

*A. B. Bryan*

**Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina**



**YEARBOOK**  
**1987**

For July 1, 1985, Through  
June 30, 1986

**1986-87**  
**Yearbook**  
**for**  
**Original**  
**Free Will Baptists**  
**of**  
**North Carolina**

**Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.  
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**Held With**  
**Free Union Free Will Baptist Church**  
**Pinetown, North Carolina**

**Treasurer, Mr. Lloyd W. Jones Jr. (1988)**

**Mrs. Mae Oliver**

## ROLL OF MINISTERS

L. E. Ambrose, Route 2, Box 162, Creswell, NC 27928  
 W. L. Brickhouse, Route 2, Box 259, Columbia, NC 27925  
 Bobby Brown, Route 1, Box 32, Pinetown, NC 27865  
 W. S. Burns, Route 1, Box 97, Pinetown, NC 27865  
 Joe Griffith, 1018 Maple Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909-3726  
 Steve Hargrove, Route 3, Box 294, Ayden, NC 28513  
 Dwayne Jones, 333 West Avenue, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Raymond Lagcher, Box 146, Pinetown, NC 27865  
 Robert May, Route 4, Box 387, Ahoskie, NC 27910  
 Ronnie Mohn, 104 Spruce Street, Williamston, NC 27892  
 Charlie Overton, 811 Academy Street, Ahoskie, NC 27910  
 Charles Parrish, Route 2, Box 100, Belhaven, NC 27810  
 Billy Reynolds, Route 1, Box 657, Roper, NC 27970  
 Royce Reynolds, Box 22, Columbia, NC 27925  
 Johnny Sexton, Route 1, Box 254, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Gary Smith (licensed minister), Belhaven, NC 27810  
 Frank Thigpen, Route 2, Box 177-A, Creswell, NC 27928

## ROLL OF CHURCHES WITH THEIR CLERKS AND PASTORS

## MARTIN COUNTY

*Corinth*

Clerk, Mrs. Paul Dan (Faye) Davis, Route 2, Box 97, Jamesville, NC 27846  
 Pastor, the Rev. Joseph Lehmann, 497 East Church Street, Farmville, NC 27828

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

*Mount Tabor*

Clerk, Mrs. Naomi Ambrose, Route 2, Box 169, Creswell, NC 27928  
 Pastor, the Rev. Frank Thigpen, Route 2, Box 177-A, Creswell, NC 27928

*Mount Zion*

Clerk, Mrs. Beulah Whitson, Route 3, Box 29, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Pastor, the Rev. W. C. Overton, 811 Academy Street, Ahoskie, NC 27910

*Plymouth, First*

Clerk, Mrs. Edna Smith, 210 Mott-Ransom Drive, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Pastor, Mr. Dwayne Jones, 333 West Avenue, Plymouth, NC 27962

*Union Chapel*

Clerk, Mrs. Jane Conner, Box 9, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Pastor, the Rev. James R. Owens, Route 1, Box 301, Plymouth, NC 27962

## TYRRELL COUNTY

*Gum Neck*

Clerk, Mrs. Burvell K. Jones, Route 1, Box 277-B, Columbia, NC 27925

*Malachi's Chapel*

Clerk, W. Braxton Volliva, Box 376, Columbia, NC 27925  
 Pastor, the Rev. Raymond Lagcher, Box 146, Pinetown, NC 27865

*Sound Side*

Clerk, Marvin Sawyer, Box 62, Columbia, NC 27925  
 Pastor, the Rev. C. H. Overman, 1201 Stokes Drive, Ayden, NC 28513

# PASQUOTANK COUNTY

## *Saint Paul*

Clerk, Margie Lamb, Route 6, Box 82, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Pastor, the Rev. Joe Griffith, 1018 Maple Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

# HERTFORD COUNTY

## *Hickory Chapel*

Clerk, Sara M. Willoughby, Route 4, Box 382, Ahoskie, NC 27910

Pastor, the Rev. Robert M. May, Route 4, Box 387, Ahoskie, NC 27910

# BEAUFORT COUNTY

## *Belhaven*

Clerk, Mrs. Hazel Jarvis, Swan Quarter, NC 27885

Pastor, the Rev. W. L. Brickhouse, Route 2, Box 259, Columbia, NC 27925

## *Free Union*

Clerk, Robert Wilkins, Route 1, Box 440, Plymouth, NC 27962

Pastor, the Rev. W. S. Burns, Route 1, Box 97, Pinetown, NC 27865

## *Shiloh*

Clerk, Mrs. Mary F. Harris, Box 58, Pinetown, NC 27865

Pastor, the Rev. Bobby Brown, Route 1, Box 32, Pinetown, NC 27865

## *Sidney*

Clerk, Mr. Jimmy Brinn, Route 2, Box 350, Belhaven, NC 27810

Pastor, the Rev. Charles Parrish, Route 2, Box 100, Belhaven, NC 27810

## *Trinity*

Clerk, Mr. Talmage O. Cooper, Route 1, Box 175, Pantego, NC 27860

Pastor, the Rev. N. Dan Beaman, Route 4, Box 400, Snow Hill, NC 28580

## PROCEEDINGS

### WEDNESDAY MORNING

The Rev. Robert May called the Conference to order promptly at 9:30 a.m. The devotions were conducted by Mr. Ervin Foreman and we began with the Conference singing "Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine." The topic of the devotion was: "Some of the Things Jesus Said That We Are." Mr. Foreman used the Beatitudes as reference.

The welcome was given by Mrs. Waters, and the Rev. Bobby Brown gave the response.

The Conference was then called to order by the clerk, and the adoption of the program was the first order of business.

The roll call of churches was held with thirteen (13) present and two (2) absences.

The roll call of ministers was held with thirteen (13) present, six (6) absences.

Visiting ministers and delegates from other church bodies were welcomed and recognized. They were as follows: the Rev. De Wayne Eakes, president of the State Convention; the Rev. Harold Jones, director of Foreign Missions; the Rev. James Owens; the Rev. Dan Beaman; the Rev. Walter Reynolds, Church Finance Association; the Rev. Walter Sutton, Retirement Homes; the Rev. David Charles Hansley, director of Home Missions; the Rev. John Williams, representing Cragmont Assembly; the Rev. Bobby Taylor, director of the Children's Home; Brother Clifford Gray, executive director of the Free Will Baptist Press.

The moderator's address was "How We Must Be Motivated by Love," using 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, as his text.

The moderator then established the rules for the Conference and appointed temporary committees for the day as follows: Nominating: the Rev. Bobby Brown, chairman; the Rev. Charlie Overton and Brother Bill Gurhanous; Resolutions Committee: the Rev. Joe Griffith, the Rev. Raymond Lagcher and Sister Winifred Brickhouse; Temperance: the Rev. James Owens, the Rev. W. S. Burns and Sister Beulah Whitson.

As the pianist played, we received our morning offering, with offering to go towards the work of the Conference. The Rev. De Wayne Eakes prayed the offertory prayer.

The reports of standing boards were called for and given.

Mrs. Jean Ackiss gave the report from Mount Olive College, stating that this is the largest class ever in the history of the College. She also stated the need for more library books.

The Rev. De Wayne Eakes gave the report and greetings from the State Convention. He emphasized the five-year program adopted in 1984 and also told of the constitutional changes and the creation of a "Board of Publications." He also emphasized the need to look upon the different denominational works as ministries instead of enterprises and institutions.

Mrs. Johnny Sexton gave the report on the State Convention, highly praising the Missions Rally held the night before the State Convention and the music by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bircher during the State Convention.

Mrs. Johnny Sexton gave the report of the General Conference in the absence of Mrs. Fowler. She praised the spirituality of the General Conference, which was held at Beaverdam Free Will Baptist Church.

Mr. Clifford Gray gave the report from the Free Will Baptist Press. He emphasized the good job the Rev. Joe Griffith was doing as a Board member.

The Rev. Harold Jones gave the report on Foreign Missions. He told of 954 souls that were led to the Lord by Foreign Missions. He told that our gifts were supporting 129 people. There were 12 new churches planted in the Philippines in the last year. He emphasized the need for a new jeep for Dr. Lall.

The Rev. Walter Reynolds gave the report on the Church Finance Association. He expressed the need for Free Will Baptists to purchase memberships in the Association.

The Rev. Walter Sutton gave the report on the Retirement Homes. The Retirement Homes served six Free Will Baptist families this last year. The Homes purchased another home in Ayden that will be turned into two apartments. He asked for more contributions for the Retirement Homes.

The Rev. David Charles Hansley gave the report on Home Missions and Evangelism. He told of the work being reopened in Matthews, NC. He told of the 40 young people of the H'mong tribe that came to Christ during the Youth Conference last summer. He also told us of the deaf ministry in Wilson, NC; and that the mission in Durham was chartered as a church with 106 members.

The Rev. John Williams gave the report on Cragmont and told of how 70 young people were born again at Cragmont this last year. He encourages all Free Will Baptists to use Cragmont. He mentioned the indebtedness of Cragmont in the amount of \$186,000. He expressed the need for gifts to meet this year's payment.

Business was suspended and the moderator introduced the Rev. W. S. Burns as the preacher of the hour. Mrs. Christine Waters brought us the special in music singing, "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus." Brother Burns brought the message from the Book of Obadiah; his subject was a "Rumor From the Lord."

The Conference was dismissed for lunch, with the Rev. Walter Reynolds pronouncing the benediction on the morning session and also giving thanks for the noontime meal. We then adjourned to the Fellowship Hall, where we were hosted by Free Union.



## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

After lunch we resumed our Conference by singing "I Want to Be a Worker." Mr. Lloyd Jones gave the afternoon devotions, using the Scripture in John concerning feet washing.

Sister Erle Waters held the memorial service. She had white flowers to represent the ones of our Conference that had passed away this last year and white candles that represented their lives while in our midst. She closed with prayer and a hymn, "I Won't Have to Worry Anymore," sung by the New Day Spirituals from Free Union.

We resumed our business with the moderator pleading for our churches to help our preachers with their retirement.

The Rev. Bobby Taylor gave the report on the Children's Home.

Mr. Lloyd Jones gave the Treasurer's Report. (See Reports.) He explained the need for the churches to increase their donations to the Conference, stating that some churches' donations do not even cover the cost of their *Yearbooks*.

The Rev. Joe Griffith made a motion to send a bill for *Yearbooks* to the churches that did not send enough to cover the cost of said *Yearbooks* and that this would be retroactive to this year's books. This motion was passed.

Brother Gary Burbage gave the report on the Albemarle Sunday School Convention.

The moderator said that the State Convention wants the Albemarle Conference to have one person to work with the executive committee from our Conference to look into the feasibility of having one member from each Conference on the executive committee. The Rev. Robert May was elected to serve as our representative.

The Rev. W. S. Burns informed the Conference that at the State Convention plans were made for a delegate from all the ordaining councils of all the conferences to meet. The moderator left it up to the ordaining council to send a delegate.

The Rev. L. E. Ambrose resigned from the Board of Trustees. His resignation was accepted.

The moderator informed the clerk that next year when the annual church letters are sent out to include as information the cost of the *Yearbooks*.

The Rev. Bobby Brown made a motion that we give the host church a rising vote of thanks.

The Rev. Robert May was elected to serve on the ordaining council.

The Revs. Charles Parrish, Frank Thigpen and Joe Griffith were elected to the Board of Missions.

Brother Fentress Simmons was elected to replace the Rev. L. E. Ambrose on the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Eleanor Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Sexton were elected to be our delegates to the 1987 State Convention.

Mrs. Fowler was elected in her absence to be our delegate to the 1987 General Conference to be held at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Tarboro.

Mount Zion Church of Roper graciously asked the Conference to be held there next year. The Conference accepted the invitation.

The Conference clerk was asked to send a letter to all of the absent preachers and find out their intentions toward the Conference.

The Rev. Royce Reynolds asked that his letter be transferred from the Central Conference to the Albemarle. This request was granted.

The Rev. Royce Reynolds was given the right hand of Christian fellowship.

The motion was made to adjourn at 3:05 p.m. We were dismissed in prayer by the Rev. Charles Parrish.

## REPORTS 1986 SESSION

### BOARD OF ORDINATION

The Board of Ordination submits the following report:

On January 4, 1986, the Board met at Plymouth Church, NC, to give the ordination examination to Brother Joe Ratcliff. Brother Joe passed the examination.

On January 22, 1986, the Board met at Free Union Church, Pinetown, NC, and ordained Brother Joe Ratcliff.

On March 22, 1986, the Board met at Mount Zion Church, Roper, NC, to examine Brother Dwayne Jones for licensing in the Original Free Will Baptist Church; Brother Jones passed the examination.

On June 28, 1986, the Board met at Sound Side Church, Columbia, NC, to examine Brother Dillon Rogers for licensing to preach in the Original Free Will Baptist Church. As he had not been a member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church for one year, he was asked to come back at the end of one complete year.

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1. Let it be recorded that the following qualifications be included with those already in practice by the Board of Ordination of the Albemarle Conference:  
Educations Qualification for all candidates for the ministry;

- A. All licensed ministers have at least a high school education or the equivalent (GED).
- B. Before the ordination examination be given the candidate must also have acquired the following: (1) Have completed at least 64 credit hours of college-level study with no less than a "C" average. Of these 64 credit hours at least 18 must be preparation for the ministry. (2) Take and pass any courses given by the conference with at least a "C" average.
- C. The candidate must also take and pass with a "C" the ordination examination.
- D. These qualifications shall apply to all candidates under the age of thirty-five (35) years.
- E. Those thirty-five (35) years old and older must have a high school education or the equivalent (GED) and pass all conference courses and also the ordination examination with a grade of no less than a "C."

2. WHEREAS, constitutional changes have been adopted by this Conference without proper reading of constitution or by-laws, and most of our ministers, churches or delegates do not have a copy of the constitution and by-laws,

WE MOVE (1) That the minutes be searched for constitutional changes to update the constitution; (2) that a newly edited constitution be distributed to churches, ministers and delegates.

3. WE MOVE that effective at the next setting of this Conference that no member of the Executive Committee or Board of Ordination may succeed himself and must wait one year to again fill said office.

4. WHEREAS, this conference is a ministry and our prayers and vision are to increase this ministry,

WE MOVE that either a special study committee or the Executive Committee or a combination of both explore (1) better day and time for more of our church workers to participate in the Albemarle Conference; (2) a conference that will minister to every

area of ministry of the local congregations. Such a conference would be ministered to by denominational ministries—NOT REPORTS!

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Joe Griffith, *Chairman*  
The Rev. Raymond Lagcher  
The Rev. W. L. Brickhouse

### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

1. That we should live our lives to the best of our ability so that when people look at us that they may see Christ within us.
2. That when a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, that we are to forgive them for their past just as Jesus has forgiven us.
3. That we should continue to pray for our youth in their battle with life and the problems such as drugs, etc.
4. That we refer our people to temperance statements already in literature and that we encourage each Christian to inherit these policies.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. James R. Owens  
The Rev. W. S. Burns  
Sister Beulah Whitson

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Brought Forward From 1985		\$ 586.84
Amount Received After Conference	0	
Amount Received From Churches	\$ 353.00	
Amount Received From Public Offerings	<u>61.50</u>	
Total Received		1,001.34
Amount Paid Out		<u>554.18</u>
Balance in General Fund		\$ 447.16
Mission Fund		
Brought Forward From 1985		\$ 757.96
Amount Received During the Year		0
Bank Interest		<u>40.84</u>
Total		\$ 798.80

### Summary

Reports given at this session of the Conference show that our churches, for the year of July 1985—June 1986, gave the following amounts to our denominational programs:

Children's Home	\$ 6,885.51
Mount Olive College	9,815.74
Superannuation	978.84
Retirement Homes	1,200.58
Home Missions	6,992.06
Foreign Missions	8,797.77
Cragmont	<u>2,677.81</u>
Total Received	\$37,348.31
Conferences and Unions	\$ 1,652.80

Note: Out of fifteen churches in this Conference, only eleven turned in the annual church letter.

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

## FINANCIAL DATA

CHURCHES	Church Members	Active	Inactive	Average MM Att	Gain Baptism	Letter	Other	Lost Deceased	Letter	Other	Net Change	Members	Average SS Att	Denom Gifts	Total	Local Use
ALBEMARLE CONFERENCE																
Belhaven	6			15							0		5			
Corinth	19	19	5		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14				
Free Union	373	292	81		1	2	0	1	0	0	2			840	38,766	37,926
Gum Neck	60	20	40	25	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	24	15	625	5,816	5,191
Hickory Chapel	272			120	2	0	0	1	3	0	-2	108	80	8,755	50,038	41,283
Malachi's Chapel	146			40	0	0	0	1	2	0	-3		56	4,359	18,279	13,920
Mount Tabor	154	68	86	100	6	6	2	2	0	0	12		65	3,021	35,900	32,879
Mount Zion	93	47	46	34	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	28	24	2,788	16,298	13,511
Plymouth, First	39	39	66	30	0	0	0	1	3	0	-4	41	28	1,281	21,060	19,779
Saint Paul	65	65	0	45	0	0	0	2	0	0	-2		50	1,673	48,164	46,491
Shiloh	252			100	1	1	0	3	3	0	-4	124	85	4,849	37,515	32,666
Sidney	170			80	5	2	2	1	0	0	8	86	63	3,645	30,154	26,509
Sound Side	113			94	0	1	0	1	2	0	-2	155	94	3,486	28,929	25,443
Trinity	45			27	2	4	0	1	1	0	4		30	3,505	14,475	10,970
Union Chapel	156	71	85	80	1	0	0	2	2	0	-3	88	70	3,157	31,708	28,551
A TOTALS	1963	621	409	790	20	17	4	17	16	0	8	668	665	41,983	377,102	335,119
CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE																
Bethel	150			75	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	102	88	2,967	23,785	20,818
Casey's Chapel	155	92	63	50	5	0	0	0	4	1	0	67	45	2,995	30,882	27,886
Daly's Chapel	33	33	10	25	0	0	0	0	0	5	-5			244	9,340	9,096
Faith	108	34	74	65	0	2	0	3	1	0	-2	78	58	1,075	36,401	35,326
Goldsboro, First	256			120	3	4	0	4	4	0	-1	130	102	4,490	83,947	79,457
Haymount	98	73	25	86	9	2	6	1	7	0	9	71	63	10,155	86,490	76,334
Hickory Grove	20				1	0	0	0	0	4	-3		16	271	13,655	
Hopewell	287			115	4	7	0	1	3	0	7	134	76	5,192	52,074	46,883
Johnson Union	289	203	86	100	2	4	0	6	5	0	-5	139	101	3,288	31,403	28,115
Lanwood Chapel	26	26	16	25	3	3	0	0	0	0	6	25	18	832	8,350	7,517
Lee's Chapel	292			155	5	3	0	0	2	0	6		140	11,314	75,780	64,466
Mount Olive	9	8	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		25	8,230		
Oak Grove	154			65	4	3	0	1	1	0	5	129	79	2,188	23,922	21,734
Palmer Memorial	193	101	92	95	0	2	1	0	4	0	-1	105	75	5,529	47,574	42,045