

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



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Immanuel Baptist Church, Loyal, Oklahoma

“Immanuel: God With Us” –has been literally the experience of this church since its inception. The beginnings of the mother church in Oklahoma rest in the time of the opening of the Cheyenne-Arapaho territory in 1892. Several German Baptist families had come down from Kansas in their covered wagons to make the “run.” Immediately after the settlement, a Sunday School was started in a one-room home. More families came. Rev. J. Siewers, pastor of the Hillsborough, Kansas, German Baptist Church, came down to minister temporarily to these new settlers. In the spring of 1894, they bought \$234 worth of material to build their first church. Volunteers completed it in the fall, debt-free.

The early missionary efforts of the church reached out to their German Baptist brethren to help establish a church in their community. In 1931 they discontinued the use of the German language with the exception of occasionally singing the hymns in German. In 1935 a new church building was built and dedicated. The church has been very active in supporting the community Bible School, church camp, White Cross work, missions, the Loyal Youth Group and reaching others for Christ through prayer and witnessing.

The summer of 2007 brought high water tables and flash flooding in the areas around Loyal, resulting in an infestation of mold that ruined the basements of the church and parsonage and caused the loss of the fellowship hall and Sunday School classrooms. With a goal of \$250,000, a building program that had been in the initial states for some time was now moved into higher gear. The building will enable the continuance of various areas of outreach, such as the Wednesday evening children’s ministry, Women’s Ministries, banquets and youth development.

Written by Luci Lengefeld, NAB Heritage Commission [March, 2016]

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Bibliographical sources:

<http://www.ibcloyal.org/> 10/31/2000; 4/12/2001; 11/12/2004; 6/13/2008; 3/27/2013

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

None.

Additional pictures:

None available.