

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



First Baptist Church, Leduc

A fascinating story of bravery, courage and God's guidance dates back to 1894. Rev. F. A. Mueller had been banished from Russia because of his Christian beliefs and activities. He and a number of other Russians left Germany and sailed to New York. Immediately they started searching for an area where a settlement could be started. After considering a number of possibilities, Alberta was chosen as the place. In May 1893, two trainloads of emigrants followed Rev. Mueller to this new country. They soon built a church from lumber that had been sawed and cut into planks and boards. The first church was organized with 162 charter members. The pastor's salary for the year 1896 was \$59.00.

As time progressed the original church building became too small, so a second building was erected ½ mile north of the present location in 1909. Thinking to the future, in 1918 the congregation purchased five acres of land for the price of \$100 an acre. During the years when Rev. E. P. Wahl was the pastor (1922 to 1927), he recognized the need for Bible training for Christians and laid the foundation for the Christian Training Institute, which later became known as the North American Baptist College, then Taylor University/College in Edmonton, Alberta. In 1928, the congregation decided to build a new church which would provide them with a larger sanctuary and additional rooms for Sunday School.

In the fall of 1932 the Rev. Philip Daum accepted the challenge of pastoring this church. It was in the same year that a great spiritual awakening broke out. During his ministry 104 were baptized and received as members into the church. In December of 1954, the English language was introduced into the morning service. As the years have passed, many changes have been

1894

made, not only in the pastors who have served so capably and selflessly, but in the church body and church facilities. The church constitution was totally revised in 1988, and following the completion of that project, the facilities underwent changes that allowed for accessibility to the elderly, injured and disabled. In 1994 the church celebrated its centennial year, with many community-wide activities as well as the production of a commemorative book outlining “Our Pilgrimage of Faith, 1894-1994.”

Written by Phyllis Harms & Lucille Lengefeld, NAB Heritage Commission [April, 2016]

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

“First Baptist Church: Our Pilgrimage of Faith, 1894-1994.” Copyright 1994 by First Baptist Church.

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center

“Goldenes Jubilaeum der Ersten Deutschen Baptisten Gemeinde, Leduc, Alberta” (Golden Anniversary Souvenir booklet)

The First Baptist News, First Baptist Church, Leduc, Alberta: December 1960.

The First Baptist News, First Baptist Church, Leduc, Alberta: April 1964.

Assorted bulletins, correspondence, and photos.



First Baptist Church – 1909



First Baptist Church – 1928



First Baptist Church - 1894