



East Central District

Association of

Illinois Free Will Baptists

Bakerville FWB Church, Blue Point FWB Church, Calvary FWB Church, Crossroads FWB Church, Mt. Vernon First FWB Church, Oak Valley FWB Church, Pleasant View FWB Church, Salem FWB Church

The quarterly meeting of the East Central District Association met at the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church in Effingham on January 11, 2003

Opening song, "The Banner of The Cross", was led by Mike Robertson with Vicki Hollis at the piano. Prayer was offered by Mike Crabtree.

Host pastor John Hollis gave a devotion from Galatians 1:6. He spoke about "neo-Christianity". Many today, like the Catholics have tried to promote a "new" or "different" so-called gospel. We need to be reminded that there is no such thing. We are prone to be politically correct.

The clerk called the meeting to order.

Standing delegates recognized. Letters from 6 churches were read with Bakerville, and Pleasant View not reporting. Motion was made and seconded to seat delegates. Motion carried

Minutes from last meeting were read.

Treasurer's report was given. We had a balance today of \$1,489.63. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

David Shores gave a Promotional Secretary report. A copy is attached.

John Hollis gave a missionary report.

David Potete has sent a letter to his mailing list asking for help with the building fund. They are looking to pay off the building within the next 2 years.

Elgin – praying for a summer intern from FWBBC.

Doggetts – had their family in for Christmas, one of them had a wreck, and injured Bonnie. She is doing better now. Brother Ken needs to raise another \$20,000 for his building. Breaking ground this spring. May be opportunities for help to build as well.

Mark King – His account is \$574 in the red.

Tim and Jessica Lewis – had a young lady from Springfield, MO said she would help for 6 months, been there for 2 years, and now she is going to be able to stay permanently.

Craig Portell – is in language study trying to learn the local language.

□ **Moderator: Bro. Ernie Lewis**
R. R. 1 Box 52A
Cisne, IL 62823

□ **Asst. Moderator: Bro. Travis Penn**
116 Donoho Drive
Salem, IL 62881

□ **Clerk: Bro. Kent Waller**
6881 Old Hwy 50
Flora, IL 62839

Sarah Malone is spending the year in the US. She is traveling back and forth a lot. She has been able to visit some of her past students here in the US.

We currently have 15 missionaries from Illinois. More are waiting to go. We have a great challenge. We must enlarge our base. Pray that God will work in this need. We thank God that so many have answered the call to missions. We need to enlarge our existing churches and start new ones to increase our base.

All three foreign accounts are black for now. Thank God!!!

"Inside Afghanistan", a book written by John Weaver is available now. This is a good book to read to see how the situation there has come about. John graduated from FWBBC.

Bro. Ernie filled vacancies on committees as follows:

Mike Gillock on examining committee
J.D. Shurtz on business committee
Christina Taylor and Neil Barcroft on youth committee.

Recess was called.

Youth committee report was read as follows:

The Mt. Vernon church has agreed to host the next youth rally. The date is still to be decided, and details will be sent to the churches and/or put in the newsletter.

There are two Free Will Baptist youth workers retreats: February 7-9 in Branson, MO, and February 21 – 23 in Monteagle, TN. For more information contact the Student and Children's Ministries at Randall House Publications at 1-800-877-7030.

Welcome Days at Free Will Baptist Bible College are set for March 27 – 29.

Remember to pray and be aware of the urgency and importance of reaching and activating our youth.

Signed,

Ed Ferguson
Christina Taylor
Neil Barcroft

Motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

Report of the business committee was read as follows:

1. Bring from the table the amendment to add to the by-laws and constitution Article VIII, Section J, concerning the need for retired ministers to submit a report in order to get a card of good standing.
2. To vote on item number one.
3. To give \$50 each to the 11 E-team members from Illinois. If any drops out, their portion would be divided equally among the remaining members.

4. To give \$100 to the missions account of K.C. and Elizabeth Kohn.

Signed,

Ernie Taylor
Elmo Manahan
J. D. Shurtz

Motion was made and seconded to accept the report and act on it item by item. Motion carried.

Item 1 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried.

Item 2 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried.

Item 3 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried.

Item 4 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried.

A report was given from Blue Point church by Bro. Ernie Lewis. Trivia game was given during the New Year celebration. Many missionaries have been at Blue Point this year. Shane and Joy Davidson, Darin and Dana Portell, Becky Hale, Sean Warren, Sarah Malone. Youth went to West Virginia to help there. We currently have 5 students in Bible College. We completed a lot of work on our church recently, including new air conditioning and new electrical wiring in the older part of the church.

We sent 5 young people out on missions work last summer. We have some new families in our church. We are very excited to see some of the families of some of our long-term bus kids begin to come now. We had over 150 people for our Christmas program. Many visitors. Our junior church went to Springfield to present an offering to the Doggett's.

We are very thankful to God for providing nearly 8 acres of land to our church. The surveyor said he would do the work for half price, and then decided to give it to us for free. The land was given for free. We spent about \$30 per acre for 8 acres of land. Praise God!!!

Pray for our involvement in "Embracing the Vision".

Report of the Examining Committee was read as follows:

1. We recommend the following to be approved for cards of good standing:

Tony Kash	Jesse W. Allen
Clarence "Bud" Porter	Jaems E. Boggs
Ernie Lewis	Mike Gillock
David Shores	John D. Hollis

2. This committee has discussed the adage to the constitution and by laws under the Article VIII, Section J, concerning minister's cards of good standing and we are not necessarily recommending this specific constitutional change.
3. We recommend looking into a pastoral association of the East Central District to deal with issues concerning pastors that may arise in the future.
4. We met with Bro. Tony Kash and are encouraged with his continuing study program.
5. We recommend Bro. James Boggs to serve as chairman of this committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Boggs
John Hollis
Mike Gillock

Motion was made and seconded to accept the report and act on it item by item. Motion carried.

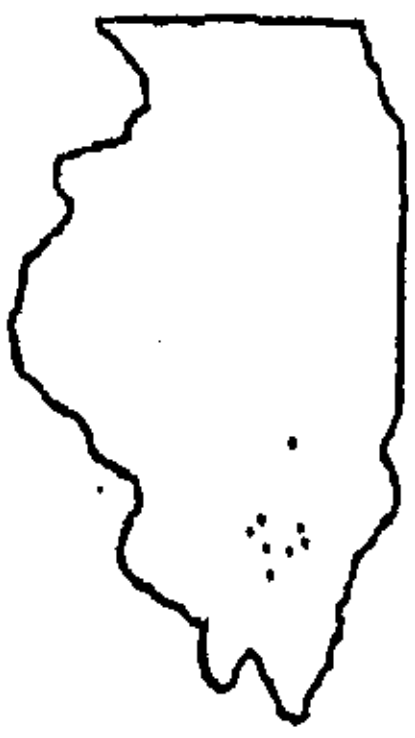
- 1 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried.
- 2 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried.
- 3 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried. Dealing with the idea of a presbytery to oversee pastors and deacons. Motion was to appoint a committee to look into creation of this group. Committee consists of James Boggs, Mike Gillock, Tony Kash, Hollis, Lewis.
- 4 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried.
- 5 Motion was made and seconded to accept the item. Motion carried.

Delegates to the state meeting were appointed as follows:

Blue Point	Kent Waller
Calvary	Kathy Hayes
Crossroads	Mike Robertson
	Neil Barcroft
Mt. Vernon	
Oak Valley	
Salem	Tammy Kash
Blue Point	Christina Taylor
Salem	Tony Kash

Motion was made and seconded to accept the delegates nominated and empower the moderator to make changes as needed. Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.



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The East Central District met for our quarterly meeting April 12, 2003, at Mt. Vernon.

Song, "Send the Light".

Prayer was offered by host pastor Mike Gillock. He then welcomed us with a devotion, using Romans 12:1 and 2 as his text. He spoke of four ways to find God's will. **Things that are determined.** Prophecy cannot be changed, it is already determined. **Things that are discovered.** The purpose of the church needs to be discovered. Fight against Satan. Warn people of God's coming wrath. Grow spiritually.

Things that are discerned. The provision of the Word, the Holy Spirit, and the church.

Things that are delivered. Deliver our will over to God. Find God's will and get in it. We also have to deliver our walk over to God. Deliver our work. Get to know God in an intimate relationship that reveals His will for our lives. Are you close enough to God to lead someone else to Him?

The clerk called the meeting to order.

Letters were read from 6 churches, with Bakerville and Calvary churches not having a letter. (A letter was later received from the Calvary church.) Motion was made and seconded to accept the letters and seat the delegates as listed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was read. We had a balance on hand today of \$1001.13
Motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

Jennifer Scott was asked to serve on the Youth Committee in the absence of Scott Porter.

Moderator Ernie Lewis read thank you letters from several of the E-team members.

John Hollis gave a report of missions.

New IRS posters are printed, and most of them are already distributed.

He distributed the report that they handed out at the state meeting.

Mark Shores will have a family moving out to help then soon.

Ken Doggett will have summer help from an FWBBC student.

We need \$900,000 per year to support the missionaries we have right now from Illinois. We have others waiting to go on the field. We must broaden our base to support these.

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Bro. Ernie gave a report for Camp Hope. Be sure to register for camp! A mailing went out this week with camp registration forms enclosed. Work day at Camp Hope is scheduled for Saturday, May 24. Be sure to help out if you can.

Recess was called.

Travis Penn gave a report for the Calvary church. A year ago they had a men's retreat and saw many young men attend.

James Hawkins worked last summer as an intern. He was a great blessing and help. Their church works the freshman/sophomore camps and had a great time. Travis' daughter Brooklyn was saved this last year. Mike Kniffen held a revival last year and really blessed the church. They had a great Christmas program. They are planning to send a delegation from their church to France in the early part of July, 2004. They would love to take anyone with them that would want to go. They have seen a long dry spell of people not being saved. Pray for them that the church will grow in this area.

A report of the Youth Committee was read as follows:

Oak Valley will host our next Youth Rally. More information will be coming soon.

We want to encourage the youth to attend the CTS competition in Decatur May 9th and 10th.

We reiterate ... preregister your youth for their week of camp. Pray for their spiritual growth. Also pray for and consider working at the camp.

Signed,

Ed Ferguson
Jennifer Scott
Paula Hayes.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

A report of the business committee was read as follows:

1. Give \$200 to the account of K.C. and Elizabeth Kohn.
2. Give \$100 to the Heritage building fund.
3. Give \$100 to the Northwest mortgage.

Signed,
Gary Culli
Elmo Manahan
Ernie Taylor

Motion was made and seconded to accept the report and act on it item by item. Motion carried. All items subsequently carried.

Since the examining committee was not back yet, a recess was called to enter into the worship service.

Song, "Victory in Jesus"
Pray was offered by Bro. Don Edwards.
Song, "When We All Get to Heaven".

Offering was taken.

Special song, "I Can't Even Walk Without You My Holding My Hand", was sung by Bro. Jim Beaty.

Mike Kniffen spoke to us from Luke 5:17-25 Not everyone that says they are a Christian really is. He spoke of those he called the "religious unbelievers". Many want to build the church in number, but they water down the truth to accomplish it. There is outright sin going on in some of our churches and it is wrong. If we know the truth and don't do anything about it, it is just as bad as those that do not know the truth.

A partial report of the examining committee was read as follows:

The committee reviewed Bro. Burgess's and Bro. Penn's minister's annual reports and recommend approval of these being issued a card of good standing.

We acknowledge a written report concerning Tommy Stief from Mt. Vernon 1st FWB Church.

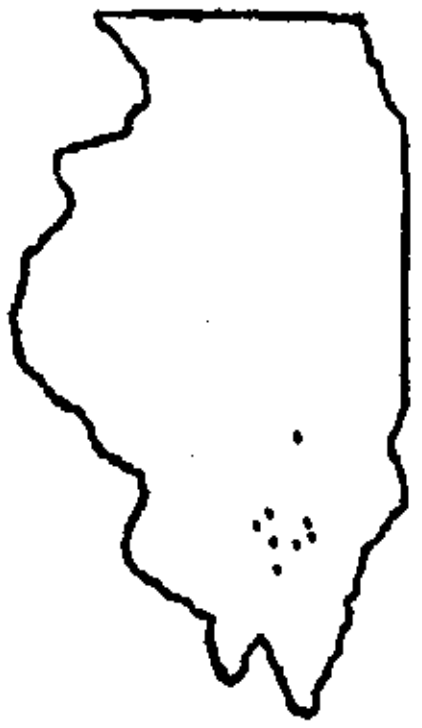
We are meeting with Bro. James Hawkins.

We met with Bro. Tony Kash and went through his study course section, 3rd period, and approved him to continue.

Motion was made to accept the partial report. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be at Oak Valley church in July.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.



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The East Central District met at Oak Valley Church on Saturday, July 12, 2003.

Song led by Travis Penn, "When We All Get To Heaven". Susan Burgess played the piano, Marie Rutger played the organ.

Bro. Elmo Manahan welcomed us on behalf of the host church. After leading us in prayer, he shared a devotion from I Corinthians 13.

The clerk called the meeting to order.

Standing delegates were recognized.

Letters were read from seven churches, Crossroads was the only church missing.

Motion was made and seconded to seat delegates. Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded to accept minutes of last meeting. Motion carried.

Kathy Hayes gave a treasurer's report, with a balance on hand today of \$1,013.63. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

Ernie Taylor reminded us that the Master's Men retreat is coming up in September.

Ernie Lewis gave a partial report about youth camp. We have had some good camps with many decisions being made. We have completed 4 weeks, and 1 week of leadership camp. Senior camp is coming up the first week of August.

Ernie read some thank you notes from a couple of the e-team members.

Susan Burgess reminded everyone about the women's prayer retreat which is also coming up in September.

Ernie filled vacancies on committees and follows:

Examining Committee: Mike Gillock
Travis Penn
David Burgess

Business Committee: Tim Hayes

□ Moderator: Bro. Ernie Lewis
R. R. 1 Box 52A
Cisne, IL 62823

□ Asst. Moderator: Bro. Travis Penn
116 Donoho Drive
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6881 Old Highway 50
Flora, IL 62839

Youth Committee: Suzanne Lewis
Tammy Kash

Recess was called.

A report of the examining committee was read as follows:

1. We recommend to send a letter of recommendation for Bro. Johnny Hollis to the West Central District Association.
2. We met with Bro. Tony Kash. He is in his final quarter of studies and is progressing well.
3. We recommend that Bro. Ernie Lewis be brought in before the next meeting of the Examining Committee to clarify his position on Christian Dance Teams

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Gillock
Travis Penn
David Burgess

A motion was made and seconded to act on the report item by item. Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded to accept item 1. Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded to accept item 2. Motion carried.

Item number 3 was actually a humorous anecdote referring to a printing error in the local paper concerning the "drama" team from FWBBC. No action was needed on this motion.

A report of the business committee was read as follows:

1. Move to accept the letter of resignation from Bro. James Boggs from the examining committee.
2. Recommend that Bro. Mike Gillock fill the unexpired term of Bro. Boggs, ending in 2005

Signed,
Ernie Taylor
Elmo Manahan
Tim Hayes

A motion was made to accept the report and act on it item by item.

A motion was made and seconded to accept item 1. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept item 2. Motion carried.

A report of the youth committee was read as follows:

1. Pleasant View will host the next youth rally. Date to be announced.
2. On Sat. August 9th, at 7:00, the group "3 for 1" will be singing at the Calvary Church.

3. Encourage teens to go on short term mission trips, both through E-Team and through mission trips with their youth groups.

Signed,
Ed Ferguson
Tammy Kash
Suzanne Lewis

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

Mike Gillock gave a report for the Mt. Vernon Church. They celebrated anniversaries for Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Allen 51 years, Rev. and Mrs. George Waggoner 59 years, and Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Hicks 55 years. They mourned the loss of Larry Foster and Paul Payne. Bro. Payne lived to be 102. They have labeled this the year of integrity. Members have been challenged to shine as lights in dark places. They celebrated their 73rd homecoming. Master's men have been very active as well as the women's auxiliary. They have begun a shepherding program among the deacons. They are looking at hiring a youth minister. Sent 3 teens to E-team. Looking at building on to the church. Looking forward to revival in October.

Elmo Manahan gave a report for the Oak Valley Church. They have been without a pastor since last December. Recently hired David Shores to come as pastor. Held a one-day VBS with around 48 students.

Reports next meeting from Pleasant View and Salem.

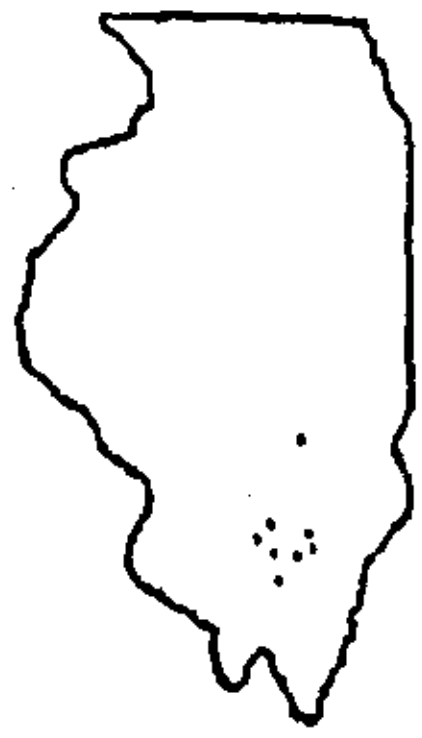
A motion was made and seconded to adjourn business. Motion carried.

We then opened our worship service. Song, "He Set Me Free". Prayer by Ernie Taylor. Song, "Lily of the Valley". An offering was taken.

Laurel Pennington sang a song, "Roses Will Bloom Again".

Bro. Paul Bryant, summer pastoral intern at Blue Point church, spoke from Mark 10:35. He reminded us that we must be servants. We must be humble.

After the service a delicious meal was served by the host church.



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The East Central District met at Pleasant View Church on Saturday, October 11, 2003.

Song led by Larry Maas, "Victory In Jesus". Paula Hayes played the piano.

Bro. David Burgess, the host pastor, welcomed us and gave a devotion from John 13:34. We need to grow up and learn how to get along with each other. To become like Jesus, we need to learn to walk in love one toward another.

The clerk called the meeting to order.

Standing delegates were recognized.

Letters were read from 6 churches with Bakerville and Calvary churches not having a letter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the letters and seat the delegates. Motion carried.

Minutes from the last meeting were made available. Bro. John Hollis asked if it would be possible to have the minutes mailed to all of the churches prior to the next meeting to allow time to review them. The clerk will mail minutes to all churches in the future. Following that discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the last meeting as published. Motion carried.

Kathy Hayes gave a treasurer's report. We have a balance today of \$1382.63 A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

Bro. John Hollis gave a missions report.

He presented a memo from the national offices stating the account balances of all of the Illinois based missionaries.

We are very thankful for those who went to Springfield to help with the building. The new building is coming along well. They will be going self-supporting early next year. A local TV station did a report segment about the building of the new church. We watched a tape of the report.

A church in Russellville, AR has adopted the Lewis's in Ogden, Utah. A couple from that church has moved there to help. They are also sending a team to train the local teachers.

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Mark Shores has been struggling a little with attendance. They have a building to worship in now.

David Potete is working on mortgage reduction. Target date is 2005. Over \$500,000 was originally ~~borrowed~~, now it is down to ~~\$296,000~~ ^{209,000}. The work is doing well.

Carl Hawkins had some serious back trouble this year. He is back to work now on light duty.

They desperately need a lay couple to come there to work.

We have 15 missionaries from Illinois, and 40 churches to support them. We need more people to help support these.

The mission board is making plans to start a Spanish speaking work in Illinois in the next few years.

David Shores gave a report of the promotional secretary.

He talked about the National Association. The messages were very good and the business was as well. FWB's are looking to start a non-ministerial ^{Governmental} ~~commission~~ ^{organization} to provide outreach opportunities, similar to ELI and Global Focus, for FWB's to work around the world.

He met with several of the younger ministers recently. They had dinner and talked for several hours. He said it was a great time of fellowship.

Calvary church is having a trivia contest to raise funds for their trip to France next June.

Dennis Owen is looking for a group to come there next March to help them build their building. Anyone interested in going, it would cost about \$1500 for about 10 days.

He wanted to thank the Mt. Vernon church for donating a new kitchen stove to the project in New Mexico. They make dinner each week to have fellowship with those who attend, and this will make it a lot easier.

Ernie gave a report about the camp. Both dorms have been painted outside. Still lots of work to do inside. Let Ernie know if you have a group who could go there and do some things and he will give them a project to do.

Bro. Ernie made appointments to fill vacancies on committees as follows:

Tammi Kash served on the youth committee in place of Scott Porter.

Tim Hayes served on the business committee in place of Elmo Manahan.

Recess was called.

A report of the youth committee was read as follows:

Since the examining committee wasn't finished yet, Bro. Ernie called a recess from business to begin the worship service.

Song, "He Keeps Me Singing". Prayer by Don Edwards. Song, "What A Day That Will Be".

An offering was taken and Sis. Paula Hayes played, "He Looked Beyond My Fault, And Saw My Need" on the piano.

Song, "Bring Them In".

Shane and Joy Davison gave us a review of their status as missionaries to the Ivory Coast. They will be leaving next year to go to language school to learn French. Shane told of the conditions in ~~South~~ Africa. Things are improving some in the south, but in the north, where most of our works are, there is still a lot of unrest.

Shane then brought a message from Ephesians 1 and 2 about the richness of God's grace.

A report of the examining committee was read as follows:

We, the examining committee, met with Bro. Tony Kash and evaluated his final study course section in preparation for ordination. We found all things in order and commend Bro. Tony for an excellent job of study completion. We recommend this brother for ordination.

Pursuant to a letter from the South Central quarterly, we recommend a letter of good standing be sent to that quarterly on behalf of Bro. Spencer Meagher.

Signed,
Clarence "Bud" Porter
Mike Gillock
John D. Hollis

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

(The letter for Bro. Spencer was mailed out on 10/14.)

Tony Kash gave a report of the Salem church. He informed us that they have had an increase in attendance for all of their services. They had a 95th birthday party for Bro. Grant Bruce this summer. They are very thankful for his continued faithfulness. He is really a blessing and example to all who know him. He said that there have been many young couples with young children who have started attending. This is a real answer to prayer for them. Homecoming with Bro. Larry Cook was well attended. They will be in revival October 20 – 24 with Bro. Mike Gillock preaching. Bro. Tony will be ordained on October 19, at 3:00 at the Salem church.

An announcement was made that November is Home Missions month. Don't forget the Benjamin Randall Offering.

1. We encourage each church to send their groups to the Youth Rally here at Pleasant View, November 1, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
2. Youth Lock-in for high school and college age at Camp Hope will be Oct. 17-18.
3. Welcome Days at FWBBC is set for November 13 – 15.
4. It is not too early to begin training for CTS competitions. We encourage each church to do what they can to lead our youth in these efforts.

Signed,
Ed Ferguson
Paula Hayes
Tammi Kash

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read. Motion carried.

Susan Burgess gave a report for the Pleasant View church. David has been the pastor since January. They have seen some new people come. Some have been saved and baptized. They will host the youth rally in November. They are going to have a praise band. Harlan Payne and his sons will do some bible memorization. Homecoming was very well attended. Rodney Masterson sang for them. They did Project Linus. This is a project where children in traumatic situations are given small blankets to hold and keep them warm.

A report of the business committee was read.

1. We raise annual dues to \$120. This is to cover the increase of state and national dues.
2. Give the Potete's mortgage reduction \$100.
3. Give Shane and Joy Davison account \$100
4. Nominations – (recommended by business committee)
 - Youth Committee – Tammi Kash
 - Business Committee – Gary Culli
 - Examining Committee – David Burgess
 - Executive Board – Mike Gillock
 - Clerk – Kent Waller
 - Treasurer – Kathy Hayes
 - Asst. Moderator – Travis Penn
 - Moderator – Ernie Lewis

Signed,
Ernie Taylor
Gary Culli
Tim Hayes

A motion was made to accept the report and act on it item by item. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept item 1. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept item 2. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept item 3. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept item 4 and elect as a slate. Motion carried.