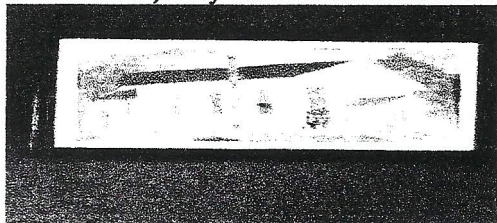


## St. John's UMC: Blog Post

One hundred and seventy four years. Some people might hear that number and think of ancient history or old news or too far in the past to be important. Members of the St. John family think just the opposite. They are honored to be part of a church history which has taken new directions to rethink church. Over the 174 years St. John's United Methodist Church has faced challenges--fires, the death of our pastors, economic hard times, and others--but the members' faith in the Creator has kept this church alive and prospering. The church is now preparing new places for new people. Several new ministries have emerged in the last few years. The Women's Ministry sponsors an annual prayer breakfast, breast cancer awareness education, and an annual health fair and yard sale. The children's ministry has started a once a month children's church and a second session is in the planning stages. Also a two week Basic Skills/Bible Camp attracted 38 children, 4 youth, and 14 volunteers in August, 2015. This camp followed a Native American immersion curriculum which has received interest from Christian educators. Members of the church wrote and implemented strategies for children to follow a Christian pathway and still maintain their cultural ways. A once a month Bible study attracts more than twenty participants to a lunch and learn small group. Bibles have been replaced in the sanctuary from the memorial gifts of members and their families while fifteen children's Bibles have been added for the youth.

The church has also addressed the church building so we can be sure St. John United Methodist Church will withstand the weather and wear of using it to the glory of the Creator. The new church sign is installed and working to inform the membership, as well as the community, about the opportunities to learn more about Jesus Christ. Worshipers enter our foyer to find beautiful ceramic tile flooring. The kitchen equipment and supply inventory continues to grow as needs arise.

St. John United Methodist Church is part of the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Conference



and being a part of something requires us to contribute our time and resources. The church has been able to pay its apportionments, but perhaps more important is the support provided to the District for the Committee on Native American Ministries(CONAM). The Pastor and members serve on this committee and have been a District wide presence in the Act of Repentance. Several members also are active in the Northeast Jurisdictional CONAM. One dozen students from Drew University spent two days in our community to understand how the Pastor and membership guide Native American families and others in the community to serve Creator's people. We also hosted a seminary student for a week in January for practical experience in a Native American community.

We have plans for the future! Join us in these projects and bring us some new ideas.

- Replace our aging air conditioning system
- Celebrate our first annual coat give away in partnership with Fairfield Township School
- Adopt a few families for Christmas
- Grow our youth program
- Complete an oral history project for the District
- Make more disciples for Christ
- New ideas from our members and community

We give thanks to Creator for the opportunity to serve a church with a rich 174 year old history and a bright future. Creator has His hand on St. John UMC and He has something very special for our future. What a mighty God we serve!

Pastor Roy E. Bundy and members of St. John United Methodist Church

