

A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF  
NARROWWAY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1880 - 1975



Narrowway Baptist Church  
Route 3, Dallas, Georgia

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By: HUBERT GLENN HOLLAND, J.D.  
Marietta, Georgia  
April, 1975

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INTRODUCTION

There is tradition to the effect that the late Mrs. Sarah Turner Murray was the wife of the late Mr. James Murray and they owned a female slave by the name of Miss Sue Powell. Mr. James Murray purchased all of Land Lot Numbers 440, 441 and 496 of the 3rd District, 3rd Section of Paulding County, Georgia, from the late Mr. John L. Howland by Warranty Deed dated October 29, 1852, recorded in Deed Book Z, page 241, Office of Clerk, Superior Court of Paulding County, Georgia. Tradition is that Mr. James Murray was a gold miner and farmer. The late Mr. James Murray was a Private in Company A, 40th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry and he was captured in Cobb County, Georgia, by the Federal Troops in July, 1864, and confined as a prisoner of war in Camp Douglas Prison, Illinois, where he died on October 30, 1864. Miss Sue Powell, after she became emancipated, chose to continue to reside on the farm of Mrs. Sarah Turner Murray. Tradition is that Miss Powell and Mrs. Murray were very kind, honest, active Christian people. Mrs. Murray was especially fond of the BIBLE and good preaching. On September 25, 1880, Mrs. Sarah Turner Murray conveyed title to a two acre tract of land located in Land Lot 496 of the 3rd District, 3rd Section of Paulding County, Georgia, to Messrs. Wiley Abner, Thomas A. Hughes and Augustus Lindsey as Trustees of the Baptist Church at Narroway by Warranty Deed recorded in Deed Book Q, page 676, Office of Clerk, Superior Court of Paulding County, Georgia. Tradition is to the effect that Mrs. Murray desired the church to be called the "Narroway Baptist Church" and that one of her favorite verses of scripture is found in ST. MATTHEW 7:14 and is as follows: "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" and she named the church in honor of the eternal truth contained in the foregoing verse of scripture.

THE OLD CHURCH BUILDINGS

Unfortunately most of the old records of the church were destroyed by fire when the home of a former clerk burned in 1901. Tradition is to the effect that the first religious services were conducted under a bush arbor on the two acre tract in 1880 and construction of the first church building was completed in 1881. The original trustees of the church were named in the above-mentioned deed and according to tradition the three trustees, Mrs. Sarah Turner Murray and Miss Sue Powell were five of the constitutional members of the church. Religious services were conducted in the first church on October 22, 1910, at which time the members of the church decided to sell the old building and construct a new one. The old building was sold to the late Mr. Staton Turner.

Construction of the second church building was commenced in 1910 and the new structure was totally destroyed by a tornado in 1911. Construction of a third building began soon after the tornado, and it was completed on or about January 27, 1912. There is tradition to the effect that in April, 1912, the third church building was destroyed by a tornado, except for the floor and foundation and the pulpit and a copy of the BIBLE remained on the church did not let the destruction caused by the two tornadoes discourage them and they commenced to rebuild the church building from the floor upward and reconstruction of the third church building was completed in 1913 and it was used until 1965. The members of the church procured 2 3/5 acres in Land Lot Numbers 496 and 513 adjoining the original two acre tract from Mrs. Ruby F. McMichen by Warranty Deed dated June 25, 1963, recorded in Deed Book 4-B, page 504, Office of Clerk, Superior Court of Paulding County, Georgia. The two land lots were drawn in the Cherokee Gold Lot Lottery of 1832 by the following-named persons: "Land Lot 496, John N. Moore, Wilhites, Elbert" and "Land Lot 513, Silas S. Starr, Hodges, Newton."

#### THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING

On September 17, 1965, the members of the church decided that the membership of the church had grown too large for the church building of 1913 and the Rev. Jesse Green Tibbitts was elected Moderator and he appointed the following-named persons to serve on the Building Committee: Mr. Hugh Carruth, the late Mr. Elbert Chester Womack, Mr. Jack Powell and Mr. Raymond A. Thomason and Mr. Hugh Carruth was chosen to serve as Treasurer. The Building Committee appointed a Finance Committee named as follows: Mrs. Mildred Turner Womack, Mr. J. C. Thomason, Mrs. Edna Hornbuckle Thomason and Mrs. Christine Cochran Carruth. By December 13, 1965, a total of \$8,081.61 had been collected in cash and the Rev. Jesse Green Tibbitts appointed a Board of Directors or Trustees named as follows: Mr. Thomas Hershel Tibbitts, Rev. J. Hollis Tibbitts, Mr. J. C. Thomason, the late Mr. Wiley Ratteree, Mr. Hugh Carruth, Mr. Marvin H. Dudley and Mr. S. J. Corley. The members of the Board of Directors or Trustees borrowed sufficient funds (to supplement the said \$8,081.61) from the Citizens Bank of Dallas, Georgia, and Mr. Clyde Wilson, contractor, commenced construction of the new church. The new building is constructed of brick exterior and has a beautiful white steeple and was completed on December 11, 1965. It is equipped with a modern heating system, new benches and a piano. The building and its contents and the tract of land have a combined fair market value in excess of \$50,000.00.

#### THE BAPTIZING HOLE AND OTHER DATA

According to the Rev. E. F. Corley, many years ago new members of the Narroway Baptist Church were baptized in various streams and that when he became a member of the church he was baptized in the beautiful, clear waters of The Pokey Hole (named in honor of a very famous, Christian female who was born a slave and whose name was Pocahontas) in Raccoon Creek in Land Lot 576 of the 3rd District, 3rd Section of Paulding County, Georgia. According to Rev. E. F. Corley and others, baptizings have been conducted each August in the Baptizing Hole in the Murray Branch for more than the past 30 years. The Baptizing Hole is located near the Narroway Baptist Church and was named in honor of Mrs. Sarah Turner Murray many years ago.

## THE NEW HOPE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Narrowway Baptist Church became a member of the Tallapoosa Baptist Association in about 1881. The Tallapoosa Baptist Association was organized in 1835. The New Hope Baptist Association was organized at the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Paulding County, Georgia, on September 27, 1884, with the Rev. W.R. Twilley, Moderator, and Mr. G. R. Durham, Clerk. The members of the Narrowway Baptist Church asked for letters of dismissal from the Tallapoosa Baptist Association in 1885 and the letters were granted and it became a member of the New Hope Baptist Association in 1885. From its beginning in 1880, the Narrowway Baptist Church has continued to grow in membership and especially in fame for its excellent religious services. According to the Minutes of the 91st Annual Session of the New Hope Baptist Association, pages 10 and 11, for the year ending September 23, 1974, the Narrowway Baptist Church is the second largest church in membership of the 22 churches in the Association with 271 members and in 1974 acquired 17 new members by baptism and 6 members by letter.

### PASTORS, CLERKS AND DEACONS

As was stated above, tradition is that the Narrowway Baptist Church was founded in 1880 and five of the constitutional members of the church are as follows: Mrs. Sarah Turner Murray, Mr. Wiley Abner, Mr. Thomas A. Hughes, Mr. Augustus Lindsey and Miss Sue Powell. Since most of the church records back of 1902 were destroyed by fire, some of the information herein is oral history and was extended by several members of the church and special appreciation is extended to the Rev. William Maston Tibbitts, Rev. Jesse Green Tibbitts and Mrs. Christine Cochran Carruth. Also, the records from 1902 to date now in the possession of the Honorable Thomas Hershel Tibbitts, Clerk, are in excellent condition and appreciation is extended to him and his wife, Mrs. Letty Bone Tibbitts, for the kindness and cooperation which they have given in furnishing information from the church records in their possession.

The following is a list of pastors and dates served:

Rev. John Shaw	1880-1882
Rev. Joe Dupree	1882-1900
Rev. Posey Wigley	1900-1901
Rev. J. J. Williams	1901-1907
Rev. Charles Hardin	1907-1908
Rev. J. F. Adams	1908-1917
Rev. H. Oscar Bannister	1917-1920
Rev. Joe Tillman Craton	1920-1926
Rev. Fed B. Locklear	1926-1930
Rev. C. Floyd Owens	1930-1931
Rev. Joe Tillman Craton	1931-1948
Rev. Joe Tillman Craton and Rev. James Monroe Holland	1948-1955
Rev. James Monroe Holland	1955-1956
Rev. William Maston Tibbitts	1956-1959
Rev. William Maston Tibbitts	1959 to date

The following is a list of some of the Deacons and dates ordained:

Mr. Wiley Abner	1880
Mr. Thomas A. Hughes	1880
Mr. Augustus Lindsey	1910
Mr. Daniel L. Thomason	1910
Mr. Joe Burt	1922
Mr. John M. Shelton	1922
Mr. William Aubrey Holland	1934
Rev. J. Hollis Tibbitts	1934
Rev. E. F. Corley	1934
Rev. James Monroe Holland	1937
Mr. Charlie E. Burt	1937
Mr. LaFayette McKinley Tibbitts	1937
Mr. John Lebon Carnes	1937
Mr. William Leonard Tibbitts	1942
Mr. Amos Powell	1948
Mr. Raymond A. Thomason	1957
Mr. Hugh Wilson	1957
Mr. Robert Eri Tibbitts	1974
Mr. Raleigh Wilson	

The following is a list of some of the Clerks and dates served:

Mr. Daniel L. Thomason	1902-1903
Mr. Henry Womack	1903-1904
Mr. W. E. (Burt) Williams	1904-1918
Mr. William Aubrey Holland	1918-1922
Rev. James Monroe Holland	1922-1937
Mr. Howell Tibbitts	1937-1939
Rev. James Monroe Holland	1939-1948
Rev. J. Hollis Tibbitts	1948-1949
Mr. Amos Powell	1949-1951
Mr. Joe Tibbitts	1951-1953
Rev. Jesse Green Tibbitts	1953-1955
Mr. Hugh Wilson	1955-1961
Mr. Hugh Carruth	1961-1967
Mr. Thomas Hershel Tibbitts	1967 to date

#### MEMBERSHIP

The following is a list of male members of the church:

Rev. William Maston Tibbitts	Mr. Lonnie J. Womack
Mr. Harrison S. Holland	Mr. J. T. Womack
Mr. Alex S. Turner	Mr. Jack Powell
Rev. J. Hollis Tibbitts	Mr. Lemon Turner
Mr. LaFayette McKinley Tibbitts	Mr. Homer Tibbitts
Mr. Otis Burt	Mr. Jesse Lee Morris
Rev. E. F. Corley	Mr. Raymond F. Graves
Mr. Raymond A. Thomason	Mr. Herman Turner
Mr. Amos Corley	Mr. Floyd Morris
Mr. Hubert Barron	Mr. Loyd Tibbitts
Mr. J. C. Thomason	Rev. Jesse Green Tibbitts
Mr. Monroe Blackston	Mr. Marvin H. Dudley
Mr. James Jacobs	Mr. Donald Tibbitts
Mr. Coans Turner	Mr. Robert Eri Tibbitts
Mr. A. K. Stary	Mr. Joseph Tibbitts
Mr. J. K. Cochran	

Mr. B. H. Thomason  
 Mr. J. B. Turner  
 Mr. Hulon Turner  
 Mr. Milton Thomason  
 Mr. Grady Carruth  
 Mr. D. L. Thomason  
 Mr. Waitcel Thomason  
 Mr. Lebon Tibbitts  
 Mr. Ned Tibbitts  
 Mr. Ned Tibbitts  
 Mr. Hugh Carruth  
 Mr. Wendell Harold Carruth  
 Mr. Larry Twilley  
 Mr. Coolidge Thomason  
 Mr. Paul Corley  
 Mr. Hugh Wilson  
 Mr. Pledger Corley  
 Mr. Raleigh Wilson  
 Mr. Howard Thomason  
 Mr. M. A. Nichols  
 Mr. Jimmie Ray Corley, Sr.  
 Mr. M. G. Wilson  
 Mr. Dean Cochran  
 Mr. Edger McMichens  
 Mr. Thomas Hershel Tibbitts  
 Mr. Bill Twilley  
 Mr. Jimmy Lee Carruth  
 Mr. Johnny Carnes  
 Mr. Price Wilson  
 Mr. Clyde Thomason  
 Col. Jerry Orlynn Womack  
 Mr. J. W. Ruff  
 Mr. Darrell Twilley  
 Mr. Jimmy Dale Carruth  
 Mr. John Henry Cochran  
 Mr. Robert M. Barron  
 Mr. Ted D. Barron  
 Mr. Randall Twilley  
 Mr. Gerald Cochran  
 Mr. Billy Ray Thomason  
 Mr. Jerry Thomason  
 Mr. Jimmy Tibbitts

Mr. Charlie Carruth  
 Mr. Donnie Womack  
 Mr. Douglas Van Corley  
 Mr. Tom Wilson  
 Mr. Wylie Rakestraw  
 Mr. Wayne Tibbitts  
 Mr. Guy H. Thomason  
 Mr. Marvin Anthony Dudley  
 Mr. Eugene Thomason  
 Mr. Billy Roberts  
 Mr. Robert Holcomb  
 Mr. Mike Tibbitts  
 Mr. Tommy Tibbitts  
 Mr. Tommy Nichols  
 Mr. Danny Tibbitts  
 Mr. Benjamin Barron  
 Mr. Harold Thomason  
 Mr. Joseph Edwin Tibbitts  
 Mr. Wayne Lindsey  
 Mr. LaDelle Wilson  
 Mr. Dennis Tibbitts  
 Mr. Mike Lindsey  
 Mr. Hugh Mayfield  
 Mr. Ronnie Twilley  
 Mr. Rickey Rakestraw  
 Mr. Tony Wilson  
 Mr. Danny Corley  
 Mr. Alvin Barrett  
 Mr. Calvin Washington  
 Mr. Felix Nix  
 Mr. Jimmy Abernathy  
 Mr. Timothy Harold Carruth  
 Mr. Clifford Cochran  
 Mr. Joey Tibbitts  
 Mr. James Walter Blackston  
 Mr. Rayford Hornbuckle  
 Mr. Spencer Baxter  
 Mr. Tony Ratteree  
 Mr. Wayne Kirby  
 Mr. Bobby Barrett  
 Mr. Hal Leeds

The following is a list of female members of the church:

Mrs. Eva Womack Cochran  
 Mrs. Zanie Turner Cochran  
 Mrs. Myrtis Howell Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Oddie Wilbanks Thomason  
 Mrs. Clara Isabel Carnes Holland  
 Mrs. Selma Thomason Corley  
 Mrs. Bertha Womack Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Rhodia Wills Grogan  
 Mrs. Isabell Tibbitts Burt  
 Mrs. Mary Lee Tibbitts Womack  
 Mrs. Madge Cantrell Holland  
 Mrs. Florence Tibbitts Corley  
 Mrs. Marie Crew Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Ruth Shelton Ruff  
 Mrs. Pauline Thomason Wood  
 Mrs. Cora Williams Womack  
 Mrs. Gertrude Bowman Carnes  
 Mrs. Louise Cochran Powell  
 Mrs. Leona Thomason Nichols  
 Mrs. Mary Blackston Cole  
 Mrs. Marion Camp Blackston  
 Mrs. Alma Lee Twilley Brown  
 Mrs. Clarice Bowman Barron  
 Mrs. Floy Cochran Dudley  
 Mrs. Ella Mae Hunt Wood  
 Mrs. Jewel Womack Cochran  
 Mrs. Ophelia Cochran Womack  
 Mrs. Weaver Graves

Mrs. Mary Bell Turner  
 Mrs. Audine Turner McMichen  
 Mrs. Carolyn Cochran Monk  
 Mrs. Louise Monk Cochran  
 Mrs. Lennis Womack McMichen  
 Mrs. Ruby Williams Turner  
 Miss Louise Murdock  
 Mrs. Martha Thomason Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Frances Tibbitts Michael  
 Mrs. Inez McMichen Hicks  
 Mrs. Geneva Turner Brown  
 Mrs. Ann Corley Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Gladys Powell Carruth  
 Mrs. Elsie Wilson Stringer  
 Mrs. Fannie Tibbitts Holcomb  
 Mrs. Betty Jewell Turner Black  
 Mrs. Velma Ratteree  
 Mrs. Julia Faye Turner Austin  
 Mrs. Jo Ellen Corley Carruth  
 Mrs. Emily Tibbitts Smith  
 Miss Delia Mae Twilley  
 Mrs. Mildred Turner Womack  
 Mrs. Bobbie Powell Cooper  
 Miss Collene Benson  
 Miss Mary Frances Benson  
 Miss Ruth Powell  
 Mrs. Katie McMichen Womack  
 Mrs. Annette Tibbitts Rakestraw  
 Mrs. Juanita Barron Roberts  
 Mrs. Nell Tant Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Eloise Thomason Wilson  
 Mrs. Marie Collum Thomason  
 Mrs. Rena Sanford Thomason  
 Mrs. Edna Hornbuckle Thomason  
 Mrs. Carolyn Ratteree Roberson  
 Mrs. Shirley Tant Turner  
 Miss Helen Cole  
 Mrs. Ida Mae Miller Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Melba Mitchell Twilley  
 Mrs. Jackie Cochran Hopper  
 Mrs. Sandra Powell Kirby  
 Mrs. Beverly Barron Ponder  
 Mrs. Kay Tibbitts Lyle  
 Mrs. Joan Womack Murray  
 Mrs. Sonja Matthews Corley  
 Mrs. Faye McMichen Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Patsy Carruth Wilson  
 Mrs. Dianne Dudley Abernathy  
 Mrs. Ruby Matthews Thomason  
 Mrs. Johnnie Twilley  
 Mrs. Faustine Williams Wilson  
 Mrs. Gertrude Nix Carruth  
 Mrs. Gail Tibbitts Davis  
 Mrs. Barbara Tibbitts Carruth  
 Mrs. Sue Corley Atcheson  
 Mrs. Rhonda Carruth Wills  
 Miss Joan Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Lavelle Thomason Brewer  
 Miss Betty Wilson  
 Mrs. Lenogene Twilley Brown  
 Mrs. Freda Wilson Carver  
 Mrs. Virginia Tibbitts Graham  
 Mrs. Louise Meadows Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Bonnie Tibbitts Murdock  
 Miss Janet Tibbitts  
 Miss Brenda Thomason  
 Miss Debbie Thomason  
 Miss Cathy Powell  
 Mrs. Jill Cochran Shipp  
 Miss Brenda Womack  
 Mrs. Rose Marie Corley Parker  
 Miss Sarah Wilson  
 Miss Joyce Wilson  
 Mrs. Patricia Carnes  
 Mrs. Cathie Tibbitts Riner  
 Mrs. Nancy Barron Maxwell  
 Miss Charlene Thomason  
 Mrs. Eva Mae Johns Corley  
 Mrs. Jane Brown Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Catherine Cole Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Lola Guinn Lindsey  
 Mrs. Terressa Thomason Hembree  
 Mrs. Sheryl Pope Thomason  
 Miss Inell Stringer  
 Miss Jane Stringer  
 Mrs. Letty Bone Tibbitts  
 Miss Donna Corley  
 Miss Rene Carruth  
 Miss Rena Rakestraw  
 Mrs. Cathy Leggett Barron  
 Mrs. Wanda Corley Haight  
 Mrs. Peggy Cole Washington  
 Miss Sandra Ellison  
 Mrs. Genell Tibbitts Shelton  
 Mrs. Mamie Lou Holland Morris  
 Miss Brenda Faye Thomason  
 Mrs. Mary Lee Mayfield Thomason  
 Mrs. Jackie Thomason Hornbuckle  
 Miss Candice Carruth  
 Miss Lynn Tibbitts  
 Miss Susan Tibbitts  
 Miss Becky Rakestraw  
 Miss Patti Smith  
 Miss Denise Corley  
 Miss Bonnie Charlotte Corley  
 Mrs. Jo Ann Ferguson Barrett  
 Miss Kelly Roberts  
 Mrs. Clo-Ester Tibbitts Leeds  
 Mrs. Sherry Chastain Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Hilda Blackston White  
 Miss Karon Tibbitts  
 Miss Sharon Tibbitts  
 Mrs. Virginia Blackston Daniell  
 Miss Angelia Lynn Daniell  
 Mrs. Wanda Blackston Purcell  
 Miss Kathy Nichols  
 Miss Kathy Brock  
 Mrs. Sherry Monk Cates  
 Mrs. Wanda Ellison Nichols  
 Miss Kathy Barrett