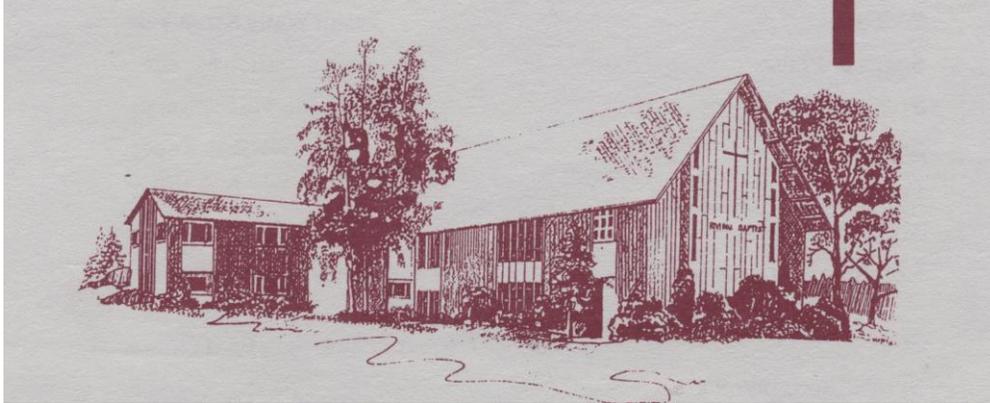


1890

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Current building –erected 1965

West Hills Community Church, Salem, Oregon

West Hills Community Church has a rich and memorable history. It was originally incorporated as the first German Baptist Church of Salem, Oregon, on August 7, 1891. The first sanctuary was built in 1928. On January 30, 1945, the name was changed to Bethel Baptist Church to reflect a new season of expanding beyond the German focus. In 1963 the church voted to relocate their work to the Brush College Community, and on May 26, 1964, the name was changed again to Riviera Baptist Church, named after the proposed community name of its new location, “Riviera Heights.” “Riviera Heights” never fully materialized, and the congregation voted to change the name to West Hills Community Church in January 2000. West Hills Community Church is affiliated with the North American Baptist Conference.

In 1966, the church opened the first preschool and kindergarten located in West Salem. Currently Riviera Christian School offers classes from preschool through 6th grade, as well as daily child care.

In 2001, West Hills was at the end of a difficult season of decline. The church had experienced challenges and testing that forced the congregation to bring their hearts completely before the Lord. In 2002, the congregation partnered together in prayer, recommitted themselves to one another and to God, and moved forward.

(Church newsletter and other information online.)

Bibliographical sources: [Published articles – Baptist Herald & Other]

www.westhillscommunitychurch.com/our-history.html

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Dedication Services (Program): Brush College Baptist Chapel, November 16-18, 1962

Dedication Services (Program): Riviera Baptist Church, April 29-May 2, 1965
Centennial Program 1890-1990: June 8-10, 1990



Original building - 1928