

Calvary Baptist Church marks 100th anniversary

Calvary Baptist Church of Forest City will mark its 100th anniversary this month.

The history of Calvary Baptist Church dates back to 1880's when a country schoolhouse in the center of Madison Township was the meeting place of the American Sunday School Union. Ralph Hubbard was the leader.

A. E. Howland, who with his family moved to Forest City in 1887, missed his old church in Deer Park, Ill. Newton Bailey, a general store merchant in Forest City, was of like faith. Bailey's father-in-law, Rev. Lyman Rugg, a retired Baptist minister, came to Forest City to be near his daughter and family.

The Howland family attended the country Sunday school. After much prayer and deliberation, the men decided to form an organization because the Baptist church in town conducted its services in the Swedish language.

A council of recognition was held Aug. 17, 1895, for an English-speaking Madison Center Baptist Church. The 13 charter members were Rev. and Mrs. Lyman Rugg, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Howland, Ernest Howland, Florence Howland, Mr. and Mrs. Newton Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. John Hunt, Archie Bailey, Charles Farrell and Anthony Walton.

FIRST PASTOR

Rev. Rugg acted as pastor the first six years, from 1895 to 1901. He drove his team from town every other Sunday. Preachers came by horse and buggy on alternate Sundays and stayed with families in the neighborhood. One year Rev. Rugg received no salary and other years a very meager one as the country was young and the people were poor.

The young church moved into Forest City in 1901 and met in a hall in the Thompson block. The name was changed from Madison Center Baptist Church to First Baptist Church. The group moved to the Lackore Hall on the east side of main street across from the courthouse. Pastor Ezra Temple ministered to the congregation from 1901 to 1902 for a salary of \$6 per week.

The years 1902 to 1905 saw much action by the congregation. The first building was named, the first janitor, Arthur Nelson was hired for \$2 per month and the first organ was purchased. Sam Olson, Charles Farrell, Hattie Howland,

CONSTRUCT CHURCH

The contract to build was awarded to W. N. Reynolds September, 1903. The congregation dedicated the new church in 1904.

Pastors and their families often lived in the west room of the church until a parsonage was erected.

J. S. Kinsey pastored the congregation from 1905 to 1906. His salary was \$700 a year with \$200 paid by the state convention.

Early baptisms were held in Crystal Lake, the Winnebago River and Swedish Baptist Church until the baptistry was lined in 1905. The



Baptist Young People's Union was organized in 1905 and Ira Halvorson was granted "liberty to preach."

A gradual increase in salary was noted on the progression of pastors. Tent meetings were held with the Methodist church. A committee of Mrs. Newton Bailey, Christine Nelson and Hannah Olson was "appointed to look after the poor." This practice remained in effect for many years. Another practice of a covenant meeting the last Saturday afternoon of each month was established.

Rev. A. L. McMillan came in 1914. In 1915, a seven-room parsonage was built adjoining the church. A horse and buggy was obtained so the pastor could call in the country. Hans Newland was hired as janitor for \$60 per year. The church was the main social center for the people. They enjoyed oyster suppers at a cost of 25 cents per person.

A Harvest Home social "for a happy getting together of members" was held Nov. 22, 1916. The food was served from a three-burner kerosene stove in a tiny kitchen in the southwest corner of the church. Serving was done in the west room.

Pastor J. N. Howell served from 1918 to 1921. Each member at the annual meeting answered roll call with a testimony. A telephone was installed in the parsonage and a

the pre-convention of the Baptist Fundamentalists at Des Moines, known as the New Hampshire Confession of Faith.

A committee conferred with the pastor and decided to have two sermons Sunday. The BYPU had been meeting each Sunday evening.

Also in 1923, the church joined the Baptist Bible Union of America. L. R. Hall of Mason City was called at a salary of \$900. Grover Christ and Clark Lingren were appointed "to look after building a garage."

Pastor Hall was ordained as a minister April 14, 1925.

During a period of years, a social evening called "budget meeting" was held. Following a time of singing, prayer and praise, the budget would be raised by pledges.

In 1926, a committee was appointed to look after the discipline of the young people: Mrs. Wendle, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Kuns, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Durant, Mrs. A. R. Church and Mrs. R. W. Stephenson. A complaint was made to the city council regarding runoff water from the Standard Oil station at the top of the hill.

Rev. M. S. Hansen came to the church in 1927. A constitution and bylaws was prepared for the local church body. Signs were placed along the highways, the parsonage porch was enclosed and another complaint about the water runoff was sent to city hall.

ENLARGE CHURCH

Pastor Hansen felt the need for Sunday school rooms, a social room and better plumbing. A larger basement was dug with slip scrapers, horse power and shovels. The farmers drove their horses to town for the job. Among them were Jay Davis' prize show team and Albert Anderson's team of mules. Herman Swanson let them use his truck for a month to haul away dirt. Construction was contracted by Bartleson Construction Co.

New steps were made on the east side of the church in 1930, the grade door approach was made and the door on the west side of the church was sealed shut.

Pastor Hansen instituted a Harvest Homecoming the first Sunday in October, a practice which continued into the 1960's. For a number of years, the annual business meeting was held New Year's Eve.

JOIN REGULAR BAPTISTS

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Because the hall was no longer satisfactory for worship service, the church voted Feb. 15, 1903, to build a structure if \$2,000 was raised by the members. The congregation voted to buy the Banner lot facing east. No record was made of the transaction and it is believed Bailey gave them the lot.

Pastor Ed Johnson had come to the church in May, 1902. The church gave him authority to go to Rockefeller for financial help to build. Again records do not verify a gift.

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In 1921, E. B. Tarbox was called to devote 30-35 Sunday mornings to the church and was allowed to continue his orphanage work. Mrs. Tarbox filled the pulpit in his absence.

Nov. 10, 1921, at a called business meeting, the pastor was instructed to inform the Northern Baptist Convention that the church did not care to have any more drives for money for "The New World Movement." Also in the future the church would support its own missionary projects.

Feb. 12, 1923, the church adopted as its confession of faith the one adopted June, 1922, by

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Rev. Clarence Sharer was called as pastor in 1935. In September, 1936, the church withdrew from the Northern Baptist Convention. At the annual business meeting in 1937, the church voted to join the Regular Baptist Fellowship.

Glenn Smith was ordained in 1940. The church voted to give him support as a missionary to the Barbados Islands.

Soon after the Rev. Loyal H. Marx began his ministry in 1940, the church in cooperation with three area churches took part in a radio ministry over KGLO, Mason City. Milton Schoepf was licensed to preach in 1943.

The church hosted the annual meeting of the state Association of



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH—Calvary Baptist Church of Forest City will celebrate its 100th anniversary this weekend. This church building on the Bancroft Blacktop on the west side of Forest City was constructed in 1972-73.

Forest City
Cow Palace
Forest City, Iowa

Summer Schedule

MONDAY

2 p.m. Feeder Pig Auction

WEDNESDAY

3 p.m. REGULAR SALE

Are Interest Rates Helping You Meet Your Goals? Learn More About The LifeUSA Universal Retirement PlanSM

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■ Guaranteed to increase monthly retirement income by as much as 60%, if the participant becomes disabled after retirement



OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY—Members of Calvary Baptist Church observed Old Fashioned Sunday Aug. 20 in honor of their church's 100th anniversary. Many of the costumes came from Waldorf College Theatre Department and Jay Sierszyn.

regular Baptists in 1943.

Extensive remodeling was done in 1944. An enclosed entrance was constructed on the north side of the building. The interior door leading to the church auditorium was moved back a few feet to give more room to the vestibule. A gas furnace was installed.

Charles Segerstrom was ordained in October, 1946. With the aid of Pastor Marx and support of \$40 per month from the church, Rev. Segerstrom started a Baptist church in Greene.

The church supported Dr. Paul Brown as a missionary in Belgian Congo, Africa.

New pulpit furniture and folding chairs were purchased in 1948. The church supported state missionary, Rev. Lynn Pace.

Pastor Marx left the church in April, 1949 and Charles Olmstead served as interim pastor. A young professor from Omaha Baptist Bible College, Clair Sallers became pastor in August, 1949.

A bus was purchased and driven by Garland Thompson to pick up children for Sunday school. New cupboards and sink were installed as well as a gas furnace. A water cooler, divider drapes and new curtains were added to the church basement and a Hammond organ was installed.

CHURCH REINCORPORATED

The organization was reincorporated and the name was changed to Calvary Baptist Church in 1952.

The pastor led the congregation into increased mission involvement. He organized "round robin" missionary meetings with Algona, Greene, Corwith and Britt churches. The church supported missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Shook, Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Christman, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Meyer and Helen Jean Moose in 1952.

At the annual meeting in 1955, two resolutions were passed: Any person belonging to a secret society would not be accepted into membership; and no church weddings would be permitted unless both parties are born again.

Pastor Mel Stadt came to the church in March, 1958. Prior to his arrival, a study was constructed in the west room of the church. The parsonage was redecorated.

The church bought a triangular piece of property between Best Street and the Bancroft Road to build a new church.

The church was without a pastor for more than a year until Pastor Charles Curtis came in August, 1963. He started the Awana Club for boys and girls ages eight to 14.

NEW PARSONAGE

Plans were procured for a church building to be erected on the Bancroft Road property. These were laid aside and at the annual meeting in January, 1964, the church congregation voted to buy a lot and build a parsonage. With a new parsonage, the present parsonage

would be available for Sunday school rooms which were needed.

A building committee of Charles Eland, Dr. Hocum, Clifford Riggle, Mrs. Gordon Hall and Mrs. Richard Johnson was chosen. The committee selected plans and were overseers of the construction of the parsonage located at 615 North Best Street. Open house for the new parsonage was held Feb. 7, 1965.

Fred Curtis was licensed to preach in 1968. The parsonage debt was paid in full and the mortgage burned in 1968.

The church bought the former Hallett house and lot adjacent to the present property to the south in 1969.

Rev. Eldon H. Pals served the congregation from 1969 to 1974. Under his leadership the new church building was begun April 10, 1972.

The church was built at a cost of approximately \$275,000. A gift of 4,000 shares of Winnebago Industries stock, worth \$25,000, was given by John K. Hanson.

The cornerstone was laid Oct. 15, 1972 and the first service in the new building was April 1, 1973. After the entire congregation met at the old church, each person carried a song book and walked to the new church. An open house and dedication was held Sept. 2, 1973. Members of the building committee were Lawrence Thompson, chairman, LeRoy Thompson, secretary, Bob Segerstrom, Lyle Jefferson, Gordon Hall, Spence Abrams

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Pastor Richard Houg served the church from Nov. 24, 1974, to Aug. 15, 1978. Minister of youth and music, Jerry Gortmaker, also served the church during that time.

Pastor Grant D. Shattuck came to the church in 1978 and remained until August, 1980.

Rev. Gerald Thurber served the church from June 1, 1981 until Nov. 6, 1983. Earl Duegan was interim pastor from 1983-84.

Rev. Douglas P. Domokos was called in March 11, 1984. He served until July, 1987. A half hour radio broadcast called "Because of Calvary" began airing over KLOW. Mortgage burning was conducted at a homecoming for the church building.

Rev. Paul Heiniger served the church from Jan. 19, 1988 until July, 1990. Pastor Douglas W. Farrell came to Forest City in 1991. His wife, Lori, is active as church pianist and church secretary as well as holding office in the Ladies Missionary Society.

Calvary Baptist sets celebration this weekend

Calvary Baptist Church of Forest City will mark its 100th anniversary with a four-day celebration Labor Day weekend.

The celebration will begin Friday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m. with an ice cream social and musical concert.

Saturday, Sept. 2, at noon a church family picnic will be held at Iowa Regular Baptist Camp in Ventura. A potluck picnic lunch will be served.

At Sunday school Sept. 3, Rev. Hal Miller, a missionary, will speak at 9:30 p.m. Guest speaker for the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. will be the Rev. Richard Houg, president of Faith Baptist Bible College and a former pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

At noon a catered dinner will be served followed by a historical slide presentation.

The evening service will begin at 6 p.m. with Evangelist Paul Levin as guest speaker. A fellowship time will follow.

Monday, Sept. 4, a breakfast fellowship will be served at 9 a.m. Former pastor, the Rev. Grant Shattuck, will speak.

Former pastors of Calvary Baptist Church who will attend the celebration are Rev. Richard Houg, Rev. Grant Shattuck, Rev. Charles Curtis and Rev. Eldon Pals.

Other guests will be Rev. Hal and Patty Miller, Evangelist Paul Levin and Rev. Robert Humrickhouse.

GTE OFFERS PROTECTION AGAINST "SLAMMING"!

As a result of numerous complaints, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently amended its rules on the unauthorized switching of long-distance companies, a practice known as "slamming". Previous rules allowed several types of authorization, prior to an actual long-distance service order change. According to the FCC, some customers inadvertently authorized a change by simply signing a promotional document that contained, in fine print, permission to change long-distance companies. The amended rules require that switching authorization forms be written so that they are easily understood, with approvals separate from promotional material.

To protect yourself against "slamming", call GTE's toll-free number -- 1-800-483-4400 and request a long-distance restriction form. By signing this form, you will lock-in your choice of a long-distance company. GTE will not change your choice unless you designate, in writing, a new long-distance company. If you suspect that an unauthorized change has taken place, contact GTE at 1-800-483-4400 for a no-hassle, no charge free switch back to your long-distance company. JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GTE'S COMMITMENT TO YOU OUR CUSTOMERS -- TO BE THE EASIEST COMPANY IN THE INDUSTRY TO DO BUSINESS WITH!

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