



# BROAD STREET

## BANNER

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BROAD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **“Happy Birthday - 125 Years 1884 - 2009”**

**V**ery few congregations with Restoration History background can lay claim to the experience we share at Broad Street this year – **125 years of continuous existence** as a congregation.

The first congregation of the church was started in Scottsboro in 1884 with the assistance of Dr. Jack Rorex, a dentist who was one of the earlier members of the Stevenson Church of Christ. Dr. Rorex made an appeal through the Gospel Advocate for a minister to come and conduct a gospel meeting. Dr. Rorex was the grandfather of the late Jack Hackworth and great grandfather of Nellie Spring, a member of our congregation to this day.

James A. Harding, co-founder of David Lipscomb College, answered the appeal; and in January of 1884, the first service was held. A certain Bro. Daugherty led the song service. Bro. Harding writes in the **Gospel Advocate**, February 20, 1884, p. 122, **“Night after night full houses greeted us, and they gave the most marked attention. Preachers, members, and people who had not been in a meeting-house for ten years came night after night. And it was a matter of common remark that such large, interested and quiet audiences had not been known before in Scottsboro.”** Eight to ten persons were baptized. The revival began on January 26. At that time Scottsboro had approximately 1000 citizens living here. There were four existing religious groups in town at that time, Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian. This was about 65 years after Alabama attained statehood.

In the latter part of 1884, J. W. Sheppard, of Kentucky, conducted a second meeting. These meetings resulted in a congregation being established. In 1886 the first building was erected just off the square on Peachtree Street. James A. Harding was the first minister. In 1950 a new building was erected on the corner of Broad and Charlotte. A minister's house was constructed adjacent to the building on Broad Street. In September of 1968, an annex was added. The minister's house, which was located beside the church building, was moved to the location at 406 East Charlotte Avenue to make room for the annex. This house was sold in 2002. In April of 1979, a renovation of this new building was completed. Expansion and improvement to our parking lot and accommodations for handicapped access and parking were part of the 1994 remodeling.

**1884!!** That’s the year the first sky-scraper in America was built in Chicago (10 stories tall); The first roller coaster was used (at Coney Island, NY); J. H. Kellogg patented flaked cereal; Grover Cleveland was elected President of the United States; the Washington Monument was completed; the Statue of Liberty was given to the United States by France; **and Liberty in Christ began to be preached according to the New Testament pattern in Scottsboro, Alabama.**

**. . . . Terry Broome**