

MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association

WHICH CONVENED WITH

MT. ZION CHURCH

Friday Before the Third Sunday

In October, 1948.

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— OFFICERS —

REV. D. F. PELT Moderator

LUCILLE H. BODIFORD Clerk

LINNIE J. STOKES Treasurer

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. H. Oates, C. A. Arnold, J. H. Garner, Cleveland Stanley

The next session will convene with Evergreen Church, Dale County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1949.

PROGRAM

10:00—Congregational Singing Led by H. C. Stokes
10:30—Devotional
10:45—Welcome Address
10:55—Response
11:05—Song Services
11:20—Sermon
12:20—Lunch

UNION MEETING

GOOD WATER CHURCH, NEWTON, ALABAMA

5th SUNDAY, MAY 29, 1949.

10:00—House Called to Order by Moderator.
Devotional by Aletha Deese.
10:30—Song Services.
Congregational Singing Led by Wade Thomley.
11:00—Sermon Rev. K. V. Shutes
12:00—Lunch.
1:00—Devotional Vera G. Stembridge
2:00—Report on Vacation Bible School by Roland Pelt.
2:30—Report on Youth Camps by Mike Pelt.

— PROGRAM —**Friday Morning**

Pastor of Evergreen will have charge of all announcements.
 10:00—Congregational Singing Led by R. C. Stokes.
 10:30—Devotional Rev. John Golden
 10:45—Welcome Address Argol Garner
 10:55—Response Lottie Wood White
 11:05—Song Service.
 11:30—Sermon Rev. Chester Pelt
 12:20—Lunch.
 1:30—Congregational Singing Led by R. C. Stokes.
 1:40—Devotional Rev. J. N. Barnes
 1:55—Seating of Delegates.
 2:45—Moderator's Address.
 3:00—National Missionary Report.....Rev. T. B. Mellette
 3:15—Assignment of Homes.
 3:20—Adjournment.

Friday Evening.

7:00—SermonRev. Leroy Knighten

Saturday Morning.

9:30—Congregational Singing Led by R. C. Stokes.
 10:00—Devotional Edna Beasley
 10:15—Business Session.
 10:50—Woman's Work Mrs. Chester Pelt
 11:20—Sermon Rev. G. H. Jordan
 12:15—Lunch.
 1:30—Memorial Service.
 Rev. George Nobles in Charge of Devotional Part.
 Sisters Evelyn and Margaret Sutton in Charge of
 Arrangements.
 2:00—Business Session.
 3:00—Adjournment.

MINUTES

Of The Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association which met in its Seventieth Annual Session with Mt. Zion Church in Henry County, Alabama.

Friday Morning.

The Association opened with songs led by R. C. Stokes. Brother J. S. Vickers gave the "Welcome Address." Brother J. H. Oates gave a very entertaining response. Rev. Leroy Knighten gave the sermon of the morning. (Text: 2 Verse, 54 Chapter of Isaiah.) The Possibilities of Our Denomination, was his subject. He made it very plain that we are shirking our duties as Christians. Our possibilities are unlimited. It was certainly enjoyed.

An intermission of an hour was given for lunch. A delicious lunch was served.

Friday Afternoon.

Songs were led by R. C. Stokes. Devotional was given by Brother John Barnes. His subject was: "Live the Word, Good Old Everyday Christian Living."

The Moderator then declared the house ready for business. He called for the letters from the churches of the Association. Letters were read by Brothers J. H. Oates and J. S. Vickers. On motion letters were received and delegates seated.

Called for Corresponding Delegates: Brother John Barnes, a visitor from Midway Association, Brother J. R. Tedder, a visitor from Midway Association, Brother Leroy Knighten, a visitor from Chattahoochee Association. Motion was carried to seat these people as Visiting Brothers.

Committees were appointed—Finance Committee: Cleve Stanley, E. R. Mims and Lottie W. White. Nominating Committee: Eloise Commander, J. S. Vickers and Edna Lawrence. A song was led by R. C. Stokes.

Brother C. A. Arnold gave a Sunday School Report and lecture. He made the statement "Our Inmates of Alabama's State Prisons Have Never Attended Sunday School."

Brother John Barnes introduced Rev. J. L. Tedder, who gave us an inspiring message. The Moderator led in prayer. The congregation sang "Old Rugged Cross." Delegates were asked to spend the night.

The Association was dismissed by a prayer by the Moderator at 3:00 p. m. to resume labor Saturday morning at 9:00 a. m.

Saturday Morning

Singing was led by Brother R. C. Stokes. Devotional service was given by Mrs. Harvey Gilmore and prayer by Brother Marian Vickers.

The Moderator renewed the call for delegates and letters. Letters from Friendship, Sardis, Goodwater, Pleasant Hill and Chester Chapel were read.

The Committee on Obituaries was appointed: Brother Hubert Clark, W. C. Mathis and Sister Sallie Mae Wood.

A special song was given by the Stanley Quartet. Brother T. B. Mellette gave a report on Woman's Work in the Church. Women certainly have a very definite place in our Churches. He mentioned Miss Laura Belle Barnard, our Missionary in India.

Rev. D. F. Pelt gave us the sermon, followed by a prayer by Rev. Rufus Hyman. Songs were led by Brother R. C. Stokes. The subject of the sermon was "The Second Mile On the Required." F. D. Roosevelt and D. L. Moody were great men who traveled the second mile. Jesus went the second mile. Brother Long Stokes went his second mile in his loyalty to the Church. His sermon was greatly enjoyed. We dismissed and enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Saturday Afternoon.

The Memorial Service was given for our departed loved ones.

The report was given from the Nominating Committee: Evergreen asked for the Association and that Rev. Chester Pelt preach the Introductory Sermon.

Rev. Chester Pelt gave a lecture on Temperance.

Miscellaneous business. Delegates to Sister Associations were asked to volunteer. Brother E. R. Mims said that he would go to the Midway Association.

State Line—Brother C. A. Arnold.

Chattahoochee—Sister Linnie Stokes and Mrs. Agnes Starling.

Salem—Rev. D. F. Pelt.

Union Hill—Rev Rufus Hyman, Sister Dora Tomley and Sister Mathis.

Midway—Rev. Mellette.

Motion that clerk and treasurer print as many minutes as needed.

Officers were elected by acclamation: Treasurer, Linnie J. Stokes; Clerk, Lucille H. Bodiford (re-elected); Modera-

tor, retained Rev. D. F. Pelt; Vice Moderator, Brother J. H. Oates; Executive Committee, retained; Program Committee, Sister Edna Lawrence, Sister Edna Beasley and the clerk.

Motion to pay clerk \$25.00 and Moderator \$10.00.

Brother Rufus Hyman gave a report on our orphanage at Eldridge, Alabama. Twenty-two children there and eight on waiting list and not a one of these came from a Free Will Baptist Home. A special offering of \$22.25 was taken for the orphanage.

On motion, we gave a rising vote of thanks to Mt. Zion for the kind hospitality and beautiful flowers.

The clerk was given orders to write a resolution of thanks in the minute.

Motion to have Union Meeting second Fifth Sunday in 1949, May 29, 1949 at Goodwater in Dale County, Alabama.

We then took the parting hand till we meet with Goodwater Church the 5th Sunday in May.

LUCILLE H. BODIFORD, Clerk
D. F. PELT, Moderator

Be it resolved that we the Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association, do highly appreciate the hospitality and beautiful flowers of the Mt. Zion Church during the Association.

Association Clerk,

LUCILLE H. BODIFORD.

Obituaries

In loving memory of fourteen of our beloved members.

MT. ZION—Catherine (Cattie) Hendley, age 88.

NEW PROSPECT—Mrs. Henry C. Brown, age 47.

CHESTER CHAPPEL—Mrs. H. P. Calhoun (Miss Willie) age 61.

EVERGREEN—J. D. Baker, age 61.

GOODWATER—Four departed.

PILGRIM REST—John Ed Cummings, age 84.

PLEASANT HILL—Mrs. Lee Zora Money, age 58, and C. A. Register.

HICKORY GROVE—One departed.

UNION GROVE—O'Neal Bodiford, age 39; John Denham, age 65; J. Long Stokes, age 57.

CHURCHES	PASTORS AND POST OFFICES	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES	DELEGATES	Enrolled in Sunday School	Pastor's Salary	Dismissed by Letter	Received by Letter	Received on Confession	Died	Present Membership	Paid Association	Paid Minutes	Other Donations	League Members
Chester Chapel	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	Mrs. M. G. Vinson, Abbeville	Jack Calhoun, Mrs. Mattie Gray Coates, Mrs. Pauline Coates	—	135.07	—	—	—	1	42	2.00	1.00	—	—
Evergreen	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	Mrs. Edna Beasley, Ariton	Mrs. Edna Beasley, Henry Garner, Enoch Paulk	—	252.10	1	—	—	1	88	2.50	2.50	83.00	—
Friendship	D. F. Pelt, Altha, Fla.	Mrs. A. Logan, Eufaula	Edna Lawrence, Clyde Beasley, Minnie Lee Brown	77	600.00	—	—	7	—	42	5.00	—	85.00	32
Good Water	Rufus Hyman, Slocomb	W. C. Mathews, Newton	Mittie Harris, Dora Thomley, Jewel Thomley, Willie Mae Thomley, W. C. Mathews	54	236.18	—	1	—	4	116	2.50	2.50	119.80	—
Holmes	D. F. Pelt, Altha, Fla.	Eloise Commander, Ariton	Vester Sutton, Evelyn Sutton	35	284.46	—	—	—	—	19	2.50	2.50	187.49	—
Mt. Zion	Rufus Hyman, Slocomb	Mary Standley Cox, Eufaula	Jessie Cullifer, Wade Chester Stanley, L.L. Vickers, J.S. Vickers	75	154.20	—	—	—	1	98	2.50	2.50	24.00	—
New Prospect	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	Mrs. Oyd Tew, Eufaula	Phil Walker, George Lewis, Flozell Wilkerson	—	—	5	—	4	1	161	2.00	2.00	—	—
New Zion	M. Vickers, Headland and Chester Pelt, Mar-iana, Fla.	Mrs. J. H. Oates, Headland	J. H. Oates, Sallie Mae Wood, Gladys Watson, Matt Sanders	58	270.00	—	—	14	—	77	2.50	2.50	—	—
Pleasant Hill	J. L. Tedder, Blakley	Marvin Calloway, Headland	Vivian Register, A. L. Craft, Marvin Calloway, Effie Givens, Mable Farmer	—	93.93	—	—	—	1	93	2.50	2.50	—	—
Sardis	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	W. H. Gilmore, Clayton	Warren Gilmore, Sara Gilmore, Edd Clark, Hubert Clark, Myrtle Hatfield	58	200.00	—	—	5	—	100	2.00	2.00	18.30	—
Union Grove	T. B. Mellette, Blakely	Linnie J. Stokes, Abbeville	Bob Stokes, T. R. Howell, Sam Mason, C. A. Arnold, E. R. Mims	—	250.00	2	—	—	—	187	5.00	5.00	147.00	30
Hickory Grove	P. A. Brackins, Newvi'e	Vallie Blalock, Abbeville	Henry Blalock, Nita Hickman, Coleman Blalock, Vallie Blalock	35	—	—	—	1	1	31	2.50	2.50	44.15	—
Judson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pilgrim Rest	T. B. Mellette, Blakely	Mrs. Ruth Smith, Abbeville	Mrs. Ruth Smith, Mrs. Elma Lindsay, Mrs. Alice Money, Mrs. Howard Smith, Mrs. Earl Money	70	65.45	—	—	3	1	125	3.00	2.00	25.00	—

der the gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life conditionally. But those who by faith preserve to the end will be saved. That it is possible for men who have been converted, to "Make shipwrecks of faith," turn again to sin and finally be lost.

OF GOOD WORK—Article 9. We believe that good works is the result of faith and not necessity. That those who have faith will do works of righteousness, while those who have no faith cannot do anything pleasing or acceptable unto God.

OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM—Article 10. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. That baptism cannot be scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it.

OF THE LORD'S SUPPER—Article 11. We believe the supper was instituted by our Saviour as a commemorative ordinance. That the bread and the wine are representative of His broken body and shed blood. That it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of names or denominational distinctions.

OF THE SOUL—Article 12. We believe that man is a living soul. That the body will die, but that the soul is immortal. That death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings.

OF THE RESURRECTION—Article 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body will unite and form an immortal being. That the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness to reign with God forever. But the wicked will be bound hand and foot and cast into darkness. "The wicked are driven away in their wickedness but the righteous have hope in their deaths."

Articles of Decorum for Association

Article 1. That this Association be known and designated as the Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association and

shall hold one annual session each year at such time and place as agreed upon by the previous session. After the body assembles an introductory sermon shall be preached by the minister or his alternate who were elected at the previous session to perform that service. In their absence the ministers present shall select one of their number to perform the service.

Article 2. The annual association shall be composed of delegates from the different churches of the association, represented as follows: One delegate for every twenty-five members or less, and one for every fraction of twenty-five or twelve. Any conference may be considered legal when five members are present.

Article 3. All ordained, licensed ministers, officers of the association shall be honorary members of the association, with the privileges as delegates in the association, the Moderator excepted, and he shall only vote in case of a tie.

Article 4. Officers of the association shall be a moderator, clerk, treasurer and executive committee, who shall be elected annually, and their tenure of office shall be one year or until their successors are elected.

Article 5. If the moderator and clerk of the previous session are present, they shall call the body to order. In their absence the ministers present shall appoint a moderator and clerk, proceed to business as follows: Enroll the names of the ministers present, also the delegates from the different churches and visiting brothers and sisters. These shall compose the association.

Article 6. The churches are members of the association and are entitled to fellowship while they are in Gospel order, but a church that becomes disorderly by failing to use discipline in cases of immoral conduct among its members, shall be excluded.

Article 7. The association has the right to obtain ministers when ordination is called for by the church through its church letters, and report the same to the church through its delegates.

Article 8. The minutes of the association shall be read and approved by the body before adjournment.

Article 9. Amendments may be made to the rules of Decorum by a majority of two-thirds vote of delegates present.

Report of Treasurer

Received at 1947 Session	\$ 86.51
Old Balance	51.20
Total	\$137.71

Paid Out—

Clerk and Moderator.....	\$ 35.00	
Minutes and Postage.....	35.77	
Floral Design for J. L. Stokes	10.00	
For Bible College	25.00	
Total Paid Out	\$105.77	\$105.77

Balance in Treasury.....	\$ 31.94
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Respectfully Submitted,

LINNIE J. STOKES, Treasurer, 1948

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WHEREAS Brother J. Long Stokes, a member of the Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association of long standing, a faithful worker in the Association, was treasurer of the Association for years; a devout Christian; a believer of Christ and a Child of God, passed from this earthly sojourn on December 31st, 1947,

WHEREAS we wish to acknowledge our love and respect of our departed brother and forever inscribe his name in the records of this Association as one who was found faithful,

THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Free Will Baptist Association in annual meeting assembled that the Christian life of our departed brother, J. Long Stokes, be memorialized in the minutes of this association by being recorded in this resolution that he was a Mason of outstanding character, he ever worked on the level, acted upon the square, kept a tongue of good report; he ever maintained secrecy and practiced charity every day of his life. A devoted neighbor and a dear lover of the art of masonry, and of his church and the community and of all civic organizations of his county and community, and was a faithful worker in his church, and all things pertaining thereto and was a jovial character, ever true to his friends and in ever phase of his life a very devoted husband, ever kind to his family and to know him was to love him,

AND his parting will ever be missed in the community in which he lived in his church and league work and everything pertaining to the upbuilding of his community; he was a good neighbor, ever ready to lend a helping hand to those in need of his assistance.

BE IT RESOLVED that we take this means of expressing our great loss by the passing of his influential life and bowing to the will of God that we happily contemplate his rich reward from the hands of God and confidently look to the day when we all shall assemble in his presence to bask in the eternal sunshine of the love of God.