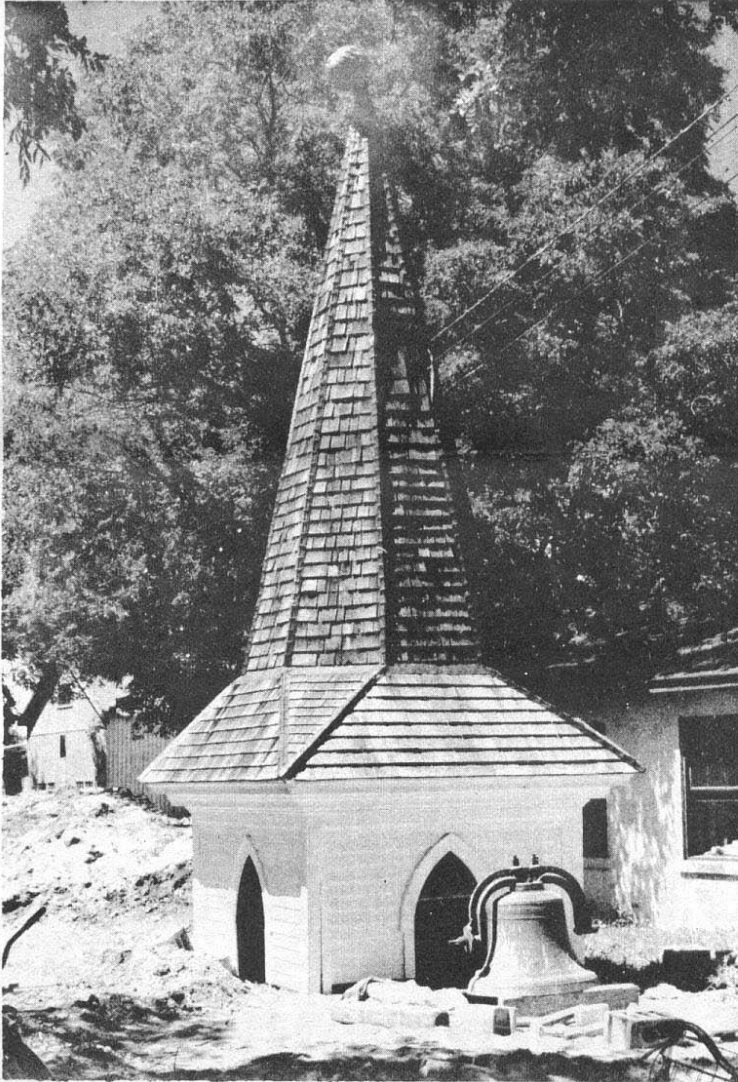


A Brief History of Calvary Baptist Church

Here is the Steeple . . .



Here is the church . . . here is the steeple . . . and in a week or two the doors will open for all the people, members of the local Baptist church, who are trying to be patient in their temporary quarters at the Midway Theatre until their permanent home is ready.

The building, pictured above as it was moved into town last week, was formerly the Zion Evangelical and Reformed church of the town of Prairie du Sac, located about eight miles west on the road to Denzer. The church now is jacked up over the foundation at its new location on Water street in Sauk City, next to Crow's Refrigeration.

Pastor Robert Yauch said that they hope to have the foundation work completed and the building ready for Sunday services in a week or two.

A newspaper article around 1958

On October 9, 1957, Calvary Baptist Church of Sauk City, Wisconsin, was officially incorporated.

Previously, Pastor Robert A. Yauch had begun to plant the church. At first, in 1955, the Yauchs commuted from Madison to Sauk City. He was in his mid 40s when in 1956,

he and his wife, Helen, moved to Fifth Street in Prairie du Sac. The Yauchs had two children, Ruth and Thomas. They held services each Sunday in the Sauk City Village Hall. There were 13 present for the first service.



Pastor Yauch baptizing a girl in the Wisconsin River

On February 27, 1957, ten persons, including the Yauchs, met to discuss incorporation.

Sometime in 1958 they began using the theater in Prairie du Sac for church services.



Pastor & Mrs. Yauch

On November 15, 1957, the congregation purchased the 309 Water Street property from Minnie Walder.

Baptismal Ceremony Held in River by Local Church Group



Nancy Radley of Prairie du Sac was one of 11 persons immersed in the Wisconsin river Sunday afternoon by the Rev. Robert Yauch in baptismal rites of the Bible Baptist church of Sauk City, the first service of this type to be held here in many years. In the first panel, Miss Radley is shown entering the river. The second panel shows her completely immersed by the Rev. Yauch, and in the third scene she is shown wiping the water from her eyes following the ceremony.

Prior to the baptismal ceremony, members of the church attended services in a shady grove at the Boardwalk resort near the Prairie

du Sac dam. Following these services, which included musical numbers and singing and a talk by the Rev. Yauch, members of the congregation gathered at the nearby riverside, where their numbers were swelled by a crowd of curious on-lookers.

Others who took part in the baptismal ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Herb Privett and son, Delbert, of rural Mazomanie; Mrs. Marvin Radley, Nancy's mother; Ann and Joyce Nash, Prairie du Sac; Jack, Peggy and Michael Wehler, also of Prairie; and Mrs. Vern Leggett of Beloit. The local congregation, which meets at the Sauk City village hall, has been organized about a year and a half.

A newspaper article from those early days



The old church building being moved

In May of 1959, Calvary Baptist Church purchased a Denzer-area country church building, "The Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church" for

\$1,900. The building was soon moved to the Water Street location. The purchase included 16 pews, flags, some chairs, and a communion table.



The old building arrives in Sauk City - 1959



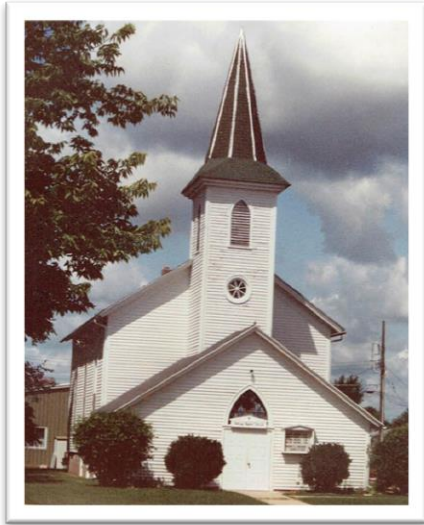
Pastor Richards

Pastor Yauch passed away in 1992, and Mrs. Yauch in 2011.

In 1965 William (Bill) Richards became the pastor. He had met his wife, Patricia, while enrolled at Moody Bible Institute. The Richards had two children, Barbara and Bill. For several years, Pastor Richards worked other

jobs to support his family, including working at ACE hardware, putting boilers in a canning factory and installing swimming pools. Patricia went to be with the Lord in 1997. Brother Richards faithfully pastored the church for 43 years, until he retired in the fall of 2005. He went to be with Christ on October 14, 2016.

In 1976, during the time the church operated a Christian School, a gymnasium and fellowship hall was constructed. Today, the former fellowship hall is used for Wally's Tree House children's ministry, and the gym as a multipurpose room for activities and classes.



Calvary Baptist Church late 1970s

In the spring of 2010 the congregation moved all services to the gym. The old church facility was demolished on May 24, 2010. Ground breaking for a new sanctuary was held on Sunday, May 1, 2011. A dedication and open house was held for the new auditorium on Sunday, October 23, 2011. The auditorium, restrooms, nursery and "warming pantry" (kitchen) were built debt free, for which the congregation thanked God.

In recent years the church had added several new ministries: Wally's Tree House Children's Ministry, a weekly radio broadcast, and the Friday evening RU Addictions Recovery Program. The church is presently praying and giving toward the need for additional parking and educational classroom space.

Many pictures of the last several years are on the [media/photo gallery page](#).



Pastor & Mrs. Richards