

1873

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Picture from Shell Creek Web site in April, 2013

Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, Nebraska

The very beginnings of the church date back to 1873 when a group of twelve met and organized under the name of German Baptist Church of Elk Creek, Nebraska. A few years later the name was changed to Shell Creek Baptist Church. This courageous group of Christians at first met in homes and schoolhouses. Their first church building, at a cost of \$1,338.00 became a reality in 1883. Seventeen years later that building was replaced by a larger building. The first parsonage was built in 1893. As the years went on, there were numerous changes and additions, such as an organ, electric lights, updating of the heating system, replacement of the coal room by a kitchen and restrooms, as well as giving the parsonage a new look. In 1947, a decision was made to use only the English language in church services, rather than German. The church's 80th anniversary was observed in 1953, the 90th in 1963 and the 100th a decade later.

Bibliographical sources:

1873-100 years by the Grace of God – 1973 Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, Nebraska. (1973) 36 pages. [Includes extensive history with pictures of each pastor that served the church in the first 100 years. Has pictures and descriptions of each activity in 1973 and a pictorial directory for 1973.] Shell Creek Baptist Church web site, spring 2013.

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

80th Anniversary of the Shell Creek Baptist Church 1873-November 24 – 1953 18 pp.)

[pictorial history and program and current activities.]

“Shell Creek Baptist Church plans Centennial Observance.” *The Columbus Telegram*. Saturday, September 8, 1973.

Church bulletins for selected special occasions 1953-1983.