

MINUTES
OF THE
118th Annual Session of the
TENNESSEE RIVER
ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists
Convened with
Scotts Chapel Church
Friday, September 13, 1996

The next association will convene with
Piney Grove
on Friday before the third Sunday in
September 1997, at 10:30 A.M.

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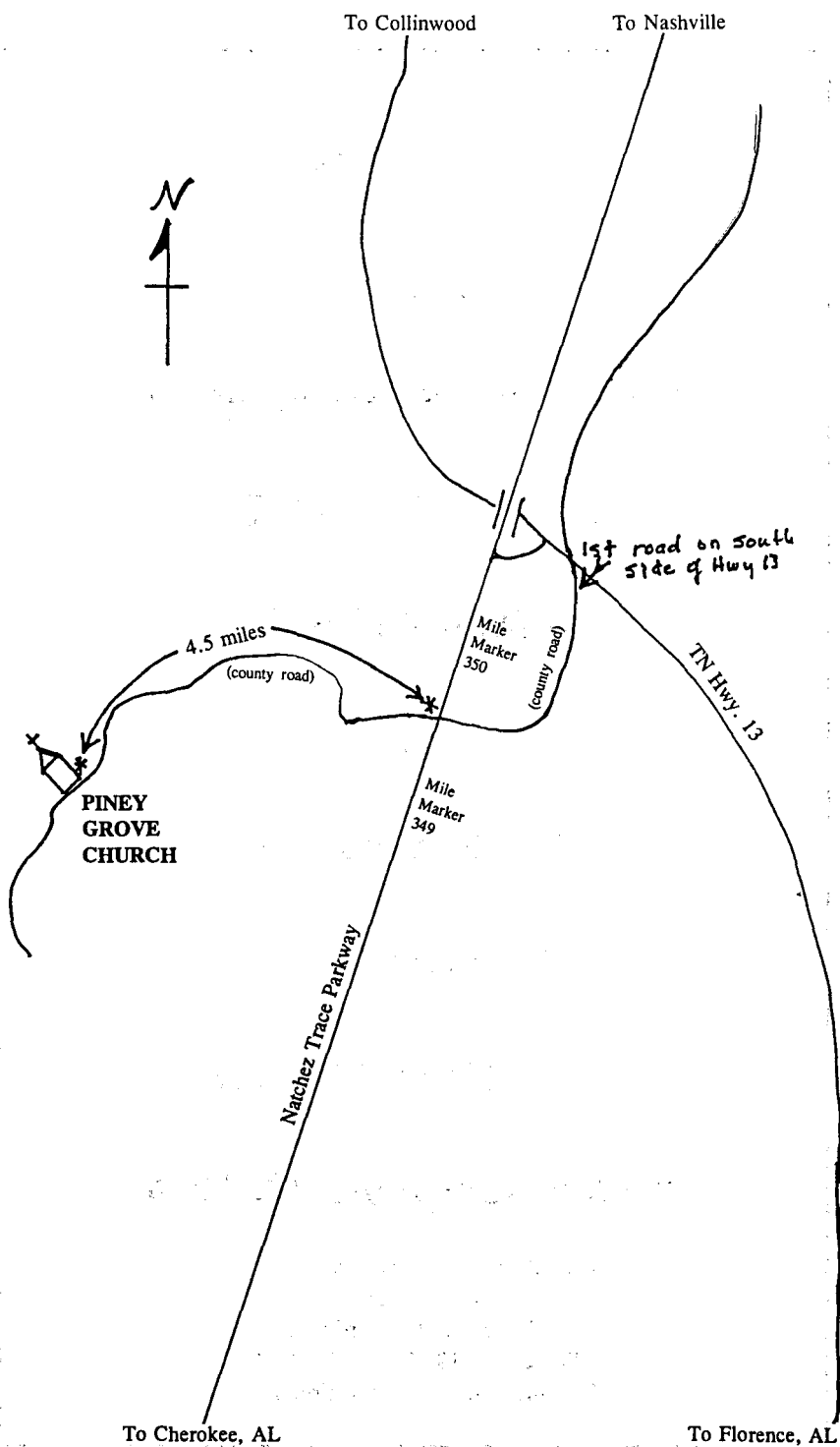
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(See map on reverse for directions)



ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Moderator Rev. Vernon Gober, 4293 State Road 22 N,
Adamsville, TN 38310-2507 PH (901) 632-4228
Assistant Moderator Rev. Jimmy Shields, Rt. 12, Box 110C,
Florence, AL 35633 PH (205) 766-6926
Clerk Rev. John E. Banks, Rt. 1, Box 116
Cypress Inn, TN 38452 PH (615) 724-9156

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Secretary-Treasurer Bro. Alan R. Gober, 4293 State Road 22 N.,
Adamsville, TN 38310-2507
Rev. Paul Childers Rt 1, Box 559, 1485 Mayhall Rd, Counce, TN 38326
Rev. Charles Linam Rt. 7, Box 110, Savannah, TN 38372

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Jimmy Shields Rt. 12, Box 110C
Florence, AL 35633 PH (205) 766-6926

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Moderator Rev. Jimmy Shields, Rt. 12, Box 110C
Florence, AL 35633 PH (205) 766-6926
Assistant Moderator Rev. Marvin Morrow, 3415 Cromwell Ridge Rd.,
Cypress Inn, TN 38452 PH (615) 724-9663
Clerk Bro. Alan R. Gober, 4293 State Road 22 N.
Adamsville, TN 38310-2507 PH (901) 632-4228

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Tim Hanback Iron City, TN 38463
Rev. Charles Linam Rt. 7, Box 110, Savannah, TN 38372
Rev. Marvin Morrow Cypress Inn, TN 38452

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to meet with Churches when needed to deal with any problem that might arise. If needed contact the Chairman which will be the longest experienced minister or deacon in the Tennessee River Association serving on the Committee. In the event one of the committee is unable to serve the Moderator of the presbytery will serve in his absence. The committee is as follows.

Rev. Carl Creasey Bro. Vernon Gober, Chairman Rev. J. W. Stooksberry
Rev. Earnest Robertson Bro. Tim Hanback

PLACING OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

September 1996 Whites Creek
December 1996 Scott's Chapel
March 1997 Adamsville
June 1997 Piney Grove
August 1997 New Chapel

CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESS

Adamsville	Sis. Nina Jarrett 1861 Caney Branch Rd., Adamsville, TN 38310
Bumpus Creek	Linda Scott Rt. 1, Box 122, Lutts, TN 38471
Meeks Grove	Betty Milford Rt. 1, Box 183A, Stantonville, Tn 38379
Midway	Susie Hall 844 Piney Woods Rd., Russellville, AL 35653
Murphy's Chapel	Cathy Creasy Rt. 12, Box 349B, Florence, AL 35633
New Chapel	Doris Tucker Rt. 1, Box 354, Counce, TN 38326
New Pleasant Grove	Sue Franks Rt. 7, Box 77D, Savannah, TN 38372
Piney Grove	Roger Stults 1080 Big Cypress Rd., Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Posey Chapel	
Rayborn Chapel	Edgar Melson Rt. 2, Box 102, Collinwood, TN 38450
Roden	Jerry Mack Willis 2398 Co. Rd. 235, Town Creek, AL 35672
Scotts Chapel	Judy Harper Rt. 1, Box 144, Iron City, Tn 38463
Shady Grove	Gwen Franks Rt. 1, Box 315, Olive Hill, TN 38475
Solitude	Betty Harville 9288 Leapwood-Enville Rd., Adamsville, TN 38310
Whites Creek	Paulette Stricklin Rt. 5, Box 163, Savannah, Tn 38372

ORDAINED MINISTERS: THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBER

Rev. John E. Banks	Rt. 1, Box 116, Cypress Inn, TN 38452	Phone (615) 724-9156
Rev. Benton Brown	Rt. 7, Box 85D, Savannah, TN 38372	Phone (901) 925-9313
Rev. Paul Childers	Rt. 1, Box 559, 1485 Mayhall Rd., Counce, TN 38326	Phone (901) 689-5548
Rev. Carl Creasy	Rt. 12, Box 451, Florence, AL 35633	Phone (205) 766-5958
Rev. Earl Dixon	Rt. 14, Box 285, Florence, AL 35633	Phone (205) 764-0558
Rev. Greg Eaton	Rt. 2, Box 144A, Waynesboro, TN 38485	Phone (615) 722-7581
Rev. Randy Flatt	2333 Mt. Vinson Rd., Stantonville, TN 38379	Phone (901) 632-4622
Rev. V. H. Gean	Rt. 14, Box 309, Florence, AL 35633	Phone (205) 766-3896
Rev. Vernon Gober	4293 State Rd. 22N., Adamsville, TN 38310-2507	Phone (901) 632-4228
Rev. Tim Hanback	Iron City, TN 38463	Phone (615) 724-5371
Rev. Carlos Hughes	225 Saddle Club Loop, Lexington, TN 38351	Phone (901) 968-8194
Rev. Clarence Jeffreys	1738 Co. Rd. 235, Town Creek, AL 35672	Phone (205) 685-3508
Rev. Charles Linam	Rt. 7, Box 110, Savannah, TN 38372	Phone (901) 925-2923
Rev. Keith Montgomery	Rt. 12, Box 332, Florence, AL 35633	Phone (205) 760-0925
Rev. Virgil Moore	100 Beason Dr., Morris Chapel, TN 38361	Phone (901) 632-3256
Rev. Marvin Morrow	1351 Cromwell Ridge Rd., Cypress Inn, TN 38452	Phone (615) 724-9663
Rev. Earl Rich	Rt. 1; Box 81A, Cypress Inn, TN 38452	Phone (615) 724-9654
Rev. Earnest Robertson	Iron City, TN 38463	Phone (615) 724-9868
Rev. Jimmy Shields	Rt. 12, Box 110C, Florence, AL 35633	Phone (205) 766-6926
Rev. Dalton Skaggs	Rt. 1, Box 13A, Collinwood, TN 38450	Phone (615) 724-9622
Rev. Edward Smith	Rt. 1, Box 163, Stantonville, TN 38379	Phone (901) 632-4413

ROLL OF DECEASED MINISTERS

<u>Minister</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Rev. George W. Arnold	23
Rev. R. T. Berry	10
Rev. Elton Cotner	39
Rev. Vernon Creasy	9
Rev. Lige Dickey	Unknown
Rev. Boss G. Gibson	4
Rev. B. A. Hale	20
Rev. Don Hanback	1
Rev. J. B. Harper	60
Rev. Clarence Harris	5
Rev. R. A. Johnson	35
Rev. J. B. McGee	18
Rev. L. L. Moore	22
Rev. J. A. Moyer	26
Rev. R. P. Owen	14
Rev. J. Whitfield Phillips	42
Rev. Walker Rich	13
Rev. H. M. Richardson	12
Rev. Dewey Stults	11
Rev. J. J. Tune	Unknown
Rev. Eargin Warren	18
Rev. J. B. Cobb	Unknown
Rev. Nick White	43
Rev. L. L. Wilson	43

CHURCH PASTORS

Adamsville	Rev. Keith Montgomery
Bumpus Creek	Rev. Earl Rich
Meeks Grove	Rev. Charles Linam
Midway	Rev. Carl Creasy
Murphy's Chapel	Rev. Greg Eaton
New Chapel	Rev. Paul Childers
New Pleasant Grove	Rev. Carlos Hughes
Piney Grove	Rev. Earnest Robertson
Posey Chapel	
Rayborn Chapel	Rev. Benton Brown
Roden	Rev. Clarence Jeffreys
Scotts Chapel	Rev. Tim Hanback
Shady Grove	Rev. Randy Flatt
Solitude	Rev. Marvin Morrow
Whites Creek	Rev. John E. Banks

**ORDAINED DEACONS
THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS**

ADAMSVILLE

Bro. Robert Jarrett 743 North Maple, Adamsville, TN 38310
Bro. Wayne Helton Rt. 1, Stantonville, TN 38379
Phone (901) 632-3768
Bro. Virgil Nixon Rt. 2, Box 117, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone (901) 632-4620
Bro. Jerry Scott Rt. 2, Box 53A, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone (901) 632-4629

BUMPUS CREEK

Bro. Bill Benson Box 61, Waterloo, AL 35630
Phone (205) 760-1664
Bro. Ricky Franks Rt. 1, Box 322A, Olive Hill, TN 38475
Phone (901) 925-6309

MEEKS GROVE

Bro. E. G. Sowell 500 Old Shiloh Rd., Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone (901) 632-0154
Bro. Charles Taylor

MIDWAY

Bro. Stancill Robbins Rt. 2, Leighton, AL 35646
Phone (205) 446-6552
Bro. Claude Hall, Jr. Rt. 2, Leighton, AL 35646
Phone (205) 446-8757
Bro. Steve Creasy 524 Piney Woods Rd., Russellville, AL 35653

MURPHY'S CHAPEL

NEW CHAPEL

Bro. Delbert Tucker Counce, TN 38326

NEW PLEASANT GROVE

PINEY GROVE

Bro. Ira Gillis Collinwood, TN 38450 Phone (615) 724-9231
Bro. Robert D. Wright Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (615) 724-9691

POSEY CHAPEL

RAYBORN CHAPEL

Bro. Jessie J. Melson Collinwood, TN 38450 Phone (615) 724-4926

RODEN

Bro. Jerry Mack Willis 2398 Co. Rd. 235, Town Creek, AL 35672
Phone (205) 685-0148

SCOTTS CHAPEL

Bro. Robert Berry Lutts, TN 38471 Phone (615) 724-9011
Bro. Aaron Stults Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (615) 724-9219
Bro. Joel Pigg Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (615) 724-9263
Bro. J. W. Stooksberry Iron City, TN 38463 Phone (615) 724-4340
Bro. Danny Brown Rt. 1, Box 119E, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Phone (615) 724-9509

SHADY GROVE

Bro. Herbert Clay Savannah, TN 38372 Phone (901) 925-2714
Bro. Paul Franks Olive Hill, TN 38475 Phone (901) 925-6070

SOLITUDE

Bro. Clarence Cook Rt. 3, Box 231, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone (901) 632-3736
Bro. Charles Moore Rt. 2, Box 570, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone (901) 632-3112
Bro. Gary Gober P.O. Box 715, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone (901) 632-4989

WHITES CREEK

Bro. D. E. Patterson Rt. 1, Savannah, TN 38372
Phone (901) 925-3667
Bro. Jimmy Lambert Rt. 1, Box 144A, Savannah, Tn 38372
Phone (901) 925-3672

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning, September 13, 1996

The Tennessee River Association met with Scott's Chapel Church at 10:30 A.M.

Opening Song Led By Bro. Alan Gober
Prayer By Bro. Virgil Gean
Welcome By Bro. Jimmy Shields
Message By Bro. Vernon Gober
Scripture Eph. 2:1-10; Romans 5:9-10
Subject Saved By His Grace, Justified By His Blood
Dismissed Bro. Lemuel Hanback

Friday Afternoon Session

Song Led By Bro. Marvin Morrow
Scripture Read By Bro. Danny Brown
Scripture Luke 17:11-19
Prayer By Bro. Earnest Robertson

Appointment of Various Committees

Reading Clerks Bro. Marvin Morrow, Bro. Tim Hanback
Finance Bro. Lemuel Hanback, Bro. Ricky Franks, Bro. Jerry Willis
Sunday School Jamie Brewer, Bro. Earl Rich, Bro. Jerry Faults
Obituary Bro. Edgar Melson, Bro. Elzo Smith, Bro. Ronald Brown
Program Bro. Danny Brow, Bro. J. W. Stooksberry, Bro. Tim Hanback

CALLED FOR CHURCH LETTERS AND RECOGNIZED THE DELEGATES

ADAMSVILLE

Bro. Jerry Clausel

BUMPUS CREEK

Bro. Ricky Franks

MEEKS GROVE

By Letter

MIDWAY

Bro. Stancill Robbins

MURPHY'S CHAPEL

Bro. Ronald Brown

NEW CHAPEL

Bro. Gordon Williams, Sis. Betty Williams, Sis. Frankie Childers

NEW PLEASANT GROVE
Bro. Monroe Hubbard, Bro. Odell Franks

PINEY GROVE
Bro. Lemual Hanback, Bro. Ray Balentine, Bro. Jay Sandusky

POSEY CHAPEL

RAYBORN CHAPEL
Bro. Edgar Melson

RODEN
Bro. Jerry Willis

SCOTTS CHAPEL
Bro. Darrel West, Bro. Otha Horton, Bro. Ross Berry,
Bro. Elzo Smith, Bro. Jammie Brewer

SHADY GROVE
Bro. Buddy Melson, Sis. Eula Mae Melson, Sis. Susie Franks

SOLITUDE
Bro. Joe Tacker, Sis. Helen Tacker, Sis. Josie White

WHITES CREEK
Bro. Ross Vickory, Bro. Shane Franks

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES

General Business Bro. Clarence Jefferys, Bro. Earl Dixon, Bro. V. H. Géans,
Bro. Dalton Skaggs, Bro. Paul Childers
Education Bro. Stancil Robbins, Bro. Gary Gober, Bro. Monroe Hubbard
Temperance Bro. Virgil Moore, Bro. Gordon Williams, Sis. Betty Williams
Benevolence Bro. Earnest Robertson, Bro. Ross Vickory, Bro. Shane Franks
Resolution of Thanks Sis. Frankie Childers, Sis. Helen Tacker, Sis. Josie White

Business meeting was dismissed to meet back at 9:00 A.M. Saturday morning,
supper to be at 5:00 P.M.; and service to start at 6:30 P.M. Dismissed by Bro. Virgil
Moore.

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Song Led By	Bro. Virgil Gean
Prayer By	Bro. Edward Smith
1st Message By	Bro. Virgil Moore
Scripture	Jeremiah 2:4-13
Subject	God's Ways
2nd Message By	Bro. Paul Childers
Scripture	Acts 2:41-47
Subject	A New Testament Church Needed
Dismissed By	Bro. Marvin Morrow

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

Song Led By	Bro. Carl Harper
Scripture Read By	Bro. Charles Linam
Scripture	1 Cor. 13:1-13
Prayer By	Bro. Curtis Briley

GENERAL BUSINESS REPORT

We your committee on general business recommend the committee be composed of five members.

We recommend each church send \$150.00 to the Home Missions Board each year. We recommend it be sent by the first of January.

We recommend that the deacons remind their church, according to Acts 6:3, we feel it is their duty to make sure the financial needs of their church and the Association are met.

We recommend each church give prayerful thought to the support of the work of the Lord carried on by the Association.

We recommend all our Ministers pay a tenth of the money received from ministerial work to the Home Missions Board by the 30th of each year.

We recommend each church call its pastor at least thirty days before the Association meets. We recommend church conferences use secret ballots to elect or re-elect nominees for pastor.

We recommend the officers of the fifth Sunday meetings be elected and the Fifth Sunday meeting places be selected at the last Fifth Sunday meeting before the Associational meeting. We recommend said officers be elected for a one year term.

We recommend the Associational Clerk, Home Missions Treasurer, and Fifth Sunday Clerk each be paid \$200.00 per year from the Home Missions Treasury.

We recommend preachers and deacons come to the Associational meetings.

We recommend directions to the host church of the Association be added to the minutes.

We recommend that any church desiring to borrow money for any additions or improvements, petition the trustees at the quarterly meeting for up to two-thirds of the total amount in the fund, and if approved, to be granted at the next quarterly meeting. This

money is to be repaid after one year without interest.

We recommend that the Association continue its work with the youth and also continue the quarterly meetings.

We recommend that all amounts contributed to the Home Missions Fund in excess of the recommended amount for each church be deposited in the Associational Building Fund.

Bro. Paul Childers, Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We your committee on Sunday School wish to submit the following.

We have heard from 15 churches which have a present enrollment of 611 in Sunday School, with an average attendance of 607.

We recommend that each church have Sunday School regularly. We also recommend that all teachers be devout Christians, sound in faith and able to teach with good leadership.

We recommend that parents carry their children to Sunday School that they may learn more of God's love for mankind.

We recommend that all visitors be made to feel welcome and made to feel that their being with us had made the service better and ask them to come again.

We should pray more and show more love one for another, asking God for wisdom and patience to teach our children God's ways.

Bro. Jamie Brewer, Chairman

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your committee on education, find the definition of education to mean "an act or process of learning by instruction, training, or example." Proverbs 4:14 says: *"Hear ye children, the instruction of a Father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my Father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also and said unto me, let thine heart retain my works. Keep my commandments and live."*

We recommend that Christian families have daily Bible study and prayer with their children. We also recommend that our young people, and others, desiring further education, attend the Free Will Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee. We should strive to learn more about our Lord. According to Proverbs 22:6: *Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Ephesians 6:1-6: *Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise. That it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. And ye Father, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* James 1:5: *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.*

We recommend that parents cooperate with schools as long as it is not against the teaching of the Bible. Stand against that which is evil. We recommend our churches use the King James version of the Bible and Free Will Baptist literature. We recommend our

church have Bible study and prayer meeting weekly, and establish and maintain a Youth Training Program along with a yearly Vacation Bible School.

We also recommend our churches conduct a Singing School once per year that we might better learn to praise the Lord in song. Ephesians 5:19 *Speaking to yourself in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*

Bro. Stancil Robbins, Chairman

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We your committee on temperance in regard to strong drink, whiskey, drugs or any other thing harmful to the body to mean total abstinence from these things. We believe this to condemn the voting for or sanctioning the sale of alcoholic beverage. Once a word is spoken it cannot be unsaid.

We as Christians should remember that being temperate is not only moderation, but also abstinence from all things displeasing to the Lord.

We find that in 1 Cor. 9:25 *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.* Therefore to please God we must be temperate in all walks of life.

Prov. 20:1 says, *Wine is mockery, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived is not wise.*

Ep. 5:10 says, *And be not drunk, wherein is excess, but be filled with the spirit.*

Titus 2:2 says, *That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.*

2 Peter 1:5-8: *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 3:10 says, *For he that will love life, and see good days let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no gile.*

James says in chapter 3, *but the tongue can no man tame, it is an unruly evil full of deadly poison.*

Temperance - The virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites. Taken from the New Ungers Bible Dictionary

Bro. Gordon Williams, Chairman

OBITUARY REPORT

Adamsville

Bro. Baxter Humphrey, Sis. Exie Smith

Bumpus Creek

Sis. Thelma White

Meeks Grove

Bro. Alan Flatt, Sis. Bess Cox, Sis. Ethel Sisk

New Pleasant Grove
Bro. Rex Hargrove

Piney Grove
Sis. Stella Martin

Roden
Sis. Lassie Dawson

Scotts Chapel
Bro. J. B. Harper, Bro. Willis Wood, Sis. Evelyn Dickey, Bro. Lidge Dickey,
Sis. Bessie Gilmore, Sis. Ada Phillips.

Solitude
Bro. Carl Lipford, Sis. Elsie Griffen

REPORT ON BENEVOLENCE

We, the people of the Benevolence Committee, finding that benevolence means a willingness to do good, promote brotherly love, and to be kind to others. We feel that the pastors and church members as a whole body should visit the sick of the church and the people of the church community. We recommend each pastor coming into a new church at the beginning of a new year visit the community surrounding the church. We feel the need to instill the following verses into the hearts of all those who read, believe and obey the Word of God.

As Christians we find in Colossians 3:13 the following: *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you so also do ye.* Matthew 6:15 says, *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses.* Matthew 5:43 says *Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of them turn not thou away.* In Acts 20:35 Paul says, *I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than receive.*

Then for our homes and family, I Corinthians 7:3 says, *Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife to the husband.*

And remember the most important things. 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, *... and now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity, these three, But the greatest of these is Charity.*

Bro. Shane Franks, Chairman

CLERKS REPORT

1994 balance left in treasury	\$ 1,332.30
Minute fund for 1995	623.00
Interest	43.60
Total	\$1,998.90
Expenses for printing minutes for 1995	500.00
Balance from 1995	\$1,498.90

FINANCE REPORT FOR MINUTE FUND

Adamsville	\$ 50.00
Bumpus Creek	50.00
Meeks Grove	50.00
Midway	50.00
Mt. Olive	
Murphy's Chapel	75.00
New Chapel	50.00
New Pleasant Grove	50.00
Piney Grove	50.00
Posey Chapel	
Rayborn Chapel	18.00
Roden	20.00
Scotts Chapel	50.00
Shady Grove	35.00
Solitude	25.00
Whites Creek	50.00
TOTAL	\$ 623.00

Bro. Lemual Hanback, Chairman

HOME MISSIONS BOARD REPORT RECEIPTS 1994 - 95

Children's Home

Adamsville	\$ 300.00
Meek's Grove	200.00
Midway	200.00
New Chapel	200.00
Roden	50.00
Scotts Chapel	894.55
Shady Grove	200.00
Whites Creek	<u>280.00</u>
	\$ 2,324.55

Home Missions

Adamsville	\$ 100.00
Bumpus Creek	150.00
Meek's Grove	100.00
Midway	150.00
Murphy's Chapel	50.00
New Chapel	100.00
New Pleasant Grove	200.00
Piney Grove	100.00
Roden	100.00
Scotts Chapel	100.00
Shady Grove	200.00
Solitude	100.00
Whites Creek	<u>75.00</u>
	\$ 1,525.00

Ministers' Tithes

Rev. Paul Childers	\$ 345.00
Rev. Dalton Skaggs	<u>450.00</u>
	\$ 795.00

Other Income

Associational & Quarterly Offering	\$ 1,320.01
Interest Received - Volunteer Bank	<u>877.34</u>
	\$ 2,197.35

Total Received 1995-96	\$ 6,841.90
Balance Forwarded 1995-96	<u>12,584.19</u>
Total Received and Balance Forwarded	\$19,426.09

Expenses 1995 - 96

Alabama Children's Home	\$ 1,822.28
Tennessee Children's Home	1,822.28
Rev. Dalton Skaggs (Associational Pastor)	1,800.00
Rev. John E. Banks (Associational Clerk)	200.00
Bro. Alan R. Gober (Quarterly Clerk)	200.00
Bro. Alan R. Gober (Associational Secretary & Treasurer)	200.00
Flower for Rev. J. B. Harper	<u>40.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 6,084.56

Balance Forwarded 1996-97	\$13,341.53
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Building Fund

Balance Forwarded 1995-96	\$ 7,331.26
Interest Received - Volunteer Bank	<u>203.87</u>
Balance Forwarded 1996-97	\$ 7,535.13

Alan R. Gober, Sec. & Treas.
4293 Highway 22 North, Adamsville, TN 38310

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR'S REPORT

Visited all the churches at least once and filled in for some pastors. Visited some of other churches and hospital and nursing homes. Money received \$2,751.75. Paid tenth back to Association. Preached approximately 27 messages. Miles traveled approximately 2,000
Dalton Skaggs

ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

Bro. Gober was elected as Associational Moderator. Bro. Jimmy Shields was elected as Assistant Moderator. John E. Banks was elected as clerk. Home Missions Board was elected as follows: Treasurer - Alan R. Gober, Bro. Paul Childers and Bro. Charles Linam were re-elected to serve on the Home Missions Board. Bro. Jimmy Shields was elected as Associational Pastor, Bro. Tim Hanback was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees, Bro. Carl Creasy and Bro. Earnest Robertson were re-elected to serve on the Resolution Committee. Piney Grove will host the Association in 1997. Bro. Jack Taylor gave a report on the Free Will Baptist Family Ministers.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Song Led By	Special singing by Tim and Kim Hanback, also special singing by Bro. Marvin Morrow
Prayer By	Bro. Earl Rich
1st Message By	Bro. John E. Banks
Scripture	St. John 6:66-71
Subject	The Body of Christ
2nd Message By	Bro. Earl Dixon
Scripture	Isa. 6:1-8
Subject	A Wonderful God
Dismissed By	Bro. Paul Childers

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song Led By	Bro. Lemuel Hanback
Prayer By	Bro. Randy Flatt
Scripture Read By	Bro. Jack Taylor
Scripture	Psalms 116:1-6
Dismissed By	Bro. Chuck Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY SESSION
HELD AT THE ASSOCIATION
SCOTTS CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 14, 1996**

Moderator Rev. Earl Rich called the meeting to order, with Rev. Jimmy Shields assisting in the absence of Rev. Dalton Skaggs. There were 10 churches, 14 ordained ministers, 4 ordained deacons, 1 deacon under the watchcare of the church, and 3 visiting ministers: Rev. Jack Taylor representing Free Will Baptist Ministries in Greenville, TN, Rev. Tracy Adams representing Muscle Shoals Association of Free Will Baptists; and Rev. Curtis Briley, formerly of the Tennessee River Association. The minutes of the previous session were read and approved. The following ministers were present, reported and were granted a card: John E. Banks, Earl Dixon, Greg Eaton, Randy Flatt, V. H. Gean, Vernon Gober, Tim Hanback, Charles Linam, Virgil Moore, Marvin Morrow, Earl Rich, Ernest Robertson, Jimmy Shields, Dalton Skaggs, and Edward Smith. Rev. Paul Childers, Carl Creasy, Carlos Hughes, and Clarence Jeffreys were absent, but reported and were granted a card. Rev. Benton Brown was absent and did not report, but was granted a card due to his reporting last year. Rev. Keith Montgomery was also absent and did not report, and his card was withheld pending a report at the next presbytery session, due to his not reporting last year. Piney Grove sent a letter to the presbytery stating that Bro. Johnny Brewer was to be recognized as an inactive deacon of the church since he had moved out of the area and had not attended regularly for some time. After some discussion on the matter, the presbytery approved to send a letter to Mr. Brewer to inform him of the action taken by the church and to ask for his resignation as deacon of Piney Grove along with his credentials. The committee appointed to define the guidelines for the granting of lifetime cards to ministers met, and approved the qualifications. These guidelines were presented in the form of bylaws, and were approved by the members of the presbytery. There being no further business, it was moved and passed to adjourn. Dismissed by Bro. Charles Taylor.

ORDAINED MINISTERS' REPORT

John E. Banks: Pastored Whites Creek Church, held 1 revival, assisted in 1, baptized 2, married 2 couples, helped in 5 funerals. Money received \$4,240.00. Card granted.

Rev. Benton Brown: No report. Card granted.

Rev. Paul Childers: Pastored New Chapel Church, held 2 conferences, 3 communion services, held 2 funerals, 4 weddings, dedicated 2 children. Witnessed 3 saved, 1 rededication, baptized 8. Money received \$3,750. Card granted.

Rev. Carl Creasy: Pastored Midway Church, baptized 2, added 3 to the church, assisted in 2 revivals, witnessed 2 professions, 3 rededications, held 1 communion service, 1 conference, conducted 1 funeral. Money received \$8,150. Card granted.

Rev. Earl Dixon: Oral report. Card granted.

Rev. Greg Eaton: Pastored 1 church, held 1 revival, witnessed 1 profession, baptized 1, added 1 to the church, held 1 funeral, married 1 couple. Money received \$4,740. Card granted.

Rev. Randy Flatt: Pastored 1 Church, preached 88 sermons, assisted in 2 revivals, conducted 2 funerals, held 4 communion services held 1 conference, miles traveled 6,034,

money received \$700. Card granted.

Rev. V. H. Gean: Visited and filled in for pastors, held 2 funerals, money received \$327.00. Card granted

Rev. Vernon Gober: Filled in for 4 different pastors, preached 16 sermons, visited several different churches, conducted 2 funerals, witnessed 1 rededication, miles traveled 2,200 money received \$330. Card granted.

Rev. Tim Hanback: Preached 164 sermons, pastored 1 church, helped in 11 revivals, witnessed 5 professions, baptized 3, added 4 to the church, held 5 funerals, married 3 couples. Money received \$8,800. Card granted.

Rev. Carlos Hughes: Preached 94 sermons, assisted in 1 revival, added 1 to the church, funerals preached 2, held 1 communion service, miles traveled 5,000, money received \$300. Card granted.

Rev. Clarence Jeffreys: Pastored Roden Church, added 5 to the church, conducted 4 communion services, held 1 conference, money received \$1,900. Card granted.

Rev. Charles Linam: Pastored Meeks Grove Church, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 3 funerals, baptized 4, married 1 couple, held 4 communion services. Card granted.

Rev. Keith Montgomery: Preached 110 sermons, held 1 revival, assisted in 1 revival, baptized 2, witnessed 2 professions, preached 2 funerals, married 1 couple, traveled 2,000 miles, money received \$5,750.

Rev. Virgil Moore: Preached 48 sermons, received 1 into the church, visited 8 churches, held 1 revival, witnessed 9 professions, witnessed 12 rededications, assisted in 1 communion service, held T.V. program on channel 18 for 10 months, money received \$2,035. Miles traveled 1,675. Expenses approximately \$2,029. Card granted.

Rev. Marvin Morrow: Pastored 1 church, assisted in 3 revivals, held 2 revivals, preached 5 funerals, miles traveled 12,000. Money received \$4,255. Card granted.

Rev. Earl Rich: Pastored Bumpus Creek Church, conducted 1 conference, 1 communion service, assisted in 2 funerals, married 1 couple, assisted in 4 revivals, witnessed 3 professions, baptized 2, money received \$3,200. Card granted.

Earnest Robertson: Pastored 1 church, witnessed 2 professions, held 1 funeral. money received \$2,500. Card Granted.

Rev. Jimmy Shields: Pastored Cherokee Church, held 1 revival, held 1 conference, 1 communion service, money received \$1,170. Card granted.

Rev. Dalton Skaggs: Same as Associational Pastor. Card granted.

Rev. Edward Smith: Filled in for pastors when needed, assisted in 1 funeral, money received \$210.00. Card granted.

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Song Led By	Bro. Alan Gober
Prayer By	Bro. Virgil Gean
1st Message By	Bro. Dalton Skaggs
Scripture	John 3:16, 14:1
Subject	Getting Back To The Love Of God
2nd Message By	Bro. Jimmy Shields
Scripture	Luke 2:7
Subject	No Room For Jesus
Dismissed By	Bro. Earl Dixon

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the committee of resolution of thanks, wish to thank God first for allowing us to meet in love and fellowship.

We wish to also thank Scotts Chapel and all the surrounding churches for the wonderful hospitality, friendliness and kindness shown to the entire Association as a whole.

We feel, speaking for the entire group, that everyone will be greatly enriched in their hearts, as we walk with the Lord in our daily lives.

May God bless and keep each of us until we meet again in the next Associational meeting.

Frankie Childers, Chairman

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Special Singing by the youth group and the adult choir.

Song Led By	Bro. Leon Harper
Prayer By	Bro. Earl Rich
Offering For Children's Home Taken By	Bro. Tim Hanback
1st Message By	Bro. Greg Eaton
Scripture	1 John 1:3-4
Subject	Rejoicing In Christ
2nd Message By	Bro. Earl Rich
Scripture	2 Tim. 4:1-8
Subject	The Last Message
Dismissed By	Bro. Earnest Robertson

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY WEEKEND MEETING
CONVENED WITH ADAMSVILLE FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 27 & 28, 1995**

Friday Evening Service

Service began with singing led by Bro. Robert Jarrett, and prayer by Rev. Marvin Morrow. Special singing was performed by Sis. Nina Jarrett, followed by an altar prayer. The opening message was delivered by Moderator Rev. Earl Rich, reading from St. John 6:26-40 and 15:1-5 with the thought, "Labor and Bear Fruit". He was followed by Rev. Vernon Gober reading from St. John 14:26, 15:26 and I John 5:6-7, and speaking on "The Holy Spirit". Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith

Saturday Morning Service

Service opened with singing led by Bro. Robert Jarrett and prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore. Special singing was preformed by Sis. Nina Jarrett and prayer was offered by Rev. Charles Linam. Moderator Rev. Earl Rich welcomed everyone to the service by Rev. Paul Childers reading from Psalms 92: 150-6 and Romans 8:28 with the thought "Praise The Lord". He was followed by Rev. J. B. Harper, reading from II Timothy 3:1-4 and speaking on "Trucebreakers". Dismissed by Rev. Earl Dixon.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Service began with singing led by Bro. Robert Jarrett and prayer led by Rev. Randy Flatt. Special singing was performed by Rev. Marvin Morrow and Rev. Earl Rich. The afternoon message was delivered by Rev. Benton Brown reading from Romans 13:1-4, 10:12 with the subject, "Subjection to God". He was followed by Rev. Virgil Moore, who delivered a short message.

Presbytery Session

Moderator Rev. Earl Rich called the meeting to order, with Rev. Paul Childers assisting in the absence of Rev. Dalton Skaggs. There were 9 churches, 14 ordained ministers, and 4 ordained deacons present. Minutes of the previous session were read and approved. New Chapel church sent a letter informing the body that Bro. Andy Moore has been placed under the watchcare of the church for the office of deacon. The committee appointed on lifetime cards met and have approved a set of bylaws to be added. Since approval of the bylaws would require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote, it was moved and passed to table the bylaws until the Associational meeting. A list of deceased ministers was also presented by the committee to be placed in the 1995 minutes. The presbytery approved the list with some revisions and the revised list will be included in the 1995 minutes. Rev. Tim Hanback asked the presbytery what the procedure would be for accepted an ordained deacon from another Free Will Baptist Association. After much discussion, it was determined that the deacon in question should be accepted as a member into the church and examined by the presbytery after a one year period if the church so desires. Rev. Carlos Hughes, Bro. Virgil Nixon, and Bro. Jerry Scott were placed on the program committee for the next meeting. Motion made and passed to adjourn. Dismissed by Bro. Danny Brown.

Saturday Evening Service

Service opened with singing led by Bro. Robert Jarrett and prayer by Bro. Albert Michael. Special singing was performed by Rev. Earl Rich, Sis. Rachel Montgomery, Sis. Nina Jarrett, Sis. Pam Scott, and Bro. Lem and Sis. Iva Hanback. Bro. Jerry Scott was in charge of the Children's Home offering. He read scripture from St. Mark 9:35-37. Prayer was offered by Rev. Virgil Moore. The message was delivered by Rev. Earnest Robertson, reading from St. Mark 14:32-42 with the subject, "The Flesh Is Weak". Dismissed by Bro. Virgil Nixon.

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY WEEKEND MEETING CONVENED
WITH NEW PLEASANT GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 29 & 30, 1995**

Friday Evening Service

Service began with an altar prayer followed by singing led by Bro. Alan Gober. In the absence of Rev. Edward Smith and Rev. Marvin Morrow, the message was delivered by Rev. Virgil Moore, reading from I Timothy 4:1-16 and II Timothy 4:1-8. He was followed by a testimony service, with everyone given an opportunity to share their faith. Dismissed by Bro. Alan Gober.

Saturday Morning Service

Service opened with singing led by Bro. Robert Jarrett and prayer by Rev. Paul Childers. Special singing was performed by Rev. Earl Rich and prayer was offered by Rev. V. H. Gean. Moderator Rev. Earl Rich welcomed everyone to the service and read scripture from I Corinthians 9:24-25. The first message was brought by Rev. Keith Montgomery, reading from Psalms 112, and 111:10 with the subject "Fear". He was followed by Rev. Carlos Hughes reading from Exodus 4:1, 10-11, and I Kings 19:10-12 and speaking on "Leaders". Dismissed by Rev. B. H. Southerland.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Service began with singing led by Rev. Carlos Hughes and prayer led by Rev. Edward Smith. The afternoon message was delivered by Rev. V. H. Gean reading from Romans 1:1-22, and St. Matthew 24:1-9.

Presbytery Session

Moderator Rev. Earl Rich called the meeting to order, with Assistant Moderator Rev. Dalton Skaggs absent. There were 10 churches, 10 ordained ministers, and 1 ordained deacon present. Minutes of the previous session were read and approved. Rev. Carlos Hughes, Rev. Virgil Moore, and Bro. J. W. Stooksberry were placed on the program committee for the next meeting. Motion made and passed to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Vernon Gober.

Saturday Evening Service

Service opened with prayer led by Rev. Paul Childers and congregational singing. Special singing was performed by Rev. Earl Rich, and Bro. Johnny Sutherland. Bro. Odell Franks was in charge of the Children's Homes offering. He read scripture from St. Matthew 18:1-6. The opening message was delivered by Rev. Greg Eaton, reading from St. Luke 2:11, and St. Matthew 27:29-30, speaking on "The Sacrifice of Christ". He was followed by Rev. Tim Hanback reading from I Corinthians 15:50-57 with the thought "We Shall All Be Changed/" Dismissed by Rev. Carlos Hughes.

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY WEEKEND MEETING
CONVENED WITH SOLITUDE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
MARCH 29 & 30, 1996**

Friday Evening Service

Service began with singing led by Rev. Marvin Morrow. Prayer was led by Rev. Edward Smith, followed by an altar prayer. The opening message was delivered by Rev. Earnest Robertson, reading from St. Luke 13:22-30, with the subject "Strive To Enter The Straight Gate". He was followed by Rev. Paul Childers, in the absence of Rev. Earl Creasy. Rev. Childers read scripture from St. Luke 10:25-37 and Ephesians 2:1-8 with the thought, "Certain Man". Dismissed by Rev. Vernon Gober.

Saturday Morning Service

Service opened with singing led by Rev. Marvin Morrow and prayer by Rev. Randy Flatt. Special singing was performed by Rev. Marvin Morrow. The first message was brought by Rev. Jimmy Shields, reading from Exodus 34:1-9 and Philippians 4:19 and speaking on "Abundance From Christ". He was followed by Rev. Benton Brown in the absence of Rev. Edward Smith. Rev. Brown read from Jude 3 and II Timothy 3:1-6 and 4:5-7 and speaking on "Common Salvation". Dismissed by Rev. Virgil Moore.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Service began with singing led by Rev. Marvin Morrow and prayer led by Rev. Jimmy Shields. The afternoon message was delivered by Rev. Randy Flatt, in the absence of Rev. John E. Banks. Rev. Flatt read from St. John 1:1-14.

Presbytery Session

Moderator Rev. Earl Rich called the meeting to order, with Rev. Dalton Skaggs assisting. There were 7 churches, 8 ordained ministers, 2 ordained deacons, and 1 deacon under the watchcare of the church present. Minutes of the previous session were read and approved. Rev. Jimmy Shields informed the presbytery that a minister in his area had asked to Cherokee Church for services. The congregation is nondenominational, with a portion from Alabama and a portion from Mississippi. Rev. Shields stated that he had told the minister that it was okay to hold services there on Sunday afternoon, but that he wanted the presbytery's opinion on the matter. After discussion, it was moved and passed that Rev. Shields determine if the views of the minister in question were in accordance with the Tennessee River Association, and that permission for services be granted based on his findings. Rev. Benton Brown, Bro. Charles Moore, and Bro. Clarence Cook were placed on the program committee for the next meeting. Motion made and passed to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Dalton Skaggs.

Saturday Evening Service

Service opened with singing led by Rev. Marvin Morrow and prayer led by Rev. Vernon Gober. The youth of Solitude church presented a musical, with the theme of "Glow In The Dark". Bro. Alan Gober was in charge of the Children's Home offering. He read scripture from Proverbs 22:6 and 15. The evening message was delivered by Rev. Charles Linam, reading from Psalms 142:4 and speaking on "Concerns Of The Christian". Dismissed by Rev. Marvin Morrow.

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY WEEKEND MEETING
CONVENED WITH RAYBORN CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
JUNE 27 & 28, 1996**

Friday Evening Service

Service opened with singing led by Rev. Paul Childers and prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore. Moderator Rev. Earl Rich welcomed everyone to the service, followed by an altar prayer. The beginning message was delivered by Rev. Earl Rich, reading from St. Luke 5:1-11 with the subject, "The Great Fisherman." He was followed by Rev. Marvin Morrow, in the absence of Rev. Greg Eaton. Rev. Morrow read scripture from James 5:13-16 and speaking on "The Power Of Prayer". Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

Saturday Morning Service

Service began with singing led by Bro. Jessie J. Melson and prayer by Rev. V. H. Gean. Prayer was offered by Rev. Vernon Gober. Rev. Earl Dixon delivered the first message, reading from Psalms 71:14-18 and Romans 5:1-17 and speaking on "Faith". He was followed by Rev. V. H. Gean, reading from St. Mark 13:7-13, 28-37. Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Rev. Earl Rich opened the service with singing followed by prayer led by Rev. Virgil Moore. The afternoon message was given by Rev. Vernon Gober, reading from Psalms 94:1-10, 25:8-12 and 24:3-4 with the subject "The Lord Teaching Us".

Presbytery Session

Moderator Rev. Earl Rich called the meeting to order, with Rev. Dalton Skaggs assisting. There were 11 churches, 14 ordained ministers, and 4 ordained deacons present. Minutes of the previous session were read and approved. Rev. Jimmy Shields reported that the minister that had asked to use Cherokee church had not contacted him any further. Bro. D. E. Patterson sent a letter to the presbytery along with his ordination papers. Rev. Rich read the letter, which stated Bro. Patterson's desire to resign the office of deacon due to family matters. The presbytery accepted the letter of resignation and ordination papers. Officers of the presbytery for 1996-97 were elected as follows: Moderator - Rev. Jimmy Shields, Assistant Moderator - Rev. Marvin Morrow, Clerk - Bro. Alan R. Gober. Sites for the 1996-97 fifth Sunday weekend meetings were as follows: September 1996 - White's Creek; December 1996 - Scott's Chapel; March 1997 - Adamsville; June 1997 - Piney Grove; August 1997 - New Chapel. Rev. John E. Banks, Bro. Jimmy Lambert, and Bro. J. W. Stooksberry were placed on the program committee for the next meeting. Motion made and passed to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Paul Childers.

Saturday Evening Session

Service began with singing led by Bro. Alan Gober and prayer by Rev. Vernon Gober. Special singing was conducted by Rev. Paul and Sis. Frankie Childers. Bro. Jessie Melson was in charge of the children's home offering. He read scripture from St. Matthew 19:14 and St. Mark 10:15. The first message was brought by Rev. Greg Eaton, in the absence of Rev. Marvin Morrow. Rev. Eaton read from Acts 8:26-37 and Hebrews 13:15. He was followed by Rev. Tim Hanback reading from Micah 6:6-8 and Romans 12:1-2, and speaking on "God's Requirements". Dismissed by Rev. John E. Banks.

	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed By Letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School	Avg. Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church Value	Amount Paid Pastor	Pastoral Help	Home Missions	Minute Fund	Childrens' Homes	Meeting Days
Adamsville	1	2	3		1		1	78	78	33	3	3		\$125,000	\$5,025	\$380	\$150.00	\$50.00		
Bumpus Creek								123	30	40	2	1		\$45,000	\$2,600	\$200	\$150.00	\$50.00		
Meeks Grove	3	3					3	141	52	52	2	1		\$150,000		\$1,041	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$200.00	
Midway	2	2						112	50	50	3	1		\$110,000	\$8,150	\$910	\$150.00	\$50.00	\$300.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night, Wed. Night.
Mt. Olive																				
Murphy's Chapel	1							63	35			2		\$130,000	\$5,400	\$750	\$50.00	\$75.00		
New Chapel			4	1		2		86	40	45	1	1		\$100,000	\$3,750	\$590	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$702.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night, Wed. Night.
New Pleasant Grove			1		4		1	31	20	40		1		\$80,000	\$300	\$300	\$200.00	\$50.00		Every Sun. & Sun. Night 1:00 P.M.
Piney Grove					1		1	183		63	3	4		\$85,000	\$4,997	\$774	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$1,121	Every Sun. & Sat. Night before 1st Sun.
Posey Chapel								6	7	8		1		\$20,000	\$650	\$180		\$10.00		
Rayborn Chapel								25	15	14	1	1		\$10,000	\$527	\$100		\$18.00	\$50.00	
Roden		4	1				1	35	10	10	1	1		\$80,000	\$1,900		\$100.00	\$20.00	\$50.00	Every Sunday
Scotts Chapel	3	1	2	2	2		6	124	96	86	5	1		\$120,000	\$6,500	\$450	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$771.58	
Sandy Grove								35	9	22	1	1		\$25,000			\$150.00	\$35.00	\$250.00	
Solitude	10	1					2	84	98	89	3	1		\$165,000	\$3,405	\$875	\$150.00	\$25.00	\$520.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night, Every Wed. Night.
Whites Creek		2	4					112	71	55	1	1		\$65,000	\$4,100	\$500	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$381.00	Every Sun. & 2nd & 4th Sun. Night, Wed. Night.

FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1 - Call church to order.
- 2 - Call for peace of church.
- 3 - Invite visiting brethren and sisters to take seats with us.
- 4 - An opportunity to reception of members.
- 5 - Reading minutes of previous conferences.
- 6 - Call for unfinished business.
- 7 - Call for new business.

THE CONSTITUTION

Article 1. The association shall be called the Tennessee Association of Free Will Baptist, and shall be consistent, well regulated Free Will Baptist churches as shall unite in this compact, and agree to this constitution.

Article 2. The acting members of the association shall be such as are chosen by several churches of which the association is composed, to represent them in this association, every church being entitled to one delegate, every church containing fifty members to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional twenty-five members.

Article 3. The officers of this body shall be a moderator, an assistant moderator, a treasurer, corresponding and recording secretary, who shall be elected for a term of two years, and said election to take place one year prior to their entering upon the duties of said office.

Article 4. Any regular organized Free Will Baptist church, maintaining gospel order agreeing with the denomination in doctrine and practices, and in favor of the benevolent enterprise, as Sunday schools, missions, temperance and education may be received into their association on application, by the vote of the association to which such application is made or referred.

Article 5. This association shall have power to discipline its churches for unchristian conduct, a want of conformity to gospel order, or a violation of the conditions of the compact, and expel them in case of unsuccessful labor; to license and ordain ministers such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of churches to which such persons belong; to settle questions of discipline and doctrine as the churches may refer to them and transact such other business as may be necessary for the benefit of religion, consistent with liberty and independence of the churches, according to the usage of the Free Will Baptist denomination, and not repugnant to the regulations of the yearly meeting with which this association may be connected; and to make bylaws necessary to its regulations, not repugnant to this constitution.

Article 6. The session of this association shall be on Friday before the third Sunday in September when it shall be the duty of all churches of which it is

composed to represent themselves by letter or delegate.

Article 7. This association shall use a treatise of the faith and practices of Free Will Baptists from the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article 8. This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of any session of this association, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing at the next previous session or association.

BYLAWS

1. The clerk and assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years, should 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 them is present the senior member in years shall act as moderator.

2. All persons declared by a committee on credentials to be duly entitled to a seat in this association are hereby made constituted members of this body and authorized to act in all respects according to the provisions of constitution and bylaws under which this association is organized.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this association to send a letter to the annual session of the association, reporting to the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work and its statistics. Any body which belongs to this association, which fails to report for two successive sessions, may be dismissed from the association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and by prayer, and shall be closed by prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present, a ruling of the moderator can be overruled.

6. This association may correspond by messengers or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. The association shall sit with open doors, except when it shall go into committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this association may be allowed to take part in its discussion by obtaining permission from the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of this association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee providing the person being nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. The "yes" and "Nays" may be taken on any question by request of

one fifth of the members present.

14. No member of this association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, nor twice on the same subject without permission of the moderator.

15. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat the delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

16. These bylaws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

17. Any minister who fails to get his report before the presbytery for two consecutive years, his name shall be dropped from the minutes.

18. The Associational Pastor shall be elected each year, and be paid from the Home Mission Fund as the Home Mission Board sees fit. He shall fill in where needed, look for places to organize new churches, and assist with other ministers in mission work.

19. Any man believing he is called of God to preach should notify the church of which he is a member. The church by approval of its membership should bring this request before the presbytery.

20. All candidates for ordination and those to be licensed for a minister will be examined by council. If approved, licenses shall be for a period of one year. The examination for license or ordination should refer to the piety and doctrine, conviction and purpose, respecting work for the ministry, reputation of character, and ability of the candidate.

21. Any ordained minister coming from other Free Will Baptist Associations who desire to unite with this association, should first join a church in this association, then be examined by the presbytery. If he brings a good recommendation from the association of which he is a member, believes and practices Free Will Baptist doctrine, he be granted a card.

22. Any minister coming from a body other than Free Will Baptist, should join a church in this association and remain a member for one year. If at that time the church so desires, he be examined to be licensed for one year.

23. Any man desiring the office of deacon and qualifying according to the scriptures should be appointed to the watchcare of their church for one year, and notify the association of such an appointing. At the end of one year, they will be examined by council for ordination.

24. All ministers and deacons shall be given a certificate of ordination when ordained. When leaving the association, they shall be given a letter at their request stating their standing with the association at the time of departure. Upon resignation or leaving the denomination, they shall turn in their credentials.

25. All members shall abstain from strong drink, beer, whiskey or any drug harmful to the body. They shall support the Free Will Baptist doctrine and practice its ordinances.

26. All members shall support the association. If any church calls a

pastor not in a Free Will Baptist presbytery, his name shall not appear in the minutes. All churches shall send its letter to the association on Friday after being approved by its membership.

27. Any church having a problem that cannot be worked out should contact the chairman of the resolution committee. If necessary, a called session of the presbytery shall be held at the church.

28. An ordained minister shall be eligible to receive a lifetime card from this association provided that he has served the association in this capacity for a period of at least thirty (30) years continuous, or if he should become unable to carry the gospel because of a physical condition.

29. All ordained ministers eligible to receive a lifetime card shall be subject to an annual review as to their conduct as a member of the presbytery. If such conduct is not found in good standing by the committee and the full presbytery, the card shall be null and void.

30. The annual review of lifetime cards shall be conducted by a committee of three (3) ordained minister in a manner as they shall see fit. The committee shall be nominated from the floor and members shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) years consecutively. At least two of the three committee members shall have served fifteen (15) years or more consecutively in this body, and no more than one (1) committee member shall be eligible to receive the lifetime card.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible - The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. God - There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as a Creator, Preserver, and righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures 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.

3. Christ - Christ is manifest in the flesh, in His divine nature truly God, His human nature truly man. The Mediator between God and man; once crucified. He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever-present Saviour.

4. The Holy Spirit - The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. The Government of God - God exercised wise and benevolent providence over all beings 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.

6. The Sinfulness of Man - Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of

accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. The Work of Christ - The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection effected for all redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

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 Saviour and Lord, with the 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 of faith and obedience until death.

9. Election - God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the condition of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10.. Freedom of Will - The 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.

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 the water of life freely.

12. Perseverance - All believers in Christ, who through grace preserve in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances - Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper or ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel; footwashing is an ordinance teaching humility or universal obligation, and they be administered to all true believers.

14. The Christian Sabbath - the divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart for secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities and for personal communion with God.

15. Resurrection, Judgement and Final Retribution. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men, at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation, then the wicked will "go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in 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 love 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 will agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the 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 the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of 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 principles 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.

FORM LETTER OF DISMISSION

This certifies that _____ is a regular member of the Free Will Baptist church _____, in good standing as such. We recommend _____ to the fellowship of God's people, and when we are informed that _____, has united with some other evangelical church, we shall consider _____, regularly dismissed from this church. In behalf of the Free Will Baptist church at _____.

_____, Pastor

_____, Clerk

FORM OF RECEIVING MEMBERS IN CHURCH

In as much as you present yourself for admission into the church of the Free Will Baptist in Christ, we rejoice with you that through the grace of God you have been brought to a knowledge of the truth and have been made partakers of the great salvation. The privileges you seek are above price and the duties enjoined are so solemn, it is proper, that you publicly confess your faith and vow your purpose by answering the following questions:

1. Q. Did you find yourself a sinner in the sight of God?
A. I Did.
2. Q. And you now believe that God has for Christ's sake pardoned and forgiven all your sins?
A. I Do.
3. Q. And your desire is to become a member of the Free Will Baptist at this place?
A. Yes, Sir.
4. Q. Are you willing to be governed by our church rules?
A. Yes, Sir.
5. Q. Are you willing to contribute to the support of the gospel as God prospers you?
A. I Am.
6. Q. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and do you accept Him as your personal Saviour?
A. I Do.
7. Q. Do you believe the whole Bible is infallibly true, and are you willing to take the authorized King James Version, as your guide, to live by?
A. Yes, Sir.
8. Q. Do you believe in free and open communion? Let a man examine himself according to I Corinthians 11:28. Also in washing of the saints' feet, according to St. John 13?
A. I Do.
9. Q. Have you been baptized by immersion, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, according to St. Matthew 28:19?
A. _____

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

We, the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, at _____
send greetings to the ministers and messengers composing the Tennessee River
Association, when convened with _____
Church. We send our beloved to-wit _____
to set with you in your deliberations and to help transact any legal business that
may come before your body. The statistics of our church are as follows.

Received by profession of faith and baptism _____,
by letter _____, by experience _____,
restored by confession _____, dismissed by letter _____,
withdrawn _____, expelled _____, dead _____,
total membership _____, number of students enrolled in
Sunday school _____, average attendance _____,
number of deacons _____, number ordained ministers _____,
number of licensed ministers _____. We have elected Rev. _____

Address _____
to pastor our church for the ensuing year. Valuation of church house and property
\$ _____, Contribution paid pastor \$ _____, pastoral help \$ _____,
given to home missions \$ _____, minutes funds \$ _____.
Moderator _____ Address _____
Clerk _____ Address _____

