

1891

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Trinity Fellowship, Portland, Oregon

Trinity Fellowship was originally founded as the First German Baptist Church by Swiss and German settlers, and was organized in January 1891. The first services were held in the First English Baptist Church in Portland. There were 17 charter members. In 1896, a new church building was constructed at SW Fourth and Mill Streets. After five years of short-term pastors, Rev. Jacob Kratt began his ministry of 40 years in the church. After he retired in 1936, tensions regarding the use of English or German surfaced, resulting in 161 people forming a new English-only congregation called Laurelhurst Baptist Church. The mother church retained 502 members.

In 1939, during Dr. John Leypoldt's ministry, the name of the church was changed to Trinity Baptist Church. Dr. Leypoldt took a very special interest in all the members of the Church who served in any branch of the military during World War II, praying for them all by name each Sunday. Dr. John Wobig became pastor of Trinity in September 1946. The area around the church was in decay. The City of Portland declared it an urban renewal area. In memory of their father, the children of Dr. Kratt offered a five acre site in east Portland as a gift to the Church. The congregation accepted the offer and proceeded to break ground in 1952. On Easter Sunday 1954, more than 900 people crowded into the new building. It is the same building today with some modifications.

Dr. Robert Schreiber ministered from 1966 through June 1977. His dream of reaching the community by means of a day care center in the Church came to fruition in October 1974. Sunshine Day Care School, now Sunshine School, continues to serve the children of the

community. The 100th Anniversary was celebrated by the church in 1991. Through the years, many have gone into missionary or ministry service from Trinity. “Lord, Find Us Faithful.”

Written by Phyllis Harms with Luci Lengefeld, NAB Heritage Commission [February 2016]

Bibliographical sources

“Lord, Find Us Faithful: Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, celebrates its 100th anniversary.” *Baptist Herald*. December 1990.

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Anniversary booklets:

50th Anniversary, October 9-12, 1941

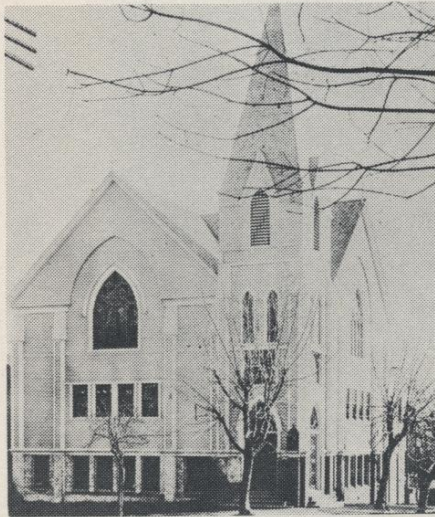
60th Anniversary, September 16-19, 1951

70th Anniversary, October 12-15, 1961

75th Anniversary, March 12-13, 1966

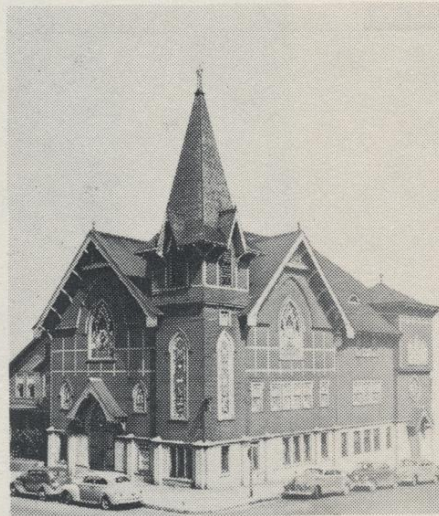
Programs for building dedication, organ dedication

Assorted bulletins, photos, memorabilia



ERECTED IN 1896

S. W. Fourth & Mill St.



RENOVATED 1910

S. W. Fourth & Mill St.