

1891

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Built 1894 – remodeled and added on to numerous times

Canaan Baptist Church of Crawford, Texas

Many German families were settling in Texas in the mid-1800s. In about 1884, Heinrich Engelbrecht moved to this area where he was able to buy 1600 acres for \$8 per acre. The community became known as Prairie Chapel. Since no church had been established, early settlers met in area homes for worship and Bible study.

On October 25, 1891, Canaan Baptist was officially organized with about 47 charter members. Before the meeting began, a guest dining at the Englebrecht home noted the abundance of milk and honey on the table and suggested that the church be called “Canaan” since the Bible refers to Canaan as the land flowing with milk and honey. In 1894, the congregation decided to build a church that would measure 50x30 feet. A parsonage also was completed by the end of that year.

Church customs in those early years dictated that men would sit on the right side of the church, women on the left, and children in the front. At Canaan, the men and women sat on opposite sides of the church until the mid-1970s. Over the years, the building was remodeled numerous times. In October 1991, in conjunction with the church’s centennial celebration, a souvenir book was published which contains a wealth of information as well as historical photos. In 2001 and 2002, President George W. Bush and his family participated in the Easter Sunrise Services. Currently, approximately 40 people attend Sunday worship services as they continue to proclaim God’s Word in the Prairie Chapel community and beyond.

Written by Lucille Lengefeld, NAB Heritage Commission [February 2016]

Bibliographical sources:

Massirer, Van. "Teutonics: In the Land of Milk and Honey." *The Lone Star Iconoclast*: March 19, 2003: pages 29-33.

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Canaan Baptist Church, Crawford, Texas: 75th Anniversary souvenir booklet, 1891-1966.

Canaan Baptist Church, Crawford, Texas: 100th Anniversary souvenir book/directory, 1891-1991.

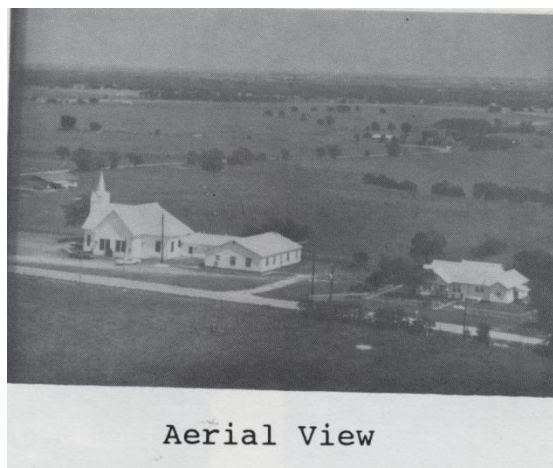
100th Anniversary-related correspondence, programs

Canaan Baptist Church website: printed history

Kennedy, Bud. Commentary on "The Western White House." Copyright 2001 dfw and wire service sources.

Assorted correspondence, photos, bulletins

Original edifice built in 1894; first major remodeling in 1928 (side wings and drop doors installed to provide Sunday School rooms, tower and steeple added)



Aerial View