

## History of St. John United Methodist Church

In the year 1865, after many hardships and much labor the first part of this present edifice was completed and dedicated.

### Major Structural Changes:

In the year 1909 the first extensive remodeling took place under the pastorage of Rev. J.W.Cox. In the year 1925 under the leadership of Rev. Blackiston the pulpit area was recessed, a new heating system put in, electric lights were added, new pews, new pulpit furniture, and a new carpet.

In the year 1941 still under the pastorage of Rev. Blackiston, the first addition was made to the church. The pulpit area was again enlarged adding a choir loft, a new floor was installed, and stained glass windows were added throughout the interior.

In the year 1951 under the pastorage of Rev. Wm M. Tasco adding to the existing edifice made a new modern building. This included a new modern heating system, semi-air conditioning, indirect lighting, sound proof nursery, Pastors Study/office, new pews, modern divided chancel, rest rooms and Sunday School rooms in the basement. A lighted cross was added to the tower as a symbol of a "Warm Welcome" to the community.

In the year 1986 we connected the Parish hall to the main body of the church under the direction of Rev. Nyada Clarke. Through this connection we were able to add two more restrooms upstairs, new front doors and a handicap accessible ramp. With her leadership we added aluminum siding to the church, underpinning to the parish hall, a back porch on the rear of the Parish Hall and painting of the Parsonage.

Rev Roy E. Bundy came to us in June of 2000. In January of 2001 we had a small fire take place within our Parish hall. Due to the outbreak of the fire however, major structural damage was unveiled due to heavy termite infestation. Between the combination of factors, fire and termites our community building was condemned from future habitation. With God's grace and direction, we rebuilt a new "All purpose building". With God's grace we will see the fruits of these labors, and enjoy our new facility, dedicated in May 2013. Our new hall allows us to offer vital social functions as well as necessary program and fund raising activities within our church family and community. May God's Grace and Favor Reign at St. John U.M.C. (Fordville) for many, many, more years.

Submitted by: Patricia Rossello Church Secretary, & Historian