

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church - Louisville, KY

A description of the congregation and its ministry

Grace to you and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ!

The 100+ year history of this congregation began one Sunday afternoon in September of 1906, as a dusty group of children drifted into a small building that had been donated and relocated along the trolley line at the outskirts of Louisville. A line in our church history reads, *"It was hot but the spirit of welcome exhibited by the Christian Endeavor group was high and it seemed to catch on. Next Sunday they were back."* Building a community on the edge of Bardstown Road -with a sense of God's presence, a passion for nurturing children's faith, a spirit of welcome, and the flexibility to adapt and grow- these are the seeds of inspiration planted by our forbearers in faith. Building on our past for the future, we have recently begun a significant (and transforming) on-going relationship with children from refugee and immigrant families.

The current congregation has an average worship attendance of 60-65. Membership is 120. Stewardship pledges are approximately \$125,000. In 2013, we contributed over \$13,000 to Unified Mission of the PC(USA) - our per capita mission giving is the highest in the Presbytery. There are a lot of mature adults in the congregation as well as a number of children and teenagers -there is a grandparent/grandchild dynamic that is a healthy part of the mix.

The mission statement of the congregation is:

**"We are a church of ordinary people
caring for one another as we
respond to God's call for a just and
sustainable world"**

I can tell you honestly that there is a spirit of service and faithfulness within the mix of people God is gathering into this community.

I want to introduce anyone I care about to everyone in this congregation: *"Come and meet these people who are salt-of-the-earth and light-of-the-world type of folks!"*

It might also be helpful to highlight four priorities that people have shared in describing both our roots and our areas for growth:

1. We have made an intentional commitment to be an open, inclusive, and affirming community of faith. We want to be as welcoming of all people as possible, and we will listen, learn, and grow into all that means as we treat everyone with respect and share the love we have experienced in God.
2. We test and apply the question, *"How does what I believe effect how I live?"* We explore how faith and action are interwoven by each person into the fullness of life which God is helping us to discover.
3. We are an intergenerational congregation. We seek to continue the BRPC tradition of ministry with children and their families. To explore and nurture life across the generational boundaries of children, youth, young adults, and older adults. Not every congregation seeks that mix of generational diversity. But, this church treasures it, and will invest in it, as a way in which the Holy Spirit builds on our past and leads us into the future.
4. We use the church building for folks in the neighborhood. From welcoming various mid-week support groups, to promoting the Saturday Market, and much more. There's a sense of wanting our facility to be a real community resource in the Highland area.

In short, this is a healthy congregation with significant opportunities for ministry. God's spirit of welcome is guiding us into the future.
To God be the glory.