

Total numbers.	177	141	79	77	218	121	74	44	154	242	1327
Deceased.	4	2	1	1	6	6	1	6	11	17	35
Excluded.	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	7	11	21	19
Dismissed.	1	2	1	1	6	2	1	7	11	21	427

Sixteenth Annual Meeting

OF THE

COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

MAINTAINING

“The unity of God; the existence of three equal persons in the Godhead; the just condemnation and total depravity of all mankind by the fall of our first parents; eternal, personal, and unconditional election; the proper Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ; the necessity of his Atonement, and its special relation to the sins of the elect only; justification by the imputed righteousness of Christ alone; effectual calling; perseverance of the saints; believers’ baptism by immersion only; the Lord’s Supper a privilege peculiar to baptized believers, regularly admitted to church fellowship; the resurrection of the body, and general judgment; the final happiness of the saints, and misery of the wicked alike interminable; the obligation of every intelligent creature to love God supremely, to believe what God says, and practise what God commands; and the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as the complete and infallible rule of faith and practice;”

HELD, BY APPOINTMENT,

AT BETHLEHEM MEETING-HOUSE,

PRINCE-WILLIAM COUNTY, Va.

AUGUST 23, 24, 25, & 26,

1832.

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST
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Wake Forest, North Carolina

Washington City:

PRINTED BY STEPHEN C. USTICK,

1832.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1832.

1. Brother Alexander H. Bennet preached the Introductory Sermon, from 1 Peter, iii. 8. "*Finally, be ye all of one mind.*"
2. The Moderator being absent, brother Samuel Cornelius was chosen Moderator pro tem.; when the letters from the Churches were read, and the Messengers' names enrolled, as follows:

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1872

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES, OR LOCATIONS.	When constituted.	MESSENGERS.	MINISTERS.	Days of Preaching.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total numbers.
Chappawamsick	Stafford County, Va.	1767	{ Joseph R. Lynn, Benjamin Wamsley.	ALEX ^r H. BENNET.	4th	11	4	-	1	1	4	177
Little River,	Loudoun, do.	1769	{ Sandford Rogers, John M. Young.	JOHN OGILVIE.	1st	10	-	2	2	-	-	141
Occoquan,	Prince William, do.	1778	{ George Selectman, William Jacobs.	WILLIAM JACOBS.	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	79
Hartwood,	Stafford, do.	1786	{ James W. Stone,* George Honey	ALEX ^r H. BENNET.	-	46	2	-	6	1	-	77
Long Branch,	Fauquier, do.	1787	{ Thaddeus Herndon, George Love,	W. M. F. BROADBUDS.	4th	36	1	-	6	2	1	218
Back Lick,	Fairfax, do.	1791	{ Benedict Jones, Hiram Harrover.	SAMUEL CORNELIUS.	2d	2	5	-	-	2	6	121
Fryingpan,	Loudoun, do.	1792	{ William Thomas, John K. Kockrell.	WILLIAM GILMORE.	3d	1	-	-	2	1	-	74
Nanjemoy, 1st Washington, Alexandria,	Charles County, Maryland, Washington City, D. C. Town of Alexandria, D. C.	1793 1802 1803	{ John Warder.* Joseph Cooper. SAMUEL CORNELIUS, Thos. G. Prettyman.	O. B. BROWN. SAMUEL CORNELIUS.	- every every	1 1 2	- 5 6	- 1 1	- 7 2	- 1 1	- 8 7	44 154 242
					Carried over,	11	23	427	1935	1327		

3. Brother Alexander H. Bennet was chosen Moderator.

4. Communications were received from the following Associations, and their Messengers affectionately welcomed to seats with us:

KETOCTON; Letter and Messengers, Elder Joseph Baker, brother William Hunton, and Elder John Ogilvie.

DOVER; Minutes and Messengers, Elder P. Montague and L. Marders.

BALTIMORE; Minutes.

ALBEMARLE; Minutes.

PATTERSON'S CREEK; Minutes.

SHILOH; Minutes.

HUDSON RIVER; no communication.

5. Brethren Samuel Cornelius and Joseph R. Lynn were appointed a committee to examine the Minutes of Corresponding Associations, and others, and report in writing.

6. Brethren Francis M. Lewis, Sanford Rogers, and John M. Young, were appointed a committee to arrange the preaching.

7. The Moderator and Clerk were appointed a committee to examine the letters from the Churches, and to arrange the Visitation Meetings, and report.

8. Brethren Geo. Rowe, Joseph R. Lynn, and J. M. Young, were appointed to audit the Treasurer's account, and to receive contributions, &c.

9. Brethren Cornelius and Adams, with the author, were appointed to examine the Circular Letter, and report.

10. Brother Cornelius affectionately suggested the propriety of making our Associations more devotional, by occasionally introducing prayer, praise, and exhortation, in the daily progress of business; which was adopted, and some time devoted to such exercises.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock; the first hour to be spent in devotional exercises.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24.

Met pursuant to adjournment; and, after spending an hour in devotional exercises, proceeded to business.

11. The Committee appointed to examine the Minutes of Corresponding Associations report, that they found nothing in them claiming special attention, except that the Baltimore Association warns the churches against "a certain person going under the character of a Baptist preacher, named Joseph Stephens, who is, and has been for many years, as we are (upon good authority) informed, an excommunicated member from the Upper Freehold Church, New Jersey."

12. The Committee appointed to examine the letters from the Churches of this Association, and to arrange the Visitation Meetings, report, that they have examined the letters, and find nothing in them that seems to require the attention of the Association.

The Visitation Meetings are arranged as follows:

At *Mount Pleasant*, 5th Lord's-day in September, and Saturday before; brethren Robert Latham and A. H. Bennet to attend:

Back Lick, 5th Lord's-day in December, and Saturday before; brethren Adams, Latham, and Brown to attend:

Hartwood, 5th Lords-day in March, and Saturday before; brethren Cornelius, Adams, and Bennet to attend:

Brent Town, 5th Lord's-day in June, and Saturday before; brethren Latham, Brown, and Marders to attend:

Fredericksburg, *Fourth* Lord's-day in March, and Saturday before; brethren Stringfellow and Bennet to attend.

13. The next GENERAL UNION MEETING is appointed to be held with the Church at Nanjemoy; to commence on Friday before the 5th Lord's-day in June. Brethren Adams, Cornelius, and Bennet have promised to attend.

14. The next Association to be held at Rock Hill Meeting-House, in Stafford County, Va. about two miles East from Tackett's Mills, and fifteen miles North of Fredericksburg; commencing on Thursday before the 4th Lord's-day in August, 1833. The Introductory Sermon to be preached at 11 o'clock, A. M. by brother Robert Latham; and brother Geo. F. Adams is appointed his alternate.

15. Messengers were appointed to the following Associations, viz:

Ketockton, to be held at Happy Creek Meeting-House, in Front Royal, Frederick County, on the Thursday preceding the 3d Lord's-day in August, 1833; brethren Latham, Brown, Cornelius, Love, Hathaway, and Thaddeus Herndon:

Dover, to be held at Four Mile Creek, in Henrico County, a few miles below Richmond, commencing on the 2d Saturday in October next; brethren Geo. F. Adams and A. H. Bennet:

Shiloh, to be held at Bethel Meeting-House, in Culpepper County, on Friday before the 1st Lord's-day in September next; brethren Stringfellow and Love:

Baltimore, to be held at Pleasant Valley Meeting-House, in Washington County, Maryland, commencing on Thursday preceding the 3d Lord's-day in May, 1833; brethren Latham and Cornelius:

Albemarle, to be held at Lynchburg, on Saturday before the 3d Lord's-day in August, 1833; 10 copies of our Minutes to be sent by the Clerk:

Patterson's Creek, to be held at North River Church, Hampshire County, to commence on the Friday preceding the 2d Lord's in September, 1832; 10 copies of our Minutes to be sent by the Clerk:

Goshen, to be held at _____ in Spottsylvania County, to commence on the Saturday preceding the 4th Lord's-day in September; brother Geo. F. Adams.

16. The GENERAL ASSOCIATION, to be held in Richmond, on the 1st Saturday in June, 1833; Elders O. B. Brown, Geo. F. Adams, and brother George Love.

17. The following brethren were appointed to supply the destitute Church at Nanjemoy, viz:

1832.	3d	Lord's-day, and Saturday before,	in October, A. H. Bennet.
	3d	do.	do.
	3d	do.	in Nov. Geo. F. Adams.
	3d	do.	in Dec. O. B. Brown.
1833.	3d	do.	do.
	3d	do.	in March, S. Cornelius.
	3d	do.	in April, Geo. F. Adams.
	3d	do.	in May, R. Latham.
	3d	do.	in July, A. H. Bennet.
	3d	do.	in August, Geo. F. Adams.

18. The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's account, made the following report, which was accepted and approved.

REPORT:

Bal. in the hands of the Treasurer, Aug. 26, 1831, \$ 11 04 $\frac{1}{2}$
 Contributions from the Churches, - - - 50 00

Dollars, \$ 61 04 $\frac{1}{2}$

Disbursements:

For printing the Minutes, 1831, - \$ 33 80

Paid the Clerk, and the Messengers
 to Corresponding Associations, - 22 50

Balance in the Treasurer's hands,

Aug. 24, 1832. - - - 4 74 $\frac{1}{2}$

\$ 61 04 $\frac{1}{2}$

19. The following contributions were made by the churches to the fund of the Association, viz: Chappawamsick, \$ 3; Little River, \$ 3 50; Occoquan, \$ 2; Hartwood, \$ 2 50; Long Branch, \$ 3; Back Lick, \$ 3; Fryingpan, \$ 3; Nanjemoy, \$ 3 45; 1st Washington, \$ 5; Alexandria, \$ 5; Bethlehem, \$ 2; Grove, \$ 3; Rock Hill, \$ 3; Mount Pleasant, \$ 3; Elk Run, \$ 3; Enon, —; Fredericksburg, \$ 3; Brent Town, \$ 2 15; amounting in all to \$ 52 60: which was paid over to brother Cooper, the Treasurer.

20. Ordered, That the Treasurer pay the following sums, viz. To brother Samuel Cornelius, \$ 12; to the Clerk, \$ 5, for his services, stationary, and postage.

21. Brother Samuel Cornelius was appointed to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and 1100 copies ordered to be printed.

22. Elder Geo. F. Adams was appointed to write the next Circular Letter.

23. Elder A. H. Bennet was appointed to write the next Corresponding Letter.

24. The Circular Letter, written by Elder Latham, was reported by the committee to whom it was referred, adopted, and ordered to be printed with the Minutes.

25. The Corresponding Letter, written by Elder Cornelius, was referred to brethren Latham, Young, and the author.

26. The Clerk tendered his resignation of office to the Association.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25.

Met pursuant to adjournment; and after spending some time in devotional exercises, proceeded to business.

27. This Association recommends to the Churches to unite with the Ketchikan Association in setting apart the Wednesday after the 2d Lord's-day in September, as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer to Almighty God, that he would remove from our nation the scourge of Cholera, that has visited us; that the awful dispensation may be sanctified to us; and, if it be not his pleasure to remove it, that it may be sent upon us in its mildest form, and that he prepare us for submission to his sovereign will.

28. *Resolved*, That the Messengers to the General Association be, and they are hereby, authorized to take collections this day and to-morrow, and also during the year, to be paid over to the fund of said Association.

29. The Committee on the Corresponding Letter reported the same, with some amendments; which, as amended, was adopted.

30. Whereas several of our Churches, and many of the neighborhoods within our bounds, are destitute of the regular ministrations of the word of truth—

Resolved, That we submit to the Churches to consider the propriety of forming a Mission Society among ourselves; and as many as approve the plan are requested to send Delegates and funds, to constitute such a Society, at the next meeting of this Association.

31. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be presented to the brethren and friends in this vicinity, for the

kindness and hospitality with which we have been entertained during the present meeting.

The session then closed with prayer, by brother Philip Montague.

ALEX'R H. BENNET, *Moderator.*

GEO. LOVE, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

To the Churches composing the same, CHRISTIAN SALUTATION:

BRETHREN BELOVED IN THE LORD,

You have not forgotten that your attention was invited, in a particular manner, to the searching of the Scriptures, in our address to you last year: And may we not hope that you have profited by it, by enjoying consolation, derived from that rich fountain; by being more grounded and settled in the truth as it is in Jesus, and by being the better able to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, and to exhibit, in your walk and conversation, that love for all God's precepts that becomes the followers of our dear Redeemer.

Dear brethren, we ask you, in the present critical state of things, to consider well what may be for the glory of God, and the good of his Zion; while we would hold out a beacon to you, if peradventure it might be a means of avoiding some of the dangers to which travellers to the heavenly Canaan are at the present time greatly exposed. It is not to be supposed that Satan is less active, or less malicious, now, than he was in ages past. He is still the enemy of goodness, and of all true happiness, going about, like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, 1 Peter, v. 8. His devices are many; and he can give them a change in appearance, as the state of things may seem to require, according to his satanic skill. For the purpose of carrying on his designs, he can transform himself into an angel of light; and, by his powerful influence over his agents, or ministers, he can cause them to transform themselves into the ministers of righteousness, 2 Cor. xi. 13, 14, 15.; and, by this diabolical cunning, great mischief has been done in the Church of God. Brethren, is this state of things at an end? and are we travelling the high way to Heaven, where our enemies can only look upon us, but have no power to interrupt our religious comforts? No, this is not our situation. Be it remembered, brethren, that often, under the fairest prospects, in human judgment, the prince of darkness is most

successfully carrying on his deep laid schemes; and while men are crying peace and safety, sudden destruction falleth upon them.

Brethren, we would call your attention to a subject of too great notoriety to have escaped your notice altogether. We know the subject is a delicate one, and what may be said by us may not be acceptable to all; but we have nothing to fear from such as love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. We mean that relation which subsists between us as Churches and Preachers, and that contrariety of sentiment and practice, which has caused so much unpleasant feeling, and which still exists, in a considerable degree, in this our day. And, no doubt; the men of the world, because of the present state of things, are ready to say, "Ah, so would we have it, and, they are all alike." But this is not true. The Lord has a people, who will be saved with an everlasting salvation; and the world knoweth them not. Brethren, should we not all be concerned to know what is the ground we are called to occupy in the Church of God? Is it not a state of high responsibility? Is it not of the utmost importance to discharge our duty to God, as Christians, and our duty to each other, as brethren? If a man hath the love of God in his heart, it will be evinced by his speaking and doing the things which are lovely. There is an intercourse carried on between God and the soul; and this is not confined to our being in company with each other: but when alone, the people of God receive visits from their Father in Heaven; and he receives in return from them, in strains of humble adoration and praise, acknowledgements of the great things they hope he has done for them. Is it without cause we believe such persons love each other, and most earnestly desire the prosperity of the Church of God? The very best reason can be assigned why those persons love the Lord, and love one another, with pure hearts fervently. There is nothing so powerful, in its influence on the hearts of men, as the love of God. It never fails to give the heart a right direction, and causes it to fall in love with the image of Christ, wherever it is perceived.

Dear brethren, if we have stated some of the things peculiar to the children of God, what are we to think of some who occupy a place in the house of God, and give such evidence of their living under the influence of a contrary spirit? The love of God cannot influence that man, who is not pleased with the good standing of Christian ministers; but, hearing evil of them, sets his envy to work, which is never at a loss for something to answer his purpose in effecting so mischievous a design, as the injury of the reputation of a better man than himself. If such a thing does not exist within the circle of our acquaint-

ance, happy for us. But if it does, let us intreat you, brethren, to frown upon it for the time to come, meet with it wherever you may. With earnestness enter your protest against such a temper of mind; and cause him that is thus employed to be ashamed, that he may do so no more.

Brethren, we will call your attention to another branch of the subject, in our concluding remarks. It is one of the peculiar blessings of the Gospel dispensation, that Christian Churches have the privilege of choosing their own pastors, and of putting them into office. This privilege should be highly prized by us; and is it not a privilege that should be exercised with great caution, at the present moment? If it should be asked, why so careful at the present time; we answer: If the enemy of souls is not exerting his influence to introduce a corrupt ministry into the Churches, then a number of men, eminent for their piety and knowledge in the Christian religion, who have gone before us, and who were instruments of feeding the saints with knowledge and understanding, and of building them up in the truth of the Gospel, (which perhaps is not so common at the present day, in many Churches,) were under delusion; and, instead of departing from the simplicity of truth, we are advancing forward to a greater degree of correctness in the knowledge of the Gospel of the grace of God.

Brethren, let us consider well the present state of things; and, taking the Bible for our only rule of faith and practice, we shall be saved from error, and advance in holiness, and in peace. Farewell!

ALEX'R H. BENNET, *Moderator,*

GEO. LOVE, *Clerk.*

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to the Associations with whom we correspond, GREETING:

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

We have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Minutes, and the visits and assistance of your Messengers. We are so gratified to be remembered by our sister Associations, and have derived so much comfort and benefit from their correspondence, that we hope ever to enjoy your affectionate attentions. If our Association has not appeared to reciprocate the kindness, it is owing simply to the fact of our having so few ministers in our fellowship; for, although most of our eighteen Churches are now supplied with occasional

preaching, we have only seven ministers belonging to our body. This fact leads us to inquire, whether proper measures are taken among us to increase the number of "good ministers of Jesus Christ." Do we look out among us, and properly encourage, those gifts which the Head of the Church may have bestowed upon the Churches? Are there no young men who are concealing talents, which might be usefully employed "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ?" Especially do we, with sufficient earnestness, and perseverance, and faith, "pray the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth more laborers into the harvest?" We, ourselves, feel the solemnity of these interrogatories: And we commend them to the consideration of our brethren, with the humble hope that they may awaken proper attention to a subject of such momentous import.

You will see, brethren, from the accompanying Minutes, that we have reason to adore the Keeper of Israel for general peace in our Churches, and for considerable additions to a number of them. We rejoice that it is thus with some of you. With what joy and trembling have we heard of the glorious revivals of religion, which have prevailed in our land. Joy, that so many souls have been born into the kingdom of our Lord—trembling, at our own coldness and barrenness. Yet our hopes are revived; for, in some of our congregations, if not in all, there appears an awakened attention to the truths of the Gospel.

It gives us pleasure to hear and see, that the Church of Christ appears more and more alive to the high privilege of diffusing the knowledge of the truth in the earth. Our Bible Societies are supplying the destitute, in our own and other countries, with the Lively Oracles. Our Sunday-schools are enlightening the minds of multitudes. Our Tracts are found powerful assistants to the Heralds of the Cross, and in some places teaching truth, where a distressing destitution of the ministry reigns. And our Missionaries, copying the example of their Lord, and fulfilling his command, are going into all the world, and preaching the Gospel to every creature.

Beloved brethren, it is our desire to be found in the faithful discharge of every duty which we owe to the Lord our Redeemer, at this eventful period. Pray for us—exhort us—strengthen us by your counsel and example.

Our next Association will be held with the Church at Rock Hill, Stafford County, Virginia, about fifteen miles North of Fredericksburg, on the Thursday before the 4th Lord's day in August, 1833; where we hope again to meet your Messengers.

ALEX'R H. BENNET, *Moderator.*

GEO. LOVE, *Clerk.*

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