

Evanston - Calvary Baptist Church RF
Religion

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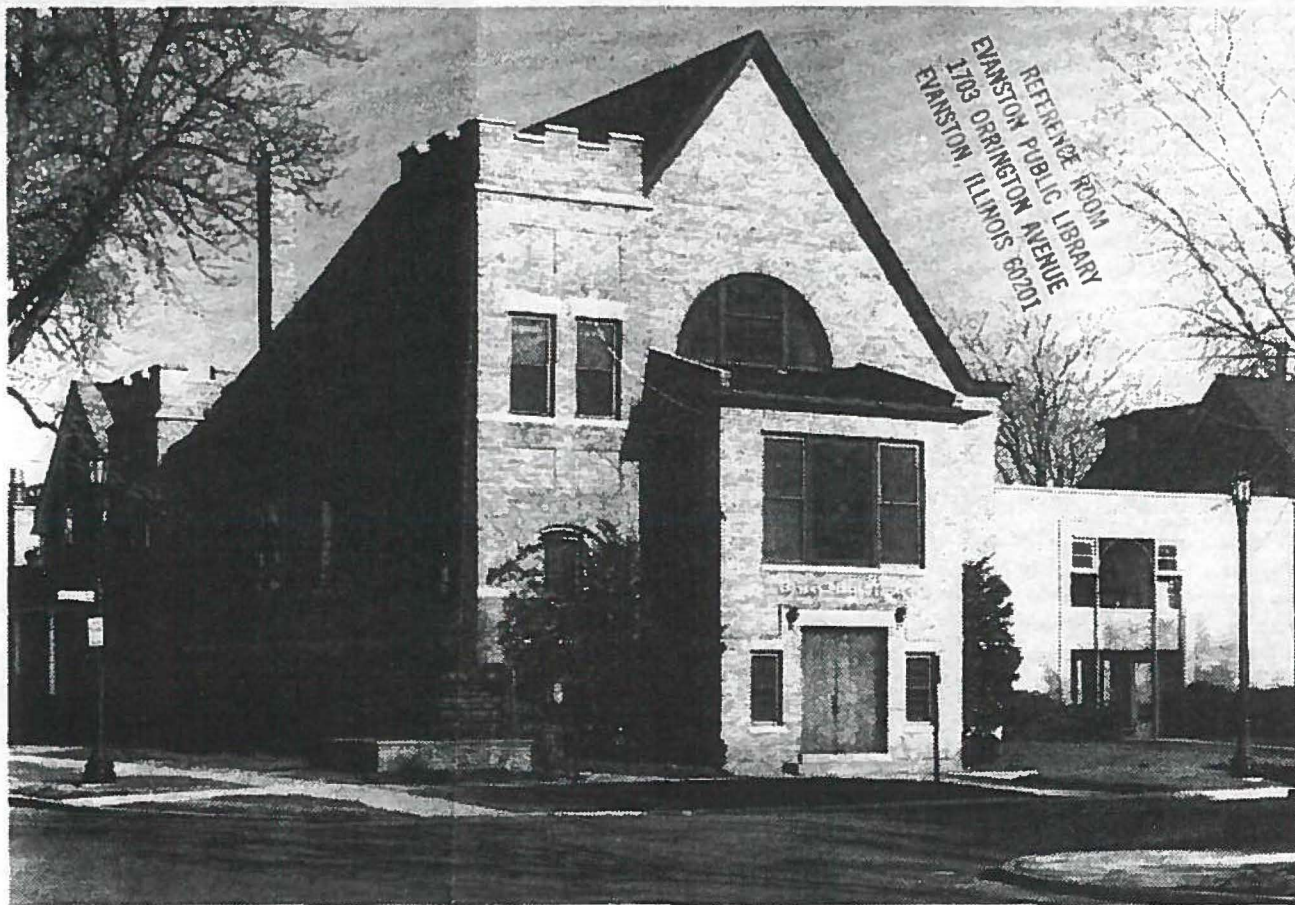
Calvary Baptist celebrates centennial

This weekend the congregation of Calvary Baptist Church will celebrate the centennial of its organization. On June 9, 1886, the 31 charter members of the church met with representatives of the First Swedish Baptist Church of Chicago, Calvary's "mother" church, and organized as the Swedish Baptist Church of Evanston. (The church changed its name to Calvary Baptist in the 1920s.)

The seeds of the church were planted in 1882 when Evanston members of the Chicago church began holding gospel meetings in homes and local schools. Later the group rented what was then called Union Hall on Davis St. and held meetings there.

Calvary Baptist has been at its present location on the corner of Lake and Elmwood since erecting the house at 820 Lake in 1891 and the church building in 1894-95. An educational building was added in 1963 at 1431 Elmwood, replacing the house that had been the church parsonage. During the years several structural changes have been made to the church to accommodate the changing needs of the congregation.

The present congregation numbers 100 members, 15 of whom have been



members for 50 or more years. Membership has been as high as 271 in 1943, and it has been lower.

In recent years Calvary Baptist was "mother" to the First Evangelical Haitian Baptist Church of Evanston.

Festivities for the celebration begin with the centennial banquet Saturday at

the Holiday Inn. The main speaker is Rev. Richard Turnwall, son of former pastor William Turnwall, who served the church from 1931-1939.

On Sunday several senior ministers of the church's denomination will bring special sermons during the worship hour. A potluck follows worship, and the

evening meeting features past musical talent of the church. On Monday the congregation will re-enact the 1886 service of organization and hold an anniversary party. Pastor Gary Mueller reports that former members are returning from as far away as Seattle and Portland, Boston and south Florida.

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