

“Did You Know ... Brentwood has two historic homes that you can rent for your next gathering?”

Cool Springs House:

The Cool Springs house was moved to Crockett Park in 1993 from Mallory Lane, to make way for construction around the new Cool Springs Mall. It was originally a log home with two rooms up and two down, probably built by Stephen Barfield prior to 1818. Barfield's daughter married James Carothers, and that family owned the home until 1878. It was restored by John Noel and Karen Cochran in the 1970s and is now a city property used for events.



The Cool Springs House is a charming Victorian house that is perfect for social as well as business events. Although historically oriented, the first floor of the house has facilities to accommodate parties, receptions and other gatherings. A portion of the second floor has a large conference room and is an ideal setting for workshops and business retreats. For more information go to www.coolspringshouse.com; anyone interested in renting the house may contact Amanda Bledsoe, 615-371-0060 or via email at bledsoea@brentwood-tn.org.



Photo provided by Joy Marie Photography

This project included restoration of the original elegant rooms, the grand entryway and the picturesque back porch while still providing modern amenities including a fully functional catering kitchen. This beautiful home is rich in history and charm and offers the ideal venue for weddings, receptions, corporate parties, business retreats and other special events. Anyone interested in renting the Ravenswood Mansion, can view the website, www.ravenswoodmansion.com, or contact Amanda Bledsoe at 615-371-0060, bledsoea@brentwood-tn.org.

Ravenswood Mansion:

Built in 1825, by James Hazard Wilson II, the house is significant as an outstanding, unique example of Federal period architecture. After Mr. and Mrs. Reese Smith, Jr. passed away, the home remained vacant for several years but was still well maintained and cared for by their sons. The property was purchased by the City of Brentwood in 2010.

As part of the Phase I improvements at Smith Park, the City undertook a complete restoration of the Ravenswood Man-

THE BUGLE



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“History of Brentwood United Methodist Church: the Early Years thru 1970’s”

Excerpts from “The History of Brentwood United Methodist Church”, written by T. Vance Little

Methodism came early to Williamson County, Tennessee and the Brentwood area. Some of the bearers of the Gospel included such early Methodist leaders as Francis Asbury, Peter Cartwright and Lorenzo Dow. But no doubt the most important early Methodist

leader in Middle Tennessee was Green Hill and others of his party who came to the area

in the late 1700’s. His party included the Kings, the Cannons, the Primms, the Sewells, and the Flys.



*Photo of the first church building at the Church Street site.
Occupied from about 1886 until it burned down in 1936*

The Brentwood Methodist Church was not organized until the 1850’s, but its forerunners, Johnson Chapel, Old Smyrna and especially Liberty, are all historic churches and

played an im-

portant role in the establishment of Methodism in northern Williamson County. The Liberty Church was the mother church

of other Methodist churches in the area, including Old Smyrna and Nolensville. Little is known of the Liberty Church from its very earliest days until the late 1800's.

Brentwood in the early 1850's was just beginning to emerge as a community and commercial center to serve the plantation country along Franklin Road and Wilson Pike. Two major thoroughfares and one railroad all coming together at one spot presented a situation ripe for development. Two entrepreneurs, named J.W.M. Wall and F.J. Pecantet, took it upon themselves to lay out a town, which they called the Village of Brentwood. The Methodists in the Brentwood area in the 1850's felt that a church was needed nearer to where the population was located. Thomas Holt, a wealthy land owner, was appointed to find a location for the new church. The site finally chosen was on Frierson Street where the Town Center Theater now stands. The members of the first Board of Trustees were: Robert Reams, T. Holmes, Thomas H. Oden, D.L. Drake. Stephen Tucker, and Sterling Brown Frost. The new church grew and prospered.

Few records of Brentwood's earliest church remain. There is one rather dubious distinction that does exist. A resolution passed in either 1858 or 1867 that men and women would be allowed to sit together.

The resolution read, "Be it resolved that hereafter the gentlemen and ladies and especially all members of families of Brentwood Methodist Church be authorized and requested to sit together in the church for the better preservation of good order, quiet and convenience of the congregation."

Brentwood was the first church in the Tennessee Conference to allow the men and women to sit together.

During the early years, the Brentwood United Methodist Church was unable to support a full time minister and was placed on a circuit with other churches, which changed from time to time. In August of 1875 the Brentwood Stringer reported that the membership of the Methodist Church was 150.

In 1884 the Brentwood Church was struck by a windstorm or a tornado that completely destroyed the building. It

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We invite you to join us in our efforts to preserve Brentwood's past with a donation to the Brentwood Historic Commission. Your donation includes receipt of the Historic Commission's newsletter, The Bugle, and information regarding events and activities.

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| ___Individual | \$ 15 |
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Brentwood Historic Commission; Attention: Linda Lynch; City of Brentwood, P.O. Box 788; Brentwood, TN 37024-0788

For more information: www.brentwood-tn.org/aboutus/history or Linda Lynch, City of Brentwood, 371-0060

The Brentwood Historic Commission's activities include the Boiling Spring Academy School Program, the Cool Springs House, the Annual History Bowl, the Brentwood Room at the library, the Ravenswood House, Historic Markers and is dedicated to the study and preservation of Brentwood's history and culture.



Photo was taken shortly before the 1972 Church Building was completed and occupied

Photos included in this article were provided by Brentwood United Methodist Church— Thank you for your help.

To learn more about the History of the Brentwood United Methodist Church, visit the Brentwood Room located just inside the main entrance to the Brentwood Library.

women, Sarah Cannon was known to most of the world as Minnie Pearl.

The 125th anniversary of the founding of Brentwood United Methodist Church was held November 21, 1976. Membership had grown to around 1,372. The decade of the 1970's had certainly been the most momentous in the history of the church to date.



Aerial photo taken for the 1980 Church Membership Directory and was likely taken in 1979

was decided to build a new church at a new location on Church Street on property that had been previously donated by Mr. & Mrs. Hugh C Moore, Sr. to the church for a parsonage and a school. The new building was dedicated in 1886, and Rev. John B. McFerrin preached the dedicatory service. The school house referred to in the deed was never built, but the land was used to build a church on. The parsonage was built on the corner of Church Street and Franklin Road. The church building was greatly enhanced during the pastorate of Rev. James E. Wood-

ward, 1914 to 1916. It was also during this period that a new pipe organ was acquired which was said to be one of the finest in the state at that time.

The Brentwood Methodist Church survived the Depression struggling to pay off its indebtedness. The final \$5000 of the debt was paid in early 1936. Just as the congregation was beginning to enjoy its debt free status, tragedy struck again. On the afternoon of Saturday July 11, 1936 during a thunderstorm, lightning struck the bell tower igniting a fire that completely destroyed the church building. The loss was estimated at about



Photo of the rebuilt church building that was constructed on the foundation of the former building. It was dedicated in 1939 and was added on to and used until the 1972 move to Franklin Road.

\$30,000 by the Rev. Woodward Adams, pastor of the church. A new sanctuary was built and ready for occupancy in September of 1939. Many of the members contributed to the building of this structure. In 1939 the Rev C.B. Smith was assigned to Brentwood Methodist Church as pastor.

The War years came to Brentwood in the early 1940's. Reverend Smith left his pastorate to be a Chaplain in the Air Force. In 1945 C. Blaine Duncan

became pastor of Brentwood Methodist. BUMC began to grow with the coming of new people, subdivisions and businesses to the community. Brentwood was sort of rediscovered in the 1930's and 1940's. An affluent and horse loving crowd discovered that Brentwood was a good place to practice two of their favorite pastimes – raising horses and hunting foxes. They made Brentwood their home and restored many of the old plantation houses.



Photo of the 1939 Sanctuary shortly after it was first occupied.

In the 1950's and 1960's, BUMC began to have growing pains itself when members saw their physical facilities becoming cramped. In 1963, Rev. Glenn Mingledorff planted the seed for expansion, "if we continue to grow we will have to build". A committee was formed to determine how large the members wanted the church to be. The membership at that time was 700. The conclusion was that Brentwood was headed toward definite

and unprecedented growth. The church had two options: build on the present site a new sanctuary or sell the existing premises and move to a new location. The congregation ultimately chose the latter course of action. Lifelong church member and son of a family that had long been a major benefactor of the church Robert L. Moore offered to the church at a bargain price a parcel of land on the corner of Williamsburg Road and Franklin Road. The church already owned at this location three acres. The church had taken an option on 7.2 acres at the price of \$75,000. Mr. Moore was willing to donate an additional four acres to the church, making a total site of 14.5 acres.

The ground breaking ceremony at the new site was held on April 11, 1970. A year and a half later the church building was complete. Sunday December 17, 1972 was dedication day. The official laying of the cornerstone for the new church did not take place until April 13, 1975, after the old church building on

Church Street was demolished. The delay made it possible to include in the new cornerstone some of the items taken



Photo of the famous 1972 march from the old church building on Church Street to the new building at 309 Franklin Road:

from the old one. The minister, Jeff W. Fryer conducted the dedicatory service.

There was a new building to be filled with people and activities, but the building itself had to be furnished first. The congregation responded with characteristic generosity. Numerous items were donated including a clock for the new sanctuary made by Ira Trotter from inlaid woods and the pipe organ, which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cannon. One of Brentwood's most beloved