

BELLEVUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
7501 Old Harding Pike  
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. In 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 old 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 land to the congregation 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 - 1967 The congregation raises funds to purchase five acres of land at nearby 7501 Old Harding Road, the site of the present church building. 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 175<sup>th</sup> 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 added and a steeple is placed on top of the new foyer.

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 two hundred 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 24<sup>th</sup> year, the church maintains its mission work with Room at the Inn and the Red Bird Mission. The congregation is also in mission at 61<sup>st</sup> 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 124<sup>th</sup> pastor.

## **2013 – 2018**

2013 – 2016 The church reaches out to our neighbors and wider ministries in Nashville. New neighborhood events include hosting the Bellevue Farmers’ Market in the church parking lot, Trunk or Treat during Halloween and a Blessing of the Animals. Wider Nashville projects include support of Project Transformation and monthly meals for the Community Care Fellowship ministry. At Christmas, the church supports the Last Minute Toy store and the Angel Tree ministry. Meaningful events included the minister’s weekly Bible study, the blessing of the children/youth at the beginning of the school year, UMW pecan sales to support the Red Bird Mission, Room in the Inn participation and the Buzz Hussey Chili Cook-off to support youth trips. A fall picnic on Will Walden’s farm is held—a tradition started years ago by his parents. Finally, the church becomes a Covenant Partner with Eric Soard, UMC missionary to Tanzania. In 2016, a pastoral change brings Rev. Brian Marcoulier to the church as its 125<sup>th</sup> minister.

2016 – 2018 For the most part the above activities continue with Rev. Marcoulier renewing the call to be in ministry to our neighbors and the city. Greater emphasis is made to use of the church building every day of the week. Due to recent gun violence tragedies, a building security team is put in place with heightened awareness of life’s unpredictability. Special focus is made on Eric Soard’s missionary work, Open Table Nashville, the End Slavery campaign, and support of the Horses for Healing program for veterans. The Growing Beyond Campaign enables the church to pay off the church mortgage.