

BELLEVUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
7501 Old Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37221

Timeline of the Church's History

1803 - 1813

1803 - At the Second Annual Tennessee Conference, Bishop Francis Asbury appoints Levin Edney to the new Nashville circuit. Near Pasquo, TN his congregation of five families worships outdoors and in their homes.

1809 - Rev. Edney's brother, Newton, deeds to Levin Edney, Aquila Sugg, and William Roach land on which to build a house of worship (the current site of Pasquo Church of Christ). **Edney's Meeting House** serves as a house of worship and Pasquo's one room school.

1813 – A pupil staying in detention after school discovers a bee hive in the school. Deciding to burn out the bees, Edney's Meeting House burns to the ground.

1813 – 1910

1813 - In the village of Tank, TN, the new **Edney's Chapel** is built to replace the church and school building. The congregation continues to worship in this location for 97 years.

1855 - The N & C (Nashville & Chattanooga) Railroad cuts its line 4 miles east of Pasquo. As a result, Bellevue becomes the geographical center of the area.

1910 – 1950

Mr. & Mrs. John F. Thompson deed to the congregation land on the north side of the Big Harpeth River. On September 20, 1910 the **Bellevue Methodist Episcopal Church South** on 7544 Old Harding Road is dedicated. The Sunday School is organized. In 1929, the church parsonage on 320 Bellevue Road is completed. In 1933 the church has grown to 139 members. In 1939, with the union of three branches of the wider church, the church is renamed the **Bellevue Methodist Church**. In 1950, a kitchen and fellowship hall are built with the latter doubling as Sunday School classrooms.

1965 - 1969

1965 - The congregation raises the funds to purchase five acres of land at nearby 7501 Old Harding Road, the site of the present church building.

1967 - A building committee is formed and with funds from the Tennessee Conference and with the congregation's pledges plans are drawn for a building in the new location.

1968 - The greater Methodist Church unites with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to form the United Methodist Church.

1969 - The name "Bellevue" is changed to "Bellevue" to agree with other institutions in the area. On August 31, the **Bellevue United Methodist Church** holds its last service at 7544 Old Harding Road. One week later, the congregation has its first service at the new and present location at 7501 Old Harding Road. "Phase One" of the church building is completed with a new sanctuary, an office and educational wing. A new parsonage is built at 7515 Old Harding Road.

1972 - 1993

1976 - "Phase Two" is completed with a new sanctuary. The original sanctuary becomes a multipurpose fellowship hall and the church office a kitchen. With foresight, plans include that the new sanctuary will eventually become the church's fellowship hall. Two offices for the pastor and church secretary open onto a new foyer leading to the sanctuary. On November 21, a Consecration Service is held for the new additions.

1983 - The congregation celebrates its 175th anniversary.

1987 - Mission focus includes beginning ties with Red Bird Mission (United Methodist Women) and Room in the Inn (United Methodist Men). The congregation begins to fill a hallway food basket for distribution in the area. Money is collected to aid in the "food bank".

1988 Groundbreaking for "Phase Three" is held on May 29. New education rooms for children, a nursery, bathrooms and choir room are started and a steeple is placed on top of the new foyer.

1991 The congregation joins with Second Harvest and operates under that agency.

1993 The Bellevue Community Food Bank is organized with food distribution from the church.

1997 - 2002

1997 On May 18 the groundbreaking for “Phase Four” is held. With the new construction, the 1976 sanctuary is converted into a “large fellowship hall” with a commercial kitchen. The education wing is restructured to include a utility room and bathroom to enhance the ministry to the homeless. Also included are living quarters for the custodian, a reconfigured small fellowship hall, larger church library, additional classrooms, a chapel, space for the Bellevue Community Food Bank, a welcome center, church offices, choir suite, and a new sanctuary.

1998 On May 17 the Consecration service is held in the beautiful new sanctuary. In October the congregation first views in the sanctuary the stained glass window with the descending white dove.

2000 A Columbarium or memorial garden is constructed in the courtyard adjacent to the steeple. In one wall 108 niches are created for cremations. On May 22 in the sanctuary, a dedication recital on the newly installed Schantz organ is played by guest organist Steven J. Morris.

2002 The “large fellowship hall” is named the Greer Christian Life Center in memory of Aubrey and Mary Frances (“Fran”) Greer.

2008 – 2012

2008 In May, the “ribbon cutting” of a church archive and newly configured library takes place. The area is created in anticipation of the church’s Bicentennial celebration.

2009 Bellevue United Methodist Church observes its Bicentennial in a year long celebration with a visit by Bishop Richard Wills, Jr., a focus on the arts with an historical quilt, concerts, and publications telling of its 200 year history and years of faithful ministry to God’s honor and glory.

2010 On May 2 – 3, Nashville is deluged with rain. Many homes and businesses are severely damaged or destroyed. At least forty families in the congregation are affected. BUMC is designated a UMCOR center for aid to the church and surrounding neighborhood. Flood assistance continues for much of the year.

2011 Flood recovery assistance continues throughout the year with seven UMW Volunteer in Mission teams lodging at the church. In its 24th year, the church maintains its mission work with Room at the Inn and the Red Bird Mission. The congregation is also in mission at 61st Avenue UMC, Community Care Fellowship UMC, and the Nashville Bethlehem Centers. The youth group attends the national UMC Youth 2011 at Perdue University.

2012 Rev. David Rainey retires and Rev. Lora Jean Gowan is appointed, the Church’s 124th pastor.

December, 2012