



**Russellville United
Baptist Church
277 South Main Street
Russellville, KY 42276**

Photo—2012

Formation of the Russellville Church

In November 1818 three elders and ten members from Union Church formed a Baptist church at Russellville. Elders Leonard PAGE, Ambrose BOURNE, and Sugg FORT with ten members, Spencer CURD, Jno. CURD, Elizabeth ROLLINS, Catharine OWENS, and Thomas GRUBBS, residents of Russellville, and Drury W. POOR and wife Betsey, and William KERCHEVAL and wife Mary, residents of the county, were the founding individuals. Tradition says they met at the home of Spencer CURD on West Fourth Street.

Records from Union Baptist

the church was constituted on 5 Nov 1813. The only earlier Baptist Church in Logan County that has continued was Center Baptist in the northern part of the county. FINLEY, p. 61, Book III, states the Logan County Baptists organized on Red River in 1791 and on Muddy River in 1798 but records of these churches do not remain. COLLINS' HISTORY OF KENTUCKY, Volume II, p. 487 states "The first church and only one until 1812 was located where BRADLEY's livery stable stood in 1870 and was worshiped in by a Baptist congregation." No records have been found for this congregation.

Russellville Baptist Church buildings

After the congregation formed in Russellville, the Baptists shared a meeting house with the Cumberland Presbyterian church on West Fifth and Blakey Street. Logan Co., KY, Deed Book H, p. 308, 29 July 1819, shows the trustees of the Baptist church in Russellville entered a deed of agreement with the trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for use of the meeting house. William KERCHEVAL Sr., Thomas GRUBBS, and Spencer CURD agreed with George WILSON, Hiram A. HUNTER, and Alexander DOWNEY, trustees of the Russellville Union Meeting House, Baptists to use the house on the second and fourth Sundays of each month with the Cumberland Presbyterians to use it on the first and third Sundays.

In VICK's History, she makes reference on page 9 to the building of a church, viz. "Note by writer: A number of references has (sic) been made relative to the



building of a church and at the December meeting 1826 a report was made that William Owens had settled with Edward Belt for the building of the cupola of the church."

Baptists paid off their share of the building by 8 July 1831 after Spencer CURD moved in July 1830 that a committee of three be appointed to look into the situation of debts of "this meeting house." The August report was: James H. NOURSE due \$23 for scantlings; Charles MARSBACK \$73 for plank; Solomon MYERS \$135 for hauling scantlings; T. S. SLAUGHTER \$240 for 41,000 brick; H. GOIN \$106 for 17,740 brick; Amos EDWARDS \$109 for brick and \$57 for nails; Gray and Williams \$20 for running gavel end (sic); Thomas GRUBBS \$416 for brick work; Thomas TATUM \$105 for shingles; C. DUVALL \$21 for plank; C. BREATHITT \$10 for locks; H. W. MOORS \$67 for plank; R. PERRY \$168 for plastering; C. R. WITT \$30 for putting in glass; Jonathan PAYNE \$1,222 for carpenter's work. When this was paid off, Thomas S. SLAUGHTER declared he would look to the Presbyterians for their part of the debt on the Union Meeting House. (VICK's History)

By March of 1833, the Baptist purchased an acre for a burying ground, the land now just west of the railroad on Hwy. 68-80 on land of the old Rockwell Manufacturing, now (2012) Sensus PDC. George J. MORTON, Samuel POIN-DEXTER, George OWENS, and George H. BROWN were appointed as Trustees to receive the

property. John BREATHITT sold the plot for \$25.00; calls mention land owned by Elizabeth RUSSELL and Mrs. Polly S. CURD. (Logan Co., KY Deed Book R, page 407)



Some of the original stones are stacked behind memorial stone erected in 1984. Photo-2012.

The Baptists built a new meeting house on Main and Sixth Streets. Logan County, KY Deed Book Z, p. 410, 30 May 1844, shows \$400.00 to George W. EWING by Thomas GRUBBS, Nimrod LONG, George BROWN, Wilson RYAN, and George W. NORTON, Trustees of the Russellville United Baptist Church, for the lot on Main Street at Cross Street "on which the Baptist Meeting House now stands."

On 7 December 1847, Logan Co., KY Deed Book 28, p.

457, George W. NORTON and wife sold to the same trustees for \$1,110.00 the parsonage of the United Baptist Church of Jesus Christ at Russellville. Calls mention Main Street, the lot of Dr. H. B. WITHERS, the brick house Andrew HYNES conveyed to NORTON (a duplex referring to the northern and dividing wall of the house owned by NORTON and HYNES), a lot owned by George S. VICK, Seminary Street and a lot owned by Emily ALDERSON.

In 1898, a new church building was built on the present site when the first church was torn down. Logan County, KY Deed Book 77, p. 221 shows the mortgage was released on 13 October 1904 by Fidelity Trust Co. of Louisville to trustees of Russellville United Baptist Church, a corporation created by act of the General Assembly of KY Acts 1843-1844. The building was dedicated on the 4th Sunday of April of 1903 when the debt was paid off.

Early members and development of the church

FINLEY reports (p. 14, Book 4) Thomas GRUBBS was a Baptist when he arrived in Logan County. He attended both Muddy River and Union churches and was accepted at Union as a member on his word of membership in earlier churches in VA. When he became



one of the founding members of the Russellville church, "he was frequently a delegate to the Association. He was a member of the first Association at which the contest arose in regard to the separation of Bethel from Old Red River Association (strongly anti-missionary), and took a decided stand in favor of separation. In 1825 he was elected clerk of Russellville church, and served fourteen years, and ordained a deacon in 1839."

Mrs. J. Wells VICK did a summary of early church records and recorded those white members received by experience or baptism. The first Negro member, "Tamar (listed as Famer in Rice history), a Negro woman the property of Mrs. CAMPBELL" was listed as joining the church on 26 January 1819 but then most Africans were not listed in her recording.

VICK mentioned some members dismissed by letter but did not list any in the records in which members were dismissed by dissention. Page 8 of VICK's summary, states "It is noted that the articles of faith and rules of government were usually read at the regular meetings, any disputes were settled in the church instead of taking them to the courts. If a brother was accused of anything a committee was sent to him and if he failed to appear before the church, his absence was taken as guilt and he was dismissed from the church. Often times the

brother or sister would make acknowledgment to the church later on, then they were forgiven and restored to full fellowship in the church."

On page 10 of the VICK history, "--- one charge was exhibited before the church, a certain lady (no names given by VICK but were in original records, now lost) was charged with throwing muddy water on another lady whom she

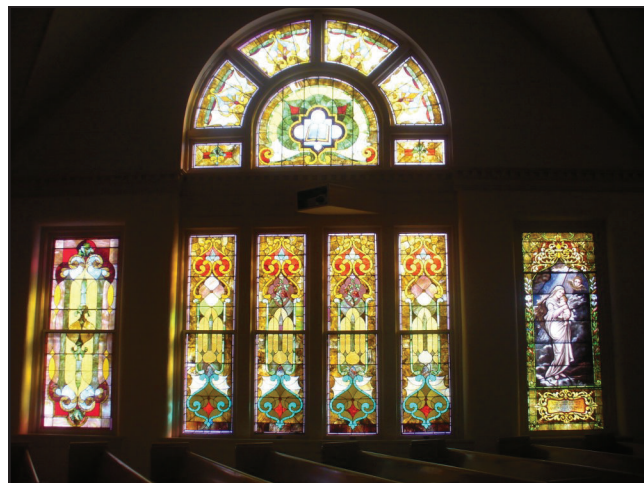
1819 for Armistead MOREHEAD was brought before the church "concerning his transaction with the Farmers and Mechanics Bank. Help was called from five other churches. In making their report, members of the church are recommended to read Gal. 6:1."

At the end of 1819, PAGE was the minister, William and KERCHEVAL and Spencer CURD were deacons with CURD also being the church clerk. Eighty-three persons had joined the church, seventeen being Negro members, and six had been dismissed by letter.

From the RICE history in regards to actions by the Standing Committee: "July, 1825. A charge is brought against Bro. CURD, regarding his betraying his trust as Treasurer of the Bible Society of Russellville. This resulted in Spencer CURD, his wife Polly, and others withdrawing from the

church." "May, 1827. Bro. Spencer CURD and wife Polly, were unanimously received into our church fellowship again." In Sept of 1825, the Standing Committee was discontinued. "February, 1828. Bro. Spencer CURD was restored to his former stand as deacon of this church."

Leonard PAGE was called to be pastor by a unanimous vote on Saturday before the second



Stained glass windows are original having been installed during 1898 construction. Window on right is memorial for Queen Fuqua CALDWELL, 1861-1898.

claimed had been in the habit of riding on the footway before her door. This was satisfactorily settled. At least one land dispute was settled by this church." A copy of her summary is available in the library and Archives, as well as Western KY Library and Museum.

From the history done by Mrs. Edwin RICE who evidently also had access to the early records of the church, we find that the first church trial was in Sept



Lord's Day in February of 1819. He served as pastor of both Union and Russellville congregations but dissention within the church led to Leonard PAGE being excluded from the Russellville church in August of 1821 but he continued in Union Baptist until 1831. From Union Baptist Church records (Church Minutes, Vol. 3, 1871 by T. N. LYNE, Church clerk) "An old Baptist brother who lived through all these troubles told me that his opinion was that the prime cause of Elder PAGE's defection was ambition. He had been one of the pioneers and as such he was a useful man, but other brethren came along who were about to over-shadow him. He had charge of Union and Russellville, and Elder William WARDER visited Russellville and was very favorably received by the brethren, and they called him to preach once a month, but continuing Page as pastor. This gave great offense to PAGE and he became very turbulent about it in the streets of Russellville. 'He knew what was binding.' From this time on he preached CAMPBELL every Lord's day, and would have perhaps for WARDER and an old brother by the name of Grief PERKINS, taken off most of the Church. Elder PAGE was on the motion of Bro. PERKINS excluded from the Church on the first day of August 1821. Little is said in the minutes about it, but I have it from eye witnesses, that Elder PAGE behaved very badly on the occasion. He left

the Church and called upon all who wished to come out of Babylon to follow him. WARDER succeeded him both at Union and Rus-



Sunday School teachers with 45 or more years service were honored in 1985.

sellville."

FINLEY reported on the beginning of the Baptist in Russellville and stated Leonard PAGE "was a plain, good preacher, but uneducated and not brilliant. The church began to flourish under his ministry, but he could not and did not succeed much in Russellville." (p. 69, Finley's Book 3) FINLEY reported that the Russellville church did not grow much until Edward STEVENSON (a Methodist minister) came to the pulpit. On pages 80-81, FINLEY explained that Leonard PAGE came to Logan "thoroughly indoctrinated in the tenets of the Iron side Baptist (extreme fate and immersion.)" Mr. PAGE's "ideas of Calvinism were somewhat shaken by his conflicts with the Cumberlands, who sprang from the wreck of the Presbyterians. --- he became bewildered with the subtle arguments of

learned men and giant minds." Alexander CAMPBELL, from Ireland by way of Virginia, was a Presbyterian minister and was

"dissatisfied with the Presbyterian mode of baptism and joined the Baptist. He soon however, blended with immersion the inkling idea of the Presbyterians Baptism for the remission of sins and finally organized a body of persons styling themselves Disciples of Christ. After some conflict about the name, the follower of STONE (Barton) and CAMPBELL united under the name of the Church

of Christ, called usually in history Disciples, but commonly known as Campbellites, to distinguish them from other denominations of Christians."

Since Leonard PAGE was often at the meetings of the Methodists, his views on Calvinism gradually modified as Arminianism was taking the place of Calvinism for a great many. When in 1824 the Red River Assn. (Hard Shell) was divided and Bethel Assn. was formed, the Missionary Baptists and Old Iron Sides were discussed warmly, and PAGE was "bewildered by questions separating the Presbyterians and Cumberlands, and STONE's opinions together with the divisions of his own church, and having read continually the pamphlet of Mr. CAMPBELL in which that learned debater discussed the question of Immersion for the remission of



sins, and Arminianism and open Communion, so Mr. PAGE became an early convert to Mr. CAMP-BELL's church and was by his incorruptible integrity and being well posted by reading Mr. CAMP-BELL's paper, a power for division, and the Baptist Church by his influence suffered almost annihilation in some cases and every congregation lost largely."

COFFMAN echoes much of the information in FINLEY's book but doesn't explain PAGE's evolving beliefs as completely. From his report, we know more about where the church buildings were located. The first Union Baptist was a log meeting house on the Russellville-Clarksville road near Dry Fork Creek. In 1830 a new Union Church building was built near the Whippoorwill Bridge. In 1859 the brick church now used on the Hopkinsville Road was constructed, after which time the name New Union has been used.

On 31 January 1821, Russellville church reported 102 white and 69 black members. In 1830 steps were constructed on the outside of the church which led up to the balcony used by Negroes. Records do not specify if they are new steps or if they are replacing interior steps previously used by Negroes.

VICK, page 10, "It was at the February meeting 1828 that Spencer CURD made a resolution (that is proposed it) that the church petition Bethel Association to become a member of that body;

which resolution was to be voted upon at the next regular meeting; at the April meeting the preachers in Bethel Association were invited to hold the next yearly meeting in 'this church.' (Union Meeting House on Blakey St.) In October, the church was notified they had been accepted by Bethel Association.

Chronological listing of pastors and activities of the church

The pastor after PAGE was dismissed in 1821 was Elder William WARDER who was allotted \$282.00 for his yearly salary. A resolution was considered in 1824 that any white male member absents himself two meetings in succession shall make his excuse to the church at the next meeting; it was also resolved that the Church of God should keep a strict watch over its members.

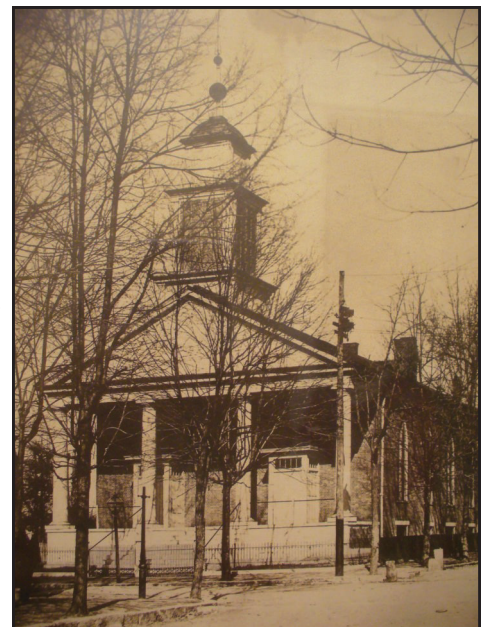
Sunday School was organized about 1825. Debt on the Union Meeting House (discussed earlier) was paid off.

10 May 1829 meeting was held "at the water's edge" to baptize members received "at home of Bro. Spencer CURD where the doors of the church were opened."

In February of 1832, Giles, the property of Bro. CURD, contracted to furnish wood and candles for the church at no expense, to clean the church and ring the bell when needed all for a total of \$30.00 per year. In this year, also,

a great revival was held with several people being baptized on 25 December 1832. Names very influential in the future church included William MORTON, William CURD, John NORTON, George W. NORTON, John CURD, Nimrod LONG, James ALDERSON, Samuel POINDEXTER, and William GRUBBS.

In 1836, Elder William WARDER passed away. He had been thrown from a gig in 1830, his ankle crushed so that he had to



Russellville Baptist Church, constructed 1844 on site of present church, 6th and Main, ca 1895, photo provided by church archives

preach from a chair his last six years on earth. (VICK notes) Pastors 1836-1841 were Elders John S. WILSON, Thomas CHILTON, Phillip WARDER, R. T. ANDERSON.



Elder S. M. WEBB accepted the pastorate at \$150.00 per annum as well as boarding him and his horse.

In 1841, the first full-time pastor, Elder Samuel Baker was called and paid \$600.00 yearly plus the use of a parsonage. The church began supporting all missions, both at home and abroad. During his pastorate, the first church build-

ing on the present site was dedicated on 20 July 1844. This was torn down to build the present church in 1898.

Minutes from 1841 through 1870 are missing. Randolph CALDWELL was directed to prepare parts of old church records as need be recorded.

Pastors in 1847-1848 – Elders E. D. BURNS and W. I. MORTON as interim. A brick house on Main Street was purchased 7 Dec 1847

of George W. NORTON, now to be known as the parsonage.

Pastor in 1849 – Elder William SUM

Pastor in 1850 – Elder J. W. PENDLETON

Pastor in 1853 was Elder Leonard FLETCHER under whose leadership monthly Missionary meetings were held with two

members giving addresses at each meeting. The parsonage and grounds were sold and money invested in stock of Southern Bank of KY.

Pastor in 1857 and during the Civil War was Elder W. W. GARDENER. He was greatly beloved and a true shepherd of the flock during the terrible Civil War. In 1865, Russellville Baptist Church hosted the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1868, black mem-

bers who had been meeting separately since 1841 were given letters to form the African Baptist Church. GARDENER resigned in

1870 to take charge of the Theological Department of Bethel College but kept close touch with the church.

In October of 1868, Nimrod LONG funded the beautiful



Interior of 1844 Russellville Baptist Church. Note the elaborate woodwork on pews. Photo from Logan County Library Archives.



INTERIOR OF FIRST BUILDING 1844-1898

Evidently after LONG's improvements, including new pews along with pulpit improvements.

Photo from church archives.

and costly pulpit, baptistery and other improvements in the interior of the church.

Pastor in 1870 was Dr. A. W. CHAMBLISS who along with W. W. GARDNER and N. K. DAVIS, and Rand H. CALDWELL, church clerk, wrote a history of the church, 1200 copies of which were printed by the Western Recorder Publishing Co. (Anyone have a copy of this bulletin that we could copy?) Noah K. DAVIS was superintendent of the Sunday School with 165 enrolled.

Pastor in 1873 – Elder Sam-



uel BAKER began his second pastorate. Pay was \$1400.00 plus \$200 in house rent. He resigned "with the church established in sound doctrine, increased in numbers and taught in the knowledge



Present church building constructed in 1898. Bell tower was topped with a cross. Photo from church archives.

of the Holy Scriptures." (Mrs. W. A. DUNCAN history)

In 1877, the Lydian Circle is mentioned when its secretary, Miss Lucy HARRISON presents an organ to the church. Nimrod LONG then applied for the church to give the old organ to the Chapel at Bethel College and the melodeon to the Hall of Reuben ROSS Society.

On 23 Dec 1880, Thomas GRUBBS, last of the charter members, passed away at the age of 94.

Pastor in 1885 – Dr. S. M.

PROVINCE

Pastor in 1888 was Elder Jonathan G. BOW when the heirs of Nimrod LONG donated the land at Seventh and Nashville next to Bethel College for a parsonage. A committee was formed to devise a way to heat the water in the baptistery.

Pastors in 1889-1890 – Elders W. A. VAUGHN, George KINNARD, T. S. McCALL and G. W. MANLY, some serving as interims.

Pastor in 1892 – Elder W. J. WILLIAMS

Pastor in 1896 was Dr. E. S. ALDERMAN. 17 April 1898 saw the contract let for a new building, the present structure.

Pastor in 1900 – Elder John S. CHEEK

Pastor in 1906 – Dr. W. C. James

Pastor in 1908 – Elder Charles ANDERSON

Pastor in 1912 – Dr. W. Mosby SEAY. Comment in the DUNCAN history was that the missionary movement was led by the men.

Pastor in 1917 – Dr. Frank S. HARDY. Miss Mary Nell LYNE was sent out from this church as the first missionary. She served in China beginning in 1918.

In 1919, Dr. W. W. LANDRUM began his pastorate which lasted 6 ½ years until his failing health caused him to resign.

In 1919, the church installed a new sound system for \$21,000.00. A new computerized Allen organ was installed at a cost of \$19,775.00. LANDRUM had been a pastor for over 50 years, coming to Russellville from Broadway Baptist in Louisville, KY. He served in numerous positions of denomination leadership and while in Russellville, he was a member of the Bethel College faculty. He was the founder and first president of the Russellville Rotary Club.

Dr. C. B. JACKSON became pastor on 26 June 1926 and served nine years. In 1926, the church had a Sunday School enrollment of 492. The first educational building was constructed at a cost of \$17,960.00 in 1927.



Lois Jean Sansom, vacation Bible school leader, worked with students.

In 1933, Bethel College closed, having merged with Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY.

Pastor in 1935 – Dr. J. P. SCRUGGS

In 1941, the church was



modernized with air-conditioning and improvements in the parsonage. The \$2,000 loan was financed by Morris BERKMAN, a Jewish merchant, 5 % interest to be paid \$500.00 per year with no mortgage. Pastor was Dr. Elwin SKILES.



Bell tower removed in 1951. Educational building on left erected in 1959. White building in background was home of Mrs. J. T. LINTON, later the funeral home, now vacant.

In 1944, the pastor was Dr. William Peyton THURMAN. A lot was purchased on First and Spring Streets with the view to building a mission church. This was later sold but a church named First and Spring Street Missionary Baptist Church was formed in 1946. This became Second Baptist Church.

Pastor in 1948 was Dr. Howard OLIVE who later served along with his wife as missionaries to Baguio, Philippine Islands. Complete remodeling and enlargement of the church facilities was begun under his tenure.

Pastors in 1949-1952 – Dr.

V. I. STANFIELD and Dr. C. GORNER (interims)

1949-50 saw complete remodeling of the sanctuary during which time the services were held at Russellville High School. Rev.

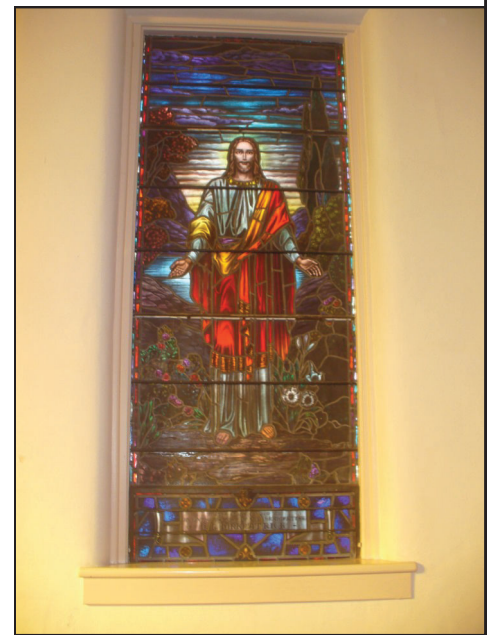
Rudy BOULAND was pastor as this was finished in 1952. This remodeling is similar to the general appearance of the sanctuary and offices seen today. Expenditures included new pews, pulpit furniture and choir seating. At this time the bell tower was removed

for it was too heavy for the foundation and was causing leaks and water damage to the 6th Street side of the building. Dissension, as usual, caused major discussion within the church with the “remove tower” group winning over the “repair and save the tower group.” The renovation did cure the problems of water damage.

The renovations within the sanctuary involved moving the pulpit and choir loft to the center of the church. New benches were arranged so there were two aisles in sanctuary from entrances. The KIRKPATRICK family donated a

the new stained glass window in memory of the H. L. KIRKPATRICK at this time but all other stained glass windows are original with the 1898 construction of the building. At this time the woodwork, walls and ceiling beams, was left with the walnut stain but in the 1963-64 renovations, woodwork was painted ivory.

In 1952, the old red brick, two-story parsonage at Seventh & Nashville Streets was sold for \$8,050.00 and part of the lot was reserved for the construction of a new parsonage. The newly constructed parsonage was erected at a cost of \$22,500.00. Pastor for



**H. L. KIRKPATRICK
memorial window**

part of this time was Dr. E. D. GALLOWAY, previously pastor of a Baptist Church in Canton, China.

First Baptist Church be-



came the official name in 1953 and the church on First Street was officially called Second Baptist Church. Hotel Main was purchased for \$18,000 and remodeled as a temporary Education building, named the KIRKPATRICK Memorial Building in memory of H. L. KIRKPATRICK, a faithful deacon of the church for many years.

In 1955, land was bought from Walter NOE for the mission church on Seventh Street, a group that had already formed in 1946. This was later named the Eastside Mission. Property on Main Street owned by Mary SMITH was also bought and used eventually as a parking lot.

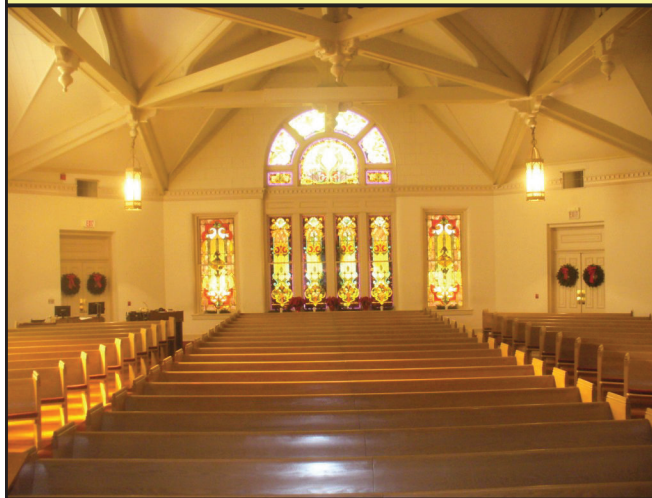
A home for the minister of music was purchased in Reservoir Heights for a cost of \$12,500.00. Joe LILES was called in March 1957 as full time music director but resigned after a few months service.

Dr. John WOOD became pastor in 1957 and served until 1964 when Dr. William Peyton THURMAN served as interim for a space of time. Wood's leadership led to great growth of the church in influence throughout the community. Under his pastorate, many things that had only been dreams came to fruition.

In 1958, Robert D. HARDY entered the mission field in Japan

and the church voted to support his efforts. The church voted to air condition the sanctuary at a cost of \$8,219.00, Rayburn SMITH

View from and toward pulpit after the 1985 renovations, pictured in 2012.



chairman of the air-conditioning fund. Rev. Russell BENNETT became associate in charge of music and youth. The church also supported mission work of Dr. Raymond KOLB in Brazil.

In 1959, the new Educational building was proposed and accepted, dedication coming in

1960. The \$40,000.00 cost was raised in 3 weeks by members. Walter V. LEEDOM was superintendent of the fully graded Sunday School and enrollment numbers were above 600. Church membership was 1,125. Rev. Chester JACKSON became Educational Director.

In 1961, the pastors salary was set at \$7,200.00.

In March of 1963, the Dr. E. J. MATEJKA building was purchased for \$10,000, trustees authorized to make financial arrangements. In April the deacons recommended the house adjacent to church on Sixth Street, owned by Mrs. J. T. LINTON, be purchased for \$25,000. Dissension within the group lead Robert PIPER, chairman, to recommend that the desire of the majority be forfeited to maintain a spirit of unity. Motion was made, seconded, and carried but the dissention over this decision remained.

Another renovation of the sanctuary began in

1963 during which the walnut woodwork was painted ivory and a trendy olive green carpet laid. The choir loft was enlarged, new paneling and ceiling around the pulpit and choir added, vestibules were redecorated, improvements in lighting and acoustics were improved, all amounting to



\$35,000.00. With individual donations, new pews, pulpit furniture, and offering plates were paid for

ister of Education and Youth and Tom TUCKER became Music Director. In 1972, Bob WHITE became Minister of Music.

In 1973, the property of Mrs. Linnie MINNIX was purchased from heirs for \$22,500. This along with the MATEJKA property was torn down and a garden area planted along Main Street.

Dr. Russell BENNETT served as pastor in 1975 until Rev. Henry HOBSON was

tist Mission in 1982.

In 1981, the STRANGE property on Main Street was purchased for \$32,500.00. Also 1981 was the date when Jim FIELDS was called to serve as Minister of Education and Youth.

Resignation of Jack C. DUVALL and Jim L. FIELDS were accepted in 1984 and Paul SANSOM was elected full time Youth and Music Director. Also in 1984, Mary Elizabeth STRANGE was elected the first woman deaconess in the Bethel-Logan Association.

Interim pastor in 1982 was Dr. Hubert GABHART followed by



Sixth Street vestibule features a nativity scene in December, 2012.

and brought the renovations to \$45,239, including the new Allen Organ presented by Mrs. Roy GORRELL in memory of her husband, long a trustee of the church.

Herman MAY became Director of Music and Youth in 1963.

In 1964, Rev. C. Glenn SULLIVAN was elected pastor and served until 1974 when Rev. Jack GRISHAM became leader of this church. During SULLIVAN's pastorate, great strides were made in reducing the overall debt of the church as well as responding to the new demands for expansion as seen in several properties bought or traded within his tenure.

(CAMBPELL history). Salary in 1974 was set at \$16,000.00.

In 1967, the first budget of \$100,000.00 was adopted. In 1969, Jimmy DIDLAKE was elected Min-

called in 1976. His tenure saw repairs in church property, insulation for the sanctuary, covering the stained glass windows with plastic, resurfacing the parking lot, and purchase of a car for use of the pastor.

In 1978, Parker LEAKE was Director of Youth and Christian Activities.

A new grand piano for the sanctuary was purchased for \$8,455.00 with trade in 1979.

In 1980, Rev. Jack DUVALL became full time Music Director and Billy GENET was called to serve as full time pastor at the Seventh Street Mission. This mission church changed its named to Eastside Bap-



Dr. Larry HOLLAND in 1983.

In 1984, the neglected old Baptist Church cemetery located



on west 68-80 west of the railroad bridge was cleaned and a monument erected to honor those buried there. In the church records, there is a plat showing the location of the separate graves that were marked with stones found in 1984.

In 1985, the church raised \$81,515.96 for restoration and renovation of the church and Educational building. The estate of Mrs. J. M. BULLARD provided funds for new choir chairs placed in the loft in her memory.

In 1989, Dr. THURMAN was again interim pastor. A new computerized Allen organ was purchased at a cost of \$22,275.00, funded by a fund set up specifically for a new organ. The church also put church records on computer, installed a new sound system, bought new robes for the choir as well as a new van and bus.

In 1990, resident members totaled 800 with non-resident members numbering 292. Bobby FORSHEE became pastor at East-

side Mission.

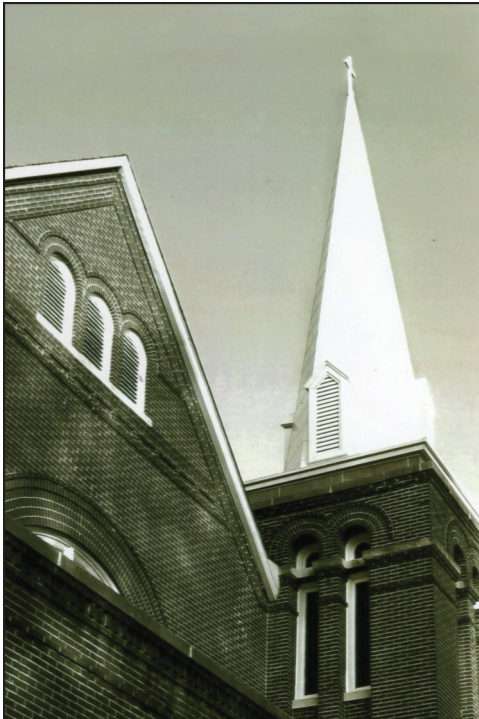
In 1991, Elizabeth Price, daughter of Vernon and Jenny PRICE, was ordained to the ministry.

Karen FRUITS served as interim Director of the Adult Choir until Chris THOMAS was called to serve as Minister of Music and Youth in 1992. Notes show Hazel CARVER also served as organist, pianist or music director as needed but specific dates were not given.

In 1993, Rev. Rob JOHNSON and wife Julie were commissioned to serve as missionaries in Taiwan.

Also in 1993, the church celebrated its 175th anniversary. Including Eastside Mission, the church had a membership of 1173 and a Sunday School enrollment of 637. Eastside then became a separate church

and First Baptist gave them the church building there. They had added Sunday School rooms already. Dr. Donald L. ZUBERER was pastor at this time. Early morning services were begun in 1993, providing 8:15 and 11:00 services with Sunday School held be-



New steeple was erected in 2007 thanks to generosity of the Eugene GOOCH family.



Dr. Don Zuberer promised the Minister of Education to preach from the rooftop if Sunday School attendance topped 400. This he had to do in early April, 1991.

tween the services.

Dr. Randy NEAL followed ZUBERER as pastor then in 2005, Bruce RENDLEMAN became the pastor and served one year.

In 2008, Gary MARTIN became the Music Director. Under his leadership, the church has enjoyed several drama specials, especially at Christmas and Easter. They have also become involved in the highly successful Gospel Hymn Fest. The 190th year as a church was celebrated in 2008 and the



group now looks toward celebrating their 200th year in 2018.

In 2012, Buddy CRABTREE has been pastor of the thriving and inspiring church at Fifth and Main for the past 5 years.

Quoting Sarah Frances CAMPBELL in her history of the church: One Hundred and fifty years ago ten members and three elders lighted a candle on the altar of their faith. "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith growth exceedingly. (II Thes. 1:3) Today the First Baptist Church stands as a monument to their faith and those committed Christians who have continued to carry the torch. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12 : 1-2)

Resources used in this article

Information is taken from the following resources, copies of which are in the Archives.

"Church History and Directory of the Russellville United Baptist Church, Russellville, KY, 1933," Charles B. JACKSON, TH.D., Pas-

tor, 410 Nashville Street, Telephone 170. "Gleanings from the Records of the Russellville United Baptist Church, 1818-1933," by Mrs. A. Edwin RICE.

"A Church Faces Forward," August 6, 1961, Brief Historical Sketch by Mrs. W. A. DUNCAN

"1818-1968; 150 Years in the Faith, First Baptist Church, Russellville, Kentucky, Sesquicentennial Program"

"1818-1993, 175th Anniversary of First Baptist Church, Russellville, KY; History of First Baptist Church, Russellville, Kentucky" tabloid by Sarah Frances CAMPBELL, August, 1993. Also program from 175th anniversary,

"Celebrating God's Family in Unity and Commitment" Union Church records, Logan County, KY

THE HISTORY OF RUSSELLVILLE AND LOGAN CO., KY by Alex C. FINLEY, 1878

THE STORY OF LOGAN COUNTY, Edward COFFMAN, 1962, Edward COFFMAN Jr., 106 West Seventh St., Russellville, KY 42276

Conversation with Sarah Frances CAMPBELL, Marilyn GRIF-FIN, church members, and Linda SMART, secretary.

Just for fun — A listing of the ads in the 1933 history of the church

Ads in the 1933 booklet include BERKMAN Brothers dry goods; BROWN, RICHARDSON & Co., construction items; Bertha WADE, Kodak finishing, enlarging; KY-TN Light and Power Co.; H. B. EDWARDS; Miss Beulah NEIL, millinery; Guy K. CLARK, dentist; W. Haydon BOREN, agent Economy Oil Co.; Mrs. Melvin PRICE, Metcalf Flowers; Chas. L. VICK, groceries and fresh meat; REID Coal Co.; WHITNEY Transfer Co.; R. L. BRISTER & Co.; Mrs. Anne SMYTHE, beauty shop; A. P. PERRY, electrician and plumber; THOMPSON Auto Service; H. G. HILL Co., F. B. COVINGTON; Fairway Stores; Mrs. H. H. RICE, millinery and novelties; TONG's, market; HOPSON Hardware Co.; James CAMPBELL, hauling; Model Hotel operated by Mrs. Irene J. DAVIDSON, Marjorie Beauty Salon; Eagle Drug Store, E. L. KATTERJOHN & Son, prop.; Ineeda Dry Cleaners; LYNE's GROCERY; South Side Grocery, A. A. PAR-RISH, prop.; SHAW's Dairy; The New York Store, B. KLEIN, prop.; Mrs. W. C. STRATTON, florist; W. V. LEEDOM & Son, ready-to-wear; FRENCH Dry Cleaners; W. E. WILSON, building supplies; GORRELL Company, men's wear; Model Laundry; Ben Franklin Store, INMAN & INMAN, props.; E. M. MASON, grocer; Russellville Sanitary Dairy, Pat RYAN, Mgr.; Kirkpatrick Coal Co., Coca-Cola; Pure Ice & Coal Co., Inc.; LYNE Service station with gasolyne (sic) and alemite-ing, tires, tubes, batteries, oil.