

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



At time of 125th anniversary in 2005

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, Kansas

Ebenezer Baptist Church had its beginning in 1880 when a group of 21 German Baptist Christians organized a small Baptist church on the west branch of Turkey Creek, near Elmo, Kansas. This group had its earlier beginning as a part of Dickinson County Baptist Church. Before 1922, the German language was used. By 1935, English was used exclusively for church and Sunday school services.

The first church building, built in 1880, was replaced with a larger building dedicated in 1927. By the year 2005, when the 125th anniversary was celebrated, there had been two additions made, including a baptistery. The first musical instrument in the church was an organ, purchased in 1911. In 1923 a piano was purchased. The church was given financial support by the General Mission Committee until 1923 when the members decided they would be able to function without that support. 1923 was also the year that the Ladies Aid Society was organized. Records are not available for the initial organization of the BYPU. In 1979, the front addition to the church was built.

At four different times, time capsules were placed in the churches, all to be opened at later dates. The time capsules were placed in 1880, 1927, 1979, and 2005. The word Ebenezer brings to mind the verse from I Samuel, which includes the words, "Hitherto has the Lord helped us."

Written by Phyllis Harms, NAB Heritage Commission [July, 2015]

1880

Bibliographical sources:

“Ebenezer Baptist to celebrate 125 years.” *Abilene Reflector-Chronicle*. Saturday, April 2, 2005.
“From Catholic Priest to Baptist Pastor.” *Baptist Herald*. October 1980. [article written by Elaine Eisele Strobel]

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene Kansas. 125th Anniversary Celebration, April 16-17, 2005.
[Includes extensive history with pictures of each pastor that served the church]
Ebenezer Baptist Church. 75th Jubilee 1880-1955 [Address: Elmo, Kansas]

