

1903

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories

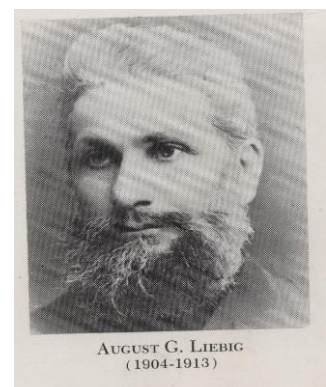


Present church 1965

McClusky , McClusky, North Dakota

In 1903 a group of people immigrated from Plum Creek and Menno, South Dakota to what is now Sheridan County, North Dakota. They met on January 3, 1904 to discuss the possibility of organizing a Baptist church and decided to meet again 2 days later, weather permitting, as they feared the severe weather. Nineteen people came to the schoolhouse for the meeting on January 5th, with three people sending written notices that they also wanted to be part of the newly organized church. These twenty two voted unanimously to organize the Erste Deutsche Baptisten Gemeinde (First German Baptist Church of Denhoff.) Two acres of land were donated by Simon and Katherine Huether, and in 1907 Andrew Miller built the country church at a cost of \$2200, dimensions being 36 by 56 feet.

The first pastor was August G. Liebig, serving from 1904 to 1913. He lived three miles east of the church and drove a one horse buggy through the hills to get to church. One time he was found by neighbors after he had fallen from the buggy. Taken back to his home, he passed away from injuries. During Pastor Liebig's ministry, revival services were held and many in the community were saved at those services, including E.P. Wahl, the first son to go



AUGUST G. LIEBIG
(1904-1913)

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into the ministry, and the one who later began CTI in Edmonton, Canada. Now that school is Taylor University College and Seminary!

On July 11th, 2004 many former and current members and friends gathered for morning worship, a centennial banquet and an afternoon service to praise the Lord for His mercies and grace in bringing the church to this point in its history. Dr. Ernie Zimbelman, the chairman of our Archives board, and his wife Dorothy, were in attendance. A son of the church, Ernie spoke at the morning worship service: "The End of the World as We Know It". In our Archives we have a copy of the Anniversary booklet that was published in honor of the occasion. The pastor is Rev. James R. Grupp who together with his wife, Rosemary, has served the church since 2001 and is now in a yoked ministry between McClusky and Goodrich, North Dakota.

Adapted from Heritage Horizons, Vol. 11 No. 3, 2004

Bibliographical sources: [Published articles]

Faul, Mrs. Allen. (1979. McClusky Church Celebrates 75th Annivesrsary. *Baptist Herald* 57:9:23 (September 1979)..

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center

60th Anniversary McClusky Baptist Church 1904-1964

75th Anniverary McClusky Baptist Church 1904-1979

100th Anniversary McClusky Bapltist Church 1904-2004



School House, First meeting place, 1904
