

1912

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

# Church Histories



## Venturia Baptist Church , Venturia, North Dakota

As each person born into this world has his or her own personal history, so it is with churches. The official organization of this Venturia church took place on June 10, 1912, according to its centennial booklet, though the “real beginning” took place about twenty years earlier. This is because Baptist Christians from three “station churches” joined together to form the NEXT community: becoming a new church fellowship.

These Baptist Christians had been meeting in homes for a number of years at stations named Smith (later Venturia), Kassel and Bertsch, and those Christians later did build church buildings. Perhaps the church groups were small and wanted the support of others in a larger fellowship. At any rate, members from the three stations met on April 21, 1912, resulting in the decision to become the Venturia Baptist Church.

The list of charter members was encouraging: 125 people, ready to form the NEXT community and to begin together their task of witness and ministry. The first church building was built in 1916, rebuilt in 1948. Then the members found that on a sad day in February, 1965, their church building was completely destroyed by fire. On Sunday, April 25th of that year, they broke ground for a new church and held the first service in the new building on December 31, 1965. Brave and courageous souls indeed!

Current attendance is about 25 to 30 people. The Centennial booklet records that “Thankfully we serve a God who never changes whether there are 10 or 100 worshipping together. His love, mercy, and faithfulness is unchanging!!!”

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

## 1912

### **Bibliographical sources:**

Venturia Baptist Church Fiftieth Anniversary 1912-1952 [36 pages, history of stations, list of charter members].

Venturia Baptist Church 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1912-1987 [history of each ministry within the church and a story of each pastor that served the church; includes directory pictures]

Venturia Baptist Church 100 years 1912-2012

Church dedication, Venturia, North Dakota. *Baptist Herald* 44:5:17 March 10, 1966

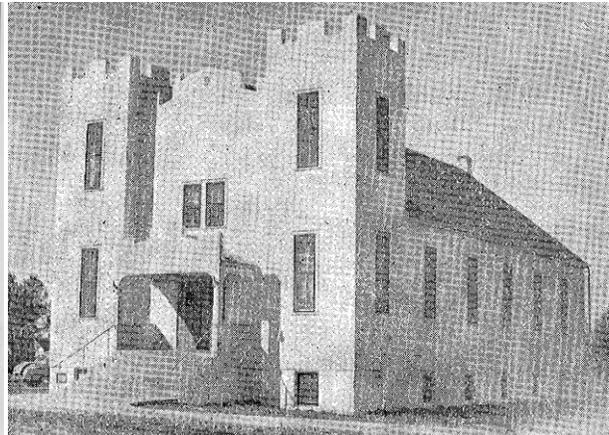
### **Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:**

75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Venturia Baptist Women's Missionary Fellowship 1920-1995

Photos of baptismal candidates printed in *Baptist Herald* at various times



First building 1916



Second building 1949