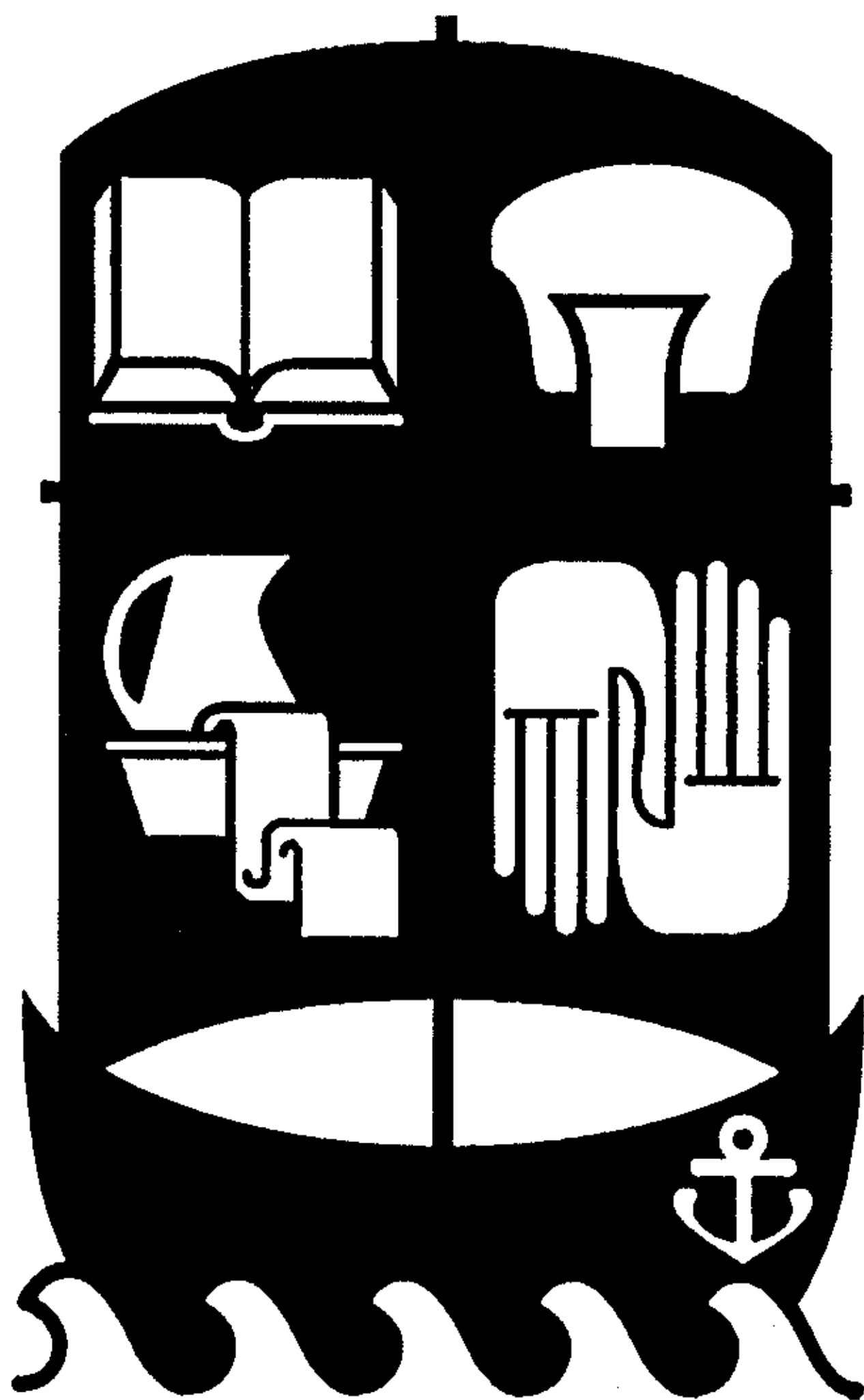


**NORTH ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL
BAPTISTS**



MINUTES 2013

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GENERAL OFFICERS

2013

Moderator

Rev Richard Hendrix
138 Lewis Lane
Madison AL 35758
(256) 461-7453
Rth50@yahoo.com

Assistant Moderator

Rev Henry Shellman
5102 Frankford Dr
Owens Cross Roads AL 35763
(256) 337-5492
hwshellman@gmail.com

Clerk

Jean McCraney
2304 Warwick Av SW
Decatur AL 35603
(256) 351-1615
Rmccraney2304@charter.net

Assistant Clerk

Amy Beck
2600 Reabok Cir SW
Huntsville AL 35803
(256) 883-1439

Christian Education Board

Matt Dominion
225 New Bristol Ln
Madison AL 35756
(256) 348-6499

Rev Jeremy Cox
211 CR 1291
Cullman AL 35058
(256) 734-4716

Rev Aaron Dawson (Chair)
49 Co Rd 1285
Vinemont AL 35179
(606)232-0843

Presbytery Committee

Rev Henry Shellman
5102 Frankford Dr
Owens Cross Roads AL 35763
(256) 337-5492

Rev Kenneth Terry
177 Company Rd 1285
Vinemont AL 35179
(256) 739-6739

Ron McCraney (Chair)
2304 Warwick Av SW
Decatur AL 35603

Rev Dennis Reeves
35 Co Rd 1323
Vinemont AL 35179

Children's Home Representative

Rev Kenneth Terry
177 Company Rd 1285
Vinemont AL 35179
(256) 739-6739

State General Board

Rev Richard Hendrix
138 Lewis Lane
Madison AL 35758
(256) 461-7453

NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATIONAL MEETINGS

2005	April 16	Soul's Harbor FWB
	October 15	Cedar Creek FWB
2006	April 15	Madison FWB
	October 21	Soul's Harbor FWB
2007	April 21	Ebenezer FWB
	October 20	1 st FWB-Decatur
2008	April 19	Madison FWB
	October 18	Soul's Harbor FWB
2009	April 18	Ebenezer FWB
	October 17	1 st FWB-Decatur
2010	April 17	Cedar Creek FWB
	October 16	Soul's Harbor FWB
2011	April 16	Ebenezer FWB
	October 15	Madison FWB
2012	April 20	1 st FWB-Decatur
	October 20	Soul's Harbor FWB
2013	April 20	Madison FWB
	October 19	1 st FWB-Decatur

ASSOCIATIONAL DIRECTORY

CHURCH

Cedar Creek FWB
701 Byrd Rd SE
Hartselle AL 35640
(256) 773-2603

First FWB
1306 Danville Rd SW
Decatur AL 35603
(256) 350-2412
Website: decaturfwb.com

First FWB
2402 Country Club Av
Huntsville AL 35816

Hackleburg FWB Church
128 North Rd
Hackleburg AL 35564

Laodicea FWB Church
276 Co Rd 522
Hanceville AL 35077

Madison FWB
PO Box 517
Madison AL 35758
(256) 430-3087

Soul's Harbor FWB
21325 US Hwy 31
Vinemont AL 35179
(256) 734-2882

PASTOR

Craig McCarley
1301 Cedar Crk Church Rd
Hartselle AL 35640
(205) 412-4189
cobra.craigmcc@yahoo.com

Rev. Henry Shellman
5102 Frankford Dr
Owens Crossroads AL 35763
(256) 532-3921
hshellman@bellsouth.net

Rev Dana Booth
112 Thunderbird
Harvest AL 35749
(256) 929-1941

Rev Wayne Overton
128 North Ray S
Hackleburg AL 35564
(205) 412-8285
Woverton11@yahoo.com

Rev Dennis Reeves
35 Co Rd 1323
Vinemont AL 35179
(256) 734-8333

Rev. Richard Hendrix
138 Lewis Lane
Madison AL 35758
(256) 461-7453

Rev. Kenneth Terry
210 Co Rd 1219
Falkville AL 35622
(256) 739-6739
soulsharborpastor@att.net

CLERK

Gerald Wiley
1369 Thompson Rd
Hartselle AL 35640
(256) 773-4608
DJ398@aol.com

Jean McCraney
2304 Warwick Av SW
Decatur AL 35603
(256) 351-1615
rmccraney2304@charter.net

James Hyde
161 Kelly Cemetery Rd
Huntsville AL 35810
(256) 655-8178

Virginia Cantrell
253 Lindsey Cemetery
Hackleburg AL 35564

Patty Dean
5036 Co Rd 601
Hanceville AL 35077
(256) 352-4872
pattydean@hotmail.com

Betty Ragsdale
25870 Camden Ct
Athens AL 35613
(256) 233-211
Bragsdale2002@yahoo.com

Marie Terry
210 Co Rd 1219
Falkville AL 35622
(256) 739-6739
vcaoffice@att.net

North Alabama Quarterly Association

Directory of Other Ministers

Ray Cantrell
650 2nd Ave.
Hackleburg Al 35564

Cox, Jeremy
211 Co Rd 1291
Cullman Al 35058
(256) 347-3900

Jeremy@2911ministries.org

Rogers, Michael
202 Patricia Road
Madison, Al 35758
(256) 971-0877
(256) 508-6482
Michael.rogers5472@gmail.com

ORDAINED DEACONS

Cedar Creek

Jerald Wiley
1369 Thompson Rd
Hartselle Al 35640
(256) 773-4608
DJ398@aol.com

Glenn H. Stover
303 Longhorn Pass NW
Hartselle Al 35640
(256) 773-5813

Soul's Harbor

Robert Partain
120 Co Rd 1247
Vinemont Al 35179-5081
(256) 775-2681

First FWB Huntsville

John Tucker
3968 Hwy E
Paint Rock Al 35764

Tim Cantrell
253 Lindsey Cemetery Rd
Hackleburg Al 35564

Ron Lucan
779 Deerfield Rd
Hamilton Al 35570

First FWB Decatur

Paul Jones
311 Robin Rd SW
Decatur Al 35601
(256) 350-8583

Ron McCraney
2304 Warwick Av SW
Decatur Al 35603
(256) 351-1615/
(256) 318-1615

rmccraney2304@charter.net

Madison FWB

Ken Michael
100 Spenser Green Lane
Madison Al 35758
(256) 837-5209

Rodney Yerby
115 Maximillion Dr
Madison Al 35758
(256) 721-0402

Hackleburg FWB

Troy Mason
Co Hwy 344
Hackleburg, AL

Bill Overton
341 Meadowlark Rd
Winfield Al 35594

BY-LAWS OF THE NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

- Section 1. The Moderator, Assistant Moderator, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association to order.
- Section 2. No person shall be allowed to speak more than two (2) times on any one subject, or more than (5) five minutes without the permission of the moderator.
- Section 3. A Credentials committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session who shall receive and examine the letters and list the delegates and turn them over to the Clerk with any recommendation they may wish to make, and omit the public reading of the letter.
- Section 4. The Moderator shall have the right to appoint all committees.
- Section 5. No person shall be ordained to the ministry nor shall the credentials of any minister be ratified until he is qualified to meet the conditions stated in the third chapter of I Timothy, "The husband of one wife." He must satisfactorily answer to the oral and/or written questions put to him by the ordaining council.
- Section 6. The business of this Association shall be governed by Robert's Rules or Order.
- Section 7. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at one time and he shall arise and address the Moderator. In case two arise at the same time, the first seen by the Moderator shall be allowed to speak.
- Section 8. No person shall absent himself from the association without permission of the Moderator.
- Section 9. This Association shall issue annually, cards of good standing to its ministers and deacons, whose church requests them.
- Section 10. This Association shall in all cases in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of all delegates present. Any church or delegate failing or refusing to vote is and shall be considered a party to the enforcement of same.
- Section 11. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of this Association by two-thirds vote of the members present.

GUIDELINES FOR ORDINATION

- I.** This Association ordains no man that has more than one living wife; nor a man whose wife has more than one living husband.
- II.** This Association ordains no one to preach the gospel until he carries a license for one year unless he is called to a pastorate.
- III.** This Association ordains no one that does not believe fully the faith and practice of the Free Will Baptist Treatise.
- IV.** This Association ordains no one that does not believe and practice tithing.
- V.** This Association ordains no one that does not believe in the verbal inspiration of the Word of God.
- VI.** This Association will not ordain a woman to preach the gospel.
- VII.** This Association will not ordain or accept the ordination of anyone who is a homosexual.
- VIII.** This Association will not ordain anyone with a bad character with them that are without.
- IX.** This Association will not ordain anyone that does not believe and practice the ordinances of the church.
 - A.** Baptism by immersion
 - B.** Communion (open)
 - C.** Feet Washing
- X.** This Association will not ordain anyone that does not believe a person can apostatize and be lost.

NOTE: If any church has a minister or deacon that needs to be questioned by the Presbytery Committee for licensing, ratification, or ordination, contact the Chairman of the Presbytery Committee at least one month before the Association meets. This will enable the committee and the candidate to be better prepared at the Association meeting. It will also eliminate a lot of wasted time at the Association by the people that are having to wait for the committee to finish their report.

NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS QUESTIONS FOR LICENSING AND ORDAINING OF A MINISTER

(Please give Scripture references to as many questions as possible.)

1. Give your full name, address, and phone number.
2. What church are you currently a member?
3. Give a short account of your call to preach.
4. Do you feel that you meet the qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7?
5. Have you or your wife ever been divorced?
6. What is the extent of your education?
7. List three character references, not including your family. Give their address and phone number.
8. Is your wife a born again Christian?
9. What is your attitude toward intoxicating beverages, tobacco, drugs and worldly amusements?
10. Do you believe without reservation that the Bible is the verbally inspired, infallible Word of God, and that it is the only rule of faith and practice for a minister?
11. What do you believe about evolution and the Genesis account of Creation?
12. What is the Scriptural mode of Baptism?
13. What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?
14. What is salvation and how would you explain it to a lost soul?
15. What do you believe about apostasy and the perseverance of the saints?
16. What are the three ordinances of the Gospel that Free Will Baptists observe
17. What is your belief about speaking tongues?
18. Have you read the Free Will Baptist Treatise, and is there anything in it that you do not agree with, believe, or would not teach?
19. If you changed your views on any of these doctrines, what would you do?

MINISTERAL DISCIPLINE

Whereas,

The Bible teaches the manner in which a minister should be Disciplined; and

Whereas,

The Free Will Baptist Treatise clearly outlines the procedure for disciplinary action concerning one of our minister; and

Whereas,

Our churches and district associations tend to be lax in following the Biblical principles and the guidelines set forth in the Treatise in properly disciplining ministers whose character is called into question; and

Whereas,

This brings reproach on the name of Christ and our denomination,

Be it resolved:

That our churches be requested to follow the Scriptures and the Treatise when any need for discipline arises.

That churches exercise wisdom in calling a pastor by properly investigating him.

That the Associations carefully check the credentials of ministers who transfer from another Association before receiving a minister into fellowship.

That each District Association be requested to publish in the State Association paper the names of any ministers whose Credentials have been revoked.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

1. The Christian Education Board shall consist of three men with at least one Pastor: the other two members could be ministers or laymen but at least one must be a Pastor. The committee shall be nominated and elected by the body of the Association during the annual meeting and would be elected on a three year term; one term expiring each year. The senior member serving as chairman. Each Pastor is to select a young person from his church to serve as youth representative to the Christian Education Board.
2. The Christian Education Board along with the youth representatives from each church and the host Pastor shall plan the program of the Youth Rally each month. Youth rallies are suggested to be held each month from September until May on the last Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The Christian Education Board will work with the individual pastors to select sites for the monthly Youth Rallies.
3. The Associational Treasurer will serve as Treasurer for this board.
4. This board shall have approval to spend its monies without prior approval from the Associational body.
5. The Christian Education Board shall report to the Association during the Annual meeting as a matter of accounting and information.

NOTE: This Board should bear in mind that the role of Pastors of our churches is the success of any program they undertake. Their advice should be considered. The local Pastor should be the point of contact on any plans this board may conceive. All correspondence (by letter or phone) should be made to the Pastor in order to seek his wisdom as well as to honor this office. The youth representatives from each church should seek the advice of the Pastor on any plans made and should inform him on any decisions made by the board as a second line of communication.

North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists
23rd Bi-Annual Meeting
April 20, 2013
Madison Free Will Baptist Church

The 23rd Bi-Annual meeting of the North Al Association of FWB met at the Madison FWB Church in Madison Al on April 20, 2013. Rev. Richard Hendrix, pastor and moderator, welcomed all present. Rev. Henry W Shellman, Sr, pastor of the Decatur FWB Church gave the response and led in prayer.

A trilogy in song "What a Mighty God We Serve", "Great and Mighty" & "I Sing The Power of God", was led by Bro Rodney Yerby. The Morning devotion was brought by Bro Joshua Detherage, missionary to Mongolia. Using the text of Psalm 37:1-9, Bro Joshua spoke about David reflecting on the evil-doers of the world and the promise that we should not fret because God is in control. We should weep over the evil, but trust in the Lord because HE, alone, is trustworthy.

The meeting was called to order by Bro Hendrix and asked for the Credentials committee report. The clerk, Sis Jean McCraney, reported that all monies and letters received with exception of Southpark and that the letter from Hackleburg was rec'd, but no representation fees accompanied the letter.

BREAK

Reconvened with the reading of Col. 3: 14-16 by Bro Rodney Yerby who also led in song.

MMS&C to seat the Delegates.

Presbytery Comm Report- Bro Ron McCraney gave the following recommendations:

- 1) Rev Dana Booth, pastor of the Huntsville FWB Church be accepted into N Al upon receipt of a letter in good standing from his former conference. MMS&C
- 2) Southpark FWB Church be removed from the N Al Association due to it no longer being an active church (Church has disbanded).

WMO Report- Bro Rodney Yerby gave the following report: These are exciting times in FWB, but we need to continue to pray for nations who have elder FWB missionaries, that God would rise up replacements, and that more doors will open to FWB missions. Al goal is for 100 churches to participate in the WMO, as of now, 81 are committed. The WMO is April 28, 2013. He challenged us all to pray and give to WMO.

Report on Mongolia- Given by Bro Joshua Detherage. He and Jenifer are returning in August. Thanked the association for financial help and prayer. Please continue to help in these matters.

Children's' Home Report- Rev Mike Corley reported that 33 children have been ministered to in recent months and they currently have 19 children living at the Home. He encouraged Pastors, Deacons and Laymen to notify the Home if you know of any children in need. Also pray for house parents to come and help, and pray for 4 siblings who have been with the home for 3yrs and now their Mother has filed for custody. 8 children have recently come to Christ and 6 have been baptized. The 10th Annual Toy Run raised over \$75,000, praise the Lord for this! Thanked N AL for continued support of the Home.

Reverend Hendrix asked for Rev Dana Booth, the new pastor at First FWB Huntsville, to come and report on how the church is doing. Bro Booth appreciated the warm welcome to N Al and reported that the church is hoping to be in the new building by Mother's Day. Pray for this work.

Bro Hendrix asked for Rev Craig McCarley, new pastor of Cedar Creek to report—Bro McCarley is also working at a local High School and using this as a ministry outreach. Pray for the church and for all of our young people in public education.

Rev Henry Shellman, assistant moderator, continued the meeting and encouraged all churches to pray for one another. He then called on the Clerk for the reading of the minutes.

Minutes and Treasurer's report given. MMS&C to accept as read. Sis McCraney also reported on the Home Missions work, Truth FWB, in Castle Rock CO and thanked the congregation for their support of this ministry.

Cedar Creek won the plaque for attendance with 10 present. Total of 47 (10 visitors) in attendance for today's meeting. Best attendance in a while. Praise the Lord.

Delegates elected for the National Association meeting:

Jean McCraney, Carolyn Michael, Patsy Shellman, Carolyn Hendrix

Motion made for the offering to go to Rev Rick Cash by Bro Richard Hendrix. MMS&C. Offering was \$108.66, and rounded up to \$200 per Bro Hendrix recommendation.

Special Music: Sis Patsy Shellman, of First FWB Decatur, blessed all with "I Can Pray"

Message: Rev Rick Cash, Al State Executive Office, brought greetings from the office and reported on the progress of the office building. He also reported the budget and giving is down, but N Al was up from last year. "God still loves a cheerful giver, even in a bad economy". Gave investment advice found in Mt 6:19-20 and shared slides of various mission works which Al has ongoing. Encouraged giving to missions.

Using the text of Jer. 12:1-5, Rev Cash spoke about how Jeremiah was in the same place a lot of us are at times. Wondering why Christians do not prosper while sinners do? Using the analogy of the footmen and the horse, he gave the

answer. If we have a hard time when things are going well, what do you do when times get hard?

- 1) Folks had forsaken God
- 2) Pastors derelict in duties
- 3) Gods people hostile to the things of God

We will suffer persecution if we are faithful to God! It is harder to stay in the Word, but will be worth it, in the end. If America doesn't repent, we are bound for judgment!

MMS&C to adjourn. Dismissed in prayer by Rev Dana Booth.

Jean McCraney, Clerk
N Al Association of FWB
Amy Beck, Asst. Clerk

North Alabama Association Treasurer's Report

April 20, 2013

Balance 09-30-12 **\$ 1,534.83**

Income:

Representation Fee	\$ 1,110.00
Mission Conference	234.00
Offering	<u>93.00</u>

Total **1,437.00**

2,971.83

Expenses:

Children Home	\$ 200.00
Ala. State Assoc. (Dues)	1,110.00
Mission Conference	234.00

Total Expenses

\$1,544.00

Balance March 31, 2013 *** \$ 1,427.83**

Youth Fund

Balance September-30-2012 **\$ 149.05**

Balance March 2013 **\$149.05**

***Total includes Youth Fund Balance**

MINUTES OF THE NORTH AL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
48TH ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2013
First Free Will Baptist Church of Decatur

Meeting opened with Rev Kenneth Terry, pastor of Soul's Harbor FWB Church, leading the congregation in "He Keeps Me Singing".

Welcome by Rev Henry Shellman, pastor of First FWB Decatur, and asst. moderator. Bro Ken Michael of Madison FWB Church gave the response.

Rev Dana Booth, pastor of the First FWB of Huntsville, brought the morning devotion. Using Jeremiah 6:16, Rev Booth encouraged us to get back to the "old paths" designed by God for repentance and redemption.

Meeting was called to order by Rev Henry Shellman. MMS&C to seat the delegates and to receive the credentials report given by the clerk.

Prayer by Bro Russ Detherage of Madison led into the break time.

Resumed the meeting with "To God Be the Glory" led by Rev Terry.

Bro Shellman called on Pastors to stand and give a report on the churches in N Al Association. Bro Dennis Reeves asked for Laodicea Church to host the April meeting of the N Al Assoc. Rev Richard Hendrix reminded all that we had committed to fasting and praying on the 15th of each month and asked that we recommit to doing so, for all sister churches. Praise God for the good reports from each pastor.

Minutes and Treasurer report given by clerk and assistant Clerk. MMS&C to accept as read.

Presbytery Comm report given by Bro Ron McCraney: The Ladodicea Church has petitioned to join the N Al Association and the committee met with Pastor, Dennis Reeves, and the committee was "all in one accord" to accept church into the N Al Assoc. MMS&C to do so.

Informational reports—

43 in attendance today with Cedar Creek winning the plaque for 2nd time in a row.

Rev Danny Williams represented the Al State Ex Off and gave a report from Bro Rick Cash. Acts 1:8 is \$30,000 behind on budget at this time. Challenged all to give more. Rev Lynn Blanchard has resigned the Journey church, the State mission work at Oxford Al. Shane Suggs is staying on, but the state will not fund this project, "they will be on their own". Please pray for the church there. The work at Semmes Al, with Rev Tim Riggs, is average 77 and exciting things are happening there. Praise the Lord for this! Trying to pray off the bldg. debt by April of 2014. Acts 1:8 helps support Mexico and Russia. Bro Mike Corley has recently returned from the 10th conference held in Russia supported by Al FWB. Mexico—60 converts in river village new bldg.

completed. The Bible institute in Cuba and Mexico are going to try and form a partnership to train pastors and leaders.

Al State Executive Office is nearing completion. Dedication is to be held in May at the Pastor's and Workers conference. Al State Association will be held Nov 6-8, 2013 at the New Oak Grove FWB in Nauvoo Al. WMO report—99 out of 100 churches pledged, but all have not fulfilled pledges with the funds. Praise God for the \$783,000 given as of this date and hoping to reach \$800,000.

Children's Home—18 Children currently on campus. 3 of 4 kids in one family went home with their mother, but 1 decided to stay at the home. A large estate given last fall from Non-FWB. Capital improvements made to buildings from this. 64 acres adjacent to the Home are being purchased with part of the funds. Pray for direction and wisdom to use the property for cause of Christ. All cottages are now handicapped accessible. The annual Toy run will be 1st Sat in Dec, please pray for good weather and for God to bless. Benefit singing to be held at State Line FWB at Hazel Green Al on Oct 19 (tonight). Bro Williams handed out notepads for prayer requests to be written down on.

Delegates to Al State Association Meeting: Carolyn Michael(Madison), Jean McCraney(Decatur), Carolyn Hendrix(Madison), Harry Pounds (1st FWB Huntsville), Renae McCarley (Cedar Creek)MMS&C to elect by acclamation.

Information:

Bro Russ Detherage gave report on the work at St Croix, Virgin Islands. One of the students drowned recently, please pray for his family and the school. Also reported that ELIC teachers Josh and Jennifer Detherage have returned to Mongolia and he is now dean of the English program. Also requested prayer for Joel and Angel Babcock family of ELI director, who were killed in the recent airplane crash in Laos.

Bro Ron McCraney gave a report on the work at Truth FWB in Castle Rock Colorado. Average 90-95, souls are being saved and they are in process of buying property for building church on. Encouraged all to give.. "Truth needs a home".

Offering of \$196.00 MMS&C to go to the Al FWB Children's Home. Prayer by Rev Craig McCarley.

Special Music—Sis Patsy Shellman blessed all with "Good Things are Happening".

Rev Dennis Reeves, pastor of Laodicea gave a brief report of how the church began over 100 yrs ago and the ministry there. They have had 4 baptisms in 6 months and added 14 new members. Asked association to pray for church and for wisdom for him to reach congregation for Christ.

Morning Message brought by Rev Danny Williams. Using the text II Kings 4:8-10, key verse 9. Traveling has enabled him to see that we no longer have a concept of "Holiness". I Peter 1: 15-16 "For it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy" is a command; not a suggestion! What do we want to be known as?

Title of Message: "The Testimony I want" ...Holiness is: Cleanness from sin, Consecration to be set apart for God, Conformity to the image of Christ, Communion with the Father . "When we get comfortable and casual with Holy things, we make mistakes". "We need more than programs and plans, we need character and Holy Living today". As a church today we need to preach holiness. Quoting Vance Havner "Elisha had more power dead than we have alive", Bro Danny challenged all to ask "are we willing to go the distance to be Holy men and women of God?"

Future Meetings: April (2014)Laodicea

October (2014) Cedar Creek

Rev Richard Hendrix made motion to give thanks to the Host (First FWB Decatur) today.

Sis Carolyn Michael announced the WAC Banquet at the State Association and encouraged all to attend.

Sis Faye Moore of Laodicea Church requested prayer for upcoming surgery on knee.

Dismissed in prayer by Rev Richard Hendrix.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean McCraney, Clerk

Amy Beck, Asst Clerk

**North Alabama Association Treasurer's Report
October 19, 2013**

Balance March 31, 2013 **\$ 1,427.83**

Income:

Representation Fees	\$ 650.00
Offering	<u>108.66</u>

Total	<u>758.66</u>
	2,186.49

Expenses:

Rick Cash	\$200.00
Amy Beck (Minute Printing)	185.48
USPO	18.09

Total Expenses	<u>\$403.57</u>
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Balance September 30, 2013 *** \$ 1,782.92**

Youth Fund

Balance September-30-2013	\$149.05
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Balance September 2013	<u>\$149.05</u>
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***Total includes Youth Fund Balance**

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH ALABAMA FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

This body shall be known as the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists

ARTICLE II

This Association shall be composed of Ministers, Deacons, Clerks, and Delegates from the different churches forming the same. All having full power to vote on all questions which come before the Association. Each church being entitled to (5) delegates, with an appropriate representation fee as specified.

ARTICLE III

This body adopts the Treatise of Faith and Practice of the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

ARTICLE IV

This body shall be composed of churches of the above named Association, together with like bodies of same faith and practice which may be hereafter admitted.

ARTICLE V

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk-Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the nomination and majority of votes by-annually (every two years). Officers thus elected shall hold their positions until their successors are elected. The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1. It is understood that the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists have no judicial authority over any local church.

ARTICLE VI

Section 2. The North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists and its member local churches do not grant any judicial authority to any representative body to which they may belong.

ARTICLE VII

There shall be an ordaining council elected by the Association to inquire into and examine each applicant for ordination to preach the Gospel of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and make recommendation to the Association for the ordination of said applicant. This council shall be composed of five (5) ordained men.

ARTICLE VIII

The Association shall meet on the third Saturday in April and October.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1. When a church desires that one of its members should be licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel, it requests the Association to examine, by council, such member. The examination for license should refer to the piety, doctrine and convictions respecting the work of the ministry, and the reputation for character and ability of the candidate.

Section 2. The examination for ordination should include all that is required for license and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate.

Section 3. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this Association as a preacher who has more than one living wife.

Section 4. No one shall be ordained as a deacon until he is put on trial by his church for one (1) year.

ARTICLE X

This constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing and tabled in the morning session and voted on during the afternoon session.

NOTES

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by his grace to live and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship, and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and observance of the ordinances of the gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end, we agree to labor for the promotion of education and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
