

## **Church Profile**

St. Matthews Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky, begun in 1927, is a progressive congregation of 1,500 plus members who live in a region of seven counties called Kentuckiana. We are a five generation church who seeks to help people experience a joyful Christian faith. We pursue 100+ ministries by members using their spiritual gifts to make a difference in the lives of people.

Our campus includes a 100,000 square foot facility which includes: a sanctuary with seating capacity for 1,500 people, a fellowship hall with a dining capacity for 600 people, a gymnasium, an office area, classroom spaces for Sunday School & small groups, a music suite for choir rehearsals, the Wayne E. Oates Media Center, a chapel, a weekday preschool, and a shared space & ministry with St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center.

Our congregation's composition is primarily Euro-American, middle class, college educated with a median age in the forties. We partner with two inner-city churches, one of which is African-American. The church consciously affiliates with the Long Run Baptist Association, St. Matthews Area Ministries, Greater Louisville Christian Reconciliation Ministries, The Kentucky Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist World Alliance, and the Reconciliation Networks of Our World.

## **Church History**

**1926** – Tent revival gives birth to a vision that is now our church (SMBC).

**1927** – SMBC organized as an arm of the Walnut Street Baptist Church. About 25 persons are welcomed into the fellowship.

**1935** – Construction of a building at Breckinridge Lane & Willis Avenue began.

**1949** – First service held at new Grandview Avenue site on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**1954** – A new \$150,000 educational building is constructed.

**1958** – Weekday Preschool Education began.

**1960** – Church hosted Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

**1982** – The church was ravaged by arson's fire on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**1985** – On Easter Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, first worship service held in new sanctuary.

**1992** – Church hosted Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting.

**1994** – D. Leslie Hollon becomes Pastor.

**1998** – International Reconciliation Conference hosted at Church.

**2002** – Church celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**2004** – Church hosted annual Kentucky Baptist Convention.

**2007** - Hosted regional breakfast for Dr. David Coffey, President of the Baptist World Alliance

**2008** – Started “Faith for Life” contemporary service

**2008** – Reconciliation Networks of the World (RNOW) conference at Church

**2009** – Church hosted Women's Missionary Union Annual Meeting