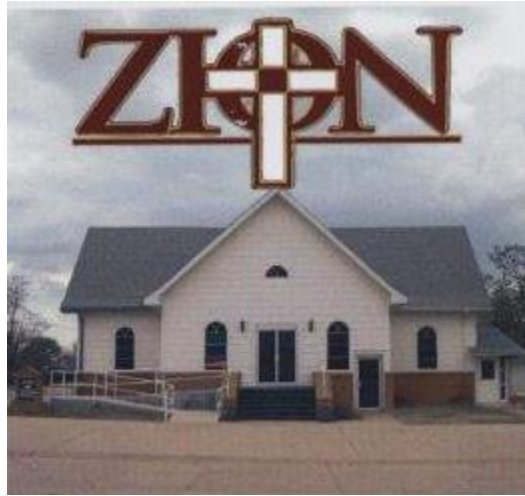


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



From Centennial Celebration booklet cover

Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, Oklahoma

When German Baptists came to Oklahoma to settle in the 1890s, faithful pastors and lay-men realized that these Baptist Christians needed someone to minister to the spiritual life of these people, so a mission was started in the town of Okeene with weekly meetings held in a school house. The Okeene Mission erected their first building in 1902. In 1912 it became the German Baptist Mission Station of Okeene, Oklahoma, with fifty-five charter members.

In 1920, the name of the church was changed to Zion Baptist Church. Soon after, the Ebenezer Church, located north of Okeene, joined the Zion Baptist Church. The vacated Ebenezer church facility was torn down. Salvaged materials were used to enlarge Zion Baptist. In 1987, the church facilities expanded with the addition of an Educational Building that includes a large conference room, pastor's study, storage area and a two-car garage with storage. Today there is also an attractive Family Center with a gym, completed in 1995. The building is a great asset to both the church as well as the whole community of Okeene. This year's Centennial booklet reminds us that "Even though the body of believers is the true church of God and not the buildings, we continue to strive to make sure our facilities honor God and are an external expression of our love for Him to the glory of God." Thirty pastors have served the church in the years between 1912 and 2012.

Adapted from *Heritage Horizons*, Vol 19, No 3, Fall, 2012.

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1912

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, Oklahoma – annual report for 1945

Selected church minutes translated from German by Myrtle Ertis in 2006.



Zion in 1945 –from cover for annual report