

HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE SOUTH NORFOLK BAPTIST CHURCH

Compiled by Frank Hughes, Jr.

The birth of the Church began on this order: Rev. H. N. Quizenberry, pastor of Berkley Avenue Baptist Church became interested in establishing Christian work in the thriving new community known today as South Norfolk. With the aid of outstanding laymen such as Mr. John Privott and Mr. E. J. West the work was launched in 1892. A building was erected at the total cost of \$2,000.00 and opened for worship January 5, 1893. This chapel was formally dedicated June 11, 1893, at 3:30 P. M., at which service a special offering was received that amounted to an amazing sum of \$550.00. The Sunday School grew steadily and reported 162 present in the March 2, 1893, issue of The Religious Herald; also, another note of interest recorded in the January 5, 1893, copy of The Religious Herald, stated that plans for the chapel were drawn by Benjamin D. Price of Philadelphia and the furniture was furnished by George S. Perry of Boston.

Rev. C. B. Loyd served as pastor under the guidance of Rev. Quizenberry during these formative months. Just ten months after its inception, the chapel formally organized themselves into a fully constituted church on November 5, 1893, with thirty charter members.

The Charter membership roll included J. D. Berry, J. W. Berry, Mrs. C. R. Brown, Miss Nannie Beasley, Miss Metta Ballance, J. S. Barron, J. W. Beasley, Miss Naomi Beasley, J. P. Downing, Miss Minnie Harrell, Thomas Hallows, Mrs. Thomas Hallows, Charles T. Hallows, James Johnson, Mrs. James (Julia) Johnson, Miss Clara Johnson, Miss Annie Johnson, Mrs. M. E. Keeter, Timothy Keeter, Mrs. Susan E. Knox, A. J. Madra, Miss Alice McHorney, William McPherson, Miss Kate Simmons, Miss Mary Shultz, Mrs. Annie D. Shultz, Miss Hattie Spence, A. W. Taylor, Mrs. A. W. Taylor and Mrs. Annie Walker.

Rev. C. W. Mathews was called to be the first pastor January 28, 1894. At that time he was pastor of Lake Drummond and Mullberry Churches. He received \$80.00 a year from the Church; however, the Association paid the major part of his salary. An interesting sidelight reveals during the March 2, 1894, church conference (business meeting) a motion to permit all female members to have free privilege of voting upon all subjects and at all meetings was carried.

Rev. W. B. Duling, the second pastor, was called May 16, 1895, and served until 1898. He was a likeable man and the church prospered under his ministry. (His period of service was terminated by church vote as was the annual custom to release or retain the pastor by a vote each year.)

Rev. Joseph Tynch was called as pastor in June 1898. It is believed that he was called on three months trial basis -- and that his term as pastor expired with the trial period.

Rev. S. S. Robinson accepted the church February 5, 1899. He lost his job as did Rev. Duling when he was not recalled for the ensuing year.

The next pastor was Rev. P. S. C. Davis who was called on March 22, 1902. He came to the South Norfolk church from Northwest Baptist Church. Under his leadership the membership doubled, making a grand total of 417.

On October 2, 1905, the church called as Pastor Rev. Q. C. Davis, who has been described as a "wide-awake, scholarly pastor". His son, Dr. Hershey Davis, was professor of Greek in Southern Seminary at Louisville, Ky., for many years. Another of his sons was Judge of the Corporation Court of the City of South Norfolk -- Judge Q. C. Davis, Jr. It is interesting to note that in 1908 the church had 301 male members of the church as compared to 300 females.

Rev. Frank M. Wilson followed Rev. Davis November 14, 1909. He stayed a short while and the Church did very little under him.

The next pastor was called on June 12, 1910 -- Rev. E. S. Pierce. One note of achievement during his pastorate happened January 21, 1912, at a church business meeting. "It was moved and carried that the church start a movement for a new church or enlargement of the old one", and a building committee was established. He resigned in April 1912 and a tragedy followed in his new pastorate. He was shot in front of his house because he preached a sermon against a particular sin of the community.

Rev. W. M. Black came to the church October 7, 1912. On June 23, 1913, the church building burned. Rev. Black led in the building of the present church building which cost the church approximately \$22,000.00, and the furnishings carried the total cost up to \$30,000.00. The church was completed July 4, 1915, and entered. Rev. Black is the only living ex-pastor today and it might be observed his ministry was very prosperous in every way.

On December 1, 1918, Rev. Clyde S. Sawyer was called to be pastor. He served for 28 years and retired in 1946 because of ill health. In April, 1920, the church opened a mission. A parsonage was built in 1926 at a cost of \$7,800.00. The church during Mr. Sawyer's pastorate instituted some very rigid rules and regulations governing certain areas of the church. The church was finally led out of debt with all bills paid April 20, 1936. Rev. Sawyer was a good man and did a lot of visiting among the membership and gave his whole life to the church.

The present pastor, Frank Hughes, Jr., came and preached his first sermon February 9, 1947. The church has enjoyed a position unparallelled in its history. Never before has the church witnessed such a surge of revival as all of the organizations are prospering and the church has a unity indescribable among its membership. A full time educational director and church secretary are employed.

The church has ordained the following ministers since 1950:

Rev. James Russ	Rev. Sam Tatem
Rev. William Russ	Rev. George Wollett, Jr.
Rev. Mark Alexander, Jr.	Rev. Edward Boyd
Rev. Horace Twine (At present studying on Doctor's degree.)	

Other students now preparing for special Christian service are:

Bryan Holloman, Jr.	(Ministry)
Shirley Rountree	(Missionary)

There are several other young people who have dedicated themselves and plan to go into special Christian work. Many young people have already entered special work, such as Miss Betty Miles who at present is B. S. U. Secretary at Radford College, Radford, Virginia.

From the time of its organization the church has held that its mission is to bring men into vital touch with God and is doing her best today to propagate the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.