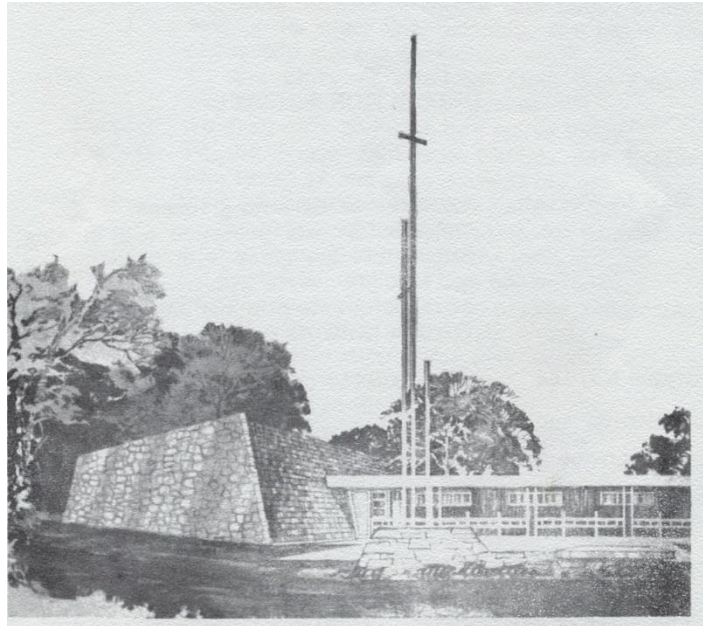


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Dedicated in 1967

Highland Baptist Church, Junction City, Kansas

The history of Highland Baptist Church of Junction City, Kansas, had its very beginning in 1881, with the first preaching services held in school houses. The following year, 1882, the first church building was erected on a hill. On March 19, 1883, with only ten members and less than two years after organizing, a council of nine churches recognized it as the First German Baptist Church of Davis County, Kansas. A new building, equipped with electric lights, was built in 1916. During this time a serious attempt was made to minister to the German-speaking soldiers at Fort Riley. In 1921 the name was changed to Mt. Zion Baptist Church. By 1934, all the services were held in the English language.

Due to changes in rural population, the members of the Mt. Zion Church, with the support of the North American Baptist Conference, looked for a new location in Junction City. In 1960, the first services were held in rented facilities. A group of God's Volunteers was there at the time and helped to get the church established. One of Mt. Zion's members, Jeanine Martinitz, met her husband, Wilfred Weick, on this team, and they went on to become NAB missionaries in Japan. Other members became ordained pastors and missionaries as well.

The name of Mt. Zion was changed in 1964 to Highland Baptist Church. In 1965 a difficult decision was made—the country parsonage and church were offered for sale to augment the building fund. In 1967 a new church building was erected and dedicated. An addition was built and dedicated on July 30, 1978. The church celebrated its centennial in 1981.

Written by Luci Lengefeld [August 2015]

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

1881

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Junction City, Kansas 75 years 1881-1956

Service of Dedication, Highland Baptist Church 1967

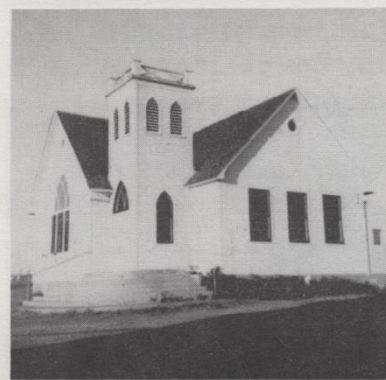
Highland Baptist Church Centennial Celebration booklet 1881-1981



The Church Building in 1882



The Church Building in 1916



Steeple lowered in 1941