



Saint John on the Desert Presbyterian Church, USA 1979 to Present



In 1979 a courageous group envisioned that there was a need for a Presbyterian church on the east side of Tucson. The doors opened on December 23, 1979, and the congregation met at Collier Elementary School. On May 4, 1980 an organizational meeting was held and officers were elected; and the Reverend Rogers Smith was installed as the first pastor of Saint John on the Desert Presbyterian Church. There were 78 charter members.

Sunday School classes began September 1980 and the first annual Vacation Bible School was held in 1981. In 1982 the church services were moved to Tanque Verde Elementary School. The groundbreaking for the first church building was held in 1983, with the first service in the new building being held on Christmas Eve of that year.



The church building served the eastside community as a polling place for elections, as well as a meeting place for local youth, civic and educational groups. In 1991 the Christian Education Building was erected to provide classrooms for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. The Reverend Rogers Smith retired in 1993.



The Reverend Louise Gordon was appointed interim pastor of Saint John on the Desert Presbyterian Church, November 1993 until February of 1995 when there was a changing of the "GARD"!

February 16, 1995 there were 46 members when the Reverend Gary Gard was called to be the pastor of Saint John on the Desert Presbyterian Church. As membership increased, a second Sunday worship service was added. Anticipating continued growth, construction commenced on a larger sanctuary building in 1997.





That building was dedicated in September 1998. This new sanctuary enabled the entire congregation to worship together at one Sunday morning service which is followed by coffee and fellowship on the patio. After ten years of leading and growing St. John on the Desert, Reverend Gary Gard retired in the summer of 2005 due to health reasons and was nominated to be Pastor Emeritus.



The Reverend Rachel Scrubas was appointed interim pastor and led us 2006. Due to being offered a church of her own, Reverend Scrubas left us early in her interim time.



Steve Brownson, a Certified Lay Pastor, led us from late 2006 to early 2007.

On March 12, 2007 the Reverend Bruce Myers became the current pastor of St. John on the Desert. The Reverend Bruce Myers has been working on helping the church to reach its goals in doing mission work, both local and worldwide, and increase membership.

