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Heritage Horizons

...a memorial book was written in His presence, recording those who revered Him and those who had the highest respect for His name... Malachi 3:16

Sent



Featuring stories of some of our early churches

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NAB Churches have, from their very beginning, worked together to send their youth to learn to be pastors and missionaries. Many youth studied in the German Department of the Seminary in Rochester. More recently, students have attended Sioux Falls Seminary or Taylor Seminary or a seminary near where they live. Churches have also sent out members to plant new churches. These stories are buried in Anniversary booklets of the churches and in articles of our two early publications *der Sendbote* for German readers and the *Baptist Herald* for English readers. We have selected churches which are currently more than 100 years old to tell the story of being on mission for God over the years.

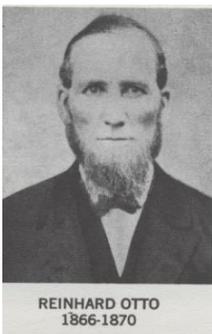
Nearly all of these churches began with the name. *First German Baptist church of (town name)*. Most dropped the German and adopted a new, meaningful name – usually around WWI or at the beginning of WWII. The Canadian churches experienced a new wave of immigration in the 1950's and thus had German speaking congregations who included this distinction for some time. One-third of Canadian WMF groups submitted their reports in German in 1975. There are only a few German-speaking congregations left. However, we have a variety of other languages spoken as NAB continues to be a conference with immigrant congregations seeking to spread the good news of God's love and free gift of salvation. Ethnic church names reflect Bulgarian, Cambodian, Hispanic, Japanese, Korean, Romanian and Slavic backgrounds.

The Kingdom of God is enlarged as churches plant churches and send their youth to prepare for ministry. This is a small sampling of what it means to be “on mission for God”. The churches are in chronological order based on their beginnings. More could be added. To see the story of many of the early churches, go to the “church stories” under collections on the nabarchives.org web site.

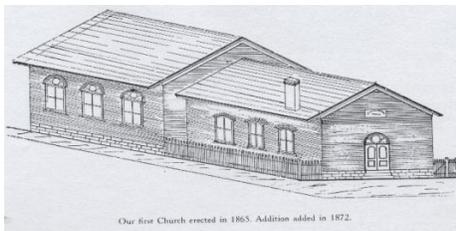
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania -- Temple Baptist (1862)

Temple Baptist was mother church to: churches in Jeannette, PA and Allegheny, PA in 1894. Temple Baptist was active in taking the gospel to neighboring areas by establishing mission stations. The members began with Sunday School and evening services in Knoxville, Cobden St. and New Kensington. By 1906 they were conducting 5 mission stations among the Hungarians and Slavs. In 1907 the church dismissed one hundred members to form a Hungarian-Slovak Baptist Church ending the mission work among those groups. The Knoxville mission was later organized as Second Baptist Church.

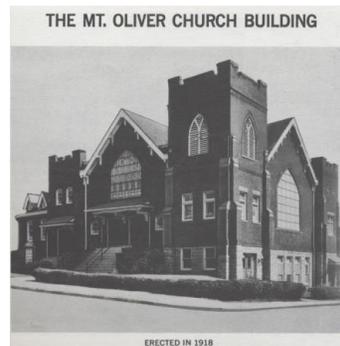
Sons and daughters who became pastors, missionaries included F. Herman, Samuel Hamel (died in India, 1912), David Hamel, R. Dulitz, John Kana, Marie Bergmann, Susie Steuscek, and Lenore Sayenga.



Rev. Reinhard Otto



Building erected 1872



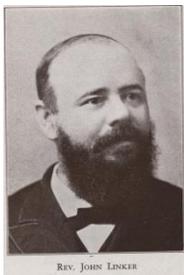
Building erected 1918

Temple Baptist is a member of the Eastern Association.

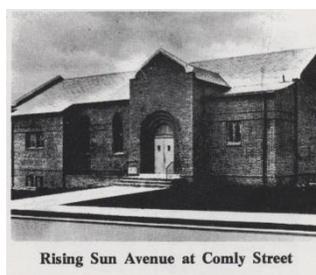
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Pilgrim Baptist (1874)

Second German Baptist (now Pilgrim Baptist) was a daughter church of First German Baptist church (later renamed Fleischmann Memorial Baptist church). An early pastor was William Kuhn who went on to serve the Conference as General Mission Secretary. The church was missionary minded and began a mission school which was a beehive of evangelistic activity and later united with the church on Hancock Street. In 1940 the name changed to Pilgrim Baptist Church.

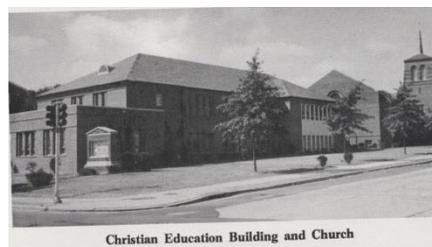
Thirty sons and daughters became pastors, missionaries: Through the First 100 years.



Rev. John Liker



Erected in 1949



Educational unit in 1961

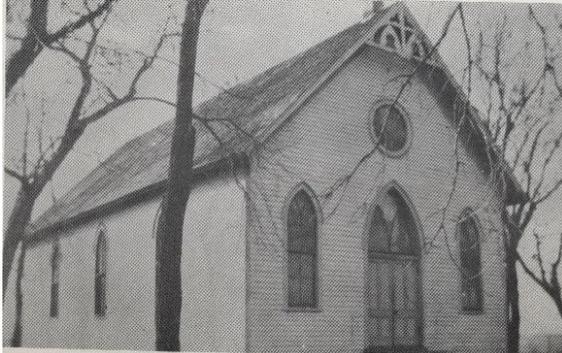
Pilgrim Baptist is a member of the Atlantic Association

Ellinwood, Kansas -- First Baptist Church (1879)

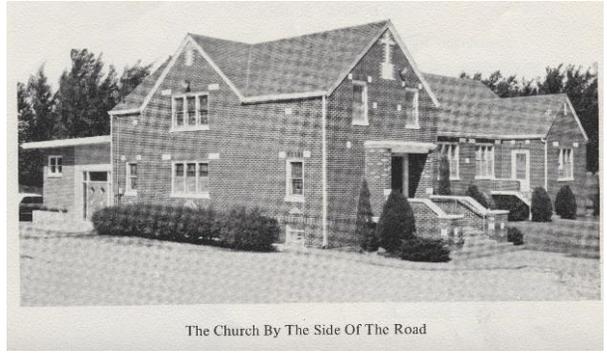
First Baptist church started a mission station in Peace Creek (1881). As Peace Creek developed, it was able to form its own congregation which is now Calvary Baptist in Stafford, Kansas. A mission work was begun in Ellinwood in 1911 which lasted only 6 years. Ellinwood had 10 sons who became pastors. Their first pastor was Rev. Henry Willms, and the first regular pastor Rev. Andreas Stern.



Rev. Andreas Stern



Building erected 1893



Erected 1946

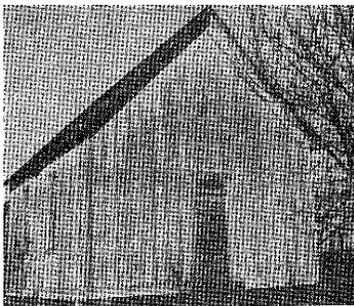
First Baptist is a member of the Southwestern Association.

Portland, Oregon – Bethany (1879)

Bethany Baptist was incorporated as the *First German Baptist Church of Bethany* in 1881. Bethany was 12 miles from Portland. It was the first NAB church established on the Pacific coast. At the end of 1880, there was a flourishing Sunday School of 25 pupils and four conversions. They immediately launched out on a missionary program, a mid-week prayer service and a Bible Study following the morning worship services. Early activities included establishment of a mission station in Clackamas County in 1883 which became Stafford Baptist church (1892). A mission station at Helvetia in 1895 provided a Sunday School. There were those who walked to services at Bethany, some 8 miles away. First German Baptist church of Portland a mission of Bethany was organized 1891 and is now known as Trinity Fellowship. The roots of Salem and Salt Creek also reside in Bethany.

In 1941, members moved and mission work was undertaken in the Villa Ridge area near Tigard. This is now known as Family Baptist Church. A fourth daughter church was Golden Road Baptist church.

There were 20 Sons and daughters who became pastors and missionaries. The most well-known include Dr. Mark Rich, Dr. & Mrs. Leslie Chaffee, Roland & Furne Rich, and Ron Stoller.



Original church building, erected 1881.

Original building 1881



Second church building, erected 1890.

Second 1890



Current – erected 1976

Bethany is a member of the Northwest Association.

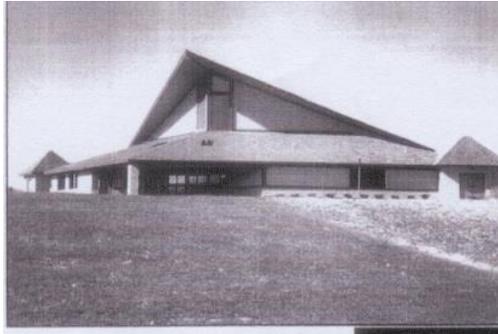
Alpena, Michigan – Word of Life Church (1884)

First German Baptist Church of Alpena erected its first building in 1888 at Fourth Avenue and Sable Street. In 1936 the name was changed to Fourth Avenue Baptist church. In 1948, land was purchased on Ripley Boulevard and Clinton Street. The name was changed to Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church to reflect the new location. This building was dedicated in 1956. The congregation grew and once again needed more space. Property was purchased on Bagley Avenue and the name was changed to Word of Life Baptist church in 1993.

Sons and daughters of Word of Life who became pastors, missionaries include the following: James Calamunce, Rev. Arnold Kinscner, Jr., Rev. Ferris Liske, James Liske, Rev. Reuben Thom, Helen Freel (Rev. Maurice Markham) and Rev. Philip D. Voss. First pastor- Rev. Charles Rocho.



Building in 1888



Building dedicated 1993

Word of Life is a member of the Great Lakes Association.

Minneapolis, Minnesota – Faith Baptist (1885)

Faith Baptist was begun by First German Baptist Church of St. Paul (now Dayton's Bluff). Daughter churches include Princeton, Minnesota begun in 1897, Turtle Lake, Wisconsin station in 1912, Brook Park Baptist church of Brooklyn Center (1960), ValleyView Baptist church of Shakopee in 1973 and Dayspring church, Maple Grove 1977.

Sons and daughters who became pastors, missionaries are numerous and include names such as Dr. Peter Fehr, Dr. Jerry Fluth, Rev. Doug Woyke – the list includes more than 48 persons who grew up in the church or were called to ministry while members of the church.



Rev. F. A. Petereit



First church 1885



Building dedicated 1954

Faith Baptist is a member of the Upper Mississippi Association

Wishek, North Dakota – First Baptist (1886)

Wishek had stations almost from its beginning. Danzig (ND) was started in 1886, dissolved in 1940; Beaver Creek station 1898, closed 1949. Danzig, Beaver Creek and Wishek became one. In 1949 the name was changed from German Baptist church of Wishek to First Baptist Church of Wishek. Johannasstadt station was

started in 1898 and Kassel station in 1903. Johanna'sstadt and Kassel became the First Baptist of Venturia in 1912. The first pastor was Rev. Berthold Matzke.

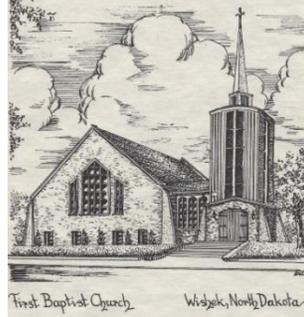
There were 11 Sons and daughters who answered the call to become pastors and missionaries. Rev. Gideon Zimmerman was among this group. Dr. Zimmerman served 12 years as General Secretary for SS Union & Dept. of Christian Education. From 1968 to 1979 he was Executive Secretary of the Conference.



First building 1890



Built 1908



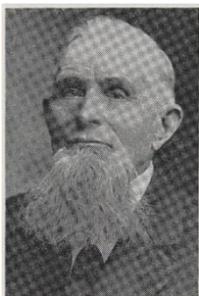
Dedicated 1950

Wishek is a member of the North Central Association.

Emery, South Dakota - First Baptist (1886)

In its first 10 years, First German Baptist of Emery had 3 daughter churches: Unityville church (1890), Avon church (1890), Chancellor church (1890). It also sent members to form First German Baptist in Corona (1911). The Jeffers church in Jeffers, Minnesota was taken over as a station in 1913 became organized in 1916. These churches were at one time Stations of Emery church and served by the Emery pastors. A church was organized in Donna, Texas (1928) almost exclusively of former members of the Emery church. Emery also helped the South Canyon Baptist church of Rapid City, SD to become established.

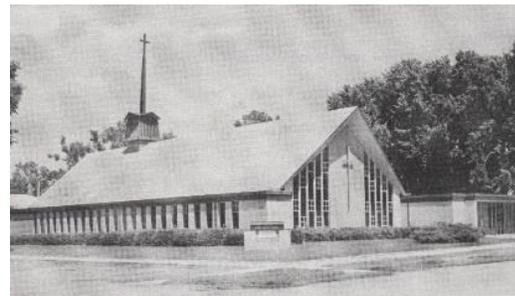
Sons who became pastors included John Olthoff, Randy Tschetter, Dan Edzards, John L. Terveen, Rick Weber, and Ken Ontjes, Myrtle Weeldreyer Schaub, Ken Ontjes, Oryn Meinerts, and Lucille Wipf became missionaries. Hilka Johnson (Mrs John Olthoff), Cecelia Bleeker (Mrs. John Wobig), Elsie Olthoff (Mrs. Dave S. Wipf), Joy Brown (Mrs. Barry Seifert), Helen Heitzman (Mrs. Dave Moberg) were pastors' wives..



Rev. Ottje Olthoff



First building 1891



Present building 1966

First Baptist of Emery is a member of the Great Plains Association.

Kyle, Texas - Immanuel (1886) (First German Baptist Church- name changed in 1941)

Immanuel is mother church to Anderson Street Baptist Church, Houston 1966 and participated in home mission work with Latin-Americans around Kyle. Sons and daughters who became missionaries include William D. Lengefeld (Lucille), Richard (Frances) Mayforth and Keith (Glenda) Eitel. Also called into ministry are Edward Schmeltekopf, Robert Schmeltekopf, Donald Schmeltekopf, Edmund Lengefeld, Roland Ahlardt and Curtis Lengefeld.



Rev.J. A. Benson



Dedicated 1893



Rebuilt after fire



Steeple dedicated 1976

Immanuel is a member of the Southern Association.

Winnipeg, Manitoba – McDermot Avenue Baptist (1889)

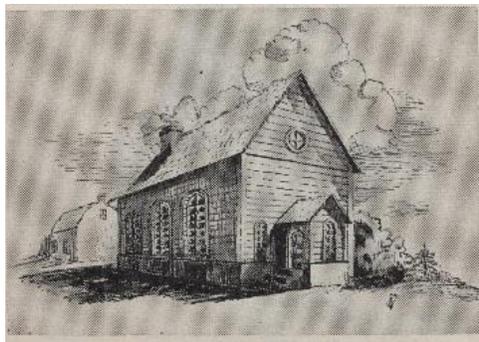
“Erste Deutsche Baptisten Gemeinde” changed her name to McDermot Avenue Baptist church in 1919. The McDermot Avenue Baptist timeline reflects an ongoing outreach to establish stations and churches. The list includes: Oak Bank Mission Station (1895), Northend Chapel (1904), Whitemouth Mission Station , organized as church (1906), Moosehorn mission station in 1914 and organized as a church in 1918. The Overstone Mission station transferred to Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, Manitoba in 1921. The Elmwood Mission Station established was established in 1926, closed, reopened in 1935 and closed in 1937. The St. Rose Mission Station was organized 1927 organized as a church 1929.

A German group started an extension work on Furby Street in 1953 under the name German Baptist Church. In 1954 the name was changed to Third German Baptist church of Winnipeg, with another name change in 1964 to Rowandale Baptist church. Elmwood Sunday School transferred to the East Kildonan Baptist church in 1963

The young people tended to become pastors and pastors’ wives. This list includes 19 pastors, 14 pastors’ wives and one missionary. Mary Epp was a missionary to Bolivia. Pastors included Albert Itterman, Gottlieb Itterman, Bert Milner, Art Patzia and Ernie Rogalski.



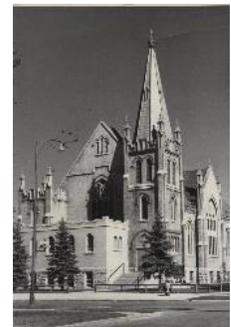
Rev. F. A . Peterit



First building 1890



second building 1901



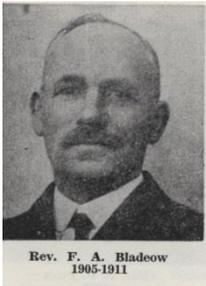
Present building 1908

McDermot Avenue Baptist is a member of the Manitoba Association

Ebenezer, Saskatchewan – Ebenezer First Baptist (1889)

Ebenezer Baptist was formed in 1889. When it outgrew its facilities, it built two churches, East and West Ebenezer in 1911 to serve the growing rural population and to decrease travel distance to worship services. The population decreased markedly after WWII and it was time to share a pastor again. West Ebenezer disbanded in 1956 and East Ebenezer was renamed Ebenezer Baptist as the two churches became one again.

Ebenezer was mother church to stations at Homestead and Endeavor. Thirteen sons and daughters entered full-time Christian service: 5 pastors and 8 pastors' wives. Dr. Richard Schilke, a son of the church, became NAB General Missionary Secretary and served from 1951-1976..



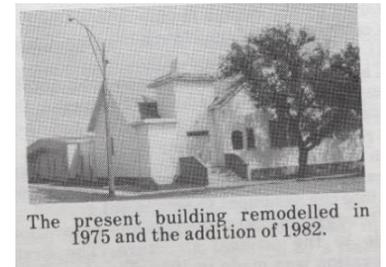
Rev. F. A. Blaedow



East Ebenezer 1911



West Ebenezer 1911



Building with addition 1982

Ebenezer is a member of the Saskatchewan Association

Edmonton, Alberta – Central Baptist (1899)

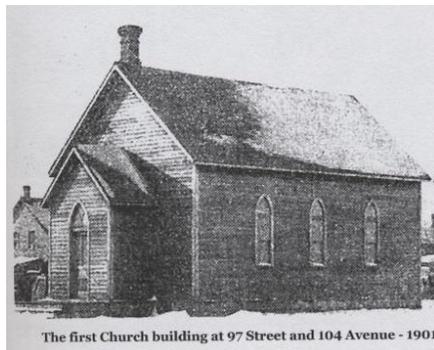
First German Baptist Church of Edmonton, now known as Central Baptist is mother church (or grandmother) to nearly every NAB church in Edmonton. Among these are Lauderdale – organized as a Mission station in 1934; in 1951 was organized into Lauderdale Baptist church – in 1962 the church amalgamated with Central, McKernan (1951), Immanuel Baptist remained (1954), German Zion (1956), Namao Park Baptist = Northgate (1963), and Capilano Baptist (1960)

Central Baptist and First Baptist started the Mustard Seed church in 1988. This is now a joint ministry of NAB and Baptist Union of Western Canada. Renaissance Community Church (1998) is a recent church. Central was active in the support and establishment of the Christian Training Institute (CTI) - now Taylor Seminary in 1938.

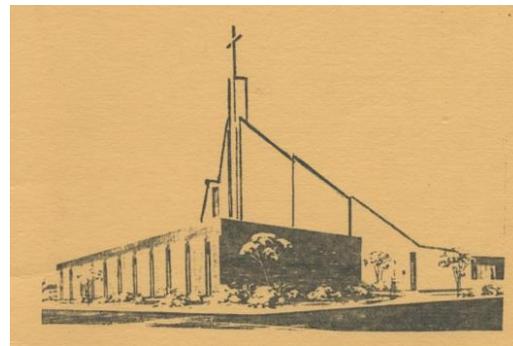
Sons and daughters who became pastors, missionaries include David Lake and Myrtle Hein



Rev. Abraham Hagar



First building 1901



Current building 1973

Central Baptist is a member of the Alberta Association

Aneheim, California – Bethel Baptist (1902)

Rev. John Berg was first pastor of Bethel Baptist. Bethel is mother church to: First Baptist Church of Costa Mesa (1949), Magnolia Baptist Church (1956) and Sunkist Baptist Church (1966)

There were sixteen sons and daughters who became pastors, among them was Dr. Martin Leuschner.



Rev. John Berg



Building 1903



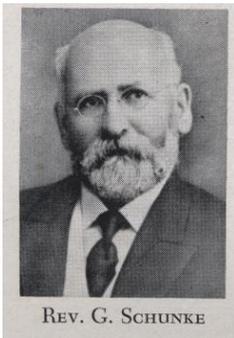
Building 1927

Bethel is a member of the Southern California Association

Lodi, California – First Baptist (1905)

First German Baptist of Lodi's name was changed in 1946 to First Baptist church of Lodi. First Baptist was mother church to Franklin Baptist Church. The church later moved to Elk Grove and became the First Baptist Church of Elk Grove in 1924. In 1948, the church helped members of the congregation start a new fellowship on the west side of town and Temple Baptist was begun. First Baptist helped in the start of Swain Oaks Baptist in Stockton (now Quail Lakes Baptist), Sunrise Baptist in Sacramento (now Sunrise Community) and Horizon Community in Galt. Their first pastor was Rev. Gustave Schunke.

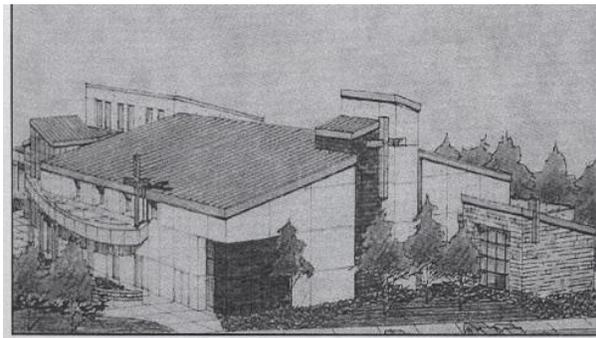
Daughters who became missionaries include Marcella Delk Jones and Gwen Bertsch Baker, (with their husbands in West Africa serving under SIM)



Rev. Schunke



First Baptist 1912



Remodeled new facilities 2003

First Baptist, Lodi is a member of the Northern California Association.

Is your church preserving the story of God's faithfulness among you?

We would be glad to help you with maintaining records of the events that shape your story of God's faithfulness. Send us the information that tells of your beginnings, building dedications, pastoral transitions, relocations, and name changes. A final story can be prepared for closures. Printed anniversary books, newspaper clippings and pictures with persons and dates identified are especially valuable. A one-page outline is available to guide you on organizing this information.

We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders. . . . So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. Psalm 78: 4,7 (NLT)