the church in Hebron was built, with Rev. Johan Schmidt pastoring both churches. In 1947, the country church was moved into Hebron, and both churches were rebuilt as one, with Rev. Jothan Benke as pastor. A monument of remembrance dedicated “to the pioneers of 1888 who here founded the first German Baptist church of western North Dakota” was placed at the site of the original Antelope church.

In 1960, the membership of the church stood at 198. In 1982, the church started a bus service. A new edifice was dedicated on the west side of Hebron in 1985. Several groups were organized within the church, including Sunday School classes, a youth group, a choir, quartets and trios, Women’s Missionary Society and Missionary Guild. Through the years, the church celebrated special anniversaries, with the 100th Anniversary Celebration in early July of 1988. “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

Bibliographical sources: [Published articles – Baptist Herald & Other]

“Baptist Church to Mark 75 Years.” *The Hebron Herald*: June 12, 1963.

“Baptist Church 75th Anniversary Well Attended.” *The Hebron Herald*: June 19, 1963.

Schulte Memories (1913), translated by Dr. Donald Madvig (2006) and edited by Lois Glewwe.

1963 75th Anniversary booklet and program

1888 100th Anniversary booklet

1888

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Assorted photos and documents



German Baptist Church at Antelope in 1913 (25th anniversary)



Church building from 1947-1985