

## North American Baptist Heritage Commission

## Church Histories



1958

**Temple Baptist, Cheektowaga, (Buffalo, New York)**

Temple Baptist Church was formed in 1940 by the merger of two Buffalo congregations, Spruce St. Baptist church and High Street Baptist church.

The first church, known as The German Baptist Church of Christ, was organized on February 14, 1849. A small school house was their first church building. Alexander von Puttkammer a former Prussian officer, was ordained and served as the first pastor. From the years 1851 to 1915, five Baptist churches grew from the First German Baptist church. These churches were The Dutch Baptist Church, the Second German Baptist church, the First Polish Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church and the First Hungarian Baptist Church.



Alexander von Puttkammer

In 1859, due to different beliefs regarding communion, the church divided, with the second church being named the "Second German Baptist Church". In 1869 the original building was sold for \$1,000.00 and a new church was built. The church name was changed to Spruce Street Baptist Church during the years of the First World War. In the late 1950's the property was sold and a small building was purchased in Cheektowaga. A new sanctuary was built in 1959.

Up to 1915. The German language was used exclusively in the meetings and services. In 1964 the church celebrated its 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 1974 the church celebrated its

125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Temple Baptist church continues today as a congregation of vibrant believers.

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

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**Bibliographical sources:**

Baptist Herald articles indexed for Bethel, First High Street, Second, Spruce St.- numerous news articles between 1923 and 1937

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

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spruce Street Baptist Church, Buffalo, NY 1849-1924, Booklet includes programs for a weeklong series of evening in addition to Sunday morning and afternoon services, pictures and descriptions of each pastor, membership roll for 1924 and actives in 1924.  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book of Bethel Baptist 1895-1920 (In German, same details about history as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book which is in English)  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dritten Deutschen Baptisten Gemeinde 1875-1915. (German, 1 pages)  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration High Street Baptist Church (formerly 3<sup>rd</sup> German Baptist) founded 1875 (English – 20 pages)  
110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program and Banquet and the Laying of the Corner Stone of the new Temple Baptist Church April 26, 1959 program folders.  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Temple Baptist church