

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

**Held With**  
**ROANS CREEK CHURCH**  
**Ashe County, North Carolina**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 7, 8, 1996**

The next session will convene with Senter 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 12, 13, and 14, 1997**

**OFFICERS**

**ELDER FLOYD SOUTH.....MODERATOR**  
278 South Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694, Phone: (910) 246-7456

**ELDER JAMES McNEILL.....ASST. MODERATOR**  
5862 U.S. 221 N., Crumpler, NC 28617, Phone: (910) 982-3802

**ELDER BOBBY H. ABSHER.....CLERK**  
183 Old Ridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617, Phone (910) 982-2163

**BROTHER DON WALTERS.....ASST. CLERK**  
775 Boggs Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694, Phone (910) 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 S.T. Tolley, McKenzie Primitive Baptist Church, McKenzie, TN.

The Association was opened with prayer by James McNeill, Senter Association.

## ON MOTION:

1. Letters from the churches were read and correspondents were seated.

2. The Association appointed Elder Floyd South as Moderator; Elder James McNeill 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 Roy and Sister Shirley Truitt

Brother Raymond and Sister Nonnie Nichols

Brother Page and Sister Hazel Wagoner

Sister Marjorie Caudill

Sister Martha Lineberry

Sister Amy Lineberry

Elder Terry V. Wilson

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

Brother Vernon Lyle  
Sister Ethyl Lyle  
Sister Beulah Lyle  
Elder Eddie and Sister Virgie Lyle

**Reorganized Silver Creek Association:**

Elder Gene F. Watson

**Obion Association of Tennessee:**

Elder S.T. Tolley

**Roaring River Association of North Carolina:**

Elder Samuel E. Parrish

**North Florida Fellowship Association:**

Lic. Ralph L. Cobb

***INDEPENDENT CHURCHES:***

**Cedar Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Mayodan, NC**

Elder Johnnie L. Duggins

**Walnut Cove Primitive Baptist Church, Walnut Cove, NC**

Brother Paul V. Lemons

Brother Carl Mabe

**Mt. Carmel Primitive Baptist Church, Bel Air, MD**

Brother James and Sister Barbara Dixon

**Community Primitive Baptist Church, Stuart, VA**

Brother O'Bain Hylton

**Pilgrim's Rest Primitive Baptist Church, Valle Crucis, NC**

Elder John Jackson

Brother Cecil Ward

**Joppa Primitive Baptist Church, Joppa MD**

Brother John Hall

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

**A. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:**

Brother George Severt

Brother Willard Hartzog

Brother Don Walters

Brother Larry Davis

**B. COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS:**

Brother Larry Davis

Brother Clyde Johnson

Brother Donnie Cox

Brother Paul Miller

Brother Kenny McNeill

Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Asst. Clerk

**C. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:**

Elder Bobby Absher

Elder James McNeill

Elder Millard Bare

Brother Don Walters

Brother Ray Roten

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 Eddie Lyle.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1996**

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

**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, 1997 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 - 1996**

**Reported from Churches:**

Beaver Creek.....	\$80.00
Big Helton.....	20.00
Horse Creek .....	20.00
North Fork.....	80.00
Riverview .....	155.00
Roans Creek.....	96.00
Senter .....	275.00
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Total.....	\$726.00

Received from Donations Friday & Saturday. ....	\$332.00
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.....	540.00
Designated for printing and postage of minutes....	380.00

10. Minutes read and approved.

11. That the Association adjourn through song and prayer by Elder John Jackson.

Elder Floyd South, Moderator

Elder James McNeill, Assistant Moderator

Elder Bobby Absher, Clerk

Brother Don Walters, Assistant Clerk

**VISITING ELDERS**

Elder Eddie Lyle

1521 Elliot Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694

Elder Terry V. Wilson

109 King Arthur Court, Galax, VA 24333

Elder Gene F. Watson

540 Legion Road, Lenoir, NC 28645

Elder S.T. Tolley

P.O. Box 5, Atwood, TN 38220

Elder Samuel E. Parrish

86 Sycamore Lane, Laurel Springs, NC 28644

Lic. Ralph L. Cobb

Rt. 1, Box 904, Callahan, Florida 32011

Elder Johnnie L. Duggins

270 Dan Valley Road, Mayodan, NC 27027

## ORDER OF PREACHING

### **Friday Morning:**

Elder John Jackson (introduced with prayer)  
Elder S.T. Tolley (introductory sermon)  
Elder James McNeill (opened business with prayer)

### **Friday Afternoon:**

Elder Bobby Absher (introduced with prayer)  
Elder Eddie Lyle  
Elder C.O. Yates (closed with prayer)

### **Friday Night:**

Elder John Jackson (introduced with prayer)  
Elder Terry Wilson  
Elder S.T. Tolley (closed with prayer)

### **Saturday Morning:**

Elder Floyd South (opened with prayer)  
Elder Johnnie Duggins  
Elder S.T. Tolley (closed with prayer)

### **Saturday Afternoon:**

Elder Eddie Lyle (opened with prayer)  
Elder Gene Watson  
Elder Floyd South (closed with prayer)

### **Saturday Night:**

Lic. Ralph Cobb (opened with prayer)  
Elder Samuel Parrish  
Elder John Jackson  
Elder James McNeill (closed with prayer)



**Sunday Morning:**

Elder John Jackson (introduced with prayer)

Elder James McNeill

Elder Floyd South

Elder C.O. Yates (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 13-18, 1997.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***



### ***ELA MAY WALTERS PHILLIPS*** ***NOVEMBER 15, 1911 - FEBRUARY 26, 1996***

Ela May Walters Phillips was born November 15, 1911 to Wade Hampton Walters and Mary Ellen Miller Walters. She died February 26, 1996. Sister Ela May was preceded in death by her husband, Ira Odell Phillips, and one son. She is survived by two sons, Blaine Phillips and Gary Phillips; one brother, Bower Walters; two sisters, Mary Burgess and Sessie Bare.

Sister Ela May united with the Riverview Primitive Baptist Church on August 23, 1964 where she remained faithful as long as she was able to go to meeting. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our earthly loss is her eternal gain.



**ZELL McMILLIAN WALKER**  
*SEPTEMBER 11, 1905 - MARCH 30, 1996*

Zell McMillian Walker was born September 11, 1905, to Fannie Dixon McMillian and Jessie Emmett McMillian. She departed this life Saturday, March 30, 1996.

Sister Zell was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence "Eugene" Walker; two children, Jimmy Walker and Wade Walker; one grandchild, Gary Stansberry, one sister and three brothers. She is survived by three children - Algene Walker Church, Maxine Walker Thomas and Joe Kenneth Walker; four grandchildren, Tony Church, Tim Church, Jeff Walker, and Tammy Walker Lewis. Three great grandchildren also survive.

Sister Zell was a homemaker and also worked as a cook for several years.

Sister Zell was a member of the Senter Primitive Baptist Church for over sixty years. She remained a faithful and dedicated member until her death. She filled her seat in church regularly and was a true Mother in Israel to her church family. Sister Zell was always ready to defend her faith and she left a good example for others to follow.

Sister Zel was an inspiration to all who knew her. She was a devoted, loving wife and mother and a kind and caring neighbor. She had a wonderful personality and a calm and serene manner. Her faith in Christ was always evident in her talk and in the way she lived her life.



### ***JIM WALTERS***

***FEBRUARY 26, 1910 - AUGUST 15, 1996***

Jim Walters, 86, was born in Ashe County to the late Joel and Hettie Walters. Mr. Walters is survived by his wife, Ina Walters; one son, John Walters; three daughters, Jean Weaver, Betty Carlton, and Glenna McNeill; eight grandchildren; two brothers, Bower and Bill Walters; and three sisters, Sibbie Marsh, Maude Greer, and Polly Walters.

He united with Senter Primitive Baptist Church June 12, 1949, and was ordained as a deacon June 1950. He served faithfully as a deacon as long as he was able.

He will be missed by all who knew him, but God knew best and took him to rest in peace.



***RUBY CRAFT JOHNSTON***  
*1912-1995*

Ruby Craft Johnston was born September 15, 1912, the daughter of the late John A. and Malinda Bare Craft.

She was married on December 9, 1937 to Richard B. Johnston. To this union were born 6 children. Her husband died June 27, 1983 and daughter Linda Watson on February 17, 1993. Surviving are 4 sons, Phillip, Richard L., John and David Johnston. Also, one daughter Sandra Lynn J. Rash.

She is survived by 1 sister, Maggie Fielding of Texas. Ruby's twin sister, Nettie Ruth, died at the age of 9 months. Also, deceased are 3 sisters, Pearl C. Miller, Ida Harless and Orby Yates. One deceased brother, Kilby Craft.

Ruby was employed by the Fleetwood School Cafeteria for 16 years.

She was a member of the Riverview Primitive Baptist Church where she enjoyed the preaching and old Baptist songs.

## **ORDAINED ELDERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES**

<b>Elder C.O. Yates</b>	2415 Lower Nettle Knob Road West Jefferson, NC 28694 Telephone (910) 877-4991
<b>Elder Floyd South</b>	278 South Avenue West Jefferson, NC 28694 Telephone: (910) 246-7456
<b>Elder Steve Douglas</b>	5700 Garvey Bridge Road Crumpler, NC 28617 Telephone: (910) 982-2958
<b>Elder James D. McNeill</b>	5862 U.S. 221 North Crumpler, NC 28617 Telephone: (910) 982-3802
<b>Elder John Jackson</b>	Route 2, Box 872 Boone, NC 28607

## **CHURCHES AND PASTORS**

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

## 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	20
<b>Big Helton</b> Elmer Ham 2214 Deep Ford Road Lansing, NC 28643	15
<b>Horse Creek</b> Elder Steve Douglas 5700 Garvey Bridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617	15
<b>North Fork</b> Tony McNeill 211 Beau Drive, West Jefferson, NC 28694	20
<b>Riverview</b> Dan Miller 270 Joe Lyalls Road, West Jefferson, NC 28694	30
<b>Roans Creek</b> Elder Floyd South 278 South South Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694	35
<b>Senter</b> Bobby Absher 183 Old Ridge Road, Crumpler, NC 28617	45

## DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

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

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











