

Bellevue United Methodist Church
7501 Old Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37221

The Archives

History and background

The church began in 1803 when Bishop Francis Asbury appointed Levin Edney to the Nashville Circuit near Pasquo, Tennessee. Levin Edney's brother, Newton, deeded land to the tiny congregation to build "Edney's Meeting House", (currently the site of Pasquo Church of Christ). In 1813, the building burned but was replaced the same year at a nearby location as Edney's Chapel where the congregation remained for 97 years. The congregation relocated to 7544 Old Harding Road in 1910 as the Bellevue Methodist Episcopal Church South and again in 1969 to 7501 Old Harding Road where it remains today as the Bellevue United Methodist Church. Since Levin Edney, the church has been led by 124 pastors, including the Rev. Lora Jean Gowan, the current pastor.

The Archive and History Committee

Appointed by Bellevue UMC in 2005 to find and save precious church documents scattered in homes, the Church office and attic. The Committee established its goals:

- To be an advocate for the archives and history of the church.
- To locate and identify the records in various formats (see below).
- To protect and preserve the records.
- To make the records easily accessible for reference and research.
- To enable the practice of records management for the future.

Many volunteers assisted in the project over several years and in 2008 the Bellevue United Methodist Church officially opened its archives in anticipation of its 2009 Bicentennial celebration.

In 2011, the Society of Tennessee Archivists honored our Archives with the John H. Thweatt Archival Advancement Awards with commendation for the model it presents for all church settings.

The Committee follows the records management guidelines of the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church. (See: [Guidelines for Managing Records](#))

Finding Aids

The records include meeting minutes, membership records, directories, newsletters, church bulletins, photographs, audio and video tapes, DVDs, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and architectural plans. Available in the Archives are printed and computerized Finding Aids.

Margaret Cornell, chair
Archive & History Committee
Church: www.bumc.com
Personal email: mfmcornell@live.com