



On Sunday, June 9, 1968, seven families (Banks, Barnes, Brown, Carey, Dixon, Logan, and McDuffie) met in the garage at the home of Mrs. Lou Ray Barnes. That gathering at 183 Merrill Street in Brentwood, New York was the first service of the Mission known today as New Jerusalem Baptist Church.

The mission came out of the Fellowship Baptist Church of Wyandanch, New York under the leadership of the Reverend Romeo L. Dowden and was formally organized on Sunday, July 14, 1968, and moved to 78 Doolittle Street in Brentwood. Elections were held there, with the following results: Reverend Richard Mitchell Logan, Pastor; Reverend James S. McDuffie, Assistant Pastor; Brother Jasper Carey, Chairman of the Deacon Board; Sister Vernell Logan, President of the Deaconess Board; Sister Julia Jackson, Church Clerk; Sister Isaline Banks, Financial Secretary; Sister Lou Ray Barnes, Treasurer of the Trustee Board; Brother Eugene Carey and Sister Shirley Porter, Trustees; Sisters Elouise Carey and Edna McDuffie, Missionaries; Sister Arue Banks, President of the Ushers Board; and Sister Betty Brown, Pianist.

On Sunday, October 27, 1968, the Mission was officially recognized as a Baptist Church by the Long Island Progressive Missionary Baptist Churches General Association and Moderator, Reverend Romeo L. Dowden. The church received its name from an inspired Sister Lou Ray Barnes when she read Revelation 21:2, "And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

The building fund began when David Banks, Jr. contributed thirteen cents. After the sale of the building on Doolittle Street, the congregation was invited to worship at the home of Pastor and Mrs. Logan at 1728 Stein Drive in North Bay Shore, New York. The hospitality that was shown by Pastor and Mrs. Logan was indescribable. Mrs. Logan was an excellent cook and would often serve dinner to the members after services. On Sunday, June 29, 1969, the church's first-anniversary service was celebrated with a jubilant march from Pastor and Mrs. Logan's home to the building at 37 MacArthur Avenue in Brentwood. Fundraisers were held to purchase the adjoining lot at 39 MacArthur Avenue.

On Sunday, July 20, 1969, Reverend McDuffie and Sister Rosetta Wheat chaired an Appreciation Day honoring Pastor and Mrs. Logan. Also, in 1969 the Young People's Choir was organized by Sister Betty Brown, and a scholarship fund was established and administered by the Trustees. Sister Betty Brown enrolled in college with assistance from the scholarship fund.

In June of 1970, Brother George Jones chaired the Pastor's Anniversary Service, and Sister Diane Bundy became the President of the newly formed R. M. Logan Singers Adult Choir. In July of 1970, the Trustees helped to purchase the lot at 39 MacArthur Avenue. On Wednesday, August 19, 1970, the church Building Fund Committee and the Building Committee were created with Reverend David A. Rooks as Chairman.

The decade of the 1970s witnessed God-blessed changes in both the physical structure and the congregation at large. In 1971, the building foundation was laid. In 1972, four members became licensed Missionaries: Sisters Vernell Logan, Lou Ray Barnes, Marnie Gray, and Amy Patton. Later, Sister Eloise Carey would also become a licensed Missionary. By 1973, regular church services were held in the lower level of 39 MacArthur Avenue. As the Pastor and members continued to thank and serve God, in 1974 four members became Evangelists: Sisters Lou Ray Barnes, Helen Hamil, Amy Patton, and Lillian Powell. That same year two other members, Brothers George Phelps, and James Jackson became Ministers.

In 1980 construction began on the upper level of the church. However, it took some years to complete. But the people joyfully shouted "Hallelujah! Glory to God!" as worship services in the sanctuary commenced in 1984.

By the early 1990s, Brother Robert Alexander became a Minister, Reverend Ellis Bell became Assistant Pastor and Evangelist Lou Ray Barnes was ordained to the Gospel Ministry.

Many major renovations to the church's structure were done during the 1990s such as elevation of the ceiling, installation of replacement windows, a new roof, new interior walls, lights, sound system, air conditioning, and ramps for the mobile impaired.

Also, in the 1990s, Pastor Logan served two, three-year terms as the Moderator of the Long Island Progressive Missionary Baptist Churches General Association. Through Reverend Logan, the church belonged to the National Baptist Convention of America. Pastor Logan and New Jerusalem members often attended summer sessions and the Mid-Winter Board Meeting of the Convention.

Pastor Logan and New Jerusalem also supported the Foreign Mission Board for more than thirty years. In addition, Pastor Logan twice led several church members on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, visiting of course the city of Jerusalem. While there, he was privileged to preach on the Sea of Galilee and baptize members in the Jordan River.

From the 1990s until 2011, New Jerusalem has had various members assume important positions. Reverend Tracy Branch was elected as Assistant Pastor, several members were licensed as Missionaries, Evangelists and Ministers, consecrated as Deaconess, and ordained as Deacons and Reverends.

On Sunday, May 30, 2004, Reverend Logan and the New Jerusalem Baptist Church gave glory to God as they celebrated the burning of the mortgage. The Reverend James T. Barber led the service.

The church continued to move forward until 2010 when Pastor Logan's health began to fail. At that time, the church was led by Deacon Richard Praileau, who served as Chairman, and was assisted by the Long Island Progressive Missionary Baptist Churches General Association. With the help of the Association, Evangelist Isaline Banks was selected to serve as the Chairwoman of the Executive Board. The members then began the process of writing a new Constitution and By-Laws for the church. They were approved by the body and Reverend Richard M. Logan was named Pastor-Emeritus. He was honored with a Retirement Banquet at the Sheraton Long Island Hotel in Hauppauge, New York on Saturday, October 29, 2011, in recognition of forty-three years of pastoral leadership.

Because of the efforts of Sister Mary Ann Faines, on Saturday, November 5, 2011 the Town of Islip officials came to New Jerusalem to dedicate the street named MacArthur Avenue to Pastor-Emeritus Logan as the newly named "Rev. Richard M. Logan's Way".

A new chapter began when the Reverend Stanley Antonio Wilkerson was elected as pastor and officially installed on Sunday, July 1, 2012. The Lord blessed us in sending Reverend Wilkerson and his wife, Mrs. Rosalyn Wilkerson. Fresh winds were blowing and under his leadership New Jerusalem grew spiritually and numerically. His vision for New Jerusalem was: "A church governed by the word of God, investing in the total man, committed to pleasing God by faithfully teaching God's word, serving one another, as well as being the "Salt and Light" to our community" (Matthew 5:13-14).

In October of 2012, the clasp on our chain was broken with the death of our beloved Pastor-Emeritus, the Reverend Richard M. Logan. Reverend Logan will always be remembered for his humor, hard work, and vision for the church which he exercised through his wisdom. His motto for New Jerusalem was “A church where everybody is somebody and Christ Jesus is all.” We are grateful for the life and ministry of our Pastor, the builder.

With the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Wilkerson continued in his assignment. A new chairman of the Deacons was elected, Deacon Wendell Deloatch. Again, we started a list of repairs to beautify God’s house. Pastor Wilkerson made it a rule that each of the auxiliaries would be known as a Ministry instead of boards. These are the ministries that serve within New Jerusalem: Music Ministry (Praise Team, Mass Choir, Senior Choir, Male Chorus, and Praise Dancers), Women’s Ministry, Men’s Ministry, Willing Workers Ministry, Missionary Ministry, Ushers and Nurses Ministry, Pastor’s Aide Ministry, Trustee Ministry, Deacon Ministry, Deaconess Ministry, and Youth Ministry.

Between 2013 and 2014, there were many additions in leadership of the body: In January of 2013, Evangelist Isaline Banks became a licensed Minister. On Saturday, November 30, 2013 Sisters Marie Jones, Carol Green, and Ruth Richardson were consecrated as Deaconess. In 2013, we also celebrated our forty-fifth anniversary with a gala banquet at the Watermill Caterers in Smithtown, New York, followed by two joyous Sunday services. Two couples were set aside as walking deacons and deaconess: Brother Keith and Sister Sandra Mayo and Brother Gregory and Sister Desiree Richardson, as well as Brother John Walker. Also, during those years the Missionary Ministry, under the leadership and vision of Pastor Wilkerson, sponsored several successful and innovative revivals and events purposed to enrich and strengthen God’s people.

On Sunday, September 30, 2017, our church was struck again by a devastating blow when the Lord called our beloved pastor, the Reverend Stanley A. Wilkerson from labor to reward. Though he only served five short years, those were five faithful and fruitful years of service. And in God’s divine providence, Pastor Wilkerson’s assignment had been completed. He was a man of vision who was concerned about the souls of others. We are grateful for his life and ministry.

Pressing on in the absence of a pastor, June of 2018 marked a milestone for the New Jerusalem Baptist Church family; the celebration of the Fiftieth Church Anniversary. On Saturday, June 2, 2018, New Jerusalem held a beautiful banquet in the fellowship hall of the church in celebration. The Reverend James T. Barber was the keynote speaker for this grand occasion.

Because of God's faithfulness to and love for New Jerusalem, a year to the day of Pastor Wilkerson's passing, the Lord provided yet again. On Sunday, September 30, 2018, our church followed the lead of the Holy Spirit and elected Reverend Adrian DeShon Reid as our third pastor. Reverend Reid hit the ground running even as Pastor-Elect. Less than one month into his pastorate, we needed a new boiler. Fulfilling that need sparked many new projects to bring upgrades to our facilities and technology to make us a 21st Century ministry. In addition, God has used Reverend Reid to help increase the finances of our church each year through God's tithes and our offerings. Reverend Reid also instituted a Capital Campaign to renovate and restore our church house completely to expand our aid and influence in the community. But most importantly, God has used Reverend Reid to strengthen the church spiritually through the preaching and teaching of the word.

Reverend Reid was officially installed as Pastor on Sunday, March 31, 2019. The installation culminated in a weekend-long celebration that included a grand banquet in Babylon, New York, at The Piermont. Because of his leadership, we have established relationships with our local elected officials, Brentwood School District, Suffolk County Police Department's 3rd Precinct, and Northwell Health's South Shore University Hospital (formerly Southside Hospital). In addition, we have relaunched our weekly Food Pantry and began a summer meals program for youth in our community. Both endeavors are in partnership with Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and foods being provided by Island Harvest Food Bank.

In November of 2019, Pastor Reid received an invitation to share the inspirational message for the Saturday Action Rally of the National Action Network under the leadership of Reverend Al Sharpton. Our Mass Choir was the special musical guest. That morning, members of our church also traveled with our pastor and choir to the House of Justice in Harlem, New York, to share in this beautiful event.

In March of 2020, the world shut down as the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc across the globe. Yet, God gave Pastor Reid and the leaders of New Jerusalem the wisdom and guidance needed to navigate us through the uncertain times ahead of us. Through technology, as we were not worshipping in our building, we could hear the word preached on Sundays and engage in teaching on Wednesdays. In addition, a weekly prayer call and a midweek service each month were instituted during this time to strengthen us spiritually. God has been faithful to us, and we are excited about the great future ahead of our church.