

MINUTES
of the
One Hundred Seventieth
Annual Session
of The
ORIGINAL MATES CREEK
DISTRICT REGULAR PRIMITIVE
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Organized July, the Second Saturday, 1849

Held with the
GRAPEVINE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
17519 Grapevine Road, Phyllis, KY 41554
September 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2023

Next Session convenes with the Samaria Primitive Baptist Church
located at 1722 Left Fork Blackberry Road Ransom, KY, starting at
10:00 a.m., Friday before the first Sunday in September, 2024.

Directions to Samaria Primitive Baptist Church:

From Pikeville, Kentucky travel 23 miles north on U.S. 119 to Jct.
KY-319 at Belfry; right on KY-319, go 7 miles to Jct. KY-1056 at
McCarr; right on KY-1056, go 4 miles to Left Fork of Blackberry
Road; turn left go 1.7 miles to the church house on the left at the
mouth of Old House Branch. From Williamson, West Virginia,
travel 3 miles south on U.S. 119 to Jct. KY-319; left on KY-319,
follow remaining directions above.

OFFICERS

Moderator:.....Elder David A. Thacker
2865 Stratton Ford Road, Canada, KY 41519
Phone: 606-353-9887
Assistant Moderator.....Elder Jeremy Jacobs
2686 Meathouse Fork, Canada, KY 41519
Phone: 810-247-0722
Clerk.....Deacon Leslie D. Hatfield
8380 State Highway 1056, McCarr, KY 41544
Phone: 606-427-7305/Cell: 606-625-9074
Assistant Clerk.....Deacon Lonnie Simpkins
35 Fonso Stanley Road, Canada, KY 41519
Phone: 606-969-6220

PROCEEDINGS

Of the One Hundred Seventieth Annual Session of the Original Mates Creek District Regular Primitive Baptist Association, held with the Grapevine Primitive Baptist Church.

FRIDAY MORNING, September 1, 2023:

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Gary Thacker. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Todd Thacker. The Association then proceeded to business in the following order:

1st. Called for the letters from all the churches. The letter from Grapevine Church was read.

2nd. Motion and second that we accept the letters and have the names of the messengers enrolled in the Minutes.

3rd. Elder Greg Moore was appointed serve as Moderator pro-tem for the election of officers.

4th. Deacons Jeff Belcher and John Jacobs were appointed to serve as Clerk(s) pro-tem for the election of officers.

5th. The Association elected the following to serve as officers for the coming year:

Elder David A. Thacker, Moderator

Elder Jeremy Jacobs, Assistant Moderator

Deacon Leslie D. Hatfield, Clerk

Deacon Lonnie Simpkins, Assistant Clerk

6th. Newly constituted churches called for: None responded.

7th. Moved seconded and agreed that we have our Abstract of Principles, Rules of Decorum and Constitution printed in the Minutes.

8th. Messengers appointed last year to visit Sister Associations reported, and those unable to fulfill their appointments were excused.

9th. Read and received the letters from Burning Springs Association and Sand Lick Association of Kentucky.

10th. **Correspondents from Sister Associations received and seated as follows:**

BURNING SPRINGS: Elder Jonathan Rigsby, Elder Doyle Keeton, Deacon Lowell Cantrill, Brother Timmy Smith, Brother Bill Salyer.

LITTLE YADKIN RIVER: Elder David Gambill, Deacon Norman Jones.

WASHINGTON: Elder Ked Stacy, Elder Robert Thacker, Deacon Clarence Childress, Deacon David Owens.

UNION: Elder Corbin Hampton, Elder Trillis Adams, Elder William Bud Adams, Deacon Steven Chapman,

SAND LICK-KENTUCKY: Elder David Gambill, Brother Terry Meade, Elder Dan Ison, Deacon Derrick Howard, Brother Kennard Lovely.

11th. **Welcomed visitors from other Associations and various churches:**

BURNING SPRINGS: Deacon Kevin Jenkins, Sister Rhonda Jenkins.

LITTLE YADKIN RIVER: Sisters Wanda Jones, Betty Bostic and Pam Williams.

WASHINGTON: Sisters Deloris Stacy, Dorothy Owens, Deloris Childress and Camilla B. Lovelace.

UNION: Sisters Bonnie Hampton, Jewell Adams, Abbey Chapman, Connie Adams, Kathy Adams, Dena Adams.

SAND LICK-Kentucky: Jonathon Dunn, Sisters Theda F. Salyer, Winnie Bagley, Raine Gambill, Kathy Gullett, Ollie Dunn

OTHER: None

12th. Motion seconded and agreed that the Moderator make all temporary appointments. All the Deacons from Grapevine Church along with Elder Timothy Slone and Brother Kenneth Slone were appointed to arrange for the preaching. They reported the following:

A: Friday morning at Grapevine Church: Elders Corbin Hampton and Ked Stacy.

B: Friday afternoon at: Grapevine Church: Elders Doyle Keeton and Robert Thacker.

C: Friday night at Old Pond Church: Elders Raymond Stanley, Jeremy Jacobs, Paris Blackburn, Roger Blackburn, Jeff Dotson.

D: Friday night at: Louisa Church: Elders Terry Thacker, Robert Thacker, David Jacobs, Greg Moore, Robert Worrix, Jr.

E: Saturday morning at: Grapevine Church: Elders Randal Thornsbury, Daniel Jacobs, Michael Elswick, Jimmy Lee Smith.

F: Saturday afternoon at Grapevine Church: Brother Timmy Smith (Lic.), Elders Barry Thacker, David Jacobs, Jeremy Jacobs.

G: Saturday night at : Samaria Church: Elders Roger Blackburn, Raymond Stanley, Paris Blackburn, Greg Moore, Shawn Dotson.

H: Saturday night at Big Creek Church : Elders Terry Thacker, Barry Thacker, Robert Thacker, Jeremy Jacobs.

13th. Committee on Arrangements appointed as follows: Mike Bartley, Walter Rutherford, Larry David Chapman, Clifton Preece, Floyd Coleman, Terry Blackburn, Fonso McIntosh, Harold Abbott, Billy Yates, Ernest Seth Shortridge, Duke Chapman, Wallace Vipperman, Vester Runyon, Tom Burchwell, David Jacobs, Greg Moore.

14th. **Messengers who agreed to visit Sister Associations as correspondents are as follows:**

BURNING SPRINGS: Friday before the 3rd Sunday in August, 2024: Larry David Chapman, Greg Moore, Roger Blackburn, Rodney Worrix, Clifton Preece, David Lee Jacobs, Roger Rose, John Jacobs, Barry Thacker, Daren Compton, Grayson Compton.

LITTLE YADKIN RIVER: We are informed that Little Yadkin is being merged with the Sand Lick Association of Kentucky. We have enjoyed wonderful fellowship with them for many years, and have many joyful memories of our times together. May God bless them in their continued fellowship with us through the Sand Lick-Kentucky.

WASHINGTON: Friday before the 2nd Sunday in June, 2024: Greg Moore, Larry David Chapman, Terry Thacker, John Jacobs, David Lee Jacobs, Brian Moore, Ron Moore, Timothy Slone, Roger Rose, Vester Runyon, Clifton Preece, Barry Thacker.

UNION: Friday before the 1st Sunday in June, 2024: Greg Moore, Larry David Chapman, Roger Rose, John Jacobs, Clifton Preece, Brian Moore, Vester Runyon, David Jacobs, Timothy Slone, Terry Thacker, Daren Compton, Grayson Compton, Barry Thacker.

SAND LICK OF KENTUCKY: Friday before the 3rd Sunday in September, 2023: Greg Moore, Larry David Chapman, Terry Thacker, David Lee Jacobs, Johnny Jacobs, Timothy Slone, Clifton Preece, Roger Rose, Daren Compton, Barry Thacker.

15th. Moved and Seconded that the Association be adjourned until 10:00 a.m. Saturday Morning.

Saturday Morning
September 2, 2023
at Grapevine Church house.

1st: The Association met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Randal Thornsby. Roll called and absents marked.

2nd: The Committee on Arrangements reported the following: The committee met at Grapevine church house Friday afternoon. After song and prayer by Elder Paris Blackburn, the committee proceeded to business as follows:

#1. Recommend that we omit the reading of the letters from the churches.

#2. Recommend that Louisa Church host the Annual Meeting for 2024.

#3. Recommend that Samaria Church host the Association for 2024.

#4. Called for the circular letter, written by Elder Roger Blackburn. The letter was read, and recommended for approval by the full body of messengers on Saturday Morning.

#5. Recommend that we carry on work on Saturday morning in the usual manner.

3rd: Moved and seconded that the Committee's work be accepted and that they be discharged.

4th: Moved and seconded the our Annual Meeting be held with Louisa Church, beginning Friday before the last Saturday in March, 2024.

5th: Motion seconded and agreed that the preaching committee be discharged after services on Sunday.

6th: Called on Union Meetings appointees to report. They reported and those unable to fulfill their appointments were excused. Union Meetings and their appointees for 2024 are as follows:

LOUISA:16 Rocky Way, Pikeville, KY. 41501 Meets Friday before the second Saturday in August, 2024. Paul Dean Justice, Paris Blackburn, David A. Thacker, Jimmy Lee Smith, David May, Randal Thornsby, David Jacobs, John Jacobs, Brian Moore, Raymond Stanley, J. C. Hager, Shawn Dotson, Jeff Dotson, Greg Moore, David Gambill, Daniel Jacobs, Timothy Slone, Roger Blackburn, Dan Ison, Jimmy Webb, Michael Elswick, Jeremy Jacobs, Ked Stacy, Don Stacy, Donathan Stacy, Henry Cantrell, and orderly Primitive Baptist Ministers of the same faith and order. NOTE: A Memorial Day meeting will be held at Annie Young Cemetery, East Shelbiana, KY, on May 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

OLD POND: 167 Church House Hollow, Belfry, KY 41514. Meets Friday before the second Saturday in June, 2024.

Michael Elswick, Raymond Stanley, Ricky Worrix, John Jacobs, Barry Thacker, Curt Heath, Jimmy Lee Smith, J. C. Hager, Robert Worrix, Jr., Jeremy Jacobs, Daniel Jacobs, David A. Thacker, Paris Blackburn, Greg Moore, Jeff Dotson, Shawn Dotson, Brian Moore, Randal Thornsby, Timothy Slone, David Jacobs, David May, David Gambill, and invite all orderly Primitive Baptist Elders to our Union Meeting. NOTE: A Memorial Meeting will be held the second Saturday and Sunday in May, 2024.

BIG CREEK:21 Stratton Fork Road, Canada, KY 41519. Meets Friday before the third Saturday in August, 2024. Paris Blackburn, Jeremy Jacobs, Gary Thacker, Jimmy Lee Smith, Brian Moore, Barry Thacker, Ricky Worrix, Greg Moore, Terry Thacker, David Lee Jacobs, Roger Blackburn, Robert Worrix, Jr., Jeff Dotson, Raymond Stanley, J. C. Hager, Shawn Dotson, Daniel Jacobs, Timothy Slone, and all orderly Primitive Baptist Elders. NOTE: A memorial meeting for deceased members will be held the 3rd Sunday in July, 2024.

RACCOON: 5174 Raccoon Road, Pikeville, KY 41501 Meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in July, 2024. Randal Thornsberry, Jimmy Lee Smith, John Jacobs, Michael Elswick, Barry Thacker, Raymond Stanley, Brian Moore, David Jacobs, Gary Thacker, Todd Thacker, Ricky Worrix, Robert Worrix, Jr., Shawn Dotson, Jeff Dotson, Daniel Jacobs, Jeremy Jacobs, Timothy Slone, and we welcome all orderly Primitive Baptist Ministers. NOTE: A memorial meeting will be held the 4th weekend in October 2024.

PETER CREEK: 24 Smith Fork Road, Phelps, KY 41553. Meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in June, 2024. Randal Thornsberry, Steve Kender, Paris Blackburn, Raymond Stanley, Jimmy Lee Smith, Jeff Dotson, Brian Moore, Michael Elswick, Barry Thacker, Timothy Slone, and all orderly Primitive Baptist Elders are welcome. NOTE: Our memorial meeting is the 4th Saturday in June, 2024.

SULPHUR SPRINGS: 4092 Paw Paw Road, Hurley, VA 24620. Meets Friday before the first Saturday in August, 2024. Jeff Dotson, Shawn Dotson, John Jacobs, Jeremy Jacobs, Daniel Jacobs, Randal Thornsberry, David A. Thacker, Robert Worrix, Jr., Ricky Worrix, Jimmy Lee Smith, Timothy Slone, J. C. Hager, Brian Moore, Raymond Stanley, Gary Thacker, Barry Thacker, David Lee Jacobs, Todd Thacker, David Hager, and all orderly Primitive Baptist Elders are welcome.

LITTLE HOPE: 76 Left Fork Ball Fork Road, Pinsonfork, KY 41555. Meets Friday before the first Saturday in July, 2024. Ricky Worrix, Paris Blackburn, David Lee Jacobs, John Jacobs, Robert Worrix, Jr., David A. Thacker, Jimmy Lee Smith, Randal Thornsberry, Shawn Dotson, Jeff Dotson, J. C. Hager, Timothy Slone, David May, Brian Moore, Jeremy Jacobs, Roger Rose, and all orderly Primitive Baptists are invited to attend. NOTE: Our memorial meeting will be the 1st weekend in August, 2024.

GRAPEVINE: 17519 Grapevine Road, Phyllis, KY 41554. Meets Friday before the third Saturday in May, 2024. John Jacobs, Jimmy Lee Smith, Raymond Stanley, Brian Moore, Randal Thornsberry, David A. Thacker, Shawn Dotson, Jeff Dotson, David May, Todd Thacker, Robert Worrix, Jr., Ricky Worrix, Barry Thacker, Gary Thacker, Vester Runyon, Roger Rose, Roger Blackburn, Daniel Jacobs, David Jacobs, Greg Moore, Michael Elswick, Terry Thacker. NOTE: A Memorial Meeting for deceased members will be held on June 30, 2024.

SAMARIA: 1722 Left Fork Blackberry Road, Ransom, KY 41558. Meets Friday before the third Saturday in June, 2024.

Jeff Dotson, Shawn Dotson, Larry Slone, Raymond Stanley, Michael Elswick, J. C. Hager, Paris Blackburn, Jimmy Lee Smith, Randal Thornsberry, Robert Worrix, Jr., Brian Moore, Ricky Worrix, Timothy Slone, Daniel Jacobs, David Jacobs, John Jacobs, Roger Blackburn, Jeremy Jacobs, Paris Blackburn, Vester Runyon. We welcome all orderly Primitive Baptists to visit with us.

FEDS CREEK: 1854 Feds Creek Road, Feds Creek, KY. Meets the first Saturday in May, 2024. Ricky Worrix, Timothy Slone, Robert Worrix, Jr., John Jacobs, David Jacobs, Daniel Jacobs, Jeremy Jacobs, Paris Blackburn, Roger Blackburn, Gary Thacker, Todd Thacker, Brian Moore, Shawn Dotson, Raymond Stanley, Jeff Dotson, Randal Thornsberry, David May, Jimmy Lee Smith, Greg Moore, Barry Thacker, David A. Thacker, Roger Rose, Vester Runyon. All orderly Primitive Baptists of the same faith and order are welcome.

JOHNS CREEK: 2253 Long Fork Road, Kimper, KY 41539. Meets Friday before the second Saturday in April, 2024. All orderly Primitive Baptist ministers are welcome. NOTE: Our Memorial Meeting is on March 10, 2024.

CALVARY: 631 Varney Branch Road, Kimper, KY 41539. Meets Friday before the first Saturday in June, 2024. J. C. Hager, Shawn Dotson, John Jacobs, Randal Thornsberry, Michael Elswick, Raymond Stanley, Jimmy Lee Smith, David Jacobs, Timothy Slone, Robert Worrix, Jr., Ricky Worrix, Daniel Jacobs, Jeff Dotson, David Hager, Jeremy Jacobs, Robert Thacker. NOTE: A memorial meeting for all deceased members will be held the 1st Sunday in November, 2024

DRY FORK: 2782 Dry Fork Road, Vansant, VA 24656. Meets Friday before the second Saturday in May, 2024. Brian Moore, Vester Runyon, Roger Rose, Shawn Dotson, Jeff Dotson, Raymond Stanley, Robert Worrix, Jr., Ricky Worrix, Larry Slone, Jimmy Lee Smith, Randal Thornsberry, David A. Thacker, J. C. Hager, Ked Stacy, Timothy Slone, Daniel Jacobs, Jeremy Jacobs, Don Stacy, Donathan Stacy, Terry Thacker, Barry Thacker, Gary Thacker. NOTE: A memorial service for all deceased members will be held the 2nd Sunday in July, 2024.

COLUMBUS: 599 Hillock Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207. Meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in April, 2024. Randal Thornsberry, John Jacobs, David A. Thacker, David Jacobs, David May, Robert Worrix, Jr., J. C. Hager, Raymond Stanley, Greg Moore, Todd Thacker, Michael Elswick, Steve Kender, Ricky Worrix, Brian Moore, Gary Thacker, Daniel Jacobs, Jimmy Lee Smith, Jeff Dotson, David Hager, Shawn Dotson, Jeremy Jacobs, Timothy Slone, Rodney Worrix and Barry Thacker. All other Mates Creek Elders, Brothers and Sisters are invited to attend. NOTE: Our Annual Memorial Meeting will be held October 5th (dinner at 4:00 p.m.), and 6th, 2024.

DEERFIELD: 4474 Center Road, Linden, MI 48451. Meets 4:00 p.m. on fourth Saturday in June, and second Saturday in October, 2024. Randal Thornsberry, David A. Thacker, John Jacobs, Michael Elswick, David May, Raymond Stanley, Paris Blackburn, Roger Blackburn, Greg Moore, Robert Worrix, Jr., Ricky Worrix, Timothy Slone, Jeremy Jacobs, Roger Rose, Jeff Dotson, Shawn Dotson, Brian Moore, Jimmy Lee Smith, David Gambill, Corbin Hampton, Budd Adams, Victor Quick, Rodney Worrix, and all orderly Primitive Baptist Elders are invited. NOTE: Memorial service to be held the 2nd weekend in October, 2024.

PLEASANT HILL: 615 Oakland, Urbana, OH 43078. Meets at 4:00 p.m. the third Saturday in April, 2024. J. C. Hager, David Jacobs, Daniel Jacobs, David Hager, Paris Blackburn, Roger Blackburn, Robert Worrix, Jr., Ricky Worrix, David A. Thacker, Emerson Montgomery, Shawn Dotson, Jeff Dotson, Doyle Keeton, David Gambill, Rick Holbrook, Jeremy Jacobs, and all orderly Primitive Baptist Elders. NOTE: A Memorial service will be held the 3rd weekend in October, 2024: 4:00 p.m. on Saturday; 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.

7th: Circular Letter called for, read, received and to be printed in the minutes, and that Deacon John Jacobs is to prepare the next one.

8th: Agreed that we have 960 minutes printed, and annex our Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Articles of Faith, and the obituaries of the following

BROTHERS: John "Butch" Holyfield, Randy Lee Jackson, Larry Shawn Hatfield, James Woodrow "Woody" Robinette.

SISTERS: Lois Chapman Pennington, Patty Justice, Mary Lois Muncy Stevens, Mary Pauline Smith, Dorothy Lindell Hatfield, Janice (Lovely) Coleman, Corrine Eggers, Betty W. Deel, Jean H. (Blackburn) Williamson, Ritta Lynn Taylor, Drema Marcella Fox Wolford.

9th: Agreed that the Brother Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and that all funds left after paying for the Minutes and other expenses of the Association be left in his care until the next Association.

10th: The finances were dispensed as follows:

BALANCE LEFT ON HAND from last year.....**\$ 9286.88**
AMOUNTS RECEIVED AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS LAST YEAR:

1. Donations on Saturday and Sunday.....\$ 245.00
2. Obituaries.....\$ 80.00
3. Other.....\$ 0.00

TOTAL.....\$325.00

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**\$ 9611.88**

AMOUNTS PAID OUT since last Association:

Paid for the 2022 Minutes.....-\$ 1279.96
Paid for Postage and stamps.....-\$ 60.60
Gave cash to visiting ministers.....-\$300.00
Paid for Supplies.....-\$ 0.00

TOTAL AMOUNTS PAID OUT**-\$1640.56**

BALANCE ON HAND September 1, 2023.....\$7971.32
AMOUNTS RECEIVED THIS YEAR:

From the churches September 1, 2023.....\$ 1965.00

For obituaries September 1, 2023\$ 195.00

Donations and other September 1, 2023.....\$ 150.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS THIS YEAR.....\$ 2310.00

BALANCE LEFT ON HAND

September 1, 2023.....\$10,281.32

11th: Agreed that our next Association be held with the Samaria Primitive Baptist Church, 1722 Left Fork Blackberry Road, Ransom, KY 41558, beginning at 10:00 a.m., Friday before the first Sunday in September, 2024. Elder Gary Thacker was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon. Elder Robert Worrix, Jr. is to be his alternate.

12th: Minutes read, approved. Closed with prayer by Elder Robert Worrix, Jr., then adjourned until the time of our next Association.

Signed by:

David A. Thacker

Moderator

Samuel

Assistant Moderator

Lellie Dotson

Clerk

Lonnie Simpson

Assistant Clerk

The Association gives thanks to God, and extends our love and appreciation to the brothers and sisters of Grapevine Primitive Baptist Church for their hard work and love in their hosting of the Association.

SUNDAY MORNING

September 3rd, 2023

Elder John Jacobs introduced the service with song and prayer, then:

1. Elder Ked Stacy
2. Elder David Gambill
3. Elder Shawn Dotson
4. Elder David A. Thacker
5. Elder Brian Moore closed with song and prayer.

Circular Letter

When I heard my name called and was chosen to write the circular letter for the 170th Annual Mates Creek District Regular Primitive Baptist Association, I trembled in fear because I knew where my help must come from. Since that day, I have prayed daily trusting that God would give me the words that would be both instructional and edifying to the church, always giving Glory to the Father. Jesus has blessed me to think upon His loving kindness, humility, forgiveness, and His free Grace. These are the things that are close to my heart, thanks be to God, for I know without them I would be lost.

Loving Kindness

God has commanded us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. He also commanded us to "love thy neighbor as thyself".

As a young boy I would listen to the brothers and sisters sing songs of Zion, but it wasn't until the Lord circumcised my heart that I was able to hear that certain sound that feeds my soul. We each have a story to tell. We are witnesses to God's unconditional love and mercy, even when I was dead in sin and not once but twice drowning at sea. Just as with Jonah, He calmed the wind and stilled the waters and spit me out on dry land. Little did I know that 40 years later I would be called upon to write this circular letter. In His infinite wisdom and grace, He knew! God has put a desire in my heart to tell His children what great things He has done for me.

Paul's teachings in the book of Ephesians tells my story so well. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"

Humility

I always want to be found humble, never putting myself above others, for I feel to be the least of God's children. James instructed the twelve tribes of Israel to "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

Forgiveness

Paul talks about forgiveness in the book of Ephesians. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to

another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Even while Jesus hung on the cross at Calvary and being crucified for our sins, He asked the father to forgive them, for they know not what they do. We should all remember none of us are without sin and therefore should forebear one another with forgiveness and loving kindness.

Free Grace

To emulate Christ in his loving kindness, forgiveness, and humility is what every child of God strives to do but because we are fallible creatures, we fail miserably most of the time. However, this is where Jesus' amazing grace carries us through. If I am a child of God, it's not by chance or anything this poor sinner has done, but by God's Amazing Grace.

In the book of Timothy, we see that God "...hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." It is a gift of God.

In my greatest time of sorrow, I found great comfort in the following verse. I pray it also brings you comfort in your time of need. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16.

Without Jesus, we would be lost. That's why I love my dad's pet song so much..."I need Jesus and you need Him too". Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God has always been my leaning post. He never sleeps and never slumbers. I can call on Him anytime as He is always present and never absent.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

In closing, my prayer to God is that He will bless us to love one another and continue to fellowship in the old paths in peace and love, always giving Him the praise and glory for all things past and yet to come. May the God of all Grace be with you.

Your Humble servant,
Elder Roger Blackburn

MESSENGERS REPRESENTING THE SISTER CHURCHES

LOUISA: Kenneth Slone, Mike Bartley, James Nichols, David Varney.

Alternate: Gary Thacker

OLD POND: Walter Rutherford, Gary Stanley, Bernie Newton, Arnold Hicks.

Alternate: Cecil Hatfield

BIG CREEK: Larry David Chapman, David Lee May, Timothy Thacker, Elder John Jacobs.

Alternate: Elder Elbert Church

RACCOON: Clifton Preece, Lonnie Collins, Otis Thacker, Jeff Belcher.

Alternate: Joe Belcher

PETER CREEK: Randy Smith, Randy Kender, Floyd Coleman, L. C. Coleman.

Alternate: Virgil Smith

SULPHUR SPRING: Terry Blackburn.

LITTLE HOPE: Fonso McIntosh, Frank Ball, Raymond Stanley.

Alternate: Elder Michael Elswick

GRAPEVINE: Elder Timothy Slone, Harold Abbott, Ernest Seth Shortridge.

Alternate: None

SAMARIA: Billy Yates, Ernie Justice, Bernie Newton, Jeffrey Stevens.

Alternate: Andrew Bowling

FEDS CREEK: Elder Ricky Worrix, Elder Timothy Slone, Harold Abbott, Ernest Seth Shortridge.

Alternate: None

JOHNS CREEK: Duke Chapman, David May, Barry Thacker.

Alternate: None

CALVARY : Duke Chapman, Wallace Vippereman, Lawrence Williams, Terry Thacker.

Alternate: Barry Thacker

DRY FORK: Elder Vester Runyon, Elder Brian Moore, Elder Roger Rose, Ron Moore.

Alternate: Daren Compton

COLUMBUS: Elder Roger Blackburn, Arthur Coleman, Trimble Stanley, Tom Burchwell.

Alternate: Elder Paris Blackburn

DEERFIELD: Elder Daniel Jacobs, Elder David Jacobs, Jack Davis, John Jacobs.

Alternate: None

PLEASANT HILL: Elder Greg Moore, Tim Floyd.

Alternate: Ballard Bryant

VISITING ELDERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Jonathan T. Rigsby	Burning Springs	3286 Highway 1715, Martha, KY	41159 606-652-3237
Doyle Keeton	Burning Springs	4450 Highway 1050, Jeffersonville, KY	40337 859-398-3193
Earl Ked Stacy	Washington	P.O. Box 1794, Grundy, VA	24614 276-312-8344
Robert V. Thacker	Washington	334 Reynold Road, Madisonville, TN	37354 931-638-3648
Corbin Hampton	Union	190 Tate Hampton Road, Eolia, KY	40826 606-633-3346
Trillis Adams	Union	34 Dallas Drive, Eolia, KY	40826 606-634-8393
William Bud Adams	Union	24 Angler Road, Eolia, KY	40826
David Gambill	Sand Lick-Kentucky	344 Williams Branch Road, Hazard, KY	41701 606-378-3591

MATES CREEK CHURCHES

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MODERATOR</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Louisa	Robert B. Worrix, Jr.	August, 2 nd Saturday
Old Pond	Michael Elswick	June, 2 nd Saturday
Big Creek	Randal Thornsby	August, 3 rd Saturday
Raccoon	David A. Thacker	July, 4 th Saturday
Peter Creek	Jimmy Lee Smith	June, 4 th Saturday
Sulphur Springs	(None)	August, 1 st Saturday
Little Hope	Raymond Stanley	July, 1 st Saturday
Grapevine	Timothy Slone	May, 3 rd Saturday
Samaria	Jeff Dotson	June, 3 rd Saturday
	Shawn Dotson	
Feds Creek	Ricky B. Worrix	May, 1 st Saturday
Johns Creek	David B. May	April, 2 nd Saturday
Calvary	David A. Thacker	June, 1 st Saturday
Dry Fork	Brian Moore	May, 2 nd Saturday
Columbus	Paris Blackburn	April, 4 th Saturday
Deerfield	J. C. Hager	June, 4 th Saturday
Pleasant Hill	Greg Moore	April, 3 rd Saturday

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MATES CREEK MINISTERS

Paul Dean Justice	901 Teasel Drive, Kingsport, TN 37660 423-398-5136
John Jacobs	16 Thornsby Lane, Canady, KY 41519 606-353-0622
Paris Blackburn	13290 Trenton Rd., Galena, OH 43021 740-965-1484
Jimmy Lee Smith	487 Ashlick Fork, Phelps, KY 41553 606-456-7827
J.C. Hager	7138 Brittwood Ln., Flint, MI 48507 810-232-4173
David B. May	2155 Stratton Fork Rd., Canada, KY 41519 606-353-8045
Greg Moore	8881 Canoe Dr., Galloway, OH 43119 614-870-6307
Randal Thornsby	P.O. Box 1127, Belfry, KY 41514 606-353-9234
David A. Thacker	2865 Stratton Fork Rd., Canada, KY 41519 606-353-9887
Michael Elswick	1452 Stratton Ford Rd., Canada, Ky 41519 606-353-4207
Lonnie Worrix	300 Overstreet Way, Apt. #105, Columbus, OH 43228 304-266-8232
David Jacobs	12321 Gage Road, Holly, MI 48442 248-983-6717
Richard Tucker	141 Raccoon Road, Raccoon, Ky 41567 606-437-2325
Frank J. Ball	569 Ball Fork Rd., Pinsonfork, KY 41555 606-969-6183
Raymond Stanley	2507 Road Fork Rd., Sidney, KY 41564 606-353-0810
Steve Kender	86 Cow Branch Rd., Phelps, KY 41553 606-456-0947
Robert Worrix, Jr.	1111 Burning Fork Rd., Pikeville, KY 41501 606-424-7196
Todd Thacker	465 Pine Fk. Rd., Shelbiana, KY 41562 606-437-5320/794-2994
Jeff Dotson	2275 Left Fk. Blackberry Rd., Ransom, KY 41558 606-427-9066

Shawn Dotson	4246 State Highway 1056, Ransom, KY 41558 606-427-7274
Brian Moore	4733 Dismal River Road, Oakwood, VA 24631 703-261-9810
Barry Thacker	747 Hurricane Creek Kimper, KY 41539 606-595-8168
Ricky B. Worrix	200 Left Penhook Rd., Harold, KY 41635 606-253-0650
Larry Slone	1109 Big Blue Springs Rd., Ransom, KY 41558 606- 427-9160
Gary Thacker	404 Pine Fork Rd., Shalbiana, Ky 41562 606-437-5675/794-1881
Daniel Jacobs	9087 Chelmsford Drive, Swartz Creek, MI 48473 330-687-0093
Timothy Slone	1509 Biggs Branch, Pikeville, KY 41501 606-437-0011/424-9815
Roger Blackburn	6040 Condit Road, Centerburg, OH 43011 614-747-5147
David Hager	7275 Bennett Lake Road, Fenton, MI 48430 810-735-5028
Jeremy Jacobs	2686 Meathouse Fork, Canada, KY 41519 810-247-0722
Vester Runyon	1009 Faith Drive, Vansant, VA 24656 276-859-0907
Rodney B. Worrix	280 Clay Lane, Richmond, KY 40475 859-619-1549
Lenny Boatrite	19244 Spring Street, St. Johns, OH 45884 419-738-2435
Elbert Church	1276 Stratton Fork Road, Canada, KY 41519 606-353-8021
Terry Thacker	2832 Bogard View, Newport, TN 38742 931-374-7041

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO CHURCHES

LOUISA : Elder Ricky B. Worrix, Clerk
200 Left Penhook Road,
Harold, KY 41635.....100

OLD POND: Shelby Jean Hill, Clerk:
P.O. Box 001,
Forest Hills, KY 41527.....40

<u>BIG CREEK:</u>	Bill Slone, Clerk: 7917 State Hwy. 194E, Kimper, KY 41539.....	75
<u>RACCOON:</u>	Jeff Belcher, Clerk: 451 Pine Fork, Shelbiana, KY 41562.....	100
<u>PETER CREEK:</u>	Randy Kender, Clerk: 1095 Ashlick Fork, Phelps, KY 41536.....	40
<u>SULPHUR SPRINGS:</u>	Lisa Dotson, Clerk: 1104 Big Red Road, Hurley, VA 24620.....	15
<u>LITTLE HOPE:</u>	Lonnie Simpkins, Clerk: 35 Fonso Stanley Road, Canada, KY 41519.....	30
<u>GRAPEVINE:</u>	Patricia Abbott, Clerk: 2105 Upper Johns Creek Road, Kimper, KY 41539.....	40
<u>SAMARIA:</u>	Leslie D. Hatfield, Clerk: 8380 State Hwy. 1056, McCarr, KY 41544-8302.....	75
<u>FEDS CREEK:</u>	Ernest Seth Shortridge: 300 Laurel Fork Road, Steele, KY 41566.....	50
<u>JOHNS CREEK:</u>	Elder Barry Thacker, Clerk: 747 Hurricane Road, Kimper, KY 41539.....	20
<u>CALVARY:</u>	Elder Barry Thacker, Clerk: 747 Hurricane Creek Road, Kimper, KY 41539.....	50
<u>DRY FORK:</u>	Elder Vester Runyon, Clerk: 1009 Faith Drive, Vansant, VA 24656.....	30
<u>COLUMBUS:</u>	Alicia Burchwell, Clerk: 3773 Miller Road, Ashville, OH 43103.....	75
<u>DEERFIELD:</u>	Barbara Holyfield, Clerk: 3033 Woodlawn St., Walled Lake, MI 48390.....	50

PLEASANT HILL: Tim Floyd, Clerk:
2822 Bullard-Rutan Road,
Mechanicsburg, OH 43044.....25

TOTAL TO CHURCHES.....815

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO CORRESPONDENCE

UNION: Elder Jimmy Webb, Clerk:
47 Chevy Drive,
Jenkins, KY 41537..... 25

BURNING SPRINGS: Deacon Lowell Cantrell, Clerk :
6903 Highway 705,
West Liberty, KY 41472.....25

WASHINGTON: Deacon David Owens, Clerk:
336 Old Airport Road,
Bristol, VA 24201.....25

SAND LICK-KY: Terry Meade, Clerk:
9563 Highway 772,
West Liberty, KY 41472.....25

TOTAL TO CORRESPONDENCE.....100

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO INDIVIDUALS

MODERATOR: Elder David A. Thacker:
2864 Stratton Fork Road,
Canada, KY 41 519.....6

**ASSISTANT
MODERATOR:** Elder Jeremy Jacobs,
2686 Meathouse Fork,
Canada, KY 41519.....6

CLERK: Deacon Leslie Hatfield:
8380 State Hwy. 1056,
McCarr, KY 41544.....25

**ASSISTANT
CLERK:** Deacon Lonnie Simpkins:
35 Fonso Stanley Road,
Canada, KY 41519.....6

Robert L. Webb , The Primitive Baptist Library,
416 Main Street,
Carthage, IL 62321..... 2

TOTAL TO INDIVIDUALS.....45

TOTAL MINUTES TO DISTRIBUTE960

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be called the Original Mates Creek District Regular Primitive Baptist Association.
2. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that purpose, and producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.
3. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their membership in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excluded and deceased since the last Association.
4. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any clerical powers over the churches, nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of any church in this union.
5. The Association when convened shall be governed by a regular and proper Decorum.
6. The Association shall have a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the messengers present, and that by secret ballot.
7. Newly constituted churches may be admitted into the union who shall petition by letter and messenger, and (if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly), shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.
8. Every church in the union shall be entitled to a representation in the Association.
9. Every query presented by any church to the Association, being first debated in their own church, shall be taken up by the Association.
10. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it shall be withdrawn by the member who made it.
11. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with Minutes of the Association, the best way and method for effecting that purpose shall be at the discretion of future Associations.

12. We think it absolutely necessary that we have an Association fund for defraying the expenses of the same, for the raising and supporting of which we think it the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums voluntarily as they think proper, and send it by the hands of their messengers to the Association, and those monies thus contributed by the churches and received by the Association shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all monies received by him, and pay out of the same according to the Association.

13. There shall be an Association book kept, wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by the Secretary chosen for that purpose, who shall receive compensation for his trouble.

14. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association arises.

15. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by majority of the union when they deem it necessary.

16. The Association shall have power: (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the churches. (3) To give the churches necessary advice in matters of church difficulty. (4) To inquire into the cause why the churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the Association. (5) To appropriate those monies by the churches contributed for an Association fund to any purpose they may think proper. (6) To appoint any member or members by and with their consent to transact any business they may see necessary. (7) The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of the Association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion. (8) To admit any orderly minister of our faith and order to seat in the Association. (9) The Association shall have power to adjourn themselves to any time or place they may think most convenient to the churches of the Association.

17. We welcome any and all orderly and peace-loving Primitive Baptist to visit with us.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true living God, who is the Creator, upholder and righteous disposer of all things; and that He is self-existent, independent, omnipotent and eternal.
2. We believe that Jesus existed in His mediatorial Person as the head and life of His body, the church from everlasting.
3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal, personal and unconditional election ; that the elect, or church, is and was and shall forever remain His body and fullness, and their spiritual life is hid with Christ in God.
4. We believe in the doctrine of total depravity of human nature, and that recovery from that condition is wholly and exclusively by the sovereign, free and unmerited grace of God.
5. We believe the atonement made by Christ was full and complete and exclusively for the elect, or heirs of promise.
6. We believe the doctrine of God's predestination in every sense as the Bible teaches it.
7. We believe that all the elect vessels of mercy, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the regenerating power of God's grace, and shall ultimately enjoy heaven and immortal glory.
8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the bodies, both of the just and the unjust, and the happiness of the righteous shall be eternal, and the punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting.
9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the subjects, and the true mode of baptism is immersion, foot washing as an example.
10. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as translated under the reign of King James, are a revelation from God, inspired by the Holy Ghost, and that the New Testament is the standard of faith and the only authorized rule of practice to the church of God under gospel dispensation. We therefore consider ourselves solemnly bound by our allegiance to the King of Zion to reject, disclaim and dis-fellowship all modern and ancient religions institutions or societies of which we have neither precept nor example in the New Testament.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. The Association shall have a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the messengers present, and that by secret ballot.
3. Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to speak.
4. The person speaking shall not be interrupted by any except the Moderator until he is done speaking.
5. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before so as to make remarks on his slips, failings and imperfections, but fairly state the case and matter as he can to convey his ideas.
6. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without liberty obtained from the Association.
7. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained from it.
8. No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the Association, nor whispering in time of public speech.
9. No member of the Association shall address another in any other term or appellation but the title of "Brother".
10. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member in a speech or prohibit him from speaking until he give his light on the subject, except they break the Rules of Decorum.

ORDINATION OF AN ELDER OR DEACON

- 1st Organized by Choosing Moderator and Clerk.
- 2nd Select one to question the candidate.
- 3rd Select one to hold prayer.
- 4th Select one to give the charge.
- 5th Call for the candidate from the spokesman for the church.
- 6th Examine the candidate. Any one of the Presbytery has the right to ask questions if he desires.
- 7th If candidate is found satisfactory, then proceed with prayer and laying on of hands.
- 8th Charge is now delivered.
- 9th Candidate is now returned to the spokesman for the church as an ordained Elder or Deacon.
- 10th Minutes of proceeding read and approved.
- 11th Adjourn.

John "Butch" Holyfield

Butch was born January 14, 1946 to the late James and Della (Runyon) Holyfield. Also preceded in death by a baby son, James Clayton and a loving mother-in-law Sally Smith. A resident of Walled Lake, MI formerly of Rawl WV. He passed away February 19, 2023.



Left to mourn his passing are his wife Barbara of 57 years, two sons John (Jackie) Holyfield of McBain, MI, Joseph (Katie) Holyfield of Walled Lake, MI, four grandchildren: Brittany (Ryan) Vanderwal of Lake City, MI, Trenton Holyfield of Holland, MI, Avery Holyfield and Shelby Holyfield both of Walled Lake, MI, four great-grandsons Asher, Aden, Augustus and Abram Vanderwal of Lake City, MI, two sisters Donna and Diane and one brother Leslie, all of WV, several nieces, nephews and cousins, two family members Landon and Clayton Smith were his in-laws but he said they felt close and was like brothers to him for they have always been there to help and support us no matter what.

Butch was a retiree of Ford Motor Company where he worked for 35 years. For several years he served as an officer of UAW Local 36. He was a volunteer firefighter for the Walled Lake Fire Department for 2 years and then the Commerce Fire Department for 15 years.

Butch loved the Lord and truly believed salvation by grace, for it was grace and mercy of his loving and forgiving God that blessed him to be a member and deacon of the Deerfield Primitive Baptist Church. He loved the church, loved visiting our sister churches and associations. Often expressed to me how thankful and blessed he felt to be a part of the church.

Funeral services were held Saturday, February 25, 2023 at Lynch and Sons Funeral Home, Walled Lake, MI with Elders J.C. Hager, David Jacobs, Daniel Jacobs and David Hager officiating. Pallbearers were his three grandsons Ryan Vanderwal, Trenton Holyfield and Avery Holyfield and Deacon Jack Davis, Elder Daniel Jacobs, Deacon Harold Blackburn and Brother John Mitchell.

Written in sorrow and much grief but with faith and hope in Christ we'll be together again someday. Praise God.

Barbara

Larry "Buddy" Shawn Hatfield
(May 20, 1973 - November 17, 2022)



Larry Shawn "Buddy" Hatfield, 49 of Racoon, KY passed away on Thursday, November 17, 2022 at his residence, surrounded by his family. Buddy was born on May 20, 1973 in South Williamson, KY to Lassie Deloris Coleman Hatfield, and the late Larry Edward Hatfield. He was also preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Andy and Marie Coleman; paternal grandparents, Cricket and Edith Hatfield; his mother-in-law, Dixie Pinion and his father-in-law, Johnny Pinion. Buddy was a machinist and grievance representative, working at Kellogs Cookie Factory. He was also of the Primitive Baptist faith.

Including his mother Lassie, Buddy is survived by his loving wife, Betty Jo Pinon Hatfield of Racoon, KY, his children, Eric (Star) Thacker, Aaron (Courtney) Thacker and Logan Shawn Hatfield; his brother, Christopher Shane (Carrie) Hatfield of Canada, KY; his grandson, Carson Neil Thacker; his nephew, Cody Ryan Hatfield; Amanda (Justin) Mayhorn and Dustin (Shasta) Coleman, who were like a brother and sister to him. He also leaves behind many, many other family members, and friends.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, November 20, 2022 beginning at 1 PM at the Samaria Primitive Baptist Church, Ransom, KY, with Jeff and Shawn Dotson officiating. Burial followed at the Hatfield Cemetery, Ransom, KY with family and friends serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held on Saturday evening after 6 PM at the church with special services at 7 PM.

A special thank you to Bluegrass Navigators, his nurse Jessica and aids. R.E. Rogers Funeral Home of Belfry, KY served the Hatfield family.

Loving Memory of Lois Chapman Pennington

Lois Chapman Pennington, age 97, was born April 15, 1925, and died December 2, 2022. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Bill Chapman, son Billy Randal Caapman and second husband Orval Pennington.



She is survived by sons Gary Chapman (Vonda) Nargrattis "Duke" Chapman (Debbie), Vondal Ricky Chapman and Billy Darrelll Chapman; daughter Bortema May (Larry); brother Ike Williams; sisters Anna L. Farmer and Barbie Reed; also 14 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 6, 2022 at Lucas and Son Funeral Home, Pikeville, Ky, Primitive Baptist ministers officiating. Interment followed at the Chapman family cemetery, Kimper, KY.

Dorothy Lindell Hatfield

Dorothy Lindell Hatfield, 82, of Hardy, KY passed away Monday, August 21, 2023 at her home. Born March 17, 1941 in Martin County, KY, she was the youngest of 12 children born to the late Oliver and Edna Maynard Scalf. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Clifford Hatfield, and 10 brothers and sisters.

She formerly worked for Hobb's Department Store and Magic Mart, and she was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church.

Survivors include one sister, Lou Williamson of Hardy, KY, and a devoted nephew, Gideon Williamson of Hardy, KY, and a host of nieces and nephews in Ohio, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky.

Patty Justice

Patty Justice, age 78, of Maryville, TN, formerly of Pikeville, KY, passed from this life to be with the Lord, Friday, April 21, 2023. Patty was born November



2, 1944, in Pike County, KY, to the late Nathaniel Calvary and Myrtle "Sammons" Runyon. In addition to both parents, Patty is preceded in death by her husband, Douglas M. Justice; son, Douglas M. Justice II; sisters, Avonelle Slone and Maggie Nichols; brothers, Willie Runyon, Gene Harold Runyon, Bud Edward Runyon, James Floyd Runyon. Patty is survived by her devoted daughter, Melissa "Missy" Justice; grandchildren, Meghan Justice and Logan Justice; brothers, Tommy Runyon and his wife,

Glenda, Cal Runyon and his wife, Sandy.

GRACE - Oxford dictionary defines the word grace as "a quality of behavior that is polite and pleasant and deserves respect." Patty was the personification of the word grace. Her door was always open to family, friends, and sometimes strangers, in good times or bad. She offered coffee, food, and dessert; listened to your troubles if you needed it, offered advice, and shared experience, leftovers for the road and begged you to please spend the night. She did all this effortlessly and loved the fact that you sat in her kitchen or on her porch. Patty was a daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mother, nana, friend, and Christian. She was also talented as a nurse, caterer, and florist. She was a jack of all trades; she could give you a haircut or paint. Patty was eclectic in her talents. Her family and friends will miss her terribly; but know she is smiling with us and saying, "Can we say a little prayer and sing a song or two?"

The family received friends at Thacker Memorial Funeral Home, Tuesday, April 25, 2023, from 5:00pm - 10:00 p.m. for visitation. Funeral services for Patty were Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 1:00 PM with burial following at Annie E. Young Cemetery in Pikeville, KY. Robby Worrix officiated over services for Patty.

I am unable to find the right words to express how I feel today. Despite all the heartache, I am trying to focus not on how I feel, but how my very first best friend is feeling. I miss her so much already, but I really don't want to be selfish. I wouldn't have her trade what she has now for anything. I just miss her. Now, she is joyous and so happy. She rests in the arms of our Lord and Savior.

She is with the ones we love so much, that have gone before her. Her precious body is healed and there is no suffering. She waits on all of us with her arms open wide, smiling and at peace. I thank her for what she was, is and always will be to me, to my children and to all of those blessed enough to have ever been wrapped in her love. Until I go Home and see her sweet face again, I will do my best to make her proud. Oh the love she gave us all. Rest easy, Momma. I thank you for your never-ending love, for your strength and guidance. Thank you for teaching me how much God loves us. I love you with all of my heart. I'll see you soon.

Mary Lois Muncy Stevens

Mary was born at Brushy, Kentucky, on March 12, 1942 to the late Bascum and Vada Muncy. She worked her entire adult life and never shied away from hard work. She has been



a member of the Big Creek Primitive Baptist Church of 20 years. Her first job was at Hobbs and she later went back and worked there for several years. Mary cleaned houses and businesses, worked at JC Penny's and was an aide at Brushy Elementary and Bevins Grade Schools. Mary would walk out of Dix Fork to catch a ride to Pikeville College until she earned her degree and became a Head Start Teacher. She was the Head Start Teacher at Bevins Elementary for over 20 years. She loved teaching and she absolutely loved her students. She would say she wasn't just going to have them there to play, they were going to learn.

At the age of 50 Mary finally said she was going to get her license and she took the driving class and went to take her test. It took her three times, and she told the officer, that she would keep coming back until she made them. She made them on that third time. When Mary retired the following week, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is a cancer survivor of over 25 years.

Mary departed her earthly life on Tuesday May 16, 2023. She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Hursell Stevens, and several brothers and sisters. (James, Maudie, Ruth, Ray, Luola, Joann, Claude, and Mildred). Mary is survived by two loving daughters, Brenda Kay (Kenneth) Hatfield and Tammy Shea Casey. Two grand-daughters, Brittany Nicole Hatfield with her partner Landon, Jacklyn Dawn Casey, and one great grand-daughter, Madison Ann Steinman. One special daughter Debbie Williamson Decker. She is also survived by three brothers, JD Muncy (Evelyn) of Michigan, Eddie (Janice) Muncy of Tennessee, and Freddie (Geraldine) Muncy of Brushy, Kentucky. Mary is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Mary Kent Violet (Kenny) Mullins, Helen Stevens, Sherri Stevens, and Judy Muncy Hall (Paul), and brothers-in-law, Sam Baker, and Emmerson (Matilda) Stepp. Mary also leaves behind the family's special dog, Benji.

Mary loved her family and was a favorite with her nieces and nephews. She would feed many kids in the neighborhood and they all loved her and loved coming to her house. Mary will be missed by a host of family and friends. She may be gone through heaven's gates, but she will never be forgotten.

Janice (Lovely) Coleman

Janice (Lovely) Coleman was born on July 23, 1941, to the late Ruben and Lula (Brewer) Lovely of Vancleve, Ky. She



passed peacefully at home on April 14, 2023. She is preceded in death by her husband of 60 years Paul Edward Coleman, 1 daughter Paula Coleman, 1 brother Ray Lovely, 2 sisters Eunice Lovely, and Eula (Lovely) Taulbee. She is survived by 2 daughters; Alicia (Tom) Burchwell and Teresa (Chris) Spauling, 5 grandchildren; Sandra (Kaitlin) McGarry, Cody Burchwell, Shelby (Stephen) Palazzo, Brandon Hilles, and Nathan Hilles, 6 great-grandchildren; Alexa Palazzo, Aleah Pallazzo, Mariana McGarry, Stephen Palazzo, Delilah McGarry, and Solomon Palazzo, 1 brother; Sanford

Lovely, 8 sisters-in-law: Fay Coleman, Betty Jean, Debbie, Karen, Maxie, Shirley, Ova, and Ruby, countless nieces, nephews, family and friends. Special mention of Trimble and Charlene Stanley, Robbie and Joy Worrix, and Sunny Hardy.

Mom was the baby of 5 children. She often asked her brother Ray to "bring me back some kits AB" when he went to the store. She grew up on a working farm. Her job was to feed the chickens and gather eggs. She came to Columbus in 1960, living with her brother Ray and his wife, Bea. Uncle Ray tried to teach her to drive but said he would never do it again when she rolled up over a curb. Little did they know she would later teach a sister-in-law to drive.

Mom worked at Swan Cleaners for 5-1/2 years. Her friend Betty (who became her sister in law) introduced her to Dad one night. They married in 1962 and raised 3 girls. Not many know this, but while working at Swans, Mom made a commercial that aired on T.V. She made friends there with the Toolins, a couple who didn't have children, so they "adopted" our family. Mom also babysat for family and neighborhood kids for years. Later she worked as a merchandiser at Schottensteins for 25 yrs.

In 1972 she thought baby #4 was on the way but it turned out to be a cancerous tumor. This was a hard time. She

said she wasn't going to die and have another woman get her man and raise her girls! She was a 49 yr. cancer survivor. She relied on her family and friends for rides, dinners, prayers, talks, and taking care of us and our family. She loved you all for that and never forgot it. Mom was a woman of faith and courage knowing the Lord would take care of her. Even to her very last breath she was still taking care of us. She loved us "so good" and believed if you did the right thing then everything would be ok. She always put herself last and thought of other first. She could always be found helping someone. Whether it was Dad with reunions or family and friends with whatever they needed.

Mom was our biggest cheerleader who gave great advice and taught us to trust in the Lord. She later passed this same wisdom on to her grandchildren. She loved playing board games, dice, and dominoes. She also liked shopping, eating out, traveling, and reading. She could be a jokester. When you least expected it, she would say something funny that would crack you up. She loved to laugh just like her mom. She could be a little ornery too. Mom and one of her cousins may or may not have tied a boy to a post at school one day.

Mom enjoyed her 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. They made her smile. As each one came along her heart grew bigger. She especially loved kissing those piggies even if they might be a little dirty. She didn't care. They were all special in her eyes and she loved them the same.

Mom loved the Lord, the church, and her family. Mom was a member of the Columbus Primitive Baptist Church for 32 years. She loved to sing. She thought she had an awful voice, but we told her many times she sang like an angel. She has many adopted children like our older sister Charlene! She has a special friend, Sunny, who meant so much to her and is her sister in Christ. Her sisters-in-law were like sister to her. You were all her rocks during her life. She had a special son that has gone on before her. She loves her sons-in-law. She loved teasing Chris and loved ringing her bell for Tom when she was ready for her movie every night at 8 o'clock and a snack. She was teased by all for her Kentucky twang, especially the way she said mackerway and zink.

Mom and Dad both truly believed "Having a place to go is home, having someone to love is a family, and having both is a true blessing." Jan lived a full life with many friends, touching each

of them in a different way. She was blessed with a wonderful family, but really it was our blessing. We will miss her one-liners, laughter, smile, memories, and the way she loved us all. She knew there would be tears when she left for glory but said, "Please don't cry for me because I am ok." She wanted us to celebrate her life.

Mom, you is good, you is kind, you is smart, and you is beautiful. She was loved by her family and friends and leaves very big shoes to fill.

Corrine Eggers

Corrine Eggers was born on May 16, 1936 to Joe and Myrtle Dotson. She passed away on July 14, 2023 at age 87. She is survived by her grandchildren Zebadiah, Jeshaiiah, Isaiah (Ashly), and Derek (Wendy) Eggers, great-grandchildren Olivia, Austin, Jorden, Bella, Zoey, Colten, Brady and Grant Eggers. She is preceded in death by her parents, all her siblings, children Billy Jo, Jerry and Fred and grandchildren Zachariah and Olivia Eggers.



Corrine was a member of the Columbus Primitive Baptist Church, a place she called home and loved everyone who attended there. Corrine loved her flowers; she was the only woman I know to grow her own flowers. She tended to them like they were her loved ones. She was a strong and independent woman who kept her faith in God always and will be forever missed and loved by everyone

who had known her.

Funeral arrangements were held on July 19, 2023 at Ebenezer Cemetery in Rio Grande, Ohio, officiated by Paris and Roger Blackburn. Funeral services provided by Roberts Funeral Home. She will always be missed and always in our hearts and may our love for her carry her memories.

Betty W. Deel

Betty W. Deel 86, of Springfield, OH passed away on Friday, March 25, 2022. She was born on December 27, 1935 in



Dickenson County, VA, the daughter of the late William and Sarah Mullins. Her parents named her Wanda, but because her older brother had recently broken up with a girlfriend named Wanda, he insisted everyone call her Betty instead. She didn't discover her name wasn't really Betty until she was a married adult. She had to have her name legally changed to Betty Wanda, since Betty Deel didn't technically exist.

Betty was one of eleven children and grew up in a small coal mining community in southwest Virginia. Betty married Eugene Deel on October 27, 1952 and eventually they moved to New Carlisle, and later to Enon, Ohio. Betty and Eugene were happily married and devoted to each other for 61 years before his death in 2014. Betty dedicated her entire life to loving and caring for her family—her husband, three children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her children and grandchildren were truly blessed to have her unconditional love and support. Betty was never happier than when she was caring for or spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her children could never hope to repay her for the countless hours she spent taking care of and doting over her grandchildren as they grew into adults. Throughout her life, Betty was a devoted Christian and was baptized as a member of the Primitive Baptist Church. She was a kind, accepting, and generous woman who will be missed deeply by her family and friends.

Betty is survived by her son Tim Deel (wife Kim Coleman), daughter Mary Wells (son-in-law Scott Wells) and daughter-in-law, Peggy Deel. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, Natalie Nelson (grandson-in-law Zach Nelson), Jacob Deel (soon-to-be granddaughter-in-law Infiniti Deel), Adam Deel (granddaughter-in-law, Olivia Deel), Cori Deel, Karen

Estrada (grandson-in-law Bryan Estrada), Sean Wells, and Kyle Wells, as well as by eight great-grandchildren, Maggie Nelson, Lucy Nelson, Theodore Nelson, Emma Deel, Zoe Deel, Delia Estrada, Emilia Estrada, and Ezra Estrada.

She also leaves behind her two beloved sisters, Ruby Compton (brother-in-law Bob Compton) and Elizabeth Cantrell, as well as many nieces and nephews who she cherished. She was preceded in death by her husband Eugene and her beloved son, Dennis Deel, as well as by her parents, her brothers, Cline Mullins, June Mullins, and Ellis Mullins, and her sisters, Gay Epling, Marie Smith, Martha Wallace, Bea O'Quinn, and Nell Bailey.

Betty was laid to rest beside her husband Eugene at Enon Cemetery in Enon, OH.

Ritta Lynn Taylor

Ritta Lynn Taylor, age 65, of Holy, MI peacefully passed away on January 4, 2023. A solemn funeral service was held at 1 PM on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, located at 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton MI, under the guidance of Alex Bigger. Following the service, Rita was laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery, Fenton. Visitation was held from 4-8 PM on Monday at the funeral home, providing an opportunity for loved ones to pay their respects. In lieu of flowers, contributions requested be made to the Ritta Lynn Taylor memorial fund c/o Sharp Funeral Homes, as a testament to her generous



spirit.

Ritta was born on August 15, 1957, in Ansted, West Virginia, and her life was a testament to her unwavering faith. On September 19, 1977, she joined in holy matrimony with her beloved husband, Daniel Lee Taylor. Ritta dedicated many years of her life as a talented florist in the local community, using her creative talents to bring joy to others. Alongside her

husband, she found solace and fulfillment in the art of puzzles, painting, and woodworking.

Ritta's memory will forever be cherished by her devoted husband, Dan Taylor, and their four children, DeeLynn (James) Wright, Rebecca Ann (Casey) Hulstrand, Sarah Taylor, and Danielle Taylor. She was a loving and doting grandmother to seven grandchildren, Celeste, Deegan, Kirsten, Evelyn, A.J., Riley, and Jackson, who brought immeasurable joy to her life. Additionally, she embraced two foster grandchildren and eagerly anticipated the arrival of a great-grandchild, Ellio, with another blessing on the way.

Ritta's siblings, Stella Wolford, Rose (John) Earley, Deana Goss, Francine Wolford, and Franklin C. (Cassie) Wolford, will forever hold her dear in their hearts. She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Drema Wolford and Frank Wolford, as well as her two sons, Charles Stewart and Daniel Taylor, Jr. Her granddaughter Angelina Ross, and son-in-law, Matthew Racke, also preceded her in their journey to eternal peace.

Ritta's unwavering faith in the Lord guided her throughout her life, and her legacy of love, kindness, and devotion will continue to inspire all those who were blessed to know her. May her soul find eternal rest in the embrace of God's loving arms.

Submitted by the family

Jean H. (Blackburn) Williamson



In loving memory of Jean H. (Blackburn) Williamson. With sadness, we say our goodbyes to our loving mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt. Jean was born on October 15, 1934, and took her final journey home on Thursday, March 23, 2023. She lived a long and lovely life with her earthly age of 88 years and 5 months.

She was the daughter of the late James Ballard Blackburn and Maizie (Smith) Blackburn who continued to be

loved in her heart throughout her life. She often said how lucky she was to have such wonderful brothers and sisters - she had six sisters (four of whom have preceded her in death). Mom was the ninth child born to the family.

Mom was married to the absolute love of her life, Ralph Williamson, who took his final journey in May of 2019. They were married for 67 years sharing a wonderful life in Fallston, Maryland. During the early years of their marriage, she worked in retail, but truly enjoyed just spending time with the family. The best part of every summer was the annual Blackburn reunion- just being with her family gave her such wonderful memories and blessings. Living in Maryland gave her great joy as the ocean was just a couple hours away and an ocean city retreat was an annual occurrence for her and her loved ones. These memories are those which we will often talk about and will continue to be remembered.

Jean just recently became a member of the Columbus Primitive Baptist Church and although she grew weaker in her health, she cherished the time she could talk about church and welcomed her walk with Jesus.

Jean leaves behind one daughter, Judi (Dr. Gregory Seltzer, Pastor); one son, Jerry (Maria) Williamson; two grandsons, Aaron Seltzer and Jason Williamson; one granddaughter Heidi Seltzer; one great-grandson, Max Seltzer. Her children and grandchildren were the love of her life as she cherished every milestone. She is also survived by her loving two sisters and three sisters-in-law and twin brothers and three brothers-in-law, but also a host of nieces and nephews, all who held a special place in her heart. She will be deeply missed by us all.

Written by her devoted and loving daughter, Judy Seltzer, with all my love for my dear momma. You will be deeply and sadly missed my dear Momma but I rejoice that you will once again be reunited with dad and will be cradled in the loving arms of Jesus. "Rest in peace Nan."

Drema Marcella Fox Wolford

It is with great sadness and difficulty that I sit here to write the obituary of my dear mother Drema Marcella Fox Wolford. Mom went to rest in the arms of our Savior December 31st, 2022, making her stay on this earth 81 years, 11 months. She was preceded in death by her father, Raymond Fox, loving husband of 41 years, Franklin D. Wolford, first born Ritta Lynn Taylor who passed away just 4 days after her and two grandsons that she never met here on earth. I am sure she is probably holding them now.



She leaves behind to mourn her passing: Daughter Stella Wolford, Daughter Rosa Earley (John), Daughter Deana Goss, Daughter Francine Wolford, Son Frank Wolford (Cassie), Son-in-law Dan Taylor, 13 Grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great Grandchildren, 4 sisters, 3 brothers as well as her 102-year-old-Mother Lula Fox.

My mother was a member of the Primitive Baptist church for over 50 years. She sat side by side with my Dad at church. There was no greater love that she had besides my Dad, her family and the church. She was very faithful along with my Dad until his passing and she was unable to attend.

Mom was always such a hard worker. Not only did she raise six children, but she was a wonderful homemaker. She was always canning or doing some kind of woodwork. She would listen to gospel songs and write them down word for word so that she could make song books for us kids and anyone else who wanted one. She also did her fair share of crocheting, making blankets and curtains and whatever she could make.

Mom, I miss you every day and I wait for the day that I will see you and my loving Dad, till then our loss is heaven's gain.

Written by her Daughter Rosa Earley
and Daughter-in-Law Cassie Wolford

Mary Pauline Smith

It is with much sadness that I write the obituary of my niece, Mary Pauline Smith. She was born June 29, 1935 in Buchanan, Virginia, the daughter of Alonzo Charles and Mary Smith Charles. She was



married to Marvin Smith for many years, and they were blessed with one son, Marcus Smith.

Pauline and Marvin belonged to the Primitive Baptist Church; they both loved the Lord and the Baptist doctrine, and attended church when they were able. They are sadly missed by all.

Submitted by Pauline's niece Delphie.

MEETING TIMES OF THE CHURCHES

LOUISA: 2nd Saturday 10:30 a.m./Sunday 10:30a.m.; All Odd Sundays.

OLD POND: 2nd Saturday 10:30 a.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.; 4th Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Odd Sundays 10:00 a.m.; New Year's Eve night, 6:30 p.m.

BIG CREEK: 3rd Saturday 10:30 a.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m..

RACCOON: 4th Saturday 6:00 p.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.

PETER CREEK: 4th Saturday 6:30 p.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.

SULPHUR SPRINGS: 1st Saturday 10:30 a.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.

LITTLE HOPE: 1st Saturday 10:30 a.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.

GRAPEVINE: 3rd Saturday 6:30 p.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Every 5th Sunday 10:00 a.m.

SAMARIA: 3rd Saturday 10:30 a.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.; 1st Sunday night 6:00 p.m.

FEDS CREEK: 1st Saturday 6:30 p.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Sunday meetings dismissed in June, July and August to attend union meetings of Calvary, Little Hope and Sulphur Springs churches.

JOHNS CREEK: 2nd Saturday 10:30 a.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.

CALVARY: 1st Saturday 10:30 a.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.

DRY FORK: 2nd Saturday 6:30 p.m./Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Every odd Sunday, 10:30a.m.

COLUMBUS: Sundays following the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

DEERFIELD: Sundays weekly 10:30 a.m.

PLEASANT HILL: 1st and 3rd Sundays 10:30 a.m.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ORIGINAL MATE'S CREEK DISTRICT REGULAR PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 2023													
Churches	Moderators	Clerks	Year Established	Saturday of Meeting	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Received by Relation	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Contributions
Louisa	Robert Worrix, Jr.	Ricky Worrix	1825	2 nd	0	0	0	1	0	0	-2	50	\$200.00
Old Pond	Michael Elswick	Shelby Jean Hill	1843	2 nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	\$80.00
Big Creek	Randal Thornsby	Bill Slone	1857	3 rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	47	\$150.00
Raccoon	David A. Thacker	Jeff Belcher	1820	4 th	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	50	\$200.00
Peter Creek	Jimmy L. Smith	Randy Kender	1869	4 th	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	43	\$80.00
Sulphur Springs	(None)	Lisa Dotson	1863	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	\$30.00
Little Hope	Raymond Stanley	Lonnie Simpkins	1893	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	\$60.00
Grapevine	Timothy Slone	Patricia Abbott	1889	3 rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	13	\$80.00
Samaria	Jeff Dotson	Leslie D. Hatfield	*1898	3 rd	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	111	\$150.00
Feds Creek	Shawn Dotson	Ernest Seth Shortridge	1894	1 st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	\$100.00
Johns Creek	David B. May	Barry Thacker	1936	2 nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	-3	6	\$50.00
Calvary	David A. Thacker	Barry Thacker	1951	1 st	0	0	3	0	0	0	-3	17	\$175.00
Dry Fork	Brian Moore	Vester Runyon	1962	2 nd	3	0	1	0	0	0	-1	30	\$60.00
(Friendship)	(Disbanded)	(December 27, 2014)	1925										
Columbus	Paris Blackburn	Alicia Burchwell	1967	4 th	4	0	0	0	0	0	-3	51	\$200.00
Deerfield	J. C. Hager	Barbara Holyfield	1971	4 th	1	0	1	0	0	-5	-3	46	\$200.00
Pleasant Hill	Greg Moore	Tim Floyd	1972	1 st	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	24	\$150.00
New Hope	(Disbanded)	(November 25, 2018)	1991	4 th									
16					8	1	5	1	-1	-7	-19	546	\$1,965.00

