

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

1893 to 2018

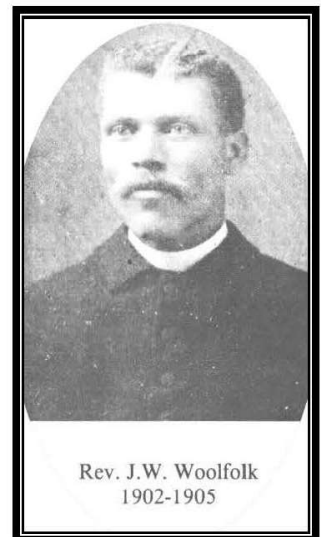
Second Baptist Church was organized in 1893 under the leadership of **Reverend James H. Wooden**, a native of Virginia, and a member of the Zion Baptist Church of Germantown, PA. Rev. Wooden began the Second Baptist fellowship with sixteen members originally meeting in various homes, and then meeting for some time in Moorestown Town Hall. The first prayer meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Miller on Riverton Road. They later met in the Knights of Columbus building on East Main Street, Moorestown, NJ.

After the Quakers built a new meeting house, they gave their old building to Second Baptist Church. This framed structure was moved to the site of our present Church at the corner of Mill and Beech Streets, Moorestown, N.J. Some of the residents of Moorestown such as **Henry C. Perkins, Dr. Joseph Stokes and Walter Stokes**, gave Second Baptist equipment and monetary donations when the church first moved to this new site. Some early members of Second Baptist who blazed the trail, and opened the way for us and future generations were: **Mr. Zack Dunlap, Mrs. Mary Dunlap, Mr. George Clark, Mr. John Wood, Mr. Thomas Johnson, Mr. Andrew Wright, Mr. Fred Chinn, Mrs. Clara Steward, Mr. and Mrs. James Dixon, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coleman.**

Worship services were held in this building and each pastor who followed Rev. Wooden was well aware of the improvements needed to allow the facility to accommodate the growing membership. **Rev. Wooden** served for seven years. He was followed by the following ministers: **Reverend Robert Wood** in 1900; **Reverend J.W. Woolfolk** in 1902 (last debt of \$400 paid on the old building); **Reverend Jackson** in 1905; **Reverend Willis** in 1907 (given credit for the second church "the frame building") and **Reverend Tillman** in 1910 (implemented the checking system).



The architectural roof design of this home, formerly owned by Deaconess Lillian Pritchett, was used to design "the frame building."
The second, Second Baptist Church.



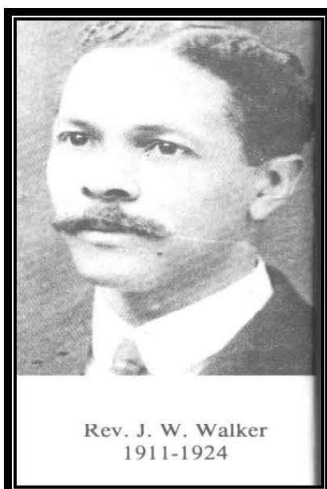
Rev. J.W. Woolfolk
1902-1905

“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”

Isaiah 28:16

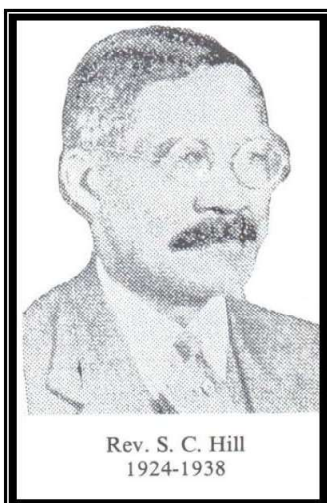


The Quaker Meeting House, donated in 1897 and relocated to Mill and Beech Streets, was Second Baptist Church's first building.



The **Reverend J. W. Walker**, who came in 1911 and served until 1924. Rev. Walker was a well-respected and much loved, man of God, who was influential in the community. It was Rev. Walker, who built the present edifice. He held three positions during his pastorate at Second Baptist and they were: President of the Sunday School Convention, President of the Bethany Baptist Association and Vice President of the Afro State Convention. It was under his leadership, that the present edifice, which houses the main sanctuary, was built in 1924 at a cost of \$ 40,000. At that time many members mortgaged their homes and families gave \$50 each to secure building. Rev. Walker was known as one of the leading ministers of New Jersey, always taking an

active part in worthwhile endeavors in the immediate community and throughout the State of New Jersey. He served as the Pastor of Second Baptist Church for thirteen years, after which he heeded his call to Pastor in Brockton, Massachusetts.



The **Rev. S. C. Hill** followed Rev. Walker and continued the program of ministries for the church. Rev. Hill was a great evangelist with strong convictions, particularly "Winning Souls for Christ". Our church grew spiritually, numerically, as well as financially under his leadership. It was in 1930, during Rev. Hill's tenure as pastor that Deacon Robert Young, who was also Superintendent of the Sunday School, nominated Mrs. Ethel Scott as church clerk. Mrs. Ethel Scott Johnson would serve the

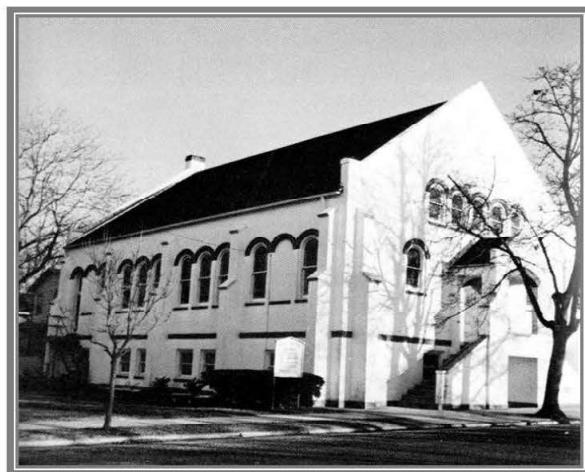
church for the next fifty years in this capacity. She would faithfully record the church history until her retirement in 1980.

Rev. R.W. Palmer from Danville, Virginia served the church from 1938-1941.

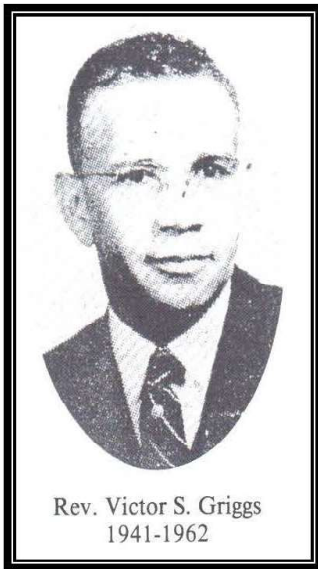
"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" Ephesians 2:20



This present edifice, built in 1924 under the leadership of Rev. J.W. Walker



Second Baptist Church's second building was constructed in 1924 at Mill and Beech Streets.



Rev. Victor S. Griggs
1941-1962

In 1941, **Rev. Victor S. Griggs** assumed the pastorate of Second Baptist Church. Under Rev. Griggs' administration, the church became highly organized. His effectiveness was felt throughout the church as he insisted that departments, auxiliaries and boards have well-trained persons to lead them. He devised an efficient procedure for conducting meetings, organized the Brotherhood, an organization which had the purpose of nurturing men and boys of the church membership into Christian manhood. This group became responsible for new lighting in the lower auditorium, painting of the interior and exterior of the church, and installation of a new kitchen.

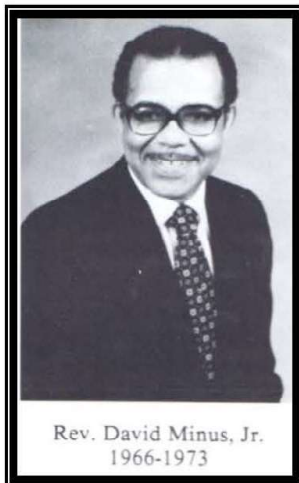
Rev. Griggs was very active in the Bethany Baptist Association and served as moderator for a time. He was very interested in Camp Cedar Knolls, the Bethany Baptist Campgrounds in Southern New Jersey, and was instrumental in the purchase of this property.

Rev. Griggs remained the Pastor of Second Baptist Church for twenty-two years, the longest in the church's history until his death at which time the ministries of the church were under the Board of Deacons of which Deacon John T. Hall was the chairman.



Parsonage of the Second Baptist Church, 413 North Church Street,
Moorestown, New Jersey. Purchased, March 19, 1941.
Dedicated, October 15, 1941.

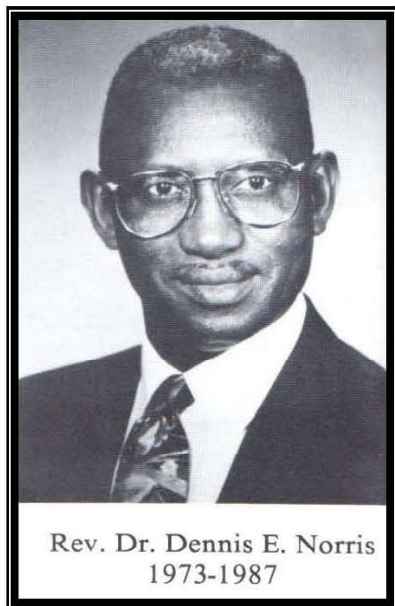
The **Rev. Cleveland Williams** served the church for a brief period in 1964 and 1965.



Rev. David Minus, Jr.
1966-1973

During the period of 1966 to 1973, the **Rev. David Minus, Jr.** led the church, making tremendous progress. Rev. Minus was the Pastor when the church celebrated its 75th Anniversary. These words were part of Rev. Minus' message to the church, "...we trust that in the midst of the world confusion and chaos that she (Second Baptist) will continue to be a beacon for the unsaved, the disillusioned, the frustrated and hopeless; that she will be a friend to mankind, offering spiritual guidance, words of comfort and encouragement. That was dedicated Christians of Second Baptist Church we will so live that our influence will be felt in the community and that men and women will have a new awareness of their duties to our heavenly Father."

While serving Second Baptist Church, the church in 1967 built and paid for a parsonage within one year. Rev. Minus also made several purchases including the land adjoining the church for off-street parking; a new organ; and pulpit furniture. A \$ 200 Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship was presented at the Moorestown High School Graduation. Administratively, Rev. Minus directed a revision of the church bylaws. He created a new banking system, and instituted a building fund. Rev. Minus was a wonderful evangelist and gifted musician. He possessed the unique ability to guide the growth of Christian personalities through fellowship activities. His daughter, Joyce Minus-Reeves, played for the Youth Choir and greatly added to the Sunday worship service.



Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Norris
1973-1987

In 1973, **Rev. Doctor Dennis E. Norris** became our spiritual leader and ably led the congregation in the work of Christ. Rev. Norris ministered from day to day to the parishioners of our church through preaching, teaching and counseling. His belief in "All things are done through, for and by Christ" gave new direction to the church. This was shown by unusual growth in church membership, stewardship, Christian Education. Also, enrollment increased in the Adult Church Sunday School Class; and New Member Training Classes were established. The congregation participated in the Racetrack Ministry, the Crop Walk for Hunger, and the Interfaith Caregivers. In addition, the church was one of the charter members in the formation of the Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development Corporation (M.E.N.D.), a non-profit created to develop affordable housing opportunities in the Moorestown area. The church ministries expanded to include a

Director of Recreation, a Youth Advisor and establishment of a successful Capital Funds Campaign with our Challenge Goal of \$112,000.00. Construction of the Christian Educational Annex was started and completed shortly after Rev. Norris departure. During Rev. Norris' tenure the church supported three associations-Bethany Baptist Association, National State Baptist Association and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. Three deacons and two interims were also ordained during his pastorate. Rev. Norris left Second Baptist Church in March, 1987, to accept the position of Associate Executive Minister for American Baptist Churches in Cleveland, Ohio.



Rev. William D. Willis
Interim Pastor 1987-1989
1990-1991

During the month of March 1987, **Rev. William D. Willis** became the Interim Pastor of Second Baptist Church. Rev. Willis was a retired Pastor, having served as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jericho, of Deptford, New Jersey for 30 years. He served faithfully for two years until a Pastor recommended and appointed.



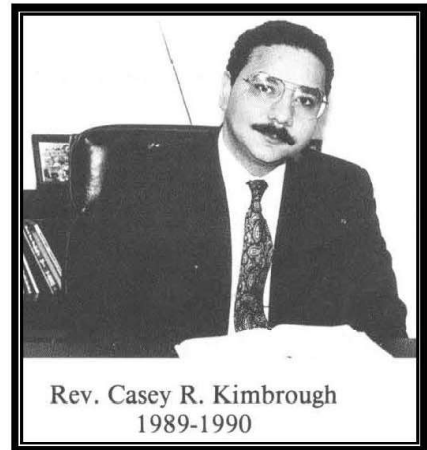
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - MOORESTOWN N.J.

DENNIS E. NORRIS - PASTOR

VAN B. DRUMER, JR., FAIA, ARCHITECT

In 1989, **Rev. Casey R. Kimbrough** assumed the pastorate of Second Baptist Church and served the people well until July of 1990. During his administration, a sincere effort was made to bring "togetherness" to the congregation.

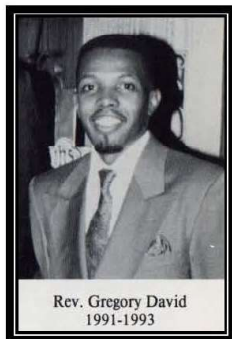
In addition, he conducted a viable Bible Study Class on Saturday mornings, focusing on "What Faith is All About." The course attracted approximately 50 church members. A church officers' retreat was also instituted and was held at the Archway Schools facility in Atco, NJ. He had a special bond with the youth of the church who were keenly saddened by his departure. Rev. Kimbrough accepted the call to Pastor the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Rev. Casey R. Kimbrough
1989-1990

Again, **Rev. William D. Willis** returned to Second Baptist Church as its Interim Pastor in 1990. He remained with us until July of 1991.

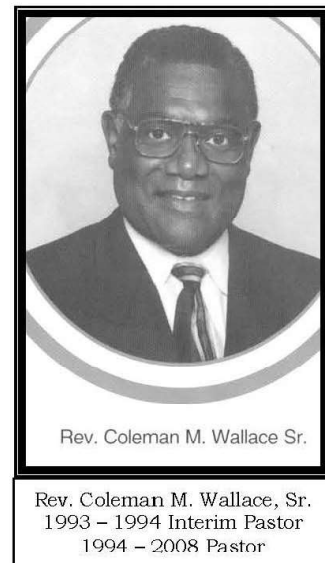
In 1991, **Rev. Gregory David** assumed the pastorate at Second Baptist Church until August of 1993.



Rev. Gregory David
1991-1993

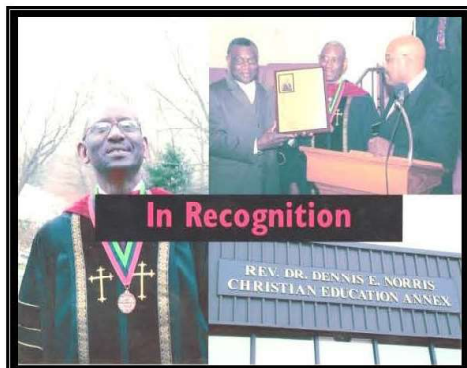
In October of 1993 **Rev. Coleman M. Wallace, Sr.** came to Second Baptist and became the Interim Pastor in November 1993, our Centennial year. Second Baptist grew spiritually under his interim pastorate and the church officially called him as its Pastor on October 27, 1994.

Under his pastorate, the church continued to grow in membership, stewardship, and fellowship. Many ministries of the church were reactivated and others were established including the Male Chorus, Senior Choir, Combined Choir, Youth Choir and Watch Care. Ministry mission statements were also developed and five deacons were ordained.



Rev. Coleman M. Wallace Sr.

Rev. Coleman M. Wallace, Sr.
1993 – 1994 Interim Pastor
1994 – 2008 Pastor



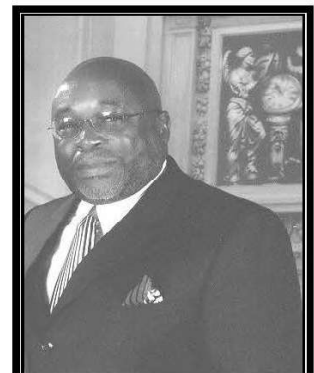
Several improvements were made to the Church edifice which included painting of the church exterior, updating the kitchen in Fellowship Hall, replacing the pews and carpeting the main sanctuary, purchasing an electric piano, adding drums to the instruments of worship, painting and refurbishing Fellowship Hall, the establishment of a technical center, and the purchase of a garage storage shed. A new 15 passenger van was also donated to the Church.

In addition to the physical improvements, the church experienced two other major occurrences: The parsonage was sold and a portion of the proceeds from the sale were used to pay off the mortgage secured to build the educational annex, which was added to the church in 1987, was dedicated as the **"Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Norris Christian Education Annex"** on December 11, 2005.█

Rev. Coleman M. Wallace, Sr. retired from Second Baptist Church on June 30, 2008 after serving fourteen years as Pastor.

In December of 2008, **Rev. Curtis A. Haynes** became the Interim Pastor of Second Baptist Church. He served in this capacity until he was elected to become our Senior Pastor in April 2011. Under his leadership, Teen church was instituted; construction of a new parking lot was commenced and completed in 2016. Our church has increased in membership and continues to grow spiritually.

Rev. Curtis A. Haynes retired on June 30, 2017 after serving 3 years as our Interim Pastor and 6 years as Pastor.



Rev. Curtis A. Haynes
Interim Pastor
2008-2011
Pastor 2011-2017



Rev. Thomas N. Holmes
Interim Pastor
Jan. 1, 2018 to present

*"But as it is written,
Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,
neither have entered into the heart of man,
the things which God hath prepared
for them that love him."
I Corinthians 2:9*

In January of 2018, Second Baptist Church, welcomed Rev. Thomas N. Holmes as he became our Interim Pastor.

*"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder,
I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.
But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."
I Corinthians 3:10*