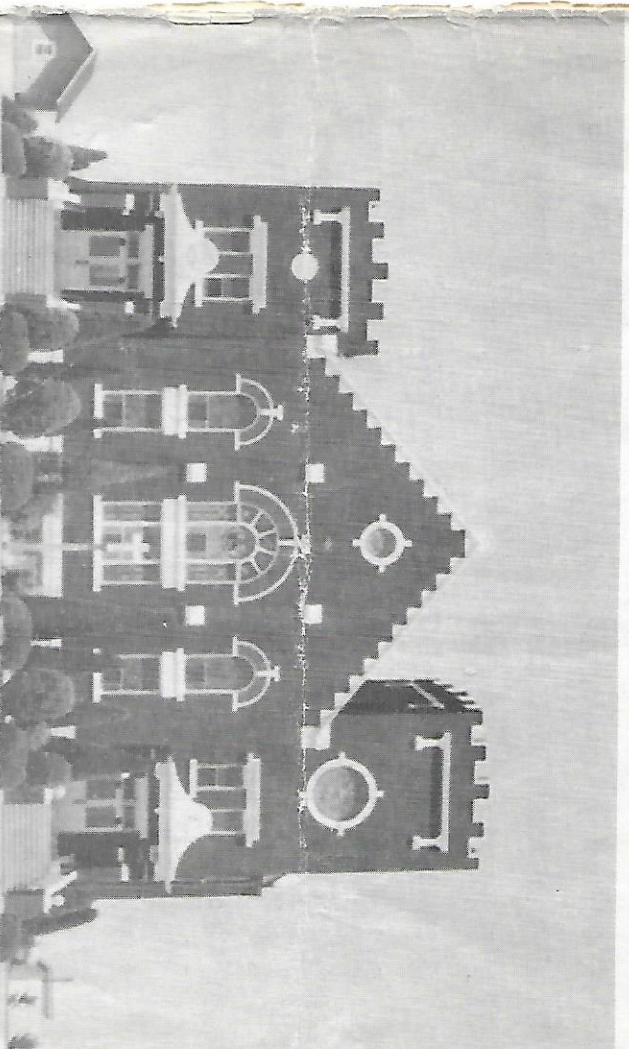


1884 — 1959

75th

Anniversary Program

Days should speak and multitude of years should teach wisdom,
—JOB 32:7.



First Mennonite Church
Pretty Prairie, Kansas

August 30, 1959

Rev. Elmer Friesen, Pastor

PROGRAM

August 30, 1959

Morning Worship Service 9:00 A.M.

Hymn No. 443—"Come, We That Love the Lord"

Devotions

The Pastor

Welcoming Remarks

The Pastor

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Menno Schrag

Individual Classes for Children

Hymn No. 147—"Lord, Thy Mercy Now Entreating"

Message

Rev. Waldo Flickinger

OUR INHERITED SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

Anthem

Young People's Choir

Message

Rev. P. P. Tschetter

THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS Gen. 12:1-4

Hymn No. 154—"Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still"

Message

Rev. Victor Graber

AN ADEQUATE FAITH FOR TODAY Heb. 12:1, 2

Offering for Missions

Hymn No. 150—"My Faith Looks up to Thee"

Prayer and Benediction

Rev. Willard Schrag

Fellowship Meal 12:00 Noon, Pretty Prairie Grade School

Laying of Cornerstone for Prairie Sunset Home

Afternoon Service 2:00 P.M.

Hymn No. 232—"O Have You Not Heard . . ."

Devotions

Mrs. N. W. Bahnmann

Message

The Pastor

WHY OUR FOREFATHERS LEFT RUSSIA

Anthems

Men's Chorus

Message

Dr. Eldon Graber

THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF OUR HISTORY

Hymn No. 450—"I Know Whom I Have Believed"

Message

Rev. Howard Nyce

THE MISSION OUTREACH OF OUR CHURCH

Anthems

Ladies' Chorus

Remarks:

"The Church's Influence on Us"

Mrs. James Heathershaw

"Youth in the Church"

Merlin Krebziel

"Men in the Church"

Arthur Waltnet

"Women in the Church"

Mrs. Phil J. Stucky

Offerings for Missions

Hymn No. 561—"Take Thou My Hand, O Father"

Closing Prayer

Fellowship Meal, Pretty Prairie Grade School

Evening Service 7:30 P.M.

Hymn No. 519—"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Devotions

Message

Dr. John B. Graber

THIS IS THE BEGINNING AND NOT THE END

Musical Program for Thanksgiving and Praise

Closing Remarks and Benediction

The Pastor

PRESENT PASTOR



Rev. and Mrs. Elmer R. Friesen and children
Carolyn, Ruth Ann, Elaine. David passed away May 16, 1959.

Elmer R. Friesen, present pastor, the son of David and Anna Ensz Friesen, was born May 27, 1918, on a homestead at Dubois, Idaho. He received his elementary, high school, and junior college education at Reedley, California. He graduated from Bethel College in 1940 and worked as a research chemist for five years in southern California. He married Lois Bixel April 16, 1943, in Los Angeles, California. Four children were born into their family. The call of the Lord came clearly at that time to enter into the Christian ministry and he graduated from Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 1953. He had also attended the University of California at Los Angeles and Fuller Theological Seminary at Pasadena.

From 1948 to 1954, Rev. Friesen served as Pastor at the Beatrice Mennonite Church, Beatrice, Nebraska, and from 1954 to 1958 the Grace Mennonite Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania. He came to serve as Pastor of the First Mennonite Church of Pretty Prairie, Kansas, on September 1, 1958. He has served on various committees in both the Western District and the Eastern District Conferences, i.e., Education, Retreat, Program, Chair-

man of Eastern District Constitution Revision Committee. He was President of Ministerial Associations in Beatrice and Lansdale and is at present a member of the General Conference Board of Education and Publication. During the Lansdale pastorate a new church building was erected.

A verse of Scripture that has meant especially much in his ministry is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

MINISTERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- Rev. J. J. Flickinger, October 10, 1884 to 1919. Born January 1, 1857. Deceased February 23, 1942.
- Rev. John G. Graber, November 1, 1887, to April 28, 1917. Born February 26, 1846. Deceased April 28, 1917.
- Rev. J. B. Epp, May 1, 1919, to September 1, 1921. Born April 6, 1874. Deceased December 22, 1945.
- Rev. N. W. Bahnmann, June 1922, to October 14, 1925. Born February 12, 1879. Deceased in February, 1946.
- Rev. J. W. Lohrenz, October 14, 1925, to January 1, 1932. Born December 12, 1874.
- Rev. S. M. Musselman, March 27, 1932, to May 27, 1937. Born October 16, 1875. Deceased July 29, 1938.
- Rev. P. P. Tschetter, June 20, 1837, to August 31, 1948. Born May 19, 1886.
- Rev. Howard G. Nyce, D.D., September 1, 1948, to March 2, 1958. Born July 6, 1899.
- Rev. Elmer R. Friesen, September 1, 1958, to ———. Born May 27, 1918.

MISSIONARIES OF THE CONGREGATION

- Rev. and Mrs. James Heathershaw former missionaries to Africa. Returned during 2nd term because of illness. Cheney, Kansas.
- Rev. and Mrs. Harold Graber serving 2nd term under General Conference Mission Board in Africa.
- Miss Elsie Winsinger serving 2nd term under Gospel Missionary Union. French West Africa.
- Miss Mary Schrag, R.N., serving 2nd term under General Conference Board in India.
- Mrs. Gerald Bergen, R.N., serving 2nd term under Brazil Gospel Fellowship Mission, Brazil, South America.
- Rev. Calvin Flickinger, serving 1st term under General Conference Board. Colombia, South America.
- These missionaries are supported by our local Sunday schools.

MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS IN THE MINISTRY

- Rev. Waldo Flickinger, pastor of Ebenezer Church, Pandora, Ohio.
 Rev. Richard Ratzlaff, pastor of Huntingdon Valley Chapel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 Rev. Willard Schrag, pastor of Fredonia Mennonite Church, Fredonia, Kan.
 Rev. Waldo Kaufman, pastor of Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, Kan.
 Rev. Boyde Bonebrake, pastor of Deer Creek Mennonite, Deer Creek, Okla.
 Rev. Erwin Albrecht, pastor of Bethlehem Mennonite Church, Bloomfield, Montana.
 Rev. Harry Albrecht, pastor of Mennonite Church, Portland, Oregon.
 Rev. Richard Tschetter, pastor of Herold Mennonite Church, Cordell, Okla.
 Rev. Peter Voran, 2nd term under General Conference Mission Board in Japan.
 Rev. Victor Graber, pastor of Community Bible Church, Goltzy, Oklahoma.
 Rev. Milton Huxman, pastor of Bethany Nazarene Church, Hutchinson, Kan.
 Rev. Lonnie Schmidt, pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Hutchinson, Kan.

THOSE IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

- Eldon W. Graber, Ph.D., Registrar of Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.
 Rev. John B. Graber, Th.D., Instructor in Covina Seminary, Covina, Calif.
 Mr. John Schrag, Instructor at Grace Bible Institute, Omaha, Nebraska.
 Mr. Leroy Stucky in school at Grace Theological Seminary, Warsaw, Ind.
 Rev. Paul Tschetter employed at Free Methodist Publication House, Winona Lake, Indiana.
 Mrs. Carl Wahlsteadt in Mission Work, Barbourville, Kentucky.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

and

Historical Digest of First Mennonite Church of Pretty Prairie

1884 — 1959

- 1884—The Mennonite Church of Albion Township was organized on October 10, with 88 members of about 30 families.
 1884—The German language was used exclusively in devotional and business meetings.
 1884—Burial in our church cemetery was started at the north end on west side of center driveway, grave in a row coming southward.

- 1885—The 5-acre tract of our church yard and cemetery was purchased from Peter W. Kaufman and John J. Graber at \$6.00 per acre with the money received from Brown and Bigger, who offered to pay \$50.00 for church purposes if our pioneers bought nine sections of land from the Santa Fe, and settled here, which they did.
 1886—A store building was bought for \$80.00, and moved here remodeled for our first church building.
 1886—The church budget was \$50.00; dues were \$1.00 per family, and the janitor's salary was \$15.00 per annum.
 1886—The Reverends J. J. Flickinger and John G. Graber preached free gratis in our church until 1914, and farmed for a living.
 1887—There were seven candidates in the first catechism class, who were instructed and baptized by Elder Jacob Stucky.
 1887—Our Mennonite Church joined the General Conference.
 1888—The deeds were drawn up and recorded to Mennonite Church in Albion Township.
 1891—Our church joined the Western District Conference.
 1897—Church building destroyed by tornado; insured for \$1200, \$1,000 was collected.
 1900—Church cemetery was laid in lots.
 1903—Church dues were still \$1.00 per family; janitor salary raised to \$38.00 per annum.
 1903—On April 10 there were 144 participants at the Lord's Supper.
 1903—The early constitution was written in the old church book.
 1905—Church building burned; full insurance of \$1800.00 was collected.
 1905—After loss of church building by fire, meetings were held in tabernacle built for that purpose.
 1905—We dedicated new church building December 10, Rev. Jacob Quining and Rev. John Hirschler were our guest speakers.
 1905—Those in the building committee for this new church were Peter A. Graber, John J. D. Graber, Christian Graber, Peter J. Graber, John R. Graber, John Goering and Jacob A. Schwartz.
 1907—Church dues were raised to \$2.00 per family.
 1909—Organ was purchased for choir singing only.
 1910—Use of organ was permitted for congregational singing also.
 1910—Our church was host to Western District Conference.
 1914—Arbitration committee established.
 1916—Church dues changed from family to member.
 1916—Church has 300 members.
 1917—Crises in church, appeals to conference committee; a split averted.
 1917—No standing minister; the congregation was served by supply ministers from March 1917, to May 1919.
 1918—More lots were plotted in cemetery.

- 1918—Janitor salary raised to \$195.00 per annum.
- 1919—Regular salary of ministers \$100.00 per month.
- 1919—Parsonage bought in Pretty Prairie, Kansas.
- 1920—First Bible Conference held here in tent with Rev. Wm. Gottshall, Rev. J. J. Balzer and other guest speakers.
- 1920—New constitution adopted and printed in German booklet.
- 1920—All church officials resign to make room for new ones according to the new constitution adopted.
- 1920—Office of Trusteeship established.
- 1920—The function of deacon now vested in 3-member board, and ordained in simple ceremony.
- 1923—A tract of ground 88 x 500 ft. donated to the Mennonite Church Parsonage fund by John J. Graber.
- 1924—The Western District Conference was held in the Pretty Prairie high school auditorium with Arno C. Goebelein, D.D., as guest speaker.
- 1927—First English Sunday school class, and English preaching at evening services.
- 1927—Services were held in the high school auditorium while old church building was dismantled and new one erected.
- 1927—Largest contribution fund was \$1,000.00, many gave \$500.00.
- 1927—May Cornerstone Laying Service, names of pastors, deacons and building committee encased in marble stone; Rev. J. W. Lorentz was pastor, Jacob B. Graber, Amos Flickinger and Jacob J. Graber were the deacons; the building committee was comprised of Emil Flickinger, John R. Krebhiel, Jacob B. Graber, Jacob A. Schwartz, Peter J. Krebhiel, Eli K. Stucky, J. J. Kaufman, Jacob J. Graber, John J. Vogt, Jacob Soft, and Peter C. Graber.
- 1927—New brick edifice erected with outlay of \$33,000.00 plus common labor by all male members and the lumber of old church building.
- 1928—Dedication of new brick edifice on February 5; guest speakers were Rev. P. P. Wedel, who spoke in the German language, and Rev. J. W. Kliever in the English.
- 1931—First ushers appointed.
- 1931—Deacon term of service changed from six to three years.
- 1932—Last German vacation Bible school.
- 1932—Our church incorporated as the First Mennonite Church of Pretty Prairie, Kansas. Names on charter are E. K. Stucky, Jonas H. Schwartz, A. A. Kaufman, J. K. Graber, P. J. Krebhiel, and R. J. Stucky.
- 1933—Change to one Sunday a month English preaching at morning services.
- 1933—Conservation of children started by simple ceremony.
- 1933—Junior church started in church basement under opposition.
- 1933—Monthly offerings for church maintenance started at Sunday morning services.

- 1934—50th Anniversary of Pretty Prairie Mennonite Church on October 14 with an all-day program, and meals served in the church basement; Rev. S. M. Musselman was chairman of the program.
- 1934—Mennonite congregation consists of 166 families and 466 members.
- 1935—Church buildings were connected to high line.
- 1936—Individual communion cup service instituted on January 3.
- 1938—Revision of constitution printed in German-English booklet.
- 1940—Peace Committee authorized and created.
- 1941—Mennonite church yearbook started.
- 1941—Lillian Schrag Heathershaw sent to African mission under the Sudan Interior Mission Board. At first under half support of our church, later under full support.
- 1942—Two Sundays per month English preaching.
- 1943—Business meetings and reports in English.
- 1943—No more children's Sunday school classes in German.
- 1946—Three Sundays per month English preaching.
- 1947—New communion table purchased.
- 1948—Eighty acres of land granted to church by R. J. and Emma Stucky; accepted on January 19 by special business meeting.
- 1948—Three lots in Pretty Prairie donated to parsonage fund by Dr. and Mrs. B. J. Stucky.
- 1948—Parsonage moved to Pretty Prairie, modernized, enlarged and re-conditioned at cost of around \$8,000.00.
- 1948—September 5. Installation Service for Rev. H. G. Nyce. A message, "The charge of the church for the minister, and the charge of the minister for the church," on Eph. 4:11-12 was brought by Rev. Phil. A. Wedel, and Jonas Stucky gave the responsive Welcome in behalf of the church.
- 1948—All preaching in English language, except for German guest speakers.
- 1949—Church repaired, mortar replaced and painted, cost \$5,300.00.
- 1949—Church bulletins started.
- 1950—Basement ceiling completed, restrooms installed, also new acoustic system installed.
- 1951—New electric Wicks pipe organ installed at cost of \$10,000.00 with homecoming services all week.
- 1951—Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Krebhiel donated \$500.00 to the organ fund in commemoration of their son, Leland Ray Krebhiel.
- 1952—A number of members from our church, sponsored by the Mennonite Disaster Relief and our Relief Committee, assisted in clearing the wreckage at Searcy and Judsonia, Arkansas, after a cyclone had struck killing some 116 persons.
- 1952—April. Six men from our church spent two days in Topeka with the Reconstruction Unit. These men volunteered to go, and the expenses for this project were paid for by members from our church.

1952—June. Voluntary Service workers from our church were Betty Jo Voran to Topeka, Kansas; Catherine Graber and Norma Jean Voran to Crestline, California, and Jane Nyce was a counselor in Men-O-Lan, Pennsylvania, in July.

1953—Constitution revised and printed in English booklet.

1953—Resolution accepted to have 5-member Deacon Board with 5-year term.

1954—The First Mennonite Church participated in the Faith and Life broadcasts with Dr. Nyce giving twelve messages.

1954—Calvin Flickinger was ordained June 13th.

1954—Amy Winsinger was ordained November 14th.

1955—The 8th Annual Rendition of the *Messiah* on November 27th.

1955—Betty Jo Voran in Voluntary Service at Brook Lane Farm, Mental Hospital, Hagerstown, Maryland.

1956—Mennonite Men organized June 4th.

1956—Willard Schrag ordained as Elder on June 24th.

1958—Farewell Services for Dr. and Mrs. Howard Nyce on March 2nd.

1958—Gerald Bergen and Leroy Stucky were our supply pastors during the summer.

1958—Rev. Elmer Friesen began serving our church on August 31st.

1958—The Vesper Missionary Society organized on June 14th.

1958—Congregational Song Leaders were elected.

1958—Youth fellowship was formally organized after meeting for a number of years.

1958—More Sunday school rooms provided in church basement.

1958—Church dues raised from \$12.00 to \$15.00.

1959—Two mixed Sunday school classes started.

1959—We have 30 Sunday school classes.

1959—Joleen Krehbiel served in Voluntary Service at Crestline, California.

1959—Groundbreaking service for Prairie Sunset Home on April 19th.

1959—Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the church on August 30th.

OVER-ALL SUMMARY 1884 — 1959

There are only three members living of those who migrated from Russia to America. They are: Mr. Peter A. Schwartz, Mr. John Sutter and Mrs. Adolph P. Stucky.

During the last seven years the Peace and Relief Committee sent volunteers to storm areas in Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. An offering was sent to El Dorado, Kansas, clothing and bedding were given to Peabody and Florence, Kansas, when they suffered flood damage.

The Women's Missionary Society has participated in the Christmas Bundle relief project since its beginning.

During the past five years, ninety-five have joined the church by baptism and sixty-three couples were married.

Since the World War II our members served their country as follows:

49 members served in noncombatant work, C.P.S., or I-W Service.

44 members served in Army Service.

16 members served in Voluntary Service work.

When first organized this church had thirty families and eighty-eight members. Now we have 319 families and 641 members.

About 1,000 young people have been baptized since the church was founded.