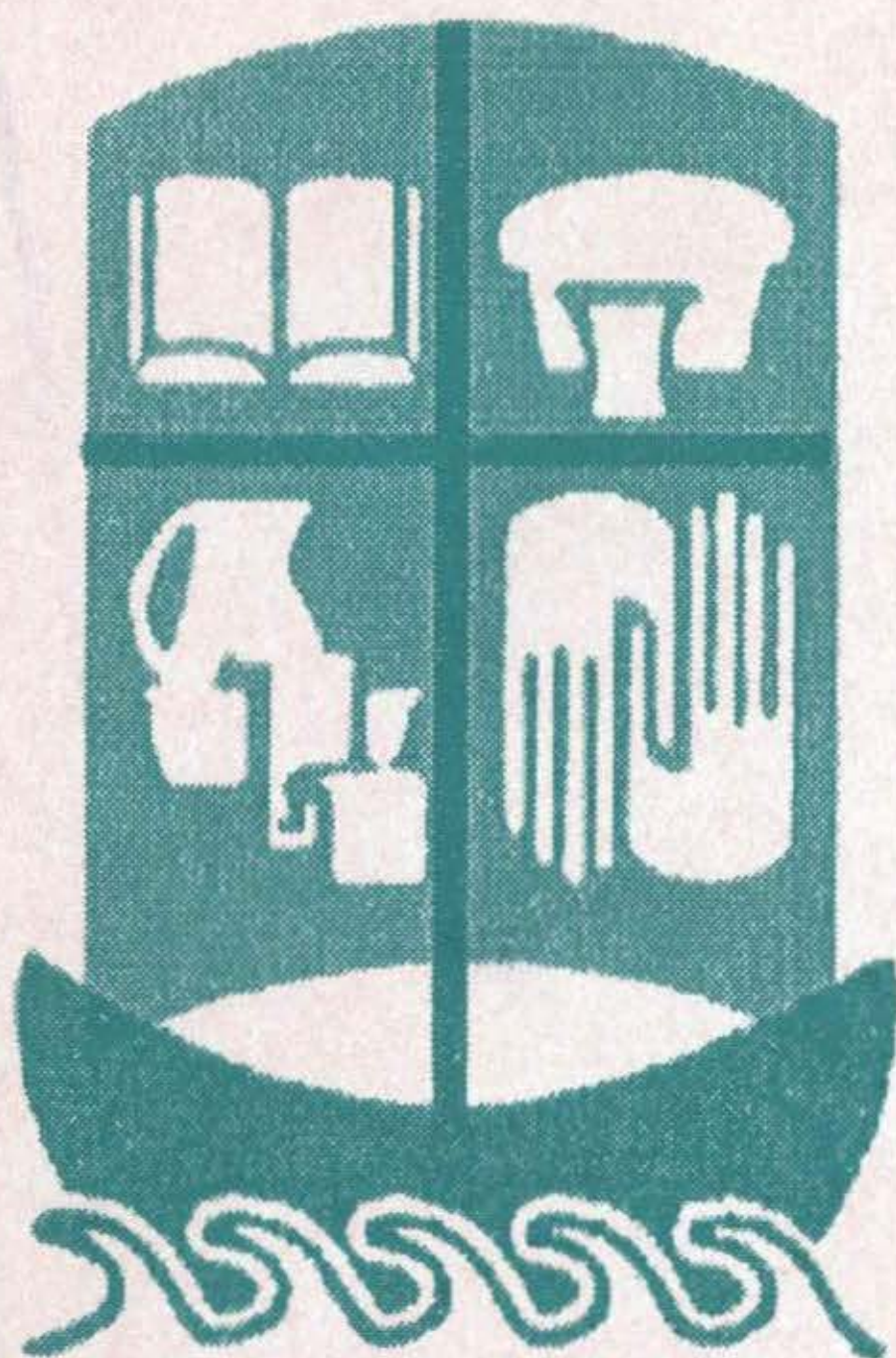
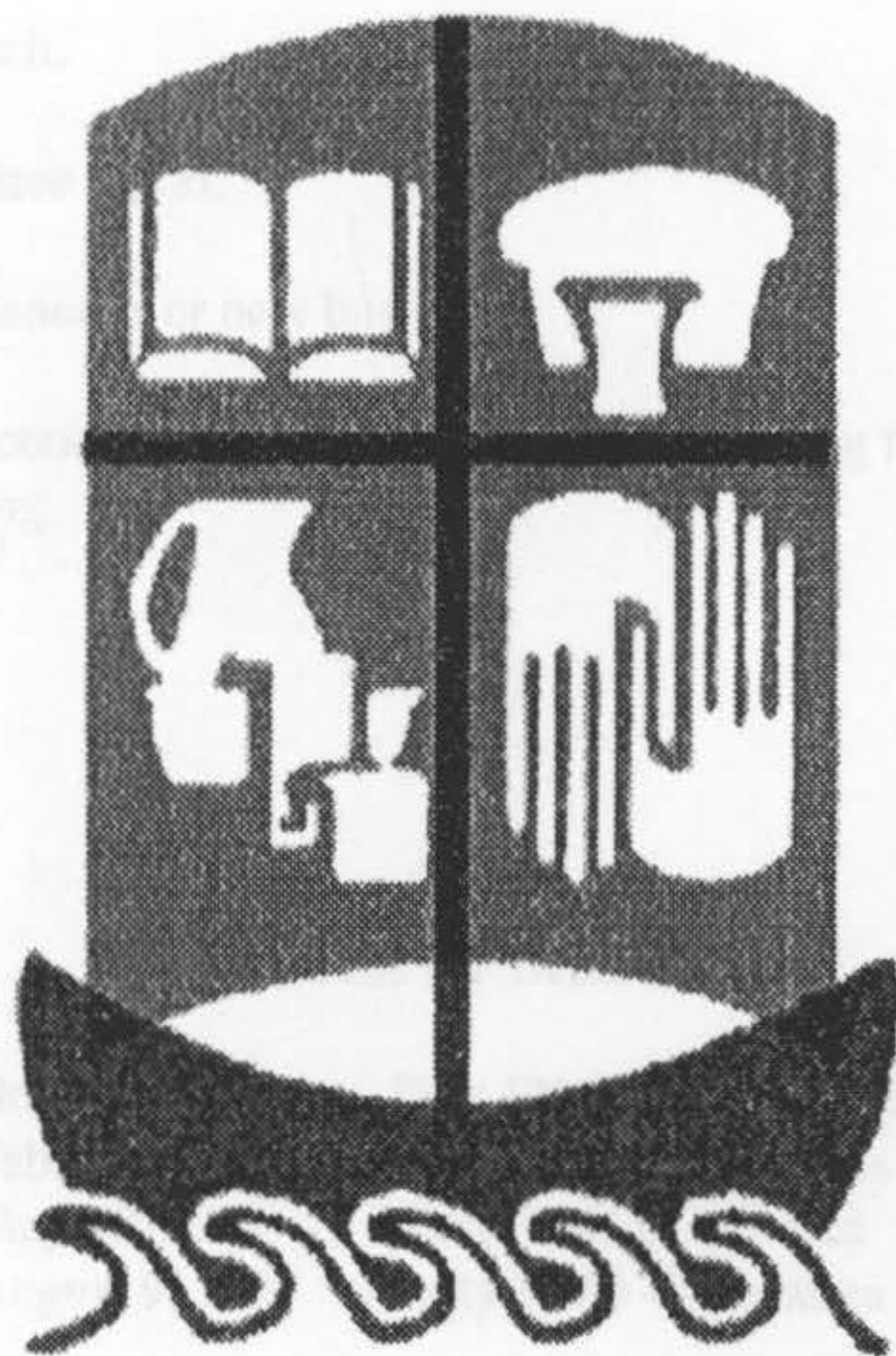

*East Alabama Association
of
Free Will Baptists*



Annual Minutes of 1995 - 1996

*East Alabama Association
of
Free Will Baptists*



Annual Minutes of 1995 - 1996

**ORDER OF BUSINESS
OF QUARTERLY OR YEARLY ASSOCIATION**

1. The body called to order by the Clerk, if present, if not, the Assistant Clerk, if he be present, if not, the body may select some other suitable member to act as clerk.
2. Call for corresponding letters.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seat.
4. Appoint committees.
5. Morning Message.
6. Adjourn for lunch.
7. Call for committee report.
8. Call for miscellaneous or new business.
9. Election of officers at yearly association and appointing time and place for quarterly meeting.
10. Adjournment.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Nov. 2, 1996	- First FWB of Montgomery
Feb. 8, 1997	- St. Mark FWB -Phenix City
May 10, 1997	- First FWB of Opelika
August 9, 1997	-Unity FWB -Sylacauga

The Alabama State Association will meet November 7 & 8, 1996 at
Madison Free Will Baptist Church in Madison, Alabama.

**All East Alabama Meetings begin at 10:00 Central, 11:00 EST.
The lunch break should be scheduled for 11:30 Central, 12:30 EST.**

Notes:

OFFICERS FOR YEAR 1996-1997

Moderator: Rev. Charles Corley (334) 244-2124
5333 Millwood Rd., Montgomery, AL 36109

Asst. Moderator: Bro. Donnie Blackmon (205) 245 - 6439
507 Morris Ave., Sylacauga, AL 35150

Clerk: Sis. Martha Caswell (334) 745 - 7597
285 Lee Rd. 166, Opelika, AL 36804

Asst. Clerk: Sis. Lynda Caswell (334) 749-5283
101 Lee Rd. 759, Opelika, AL 36804

Mission Fund Treas: Bro. Donnie Blackmon (see Asst. Moderator)

ORDINATION COUNCIL

5 year: Bro. Robert Caswell (334) 745-7597
285 Lee Rd. 166, Opelika, AL 36804

4 year: Rev. Henry Shellman (334) 297-5466
40 Lee Rd. 432, Smiths, AL 36877

3 year: Rev. Charles Allen (334) 887-9021
240 Lee Rd. 191, Auburn, AL 36830

2 year: Rev. Donald Grice (205) 245-4520
1015 Magnolia Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35105

1 year: Bro. Donnie Blackmon (see above)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

5 year: Bro. Robin Caswell (334) 749-5283
101 Lee Rd. 759, Opelika, AL 36804

4 year: Rev. Henry Shellman (334) 297-5466
40 Lee Rd. 432, Smiths, AL 36877

3 year: Bro. Preston Hinton (334) 297-5733
603 Lee Rd. 215, Phenix City, AL 36870

2 year: Bro. Roger Price (205) 378-7611
216 Moore St., Childersburg, AL 35044

1 year: Bro. Art Richards (334) 745-4236
2305 Third Ave., Opelika, AL 36805

**MEMBER OF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TO CHILDRENS HOME
(elected in odd year)**

**MEMBER OF GENERAL
BOARD OF ALABAMA STATE
ASSOCIATION
(elected in even year)**

Bro. Donnie Blackmon

Rev. Donald Grice

Nov. 4, 1995 at St. Mark Free Will Baptist Church, Phenix City, Alabama

Meeting opened with the song "We Have Come into His House", led by Rev. Frank Fagan. Rev. Donald Grice opened with prayer. Sis. Martha Caswell, clerk, called the meeting to order and the delegates were seated. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved as read. Combined reports were distributed. The Business and Finance Committee was appointed by Rev. Charles Corley, Moderator, as follows: Chairman - Sis. Virginia Tatum, Sis. Sharron Sheldon, Sis. Sarah Fagan, Sis. Arlene Smith, and Sis. Alice Eddings. The Christian Board of Education will also meet today.

Bro. Donnie Blackmon gave the Children's Home report. The home has 27 children with 2 in college and 2 more girls to come. Board member Bro. Paschal's wife has been battling cancer. Continue to pray for her. Bro. Corey is tired after preaching 11 times in 4 days. Remember to keep him in your prayers too. One boy at the home has won a scholarship for football. He is very good and has even been chosen "Player of the Week". There is 1 girl playing soccer. She is doing very well. The home sustained no damage from Hurricane Opal except for one hickory tree that came down. There are three kids at the home whose father is an aerospace engineer. He has given up his job and is at the home full time teaching and tutoring. He is there to be with his children. His wife is in prison for trying to kill one of the kids. The building is in critical condition. The Children's Home moved into 1942 era buildings. Last year \$18,000 was spent for repairs and the year before, \$21,000. They hope to be out of the building in three to five years. The home is in need of more room. Not long ago the police wanted Bro. Corey to take in two 8 year old girls that had threatened their foster parents. Bro. Corey could not take them in for there was no room. The next building project is a 100 X 30 ft. metal multi-purpose building. This will house the kitchen, dining room, office and hopefully a recreation room. The estimated cost is \$200,000. The paperwork finalizing the donation of \$82,000 has been completed. This money was generously left to the Children's Home by a man in his will. There are many churches and local people that feel that the Home is not in need of any more donations because of the will. But they do! The Home has only \$29,000 in savings compared to the Greenville Children's Home which has a one billion dollar trust and operates off of only the interest. Continue to support the Children's Home and pray that others will too. There is a great work going on there. Bro. Corey will provide anyone with a copy of the audit on request. Steven Will, an Alabama football player has taken an interest in the home. He has signed autographs and plays football with the kids. He has even brought part of the team down to see the kids. Motion was made to accept the report as read, seconded and carried.

Rev. Wayne Prickett and Sis. Deborah Prickett sang a special "One Scarred Hand". Bro. Dale Sheldon sang a special, "Just Go By..." then he brought the message from II Timothy 1:6. We are here to do a work. Jesus did all things as an example so we can follow faithfully. The message was closed with altar prayer and an the

invitational, "Jesus". A Love offering of \$47.38 was taken up for the speaker. Bro. Robert Caswell dismissed for lunch with prayer.

The afternoon session opened with the song "Heavenly Love" led by Bro. Robert Caswell. Rev. Frank and Sister Fagan sang a special, "Gloryland". The Mission Fund report was read and accepted as read. Sis. Martha Caswell resigned as the Mission Fund treasurer. Bro. Frank Fagan was elected as the new treasurer. Bro. Jones purchased property for the Prattville church. This work is moving and has approx. 29 for the average attendance. This information was given by Bro. Charles Corley.

The Business and Finance Committee reported:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	10.00
Faith	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$60.00	\$20.00	\$30.00

New Business:

Sis. Lynda Caswell suggested having a newsletter to inform the Association's churches of events that were coming up at sister churches. The goal of this would be to develop a common bond and encourage our church members at home to come and get involved in the Association. Each church will need to select a "PR" person to handle the information and send to Sis. Lynda. Bro. Prickett moved and Bro. Smith seconded to do the newsletter. Vote carried.

The Christian Board of Education met and Rev. Prickett gave the report. He said that the board will meet again on Nov. 17, at the First FWB Church of Opelika. They are looking for a solution to involving the youth in the Association meetings. This report was moved to accept. It was seconded and carried.

Rev. Corley encouraged all to attend the State meeting at Madison FWB in Madison, AL, on Nov. 9 and 10.

The attendance banner went to Faith FWB with 21 in attendance.

A rising vote of thanks was given to the host church. Rev. Fagan had a Praise Report for the church on how the Lord was meeting their needs. It was moved and seconded to dismiss. This carried and Rev. Charles Corley dismissed in prayer.

Feb. 10, 1996, First Free Will Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama

Conference was opened with the song, "Heaven's Jubilee" led by Sis. Peggy Miller. Prayer by led by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. Rev. Charles Corley, moderator, asked the clerk, Sis. Martha Caswell, to call the meeting to order. Rev. Corley asked for visiting ministers to stand and be recognized. There were none. The minutes were read by the clerk and accepted as read. Delegates were named and seated by the vote of the standing delegates. The Business and Finance Committee were elected as follows: Sis. Pat Price - Unity, Bro. Dale Sheldon - Faith, Sis. Arlene Smith - First of Opelika, Bro. Preston Hinton - St. Mark, and Sis. Peggy Miller - First of Montgomery. The youth were dismissed from the congregation for their activity.

Bro. Donnie Blackmon gave the Children's Home Report. The new cottage is complete, furnished, and being occupied by children and staff. The fire marshall came to inspect the home. He condemned the old building. A deadline for vacating was not set due to the fact that the Home is already in the process. When weather permits the multi-purpose building will be started. It may be a two-story building. At the same time a second cottage will be started for housing staff and children. An open house is scheduled for April 27, 1996. All are invited and urged to attend. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept this report.

Rev. Corley read Proverbs 10:5, "He that gathereth in summer [is] a wise son: [but] he that sleepeth in harvest [is] a son that causeth shame". The harvest is ready. Our responsibility is to be busy about God's work and not put God to shame.

"Jesus is Coming Soon", was sung by sisters Peggy Miller, Virginia Tatum, and Francis Blackmon, with Bessie Carr at the piano and Lois Hibbs at the organ.

Rev. Charles Corley challenged the congregation to focus on the message from Rev. Arthur Smith of Opelika's First FWB Church. His message, "What is the Church?" was taken from Acts 1: 1-9, and Matthew 16: 13-20. It implored that we must promote Jesus Christ through the Church. Rev. Smith related how his idea of the "church on the corner" changed from being a building - when he was a young boy; to a church with the Spirit tugging at a young teen's heart; and then to the body of Christ, when he was 16 and accepted the Lord into his heart. The church is an assembly of the redeemed trying to get others redeemed. The invitational hymn was "Have Thine Own Way". An offering of \$45.72 was taken up for the guest speaker.

The combined report and association newsletter was passed out. The morning meeting was dismissed with prayer.

The afternoon session opened with the congregation singing "Where the Soul Never Dies", led by Sis. Peggy Miller. Prayer was led by Rev. Charles Corley. Sis. Frances Blackmon sang, "Serenaded by Angels". Sis. Lynda Caswell of Faith FWB introduced their new youth group, Crusaders for Christ. After saying their creed and

motto, they sang their theme song, "I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb". They received a standing ovation.

The Business and Finance Committee reported:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	-
Faith	45.00	-	-	10.00
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$60.00	\$10.00	\$20.00

*After the meeting, two dollars was given to the clerk to be given to the Christian Board of Education. It was moved and carried to accept this report as read.

New Business:

Elections were held to fill the vacated positions:

Asst. Moderator:	Rev. Arthur Smith
Ordination Council	Rev. Charles Allen (4 yrs)
Christian Board of Ed.	Bro. Dale Sheldon (4 yrs)
	Bro. Arthur Richards (2 yrs)
Member of the General	
Bd for the AL Assn.	Rev. Arthur Smith (Interim)
Mission Fund Treasurer	Bro. Donnie Blackmon

The attendance banner was awarded to Faith FWB with 22 present. Approximately 65 people were in attendance.

Bro. Arthur Smith gave information from the CBE. The group met in November of 1995 to discuss future organized activities. Summer camp information is being gathered and will be announced at a later date. The CBE will be meeting at a time to be announced later.

A love offering of \$30.23 was taken for the clerks. Announcements were made from various churches of upcoming events. The host church was given a rising vote of thanks.

Roll call Sunday is March 31, 1996. The next meeting will be held at First Free Will Baptist Church of Opelika, May 11, 1996. The meeting was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Robert Caswell.

May 11, 1996, First Free Will Baptist Church of Opelika, Alabama

Conference was opened by Bro. Robert Caswell leading the congregation in "Keep on the Firing Line". Sis. Martha Caswell played the piano with Sis. Lois Hibbs at the organ. Rev. Donald Grice lead in prayer. Sis. Martha Caswell, clerk, called the conference to order. Rev. Charles Corley called for all pastors and deacons to stand. There were eight present. All were standing delegates. Letters from the churches were presented by the clerk. Delegates from each church were recognized. Rev. Arthur Smith moved to seat the delegates, seconded by Bro. Robin Caswell and carried. Minutes were read by the clerk. Rev. Arthur Smith moved and Bro. Roger Price seconded to accept the minutes as read. The vote carried.

The Business and Finance Committee was elected as follows: First FWB Opelika - Sis. Arlene Smith; Faith FWB - Sis. Marie Langston; First FWB Montgomery - Sis. Virginia Tatum; Unity FWB - Sis. Dee Moore; St. Mark FWB - Sis. Lazelle Brown.

Bro. Donnie Blackmon reported on the Children's Home. There are at this time 32 children in the home. There is a need for houseparents. The home is at this time growing a summer garden. Two people connected to the Children's Home Board have died. The Home has taken on a new ministry - taking in deaf children. The home is now teaching sign language, also. A request was made to continue to support the home with your finances and prayers. It was moved by Bro. Art Richards to accept the report as read. This was seconded and carried.

Bro. Donnie Blackmon, missionary fund treasurer, read the Mission Fund report. The Feb. 10, 1996 balance was \$211.86. He suggested using quarter folders for increasing the account fund, and to send a missionary a portion. Bro. Art Richards moved to accept the report and Rev. Arthur Smith seconded. The vote carried.

Rev. Smith and Bro. Junior Smith sang, "I Had a Vision of Heaven" and Bro. Robert Caswell and Sis. Martha Caswell sang, "A Double Portion".

Rev. Smith introduced the speaker, Rev. Donald Grice, pastor of Unity FWB of Sylacauga. Rev. Grice's message, "The Rapture of the Church," was taken from I Corinthians 15:51, I Thessalonians 4:13, and Matthew 24:32-37. He spoke that we are living in the twilight zone. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. The time is coming when the planes and the trains will be crashing and some people will be taken while others will be left in these situations. The rapture will bring God's judgment. God will send His angels to gather from the four winds,

from one end of heaven to the other. Rev. Grice ended his message with prayer and an invitational hymn "Kneel At the Cross". A love offering of \$55.43 was taken. Rev. Smith dismissed the congregation in prayer and asked the blessing for the lunch.

The afternoon session opened with the congregation singing, "He Abides". Bro. Art Richards, Sis. Louise Richards and Sis. Margie Styres sang, "Scarlet Purple Robe".

The Business and Finance report was given by Sis. Virginia Tatum as follows:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	-
Faith	45.00	-	-	10.00
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$60.00	\$10.00	\$20.00

The Christian Board of Education report was given by Rev. Smith. The board is looking for a convenient location for a youth camp. Please contact any CBE member if you know of one. The CBE balance is \$1050.00. Bro. Preston Hinton from St. Mark was elected to replace Bro. Dale Sheldon's 4 year term.

A love offering of \$26.60 was taken up for the clerk. No other business was given. An invitational hymn by Bro. Robert Caswell with Sis. Martha Caswell at the piano was given. The next meeting is scheduled August 10, 1996 at Unity FWB Church in Sylacauga, AL. Conference was dismissed with prayer.

August 10, 1996 Annual Meeting - Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Sylacauga, Alabama

Conference was opened with prayer and the song, "Living in Canaan Land", led by Bro. Robert Caswell with Sis. Martha Caswell at the piano. The clerk, Sis. Martha Caswell, called the meeting to order. The visitors were recognized. Rev. Larry Reynolds, and Rev. Johnny Cook and his wife, Sis. Beverly Cook were welcomed to sit with us.

Standing delegates were recognized and the clerk read the delegates from each church and they were seated. The minutes were read and accepted.

The business and finance committee was elected as follows: Sis. Alice Eddings - Unity, Sis. Virginia Tatum - First Montgomery, Sis. Martha Caswell - Faith, Sis. Louise Richards - First Opelika, and Bro. Preston Hinton - St. Mark.

Bro. Donnie Blackmon gave the Children's Home Report. There are presently 33 kids at the home; four from out-of-state. The goal is to get the children back into their own homes. On the way to the National meeting the van was broken into. Ten thousand dollars worth of crafts were stolen. The van was broken into again a few days later and a man was caught inside. He will be prosecuted.

Two storms caused power outages on the computer and names were lost. If you do not receive your newsletter please get in touch with the Home. A man willed \$50,000 to the Home for students wishing to go to Bible College (\$5,000 per year).

Bro. Duncan, with the Duncan Singers, donated a van to the Home. The cottage is finished. The school building must be vacated in five years. The board wants to build a multi-complex building within the next 5 years. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the report as read.

Alabama Home Missions report was received as information by Bro. Blackmon. Rev. Mark Barber is in Aiken, S.C., building a church. Please pray for him. Bro. Len Blanchard is in New Mexico. Please send as much support as possible of your prayers and finances.

Bro. Larry Reynolds, missionary, was introduced as the guest speaker. His main text was taken from II Peter 1:16. "God's Curtain Call for His People" was the title of his message. So many preachers are preaching today of God coming back to a converted world. But, the Bible warns of the wicked, seducers, and deceivers in the world as the end draws near. It firmly states that the people of the world will wax worse and worse. Some people openly and publicly make fun of the millions that are looking for the rapture. A commentator said, "We should be evaporated." But, God's word says... We will be changed and evacuated! II Thessalonians 4: 14-17, Philippians 3:20, II Peter 3:14, and Titus 2:13 speaks of God's people looking for his glorious appearing with anticipation. Since we are, we should be diligent that we be found without spot or blemish. His final comment was, "God is coming soon so be prepared!" He challenged us to be faithful to God, to love our family, love our church and community, and greet each other with the hope of Heaven. He closed with prayer. A love offering of \$41.70 was taken up.

The Resolution Committee was appointed as following: Sis. Peggy Miller, Sis. Virginia Ellington, and Bro. Billy Barber.

The blessing was offered for lunch and the morning session was closed with prayer.

The afternoon session was opened with the song, "Gloryland Way". Sis. Francis Blackmon sang a special, "He's All I Need". She asked for special prayer for her brother.

The Business and Finance Report was read as follows:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	-
Faith	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$60.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

They also recommended to send, starting next quarter, money from the quarter-folders, to Bro. Mark Barber and Bro. Len Blanchard alternately. It was moved, seconded and carried to receive the report as read. It was also carried to accept the recommendation.

The Ordination Council recommended to accept Bro. Henry Shellman, pastor of First FWB of Opelika, into the Association. Bro. Donald Grice moved, and Bro. Donnie Blackmon seconded. The vote carried.

East Alabama Mission Report was given by Bro. Blackmon. Balance as of April 30, 1996, \$211.86. On May 13, 1996, paid out \$100.00 medicine for Russia. Balance as of July 31, 1996, \$111.86. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept this report as read.

Resolutions Committee report moved we offer a moment of prayer in remembrance of our deceased. Sis's. Beatrice Sewell, Hazel Carpenter, Louise Chandler, Juanita Yarborough, and Bros. Preston Watt, Milton Chance, W.D. Brazell, Tommy Wayne Lynn, and A.O. Gibson. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept this report.

Officers for the 1996-1997 year were elected. (See page 2 for list)

Love offering was received for the clerks. \$20.52.

Delegates were elected to the state meeting as follows: Sis. Martha Caswell, Betty Walters, Eleanor Moore, and Shirley Grice. The Alabama State Association meeting will be held Nov. 7 and 8, 1996, at Dothan FWB Church.

St. Mark FWB Church took the attendance banner home. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Henry Shellman.

CHURCHES, PASTORS AND ADDRESSES

FAITH FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

3920 Marvyn Highway, Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 749-8213

Pastor - Rev. Trenton Johnston (334) 702-8907

174 Lee Road 947, Opelika, AL 36804

Clerk - Sis. Lynda Caswell (334) 749-5283

101 Lee Road 759, Opelika, AL 36801

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF OPELIKA

103 19th Street, Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 704-0121

Pastor - Rev. Henry Shellman (334) 297-5466

40 Lee Road 432, Smiths, AL 36877

Clerk - Sis. Marcel Lynn (334) 745-5985

2502 2nd Ave., Opelika, AL 36801

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTGOMERY

415 Perry Hill Road, Montgomery, AL 36109
(334) 272-9677

Pastor - Rev. Charles Corley (334) 244-2142

5333 Millwood Road, Montgomery, AL 36109

Clerk - Sis. Lois Hibbs (334) 288-9456

1213 Devonshire Drive, Montgomery, AL 36116

ST. MARK FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

1012 11th Street, Phenix City, AL 36867
(334) 298-8015

Pastor - Rev. Danny Ryals (334) 291-9151

3800 Twenty Second Ave., Phenix City, AL 36867

Clerk - Sis. Barbara Woods (334) 297-7841

1910 Thirteenth Ave. Phenix City, AL 36867

UNITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

501 Morris Avenue, Sylacauga, AL 35105
(205) 249-3980

Pastor - Rev. Donald Grice (205) 245-4520

1015 Magnolia Drive, Sylacauga, AL 35105

Clerk - Sis. Pat Price (205) 378-7611

216 Moore Street, Sylacauga, AL 35044

OTHER OFFICERS

Sis. Martha Caswell - 285 Lee Road 166, Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 749-7597

Bro. Donnie Blackmon - 414 Merkle Avenue, Sylacauga, AL 35150
(205) 245-6439

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually or as determined necessary by the church, or if they prefer they may call a pastor for an indefinite length of time.
2. The pastor, if he is an ordained Free Will Baptist minister, shall be moderator of all church conferences. When he is absent or does not serve, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall serve in his place, and in his absence some other suitable brother may be selected by majority vote of the congregation.
3. There shall be one or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to assist the pastor in the administration of the Lord's Supper.
4. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of minutes of the church.
5. When a new clerk is appointed, all books, etc, belonging to the clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.
6. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day, the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.
7. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows:
 1. Prayer (unless divine service has been conducted).
 2. Invite visiting brethren to sit with us.
 3. Open door of church for reception of members.
 4. Acknowledgements.
 5. References or deferred business.
 6. Matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church.
 7. Miscellaneous business.
 8. Adjournment.
8. Visiting brethren who are called in as helpers from sister churches shall be allowed to speak and make motions or second motions, but will not be allowed to vote.
9. Any orderly member of another church who does hold this church in membership, may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.
10. No member shall be received without the majority of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid and, unless withdrawn by the member who makes them, shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.
11. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend this trial provided his residence be known to the church.

12. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be recorded to the minutes in the church books.
13. Members dismissed from the church by letter, who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without a good reason, shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.
14. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.
15. A vote shall not be taken on any question without being moved and seconded and all important questions must be moved and seconded and the vote taken by members rising to their feet, and all votes taken by count.
16. No other motion shall be considered while a previous motion and second is before the conference.
17. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to be absent from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon his request, may be excused by the church from voting on either side in particular cases.
18. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in a conversation or whispering without being subject to being called by the moderator.
19. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good faith; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in debate.
20. No one shall speak more than three times on the motion without permission of the moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.
21. When the moderator speaks he must nominate some other brother in his stead.
22. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call the speaker to order.
23. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and feet washing at least once a year and the expenses are to be paid by the church.
24. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any.
25. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.
26. This Decorum may be amended or altered by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.
27. Any member who is absent from his church for six months shall be placed on the inactive roll until he returns and proves himself to the satisfaction of the church.

BY-LAWS

1. The East Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist and its members adopt the treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptist in faith and practice.
2. The clerk and assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the association into conference, and if a quorum is present the moderator or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of these is present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.
3. It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll the delegates to the association. These delegates shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to their seats therein, and those enrolled by the clerk shall compose the association. In case of questionable representation, however, the cases under question shall be referred to the credential committee.
4. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this association to send a letter to every annual session to this association reporting in the same spiritual condition, benevolent work and statistics. Any body belonging to this association which fails to report itself for two successive sessions may be dismissed from the association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present.
5. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer and shall be closed with prayer.
6. By a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present a ruling of the moderator can be overruled.
7. This association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.
8. This association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go in a committee as a whole.
9. Any person not a member of this association may be allowed to take part in its discussion by obtaining permission from the moderator.
10. It shall be the duty of all members of the association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting.
11. No member shall absent himself from the association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the moderator.
12. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.
13. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.
14. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation "Brother Moderator", but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.
15. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth (1/5) of the members present.

16. No members of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than five minutes, nor twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator.
17. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat delegates in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of a business session.
18. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.
19. Minutes of the last Association Meeting shall be read and adopted at the beginning of each session.
20. Licensed Free Will Baptist preachers may be ordained after having been licensed for one year. The only exception shall be when a properly licensed preacher (FWB) is called to pastor a Free Will Baptist Church, then he may be ordained before the year is completed.
21. Any church desiring the service of the Ordaining Council between conferences must bear the expense of the council.
22. Any minister coming to this association must bring a letter of recommendation from his association.
23. This association shall not consider for ordination any man who does not pay tithes, or any man who has been divorced and remarried, if first wife is still living.
24. Each pastor shall be accepted by the ordination council before being placed on any board of permanent committee.
25. A minister coming to this association for the first time shall bring a photostatic copy of his ordination papers, or some proof of his having been ordained as a Free Will Baptist. Such papers shall be kept by the clerk. A minister coming from a local church, not a member of an association, shall be examined by the Ordination Council.
26. (Passed August, 1962) We recommend that each church enclose with their letter a list of ministers and deacons to receive certificates of standing and that each church have 6 delegates for the 1st 100 members plus 1 delegate for each 50 thereafter.
27. List of Officers, Boards, Committees and Councils:
 1. Moderator
 2. Assistant Moderator
 3. Clerk
 4. Assistant Clerk
 5. East Alabama Mission Fund Treasurer
 6. Trustee to Childrens Home
 7. General Board
 8. Board of Christian Education
 9. Ordination Council
 10. Executive Committee
 11. Business and Finance Committee
 12. Resolutions Committee

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the By-Laws be amended to include the following governmental statement: No officer, board, committee, or council has any authority over any other officer, board, committee, or council, except that which has been specifically described by the associational body in its By-Laws. All officers, boards, and committees are councils of equal authority, and are servants of the body of the association. Hence, they are answerable to the body of their performance of duties and conduct. No officer, board, committee, or council shall assume any responsibilities other than that which has been expressly assigned to it by the body. Any officer, board, committee, or council which does not abide by the above state by-laws shall be subject to dismissal and any appropriate discipline decided by the body.
2. The list of officers and their job description shall be included as part of the By-Laws of the East Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Moderator:** The moderator will be responsible to conduct the business meetings of the association according to Roberts Rules of Order. The moderator is an ex-officio member of all boards, committees and councils. The moderator will be responsible to KNOW the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, the Church Decorum and the By-Laws of the East Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists.
2. **Assistant Moderator:** The assistant moderator will be equally qualified in his knowledge of Free Will Baptist as the Moderator. He will be responsible to do the job of the moderator in his absence.
3. **Clerk:** It will be the duty of the clerk to keep accurate minutes of all associational meetings. Also keep all records orderly and up-to-date. It is also the duty of the clerk to handle all correspondence reports, and letters to all other levels in the denomination. It will also be the duty of the clerk to keep an honest account of the association's general fund and disburse the money according to the will of the association.
4. **Assistant Clerk:** It will be the responsibility of the asst. clerk to work closely enough with the clerk's duties that she may easily take clerk's place when unable to perform said duties.
5. **East Alabama Mission Fund Treasurer:** It will be the responsibility of the mission fund treasurer to receive all contributions to the mission fund, keep accurate and honest account of them and disburse them at the will of the body.
6. **Trustee to Children's Home:** It will be the responsibility of the Trustee to the Children's Home to attend all meetings of the board of trustees for the Children's Home. While there, he will take notes of the meetings and give brief but accurate reports of said meetings to the body. It will be the trustee's duty to reflect the opinion of the body when voting on all matters concerning the Home when said opinion has been expressly stated. Otherwise, he will vote appropriately.

7. **Board of Christian Education:** It will be the responsibility of the Board of Christian Education to act in the advisory capacity concerning the educational activities of the association. They will be responsible to recommend the structure of youth camp(s) and recommend qualified directors for camps. It will be the responsibility of the board to set dates, times and places for associational youth rallies. It will be the responsibility of the board to recommend whatever steps and activities they deem beneficial and practical to the association for the furtherment of our association.
8. **Ordination Council:** The Ordination Council will act as the credentials committee when needed. The ordination council will be responsible for the thorough examination of ALL candidates for ordination to the officer of deacon or preacher in the association. The council shall not recommend any candidate who does not meet the requirements of the association as reflected in our minutes (most recent). This includes any who have never been ordained, as well as those who come from another denomination or association. Only ordained men can serve on this council. Requirements are:
 1. Cannot have but one living wife.
 2. Must tithe. (10% of their income).
 3. Must attend all services of their local church faithfully.
 4. Cannot use or handle alcohol or tobacco.
 5. Must read his Bible faithfully.
 6. Must pray faithfully.
 7. Must not use off-color language.
 8. Must have good reputation regarding financial obligations.
9. **General Board - Executive Board:** The General Board shall be made up of the pastors of the East Alabama Association, who are in good standing. The General Board may meet, and if they desire, elect an Executive Board out of the General Board. The Executive Board shall act in an advisory capacity in regards to the disbursements of the assets of the Home Mission Fund. The Executive Board shall act as the association's representative in the organization of new churches (when requested), and in the commissioning of home missionaries under the association's support. (Only ordained men can serve on either Board).
10. **Business and Finance Committee:** It will be the responsibility of the Business and Finance Committee to consider and examine all major items of business that will come upon the floor of any business session. The committee will make known all items of business which come before it whether they recommend them or not. The business and finance committee may refine or alter any item of business that is presented before it to make it more practical.
11. **Resolutions Committee:** Be it recommended that the "Temperance, Sabbath Day Observance, and Deceased Committee be dissolved and consolidated into this one committee for the sake of convenience and efficiency. It will be the responsibility of this committee to formulate and present resolutions concerning important moral and doctrinal issues when instructed to do so by the body. It is also the responsibility of the Resolution Committee to give a report in the form of a resolution concerning those in our churches who have died during the previous year. This committee will be appointed and function only during the annual meeting.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Holy Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rules of faith and practice. II Peter 1:18-21; II Timothy 3:16-17.
2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the Universe; and in the Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey. Deuteronomy 6:4; I Corinthians 8:4; Jeremiah 10:10; John 7:28; II Corinthians 1:19; I Timothy 6:17.
3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our everpresent Savior and Lord. Isaiah 45:21; John 4:42; Revelation 22:13; I John 5:20; I Timothy 3:16.
4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attribute of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men. John 16:13; I Corinthians 2:11; Acts 13:2; John 16:8.
5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace not otherwise provided for as the highest welfare of man requires. Psalm 19:12; Psalm 145:10; Acts 1:28; Psalm 22:28.
6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent, but in disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of tendencies that all come to year of accountability, sin and become guilty before God. Deuteronomy 30:19; Ezekiel 33:11; Jeremiah 44:4; Psalm 5:15; John 6:44.
7. **The Work of Christ.** The son of God by His incarnation, life sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full, free and is the ground of salvation by faith. II Corinthians 2:8-10; John 3:3; Colossians 2:8-10; John 16:30; John 3:13; Isaiah 9:6.
8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death. Romans 10:10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 2:10; John 15:9.
9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect. Romans 11:5-7,28; Romans 9:11.
10. **Freedom of the Will.** Human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit or to resist them and perish. Revelation 22:17; John 11:12.
11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely. II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 11:28; Isaiah 45:22; Revelation 22:17; I Timothy 2:4.
12. **Gospel Ordinances.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing is an ordinance of teaching humility of universal obligation, and is to be administered to all true believers. Matthew 28:19; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39; Mark 1:5; Romans 6:4; Matthew 26:26-28; I Corinthians 10:16-21; John 13:1-17.
13. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay be him in store as God hath prospered him." I Corinthians 16:2.
14. **The Christian Sabbath:** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from the secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God. Gen. 2:3; Mark 2:27; Ex. 20:8-11; Nehemiah 9:14; Luke 24:1-6.
15. **Resurrection:** Judgement and final Retribution. The Scripture teaches the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to all the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Ecclesiastes 12:7; Philippians 1:23; Luke 23:43; Matthew 17:3; Matthew 10:28; Acts 1:11; Matthew 28:6; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:22; Revelation 20:12; Romans 2:16; Matthew 25:46; II Thessalonians 1:8-10; Romans 2:23; II Peter 1:11; Mark 3:29; Matthew 13:41-43; Romans 2:6-10; Acts 17:31.