

## North American Baptist Heritage Commission

## Church Histories

**McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada**

In the early years of this church's history, one winter was so cold and heating costs so high, the choir loft was boarded up to conserve heat. One winter, services were held in the basement where three potbellied wood stoves supplied heat and unwelcome smoke. That was during the hard times following World War I.

As far back as 1867, Baptists of eastern Canada were concerned about evangelizing the territory to the West and sent a missionary, Rev. Alexander McDonald, to Winnipeg to start a church. By 1885, with an ever-increasing number of German immigrants in the area, J. B. Eschelmann began a German Sunday School class. It grew rapidly so, by December 31st of 1889, thirty-four of the members formed the First German Church.

By the end of the first World War in 1919, the name was changed to McDermot Ave. Baptist Church. Rev. F. A. Petereit was the pastor who worked so faithfully in his seven and a half years of service that five more mission stations were founded and the Gospel was proclaimed.

The present church building was erected in 1907 and dedicated on February 9, 1908, a large, imposing all-brick Gothic-style structure which was described in the local newspaper as "a credit to the congregation...in the part of the city which many people have been accustomed to think of as uninhabited prairie." A sizeable Christian Life Center was built and dedicated to the Lord on May 2, 1993.

Through the years the church has given generously to help other sister churches, to establish a Christian boarding house for girls, to begin the NAB Immigration and Colonization Society, to reach out to give hospitality to military families, to host Awana and Ladies' Bible Study groups, and to provide excellent musical programs. The church

1889

celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, and continues to give praise to the Lord for His guidance and unfailing help through the years.

Written by Lenore Lang, NAB Heritage Commission

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**Bibliographical sources:**

“75 Years by the Grace of God” by Mrs. Alice Parr and Rev. William Sturhahn. *Baptist Herald*: December 17, 1964.

*Heritage Horizons*, Vol 21, No 3, Fall, 2014

*Heritage Horizons* Vol 22, No 2, Triennial, 2015

“McDermot Avenue Baptist Church wins 1987 heritage award” (newspaper clipping—no name of paper and no date)

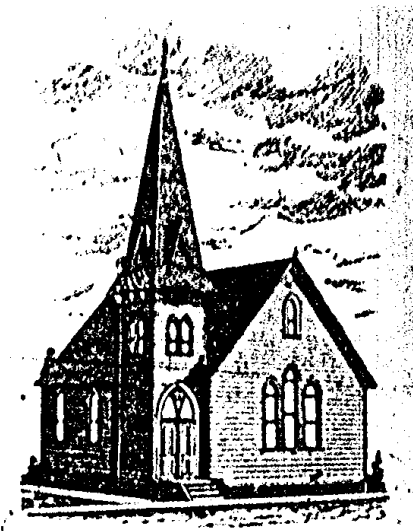
“McDermot Ave. Baptist Church—90 Years of Service to God and Man,” by Alice Parr. *Baptist Herald*: Dec./Jan. 79-80.

**Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:**

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Family Album

Assorted photos, bulletins, correspondence



Second building - 1901