

# Second Baptist Church celebrates 125th anniversary this weekend

**Long Branch** — In 1887, you could buy cheese for 11 cents per pound, salt for \$1 a barrel, flour for \$4.75 per barrel, rice for 4.5 cents per pound or pig's feet for 10 cents. And if you lived in the vicinity of Long Branch, you could also stop by Second Baptist Church and participate in a good ole-fashioned worship service.

While the prices of many of the nation's staples have increased 100-fold, Second Baptist Church, now at 93 Liberty St., remains a spiritual beacon some 125 years later.

"I have seen the church grow physically and spiritually," said Norman Cecil Mooney, the church's unofficial historian and designer of the existing educational wing. "Our pastor's motto is 'a church led by the spirit of God.' Oh look where that Spirit has led us today. God has truly blessed us."

Beginning in 1887 with its founding pastor, the Rev. William Bloodsaw, Second Baptist's 13 pastors have managed to find their niche by remaining relevant and connecting with the community the church is charged to serve.

The Bible tells us in Josea 4:6, without a vision, the people will perish.

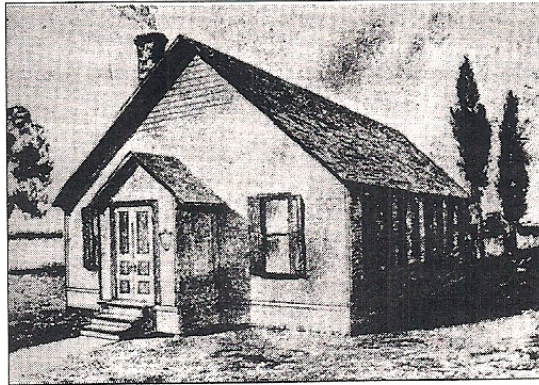
"Second Baptist Church has been blessed to do what no other organization has done," said the Rev. Aaron N. Gibson Sr., 13th pastor of Second Baptist Church. "The vision that the Lord gave me 16 years ago and the mission that this church has carried out over the years has allowed us to be the first to have programs to feed the hungry twice a week, cloth the naked, a prison ministry, a hospital ministry and a ministry to serve two nursing homes with worship services monthly."

"In addition to this, the church has assisted thousands over the years with genuine needs by helping with utilities, rent, mortgages, food, clothing and brief hotel stays. The church has accomplished this without grants or loans from the government or any other outside source of financial assistance."

This weekend, the church will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a luncheon banquet on Saturday at Branches in West Long Branch. Sunday services at 10 a.m. will mark the church's official founding.

"Having come to Long Branch in 1968 and uniting with Second Baptist Church, I have seen it transform into the pillar of the community that our founders envisioned," said E. Tonya Greenwood, 125th anniversary chairperson. "This year's celebration is extra special because we will pause to acknowledge the continuous service of a dedicated few on whose shoulders our current membership now stands. God always has servants to carry out His will."

Among those receiving that special recognition for dedicated service is Ellen M. Brown,



The original Second Baptist Church

church clerk and church secretary. Brown holds the distinction of being the current longest serving member of the church's official board with more than 33 years of continuous service in that capacity.

"Sister Brown serves as a link between the past and present," Greenwood said. "Over the years, she has maintained records of all baptisms, baby blessings, weddings, funerals and any other significant events relative to the life of Second Baptist."

### The First Century

During this period, Second Baptist Church had 12 pastors. The Rev. Asbury Smallwood is credited with erecting the first stone edifice in 1904. Members still worship in that building today. In the early years, much of the carpentry at the church was done by the next pastor, Rev. Emmett Flowers.

Even during the early years, the leaders of Second Baptist Church were also community spokesmen. Among the first were the Rev. L. K. Jackson, who along with Dr. J. C. McKelvey, was instrumental in ensuring that all beaches along the NJ coast were open to all citizens regardless of race, color, or creed. These forerunners paved the way for the Rev. Cornelius P. Williams, who became the 12th and longest serving pastor, from 1943 until 1995.

"C.P.," as he was affectionately called, was credited with making major upgrades to the facility, including basement improvements, the installation of new lighting, the addition of the church's first public address system, as well as revarnishing of pews, covering of pulpit chairs, the purchase of a steam table for the kitchen and a new communion table.

However, what would end up being his greatest addition came in the fall of 1978 with the construction of an educational wing. The dedicatory service was held on Oct. 28, 1979. The addition included a chapel, several classrooms, new offices and a dining facility, a portion of which became the future home for a day-care center sponsored by the Inter-Community Coordinating

Council (Head Start).

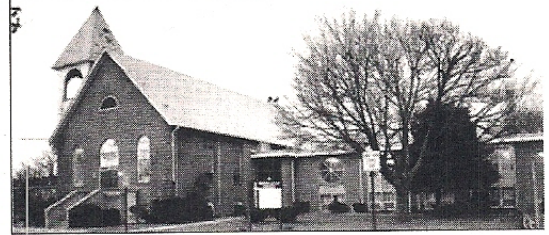
### The Past 25 Years

Williams continued his service into the church's last quarter of a century. However, on February 26, 1995, he was called from labor to reward. After more than 50 years, Second Baptist Church went through a transitional period.

On May 19, 1996, the Rev. Gibson, was installed as the 13th pastor.

Second Baptist was among the first to open its doors to Portuguese and Brazilian churches that had no place to worship.

"We have chosen to be a whosoever will let them come church," Gibson said. "That



What Second Baptist Church looked like before an expansion started five years ago.



A rendering of the expansions to the church, which are expected to be completed within a month.

means that we view ourselves as a multicultural, multiethnic and pluralistic church."

The church also has provided space for Narcotics Anonymous (NA) to meet twice per week for the past 16 years.

"We have grown numerically

and spiritually," added Gibson, noting that Second Baptist has also partnered with a few other churches and organizations to create pilot programs on stroke awareness, which is one of the major ills of African-Americans.

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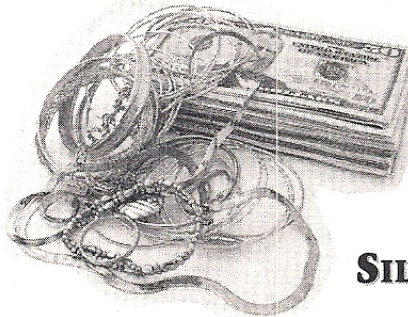
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## Monmouth Medical Center names Pierre J. Mendoza, M.D, Medical Co-Director of Robotic Surgery

**Long Branch** — Monmouth Medical Center, a Barnabas Health facility, recently appointed urologist Pierre J. Mendoza, M.D., medical co-director of robotic surgery. In this position, Dr. Mendoza will join urologist Michael Esposito, M.D., FACS, in leadership roles for the region's most advanced robotic surgery program.

Monmouth Medical Center currently operates two da Vinci Si Surgical Systems, one of which has a dual console, allowing two surgeons to operate in tandem. The hospital is one of a select group across the country to use this system, which offers a specially designed camera and endoscope to enable surgeons to capture images of tissue and surrounding blood vessels by inject-

ing a unique fluorescence dye that is activated by near-infrared light. The result is more precise visualization, allowing finer assessment of tissue while using a minimally invasive approach.

Dr. Mendoza performed the first robotic partial nephrectomy in New Jersey on a patient with kidney cancer using the new fluorescence technology.

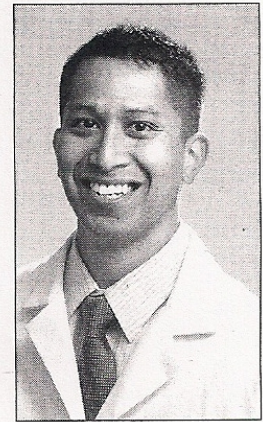
Prior to Monmouth Medical Center, Dr. Mendoza completed his fellowship training in robotic surgery and minimally invasive uro-oncology at University of Pennsylvania Health System - Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. He earned his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine, where he completed his residency in general surgery and urology.

Dr. Mendoza is a member of the Society of Urologic Robotic Surgeons, the American Urological Association, the Endourological Society and the Sexual Medicine Society. He resides in Neptune.

### About Monmouth Medical Center

Located in Long Branch, Monmouth Medical Center, a Barnabas Health facility, along with the Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center, is one of New Jersey's largest academic medical centers and has been a teaching affiliate of Philadelphia's Drexel University College of Medicine for more than 40 years. From its earliest

days, Monmouth Medical Center has been a leader in surgical advancement and has introduced many technological firsts to the region, including robotic surgery and other minimally invasive techniques. The hospital is routinely recognized by HealthGrades, the nation's largest premier independent health care quality company, for excellence in both emergency medicine and maternity care. U.S. News & World Report has recognized Monmouth as a regional leader in cancer, geriatrics, gynecology, neurology and neurosurgery. For more information on Monmouth Medical Center, visit [www.barnabashealth.org](http://www.barnabashealth.org).



Pierre J. Mendoza, M.D.

## Random Thoughts

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by right-wing institutes, every economist I've heard has said that Obama's bailout and stimulus plan were vital for our nation. They kept a recession from turning into a depression. It was a good start (though many will say the follow-up was lacking).

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The 2012 election will be one of utter lunacy. Gingrich,

Romney, Rick Santorum and Ron Paul keep making claims about themselves and their opponents that aren't true, and aren't even conceivably believable.

Republicans might not have chosen their nominee, but I've heard enough to make up my mind: none of the above. I can't, in good conscience, even consider voting for one of them for President.

If I do vote in November, it will be for a man I still have a lot of doubts about after his first four years. That makes me worry for our nation's future.

### Thanksgiving Novena To St. Jude

O HOLY St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known, and cause you to be invoked.

Say three Our Fathers; three Hail Marys and Glorias. Publication must be promised. St. Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. I have had my request granted. Publication Promised.

Thank you for favors granted. M.T.

### Novena to St. Jude

Oh Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return, I promise to make your name known, and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This novena has never been known to fail. This novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. D.J.R.

### Prayer to St. Jude

To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases almost despaired of.

Most holy apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly — (Here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen. N.M.

### Novena to St. Jude

Oh Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent position. In return, I promise to make your name known, and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and Glorias. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This novena has never been known to fail. This novena must be said for 9 consecutive days. D.J.R.

## State & Local Experts Make the Case for 'Why New Jersey Needs Rain Gardens'

"Science Mondays" on March 26 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft campus will host three leading experts tackling today's most pressing scientific, environmental and sustainability issues - "Why does New Jersey need 'rain gardens'?"

Rain gardens are depressions in the ground that are planted with native trees, plants and flowers that mimic the natural absorption and pollutant filtering activities of a forest. Through design, they capture the rain runoff for

local flora and fauna, recharge ground water supplies and reduce erosion and habitat destruction.

William Sciarappa, head of the County Extension Department and County Agricultural Agent, will discuss his department's plan to develop rain gardens. Thomas E. Matulewicz of the Monmouth County Master Gardeners will explain how the group helps design rain gardens. Laurel Von Gerichten, a certified landscape designer with her company Laurelbrook Design will explain

how homeowners can economically create rain gardens while enhancing the "curb appeal" of their homes.

The presentation is free. Groups are welcome. Please advise of any special seating needs. A cash buffet will be available beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the presentation will start at 6:30 p.m.

The event will take place in the Warner Student Life Center lower level Twin Lights rooms 1&2.

## Second Baptist Church

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Mimes, both part of the Youth Ministry.

In addition to Rev. Gibson and Brown, the church is under the spiritual and financial leadership of Deacon Rodney Morris, chairman of the Deacons Ministry, and David A. Brown, chairman of the Trustee ministry. Both have served in this capacity since 2007.

"In the years to come we will empower singles, married couples, youth, and families with resources, tools, and space to develop and implement their faith walk, while transforming the community by evangelism," Gibson said. "I believe in order to be the centerpiece of a community, a church must provide for every aspect of the human experience just as our Lord did, and

Second Baptist has been blessed to do so."

In 2007, Second Baptist embarked on its latest expansion, with the breaking of ground on a carefully and ambitiously planned expansion project that would increase the size of the existing facility by almost 10,000 square feet. According to Project Architect Richard Alderiso of DIGroup in New Brunswick, the expansion includes a new 4,000 square feet sanctuary and balcony, over 1,500 square feet of choir and pulpit space, future kitchen space in excess of 1,000 square feet, a gathering hall that seats 300, six classrooms, and administrative space.

"The addition has been constructed with materials which represent permanence and

strength, with concrete foundation walls, concrete block exterior and steel and heavy timber superstructure which serve to grace the lofty sanctuary space," Alderiso said. "Construction projects tend to take on a life of their own and the outcome undoubtedly is a reflection of the many people who pour their hearts and souls into their work and into their vision."

"This project team was lead by Ms. Chanta Jackson, who, through her undying vision and dedication would not allow the project to fall short," Alderiso added. "Ms. Jackson wore all hats from project manager to financial advisor to township and utility company liaison to inspirational leader. As a result, almost four and one half years later, a new page can be turned in the history of the Second Baptist Church."

"It's been a long time coming, but to God be the glory for the things He has done," said Jackson, who also serves as church treasurer. "We had a lot of forces working against us — a depressed economy and losing a portion of our membership following the closing of Fort Monmouth — but it just goes to show that with God, all things are possible."

With God's blessings, Second Baptist Church expects to have its official marching in celebration for the new church within the next 30 days.

## Route 71

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will be installed at certain intersections to replace the existing, underground loop detectors. These cameras are linked to traffic signals and help maximize the capacity of the highway by detecting vehicles waiting to enter or cross Route 71 and activate a signal sequence.

Upgraded curbing, ADA-compliant curb ramps, roadway striping and guide rail will also be provided throughout the project limits. The project, designed in-house by NJDOT engineers, is scheduled for completion in late-spring 2013.

NJDOT is coordinating the construction with NJ Transit, which operates numerous bus lines along Route 71.

The precise timing of the work is subject to change due to weather or other factors. Motorists are also encouraged to check NJDOT's traffic information website [www.511nj.org](http://www.511nj.org) for construction updates and real-time travel information.

## Second Baptist Celebrates 125th Anniversary With New Sanctuary

By Jack Kearns Published April 16, 2012



**Long Branch:** The Second Baptist Church celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the entrance to the new sanctuary on Saturday with more than 400 members, guests and visitors. The five-choir choral group made up of combining separate church groups by ages and special talents performed. They were accompanied by the instrumentals groups of the church youth.

Rev Aaron N. Gibson presided at the ribbon cutting and led the congregation into the large sanctuary where members and guests filled the room, much larger than the original building adjacent on Liberty Street.

The Invocation was offered by Rev. Sandra McLeod, of Second Baptist, followed by the choir's rendition of "The Solid Rock". Scripture readings from the Old Testament were read by Rev. Alexander Brown, Moderator, Seacoast Missionary Baptists Association, Pastor of St. Paul Baptists Church in Red Bank, and Minister Karen Morgan read from the New Testament.

A prayer was led by Rev. Virginia D. Feldman, Second Baptist. A Ministry of Music was conducted by the Second Baptist Church Combined Choir and Sister Shella Y. Gibson, Second Baptist, offered the Welcome.

A history of the church expansion project was presented by Sister Chantia L. Jackson, recalling the project's beginning in March of 2003 with the vision that led to its completion this past March. She recounted briefly the challenges that arose along the way. But with the commitment of the faithful and support from members of the community as well as the congregation the project came together and a new Sanctuary opened.



**SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH  
LONG BRANCH...THEN**



**SECOND BAPTIST  
SANCTUARY...NOW**

Deacon Rodney Morris, Chairman of the Deacon's Ministry dedicated the Sermon to the congregation, introducing Dr. J. Michael Sanders, Pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Tinton Falls. Dr. Sanders delivered a sermon asking God's blessing, asking congregation members to follow the church's teachings as related in the Bible and in social history.



**Dr. J. Michael Sanders, Pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Tinton Falls**

Brother David A. Brown delivered official remarks asking all for their continued support, spiritually and financially, followed by the Benediction by Rev. Sanders.

During his closing words, Rev. Gibson addressed the three major participants in Second Baptist. The people of the church: the Youth - the next generation; the 30 to 65 year-olds - The Workers; and the Seniors, whom he called The Wisdom.



**Second Baptist Congregation Celebrates 125th Anniversary and Opening of New Sanctuary**

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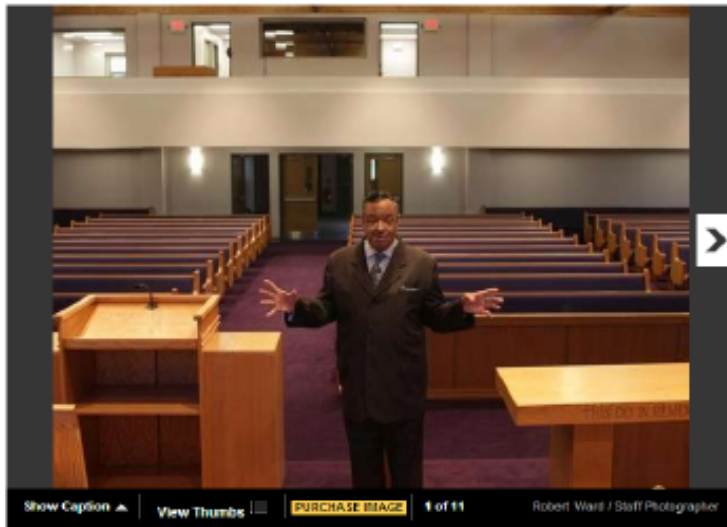
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# New Second Baptist Church set to open its doors

Second Baptist Church set to open its doors

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Written by  
**Dan Radel**  
Staff Writer

**LONG BRANCH** — The new Second Baptist Church, which has been 4 and a half long years in the making, is finally set to open its

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doors this Saturday. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. followed by the first sermon to be given by Pastor Aaron N. Gibson.

The new church sits adjacent to the original Second Baptist Church at 93 Liberty Street.

The Second Baptist Church has been a part of the Long Branch community since 1887. It's the oldest Baptist church in the community and this year also marks its 125th year anniversary.

As the history is told by members of the church, in the 1880's a group of believers of the Baptist faith settled in Long Branch, but had no church to worship. Their first meetings were held in the home of Mrs. Ellen Hill on Brook Street while a man by the name of Mr. William Bloodsaw served as their pastor.



Pastor Aaron N. Gibson looks over the new sanctuary at the Second Baptist Church of Long Branch. /Robert Ward/Staff Photographer

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[Long Branch Second Baptist Church](#)

In 1887, land was purchased and the church was built of a wood frame on the site it presently sits on on Liberty Street. Around 1904, the wood frame was replaced by stone. The Rev. Asbury Smallwood was the leader then, and that church continued to serve the community until the present day.

Since its foundation, the church's membership has grown from a dozen members to about 600 members at its peak. They have had 13 pastors in that time,

beginning with Bloodsaw up to Gibson.

"I grew up in the church. It's my life and I've never left it," said Chanta Jackson, who became a church member in 1968 and now serves as the treasury.

Jackson was also the project manager who coordinated the building of the new church. The new church can seat 750 people, whereas the original church sat 250.

"To me, the new church is the beginning of a new stage in the ministry of the Second Baptist Church. We want it to be the hub of the community, a broker of resources," said Pastor Gibson, who will deliver the first sermon on Saturday after the ribbon cutting.

Gibson hinted that the first sermon will encourage outreach and growth in spirituality.

"We've got to be better than what we've been. We've got the opportunity to bring more people into the congregation," Gibson said.

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The new church cost approximately \$3.6 million to build. About \$1.5 million was raised from within the congregation and from outside donors. The church took out a loan for the remainder.

It features 44 pews and 12 stained glass windows, 10 oblong shaped and 2 circular shaped. The stain glass windows were made by Laws Stain Glass out of High Point, N.C. There is also 4,000 feet of sanctuary and balcony, over 1,500 square feet of choir and pulpit space, 1000 square feet of kitchen space, a 300 seat gathering hall, 6 classrooms and administrative space.

The architect for the new church was Richard Alderiso of DIGroup in New Brunswick. Alderiso said the architectural designs took about 6 to 8 months to complete.

"We're proud of it. We tried to be sympathetic to the existing church and not create a contrast between the old church," Alderiso said.

The old church is not being torn down, but instead will continue to play an integral role as a place for small weddings, funerals and baptisms, Pastor Gibson said.

The ceremony for the opening of the new church on Saturday will begin at 3:30 p.m. People who plan to attend should meet at the Bucky James Community Center at the time. At 4 p.m. there will be a march to the new church, followed by the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"We will have the choir singers and the praise flags. We will march in as church. We are not only celebrating 125 years, but the opening of the new church is for the future members who will come after us,"