

First Baptist Nashville History

(50 Year Increments) (outside events for context)

1820-70

1820 - Thirty-five persons organized church in the county courthouse.

1821 - 1st building built on Church Street at the cost of \$6,000.

1822 – Richard Dabbs called as first pastor.

1826 - Philip Fall called as a pastor.

1827 – Sam Houston inaugurated as governor in FBCN Building.

1828 – “Campbellism” reduced membership from 123 to five.

1828 - Jackson is elected President of the United States; He would serve two terms, 1829-1837.

1830 – First Baptist Church pulled itself together and began again, meeting for worship in the Masonic Hall (Church Street).

1831 – Peter S. Gayle called as pastor.

1833 – FBCN Members helped start Baptist State Convention of Tennessee

1834 – R.B.C. Howell called as pastor.

1835 – *The Baptist* (later called *Baptist and Reflector*) first issue.

First successful Sunday School established.

1841- Second building dedicated (Fifth Avenue, North)

1842- First mention of a church choir in church records.

1843- Nashville established as permanent state capital.

1846 – Mission to African Americans begins, which later leads to establishment of FBC, Capitol Hill

1848- First mention of church ushers.

1850 – Samuel Baker called as pastor.

1853 – Church organist is recorded as being paid.

1854- William Bayless called as sixth pastor.

1857 – R.B.C. Howell returns for second pastorate.

1858 – State charter of incorporation secured.

“Landmarkism” and J.R. Graves brought to trial.

1861- Civil War begins

1862- Nashville surrenders to Federal troops. Pastor R.B.C. Howell jailed for refusing to take public oath of allegiance to the United States government.

1863- FBCN confiscated by the Union and used as a military hospital.

1864 – Battle of Nashville shattered the Confederate Army of Tennessee and marked the end of major Confederate offensives in the Western theater during the Civil War.

1865 – Civil War ended and building returned to FBCN members from the federal government.

1867 – Thomas Skinner became pastor.

1871-1920

1871 – Tiberius Gracchus Jones becomes pastor. Adopted an envelope system to encourage regular giving.

1880: Nashville celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding. The city's population is 43,350.

1883- Charlton Hines Strickland called as pastor.

1886- FBCN entered building at new location on 7th and Broad.

1888- Women's Missionary Union established at FBCN

1889 – William Robert Lee Smith became pastor.

1891 – Baptist Sunday School Board (now called LifeWay) established in our building.
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes founded in our church.

1893 – James Marion Frost called as pastor.

1895 – Position of "church collector" discontinued.

Baptist Young People's Union formed.

1896 – James Boardman Hawthorne called as pastor.

1899 – Lansing Burrows called as pastor.

1901 – Contributions (amounts and names) began to be printed annually.

1904 – *The Baptist Hymn and Praise Book* purchased.

1905 – McKendree Methodist Church burned, so they met in our building.

1906 – First training school for Sunday School workers.

1909 - Richard Inlow called as pastor.

1914 – Allen Fort called as pastor.

1915 – "Common Cup" replaced by individual communion service cups.

1917 – Electric lights replaced gas lights in sanctuary.

1918 - Services cancelled for four weeks due to epidemic of influenza.

1919 – Passage of 19th Amendment giving women right to vote.

1920 – Church celebrated centennial.

1921-1970

1921 - William Francis Powell called as pastor.

1923 - Budget system adopted for better financial planning.

1924 - Balcony added to sanctuary; increased seating capacity to 1200.

FBCN began city's first licensed radio station (WCBQ)

1925 – First Vacation Bible School conducted.

1928 – Education building completed.

1929 – First Adult Training Union formed.

First educational and financial director hired.

1933 – Grape juice replaced wine served in Lord's Supper services.

1934 - Fire damaged sanctuary, church displaced for six months.

1937 – B.B. McKinney employed to direct training union.
1939 – World War II begins
1944 – “Future Program” adopted calling for complete church staff.
1945- Cora Tibbs Mission established in northeast Nashville.
 W. Hines Sims launched first graded-choir program.
1946 – Church building was air-conditioned.
1949 – Recreation program began.
1952 – Neil Darnell became first full-time minister of music.
1954 - Billy Graham Crusade brings many converts to FBCN.
1956 - H. Franklin Paschall began pastorate.
1960 – “Starting in Sixty Campaign” began. Robert Hall building renovated into gymnasium.
1963 – John F. Kennedy assassination
1967 - Last service in 1886 building. Services held at Hume-Fogg High School during construction of new building.
1970 – First service in present sanctuary at corner of 7th and Broadway.

1971-2020

1981 – Recreation Center renovated and dedicated.
1985 – Charles Page called as pastor.
1986 – Space Shuttle Challenger explosion.
1987 – Three women elected as deacons.
 “Room at the Inn” program begins at FBCN.
 Thompson Station Mission began (later became First Baptist Church Thompson Station)
1988- East Building purchased and renovated.
 Missions House purchased.
1991- Dan Francis became pastor.

1997- Frank R. Lewis called as pastor.
1998: Three tornadoes sweep across Nashville, along a 42-mile path, causing one fatality and over \$100 million in property damage.
2000 – Billy Graham Crusade comes to Nashville.

2001 – Steeple tower renovated.
 Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack in New York and Washington D.C., prayer service held.

2003 – The Next Door formed from a group of “Wild Praying Women” at FBCN.
2003- “Door to the Future” Campaign developed to fund community ministry efforts and build new back entrance.

2005 – SBC Annual Meeting held in Nashville; FBCN participates in Crossover Nashville activities.

2006- Building Bridges Campaign started to reach community.

2012 – Recreation center destroyed in fire; surface area parking lot created.

2013 – Music City Center complex opens.

2016 – FBCN sells 1.3 acres of property at 7th and Demonbreun for \$20 million, which equates to roughly \$353 a square foot.

2016 - Missions Partnership with Tusculum Hills started.

2017 – Fellowship on Broadway Service begins.

2019 - FBCN begins construction on new 80,000-square-foot facility that includes a coffee shop and entrance that will open to Broadway.

2020 - 200th Anniversary Year