

Minutes
of the
Eastern District Association
of
Primitive Baptists

In its

171st Annual Session

Held With

POPLAR GROVE AND WILLOW CHAPEL CHURCHES

On the Grounds of Burkes Union Church, Blackwater, Virginia

October 5, 6, 7, 8, 2023

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Next session convenes with
Burke's Union Church in Blackwater, VA
on Thursday before the first Saturday in October 2024
October 3, 4, 5, 6, 2023

Introductory..... ELDER CURTIS HALE

Alternate.....ELDER DAVID PARSONS

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Thursday Morning, October 5, 2023

The Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists convened in its 171st annual session hosted by Poplar Grove and Willow Chapel Churches (The Kingsport Area Churches) on the grounds of Burke's Union Church in Blackwater, VA.

Poplar Grove

The history of Poplar Grove was originally researched and written by Brother Ellis I. Wallen, Sr., a former clerk of the association, when the church hosted this "grand old body" in 1970. The church felt it suitable to use the same history with added information relative to the present. This being the fifth time that Poplar Grove Church has hosted or co-hosted the Association (1958, 1970, 1988, 2015 and 2023), we felt it needful to recognize and pay tribute to the devoted, faithful, and prayerful members who helped organize the church and have maintained an interest and need to worship God for these 75 years.

It is somewhat difficult to arrive at a definite beginning of Poplar Grove Church. Cottage prayer meetings, singing services, and preaching services had been conducted in the community long before the church became a reality. Elder Milburn Morelock, sometime in early 1948, began to hold regular services in a building in the community known as "the chicken house". Brother Morelock, the first pastor, has now gone to meet his reward in a better land, and "the chicken house" has been torn down. These early meetings displayed a true spirit of Christianity. The attendance and interest shown became more meaningful than ever in the life of the community once there was a permanent meeting place established.

The Poplar Grove church was organized by an arm from Pleasant View, then a Primitive Baptist church in the Eastern District Association in June 1948. Originally, the church received one member by letter and six by experience and baptism. The charter members were Rome Adams, Mrs. Rome Adams, Luna Brown, Mrs. Luna Brown, Maggie Hill, Everett Sims, and Mrs. Everett Sims (all now deceased).

The church grew and flourished for about a year and then moved to its present location, inspired by the scripture Nehemiah 4:6. "So built we the wall, and the wall was joined together unto half thereof, for the people had a mind to work." All are happy and pleased with the present location. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

The church was dedicated in 1952 and is presently debt-free. With the passing of the years, Poplar Grove Church has been a haven of escape from the world. Today, this place gives a feeling of the real meaning of Christianity, continuity, prayer, faith, dedication, patience, and obedience. In these surroundings, one captures the sense of the strong, magnificent beauty of a powerful, all-wise, loving, personal Savior. We were honored to have a 75-year celebration in June 2023. God wonderfully blessed with heart-stirring preaching and singing. The message of the entire weekend was if God builds the house, it will stand. The house will stand if built on the doctrine of grace by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

During the past 75 years, the following pastors were dedicated to the calling of God and led many souls to believe in Christ and join the church. Milburn Morelock (1948-1949), Joe Hickman (1950), Joe Hickman and Willard Carter (1951), J.H. Sybert (1952-1953), J.H. Sybert and Leon Lane (1954-1955), Walter Pendergrass (1956-1958), Leon Lane (1959), Leon Lane and Joe McMurray (1960), Joe McMurray (1961), J.H. Sybert (1962-1965), J.L. Hill (1966-1969), J.H. Sybert (1970-1973), Glen Williams (1974-1977), Howard Sybert (1978-1985), Bobby Williams (1986-1992), Gordon Justice (1993-1994), Bobby Williams (1995-1997), Oscar Irvin 1997-Present).

Poplar Grove has been blessed with many faithful and devoted deacons: Luna Brown, Everett Sims, Ellis Wallen, Laney Shipley, Tom Ferguson, Hugh Price, Harold Thomas, Marvin Ketron, Paul Wallen, Ellis "Ikey" Wallen, Bill Poole, Jerry Persinger, Austin Adams, Bill Spurlock, and Carson Sturgill (all now deceased). Our current faithful and devoted deacons are R.B. Louthian, Steve Hunt, and Gary Short.

Our church has had only five clerks during these 75 years. Luna Brown (1948), Delmer Wallen (1949-1950, drafted to military), Eliza Holmes (1951-1976), Jean Wallen (1976-1988), Joyce Greer (1988-1991), Jean Wallen (1991-2022), Priscilla Irvin 2022-Present.

Working with the local churches this past year had been a joy. We have enjoyed good fellowship and new friendships have been made. We are thankful for this opportunity that God made a part of our journey.

Willow Chapel

On June 6, 1953, members of Walnut Chapel Primitive Baptist Church convened for a regular business meeting. During this session, it was moved, seconded, and voted to open a Primitive Baptist Mission in the Tate store building, located in West Carter's Valley, three miles to the west.

The first service of the mission was held on June 28. After singing songs of Zion, prayer was led by Brother Bob Bishop. Elder Dana Crawford brought the message, using Hebrews 13:8 as the text, and the thought, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever." Services were held each Sunday evening until August 1, 1953, when six members from Walnut Chapel organized a Sunday School.

On April 3, 1954, it was agreed for this mission to become an organized church calling for an arm from West View Primitive Baptist Church, and on April 18 of the same year, Willow Chapel Primitive Baptist Church was officially formed. Elder Basil Freeman was elected to be the first pastor, and Henry Powers was elected as the temporary clerk. The first members were Charles and Ruby Culbertson, received by letter from West View, and Walter Powers, J. A. Freeman, Eckle Ford, Henry Powers, Elmo Parks, Fannie Powers, and Bessie Freeman, received by letter from Walnut Chapel. Ann Freeman, Barbara Parks, and Jewel Culbertson were received by experience and were kept under the watch care of the church until they could be baptized. Eckle Ford was set aside to prove himself for the office of deacon. Charles Culbertson and Tom Adams soon joined Brother Ford as deacons.

In June 1954, a building committee was chosen to begin preparations for a church building. The church plans were finalized in July, and construction began soon after. The first services were held in the church basement on October 31, 1954. It was eight years later that the church was completed, and the first services were held in the sanctuary in October of 1962. The debt for the church building was paid in full on September 11, 1967; a dedication and "burning of the note" took place the following Sunday. This original church is still the one used today. A fellowship hall was added in 2009, and the sanctuary was fully remodeled in 2015. Willow Chapel does not have room to host the Association on its own grounds but was blessed to co-host the Association in 2020 with Copper Creek at Copper Creek.

Over the years, several God-fearing men have dedicated themselves to the office of pastor: Basil Freeman, Gerald Hopkins, J. L. Hill, Glen Williams, Gale Derrick, Echol Head, Frank Gilliam, and Carl Smith. Scott Tipton is the current pastor, having served 15 years to date. Their faithful servitude is greatly appreciated by all who have sat under their preaching, church members and visitors alike.

The Lord caused the sun to rise and warm the grounds as God's children gathered for the 171st annual session of the Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists on the grounds of Burke's Union Church. Sister Zula McCullough and Brother Marcel Bledsoe led the congregation in singing joyful praises to the King of Kings. Souls in danger, look above, for Jesus completely saves. He will take you home to Heaven if you will let the Savior in.

Elder Terry Sizemore, as moderator, welcomed everyone to the 171st annual gathering of the Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists, thanking God for the good crowd and for the tent also being full of the Lord. He continued, asking for all to obey the Spirit of God and thanking God for our goodly heritage.

Elder Sizemore called attention to two ministers from among us that have left this world in the past year. Elder Lewis Baker and Tony Peters are now absent from the body, but they are present with the Lord.

The moderator reminded everyone to turn in church letters, obituaries, and financial contributions. The Letter Committee for 2023 was appointed beforehand, consisting of Ronnie Johnson(chairman), Dennis Stewart, David Horton, and Clifton Horne (alternate).

The moderator appointed the Committee on Religious Exercises, which consists of Roy Jones (chairman), Steve Hunt and Joe Horton.

Sister Zula McCullough led the congregation in singing the Association's standard song, "Brethren, We Have Met Again." Oh, how sweet in union dear, we have met in council here. The Lord is here, our souls to bless, and our hope and faith increase.

Elder Scott Tipton, the pastor of Willow Chapel, one of the host churches, came forward to welcome everyone on behalf of the host church and thanking Burkes Union for the use of the grounds and the folks from Chestnut Flats and West View that have joined in as part of the host churches. He stated that he is looking for a good time in the Lord and for some lost soul to be saved.

We were blessed with special singing by Jason Robinette. I owe my life to Him; I've got so much to thank Him for.

The Moderator asked all ministers to sign the minister's book, including ministers from other associations and church affiliations.

Spiritual testimonies were shared, and prayer requests were made for the lost, the sick, our churches, Betty Sizemore, a baby facing surgery, Sue Camp, Virgie Grace Hill, Wayne Gibson, Virgie Cross, Kenneth Cross, Greg Hall, Anita Dixon, Brenda Bowlin, Betty and Herschel Baker, Betty Jo Lawson, Jimmy Huff, the upcoming revivals at Valley View and Marion Robinette Memorial, Cora L. Neeley, Clifton Horne, Nell Kendrick, David Gillenwater, Hunter Hensley's dad, papaw, and mom, Vickie Jones, Roger Jones, Mike Johnson, Roger Manring's family, many unspoken requests and several requests the clerk could not hear. Elder David Parsons came to the stand to lead the congregation in prayer, taking the requests to God and thanking Him for the opportunity to be here and the beautiful day.

Having been chosen to preach the introductory sermon, Elder Oscar Irvin came to the stand, stating it is a joy and privilege to be here among so great a people. Elder Irvin read from the 8th chapter of Romans, beginning at the 18th verse, and continuing through the end of the chapter, using the 32nd verse as his text. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" All things were made by God and for His Glory. He created the Earth, and He created Adam from the clay and breathed the breath of life into him. Death reigned from Adam to Moses. Grace and truth came by Jesus for us to escape the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son. He has given us everything, as we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus, and we are made alive in Christ and alive forevermore. By His abundant mercy, He has begotten us again unto a lively hope that's incorruptible, undefiled, and fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. The only way to heaven is through and by Jesus, by believing on the death, burial, and resurrection.

Elder Scott Tipton, chosen as the alternate, followed, preaching from the same thought and text. God is a spirit and seeketh such to worship him in spirit and in truth. We got part of God when he breathed the breath of life into Adam. He loved him, communed with him, talked with him. He didn't hold anything back. Spiritual death came to Adam, and the bond that he had existed no more, as he was separated and alienated from God. But the power of God is on hand. The power came through Jesus. We cannot be good enough, but there is something on the inside that is. What Jesus Christ freely gave makes us worthy. He gave it *all* to us, and not even death can take it away. But, if you don't have Jesus, you have nothing. You can be saved wherever you are, whenever you answer the Lord's call.

We were adjourned for lunch with fellowship and a song of praise.

Thursday Afternoon, October 5, 2023

The congregation began singing hymns as we all gathered back to the tent for the afternoon service. Built by Jesus on high, there we never shall die. That land is fairer than day. Brother Bradley Brown stayed at the stand for a testimony following the congregational singing. Sister Savannah Harkleroad sang about our Good Shepard, how wonderfully he cares for each of us, and how rich we are in Christ and His treasure. Special songs from Sister Aubra Hill and Elder Terry Sizemore followed. Elder Hunter Hensley came to the stand to speak his heart and beg some lost soul to answer the call of the Lord.

Prayer requests were made for the lost, Tommy Meade's lost brother and sister-in-law, Roger VanHoose's great-grandson and father-in-law, Daniel Van Hoose, David Van Hoose, Nick Andrews, Sherrie Brown, Frank Gilliam, Darcy Lawson, August Robinette's

five sisters, Sharon Rogers, and many unspoken requests and ones the clerk couldn't hear, along with several wonderful testimonies. Brother Ralph Baker humbly bowed to thank the Lord for forgiveness and for salvation and asking God to Bless this Association meeting.

Brother Ronnie Johnson, Chairman of the Committee on Church Letters, came forward stating it is a privilege to serve the Association and to give the report of our state and standing. Three church letters have not been received, those being Flower Gap, Osbornes Chapel, and Shelby Creek. Flower Gap's letter is complete and is expected to be here tomorrow. With 33 churches total, it was motioned, seconded, and voted to accept the recommendations of the committee and seat those delegates duly elected or appointed by their respective churches as the voting body of the association.

The moderator asked for nominations to serve as moderator pro-tem during the election of the association officials. Elder Roger VanHoose was nominated. No other nominations were made. It was motioned, seconded, and voted for nominations to cease. Elder VanHoose came forward to serve during the election.

The moderator asked for nominations to serve as clerk and treasurer of the association. Brother Kevin Hale was nominated, and it was seconded for him to serve as clerk and treasurer. It was motioned and seconded for nominations to cease. Through the vote, he will serve for the ensuing year.

The moderator asked for nominations to serve as moderator of the association. Elder Terry Sizemore was nominated, and it was seconded for him to serve as moderator of the association. Elder Jason Robinette was nominated to serve as moderator, but the nomination failed due to lack of a second. It was motioned and seconded for nominations to cease. Through the vote, Elder Sizemore will serve as moderator for the ensuing year.

Elder Sizemore humbly thanked the delegation for the honor and privilege to serve and for their vote of confidence. We pray the Good Lord will help us to be obedient to the Holy Spirit in fulfilling our duties to the Association.

The moderator asked for a motion and second to allow him to appoint all committees necessary to carry on the business of the association. It was motioned, seconded, and voted to allow the moderator to appoint any and all such committees.

The moderator then appointed the following committees:

Committee on Electrical and PA System: Delmer McPherson (chairman), Scott Mellons, Eric McPherson, Clifford Bledsoe, Danny Lawson, Adam Lawson, and Curtis Hale.

Committee on Newly Constituted Churches: Ministers: Mike Fullington (chairman), Carter Hagar, Jerry Johnson; Deacons: Doug Willis, Rodney Dodson; Laymen, Richard Carter, Doyle O'Dell.

Committee on Obituaries: Robert Brown (chairman), Gary Hall, and Joseph Robinette.

Committee on Arrangements and/or Queries: Ministers: Harmon Willis (chairman), Curtis Hale, Burnice Sybert, Oscar Irvin, Johns Banks, Roger Van Hoose, and Kevin Cross.

The Moderator stated the need to appoint a new trustee for Ohio due to Joe Pitzer leaving the association. Jake Fairchild, a deacon at Fairview (Bellbrook), was appointed to take over that duty.

Brother Roy Jones, chairman of the Religious Exercises Committee, came forward to give the committee's report.

- Thursday night at Willow Chapel: Joseph Robinette and Robert Brown
- Friday Morning in Stand: Mike Fullington and John Banks
- Friday night at Marion Robinette: Tyler Stapleton and Roger VanHoose
- Saturday morning in Stand: Daniel Hurd, Burnice Sybert, and Terry Sizemore
- Sunday morning in Stand: Kevin Cross and David Parsons
- Sunday morning in Copper Creek: Hunter Hensley

The moderator reminded the delegation that Excused Absence forms are available at the clerk's desk, as well as a Community Service form.

Brother Delmer McPherson, chairman of the Electrical and PA System Committee, came forward to give the report. Brother McPherson began by thanking the Lord for saving his soul and begging the lost to not leave without accepting Jesus. He also thanked the other members and all the help in preparation and during the association. He reported the new computer was purchased and is working well.

It was motioned, seconded, and voted to allow the clerk to pay fees and replenish the necessary forms and supplies to properly perform his duties.

It was motioned, seconded, and voted to have all things which are standard printed in the minutes.

It was motioned, seconded, and voted to allow the clerk \$2,000 in appreciation for his services.

It was motioned, seconded, and voted to allow the moderator \$1,000 in appreciation for his services.

Elder Scott Tipton, of the host church, came forward to discuss some rotting wood found around the doors on the mobile cookhouse. The price for new fiberglass doors with composite frames will cost \$1,020 for the double doors and \$520 for the single door. Elder Tipton will take care of installation with help from others in the association. It was motioned, seconded, and voted to purchase the doors.

Elder Irvin mentioned that the Friday offering could be used to help cover the cost of the doors. He also stated the cookhouse has plenty of to-go meals available.

The clerk reported all financial transactions of the year to the delegation. It was motioned, seconded, and voted to accept the financial report as read.

The business being concluded, the delegation was dismissed in prayer by Elder Burnice Sybert until Friday morning, October 6, 2023.

Friday Morning, October 6, 2023

The second day of the 171st Association began as Sister Zula McCullough and Marcel Bledsoe led the congregation in singing songs of Zion. I have found a friend in Jesus. He's everything to me. How Great Thou Art!

Elder Sizemore welcomed everyone to today's service, thanking God for salvation and praising God for us being included in the roll that will be called on that day.

We were blessed with spiritual testimony and singing from Null Lawson, then the host churches. I'll shout with victory as I'm leaving here. What a journey this journey has been. There's a happy land of promise where the saved of earth shall soon the glory share. When the storms of doubt against me roll, I ask the Lord to take control. Rock of Ages, keep my soul! Elder Kevin Cross obeyed the Spirit, preaching as the congregation stood and sang "What a Day That Will Be." Certainly, we have received an earthly taste of how that day will be when we shed this old clay and get on a cloud to go home. Elder Sizemore invited the lost to take part in God's healing of the soul.

Testimonies and prayer requests were made for the lost, the sick, Tee Osborne, June Sybert, Tommy Meade's lost family members, Earl Dodson, Cora L. Neeley's daughter

and friends, Tyler Blakely, Donald Ray Bledsoe, Sue Clark, our young people, upcoming revivals at Valley View and Marion Robinette Memorial, our churches, Jack and Travis Willis, Kaden Sizemore, Cadie Britt, Larry Russell, Ty, Harley, Laney, our preachers, Raylynn and her step-father, and many unspoken requests. Brother Cory King came to the stand, thanking God for all He has done and asking God to touch the prayer requests and to save the lost.

The delegation was called to order to transact the business.

It was motioned, seconded and voted to adopt the business proceedings of yesterday as read.

The Moderator reminded all ministers to sign the minister's book, including ministers from other associations and church affiliations.

Elder Mike Fullington, having been chosen by the Committee on Religious Exercises, came forward to preach the first half of the service, expounding on how much he loves the Association and has enjoyed the meeting thus far and testifying to the many gifts from God that he is glad of. Elder Fullington read from the 13th chapter of the book of Hebrews, beginning at the first verse and reading through the 15th verse, using the 8th verse as his text, and his thought, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." People have changed, but the Great High Priest has not changed. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth, and He's still the same today. The God that answered Elijah by fire is still the same God that will still answer today. From before the foundation of the world, God knew we'd need a Redeemer. He's still the same and still willing and able to save the lost. If we don't live until tomorrow, God will still be the same. We're only here for a few days, and we'll find trouble, but we can look to God, believe the report of Christ's resurrection, and be victorious over death, hell, and the grave.

Elder John Banks came forward to take the second half of the preaching service, preaching from the same text, stating that God was still the same today as when he started preaching. We're still holding to His unchanging hand. Elisha picked up the mantle of Elijah and was able to separate the waters. He's the same God now. His word doesn't change for anyone. It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this, the judgement. We all must stand before God, and our righteousness is as filthy rags. But Jesus made us able to stand before the throne of God with our sins covered under the blood of Christ. We were lost without any hope, blinded by the enemy, which is sin. Those that die without knowing Him, without the blood of Christ, will be cast into outer darkness. There's no other name whereby we must be saved. Jesus said no man cometh unto the Father but by me. Give your heart to Him, and He will change you, give you a new heart, and make you ready to stand before God.

The Moderator made a plea to the lost, then we were dismissed for lunch with song and fellowship.

Friday Afternoon, October 6, 2023

Much fellowship was shared as the host churches provided a delicious lunch.

Brothers Bradley Brown and Marcel Bledsoe led the congregation by singing the praises of God. When my soul is resting in the presence of the Lord, I'll be satisfied, washed like snow, and free from all sin. I know I have another building, not made with hands.

The moderator welcomed the congregation back from lunch, thanking the host churches for the wonderful lunch and thanking God for the blessing of both a natural meal and a spiritual meal.

The Holy Spirit moved as we were blessed with special singing from Millie Jade Hale, Camryn Rae Hale, Walker Bales, Neil Castle, Dennis and Karen Stewart with Roger VanHoose and Scott Tipton, Billy Marcum, Penny VanHoose, and Margaret Whitt. Of all God's miracles, the most incredible must be the miracle that rescued me. Jesus loved me, this I know! For on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, the sinless Savior died, and God, the just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me. He's the fountain of living water that never runs dry. I'll be planted in some graveyard, but thank God that not's the end. When Jesus comes that morning, I'll be going Home. My faith will end in sight. Face to face, I shall behold Jesus who saved me by His Grace. We'll join our loved ones and crown Christ forever, and I'll have just began to live.

The Holy Spirit moved during the singing, and the shouts were so loud that one couldn't tell when the singing had ended. Some sang, some raised hands, some stood, some shouted, some preached, some did a combination of those, but everyone seemed to enjoy the touch from on High. What a wonderful blessing to sit together in Heavenly places.

Testimonies were shared thanking God for salvation and the wonderful Spirit about this place. Prayer requests were made for the lost, the shut-ins, the previous prayer requests, Elder Carter Hagar, Elder Jim Emery, Chandler Johnson, Keith Holt's brothers, Carl, Keith, Clifton Horne, Nell Kendrick, Flo Minton, Joe and Emma Jean Robinette, Penny VanHoose, and many unspoken requests. Elder Chris Salley came forward to testify and to lead us to the Throne of Grace, thanking God for His Love, for sending Jesus for our salvation, for the Holy Spirit, and for this gathering.

The delegation was seated in order to transact the business.

Brother Ronnie Johnson, Chairman of the Committee on Church Letters, came forward stating the letters for Flower Gap and Osborne's Chapel were received and reported on their state and standing. It was motioned, seconded, and voted to accept the recommendation of the committee and seat those two churches into the voting body of the association.

It was motioned, seconded, and voted to accept the letter from Shelby Creek after the conference and include it in the minutes after it be examined by the clerk and determined to be in good standing.

The Letter Committee for 2024 was appointed: Dennis Stewart (chairman), David Horton, Clifton Horne, and Casey Breeding (alternate).

Brother Roy Jones came to the stand with testimony. He then read the report from the Committee on Religious Exercises and gave details on upcoming revivals.

- Friday night at Marion Robinette Memorial: Tyler Stapleton and Roger VanHoose
- Saturday morning in Stand: Daniel Hurd, Burnice Sybert, and Terry Sizemore
- Saturday evening at Rollers Chapel: Billy Marcum
- Sunday morning in Stand: Kevin Cross and David Parsons
- Sunday morning at Copper Creek: Hunter Hensley

The clerk read the Resolution of Thanks that he had prepared. It was motioned, seconded, and voted to print it in the minutes as read.

The moderator reported that there were \$6,070 in receipts for the year. We thank each church as they generously give to the Association year after year.

Elder Mike Fullington, on behalf of the Committee on Newly Constituted Churches, reported that none had been received this year.

Elder Robert Brown reported on behalf of the Committee on Obituaries that 25 have been received at this time. A reminder was given to turn in any remaining obituaries within two weeks if it is desired to be included in the 2023 minutes.

Elder Harmon Willis, on behalf of the Committee on Arrangements and/or Queries, reported that none have been received.

The moderator noted that all committees are dismissed upon delivering their final report.

Elder Oscar Irvin came forward on behalf of the host churches to extend thanks to the many area businesses that donated to our association and to David Horton and Jennifer Horton for securing those donations.

The men chosen to write the circular letter for 2023 were Brother Joe Horton and Deacons Roy Jones and Rodney Dodson. The three men came forward, and Brother Joe Horton began by testifying as to how the letter came about and how the Lord blessed throughout. Brother Roy Jones read their letter. Its message was one of Love, and was intended to be of comfort and hope to those that hear and read it. It was motioned, seconded, and voted to print the letter in our minutes as it was read.

The moderator appointed the Committee on Circular Letters for 2024 which includes: Elder Jason Robinette, Elder David Parsons, and Danny Lawson.

Ralph Lawson, Jr. led the congregation in singing "Are You Washed in the Blood?" as several volunteers took up an offering to be used to help cover the cost of purchasing new doors for the cookhouse. A generous donation of \$1,560 was received.

The moderator reminded the delegation that only those chosen or appointed by their respective churches as delegates were allowed to vote, and the maximum number of votes per church was 4, if all delegates are present. Likewise, if only one delegate was present, then the church would only have one vote.

There were two churches that asked for the association to meet with them next year. These are Burke's Union and Fairview (Bellbrook).

Brother Daniel Osborne made the initial plea on behalf of Burke's Union. Shannon Payne delivered the first plea on behalf of Fairview Church. Elder David Parsons stood to bring the second plea for Burke's Union to host the next Association. The last speaker was Elder Joseph Robinette who pled for the Association to be sent to Bellbrook, OH.

Through the vote, the Association was sent to Burke's Union, where, the Good Lord willing, we will convene on the Thursday morning (October 3, 2024) before the first Saturday in October 2024 for the 172nd annual gathering. The introductory and alternate sermons will be preached by Elders Curtis Hale and David Parsons, respectively.

Elder Justin Winstead dismissed the congregation in a word of prayer, thanking the Lord for His wonderful Spirit and asking that He continue to bless us greatly.

We were adjourned until Saturday morning, October 7, 2023.

Saturday Morning, October 7, 2023

It was a cool, brisk morning, but that did not stop God's children from gathering under the tent for our Saturday service. Brother Marcel Bledsoe led the congregation sings praises to our omnipotent God. Just one glimpse of Him in Glory will the toils of life repay. What a joyful thought that my Lord I'll see. Those gone before me I shall meet. Some happy day I'll live with Christ for aye. Happy praise to the King, through eternity sing.

Elder Terry Sizemore welcomed everyone to our Saturday morning memorial service and thanking God for his presence at this place. It might be cool weather, but there is a fire and a light in God's people. The world will never match what God is.

Special singing and testimony were shared by David and Wanda Parsons with Kim Robinette, Clifton Horne, Roger VanHoose, Scott Tipton, Dennis and Karen Stewart, and Carl Osborne. Some day we can go there through His marvelous grace. I can almost see the lights of Home. Beyond the sunset is that Better Home. In Heaven with Jesus I'll be. I've placed my trust in Jesus, and when He calls, I will answer. I'm so glad I've got a better place to go. I gave to him nothing, but He gave me everything. I have tasted the goodness of the Lord. How I long for that day when he calls me to meet Him far away from this old troublesome world. We'll rise in His likeness, then we'll all be satisfied. There will be no graves on that bright shore.

Testimonies and answered prayers were shared to glorify God and prayer requests were made for the lost, the sick, our youth, Earica and Monica Marshall, David Gillenwater, August Robinette's sisters, children, and grandchildren, Tommy Johnson, Sharon Rogers, Hunter Hensley's dad and papaw, the upcoming revivals, our churches, and many unnamed and unspoken requests. Brother Steve Hunt led us to the throne of grace, thanking the Lord for allowing us to be here, the Holy Spirit, and the preaching of the Gospel and asking Him to bless the prayer request and to save the lost.

The delegation was seated in order to transact the business.

It was motioned, seconded, and voted to adopt the business proceedings of yesterday as read, adding the list of area businesses that made donations.

Brother Roy Jones provided the final report of the Religious Exercises Committee and provided details around upcoming revivals.

- Saturday evening at Rollers Chapel: Billy Marcum
- Sunday morning in Stand: Kevin Cross and David Parsons
- Sunday morning at Copper Creek: Hunter Hensley

- Revival at Valley View will begin October 16, 2023, at Valley View, at 7pm nightly. Elders Oscar Irvin, Wally Berry, and Chris Salley will be preaching.
- Rolling revival beginning November 5, 2023, holding 2 nights each at Davis Chapel, Wallens Creek, and Blue Springs (Duffield) at 7pm nightly. Elders Jason Robinette and Joseph Robinette will be preaching.
- Revival at Marion Robinette Memorial will begin November 12, 2023, at 6pm on Sunday night and then 7pm nightly. Elders Oscar Irvin and Jason Robinette will be preaching.

The moderator passed on that the church at Little Cowan appreciated the prayers and donation from others in the association.

It was stated that the Electrical and PA system, primarily Adam Lawson, could help get announcements on the website, if desired.

For many years, the Saturday morning service has been dedicated as a memorial service for those saints who have already moved to a better land. The moderator read the names of those saints that have gained their eternal reward in the past year. What a joy to know where we go when we leave this world! It was then asked that Elder Roger VanHoose sing "Letters to My Father."

Elder Daniel Hurd, who was chosen to take the first part of the preaching service by the Committee on Religious Exercises, began by reading from Joshua chapter four, verses six and seven, using the thought, "These stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever."

We have something to remember. It is the blood shed that was on Calvary's cross. This same Jesus that has gone away will come again in like manner. The Eastern sky will be split wide open, and we will see the Glory of God. He's an amazing God in what he has done, what He is doing, and what he's going to do. He knew we would need a Savior. His table is spread, and it has everything we need to get through this life. We can't lose it. No one can pluck us from His hand. He took out the stony heart and put in a heart of love and left no scar. Because of him, we have a better place to go. Our souls will soar above the clouds, all because Jesus Christ loved us and died on the cross. We have something to look forward to. We will be reunited when we depart this old world. We are already set free, but the best is yet to come.

Elder Burnice Sybert came to the stand to preach the next part of the memorial service, stating it is a wonderful place to be. Looking back over the years, the Lord has met with us many times. Since his first association in 1948 at Ida, it is a different generation of people, but the power of the Lord is still manifested during the meetings of

the Association. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and the power of God felt back then is the same one now. The Children of Israel left the memorial after crossing Jordan, though it's probably been torn down. Satan has tried to tear this memorial down. How foolish it is to be divided over the simple things. In 1954, there were 99 churches. A third left. In 2011, another third left. By the grace of God, we are still the same people with the same beliefs. We are still original Primitive Baptists, proclaiming the same Gospel as the New Testament. Almost all those people from 1948 are gone Home. A lot of the next generation are now gone. Another generation is here, and there will still be faith when the Lord returns. Otherwise, the apostle Paul would not have said, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Amos said, "Prepare to meet thy God." We need to let people know how important it is for them to be prepared. We will have to give an answer to what we've done with our salvation. Elder Sybert closed by telling everyone that he loved them and telling us to ask ourselves, "Am I doing everything that God would have me to do?" Ask the Lord to help, and He will.

Elder Terry Sizemore was chosen to take the final portion of the memorial service, using the same scripture. There will be a transition from where we are to where we are going. Children of Israel stirred around in the wilderness for 40 years due to unbelief, and when it came time to move into the land of promise. Moses had to step aside. God told Joshua when the peoples of God have gone across, have men from each tribe take a stone from where the priests stood, carry it out, and stack them as a memorial. Their children will ask "what meanest these stones?" and they would testify that they came through that way. We have left the troubles and trials of sin behind. Pick up the stone and leave a memorial. The world should see something in us that will make them ask, "what meaneth this stone?" What a pleasure to tell people of that Country and how when this body is laid aside, we can go there through the blood that was shed on Calvary, where Jesus died in your place. Use your life as a witness that you came through Jordan. When this clay is set aside, we have a better country in which to go. Show that you have a stone stacked.

Another beckoning call for the lost to come to repentance was made, also inviting anyone who needs prayer to do so.

There has been such a sweet peace this morning and all week, and the Holy Spirit has certainly been present. He is good, and we are thankful for His blessings.

We were dismissed with a song from Elder Jason Robinette as we were adjourned until Sunday morning, October 8, 2023.

Sunday Morning, October 8, 2023

Expecting a large crowd, as the host churches and several other churches dismissed their own services to attend the Sunday morning Association service, it was decided to leave the tent up for the final service of the 171st annual meeting of the Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists.

Sister Zula McCullough and Brothers Andy Wallen and Ronnie Johnson, along with several of God's children gathered at the stand, led the congregation in singing songs of praise to Jesus and of the Joys of Heaven. What have I to fear when I'm leaning on the everlasting arms of Jesus. He speaks in a still, small voice that dispels all fear. O, the joy of that glad meeting with the saints who for us wait. What a blessed happy meeting just inside the Eastern Gate. When the dead in Christ shall rise, and the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there praising Christ the Savior for His redeeming grace and love. Why should I long for the world and its sorrows, for Heaven holds all to me.

Elder Oscar Irvin welcomed the crowd in the tent to the Sunday morning service, thanking God for each soul present and thanking Him for the wonderful Spirit during this sitting of the Association. He asked each one in attendance to take time to worship the Lord and give Him glory, and he asked any that are lost to answer the drawing of God.

We were blessed by special singing and testimony from Brenda Horton, David, Leslie, Katelyn, and Jack Roller, Billy Marcum, Millie Jade Hale and Larsyn Bledsoe, and Jason H. Robinette, Shannon Payne, and Carl Osborne. I'm headed for Heaven, and I'm well on my way. Jesus Christ, the Rock, is a firm foundation. Jesus will never forsake you! The only fire I'll ever feel is burning in my heart. My Savior's precious blood will comfort and protect you, and it will take you to Heaven. I've got so much to thank Him for; He has been so good to me! There's something about the name of Jesus!

Spirit-filled testimonies were shared, praising God for His love and good Holy Spirit, and prayer requests were made for the lost, the sick, Joe and Emma Jean Robinette, Palmer Robinette, Tommy Robinette, Kevin Cross's family, Tee Osborne, Danny Lawson, Deion Talbott, our co-workers, Gracie Wallen, Missy and Cathy Walton, the upcoming revivals, Ada's lost family and a special situation, Wanda and her family, Jennifer Horton, Clear Springs church, Boyd Osborne, Roger and Penny VanHoose, our children and grandchildren, Joe Horton's family, and many special unspoken requests. Jason H. Robinette announced his calling to preach, so be much in prayer for him as he begins his journey. Brother Billy Marcum came to lead us in singing "Amazing Grace" as crying, shouts, and praises to God came from around the tent. Brother Marcum then led us to the Lord in prayer. Thanking God for the privilege and honor to call upon Him as our Father and King and asking God to help us worship in spirit and truth, for open ears to hear, and for Him to lead us and draw the lost to repentance.

Elder Kevin Cross sang as he came to the stand to preach the first part of the service, stating it was a joy to hear the testimonies and requests from all those of the royal priesthood of God. Elder Cross read from Mark Chapter 7, verses 31-37, using a portion of the last verse as his text, "He hath done all things well." Jesus took the deaf man aside and put His fingers in his ears. It was the same finger that wrote upon the tablets on Mount Sinai. It was the same finger that wrote the law to be the schoolmaster to Christ. We have a deaf ear to the Word of God until the finger of God lets us hear. We are able to hear of Christ and His great compassion. Jesus healed and loosed the man's tongue, and the man spoke plainly. The man couldn't tell the world enough about his healing, and we should do the same regarding our salvation. All of creation praises His omnipotence and His sovereignty. Surely, He's done all things well.

Elder David Parsons came forward for the second part of the service, stating we needed to take the message of the goodness of God home with us from the Association and preaching a similar thought to the previous text. Jesus spit on the ground and mixed up the mud to put on the eyes of the blind man and told him to go wash. Follow what God told you to do. The people could see something was different about the man after he received his sight, and there should be something different about us. He told them about a man called Jesus opening his eyes. It took the touch to open the deaf ears and loose his tongue. It takes a touch from His Hand to open a blinded eye and to reveal that one's lost. Touched with a hand of Love, God spared not His Son. It takes His touch to heal your heart, to pull you out of the mire, and set your feet upon the solid Rock, which is Jesus Christ. Tell people what God has done in your life. Show people what God has done in your life.

Elder Parsons closed by testifying about a young man that was under conviction when he went home after church and about him getting saved that day. We long for some lost soul to accept Jesus unto salvation. It can still happen after we leave here. Please pray for and witness to the lost.

Elder Scott Tipton led singing while we fellowshiped followed by a number of testimonies. Elder Parsons thanked each one for their attendance today and this week. Brother Danny Lawson dismissed this service with a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

I have thoroughly enjoyed God's blessings throughout this year's gathering, and I've seen and heard the Spirit bless so many others this week. I pray that God will continue to bless us throughout the year and again when we return to the same location for the third year to join Burke's Union Church for the 172nd annual session of this Grand Ol' Body.

CIRCULAR LETTER

Greetings to the saints of the Eastern District Association and to any other saints from other churches or associations that might be gathered with us. We stand humbly before you to bring to you the circular letter for the year 2023. It is a great privilege and honor to be asked to write this letter to you.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:16,17). Jesus willingly gave His life up on the cross of Calvary, shed His precious blood to cover the sin debt of all mankind. A perfect sacrifice acceptable unto God. One who had no sin was made sin for all. No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:44). We firmly believe that Jesus Christ is the only door to our salvation, and we must believe in Him to receive salvation for our souls.

And there are also many other things, which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen (John 21:25).

Think not, that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill (Matthew 5:17). Jesus, when He walked on this earth, gave two new commandments to fulfill the law. And thou shalt Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all they mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30). And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt Love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these (Mark 12:31).

The common theme in both commandments is Love. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:34,35).

The greatest example of Loving God and Loving our neighbor in the Scripture is of course, Jesus Christ Himself. As disciples of Christ, we are called Christians. So how should we serve him? Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing (Psalm 100:2). Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name (Psalm 100:4). For the Lord is good: His mercy is everlasting: and His truth endureth to all generations (Psalm 100:5).

I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1). Live a life that is pleasing to God that sinners can see God's love in you. Pray for sinners and compel them to come in and be saved by God's Amazing Grace. Watch; therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come (Matthew 24:42). Stand firm in the old paths of our faith that you have been taught, for that is our goodly heritage and worthy to be preserved.

AS Christians today, there are many things that cause us concern and anxiety. We will address the two major causes of that concern as we see them.

The first is simply the happenings that are going on in our world. We see wars, and hear of rumors of wars; endless violence; lawlessness; sickness and disease; viruses; terrible and more frequent storms; and earthquakes in divers places. Fear not, for Jesus plainly told us that these things would come. There is an old hymn that we sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in Prayer.

The second major concern for us as Christians is that many of our churches are low in number. Jesus told us that a falling away would come. It appears that it is here. But be of good cheer. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20).

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1st Peter 2:9) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised:) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:23,24,25).

We may not have the numbers of members that this grand old body once had in years gone by, but we must remember that every member is a part of the body of Christ. For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one : so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit, For the body is not one member, but many (1st Corinthians 12:12,13,14). Now are ye the body of Christ, and members in particular. (1st Corinthians 12:27).

Let us not worry too much about low numbers of our local churches. As Christians, we can help plant a seed of faith in someone by telling them our experience; another Christian, can water that seed of faith, but only God can give the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase (1st Corinthians 3:7).

Since we are the adopted sons and daughters of almighty God through the blood of Jesus Christ; Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). As the end of our time here on earth approaches; may we be able to say as the Apostle Paul did; I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing (2nd Timothy 4:8).

In conclusion, be ye ready. For if all of us that are here today have entered into our rest when Jesus returns, we have the "Blessed Assurance" that our Savior, Jesus Christ,

will be right on time when He returns, according to God's will and purpose. May God's "Amazing Grace" be with us all.

In God's Love,
Your committee,
Brother Rodney Dodson
Brother Joe Horton
Brother Roy Jones

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

I hope and pray that everyone in attendance has been blessed during the 171st annual session of the Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists hosted by the Kingsport Area Churches of Poplar Grove and Willow Chapel with help from West View and Chestnut Flats. Being a member at Willow Chapel, I know the members of the host churches prayed, planned, and worked many hours over several months to prepare the grounds and provide food for the attendees. We consider it a joy to be able to serve God and the Association. We also thank the members, friends, and neighbors of Burke's Union that have helped, especially the Bledsoe family for once again allowing the use of their land where the tent was set. The members at Burke's Union did so much more than just allow the use of their facilities. They have been a true blessing in so many ways, and they are wonderful friends to have.

Thirty-two churches have donated \$6,750 to assist the host churches in covering the cost of hosting this Grand Ole Body. As is normal for our Association, we have seen the members from other churches work as often as they discover a need. Members from over a dozen churches worked together in setting up the tent and preparing the grounds on Monday, and we enjoyed their fellowship. We also appreciate the prayers, words of encouragement, and each person that attended the Association. We always wish to thank all those which served on committees during the Association and throughout the year. Several of those people spend many hours and days preparing for our meeting.

We wish to thank Elder Terry Sizemore for his love and dedication to the Association as Moderator. For almost three decades, his leadership and understanding have guided the meetings, both in business and in worship. We always appreciate how he conducts the service in Spirit, and certainly his preaching is Spirit-filled. We love you, Terry, and we pray the Lord blesses you bountifully for your efforts.

The position of Clerk is overwhelming at times, but God has blessed through this service more than I could have ever thought or asked, and I appreciate everyone that prays for me and my family. Thank you for loving us and letting us know that you are

praying for us. It means more than you know. I have received phone calls, letters, small comments, and long conversations that were each a great encouragement to me. I love you all. Thank you for your love and friendship. I cherish it.

Saving the best for last, we thank God for loving us and blessing us during this gathering, as an Association in general, from generation to generation, never changing, always willing to forgive and to extend salvation to the lost. We thank Him for blessing our churches with a mighty Spirit that can bind up the brokenhearted, open up sin's prison, and allow us to escape the bondage of corruption, entering into the glorious liberty of the children of God. We could not establish our own righteousness, but God sent Jesus to die for us, and we can believe unto His righteousness that God raised Him from the dead. That free pardon of sin is truly the greatest gift that will ever be given.

I hope you love the Association like so many of us do and have throughout the years. It is not about worshipping like they did in the 1970s, or the 1920s, or the 1870s, or any old-fashioned time period. Our Association was called "primitive" all the way back in 1848, 175 years ago, at the beginning. It is about worshipping God according to His word, not man's thoughts or traditions. I love our traditions, but it is the Holy Spirit that makes us what we are. I request prayer for our churches often, and I pray that God continues to bless in each one.

Terry Sizemore

Moderator

Kevin Hale

Clerk & Treasurer

PROCEDURE FOR ORGANIZING NEW CHURCHES

(Revised 1964)

1. Obtain an arm from the nearest sister church when practical. This arm must be chosen at a regular business session of the church and should consist of no less than seven members; three of whom should be ordained members.
2. When the arm arrives at the designated place, a moderator and clerk pro-tem shall be chosen after which the moderator shall call the council to order and have the clerk read the Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, Rules of Decorum and Church Constitution. These must be adopted and written in the church book.
3. The moderator shall ask for those who wish to become members of the church, and they shall be received in the manner approved by the Primitive Baptist Church. Should there be less than seven, they shall remain under the watchcare of the church from which the arm was obtained. This church shall be required to appoint such members as may be necessary to transact business. These members shall be required to be present at each regular church session until the new church becomes a body of at least seven members.
4. A pastor and clerk shall be elected at this time, and when practical, at least one member shall be chosen to prove himself for the office of deacon.
5. A name shall be given the church and their regular meeting time declared.

PROCEDURE FOR ORDINATION OF MINISTER OR DEACON

(Revised 1964, 1970, 1983, 1988, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011)

Any person being considered by the church for the Ministry or the office of Deacon must be set apart by the church to prove himself as to his calling and qualifications for as long a time as the church may deem necessary.

In order to better acquaint both the presbytery and the local church pertaining to the qualifications of a minister and deacon, the past records have been thoroughly searched. There may have been many ideas, opinions and much discussion; however, the records are the only official means we have of knowing where the association stands and the action it has taken.

(A) We believe the only power that can qualify a person to preach the gospel is the Spirit of God, and no educational institution can qualify a person to preach the gospel.

(Adopted at Blackwater, Tennessee – 1881; published 1970)

(B) We advise the churches to be careful in the ordination of ministers and deacons in order that they observe gospel order. (See Paul's instructions to Timothy and Titus.)

(Adopted at Piney Grove Church – 1886; published 1970)

(C) How shall ministers from other associations be received into the Eastern District Association?

Answer: Any minister of any other organization desiring to become a member of any of the association churches as a minister: (1) shall first be received as a member of a local church; (2) the church then at their discretion shall set him aside to prove himself; (3) when the church is fully satisfied, they shall proceed to ordain him according to our rules.

(Adopted at Blackwater Lick Church – 1978; published 1988)

(D) Is it proper procedure for the ordained deacons and elders of the Eastern District Association to participate in ordination of brethren from other churches or church organizations that have not joined our membership?

Answer: No, an ordained deacon or minister of the Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists has no authority to serve on the presbytery for the ordination of someone outside the association.

(Adopted at Riverside Church – 2005; published 2005)

(E) Resolved, that the ministers and deacons of the Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists shall not officiate or participate in the marriage between two men or two women; neither will any who engage in a lifestyle contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures as recorded in the King James translation of 1611 be accepted as a minister or deacon in the Association.

(Adopted at Flower Gap Church – 2006; published 2006)

(F) Requirements or Qualifications for Ordination Procedures for Ministers or Deacons (Titus 1:6-9). If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God;

not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

(I Timothy 3:2-7). A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

(I Timothy 3:8-13) Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless. Even so *must their wives be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

(Adopted at House Chapel Church – 2011; published 2011)

When the church is satisfied concerning the candidate for ordination and has voiced their approval of him, then at an appointed time the ordination is to be carried on in the following manner:

1. A Legal Presbytery is appointed which shall consist of not less than three nor more than seven ordained men, one of whom should, if possible, be an ordained deacon in the church in which the ordination is taking place. In case only three are used to compose the Presbytery, two ministers and one deacon, or two deacons and one minister, may be used.
2. The church presents the candidate for ordination to the Presbytery for examination. Each member of the Presbytery will have ample opportunity to question the candidate concerning his calling if to the ministry, also concerning his moral and spiritual qualifications and particularly to his understanding and belief of the Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum and other principles of the church.
3. When the Presbytery has completed their examination of the candidate, they return him to the care of the church with their report.

4. If the report of the Presbytery is satisfactory and the church is satisfied, they express their approval and return the candidate to the hands of the Presbytery for the ordination.
5. The Presbytery with prayer and laying-on of hands ordain the candidate. A charge is given by one member of the Presbytery. A Certificate of Ordination may then be given with authorized signatures.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been, as we trust, brought by the grace of God to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and to give ourselves wholly to him, we do solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other to walk together in Him in brotherly love to His glory as our common Lord. We do therefore, in His strength engage that we will exercise a mutual care as members one of another to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness, and comfort to the end that we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God, and to promote and secure this object we will uphold the public worship of God, and the ordinances of His house, and hold constant communion with each other therein. That we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the support of the poor, and for the maintenance of a faithful ministry of the gospel among us, and that we will not omit family religion at home, nor allow ourselves the too common neglect of the great duty of training our children and those under our care with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of heaven. That we will walk circumspectly in the world that we may win their soul; remembering that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of a sound mind, that we are the light of the world, and the salt of the earth, and as a city set on a hill. That we will frequently exhort, and if occasion requires it, admonish one another according to Matthew 18; in the spirit of meekness considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted, and that as in baptism, we have been buried with Christ, and raised again, so there is on us a special obligation, thenceforth to walk in newness of life, and may the God of peace who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, who through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do His will working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Copied from the Willis Chapel Church Book, 1807

CHURCH CONSTITUTION

(Especially for Newly Constituted Churches)

We do, with mutual consent, agree to embody ourselves together as a religious body to worship God. Being a church congregated, we hold and teach:

Baptism of believers in Christ by a decent immersion of our whole bodies once in water;

The final perseverance of the saints;

The resurrection of our bodies;

A restricted communion to church members in full fellowship;

The Old and New Testament Scriptures (King James Version) to be the revealed will and mind of God;

The Christian Sabbath to be a holy and heavenly institution;

That we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, and especially our regular church meetings should diligently be attended;

That we should not expose the infirmities of our members except in gospel order;

That we should not move out of the bounds of the church without applying for a letter of dismissal;

And that we should communicate of our worldly substance for the decent support of the church and ministry.

With this mutual consent and understanding, having been duly and properly organized, constituted, and pronounced a church, we are ready, by the will of God, to proceed to business.

(Revised in 1959)

RULES OF DECORUM

Ordered, therefore that the following decorum be a rule for the church to conduct herself by in future conferences. See Nehemiah 10:39.

1. Conference shall consist of members of the church and visiting members of sister churches of the same faith and order if so desired.
2. Conference shall be opened and closed with praise and prayer to Almighty God. I Tim. 2:1; I Thess. 5:17, 18.
3. One shall be chosen to preside, who shall be addressed under the appellation of "Brother Moderator," to whom every speech shall be perfectly directed.
4. The members' names being regularly enrolled shall by the Clerk be distinctly called over.
5. A door shall be open when thought necessary for admission of new members into the church. But none shall be admitted but by unanimous consent, and shall first verbally relate their experience and give an account of the work of God in their hearts; and secondly, of their faith and principles, if the church requires it; and thirdly, the church shall make diligent inquiry respecting their moral conduct. When full satisfaction shall be obtained, the Moderator shall manifest the same by giving the right hand of fellowship and thus receive them in order.
6. No complaint shall be brought in the Conference respecting crimes of a private nature until the grieved party has complied with the directions of our Lord in Matt. 18:15.
7. Every motion and second shall come under the consideration of the Conference unless withdrawn by the member who made it.
8. Every query presented shall be three times read. When it is read, the Moderator shall put it to a vote to see if the majority is for or against answering it. The query shall be debated if deemed necessary, but the querist may withdraw it any time providing that no intricate question be asked.
9. If the minority at any time should be grieved at the determination of the majority, they are hereby directed to make the same known immediately to the church; and if satisfaction cannot be obtained, it may be necessary in that case to call for help from sister churches.

10. Section 1. All business of the Conference shall be recorded by the clerk before the conference rises; the same shall be distinctly read and corrected, if need be.

Section 2. Any member neglecting to attend conference, the same shall be disorder.

Section 3. Any member absenting himself or herself from conference without leave, the same is disorder.

Section 4. Any member whispering or laughing in time of public speech, the same is disorder.

Section 5. If two or more shall speak at one time, or any member speak without rising and addressing the Moderator, the same shall be disorder.

Section 6. Any member speaking more than three times on any subject without leave obtained, the same is disorder.

Section 7. Any member, grieved at anything done in conference, and shall hold his or her peace, and shall not let the same be known until conference rises and shall afterward speak of the same, as it manifestly tends to confusion, is hereby deemed disorder.

Section 8. Any member speaking or acting in wrath or anger, or in threatening or disregarding manner, as it shames religion, wounds the cause of Christ, and grieves the true Christian, is hereby deemed disorder.

Section 9. If any moderator shall neglect plainly and calmly to reprove any member transgressing these rules, or behaves in any manner irreverently in the time of conference, the same is disorderly in him, and himself, for the time, liable to be reprov'd.

Section 10. The woman hath not the right by the law of Christ to usurp authority over the man, and therefore ought not to speak in church, only in case of conscience, or in such particular circumstances that the nature of the case may require it.

Section 11. Amendments to these rules may be made at any time when the conference shall deem necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God as revealed in the Bible and the Holy Trinity by the name of The Father, Son and Holy Ghost. I John 5:7.
2. We believe the Old and New Testament Scripture, as recorded in the King James translation of 1611, to be the written and revealed Word of God. II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20, 21.
3. We believe God created the heaven and the earth and all things therein. Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:16, 17; Rev. 4:11.
4. We believe God made man of the dust of the earth, and He made him good and He gave him a law to keep and man transgressed the law and fell from his first estate and lost his righteousness. Gen. 1:27, 2:7, 2:16, 17, 3:6-23.
5. We believe in the total depravity of man, that he was unable to redeem himself from the fallen state he was in. Gen. 3:24; Rom. 5:9-19.
6. We believe God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to be the propitiation for the sins of the world, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16; I John 2:2.
7. We believe sinners are justified by faith and saved by grace. Eph. 2:8; Rom. 5:1, 2.
8. We believe the Gospel is the only means God has ordained by which sinners are brought to Christ. I Cor. 1:21-24.
9. We believe he that believeth in the Son of God hath the witness in himself. I John 5:10.
10. We believe baptism, the Lord's Supper, and feet washing are ordinances of Jesus Christ given to the church by example and command for us to observe until He comes again. Matt. 28:19; John 13; I Cor. 11:23-26.
11. We believe the only scriptural mode of baptism is by immersion of the whole body in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and believers are the only fit subjects for baptism. Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Matt. 28:19.
12. We believe all the saints will persevere through grace and never fall away. Eph. 1:13, 14; I Pet. 1:5; John 10:28, 29.

13. We believe in election according to the foreknowledge of God and the sanctification of the Spirit through the belief of the truth. Eph. 1; I Pet. 1:2, 3.
14. We believe the church is the light of the world and is made manifest by keeping the commandments and examples of Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the church in all things. Matt. 5:14; Eph. 1:22, 23.
15. We believe God chooses, calls and qualifies those whom He would have to preach the gospel, and God has promised temporal support of His ministers. Rom. 10:14, 15; I Cor. 1:25-29; I Cor. 9:7-11.
16. We believe in a restricted communion confined to the church in fellowship, walking in the light and observing gospel order. I Cor. 5:11, 12; John 13; I Cor. 11:31, 32.
17. We believe Christ is the only lawgiver in Zion, and the New Testament scripture is perfect, a thorough furnisher to the man of God unto all good works. James 4:12; II Tim. 3:16.
18. We believe Jesus Christ, during the time of His earthly ministry, set up a spiritual kingdom on earth, in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy; He being the King and all born again believers the subjects of the Kingdom, and they are now reigning with Him as Kings and priests on the earth. Dan. 2:44; Isa. 9:6, 7; Matt. 3:2; Luke 17:20, 21; John 18:36; Rev. 1:5-7.
19. We believe God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by His Son, Jesus Christ, and this day will be after the death of the body. Heb. 9:27; John 5:22; Acts 17:31.
20. We believe there will be a general resurrection at the last day, both of the just and the unjust; this will also be the day of final judgment and the eternal destiny of all people, of all ages, will then be made known. Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29; I Cor. 15:23, 24, 54; I Thess. 4:14-17; II Thess. 1:7-10.
21. We believe the punishment of the wicked is everlasting and the joys of the righteous are eternal. Matt. 25:46.
22. We believe God instituted marriage as the union of one man and one woman as husband and wife and any other such union is an abomination. Gen 2:18-25; Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24-32; Eph. 5:22-33; I Pet. 3:1-7.

ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be called "The Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists."
2. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, and producing letters from their respective churches shall be entitled to seats.
3. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed the number in fellowship and gains and losses since the last Association.
4. The members chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, neither any clerical power over churches, nor shall they infringe upon the material rights of any church in the union.
5. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.
6. The Association shall have a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
7. New churches may be admitted into the union by letter and delegates; and if found orthodox and orderly, shall be admitted into the Association and manifested by the moderator giving each the right hand of fellowship.
8. Each church shall be entitled to one and not more than four representatives in the Association.
9. Each query presented by any church to the Association, being first debated in their own church, shall be taken up by the Association.
10. Each motion and second shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.
11. The Association shall furnish the churches with Minutes of the Association.
12. We think it necessary to have an Association fund for defraying expenses, for the raising and supporting of which it shall be the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums as they may deem proper and send it by the hands of their delegates to the Association.
13. There shall be an Association book kept wherein the proceedings of the Association shall be recorded by the clerk, who shall have a compensation for his trouble.

14. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the Association rises.
15. Amendments to this form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the union, if they deem it necessary.
16. The Association shall have power to provide; first, for a general union of the churches; second, to preserve inviolable a chain of communion among the churches; third, to give the churches all necessary advice in matters of church difficulty.
17. The Association shall have power to inquire into the cause why churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the Association.
18. The Association shall have power to appropriate the money contributed by the churches to any purpose it may think proper.
19. The Association shall have power to appoint any member or members to transact any business it may deem necessary.
20. The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church that violates the rules of the Association or deviates from the principles of orthodox religion.
21. The Association shall have power to admit any orderly minister of our order to a seat in the Association.
22. The Association shall have power to adjourn to meet at any future time or place it may deem proper.
23. Each church shall endeavor to have its letter and delegates present on the first day of the Association. Any church not represented at that time shall report to the committee on letters giving their reason for delay.

LIST OF MINISTERS

Names, addresses and telephone numbers of ordained and liberated ministers, with the name of the church where each retains his membership. Optionally listed is the wife's name in parentheses.

Name & Address	Church Membership
Banks, John, (Barbara) 18 Sword Dr., Whitesburg, KY 41858, (865) 805-6045	Little Cowan
Bernard, Charles, 1221 S. Eastman Rd., Kingsport, TN 37660, (423) 276-8302	West View
Berry, Wally, 119 Hurd Rd., Church Hill, TN 37642, (423) 480-0856	Shelby Creek
Brown, Robert (Sherrie) 105 Knollcrest Dr., Jonesborough, TN 37659, (423) 483-4385	West View
Cross, Kevin M., (Kristen) 5004 Madison Ct., Charlottesville, VA 22911, (434) 760-0344	Chestnut Flats
Emery, Jim, (Loretta) 280 Obe Kirk Loop, Mohawk, TN 37810, (423) 973-7941	Kingswood
Fullington, Mike, (Tina) 2498 Lawson Rd., Morristown, TN 37814, (423) 327-8235	Willis Chapel
Gilliam, Frank, (Juanita) 2001 Timbers Edge Ct., Kingsport, TN 37660, (423) 480-9262	Mt. Mitchell
Hagar, Carter, 109 Walnut St., New Tazewell, TN 37825, (423) 489-0861	Low View
Hale, Curtis, (Kendra) 1807 Goshen Valley Rd., Church Hill, TN 37642, (423) 226-4939	Willow Chapel
Hall, Gary, 6159 Mendota Rd., Mendota, VA 24270, (423) 765-7691	Blue Springs, Hiltons, VA
Hensley, Hunter, 156 Horn Gap Rd, Gate City, VA, 24251, (276) 690-6953	Copper Creek (Addington Frame)
*Holt, Dan, 440 East Cottage Ave., West Carrollton, OH 45449, (937) 336-3703	Rose Chapel
Holt, Keith (Mona), 150 East Greenway St., Sneedville, TN 37869, (423) 733-2002	Osborne's Chapel
Hurd, Daniel, (Phyllis) 9803 Middle Wallens Creek Rd., Jonesville, VA 24263, (276) 346-3402	Blackwater Lick
Ivin, Oscar, (Priscilla) 349 Rock Springs Valley Rd., Kingsport, TN 37664, (423) 967-7186	Poplar Grove
*Jarrett, Tim, 1137 Eastbrook Dr., Kingsport, TN 37663, (423) 579-2244	Caney Creek
*Johnson, Gregg, 561 Oak Grove Rd., Rogersville, TN 37857 (423) 272-0428	New Life
Johnson, Jerry, (Faye) 2600 Springvale Rd., Morristown, TN 37813, (423) 312-0282	New Life
Jones, Steve, 480 Ellis St., Port William, OH 45164, (937) 475-7890	Macedonia
Lampkin, Wiley, 2111 Thomas Dr., Morristown, TN 37814, (423) 258-5405	New Life
Little, Tony, (Tonya) 583 Sycamore Loop, Jeremiah, KY 41826, (606) 633-2257	Little Cowan
Malone, Eddie, (LaWanda) 1655 Billy Bible Rd., Greeneville, TN 37745, (423) 552-8785	Caney Creek
Manring, Roger, 3769 Fairview Rd., Duffield, VA 24244, (276) 940-2900	Copper Creek (Addington Frame)

Meade, Tommy, (Dorlane) P. O. Box 403, Hager Hill, KY 41222, (606) 367-0199 Richardson Chapel
 *Newkirk, Mark, (Anita) 3764 Stone Barn Ct., Franklin, OH 45005, (937) 475-1807 Rose Chapel
 Osborne, Tommy, (Robin) 5091 Gate City Hwy., Bristol, VA 24201 (276) 591-7777 Blue Springs, Hiltons, VA
 Pardue, Justin, 972 Union Rd., Xenia, OH 45385, (937) 900-7414 Rose Chapel
 Parsons, David, (Wanda) 1853 Cave Springs Rd., Dryden, VA 24243, (276) 546-3643 Burkes Union
 Robinette, Jason, (August) 42357 Wilderness Rd., Pennington Gap, VA 24277, (937) 245-1746 Fairview
 Robinette, Joseph, (Jennifer) 8891 State Route 380, Wilmington, OH 45177, (937) 212-8192 Fairview
 Robinette, Josh, (Kristi) 320 St. Rt. 72N, Jamestown, OH 45335, (937) 499-0285 Clear Springs
 Salley, Chris, (Carol) 161 Forest Lane North, Blountville, TN 37617, (423) 323-9507 Blue Springs, Hiltons, VA
 Sizemore, Terry, (Peggy) 1225 Deneen Lane, Morristown, TN 37814, (423) 231-0323 Swan Creek
 Stapleton, David, (Linda) 612 Melinda Ferry Rd., Rogersville, TN 37857, (423) 523-4883 Low View
 Stapleton, Tyler, (Hannah) 219 Ridge St., Surgoinsville, TN 37873, (423) 327-0605 Willow Chapel
 Sturgill, Darrel, 750 Sturgill Branch, Whitesburg, KY 41858, (606) 634-7663 Edwin Holbrook Memorial
 Sybert, Burnice, (June) 2132 Welch Rd., Kingsport, TN 37660, (423) 288-2309 West View
 Tipton, Scott, (Teresa) 2320 East Carters Valley Rd., Gate City, VA 24251, (423) 967-6491 Willow Chapel
 VanHoose, David, (Pam) 1752 W. St. Route 350, Wilmington, OH 45177, (937) 218-2115 Macedonia
 VanHoose, Roger, (Penny) 1090 Jefferson Dr., Wilmington, OH 45177, (937) 728-3593 Clear Springs
 VanHoose, Samuel, (Vicki) 972 Union Rd., Xenia, OH 45385, (937) 673-6865 Rose Chapel
 Weems, Everette, 261 McCloud Church Rd., Rogersville, TN 37857, (423) 754-7727 Marion Robinette
 Willis, Harmon, 3200 Cameo Loop #6, White Pine, TN 37890, (865) 674-6971 Copper Creek (Addington Frame)
 Winstead, Justin, (Elizabeth) 149 Cedric Dr., Bean Station, TN 37708, (423) 277-6602 Kingswood

*These ministers have been recognized by their church as having a gift. Their church has given them the authority to exercise their gift. They are therefore liberated to preach but are not legally ordained ministers.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CHURCH CLERKS

Church and Clerk	Address	Phone
Blackwater Lick – Kelly Bledsoe.....	350 Deer Park Rd., Duffield, VA 24244,	(276) 639-9055
Blue Springs (Duffield, VA) - Doris Fee.....	327 Dry Creek Rd., Duffield, VA 24244,	(276) 546-3549
Blue Springs (Hiltons, VA) - Brenda B. Horton	7514 Bristol Hwy., Hiltons, VA 24258,	(276) 386-3535
Burke's Union - Ada McPherson	4650 Dry Creek Rd., Blackwater, VA 24221,	(276) 431-2756
Cadet - Vicky Jones.....	1716 Dawson Avenue West, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219,	(276) 219-5759
Caney Creek – Sheila Bledsoe	165 Fred Cox Ln., Mosheim, TN 37818,	(423) 552-8822
Chestnut Flats – Donette Carter.....	128 Spurgeon Ln., Blountville, TN 37617,	(276) 791-7535
Clear Springs - Penny VanHoose	1090 Jefferson Dr., Wilmington, OH 45177,	(937) 725-1189
Copper Creek (Addington Frame) - Flo Minton	439 Farmhouse Dr., Nickelsville, VA 24271,	(276) 479-2905
Davis Chapel - Janie Woodward.....	574 Windswept Rd., Jonesville, VA 24263,	(276) 346-1403
Edwin Holbrook Memorial - Teresa Sturgill.....	9624 Cumberland Rd., Pound, VA 24279,	(276) 796-2128
Fairview - Jennifer Robinette.....	8891 State Route 380, Wilmington, OH 45177,	(937) 416-8799
Flower Gap - Onza Fisher	2001 A. J. Osborne Hwy., Blackwater, VA 24221,	(276) 346-2292
Gardner's Memorial - Cathy R. Baker.....	5258 Boozy Creek Rd., Bristol, VA 24202,	(276) 591-3913
Irondale - Ann Phillips.....	1529 Irondale Rd., Big Stone Gap, VA 24219,	(276) 393-5149
Kingswood – Elizabeth Winstead.....	149 Cedric Dr., Bean Station, TN 37708,	(423) 231-7673
Little Cowan - Carol Caudill	735 Hwy. 2035, Whitesburg, KY 41858,	(606) 633-7268
Long Hollow - JoAnn Jones.....	P. O. Box 415, Surgoinsville, TN 37873,	(423) 345-2255
Low View - Barbara Bledsoe	138 Virginia Ave., Pennington Gap, VA 24277,	(276) 546-5004
Macedonia - Pam VanHoose	1752 W. St. Route 350, Wilmington, OH 45177,	(937) 728-7508
Marion Robinette Memorial – Shirley Lawson	240 Timber Ridge Rd., Rogersville, TN 37857,	(423) 921-9557
Mountain View - Paula N. Ayers.....	958 Dry Creek Rd., Duffield, VA 24244,	(276) 546-1470
Mt. Mitchell - Peggy Harrold	617 Pearl St., Church Hill, TN 37642,	(423) 357-4417
New Life - Phyllis Lampkin	2111 Thomas Dr., Morristown, TN 37814,	(423) 258-5361
Osborne's Chapel - Joyce Neeley	164 Neeley Dr., Blackwater, VA 24221,	(276) 346-3563
Poplar Grove – Priscilla Irvin	349 Rock Springs Valley Rd., Kingsport, TN 37664,	(423) 967-6226
Richardson Chapel – Dorlane Meade.....	P.O. Box 403, Hager Hill, KY 41222,	(606) 367-0434
Roller's Chapel - Kim Robinette	2516 Canton Rd., Blackwater, VA 24221,	(276) 431-4725
Rose Chapel - Sandra J. Johnson	360 Ethelrob Circle, Carlisle, OH 45005,	(937) 743-2017
Shelby Creek - Bonnie Wilson.....	4349 Stanley Valley Rd., Church Hill, TN 37642,	(423) 480-4215

Swan Creek - Danita Dodson5444 Tazewell Hwy., Sneedville, TN 37869, (423) 300-8593
Valley View – Judith M. Lawson 868 Chris Barney Rd., Dryden, VA 24243, (276) 298-4428
Wallen's Creek – Emily Williams 250 Pavaletta Ave., Gate City, VA 24251, (276) 594-6256
West View – Jennifer Horton 156 Hickman Orchard Rd., Kingsport, TN 37660, (423) 963-9811
Willis Chapel – Tina Fullington2498 Lawson Rd., Morristown, TN 37814, (423) 587-4221
Willow Chapel – Missy Sturgill..... 3312 Princeton Rd., Kingsport, TN 37660, (423) 782-8630

BRETHREN, WE HAVE MET AGAIN

By: Elder I. S. Robinette

Brethren, we have met again,
Let us join in prayer and sing,
Twelve months more around have rolled
Since we met this peaceful fold.

Brethren, tell me how you do;
Does your love continue true?
Are you waiting for your King:
When He shall return again?

Brethren, tell me of your love,
Are your hearts and mind above?
Do you love your blessed Lord
And pursue His Holy Word?

Since we met twelve months ago,
Some have left this world below;
Some have gone to join that band
In that happy heavenly land.

We are waiting at each breath
We may meet the monster death,
Let him come with Jesus near,
We will shout and never fear.

Oh, how sweet in union dear,
We have met in counsel here;
The Lord is here, our souls to bless,
And our faith and hope increase.

And when our work is done below,
Then to glory we shall go,
Meet our friends and brethren there,
Who once joined us here in prayer.

A LOOK INTO THE PAST

175 Years Ago – The Eastern District Association held its inaugural meeting at Blackwater Lick in 1848. Six churches lettered in, including Blackwater Lick, Blackwater, Cedar Fork, Hickory Flat, Zion, and Sulphur Springs. Elder Mark Hurst, according to appointment, delivered the introductory sermon from the 18th chapter of John and part of the 38th verse: “What is truth?” Elder Isaac Crisman was elected moderator, and Johns Hurst was elected clerk and treasurer.

125 Years Ago – Two associations formed, divided by the Virginia-Tennessee state line in 1898. The Eastern District included the churches in Virginia, and the Southwestern District included those in Tennessee. The two associations would reunite in 1906.

The Eastern District Association convened in its 46th annual session with Bloomer’s Chapel, Scott County, VA, September 29, 1898. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder John W. Dean from St. Matthew, 28th chapter and 20th verse, “Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen.” Elder E.S. McPherson was elected moderator and J.P. Pierson, clerk and treasurer.

The Southwestern District Association convened in its inaugural session with Hopewell Church, Hawkins County, Tenn., September 1, 1898. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Alfred Wallen from Romans, the 10th chapter and 4th verse. Elder John W. Dean was elected moderator and George W. Johnson, clerk and treasurer.

100 Years Ago – The Eastern District Association convened in its 71st annual session with Jenkins Chapel Church, Hawkins County, Tenn., October 4, 1923. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder C.M. Fuller from the 3rd verse of the 15th chapter of the Revelation: “Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.” The alternate, Elder E.A Robinette concluded the Introductory Sermon from the same text. Elder E.A. Robinette was elected moderator, Amos Osborne, clerk and treasurer, and Hampton Osborne, assistant clerk.

75 Years Ago – The Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists met in its 96th annual session with Ida Church, Scott County, Va., on September 30, 1948. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Joe Hickman, who began by reading the 16th Chapter of Saint Matthew, beginning with the 16th verse and reading through the remainder of the chapter. He used the 18th verse of the 16th Chapter for his text: “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” He was followed by Elder Frank Brown, his alternate, using the same thought. Elder T.R. Carter and Elder J.H. Sybert were elected moderators, and H.G. Busic was elected clerk and treasurer.

50 Years Ago – Beginning on October 4th, 1973, Liberty Chapel Church in Hawkins County, TN hosted the 120th annual session. Elder H.V. Hall had been chosen to preach the introductory sermon. He read verses 14 through 24 of the 12th chapter of Hebrews, using as his text the 24th verse, “And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” He was followed by Elder Glen Williams (alternate). How thankful we as a Christian people should be of the better things we find in the true church of the living God! Elder Basil Freeman was chosen to serve as moderator, and Burnice R. Sybert was chosen to serve as clerk and treasurer.

25 Years Ago – The 146th annual session of the Eastern District Association began on October 1, 1998 and was hosted by Blue Springs Church in Hiltons, VA. Having been chosen to preach the introductory sermon, Elder John Bowlin, pastor of the host church, read from II Kings 2:9-14 and used as his thought, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” Elder A.D. Howington, the alternate, followed with another wonderful message from the Lord. Elder Terry Sizemore was chosen moderator. Danny Lawson was chosen to serve as clerk and treasurer.

CHURCH DATA

NOTE: All regular morning services begin at 11:00 a.m., and all evening services begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. EDT is Eastern Daylight Time (March - November) and EST is Eastern Standard Time (November - March). Starting times for Sunday school are not included.

BLACKWATER LICK: Blackwater, VA. Delegates: Danny Lawson, Carl Osborne, Kelly Bledsoe, and Anita Moore; alternates, Kelvin Bledsoe and Melanie Deckard. Received by experience and baptism, 1; deceased, 1; total number on roll, 82; contribution, \$550.00; meeting day, 1st Saturday morning and every Sunday morning. Memorial service, First Saturday in May (11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.) and the following Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Daniel Hurd, moderator.

BLUE SPRINGS: Duffield, VA. Delegate: Daniel Hurd, Cathy Miles, and Doris Fee. Total number on roll, 18; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, 2nd Saturday night (7:00 p.m. EDT & 6:00 p.m. EST) and every Sunday morning (10:00 a.m.). Daniel Hurd, moderator.

BLUE SPRINGS: Hiltons, VA. Delegates: Gary Hall, Brenda Horton, Joe Horton, and Chris Salley. Deceased, 1; total number on roll, 23; contribution, \$75.00; meeting day, 4th Saturday night (6:00 p.m.) and 4th Sunday morning. Chris Salley, moderator.

BURKE'S UNION: Blackwater, VA. Delegates: Joe Robinette, Clifford Bledsoe, Dennis Duncan, Emmett Bledsoe; alternates, Delmer McPherson and Ada McPherson. Received by experience and baptism, 5; received by letter, 1; received by relationship, 1; dismissed by letter, 2; excluded, 4; total number on roll, 103; contribution, \$300.00; meeting day, 4th Saturday night (6:30 p.m.) and every Sunday morning. Memorial service, 4th Sunday in July (10:30 a.m.). David Parsons, moderator.

CADET: Big Stone Gap, VA. Delegates: Roy Jones and Vicky Jones. Excluded, 1; deceased, 2; total number on roll, 24; contribution, \$200.00; meeting day, 3rd Saturday night (6:00 p.m.) and following Sunday morning. Memorial service, Sunday (10:30 a.m.) following the 3rd Saturday in September. John Banks, moderator.

CANEY CREEK: Greeneville, TN. Delegates: Jimmy Bledsoe, Sheila Bledsoe, Wanda Malone, and Eddie Malone; alternates, Lloyd Morelock and Mary Morelock. Total number on roll, 92; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, Sunday (9:30 a.m.) following the 2nd Saturday (6:00 p.m.) and every Sunday morning (9:30 a.m.). Memorial service, 1st Sunday in June (9:30 a.m.). Eddie Malone, moderator.

CHESTNUT FLATS: Gate City, VA. Delegates: Kevin Cross, Christopher Gibson, Richard Carter, and Donnette Carter; alternates, Ralph Baker and Dan Cross. Deceased, 1; total number on roll, 42; contribution, \$75.00; meeting day, 3rd Saturday night and following Sunday morning. Kevin Cross, moderator.

CLEAR SPRINGS: Spring Valley, OH. Delegates: Dennis Stewart, Karen Stewart, Walker Bales, and Karlene Bales; alternate, Myra Andrews. Dismissed by letter, 1; excluded, 4; total number on roll, 126; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, 4th Sunday morning and every Sunday morning. Memorial service, 3rd Sunday in October (10:30 a.m.). Roger VanHoose, moderator.

COPPER CREEK (ADDINGTON FRAME): Nickelsville, VA. Delegates: Allen Addington, Anita Howell,, Danny Howell, and Mark Williams; alternates; Clifton Horne and Roger Manning. Deceased, 1; total number on roll, 72; contribution, \$300.00; meeting day, every Sunday morning. Memorial service, Sunday (10:30 a.m.) following the 3rd Saturday in October. Harmon Willis asked to attend. Harmon Willis, moderator.

DAVIS CHAPEL: Jonesville, VA. Delegates: Rita Asbury, Bobbie Terry, Butch Woodward, and Janie Woodward. Excluded, 1; total number on roll, 41; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, 2nd Saturday night and every Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.). Memorial service, Sunday (10:30 a.m.) following the 2nd Saturday in April. David Parsons, moderator.

EDWIN HOLBROOK MEMORIAL: Whitesburg, KY. Delegates: Roger Sturgill and Teresa Sturgill. Total number on roll, 9; contribution, \$50.00; meeting day, 1st Saturday night (6:00 p.m.) and Sunday morning, 3rd and 4th Sunday nights. Memorial service, 1st Sunday in May. John Banks, moderator.

FAIRVIEW: Bellbrook, OH. Delegates: Jennifer Robinette, Savanna Harkleroad, Staci Payne, and Shannon Payne; alternate: Jake Fairchild. Received by experience and baptism, 3; received by letter, 1; total number on roll, 169; contribution, \$400.00; meeting day, 3rd Saturday night and every Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.). Memorial service, Sunday (10:00 a.m.) following the 3rd Saturday in May. Joseph Robinette, moderator.

FLOWER GAP: Blackwater, VA. Delegate: Homer Osborne, Roy Thomas, Doug Willis, and Hunter Hensley; alternates, Onza Fisher and Helen Willis. Deceased, 2; total number on roll, 68; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, every Sunday morning. Memorial service, Sunday (10:30 a.m.) following the 4th Saturday in May. Hunter Hensley, moderator.

GARDNER'S MEMORIAL: Bristol, VA. Delegates: Cathy Baker, Gary Baker, Hiram Gardner, and Gail Gardner. Deceased, 1; total number on roll, 101; contribution, \$50.00;

meeting day, Sunday following the 2nd Saturday. Memorial service, 2nd Saturday (6:00 p.m.) footwashing and following Sunday morning. Tommy Osborne, moderator.

IRONDALE: Big Stone Gap, VA. Delegates: Frankie Phillips and Ann Phillips. Total number on roll, 26; contribution, \$20.00; meeting day, none. Frankie Phillips, moderator pro-tem.

KINGSWOOD: Morristown, TN. Delegates: Bud Dukes, Justin Winstead, Elizabeth Winstead, and Wanda Carroll. Received by letter, 1; received by relationship, 2; deceased, 1; total number on roll, 67; contribution, \$75.00; meeting day, Sunday night (6:00 p.m.) following the 3rd Saturday and every Sunday morning. Memorial service and Homecoming, Sunday (10:30 a.m.) following the 3rd Saturday in September. Justin Winstead, moderator.

LITTLE COWAN: Whitesburg, KY. Delegates: Bobby Caudill, John Banks, Barbara Banks, and Carol Caudill. Received by experience and baptism, 1; deceased, 2; total number on roll, 56; contribution, \$200.00; meeting day, 2nd Saturday night (6:00 p.m.) and every Sunday morning. Memorial service, 4th Sunday in May. John Banks, moderator.

LONG HOLLOW: Surgoinsville, TN. Delegates: Kenneth Charles and Linda Charles; alternates: James Manis and Lisa Manis. Dismissed by letter, 4; Deceased, 4; total number on roll, 168; contribution, \$125.00; meeting day, 3rd Saturday night, every Sunday morning (10:00 a.m.) and 2nd and 4th Sunday nights (6:00 p.m.). Bible study, Wednesday nights (6:00 p.m.). Memorial service, Sunday, May 19, 2024 (10:30 a.m.). Ralph Lindsey, moderator pro-tem.

LOW VIEW: Pennington Gap, VA. Delegates: Carter Hagar, Roy Bledsoe, Elsie Burton, and Barbara Bledsoe. Received by letter, 2; total number on roll, 17; contribution, \$25.00; meeting day, 1st Sunday morning (10:00 a.m.). Carter Hagar, moderator.

MACEDONIA: Wilmington, OH. Delegates: Marvin Moeller and Marlene Moeller. Received by experience and baptism, 3; excluded, 1; deceased, 1; total number on roll, 173; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, Sunday following the 2nd Saturday and every Sunday (10:00 a.m.). Memorial service, 3rd Sunday (10:00 a.m.) in April. David VanHoose, moderator.

MARION ROBINETTE MEMORIAL: Rogersville, TN. Delegates: Ralph Lawson, Shirley Lawson, Curtis Hale, and Kendra Hale; alternates: Judy Ferrelle and Frankie Manes. Deceased, 1; total number on roll, 34; contribution, \$500.00; meeting day, every Sunday morning (10:45 a.m.). Memorial service, Sunday morning (10:45 a.m.) following the 1st Saturday in May with Communion and foot washing following lunch. Curtis Hale, moderator.

MOUNTAIN VIEW: Stickleyville, VA. Delegates: Bradley Bowen and Juanita Bowen. Deceased 3; total number on roll, 10; contribution, \$125.00; meeting day, none. John Banks, moderator.

MT. MITCHELL: Mt. Carmel, TN. Delegates: Gary Hall, Peggy Harrold, and Juanita Williams. Received by relationship, 1; deceased, 1; total number on roll, 66; contribution, \$200.00; meeting day, Sunday following the 3rd Saturday and every Sunday morning. Memorial service, 1st Sunday in June. Gary Hall, moderator.

NEW LIFE: Whitesburg, TN. Delegates: Faye Johnson, Jerry Johnson, Abraham Lane, and Emma Merrifield; alternates: Phyllis Lampkin and Wiley Lampkin. Received by experience and baptism, 1; excluded, 57; deceased, 1; total number on roll, 32; contribution, \$50.00; meeting day, 2nd Sunday night (6:00 p.m.), every Sunday morning, Sunday night (6:00 p.m.), and Wednesday night (7:00 p.m.). Jerry Johnson, moderator.

OSBORNE'S CHAPEL: Blackwater, VA. Delegates: Larry Fannon, Carolyn Fannon, Carla Osborne, and Null Lawson; alternates: Denver Osborne and Keith Holt. Received by experience and baptism, 2; deceased, 3; total number on roll, 102; contribution, \$125.00; meeting day, every Sunday morning. Memorial service, 2nd Sunday morning in May. Keith Holt, moderator.

POPLAR GROVE: Kingsport, TN. Delegates: Steve Hunt, RB Louthian, Larry Holden, and Terry Ketron; alternate: Delores Hunt. Received by experience and baptism, 7; deceased, 2; total number on roll, 73; contribution, \$200.00; meeting day, Sunday morning following the 1st Saturday, every Sunday morning, and every Sunday night (6:00 p.m.). Memorial service, Sunday before Memorial Day (10:30 a.m.). Oscar Irvin, moderator.

RICHARDSON CHAPEL: Louisa, KY. Delegates: Tommy Meade, Dorlane Meade, Margaret Whitt, and Rosemary Borders. Received by experience and baptism, 1; deceased, 1; total number on roll, 169; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, 1st Saturday night and every Sunday morning, Sunday night (6:00 p.m.) and Wednesday (7:00 p.m.). Memorial service, Memorial Day (11:00 a.m.). Tommy Meade, moderator.

ROLLER'S CHAPEL: Duffield, VA. Delegates: Wilma Bledsoe, Aubra Hill, Kathy Qualls, and Kim Robinette; alternates: Jerelene Persinger and Betty Stokes. Received by experience and baptism, 1; total number on roll, 40; contribution, \$200.00; meeting day, 1st Saturday night (6:30 p.m. EST) and every Sunday morning. Robert Brown, moderator.

ROSE CHAPEL: West Carrollton, OH. Delegates: none. Deceased, 2; total number on roll, 114; contribution, \$200.00; meeting day, 1st Sunday and every Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.). Memorial service, Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.) following the 3rd Saturday in October. Samuel VanHoose, moderator.

SHELBY CREEK: Eidson, TN. Delegates: none. Total number on roll, 4; contribution, \$50.00; meeting day, 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday night (6:30 p.m.), 2nd and 3rd Saturday night (6:30 p.m.), 3rd Saturday night business (6:30 p.m.). Wally Berry, moderator.

SWAN CREEK: Sneedville, TN. Delegates: Doyle Odell, Earl Lee Dodson, Rodney Dodson, and Corey King; alternates: Johnny Bunch and Danita Dodson. Received by experience and baptism, 1; deceased, 2; total number on roll, 285; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, 1st Saturday night and every Sunday morning. Memorial service, 3rd Sunday in June (10:30 a.m.). Terry Sizemore, moderator.

VALLEY VIEW: Dryden, VA. Delegates: Anna Duncan, Sandra Leonard, and Judith Lawson; alternates: Barbara Taylor and Curtis Pennington. Received by experience and baptism, 1; excluded, 38; deceased, 2; total number on roll, 20; contribution, \$100.00; meeting day, every Sunday morning (10:00 a.m.) and Wednesday night (7:00 p.m.). Memorial service, 2nd Sunday in October (10:00 a.m.). Chris Salley, moderator.

WALLEN'S CREEK: Duffield, VA. Delegates: none. Total number on roll, 47; contribution, \$150.00; meeting day, every Sunday morning (10:00 a.m.). Memorial service, Sunday following the 1st Saturday in May (10:30 a.m.). Brandon Williams, moderator pro-tem.

WEST VIEW: Kingsport, TN. Delegates: Charles Bernard, Leah Bernard, Robert Brown, and David Horton; alternates: Charlotte Horton and Jennifer Horton. Deceased, 3; total number on roll, 31; contribution, \$350.00; meeting day, 2nd Saturday night (6:00 p.m.) and every Sunday morning and Sunday night (6:00 p.m.). Memorial service, Sunday following the 2nd Saturday in April (10:30 a.m.). Burnice Sybert, moderator.

WILLIS CHAPEL: Kyles Ford, TN. Delegate: Mike Fullington. Deceased, 1; total number on roll, 78; contribution, \$75.00; meeting day, 2nd Saturday night and following Sunday morning. Memorial service, Sunday morning following the 2nd Saturday in September. Mike Fullington, moderator.

WILLOW CHAPEL: Kingsport, TN. Delegates: Janice Jones, Teresa Tipton, Pat Lane, and David Gillenwater; alternates: Tyler Stapleton and Anita Gillenwater. Received by experience and baptism, 7; total number on roll, 91; contribution, \$500.00; meeting day, every Sunday morning, Sunday night (6:30 p.m.), 3rd Wednesday night (6:30 p.m.) business, other Wednesday nights (6:30 p.m.) Bible study. Memorial service, Sunday following the 3rd Saturday in September (10:30 a.m.). Scott Tipton, moderator.

TOTALS: 36 churches (17 in VA., 12 in TN., 3 in KY., and 4 in OH.) Received by experience and baptism, 34; received by letter, 4; received by relationship, 5; dismissed by letter, 7; excluded, 106; deceased, 39; total number on roll, 2,673.

UNION MEETINGS - 2024

(NOTE: All Union Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise shown.)

- APRIL -

1 - ROSE CHAPEL: To begin on Thursday night (7:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday) before the 1st Saturday (6:00 p.m.) and following Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Curtis Hale, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, and Scott Tipton.

2 - VALLEY VIEW: To begin on Friday night before the 1st Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Wally Berry, Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Curtis Hale, Gary Hall, Roger Manring, David Parsons, Chris Salley, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, and Harmon Willis.

3 - DAVIS CHAPEL: To begin on Thursday night before the 2nd Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Curtis Hale, Gary Hall, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, Roger Manring, Jason Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, and Scott Tipton.

4 - WEST VIEW: To begin on Thursday night before the 2nd Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Oscar Irvin, Wiley Lampkin, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Tyler Stapleton, and Scott Tipton.

5 - CADET: To begin on Thursday night before the 3rd Saturday and Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Charles Bernard, Curtis Hale, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, and Scott Tipton.

6 - CLEAR SPRINGS: To begin on Thursday night before the 4th Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Kevin Cross, Curtis Hale, Gary Hall, Oscar Irvin, Tommy Meade, David Parsons, Terry Sizemore, Tyler Stapleton, Burnice Sybert, and Scott Tipton.

- MAY -

1 -SWAN CREEK: To begin on Thursday night (7:00 p.m.) before the 1st Saturday, Friday night (7:00 p.m.), Saturday morning (10:30 a.m.), and Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Mike Fullington, Frank Gilliam, Carter Hagar, Curtis Hale, Keith Holt, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, Harmon Willis, and Justin Winstead.

2 -MARION ROBINETTE MEMORIAL: To begin on Friday night before the 1st Saturday and Sunday morning (10:45 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Mike Fullington, Hunter Hensley, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, and Harmon Willis.

3 -COPPER CREEK (ADDINGTON FRAME): To begin on Friday night before the 2nd Saturday and Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Curtis Hale, Hunter Hensley, Oscar Irvin, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, David VanHoose, Sammy VanHoose, and Harmon Willis.

4 -OSBORNE'S CHAPEL: To begin on Thursday night before the 2nd Saturday and Sunday night. Ministers asked to attend: Kevin Cross, Jim Emery, Curtis Hale, Hunter Hensley, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, Roger Manring, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Burnice Sybert, and Harmon Willis.

5 -WALLEN'S CREEK: To begin on Thursday night before the 3rd Saturday; Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Wally Berry, Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Curtis Hale, Hunter Hensley, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Tyler Stapleton, Burnice Sybert, and all others who wish to attend.

6 -LOW VIEW: To begin on Friday night (6:30 p.m. nightly) before the 4th Saturday; Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Mike Fullington, Carter Hagar, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, and Terry Sizemore.

- JUNE -

1 -RICHARDSON CHAPEL: To begin on Thursday night before the 1st Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: Oscar Irvin, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Scott Tipton, Roger VanHoose, and Sammy VanHoose.

2 - NEW LIFE: To begin on Friday night before the 1st Saturday; Sunday morning (11:00 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Gary Hall, Oscar Irvin, Eddie Malone, Terry Sizemore, Tyler Stapleton, and Burnice Sybert.

3 - CANEY CREEK: To begin on Wednesday night before the 2nd Saturday; Sunday (10:00 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Carter Hagar, Gary Hall, Oscar Irvin, Tim Jarrett, Jerry Johnson, Wiley Lampkin, David Parsons, Chris Salley, Terry Sizemore, and Harmon Willis.

4 - BLUE SPRINGS (Duffield, VA.): To begin on Thursday night before the 2nd Saturday; Sunday (10:00 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Wally Berry, Robert Brown, Carter Hagar, Curtis Hale, Oscar Irvin, Tim Jarrett, Roger Manring, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Terry Sizemore, and Burnice Sybert.

5 - LONG HOLLOW: To begin on Thursday night before the 3rd Saturday; Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Wally Berry, Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Frank Gilliam, Carter Hagar, Curtis Hale, Gary Hall, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, Tim Jarrett, Jerry Johnson, David Parsons, Chris Salley, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, and Harmon Willis.

6 - BLUE SPRINGS (Hiltons, VA): To begin on Friday night (7:00 p.m.) before the 4th Saturday (6:00 p.m.); Sunday (11:00 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Wally Berry, Robert Brown, Kevin Cross, Jim Emery, Frank Gilliam, Carter Hagar, Roger Manring, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, and Harmon Willis.

- JULY -

1 - FAIRVIEW: To begin on Thursday night before the 2nd Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: Oscar Irvin, Jason Robinette, Terry Sizemore, David Stapleton, Tyler Stapleton, Roger VanHoose, and Sam VanHoose.

2 - SHELBY CREEK: To begin on Friday night before the 3rd Saturday (6:30 p.m. nightly); Sunday night (6:30 p.m.). Ministers asked to attend: All ministers are welcome.

3 - BURKE'S UNION: To begin on Thursday night before the 4th Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: Wally Berry, Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Carter Hagar, Curtis Hale, Oscar Irvin, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Terry Sizemore, David Stapleton, Tyler Stapleton, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, and Harmon Willis.

- AUGUST -

1 -BLACKWATER LICK: To begin on Friday night (6:00 p.m.) before the 1st Saturday (10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.); Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Robert Brown, Jim Emery, Curtis Hale, Keith Holt, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, and Harmon Willis.

2 -POPLAR GROVE: To begin on Friday night before the 1st Saturday; Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Curtis Hale, Jason Robinette, Chris Salley, Terry Sizemore, Tyler Stapleton, Burnice Sybert, and Scott Tipton.

3 -WILLIS CHAPEL: To begin on Thursday night before the 2nd Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, Terry Sizemore, and Burnice Sybert.

4 -GARDNER'S MEMORIAL: To begin on the 2nd Saturday (6:00 p.m.; foot washing); Sunday (11:00 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Oscar Irvin, Chris Salley, Burnice Sybert, and all others are welcome.

5 -MT. MITCHELL: To begin on Friday night before the 3rd Saturday; Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Charles Bernard, Robert Brown, Kevin Cross, Jim Emery, Frank Gilliam, Carter Hagar, Curtis Hale, Roger Manring, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Chris Salley, and Harmon Willis.

6 -IRONDALE: To begin on the 3rd Saturday night (6:30 p.m.). Ministers asked to attend: All who wish to attend.

7 -MACEDONIA: To begin on Friday night before the 4th Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Curtis Hale, Oscar Irvin, Wiley Lampkin, and Scott Tipton.

- SEPTEMBER -

1 - ROLLER'S CHAPEL: To begin on Thursday night before the 1st Saturday; Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Kevin Cross, Mike Fullington, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, and Harmon Willis.

2 - EDWIN HOLBROOK MEMORIAL: To begin on Friday night before the 1st Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: Wally Berry, Robert Brown, Frank Gilliam, Carter Hagar, Gary Hall, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, Roger Manring, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Chris Salley, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, and Harmon Willis.

3 - LITTLE COWAN: To begin on Thursday night before the 2nd Saturday, Sunday (11:00 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Carter Hagar, Keith Holt, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, Roger Manring, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Terry Sizemore, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, and Harmon Willis.

4 - KINGSWOOD: To begin on Thursday night before the 3rd Saturday; Homecoming, Sunday (10:30 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Mike Fullington, Carter Hagar, Keith Holt, Oscar Irvin, Eddie Malone, David Parsons, Chris Salley, Terry Sizemore, and Harmon Willis.

5 - CHESTNUT FLATS: To begin on Friday night before the 3rd Saturday; Sunday (11:00 a.m.). Ministers asked to attend: Charles Bernard, Robert Brown, Mike Fullington, Frank Gilliam, Curtis Hale, Gary Hall, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Chris Salley, Terry Sizemore, and Burnice Sybert.

6 - WILLOW CHAPEL: To begin on Wednesday night before the 3rd Saturday (6:30 p.m. nightly). Ministers asked to attend: Robert Brown, Curtis Hale, Gary Hall, Hunter Hensley, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Jason Robinette, Joseph Robinette, Chris Salley, Terry Sizemore, Tyler Stapleton, Burnice Sybert, Roger VanHoose, Sammy VanHoose, Harmon Willis.

7 - FLOWER GAP: To begin on Thursday night before the 4th Saturday. Ministers asked to attend: John Banks, Jim Emery, Mike Fullington, Curtis Hale, Gary Hall, Keith Holt, Daniel Hurd, Oscar Irvin, David Parsons, Chris Salley, Burnice Sybert, Scott Tipton, and Harmon Willis.

DIRECTIONS TO BURKE'S UNION

4472 Canton Rd.
Blackwater, VA 24221

Coming from Kingsport or Big Stone Gap on Route 23, turn at the Duffield intersection onto Route 58. Follow Route 58 for 0.8 miles, turn left onto Route 604. Follow Route 604 for the next 2.6 miles to Pattonsville, where Route 604 turns to the left. After 1 mile, the road forks, turn left onto Route 603. Follow Route 603 for 4.3 miles to the church.

If coming in from the Rogersville area (Route 11W), turn North onto Route 70 and follow it to Blackwater. After 5.2 miles, Route 70 and Route 94 split. Remain on Route 70 for another 16.7 miles until you get to route 604. Turn right and go approximately 1.7 miles where Route 604 goes to the left and Route 603 continues straight ahead. Follow Route 603 for 7 miles to the church.

When coming in from the Jonesville area, turn south onto Route 70 and follow it for about 12 miles to Route 604. Turn left and go approximately 1.7 miles where Route 604 goes to the left and Route 603 continues straight ahead. Follow Route 603 for 7 miles to the church.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 2022	\$ 12,220.72
Receipts from 2023	6,070.00
Difference in minutes cost	311.76
Special offering	1,560.00
Interest (September 2021 thru August 2022)	23.30
TOTAL	\$ 20,185.78

DISBURSEMENTS:

Rental of safety deposit box	\$ 75.00
Insurance premium (Kitchen, Liability, and Trailer)	1,727.00
Charter registration fee	20.00
Postage	58.15
Video and PA Equipment	916.00
Gift to Moderator	1,000.00
Gift to Clerk	2,000.00
New doors for the cook house	1,340.00
Printing and packaging 1,200 copies of 2023 minutes	2,712.47
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 9,848.62

BALANCE IN TREASURY	\$ 10,337.16
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Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists Trustees

Last Updated 2022

Kentucky

Robert Sword	606-633-0343
Roger Sturgill	276-796-5234
John Banks	865-805-6045

Ohio

Joe Pitzer	937-266-7495
Dennis Stewart	937-728-1055
Mark Newkirk	937-475-1807

Virginia

Roy Jones	276-219-9671
Joe Horton	276-386-3535
Ralph Baker	423-323-8756

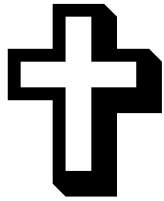
Tennessee

Earl Dodson	423-733-8211
Billy Walton	423-349-6243
Steve Hunt	423-349-6264

Guidelines for Obituaries Printed in Association Minutes

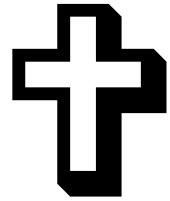
Everyone should adhere to the guidelines that have been used over the years for entering an obituary into the association minutes. Obituaries should be approved through the church before sending them to the clerk of the association. If at all possible, please send the obituary to the clerk before August 1st or as soon as possible.

The Obituary Committee reported that while reviewing the obituaries, many appeared to be very long. In trying to help conserve space in our minutes, the committee recommended that we limit each obituary to 10 to 14 typed lines. After some discussion, it was motioned, seconded and voted that every obituary be presented to and reviewed by their respective church. At this time, the church would send them on to the association clerk throughout the year until the final deadline, which is when the church approves their church letter. Each church should follow the guidelines noted above when reviewing the obituaries. It is still requested that these be sent to the association clerk as soon as possible to help in the preparation of the minutes. As recommended in years past, it is a good idea that while you are preparing your thank you notes, that you prepare the obituary and send or give it to your church clerk for review by your church. Please don't hesitate to check with the association clerk to make sure it has been received.

MEMORIAM

“PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD
IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS.”

– Psalm 116:15 –



We pause at this time to pay special tribute to our beloved people who have passed from among us since we last met.

“A person or loved one to us loaned;
Was ever by the Father owned;
Allotted time they’re ours to keep;
When God reclaims we’ll trust, not weep.”

Deep within our hearts will remain the sainted memory these our brothers and sisters in Christ. Their names shall be engraved on the pages of our BOOK OF MEMORIES – We honor them. This association at large mourns their passing.

*BAKER, Lewis Arnold	BELL, Grady Jr.
BOWLIN, James E. "Jim"	BROOKS, Denise Moore
BROWN, Randall "Randy" Dale	DOWELL, Nellie Grace
FERRELL, Clifton Rhea	HELVEY, Margaret Sue Denton
FISHER, Ella Voneneva	HELMICK, Edgar Nelson III
MINTON, Steve	NEAL, Lois Brice
NEELEY, Cora L	SCOTT, Virginia Rose "Sissy" Parvin
SEAL, Argel Lee	SIMMONS, Debbie L.
SMITH, Charlene Baker	STEPP, Louella Laney
STEVENS, Leanoria F.	STIPE, Helen Magdalene
STURGILL, Randle Carson	SULLIVAN, Paul Fred
SULLIVAN, Ronald Eugene (Gene)	TURNER, Jessie
TURNER, Maude	WELLS, David Lee
WHEELER, Clara Launa	

*Ministers

ELDER LEWIS ARNOLD BAKER, 82, of Kingsport, TN went to be with the Lord Monday, March 6, 2023. Lewis was born July 20, 1940, in Blountville, TN to the late Jake Baker and Roena Booher Baker. Other than his parents, Lewis was also preceded in death by his wife, Rosa Baker and his sister, Eunice Baker. He served as Pastor of Chestnut Flats Primitive Baptist Church for 40 years.

Those left to cherish Lewis' memory are his daughter, Cassandra Kerney (Eric); granddaughters, Ariana Kerney and Angelina Kerney; brother, Ralph Baker (Kay); sisters, Ada Baker, Virgie Ann Cross (Dan) and Minola Price (Phil); several nieces and nephews also survive.

-Written by his daughter, Cassandra Kerney

GRADY BELL, JR., 80, went to be with the Lord Wednesday, February 22, 2023. He was born November 12, 1942, in Altoona, AL to the late Grady and Pearl Goble Bell, Sr. Grady was a loving and devoted son, husband, father and brother who made family his main priority. He was a small business owner for many years and retired from Eastman Chemical Company following twenty-eight years of service. Grady was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army having served during the Vietnam War and was a member of the Masons. He was a member at West View Primitive Baptist Church and Arcadia Presbyterian Church where he enjoyed participating in mission trips.

In addition to his parents, Grady was preceded in death by his loving wife of twenty-six years, Wanda Collier Bell; siblings, James Bell, Geneva Nix, Gail McGlaughn and Eddie Bell.

Those left to cherish Grady's memory are his son, Grady Lynn Bell and wife, Noelle; sister, Rebecca Jenkins; eighteen nieces and nephews; many great friends.

-Written by the family

JAMES E. "JIM" BOWLIN, 87, passed away at Holston Valley Medical Center on May 28th, 2023, following a period of declining health. Jim was born on May 24th, 1936, to the late Claude and Mary Bowlin of Hiltons, VA. He was preceded in death by siblings, Jean Wilson, Bill Bowlin, and Elder John Bowlin.

He is survived by sisters, Sue Johnson, Brenda (Joe) Horton, brother, Kenneth Bowlin (Melinda), and sister-in-law, Brenda Bowlin.

Jim was a member at Blue Springs Primitive Baptist Church and was the song leader, deacon, and trustee of the church. He also sang tenor in the Bowlin Family

Singers for over 59 years, singing in numerous churches throughout the area and countless funeral services.

We miss his presence, but we know he is at rest. We will meet Jim in the Land of Perfect Day.

-Written by his sister, Brenda Horton

DENISE MOORE BROOKS, 59, of Morristown, TN, passed from this life into her eternal home on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. She was a faithful member of Kingswood Primitive Baptist Church where she served as the clerk for more than 25 years.

Denise was preceded in death by her husband of 25 years, Deacon Ronnie Brooks and her father, Willard Moore. She is survived by her son, Joey Brooks; sister, Teresa Moore Stepp; and mother, Gerri Ridley Moore.

Though much could be said about Denise's infectious smile and humble heart concerning leaving this world of time, suffice it to say we are thankful for the promise of another meeting beyond the clouds.

-Written by Elder Terry Sizemore

RANDALL "RANDY" DALE BROWN, 69, passed away Saturday, November 12, 2022. He was a faithful member of Little Cowan Primitive Baptist Church and a great neighbor to those in the community.

Randall was preceded in death by his parents, Myrel and Virginia Gibson Brown, and brother, Steven C. Brown.

He is survived by his wife, Eula Boggs Brown; sons, Kevin and Jason; grandsons, Cody, Corey, Cameron, and Eli; great-grandchildren, Jackson and Emmy; and brother, Joe Brown.

Randy loved his family and friends and believed he had a better place to go. We look forward to spending eternity with him.

-Written by the family

NELLIE GRACE DOWELL, of Blountville, TN, died May 30, 2023, in Bristol, Tennessee. She was the daughter of Hugh and Geneva Smith.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband, Billy Dowell; sons, Jeff Dowell, and Billy Dowell; sister, Margie Baker; and brother, Ralph Smith.

Grace is survived by her son, Bobby Dowell; daughter, Connie Penley (Mike); grandsons, Tyler Penley and William Dowell; daughter-in-law, Norma Dowell; brother, Frank Smith, and several nieces and nephews

Grace was a 1955 graduate of Hilton High School. She was saved at an early age and attended church regularly. She was a member of Gardener's Memorial Church.

-Written by the family

CLIFTON RHEA FERRELL, 50, left his earthly home on April 26, 2023 after a brief illness. He was born to Virgil and Judy Ferrell on October 30, 1972. Clifton attended Marion Robinette Memorial Church before moving with his family to Myrtle Beach, SC.

He was preceded in death by his father, Virgil Lee Ferrell, grandparents, Orbin and Naomi Ferrell, Hillary and Beulah Robinette.

He is survived by his mother, Judy Robinette Ferrell; brother, Bradford Ferrell; brother, Travis Ferrell and Andy Guthrie; nieces, Brittany Ferrell, MacKenzie Ferrell.

-Written by his mother, Judy Robinette Ferrell

MARGARET SUE DENTON HELVEY, age 85, of Blountville, Tennessee was born on November 8, 1937 and passed away on February 24, 2023. She was a member of Miller's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church and attended Poplar Grove Primitive Baptist Church. Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, Georgia and W.C. (Shorty) Denton, her husband, Tommy Helvey and son, Benjy Helvey.

She is survived by her sons: Derek Helvey (Ruth Anne), Brent Helvey (Angie) and daughter: Dinah Porter (Brandon). Grandchildren: Megan Miller (Justin), Zach Helvey (Katie), Delaney, Cassidy, Sadie, Silas, and Josiah Porter, Jacob, Brianna and Heartlie Helvey and four great-grandchildren.

-Written by the family

ELLA VONENEVA FISHER, 78, of Blackwater, VA, passed away Monday December 5, 2022 at her home. She was a member of Blackwater Lick Church.

-Written by church family

EDGAR NELSON HELMICK III, age 62, of Sneedville, passed away on March 9, 2023. He was a member at Swan Creek Church. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Edgar Sr. and Blanche Helmick and Reuben and Eliza Collins; parents, Ed and Bobbie Helmick; brothers, Ricky and Robert Helmick; sisters, Linda, Margaret, and Janice; nephews, Travis and Joey Helmick, and several aunts, uncles & cousins.

His survivors include his wife, Mary Helmick; sister, Becky Graham; nephews, Johnny (Annie) Bunch, Jerry (Angie) Johnson, Jack (Carie) Johnson, Rick Helmick, Jacob Baker, and Alex Graham; nieces, June (John) Gose, Sherri Crosby, and Amy Adams; and special friends, Pheadra and Blaine Barker.

-Written by the family

STEVE MINTON, 77, passed from his earthly life to his heavenly home on May 23, 2023. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and retired from Eastman Chemical Company with over 30 years of service. He was a faithful member, deacon, and song leader at Copper Creek (Addington Frame) Church for many years. He was parents and several brothers and sisters.

Surviving and left to mourn his passing are his loving wife of 57 years, Flo Stapleton Minton; daughters, Gina Minton and Lisa Dean, granddaughters, Taylor Lankford, Sophie and Gracie Dean; five sisters, three brothers; and his loving church family.

Steve enjoyed a simple life of church, family, helping neighbors, fishing, gardening, and sharing his harvests. He was a loving husband, dad, and papaw who was loved by all his family and friends. He is missed by so many, but we share the promise of meeting again someday where we will never have to part again. Until then, our precious one will bask in the presence and joys of the Lord and await our coming.

-Written by the family

LOIS BRICE NEAL, age 82, passed away on November 9, 2022. She was formerly employed with TRW, where she was affectionately known as "Granny". She had a love for quilting and was a member of The Happy Hearts Quilt Guild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hubert F. Neal; parents, John and Maude Geneva Brice; sister, Erma Lee Fields; brothers, Albert Brice, Haynes Brice, Burle "Tince" Brice.

She is survived by her daughter, Connie Johnson and husband, George; sons, Hubert "Hoopie" Neal and wife, Kimberly, Keith Neal; sister, Shirley Rakestraw; brother, John L. Brice; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

-Written by the family

CORA L NEELEY, 88 of Kingsport TN, departed this life on October 5, 2023 at the Wexford House Nursing Home where she had been a resident for the last 7 years. She was born in Blackwater, Va on May 21, 1935 to the late Gale Roger and Lenna Giles Bowen. Her husband Edgar Neeley, her 11 siblings, a great grand-daughter, and her son Rickey preceded her in death.

She is survived by her daughter, Brenda Kay Neely; granddaughter, Dezarhea Hebert (Donovan); great-grandchildren, Bailey Rhea and Erik Gunnar Hebert; daughter-in-law, Sue Neeley; and a host of friends and her church family, whom she loved.

Cora L was saved at an early age and joined Rollers Chapel Church. She served as clerk for many years. She, along with her mother and sister, formed the "Bowen Trio". They were well known in the area and were a blessing to many people. After her mother's death, Cora L continued singing. She was blessed with a beautiful alto voice and also had a wonderful lead voice. Cora L blessed her church with her singing. She sang at many funeral services and almost every year she would be called upon to sing at our "association meetings".

Although sister Cora L battled dementia for the last few years of her life, it did not keep her from remembering the songs of Zion and she would bless all who would visit her in the nursing home with her singing. She was a dedicated church member as long as she was able to attend. Even laying her in bed for the last seven years, she would fondly talk of Rollers Chapel and would always want to know about our services. Rest on sister Cora L until we meet in that sweet land that you have sung about for so many years.

-Written by the church clerk, Kim Robinette

VIRGINIA ROSE "SISSY" PARVIN SCOTT, age 64, of Rogersville, passed away on November 4, 2022 at UT Medical Center in Knoxville, TN after an extended illness. She had worked as a waitress. She loved children, and they were drawn to her. She enjoyed taking care of her relative's children before she had any of her own.

She was a member at Long Hollow Church. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

-Written by the family

ARGEL LEE SEAL, 83, of Sneedville, TN, went home to be with the Lord on May 26th, 2023. She was a member of Swan Creek Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harrison and Hazel Brewer; step-mother, Orea Brewer; son, Rick Brewer; brothers, Ronnie and Charles Brewer; and her husband, George Seal.

Argel is survived by her children, Joyce (Jack) Collins, Terry (Crystal) Cope, Tammy and the late (Kevin Suggs); grandkids, Wesley, Holly, Jordan, Keesha, Johnathan, Josh, Terra, Raegan, Braeden, and Isaiah; great-grandchildren, Jutson, Haddie, Bella, Cayden, Addison, Oceania, Havien, and Lila Rose; sisters, Pauline King and Maedean (Ralph) Sutton; several nieces, nephews, and a host of friends. She is gone but never forgotten and will be missed dearly until we meet again.

-Written by the family

DEBBIE L. SIMMONS, age 67, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on January 22, 2023, at the Wilmington Nursing and Rehabilitation center. She was born April 17, 1955, in El Paso, Texas, the daughter of the late Marvin and Dorothy (Davidson) Carter. Debbie was a member of the Macedonia Church, was the former owner of Sisters Craft Shack in Wilmington, and had owned the Dart Dairy Bar in Blanchester. She was a huge Elvis fan and enjoyed crafting. Most of all, she loved her family and being with family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Clem Simmons; children, Bryan Simmons, Kimberly Ann Robinson, Sopinda Lavecchia, and Dr. Siriporn Bulls-Fernandez; grandchildren, Brad, Selena, Porter, Bay, Christopher, and Alicia; sister, Judy and her husband Kenny Taylor; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; many friends, including Pam and Danny Pogue, Mark Daniels, and Linda Hoggett. In addition to her parents, Debbie is preceded in death by her brother Bill Carter and her son's fiancé Misty Blackburn.

-Written by the family

CHARLENE BAKER SMITH, 81, of Bristol, Va., went to be with the Lord peacefully on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Oakmont at Gordan Park, after a lengthy illness. She was born on April 30, 1941, in Bristol, Va., a daughter of the late Charlie and Rosa Whitaker Baker. She was one of nine children. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Claude W. Smith; and siblings, Juanita Baker, Johnny Baker, Hanford Baker, Norman Baker, Lawrence Baker, and Ruby Baker.

Charlene married the late Claude W. Smith and enjoyed 53 years together. She enjoyed her traveling with her husband as an accomplished marksman. She also enjoyed her traveling to Europe, England, Vancouver, and other places with her son, Greg and daughter-in-law, Cherry.

Charlene was a member of West View Church. She loved to go to church and be with her church family.

She is survived and loved by her son, Greg Smith and wife, Cherry; sister, Mary Baker; brother, Tom Baker and wife, Linda; several nieces and nephews; a host of friends; and a loving god-child she helped raise and love, Parker Maggard.

“And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:8

-Written by the family

LOUELLA LANEY STEPP, 59, of Louisa, KY passed away July 25, 2023 following a long illness. LouElla was born on Feb. 6, 1964 to the late Milton and Bessie Laney. Besides her parents, she is preceded in death by her brothers, David Preston, Melvin Preston, and Michael Laney; and sisters, Junenell May and Janie Marcum. She was a member of Richardson Chapel Church.

LouElla is survived by her husband, James Stepp; sons, James Boyd, Brandon Boyd, Josh Stepp, and Chad Stepp; daughter, Karla Stepp; grandson, Brayden Boyd; sisters, Annie (Brad) Dutton and Mickey (William) Rose; and a host of nieces and nephews.

-Written by the family

LEANORIA F. STEVENS, 62, of Erwin, TN, passed away in her earthly home, and went home to be with the Lord, on November 26, 2022. “Lenore” was born to Freeman and Naomi Thacker in Hawkins County, TN, and later moved to Kingsport. She married the love of her life, Richard Stevens, and the couple enjoyed over thirty-six years of marriage together. They had two children, Amber and Matthew. Lenore was a

homemaker who served others and enjoyed working in her flower garden. She was a member at Poplar Grove Church.

She loved the song "O I Want to See Him" and we know that desire has now been granted. We miss Lenore and her sweet testimony, but we know she is resting and is no longer in pain.

-Written by church family

HELEN MAGDALENE STIPE, 96, passed away February 3, 2023, at Norton Community Hospital. She was a lifelong resident of Big Stone Gap. She loved to quilt and crochet. She was a member of Cadet Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for over 20 years. In her later years, the church members enjoyed her discussions in the adult Sunday School class. "Mag" was an inspiration for the whole Cadet community. Many of her friends loved talking to her for her advice and discussing the Bible.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Earnest Lee Stipe; son, Gary Stipe; parents, Roscoe and Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Yeary) Williams; two brothers; and two sisters.

Surviving are her son, Jeffrey Stipe (Donna); grandchildren, Amy Brewer (Robert) and Jason Stipe; great-grandson, Elijah Brewer; sister, Shirley Shafer; several nieces and nephews; and several very special friends.

All that knew Mag was her friend and loved her. Everyone that knew her misses her and cherishes the memories of her.

-Written by church family

RANDLE CARSON STURGILL, 79, entered into eternal rest on August 14, 2023, with his loving family by his side.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Baxter and Mary Sturgill; sisters Jackie Gillenwater and Norma Bowman; and brother Daniel Sturgill.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 57 years, Janice (Balthis) Sturgill; daughter, Penni Sturgill; son, Randy Sturgill; and grandchildren, Shannon Sturgill, Ashley Sturgill, Kaleigh Sturgill, Carson and Cooper Sturgill, Tanner Ray Dingus, and Abigail Dingus.

He was a member of Poplar Grove Church where he served as a deacon. He will be greatly missed.

-Written by church family

PAUL FRED SULLIVAN was born June 15, 1948 and went home to be with Jesus on June 4, 2023 at his home in Kingsport, TN. He was saved at a daytime revival at Blackwater Lick Church and was baptized on June 10, 1961, joining Flower Gap Church. He rededicated his life to Christ at a revival in 2016 at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Kingsport, TN where he became a faithful friend and servant until his illness. He proudly served in the U.S. Army for two years of which thirteen months were served in Korea.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chris and Laura (Johnson) Sullivan; brothers, Chris Sullivan, Jr. and Ronald Eugene Sullivan; father and mother-in-law, "Babe" and Rachael Stapleton; sister-in-law, Genia Miller; and brother-in-law, Quinn Gardner.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 47 years, Shirley Sullivan; sisters, Vonda Gardner and Cheryl (Roy) Thomas; sister-in-law, Darsulla Sullivan; brother-in-law, Carl Miller; a special Aunt and Uncle, Ruth (Sister) and Arvel Lewis; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of friends.

While he was in the hospital one Sunday morning, God's Holy Spirit came into the room and Fred started raising his hands and praising God and said, "There's nothing between me and God." And singing, "Glory, glory, glory, somebody touched me" and "He's got the whole world in His hands". He was so peaceful, and you could feel the "Spirit" all around. We had our last church service with him before God called him home. He wanted to hear his brother's voice and now they are together.

So, sleep on dear one and we will all meet again on that glorious day. Fred witnessed to doctors and nurses and would tell them to "trust and obey" so as his last witness to all of us, we need to trust and obey God's Word.

-Written by the family

RONALD EUGENE (GENE) SULLIVAN, 83, was born May 13, 1939, and the Lord called him to rest on May 1, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Chris and Laura Sullivan, and brother, Chris Sullivan, Jr. He was saved at Flower Gap Church at an early age. He served as clerk for many years. He loved his church very much and sang in the Flower Gap Quartet for years. He loved to sing, attend Sunday School, and most of all, read his Bible daily. He read it all the way through many times. He was a member of the McPherson Lodge No. 99 and served as secretary for many years until his sickness.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife of 60 years, Darsulla Sullivan; sisters, Vonda Gardner and Cheryl Thomas (Roy); brother, Paul Fred Sullivan (Shirley); nephews, Christopher (Kelci) and Jared (Stephanie) Thomas; nieces, Lesa Gardener, Laura (Beth) Grindstaff, Sarah (Collin) Rodgers, Melora Thomas (fiancé, Carl Littrell), and Stephanie Collins; brothers-in-law, Ralph Smith, Roy Thomas and Stevie Collins; many other nieces, nephews, and many friends and relatives.

We will miss you dearly. We all love you and are so thankful for your guidance and wisdom. God held his hand as he crossed over Jordan and will forever hold him in his strong arms. Rest on, Gene, and we will meet you again in Heaven.

-Written by the family

JESSIE TURNER, age 88, of Miamisburg, Ohio passed away November 3, 2022. He was born in Altro, Kentucky on January 30, 1934 to the late Johnny and Sinda (Johnson) Turner. Jessie was a family man who loved his family and enjoyed gospel music and UK basketball. He was preceded in death by his wife, Millie, his parents, eight brothers, and two sisters.

Jessie is survived by his daughters, Clynthian Lee Turner, and Mimia Sue Turner; sons, Kenneth Scott (Debbie), and Jesse Douglas (Patty) Turner; grandchildren, Beth Ann (Tim) Rudd, Bobby (Gabrielle) Kinder, Brad Turner, Stacie (Jeff) Whiteside, and Lori Turner; several great-grandchildren; sister, Margie Baker; brother, Robert Turner; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

-Written by the family

MAUDE TURNER, 84, of Carlisle, OH, went to be with her Lord and Savior on July 12, 2023. She was born to the late Jesse and Polly Ann in Wolfe Coal, KY on May 23, 1939. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Elder John Turner; son, Rickey Turner; grandson, Shawn Crase; a sister and two brothers.

She is survived by her daughters, Anita (Mark) Newkirk, Marcella (Marvin) Simpson, Loretta (Dave) Eastridge, Melissa Jarvis, Jessica (Jason) Moss; nine grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Maude was a member of the Rose Chapel Church since 1981. She served the church well as a pastor's wife and was a faithful servant until the time she was not able to attend due to bad health.

Her heart's desire was for her family to be together in Heaven forever and ever.

-Written by Anita and Jessica

DAVID LEE WELLS, 49, of Dryden, VA, passed away, July 24, 2023 at his residence. He was born on May 26, 1974, in Norton, VA, to the late Jackie Ronald Wells, Sr. and Rebecca Jane Collier Wells. He was a member of Valley View Church. He was a loving father, brother, uncle, and friend and will be greatly missed by all that loved him.

Those left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Shiena Wells, Myah Wells, Addison Pennington, and Brooke Pennington; son, James Lee Curtis Brummitt; brother, Jackie Wells, Jr.; sisters, Tracey Herron and Carla Milam; caregiver and mother to his children, Ledawn Pennington; and several nieces and nephews.

-Written by his church family

CLARA LAUNA WHEELER, 88, of Whitesburg, passed away July 15, 2023, at Life Care Center of Morristown. She was a member of New Life Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Flora Hawkins; loving husband, Elder Henry Wheeler; sister, Marie Bell; brothers, Hilary, Carl, Truman, and Marvin Clay Hawkins.

She is survived by her daughters, Janet (Sonny) Lawson, and Glenda (Bill) Hicks; son, Chris (Vicky) Wheeler; granddaughters, Jill (David) Margelowsky, LaCrista (Michael) Blanton; a great-granddaughter; and a great-grandson; two great-great-grandsons; several nieces, nephews, and a host of dear friends.

Rest on dear lady, until we meet again.

-Written by church family

Historical Data				
Mulberry Gap Association of United Baptists organized 1835				
YEAR	CHURCH	MODERATOR	CLERK	INTRODUCTORY SERMON
1835	Mulberry Gap	James Gilbert	Moses McGinnis	Moses McGinnis
1836	Blackwater, TN	Daniel Howery	Moses McGinnis	James Gilbert
1837	War Creek	James Gilbert	Moses McGinnis	Daniel Howery
1838	Gap Creek	James Gilbert	Moses McGinnis	Isaac Crisman
1839	Thompson Settlement	James Gilbert	Moses McGinnis	Daniel Howery
1840	New Found	James Gilbert	Moses McGinnis	James Gilbert
1841	Greasy Rock	James Gilbert	William McNiel	James Bishop
1842	Little Sycamore	James Gilbert	William McNiel	Jonathan Bishop
1843	Deep Springs	James Gilbert	William McNiel	Moses McGinnis
1844	Beens Creek	James Gilbert	William McNiel	James Gilbert
1845	Richardson's Creek	James Gilbert	William McNiel	John Day
1846	Mulberry Gap	James Gilbert	William McNiel	R. Southern
1847	Zion	James Gilbert	William McNiel	James Bishop
Eastern District Association of Primitive Baptists organized 1848				
1848	Blackwater Lick	Isaac Crisman	John Hurst	Mark Hurst
1849	Blackwater, TN			William White
There are no records available from 1850-1880. It is known no annual meetings were held during the Civil War, (1861-1865?)				
1881	Blackwater, TN	I.S. Robinette	William Henry	I.S. Robinette
1882	Sulpher Springs	I.S. Robinette	E.D. Bowen	S.R.T. Robinette
1883	Hopewell	I.S. Robinette	E.D. Bowen	I.S. Robinette
1884	Swan Creek	I.S. Robinette	E.D. Bowen	J.P. Peters
1885	Zion	I.S. Robinette	E.D. Bowen	I.S. Robinette
1886	Piney Grove	I.S. Robinette	E.D. Bowen	E.D. Bowen
1887	Walnut Grove	George Edens	A.T. Bowen	E.S. McPherson
1888	Blackwater Lick	George Edens	A.T. Bowen	George Edens
1889	Hopewell	E.D. Bowen	John Walker	E.D. Bowen
1890	Enterprise	E.D. Bowen	William Henry	George Edens
1891	Swan Creek	George Edens	E.S. McPherson	J.P. Peters
1892	Beech Hill	J.P. Peters	William Henry	Alfred Wallen
1893	Sulpher Springs	George Edens	E.S. McPherson	John Dean
1894	Blackwater, TN	George Edens	William Henry	E.S. McPherson
1895	Blackwater Lick	Alfred Wallen	A.Y. Willis	J.P. Peters

1896	Hopewell	E. S. McPherson	William Henry	J. B. Wallen
1897	Flat Rock	E. S. McPherson	John Walker	E. A. Robinette
Two associations formed, divided by Virginia-Tennessee state line, in 1898				
Eastern District in Virginia: Southwestern District in Tennessee				
1898	Bloomer's Chapel – ED	E. S. McPherson	J. P. Pierson	John Dean
1898	Hopewell – SWD	John Dean	G. W. Johnson	Alfred Wallen
1899	Natural Tunnel – ED	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	M. F. Robinette
1899	Long Hollow – SWD	William Henry	A. Y. Willis	J. B. Wallen
1900	Dry Creek – ED	E. S. McPherson	G. W. Robinette	E. S. McPherson
1900	Blackwater, TN – SWD	John Dean	A. Y. Willis	John Dean
1901	<u>Sloantown</u> – ED	E. S. McPherson	G. W. Johnson	T. H. Franklin
1901	Pilgrim's Rest – SWD	John Dean	Ezekiel Barker	Johnny Johnson
1902	Zion – ED	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	J. P. Peters
1902	Sulphur Springs – SWD	Alfred Wallen	M. H. Johnson	William Henry
1903	Osborne's Chapel – ED	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	J. P. Peters
1903	Swan Creek – SWD	John Dean	Ezekiel Barker	Ezekiel Barker
1904	Enterprise – ED	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	E. A. Robinette
1904	Hopewell – SWD	Ezekiel Barker	Nicholas Alder	Alfred Wallen
1905	Flat Rock – ED	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	E. S. McPherson
1905	Blackwater, TN – SWD	H. R. Fields	J. M. Brotherton	H. R. Fields
The two associations united again in 1906				
1906	Natural Tunnel	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	J. R. Robinette
1907	Mountain View	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	J. R. Robinette
1908	Blackwater Lick	E. S. McPherson	Nicholas Alder	J. P. Peters
1909	Riverside	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	E. S. McPherson
1910	Hopewell	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	J. P. Peters
1911	Zion	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	J. P. Peters
1912	Osborne's Chapel	E. S. McPherson	Amos Osborne	J. P. Peters
1913	Ayers Chapel	E. S. McPherson	E. A. Robinette	J. P. Peters
1914	Copper Creek	E. S. McPherson	J. J. Addington	E. A. Robinette
1915	Ida	E. S. McPherson	J. J. Addington; J. W. Hurd, Ass't.	J. P. Peters
1916	Swan Creek	E. A. Robinette	J. J. Addington; J. W. Hurd, Ass't.	J. P. Peters
1917	Hopewell	J. P. Peters	J. J. Addington; J. W. Hurd, Ass't.	J. P. Peters
1918	Beech Grove	E. A. Robinette	J. J. Addington; J. W. Hurd, Ass't.	C. M. Fuller
1919	Mountain View	J. P. Peters	J. J. Addington; J. W. Hurd, Ass't.	J. P. Peters
1920	Blackwater Lick	E. A. Robinette	J. J. Addington; J. W. Hurd, Ass't.	E. Barker
1921	Blackwater, TN	E. A. Robinette	J. J. Addington; J. W. Hurd, Ass't.	F. M. Long
1922	Swan Creek	E. A. Robinette	Amos Osborne; Hampton Osborne, Ass't.	A. N. Joyner
1923	Jenkins Chapel	E. A. Robinette	Amos Osborne; Hampton Osborne, Ass't.	C. M. Fuller

1924	Hopewell	E. A. Robinette	Hampton Osborne	H. S. Laster
1925	Valley View	E. A. Robinette	Hampton Osborne; J. W. Hurd, Ass't.	E. Barker
1926	Big Cut	E. A. Robinette	J. W. Hurd	E. A. Robinette
1927	Hurricane Gap	E. A. Robinette	J. W. Hurd	A. N. Joyner
1928	Robinette Chapel	E. A. Robinette	J. W. Hurd; Julia A. Walker, Ass't.	E. Barker
1929	Burke's Union	E. A. Robinette	J. W. Hurd; Julia A. Walker, Ass't.	E. A. Robinette
1930	Jenkins Chapel	E. A. Robinette	J. W. Hurd; Maudie May Brotherton, Ass't.	F. T. Carroll
1931	Little Cowan	E. A. Robinette	E. I. Robinette	E. A. Robinette
1932	Osborne's Chapel	E. A. Robinette	E. I. Robinette	F. T. Carroll
1933	Swan Creek	E. A. Robinette; F. J. Johnson, Ass't.	E. I. Robinette	Pleas Jenkins
1934	Cox's Chapel	E. A. Robinette W. H. Burke, Ass't.	E. I. Robinette	F. J. Johnson
1935	Cadet	E. A. Robinette B. L. Lawson, Ass't.	Amos Osborne	T. R. Carter
1936	Pleasant View	E. A. Robinette; T. R. Carter	Amos Osborne	F. T. Carroll
1937	Beech Grove	E. A. Robinette; T. R. Carter	Amos Osborne	B. L. Lawson
1938	Little Dove	E. A. Robinette; T. R. Carter, Ass't.	Amos Osborne	E. A. Robinette
1939	Spires Chapel	E. A. Robinette T. R. Carter, Ass't.	Amos Osborne	F. J. Johnson
1940	Peterson's Chapel	E. A. Robinette T. R. Carter, Ass't.	Amos Osborne	F. M. Phipps
1941	Blackwater Lick	E. A. Robinette T. R. Carter	Amos Osborne	J. H. Sybert
1942	Fairview (OH)	T. R. Carter	Amos Osborne	J. H. Sybert
1943	Big Cut	T. R. Carter	Amos Osborne	L. R. Hensley
1944	Fairview (VA)	T. R. Carter	Amos Osborne	J. H. Sybert
1945	Avis Chapel	T. R. Carter	Amos Osborne	Claude Taylor
1946	Willis Chapel	T. R. Carter	Amos Osborne	B. L. Lawson
1947	Hopewell	T. R. Carter	H. G. Busic	J. H. Sybert
1948	Ida	T. R. Carter; J. H. Sybert	H. G. Busic	Joe Hickman
1949	Gardner's Chapel	T. R. Carter; J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	Frank Brown
1950	Gilliam Chapel	T. R. Carter; J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	Dana Crawford
1951	Beicher's Chapel	T. R. Carter; J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	J. H. Sybert
1952	Willis Chapel	J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	C. C. Johnson
1953	Swan Creek	J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	Clifford Williams
1954	Blair Chapel	J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	Basil Freeman

1955	Fairview (OH)	J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	Alex Willis
1956	Valley View	J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	R. T. Carter
1957	Marion Robinette Memorial	J. H. Sybert	G. D. Smith	C. C. Johnson
1958	Poplar Grove	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	J. L. Hill
1959	Peterson's Chapel	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	J. R. Gardner
1960	Swan Creek	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	Basil Freeman
1961	Roller's Chapel	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	Alex Willis
1962	Little Cowan	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	R. T. Carter
1963	Beech Grove	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	J. L. Hill
1964	Mountain View	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	H. V. Hall
1965	Mt. Mitchell	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	Alex Willis
1966	Fairview (OH)	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	H. V. Hall
1967	Marion Robinette Memorial	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	Basil Freeman
1968	Cadet	J. H. Sybert	Ellis I. Wallen	Fremont Thacker
1969	Roller's Chapel	Basil Freeman	Ellis I. Wallen	J. R. Peters
1970	Poplar Grove	Basil Freeman	Ellis I. Wallen	H. V. Hall
1971	Blackwater Lick	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	H. L. Shaw
1972	Richardson Chapel	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	Bert Banks
1973	Liberty Chapel	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	H. V. Hall
1974	Clear Springs	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	Ben Hill
1975	Irondale	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	J. H. Sybert
1976	West View	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	H. L. Shaw
1977	Chestnut Flats	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	J. H. Sybert
1978	Blackwater Lick	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	Walter C. Willis
1979	Mountain View	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	J. H. Sybert
1980	Swan Creek	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	Bobby Williams
1981	House Chapel	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	H. V. Hall
1982	Jenkins Chapel	Basil Freeman	Burnice R. Sybert	Hasco Jenkins
1983	Caney Creek	J. H. Sybert	Burnice R. Sybert	Darrell Ratliff
1984	Slate Hill	J. H. Sybert	Burnice R. Sybert	Henry Wheeler
1985	Long Hollow	J. H. Sybert	Burnice R. Sybert	Hasco Jenkins
1986	Edwin Holbrook Memorial	J. H. Sybert	Burnice R. Sybert	Oscar Irvin
1987	Oak Grove	J. H. Sybert	Burnice R. Sybert	Lucian Lane
1988	Poplar Grove	J. H. Sybert	Burnice R. Sybert	Allen Hensley
1989	Mt. Mitchell	J. H. Sybert	Danny Lawson	Eckel Head
1990	Blackwater Lick	J. H. Sybert	Danny Lawson	Carl Lawson
1991	Burke's Union	J. H. Sybert	Danny Lawson	Roger Trent
1992	Clear Springs	J. H. Sybert	Danny Lawson	Terry Sizemore
1993	West View	J. H. Sybert	Danny Lawson	J. H. Sybert

1994	Little Cowan	J.H. Sybert	Danny Lawson	Oscar Irvin
1995	Peterson's Chapel	Terry Sizemore (J.H. Sybert & Basil Freeman, Honorary Moderators)	Danny Lawson	Bob Brown
1996	Wallen's Creek	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Richard Seiber
1997	Riverside	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Roger Trent
1998	Blue Springs (Hiltons, VA)	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	John Bowlin
1999	Roller's Chapel	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Greg Hill
2000	Butcher's Valley	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Henry Wheeler
2001	Clear Springs	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Roger VanHoose
2002	Blackwater Lick	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	David Smith
2003	House Chapel	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Neal Drinnon
2004	Beech Grove	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Phil Crittenden
2005	Riverside	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Roger Trent
2006	Flower Gap	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Greg Hill
2007	Pilgrim's Rest	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Virgil Lipe
2008	Little Cowan	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	John Banks
2009	Fairview (OH)	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Jason Robinette
2010	Richardson Chapel	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Neal Drinnon
2011	House Chapel	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Fred Gilreath
2012	Fairview (OH)	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Burnice Sybert
2013	Blackwater Lick	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Daniel Hurd
2014	Copper Creek (Addington Frame)	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Daniel Smith
2015	Poplar Grove / West View	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Oscar Irvin
2016	Swan Creek	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Terry Sizemore
2017	Blackwater Lick	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Mike Fullington
2018	Clear Springs, Fairview, Macedonia, & Rose Chapel	Terry Sizemore	Danny Lawson	Jason Robinette
2019	Rollers Chapel, Cadet, Wallen's Creek, Blackwater Lick & Davis Chapel	Terry Sizemore	Kevin Hale	Daniel Hurd
2020	Copper Creek (Addington Frame) & Willow Chapel	Terry Sizemore	Kevin Hale	Harmon Willis
2021	Fairview (OH)	Terry Sizemore	Kevin Hale	Joseph Robinette
2022	Burke's Union	Terry Sizemore	Kevin Hale	David Parsons
2023	Poplar Grove / Willow Chapel	Terry Sizemore	Kevin Hale	Oscar Irvin

