

Tommie Lee Miller (1968–1984), Booker T. Moore (1985–1988), Melvin Montgomery (1988–2004), and Randy Jackson (2004–present).

From the inception until 1959–60, services were held only on the second and fourth Sunday.

The church was re-built in 1917 under the leadership of Rev. Augustus Nabors and committee members: Jeff Banks, Rev. Jas Bostic and Rev. R.S. Bostic. The annex was added in 1945 led by Rev. J.E. Webb. The committee members were: Rev. L.E. Smith, A.U. Fields, W.H. Bostic, (grandfather of Belle Flower member, Mrs. Dannette Woods), F.H. Johnson, T. Person, James Clark and Rev. B.S. Bostic, who was the designer of the annex.

Belle Flower has always been a trendsetter and a trailblazer in this community. When the Civil Rights Movement came to Grenada in 1966, the church was poised to take its rightful place in history.

Because the Belle Flower Church membership believed in binding up the broken-hearted and setting the captives free, this edifice became the headquarters for the Grenada County Freedom Movement (GCFM). The Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) local staff offices were housed in the Sunday School rooms of the church. Mass meetings were held at the church nightly. Key civil rights leaders spoke at the church, including: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Andrew Young, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Rev. Hoses Williams, and folk singer/activist Joan Baez.

Belle Flower's pastor, S.T. Cunningham, served as treasurer of the GCFM. Members of the congregation followed his leadership in the quest for freedom by serving in many capacities. They demonstrated and marched; provided housing for civil rights workers; and cooked for SCLC staff. Melzina Cook (sister of Belle Flower's member, Thomas Cook) served on the GCFM steering committee.

Some members went to jail (Tommy Lee Green, Melzina Cook, Estelle Lemon-Cox, Paul Williams, Andrew Hooker, and others) and some members lost their jobs (Lottie Williams, Mother of Belle Flower members, Gloria Lott and LaRita Brown; and Emma Lemon, mother of Estelle Cox) in the struggle for their basic human rights. Night after night people marched out of Belle Flower Church to face down mobs of hate-filled racists. Their efforts and their bravery should never be forgotten.

On January 22, 1967, Belle Flower was fire bombed because of its role in the Civil Rights movement. While repairs were being made to the facility, services were held at First New Hope Church.

In 1968, several Grenada citizens participated in the Poor People's Campaign (also known as The Mule Train) to Washington, D.C. The southern leg of the Mule Train began on May 13, 1968, in Marks, Miss. The Mule Train's third stop was Grenada. The pickup point for participants was Belle Flower Church.

During the years following the Civil Rights Movement, the church made many modern improvements. They included: purchasing and bricking the parsonage, adding a new finance room, adding and remodeling the fellowship hall, refurbishing the sanctuary, (cushioning benches, carpeting floors) purchasing new pulpit furniture, purchasing a public address system and adding the conic.

In 2004, the members purchased the block adjacent to the church.

The church has added ministries over the years to meet the needs of the members. A Young Adult Choir was added to the Music Ministry in the 1970s. The Nurse's Guild was established in the 1980s. Programs for the needy provided food and clothing for area citizens. Programs for the children included: the Red Circle, YWA, Sunshine Band and Youth Brotherhood. In 1993, A Daisy Girl Scout troop was established for five-year-old girls in the community.

In 1976, the organ was purchased through the efforts of Mrs. Mary E. Caffey, who sponsored a Bicentennial Baby Contest.

Belle Flower has always had a welcoming and liberal atmosphere. The members set spiritual standards for the Belle Flower children and took pride in the success of its youth.

Knowing that they needed to leave a spiritual legacy, adults trained the churches' children according to scripture (Proverbs 22:6).

Belle Flower created an environment for its children to grow and flourish spiritually. The fourth Sunday of each month was set aside for the youth. The youths' commitment and zeal for this church was so great that college students would return home monthly to fulfill their obligation as youth choir members, musicians, junior ushers, junior deacons, youth Sunday School teachers and youth superintendent.

Church families and ministries have given their time, talents and treasures as a testament to the love they have for "The Flower". Some of these gifts included: brass candle holders, steps for the water fountain, the marquee, Bibles, choir robes and uniforms, a piano, the minor over the baptism pool, a podium for the fellowship hall, the drapes over the baptism pool, tables and chairs.

For generations, this church has stood as a pillar in the Grenada Community. It has been a shelter in the time of a storm, a rock in a weary land, and a cornerstone of the community.

Because of the love, training and support members received at Belle Flower, they have made an indelible mark on the world as medical personnel, authors, beauticians, administrators, soldiers, manufacturers, teachers and ministers. More importantly, however, for 137 years, this church has gifted the world with saved, sanctified souls dedicated to preparing others to see the kingdom of God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Belle Flower Church for its contribution to the black community and black churches.

HONORING ROGER GARZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of retiring City Councilman Roger Garza of Pleasanton, Texas. He has proudly represented the people of District 5 for eighteen years and has been crucial to the growth and prosperity of Atascosa County and the City of Pleasanton.

A lifelong resident of Atascosa County, Mr. Garza attended Jourdan Elementary and

graduated from Pleasanton Independent Schools. After graduating, Roger enrolled in San Antonio College where he studied oil painting, still life portraits, and photography. With a keen interest in and talent for art, Mr. Garza went on to open Pleasanton Floral Photography and Tuxedo in 1975, which he still owns and operates today.

As a small business owner and Atascosa County native, Mr. Garza has long-been active in local community and political affairs. Prior to his election to Pleasanton's City Council, he was a key player in the successful redistricting of Atascosa County. This success is what prompted him to run for Pleasanton City Council eighteen years ago. During his eighteen-year tenure on the city council, Roger Garza has supported and overseen the development and completion of the Pleasanton Civic Center, the cleaning of the Atascosa River, and the approval of the construction firm for a new fire station.

In addition to his exemplary career as a public servant and small business owner, Mr. Garza is a committed husband and father of five.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Councilman Roger Garza for his eighteen years of service to the City of Pleasanton.

ANGELO DIAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelo Diaz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angelo Diaz is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelo Diaz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Angelo Diaz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, my vote on the Ellison/Grijalva/Lee/Schakowsky/Conyers/McDermott Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute, known as the CPC Budget (rollcall vote 136) was recorded as a "No" vote when I intended to cast a "Yes" vote. I wish to clarify my miscast vote and express my strong support for progressive budgets that invest in everyone, not just the 1%.