

The first Methodist congregation met in Belleville early in the 1870. Those present were R.P. Cheney, J.F. Wells, J.S. Price, W.F. Compton, H.B. Buck, Ezra Ball, and John Reynolds, who was a United Brethren minister. About two weeks later, Rev. R.F. West, a pioneer Methodist minister, met with the congregation. Rev. Freeman, Rev. G.E. Nicholson and J.J. Walters served the church up to 1872.

The first Quarterly Conference was held in 1871. A building committee was appointed. By 1874, a church building was completed at the cost of \$2,000.00. It was located in the block southeast of the Courthouse. Rev. George Winterbourne was the pastor at the time of the dedication. The church received its Charter on May 2, 1873. The first Sunday School was organized in 1875.

In 1892, the Pastor, Rev. D.A. Allen reported that the cornerstone had been laid for a new church building located at 2013 M Street. Bishop Warren dedicated the building.

Razing the old Methodist Church was began on July 13, 1953, and the Sunday School and church services met each Sunday for two years in the high school. The cornerstone of the present building was laid in 1954 and the new building was completed in April 1955. Some of the contents contained in the cornerstone laying from the Belleville Telescope of July, 1892, and a message to the congregation by D.A. Allen, a former pastor. James Gray served the Belleville charge through the years of building. The new church was completed at a cost of \$200,000.00. The great day of dedication and the burning of the mortgage took place in the sanctuary on April 26, 1959.

The first parsonage was built in the early 1870's at a reported cost of \$400.00. The second parsonage was built in 1904 located east of the present church building. In 1962 a lot was purchased 5 blocks south of the church at a cost of about \$2,250.00. Construction of the third parsonage began in March 1964 and completed in June at the cost of about \$40,000.00. Dedication was November 22, 1964. From June 1964 until January 1970, the second parsonage was used for Sunday School classrooms. It was razed in February 1970.

A remodeling project began in November 1976 to enlarge the foyer and add a church office. The west porch was enclosed and a wall between the Chapel and Library was removed for the office. The entrance to the east was made and two west entrance doors were added. Property adjoining to the north was used to increase parking area.

A new organ was installed and dedicated November 5, 1978. In 1987, a stair glide was purchased to make Fellowship Hall and basement classrooms handicapped accessible. The foyer restroom was remodeled in 2000. The 2000 renovation also included new carpet, roof repair, ceiling cleaning, refinishing beams, painting and electrical work and preserving the parking lot surface.

**In 1994 a multi phone system was added.

*In 1995 a capital improvement project was started in a four phases. Phase one, Restroom Enlargement, The present restroom in the foyer will be enlarged to make it handicap accessible. The storage closet in the Overflow room will be used for restroom space and additional storage will be constructed in the Overflow room for the Bells and custodial supplies.

* Phase Two, Overflow Room Ceiling, the ceiling will be repaired and repainted.

*Phase Three, Sanctuary, The pews will be removed and stored in the Overflow Room. Volunteers are needed, please talk with Richard Romberger. The ceiling will be covered with a ceiling tile material in 4' x 8' sheets. The beams will be re-varnished. The paneling at the front of the Sanctuary will be caulked and repainted, the same color.

Phase Four, Carpeting, All of the red carpet in the building will be replaced. The stair railing will be repainted.

**Our church family works together on many projects during the year to serve others and do God's work. A big project each summer is the fair stand, started in the 1950's, which provides good food, fellowship and Christian witness. Many church members dedicate their time and energy to support other activities as well. Some include: Festival of Sharing, Can Care-A-Van, Vacation Bible School, community and outreach missions, Relay for Life, Soup Supper, Carols and Candles, Meals on Wheels, and the Scholarship and Educational Loan Program. Our journey is as yet unfinished- into tomorrow we go together.

** In 2002 the Beginning of developing a TV ministry on our local Cable TV station. It's purpose is to reach home bound friends and members. This continued until 2018.

May 10th 2003, there was a fire in the custodial closet and Overflow. Also after the fire, Trustees integrated building changes for energy efficiency in the basement, handicap accessibility outside, and effective space usage and esthetically gratifying appearance in the overflow room in the back of the Sanctuary. The Overflow was cleaned and repaired for a June 4th wedding. November 20 2003, there was a new bell case christening event. The house North of the church was torn down to make a bigger parking lot.

In June of 2005 the parsonage required a new roof due to a hail storm.

October of 2006 the construction began on the elevator located in the north-west wall of the foyer. This was a major project and required reconstruction to get to the fellowship hall. The project was completed by November 14th, 2006. It was financed through a loan and pledges. The elevator was installed to make the Fellowship Hall more accessible to people for events. It also made it more useful for group meetings inside and outside of the church community.

In 2008 a technology team was created. The technology team was in charge of audio and visual elements of worship.

**1997 Photo Directory

The 2009 Incubator team was introduced in classes began.

2010 Republic County Food Bank was moved into two empty rooms off of the now Youth Room. This increased our church's involvement in ways to reach out to the community.

2011 Incubator team went into effect.

2012 plans for the new food stand were finalized for work to begin. Which was the last year that the old food stand was used during the NCK fair then was torn down. We added a bus to our church in order to have more ability for people who need a way to church. It was used for Sunday School and worship. It was a 15 passenger bus

2013 the new food stand was constructed and used for the NCK fair. A new electronic kiosk was installed in the same place as the old kiosk.

January of 2014 we changed from the Kansas West Conference to the Great Plains Conference which included Kansas East, Kansas West, and Nebraska. The church office was remodeled and divided into two rooms one being the Admin's office and the other being the Pastor's office. The door leading to the Parlor was used to enclose a work room where the office is using part of the Parlor. The AV window was remodeled for better sound communication.

2016 a new roof was installed due to hail. A monitor and speaker were installed in the nursery so that volunteers could watch the service. In February the lighting project was started and finished with the installation of new LED dimmable lights and fans. The lights resemble the style of our old lights.

2018 the alley window wells were uncapped and filled. The walls in the fellowship hall were sealed and bricked up. This removed the closet storage that had been previously renovated. This was done due to constant leaking.

2019 the parsonage underwent major updating, flooring was replaced in the living and dining room, kitchen, halls, family room, and three bedrooms. The three bedrooms and living room received carpet, all other flooring was hard flooring. All rooms except the bathrooms were repainted. A new dishwasher was installed. With the arrival of Rev. Song Hak Lee also came with the dual church ministry with Agenda. Their services were at 9 o'clock and ours remained at 10:45. Agenda also helps with care of our parsonage.

2020 we saw major changes in our church, due to Covid-19 we were not allowed to have in person worship. Services were streamed online with no congregation in attendance. Every 1st Sunday of the shut down, there was drive thru communion provided. Individual cups that included a wafer and juice were and still are used. Restrictions were lifted in June and the people started to slowly come back to in person worship. The trustees started the renovation of

the Fellowship Hall. The ceiling was lowered with new LED lights, walls were painted and carpet squares were installed, this also included the classrooms and the stage. Sadly the carpet on the passthrough was removed. (Jokingly written) Wainscoting was installed. LED lighting was installed in the food band and the youth room. Toilets were replaced in the basement bathrooms. New oak railing was built on the sanctuary steps leading to the alter. Making it much safer to go up and down the steps. All new AV equipment and wiring including large TV monitors, and mics were installed.

2021 The parsonage received a new picture window and a north small window. New stove and exhaust and a new dryer were installed. The church steps were also updated with epoxy sand covering.

Also in 2021 we received the make a difference grant from the Salina area united web, we made \$10,000. This was used to repair the leaks in the roof along the east nursery wall. Moneys were also used to refurbish and decorate the nursery to expand the education of our children.

2022 the sanctuary lights had to have new drivers installed as the old ones were leaking. Pastor Amos McCarthy held zoom bible study classes for advent. He continued these with the zoom lenting series in 2023. The 15 passenger bus was sold because of age, repairs, and decreasing use. Denis made a new sign for the fair stand.