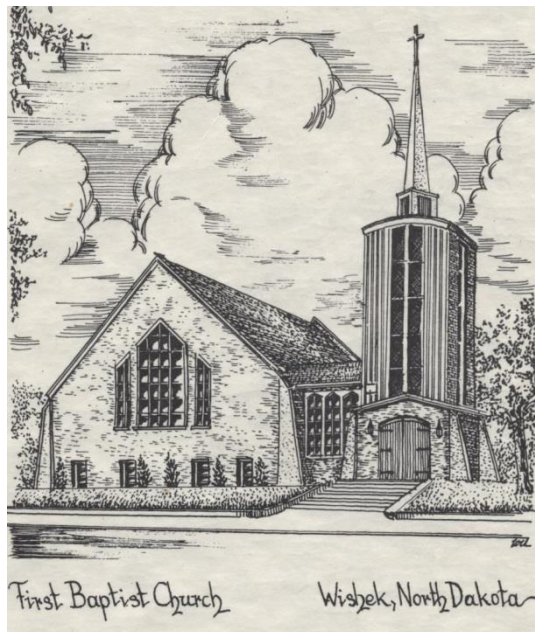


1886

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Dedicated 1950

First Baptist Church, Wishek, North Dakota

Early in 1875, when the settling of McIntosh County was in its beginning stages, people from the village of Danzig, Russia, settled near Tyndall, SD. While living in the Tyndall area they organized the first church naming it the Danzig Baptist Church after their village in Russia. Realizing there was no more free land available, 15 families moved further west into Dakota Territory and settled nine miles south of the present city of Wishek. Feeling a need to have church fellowship they again organized and built a church, calling it the Danzig Baptist Church after their homeland church in Russia and also the church they had left behind in Tyndall, SD. Three acres of land for the church and cemetery were donated by John J. Giedt.

During the early years of the Danzig Church it included stations of Ashley, Ventura, Kassel and Johannstadt near Ventura, Wishek, Beaver Creek, Burnstad and Napoleon. In 1912 the Ashley Church became an independent church. Ventura joined with the two farm stations becoming an independent church. In 1935, the Burnstad church was dissolved and in 1941 the Napoleon church also became independent. In 1931, due to the decline in the rural population, the Church's headquarters was transferred to the city of Wishek and was called the German Baptist Church of Wishek. In 1949, due to the stigma connected with "Hitler's Germany," the name was again changed to the First Baptist Church of Wishek.

In 1986, the church celebrated its Centennial on July 5 and 6. Former pastors Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, Rev. Clem Auch, and Dr. G. K. Zimmerman, all native sons, participated as guest speakers. A brief history compiled by Harriet Herr and Irene Schauer, was dedicated to Mr. John Brokofsky: "Through his faith in God and the spreading of the gospel each generation thereafter continued to 'Hold Forth the Word of Life.' The results of the 100 years are impossible to record. The statistics are with God. He is the only infallible bookkeeper."

Bibliographical sources:

Wishek First Baptist Church History 1886-1950 Building Dedication Booklet

75th Anniversary Booklet 1886-1961

100th Anniversary Booklet 1886-1986

Pritzkau, Phylo. "Growing Up in North Dakota: a memoir." (1996) Book in Germans from Russia Heritage Collection @ North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND.

"First Baptist Church Names 100th Celebration Guest Speakers." THE WISHEK STAR: 1986.

"First Baptist Church of Wishek Celebrates Centennial July 5 and 6." THE WISHEK STAR: 1986.

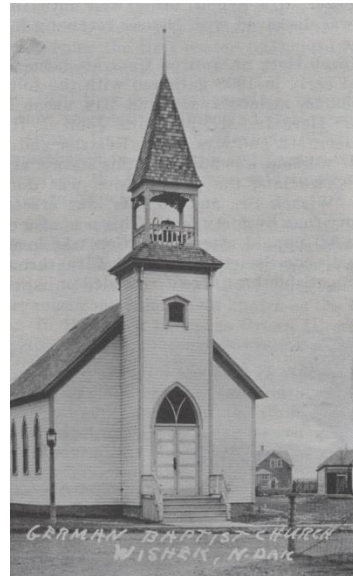
Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center

Assorted programs, bulletins, and photographs



First Baptist Church building erected in area of Moscow Township called the Danzig Church in 1892

First building 1890



Built 1909