

EARLY HISTORY OF STRATFORD

Slides from "Stratford, NJ - The First Years" by Carole Dadino, Stratford Historian. A Power Point DVD slide show presentation of the history of Stratford will soon be available for purchase. Proceeds will go to the Stratford Historical Preservation Commission. If you have any old photos of Stratford, that could be added to the presentation or the files of Stratford's History, please contact Carole at 856-783-4170 or via email at caroled444@gmail.com

**The Stratford United Methodist Church, celebrates 125 years of service to Stratford and surrounding communities.
1892-2017**

Union and Central Avenues, 1897



“S.S. Picnic, Straford Methodist Episcopal Church, Aug 12, 1897.

The SMEC was the focal point of most social activities that abounded in Stratford. Some of the earliest functions were excursions to Atlantic City. The proceeds of one such trip in 1894 netted the church. \$3.30 profit. A most prized possession is this photograph of the Stratford M. E. Sunday School preparing to leave for a picnic at Grenloch Park, Martin Schubert procured wagons for their children and youth while most of the adults preferred the comfort of carriages. Each member of the Sunday School was given 25¢ cards to be used on the day of the picnic The bill for picnic treats totaled \$10.28 with \$1.00 drawn for the 2 muslin signs on the picnic wagon.”

In the late 1800's the only mode of transportation was the Philadelphia to Atlantic City train or a horse and carriage. It was a very bumpy carriage trip as the White Horse Pike was only improved from Camden to The Village of White Horse at Laurel/White Horse Roads. The Model A Ford was introduced in 1903, but the "Pike" wasn't paved until 1922.