

BEGINNINGS



The Boulder community in 1894



Sunday School picnic at Sunset, 1880s

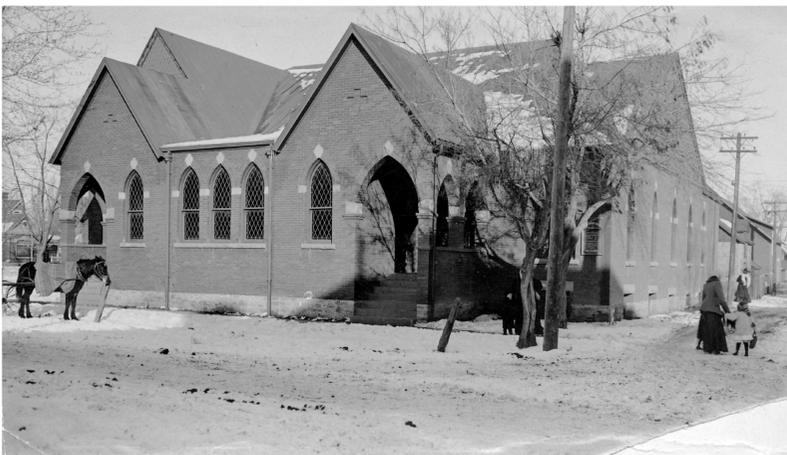


Original First Baptist Church building at Spruce & 16th Street

In the 1870's, Boulder was a mining community of less than 5,000. It was a supply point for adjacent mining operations. One of the "supplies" needed seemed to be liquor, giving rise to many saloons. Gold was mined in Boulder Canyon and silver was discovered at Caribou. One could ride from Boulder to Caribou aboard a Wells Fargo stagecoach for \$1.50.

The First Baptist Church was founded in the town of Boulder, in the Colorado Territory, on October 13, 1872 by six people meeting at the home of Mrs. M. C. Tibbets. The first baptisms were administered in an open pool in the rear of Judge Granville Berkley's home at 2108 Walnut Street, where baptisms were observed even when snow and ice had to be removed for the occasion. The original members agreed to make application to the Baptist Home Mission Society for \$600 per year in order to call a minister. This request was repeated as each succeeding pastor came on the scene. In March of 1875, the church asked the Home Mission Society for aid in buying lots on 16th Street near Spruce to erect its first church home, completing it in 1876. The wood frame building next to the church was the parsonage. The first organ was loaned to the church by Mrs. Ben Williams, who had brought it across the plains from Boston in 1867. This instrument, later purchased by the church, was the first organ in Boulder.

Expanding



Remodeled & expanded building in 1899, 1905



Congregation posed outside in 1921

The small church building was unsuitable as the congregation increased to 100 members. So the congregation decided in 1897 to pull down the south and west walls of the old building and to enlarge it in both directions, making room for the rapidly growing primary Sunday school class. Another improvement was the installation of a furnace!

By 1905, the new auditorium proved inadequate for the growing Sunday school and congregation. The trustees were therefore authorized to mortgage the building to raise money for further enlargement and alterations, extending the building to the south, adding a foyer to the west, and excavating a basement for Sunday school rooms. The dedication of the altered spaces took place in the fall of 1906, immediately followed by revival services.

Moving and Ministering



New building at 1237 Pine, 1925

In 1925, again the church building seemed inadequate to the needs, so church trustees were authorized to sell the old church building on 16th Street to the Pillar of Fire Church for \$10,000. The cornerstone for the new First Baptist Church building at 1237 Pine Street was laid on July 18, 1925. The Gothic Revival building was designed by architects Martin, Orr & Martin of East Liverpool, Ohio. A member of the church, Mrs. Ira DeLong, donated a \$12,000 pipe organ in memory of her late husband and sister.

June 6, 1926, the congregation gathered at the former church site for a short farewell service then marched singing to the new building. On the 75th anniversary of the church, the celebration featured a banquet and burning of the mortgage. The church has continually reinvented itself, expanding its ministries to fit the times and needs. In 2012 the church changed its name to the Pine Street Church and continue to evolve.



Canning applesauce in kitchen, 1930s



Making quilts, 1960s



Children's House groundbreaking, 1967

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's work at Boulder First Baptist/Pine Street Church has been vital from the beginning of the church. The name has changed over the years, but the work has continued. It originally was called the Social Services Department or the Mission Society (1888-1936). It became the Women's Union (1936-1980) and later became American Baptist Women (1980-1994). It is now American Baptist Women's Ministries. .



Activities

We made Valentines for VA hospitals and the church's shut ins.



Making Valentines for shut-ins of the Church

Every summer for years we have had one or two coffees for all the women of the church. Hostesses have included Barb Fowler, Neva Huffaker, and Judy Rothe.

We have had a Christmas luncheon for many years for all women of the church. During the Covid pandemic the program was done via Zoom rather than in person.



Summer Coffee at Barb Fowler's Gazebo

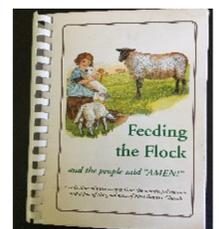
In the last 50 years several of our women have served on the State Board of ABWM. Mary Beth Mankin, Judy Rothe, Aleta Purcell, and Estelle Torpy have served in various positions. Clara Belle Cook served as president from 1961-1964. Mary Beth Mankin served as president from 1998-2001 and 2013-2016 and Estelle Torpy is the current state president.

Fund Raisers

From 1893 till 1971 the Ladies Aid Society did quilting and raised \$9,000 for church-related projects. They kept their frames at the church. During the depression church women prepared lunches for downtown workers and the money received went to help the church budget.



In recent years the women of the church have had a "Sweet Sale" which has provided money for various mission projects. Homemade Easter Eggs were sold to make money for mission projects. In 2004 we produced a cookbook for the church entitled "Feeding the Flock".



(Left) The easter egg crew
(Above) Finished eggs

In the 1960's and 1970's Women's Union had several circles who met monthly as well as having monthly general meetings. Eventually participation lessened and in 2012 circles were discontinued. A yearly meeting and program continues to provide information to the entire church and a Christmas program is a highlight of the year. A governing board meets regularly to plan activities for the women of the church.



ABWM Board meeting

Missions



Ruth Paul

Missionaries

Many years ago, Ruth Paul was a missionary in Burma supported by our church. Dr. Katherine Mabie, daughter of Rev. Mabie who served as pastor in 1881-1884 was a missionary to the Belgian Congo. Missionary Terry Myers ran a literacy program for Roma children in Bulgaria which our ABWM supported in many ways. We also have sent money to Lance and Christina Muteyo in Africa for several projects.

White Cross

Women of the church knitted and sewed garments during WWI. White Cross focused on rolling bandages for Congo, filling requests from overseas missionaries, and supporting Christian Centers in the US by sending requested items. Requests from missionaries are now handled through International Ministries and American Baptist Home Missions Society.



In later years we made rolling bandages an all-church activity.



Making hygiene kits



White Cross Dedication in church

Ecumenical projects

Church women have supported Church Women United (an ecumenical national organization) for which we collected New Garments Always and Least Coin.

For years the circles made meals for Attention Homes (now TGTHR) and Oasis is still providing meals once a month.

We made hygiene kits for girls in Haiti. In more recent times we have also supported numerous missionaries and their projects.

Love Gift

Starting in 1932 during the Depression, Love Gift was an over and above gift that supports the entire budget of American Baptists. For years our church had a Love Gift Luncheon to support giving. Love Gift continues till this day.



Love gift display at ABWM State Conference

Guild Girls

In the 1960's and 1970's our church had an active Guild Girls group which involved many of the junior high and senior high girls in our church. It was sponsored by the state ABWM. Else Green, Eleanor Shulls, Faith Butler, and Mary Beth Mankin were all leaders. The organization is now called ABGIRLS (Girls in Relationships, Leadership, and Service).



The Arts and Music of Pine Street Church



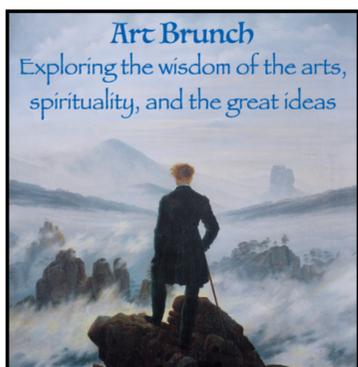
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Advent 2013



Musical productions through SOFA, School of Fine Arts at Pine Street Church, included *Charlie Brown* and *The Sound of Music*.



In 2013 Reverend Bob Ballance offered a worship experience on the front lawn which included a Blessing of the Animals. Many varied pets joined us that special day.



Art Brunch, a ministry to explore the wisdom of the arts and spirituality started at the church in 2016 under the expert leadership of Waverly Matthews.

In 2017, The Off-Broadway Gallery @ Pine Street Church opened, hosting local artists.



Sacred Music has been a vital part of the life of First Baptist/Pine Street Church from the earliest days. The current organ, built by Charles McManis, was purchased in 1972 as part of the Church's centennial celebration.



The Chancel Choir, made up of talented members of the congregation supplemented by music students from the University led congregational singing and performed anthems and special music for the worship service for many years.



Eventually the number of congregational singers declined and styles of worship evolved. The Chancel Choir was replaced in musical leadership by the Pine Street Band, instrumental and vocal musicians. Instruments have included violin, guitar, mandolin, cello, bass, drums, piano and organ among others.



The Hyphenated Life Podcast was launched in the Fall of 2020, hosted by Reverend Andrew Daugherty and David L'Hommedieu. The Hyphenated Life Podcast offers conversations between spirituality and culture through the perspectives of faith, politics, theology, art, music, and adventurous conversation.

There are two seasons, twenty-two episodes now recorded and available on the church website.

Good Friday Musical Meditations began in 2014. This meaningful hybrid concert/worship service, is performed by musicians of Pine Street Church, who perform an entire album chosen from the "secular" ranks. The experience is framed with narration that considers the music and lyrics through a lens of the story of the season, the Passiontide. There have been seven different performances thus far.



2014-Ray Lamontage- *Till the Sun Turns Black*



During COVID, worship was only available remotely. Thanks to the skill of the staff and technology, a livestream service was launched.

Our first in-person worship service was on held on September 19, 2021.



2019-Iron and Wine
Our Endless Numbered Days

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The First Baptist Church of Boulder, now Pine Street Church, has had a long history of ministry in Boulder and beyond. Christian education and faith development work with children and youth has been a major part of this ministry. Sadly, youth work diminished as our congregation aged and ceased when there were no more youth. Through youth activities high school youth learned Christian morals and social values through volunteer work and play in a ministry led by dedicated pastoral and lay leaders.

Perhaps the most memorable ministry in the minds of the youth, the leaders and those served would be the annual spring mission trips.

Spring Mission Trips

Spring mission trips began in the mid-1950s and continued through 2006. Mission trips took place during the spring break week from school. The youth and their leaders traveled to some location away from Boulder to provide a service to some needy group.



Youth with gravity feed hot water system for Hopi reservation shower

The youth gave up their break time for the mission to help others. I suspect this giving sacrifice is what makes Spring Mission Trips so fondly remembered by young and old participants as well as recipients.

There was a wide variety of destinations and services rendered. The following sections illustrate a few which were characteristic.

For more information on Spring Mission Trips, please view the slide show running nearby.

Making Playgrounds

We built elaborate playgrounds in Alamosa and Delta CO and in Santa Fe NM featuring concrete tricycle raceways, covered sandboxes, swings, slides, and tire climbing trees. Hearts warmed at week's end seeing local children at play on new equipment.



Don Dawson, Marcus Oleg, Bob Rothe, and Scott Leuthi starting work on playground.



Linda Sprenkle helps a nervous boy on a slide with a bicycle raceway in the background.

Native American Projects



Painting the assembled shower facility.

The second year of projects at the Hopi Indian Reservation at Polacca AZ found us building a portable shower facility, designed and prefabricated in Boulder and transported disassembled by FBC bus for assembly at their reservation.

Temporary Family

A Senior Retirement Center in Casper WY presented the opportunity for us to become surrogate grandchildren to lonely elderly folks by playing games, dining, taking them places, or just chatting with them.



(L) Vince Huffaker and Dave Robinson give one of the seniors a hug. (R) Sarah Rothe watches a pool shark at work.



Judy Rothe serves dinner as the youth from First Baptist and the seniors from Casper become acquainted.

Housing Construction

Contributing to the building of homes for the disadvantaged through *Habitat for Humanity* was a frequent theme. Lubbock TX and Santa Fe NM were just two of such projects. We'd pick up doing whatever construction stage the house needed--carpentry, painting, landscaping, building decks, gardening, etc.



A deck for one of the homes nears completion.



Sabrina Huffaker points out a place Sarah Rothe missed.



Tiling floors was a new skill developed



Jim Bradfield and Melody help a volunteer set a post for a compost bin.

Summer Backpacking

Summer backpacking trips were a much-anticipated group bonding adventure. We'd trek several miles to some beautiful, crystal clear cold-but-swimmable lake to cook on open fires, sleep in tents, and absorb God's artistry.



Made it to the top!



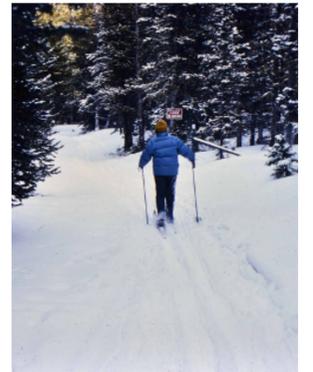
Retreats and Gatherings

Retreats for youth were led by associate Pastors or dedicated lay persons including the Rothes, Budds, Bradburys, and Latinos. Each year's group would share wholesome growth and fellowship at James Park retreats as well as weekly study gatherings.

Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) met weekly for Christian education, fun, fellowship, and bonding.



James Park was an ideal retreat setting.



A quiet ski-in.



A study session in the meadow across the creek.



Gathering on the porch.

MISSIONS

Missions have long been important in this church. In 1881, Dr. T.R. Palmer, Pastor, called for collections to be taken for home and foreign missions. Early on, women's groups formed in support of Baptist mission work. We continue to support and do mission work from local to global.

LOCAL MISSIONS

Pine Street Church seeks to make meaningful connections with our local mission partners, striving to provide hands-on contributions, as well as financial support through our budget.

For many years we contributed both money, meals, and leadership on the board of **United Ministry in Higher Education (UMHE)**. It became **PRISM** in 2007, with an emphasis on providing a safe place for LGBTQ students to find support in a faith based setting.

With changes at the University, PRISM completed its ministry and closed in 2016. After the sale of its house, the proceeds were divided equally among the seven churches that were long-time supporters of the ministry. Pine Street Church received a sizable check, with the hope that it be used for mission purposes.

A portion of that was used to create the **Karing Konnections Fund**, in memory of Karen HadleyDike, a strong mission advocate. The fund supplies grants for local mission work.

To address **HUNGER** during the Covid-19 pandemic, we contributed from the KK Fund to **Community Food Share and Emergency Family Assistance Association**. We also sponsor food drives for EFAA and raise funds by participating in the annual **CROP Walk**.



CROP Hunger Walkers from PSC in 2017

TGTHR (formerly Attention Homes) serves homeless youth and young adults. We provide a meal monthly to Chase House youth and support TGTHR's Sleep-Out fundraiser.



In 2021 we filled backpacks with school supplies for TGTHR's secondary school youth.

Share a Gift, 1990



To address **HOUSING** needs:

Support for **Habitat for Humanity** included work days at Habitat construction, as well as sale of grocery certificates and gift cards, and other fundraisers like "Bowl and Build" or "Holy Smokes Cook-off".



Habitat Construction Team



Habitat "Holy Smokes Cookoff" 2015

We've also supported unhoused people through Bridge House's Ready to Work program, a sock drive for **Boulder Shelter for the Homeless**, and providing supper and over night accommodations through BOHO (Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow), 2014 - 2017.



BOHO Dinner Volunteers, 2016



BOHO Shelter from the cold

In the mid 1990s we formed **Second Step** by providing temporary housing, support and assistance with services to work with families seeking help to improve their living situation. This was eventually absorbed in to EFAA.

MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

In 2018 five from our church went on a service trip led by Stuart Lord to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to work on Hurricane Maria recovery efforts.



Through White Cross, led by AB Women, we have given requested items to numerous community centers, Indian ministries, etc.

Annual America for Christ Offerings support the work of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings, annually plus as needed, respond with needed funds in times of natural disasters, such as for Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico and Hurricane Ian in Florida and other states on the East coast.

Over the years we have provided support to American Baptist colleges and seminaries. Bill Mankin and Sabrina Huffaker served on the Board of Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City. Larry Van Spriell and Debbie Setlock currently serve on the American Baptist Homes of the Midwest board.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

In recent years, we have supported the work of several global servants through International Ministries and the World Mission Offering.



Tom and Terry Myers, Colorado natives, served in Bulgaria.

Nora and Pieter Kalkman serve in the Czech Republic.



Lance and Christina Muteyo are peacemakers and trainers in Zimbabwe.

Vital and Ketly Pierre, who recently visited our church, serve in the Dominican Republic.



Through money and/or mission trips, we have supported clean water projects in Thailand and Zimbabwe; building a church in Sofia, Bulgaria; working on a camp in Tecate, Mexico; etc.! For many years Kerry Hassler, gave technical support to missionaries, encouraged our support of their ministries, and led mission trips.



Kerry Hassler and the mission team that went to Bulgaria in 2005. They visited children in an orphanage and worked on church construction projects.

Nathaniel HadleyDike makes new friends of two orphans in Bulgaria in 2005.



We have sponsored children through Partners in Parenting Haiti, led by church member Jan Arney.

PIPH student Christa Joseph



Kritter Krü

Puppet Ministry of First Baptist Church, Boulder

Written by Barbara Emery-Geiger, 9/30/1997, added to by Estelle Torpy 10/14/2022

The Kritter Krü of First Baptist Church in Boulder was founded in 1985 when the associate pastor David Stratton came. He brought with him 7 puppets, including 1 human arm puppet, couple of sock vegetable puppets and some animal puppets.

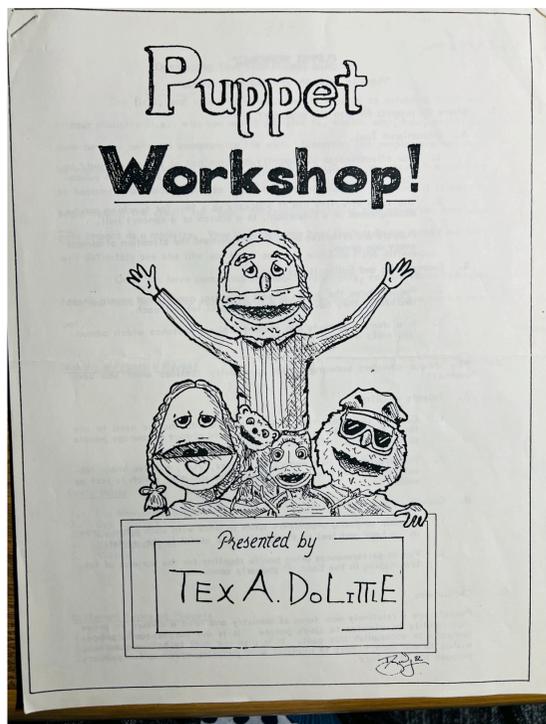
The puppets were lodged in the large cabinets in the basement Fireside Room, which is usually where puppet practice occurred about once a week for about 1.5 hours during the school year. Dave remained the puppet director until 1992 when he left to become senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Cheyenne.

During his 7-year tenure, 19 persons were puppeteers, while 9 others helped out. After he left, Barbara Emery-Geiger and Estelle Torpy took over co-leadership of the Kritter Krü and an additional 16 more persons took up puppetry in the next 5 years. Over the first 12 years of this ministry, it has involved 35 puppeteers (10 adults and 25 youth) and 9 helpers (5 adults and 4 youth) as well as touched the lives of our congregation.

Dave Stratton did at least 7 workshops at FBC and other churches on his own and helped the Kritter Krü do a workshop in Fort Collins in 1991. Later in 1996, the Kritter Krü gave a workshop in Dave Stratton's Cheyenne church. FBC hosted puppet workshops by Puppet Productions for the three years of 1988, 1990 and 1992.



First Baptist Church
618 Main Street
Fort Morgan, Colorado
Photo: Kritter Kru Puppet
Special Guests from Boulder First Baptist Church



The Kritter Krü attended the annual spring Puppetry Festival in Denver in 1991 and 1993, and presented a skit every year beginning in 1994 and a song every year beginning in 1997. Most of the skits are originals written by Estelle Torpy with input from the Troupe.



Our puppets were a variety pack and our puppeteers ranged from 5th graders to a Grandma.



Carolyn Torpy and friend.



Nate HadleyDike Christina HadleyDike Estelle Torpy Katherine's friend
Karen HadleyDike Jerome HadleyDike Carlin Paetow Carolyn Torpy
Katherine Smith

As of 1997 the Kritter Krü owned people puppets and animals puppets. We have benefitted greatly from the support of the pastor and the congregation both materially and emotionally. An especially large gift from the church was the purchase of a video camera and sound system in 1995.

Estelle Torpy made several animal puppets and 1 person puppet. All of which are used by the troupe, but only a few of which belong to the troupe. Some of the puppets are: Elizabeth Jane, purple dog, Lily lamb, black cat, spider, Polar Baby. cows, donkey and camel. Other animal puppets belong to members of the Kritter Krü who bring them to use in various skits.

The Kritter Krü performs about 9 times per year, about 5 times during worship, 3 times at other churches and about once for a special church function like a dinner, Sunday school or James Park Retreat. While Dave was director, we also performed at Children's House and nursing homes.

The Kritter Krü is a dynamic part of First Baptist Church and hopes to continue as a viable group.



Nate (on the left) was great at handling some of the many props used to add impact to the skits.

Sometimes practice got a little boring but not for Christina (on the right) who danced around in one of the monster costumes.

