

Churches celebrating anniversaries of significance in 2017

125 YEARS

Stratford UMC

1892

On May 26, 1892 thirteen people met with Rev. Milton Relyea at the home of Harry G. Smith and decided to build a Methodist Church in Stratford. Ground was broken in September, 1892 and the cornerstone laying took place on February 16, 1893

150 YEARS

Califon UMC

1867

At the time of the Civil War there was no church in the village called California but the Rev. R. Vanhorne, a young circuit rider, and his fellow rider, the Rev. George Banghart, preached here as part of the Cokesbury circuit. A church came to the village literally in about 1867 when the Methodist Society purchased an unused church structure at New Germantown (Oldwick) for \$200. Dismantled and moved by wagon during the winter, the building was located on a lot along the river near the heart of the village, whose name would be shortened to Califon.

Delair: St. Matthew's UMC

1867

In October of the year 1867, in Delair, New Jersey a group of Christians, among whom were William Anderson, William DeShields, and Mrs. Elizabeth Severre, met and decided to organize a church. This church is actually an outgrowth of camp meetings that had been organized by a Baptist mission. The first pastor, assigned by the organized Methodist Society, was the late Rev. Hooper Jolly. The building which housed the first congregation is no longer standing. This first building was heated by a stove in the center of the room and had its light provided by kerosene lamps.

Elwood: Gaskill UMC

1867

Elwood is listed as a preaching appointment in the conference Minutes of 1866. A missionary offering of eight dollars is reported from the "Elwood Station" for 1865. The society was organized in the schoolhouse on January 1, 1867

Wanaque: Midvale UMC 1867

In 1866 a layman and Peter Writenour, both members of the Stonetown Methodist Episcopal Church, held revival meetings in that church. To these services many of the people from Wynockie walked night after night and were greatly blessed. Then on November 25th of that year the Rev. Samuel H. Switzer, pastor of the Bloomingdale circuit, conducted revival meetings in the Wynockie School House. As a result a meeting was called in February, 1867, to consider erecting a church. All agreed so trustees were elected and the church incorporated as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Wynockie.

Westville UMC 1867

After two unsuccessful attempts to establish a church in Westville, Rev. Daniel Thackera felt the call of God to try another time. In the spring of 1867, the organization was effected under the Constitution of the Methodist Church, and thirty people joined a charter members. The building, already begun by the Presbyterians, was given to the new congregation provided that they would pay off the mortgage of sic hundred dollars. Many people joined the church at its dedication, and eleven persons were baptized by immersion.

Almonesson UMC 1867

The date of the first Methodist preaching in Almonesson is unknown, but almost certainly the area was included in the Blackwoodtown Circuit. It is probable that regular services were held there long before trustees were elected for the Almonesson society in June, 1867. In July of 1867, a lot forty feet by one hundred feet along the Almonesson-Westville Pike was purchased for forty dollars. The church, a twenty-four feet by thirty-fort feet structure, was erected at the total cost of \$1262.09

175 YEARS

Mauricetown UMC 1842

The first church building was erected in 1842, and dedicated by Rev. Charles Pitman the same year.

Compiled by Walter Jones
Sept. 29, 2016