

BELLS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Bells Chapel Baptist Church building was erected in 1942 but the church really grew out of meetings first held in a home.

In 1941 Clifford Bell asked permission of Deacon Arthur Rose to have services in the Rose home with the Reverend Roy Arwood doing the preaching. The Rose family offered their home as a meeting place.

The church was built on land given by Mrs. Wittenbarger and the new church was on her way with 28 charter members. Tom Helton was elected Sunday School Director and Bill Ballard Director of Music. The Reverend Arwood was pastor of the church for six years.

In 1974 members built a beautiful red brick building with a sanctuary and 12 Sunday School classrooms. The new building was dedicated during a special service in 1975 while Reverend Andy Miller was pastor.

A fellowship hall has been added and the church continues to grow. It is located in Seymour, Tennessee at 1112 Bell's Chapel Lane.

Pastors serving Bells Chapel have been the Reverends Roy Arwood, Estel A. Mason, Herman Faddis, Al Smith, Ray Carr, Arthur Pedigo, Andy Miller, Buford Wilson, Edward Adams, and Dallas Gibson.

Sunday School Directors were Kenneth Foust, Eddie Kitts, Bert Crowe, Lester Whaley, Gene Helton, Robert Fox, Bobby Hurst, Lee Morriss, Wayne Koontz, Glenn Case, Jean Berrier, Dean Breeden, Sam Maner, and Butch Hawkins.

Music Directors have been Tom Helton, Herman Atchley, Lester Whaley, J. C. Burgin, Bob Purkey, and Glenn Case.

Deacon Chairmen were Tip Bohanan, Lee Tipton, Edward Smelcer, Hugh Dinkens, Bill Case. Treasurers were Yonley Brackins, Jim Reagan, Hugh Dinkens, Verliiss Loveday, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stoffle, J. C. Burgin, Lewis Townsend, and Sue Gibson.

Jack McMurray, J. C. Kirby, Marie Crowe, Ralph Carver, and Avery Loveday have served as Training Union Directors and Mrs. Bill Rose and Mrs. Debbie Maner have served as church clerk.

The church ordained and licensed the following ministers: Edd Kitts, Raymond Hardin, Rush Emory, John Headricks, Charlie Wiston, Jean Berrier, Bill Dooley, Harold Stoffle, Winford Hurst, and J. D. Williams.

The listing of church leadership was taken from Sevier County Baptist Association records, consequently, any serving in leadership positions before the church lettered with the Association would not be on file.

Information came from Mrs. Bill Rose and from the Sevier County Baptist Association books of Minutes.