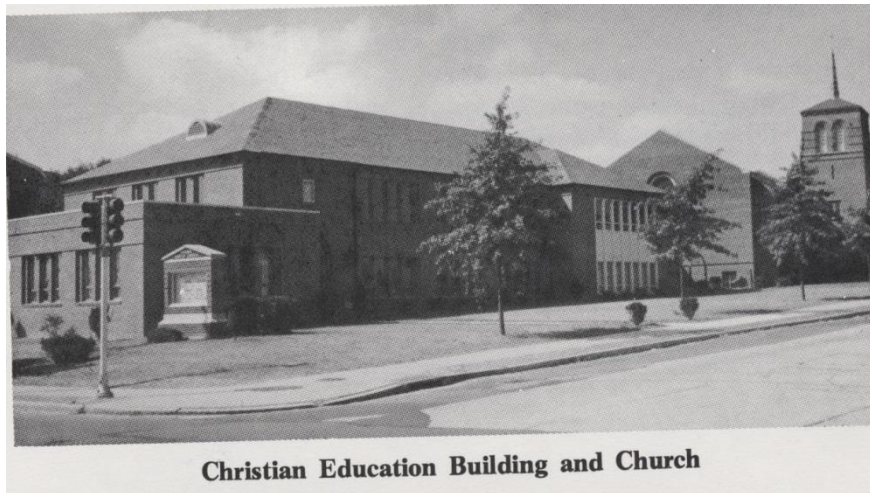


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Christian Education Building and Church

Pilgrim Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Pilgrim Baptist Church had its beginning in 1864 as a mission school, started by the Second German Baptist Church. Two years later, a second mission school was started. These two groups united, along with 94 members of the First German Baptist Church, and formed the “Second German Church of Baptized Believers.” In February 1889, a building owned by the Moravian Brethren was purchased, and for 60 years the church continued its ministry in that location.

In 1897, Rev. William Kuhn, who had just graduated from our Rochester Seminary, became the pastor. The church started a mission school which soon became a part of the church. In the 1930’s, the church began the switch from the use of German to the English language. The name of the church was changed to Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1943. In 1948, ground was broken for a new building. The first service was held in July of 1949 and construction progressed as money became available, and a service of dedication was held in 1952. During those years the Sunday School enrollment reached more than 300. In 1961, an educational unit was added. The church celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1974. From 1874 to 1984, twelve pastors faithfully served the church.

Written by Phyllis Harms, NAB Heritage Commission [November, 2015]

Bibliographical sources:]

“Historical Review: 1864 – 1984,” from church website May 27, 2015

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center

Groundbreaking Exercises, Oct. 16, 1948

75th Anniversary booklet, Sept. 27-Oct. 2, 1949

1874

Dedication Program, August 17, 1952

Dedication of the Pipe Organ, Feb. 14, 1954

Mortgage Burning, March 6, 1955

Architect's Plan of Proposed Church School/ Educational Unit of Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1961

100th Anniversary booklet, Sept. 27-20, 1974

Ordination Paper of Charles D. Reilly-Edinger; March 1979

110th Anniversary program, 1984

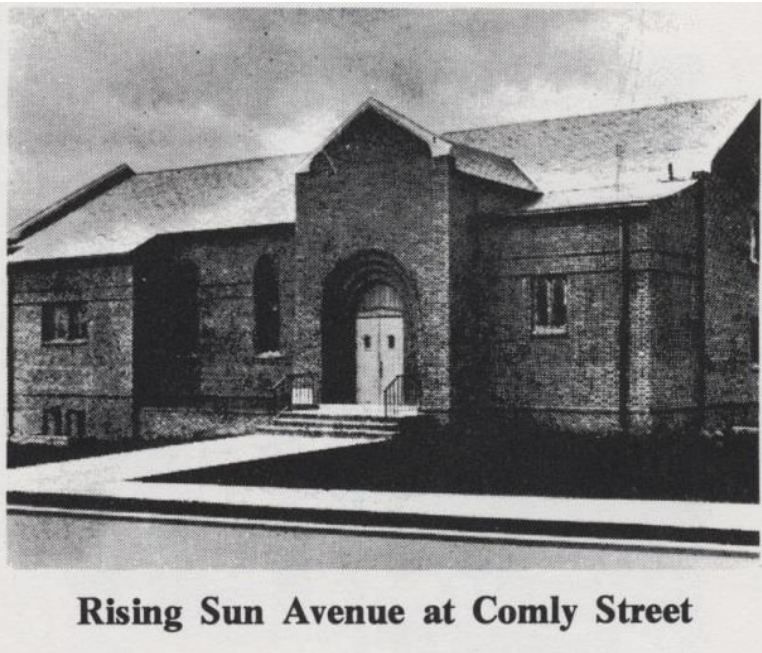
115th Anniversary program, Sept. 30, 1989

Pilgrim Baptist Church PROMOTER: various dates from 1966-1974

Miscellaneous correspondence; assorted photos



First building 1889-1949



Erected in 1949