After the railroad came through in 1872, people came to this immediate area to build homes and to settle and by 1876 one of the settlements was being called Nicholson. However, prior to and some years after the year 1900 there was no Church at all within the boundary of the township of Nicholson and there was talk about it and not a little concern.

This is not to say, however, that there were no Churches in the other surrounding communities. There were: Antioch Methodist Church in the Antioch Community was established in 1790. Although I don't know the exact year of it's establishment, Sandy Creek Presbyterian Church located near the site of the old Pinegrove Schoolhouse was prospering before 1900. This Church later burned and was not rebuilt. Cabin Creek Baptist Church in the Cabin Creek Community was established in 1796. Center Methodist Church at Center was established in 1898.

Those people living in Nicholson who wanted to go to Church attended Churches outside of the Nicholson Community. They went either to Antioch Methodist Church, Cabin Creek Baptist Church, Sandy Creek Presbyterian Church, or Center Methodist Church.
Some of the people of Nicholson were especially concerned that the children of the community were not receiving any formal religious training at all.

Among those who came to Nicholson and settled were Charlie Smith and two of his brothers, Tom and George Smith. Charlie Smith built a house on the lot where the Nicholson Baptist Church now stands. This house burned and Charlie Smith built another one a little ways south of where the Baptist Church now stands, on Mulberry Street. This house burned also a good many years ago and it was not replaced. Charlie Smith's brother, Tom, built a house between where the Nicholson Baptist Church now stands and the Bullock house. This house burned also some years ago and was not replaced. George Smith built the house where Mrs. Thelma Orr now lives.

Mrs. Mattie V. Smith, the wife of Charlie Smith, who was known by her neighbors and her friends as "Miss Matt" was one of those who was much concerned because Nicholson did not have a Church. And it was largely due to her efforts that a group of local citizens joined themselves together for the express purpose of trying to get a Church established here. She, in fact, may have been the leader of the group.

The efforts of this group were rewarded in part when in 1906 a Sunday School was organized in the community public schoolhouse.

It was because of the efforts of this group that the attention of a young Methodist Preacher was attracted. His name was
J. Glenn Davis and he was serving as Pastor of Antioch and Center Methodist Churches at the time. He lived in the Pastorium at Center.

Soon after the Sunday School was organized in the Nicholson Community Schoolhouse and the people of the community had shown their interest in the endeavor by attending regularly and becoming involved in it, the Reverend Glenn Davis began conducting regular evangelistic services also in the community schoolhouse and the clamor of the people for the construction of a Church building within the community became very loud indeed.

The Church was constituted in the schoolhouse in 1906 with the Reverend J. Glenn Davis continuing to serve as leader and Pastor of the newly constituted Church which continued to meet in the schoolhouse. In May 1908 Mrs. Mattie V. Smith deeded a portion of land to the Trustees of the Church who had been chosen and elected by the people and it was upon this portion of land that the first Church was built.

The Nicholson Methodist Church was the first Church to be built within the town of Nicholson. In November 1908 the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church formally admitted the Nicholson Church into the Conference and appointed Reverend J. Glenn Davis as the official Pastor. He served from November 1908 to November 1909.

Services were held in the first Church building until 1920 when a larger building was erected on the same lot. The building that is being used now was constructed in 1955 and it, too, was
erected on the same portion of land which Mrs. Mattie V. Smith deeded to the Church Trustees in May of 1908.

On February 9, 1920, Mrs. Smith deeded to the Church Trustees another small area of land which brought her total gift of land to the Church up to two and fifteen one hundredths (2 and 15/100) acres. On February 26, 1926, Mr. J.B. Campbell donated one eighth (1/8 - 12\frac{1}{2} 100) of an acre thus bringing the total size of the Church lot in land area up to two and twenty-seven and one half one hundredths (2 and 27 and \frac{1}{2} 100's) acres of land. Later, in 1989, Mrs. Joan Westmoreland donated approximately one eighth (1/8th) which brings it's present size up to approximately two and forty (2 and 40/100) acres which is it's present size.

From old records of the Church, it appears that the early years may have been the Church's best years in terms of growth for at one time during the early years her membership grew to more than one hundred.

Strangely, "Miss Matt" Smith, though she was perhaps the leader in the movement to organize and establish this Church and seemingly supported it wholeheartedly after it was established, was never a member of it. She never moved her membership from Athens.
The Center Charge with Nicholson as a member of it came into being in 1908. It was composed of three Churches—Antioch, Center, and Nicholson. J. Glenn Davis, the young Preacher who had worked so diligently with the people of Nicholson in the establishment of a Methodist Church in Nicholson, was appointed by the Conference to be the first Pastor of this Charge composed of these three Churches. He served as Pastor from November 1908 to November 1909.

I do not know how many Charter members the Nicholson Methodist Church had at the time it was formally constituted and I have exhausted all of my efforts in trying to find out but at the time that the Reverend J. Glenn Davis moved on to another Pastorate in November 1909 the names of one hundred and thirty-one (131) people had been recorded as having joined the Church up until that time.
The Center Charge lasted for only sixteen years—from November 1908 until November 1924—during which time it was served by ten different Pastors. They were:

J. Glenn Davis November 1908 to November 1909
J.W. Talkington November 1909 to November 1911
M.A. Franklin November 1911 to November 1913
Zack Speer November 1913 to November 1915
J.J. Lovern November 1915 to November 1918
W.C. Fox November 1918 to November 1919
W.B. Mills November 1919 to November 1921
H.G. Garrett November 1921 to November 1922
J.C. Harris November 1922 to November 1923
J.L. Varner November 1923 to November 1924

Seven District Superintendents served the Charge during these sixteen years. They were:

J.S. Byron November ---- to November 1908
W.L. Pierce November 1908 to November 1911
B.P. Allen November 1911 to November 1915
S.P. Wiggins November 1915 to November 1916
G.F. Venable November 1916 to November 1919
W.L. Pierce November 1919 to November 1923
H.S. Smith November 1923 to November 1926
Ten Bishops served the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church during these sixteen years. They were:

Duncan 1905 to 1906
Ward 1906 to 1908
Hoss 1908 to 1909
Hendrix 1909 to 1910
Wilson 1910 to 1912
McCoy 1912 to 1913
Denny 1913 to 1916
Candler 1916 to 1922
Murrah 1922 to 1923
Darlington 1923 to 1926
In November 1924, the Center Charge was dissolved and the three Churches-Antioch, Center, and Nicholson- were added to the Comer-Colbert Charge.

For the next eighteen years, the Pastor of the Comer-Colbert Charge preached at all three of these Churches-Antioch, Center, and Nicholson-on the same day-the third Sunday of each month. Antioch at 10 A.M., Center at 11 A.M., and Nicholson at 3 P.M.

During these years, Antioch, Center, and Nicholson were served by eight different Pastors. They were:

F.C. Crutcher  November 1924 to November 1926
W.J. Jolly  November 1926 to November 1928
J.A. Griffies  November 1928 to November 1931
Robert Allison  November 1931 to November 1935
Y.A. Bailey  November 1935 to November 1938
A.D. Whittemore  November 1938 to November 1939
L.G. Hendrix  November 1939 to November 1941
Henry Walker  November 1941 to November 1942

Eight District Superintendents served the Comer-Colbert Charge which included Antioch, Center, and Nicholson during these eighteen years. They were:

H.S. Smith  November 1924 to November 1926
H.L. Edmundson  November 1926 to November 1930
J.W. Veach  November 1930 to November 1934
C.C. Jarrell  November 1934 to November 1937
H.L. Byrd  November 1937 to November 1938
M.M. Maxwell  November 1938 to November 1939
C.L. Middlebrooks  November 1939 to November 1941
J.Hamby Barton  November 1941 to November 1944

Five Bishops served the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church during these eighteen years. They were:

Darlington  1923 to 1926
Beauchamp  1926 to 1930
John M. Moore  1930 to 1934
Ainesworth  1934 to 1939
Arthur J. Moore  1939 to 1960
In November 1942, the Center Charge was re-activated and Edmund Perry, a student at the University of Georgia, Athens, was the first Pastor of the re-activated Charge.

Since 1942—from November 1942 to December 1991—this Charge has been served by twenty-two different Pastors and their tenures of service have varied from one to six years. They were:

Edmund Perry November 1942 to November 1944
Ballard Wilson November 1944 to November 1946
W.E. Atkinson November 1946 to June 1947

In 1946, the Conference year was changed so that instead of beginning in November as had been the case in the past, it now begins in July.

Marion Sherrill July 1947 to June 1948
J.Ray Melear July 1948 to June 1949
Garnett Wilder July 1949 to June 1951
Plemon Folds July 1951 to June 1953
Charles Webster July 1953 to June 1954
Marion Bloodworth July 1954 to June 1957
Robert Bone July 1957 to June 1960
Wade Munford July 1960 to May 1963
Claude Hendricks June 1963 Supply
Wayne Boyd July 1963 to December 1964
Donald Clarke  January 1965 to June 1967
Layne Jenkins  July 1967 to June 1969
Sanford Willard  July 1969 to June 1973
J. Austin Gladney  July 1973 to June 1979
Raymond Lowe  July 1979 to June 1981
James McNeil  July 1981 to June 1982
Chester Weatherford  July 1982 to June 1986
Martha F. Smith  July 1986 to June 1990
Richard Broom  July 1990 to
Eleven District Superintendents have served the Center Charge since 1942. They were:

J. Hamby Barton 1941 to 1944
Horace Smith 1944 to 1950
J.C. Calloway 1950 to 1955
Harvey Holland 1955 to 1957
Paul A. Turner 1957 to 1962
Harry Lee Smith 1962 to September 1962
William A. Ruff September 1962 to 1969
Lamar Cherry 1969 to 1979
Eugene Drinkard 1979 to 1982
Charles Middlebrooks 1982 to 1986
Eugene Dunn 1986 to 1991
Carolyn Morris 1991 to
The names of the Bishops together with the length of their tenures of office who have served the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church during the years since the re-activation of the Center Charge are as follows:

Arthur Moore 1939 to 1960
John O. Smith 1961 to 1972
William R. Cannon 1973 to 1980
Joel B. McDavid 1981 to 1984
Ernest A. Fitzgerald 1985 to
I am grateful to Mrs. Thelma Freeman for her help in the search for facts concerning the establishment of the Nicholson Methodist Church.

Mrs. Freeman—wife of longtime Nicholson Postmaster M.D. Freeman—was one of my first school-teachers and she was my friend.

A fine Christian lady, she influenced the lives of many of the young people of this area for good. She became a member of the Nicholson Methodist Church October 10, 1935 and she served as the Church Treasurer for forty-one years. She also served for some years as the Church Historian.
SOME FACTS THAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW THAT ARE RELATIVE TO THIS CHURCH

While Pastor of Winterville Methodist Church, the father of Dr. Charles L. Allen preached at one service here at the Nicholson Methodist Church—June 9, 1912.

Mrs. Carrie Potts was a member of the Nicholson Methodist Church for approximately seventy-five years—from 1914 to 1989.

Mrs. Collene Howington has been a member of this Church for sixty years—1931 to 1991.

As of December 1991, Mrs. Annie Mae Maddox is the oldest living member of the Nicholson Methodist Church.

The Reverend A.O. (Okie) Hood and Annie Douglas were married in the Nicholson Methodist Church June 9, 1912.

Mrs. Nell Payne, a member of the Nicholson Methodist church, spent some years as a missionary in Africa. She was associated with a school in Zimbabwe, Southern Rhodesia which is in south central Africa.

J.F. (Florence) Barnett and Cora Johnson were the first persons to be married in the Nicholson Methodist Church after it was constituted.
The first Trustees of the Nicholson Methodist Church were: J.M. Harmon, J.R. Duncan, and J.H. Howington. When Mrs. Mattie V. Smith donated land upon which to build the Nicholson Methodist Church these men, as Trustees of the Church, signed the deed on May 23, 1908 for the Church.

The Trustees of the Nicholson Methodist Church as of July 2, 1920 were: E.S. Hawks, E.L. Holland, and E.A. Barnett.

The Trustees of the Nicholson Methodist Church as of May 6, 1966 were: Hoyt Smith, J.P. Maddox, and Milton David.

The Trustees of the Nicholson Methodist Church as of July 1988 were: M.B. Collins, Hoyt Smith, and Annie Mae Maddox.

The Trustees of the Nicholson Methodist Church as of December 1, 1991 were: Hoyt Smith, J.D. York and Jennie Westmoreland.
When he came here as Pastor in 1954, Marion Bloodworth found all three of the Churches on the Center Charge badly in need of repair and he learned that the people were much concerned about it but due to the huge costs that would be involved in such an undertaking there seemed to be little chance that anything could be done about it.

One night, rather it was early evening between sundown and dark, just before the commencement of an evangelistic service some of the men from the other Churches on the Charge were meeting with certain of the men of the Nicholson Church under a tree in the Churchyard to pray about the needs of their respective Churches when suddenly the new Pastor interrupted them: "Don't ask for the Lord's guidance and for His help in taking care of your need unless you're willing to build a new Church." he said.

A few people laughed. Some shook their heads. Most of them considered the Preacher's statement as an impossible and unrealistic dream yet a year later all three Churches on the Charge were involved in putting up new Church buildings.

After the structures were completed, some still couldn't believe what they saw, some said the people had vision, others said it was a miracle of God....

I think God had a work to do here. He sent His man here to do it. And by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead him and guide him he did it.

Therein, I think,is a lesson for us all: If we trust God
fully our lives will be changed, we may remove mountains, Churches are built.

The Reverend J. Glenn Davis was not only a great Christian, he was a remarkable man. When he became Pastor of the Center Charge Methodist Pastors—as was true with most other Pastors at that time—could not count on receiving a previously set amount of money for their services as they do now. Much of what they received from their parishioners was in the form of fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, home slaughtered pork, beef, etc., so when he came, Glenn Davis inquired about land he could rent to grow foodstuff for his family and about a mule or horse he could buy with which to cultivate the land. One person offered land with free rent. Another gave him a horse. Then he began laying plans for a Chargewide revival to begin as soon as feasible.

Marcus Collins was baptized in the Nicholson Methodist Church in 1918 when he was four years old but later transferred out of this Church. However, in 1980, he and his wife, Willie Mae, rejoined this Church and they both served as real pillars of the work right up until the time of his death—December 5, 1991. Willie Mae Collins continues to be a staunch supporter of the work.