

# MINUTES

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

Held with  
SENER CHURCH  
Ashe County, North Carolina

SEPTEMBER 11, 12, and 13, 2009

The next session will convene with Beaver Creek Church on Friday, September 10, 2010 and continuing on Saturday and Sunday September 11, and 12, 2010. Beaver Creek Church is 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.

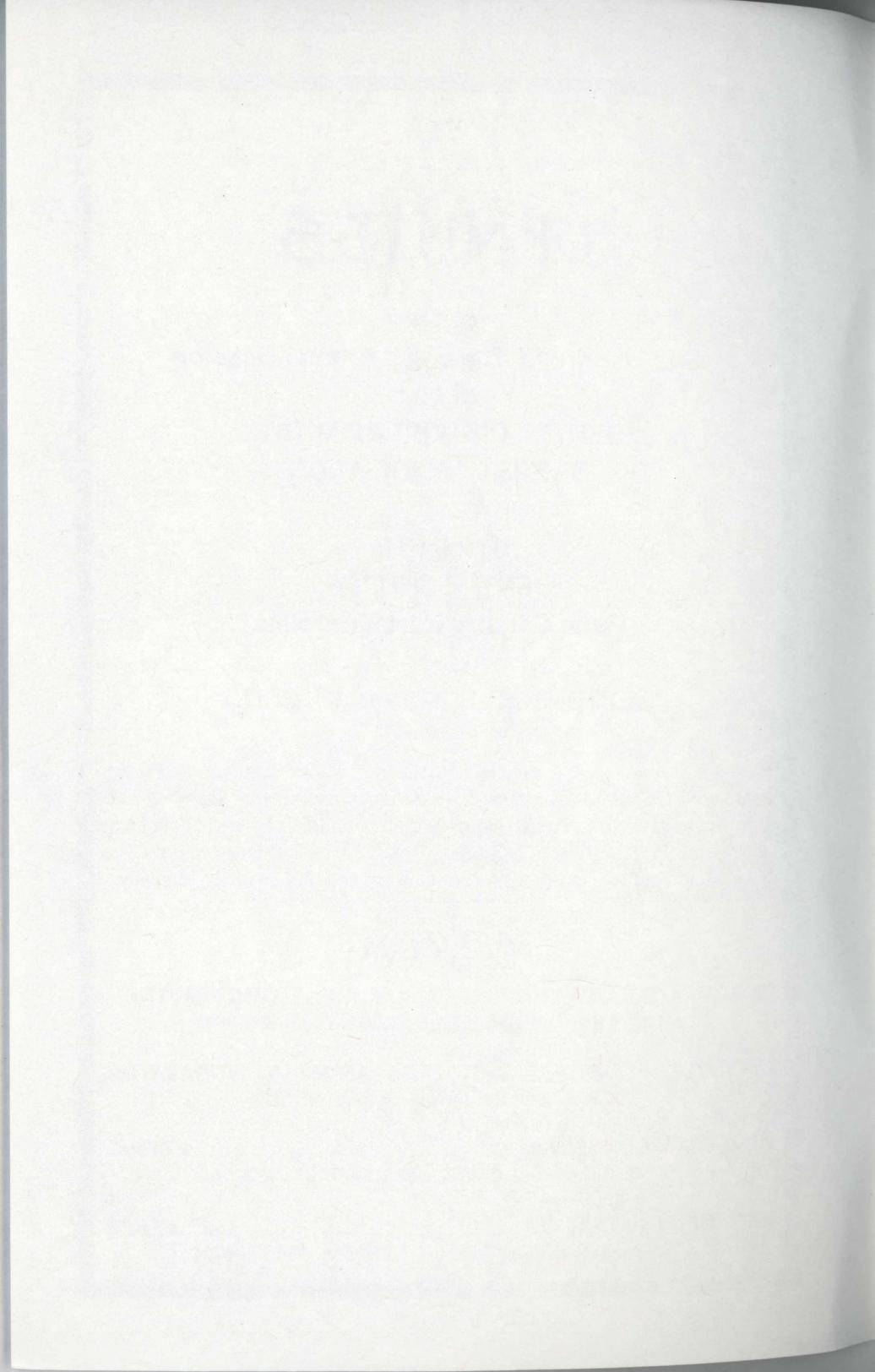
## OFFICERS

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

**ELDER LARRY DAVIS..... ASSISTANT MODERATOR**  
244 W.A. Reed Road, Laurel Springs, NC 28644

**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



## 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 Larry Davis from Beaver Creek Church.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Edward Bowman from Mt. Lebanon Church.

The Association was opened with prayer by Elder John Jackson.

### ***ON MOTION:***

1. Letters were read and correspondents were seated.
2. The Association appointed Elder James McNeill as Moderator, Elder Larry Davis as Assistant Moderator, Elder Bobby Absher as Clerk, and Brother Don Walters as Assistant Clerk.
3. Called for petitionary letters. A letter was read from Roans Creek Church.

The letter had been sent to each church in the Association requesting that Roans Creek Church be granted status as an independent church but retaining fellowship with the Association.

After this matter was thoroughly discussed among the delegates of the Association, it was unanimously decided that the request to be in church fellowship could not be granted as Roans Creek Church is out of order. It was agreed that no action would be taken on the status of Roans Creek Church and that the matter would be continued until the Association meets in 2010. This will give Roans Creek Church time to bring their house in order.

Since there were no delegates present to represent Roans Creek Church, it was decided a letter should be sent advising them of this decision.

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 Bobby Davis

Elder Curtis Hash

Brother Jack and Sister Louise Nichols

Brother Thomas and Sister Margaret Hayden

Brother John Hayden

### **Reorganized Silver Creek Association of North Carolina**

Elder John R. Jackson

Elder Kerry Lathrop

### **St. Clair Association**

Brother Billy Joe Lyle

### **Original Bear Creek Association**

Brother Michael and Sister Susan Lester

### ***INDEPENDENT CHURCHES:***

#### **Pine Grove Primitive Baptist Church**

Elder Ronald Bowman

#### **Mt Lebanon Primitive Baptist Church**

Elder Edward Bowman

Sister Maylease Mabe

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

**A. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:**

Brother Joel McNeill  
Brother Arvil Scott  
Brother Don Walters  
Brother Donnie Cox

**B. COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS:**

Brother Vernon Roten  
Brother Wayne Severt  
Brother Tony Jordan  
Brother Paul Miller  
Brother Jim Richardson  
Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk

**C. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:**

Elder Bobby Absher  
Brother Wayne Severt  
Brother Paul Miller  
Brother Don Walters  
Brother Vernon Roten  
Brother Jim Richardson

6. That the committee on arrangements meet after service for conference.
7. To adjourn the Association until 10:00 A.M. Saturday.
8. Closed with prayer by Elder John Jackson.

***SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009***

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

***ON MOTION:***

1. The roll call was omitted.
2. The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were omitted but printed in the minutes.

3. It was brought before the 2008 Association that Article 8 in the Articles of Faith needed to be reworded to read as follows:

“We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and unjust, and in a general judgment and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting.”

There was no objection from the delegates to the change but according to the Constitution, number 15, twelve months notice to the churches will be given before the change is official.

A motion was made by Paul Miller and seconded by Jim Richardson to approve the change as presented during the 2008 Association. Motion was approved by delegates present.

4. The next Association is to be held starting at 10:00 A.M., on Friday, before the second Sunday in September 2010 at Beaver Creek Church.
5. Night meetings will be held Friday and Saturday nights at Beaver Creek Church.
6. The clerk was appointed to oversee the printing of 250 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 report is as follows:

### **Year 2009, Reported from Churches**

Bear Creek .....	\$80.00
Beaver Creek .....	\$120.00
North Fork .....	\$155.00
Riverview .....	\$211.00
Roans Creek .....	\$00.00
Senter .....	\$335.00
<b>Sub-Total .....</b>	<b>\$901.00</b>

Received from donations Friday through Sunday .....\$344.00  
**Total .....\$1245.00**

**Expenditures:**

To the Moderator .....\$0.00  
 To the Assistant Moderator .....\$0.00  
 To the Clerk .....\$120.00  
 To the Assistant Clerk .....\$0.00  
 Paid to Visiting Elders .....\$690.00  
 Designated for printing and postage of minutes .....\$350.00  
 Total Expenditures .....\$1160.00  
 Savings Balance .....\$ 548.00

Elder James McNeill, Moderator  
 Elder Larry Davis, Assistant Moderator  
 Elder Bobby Absher, Clerk  
 Brother Don Walters, Assistant Clerk

10. Reading of minutes was omitted.
11. That the association adjourn through prayer by Elder Bobby Absher

**VISITING ELDERS**

Elder Curtis Hash  
 2495 Powerhouse Road, Independence, VA. 24348  
 Elder John Jackson  
 1103 Tom Jackson Road, Boone, NC 28607  
 Elder Kerry Lathrop  
 PO Box 363, Asheville, NC 28738  
 Elder Ronald Bowman  
 1713 Rescue Road, Austinville, VA 24312  
 Elder Edward Bowman  
 5771 Joy Ranch Road, Woodlawn, VA. 24381

## ORDER OF PREACHING

### **Friday Morning:**

- Elder Curtis Hash (introduced with prayer)
- Elder Edward Bowman (introductory sermon)
- Elder Bobby Absher (opened business with prayer)

### **Friday Afternoon:**

- Elder Bobby Absher (introduced with prayer)
- Elder Curtis Hash (afternoon sermon)
- Elder Edward Bowman (closed with prayer)

### **Friday Night:**

- Elder Larry Davis (introduced with prayer)
- Elder John Jackson (sermon)
- Elder James McNeill (closed with prayer)

### **Saturday Morning:**

- Elder Ronald Bowman (introduced with prayer)
- Elder Kerry Lathrop (sermon)
- Elder Curtis Hash (closed with prayer)

### **Saturday Afternoon:**

- Elder John Jackson (introduced with prayer)
- Elder Ronald Bowman (sermon)
- Elder James McNeill (closed with prayer)

### **Saturday Night:**

- Elder Bobby Absher (introduced with prayer)
- Elder Larry Davis (sermon)
- Brother Wayne Severt (closed with prayer)

### **Sunday Morning:**

- Elder Bobby Absher (introduced with prayer)
- Elder James McNeill (sermon)
- Elder Bobby Absher (sermon)
- Brother Wayne Severt (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 11 - 16, 2010.

### ORDAINED ELDERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Elder Bobby Absher	183 Old Ridge Road Crumpler, NC 28617 336-982-2163
Elder Larry Davis	244 W.A. Reed Rd. Laurel Springs, NC 28644
Elder James McNeill	5862 US 221 North Crumpler, NC 28617 336-982-3802
Elder Floyd South	278 South Avenue West Jefferson, NC 28694 336-246-7456

### CHURCHES AND PASTORS

Bear Creek	Elder James McNeill
Beaver Creek	Elders James McNeill and Larry Davis
North Fork	Elders Bobby Absher and John Jackson
Riverview	Elder James McNeill
Roans Creek	Elder Floyd South
Senter	Elder Bobby Absher

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

<b>Beaver Creek:</b> Don Walters 775 Boggs Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694	15
<b>Bear Creek:</b> Margaret Jarvis 315 Jarvis Road, Ennice, NC 28623	10
<b>North Fork:</b> Mary Bare 521 Oak Knob Trail, West Jefferson, NC 28694	15
<b>Riverview:</b> Paul Miller 1897 Conley Cheek Rd., Fleetwood, NC 28626	25
<b>Roans Creek:</b> Elder Floyd South 278 South Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694	15
<b>Senter:</b> Vernon Roten 184 Big Flatts Mortz Road, Fleetwood, NC 28626	35

## DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

<b>The American Baptist Historical Society</b> 3001 Mercer University Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341-4155	2
<b>Bear Creek:</b> Tim Herrin 3219 Baucom Manor Rd., Monroe, NC 28110	20
<b>The Christian Baptist Library</b> PO Box 68, Atwood, TN 38220	2
<b>Ebenezer:</b> Wayne F. Baldwin 1458 Fords Shop Rd, Culpeper, Virginia 22701	20
<b>Mountain:</b> Roy Truitt 102 Gentry Street, Galax, VA 24333	20
<b>Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Association:</b> Randolph Miller Rt.1 Box 58, Union, West Virginia 24983	20
<b>North Carolina Collection:</b> The Library University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514	2

<b>The Primitive Baptist Library:</b> Elon College 4023 North, NC 87, Elon College, NC 27244	2
<b>Silver Creek:</b> Revonda Swanson 2132 Blue Ridge Circle, Lenoir, NC 28645	20
<b>St. Clair's Bottom Association:</b> Blaine Owens 21 Diane's Way, Bristol, VA 24201	20
<b>Wake Forest University:</b> The Z Smith Reynolds Library Box 7777, Reynolds Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109	2

## 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:

<b>Bear Creek</b>	1st Sunday in May
<b>Beaver Creek:</b>	4th Sunday in May
<b>Senter:</b>	2nd Sunday in June
<b>Riverview:</b>	3rd Sunday in June
<b>North Fork:</b>	1st Sunday in July
<b>Roans Creek:</b>	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, both the just and the unjust, and in a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting.

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

**Bear Creek:** First Sunday 2:00 PM, The church is a white building located off Highway 16 in Glendale Springs. Turn on Trading Post Road for 0.1 mile. The church is behind the restaurant.

**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:** Meetings are on the First and Third Sundays at 2:00 PM.

**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.

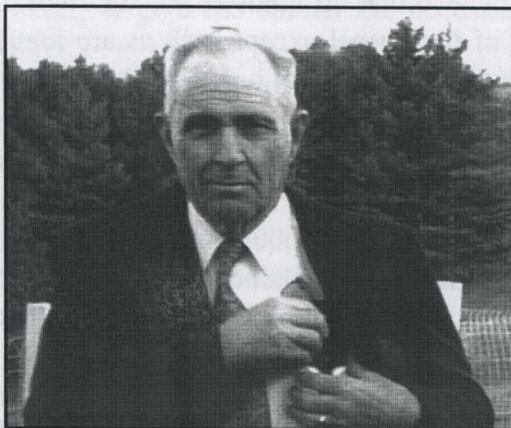
**Roans Creek:** Meeting the First and Fourth Sundays, 10:30 AM

**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 highway 221 on Nathan's Creek Road. It is approximately eight miles from Jefferson.

## OBITUARIES

*William Clint Dancy*

*October 5, 1922 – September 16, 2008*



Brother William Clint Dancy, age 85, of Nathans Creek departed this life on Tuesday September 16, 2008 at Ashe Memorial Hospital of a heart attack. He was born October 5, 1922 to the late Alvin Lee Dancy and Jenny Colvard Dancy.

Funeral services were held September 18, 2008 at Senter Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Bobby Absher and Elder Ed Bowman officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery with military rites where his body awaits the glorious resurrection day.

Brother Clint left his coal mining job in Grundy, Virginia to

serve in the United States Army during World War II. He entered service in March 1943 and was sent to Northern France with the 398th Engineer Corp. He served two years and eight months until October 15, 1945.

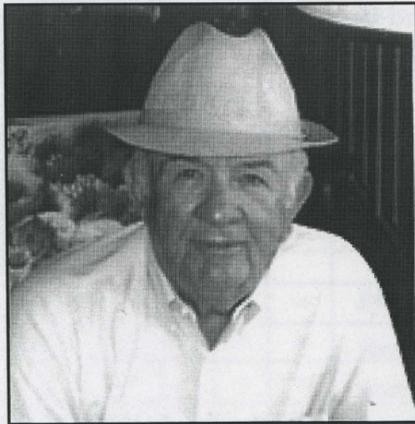
On August 11, 1942, he married Virginia Christine Rose and raised a family in the Nathans Creek community. Brother Clint worked as a timber cutter and farmer. He also worked for the State Highway Department for several years.

Brother Clint and Sister Virginia were members of Senter Primitive Baptist Church and both were baptized on May 22, 1994. Brother Clint loved his church and the people in it. He was a faithful and dedicated member until his death.

Brother Clint is survived by his wife, Virginia of the home, one son, Bill Dancy of Winston Salem, and one daughter, Linda Whittington of Wilkesboro; five grandchildren, David Whittington, Randy Whittington, Chris Dancy, Lisa Dymont, and Dawn Arrimore; nine great grandchildren, three sisters: Iva Hilliard, Jean Hartzog, and Mary Bare.

Brother Clint loved his family and loved when they came to visit.

*Benjamin Darius Miller*  
*December 23, 1918 – August 18, 2009*



Benjamin Darius Miller was born December 23, 1918 in Ashe County, North Carolina to the late Columbus Walter and Jenny Vannoy Miller. He passed away at age 90 on August 18, 2009 at Watauga Medical Center.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, August 20, 2009 at the Boone Family Funeral Home and Chapel. Elder E. W. Hooven and Elder Bobby Absher officiated. Burial followed in Ashe Lawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Brother Ben is survived by his wife, Ermalee Brooks Miller, two daughters, Clara Miller Shore and husband, Tom of Pinehall, NC, and Crystal Miller Little and husband Tommy of Crumpler, NC; a sister Mamie Osborne of Galax, VA; four grandsons, Kristopher Little, Kirk Shore, Kent Shore, Derek Shore, a granddaughter Amanda Shore; five great grandsons; and several nieces and nephews.

Brother Ben served as a Staff Sergeant in the US Army Air Force during World War II from March 1943 until January 1946. He was stationed in the Hawaiian Islands in the 13th Emergency Rescue Boat Squadron.

On April 27, 1952, he married Ermalee Brooks. They farmed and worked together and raised their family on the Miller family farm along the South Fork of the New River in Fleetwood, NC.

Brother Ben united with the Senter Primitive Baptist Church with his wife, Ermalee on July 25, 1987. He always believed in a powerful God and was a faithful member and attended services as long as his health permitted.

Brother Ben always worked hard and was a caring husband, loving father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. It is a great comfort knowing his spirit has now gone back to God who gave it, and his body is awaiting the great Resurrection Day.

# STATISTICAL TABLE

2009

	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
1832	Bear Creek	Bro. Wayne Severt, Sister Margaret Jarvis, Sister Ruth Severt	May	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	\$80,000
1785	Beaver Creek	Elder Larry Davis, Bro. Tony Jordan, Bro. Don Walters, Bro. Jason Davis, Alt.	May	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	\$120,000
1785	North Fork	Brother Arvil Scott, Brother Grover Burchette, Sister Mary Bare	July	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	\$155,000
1898	Riverview	Bro. Paul Miller, Bro. Donnie Cox, Bro. Joel McNeill, Bro. Ray Bentley, Alt.	June	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20	\$211,000
1869	Roans Creek	No letter from Roans Creek. No delegates present.												
1829	Sevier	Bro. Jim Richardson, Bro. Tony Miller, Bro. Vernon Roten, Bro. Ray Roten, Alt.	June	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	36	\$335,000
		TOTAL.....												901,000

