The story of the beginning and growth of Berry Boulevard Presbyterian Church is one of sacrifice, consecration and inspiration.

On the last Sunday of December, 1905, Rev. C. H. Edwards of the M. E. Church, in South Louisville, organized a Sunday School in the district public school of the Jacob's Addition having been requested to do so by Mrs. J. H. Feager, a lady living in the neighborhood.

The attendance for sometime was twenty to twenty-five, the work was being successfully done, and the people wanted a church in the community, as it was impracticable for his church to give the help needed for a church building he offered through Dr. Miley of the Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church, to turn over the Sunday School and the opportunity for a great amount of good to the Presbyterians, especially to the Presbyterian's Committee of Home Missions, if Dr. Miley would promise that a preacher would be paid to preach regularly in Jacob's Addition, and that help would be given in the erection of a church building. The promise was made, and Presbyterians took charge of the work early in the summer of 1906. Mr. Robinson, of the M. E. Church, gave up the superintendency to Mr. Fred Rapp, who had located in this community, and who was a member of the Stuart Robinson Memorial Church, Mr. Earnet Merkel became secretary and Mr. Rapp Treasurer.

Very soon after, Rev. W. R. Anderson, of Bardstown, Ky., held a tent meeting by the authority of the local home mission committee, during which there were six or seven conversions, among them Mr. & Mrs. Merkel, Ernest, Eddie & Juanita Merkel. The session of the Stuart Robinson Memorial Church received these and about eight other christians into the membership of their church until a church could be organized in Jacob's Addition. Some of the people of the community began the work of erecting a church in November, 1906, under the efficient and zealous leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rapp and Mr. Merkel. The building, a beautiful little church, was used for the first time February 26th, 1907. Mr. Rapp and Mr. Ben Chickering dug the foundation. The first money given was the amount of two dollars by a lady who had made it by washing clothes for a neighbor. The lots were given by Mr. J. R. Stark, of the Crutcher & Starks Co., the Kentucky Title Co., surveyed the lots free of charge. Col. B. H. Young wrote the deed without charge. Granite blocks were donated by Mr. J. S. Gully. The following charged nothing for hauling: Messrs. Sam Phillips, Joel Cotner, H. Shawly, Walter Keith, Scott Deitrick, Ed Hickle, Will Sanders, Henry Deirnsing, Jankjeyund Rapp, a small amount of lumber was donated by the Norman Lumber Co., On New Year's Day work was done on the church, as donations by the following, who were willing to use their holiday in that way; Messrs. Earnet Merkel, Mr. Mitchell, Will Plester, Geo. Partlow, Ed Merkel, Rudolph Plester, Danford, Dooly, Cooper and Rapp, and Mr. Phillips furnished wagon and team. At other times work was done by Messrs. Walton, E. O. Merkel, Fred Sneiter and Redding and Heckle.
Cement was given by W. H. Leasing; paint, by Peaslee-Gaulbert; building paper, by Gernert Bros., the Louisville Paper Company, Imperial Roofing Company, and val Blatz; a handsome stove, by Mr. J. P. Stark; a carpet for platform, by Hubbuck Bros.; through Mr. Merkel, work by Mrs. Reager, Mrs. S. Phillips, Mrs. W. Feister, Mrs. Rapp, and Miss Juanita Merkel; roof paint and painting by Mr. Rapp; organ and chairs by Local Home Missions Committee; hauling of organ and chairs by Mr. Phillips; varnishing of all woodwork by Mr. Rapp; pulpit stand and four large lamps by Bardstown Church; pulpit chair and pulpit Bible by Mr. and Mrs. Phillips; carpet by Mr. Phillips; table by Mrs. H. E. Prior; volumes for the library by Mr. F. W. Parfitt and W. C. Association; dishes by W. C. Association; money for window shades raised by Mrs. Heckle, and donations of cash from Madames Feister, Reager, Rapp, Heckle, Techel, Misses F. Odewahm, M. Shaw, H. Odewahm, Mrs. Weber, Messrs. Cecil Powel, Rudolph Feister, Willie Merkel, Col. Young, R. C. Merkel, Joseph Meyer, Dooley, Simon, Rapp and Wallace, and the Christian Endavor Society of the Church, Misses Schulte of Newport, Kentucky; Miss R. M. Snyder of Rochester, New York; and Class #24 of Central Church of Rochester, New York; insurance on building was given by H. J. Miller of Reutlinger and Miller.

Rev. J. D. Wallace began preaching for this church regularly in December, 1906.

A Revival meeting was continued for three weeks beginning March 24, 1907 by the pastor, assisted occasionally by Reverends McLaughlin, Miley, Edwards, Althoff, and Bruce. This meeting resulted in about twenty-five conversions.

The church was dedicated Sunday May 19, 1907 at 3 p.m. with impressive ceremonies. The Rev. W. R. Anderson of Bardstown, delivered the dedicatory address, and a large crowd of Presbyterians, representing almost every congregation in Louisville was present. The Rev. H. W. McLaughlin of Stuart Robinson Memorial Church; the Rev. W. H. Miley of the Portland Ave. Presbyterian Church and the Rev. J. D. Wallace of Berry Blvd. Church assisted.

The Berry Blvd. Church although representing an actual cost of but $300, together with the lot on which it stands, was valued at $3,100.

Work was carried on in this one room structure until July 1911 when a Sunday School room was added, the carpenter work being done by the Pastor, Rev. G. W. Rowe, the Sunday School Supt., and Elder, and some of the boys. As the church and Sunday School grew the building had to be enlarged, so more room was added to the front of the church, a brick front was added, greatly improving the appearance. This new work was dedicated June 17, 1927. Rev. Wm T. McIlray was then the Pastor.

Some of the Pastors we have had during the past thirty years are as follows: Rev. J. D. Wallace 1907
Rev. R. L. Montgomery 1908
Rev. G. W. Rowe 1911
In 1912 Mr. H. M. Hilly followed by Mr. Bartholomew, J. C. Brumberg, and W. R. Lindsey all students of the of the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Mr. Mckean, Mr. J. Horshey Longenecker, who with Dr. W. H. McLary who followed Mr. Longenecker was pastor for 17 years. He resigned to devote all his time to the Christian Observer, of which he is the editor.

Dr. C. W. Anderson became our pastor and with Mrs. Anderson and their three children lived in the community. Mrs. Anderson died in May 1936.

Dr. Anderson resigned in 1937.

Rev. R. A. Fraugh, who graduated in May 1937 at the Louisville seminary, accepted Berry Blvd. as his first pastorate. Our sincere wish is that Rev. Fraugh will be happy in his work here and that God will richly bless him.

Among the Charter members of the church who still attend are Mrs. Magie Phillips and the Merkel Family.

From the beginning of the Church until 1929 the Women's Society was called "The Ladies' Aid", meeting every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

The Ladies' Missionary Society, meeting every first Thursday of the month.

In March 1929 with the help of Mrs. Pegram, wife of Rev. R. H. Pegram, we were organized and became the Women's Auxiliary with two working circles. The circles were known as Circle #1 and Circle #2, which was later changed to Faith and Hope Circles.

Mrs. Ed Ater was elected as our first president.
Geo. Conrad as Vice President, Mrs. R. L. Weber Jr., Secretary, Mrs. Doyle Snyder, Treasurer.

Mrs. Chas. Routh - Chairman of Circle #1
Mrs. Ed Wolford - Chairman of Circle #2

1930-31

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<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
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<td>Mrs. Ater</td>
<td>Mrs. Geo. Conrad</td>
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<td>Mrs. Bean</td>
<td>Mrs. Doyle Snyder</td>
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<td>Mrs. Baker</td>
<td>Mrs. Weber-Chairman-Faith Circle</td>
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1931-32

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<th>President</th>
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<td>Mrs. L Weber Jr.</td>
<td>Mrs. Geo. Conrad</td>
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<td>Mrs. Bean</td>
<td>Mrs. H. M Moore</td>
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<td>Mrs. Conrad</td>
<td>Mrs. Snyder Chairman Faith Circle</td>
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**W.P.A. Form 90 HR**

**County**: Jefferson  
**City or town**: Louisville

**Name of church**: Fourth Ave. Baptist Church  
**Street address**: 1203 S. 4th Street  
**Local admin**: Baptist Exec. Dr.

**Denomination**: Baptist  
**Date organized**: 1890 Jan. 23rd

**Year of lapse, if now defunct**: 1920

**Information as to previous buildings**:  
- First occupied stone building on site.
- Present site, the ground for the church was donated by Mr. J.B. McTearan on a memorial, and he also contributed a large sum of money.
- Rebuilding the church building, the original building was used in the church.

**Date present building dedicated**: 1890-1921  
**Rebuilt**: 1920

**Architecture, bells, inscriptions, special features of building**: Of English type design,
- stone construction, memorial art, stained glass, and bell tower.
- Carvings in stone inscribed: "Fourth Ave. Baptist Church 1909."

**First settled clergyman**: [Signature]  
**Tenure**: 1840-1845

**Educational background**: [Signature]  
**Graduated Institute**: U.S. Col., 1843

**Minute books**:  
- Minute books from 1870-1920, showing minutes of elders and deacons meetings.
- Treasurer reports and all business transactions of church. Kpt. by church clerk.

**Register books of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, members, deaths**:  
- Register books from 1870-1920, showing baptism, marriages, members, and deaths. Kpt. by church clerk.
- Mr. George Weiser, 208 S. Annaley Ave. Louisvle Ky.

**Miss Kemta Church S. C.**

(See reverse side)
11. Record books of Sunday School or other organization

The Sunday school existed from 1890-1920. By 1921, a record of attendees' names, attendance, and membership were kept by Miss Elizabeth Kendall. In 1924, a record of transactions was kept by Mrs. E. M. Bonta.

12. Financial records, if separate

By 1890, a record of income and disbursements was kept by the treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Bonta. The record was later transferred to Mrs. E. M. Bonta's residence.

13. Unpublished historical sketches: (give author, title, date when written, and note if written in one of the record books)

Refer to the record books.

14. Published histories or historical sketches or directories, etc.: (give author, title, place and date of publication)

Refer to the record books.

15. Other records, miscellaneous manuscript material, etc.

Refer to the record books.

16. Indicate by check condition of records: Excellent ( ) Good (X) Poor ( ) Very poor ( )

Good

17. Other information, particularly as to the origins, history, and previous names of the church

Present

Pastor Rev. David Soon, 1615-18, 32nd St., 1924-1926

Additional information obtained from church secretary, Mr. E. M. Bonta, 113 E. Cranston Ave., Louisville.

Parsonage