

Timeline for the Malesus United Methodist Church

Local	Year	Church	Regional and National
	1784	Methodist Episcopal Church organized Dec 25, 1784 in Baltimore	
The "Jackson Purchase" from the Chickasaws acquires all the area in the present Memphis Annual Conference and northern Mississippi. West Tennessee opened for settlement in 1819.	1818		
	1820	The Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church assigns two preacher to be missionaries to the Jackson Purchase territory settlers. (TN, KY, MS)	
Madison County formed. Log Court House built in Jackson in 1822	1821		
	1826-1860	The circuit riding Methodists held services in many communities where no regular services or congregation existed. Camp Meetings were also very important.	
Reeves Chapel M. E. church built near Medon.	1836		
Memphis Conference Female institute was established in Jackson. It would become Lambuth College.	1843		
Bear Creek Methodist Church built west of Pinson	1844		
Big Springs (Mt. Pinson) Methodist Church listed.	1845	Methodist Episcopal Church, South organized. (church split over slavery)	
Methodist Church built in Medon to replace Reeves Chapel	1850		
Mississippi Central and Tennessee Railroad arrives in Harrisburg (now Malesus) from Grand Junction.	1857		
Civil War disrupts region	1861-1865		

Battles of Shiloh and Corinth transforms West Tennessee into Federal territory and a battleground.	1862		
	1865	A new Methodist Episcopal Church, South was organized on Jackson Circuit at Black Jack Meeting House on the Frank McKnight place on the Old Jackson to Medon road.	
	1867	Three and one-half acres of land purchased from William M. Shelton by Trustees for M. E. Church, South to locate new church. It is very likely that the property was selected to be near a good all-weather spring of water for camp meeting season. So much property was not needed for a church alone.	
	1869	"A substantial and commodious house of worship" was erected on new property, and the church called "Ebenezer"--meaning "Thus far God has brought us". Materials from the Black Jack Meeting House were undoubtedly used in building this more permanent place of worship. This seems to have been a clapboard building which was dismantled and rebuilt in 1894 at the site in Malesus; therefore, it was not a log structure. Mr. Jim Raines, son of Dr. J. T. Raines, remembered that some sections of this structure was moved to Malesus in 1894 and put together as it had been on the Ebenezer Cemetery site.	
	1870	Post Office in Harrisburg established.	
	1873		Tennessee Cholera epidemic. Yellow Fever outbreak. 2,000 die in Memphis
	1878		Yellow Fever, in Memphis 17,000 infected, 5,150 died, 25,000 fled the city.

	1879	From 1879 to 1906 the Ebenezer Church was on the Pinson Circuit during these years, though not consistently.	
The railroad station and post office were called Harrisburg until about this time. There being another Harrisburg in Tennessee, the U. S. Post Office requested a change of name for the village. Mr. Samuels was so prominent in the community that some wanted to call it Samuels. He declined that name but from the letters of his name suggested Malesus. The post office, railroad station, school and community have since been known as Malesus.	1880		
July 14, Harrisburg name changed to Malesus.	1882		
	1884	Dr. J. T. Raines establishes practice in Malesus.	
	1888	Lester's Chapel Methodist Church organized nearby.	
Malesus Baptist church organized.	1889		Worldwide Flu epidemic, 1,000,000 died.
	1892		Tennessee Cholera epidemic.
The Harris School, one mile west of railroad moved to present school site and name changed to Malesus.	1893-1894		

	1894	Under leadership of Rev. R. W. Hood the Trustees purchased one acre of land from R. T. McKnight at the present site of the church. Later that year the building on the cemetery lot was "taken down and rebuilt" on the lot at Malesus, on the Jackson Road.	
	1898		Spanish-American War adds Puerto rico, Guam and the Philipine Islands as American territories.
Bemis Brothers Bag Company builds factory south of Jackson. A Union Church Building provided worship opportunities as various ministers conducted worship services. By 1905 the Memphis Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was asked to supply a pastor. The church remained a Union Church, but was under the care and direction of the Memphis Annual Conference until 1949, when it was officially given to the Memphis Annual Conference and dedicated as a Methodist Church.	1900-1905		
	1906	Medon and Malesus churches formed into a new charge after forty years on the Jackson and Pinson Circuits.	
	1907	First Epworth League organized for youth.	
A high school was formed at Malesus under leadership of Mrs. William (Eula) Taylor.	1908-1912		
	1909	January 11, house and lot purchased 500 yards east of the church for a parsonage for Medon, Malesus and Lester's Chapel Churches, which then formed the Medon and Malesus charge.	
School building burned; additional acre of land purchased to north and new school built which was remodeled and used until 1945.	1910		

	1912		With addition of New Mexico and Arizona the American Flag has 48 stars until 1960
	1914	An "L" shaped Sunday School annex was added as a south wing of the church.	
World War I Veterans from Malesus, TN: Oliver J. Butler-33 Ethel B. Day-31, Died Joe Dodd-24,Wounded Ripp H. Harton-23 Joseph Edgar Hudson-20 Wilkie A. Hudson-23 Jefferson F. Lennon-28 James W. McKnight-26 Robert M. McKnight-24 Alvin Payton-23 Fred Payton-21 Hugh Robert Raines-25	1914-1918		World War I
	1919-1924		Spanish Flu epidemic. 75,000,000 died worldwide. 7,721 deaths in Tennessee
	1919	T. Erle Hillard served five years as pastor. He was also the principal of Malesus High School.	
Lambuth College opened as a co-educational institution to replace MCFI, with emphasis on development of teachers and preachers. After this many of the pastors were related to the college as professor, student, or former student.	1924		
	1925	1925-26 J.R Walker & Cecil A. Baker, Pastors	
A high school functioned in Medon. 1926-1930	1926	1926-28 J. Noble Wilford, Pastor	
	1928	1928-31 Willian Slayton Evans, Pastor	
U. S. Highway 45 constructed south of Jackson.	1929		
Medon High School consolidated with Malesus.	1930		1930-1937 Depession years in the South.
	1930	Della Murchison, Pianist and Organist Early 1930's-1962	
Tennessee State Route 18 constructed from Highway 45 to Bolivar. Public school buses were established.	1931	1931-33 Chester L. Holmes, Pastor	

	1933	Malesus Charge--additional churches were added to the pastoral charge in order to sustain a pastor. 1933-35 J.W. Lewis, Pastor	
	1934-1947	Jackson Circuit with as many as five churches: Medon, Malesus, Lester's Chapel, Pleasant Hill, Harris Grove.	
	1935	The "L" shaped Sunday School wing was cut in half, and one half was moved to the west side of building and the entire building remodeled. Central heating was installed for the first time.(from wood fired to coal) 1935-39 W. A. Swift, Pastor	
Rural electrification came to Malesus area.	1937		
	1939	The Methodist Church was reunited from former North, South and Protestant branches. The name of the youth group was changed to Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), The Women's Missionary Society became the Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS). The traditional office of Steward was effectively abolished. W.D. Pickens, Pastor	
Census shows at least 25 Methodist congregations in Madison County.	1939-1940	Memphis Annual Conference formed	
91 Madison County residents died in the military during WWII	1939-1945	At least sixteen members of the church, and many other friends enter military service. The church suffered from the resultant ministerial shortage. 1939 W. D. Pickens, Pastor	World War II
	1940	R.F. Wiley, Pastor	
	1941	J.W. Pursell, Pastor	Dec.7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.
	1942	1942-44 Charles E. Stewart, Pastor	
	1943		Tuberculosis is now the #3 cause of death in Tennessee
	1944	A.M. Thomas, Pastor	
	1945	1945-47 L.L. Broadus, Pastor	
Telephones reach rural areas. 1946-48	1946		

	1947	1947-49 J.E. Weir, Pastor	
	1948	Malesus and Medon became a pastoral charge again. Land purchased adjoining church property on east for a new parsonage. Preaching services now held every Sunday. A basement was excavated and built under the original building with an east end addition for entrance. E. B. Mooring's bequest aided both church and Ebenezer Cemetery Association to improve the facilities.	
	1949	1949-51 Walter E. Newburn, Pastor	
	1950		1950-53 Korean War
	1951	Charles E. Tripp, Pastor	
	1952	Whitesell H. Harpole, Pastor	Polio epidemic became the worst outbreak in the nation's history. Of nearly 58,000 cases reported that year 3,145 died and 21,269 were left with mild to disabling paralysis
	1952	Chancel Choir organized. Ava Jean Mays, Choir Director 1952-1962	
	1953	1953-57 Berkley L. Poole, Pastor	
	1954	Rev. Elton Watlington who was raised in our church was ordained. Father of Martha Morris.	
High school consolidated with Bemis and Pinson as Southside High School. Medon Elementary School consolidated with Malesus.	1956		
	1957	1957-59 J.N. Forbes, Pastor	
	1959	Additional land lying west and south of the sanctuary was purchased for future development of the church. 1959-63 James W. Holmes, Pastor	1959-1975 Vietnam War
	1960	A new development program was begun and the first educational unit was completed to the south of the sanctuary. The old sanctuary and basement were remodeled, the central pulpit was removed and a divided chancel installed.	American Flag now has 50 stars with addition of Alaska and Hawaii as States

	1961	Rev. James H. Holmes directed the opening of a certified Kindergarten at our church. Our church sent Dorothy Replogle and her children to Lake Junaluska, North Carolina for one month so that she might be certified by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC as a director of this school. When she returned she was certified by the State of Tennessee. Mrs. Doris Walls was her assistant. They were both re-certified through continuing education classes. In 1971 this school was closed when public Kindergarten started. At times there would be a total of 35 students enrolled, many came from other areas.	
	1962		Cuban Missile Crisis
	1963	An addition was built to the parsonage. 1963-66 W.T. Jackson, Pastor	President John F. Kennedy assassinated
	1963	Larry Jenkins, Choir Director and Organist 1963-1965	
	1964	The second educational unit was begun on the south, due to a great need for more space. It was opened for use in 1965 but not completed until 1969.	
	1965	Malesus united Methodist Church Celebrates Centennial Year	
	1965	Suzanne Gobelet, Organist 1965-1968	
	1966	1966-71 O. Everett Roseberry, Pastor	

	1966	In the spring the Malesus Baptist Church and the Malesus United Methodist Church joined forces to have a Lay Witness Mission for a weekend at the newly repaired gymnasium at the Malesus School. In the summer of 1966, after the Lay witness Mission that spring, some of our congregation went to Lake Junaluska, NC to attend the Southeastern Jurisdiction Laity Conference (3 ½ days). One year there were approximately 30 members from our church attending. This yearly renewal experience was active from 1966 to 1999. This special retreat bound us together in a special way.	
	1966	Jennie Watlington, Choir Director 1966-1969	
	1968	United Methodist Church formed by union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethern Church. The Woman's Society of Christian Service became the United Methodist Women (UMW). The Council on Ministires (C.O.M.) began as the program agency of the church, separate from the Administrative Board.	
	1969	Feb. 7 bought 1.66 acres where ball field is for \$7,750	Man walks on the Moon
	1969	Ava Jean Wildes, Choir Director 1969-1993	
	1969	Loret Deaton, Organist 1969-1972	
	1971	1971-73 John E. Stavely, Pastor	
	1973	1973-76 Carl E. Rhoades III, Pastor	
	1973	Suzanne Gobelet, Organist 1973-1974	
	1974	The Mack Watlington Fellowship Hall was built in anticipation of using it during the building of the sanctuary.	
	1975	Wayne Warren, Organist 1975-1977	
	1976	1976-79 Jerry L. Jeffords, Pastor	
	1977	Donda Stallins, Organist 1977-1979	

	1979	1979-83 Paul L. Phillips, Pastor	
	1979	Loret Evans, Organist 1979 to Present	
	1980	Sara Webb Phillips who was raised in our church was ordained.	
	1980-1982	Planning and building of the sanctuary, inaugurated at Easter 1982.	
	1981	Brenda Wheatley, Pianist 1981 to present	
	1982	Anna Marie Weir Harris rented a portion of the Phase II education building to start one of the first Montessori schools in the state. There were certain things that had to be done to bring it up to the state code such as doors, added cabinets, painting, ect. Most of the teachers had earned their Masters degrees. The school opened in the spring of 1982 and closed in the spring of 1986.	
	1983	In June bought parsonage at 63 Hundley Ave. for \$69,900. 1983-88 E. H. Barnes, Pastor	
	1988	1988-92 W. Glenn Hill, Pastor	
	1991		Gulf War
	1992	1992-98 W. Kent Bailey	
	1993	Bennett Tillman, Choir Director 1993-2002	
	1994	Sept. 2 bought 5.70 Acres behind church to Hudson Drive \$45,000	
	1998	July 27 bought 4.44 acres behind church beyond Hudson Drive \$38,049 1998-2001 C. David Shettles.	
	2001	Rev. James H. Holmes (retired) was interim pastor between Mosley and Chandler making the first and last church he pastored. 2001-02 Joseph E. Mosley, Pastor	2001-present War in Afghanistan
	2002	Gerald McGuire, Choir Director 2002 to Present	
	2003	2003-2014 L. Ray Chandler, Jr., Pastor	2003-2011 War in Iraq
	2008-2009	This recession caused our church families great difficulty. The effects still linger.	The Great Recession
	2014	Dan Weathersbee, Pastor	

	2015	Rev. Derek White ordained. Former member and son-in-law of Nancy Johnson	
	2015	On September 13th our church celebrates its first 150 years and prays that we may be as faithful and vibrant for our next 150 years.	

Compiled for the Malesus United Methodist Church's 150th Anniversary by Charles Watlington