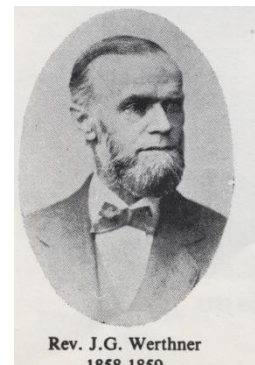


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories

**North Freedom Baptist, North Freedom, Wisconsin**

North Freedom Baptist Church of North Freedom, Wisconsin was organized under the name of “The Church of Baptized Christians, Baraboo Sauk County, Wisconsin” on April 25, 1858. The founder and first pastor was Rev. J. G. Werthner. There were fourteen charter members. It became incorporated in 1875. This group first met in the home of Pastor Werthner. The first services were conducted in a school house which was also used by a group of Mormons. The first church building was built and dedicated in 1875. A parsonage was built soon after that. A second church was built in 1903. A second parsonage was also built. Celebrations of the official organization of the church were held in 1948, 1958, 1983, 1998, 2008 and 2014.



Church records show that approximately 630 people joined the church in the first 100 years; 740 in the first 125 years. Records also show that in the first 84 years of the church, approximately 340 people had been baptized and become part of the church. Twenty-six different pastors served the church in its first 125 years.

Worship services when the church was first organized were conducted in the German language and gradually were changed to the English language. By the late 1930's, the services were conducted completely in English.

Many changes have taken place throughout the years which started with parishioners getting to church by means of horse-drawn vehicles, no electricity or running water, heating with wood-burning stoves and outdoor “plumbing.” Today the church building is up to date with modern conveniences and a bus service.

1858

The 150th Anniversary booklet shares these thoughts, “We are a community of believers led by the Holy Spirit to glorify God by demonstrating His love and making disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Text written by Phyllis Harms, NAB Heritage Commission

Bibliographical sources:

90th Anniversary of the North Freedom Baptist Church 1858-1948

100 Years 1858-1958 North Freedom Baptist Church

Wilzewkse, Mrs. Walter. Centennial in North Freedom, Wisconsin. *1958 Annual* pp 45

North Freedom Baptist Church, 125th Anniversary 1858-1983

North Freedom Baptist Church 140th Anniversary 1858-1998

Newspaper clippings of Celebrations – each of the above listed

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Photos

Bulletins of special events

Typed history summary and supporting information 2012.



Schoolhouse used 1865-1875



First church structure 1875