

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST

COLLECTION

MINUTES

of the
One Hundred Fifty First Annual Session
of the
SENER DISTRICT
PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Held with
SENER CHURCH
Ashe County, North Carolina

SEPTEMBER 10, 11, and 12, 2004

The next session will convene with Sener Church on September 9, 10, 11, 2005. The church is located between Jefferson, NC and Sparta, NC. Take Highway 221 out of Jefferson, NC about eight miles, on Nathan's Creek School Road.

OFFICERS

ELDER JAMES MCNEILL **MODERATOR**
5868 NC Hwy. 221 N. Crumpler, NC 28617 • 336-982-3802

ELDER FLOYD SOUTH **ASSISTANT MODERATOR**
278 South Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694 • 336-246-7456

ELDER BOBBY ABSHER **CLERK**
183 Old Ridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617 • 336-982-2163

BROTHER DON WALTERS **ASST. CLERK**
775 Boggs Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694 • 336-877-4723

Southern Baptist

Historical Library & Archives
Nashville, TN

MAR 27 2009



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 Ed Bowman from Mt. Lebanon Church.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Paul Williams from Richlands Virginia.

The Association was opened with prayer by Elder Dan Parker.

ON MOTION:

1. Letters 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

Elder Curtis Hash

Brother Jack Nichols and Sister Louise Nichols

Brother Roy Truitt and Sister Shirley Truitt

Brother Jimmy Haynes

Brother Page and Sister Hazel Wagoner

**St. Clair Bottom Association of North Carolina and
Virginia**

Elder Eddie Lyle

Reorganized Silver Creek Association of North Carolina

Elder John R. Jackson

Elder Gene Watson and Sister Pansy Watson

Bear Creek Association of North Carolina

Brother Michael and Sister Susan Lester

North Florida Fellowship Association

Elder Albert Altman

INDEPENDENT CHURCHES:

Walnut Cove Primitive Baptist Church, Walnut Cove, NC

Brother Paul V. Lemons

Indian Creek Church, Willis, Virginia

Elder Paul E. Williams

Mt. Lebanon Church, Woodland, Virginia

Elder Edward Bowman

Community Church, Danville, Virginia

Elder Dan Parker

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

A. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

Brother Willard Hartzog

Brother Arvil Scott

Brother Don Walters

Brother Clyde Johnson

B. COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS:

Brother Richard Bare
Brother Junior Davis
Brother Tony Jordan
Brother Paul Miller
Brother Jim Richardson
Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk

C. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:

Elder Bobby Absher
Brother Clyde Johnson
Brother Paul Miller
Brother Arvil Scott
Elder Floyd South
Brother Don Walters

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 Bobby Absher.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

The Association met as scheduled and was called to order with song and prayer by Elder Floyd South.

ON MOTION:

1. The roll call was omitted.
2. The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were omitted but printed in the minutes.
3. The next Association is to be held starting at 10:00 A.M., on Friday, before the second Sunday in September, 2005 at Senter Church.

4. Night meetings will be held Friday and Saturday nights at Senter Church.
5. The clerk was appointed to oversee the printing of 350 copies of the minutes and distribution of the same.
6. Minutes are to be mailed to all visitors.
7. The clerk was appointed as treasurer to hold all funds for printing and postage of minutes.
8. The obituaries are to be printed in the minutes.
9. The finance committee reported as follows:

YEAR - 2004

Reported from Churches:

Beaver Creek	\$80.00
North Fork	120.00
Riverview	90.00
Roans Creek	55.00
Senter	335.00
 Total	 \$685.00

Received from donations Friday through Sunday ..	\$292.00
Balance in Savings	\$543.00

Expenditures:

To the Moderator	\$20.00
To the Assistant Moderator	20.00
To the Clerk	60.00
To the Assistant Clerk	20.00
Paid to Visiting Elders	507.00
Designated for printing and postage of minutes ..	350.00

10. Minutes read and approved.
11. That the Association adjourn through prayer by Brother Bobby Absher.
Elder James McNeill, Moderator
Elder Floyd South, Assistant Moderator
Elder Bobby Absher, Clerk
Brother Don Walters, Assistant Clerk

VISITING ELDERS

- Elder Albert Altman
20324 CR 127 Glenn Street, Mary, FL 32040
- Elder Edward Bowman
5771 Joy Branch Road, Woodland, VA 24381
- Elder Curtis Hash
2495 Powerhouse Road, Independence, VA 24348
- Elder John Jackson
103 Tom Jackson, Boone, NC 28607
- Elder Eddie G. Lyle
1521 Elliott Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694
- Elder Dan Parker
3849 R & L Smith Drive, Danville, VA 24540
- Elder Gene Watson
530 Legion Rd., Lenoir, NC 28645
- Elder Paul Williams
230 Burnette Street, Richlands, VA 24641

ORDER OF PREACHING

Friday Morning:

- Elder Ed Bowman (introduced with prayer)
Elder Paul Williams (introductory sermon)
Elder Dan Parker (opened business with prayer)

Friday Afternoon:

- Elder Curtis Hash (introduced with prayer)

Elder Edward Bowman (afternoon sermon)
Elder Bobby Absher (closed with prayer)

Friday Night:

Elder James McNeill (introduced with prayer)
Elder Dan Parker (sermon)
Elder Bobby Absher (closed with prayer)

Saturday Morning:

Elder John Jackson (introduced with prayer)
Elder Curtis Hash (sermon)
Elder Dan Parker (sermon)
Elder James McNeill (closed with prayer)

Saturday Afternoon:

Bro. Jimmy Haynes (introduced with prayer)
Elder John Jackson (sermon)
Elder Floyd South (closed with prayer)

Saturday Night:

Elder John Jackson (introduced with prayer)
Elder Albert Altman (sermon)
Elder Eddie Lyle (sermon)
Elder James McNeill (closed with prayer)

Sunday Morning:

Elder Bobby Absher (introduced with prayer)
Elder Bobby Absher (sermon)
Elder James McNeill (sermon)
Elder James McNeill (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 10–15, 2005.

ORDAINED ELDERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Elder Bobby Absher | 183 Old Ridge Road
Crumpler, NC 28617
Telephone: (336) 982-2163 |
| Lic. Larry Davis | 244 W.A. Reed Rd.
Laurel Springs, NC 28644 |
| Elder James McNeill | 5862 U.S. 221 North
Crumpler, NC 28617
Telephone: (336) 982-3802 |
| Elder Floyd South | 278 South Avenue
West Jefferson, NC 28694
Telephone: (336) 246-7456 |
| Elder C.O. Yates | 2415 Lower Nettle Knob Road
West Jefferson, NC 28694
Telephone (336) 877-4991 |

CHURCHES AND PASTORS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Beaver Creek | Elders James McNeill and
Bobby Absher |
| North Fork | Elders Bobby Absher and
John Jackson |
| Riverview | Elders C.O. Yates and
James McNeill |
| Roans Creek
Senter | Elder Floyd South
Elder Bobby Absher |

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

Beaver Creek: Don Walters	20
775 Boggs Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694	
North Fork: Sharon Kellam	20
PO Box 252, Warrensville, NC 28693	
Riverview: Dan Miller	30
153 Big Piney Creek Rd., Lansing, NC 28643	
Roans Creek: Elder Floyd South	25
278 South Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694	
Sender: Elder Bobby Absher	45
183 Old Ridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617	

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

The American Baptist Historical Society	2
1106 South Goodman St., Rochester, NY 14620	
Bear Creek: Tim Herrin	20
3219 Baucom Manor Rd., Monroe, NC 28110	
The Christian Baptist Library.....	2
PO Box 68, Atwood, TN 38220	
Ebenezer: Wayne F. Baldwin	20
PO Box 572, Culpeper, VA 22701	
Mountain: Roy Truitt.....	20
102 Gentry Street, Galax, VA 24336	
Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Association:	
Randolph Miller.....	20
Rt. 1, Box 58, Union, WV 24983	
New Liberty Primitive Baptist Association:	
Ronald Sargent.....	20
2302 Jefferson Ave., Point Pleasant, WV 25550	
304-675-1482	

North Carolina Collection: The Library	2
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514	
The Primitive Baptist Library: Elon College	2
4023 North, NC 87 Elon College, NC 27244	
Silver Creek: Revonda Swanson	21
2132 Blue Ridge Circle, Lenoir, NC 28645	
St. Clair's Bottom Association: Blaine Owens	21
103 Jefferson Drive, Bristol, VA 24201	
Wake Forest University: The Z. Smith Reynolds Library	2
Box 7777, Reynolds Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109	

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**
- North Fork: 2nd 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 reprovved 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.

North Fork — First and Third Sundays at 2:00 P.M. 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 — 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 — First and fourth Sundays, 10:30 A.M. 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, 6:30 PM; Saturday night preceding the Second Sunday, 6:30 PM; (During Daylight Savings Time all services begin at 7:00 PM); Second Sunday Afternoon at 1:30 PM. Senter Church is a brick building located between Jefferson, NC and Sparta, NC off of Hwy. 221 on Nathan's Creek School Road. It is approximately eight miles from Jefferson.

OBITUARIES

Thomas Burl Fowler

Paul Harvey Bare

Thelma Lorraine Roten Miller Phillips

Jennie Myrtle Blevins Caraway

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Beaver Creek — Second Sunday morning, 11:00 AM, and Third 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.

North Fork — First and Third Sunday, 2:00 PM. Take Hwy. 66 West from Warrenville. Approximately 1 1/2 miles west of Stagg Creek Road. Continue on Stagg Creek Road approximately 1 mile. Church is at the intersection of Stagg Creek Road and Glenn Miller Road.

THOMAS BURL FOWLER



April 5, 1923–February 12, 2004

Thomas Burl Fowler, age 80, of Crumpler, died Thursday, February 12, 2004 at Ashe Memorial Hospital.

He was born on April 5, 1923 in the Nathans Creek community to the late Tom and Annie Edwards Fowler. He grew up in that area where he attended elementary and high school. During WWII he entered the army and served overseas. When Burl returned home, he enrolled in Milligan College in Tennessee where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. Later he attended Appalachian State University where he earned a Master of Arts degree in education. Burl worked in the Ashe County School System for 34 years. He was a teacher at Healing Springs Elementary School for 12 years and was principal for 22 years prior to retiring in 1985.

During his life, Brother Burl was very involved in community and civic affairs. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Committee for the New River and was instrumental in the preservation of the New River when it was threatened with being dammed in the 1970's. He served as President of the Ashe County Historical Society and the Ashe County Cancer Society and was member of several local and national organizations.

Brother Burl united with the Senter Primitive Baptist Church on July 25, 1987 where he remained a member until his death. He was a staunch defender of his faith.

Brother Burl is survived by his wife Dorinda Fowler of the home; two sons, Thomas Fowler, Jr. of Crumpler and Andy Fowler of Mocksville and one daughter, Dr. Vickie Ingledue of Jefferson. Also surviving is a step-daughter, Sue Johnson of Grassy Creek; two sisters, Pauline Richardson and Lillian Richardson of Crumpler; two grandchildren and three step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 15, 2004 at the Senter Primitive Baptist Church. Elder Bobby Absher and the Rev. Peter Parish officiated. Burial followed in the Brown Fowler Cemetery.

Brother Burl was a caring husband, a loving father, and a good neighbor. He left behind many relatives and friends and will be greatly missed.

PAUL HARVEY BARE



February 18, 1920–April 28, 2004

Paul Harvey Bare, age 84 of Crumpler died on Wednesday night, April 28, 2004 at Forsyth Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

Funeral services were held Sunday, May 2, 2004 at 2:00 pm at Senter Primitive Baptist Church by Elder Bobby Absher and Elder James McNeill. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Brother Paul was born in Ashe County on Wednesday, February 18, 1920 to the late Hiram and Mertie Ann Bare.

Brother Paul is survived by his wife, Hazel Phillips Bare, a son Paul Bare, Jr., and wife Nancy of Crumpler; two brothers, Burrell Bare and wife Helen of Crumpler and Walker Bare of Crumpler; a sister Mabel Bare Phillips of Fleetwood. Brother Paul is also survived by two grandchildren, Nicole Bare of Winston-Salem and Jerry Bare of Crumpler. Several nieces and nephews also survived.

Brother Paul made his livelihood as a farmer and served with the U.S. Navy during WWII.

Brother Paul united with Senter Primitive Baptist Church in April, 1971. He was ordained as a deacon shortly afterwards and filled this office faithfully until his death. Brother Paul took his duties seriously and worked for peace and fellowship in the church.

Brother Paul was well respected by the whole community. He was a man of strong faith and convictions and he demonstrated this daily by the way he lived. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

THELMA LORRAINE ROTEN MILLER PHILLIPS



December 27, 1930–July 27, 2004

Lorraine Roten Miller Phillips was born December 27, 1930 to Paul and Edna Roten. She was married to Robert Miller who died in 1964. She later married Maynard Phillips who also preceded her in death.

Sister Lorraine is survived by six children, Roberta Miller Pennington, Levita Miller Schweers, Robert Miller, Gerry Miller, Ricky Miller and Walter Miller; her mother and father, Paul and Edna Roten; one brother, Dalton Roten, and 12 grandchildren.

Sister Lorraine was a member of North Fork Primitive Baptist Church and attended faithfully as long as her health permitted. Although she was very ill, she continued to be interested in the church and desired to be able to attend.

Her funeral was held at North Fork Primitive Baptist Church on July 30, 2004 by Elder John Jackson and Rev. Chuck Call. Burial followed in the Graybeal-Roten Cemetery.

Sister Lorraine was a loving and caring mother. She was always concerned with the needs of her family and even after she became very ill, she thought of her family before herself.

Sister Lorraine was a kind, generous neighbor and friend. Her sweet smile and loving nature will be missed greatly by her family, friends and neighbors as well as her church family.

We know that she is at home with her blessed Saviour, and her body awaits the glorious Resurrection Day.

JENNIE MYRTLE BLEVINS CARAWAY



April 18, 1915–August 15, 2004

Jennie Myrtle Blevins Caraway, age 89, of Crumpler passed away Sunday, August 15, 2004 at Ashe Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 18, 2004 at Senter Primitive Baptist Church. Elder Bobby Absher, Elder John Jackson, and Elder Howard Davis officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Sister Myrtle was born April 18, 1915 to Gaither Blevins and Bertie Walton Blevins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Reece Caraway, and a grandson, Brian Caraway.

Sister Myrtle is survived by three sons, Joe Caraway, Ken Caraway, and Keith Caraway all of Charlotte, NC; and one daughter, Jennie Caraway Bare of Jefferson. She is also survived by two brothers, Harvey Blevins of West Jefferson and Earl Blevins of Crumpler; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Sister Myrtle united with the Senter Primitive Baptist Church on August 12, 1991. She was a faithful member and attended services as long as her health permitted.

Sister Myrtle had a wonderful personality and loved being with people. Due to declining health, she was unable to get out very much for several years prior to her death. She loved for friends to visit and she always had a smile and welcome for everyone who came.

Sister Myrtle will be missed by her family, her friends, and everyone who was privileged to know her. She made friends easily and didn't dwell on her declining health. Her faith was strong and we know her soul and spirit has gone back to God who gave it. Her body lies waiting the Glorious Resurrection, evermore to be with the Lord.

