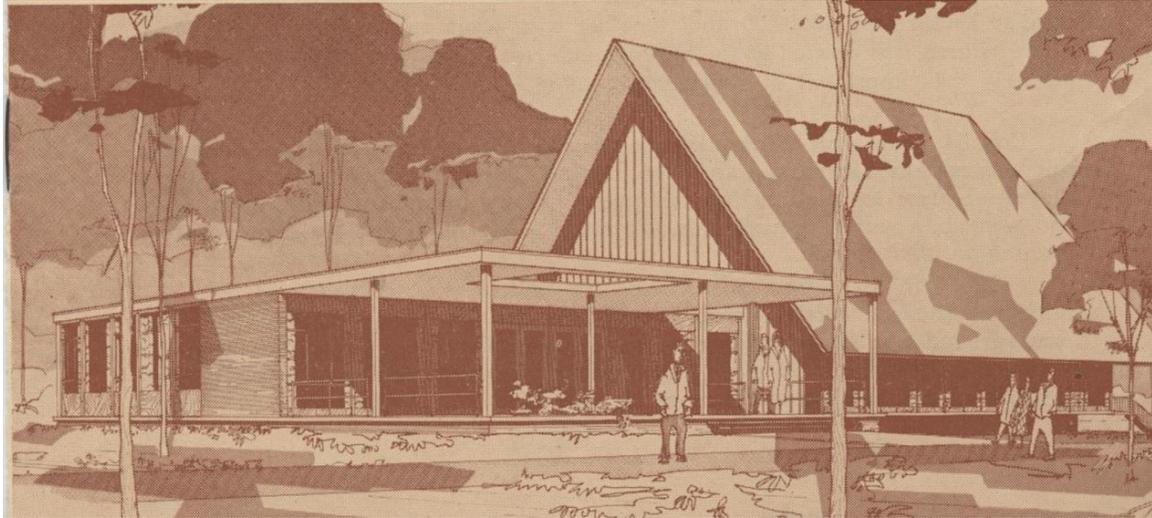


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Architect's sketch from dedication brochure--April 9, 1961

Hillcrest Church, Highland Heights [Cleveland], Ohio

The history of this church had its beginning in 1877 when a Sunday School was started in the old German Baptist Publication House on Payne Ave. at East 38th St. under the guidance of the First German Baptist Church. Because of the rapid growth of the Sunday School, land was bought on Case Street and the first church was built and dedicated in 1893. On June 17, 1884 this mission organized itself as the Second German Baptist Church with 47 members. In the first 20 years the church grew to 215 members. At the turn of the century, the church was faced with the problem of relocation. A piece of land on the corner of Willson and White Avenues was purchased, and a beautiful new building was erected for a total cost of \$19,137.93, and was dedicated on April 9, 1905.

Up to the end of WWI, the work of the church was conducted in the German language. Beginning in 1929, all of the services were conducted entirely in English. Men's and women's Bible classes continued to be taught in German. In 1931 the name of the church was changed to White Avenue Baptist Church and remained so until the present edifice was built in 1960, at which time the name was changed to Hillcrest Baptist. The dedication service took place on April 9, 1961, exactly 56 years after the 1905 dedication on White Avenue. Although the years of relocation from one area to another were difficult ones, the remaining balance of the mortgage was paid off in the spring of 1971, long before its maturity date. The church celebrated its centennial in 1984 under the leadership of Rev. William R. L. McLatchie. Hillcrest Baptist Church has been actively involved in the mission outreaches of the North American Baptist Conference. Paul the apostle wrote about building on the only true foundation of the church—Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 3:10-15). That is truly building for eternity.

1884

Written by Lucille D. Lengefeld , NAB Heritage Commission [March 2016]

Bibliographical sources:

“One Hundred Years: Hillcrest Baptist Church, Highland Heights, Ohio—Centennial Celebration May 18, 19, 20, 1984.”

“Dedication of The Hillcrest Baptist Church,” Sunday, April 9th, 1961

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

“Souvenir=Programm,” Sunday April 9, 1905-Tuesday April 11, 1905 (German)

Souvenir Program of the 40 year Anniversary Jubilee, 1866-1906 (German)

“Goldenes Jubiläum,” 1866-1916 (German)

Directory of the White Avenue Baptist Church, 1954; 1959.

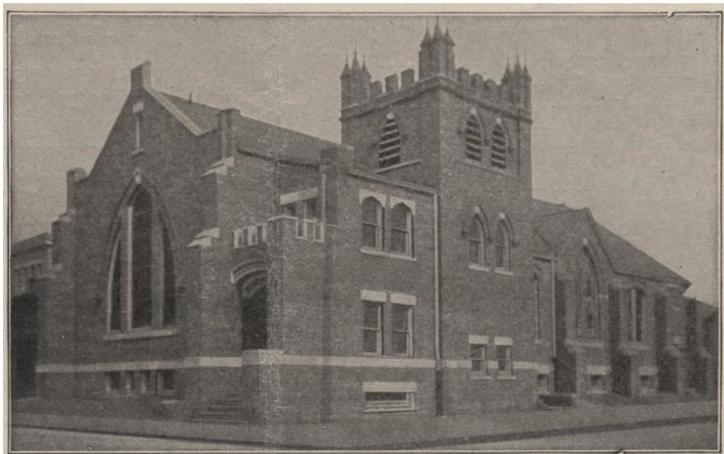
Directory of the Hillcrest Baptist Church, 1963-1964.

Assorted bulletins, programs, photos, etc.

Additional pictures



Original building constructed 1883 on Case St.



Building constructed 1905—East 55th St. & White Ave.