



# MINUTES

OF THE

*One Hundred Eighty-Fifth  
Annual Session*

OF THE

**ORIGINAL MAYO PRIMITIVE  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

HELD WITH

*Sugartree Church*

**PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY, AXTON, VIRGINIA**

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY, and SUNDAY  
MAY 13th, 14th, and 15th, 1983**

*Next session convenes with Martinsville Church,  
located at 1223 Chatham Road, Martinsville, Virginia  
on Friday before the third Sunday in May, 1984.*


## OFFICERS

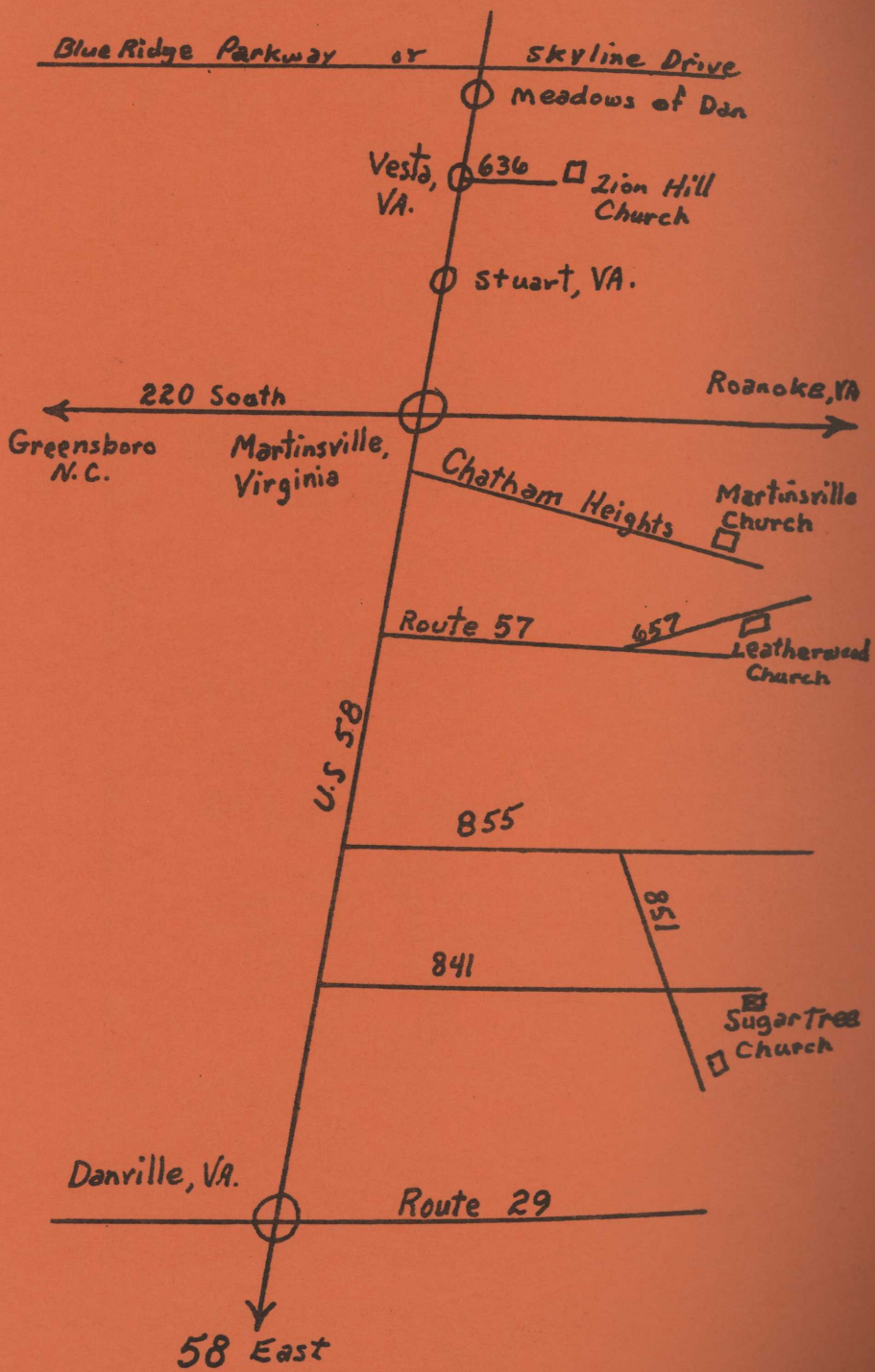
ELDER L.J. CORN, MODERATOR  
P.O. BOX 100, PATRICK SPRINGS, VA.

ELDER THOMAS L. RADFORD, ASSISTANT MODERATOR  
RT. 1, BOX 685, BASSETT, VA.

ELDER THOMAS L. RADFORD, CLERK  
RT. 1, BOX 685, BASSETT, VA.

DEACON WELDON WOOD, ASSISTANT CLERK  
RT. 1, AXTON, VA.





**PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIFTH**  
**ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ORIGINAL**  
**MAYO PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,**  
**HELD WITH SUGARTREE CHURCH,**  
**AXTON, VIRGINIA**

**MAY 13, 14, 15, 1983**

**FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1983**

1. The Association met with Sugartree Church, Friday, May 13, 1983 at 11:00 A.M. After singing hymns of praise, prayer was offered by Elder W.S. Kelley.
2. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J.R. Rakes - John 20:6-7. He was followed by Elder R.W. Turner - Jer. 17:7. We then sang and gave the invitation for reception of members. Dismissed with prayer by Elder R.F. Sandage.

After intermission for an hour, singing began in the church and the congregation assembled for the afternoon service.

The Moderator called the body to order and Elder Clyde Meek was asked to offer prayer, opening the business session of the associated body.

3. Moderator called for letters of the Churches composing the Association, and letters were read by Lic. Fred Keatts and Elder L.J. Corn.
4. Motion was made and seconded that the respective Messengers be seated to represent their respective Churches in any business brought before the body and so ordered.
5. Motion was made and seconded to elect Elder L.J. Corn as Moderator, Elder Thomas L. Radford as Assistant Moderator, Elder Thomas L. Radford as Clerk and Bro. Weldon Wood as Assistant Clerk.
6. Called for petitionary letters (none offered).
7. Called for Correspondence from sister associations. Welcomed and seated Elder W.S. Kelley and wife from the Little River Association of Georgia.

## 7-A VISITORS FROM CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONS:

EBENEZER ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA: Elder Elmer S. Skeen, Sister Tessie Skeen.

ECHECONNEE ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA: Elder Dennis H. Jones, Bro. Alvin James.

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA: Elder Clyde D. Meek and wife.

LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA: Elder W.S. Kelley and wife.

SOUTH ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION: Elder Charles B. Sandage, Elder Ralph F. Sandage.

WEST PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION: Elder Don Farris.

CAT CREEK CHURCH: Elder Bob Dickerson and wife.

CHESNUT GROVE CHURCH: Sis. Iva L. Kidd.

GRACE CHURCH. Sis. Shirley Coleman, Sis. Audrey Martin, Bro. Lloyd Martin, Elder J.R. Rakes, Sis. Estella Rakes, Bro. Franklin Riggs, Sis. Joyce Ann Riggs, Sis. Pat Riggs, Elder R.W. Turner and wife.

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH: Sis. Reta Vass.

FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH: Sis. Fannie Secrest.

OAKY GROVE CHURCH: Elder Steve Snow.

PUCKETT MEMORIAL CHURCH: Elder William Melvin McGrady and wife.

ST. CLAIR'S BOTTOM CHURCH: Elder Daniel C. Blevins, Elder Everett Blevins.

SPOON CREEK CHURCH: Bro. Clinton Jefferson and wife, Elder R.L. Jefferson and wife, Sis. Ernestine Maxie, Sis. Madaline Shively, Bro. Lewis Sheppard, Sis. Claudia Sheppard.

8. COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS: The Moderator appointed Lic. Frank Keatts, Bro. Eugene Newman, B.O. Weldon Wood, and Elder John Ashby to serve with the Moderator and Clerk.
9. FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Moderator appointed Bro. N.L. Wilson, Lic. Fred Keatts, Elder Thomas L. Radford, Bro. Landon Keatts, and Elder Robert Ashby to the Finance Committee.
10. Arrangement Committee appointed Bro. N.L. Wilson to write the Corresponding Letter for next year, 1984. Also called for this year's Corresponding Letter to be read and approved. The Corresponding Letter was read by Elder Thomas L. Radford.
11. Brethren appointed to attend our Corresponding Associations and Churches were Elder L.J. Corn, Elder John Ashby and others.
12. Instructed Clerk to have 500 Minutes printed and distributed.
13. Grace Primitive Baptist Church will host the next union meeting on Saturday morning, Saturday night, and Sunday of the fourth weekend in October, 1983.
14. Moved and seconded to adjourn this Association until next year at Martinsville Primitive Baptist Church. Closed with prayer. Recessed for 10 minutes and reassembled in the church for the preaching.

**FRIDAY MORNING**

Prayer by Elder W.S. Kelley

Elder J.R. Rakes.....	John 20:6-7
Elder R.W. Turner.....	Jer. 17:7
Elder R.F. Sandage.....	Dismissed with Prayer

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

Prayer by Elder Charles Sandage

Elder Dennis Jones.....	Luke 5:26
Elder Elmer S. Skeen.....	John 19:30
Elder Dan Blevins.....	Titus 1:15 & 2:1
Elder Bob Dickerson.....	Dismissed with Prayer

**FRIDAY NIGHT**

Prayer by Elder J.R. Rakes

Elder Bob Dickerson.....	
Elder Don Farris.....	Ezekiel Chap. 16
Dismissed with Prayer.....	

**SATURDAY MORNING**

Prayer by Elder R.L. Jefferson

Elder Bob Dickerson.....	Mark 14:12-16
Elder Don Farris.....	Acts Chap. 2, Romans 6:12-13
Elder L.J. Corn.....	Dismissed with Prayer

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

Prayer by Elder W.S. Kelley

Elder Steve Snow.....	II Sam. 14:14
Elder R.F. Sandage.....	Romans 11:25-29
Elder Thomas L. Radford.....	Dismissed with Prayer

**SATURDAY NIGHT**

Prayer by Elder J.R. Rakes

Elder W.S. Kelley.....	Isaiah 40:1-2
Elder Charles Sandage.....	John 1:15-50
Elder John Ashby.....	Dismissed with Prayer

**SUNDAY MORNING**

Prayer by Elder William Melvin McGrady

Elder Bob Dickerson.....	Gen. 45:25-28, Gen. 46:1
Elder Charles Sandage.....	John 5:24
Elder L.J. Corn.....	Acts
Elder W.S. Kelley.....	Dismissed with Prayer

**VISITING ELDERS**

BLEVINS, DANIEL C.....	Rt. 1, Box 56, Chilhowie, Va. 24319
BLEVINS, EVERETT.....	Rt. 2, Box 43, Rural Retreat, Va. 24368
DICKERSON, BOB.....	Box 2262, Valdosta, Ga. 31601
FARRIS, DON.....	209 S.E. Mustang Dr., Andrews, Tx. 79714
JEFFERSON, R.L.....	Patrick Springs, Va. 24133
JONES, DENNIS H.....	927 McArthur Blvd., Warner Robins, Ga. 31093
KELLEY, W.S.....	11370 State Bdge. Rd., Alpharetta, Ga. 30201
McGRADY, WILLIAM MELVIN.....	P.O. Box 798, Hillsville, Va. 24343
MEEK, CLYDE D.....	1511 Bentwood Dr., Lilburn, Ga. 30247
RAKES, J.R.....	P.O. Box 3, Patrick Springs, Va. 24133
SANDAGE, CHARLES B.....	P.O. Box 104, Donaldson, Ark. 71941
SANDAGE, RALPH F.....	P.O. Box 192, Donaldson, Ark. 71941
SKEEN, ELMER S.....	Rt. 2, Box 65, Palmyra, Va. 22963
SNOW, STEVE.....	P.O. Box 345, Valdosta, Ga. 31601
TURNER, R.W.....	East View Dr., Collinsville, Va. 24078

**HOME MINISTERS  
ELDERS**

ASHBY, JOHN J. 703-638-4529.....	Rt. 5, Martinsville, Va. 24112
ASHBY, ROBERT C. 703-632-2704.....	Rt. 5, Martinsville, Va. 24112
CORN, LEONARD J. 703-694-3810... ..	P.O. Box 100, Patrick Springs, Va. 24133
RADFORD, THOMAS L. 703-673-1018.....	Rt. 1, Box 685, Bassett, Va. 24055

**LICENTIATES**

KEATTS, FRANK 804-685-7047.....	Rt. 1, Axton, Va. 24054
KEATTS, FRED 804-685-7044.....	Rt. 1, Axton, Va. 24054

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Balance from 1982.....	\$ 150.88
Contributions from Churches.....	1,010.00
Contributions from Friends.....	723.00
	<b>\$1,883.88</b>
Disbursements:	
Printing of Minutes.....	\$ 208.60
Visiting Ministers.....	1,670.00
	<b>\$1,878.60</b>
Ending Balance	<b>\$5.28</b>

## CORRESPONDING LETTER

The Churches of the Original Mayo Primitive Baptist Association now convening with the church at Sugar Tree in our One Hundred Eighty Fifth Annual Session, extend Christian greetings to our corresponding Association and Churches; they have come from far and near to be with us. We are happy to report that our churches are in peace with one another.

We welcome and look forward each year to seeing and visiting with our beloved Ministers, Brothers and Sisters of our same faith and other neighbors and friends.

We ask that we all pray to God to send his Holy Spirit down on us that we can rejoice in His Gospel truths. We believe if seasoned with God's love and grace, the churches of this Association and all that attend will be strengthened in God's ways and truths.

We hope and pray for a continuation of your fellowship and love to us. Remember us in your prayers. come again and meet with us in our next association to convene with the church at Martinsville, Virginia the third weekend in May, 1984.

May God be with you. We ask that you continue to pray for us. May God bless and keep you until we meet again.

Your Brother In Christ,

Landon A. Keatts

## OBITUARIES

### Brother John O'Ferrell Shumate 1889-1983

John O' Ferrell Shumate, 94, of 203 Pine Street, Martinsville, Va., died Saturday, April 30, 1983 at Commonwealth Health Care. Born in Henry County Oct. 8, 1889 he had been a resident of Martinsville since 1911. A son of the late John Wesley Shumate and Martha Wells Shumate, he served in the Army at Ft. Lee during World War I. He was a member of Martinsville Primitive Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Tennie Weeks Rhodes Shumate; one daughter, Mrs. Robert C. (Gladys Anne) Hutchens of Martinsville; one granddaughter; three stepsons, William Allen Rhodes, Jr. of Richmond, Smith Albert Rhodes of Falls Church and Glenn Lee Rhodes of Los Angeles, Calif.; two sisters, Miss Neva Shumate of Martinsville and Mrs. Anna S. Shumate of Danville; and one brother, S.E. "Wes" Shumate of Martinsville.

The funeral was conducted at 2:00 p.m. Monday, May 2nd at McKee Funeral Home Chapel by Elder Leonard J. Corn and Dr. James E. Baucom. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery.

### Brother Willie Nelson Maxie 1912-1982

Willie Nelson Maxie, 70, of Rt. 1, Old Centrer Community, Bassett, Va., died May 27, 1982 at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County. He was a Henry County native and been a member of Old Spoon Creek Primitive Baptist Church for 24 years. He was also a deacon of the church. Maxie was retired from the Red Level Plant of American Furniture Co.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ernestine Brim Maxie; one daughter, Mrs. Cleo (Judy) Hall of Rt. 1, Bassett; three grandchildren; and two sisters, Mrs. Virginia Nester of Roanoke and Mrs. Unie Dallas of Maryland.

The funeral was conducted at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 29th. at Howell Funeral Home Chapel, Stuart. Elder L.J. Corn and Rev. Bob Gillispie officiated. Burial was in the Brim Family Cemetery at Spencer.

## ELDER WILLIAM TAYLOR CLIFTON

1899-1982

On December 20, 1982 the sovereign God of all graces called home another dedicated and faithful servant. Elder William Taylor Clifton passed away in Lewis Gale Hospital, Roanoke, Virginia after a short illness. Elder Clifton was born September 20, 1899 in Vesta, Virginia, the son of Emory Dean and Ruhama Hylton Clifton. He was raised in a Primitive Baptist home, was united with Dan River Primitive Baptist Church on September 26, 1936, and was baptized the following day by Elder Joel E. Marshall. He was appointed assistant clerk of Dan River in July, 1937. Living in Roanoke, Virginia, he felt a need for establishing a Primitive Baptist Church in Roanoke. Hence, he received a letter from Dan River and was united with Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church. An arm was formed by Indian Creek to organize what was to become Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church in Roanoke. This new church was organized effective May 24, 1947, and Elder Clifton was appointed clerk. Meetings were held in the homes of the members and at another local church until a building could be erected for conducting services. Due to Elder Clifton's sincere love for and dedication to the service to the Lord, he gave the land and sacrificed much of his worldly belongings to finance the building of the church house. This was accomplished in 1950. He was given liberty to speak publicly in July, 1954 and was ordained on October 30, 1954. He was chosen as joint pastor of Mt. Olive with Elder Jethro Harris in December, 1956. After Elder Harris' resignation in September, 1961, Elder Clifton was chosen pastor, and he served as pastor of Mt. Olive until November, 1974. After resigning from Mt. Olive, he served many Primitive Baptist churches as guest speaker and moved his membership to Puckett Memorial Primitive Baptist Church on September 30, 1978, where he was a member until he was called away.

Those of us who knew Elder Clifton realized that he was a faithful servant of the Lord. He dedicated much time to study and prayer for the Lord to be "merciful to a sinner such as me". He was truly an inspiration to all of us who heard his voice both in preaching the gospel and in song.

On October 25, 1922, Elder Clifton was married to the former Ruth Cockram. Elder Clifton is survived by his widow, Ruth Cockram Clifton; three sons, Marvin G., Elbert A., and Elisha B.; two daughters, Mrs. Iva Conner and Mrs. Rhoda Kemp; two brothers, R. Tony Clifton and Emory E. Clifton; three sisters, Mrs. Violet Newman, Mrs. Elsie Price, and Mrs. Geneva Redmon; 23 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at Lotz Salem Chapel, Salem, Virginia on December 22, 1982 with Elder Melvin McGrady officiating. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery, Salem, Virginia.

Written by a nephew,

Aubrey D. Newman



## OCTOBER UNION MEETING

Grace Primitive Baptist Church will host the next union meeting on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and night and Sunday of the fourth weekend in October 1983.

Directions: From Martinsville go west on US 58 to Prison Camp at Horsepasture, turn left on Route 692, go about 8 miles to Route 691, turn right, go about 5 miles. Grace Church located on left.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

The following Articles of Faith were read and adopted without a dissenting voice:

1. We believe in only one true and living God, who rules all things after the counsel of His own will; and that He who created all things is infinite in power, wisdom, knowledge, goodness; eternal, immortal, invisible and unchangeable; and this God has revealed Himself in His word, under the character of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that these three are one; and there are three that bear witness in earth; The water, the Spirit and the blood, and these agree in one.

2. We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as contained in the King James Version are the written word of God and are a sufficient rule of faith and practice and that they are given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect throughly furnished unto all good works.

3. We believe that Adam fell from the good and moral state in which he was made, and that he involved himself and all his natural offsprings in a state of death, by transgression which is the original sin, and that it is utterly out of the power of man to recover himself from this fallen state by his own free will and ability.

4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to His people, which was chosen in Christ, before the foundation of the world, whom He predestinated to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself and that Christ died and made a complete atonement for all which were given to Him by the Father, and that the choice or election was particular and eternal, unconditional on the part or will of man.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only and by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

6. We believe that God's elect will be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

7. We believe the saints shall be preserved in grace and never finally fall away.

8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of these ordinances, and that baptism is by immersion.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, a general judgement, and that punishment of the wicked will be eternal, and the joys of the righteous everlasting.

10. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances only such as are regularly called and have come under the imposition of the hands of the presbytery.

11. We believe in predestination, as taught in the Scriptures and preached by the Apostle Paul and condemn the doctrine of the absolute predestination of all things.

## CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our district duly sent in their associated capacity whom they judge best qualified; and by producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointments, shall be entitled to seats. In letters from the different churches shall be expressed their number in fellowship, those received by experience and by letters and restored; those dismissed by letters, excluded and dead since the last report.

2. The number thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage.

3. The Association when convened shall be governed by a proper and regular Decorum.

4. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen at each session of the Association by the suffrage of the members present. Moderator can only succeed himself one time.

5. New churches may be admitted into the union upon examination, if found orthodox, and orderly by the Moderator, giving the members the right hand of fellowship.

6. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the association not exceeding three.

7. Queries presented by a church or the Committee of Arrangements may be disposed of as the Association may think proper.

8. That the Association have a fund for defraying the expenses thereof and that the churches shall send by their messengers such sums of money as they may think proper for this purpose, which when received and paid out under the direction of the Association.

9. The Minutes shall be read and corrected if necessary and approved by the Association and signed by the Moderator and Clerk dismissal and recorded by the Clerk in a suitable book for that purpose.

10. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

11. The Association shall have power:

1. To provide for the general union of the churches.

2. To preserve inviolate a chain of communion among the churches

3. To give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficult.

4. To inquire the cause why such churches as fail to represent themselves in the Association.

5. To appoint any member or members by his or their consent to transact any business which may be assigned to them.

6. To withdraw from any church violating the rules of the Association or from the orthodox principles of religion.

7. To admit any of the distant brethren in the ministry to seats if they think proper.

8. To appoint the time and place for the next Association, and adjourn.

9. There shall be a Committee on Arrangements consisting of the Moderator and Clerk and three other members chosen as the Association may deem best.

# STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES AND PASTORS	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	MESSENGERS	Annual or Communion	Sunday of Meeting	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Restored to Fellowship	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Contributions
Leatherwood Elder John Ashby	Sis. Peggy Barnes Route 5 Martinsville, Va.	Elder John Ashby, Elder Robert Ashby, Bro. Landon Keatts, Sis. Peggy Barnes, Alt.	10	1							14	\$250.00
Martinsville Elder L.J. Corn	Bro. Jake Divers Route 5 Bassett, Va.	Deacon N.L. Wilson, Bro. Jake Divers, Bro. W.D. Ingram, Deacon Weldon Wood, Alt.	6	2/4		3				1	31	\$250.00
Sugartree Elder Robert Ashby	Lic. Frank Keatts, Sr. Route 1 Axton, Va.	Lic. Fred Keatts, Bro. H.C. Brunnfield, Lic. Frank Keatts, Sis. Mary Lou Keatts, Alt.	7	3							16	\$460.00
Zion Hill Elder Robert Ashby	Sis. Violet Newman Vesta, Va.	Elder Robert Ashby, Bro. Eugene Newman, Sis. Violet Newman, Sis. Evelena Dalton, Alt.	9	4							5	\$50.00

