



St. Matthews, Kentucky Area History



St. Matthews Area Churches A to G, 1st. Edition

This is one of many sections that contain information, photos, newspaper articles, internet items, etc. of the St. Matthews area. Many of the items came from Al Ring's personal collections but many people have helped and I have tried to give credit where I can.

The purpose of this "collection" was to create the history of St. Matthews, Kentucky. Being retired I now have time to do many of the things I have always wanted, this project is just one of them.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles and photos. Credit to the source of the photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. *The Courier-Journal*, *The Louisville Times* or one of the *Voice* publications. Books that we have used for some information include, *Randy*, *Cactus*, *Uncle, Ed and the Golden age of Louisville Television*, *Waggener High School Alumni Directory 1996*, *Waggener Traditional High School Alumni Directory 2007*, *Memories of Fontaine Ferry Park*, *St. Matthews The Crossroads of Beargrass* by Samuel W. Thomas, *St. Matthews, 25 Years a City Two Centuries a Community*, *St. Matthews 1960-1995*, *Waggener Lair's 1958 to 1962*, *The Holy Warrior*, *Muhammad Ali*, *Louisville's Own (An Illustrated Encyclopedia Of Louisville Area Recorded Pop Music From 1953 to 1983)*.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.



St. Matthews Area Churches:

St. Matthews area churches, A—G:

Some general history of churches in the St. Matthews ares.

Beargrass Christian Church

Beechwood Baptist

Bethel-St. Paul Church, was Bethel Evangelical

Broadway Baptist Church

Calvin Presbyterian Church

Christ Church United Methodist, was Broadway Methodist

East Unit Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

St. Matthews area churches, H—R:

Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Our Lady Of Lourdes

St. Matthews area churches, S—Z:

St. Johns Lutheran Church

St. Matthews Baptist Church

St. Matthews Episcopal Church

St. Matthews United Methodist Church

Second Church of Christ, Scientist

Second Presbyterian Church

Westport Road Church Of Christ

St. Matthews Area Churches: *The Voice Of St. Matthews*, November 11 & 18, 1954

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews*, November 11 & 18, 1954:

Waggener—How St. Matthews Churches Help Their Youth, by Carolyn Kraft

Last week the president of International Rotary said the juvenal delinquency problems are being really decreased by the miracle of interest in church activities among the youth of America. I thought that this week I would wander away from Waggener with some of the Wildcats and see some of the youth activities which take place in the churches of St. Matthews area.

The St. Matthews Methodist Church has four purposes: To develop its youth physically, spiritually, socially, and to teach them to work. The Methodist Youth Forum, or the M.Y.F. as it is more commonly called, has its meetings on Sunday evenings. On Monday a workshop for social work is held. The Intermediate Groups are level is 12-14; the Senior, 15-20. Refreshments are served and games are enjoyed by all.

Baseball teams are organized each summer, and picnics are held on the church grounds. Alice Miller, Judy Terry, Judy Lawrence, Sally Carmichael, Mary Louise Bridges, Linda Engle, Jim Koons, Danny Chitwood, Roger Patterson, Susan Boynton, and Janice Livesay, are some of the members of the M.V.F.

Beargrass Christian Church has Christian Youth Fellowship. The high school club is called Chirho. At 5 p.m. on Sundays a snack supper is served and devotions, movies, ping-pong, and dances are held. A spring and fall Roundup are held in Middletown. Suzanne Keeling, Judy Reeder, Linda McConnel, Bill Fru, and Darlene Scheibel are C.Y.F. members.

Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church has a large following of Waggener students in the youth choir: Bobby Mann, Margaret White, Mary Ann Powell, Lynn Brocker, Nancy Lodewick, Ruth Whittaker, Bobby Stickway, Hallie Dumke, Irene Baker, Sally Thorne, Sue Abbott, Gerri Ashton, Sally Mencke, and Barbara Caswell. Sunday evening after practice supper is served by the patrons. Worship services are followed by a recreation period. The junior high organization is called the Pioneers. Rallies are held with other church clubs.

Our Lady of Lourdes holds the Chilalo Teen Club for high school age students every Sunday night from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30. Other dances and picnics are enjoyed, and a boy scout troop is also sponsored by the church. Joe Schildt, Anne Ratterman, Dave Settle, Mary Carmel, Frank Westfall, Barr Schulte, and Deanna Rosa are some of the members.

Kathy Huber tells me that the **Holy Trinity Teen Club** is held on Monday night from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Dancing and ping-pong are a regular part of their program. There is an annual outing which was held last year at Spring Mill, Indiana.

Waggener—Visiting Teen Groups At St. Mathews Churches, by Carolyn Kraft

Last week we visited the St. Matthews Methodist, Harvey Browne Presbyterian, Our Lady of Lourdes, Beargrass Christian, and Holy Trinity Churches with some of the teen-agers from Waggener. This week we shall continue our trip.

The St. Matthews Baptist Church has one of the most active church youth groups in the St. Matthews area. They have the Baptist Training Union, or B.T.U. as it is called. The programs are planned and presented by the youngsters themselves. Their purpose is to teach the principles of the Baptist Church. There are choirs for all ages. Every Sunday, choir practice is held, followed by a supper; then evening church services and fellowship follow. Carole Straub, Judy Surber, Peggy Johnson, Carolyn Jones, Margaret Mitchell, Mary Beth Carr, Eddie Owens, Alan Pezold, Jim Nall, Beverly Samson, Judy Tankersley, Kevin Hall, Charles Dale, Charles Oldham, and Joy Ellis are members of this group.

The St. Matthews Episcopal Church has a Sunday night meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. for its young people. There are two groups, one for junior high students, the other for senior high students. Business meetings, topics, and recreation are enjoyed by all. Hayrides and parties are planned by the members. Ann L Crosse, Connie Carter, Susan Gowdy, Betty Dietrich, Patsy Harvath, Sally Marmion, and Warren Smalley belong to his organization.

Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church holds its meetings every other Sunday night at the church. A leader from the Presbyterian Seminary conducts these sessions. Topics, worship, and refreshments are a regular part of the program. Bobby What, Harold Haeberlin, Jean Brahnham, and Sandra Saam are members of the group.

St. John Lutheran Church has three active groups which serve its young people. The Junior Luther League is for children in the third to fifth grades; the Intermediate league is for sixth to eight grades. The Senior league is composed of high school students. Luther League Rallies are held with the other Luther Leagues of all the other Lutheran Churches of Louisville. A topic, a dinner served by the parents, worship service, and business meetings are included at each gathering. The interesting discussion which follows the topics encourages personal opinions and ideas. Parties and all other activities are planned by the members. Ronnie Harding, Carol Isham, Jim Painter, Judy Nelson, Judy Davis, Gary Paxton, Connie Cotter, Richard Stokes, and Carolyn Kraft are members who go to Waggener.

The Broadway Baptist Church has both a junior and senior high group that meet separately every Sunday night at 6 o'clock. They have a study program. They join each other at 7 o'clock for a community supper. Each group has its own social gatherings, usually once a month. The junior high students enjoy parties, while early morning breakfasts have more appeal for the senior high age. Hamilton Cook, Frank Gay, Alan Jure, Barbara Williams, Marie VanHoose, Carley Sue Revell, Linda Lowe, Sue Ann Flint, Patsy Dowden, Joyce Nathan, Marshelle Hardesty, and Kay Shipman are members of this organization.

By the way, speaking of ten are groups, the sock hop at Waggener last Saturday was a lot of fun. I learned how to do the Camel Walk! A little more complicated than the Bunny Hop perhaps, but fun! I hope I haven't skipped anybody as we visited your various church. If I have, please forgive you reporter, it wasn't intentional. Be reading me next week.

St. Matthews Area Churches: *The Voice Of St. Matthews, July 16, 1959*

17 New Churches in 10 years—And 20 which were here are now greatly expanded

St. Matthews is a community of homes, schools and churches, and while the people here in the past 10 years have often resisted the call for new taxes and for more money for civic projects, they have given their money freely for new places of worship.

Seventeen new churches have come into existence since *The Voice* was first published July 14, 1949, and the 20 or so small, scattered chapels that were already in existence in the eastern end of Jefferson County have almost without exception mushroomed to astounding proportions, Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church, for example, was a small congregation of a couple of hundred people holding Sunday services in the Vogue Theatre. It is now the largest Presbyterian Church in Kentucky, with a membership of 1,650.

The spiritual value of these new churches is immeasurable but the value in terms of money is counted in millions of dollars. From the solid massiveness of Bethel Evangelical and Reformed church's new chapel, to the stark modernity of St. Matthews Episcopal, to the graceful Colonialism of Beargrass Christian's new wing, the people here have demonstrated a passion to celebrate their faith in God by building costly, beautiful and functional churches.

Claims to be first: The origins of the modern congregations go back a long way in American history—some say almost to the Revolutionary War. And while most of the growth has taken place in the last 10 years, the history of St. Matthews area churches is a long and interesting one.

St. Matthews Episcopal Church generally gets credit for being the oldest church, although contrary claims have been made. It was reportedly founded in the 1830's but disbanded after the turn of the century. It was reestablished in April, 1948, and Rev. Wilfred Myll was called as pastor. He has served since then.

There are two claims on the first church distinction, however. Huett Simcoe announced that Rudy's brick chapel was established on the Frank Fehr farm in 1816. Mrs. J. E. Newton of Lyndon claims that the Beargrass Baptist Church was established on a tributary of the Beargrass Creek, south of Shelbyville Road and west of the Bullitt Farm, in 1784 with the Rev. John Whitaker as pastor.

She said Louisville at this time had only 63 houses finished; 37 partly finished, 22 raised, and 100 cabins. According to Mrs. Newton there are court records which show an acre of ground was added to the church property in April of 1829.

Campbell split church: From 1830 to 1832 a man named Alexander Campbell split the church with his doctrine and formed the Beargrass Christian Church, weakening the Baptist portion so much that it folded.

In 1851 the St. Matthews Episcopal Church purchased its present eight-acre site on Hubbards Lane and became a full-fledged, self-supporting Episcopal Church. Ground was broken for the building on April 6, 1952. The first service was held in the completed structure on February 8, 1953. A new unit of classrooms and offices was completed in 1956 at a cost of \$165,000. The church celebrated the tenth anniversary of its present organization on September 7, 1958. There are 765 Communicants.

Beargrass Christian Church was organized in 1842 and has the longest continuous history. It had 86 members then, as compared to 1,035 today. It was first located on Goose Creek Road, then later on Westport Road. Its present site, at Shelbyville Road and Brown's Lane, was dedicated June 24, 1917.

Sunday school rooms were added in 1939, and an 11-room educational building in 1949. In 1952, the church bought 4116 Shelbyville Road, and in 1954, 4118 Shelbyville Road, to be used for Sunday School rooms, parking space, and as an apartment for the caretaker.

Trip for Lawrensons: It was a proud moment for the congregation when the \$100,000 mortgage was burned in June '56. They immediately launched a \$75,000 fund-raising drive for a new sanctuary in November, 1956; \$117,000 was immediately pledged. Ground was broken in April, 1958, for a \$310,000 sanctuary which was completed and dedicated in December last year.

The pastor and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Lawrenson, were given a tip to the Holy Land by the congregation on June 3, 1956, but have never had an opportunity to take it.

The church has had its misfortunes, too. In December, 1954 fire swept the building doing \$6,000 worth of damage (last part of sentence missing.)

Holy Trinity is St. Matthews oldest Catholic Church. It was organized in 1882 by Rev. Louis C. Ohle. Its tremendous growth, typical of St. Matthews, required other parishes to be built to relieve it. Msgr. Charles C. Boldrick, the present pastor, came to Holy Trinity in 1951, after having been elsewhere in Louisville for 20 years.

The church was destroyed by fire in 1938. The parish was moved to Cherrywood Road, north of Massie Avenue, in 1953. The parish consists of the church, the school, the rectory, a convent for the sisters who teach, and auxiliary buildings. Father Boldrick celebrated his Silver Jubilee July, 1955. He was ordained July 20, 1930.

St. Matthews Area Churches: *The Voice Of St. Matthews, July 16, 1959*

75th anniversary: The church celebrated its 75th anniversary in December, 1957. Previous pastors of the parish are — Fathers Andrew J. Thome, Henry Mertens, Joseph Neeson, John Bohlsen, B. F. Besinger; John F. Knue, and A. G. Gerst. There are now about 2,300 members.

Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church began as a mission Sunday School in 1891, sponsored by the Crescent Hill Presbyterian church, and worship was held at Greathouse School (the present location of the Kroger store in the Taylor triangle).

In 1914, a Mrs. Roberts of Bardstown gave \$2,000 to the Louisville Presbytery to be used as a memorial to her brother, Dr. Harvey Browne. With this money a church was erected on Bauer Avenue, and on Sunday, August 16, Harvey Browne was organized with 27 charter members.

William T. McElroy was the first pastor, having begun his work with the church even before he was ordained on July 28, 1918.

Dr. Anderson arrives: June 1 and 4, 1941 was the 50th anniversary of the Sunday School and the 25th of the church. The present pastor, Dr. Olof Anderson, came to Harvey Browne in 1949. Ground was broken for the present building on November 5, 1950, and the first service in the completed building was held January 20, 1952. In 1954 a \$58,000 addition was completed, the congregation numbers 1,650, the largest Presbyterian congregation in Kentucky..

Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church was organized and the first service held January 7, 1923, with 43 charter members. The first pastor, Rev. Walter A. Scheer, served 15 years. The first unit of the church cost \$29,000 and was dedicated November 23, 1924. The second unit, a \$75,000 one, was dedicated September 15, 1929.

Rev. E. A. Wahl, the present minister, took over the reins in 1950, succeeding Rev. Willard H. Zinke.

Two lots adjoining the east side of the church were purchased in 1945, and the present parsonage and adjoining lot, at 139 Meridian, were purchased in 1951. The cornerstone was laid for a new \$225,000 addition in 1956. The addition was dedicated in a weeklong ceremony from June 2-9, 1957, with 17 ministers taking part.

A Bethel trademark: Bethel, in conjunction with the St. Matthews Methodist Church, agreed to raise money for the Methodist Evangelical to be built in Louisville. Bethel's goal is \$22,500 to be raised over a three year period, starting with 1958. Present membership is 818.

Bethel's trademark, more than anything else, is the annual Turtle Soup Supper. Here is how it started: About 30 years ago a man named George Drescher brought a turtle to the brotherhood meeting from which he prepared a delicious soup. It was so well liked, the brotherhood decided to make the turtle soup supper an institution.

For the first supper in 1920, they, made 50 gallons of soup, and each year the pot grows larger.

Here is a recent recipe: 250 pounds turtle, 250 pounds chicken, 80 pounds beef, 80 pounds veal, 20 calves' heads, 30 dozen eggs, 15 gallons canned peas, 160 pounds potatoes, 60 pounds onion, 4 dozen stalks celery, 2 dozen bunches parsley, five bushels of tomatoes, three bushels of carrots, three bushels of beans, two bushels of cabbage, 15 dozen lemons, four pounds of spices, one case of Lea and Perrins sauce, two pounds of pepper, plus quantities of ketchup and tomato puree. Salt to taste. The soup is cooked 24 to 30 hours before serving.

From a tent meeting: The St. Matthews Baptist Church sprang from a tent meeting held in August, 1926. Rev. C. W. Chadwick organized it in May, 1927, as an extension of the Walnut Street Baptist Church. Rev. W. A. Pen became the first pastor in August, 1927. Membership was 85 in 1928. Plans were made for a sanctuary on Lexington Road but abandoned in 1928.

On September 4, 1946, 15 lots were purchased at the corner of Grandview and Macon. Construction began on the new sanctuary in October, 1948, and first services were held in the new building in 1949. A new \$150,000 educational building was dedicated in May, 1955. The present pastor, Dr. Carroll Hubbard, began his ministry here in 1953. The church began a weekly newspaper on February 2, 1956. The present membership is 1,712. Past ministers are Carroll Morong, W. E. Bridge, W. A. Smith; Dr. J. J. PreVol, J. F. Barton, Dr. E. A. McDowell, Dr. Verlin C. Krusch, and Eldred M. Taylor.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 320 Cannons Lane, was organized January 31, 1937, with Rt. Rev. Msgr. John W. Vance, as pastor. He has been the only pastor in the church's history.

Four additions to the building have been made in the past ten years: an addition to the school of 7 classrooms, erection of a new church to seat 900, conversion of the old church into a gymnasium and hall, and a convent for nuns. Present church membership is 3,300.

A new Lutheran church: Our Savior Lutheran Church was organized September 22, 1942, with Rev. John F. Kutz as the first pastor. It has grown from a membership of 27 with 12 communicants to 290 with 188 communicants in its 17-year history.

St. Matthews Area Churches: *The Voice Of St. Matthews, July 16, 1959*

The property upon which the church is located, the corner of Shelbyville and MacArthur, was purchased in 1943, although worship continued at Greathouse School until 1947, when the new church was dedicated.

Most of the labor and materials was donated by Lutherans. The church erected a Sunday School and recreation building in 1952, purchased a parsonage at 321 Monohan drive in 1953, and air-conditioned the church in 1954. Rev. Paul E. Kolch succeeded Rev. Kutz in July, 1958, when Mr. Kutz went to Florida.

The St. Matthew Methodist Church is the result of the evolution of an Evangelistic Service held in a tent at the intersection of Lexington and Frankfort Roads in 1938. It was organized with 27 members by Dr. Roy II, Sborn (now Bishop Short).

Services were held in Harvey Browne church on Bauer Avenue, then in Greathouse School, until the congregation moved into its building at Breckinridge and Grandview in September, 1939.

Dedicate building: Five years later, the building was dedicated, debt-free. In 1947 the present site on Brown's Lane was selected and a chapel moved from Bowman Field and placed over a full-size basement.

Services were held at Greathouse School until May, 1948. This chapel was dedicated debt-free in 1953. A three-unit expansion program was immediately launched with an estimated cost of \$350,000. A \$45,000 addition was completed in 1954, and a \$70,000 addition completed in 1956.

Previous pastors are A. D. Leitchfield, William Neil Taylor, M. L. Dyer, M. B. Owen, Marvin B. Whitmer, and James S. Curry. The present pastor is Rual T. Perkins. The membership is 1,039.

Palm Sunday, Mardi 21. 1948 was the birth of the St. John Lutheran church with a charter membership of 81.

On November 3, 1946, 75 adults had met at Greathouse to discuss organizing such a church, and the first service was held at Greathouse School November 10, 1948 with Rev. G. D. Busch preaching. August 1, 1947, Pastor S. P. Diehl conducted his first service at the St Matthews Methodist Church. So it was that the church was formally organized on a Palm Sunday.

The original site of the church, 239 Breckenridge Lane, was purchased from the St. Matthews Methodist Church in 1948. In 1954 the church began a \$22,500 expansion drive. They bought a 3.6 acre lot at 901 Breckinridge Lane in 1955, and ground was broken in 1957 for a \$201,000 sanctuary.

Wrecked by explosion: It was no sooner up than a tremendous gas explosion and fire caused from \$50,000 to \$60,000 worth of damage. Rev. Diehl himself suffered shock and singed hair.

Undaunted, the Lutherans continued services in the undamaged portion of their church, despite offers of other churches for them to use their chapels. The dedication, originally set for November 24, 1957, was finally performed after the rebuilding of the Church in February, 1958. The total membership of St. John's is 560.

The Meadowview Presbyterian Church is located on Breckinridge Lane near Taylorsville Road. The first unit of the church was begun in 1954 and dedicated in April, 1955. The approximate cost was \$60,000. A second unit which cost \$41,000 was completed in 1958, and yet a third at a cost of \$125,000 was completed in 1959 and dedicated May 24. Membership at this time has almost reached 600.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church is the result of the tremendous growth and subsequent division of Holy Trinity. The ten-acre site on Breckinridge Lane was purchased in spring 1949 and ground broken the following winter for the church. The building was completed in 1950 with ten classrooms, a cafeteria, an office for the school, and an auditorium for church. School opened in 1950 for 240 students, and first Mass was held on December 10, 1950.

The Ursuline Sister of Sacred Heart Motherhouse furnished the faculty for the school. An addition of six classrooms was built in 1954 to accommodate more students. Rev. Anthony C. Gerst has been the only pastor since it was established and is now minister to 2,500 parishioners.

Beechwood Baptist: Beechwood Baptist Church was completed in December, 1954, at a cost of about \$156,000. The ground, however, was presented debt free by the Crescent Hill Baptist Church, the St. Matthews Baptist, the Long Run Baptist Association, the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, and the Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky.

Services were held at Silvers School while the building was completed. The first service in the completed building was held in June, 1955, and the building dedicated December 4, 1955. Dr. James B. Sawyer has been pastor since 1953. Started as an extension of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, the church has grown to a membership of 585.

An old church, yet new to the St. Matthews area, is the Broadway Baptist Church, established here in 1950 to follow a migrating congregation it is now located at 4000 Brownsboro Road on an eight-acre site.

Ground was broken in November, 1958, for a new sanctuary and education building at a cost of \$561,500. \$215,000 was immediately pledged. The pastor is Dr. Edwin F. Perry. The membership of the church is approximately 755.

St. Matthews Area Churches: *The Voice Of St. Matthews, July 16, 1959*

The Suburban Christian Church was organized in December, 1956, with 32 charter members. The congregation brought a 4-acre site on Westport Road in May, 1953 for \$28,000. A drive for \$8,500 was launched in November for the building. Pastor is Rev. Jonas M. Berkey.

Plans were adopted only last month for the first unit of the three—unit structure, which will cost about \$80,000. Ground breaking is set for fall. There are 105 members and 126 enrolled in Sunday School.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Lowe Road was dedicated May 26, 1957. Services were held at Kennedy School prior to the completion of the \$275,000 structure. St. Paul's was formerly located at Fourth Street and Magnolia and is the second oldest Episcopal Parish in the Kentucky Diocese. The first service in the new building was held April 18, 1957. Rev. William Gentleman is the minister to the 315 communicants.

Silver anniversary: Father Ehrich J. Stuart, pastor of the St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, celebrated his Silver Anniversary in June, '58, and then took a two-month trip to Europe where he got the consent of Pope Pius XII to give the Apostolic blessing to congregation of 3,200 members. The church building was begun in August, 1952, and the first Mass held in the building August 2, 1953.

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The Second Presbyterian Church broke ground in October, 1954, for a \$250,000 unit in Rolling Fields, which was completed and dedicated in April, 1955. A \$400,000 education building was dedicated on May 24, 1958. Dr. W. H. Clarke is pastor to the 1,100 mem-bers.

The Second Church of Christ, Scientist, is a comparative newcomer to St. Matthews. The church broke ground June, 1956, for the beautiful \$200,000 building at the corner of Frankfort and Thierman Avenues. First service was held in the building January 6, 1957. The reader, who serves for three years, is Mr. E. B. Williams.

The St. Francis-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church is located on seven acres at the corner of US Highway 42 and Wolf Pen Branch Road. Its history dates back to 1945 when organizational meetings were held in September and October, and the parish then established in December.

First service Xmas Eve: The first service of the church was held on Christmas Eve, 1945 in a small building on River Road, which had formerly been a Negro Baptist Church. The energetic congregation redecorated the building and received their new pastor on New Year's day.

Her was Rev. Robert Clingman, son of the bishop Clingman, who had helped with their organization. The first service in the church at the present church was held in June, 1948.

Rev. Clingman resigned in 1952 and was succeeded by the present rector, Rev. Stephan Davenport, June 1, 1953. The original building cost about \$160,000, but subsequent additions and improvements, the latest being the \$275,000 wing added in 1958, have brought the total value to about \$550,000. It has grown from 33 communicants in 1946 to 580 today.

The Free Methodist Church purchased it building on Breckinridge Lane for \$30,000 from the St. John Lutheran Church in 1956, when St. John's move farther out the same road. Rev. James S Roberson is pastor, and the congregation numbers 34 full members.

Church of Christ: The St. Matthews Church of Christ was organized in. I 949. Services were held at the St. Matthews Woman's Club until the \$92,000 building on Westport Road. was completed and the first service held in it on April 28, 1957.

The first pastor, Rev. James C. Brasher, returned to his native Louisiana last July and was succeeded by Rev. Dewey E. Shaw of Atlanta. The church has about 150 members.

The Suburban Chapel of the First Unitarian Church was opened on the F. W. Russel property at 4938 Brownsboro Road on June 18, 1957. Included in the \$42,500 purchase price were 9½ acres of land, a residence, carport and barn.

The residence was remodeled for church use during the summer of 1957, and the first service; held September 12, 1957. Rev. Robert T. Weston is the pastor to 450 members.

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The Christ Methodist Church was formed here in 1955 as an extension of the East Broadway Methodist Church. It is situated on a seven-acre tract on Brownsboro Road, opposite Blankenbaker.

The original name was Indian Hills Methodist Church, but as the church was a merger of the Indian Hills and Broadway Church, the name was changed to Christ Methodist.

Ground was broken in November, 1956, for the first unit, which cost approximately \$175000. The first service was held September 1, 1957. The church membership is now 328. Pastor until last month was Dr. James W. Averitt. He was succeeded by Rev. Kavanaugh Loy.

St. Matthews Area Churches: *The Voice Of St. Matthews, July 16, 1959*

New Presbyterian Chapel: The East Chapel of the Forth Avenue Presbyterian Church, now known as the Calvin Presbyterian Church, is located on Rudy Lane. The original building cost \$93,000, but a \$175,000 addition was begun in October, 1958, and services held there July 5.

The original building was dedicated June 24, 1956. The pastor, Dr. Arie D. Bestebrietje of Pelham, New York, was called in June, 1957. there are about 450 members.

Msgr. Joseph L. Wheatley is pastor of the Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church which ss holding its services at present in next-door neighbor Plantation Swim Club.

The site is 9½ acres on Westport Road and completion date for the church is expected to be September, 1960.

Ground for the church was donated by Bollinger & Martin Builders. There are already about 1,000 members in the parish.

The East Unit Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses just dedicated their \$30,000 building in a weeklong ceremony last March 17 to 23. They began construction at 411 Hubbard's Lane in March 1,958 and it was largely built by the congregation itself.

P. W. McKinney is the presiding minister to 120 "active members" or ministers. The congregation limit is 200. Beyond that new members must build their own church, just as this one did.

\$400,000 building: The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky dedicated their brand new \$400,000 building on Shelbyville Road, one half mile west of Middletown on July 1. 1957.

The Trinity Presbyterian Church was organized May 11, 1958 as an outgrowth of Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church. The congregation meets at the Middletown Woman's Club while their building is being built.

The building, for which ground was broken May 3, 1959, will be located in the Blue Ridge Subdivision south of Shelbyville Road and near Middletown and will cost about \$100,000. Rev. Lawrence Cater is pastor to the 75 members. There were 57 charter members.

St. Albert the Great Catholic Church is another newly organized one. The congregation has, met in Stivers School since February, 1959, and will until September, 1960, when their church on Gerrard Drive, near Herr and Westport Roads, is scheduled to be completed. Father Robert A. Willett, J. C. D. is the Pastor.

Churches in the neighboring communities of Lyndon and Middletown have been building too.

Lyndon and Middletown: The Lyndon Christian Church's \$35,000 building was dedicated on May 19, 1957. The church is the result of an evangelistic effort begun Ma, 10. 1954 by Rev. Joseph Johnson, minister of the Clifton Heights Christian Church.

The congregation met at Lyndon School until the building was completed. Rev. Robert Jones of Covington became the pastor, succeeding Rev. Lilburn Simmons in 1958.

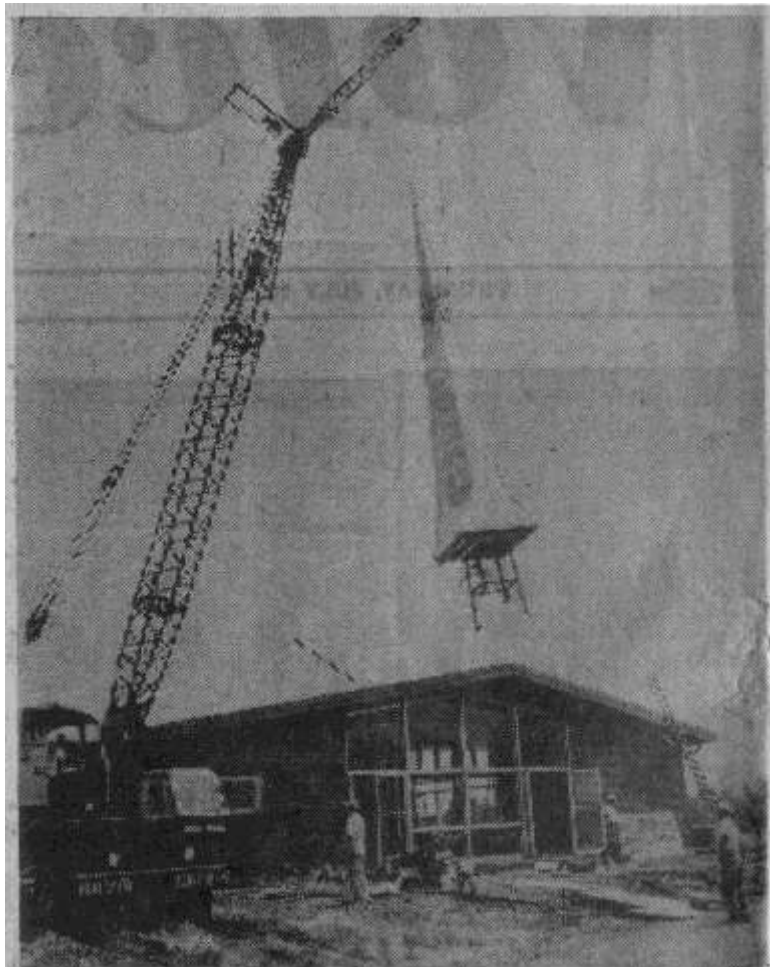
The Lyndon Baptist Church now has 691 members. The church dedicated its most recent addition, the "Friendship House," which occupies two acres of ground and cost approximately \$18,000, on November 16, 1958. Rev. Hugh Goldsby is pastor.

The first unit of the Middletown Methodist Church educational building was completed in 1947 with Rev. Howard T. Matthews, pastor. An addition was made in 1955 at the cost of \$41,000 and opened in February, 1958. The total cost of the building is \$78,000, and the total membership, 553. Dr. R. I. Sleamaker was pastor this past year. He has just recently been succeeded by Rev. W. Leslie Chapman of Columbia, Ky. The church was established in 1800.

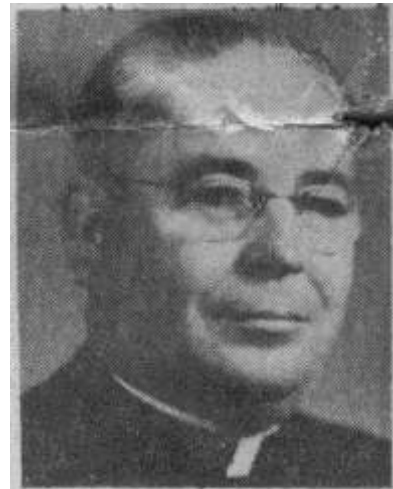
The first Baptist Church of Middletown broke ground for an \$86,000 education building in June, 1955, which was completed in September, 1951. The past ministers include L. W. Benedict, J. Howard Williams, J. A. McCaleb, W. H. Moody. V. L. Wyatt. B. H. Bush, William Waterhouse, B. B. Powers, George Hall, and the present pastor, I. Ferd Graves. There are now 573 members.



A new sanctuary (left) of Colonial architecture was added to Beargrass Christian Church. The old Grecian columns (right) were torn down. (See photo page one).



The steeple was put in place on the new sanctuary at Calvin Presbyterian Church a few weeks ago.



FATHER WILLETT

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Beargrass Christian Church

Courtesy of Bluegrass-St. Matthews Historical Society:



Beargrass Christian Church, April, 1948



Photo by Buddy Orr

The weather half-spoiled plans for ground-breaking ceremonies at Beargrass Christian Church Sunday, but the pastor, Dr. Walter E. Lawrenson, bravely wades through the mud to do his duty. Two ceremonies were scheduled Sunday for the new \$310,000 addition, but the weather was so rainy, the 10 a.m. ceremony was called off, and a prayer was said in the auditorium by G. Lane McCroskey, vice chairman of the board. But at noon, Dr. Lawrenson and building chairman James Morris each turned over a spade of mud before a crowd of about 200, and a prayer was given by past board chairman William McConnell.

The Voice Of St. Matthews, May 1, 1958

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Beargrass Christian Church

Courtesy Pamela L. Flack Key (62):



First row, left to right: ???, ???, ???, ???, Pamela Flack, Mickey Lunsford, Keith Thomas, ???, ???



**Gilbert Flack
Rev Walter Lawren-
son
John Acree**

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Courtesy Mickey Lunsford (63):

Beargrass Christian Church

BEARGRASS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples of Christ

4100 Shelbyville Road, Louisville 7, Kentucky



Minister — R. W. VAN NOSTRAND, B.S. - B.D.

Minister of Evangelism — W. E. LAWRENSON, B.S. - B.D. - D.D.

Minister of Education — H. LEE WAHLSTROM, B.S. - B.D.

February 20, 1966

Dr. Lawrenson, pastor of evangelism at Beargrass Christian Church, dies

Dr. Walter E. Lawrenson, 63, minister of evangelism at the Beargrass Christian Church and one of the most renowned clergymen of Jefferson County, died of a heart attack suffered in his home, 6301 Alma Way. He was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Anthony

hospital Monday at 4 pm. Dr. Lawrenson, a 1931 graduate of the college of the Bible, Lexington, and Lexington Theological Seminary, joined Beargrass Christian, 4100 Shelbyville Rd., the same year. He served as minister and as senior minister until 1964

when he resigned in September, 1964, after suffering the second heart attack in five years.

He accepted the post of minister of evangelism at the urging of the Official

Continued to page A-8

August 28, 1969

Dr. Walter Lawrenson dies of heart attack

Continued from page 1

Board. Dr. Lawrenson had suffered the first heart attack Jan. 10, 1960, but recovered in weeks and resumed his duties. During his entire career as a clergyman, Beargrass Christian was the only church he served.

However, during his seminary days, he held pastorates at Jeffersontown three years and briefly at Crab Orchard, Ky.

A native of Jacksonville, Ala., Dr. Lawrenson was reared in England, Tex., and in California, returning to Alabama to finish high school. He earned his BA degree at Transylvania College, Lexington, and his BD degree from the College of the Bible where he was the youngest member of his class. Graduate work was done at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, both in Louisville, and at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

During his early days at Beargrass Christian, Dr. Lawrenson served as a one-man staff. He took care of the church's correspondence at his home which also served as the church office. He was without an associate 20 years and without secretarial assistance 10 years.

Membership of the church grew from 137 to more than 1,300 during his 30-year association.

Dr. Lawrenson received an honorary doctorate degree from Transylvania College. He served as chairman of the Protestant Relations Committee of the Old Kentucky Home Council eight years and received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor of the Boy Scouts of America.

For a quarter of a century, Dr. Lawrenson served on the governing board of the Lexington Theological Seminary and

also was president of the Jefferson County Christian Church Commission.

He was a member of the St. Matthews Rotary Club and the St. Matthews Lodge of Masons.

His wife is the former Maria Cord of Case City. They were married May 28, 1931, shortly after he came to Beargrass Christian. In 1950, Dr. and Mrs. Lawrenson were given a trip to the Holy Land as a 25th anniversary present. The voyage was delayed six years because of illness and gross of duties.

The congregation also honored Dr. Lawrenson on his 25th anniversary in 1956 with the establishment of the Walter E. Lawrenson Scholarship Fund at the Lexington Seminary. The fund was established with \$3,000.

Besides his wife, Dr. Lawrenson leaves two daughters, Mrs. George Huskamp and Mrs. R. W. Owsen, and three granddaughters. The oldest daughter, Ann Allison, died in 1952.

Funeral services were planned for 2:30 this afternoon in the Beargrass Christian Church with burial in Cave Hill Cemetery.

The family requested that expressions of sympathy take form of contributions to the scholarship fund at the Lexington seminary.



DR. WALTER LAWRENSON

Courtesy http://www.beargrass.org/about_history.html

Beargrass—A 200 Year Legacy

1784 Beargrass (Baptist) Church organized

1803 Beargrass joins Long Run Baptist Association
1809 Land purchased near Shelbyville Road Plaza
1824 Alexander Campbell preaches in Louisville
1829 Benjamin Allen organizes Goose Creek Church
1831 Beargrass leaves Long Run Baptist Association

1842 Beargrass Christian relocates to Westport Road

1842 Alexander Campbell preaches at Goose Creek
1842 Goose Creek members transfer to Beargrass
1888 New frame sanctuary built

1917 Church relocates to Shelbyville & Brown's Lane

1931 Walter Lawrenson called as minister
1939, 1949 Building expansions
1953 Will Van Nostrand called as associate minister
1963 Van Nostrand becomes senior minister
1958 Current sanctuary built
1975 Mary Beth Guy joins staff as third associate
1980 Activities Building constructed
1990 Education Building replaces 1917 building
1994 Scott Colglazier succeeds Van Nostrand
1997 Leigh Bond called as senior minister
1998 Youth and community building purchased
2006 New sanctuary & youth space open in December
2007 Dedication on sanctuary on January 21

The Origins of Beargrass Church: 1784

In 1781 Squire Boone, a lay Baptist preacher and brother of Daniel Boone, preached at "Dutch Station" outside Louisville. In January 1784 Rev. John Whitaker organized the Dutch Station settlers into "Bear Grass Church," the first church in Jefferson County. When Beargrass joined the Long Run Baptist Association in 1803 it numbered 67 members. In 1809 the church obtained land on what is now the Shelbyville Road Plaza shopping center. Rev. William Kellar of Harrod's Creek Baptist Church also provided leadership at Beargrass until his death in 1817.

The Campbells' Reform Movement Begins: 1809

Also in 1809, **Thomas Campbell** began a reform movement in western Pennsylvania. Thomas and his son Alexander were university-trained, Scottish Presbyterian ministers from Ireland. Thomas Campbell disagreed with other Presbyterians over communion, baptism, election and predestination. In 1811 Thomas and Alexander formed the independent Brush Run Church in Washington County, Pennsylvania near the northern Virginia (now WV) border. In 1815 the Campbells and Brush Run joined the Redstone Baptist Association. Before long differences arose between the Campbells and other Baptist leaders. The Campbells were leading a "Reform Movement" that by 1830 would cause them to separate from the Baptists.

In 1824 **Alexander Campbell** took a preaching tour of Kentucky, seeking to extend the influence of the Reform movement among Kentucky Baptists. Louisville pastors Philip S. Fall and Benjamin Allen were early Campbell advocates in Kentucky. In 1825 Fall's First Baptist Church of Louisville rejected the Baptist Philadelphia Confession of Faith. The congregation relied on the Bible alone as the guide for faith and practice. When Fall moved to Nashville (and later to Frankfort), Benjamin Allen, pastor of Harrod's Creek and Beargrass Baptist churches, provided pastoral leadership in Louisville. Kentucky Baptists were becoming sharply divided over Campbell's ideas. During the 1829-1833 period, the Louisville First Baptist Church divided into two congregations that would eventually become the First Christian and the Walnut Street Baptist churches.

Beargrass Leaves Baptist Association: 1831

Meanwhile, the Beargrass church had grown to 142 members in 1820 and 184 in 1830. But conflict over Campbell's views also arose at Beargrass with most of the members following the Campbell reformers. Benjamin Allen had provided leadership at Beargrass for many years, succeeding his mentor William Kellar who died in 1817. In 1829 he organized additional churches at Pond Creek (Oldham County) and Goose Creek (eastern Jefferson County). In 1831 the Long Run Baptist Association refused to admit these "Bible only" congregations. As a result, Beargrass and several other Campbellite churches withdrew from the Long Run Baptist Association in 1831. Allen continued to minister to these congregations until his death in 1838.

Courtesy http://www.beargrass.org/about_history.html

Beargrass—A 200 Year Legacy

Beargrass and Goose Creek Unite: 1842

In July 1842 Beargrass sold its land south of Shelbyville Road and in August purchased land on Westport Road. Before the congregation finished building the meeting house at the new site it began meeting with members of the Goose Creek Church at the Edwards-Herr-Hite house at 4417 Westport Road. The home was then owned by Alfred Herr who was one of the four elders chosen to lead the church in 1842 and one of the five trustees who purchased the new church property at what was later 4164 Westport Road. That same year Alexander Campbell preached to the Beargrass/Goose Creek congregation at Alfred Herr's Westport Road home.

In December 1842 forty four members of the Goose Creek Church of Christ formally transferred their membership to Beargrass, doubling the size of the Beargrass congregation. There were more than 90 "sisters" and "brothers" in the 1842 Beargrass Church of Christ. The family names on the early roster read like a who's who of area history: Arterburn, Cannon, Herr, Hikes, Hite, Hubbard, Oldham, Ormsby, Rudy, Simcoe.

The new united congregation built a brick church at the corner of Thierman Lane and Westport Road. After surviving the difficult years of the Civil War, in 1888 the congregation replaced the brick structure with a frame church. The new building included a brick baptistry—though baptisms seem to have continued in Beargrass Creek. In 1906 Beargrass Christian Church installed its first organ, ending the practice of unaccompanied singing.

Brown's Lane and Shelbyville Road: 1917

In 1917 the congregation moved to its present location at Brown's Lane and Shelbyville Road. The church was then an island surrounded by potato fields. In the mid-1920s the first building boom began in St. Matthews.

Tremendous Growth: The Lawrenson & Van Nostrand Years (1931-1993)

Beargrass' modern history began in 1931 when the Rev. Walter Lawrenson became the minister. The church had 137 members. In Rev. Lawrenson's early years the congregation experienced steady growth. Then in 1938 Shelbyville Road and Frankfort Avenue were widened (becoming US 60) and a second building boom began in St. Matthews. Coupled with Lawrenson's leadership, this boom led to tremendous growth at Beargrass. In 1939 the church expanded the sanctuary and added classroom space. By 1942 there were 375 members.

After World War II the boom resumed. Scrapping plans to relocate, Beargrass constructed another addition in 1949. St. Matthews incorporated in 1950, Beargrass added its first associate minister in 1951, and by 1952 membership totaled 670. In 1953 Rev. R. Willard Van Nostrand joined the staff as associate minister. The church continued to grow, passing 1,000 members in 1957, and building the current sanctuary in 1958.

The 1960s saw continued growth and change. Health considerations forced Dr. Lawrenson to resign as senior minister and become minister of evangelism. Rev. Van Nostrand took over preaching duties. After 38 years at Beargrass, Dr. Lawrenson died in 1969.

Beargrass added a second associate in 1975 when Mary Beth Guy was called as minister of education. Later that year the congregation elected women to the official board for the first time. An activities building was constructed in 1980 and in 1990 a new education building replaced the old one (originally the 1917 sanctuary) which was razed. After 40 years at Beargrass, Dr. Van Nostrand retired in 1993.

Preparing for the Next Century: 1990—present.

Dr. Scott Colglazier was called as senior minister in 1994. A third associate (minister of youth and young adults) as well as a contemporary worship service were added in 1996. Dr. Leigh Bond succeeded Colglazier in 1997. A youth and community building was purchased in 1998 and Dr. John Hull became minister of faith development the same year. Saturday night worship began in 2000.

The congregation continued thinking about the future and in 2003 purchased the building at 211 Browns Lane to secure additional parking. The building is now leased to Cornerstone Child Development which provides quality childcare and preschool for the community. After eight years of planning Beargrass built a new sanctuary and youth space that opened on Christmas Eve 2006. The 1958 sanctuary is now called Chalice Hall and is being used extensively by both the congregation and community groups.

After 32 years of faithful service, Rev. Mary Beth Guy (minister of pastoral care) passed away in 2007. Recent additions to the ministerial staff include Rev. Julie Brown (youth and young adults) and Susan Lowe (congregational care).

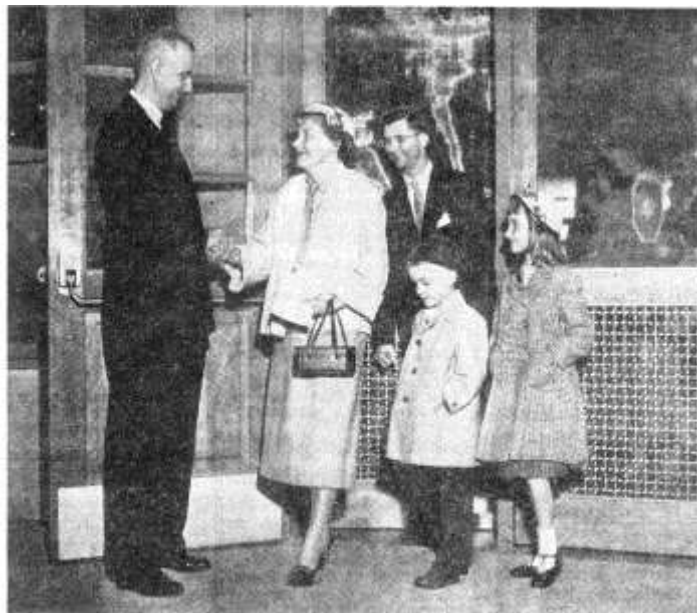
Courtesy Beechwood Baptist Church, *The Courier-Journal*, April 26, 1953:

**CRESCENT HILL
BAPTIST CHURCH
EXTENSION**

Temporary Location:

STIVERS SCHOOL
Westport & Hubbard's Lane

Sunday School—9:30 a.m.
Worship Service—11:00 a.m.
Training Union—6:30 p.m.
Worship Service—7:30 p.m.
Dr. W. C. Boone, Minister



DR. JAMES B. SAWYER, left, greets a new family as they leave Orville J. Stivers Elementary School, where the new Beechwood Baptist Church holds services. Lyndon residents, they are, from left, Mrs. Norvin Sillman, Mr. Sillman, Reed, 6, and Sharon, 9.

A Reporter Goes to Church

**School Provides Place of Worship
For A New Baptist Congregation**

**Church, State
Can Co-operate**

By ORA SPAID

For a nation that makes such a fuss over the separation of church and state, these two institutions have an amazing record of co-operation in American history.

Even in the days of the founding fathers, it was hard to find the line that separated the two. The community meeting house often served as a school during the week and a church on Sunday.

This co-operation continues today. The classrooms and auditoriums of many Jefferson County schools are doing interim service as Sunday schools and churches. They serve as meeting places until new congregations can put up churches.

Rents Facilities From County

An example is Beechwood Baptist Church, which meets in the Orville J. Stivers Elementary School, Westport Road near Hubbard Lane.

The congregation was organized last fall by members of

Crescent Hill Baptist Church who live in the Stivers School area. Arrangements were made with the County Board of Education to rent the school facilities and on the first Sunday in December, 26 members held their first service.

Shortly after that, Sunday school was begun and in February, Wednesday-night services were started. Growth of membership has been steady; today there are 146 enrolled in Sunday school and the congregation has 106 members.

Ground Is Acquired

Almost at the time the school services began, moves were made to acquire a church building. The General Association of Baptists, Women's Missionary Union, St. Matthews Baptist Church, and Crescent Hill Baptist Church shared the cost of a 2½-acre plot of ground at Biltmore and Cordova Roads in Beechwood Village.

The Beechwood congregation has been self-supporting from the start, and expects to worship in a new building within a year.

Dr. James B. Sawyer, who came from Norfolk, Va., to work on his doctorate at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, ac-

cepted the call of the Beechwood congregation when it was organized.

A veteran in the ministry, he finds the spirit of fellowship of the members amazing. Mostly young, upper-middle-class suburban families, they come from several other Baptist churches.

Anxious for Own Place

In their worship yesterday, they were prayerful and attentive to the smooth, poetry-filled sermon of Dr. Sawyer. The pleasant auditorium in the year-old school lends itself well to a worship service, but the members are anxious to move to a place of their own.

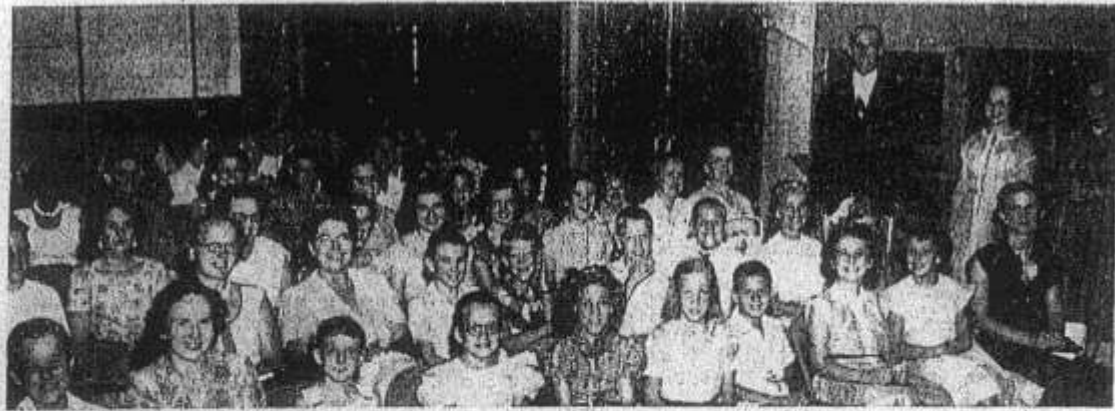
The new interest in religion of the last decade and the extensive building of new suburban churches have given many young families a tie with church life they had formerly felt only indirectly through their elders.

And the American school which is kept constitutionally separate from the church, has helped them know this new experience.

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Beechwood Baptist Church

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*



A section of those attending Beechwood's graduation were photographed by Frederic Beck. Dr. Sawyer is standing in the rear.

Beechwood Graduates 119

July 2, 1953

Diplomas were issued to 119 boys and girls by the Beechwood Baptist Church Vacation Bible School last week. The graduation exercises were held at Stivers School.

Dr. James B. Sawyer, church pastor and director of the school, told the graduates and the audience that during his many years

in the ministry, he hadn't seen a more enthusiastic group of boys and girls in any Bible School than the one he conducted this year.

The school was held at the St. Matthews Recreation Center. In addition to Bible study, the pupils, ages four to 10, had classes in wood work, sewing, basket weaving, and pottery painting.



PROMOTIONS were given out Sunday to members of the Sunday School classes of Beechwood Baptist Church by Rev. James Sawyer, pastor, from the stage of Stivers School auditorium. Pictured here with Dr. Sawyer are the beginners who were promoted to the primary class. From left, they are Barbara Sue Zippin, Janice Ann Hager, June Elizabeth Hager, Mary Sue Love, and Gary Embry. Many other promotions were made Sunday. Joyce Irene Keyes, Eva McBride, Gregory Hager, Jack Jones, and David Wood went from the nursery to the beginners' class. Nancy Newlin and Donald Scherer were promoted from primary to junior. Alice Blair went from junior to intermediate. Shirley Chatham went from intermediate to young people's class. The Beechwood Baptist Church meets at Stivers School each week pending construction of their church building in the City of Beechwood Village.

October 1, 1953

Beechwood Will Become Regular Baptist Church

By DR. D. F. HENDERSON

The Beechwood Baptist Church, Crescent Hill Extension, will be called simply the Beechwood Baptist Church after Sunday. That's when it becomes a regularly-constituted Southern Baptist Church.

Ceremonies begin at 2:30 at Stivers School, Westport Rd. and Hubbards Lane. The organization sermon will be preached by Dr. Rollins S. Barhans, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, the mother church of the Beechwood parish.

Meanwhile, architects are working on plans for a church building for Beechwood. Construction will be under way by the beginning of next year. The first unit to be finished will be the education building, which will also house the church temporarily.

During the late summer of 1952, a plot of land was purchased for Beechwood at Biltmore and Cordova Rds. in Beechwood Village by the Crescent Hill Baptist Church, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Long Run Baptist Association, General Association Of Baptists In Kentucky, and the Woman's Missionary Union Of Kentucky. The price was \$22,000.

The meeting was under the chairmanship of Dr. Barhans. During the meeting, about 30 members of the Crescent Hill Baptist Church signed pledge cards to remain and work in the Mission for a period of three months to get the mission on a going basis.

Dr. W. C. Boone became interim pastor of the mission; Mr. Garnett Morton became Sunday School Superintendent. Clyde Carroll became B.T.U. director; B. Fox and Monty Justice were elected choir directors. Mrs. Clyde Carroll was pianist.

Dr. James B. Sawyer accepted the pastorate on February 1, 1953, on a full time basis. Soon after, the mission adopted the name, Beechwood Baptist Church, Crescent Hill Baptist Church Extension.

The Crescent Hill budget for 1953 contained the sum of \$10,000 to finance the newly formed mission, should it require financial assistance.

This fund has never been drawn upon.

On November 29, 1953 the membership of the mission was 317 and it is expected this number will be substantially increased at the end of the evening service December 6, 1953. All names on the roster as of that date will become charter members of the Beechwood Baptist Church.

On November 17, 1952, approximately 100 members of the Crescent Hill Baptist Church met at Stivers School to establish a Baptist Mission in the

December 3, 1953

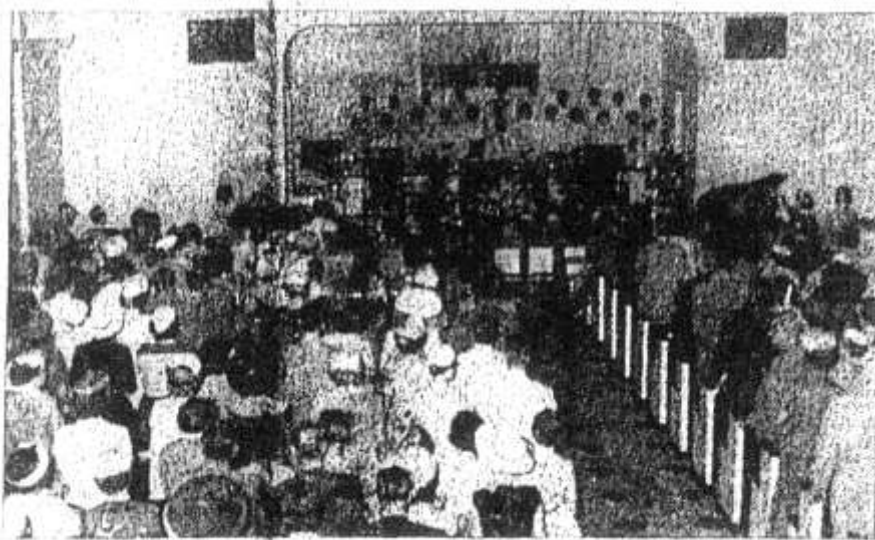
St. Matthews Area Churches:

Beechwood Baptist Church

Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:

New Beechwood Church Called 'Labor Of Love'

Dr. James Sawyer looked around at his new Beechwood Baptist Church building Sunday morning and told the congregation, "This is a labor of love."



The congregation and choir rises to sing at the Beechwood Baptist Church at first services Sunday. Dr. Sawyer is pictured at center in front of the choir.

It was the first service in the \$200,000 church, which was not yet completed. Some work remains to be done in the balcony to the rear, and in the basement. But the crowd of about 500 members, visitors, and officials did not mind.

Members were greeted at the door with smiles as they came to the service, which started at 11 a.m. The bright June sun filtered through the light green, stained-glass windows, and reflected in an even glow off the white walls and ceiling.

"This is a labor of love," said Dr. Sawyer. "We are thankful that we could have a part in it. May this hour be one of great rejoicing as we stand together with Thee in Jesus' name and for his sake."

The church won't be dedicated until fall, so there was no formal ceremony or speech of any kind. Dr. Sawyer read a congratulatory telegram sent all the way from Jerusalem by Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Boone. Dr. Boone is executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist organization.

The telegram said simply: "100th Psalm, Verse 4!"

This passage of the Bible says: "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."

The Sunday School chief, Garnett Morton, reported to the congregation that 274 were present at Sunday School that morning, a record attendance.

Mrs. J. P. Sanford was at the organ for the morning service. Mrs. Jay Epling was at the baby grand piano at the evening service. Both instruments were donated by church member Mason McDonald.

Another labor of love was the pulpit furniture, constructed out of Honduras mahogany by church member Elmo Wilson, with his own hands.

Much of the tile on the church floor was put down by church members, working voluntarily. There were many other contributions, too numerous to mention. Sunday also marked the completion of 19 months by the church as a constituted, full-fledged Southern Baptist Church. For 12 months previous to that, it was a mission of the Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

Mrs. J. Estill Jones directed the choir in singing.

June 30, 1955



Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

Beechwood Baptist Breaks Ground

Beechwood Baptist Church held ground-breaking ceremonies Sunday for the first unit — a church and educational building — of its proposed three-unit construction program.

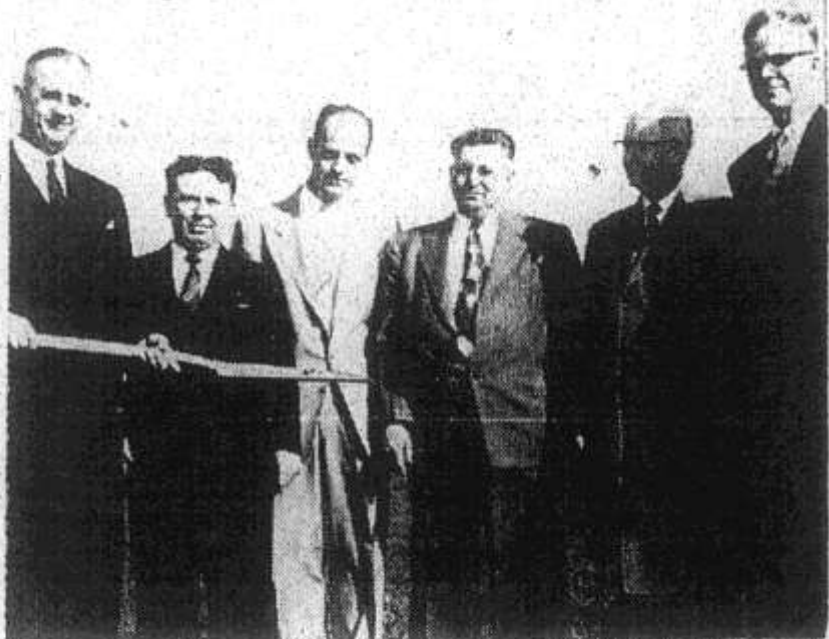
Construction starts this week and the first unit will be ready for occupancy by the end of the year, according to R. F. Nie-meier, contractor.

It is at Biltmore and Cordova Roads in Beechwood Village. The first unit will seat about 500 people in the auditorium. Present membership of the church is 260.

The site of the church was contributed by Crescent Hill Baptist Church, St. Matthews Baptist Church, the Long Run Baptist Association, the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky and the Women's Missionary Union of Kentucky.

Dr. James B. Sawyer, pastor of Beechwood, performed the ground-breaking ceremony, assisted by Garnett Morton, chairman of the board of deacons, J. Pace, chairman of the board of trustees, George Lewis, chairman of the building committee, J. K. Williams, church treasurer, and J. Sanford, chairman of the finance committee.

The first unit will cost about \$100,000. Beechwood, organized in the fall of 1952, was an ex-

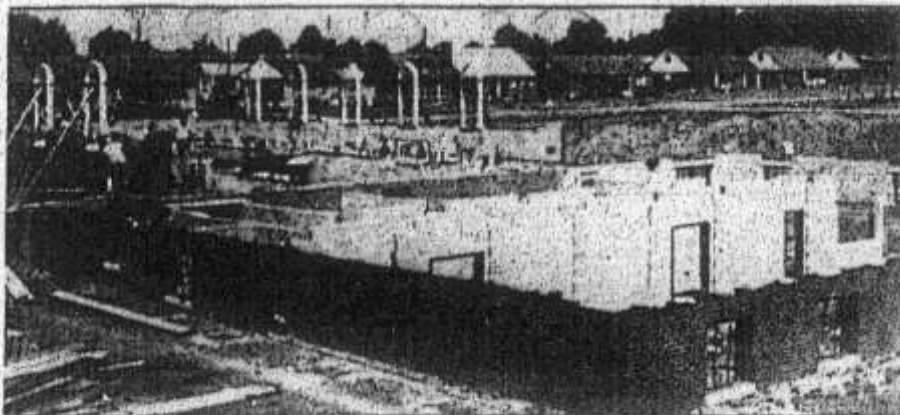


—Photo by Jim Miller

Dr. James B. Sawyer, pastor of Beechwood Baptist Church, holds up the shovel used for ground-breaking ceremonies Sunday. With him are Garnett Morton, chairman of the board of deacons; Bill Pace, chairman of the board of trustees; George Lewis, chairman of the building committee; J. K. Williams, treasurer; and Joe Sanford, chairman of the finance committee.

tension of Crescent Hill Baptist ing fund. Church until last December 6. Dr. Sawyer will continue to The mother church has given hold services at Stivers School Beechwood \$30,000 for its build- until the first unit is completed,

April 1, 1954



Symbolic of the post-war build-up of St. Matthews is this picture of the Beechwood Baptist Church under construction, with the lovely homes of Beechwood Village in the background. The continuing demand for homes and church facilities in Greater St. Matthews has created the greatest building boom in the history of Kentucky. Meanwhile, Beechwood's congregation holds worship services and Sunday School at Stivers School.

July 22, 1954

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Beechwood Baptist Church

Courtesy Beechwood Baptist Church:



St. Matthews Area Churches:

Beechwood Baptist Church

Courtesy Beechwood Baptist Church:



Courtesy Beechwood Baptist Church, *The Courier-Journal*, December 4 & 5, 1955:



Courier-Journal Photo

MEMBERS of Beechwood Baptist Church leave their new building after dedication services. The congregation has grown from 26 to 403 members in three years.

Baptist Church Is Dedicated

Three years after other Baptist organizations began giving missionary support to the Beechwood Baptist Church, the new congregation itself has become a major supporter of church causes.

Dr. James B. Sawyer, pastor, told members at a building-dedication service yesterday that the 403-member congregation gave \$1,880 to such causes last month. That is more than one-quarter of the month's collections.

The pastor was the principal speaker at the services. Also taking part was Dr. R. T. Skinner, editor of *The Western Recorder*, a church publication.

Beechwood Baptist's building is at Cordova and Biltmore Roads. Costing \$200,000, it has a chapel that seats 510. The chapel was filled for yesterday's service.

Beechwood Baptists Dedicate Building

Three years ago 26 members of Crescent Hill Baptist Church founded a new church.

Yesterday, Beechwood Baptist Church, with 403 members, dedicated its new building, the first of three structures the congregation plans to erect.

Of the 26 founders—each of whom had agreed to remain with the new church for 90 days—all but two or three have continued with the congregation.

The \$200,000 building, with a chapel that seats 510, is at Cordova and Biltmore roads.

This \$225,000 property was purchased by the Crescent Hill and St. Matthews Baptist churches, the Women's Missionary Union, the Long Run Association of Baptists, and the General Association of Baptists of Kentucky.

The Crescent Hill church also gave \$30,000 last year toward the new building.

Dedication of the Beechwood church yesterday also marked to the day its second anniversary as an independent Southern Baptist congregation.

Dr. James B. Sawyer has been pastor since February, 1953.

Beechwood Baptist is 20 years old 11/73

By Mary Bridgman
Staff Writer

Sunday, Dec. 4, was a time of both reminiscing and planning for the future for the Beechwood Baptist Church congregation.

Members and friends gathered at the church for the 20th anniversary of the church, located at 201 Biltmore Road. "Nostalgia is ever present, memory is ever alert," said Dr. James Sawyer, Beechwood pastor from 1953 to 1970. "Twenty years ago we started with 26 members. We were just a group of people meeting in a school.

"The dedication to the cause impressed me more than anything. We anticipated

that it would be one of the finest churches in Louisville, and it is.

"We started it on the Bible and the Bible way of giving, and it hasn't ever deviated."

Since Beechwood Baptist began, 2,000 families have joined. Presently, there are about 950.

"I enjoy the close knit fellowship," said charter member Mrs. G. Harris Snyder. "We were all working toward a common goal when we started."

"We used to go to people's houses to get flowers, since we couldn't afford them," recalled Mrs. Lou Epling.

"The spirit of friendliness and wanting to work was overwhelming," said another charter member. "Everybody was

willing to visit, Sunday after Sunday people joined. Once they visited they felt the spirit, it was contagious."

"We must remember the past and celebrate it, and anticipate the future and look forward to it," former pastor Weston Gaddy told the Beechwood congregation. "This is good only as long as you do not let it take you over.

"The future holds challenges that we dare not go into looking backward."

Dr. Howard Hovde, present Beechwood pastor set forth the church's future goals to the congregation. He told them that much of the future depends on the dreams they have.

He asked the members to guide people

toward Christian maturity, to bring every area of life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and to experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with one another.

He also asked the members to minister to the whole person in the teaching of Jesus Christ, to deepen their relationship with God by both private and corporate worship, and to be a dynamic expression of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

"This was a day of rejoicing and appreciation," said Sawyer. "It was heart-warming. I could look back when the seed was planted and see what kind of tree had grown."

Courtesy Beechwood Baptist Church, *The Courier-Journal*:

Beechwood Baptist to hold 40th anniversary

By ANNE SCHOLTZ
Staff Writer

Beechwood Baptist Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 3. Special guests will speak at the service at 10:45 a.m.

Dr. Bill Jagers, director of evangelism at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will be joined by Dr. Hugh McElrath, former minister of music at Beechwood Baptist, and Dr. Rollin Burhans and Dr. Verlin Kruschwitz, both former pastors of area churches, to commemorate the special day, Beechwood Baptist secretary Joyce Raisor said.

The church is still at its original location, at 210 Biltmore Road, in Beechwood Village.

The first services were held in the old Stivers school (now Walden School) on Westport Road on Nov. 16, 1952. The church was organized on Dec. 6, 1953, and ground was broken in early 1954, according to church historian Martha Puckett.

Since the handful of people started the church, Beechwood Baptist has grown to a membership of 747, and now has several community outreach programs.

A Mother's Day Out is sponsored from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

See page A-14

Beechwood Baptist Church to hold its 40th anniversary Oct. 3

From page A-1

on Wednesdays. There are also activities such as Sunday school, youth groups and a children's church, said the Rev. Robert Blackburn, associate pastor and minister of education at Beechwood Baptist.

The church participates in St. Matthews Area Ministries. The group provides services to area youth, an after-school program, a tutoring program, day care and an emergency assistance program, Blackburn said.

The church also sponsors the "55 Club," a senior adult group that goes out once a month. The 55 Club has about 50 members.

Dr. W.C. Boone led the group's first meeting with a sermon on faith. Dr. James B. Sawyer came aboard as pastor in February

1953 and served Beechwood Baptist for 18 years. Dr. Welton Gaddy was pastor during 1971 and 1972, and Dr. Howard Hovde served from June 1973 to July 1976.

The congregation has been led by Dr. Joseph R. Estes since July 1977. Dr. Tom Poole is the minister of music and worship, the Rev. David Maynard is minister of youth and Mrs. Margaret Goodhue is the minister of children and young families.

Services are held at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sundays. Sunday school starts at 9:30 a.m. The church also has a Wednesday night fellowship supper at 5:45 p.m., followed by a prayer meeting at 6:45. Children's activities and youth programs are also held on Wednesday evenings.

Courtesy Beechwood Baptist Church:

HISTORY OF BEECHWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Two words stand out clearly in the history of this church. The one is "Faith". In a very real sense the life of the church has been from "Faith" unto "Faith". The second word which is so representative of the life of the church is "Mercy". God has wrought mercifully in our midst. It is especially significant therefore that the first sermon preached to a group meeting in Stivers School on November 16, 1952, was a sermon on "Faith". Dr. W C Boone, Executive Secretary of Kentucky Baptists, delivered that message to a group gathered in the school in interest of the proposed church.

This work of Faith had a beginning in the active interest of Dr. Verlin C. Krushwitz, pastor of the St. Matthews Baptist Church and Rev. Ray. Dobbins, chairman of the Missions Committee of the Long Run Baptist Association. Under their leadership the Board of that Association voted to purchase property in the new subdivision known as Beechwood Village Number 2 for the location of the new church. Ten lots were purchased at the corner of Biltmore and Cordova at the price of \$22,500.00, and contributions were received from many churches in the area. The Crescent Hill Baptist Church agreed to assume the responsibility of sponsoring the new church as a branch, or extension, of their church until it could be organized as an independent body. Under the leadership of their pastor, Dr. Rollins S. Burhans, this active mission program was allowed to take precedence over needs of the Crescent Hill Church itself. Many of those who began the work of the mission project continue with the fellowship at Beechwood as faithful members. Others came from the St. Matthews Church and have continued as faithful members.

Only the "Mercy" of God could be trusted for an initial meeting place, and it was under His leadership that the Orville J. Stivers School on Westport Road was secured for the group. Regular preaching services were held for the first time on November 30, 1952. The influence of Dr. Boone was felt so keenly in the fellowship that at an early meeting in the home of Mr. George Lewis on Westport Road, for the purpose of selecting a name for the church, the name of Boone Memorial Baptist Church enjoyed great popularity. Those present acceded to Dr. Boone's request that another name be selected.

The first full time program was inaugurated on December 7, 1952. There were 26 people present in Sunday School, 16 in Training Union, 45 in the morning worship service and 22 in the evening service. The Crescent Hill Baptist Church agreed to take the new fellowship under its wing and to underwrite its expenses. Actually, the church has been financially self-supporting from its beginning. Its independence is due in a large measure however to the generosity of those who paid for the lots and to the membership of Crescent Hill who in the midst of an extensive remodeling and building program voted to give the new church \$30,000 for their building fund when Beechwood had raised \$20,000 for themselves.

Shortly after James B. Sawyer received his Th. D. degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary he was called as permanent pastor of the new church. He resigned his work as pastor of the Grace Baptist Church of Louisville and began his work at Beechwood the first Sunday of February, 1953. On December 6, 1953, a council was called by Dr. Burhans for the organization of Beechwood Baptist Church. At this time the charter membership numbered 228. Sunday school enrollment stood at 249 and Training Union at 85. The first budget was \$6,000.00.

Dr. Sawyer retired at the end of 1970, and was succeeded by Dr. Welton C. Gaddy, a native of Tennessee who attended Union University and Southern Seminary, where he received the Doctor of Theology degree. He had previously served as pastor of the First Marion Baptist Church of Paris Crossing, Indiana. Dr. Gaddy resigned at the end of 1972 to assume a leadership position with the Christian Life Commission.

Beechwood's third pastor was Dr. Howard Hovde, who began serving in June of 1973. A native of Wisconsin, Dr. Hovde is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Seminary, and holds the Doctor of Education degree from Columbia University. Before coming to Beechwood he served as pastor for eight years in Madison, N.J., as chaplain and teacher for three years at Ricks Institute in Monrovia, Liberia; and as associate pastor at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville. Dr. Hovde resigned in 1976 to become Director of The Christian Counseling Center in Houston, Texas.

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Bethel-St. Paul Church —Was Bethel Evangelical

Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:

Unofficial Estimate \$200,000; Church Birthday Celebration Soon

The congregation of Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church has decided to build a new church on its present site, Meridion, Frankfort and Willis Avenues.

January 29, 1953



This sign, unveiled Sunday, highlights the drive at Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church for a new sanctuary. More than \$200,000 is needed. At left is Rev. E. A. Wahl, Bethel's pastor.

January 28,

The decision was made after an open meeting with E. T. Hulehings, architect and engineer.

Unofficial estimates put the cost of the new church at around \$200,000. It will be located adjacent to the present church. A movement to sell the present church property and move to another location was turned down.

The present sanctuary will be converted into additional Sunday School facilities. Construction will begin in the near future.

Pastor E. A. Wahl announced that two former resident pastors, and an interim pastor will be at Bethel Church to share in the celebration of the 30th birthday of the church. An Anniversary Week has been planned. Three special occasions have been scheduled. The general public is cordially invited to the two festive services.

On Sunday, February 1, the Rev. Willard Zinke, pastor from February 1938 to May 1950 and now pastor of Salem Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., will be the speaker at the 10:20 a.m. service.

On Sunday, February 8, the Rev. Walter Scheer, D.D. pastor from June of 1923 to December 1937, will be the speaker at the morning service, 10:20 o'clock. Dr. Scheer is now serving Bethany Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

On Wednesday, February 4, the actual day of founding, an Anniversary Banquet will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m. This affair will be limited to the membership of the congregation, and immediate members of their families. The Rev. A. H. Keeney, D.D., interim pastor from May 1950 to October 1950, will be the speaker at this Birthday Dinner. Past Presidents of the Church and their wives will be honored in a special way. A huge birthday cake will be furnished by The Women's Guild, the sponsoring organization of this banquet.

The Best Turtle Soup In These Parts!

Bethel's Silver Jubilee Turtle Soup Supper

AND HOMECOMING

Fri. July 23 — Sat. July 24

(4 P.M. Till ?) (12 NOON Till ?)

On the Church Lawn — Meridion,
Willis and Shelbyville Road

CAFETERIA STYLE	GRAND PRIZES
Soup By Bowl or Gallon	Fri. Night—25 Silver Dollars
Fish and Bratwurst	Sat. Night—100 Silver Dollars
Door Prizes Every Hour—Rides for Kiddies	

July 22, 1954

St. Matthews Area Churches: Bethel-St. Paul Church —Was Bethel Evangelical

Courtesy Elizabeth “Betsy” St. Clair Skiles (60) Unknown Date



This is summer vacation Bible School at Bethel United Church which is at the corner of meridian Ave and Shelbyville Rd., where Willis Ave crosses. It had a revolving cross that lit up at night. Rev. E. A. Wahl was the Pastor. Ones I know are myself, my sister Linda St. Clair, Janet Lee Schneider who lived on Grandview Ave. Her dad was a St. Matthews firefighter. Phyllis and Marilyn Fust who lived on Meridian Ave.



Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

How Bethel's Turtle Soup Supper Started

The late George Dresche, 25 years ago brought a turtle to a Brotherhood meeting at Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church and proceeded to make a pot of turtle soup for those present.

Mr. Drescher knew how to get an idea across. Everyone liked it and Bethel made 50 gallons of soup for its first Turtle Soup Supper in the summer of 1929, and the pot has grown larger every year.

There will be 800 gallons ready to serve when the two-day 25th annual Turtle Soup Supper Festival and Homecoming opens Friday, July 23, sponsored by the Bethel Men's Club.

The chef for the past dozen years has been W. H. Lausman, who uses the following formula:

250 pounds of turtle, 250 pounds chicken, 80 pounds of beef, 80 pounds of veal, 120 calves' heads, 30 dozen eggs, 24 gallons of canned corn, 15 gallons of canned peas, 150 pounds of potatoes, 100 pounds of onions, four dozen stalks of celery, two dozen bunches of parsley, five bushels of tomatoes, three bushels of carrots, three bushels of beans, two bushels of cabbage, 15 dozen lemons, four pounds of spices, one case of Lea and Perrins sauce, two pounds of pepper, plus quantities of ketchup and tomato puree.

You salt to taste.

Ladies of the church begin preparation of the ingredients the day before. Working in shifts, they will cook the soup 24 to 30 hours, stirring constantly, and begin serving at 4 p.m. Friday. The next day, July 24, they begin serving at noon. They will also serve fish, bratwurst and complete meals.

(There will be booths and rides for the children).

July 15, 1954

Bethel Breaks Ground For New Sanctuary

The first shovels of dirt for the new sanctuary of Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church were turned Sunday.

Pastor Edwin A. Wahl said: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we have turned the dirt of mother earth, signifying that this hole shall be filled with faith, hope and love of God."

Rev. Roy Lausman said: "This is holy ground upon which we stand because almost 33 years ago you purchased it and dedicated it to God. You had a dream... and are bringing the dream to fulfillment. This ground is opened that you may build a temple to God..."

"May this temple ever grow until all God's children come to know God as their father and Jesus Christ as their Savior."

Several hundred persons attended the ceremony, held on the church's front lawn at the corner of Frankfort, Meridian, and Willis Avenues, Sunday afternoon at 2:30. It was warm and sunny—a perfect spring day.

The president of the congregation, J. R. Fredenberger, praised the pastor. He said Rev. Wahl "stirred up the people of Bethel Church" and made them aware of the need for a larger church plant. Because of his efforts, said Mr. Fredenberger, "we are here today," holding ground-breaking ceremonies.

The new sanctuary will cost close to a quarter of a million dollars.

Shovels of dirt were turned by Sharon Kay Barker, representing the children of the church; J. C. Fust, president of the Senior Youth Fellowship, representing

the young people; Dean Unthank superintendent of the Sunday School; Mrs. William E. Davis, president of the Women's Guild; William H. Lausman, Sr., president of the Men's Club Brotherhood; Mr. Fredenberger, who is also building committee chairman; and Rev. Lausman, son of the congregation, and pastor of the First Evangelical and Reformed Church in Indianapolis.

Rev. Wahl introduced the past presidents of Bethel Church who were present.

These included William H. Lausman, Sr., A. J. Wagner, Irvin C. Hettinger, George A. Thomas, Jay T. Stevens, and Donald L. McKay, Sr.

The church choir sang at the outdoor ceremony. Mrs. F. W. Pittelko is the organist and choir director. The program opened with a trumpet trio, played by Robert Jackson, J. Pittelko, and Lee E. Watkins.

March 8, 1956

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Bethel-St. Paul Church — Was Bethel Evangelical

Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:

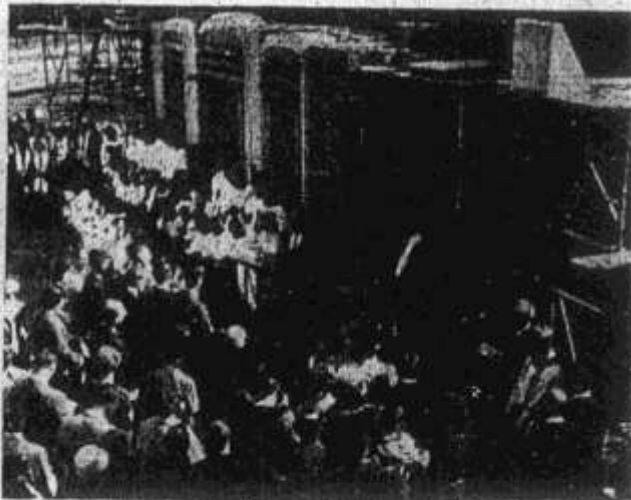


Little Sharon Kay Barker gets an assist on the shovel from Pastor Edwin Wahl, left, and church president J. R. Friedenberger at ground-breaking ceremonies at Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church Sunday. Also turning shovels of dirt were J. C. Fost, left, Rev. Roy Lauxman, Dean Unthank, third from right, Mrs. William E. Davis and William H. Lausman, Sr.

October 18, 1956



Pastor Edwin A. Wahl at left puts a trowel full of mortar on the Bethel cornerstone. In right hand picture, Mayor Noland addresses the assemblage, gathered before the partially built sanctuary. To his right are Rev. Wahl, Harry Jones, J. R. Friedenberger, Dean Unthank,



Rev. Gordon, Rev. Myll, Rev. Van Nostrand and Rev. Clementson. Directly back of the Mayor is the cornerstone, ready to be laid. At left are the chairs of the church.

Bethel Lays Cornerstone For New Sanctuary

Is Slated To Be Finished Around March

Hundreds of people, jammed together between stacks of building materials, attended the cornerstone-laying ceremonies Sunday for Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church's new quarter-million-dollar sanctuary now under construction.

Bethel's luck with the weather held out. When ground-breaking ceremonies were held last March, it was a beautiful, mild spring day. For the ceremony Sunday, it was a beautiful,

mild autumn day.

Mayor James Noland told the assemblage, "The City of St. Matthews is indebted to you for your endeavors and I, as the official representative of your city, take great pleasure in welcoming this addition to your church as another step forward in the spiritual growth of our town."

Rector Wilfred B. Myll of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church said: "This is a joyous occasion and yet a sorrowful occasion. This new sanctuary has been in existence for years, not as brick, stone, and mortar, but as a vision. Now you are looking forward to your first day of worship in it, but then you will look back on the good old days, and the fun of planning, of working towards a goal."

"Our lives are the main we spend and we want something to

show for it. We think stone and steel are lasting things, but the time will come when this building will no longer stand. . .

"What are the things that last? . . . The things you can't touch or feel are of eternal value. Those are the things of God. Do not put too much trust in buildings. Put your trust in God, and the men and women who serve him. . . That which lasts is that which is of God. The things of God are the things of the spirit."

Steering committee chairman Harry J. Jones introduced the heads of various classes and organizations within the church, who each dropped souvenirs into the cornerstone. These included newspaper clippings about the church, Sunday's church bulletin, a cook book, and a plate. Building committee chairman

J. R. Friedenberger explained that delays in delivery of building materials had set back the completion date of the sanctuary, but that "we can reasonably expect the building to be substantially if not completely built by the first of March. We're well on our way."

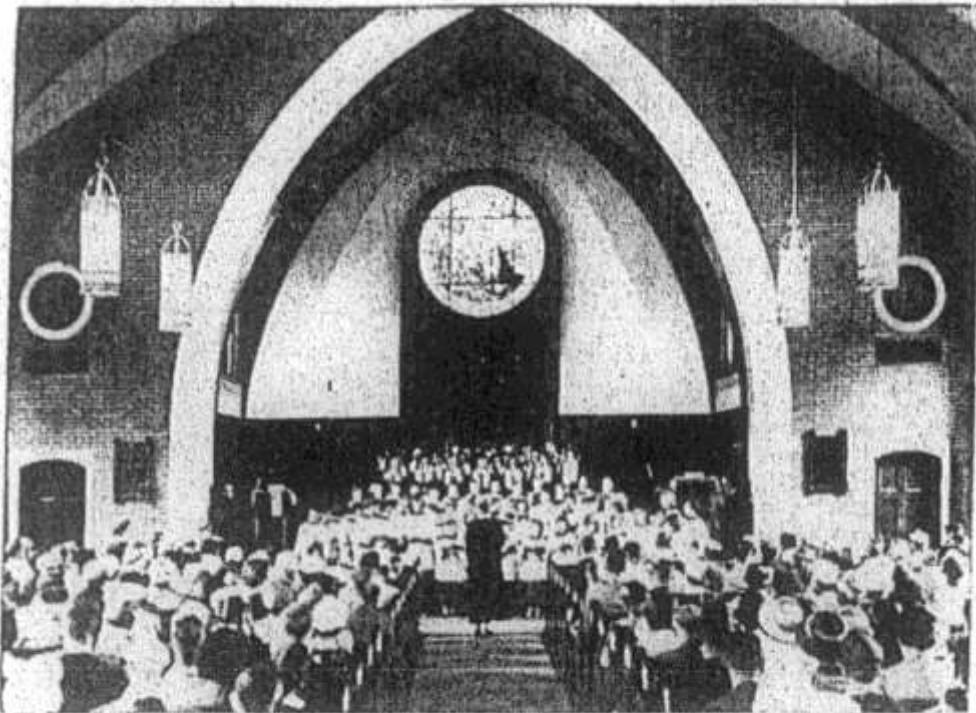
Also taking part in the ceremonies, conducted by pastor Edwin A. Wahl, were Rev. George Clementson of Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church; Dr. W. P. Gordon, representing St. Matthews Methodist Church; and Rev. R. W. Van Nostrand, of Beargrass Christian Church.

The ceremonies started with the 10:30 worship service in the church. At 11 o'clock, the chairs began a procession to the site of the cornerstones, and were followed by the congregation and the speakers.

St. Matthews Area Churches: Bethel-St. Paul Church —Was Bethel Evangelical—
Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:



May 30, 1957



This interior view of the first service in Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church's new sanctuary was snapped Sunday while the choir was performing. Almost 600 people attended. The week-long service of dedication will end Sunday with a Dedicatory Service at 8 p.m., with Dr. Walter A. Scheer, pastor of Bethel from 1923 to 1937, as guest speaker. Guest speaker at the Youth Night Service at 7:30 p.m. Friday will be Rev. Roy E. Lausman, a son of Bethel.

June 6, 1957

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

Around Town

by EDIL M. AUN

Bethel turtle soup a public institution

Bethel Church's Turtle Soup Festival is more than an annual social event. It's become something of a public institution.

Despite the most strenuous efforts by other St. Matthews organizations, singly and collectively, no other annual event here can come close to it for popularity and for commanding the loyalty of such a broad segment of the community.

For a while, it was surpassed by the Community Center's annual Potato Festival; but the old Potato Festival is now just a dim memory, while Bethel's Festival rolls merrily along.

The secret of Bethel's success lies, I think, in the uniqueness of what it offers. I have talked to many people about it, and they agree, to a person, that nowhere, at no time, have they tasted anything to match the turtle soup concocted by chef Will Lausman and his helpers.

One of Louisville's leading restaurant men wanted Will to cook 600 extra gallons for his place of business, so he could freeze it and serve it to his customers throughout the year.

Other people have said it's so good, it's a shame to serve it only once a year, and that Will should manufacture it for sale.

Will is too wise to be taken in by such blandishments. His turtle soup belongs to Bethel, and it will remain an annual event, exclusive to Bethel.

For the simple fact is, the soup is too expensive for commercial use. The ingredients are costly and nobody could afford to hire the necessary labor.

For instance, into the soup this year will go more than 700 pounds of chicken, turtle and beef ground together (and the price of turtle, which is in short supply now, has gone sky-high). Added to that will be tomatoes, carrots, beans, corn, peas, onions, catsup, purée, celery, eggs and other ingredients.

The cooking will start Friday morning and will go on continuously till all the soup is gone by Saturday evening. The pot must be constantly stirred — right through the night — and six men will be working in four-hour shifts to get the job done. Altogether, Will will have about 40 women and 25 men helping him prepare the food. Out of this will come 800 to 850 gallons of soup.

If the labor were not donated, the soup would be among the most expensive dishes in the history of the world. As it is, Bethel can sell it at a reasonable price and make a profit.

Like all chefs, Will is reticent about giving out the recipe. In fact, he just won't do it. He'll tell you what's in it, but he won't tell you the exact proportions, or the secret ingredients.



WILL LAUSMAN

If you like it, you come and eat it, and you can buy an extra gallon or two to take home, but you can't have the formula. That belongs to Bethel.

Some people, of course, don't like turtle soup. But Bethel's rich, meaty concoction draws people from all over Jefferson County and even from Southern Indiana. Last year, a man paid Bethel the supreme compliment. He drove all the way here from Cincinnati to buy two gallons.

July 31 will be Bethel's 31st annual Turtle Soup Festival. Will Lausman has been head chef for 25 years.

Added attractions this year will be an auction and a carnival.

"Anybody who thinks this is a nation of conformists hasn't been around during an air raid test." — Franklin P. Jones.

"If a middle-aged man could only sell his experience for half what it cost him, he could retire in luxury." — Burton Hillis.

"A budget is merely a mathematical confirmation of your suspicions." — F. G. Kernan.

The first exports of American-type cigarette tobaccos to Poland in 21 years will be made under the terms of an agreement signed July 21, Senators John Sherman Cooper and Thurston B. Morton announced in Washington.

The \$130 million Public Law 480 contract negotiated by the Polish and United States representatives calls for Poland to purchase \$1.5 million worth of American leaf. This is equivalent to about 2.2 million pounds of tobacco.

The Kentuckians pointed out that the Polish market had been closed to American tobacco since 1839. However, prior to that time, Poland used about 5 million pounds annually.



They'll vie for Queen title

Four of the five candidates for queen of the Turtle Soup Festival get together for luncheon among their other activities prior to the parade and crowning Saturday. The parade will start at 3:30 p.m. at Bethel Church. Mayor Bernard Bowling will crown the queen at 8 p.m. that night. From left are Betty Siemens, 7212 Arrowhead Rd.; Janis Wallingford, 413 Wendover; Sherry Welmer, 115 Hollye, and Joyce Arrington, 1920 Herr Ln. Not shown is Jan Pierce, 3546 Dayton, also a candidate.

July 26, 1962



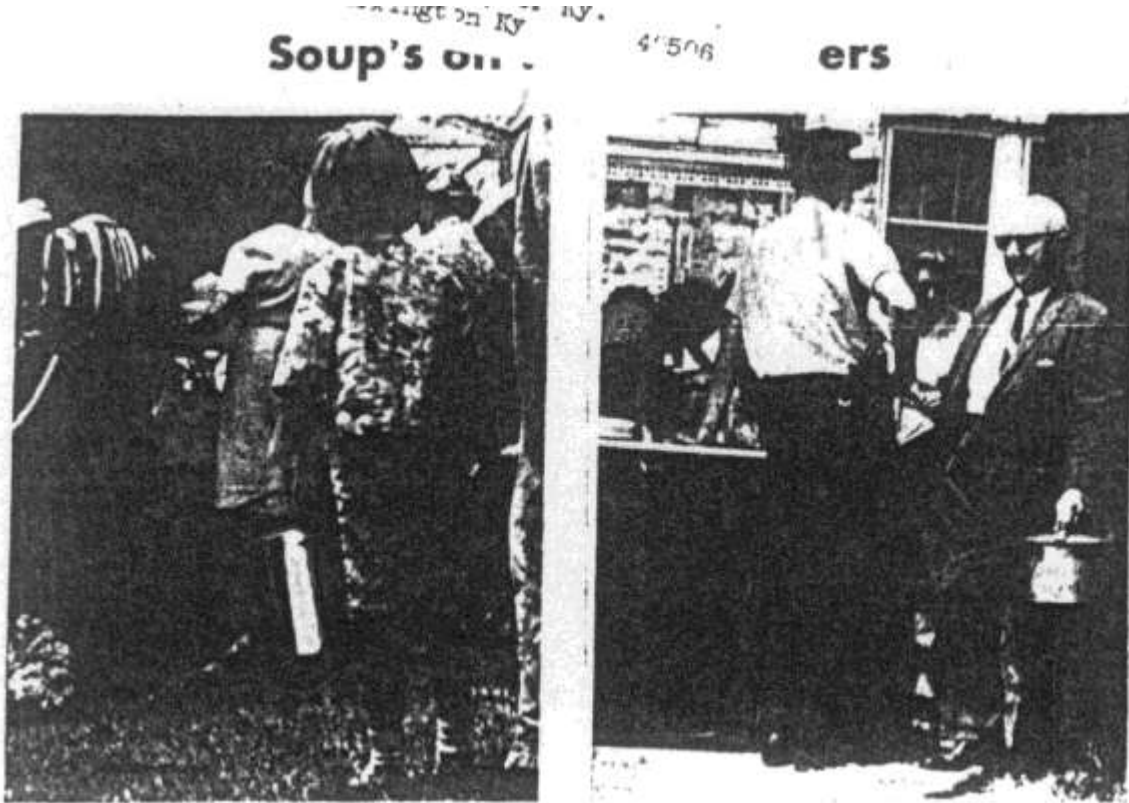
Crowned "Miss Bethel" of Bethel Church's Turtle Soup Festival, Sherry Welmer, 115 Hollye, poses with Mayor Bernard Bowling with her bouquet and cup. Betty Siemens, 7212 Arrowhead Rd., was runner-up. Five girls were in the contest.

August 2, 1962

July 28, 1960

St. Matthews Area Churches: Bethel-St. Paul Church — Was Bethel Evangeli-

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*



"Gets better every year," commented one patron of Bethel Church's annual turtle soup laddled out last Saturday. From youngsters (top left) to adults they came with palls. Top right shows a patron

with filled palls and (bottom left) others wait for carry out service. Bottom right, the cafeteria style line for eating on the grounds did a brisk business.

August 5, 1965

St. Matthews Area Churches: Bethel-St. Paul Church —Was Bethel Evangeli-

Courtesy Al Ring Collection:

January 6, 1971: Dog is Missing—Newly arrived minister loses home in a fire, by Frank Fox. The Rev. Donald W. Sickbert, the new pastor of the Bethel United Church of Christ in St. Matthews, is now without a parsonage, most of his furniture and worst of all, the family's honey-colored dog, Tico. Tico is missing.

The minister and two of his children stayed in Louisville last week to unpack their belongings and set up a new home in the church's parsonage at 302 Castlevlew, off Westport Road. Fortunately, all three, the minister, his oldest son, Bryan, 21 and his youngest, David, 11, were all away from the home when it burned January 6.

Mr. Sickbert and Bryan were at the church at 115 Meridian Avenue, unpacking books and other things. David was in Stivers Elementary School.

Then Chris Odewahn, a neighbor who at the time hadn't met the Sickberts, called Mr. Sickbert and told him the house was burning.

Hears unusual sounds: Odewahn lives across the street from the parsonage. He had walked downstairs into his kitchen about noon and he heard sounds unlike normal street activity. He looked through a window and saw flames and smoke billowing from the rear of the Sickbert garage, which is attached to the house.

Odewahn didn't call the pastor immediately—he phoned the St. Matthews Fire Department. Then he raced across the street to alert anyone who might be in the house.

"I thought someone might be asleep inside," he recalled. "I knocked on the door a couple of times, then went in." Odewahn couldn't find anyone in the house, so he grabbed what furniture he could and carried it out onto the front lawn.

Ed Stine, a neighbor who was returning home at the time, joined Odewahn in salvaging as much furniture as they could get out of the already blazing house.

Firemen arrived quickly: "The firemen arrived then," Odewahn said, "less than 15 minutes after I called them. By then, we had only pulled out some light things we could carry easily. Then the smoke got too thick for us."

Both Stine and Odewahn pointed out after the fire that the situation was aggravated by a newly installed electric garage-door device that had short-circuited and was opening and closing. They believed, and the minister agrees, that the open door fanned and helped spread the fire.

At press time, it had not been determined whether insurance carried on the house covered any of Mr. Sickbert's belongings. According to Mr. Sickbert, his home owners policy carried on his home in Columbus, Ohio; only, covers, up to \$1,000, items off the insured premises. He said his losses were far greater.

The minister estimated that two-thirds of his clothing was ruined and that the only furniture salvaged were pieces that he and his wife, Ruth, has when they were married 25 years ago.

Praise the people: "The people—church members, neighbors, and all—have really been great about helping us through," Mr. Sickbert said. "Sanders Cleaners offered to salvage and clean what clothes they could, and people have volunteered to give me sleeping rooms until we find a place to stay. Fortunately, my wife decided earlier to stay in Columbus until her teaching semester ends this month."

Mrs. Sickbert teaches languages in an elementary school in Columbus. She hadn't planned to move until January 29, when the fall semester ends. The Sickbert's other two children, Grant, 15, and Carla, 19 returned to school after the entire family spend the holidays in St. Matthews.

Mr. Sickbert and his wife have been Louisville residents previously for two years in 1955-56 when he served as administrator of the Protestant Orphans Home, which now is Brookhaven.

St. Matthews fireman works in the smoldering ruins of the parsonage of the Bethel United Church of Christ at 302 Castlevlew Drive. No one was hurt in the January 6, 1971 fire.



Vokor photo by Frank Fox

St. Matthews Area Churches:
Courtesy AI Ring Collection:

Bethel-St. Paul Church — Was Bethel Evangeli-



Bethel United Church of Christ

115 Meridian Ave. Louisville, Kentucky 40207

Mission
 DONALD W. SICKBERT

Church Phone: 895-9437

January 29, 1971.

St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Dept.,
 4114 Lyndon Way,
 Louisville, Kentucky, 40207.

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Church Council and all members of Bethel United Church of Christ, the most sincere thanks are extended to you and your men for answering the fire alarm about 12:30 P.M., Wednesday, January 6, 1971 at 302 Castleview Drive. The men who brought this blaze under control are to be commended for the fire extinguishing methods applied to minimize resulting damage to this home and its contents.

This home is the property of Bethel United Church of Christ and is maintained as a parsonage for our minister who just recently accepted the pastorate at Bethel. He had occupied this home about a week prior to this tragedy. We are very thankful that no injuries resulted from this fire.

Sincerely,

M. R. Pfeiffer

M. R. Pfeiffer,
 Recording Secretary
 Church Council
 BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

MRP:ecw

1-6-1971 St. Matthews Volunteer Fire Association, Inc. No 1067

FIRE REPORT

DATE 1-6-1971 TIME OF ALARM 12:30 A.M. TIME RETURNED 1:15 P.M.

LOCATION 302 Castleview APT. NO.

TYPE OF CALL HOUSE APARTMENT COMMERCIAL OFFICE

SMOKER PUMPS LOCK OUT DRYER WASHER

WEDGS TRASH OTHER

RESURICATOR RESCUE WASH OFF

BACKUP DEPT. _____

VEHICLE MAKE _____ MODEL _____ TAG NO. _____

OWNER Bethel Church

OCCUPANT Rev. Donald Sickbert

OWNER Bethel Church

OWNER ADDRESS _____

COMPANY RESPONSE 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

REMARKS: Fireman responded + back at scene
 used 4-1/2" hose also 2 Denaly lines - 550' 3/4"
 used 28' ext ladder - 1 1/2" slight hole 1-1/4" room ladder
 marks from road

OFFICER IN CHARGE M. R. Pfeiffer REPORT WRITTEN BY _____

own
 Lt. Al Pigeon found left hand 4 possible shot
 (bullet through window) fell through floor.
 Russ Barber was turned around
 This appears to have started in the
 mill footage on the wall with
 #113

St. Matthews Area Churches: Bethel-St. Paul Church —Was Bethel Evangelical

Courtesy <http://www.bethelstpaul.org/index.cgi?id=30>



Our History

Bethel-St. Paul Church was founded on December 10, 1995. The church was formed by way of a merger between St. Paul Evangelical United Church of Christ and Bethel United Church of Christ.

St. Paul Evangelical was established by German immigrants in downtown Louisville in 1836. It was the founding congregation of the United Church of Christ in the Greater Louisville area. After enjoying many fruitful years of ministry and mission, the church experienced several decades of declining membership. In the early 1990's, the congregation decided that merger with a sister church was the best way to continue its one hundred fifty year mission.

Bethel Church was established on the eastern edge of Louisville in 1923. Affectionately Bethel was known to the community as the "Turtle Soup Church" by virtue of a sixty-nine year-old tradition of preparing and serving turtle soup that began in 1929. Through her seventy-two year history, and especially in the last decade, this congregation was also outwardly focused in touching lives for the sake of the gospel. Thus, the once strong image of "turtle soup" has given way to such outreach ministries as our annual "Living Nativity" project, a comprehensive Vacation Bible School program, a generous emergency financial assistance ministry, and servant evangelism projects.

After a year of discussions beginning in January of 1995, both congregations voted affirmation of "A Proposed Plan of Merger" on October 8, 1995. The final worship service was held in the St. Paul facility on December 3rd of that year, followed by "Merger Sunday" on December 10th at the former Bethel Church facility (where the church now gathers). As one, truly united church, Bethel-St. Paul is committed to reaching the community for Jesus Christ.

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Broadway Baptist Church

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

Broadway Baptist congregation gives \$91,123 in two days Need \$561,500 for sanctuary and new educational building

More than \$91,123 was pledged over the weekend for the new Broadway Baptist Church education building and sanctuary, according to an announcement by the building committee.

And the solicitors still have more than half the congregation to interview. That will be done this weekend, with the final figures being announced Sunday night.

The total cost of the new buildings and improvements will be an estimated \$561,500. steering committee chairman Gordon Ford, in a bulletin to the membership, said, "We expect to raise \$215,000 in cash and pledges as a result of this campaign."

Of the remainder, \$300,000 will be borrowed, payable over 15 years, and the final \$50,000 "we hope to have on hand from present funds by January 1, 1959," Mr. Ford announced.

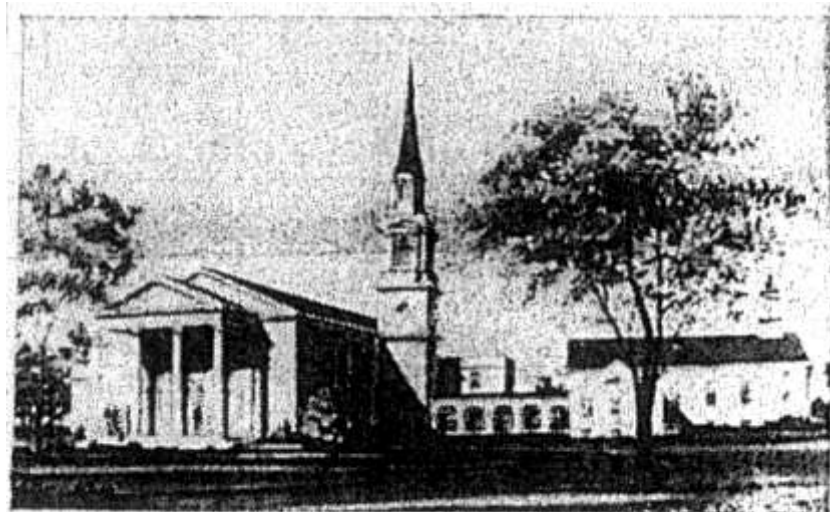
Other members of his committee are Almond Cooke, John A. Miller, Frank W. Owens, Jr., Richard C. VanHoose, Charles Schmitt, and Frank Gay.

The church's present membership is 700. The present sanctuary will hold with additional chairs just 300 people. The new sanctuary will hold 800 permanent seats, with room for 125 more.

The present education building will accommodate 508. The new one will handle 1,011.

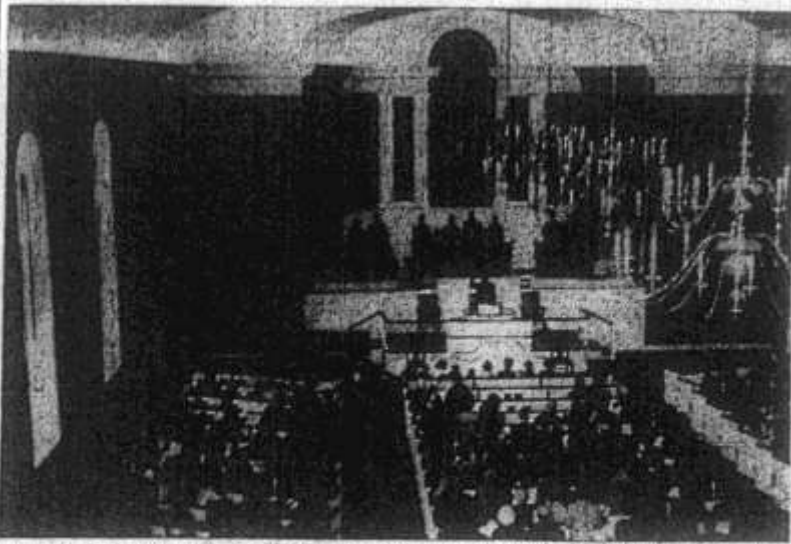
The pastor, told the congregation that in addition to a new sanctuary and education building, the church needed more parking facilities, a choir room for th music ministry, and more library room.

The cornerstone of the present chapel was laid November 22, 1949, and the first service in July 1950. The second unit, the Sunday School building was occupied in January, 1954. **October 16, 1957**



Architect's drawing of the new Broadway Baptist building.

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*



First services were held Sunday in the new sanctuary at Broadway Baptist Church.

First services held in new Broadway Baptist sanctuary

Dedication service will be Oct. 16

First services were held Sunday in the gorgeous new sanctuary at Broadway Baptist Church.

Facing Brownstone Road, the rather massive one-floor structure, of Colonial architecture, is decorated inside with four large gold-colored chandeliers and rows of solid African mahogany pews. A capacity crowd of more than 800 people filled the sanctuary and choir balcony. Dr. Edwin Perry, pastor, conducted the service, which lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 11:40.

It was not a dedication ceremony, however. Formal dedication services will be held Sunday, Oct. 16, at 3 p.m. The speaker will be Brooks Hays, former Congressman from Arkansas, member of the board of directors of the Ten-

nessee Valley Authority, Southern Baptist observer at the United Nations, and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new sanctuary is air-conditioned. There is also a new education building, offices and a library. Overall cost was about \$593,000. Built by Otto Tapp & Sons, contractor, it was designed by architect Fred Morgan.

The investment in the Broadway Baptist plant at 4000 Brownstone Road is now about \$1 million. This includes the eight-acre site, purchased in late 1948.

The capacity crowd on hand Sunday was friendly and pleased. At the time for the service approached, parking facilities were crowded. The parishioners helped

each other to find parking slots, and were helpful and courteous to visitors.

The chairman of the board of deacons, Gordon Ford, stood out front and welcomed visitors and answered questions. Other members of the board of deacons did the same.

The chairman of the building program is Andrew Broadbent, former Mayor of Louisville.

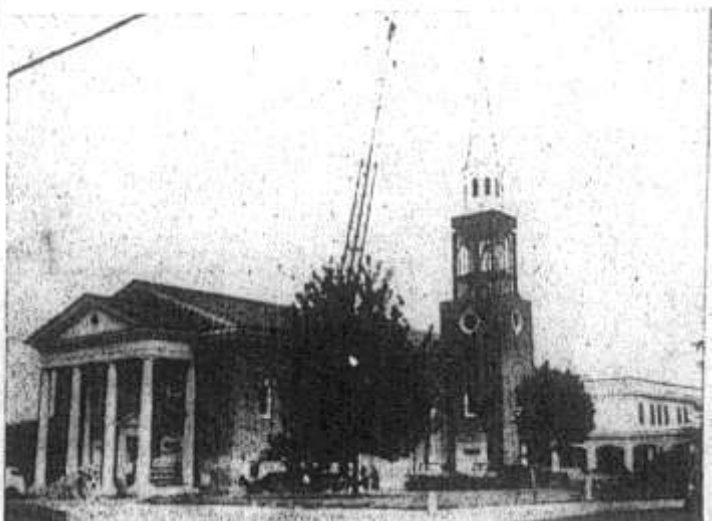
Next Sunday, special revival services begin at the church at 10:30 a.m. Services through the week will be held each morning at 10 a.m. and each evening at 7:30.

Rev. Sidney Maddox, pastor, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, will be the preacher.

August 18, 1960



Rather than build the steeple in the air, the contractors, Otto Tapp & Sons, built it on the ground and then hoisted it (left) into place atop the beautiful new sanctuary at Broadway Baptist Church. The steeple is 126 feet tall. The new sanctuary (right) is rapidly approaching completion, and in size dwarfs the present sanctuary, a portion of which is visible at right. These photos were taken on Monday.



St. Matthews Area Churches:

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*



Among the officers who will take part in the youth services at Broadway Baptist Church are from left (front row) Ann Stopher, organist; Bill Lowe, Sunday School superintendent; Sandra Stephenson, WMJ, president. Back row, Larry Sheel, minister of music; Bert Clarke, pastor, and Bruce Weathers, chairman of deacons.

April 19, 1962



The adult choir of Broadway Baptist Church, under the direction of John N. Sims, will sing Hayden's "Seven Last Words" at 7:30 this Friday. A string quartet consisting of Richard Skerlong, Ruth French, Virginia Schneider and Majorie Griffin will accompany the group. Lucille Leasher will be organist. The public may attend.

April 11, 1963

Broadway Baptist Church

Youth to direct Broadway Baptist

Young members of the Broadway Baptist Church will learn the duties of church officers, whose positions they will hold during Youth Week, April 22-29.

Elected by the high school students to serve as pastor is Bert Clarke, senior at Eastern High School and son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Clarke, Jr., 5128 Dunvegan Rd. He will accept the key to the church from the Rev. Edwin Fleetwood Perry, pastor, at the installation service for Youth Week officers at 6:30 p.m. Easter Sunday.

Mr. James T. Nolen, minister of education, has announced that the week's varied activities will follow the theme, "The Challenge to Christian Youth."

A Springtime in Paris banquet for junior high and senior high members is set for April 23.

Elizabeth Cosgrove, chairman of the social committee, will direct the serving of the dinner Wednesday, April 25, that precedes the monthly church business meeting, where young people will make committee reports to the entire church membership.

Youth Week will close Sunday, April 29, with the young people leading Sunday School classes, Bert Clarke preaching at the 11 o'clock worship service, Allen Batteau directing the Training Union and Don Lovelace, associate pastor, conducting the 7:30 p.m., worship service. He attends Waggener High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Lovelace, 719 Waterford Road.

Others who will hold church offices include Chuck Batteau, educational director, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Batteau, 4012 Maxie; Larry Shell, minister of music, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest F. Shell, 110 Perryman Road; Ann Stopher,

organist, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Stopher, 416 Jarvis Lane, and Patty Clemens, daughter of Mrs. Murl Gore, 219 Travois Road.

Learning about other official church duties are David Van Nostrand, treasurer, son of Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Van Nostrand; Bruce Weathers, chairman of deacons, son of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Weathers, 427 Country Lane.

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

Broadway Baptist Church



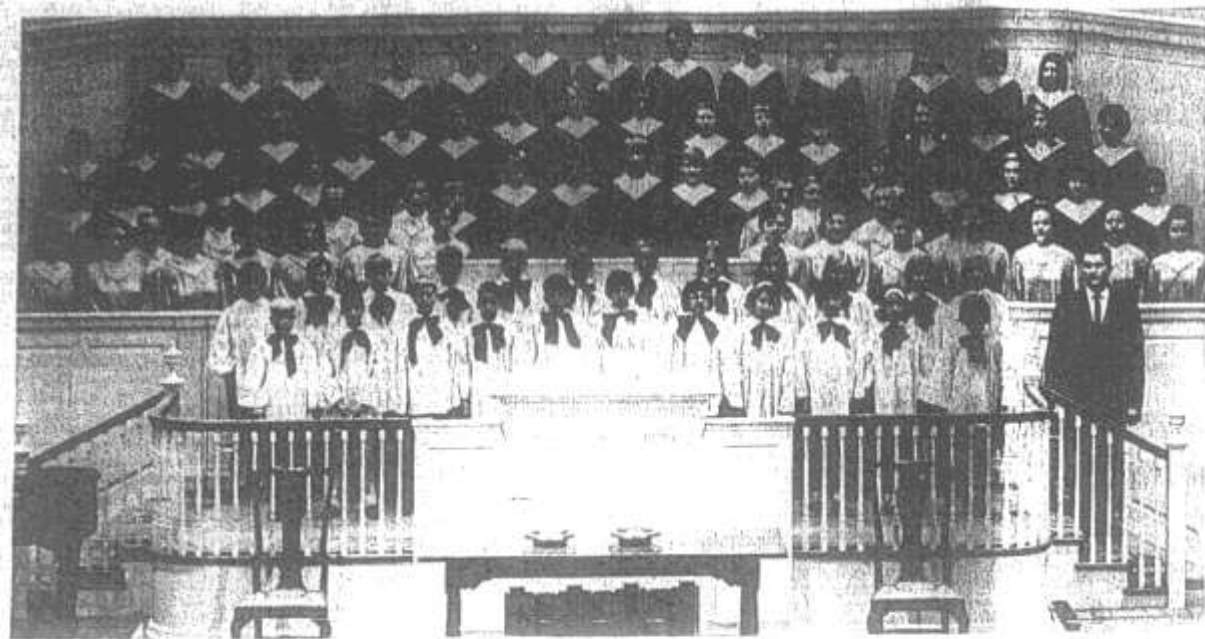
Among those taking part in Youth Week activities at Broadway Baptist Church April 21-28 are; front row, left to right: Sandra Stephenson, publicity chairman; Susan Rabenhorst, membership chairman; Gloria Van Nostrand, social chairman; Olivia Day, W.M.U. president. Back row left to right: Chuck Batteau, associate pastor; Allen Batteau, Sunshine Chapel chairman; Rudd Parsons, minister of education; Bruce Weathers, pastor; David Van Nostrand, Sunday School superintendent; and Rodney Henderson, chairman of deacons.

Youth week observed at Broadway Baptist

Youth Week is being observed this week at the Broadway Baptist Church with young people taking over offices of the church and conducting the business meeting. "Christian Youth Takes a Stand" is the theme.

Activities began with a Hawaiian Luau on Monday and will climax this Sunday. Bruce Weathers, Youth Week pastor will speak at the 11 a.m. service Sunday, and Chuck Batteau, associate pastor for the week will conduct the evening service at 7:30.

April 25, 1963



WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Three choirs will join in the presentation of the annual White Christmas Service at the Broadway Baptist Church Sunday afternoon at four o'clock. Director is John N. Sims. An instrumental ensemble of strings, flute, clarinet, and trumpet will accompany the youth and junior choirs

in "How Far Is It To Bethlehem?" "Laud to the Nativity" will be sung by the adult choir featuring soloists Jean Cassady, Janice Rautz, and James Coleman. The congregation will bring food as a thanksgiving offering to be distributed to needy families. The public is invited.

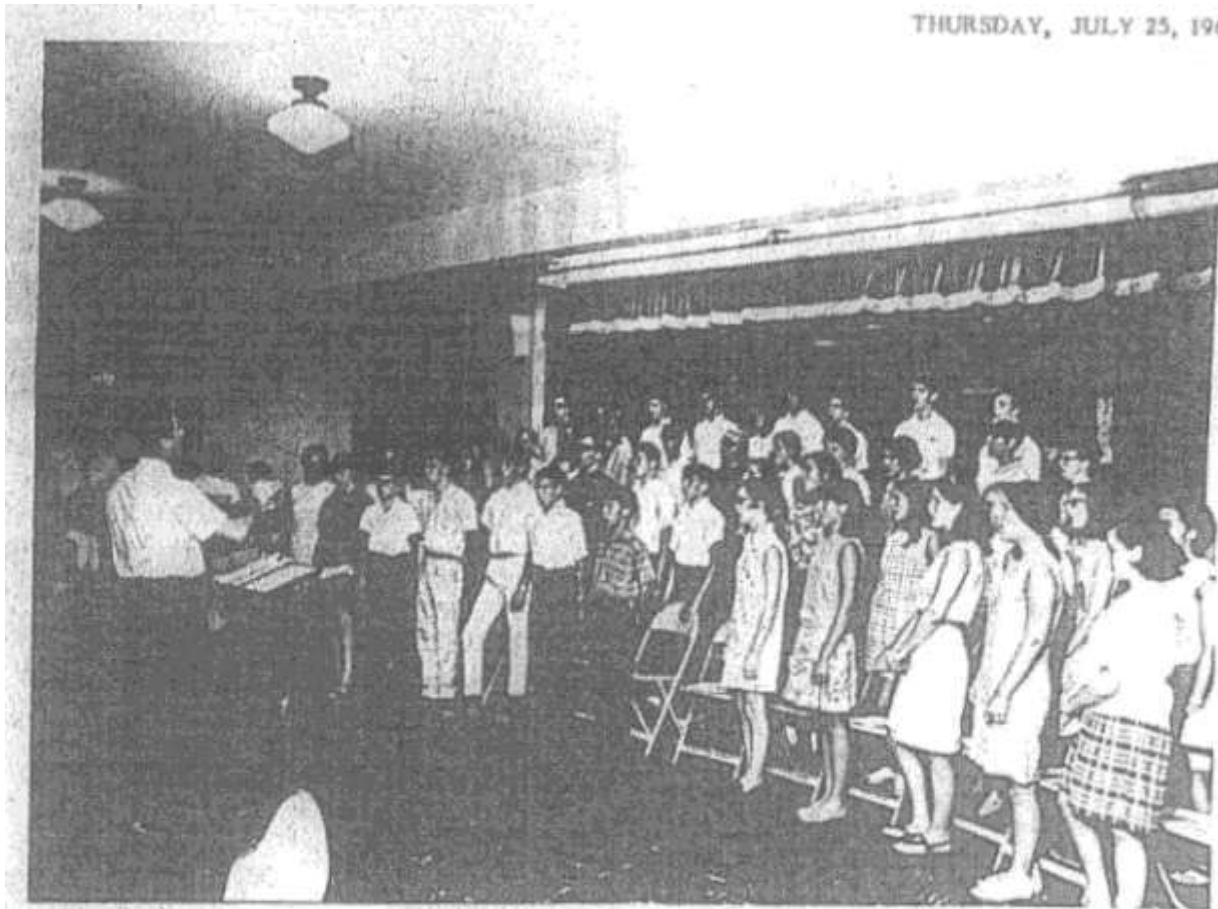
December 15, 1962, *The Voice-Jeffersonian*

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Broadway Baptist Church

Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1968,

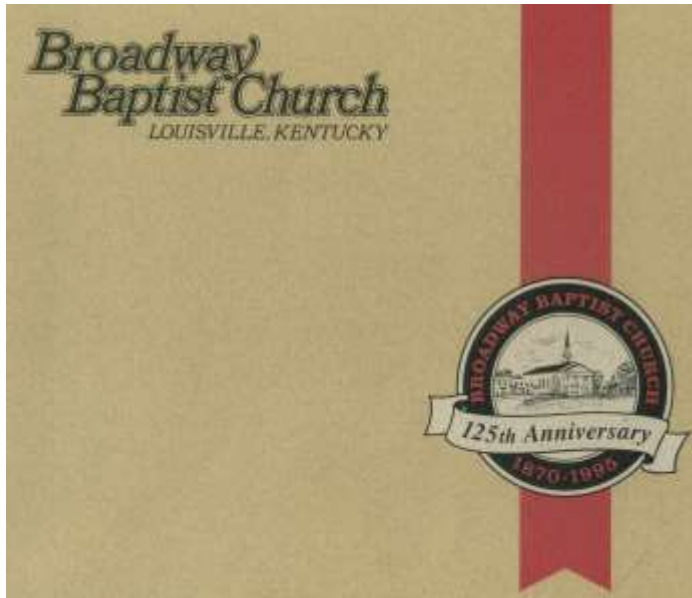


THE COMBINED YOUTH CHOIRS of the Broadway Baptist Church and the Baptist Tabernacle, shown here, will present PURPOSE - a musical guide to meaningful living in the language of youth - Sunday, July 28, at 7:30 pm in the Broadway Church, 4000 Brownboro Rd. Another program will be presented at The Mall, Saturday, July 27, at 1 pm. The singers will be directed by Dr. John N. Sims, associate pastor of the Broadway church. Dr. Phillip Landgrave, extreme left, a teacher at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and minister of music at the Tabernacle, is the composer of PURPOSE. Accompanists are Joyce Austin, pianist, seated at left and John Bair and Jim Sims, guitarists.

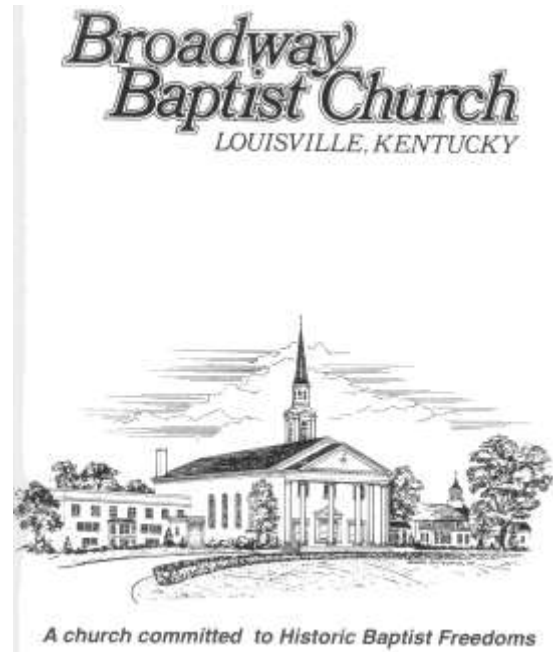
July 25, 1968, The Voice-Jeffersonian

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Courtesy Broadway Baptist Church:



Broadway Baptist Church



Early History

On May 17, 1870, in the lecture room of Walnut Street Baptist Church, a body of believers, 110 in number, committed themselves to be the Broadway Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky. Officers were elected, a covenant and rules of order were adopted, and the name selected. Two days later, on the 19th, a council from other Baptist churches in the city formally constituted the new church.

Under the leadership of Dr. George Lorimer, pastor of Walnut Street Church, a lot had been purchased on Broadway between First and Brook Streets. There, on the back part of the lot, was erected a building referred to as the "lecture room." It was in this modest facility that the church met until the first Sunday of May 1872, when worship services were held for the first time in a beautiful new sanctuary building.

Changes and reaction to changes characterized those early years. When the new building had been in use only two years, it was discovered to be unsafe and had to undergo reconstruction. A year later a defective heating system caused a disastrous fire which destroyed the back end of the building and greatly damaged the organ and pulpit area. During the first ten years, Broadway was served by three different pastors. The community of faith, however, remained true to its calling as it served a growing city.

What had been the "southern suburb" began to be the "inner city." Following World War I

(1917-1918) and the Great Depression (1930s), World War II (1941-1945) was particularly difficult for the congregation. Many of the members had moved out from the central area. Membership and attendance went down. The character of the neighborhood surrounding the church underwent an understandable but drastic change. As members moved to what was then the suburbs, the houses they vacated often became two- or three-family residences or rooming houses with a more transient population.

Broadway continued to minister to those around her and to absorb them into the life of the church. She also maintained her relationship with those who had long-time ties to the church. It became increasingly difficult to do so. In downtown Louisville, Broadway had been about halfway between the W.M.U. Training School and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. When these institutions moved to Lexington Road and the Orphans Home moved to Spring Meadows, Broadway felt the loss.

The people seriously assessed the situation they faced in the population base, financial support, leadership resources, condition of their church buildings, and other considerations. The members, not without anguish, decided to sell the property and seek a new place to continue the mission of the church they loved.

The property was sold in April 1948, and the last service in the old sanctuary was held on

Sunday, May 16, 1948, just one day short of the seventy-eighth anniversary. If Broadway Church was at a low ebb insofar as the number of members and the financial situation were concerned, she still had spirit—a spirit which was already making plans for the future. On April 30, 1947, a year before the last service downtown, the membership voted to buy a tract of land on Brownsboro Road as a site for the new Broadway Church. Committees were already at work toward planning for a new building and its grounds as well as for activities to be available there.

The chapel of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (a room in Norton Hall at the time) provided a temporary place where the small congregation could join together for worship and strength and hope. The Seminary home offered comfort to the homeless group and there they continued to be Broadway Baptist Church.

The church had about 124 resident, active members, a lot on Brownsboro Road, and no pastor. The challenge was a big one, but Broadway went to work. Dr. Edwin Perry was finally persuaded to help the congregation face the challenge, and together, pastor and people put their roots down on 4000 Brownsboro Road.

The first building completed was what is now the chapel. This was not accomplished without difficulty. Aside from acquiring the site and raising the funds, there was a legal

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Courtesy Broadway Baptist Church:

battle of no small proportion before the entrance to the property from Olympic Avenue could be used. The ground-breaking ceremony was scheduled for July 1949 and the sermon the pastor had prepared, "Let Us Go Up and Possess the Land," had to be changed to "One More Time Around the Wall" because of one last delay. The cornerstone was laid on a cold, rainy November morning in 1949. On the first Sunday in July of the following year the first service was held in the completed chapel.

With a new home, the church grew rapidly, and by 1954 it was necessary to have two Sunday morning worship services. The second unit of the development plan was already overcrowded when it was dedicated in January 1954. Another building committee soon began work to complete the education building and a sanctuary. The plan was adopted in 1959, and the new sanctuary was dedicated thirteen months later on October 16, 1960.

It was twenty years later under the guidance of a new pastor, Dr. Ronald Higdon, that the church felt led to build again. Mid-week activities and church dinners attracted such large numbers of people that the kitchen and dining facilities in the basement of the chapel could no longer accommodate the need. First came Friendship Hall, built to the

Broadway Baptist Church

west of the sanctuary, and next came the Family Life Center, with new church office space and a music suite. These latter two programs were completed in 1984 and 1992.

During the years of its existence, the church has had as few as 100 members (1870). The membership now stands at 1525. Statistics tell a part of the story; buildings tell a part; pastors and leaders tell a part. But Broadway's history includes a great influence on the city and beyond.



Ground breaking 1949

The first building on the Brownsboro site



St. Matthews Area Churches:

Broadway Baptist Church

Courtesy Broadway Baptist Church:



Ed Binford's class of junior boys meeting in garage April, 1953

Sunday School class 1953



Junior Choir - 1953

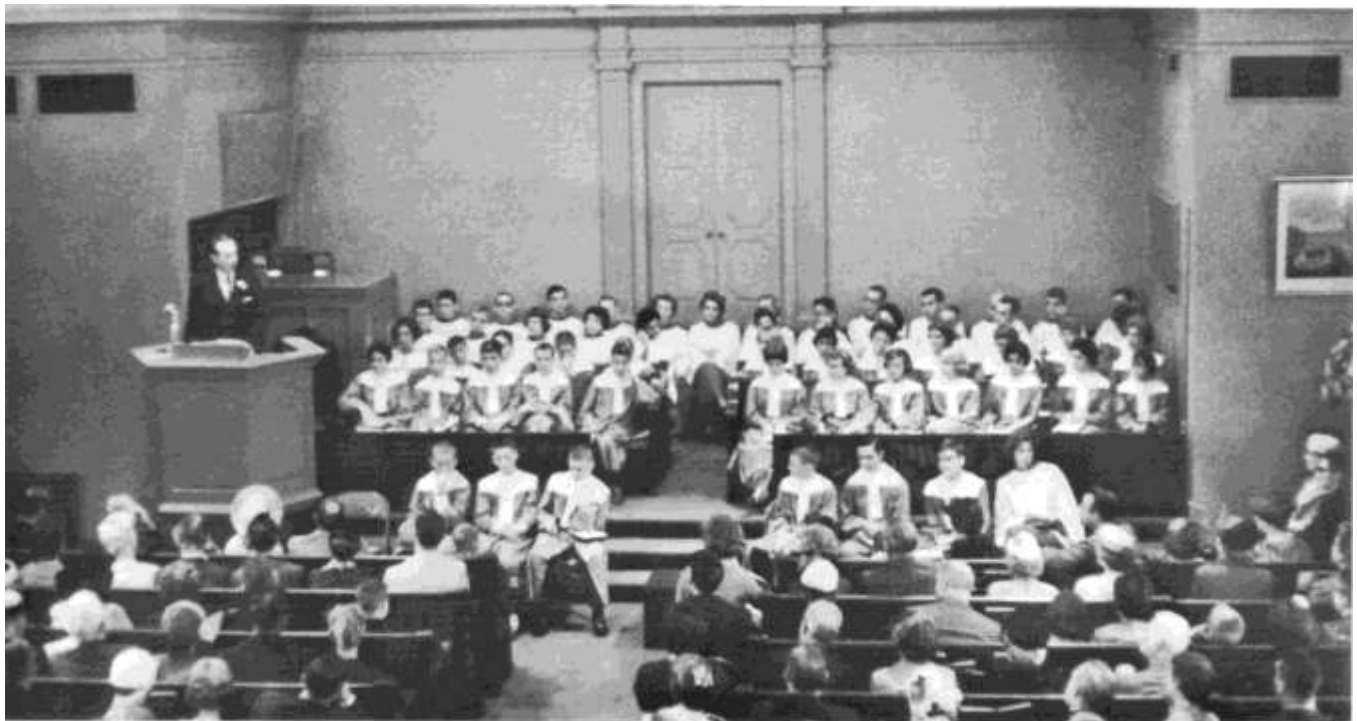
St. Matthews Area Churches:

Broadway Baptist Church

Courtesy Broadway Baptist Church:



Aerial view of completed building program



Last morning worship service in Chapel, September 25, 1960

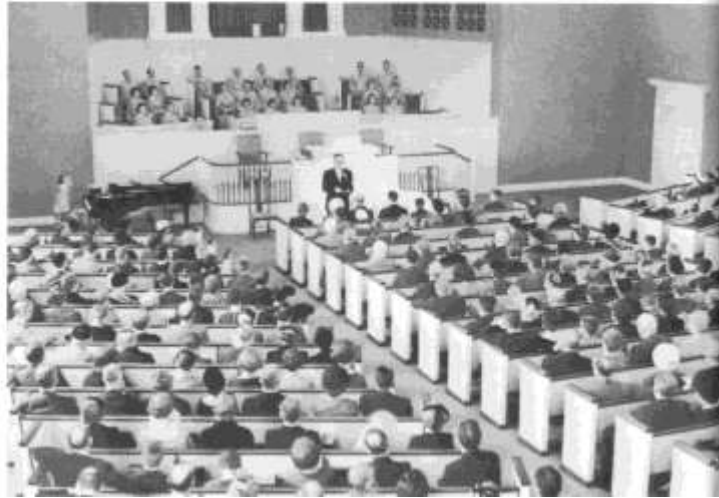
St. Matthews Area Churches:

Broadway Baptist Church

Courtesy Broadway Baptist Church:



First worship service in new sanctuary
October 2, 1960



Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

Calvin Presbyterian to dedicate Sunday

Calvin Presbyterian Church at 2501 Rudy Lane, will dedicate its sanctuary next Sunday, Sept. 27, at 4 p.m.

The newly - elected moderator of the Synod of Kentucky, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Dr. A. A. Page, president of Pikeville College, will be presiding minister assisted by the Rev. Wilbur Kuenzli, moderator of the Presbytery of Transylvania.

Also participating in the service will be the Rev. Rual T. Perkins, president of the St. Matthews Ministerial Association and pastor of the St. Matthews Methodist Church; the Rev. Dr. Ransom C. Comfort, former pastor of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church in Louisville, who spearheaded the original drive toward the establishment of the forerunner of the present church; the Rev. Arthur R. Hall,

pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, the successor to the parent church; and Mr. Allen P. Dodd, Jr., chairman of the planning and building committee of Calvin.

Calvin Presbyterian Church was constituted on June 9, 1957. Two years ago this September the first pastor, the Rev. Dr. Arie D. Bestebreurtje began his ministry at Calvin and the rapid growth of the congregation soon made it obvious that an enlargement of the facilities was imperative.

Mr. Frederick R. Louis of Hartstern, Louis & Henry drew the plans which were accepted by the congregation on May 29, 1958, and last October ground was broken for the construction. The building was completed in June and during the summer pews and chancel furniture have been installed. The total cost is over \$200,000.

September 24, 1959



Dr. A. A. Page, Moderator of the Synod of Kentucky and president of Pikeville College, receives keys from Mr. Allen P. Dodd, chairman of the Building and Planning Committee, as the Rev. Arie D. Bestebreurtje looks on.

Calvin Presbyterian Church dedicates new sanctuary

Simple but impressive ceremonies marked the dedication of the new sanctuary at Calvin Presbyterian Church on Rudy Lane, Sunday, Sept. 27.

The Rev. Arie D. Bestebreurtje, Pastor, and Mr. Allen P. Dodd, Chairman of the Building and Planning Committee, began the ceremony with the "Opening of the Doors," and were followed into the sanctuary by the full choir in maroon robes as they and the congregation sang the processional hymn.

The Rev. Ransom C. Comfort, former pastor of the Fourth Ave.

Presbyterian Church, and now pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in North Haledon, N. J., and the Rev. Arthur R. Hall gave the Scripture readings.

Highlights of the dedication were the presentation of the keys by Mr. Dodd, the acceptance of the keys by Dr. A. A. Page, Moderator of the Synod of Kentucky and president of Pikeville College, and the Act of Dedication by the Rev. Wilbur Kuenzli, Moderator of the Presbytery of Transylvania.

A reception followed the service and guests were invited to inspect the building.

October 1, 1959



Looking over some of the many items on sale Oct. 9 in the Calvin Presbyterian Church bazaar are, left to right, Mrs. Charles L. Jennings, Publicity Chairman; Mrs. Ray C. Phillips; Mrs. Richard E. Christie, Financial Chairman, and Mrs. William C. Miller. Mrs. A. L. Hardy, is Chairman of the Bazaar.

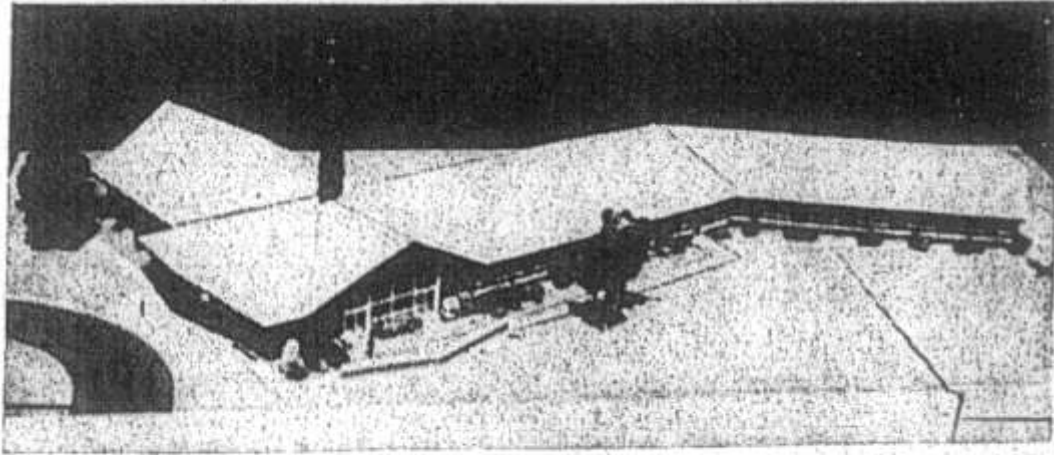
Church bazaar set to go

The building fund of the newly dedicated Calvin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Rudy Lane, will benefit from the bazaar being held tomorrow, Oct. 9, at the Church. At 10 a.m. a wide selection of articles will go on sale at various booths set up in the building. Jewelry arts and crafts, and homemade candies

and bakery goods will be displayed. A Country Store booth, a Snack Bar, and a Christmas booth will also offer a wide variety of items, all handmade by the Women's Circle groups of the Church. Imported Delft tiles and plates, depicting the new church, are among the articles for sale.

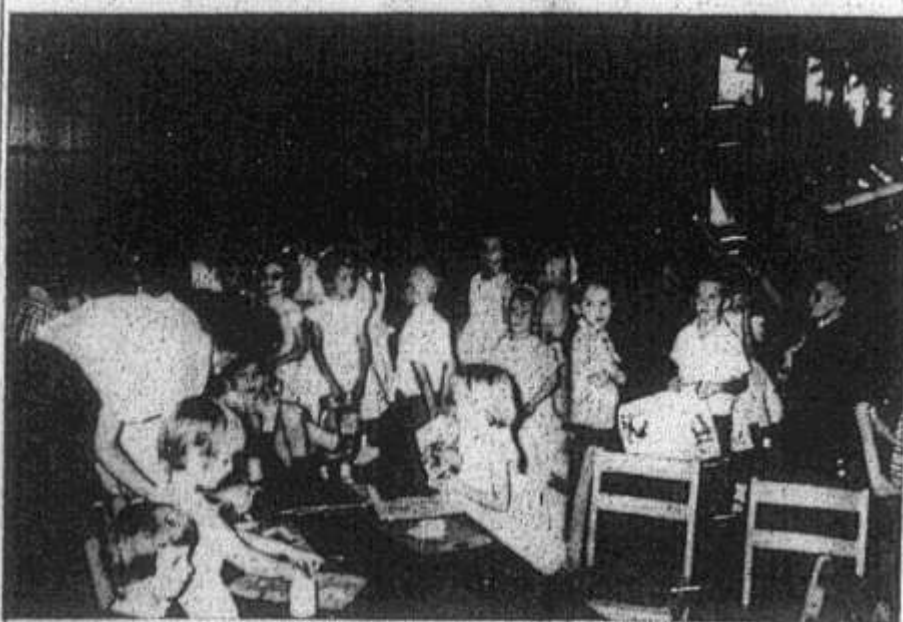
October 8, 1959

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*



Here's what Calvin Presbyterian Church will look like when the third unit, costing about \$125,000, is added. The new unit will contain a worship center seating 120, a library, 10 additional classrooms, a new pastor's study, and a secretary's office.

March 31, 1960



The children of the church seemed to be getting a lot of use Sunday out of Calvin Presbyterian's new education wing.

Calvin church wing dedicated

The new education wing of Calvin Presbyterian Church, costing some \$105,000, was dedicated Sunday morning.

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this building to the worship of God," said the pastor, Rev. Arie D. Bestebreurtje. He said:

"We dedicate this building to the purpose of Christian education; to the work of the church school; to the study of the Scriptures; and to the development of Christian character . . .

"O God . . . graciously accept, we pray thee, this building which we now dedicate to thee, to thy service, and to thy glory . . . Grant that those who come here may be cheered and quickened in mind and body, and that they may be stirred in spirit to serve thee wisely and steadfastly . . .

" . . . Grant us, in all doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldst have us to do, that the spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may

not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

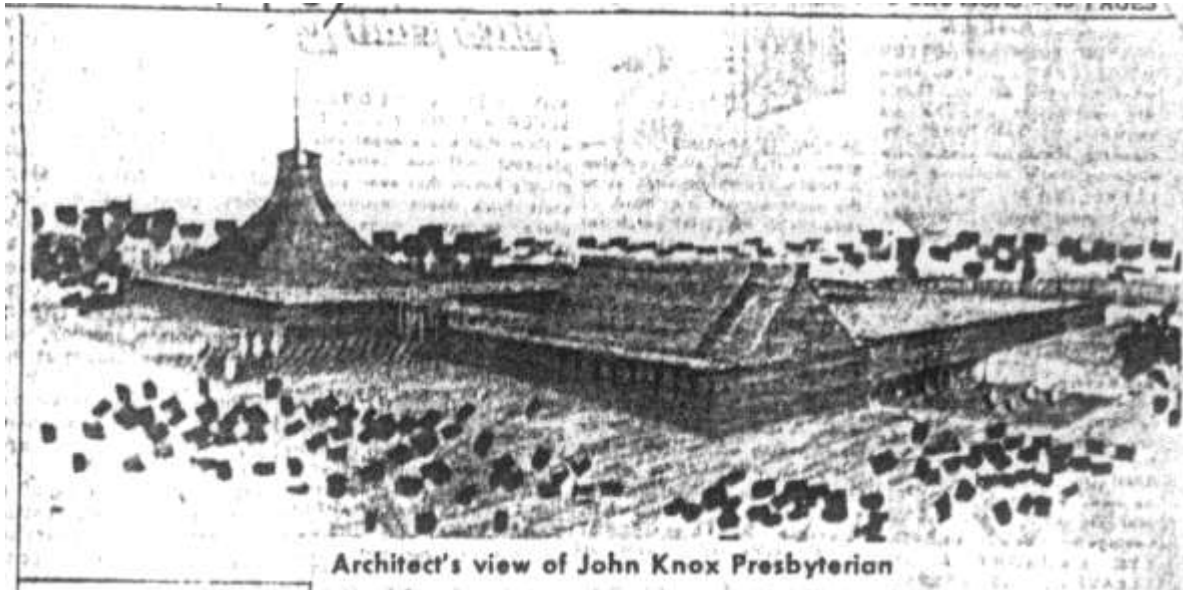
The new building includes 12 classrooms and an auditorium, and is the third phase of Calvin's building program.

There are more than 300 families in the congregation. There were 497 people in church Sunday and 268 in Sunday School.

The dedication immediately followed the regular 10 o'clock morning worship service, and consisted mainly of the pastor's prayer of dedication. Afterward the congregation visited the new rooms and were served refreshments.

September 29, 1960

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*



Architect's view of John Knox Presbyterian

Calvin Presbyterian plans addition, John Knox building

The Calvin Presbyterian Church on Rudy Lane has started plans for two major building programs with construction to begin soon. The congregation has announced plans for an expansion of its own facilities on Rudy Lane and for the construction of the first unit of the John Knox Congregation, on Westport Road.

The first unit for the John Knox Congregation will consist of a sanctu-

ary with a seating capacity of 160 and seven Sunday School rooms at a total cost of \$135,000.

The congregation, with 100 members is sponsored under the supervision of the Presbytery of Transylvania. It will be located on an eight acre site on the south side of Westport Road between the Rolling Hills and Westwood subdivisions. Ground is to be broken around May 1 and will be

completed early in the fall. Arrowsmith and Judd are architects.

The slope of the site will be used for a lower level playroom with washroom facilities of 2100 square feet, with a full glass front and terrace to house a weekday kindergarten and nursery expected to open in September. Children can now be enrolled at the church office, 896-6541.

The Calvin Presbyterian Church on Rudy Lane will begin its fourth phase of a building program with the addition of a Sunday School unit, housing six classrooms and two assembly areas. The assembly areas will provide with movable partitions that can alternately serve as five additional classrooms.

On the lower level will be a large meeting hall for scouting and other activities. The cost of the addition is expected to be \$100,000. Architects are Louie and Henry.

Calvin Presbyterian Church now has a communicant membership of over 1200 and a Sunday School enrollment of over 600 children. The pastor is Rev. Dr. Arlie D. Baasbreurtje.

April 9, 1964

Courtesy Calvin Presbyterian Church, Donna Jentes:



Calvin Presbyterian Church

The Jubilee Story
1957-2007

Calvin Presbyterian Church began as a group of deeply devoted people who sought to worship God in the east end of Louisville as a mission church, the East Chapel of Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Beginning as a nomadic congregation, they used everything from an old home to a school assembly hall as a sanctuary for their praise. In 1956 Carl Crawford financed \$30,000 to purchase the property on Rudy Lane and to begin the process of constructing the church. He could not have known then that he was playing an active role in the genesis of what would become a paradigm of culture and diversity in the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. The congregation began meeting in the new facility in the fall of 1957 when The Reverend Dr. Arie Bestebreurtje accepted the call as the first pastor of Calvin. There were 120 charter members. Initial construction was completed in 1959.

Through the early 60's the church's congregation thrived. Following the example of the group who formed the East Chapel, the Calvin session sanctioned a mission to the developing area out Westport Road in 1960. In 1966 they received their charter to become John Knox Presbyterian Church and continue to be an active thriving member of the local presbytery. Following the example set by Mr. Crawford, Calvin forgave the debt in the name of spreading the gospel. The same year Dr. Bestebreurtje resigned to accept another call and The Reverend Dr. McCrory was appointed Interim pastor until Reverend F. Morgan Roberts accepted our call in 1967. He helmed the church for six more thriving years until his departure in 1972. The membership had ballooned in the meantime going from the 120 charter members in 1957 to 1,505 in 1971 – fourteen years of unprecedented growth. The Reverend Dr. Stimson served as Interim until the call of The Reverend David Searfoss in 1973. Shortly thereafter, the call for an associate pastor was accepted by the Reverend Simeon Fulcher in 1975. In 1976 a Saturday morning Men's Bible Study was established by some of the men in the congregation. Thirty-one years later many of the same men are still meeting weekly. This study is going strong and continues to grow even today.

It was also during this early period that Calvin had the privilege of electing, ordaining, and installing the first two female elders in the entire state of Kentucky: Irene Lewis and Louise Welch. This was an early stride in Calvin's forward thinking perspective in regards to diversity. This set a precedent for an active women's group who assures that our events are meticulously planned and staffed to guarantee successful evangelism and worship at our gatherings. The women continue to do all sorts of charitable work, on top of regular meetings, bible studies, prayer groups, and retreats.

In the early 80's the church was added onto once again. The sanctuary was expanded, new offices were built, and a gymnasium was added.

Beginning in the mid-70's through the early 80's with special attention from Reverend Fulcher and new youth pastor, Cal Maleno, the youth program became a center of focus for the whole church. Rich Fifield then took over the program for the better part of the 1980's. The youth group flourished when in 1989 the Reverend David L. Welch accepted the call as youth pastor. Attendance grew at an astonishing rate as did the youth's participation and contributions to the congregation and the community as a whole. They had athletic teams, mission trips, and attended countless conferences and retreats with the invaluable devotion of numerous members of the church who enjoyed the boisterous nature of young people and evangelizing the next generation.

In 1989 a Presbyterian group of Taiwanese immigrants numbering 88 were seeking a facility where they could worship in their native culture and language. Calvin's accepting nature was more than happy to oblige, offering them a meeting hall just off the gym. They have since grown to be a viable and integral part of our church as a whole.

Through the beginning of the 1990's Calvin, with the generous tithing of the members, was able to annually donate 30% of its income to various charities. In 1994 with the youth program's successful construction of Calvin's youth facility, rejuvenation occurred within the membership as we had a new place for young people to congregate. However, the 90's were a time of transition for the church. Reverend Welch, who was by then a minister in his own right, left to accept a call in Douglasville, Ga. Reverend Searfoss retired in 1998 and the Reverend Dr. Victor Priebe was called as Interim Pastor. Reverend Fulcher left, accepting a call in Hawaii in 2000. The same year the Reverend Dr. Paul Detterman accepted the call as the new head pastor of Calvin. He would lead the congregation into the twenty-first century with gusto. He was a vibrant voice injecting new energy into the classically traditional services on Sunday mornings with animated sermons and incorporating a plethora of unique musical instruments into worship services. He left to pursue a call to Presbyterians for Renewal (P.F.R.) in the winter of 2007.

In 2004 The Reverend Sarah Marsh accepted a call as Associate Pastor. She is Calvin's first ordained female pastor and a gracious and compassionate leader. Also that same year Calvin once again embraced its desire for cultural diversity by offering a home to a Korean congregation who, like the Taiwanese, were seeking a facility where they could worship in their native culture and language. Now walking our hallways on any given Sunday morning one will see three diverse congregations worshipping side-by-side in harmony. While separate, they are the three parts of the whole that is now "The Church Gathered at Calvin," a truly shining example of a sum that is far greater than its parts.

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Calvin Presbyterian Church

Courtesy Calvin Presbyterian Church, Donna Jentes:



Calvin Presbyterian Church

The Jubilee Story
1957-2007

In our 50-year history we have had three office managers: Ruth Adams, Jayne Smith, and Donna Jentes. We are grateful for the daily devotion and effort of these women. Their job is a behind-the-scenes ministry without which the pursuit of the goals established at our inception would be impossible. Since 1957, Calvin has continually sought to be led by God in mission and service. "The Church Gathered at Calvin" stands as an example of how, through diversity, charity, and acceptance, a church ordained and led by God can be a beacon of light in the darkness for a denomination, a city, and even the world.

– *Written by Brent Owen June 10, 2007*



Current photo of church from the Narthex



Current photo of the interior sanctuary



Current photo of the new playground

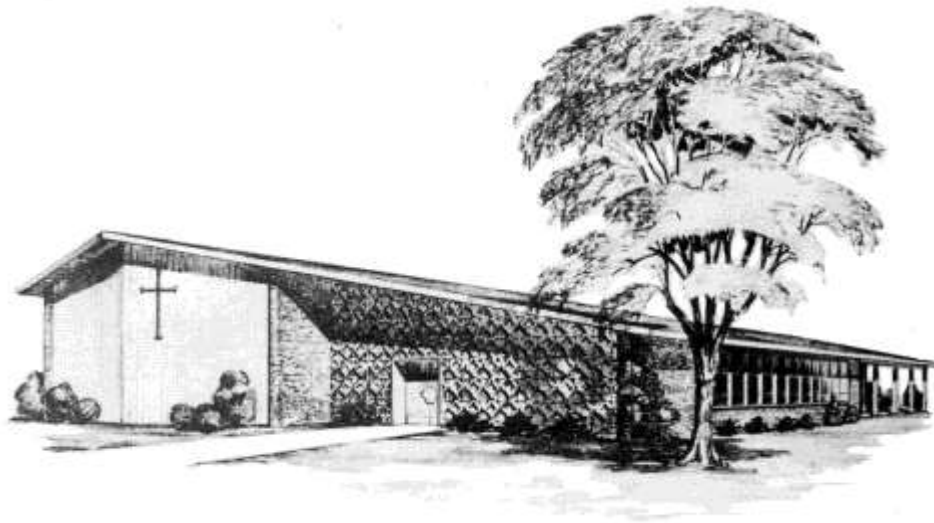


Calvin Church commemorative tile, (probably from the early 1960s)

St. Matthews Area Churches:

Calvin Presbyterian Church

Courtesy Calvin Presbyterian Church, Donna Jentes:



Dedication picture circa 1958 illustration from Rudy Lane angle



East Chapel sign, circa 1956, before any building had begun



Sanctuary 1961

Sanctuary 1975



St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:

Broadway Methodist Buys 7-Acre Tract Here

The Broadway Methodist Church has purchased a seven-acre tract of ground on Brownsboro Road, opposite Blankenbaker Lane, for erection of a new church in the near future. The Church bought the tract this week from Mr. and Mrs. Luther M. Goose for a price reported in the neighborhood of \$45,000. It was reported that the Broadway Church will merge with the recently-organized Indian Hills Methodist Church, which is now holding services at Garnett Hall at the Masonic Children's Home each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. Merger is supposed to take place between now and the first of the year. Rev. James Averitt is the pastor of both congregations.

October 20, 1955



Architect's drawing of the over-all view of Christ Methodist Church after completion of a new addition that will include a sanctuary and classrooms.

Methodists to break ground Sunday

Christ Methodist Church at Brownsboro Road and Blankenbaker Lane will break ground at noon Sunday for construction of a \$300,000 addition to the church facilities. Construction is scheduled to begin immediately.

Included in the addition will be a new sanctuary which will seat approximately 800 people, an educational unit with 10 classrooms and an auditorium which will contain a stage and seat approximately 400 people.

When the new sanctuary is completed, the present sanctuary will be converted into Sunday School class rooms and a small chapel.

The new addition will increase the church property to about one-half million dollars.

Ed Hirsbrunner is chairman of the building-committee, and construction is to be done by Garstrevuer.

Pastor is the Rev. W.S. Slider.

April 19, 1962

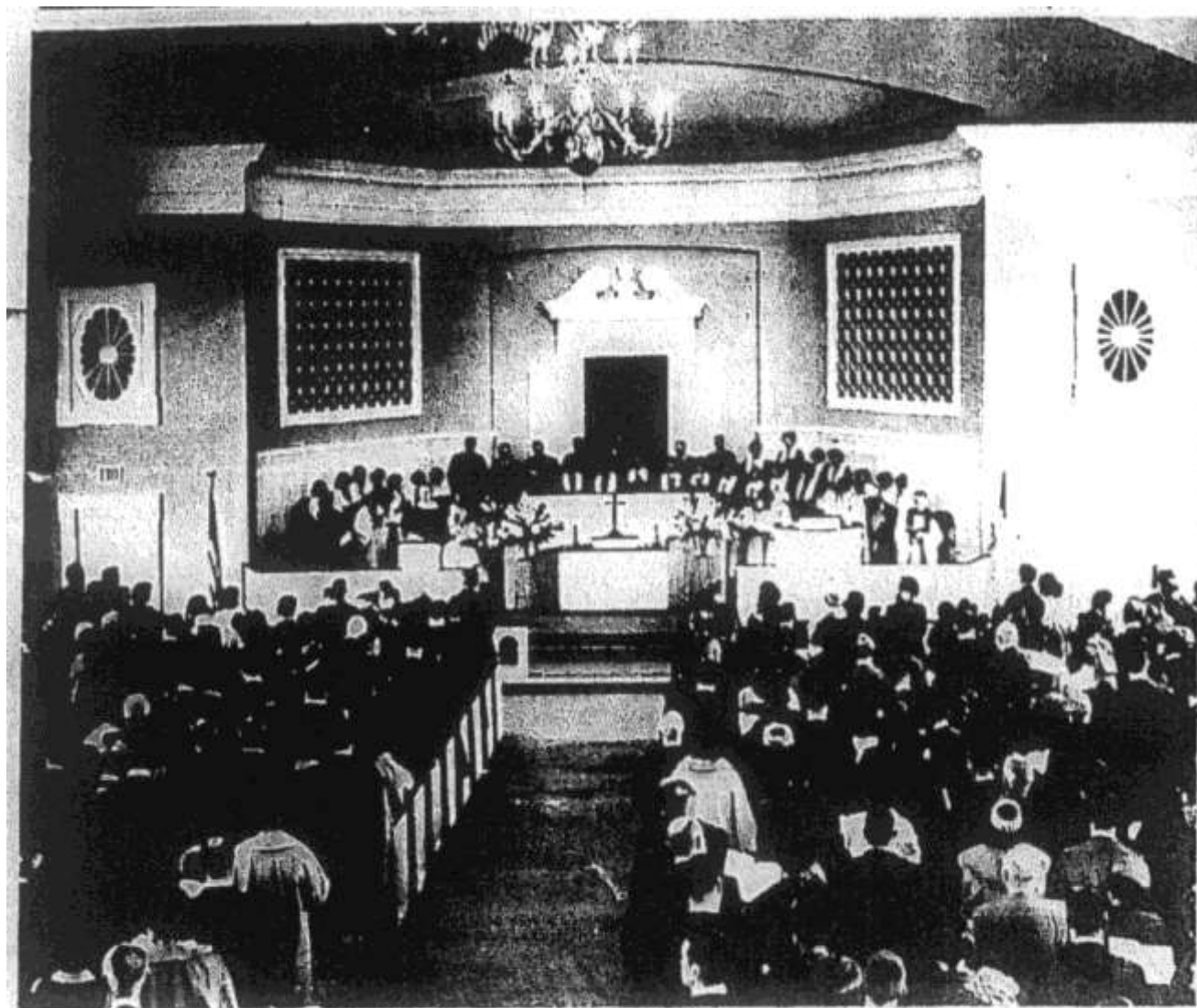


Christ Methodist Church breaks ground for a \$250,000 addition. Taking part in the Easter day services are from left, Dr. James W. Averitt, district superintendent of Louisville Methodist Churches, Dr. W.W. Slider, the church's pastor, and his assistant pastor, the Rev. William Kercheval. Peyton Davis is the architect.

April 26, 1962

St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*



First service in new sanctuary

The congregation of Christ Methodist Church, Brownsboro Road and Blankenbaker Lane, moved into the new sanctuary last Sunday, a week earlier

than at first anticipated. Ground was broken for the new edifice last Easter Sunday and cornerstone rites were held Sept. 30. The addition cost \$300,000.

November 29, 1962

St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy <http://www.ccum.net/history.htm>

A History of Christ Church United Methodist

The Beginning: Christ Church United Methodist proudly traces its roots all the way back to the first Methodist congregation in the city of Louisville, where early Methodists met in a log cabin (on the site of the present Jefferson County Courthouse) beginning in 1806. The congregation later moved to a 2-story brick building at Eighth & Market Streets. The legendary Bishop Francis J. Asbury preached here on October 22, 1812. In 1816, the Fourth Street Methodist Church was built on the present site of the Kentucky International Convention Center at Fourth & Jefferson Streets. A two-sided plaque on Fourth Street between Market and Jefferson Streets (see photos below) discusses the history of Louisville's first Methodist church on that site.

In 1835, with a membership of 584, Fourth Street Methodist Church voted to divide into 3 congregations: Fourth Street, Eighth Street and Brook Street churches. The lineage of Christ Church flows from the members who separated from Fourth Street Methodist to build the new Brook Street Church. Located on the west side of Brook Street between Market and Jefferson, the church was dedicated on January 20, 1839. As a side note, the present Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church is not linearly related to the original Fourth Street Methodist Church. The other descendent congregations of the original Fourth Street and Eighth Street churches have long since disbanded or lost their identities through a series of mergers and splits.

Brook Street Methodist Church thrived for 30 years at its original location. In 1865, the church sold its property and relocated to 233 East Broadway and changed its name to Broadway Methodist Episcopal Church, South (divisions among Methodists during the Civil War led to the northern churches holding the name Methodist Episcopal Church and the southern churches taking the name Methodist Episcopal Church, South).

In 1939, delegates from the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church (which had broken away over the issue of lay representation) and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, assembled in joint conference and voted to form The Methodist Church. The Louisville Conference, which met at the Broadway church, ratified the unification on May 10, 1939 under the direction of chairman Bishop U. V. W. Darlington.

Broadway Methodist Church: Broadway Methodist Church grew into one of the strongest churches in the Louisville Annual Conference. Her members furnished many ministerial and lay leaders to the Louisville Conference, sent the first missionary (Miss Martha Hite Watts) to Brazil, South America, and helped to organize several other local Methodist churches including Highland, Fourth Avenue, Beechmont, and St. Paul.

By the 1940's, the community around Floyd and Broadway had begun a rapid change from residential to commercial. In addition, plans were made public to expand the Medical Center from Chestnut Street to include the area of Floyd and Brook. These factors led to an exodus of much of the downtown Louisville population out to the suburbs and membership at Broadway Methodist began to diminish.

On Sunday, September 5, 1954, Louisville Area Bishop William T. Watkins and Dr. Robert H. Wade, Louisville East District Superintendent, met with the congregation for the morning worship and a congregational meeting. Bishop Watkins logically presented the factors bearing upon the future of the church at its Broadway location and suggested the church consider relocating - preferably in the East Brownsboro Road area. After much discussion, the congregation voted to accept his suggestion.

On the same Sunday afternoon, Bishop Watkins and Dr. Wade called into conference Dr. James W. Averitt, pastor of the Beechmont Methodist Church, and requested that he assume the pastorate of Broadway and endeavor to guide the church in a relocation program. With the blessing of Dr. R. V. Bennett, then Broadway's pastor, Dr. Averitt accepted the challenge.

To assist the Broadway church in the first stage of its relocation efforts, Bishop Watkins organized a Sponsoring Committee composed of himself, the District Superintendent, and the pastors and some laymen from three Methodist churches, and the pastor and two laymen from Broadway.

During the conference year 1954-1955, every effort was made to sell the Broadway church building and purchase a new site. These efforts were unsuccessful. Therefore, on July 25, 1955, the Sponsoring Committee met at the Methodist Building, 1115 S. Fourth Street, and suggested that perhaps the only course left was to shelve the relocation plans and close the Broadway church at the upcoming Annual Conference in September.

As a final suggestion, however, Dr. Averitt proposed that he attempt to organize a Methodist congregation in the desired East Brownsboro Road area. If his plan was successful in firmly establishing such a new congregation, the Committee agreed that the closing of the Broadway church could be delayed until the building was sold.

The Indian Hills Methodist Church: Following the approval of the sponsoring Committee, Dr. Averitt called a meeting of certain Methodists living in the East Brownsboro Road area to consider forming a new Methodist church in that area.

At this meeting, it was unanimously agreed to attempt organizing such a congregation and Dr. Averitt was requested to call for an organizational meeting to be held at the Crescent Hill Methodist Church, at 3:30 p.m. on August 21, 1955. It was also determined that a call should go out to Methodist churches in the Louisville East District asking for volunteers who would accept the challenge of forming an initial congregation.

St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy <http://www.ccum.net/history.htm>

A History of Christ Church United Methodist

On August 21, 1955, approximately 44 persons met at the Crescent Hill church. There they resolved to establish a new church, naming it the Indian Hills Methodist Church. These first members came from the St. Paul, Crescent Hill, St. Matthews, Fourth Avenue and Broadway Methodist Churches. Dr. Averitt was appointed as pastor of the Indian Hills-Broadway Charge.

Meanwhile, the Sponsoring Committee had found an abandoned school building on the grounds of the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home, off Frankfort and Bauer Avenues, that could be rented as a first home for the new church. The building could be reached easily by auto via Washington Avenue, off Chenoweth Lane. A rental agreement was immediately made with the "Home," and on August 28, 1955, the first services of the new church were held in the school building which was called Garnett Hall. Church school enrollment on that day was 46.

Dr. Averitt conducted the service. The title of his sermon was "The Challenge of a New Journey," very apropos in view of what has since occurred.

Shortly before this first service, an announcement was made in the voice of St. Matthews newspaper that the newly formed church would hold its initial Sunday service on August 28, 1955, at 8:30 a.m.

Garnett Hall provided much more room than was needed. There were many school rooms with desks in place, adequate toilet facilities, and a gymnasium. An auditorium provided accommodation for the formal Sunday worship services. In this theater style room, there was also a large stage, whereon a Christmas pageant was performed in December of 1955. Having been unoccupied for a number of years, however, Garnett Hall was quite dusty and dirty. In the early weeks of the church's occupancy, a great deal of fellowship was engendered as everyone brought their mops, brooms, dusting cloths and other cleaning equipment along with their energy and enthusiasm to work to make their new church home sparkle.

Church school classes for all ages began meeting immediately. Among the adult classes were two which remain active at this present time namely the Wayfarers (from the Indian Hills Church) and the Pathfinders (from the Broadway Church). Others were the Homesteaders, the L.O.A. (Love One Another), and the Fellowship classes.

Soon it was learned that 6.6 acres of ground at Brownsboro Road and Blankenbaker Lane could be purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Luther Goose. On September 12, 1955, the Broadway Indian Hills charge entered into a contract calling for a purchase price of \$40,000. Mr. W. Glover Giles, of St. Paul Methodist contributed \$20,000 toward the purchase, with Mr. and Mrs. Goose retaining a lien against the property to secure the balance of the purchase price.

Merger of the Indian Hills Methodist Church and the Broadway Methodist Church: It had originally been agreed that the merger of the two churches would come on or about January 1, 1956. However, in the fall of 1955, when the first cold winds began to blow, the furnace at the Broadway church failed. Since the cost of repairing or replacing the furnace was prohibitive and impractical at this point, the plans to merge the congregations were accelerated.

After 90 years of service at Floyd and Broadway - the final Sunday worship was held at Broadway Methodist Church on November 17, 1955. The merger of the two congregations was celebrated on November 20, 1955, at Garnett Hall, with Bishop Watkins conducting the service. The oldest continuous Methodist church in Jefferson County became merged with the newest! At that time, the church was given the temporary name of Broadway Indian Hills Methodist Church.

The Broadway church brought to the union its church building and property at 233 E. Broadway, its parsonage at 1601 Windsor Place, a Memorial Fund valued at \$41,389, the Lutes Fund, valued at \$6,200, and a Class 23 Fund. The Memorial Fund, established in 1922, has a current book value of \$438,527, and a market value in excess of \$535,225. In the past fiscal year, Christ Church received in excess of \$32,000 from this Fund.

While the members of the Indian Hills church had little material resources to bring to the union, they brought much in spiritual resources. They had given up their interests in the churches where they had long held memberships, and with dedicated zeal, had brought into being a new church, making possible the perpetuation of the long history of the Broadway church.

Following the merger service, the first Quarterly Conference was held, at which time the officials of the church were elected. Later, on November 30, 1955, the first Official Board met. At this meeting, it was recommended that each member be given an opportunity to propose one name each during the month of December. A permanent name for the church would be selected, by vote of the membership, from those submitted. Twenty-two names were proposed.

On January 1, 1956, a preliminary vote was taken. The four names which received the most votes were: Christ Methodist, Broad-Hills Methodist, Brownsboro Road Methodist, and St. Mark Methodist.

In the final voting, Christ Methodist Church received the most votes, and the new name was adopted. (The word "United" was added in 1968, at which time the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.)

St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy <http://www.ccum.net/history.htm>

A History of Christ Church United Methodist

On February 21, 1956, at a Quarterly Conference, it was resolved that the Broadway church parsonage at 1601 Windsor Place be sold, and a new one be built or bought close to the Brownsboro Road property.

A New Church Building: In September, 1954, at the Broadway church, a Building Council had been organized with Judge Ben F. Ewing, Sr. as Chairman Six sub-committees were selected and members too numerous to name were asked to serve. Their work covered all details of a relocation and building program. For a year, a very thorough study was made of available literature and of existing church and educational plants in and around Louisville. Christ Church members visited churches as far away as Nashville, Tennessee, and central Indiana, as well as ones in Louisville, seeking ideas for the new structure.

By late January, 1956, it was decided to build a church plant that would accommodate 1200 in the sanctuary 750 in the church school. Dr. Averitt drew a set of floor plans, with the sanctuary, chapel, and educational section so arranged as to include an outdoor playground enclosed by the buildings. These plans, plus the findings of the study, were given to the Nevin and Morgan Company, whom the church had employed as the architects.

Later, Mr. Jack Pruitt, a member of the church, was given the floor plans and the materials and findings of the Planning Committee. From these he drew a set of plans that met the approval of the church. In his plans, the two-story educational building was reduced to one floor and arranged around the sanctuary so as to provide two outdoor areas surrounded by the buildings. Nevin and Morgan, Architects, were asked to take the plans as drawn, perfect them and provide specifications. By now, plans had reached the stage where it was necessary to decide the style of architecture. After much discussion, a vote was taken at a Church Conference on April 22, 1956, with the congregation voting by a 90% majority to construct a colonial style structure.

On May 10, 1956, an announcement went out to local newspapers that Christ Methodist Church would build a one million dollar plant at the Brownsboro Road site.

Earlier in that year, the Broadway parsonage on Windsor Place was sold and the proceeds were used to purchase a parsonage at 707 Wicklow Road.

Although the architects had advised that construction could begin in June, 1956, by then sufficient funds had not been realized to start the effort. So, throughout the summer, the congregation met regularly at Garnett Hall and worked hard at strengthening the financial position of the church in anticipation of beginning construction.

Finally, as the summer of 1956 began to wane, the Broadway church property was sold for \$80,000, making it financially possible to set a date for the beginning of construction.

The Kentucky Society for Crippled Children subsequently built their headquarters on the site.

On Sunday, November 26, 1956, a cold wintry day, ground breaking ceremonies were held at the building site. Amid much enthusiasm and rejoicing, a gleaming spade wielded by Dr. Averitt and a breaking plow with a multiple rope hitch pulled by parishioners were teamed to turn the first earth for the new building. Construction of the chapel and educational section had begun!

The cornerstone was placed on May 19, 1957. Bishop Watkins, Dr. W.S. Bolles (Louisville East District Superintendent) and Dr. Averitt conducted the service. Placed in the cornerstone were items taken from the Broadway cornerstone, a history of the church, films of the ground breaking ceremonies, a complete list of the charter members of the church, as well as newspapers of the day and other items of interest.

The construction was carried on by the Lee Pruitt Company, directed by Mr. Jack Pruitt.

Construction proceeded smoothly - so by the latter part of the summer of 1957 plans were set for the opening of the new structure and the congregation's move from Garnett Hall.

On September 1, 1957, just a little over two years following Dr. Averitt's August, 1955 call for volunteers to form the new Church, the doors of the new chapel and initial educational facilities of Christ Methodist Church were opened, and the first service in the new church was conducted.

Included in this original construction was a kitchen-dining-meeting area that encompassed most of the three present classrooms opposite the present reception office. Until 1962, church dinners, lunches and meetings were held in this area. A little later on, folding panels were installed to provide three separate spaces for church school classes.

Members of the young congregation took possession of their new accommodations with a fierce enthusiasm, continuing to grow in spiritual commitment. They soon realized there was a great need for a church day school. Thus, on or about September 15, 1957, the Christ Church day school opened for children ages three to five years old. It began with four teachers and approximately fifty children and has operated continuously on a daily basis since then, offering its services to both the

St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy <http://www.ccum.net/history.htm>

A History of Christ Church United Methodist

children of church members and to other children in the community. As of 1994, there were twenty-four teachers and staff and approximately one hundred and seventy-five children.

Church membership grew rapidly, and in a few short years the original facilities became over-crowded. Meanwhile, Dr. Averitt was appointed Louisville East District superintendent of the Louisville Annual Conference. He had been pastor from the beginning of the dream, and had contributed more than can be adequately related to the establishment and early growth of the church.

Dr. Averitt was followed by Rev. Kavanaugh Loy, who was appointed in 1959 and remained until 1961. The church continued its growth, and space became more dear each day.

In 1961, Dr. William W. "Bill" Slider was appointed pastor. Coincidentally, as a very young man he had served as Assistant Pastor of the Broadway Church from 1939 to 1941.

On or about the time of Dr. Slider's arrival, a Building Fund Campaign was inaugurated with special emphasis on raising \$100,000 in three year pledges toward the building of the sanctuary, payments to be made from October 1, 1961 to September 30, 1964. Research revealed certain statistics that validated this plan.

The geographical area from which the church drew its members was roughly from River Road to Shelbyville Road, and from Zorn Avenue to Anchorage. The population in this area (according to the 1960 census tracts of the Louisville Chamber of Commerce) was 26,843.

National headquarters of the Methodist Church estimated that 6% of the population of the area would attend the church. The Building Committee then calculated that the estimated growth of Christ Church should be as follows:

Year ending	Membership
May 31, 1961 (actual)	587
May 31, 1962	662
May 31, 1963	762
May 31, 1964	962
May 31, 1965	1,062
May 31, 1966	1,162

Other estimates were made of expected receipts and disbursements, budgets and debt retirement.

By the end of 1961, plans were in place to move ahead with construction of the present sanctuary, fellowship hall, the present kitchen and certain additional classrooms and other facilities to adjoin the existing building.

Mr. Peyton Davis, a member of the church, was chosen as the architect, and the general contract was awarded to the Garst-Receveur Construction Company. Mr. Robert Garst, another member of the church, directed the construction. On Easter Sunday, April 22, 1962, Dr. Averitt (East District Superintendent) conducted the church's second ground breaking service. The construction was completed before the end of the year 1962. The cost of these additions, which totaled some \$190,910, was substantially met by pledges and some financing with a local building and loan association. The cornerstone for this sanctuary phase of the building program is on the entering right side of the sanctuary doors.

By the end of 1966, the forecasted membership had been exceeded. All the physical facilities of the church began to strain under the membership growth. It was not until 1971, however, that the church could consider adding additional space.

In the fall of that year, an Advance Planning Council was formed consisting of members representing all of Christ Church's activities and functions. The purpose of this council was to investigate and pursue opportunities for further development of the church, and to prepare a recommended comprehensive action plan.

The work of the council included: surveying the church members as to how they felt about the church, its needs and its program; a study of the churches in the city; analyzing what the mission efforts should be; developing an organization and staff plan to fulfill the then present and expanded needs; determining the overall church programs and physical facilities needed for the projected requirements; recommending a physical facility plan to support the recommendations of the various planning committees; developing and recommending alternate methods of financing any expansion plans; and how to raise the funds to accomplish them.

In March of 1973, the results of the council's study and its recommendations were presented to the Administrative Board and the congregation. Both bodies voted overwhelmingly to proceed with the program.

Briefly, the results of the study were: that by 1978, our church would have a thousand more members; that present church school facilities were completely inadequate at the then level of membership; and there was very limited space for the staff offices and the recreational and social activities required by a church of present and projected size.

St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy <http://www.ccum.net/history.htm>

A History of Christ Church United Methodist

To overcome these short comings and to continue the church on a path of growth and service, it was recommended that a two story structure be added on the east side of the church, paralleling the sanctuary. It was estimated that the cost of this building would be \$660,000, which would be financed as a part of the regular budget over a 20 year period. However, it was agreed that pledges for \$250,000, covering three years, should be received prior to construction.

The plan for the lower floor of the proposed facility would include a gymnasium, shower rooms, scout and storage rooms, rest rooms, class rooms, lounge and offices. The plan for the upper floor would include class rooms, nursery facilities and rest rooms. In addition, it was planned to make an all-purpose room off the chapel (which became the Cloister Room) and cover the walk-way leading from the chapel to the sanctuary. Finally, the church should be properly staffed to meet the needs of a growing congregation and diversified interests.

Carrying out this broad research required the work of many committees made up of dozens of church members who spent untold hours at the effort. Since the plan was so long range, the Building Committee was not ready to present its final recommendations until May of 1973. A part of the recommendation was that Stevens Contractors, Inc., headed by Mr. Jay Stevens, a member of the Church, be awarded the general contract. In order to fund the building undertaking, it was determined that a major fund raising plan be developed and that professional help be employed.

An application was then made to the Board of Missions of the United Methodist Church in New York to direct the financial crusade. Dr. Alton S. Miller of that office was assigned as the fund-raising director, and under his leadership, the drive was very successful. Together with a mortgage loan of some \$700,000 from a local building and loan association, sufficient funds became available not only to complete the new construction but also to pay off all then existing mortgage debts of the church. This resulted in only one debt of that nature.

The building was finished in March of 1974, at a total cost of \$450,000. The dream that began in 1954 had been completed! It is to be noted that the church is incorporated under the appropriate statutes of Kentucky as a not for profit corporation, giving it tax exempt status.

Subsequently, in December, 1982, the church purchased from Mrs. Virginia Goose 3.35 more acres immediately adjoining the rear of the original acreage. The cost was \$200,000. The church made a down payment of \$50,000 to Mrs. Goose, and she retained a lien for \$150,000. The purchase included the Goose residence, where church sponsored Scout Troop and other young adult activities are presently held.

By September, 1990, the debt, including the note to Mrs. Goose, was fully amortized. At the Sunday service on September 9, 1990, the total church building was dedicated, with a symbolic burning of the mortgage at the altar. (It is a policy of the United Methodist Church that a church building is not dedicated until all debt is satisfied.)

Dr. Slider had served as pastor until 1985, when an unfortunate turn in his health forced his retirement. He was succeeded by Dr. James Thurmond, who served from 1985 to 1989, who was in turn followed by Dr. Wallace Thomas, pastor from 1989 to 1993. Dr. William Ray Jennings was appointed to Christ Church in May, 1993, and served until his retirement in mid 2001, when Dr. George Strunk began his ministry with us.

At this writing, there are approximately 3,000 persons listed as members of Christ Church, United Methodist. Our congregation is dedicated to continue serving the spiritual needs of all who enter our doors!

Epilogue: The compilation of the foregoing was made possible from church records and documents, previous writing by others on the history of the church, the memories of a number of members, particularly those who are charter members, and memorabilia that have been retained over the years.

Pastoral history of Christ Church:

Dr. James W. Averitt, 1955-1959
Rev. Kavanaugh Loy, 1959-1961
Dr. William W. "Bill" Slider, 1961-1985
Dr. James Thurmond, 1985-1989
Dr. Wallace Thomas, 1989-1993
Dr. William "Billy" Ray Jennings, 1993-2001
Dr. George Strunk, 2001-present

St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy <http://www.ccum.net/history.htm>

Final Service—Averitt Chapel, April 29, 2007, by Byron Graham

ST. MATTHEWS AREA CHURCHES



St. Matthews Area Churches: Christ Church United Methodist-Broadway Methodist

Courtesy <http://www.ccum.net/history.htm>

Construction, June 2006 forward



Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:

Jehovah's Witnesses to build church will be located on Hubbards Lane

Construction is expected to start within a "couple of weeks" on a church building in St. Matthews for the East Unit Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The church will be located on the east side of Hubbards Lane between Rudy and Pin Oak Lanes.

The congregation has a triangular shaped lot fronting 117 feet on Hubbards Lane. The lot is 223 feet deep and is 203 feet wide at the rear, according to P. W. McKinney, presiding minister.

Mr. McKinney, of 3957 Gilman Ave., estimated the building alone would be worth \$25,000 to \$30,000. Plans call for a one-floor ranch-type structure of Bedford stone, 70 feet wide and 45 feet deep. There will be parking for 40 or 60 cars.

The congregation numbers about 118 members. Its peak would be 200 members.

The church would not be enlarged in the future, because that is contrary to the Jehovah's Witnesses policy, said Mr. McKinney. He said when congregations pass the 200 mark, a new congregation is started, and it builds its own church.

The lot cost about \$8,500. The south strip to a depth of 34 feet is within the City of St. Matthews. The building would be situated so that nine feet of it would be within the City.

However, the St. Matthews Planning and Zoning Commission has decided that it has no jurisdiction over the property.

Chairman Ted Suber said: "Only 18 1/2 per cent of the property is in the City of St. Matthews. Therefore I don't feel that the City of St. Matthews has any jurisdiction over the property."

The church reportedly already has a County building permit.

Mr. McKinney said that much of the construction labor will be done by the congregation itself.

Jehovah's Witnesses finish new church

Dedication is scheduled for March 17 to 23

The church building of the East Unit Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses is finished.

Cost of the new structure at 411 North Hubbards Lane is difficult to assess; the members, working nights and weekends, built it with their own hands.

The 75-by-48 foot building will be dedicated in a week's celebration, March 17-23, the presiding minister, P. W. McKinney, announced.

The congregation has actually been meeting in the unfinished building since last August. Construction was started last April.

The building, valued at around \$25,000, has a 50-by-50-foot auditorium, a stage, a library, and several offices. It was designed by G. Seiler Hoe, presiding minister of the South Unit of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The church is on a triangular lot fronting 117 feet on Hubbards Lane. The lot is 223 feet deep and is 203 feet wide at the rear. The building is a one-floor ranch-type structure of Bedford stone.

The lot cost about \$8,500. The south strip to a depth of 34 feet is within the City of St. Matthews. The building is so situated that about nine feet of it is within the City. The rest is in unincorporated territory.

Main dedication speaker, according to Mr. McKinney, will be Great Britain, secretary-treasurer of the Watchtower Society, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The congregation numbers 118 "ministers" or active members. The church is so organized that each active member does field work to win new souls and ministerial work. Many of those who attend the church are not active members.

Mr. McKinney, of 3957 Gilman, has been presiding minister since the East Unit was organized Oct. 14, 1947.

The church maintains the following schedule of services:

- Tuesday, 8 p.m., Bible study.
- Friday, 7:30 p.m., ministers' training service.
- Sunday, 3 p.m., public talk and Watch Tower study.

Active members do field ministry work each Sunday morning.



The new Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses looks more like a home than a church. Going over plans for the dedication ceremony are, from left, J. Wayne Franklin, home Bible study supervisor, Marvin Hardin, assistant presiding minister, and P. W. McKinney, presiding minister.

March 5, 1959

March 20, 1958