

MINUTES
of the
One Hundred Forty-Fourth Annual Session
of the
SENER DISTRICT
PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Held With
SENER CHURCH
Ashe County, North Carolina

SEPTEMBER 12, 13, and 14, 1997

The next session will convene with Sener Church, located between Jefferson, NC and Sparta, NC. Take Highway 221 out of Jefferson, NC about eight miles. Located on Nathans' Creek School Road.

SEPTEMBER 11, 12, and 13, 1998

OFFICERS

ELDER JAMES McNEILL.....**MODERATOR**
5862 US Hwy. 221 N., Crumpler, NC 28617, Phone: (336) 982-3802

ELDER FLOYD SOUTH.....**ASST. MODERATOR**
278 South Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694, Phone: (336) 246-7456

ELDER BOBBY H. ABSHER.....**CLERK**
183 Old Ridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617, Phone: (336) 982-2163

BROTHER DON WALTERS.....**ASST. CLERK**
775 Bogs Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694, Phone: (336) 877-4723



Proceedings of the Senter District Primitive Baptist Association

The Association met pursuant to adjournment of last year and was called to order with song and prayer by Elder John Jackson, Senter Association.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Johnnie Duggins, Cedar Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Mayodan, NC.

The Association was opened with prayer by Elder Bobby Absher, Senter Association.

ON MOTION:

1. Letters from the churches were read and correspondents were seated.
2. The Association appointed Elder James McNeill as Moderator; Elder Floyd South as Assistant Moderator; Elder Bobby Absher as Clerk; and Brother Don Walters as Assistant Clerk.
3. Called for petitionary letters.
4. Called for transient and visiting brethren and sisters from sister associations and churches. The following were seated and given the right hand of fellowship:

Mountain Association of North Carolina and Virginia:

Brother Page Wagoner

Brother F. G. Dillard

Brother Greene Ward

Elder Jess Higgins

St. Clair Bottom Association of North Carolina and Virginia:

Sister Ethel Lyle

Sister Beulah Lyle

Brother Vernon Lyle

Elder Eddie G. Lyle

Reorganized Silver Creek Association:

Elder Gene F. Watson

Roaring River Association of North Carolina:

Elder Samuel E. Parrish

Little Yadkin River Association:

Brother L. B. Hawkins, Jr.

Fisher River Association:

Brother Troy Jones

Sister Audrey Jones

Original Bear Creek Association:

Elder E. W. Hooven

Sister Linda Hooven

Brother Richard McGee

INDEPENDENT CHURCHES:

Community Primitive Baptist Church, Stuart, VA.

Brother O'Bain Hylton

Walnut Cove Primitive Baptist Church, Walnut Cove, NC

Brother Paul V. Lemons

Meadow Fork Primitive Baptist Church, Laurel Springs, NC

Sister Linda Sue Bare

Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church, Bel Air, Maryland

Brother James Dixon

Sister Barbara Dixon

Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church, Swainsboro, GA.
Elder George McNure

Afton Road Primitive Baptist Church, Danville VA.
Elder Dan Parker

Cedar Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Mayodan, NC
Elder Johnnie L. Duggins

Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Statesville, NC
Elder Harvey G. Carpenter

5. The moderator is to make all temporary appointments in this session.

A. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

Brother Willard Hartzog
Brother Don Walters
Brother Larry Davis
Elder Floyd South

B. COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS:

Brother Clyde Johnson
Brother Paul Miller
Brother Kenny McNeill
Brother Ray Roten
Brother Tony Jordan
Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Asst. Clerk

C. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:

Elder Bobby Absher
Brother Don Walters
Brother Ray Roten
Brother Paul Bare
Brother Clyde Johnson

6. That the committee on arrangements meet after service for conference.

7. To adjourn the Association until 10:00 A.M. on Saturday.
8. Closed with prayer by Elder Floyd South.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1997

The Association met as scheduled and was called to order with song and prayer by Elder E. W. Hooven.

ON MOTION:

1. The roll call was omitted.
2. The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were omitted but printed in the minutes.
3. That a letter of inquiry be written to Horse Creek Church as to why an Association letter has not been received for 1996 or 1997.
4. The next Association is to be held starting at 10:00 A.M., on Friday, before the second Sunday in September, 1998 at Senter Church.
5. Night meetings will be held Friday and Saturday nights, at Senter Church.
6. The clerk was appointed to oversee the printing of 350 copies of the minutes and distribution of the same.
7. Minutes are to be mailed to all visitors.
8. The clerk was appointed as treasurer to hold all funds for printing and postage of minutes.
9. The obituaries are to be printed in the minutes.
10. The finance committee reported as follows:

YEAR - 1997

Reported from Churches:

Beaver Creek.....	\$45.00
Big Helton.....	25.00
Horse Creek.....	-0-
North Fork.....	100.00
Riverview.....	150.00
Roans Creek.....	155.00
Senter.....	<u>315.00</u>
 Total.....	 \$790.00

Received from Donations Friday & Saturday451.00
 Balance in Savings.....543.00

Expenditures:

To the Moderator20.00
 To the Assistant Moderator.....20.00
 To the Clerk60.00
 To the Assistant Clerk.....20.00
 Paid to visiting Elders.....836.00
 Designated for printing and postage of minutes....405.00

10. Minutes read and approved.

11. That the Association adjourn through song and prayer by Elder Floyd South.

- Elder James McNeill, Moderator
- Elder Floyd South, Assistant Moderator
- Elder Bobby Absher, Clerk
- Brother Don Walters, Assistant Clerk

VISITING ELDERS

- Elder Eddie Lyle
1521 Elliot Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694
- Elder Gene F. Watson
540 Legion Road, Lenoir, NC 28645
- Elder Samuel E. Parrish
86 Sycamore Lane, Laurel Springs, NC 28644
- Elder Johnnie L. Duggins
270 Dan Valley Road, Mayodan, NC 27027
- Elder George McNure
P.O. Box 762, Swainsboro, GA 30401
- Elder E. W. Hooven
1320 Woodbrook Drive, Kernersville, NC 27284
- Elder Harvey Carpenter
322 Lakeview Shores Loop, Mooresville, NC 28115
- Elder Dan Parker
3849 R&L Smith Drive, Danville, VA 24540
- Elder Jess B. Higgins
Route 6, Box 45, Galax, VA 24333

ORDER OF PREACHING

Friday Morning:

Elder John Jackson (introduced with prayer)
Elder Johnnie Duggins (introductory sermon)
Elder Bobby Absher (opened business with prayer)

Friday Afternoon:

Elder Floyd Smith (introduced with prayer)
Elder Jess Higgins
Elder Bobby Absher (closed with prayer)

Friday Night:

Elder John Jackson (introduced with prayer)
Elder George McNure
Elder Eddie Lyles
Brother Paul Miller (closed with prayer)

Saturday Morning:

Elder Floyd South (opened with prayer)
Elder Johnnie Duggins
Brother Paul Miller (closed with prayer)

Saturday Afternoon:

Elder John Jackson (opened with prayer)
Elder Dan Parker
Elder E. W. Hooven
Elder Floyd South (closed with prayer)

Saturday Night:

Elder Bobby Absher (opened with prayer)
Elder Samuel Parrish
Elder James McNeill
John Jackson (closed with prayer)

Sunday Morning:

Elder C. O. Yates (introduced with prayer)

Elder John Jackson

Elder James McNeill

Elder Bobby Absher (closed with prayer)

ANNUAL MEETING

The Senter Primitive Baptist Church will hold a week's meeting starting the second Sunday night of April and running through Friday night - April 12-17, 1998.

IN MEMORIAM

MAE WILCOX HAM

APRIL 28, 1921 - JULY 30, 1997

Sister Mae Wilcox Ham passed away on July 30, 1997. She had been a member of Big Helton Primitive Baptist Church since 1949. She was born on April, 28, 1921 to W. M. Wilcox and Alea Stansbary Wilcox. She was the wife of Elmer Lee Ham of Lansing. They had five children - three sons, Earl, Jerry, and Joe and two daughters, Brenda and Linda. She also had eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Badger's Funeral Home in West Jefferson. Elder Steve Douglas, Elder Eddie Lyalls and Elder John Jackson conducted the funeral services. Sister Mae Wilcox Ham was laid to rest in the Ashelawn Memorial Gardens.

ORDAINED ELDERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Elder C.O. Yates	2415 Lower Nettle Knob Road West Jefferson, NC 28694 Telephone (336) 877-4991
Elder Floyd South	278 South Avenue West Jefferson, NC 28694 Telephone: (336) 246-7456
Elder Steve Douglas	5700 Garvey Bridge Road Crumpler, NC 28617 Telephone: (336) 982-2958
Elder James D. McNeill	5862 U.S. 221 North Crumpler, NC 28617 Telephone: (336) 982-3802
Elder John Jackson	1103 Tom Jackson Road Boone, NC 28607
Elder Bobby Absher	183 Old Ridge Road Crumpler, NC 28617 Telephone: (336) 982-2163

CHURCHES AND PASTORS

Beaver Creek	Elder James McNeill
Big Helton	Elder Steve Douglas
Horse Creek	Elder Steve Douglas
North Fork	Elder John Jackson
Riverview	Elders C. O. Yates, James McNeill
Roans Creek	Elder Floyd South
Senter	Elder James McNeill

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO CHURCHES AND NUMBER OF MINUTES; CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Beaver Creek: Don Walters		
775 Boggs Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694		20
Big Helton Elmer Ham		
2214 Deep Ford Road, Lansing, NC 28643		15
Horse Creek Elder Steve Douglas		
5700 Garvey Bridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617		15
North Fork Kenny McNeill		
236 Cranberry Creek Road, Laurel Springs, NC 28644		20
Riverview Dan Miller		
270 Joe Lyalls Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694		30
Roans Creek Elder Floyd South		
278 South Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694		25
Senter Bobby Absher		
183 Old Ridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617		45

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

Ebenezer: <i>Aubrey E. Utz</i>		
Madison, VA 22727		20
Mountain: <i>Roy Truitt</i>		
102 Gentry Street, Galax, VA 24333		20
Bear Creek: <i>Allen Copple</i>		
Route 4, Asheboro, NC 27203		20

Silver Creek: <i>Elder Gene Watson</i>	
145 Friendly Park, Lenoir, NC 28645	20
North Carolina Collection: <i>The Library</i>	
<i>University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514</i>	<i>2</i>
The Primitive Baptist Library: <i>Elon College</i>	
Rt. 2, Elon College, NC 27244.....	2
The American Baptist Historical Society	
1106 South Goodman St., Rochester, NY 14620	2
Wake Forest University: <i>The Z. Smith Reynolds Library</i>	
Box 7777, Reynolds Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109...	2
The Christian Baptist Library	
PO Box 68, Atwood, TN 38220	2
Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Association:	
Rt. 1, Box 14, Bluefield, WV 24701	20
The Primitive Baptist Library:	
416 Main Street, Carthage, IL 62321	2
St. Clair's Bottom Association: <i>Blaine Owens</i>	
103 Jefferson Drive, Bristol, VA 24201.....	20

COMMUNION MEETINGS

We wish to extend to all our churches and to the peace-loving Baptists of our faith and order an invitation to commune with us at the following churches and dates:

Beaver Creek: 4th Sunday in May

Sender: 2nd Sunday in June

Riverview: 3rd Sunday in June

Horse Creek: 4th Sunday in June

North Fork: 2nd Sunday in July

Big Helton: 3rd Sunday in July

Roans Creek: 4th Sunday in July

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
3. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to make his speech.
4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by anyone except the Moderator till he is done speaking.
5. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no way reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the matter as nearly as he can so as to convey his light or ideas.
6. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained from it.
7. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without liberty obtained from the Association.
8. No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in the time of public speech.
9. No member of the Association shall address another in any other appellation than the title of brother.
10. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member or prohibit him from speaking till he gives his light on the subject except he breaks the Rules of Decorum.
11. The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over as often as the Association requires.

12. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled, and he shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

13. That any member who shall willingly and knowingly break any of these rules shall be reprov'd by the Association as they shall think proper.

14. The pastor of the host church shall act as moderator until a moderator can be elected.

15. Delegates of the host church to select the elder to preach the introductory sermon.

CONSTITUTION

The churches from Mountain Association, Cranberry, Senter, South Fork, Silas Creek, and Big Helton and also the Three Forks Association, Beaver Creek, Bear Creek, North Fork and Horse Creek, having been dismissed from the Mountain and Three Forks Associations, at their annual meetings in A.C. 1853, to form a new Association, met by the respective delegates in a convention, with the Senter Church, October 21, 1853, formed and adopted the present Constitution of the Senter Association.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union and duly sent to represent them in the Association.

2. Who, in producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to their seats. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates. In their letters are to be expressed their number in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letters, excluded and dead since last Association.

3. The Association will continue seating all orderly, peace-loving Primitive Baptists as visitors.

4. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any clerical power over the churches, nor shall they have any internal right over any church in the union.

5. The Association shall be governed and ruled by a regular decorum.

6. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

7. New churches or any regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ of our faith and order, being legally dismissed by letter from any sister Association, upon application by letter and delegates, shall be admitted into our union.

8. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

9. Every query, first being debated in the church and then presented to the Association, shall be read and debated and answered unless it be withdrawn by the member who presents it.

10. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

11. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the proceedings, the best method for accomplishing this purpose shall be at the discretion of the future Association.

12. We think it necessary to have an Association fund to defray the expenses of the same and it is the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums as they think proper to the Association, and those monies shall be deposited in the hands of a treasurer who shall be accountable to the Association for the same.

13. There shall be an Association book wherein the proceedings of the Association shall be recorded by a secretary appointed by the Association, who shall receive a yearly compensation for his trouble.

14. The minutes of the Association shall be read, corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

15. Amendments to their plan or form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the Association, when they deem it necessary, by giving the churches twelve months notice.

16. The Association shall have power to provide for the general union of churches, to endeavor to preserve a chain of communion among the churches, to give the church the necessary advice in matters of difficulty.

17. To inquire into the cause, if any church fails to represent themselves at any time in the Association.

18. To appropriate those monies contributed by the churches to any purpose they may think proper.

19. The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in the union which shall violate the rules of this Convention deviate from the orthodox principles of the gospel.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost and these three are One.

2. We believe that scriptures of the Old and New Testament as translated in the 1611 King James version of the Holy Bible is the written word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace.
4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin and in Man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will or ability.
5. We believe that sinners are called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and that All who are thus regenerated and born again by the Spirit of God shall never fall finally away.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
7. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ and that true believers are the only subjects of those ordinances and we believe the only true mode of baptism is by immersion.
8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment and the joys of the righteous and that the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
9. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of the gospel except such as are regularly called, and come under the imposition of hands by the presbytery.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Beaver Creek - Second Sunday morning, 11:00 AM, and fourth Sunday, 2:00 PM. A brick building located about three miles from West Jefferson, NC. Take Hwy. 221 south about one mile to Hwy. 163 about two miles. The church is on the left side of the highway.

Big Helton - Second and third Sundays, 11:00 AM. A white wood church building about one mile west of Sturgills, NC. Take Hwy. 194 from Lansing, NC to Sturgills, NC. Turn left. The church is about one mile on the left side of the highway.

Horse Creek - First and fourth Sundays, 11:00 AM, following respective Saturdays. A white wood frame building about four miles northwest of Lansing, NC. take Hwy. 194 from West Jefferson, turn left on 1324; follow 1324 to Joe Hampton Road; follow to end of pavement; turn left to church.

North Fork - Second, fourth, and fifth Sundays, 10:30 AM, 2nd Sunday night. Take Hwy. 88 West from Warrensville. Approximately 1 1/2 miles turn right on Staggs Creek Road. Continue on Staggs Creek Road approximately 1 mile. Church is at the intersection of Staggs Creek Road and Glenn Miller Road.

Riverview - First and third Sundays, 10:30 A.M. From the intersection of 221 and 163 near West Jefferson go south on 221 approximately .3 mile. Turn left on Nettle Knob Road, go three miles to the Lower Nettle Knob Road. Go 3.5 miles to the Phillips Gap Road, turn right about 1 mile. The brick church is on the left of the road.

Roans Creek - Sunday following fourth Saturday of each month, 11:00 AM. A brick church building located between Jefferson, NC and Laurel Springs, NC take Hwy. 88 out of Jefferson, NC, about seven miles. The church is on the left side of the road.

Senter - First and fourth Sunday nights, 7:00 PM. second Saturday night, 7:00 PM, and Sunday following, 2:00 PM. A brick church building located between Jefferson, NC and Sparta, NC. Take Hwy. 221 out of Jefferson, NC, about eight miles. Located on Nathans' Creek School Road.

STATISTICAL TABLE

1998

Church Organized	CHURCHES	MESSENGERS	Communion Month	Sundays of Meetings	Ordained Elders	Liberated	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Restored to Fel.	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Contribution
1785	Beaver Creek	Brother Tony Jordan, Brother Larry Davis, Brother Don Walters	May	2 4	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	\$45.00
1840	Big Helton	Brother Elmer Ham, Elder Steve Douglas	July	2 3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	25.00
1840	Horse Creek	(No letter)												
1785	North Fork	Brother Edward Roten, Brother Johnny McNeill, Brother Kenny McNeill, Brother Doughton Roten, Alt.	July	2 4	0	1	6	0	0	1	0	0	24	100.00
1898	Riverview	Brother Clyde Johnson, Brother Paul Miller, Brother Willard Hartzog, Brother Don Cox, Alt.	June	1 3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	150.00
1898	Roans Creek	Brother Millard Bare, Brother Richard Bare, Brother George Severt, Brother Rodger Rutherford, Alt.	July	1 4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	155.00
1829	Senter	Brother Paul Bare, Brother Tony Miller, Brother Jim Richardson, Brother Ray Roten, Alt.	June	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	48	315.00
TOTAL.....														790.00





