

Buffalo Church Timeline

The Evangelical
United Brethren
Years (1946-1968)

1946: Buffalo became an Evangelical United Brethren congregation due to the merger of the Evangelical Church and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Women are initially denied ordination in the new church.

Minutes for the February 7 meeting of the Buffalo Ladies Aid at the home of Silvia Van Eight members and two guests were present; Aloe Waterbury was Secretary.

Mrs. John Kortson, president was in charge of the meeting.

The opening hymn was 'I Love to Tell the Story.' Marie Van Note read a prayer. The scripture reading was Corinthians 13, read by Mrs. John Kortson.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasure's report showed a balance on hand of \$138.26.

\$3.00 from cards and 95 cents from sage was turned in to treasurer. \$4.80 was taken from mystery basket.

The Sunshine Chairman reported a balance of \$6.97.

There were 9 visits to the sick reported.

It was moved and seconded that \$7.00 or more, plus \$5.00 given by Rev. Olson be used to buy paper for the parsonage.

Mrs. Lelia Kortson and Aloe Waterbury were chosen to determine what papering needed to be done and select the paper.

Marie Van Note was elected to sell the dish towels originally donated for Schick hospital.

A special feature Mrs. Quaas read a poem 'Dear Little February' and an article 'Planning Your Wardrobe.'

The meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Karl Krapf in March.

Refreshments were served by the hostess and a pleasant social hour followed.

Dues \$1.50 Donations \$1.50 Sunshine \$.54

1948: First year for the annual Vacation Bible School.

1953: On June 7, the Administrative Council met at the Church with Rev. Aurand, District Superintendent, and Rev. Cerka of the Sharon Church. Subject of discussion was to find an interim pastor for the church. Excerpt from the Council's minutes: *The possibility of securing Rev. Merle Stombaugh as Pastor at Buffalo was discussed. On motion, it was decided to have him come, at least for the summer. Rev. Aurand stated that he would contact Rev. Stombaugh, and it would be understood with him that he would leave if arrangements for another pastor could be made by fall. On motion, it was decided that it would be best for Rev. Stombaugh and his family to move into the parsonage. It was agreed to pay him on the same basis as the previous pastor—\$750 per year. Rev. Stombaugh did serve as Buffalo's Pastor from 1953 to 1955.*

1954: On November 21, A Homecoming and Dedication Service was held in celebration of the addition of the finished basement. The project was begun under the direction of Rev. M. E. Stambaugh at a cost of about \$4,450. Recollection of the basement project in a 2016 recorded interview: "I remember my Dad talking about putting the basement under Buffalo. An awful job. The sandburs, nothing but sandburs. And, of course, it was really hot when they did that."

1955: Samuel Joseph Hahn, a bachelor at the time, arrived as the new pastor. He concentrated on building up the church membership, both at Buffalo and at Lincoln (the two churches were classified as one charge). Hahn soon married Juanita Carpenter, and they began their married life in the newly remodeled parsonage, which included a new back entry way and an addition which could serve as the pastor's study. All this work was done by members of the congregation.

1956: An "evening circle" was started by Juanita Hahn, making it possible for "working women and mothers with young children" to participate in a circle. The Ladies' Aid was renamed the "Naomi Circle," and the newly formed group became the "Ruth Circle."

1957: From minutes of a congregational meeting at Buffalo following a pot luck dinner on December 8.

Goals for 1958 were presented, and a motion was made and carried that the goals be accepted as goals we will try to fulfill in 1958. These are as follows:

- 1. Win at least 10 new members & converts during the year.*
- 2. Increase Sunday School attendance to an average of 50.*
- 3. Increase Church attendance to an average of 50.*
- 4. Improvements:*
 - A. Complete shingling and repairing of roof.*
 - B. Finish and paint basement.*

The matter of colors to be used in painting the basement was discussed,—most members being in favor of pale green for the walls and off-white or ivory for the ceiling. However, the final decision was left to the Waterburys & the Ladies Aid.

There was a discussion regarding putting the fuel oil tank outside the church instead of under the stairs. The Trustees were to meet after the congregational meeting to decide whether or not to move the fuel oil tank.

1958: Rev. and Mrs. Hahn have their first child born in November; at Christmas the congregation took up a collection and presented them with a new dryer.

1959: Buffalo Budget for 1959:

- Missions and United Crusade: \$411
- Pastor's Salary: \$1,200
- Pension, Pulpit Supply, and Phone: \$142
- Heat, Insurance, Promotional Work, and Minor Repairs: \$425
- Total budget: \$2,178 (increase of \$293 over 1958 budget)

In addition to his salary from the Buffalo congregation, Rev. Hahn received \$1,700 from the Lincoln congregation and \$1,200 from the Conference.

1960: Excerpt from a letter written by Rev. Sam Hahn in 1976, reflecting back on "many wonderful memories" of his six years as Buffalo's pastor (1956-1962):

The first church I served.

*The first parsonage and home to which I brought my beautiful bride.
The birth of our first two children.
The warm support of neighbors and members as I began my ministry.
The Buffalo, Lincoln 6 centers Youth Group.
A dip in the Bizek irrigation pond when a record number of youth came to the Youth Missions to Youth.
The Bible schools in August involving almost as many children as we had in the total membership of the church.*

1961: At the December 3 congregational meeting, these individuals were elected for the following church positions in 1962:

Trustees: Orval Quaas & Carl Anderson
Church Treasurer: Mystle Blair
Church Pianist: Juanita Hahn
Head Usher: John Waterbury
Lay Leader: Carl Krapf
Communion Steward: Mrs. Don Minor
Sunday School Superintendent: Mae Berry
S. S. Secretary & Financial Recorder: Shirley Krapf
S. S. Pianists: Mrs. Ruth Elliott & Iva Schrimper
Cradle Roll Supt.: Mrs. Mary Anderson
Evangelism Chairman: Mrs. Flossie Burgess
Church Council Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Barker

1962: April 10 Council meeting at Buffalo. "Rev. Hahn told the members of receiving word that he would not be our minister after the Conf. in May. He was being placed in another church. He told us our new minister lives in Cedar Rapids and owns his home there so we could be thinking about renting the parsonage and the money could apply on the Minister Salary." In the summer, a student minister served, and in the fall another student minister, Ray Howland, agreed to serve at Buffalo while finishing his theological training.

Prior to his departure, Rev. Hahn composed some notes on the Buffalo Church for the minister who would follow him and for families who might be living in the church parsonage. Here are excerpts from those notes:

On the parsonage: There has, at times been water in the basement . . . no problem if things are off the floor unless it gets deep enough to reach water heater.

Orval Quaas has a good sump pump and I'm sure would be willing to help if this became a problem.

Since there is no heated basement, I have usually put black building paper around the cement blocks outside. This paper which can be used from year to year is in the garage, the first bin, just in front of the car.

On Buffalo Church. In very wet years there has been water in the church basement. Should be cleaned out as quickly as possible. . . .

Zeil Hudson, just across the road has been the bell ringer, and clock winder. He rings the bell at 9:30 and shortly before 11:00 indicating close of Sunday School.

WSWS work is new, and needs encouragement, is doing well now, and should continue to do so. (A WSWS had been started some time ago, but might be said to have died for lack of nourishment)

Men's work has never been official organized. The men started meeting the fall of 1961, met monthly till April of '62, plan is to not meet for the summer, to start meeting again in October. . . .

Bulletins. For many year neither church [Buffalo and Lincoln] had any type of Sunday Bulletins. In 1961 we started using just a half page size worship sheet, I often made up two on one stencil. We did use Bulletins on special occasions, Christmas, Easter, Etc. . . .

There is an unusually large group in the Buffalo Community that have no Church affiliation. Many of them having been here for many years. And if asked what church they prefer, they indicate Buffalo. This is a real evangelistic opportunity for the right person & program, I seemingly didn't have what it takes for most of these. . . .

JANITOR. There is no Janitor at Buffalo, Ladies do cleaning, it is assumed that the Pastor turns the Furnace on and off. Zeil Hudson has taken care of it in my Absence. I did most of the lawn-mowing. We have put up a sheet though indicating men that should mow at certain times during the summer.

1963: The entry way to the church was repaired and the bell tower, which had become rotten, was removed.

Excerpt from Council meeting minutes on August 14: The Y.F. sought "permission to wear shorts to their meeting. The council [agreed] it was permissible as long as they were long shorts."

1964: Rev. Elmer Boom became Buffalo's new pastor (serving until 1969), and Buffalo became affiliated with Faith E. U. B. Church in Cedar Rapids, the church building where the Buffalo congregation now meets.

1965: From November minutes of the Naomi Community Circle, meeting in the home of Gladys Miller. The Treasurer reported that \$98.30 was received from a lunch served at the Miller farm sale. There were \$20.29 expenses, leaving \$78.01. The Ruth Circle received \$39.01 for their half and the Naomi Circle had \$268.59 "on hand."

Other items in the minutes: "The 5 quilts that were tied are to be sent to Cedar Falls with Rev. Boom in April of 1966. Mrs. Boom said Rev. Boom would make up tickets for the supper Thurs Nov. 18, will have a bazaar also. Discussed & decided to sell one of the quilts at the bazaar & make another to take its place for Cedar Falls."

1968: On April 23, the United Methodist Church was created when The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church united to form a new denomination. At the time of the merger, there were over 10 million Methodists in the United States and approximately 740,000 EUB members.

Excerpt from Naomi Circle meeting minutes, August 6: "Discussed getting new mower with Fred Himes, he didn't want one, would use his for mowing church yard, a mower was not purchased."