2017 MINUTES
OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIFTH
ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SARDIS ASSOCIATION
OF
OLD REGULAR BAPTIST
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

In session and assembled at the
SARDIS ASSOCIATION BUILDING
180 Brushy School Road
Varney, Pike County, Kentucky
September 8, 9, and 10, 2017

Elder Thomas J. Dials - Moderator
Elder Richard Staton - Assistant Moderator
Elder Michael D. Lowe - Clerk
Brother Alvin Thornbury - Assistant Clerk
Elder Todd J. Dials - 2nd Assistant Clerk
We the Sardis Association of Old Regular Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ mourn the loss of our dear Elders that have outstripped us and gone on to that eternal home of glory. We hereby dedicate this our 125th session of the Sardis Association to all the wonderful Elders that have gone on since our founding in 1893.

A special dedication also in the memory of the three beloved Elders that have passed since our last meeting. The preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by these loving brothers will long be remembered among the Old Regular Baptists.

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
- Romans 10:15
THE CITY BEYOND DEATH’S SEA

O'er death's sea in yon blessed city
There's a home for everyone,
Purchased with a price most costly,
It was blood of God's dear Son.

Chorus
In that city—bright city
Soon with loved ones I shall be,
And with Jesus live forever.
In that city beyond death's sea.

Here we have no abiding city,
Mansions here will soon decay,
But that city God's built firmly,
It can never pass away.

I have loved ones in that city,
Those who left me years ago;
They with joy are waiting for me,
Where no farewell tears e're flow.

Toward that pure and holy city,
Oft my longing eyes I cast,
Jesus whispers sweetly to me,
Heaven is yours when life has past.
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The Sardis Association of Old Regular Baptist, the Church of Jesus Christ, assembled in the Business Room of the Sardis Association Building at 180 Brushy School Road, Varney, Pike County, Kentucky, with our host, the Pilgrims Home Church and co-host Churches: Apple Orchard, Turkey Creek, Dix Fork, Pilgrims Rest and Bride of Christ, on Friday before the second Saturday in September, 2017.

About the hour of 9:00 a.m. our Assistant Moderator, Elder Hobart Hamilton, came to the stand and welcomed everyone, including the Brothers, Sisters, Friends and all in attendance. A card was read from Elder Chester Cochran, stating his appreciation for all the work done at the Association building.

Elder Sam Frye having been chosen as alternate for this session’s Introductory Sermon came to the stand saying I need your prayers. What a beautiful congregation of people gathered this morning. He hope the Lord gives you something that you can feel. Let us give thanks to the Lord God in Heaven. We have to depend upon the Lord, he has been good to me. I can read about a man who got in trouble one time. Man has to call on someone who is bigger than him. We have to believe in a man who has got the power to look down inside of us. I believe in a God who can take care of you. When I got in trouble, I went back to my dad and he advised me to look to God. This man asked for his portion of goods. When you get hungry, go to Jesus. I got hungry and remembered my father’s house where there was bread to spare. He said, just make me a hired servant. When I went to God he was there for me. His brother got jealous. He asked someone and they said your brother has come home. Jesus is the man who opens our eyes. Down here we are just beggars, one day we will be perfect, when he raises us out of the ground. When the Gospel comes down, there is food in it. The leaves of the tree is for the healing of the nations.

Elder Sam Frye led in prayer.

Elder Thomas J. Dials came to preach the Introductory Sermon stating: It’s with much fear I come before you. We are so little, he is so great. He made a better place for us. We need the Lord wherever we are. He created this whole world, and one of the first things man did was disobey him. We must look at what the end result is. John 16:7, It is true, “it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come.” People are trying to build another foundation. This place is not our home, we have a better place to go to. I want God’s mercy today. I disobeyed God’s law. The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep his commandments. That comforter has to help me and guide me. I see where John was on the Isle of Patmos. He saw a beast coming out of the sea. That beast is all around us today and is deceiving the people. They may try to run us off, but I’m glad there is protection today. It is our duty to draw nigh unto God. When you get the Holy Ghost and fire baptism, it will take you home. When I can feel his spirit, I would just soon go home. There is a beast kingdom today. Take a look around about and
see what is going on. You have an enemy telling you everything is alright. The only thing good today is Jesus Christ. Babylon has fallen. He tried to destroy the church and destroy the wall. There are a few working today to build the wall up. Every day he gets a little closer to me. The closer we try to get to God the more the world will try to put us down. He found me in a wayfaring wilderness, but God put me in the rock. Jesus is that rock, the only one who can lift you out of that wilderness. We must keep God’s law. When we walk contrary, we are in trouble. The inward man must have a baptism. When that inward man gets a baptism with the fire and the Holy Ghost he is perfect and he keeps the outward man in subjection. When you experience something you know about it and when God has born you again you know what he has done for you. When you experience it, it goes right into the heart. I am willing to die on that experience. Work on that foundation God has built up. Isaiah 35:1, The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom the rose. I was in a wilderness, and solitary place, and I had to realize that God cares for me. One night I did all I could do. He sends down that water and blood and something good comes down and causes that to blossom. Isaiah 35:4, Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. We get weak, we have our failures but God has a strong hand. When he blesses me, I feel I have got it. If you fear God you are in good shape. I have been in trouble, but he is there. If any trouble comes, I must depend on him. I have felt that power today. If you think you have got something, and don’t know anything about it, you are in trouble. If there is anything that can bring trouble to this Association, God can remove it. We must get that Heavenly spiritual baptism. We must understand when they tell you everything is wrong. We must be wise in the Lord.

The Sardis Association delegates and a large delegation from our Corresponding Sister Associations remained in the Business Room for the Work of this Association, and as is our custom, the many non-delegate Brethren, Sisters and friends were dismissed to assemble in the Preaching Room to hear the preaching of:

Elder Danny Justus, Old Friendship Association  
Elder Roger Coleman, Union Association  
Elder Larry Newsome, Northern New Salem Association  
Elder Teddy Honaker, New Salem Association  
Elder Jimmy Stewart, Philadelphia Association

The delegates having assembled themselves in order, Elder Thomas J. Dials, our Moderator, called to seats the delegates from our Churches sent to represent them in this Association and the delegates sent by our Corresponding Sister Associations.

Brother Tom called upon Elder Scotty Hamilton of the Northern New Salem Association, to open the Association.

Brother Scotty came forth and said this world is not our home. This world is nothing but trouble and sorrow. In my father’s house are many mansions. I have my eyes cast on a better land. If you are a child of the king, if you are born again by his spirit, you are Heaven bound. Are you ready today? The clouds rolled back, and Jesus is on that cloud. You had better be ready. Life is like a vapor upon the water. You have no promise of tomorrow. Be good to one another, for he that is in you is greater than he that is in the world. Be strong toward one another. Let that love flow. Let your children see that love and say I want to be a part of them. Strive to get your children and grandchildren to go to church with you. I am glad to be part of that kingdom. It is already set up in God’s children. The name of Jesus ought to make you happy. When I hear the name of Jesus, it excites me. When you were born again, he came to your rescue. If you’ve been born again, Jesus is right there with you. Every one of us will close our eyes someday. When you close your eyes in death, Jesus will still be there with you. When I awake in his likeness, then
I’ll be satisfied. I’m going to see Jesus for myself and not another. God is God and besides him there is none other. I want to leave a good report. There is a day coming for the children of God. Be ready!

Elder Buddy Carty of the Northern New Salem Association led in prayer.

The Sardis Association then proceeded as follows:

(1) Our Moderator, Elder Thomas J. Dials, came to the stand and said, what a wonderful feeling. He is alive. All eyes will see Jesus, but only the pure in heart will see God.

(2) The Moderator appointed a Committee on Finance to receive contributions sent to the Association by the several Churches as follows:

   Elder Billy Joe Robinson
   Elder Randy Lackey
   Brother Ron Hamilton

(3) The Moderator called for the Letters from the Sardis Association Churches to be handed in to the Clerk and for the contributions to be handed in to the Committee on Finance.

(4) Having reviewed the Letters received from the Churches for regular form and order, the Letter from the Pilgrims Home Church was read, and upon regular move and second, all Letters were received, the delegates were seated and the Queries and Request were referred to the Committee on Arrangements.

(5) The Committee on Finance reported $4,660.00 received from the Churches and after turning this amount over to the Treasurer was discharged by regular move and second.

(6) The Moderator appointed a Committee to arrange the preaching for Friday night and Saturday consisting of one delegate from each Church in the Sardis Association, and the entire delegation from the host church.

(7) The Moderator appointed the following Committee of Tellers to take the vote of the Sardis Association delegates for Officers to serve the Sardis Association for the coming year and instructed the delegates to vote for a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk:

   Elder Arthur Short, Old Friendship Association
   Elder David Lester, Old Friendship Association
   Elder Buddy Carty, Northern New Salem Association

(8) The beloved Clerks of the Sardis Association, Brother Archie Prince and Elder Edward L. Smith, asked the Moderator if they could speak. Both stated they had prayed a lot and felt it was time to step aside as clerks of the Sardis Association, and that they were resigning.
(9) The Sardis Association then completed its 2017 organization by selecting the following Officers to serve for the coming year and, by regular move and second, the report of the Committee of Tellers was accepted and the Committee was discharged:

- Elder Thomas J. Dials, Moderator
- Elder Richard Staton, Assistant Moderator
- Elder Michael Lowe, Clerk
- Brother Alvin Thornbury, Assistant Clerk

The Moderator, Elder Thomas J Dials, announced that this work having been completed the Sardis Association is seated and is now in working order.

(10) The Moderator asked the Association what it wanted to do about appointing a second Assistant Clerk to help with the clerk’s duties. By regular move and second Elder Todd Dials was appointed to serve as an Assistant Clerk for the year 2017.

(11) The Committee appointed to arrange the preaching for Friday Night and Saturday reported. The following Brethren were used:

**FRIDAY NIGHT**

- Elder Charles Edwards, Sardis Association
- Elder Billy Joe Robinson, Sardis Association
- Elder Jimmy Stewart, Philadelphia Association
- Elder Thomas J. Dials, Sardis Association
- Elder Greg Stanley, Sardis Association

**SATURDAY**

- Elder Willis Tolliver, Philadelphia Association
- Elder Billy Miller, Northern New Salem Association
- Elder Jerry Overstreet, Union Association
- Elder A. B. Thacker, Union Association
- Elder Estill Hamilton, Union Association

(12) Committee appointed to take care of the visiting Brethren and to see that the stand be supplied with Ministers:

- Elder Danny Runyon
- Elder Duane Smith

(13) By regular move and second, the reading of the Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum, and the Constitution were omitted.

(14) The Moderator called for the Letters from our Corresponding Sister Associations. The following Letters and attached correspondence were read and, by regular move and second, were received, the delegates were seated with us in Council and given the right hand of fellowship by our Moderator:


**NORTHERN NEW SALEM**: Wayne Sartin, John M. Elkins, Buddy W. Carty, Glen Slone, Larry Newsome, Harvey Tuttle, Billy Miller, Scott Hamilton, Adam Moore, I. V. Huff, Wilburn Nichols and Jack Dials. Letter in the hands of Elder Scott Hamilton.

**Letter of Condolence to Our Sister the Sardis Association**

We your Sister, the Northern New Salem Association, wish to extend our condolences to you, in the loss of your Beloved Elders, Brothers, and Sisters since your last setting.

We are thankful for the many years that we were blessed to worship alongside them while here on Earth. We look forward to the day when we will join them in that city beyond the sea, in a land of never ending peace. We know that our savior has prepared a city for them that do love and serve him and we look forward to when we can join them there.

With an everlasting love,

Elder Hillard Newsome, Clerk
Elder Wayne Sartin, Asst. Clerk
Elder Scott Little, 2nd Asst. Clerk


LETTER OF CONDOLENCE
TO OUR SISTER THE SARDIS ASSOCIATION
FROM THE 2017 OLD FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Letter of Condolence to our Sister the Sardis Association. We your Sister, the Old Friendship Association, wish to extend to you our deepest sympathy and prayers in the loss of your Elders, Brothers and Sisters since your last meeting.

We are praying that we will reunite in a happy and glorious reunion. They are better off than we are because they are now resting from their labors. We still have to bear the sting of death. We all look forward to the day we can all walk the streets of gold and be served by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and God will wipe our tears away.

Praying for everyone,
Elder Arthur D. Short, Clerk
Brother Edgar Baker, Jr. Assistant Clerk


(15) The Moderator called for Transient Ministers and other members of our Association desiring to take a seat with us and received the following: Archie Prince, Edward L. Smith, Hobart Hamilton, Danny Runyon, Walter Bogar, Stony Blackburn and Randy Lackey.

(16) The Moderator called for newly organized Churches or other Churches of our same faith and order desiring to take up correspondence with the Sardis Association, and for Associations desiring to take up correspondence with the Sardis Association and none responded.

(17) The Moderator appointed a Committee on Arrangements consisting of one delegate from each Church and all of the Officers of the Sardis Association, along with the entire delegation from each of our Corresponding Sister Associations, to arrange the business for Saturday’s session of the Sardis Association. By regular move and second, the committee will meet at 1:30 P.M. today.

(18) On motion from Brother Monty Messer, Sr., seconded by Brother Bernard Aldridge the Sardis Association was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning, September 9, 2017.
SATURDAY

September 9, 2017

Met pursuant to adjournment at the Sardis Association Building where, about the hour of 9:00 a.m., our Moderator, Elder Thomas J. Dials, came to the stand stating old brothers leave things with you, and it’s good to remember old brothers. They took care of us, taught us, were dad’s to us in the Lord. We miss the old brothers. They’re gone and now we’re the old brothers, I feel so unworthy to take their place, but thankful my worthiness comes from the good Lord above. We’ve got sickness here, but I’ve started to make Heaven my home and feel I’m going to make it my home. Today is the day of salvation. Let’s draw nigh, what a beautiful congregation. God puts a greater love in us. He is our all and all, with everything in us, let’s love him. We agree upon the resurrection, and Jesus Christ is King. He is a humble spirit of pure love.

He then called upon Elder Preston Lewis, of the New Salem Association, to open these services. Brother Preston said, He was thankful God blessed so many to be out here today. Please look beyond me, utter up a word of prayer that God will bless me, and please you in a way that is pleasing to him. I want God to bless us to worship him in spirit and truth. It takes his spirit for me to worship him, it’s up to him to bless us with that spirit. I’m thankful a long time ago, he told them when I go away I’ll send a comforter. You still have time and opportunity to obtain that comforter. Work while it’s called day. My God said work, for when night comes, no man can work. You work according to God’s spirit. Whatever he says to do, you do it! That is what his mother said at the marriage feast. I believe in a travel from nature to grace. Without a travel, there is no birth. When I stepped out into sin, I heard The Preacher. He let me know I was lost, ruined and undone. He let that light shine into a dark place. I’m thankful to be in this family and thankful I serve one that takes care of me and of this church. We have to be willing and humble ourselves down and listen to God. It’s not the hearer that is justified but the faithful doer. We must do his commandments. This church is on a journey. I wanted what those people had. This church has that light, and that light shines down in us. It shines to a dark place, and I started on a journey. You have to lay down the things of this world. I went through that travel, and at the end, I worked myself out of works. I still found myself lost. When I came out of that travel, you have to die dead to the love of sin. He was there to resurrect me. “Blessed are those that have a part in the first resurrection, on such the second death have no power”. There is a day of all days appointed, and he is going to step down off the throne. There is a storm coming, they won’t get out of this storm. I’ve got wings down on the inside, what kind of wings, wings of the love of God. In the morning, he is going to call my name. He is coming back and they will all get up. If you fail to repent, he is going to announce, depart from me you worker of inequity, for I never knew you in the pardon and remission of sin. You can escape, follow this way and enter into the door.

Brother Preston led in prayer.

The Sardis Association then proceeded as follows:

(1) Called the roll of delegates and marked the absentees.

(2) Read the Bill of Arrangements and, by regular move and second, received the report.

(3) Elder Stony Blackburn, chosen to prepare the Circular Letter for this session of the Sardis Association, came to the stand and read his letter. By regular move and second, the Letter was received and ordered to be printed in our Minutes. At this time the Moderator released the Brethren, Sisters and friends to assemble in the Preaching room.
(4) Called for the Sardis Association Treasurer Report. A move and second was made to receive the following report:

**SARDIS ASSOCIATION TREASURER REPORT 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance on hand 9-01-16</td>
<td>$ 6,279.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add 2016 Income:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Contribution for Minutes</td>
<td>$ 4,455.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obituary Pictures</td>
<td>$ 400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>$ 5.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent Income</td>
<td>$ 2,548.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance Coal Royalty</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Fund Contributions</td>
<td>$ 3,625.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Fund Contributions</td>
<td>$ 7,003.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$ 3,489.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2016 Income</td>
<td>$ 22,026.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Available for 2016</td>
<td>$ 28,305.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less 2016 Expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment Repairs</td>
<td>$ 666.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Expense</td>
<td>$ 84.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute Expense/Mailing</td>
<td>$ 4,556.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk Expense</td>
<td>$ 27.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Land Expense</td>
<td>$ 4,322.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Security</td>
<td>$ 241.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Expense</td>
<td>$ 3,701.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Expense</td>
<td>$ 693.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Expense</td>
<td>$ 862.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Expense</td>
<td>$ 890.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Supply Expense</td>
<td>$ 5,575.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Expense</td>
<td>$ 50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2016 Expense</td>
<td>($ 21,671.79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance on Hand 8-31-17</td>
<td>$ 6,634.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(5) Received the report of the Building Committee and, by regular move and second, ordered it be discharged and the Moderator appoint a new Building Committee to be responsible for all use, repair, improvements, maintenance and preservation of the property as follows:

Brother Daniel Stanley  Brother Ferrell Sesco  Brother Butler Fletcher  
Elder David May  Elder Andrew Walters  Elder Sam Frye  
Brother Archie Prince  Brother Danny Reed  Elder Harold Sesco  
Brother Ervin Thacker  Elder Chester Cochran  Brother Clyde James  
Brother Tony Williamson  Brother Ernest Sesco  Elder Ron Gannon  
Brother Dwight Maynard  Elder Richard Staton  Elder Thomas J. Dials  
Elder Hobart Hamilton  Elder Edward L. Smith  Brother Walter Bogar  
Brother David Staten  Elder Todd Dials  Brother Alvin Thornbury  
Elder Michael Lowe
(6) By regular move and second, Brother Jimmy Cochran was added to the committee to replace Elder Bobby Scott who passed away this past year, and the report of the Committee on the Historical Library of the Sardis Association of Old Regular Baptist, as given by Brother Archie Prince, was received. The Pike County Public Library can be reached at the address: www.pikelibrary.org. On their home page you should see LINKS. Click on LINKS. Click on Genealogy to access the Sardis Association files.

Clerks Note: We need minutes for the years 1893, 1896-1907, 1911, 1913-1915. Also, any pictures and histories of the Sardis Association Churches are requested. If available, contact:

Elder Edward L. Smith          (606)834-9958  
Brother Archie Prince          (304)486-5960  
Brother Jimmy Cochran          (304)674-5177

(7) Read the Letters of Condolence from our Sisters, the Old Friendship Association and the Northern New Salem Association, and by regular move and second, ordered them to be printed in our Minutes.

(8) Read the Request from the Leannah Church asking the Sardis Association to allow each church to submit their vote on paper using a ballot box and then counted by members appointed by the association. After discussion on the floor, a move by Elder Billy Joe Robinson, seconded by Brother Clarence Robinson, to grant the Request met with an objection by Brother Jim Cochran. A vote of the delegates showed 32 for the move, 33 for the objection and the Request is denied.

(9) Read the Request from the Elizabeth Church asking that the Association dedicate this Association to our Elder brothers who have outstripped us and gone on. After some discussion on the floor, by regular move and second, the request was granted for the Brother Clerks to print a general statement about the past Brothers, and list the Elders that have passed away since the last meeting of the Association.

(10) Appointed a Committee of Tellers to take the vote of the Sardis Association delegates as to who shall preach the Introductory Sermon at our year 2018 Association and who shall be his alternate:

   Elder David Lester, Old Friendship Association  
   Elder Steve Baker, Old Friendship Association  
   Elder Ralph Cloud, Old Indian Bottom Association

Appointed a second Committee of Tellers to take the vote of the Sardis Association delegates as to who shall prepare the Circular Letter for our 2018 Association:

   Elder Larry Newsome, Northern New Salem Association  
   Elder Danny Hurley, Old Friendship Association

These Committees reported as follows and were discharged by regular move and second:

   Elder Hobart Hamilton, Preach the Introductory Sermon  
   Elder Billy Joe Robinson, Alternate  
   Elder Arthur Mathis, Prepare Circular Letter
(11) The Committee appointed on Friday to arrange the preaching met and reported. By regular move and second the report was received and the committee was discharged. The following Brethren preached Saturday Night and Sunday:

**SATURDAY NIGHT**

Elder Eric Williamson, Sardis Association  
Elder Danny Runyon, Sardis Association

**SUNDAY**

Elder Charles Edwards, Sardis Association  
Elder Hobart Hamilton, Sardis Association  
Elder Richard Staton, Sardis Association  
Elder Thomas J. Dials, Sardis Association

(12) By regular move and second, it was ordered that the Clerk be appointed Secretary-Treasurer for 2017 and that he be allowed $75.00 for his expense.

(13) Moderator appointed Elder Paul Maynard as a Sardis Association Trustee to replace Elder Frankie Scott, who passed away this past year.

(14) Read the request from the Pilgrims Home Church to be removed as the standing host of the annual Sardis Association. By regular move and second, the request was granted.

(15) Read the request from the Apple Orchard Church requesting to host the 2018 Sardis Association. By regular move and second, the request was granted. Big Branch, Turkey Creek and Pilgrims Rest Churches verbally requested to co-host the 2018 Association. It is requested that all donations for food be sent no later than June, 2018, to:

Elder Michael Lowe  
169 Scott Fork  
Pikeville, KY 41501

The Sardis Association Building is located on KY Route 881 at 180 Brushy School Road, Varney, Pike County, KY. Follow US Route 119 from Pikeville, KY, toward Williamson, WV, for about 12 miles to the foot of Bent Mountain and turn left onto KY Route 881 for about 10 miles to the large Sardis Association sign on the left and onto Brushy School Road. If traveling from Williamson, WV toward Pikeville, KY on US Route 119, the distance is about 16 miles and turn right onto KY Route 881.

(16) By regular move and second, it is ordered that the Clerk superintend the printing of our Minutes, that he have the number of copies necessary printed and that he be allowed $300.00 for his expense.

(17) It is ordered, by regular move and second, that we correspond with the Union Association, New Salem Association, Northern New Salem Association, Philadelphia Association, Old Friendship Association and Old Indian Bottom Association; that our Clerk prepare the Letters of Correspondence and File of Minutes; and that Brethren to attend these Associations as delegates be appointed as follows:
UNION: When convened with the host Churches at the Union Association Building, Ashcamp, Pike County, KY, beginning on Friday before the third Saturday in September, 2017: Thomas J. Dials, Hobart Hamilton, Archie Prince, Arthur Mathis, Leonard Napier, Marion Duncan, Dwight Maynard, Stony Blackburn, Sam Frye, Ivan Neal Thornbury, Wayne Blackburn, Randall Lowe, Edward L. Smith, Richard Staton, Clyde Perry, Bobby Scott, Jr., David Crigger and Donnie Farley. Letter in the hands of Elder Thomas J. Dials.


NORTHERN NEW SALEM: When convened with the Pleasant View Church, Litchfield, OH, beginning on Friday before the first Saturday in August, 2018: Hobart Hamilton, Thomas J. Dials, Stony Blackburn, Richard Staton, Marion Duncan, Leonard Napier, Clayburn Varney, Charles Edwards and Ivan Neal Thornbury. Letter in the hands of Elder Stony Blackburn.


OLD FRIENDSHIP: When convened with the Old Sulphur Spring Church and co-host Little Dove and Pine Grove Churches at the Panther Creek Church located at 716 Panther Creek Road, Panther, WV 24872, beginning on Friday before the fourth Saturday in August, 2018: Thomas J. Dials, Hobart Hamilton, Archie Prince, Marion Duncan, Richard Staton, Stony Blackburn, Arthur Mathis, Ivan Neil Thornbury, Dwight Maynard, Clyde Perry, Bobby Scott, Jr., Edward L. Smith, Wayne Blackburn, Charles Paynter, Albert Cable, Monty Messer, Sam Frye and Leonard Napier. Letter in the hands of Brother Archie Prince.

OLD INDIAN BOTTOM: When convened with the Little Home Church and co-host Doty Creek and Terrells Creek Churches at the Association Building at the Mallet Fork Church, Pine Top, Knott County, KY, beginning on Friday before the first Saturday in September, 2018: Thomas J. Dials, Chester Cochran, Archie Prince, Hobart Hamilton, Arthur Mathis, Stony Blackburn, Sam Frye, Ivan Neal Thornbury, Dwight Maynard, Marion Duncan, Clyde Perry, Wayne Blackburn, Leonard Napier, Bobby Scott, Jr., Richard Staton, Butler Fletcher, Eugene Moore, Monty Messer, Albert Cable and Vadis Blackburn. Letter in the hands of Elder Chester Cochran.

(18) By regular move and second, the report of Brethren called in Associations, Union, Communion and Memorial Meetings was omitted today.
(19) The Sardis Association is so thankful for the many Brothers, Sisters and friends, along with our Host Churches and the Building Committee, who have labored so much for this the One Hundred and Twenty Fifth Session of the Sardis Association. We are so thankful for the attendance of our corresponding Brothers and Sisters. We extend our sincere "Thank You" to Velocity Market at Zebulon, KY; to Food City for preparing the chicken; to the Pike County Solid Waste Department for taking our garbage; to Neil McGuire of Pepsi Cola Co. at Pikeville who handled the soft drinks; to Al’s Outdoor Power Equipment for their donations, to the Campers for being excellent guests and for their donation; to Elder Paul Maynard, Brother Daniel Stanley and Brother Johnny Thacker for all the trips to pick up food and supplies; to Jared and A.J. Maynard for transporting chicken: to all the Sisters, Brothers, friends and YOUNG PEOPLE who work so hard in the kitchen preparing delicious food and serving it, and to the Brethren, Sisters and Friends of the Pilgrims Home Church who staffed the Concession Stand. A special thank you to our two beloved clerks, Brother Archie Prince and Elder Edward L. Smith, for the many years of service. We thank everyone who had anything to do for this grand old Association.

We thank God so much for his mercy and grace and the great love and peace found at the Sardis Association.

(20) By regular move and second, the reading of the Minutes before the Association arises was omitted and it is ordered that these Minutes be signed by the Officers of the Sardis Association.

(21) On motion from Brother Clayburn Varney, seconded by Brother Danny Reed, it is ordered that the Sardis Association adjourn to reconvene at the Sardis Association Building at our regular meeting time, the Friday before the second Saturday in September, 2018.

(22) The Sardis Association was closed with preaching by Elder Ralph Cloud, of the Old Indian Bottom Association. Elder David Lester, of the Old Friendship Association, led in prayer.

The Association was dismissed by Elder Wayne Sartin, of the Northern New Salem Association.

(23) This work done and signed by the Sardis Association of Old Regular Baptist, the Church of Jesus Christ.

Elder Thomas J. Dials, Moderator

Elder Richard Staton, Assistant Moderator

Elder Michael D. Lowe, Clerk

Brother Alvin Thombury, Assistant Clerk

Elder Todd J. Dials, 2nd Assistant Clerk
STANDING ITEMS

Item 1. Item 14 of our 1975 Minutes is reprinted, without the preamble, as follows:

Sardis Association of Old Regular Baptist September 13, 1975
Dingess, West Virginia

Brethren:

In answer to the Query from the Dix Fork Church asking, "Does the Sardis Association believe in Sisters wearing pants, slacks or shorts?" We, as an Advisory body, say:

To answer this query in the affirmative would be interpreted by some Brethren too liberally and they would say we have laid down the gate and opened the doors to anything and everything.

To answer this Query in the negative would be interpreted by some Brethren too strictly and they would say we have shut the door on everything and Committees would flow from Church to Church like water.

We believe the Sardis Association should advise the Churches to advise their members, both Brethren and Sisters, to dress soberly and modestly and to conduct themselves in a manner that becometh a Child of God.

We believe that each Child of God will adorn themselves in a manner that they can easily be identified from the world. We feel the Bible, the infallible Word of God, sets forth and the Spirit will teach us how we should dress and conduct ourselves.

We believe, and the Association has so stated in the past, that each Church in the Sardis Association holds the key to its own door and is the sole judge of the conduct of its members as long as they follow the orthodox principles of religion and keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel as laid down in the Scriptures. In fact, Article 3 of our Constitution guarantees that the Association shall not infringe on any internal right of the Churches.

Elder Wayne Herald

Brother Ralph W. E. Varney, Jr.

Brother James M. Ray

Item 2. The Association, by regular move and second, said that if a Sister has cut her hair, she should be asked to let it grow out; if she fails to do so and cuts her hair again, she will be excluded.

Item 3. It is ordered that we advise our Ministers of our Churches not to marry anyone having a living husband or wife unless they bring scripture evidence for putting their husband or wife away. (1929 minute)

Item 4. It is ordered that we advise our Churches not to allow their Ministers to preach with any Minister who has two living women. (1919 minute)

Item 5. It is ordered that requests for Union, Communion and Memorial meetings be published in our Minutes.
**Item 6.** By motion and second, it is ordered that Obituaries of our deceased Brethren and Sisters that are in good standing with the Churches at the time of death be printed in our Minutes. Also, friends of the Churches that are recommended by the Churches be printed in a separate section of our minute. These are to be presented to the Clerk at the end of the Association. A charge of $15.00 will be made for a picture with the obituary, except that pictures of an Elder or his wife will continue to be printed free.

**Clerks Note:** Please note the above order - it is incumbent upon the churches in the Sardis Association that they be the screen and recommending body of Obituaries of Friends to be printed in our minutes and identify the same (by note or otherwise) to the Clerks when the Obituary is turned in. Each Church Moderator is further required to screen and approve any Obituary of a Friend of the Church and to reject any Obituary that has language that is offensive to the Sardis Association.

**Item 7.** “We the Sardis Association, advise our Sister Churches that it is not our practice to use sisters or double-married men in any function of the ministry, including leading prayer, in any of our Church services.”

**Item 8.** By regular move and second, it is ordered that Item (15) of our 1999 Minute be reprinted as follows:

“It is a sin for anyone to put away their wife or husband for any cause except for fornication and marry another. In regards to going behind one’s experience or receiving one in the Church with more than one living companion, we say that each Church shall be the sole judge to the validity of one’s experience. Churches should not be forced to receive members, however, that would destroy the body. (Receive should be interpreted to include all means of receiving members.)”
SUNDAY

September 10, 2017

The God of all truth blessed a beautiful congregation of members and friends to gather and sing some ole songs of Zion. At the hour of 10:00 am, our beloved moderator, Elder Tommy Dials, came forward, welcomed everyone, and assured us that “our Savior, Jesus Christ, will deliver us from that lake of fire and brimstone. Let’s come under the protection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.” He stated that one more year has rolled around, Jesus Christ is leading us and if you draw nigh to him, he will draw nigh unto you. There came a time I needed food from another table, and you have to get it through the spirit. We have to go through the valley to get to the mansion. We can think about a better place, made with God’s hands. Don’t let anything in this world get between you and Heaven. This world and all that is in it will be destroyed. You don’t have to go to that lake of fire because you have a savior. In order to go home, you have to start to work. You’ve got to have a little bit of faith and a lot of works. I came out of a drowning state and God gave me something. Mother Jerusalem feeds that inner man. It feels good that we have come together in one mind and one accord, under the protection of Jesus Christ. Brother Tommy also read the prayer list and opened the floor for other request not on the list. He then called upon Elder Charles Edwards to come forth and introduce this service.

Elder Charles Edwards came to the stand stating, “I need your prayers.” Any preaching has to come from God above, the spirit will lead and guide us. God’s people are a blessed people. God knows all our pains. I can read where some were taken captive and would not partake of that awful stuff. Daniel would not take part. We don’t want to take part of things of the world. They fasted for ten days and at the end they were fatter than them all. God will deliver and heal us of the heartaches and pains that this world throws our way.

The Bible talks about John being baptized. John said behold, the lamb of God, whom I’m not worthy to unlatch his shoes. You must be baptized by the fire and Holy Ghost. The old king had a dream, and no one to interpret it, but there was one that said give us some time, and he went to the other brother. You might not need me, but I need you. He went in and told the king about a head of gold, a breast plate of silver, iron and clay feet mixed. At the end he told him about the rock, it was stronger than anything in the world. It will handle every trouble that comes your way. We need to go to him, and put our faith in the one we believe in. The three Hebrew boys wouldn’t worship the image. Even as he did for the Hebrew children many times, including the three Hebrews who refused to worship the earthly king and were thrown into the furnace, which was heated seven times hotter than needed. God delivered them without a burn or even the smell of smoke upon them, but all the time the fire consumed those who threw the Hebrews into the furnace.

He called for a song and we sang, “I’m Going To Die On The Battlefield.”

Elder Arthur Mathis led us in prayer.

Elder Hobart Hamilton, asked Brother Ron Hamilton to sing, “In my Father’s House.” He began by admonishing us that we need each other; that coming together to do a job makes the job easier, spiritually and naturally. He stated what a beautiful day it was, and that God has done so much for us, we couldn’t possibly thank him enough. I’m glad to hear the brothers give all the credit to the Lord. I see Brothers working to clean the room, the Sisters working to feed us. We can’t have a church without the members, or an association with just one church. But, you can have God’s love. We all found out what the world
had to offer, nothing but death. But Christ has the best to offer, and that’s eternal life. God brought things to my heart and mind and let me know that I was lost. Nobody will force you to follow him, but that good spirit comes by and lets you know you’re lost. We stay together in this association because we love each other. There is nothing greater than the love of God, shed abroad in the hearts of men and women. Nobody can take God or Jesus Christ away from you. If you get that Holy Ghost baptism, you will love everybody. We are all his by creation, but we are not all his by regeneration.

Brother Hobart also warned everyone if we leave this world unrepentant, we will regret it. God’s gift to us is eternal life. You must confess your sins; God’s power is not limited. Jesus is coming back; God’s people will be happy but sinners will be lost. There is a great time awaiting God’s children in Heaven. “Thankful God died for me.” You can hear the truth, but never do anything about it. The Lord has blessings, if you ask for them, he’ll give them to you. He’ll be the best thing that ever happened to you. The power of God is not limited. He created heaven, earth, men and women, and told us to go and produce life upon earth, but don’t forget your creator. Four lepers were sitting at the gate, Israel had nothing to eat. They said to one another, if we sit here we will die, if we go inside we will die there, so they took a chance on the enemy, at least they would be able to eat. The world is against Christianity and would like to wipe it out. But, Jesus Christ was three days in the grave and he arose. You have to repent, you will live forever and ever, and there is no end to it. Those four lepers went to the enemy and they had fled. God had made a way. He will make a way for you. None is greater than the other. The important thing is to follow him while you live. The lepers found food, gold, silver and put it in a tent. One said this is not well what we are doing, we need to tell somebody. One of these days our journey will end, but I wish people of the world would take a journey in the Lord. Little Ruth wanted to be among her people, to be buried where they were buried. God is the greatest thing to ever happen to me. When I feel his spirit, all my troubles are gone. People went out to the camp to see all the things left behind because the enemy feared for their life. I love every one of you.

The word of God is true, and what Jesus said will come to pass. There is coming a day that Jesus will leave Heaven with a shout and the voice of the Archangel, he will bring those souls with him. We will be changed from a natural to a spiritual and be caught up in the air to be with him. The unjust will also rise, and won’t be happy, but God’s people will be happy. Be good to each other, lift up one another, don’t tear them down. If a brother or sister makes a mistake, talk to them with love. There is a great time ahead for God’s people. Jesus is going to be on that cloud. God will take us above this world. I am thankful Jesus Christ loved me enough to come and die for me. Serve the Lord while your living, there is no second chance when you die.

Elder Richard Staton came to the stand preaching “it has not yet appeared to mankind the great things God has in store for His children.” He was blessed to sing “The Great Love Story.” He stated, “I’m sure glad I’m here. I’ve never been to Heaven, but God lets us taste of it.” Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, neither has it entered into the hearts of men, the good things God has in store for his children. We are living in a land full of trouble and sorrow, where death is on every hand. But there is life here today through Jesus Christ. The preaching of the gospel is not done through enticing words, but the power and demonstration of the spirit. God has not changed, he is the same yesterday, today, and forever more. We have to get connected to Heaven. Jesus went to the cross and in three days he got up, and he is alive today. How big he is, yet small enough to fit in sinner men’s and women’s hearts. He gives them life and a start on their way home. One day the Lamb’s Book of Life will be opened and our name will be called. No matter where you are at, Jesus will leave Heaven with a shout and the last trumpet will sound. We will have a body that will never grow old or get sick. We will shout on that golden street. Oh, how I love him today.
Jesus said it is expedient that I go away, so the comforter will come. He will lead and guide you in all things. He is passing by today, go out and meet him. I read about a little man sitting beside the road, he needed help. Jesus will help you today, call on him. He was crying Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me. They tried to get him to be quiet, but he never stopped crying. Did the Lord hear him the first time? When he got his heart into the right condition, God answered his prayer. I wish my children and my neighbors would cry out and God would reach down from Heaven. That man never stopped crying and Jesus answered and said bring him to me. He pulled his coat off and left it beside the road. When you come to Jesus you have to leave the world behind. He that take hold of the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of Heaven. The man said, Lord what would you have me to do? He was blind naturally and spiritually. He asked, could you open my eyes and let me see. I was blind and thirty-five years ago the Lord opened my eyes. Everyone has their own experience, but I wouldn’t trade mine. I went to the natural doctors, they ran all kinds of test on me, but couldn’t find anything. I was in trouble on account of my sins, but I went to the right doctor. He lifted my feet out of the mire and clay, set them on a solid rock. Jesus is passing by, go out and meet him. Get you a God you can feel, and is alive, the rest are dead.

John baptized them in the River Jordan. The crowd was asking him who he was. I am the voice of the one crying in the wilderness. I am not the true light, but come to bear witness of that true light. The Bible says anything not of faith is sin. There is one coming after me that is mightier than me, whose shoe latches I’m not fit to unlatch. I baptize you with water, he will baptize you with fire and the Holy Spirit. John had a witness, but Jesus came to him. Look behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away sin from the whole world. A lot don’t understand and look to this life too much. God gives you a witness, when you see the spirit come down. Jesus walked out to John in the River Jordan and said suffer it to be so John to fulfill all righteousness. John laid him in the water and the spirit came down as a dove, with a voice from Heaven. Jesus is pleading with men and women to turn their lives over to him. God is everywhere and Jesus is seated on the right hand of the father. He is also at your heart’s door. If you will open it, he will come in and sup with you. I have one birth I can’t remember, but I got one I sure can. Is your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life? Time is running out. Jesus says he will come at an hour you think not, and my reward is with me. Jesus is still the same, he is still here and the door is open. You can still get in. He will lead you, Psalms 23, David said he leadeth me beside still waters. You can’t get good enough to go to Heaven. Paul said I glory in my tribulation. God is real and walking by. We are living in Sodom and Gomora. God told them to not look back, and that’s what he is telling you. Press on to the mark of the high calling.

Elder Thomas J. Dials was then blessed to preach upon the spiritual resurrection, being born of the fire and the Holy Ghost and kept by the power of God. He said there is a resurrection of the just and the unjust, and a spiritual resurrection within us. You are born again to a fire on the inside, and there will be a change on the outside. I look to that day when we will get up. He said Lazarus and some others, in the old Bible, were raised from the dead, back into nature, but that Jesus Christ was the first fruits of the spiritual resurrection. Under the law, leprosy was a type of sin, and had to be cleansed. The law covenant is our school master that brings us to Jesus Christ. We learn from the Old Testament, and follow it right into the New Testament. Lepers had to go to the priest and the priest had to take them outside of the city. Where were you? You had to come to that priest, Jesus Christ, the mediator to God. We had to go through Jesus. You are made ready in the field, and God will add you. God calls you and adds you to the church. A leaper’s skin is rough, infected and in bad shape. I was outside the city with nothing to redeem myself. There is something God created. This church, God allows it and had it on his mind. He had no beginning and no end. Lepers outside the city needed something to happen. The priest told them to go get two birds and cedar. There is a process, and a process still today. They also had to get running water. That living
water comes from God out of Heaven, and is still flowing today. Men and women can get a drink if they come down to the river. It was important with Joshua how they drank out of the river, and if they were worthy to fight in battle. If you don’t drink that living water, you don’t have the spirit of the two edged sword to fight with. If you don’t do everything God set forth for you to do, you’re not going to get cleansed. The Lord told me I needed to be cleansed. It burdened me, it condemned me, the light condemned me. Then you move toward the light. I’m afraid a lot goes away from the light. So the priest killed one of the birds to cleanse, something had to die. Did anybody die for you? The priest had to put the blood of the bird on the man, and the other bird he turned loose. Have you had the blood of Jesus applied to you? The second bird represents the free man, when you came to God. I was turned loose to do the will of the Father. The whole purpose of man is to give God glory. The leper had to change his clothes, bathe and clean his house up. Still outside the city, we had to clean our house up to get into the city. This body is my house. With clean clothes on we look on the inside, where we have a new appearance. We don’t look at the man on the outside, it’s what is on the inside.

In the New Testament, we have the Grace Covenant. Jesus Christ was born and laid in a manger and never did any wrong. He was without sin and was a perfect sacrifice. He was the only one possible to do what he did. He knew what he had to do, it was a miracle birth by a natural woman. They put him on the cross because he told them the truth. If you don’t serve me you will surely die. The dead bird to cleanse the leper, he died on the cross, blood shed, and no blood was wasted. If you want it, it’s there, wash inwardly, perfect on the inside. The outside man has a thorn in the flesh. Paul asked three times and God has an answer. God has an answer for every problem you have. If you’re in sin, the answer is Jesus Christ and his blood. On the third day he arose, and was symbolized by the free bird. He is sitting on the right hand of the Father making intersession. He hasn’t forgotten about you. The Church has not forgotten about you. He put his commandments in our hearts and minds.

I believe in a resurrection, it happens on the inside and the body. That is why we are here, we want you to understand the resurrection. A changed glorified body. The graves will burst open wide, and his spirit will go into the grave, and we will get on the cloud of glory. I’ve got a cloud to go home on, with no more trouble, no more heartache and no more sorrow. We are going to get up in the morning and walk on the streets of gold. The old devil will never be there. Jesus Christ is going to come and get us and take us home.

The song “When I Heard About A Better Home,” was sung.

Elder Arthur Mathis called the dismissal.

Your Clerks
Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Sardis Association and all the Delegates and friends of all the Associations.

Being chosen to write the circular letter for your inspection, I trust this letter will meet with your approval.

I believe that God has given me the mind to write about FAITH.

**FAITH** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews Chapter 11, Verse 1)

Hebrews Chapter 11 Verse 6 says, “**Without FAITH it is impossible to please God, for he that comes to God, must believe that he (God) is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (God).**

I believe that we must have this **FAITH** to be saved.

Now we see by the word of God that God has dealt to every man and (woman) the measure of **FAITH**. (Romans Chapter 12 Verse 3) **Therefore being justified by FAITH we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Romans Chapter 5 Verse 1) **So then we cannot do enough works to earn this FAITH, because it comes from God.**

So then if God has dealt to every man and (woman) the measure of **FAITH**, and we mix this **FAITH** with belief, and become a doer, then we can be saved, and we are saved by grace through **FAITH**, and this **FAITH** is the gift of God.

**So then FAITH cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** (Romans Chapter 10 Verse 17).

How good and pleasant it is that brethren dwell together in unity and peace, that eternal peace with God in His Eternal Kingdom. (Galatians Chapter 6 Verse 10) **Admonishes as we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of FAITH.**

What doeth it profit, by brethren though a man say he hath **FAITH**, and hath not works, can **FAITH** save him, if **FAITH** hath not works then that **FAITH** is dead being alone.

**For as the body without the spirit is dead, so FAITH without works is dead also.** (James Chapter 2 Verse 18 & 26)
1st Peter Chapter 1 Verse 5 says “We are kept by the power of God, through FAITH, and unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. (Timothy Chapter 4 Verse 7) I have fought a good fight, I have kept the FAITH, I have finished my course hence forth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them that love His coming.

(Matthew Chapter 9 Verse 22) But Jesus turned Him about, and when he saw her, He said daughter be of good comfort, thy FAITH hath made the whole, and the woman was made whole from that hour.

This woman had an issue of blood twelve years, came behind Him, and touched the hem of His garment, because she had the FAITH to believe that if she could do that (touch his garment) she would be made whole. She put her FAITH into action by believing that would happen. Jesus said to the woman, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy FAITH had made thee whole. (Matthew Chapter 9 Verse 21 & 22)

So we see the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law (Galatians Chapter 5 Verse 22 & 23)

FAITH is like a house it must be built on a strong foundation, if it is going to stand the tests and storms. FAITH’S foundation, is the word of God. You cannot build a great FAITH life without FAITH. The best part about this truth is that the word of God will never fail.

So let us put our FAITH into action, by believing the word of God. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from FAITH to FAITH, as it is written, the just shall live by FAITH. (Romans Chapter 1 Verse 16 & 17)

Above all taking the shield of FAITH, where with you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of Satan. (Ephesians Chapter 6 Verse 16)

So then we are buried with Him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with Him through the FAITH of the operation of God, who hath raised Him (Jesus) from the dead. (Colossians Chapter 2 Verse 12)

Be not afraid only believe. (Mark Chapter 5 Verse 36)

So the sum this letter up, the FAITH that God has dealt to us is enough FAITH to be saved if we believe and put our FAITH into action, and believe what God says about being saved. To be saved is to be born again; as he told Nicodemus you must be born again.

We need to believe on the only name whereby we can be saved, the name of Jesus Christ, who came to seek and to save sinners from the wrath to come.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing (with FAITH) that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Romans Chapter 15 Verse 13)
To have **FAITH** is to relinquish trust in oneself and to put that trust in God. **FAITH** is to completely trust God in all things, because He knows what we need.

I know this letter is getting long, and I believe that God has given me the mind to write on the subject of **FAITH**.

So my dear brothers let us work with the **FAITH** and the understanding we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us live in peace and unity of the spirit and remember we are saved by grace through **FAITH**, so the life we live here on Earth will tell whose side you are on, and to be ready to give a reason of the hope that is in you. This hope is Jesus Christ.

So if we never meet again in this life, we believe we will meet in that city that God has for His children.

Thank you all for this great honor to write this letter.

Your humble servant in Christ, Elder Stony Blackburn
UNION AND COMMUNION MEETINGS
AND
MINISTERS TO ATTEND

APRIL, 2018

LITTLE ROSIE: Second Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 3:00 p.m. Ministers called: Hobart Hamilton, Richard Staton, Mike Lowe, Andrew Walters and Bruce Williamson.


MAY, 2018

SALEM: First Saturday and Sunday. Communion 3:00 p.m. Following the regular Saturday service. Ministers called: Hobart Hamilton, Lacy Walters, Harold Sesco and Billy Joe Robinson with Moderator and Assistant Moderator attending.

TURKEY CREEK: Second Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 3:00 p.m. Ministers called: Elbert Sesco, Danny Runyon, Stony Blackburn, Harold Sesco, Greg Stanley, Sam Frye and Gary L. Young.

JUNE, 2018

APPLE ORCHARD: First Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 1:00 p.m. Ministers called: Jerry Overstreet, Danny Runyon, Sam Frye, Arthur Mathis and Andrew Walters.


PILGRIMS REST: Second Saturday and Sunday. Communion Sunday following regular church service. Ministers called: Bruce Williamson, Mike Lowe, Robert Osborne and Daniel Newsome with Moderator and Assistant Moderator attending.

BUCK CREEK: Third Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. Ministers called: Gary Blevins, Arthur May, Sam Frye, Northern Gayle Brown and Albert Cable.

SIDNEY: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. Ministers called: Albert Cable, Kenneth B. Jude, Stony Blackburn, Todd Dials, Thomas J. Dials, and Reuben Lycans.

LITTLE VIRGIE: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 2:00 p.m. Ministers called: Arthur May, Albert Cable, Mike Lowe, Lance Looney and Billy Joe Robinson.

JULY, 2018

DIX FORK: First Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. Ministers called: Jerry Overstreet, Thomas J. Dials, Arthur May, Danny Hurley, Curt Carroll and Richard Staton.
SAMARIA: First Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. Ministers called: Thomas J. Dials, Sam Frye, Billy Joe Robinson, Hobart Hamilton and Stony Blackburn.

LEANNAH: Second Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 1:00 p.m. Ministers called: Richard Staton, Elbert Sesco, Harold Sesco and Sam Frye. Business on this day only starts at 11:00 a.m.

MT. PLEASANT: Second Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. Ministers called: A. B. Thacker, Jerry Overstreet, Danny Runyon and Paul Maynard.

LITTLE TAVIE: Second Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. Ministers called: Thomas J. Dials, Gary Blevins, Arthur Mathis, Albert Cable, Phillip Beverly and Lacy Justice.

BIG BRANCH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 1:00 p.m. Ministers called: John Paul Hamilton, Duane Smith, Billy Joe Robinson, Andrew Walters and Harold Sesco.

MARY ELIZABETH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. Ministers called: Thomas J. Dials, Jimmy Amos, Leonard Napier, Daniel Jacobs, Arthur May and Kelly Slone.


NARROWS BRANCH: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday starting at 11:00 a.m. after business. Ministers called: Edward L. Smith, Thomas J. Dials, David Crigger, Freddy Cline, Albert Cable and Randall Lowe.

AUGUST, 2018

TABITHA: First Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 3:00 p.m. Ministers called: Arthur May, Thomas J. Dials, Todd Dials, Gabe Lowe, Jr., Sam Frye, Arthur Mathis and Albert Cable. Church service on this Saturday only starts at 10:30 a.m.

BENT BRANCH: Third Saturday and Sunday. Communion following Sunday Church Service at 10:00 a.m. Ministers called: Arthur Mathis, Bruce Williamson, Dan L. Thacker, and Harold Sesco.


BETHANY: Fourth Saturday and Sunday. Communion Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. Ministers called: Hobart Hamilton, Thomas J. Dials, Paul Maynard, Sam Frye, Gabe Lowe, Jr. and Wayne Herald, Jr.

MEMORIAL MEETINGS
AND
MINISTERS TO ATTEND

MARCH, 2018

TURKEY CREEK will hold a memorial meeting at the Enon Church House of James and Brocksie Spencer, Willis and Gretis Staton, Marvin and Lokie Rose, Elsie Rose and all the deceased members of the Enon Church the Sunday after the first Saturday. Ministers called: Richard Staton, Duane Smith, Leonard Hamilton, Stony Blackburn and Hobart Hamilton.

OKEECHOBEE CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Okeechobee Church on the fourth Sunday. Ministers called: James Barney, David Crigger, Terry Fuller, Ivan Neal Thornsbury and Richard Staton. All corresponding brothers and sisters are welcome.

APRIL, 2018

SAMARIA CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Samaria Church on Sunday after the first Saturday. Ministers called: Richard Staton, Arthur May, Todd Dials and Billy Joe Robinson.

PILGRIMS HOME CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on the second Saturday at the Church of all those buried on the Williamson Family Cemetery. Service will begin at 6:00 p.m. Ministers called: Andrew Walters, Bruce Williamson and Richard Staton.

MEMORIAL MEETING of all the deceased members of the Sardis Association will be held on the odd Sunday in April (April 1) at the Sardis Association Building. Ministers called: Estill Hamilton, Danny Hurley, Richard Staton, and Thomas J. Dials. Everyone bring covered dishes.

MAY, 2018

LEANNAH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the Church of all the deceased on the Fields and Kirk Cemetery on the second Sunday in May at 10:30 a.m. Ministers called: Kenneth B. Jude, Harold Sesco, Albert Cable with moderator attending.

LITTLE ROSIE CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of the White family on Sunday following the second Saturday at the Church. Ministers called: Randy Lackey, Tim Robinson, Andrew Walters, Duane Smith and Monty Messer Jr.

BIG BRANCH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of the Ratliff, McCoy, Morrison and Blackburn families, also those buried on the Hanners Cemetery on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: Danny Runyon, Gabe D. Lowe, Jr., Richard Staton and Dale Williamson.

MARY ELIZABETH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of Zella May (Fraley) Harrison and son, Charles E. Harrison and family at the Church on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: Albert Cable, Harold Sesco, Lacy Walters, Kenneth B. Jude, Richard Staton and Hobart Hamilton.
LITTLE VIRGIE CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members and friends of the Little Virgie Church on Sunday after the fourth Saturday. Ministers called: Hobart Hamilton, Jimmy Amos, Rick Mullins and Stony Blackburn.

NARROWS BRANCH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members and friends of the Narrows Branch Church on the fourth Saturday and Sunday. Ministers called: A.B. Thacker, Fitch Reed, Thomas J. Dials, Gary Young, Larry Thacker and Ron Gannon.

SIDNEY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of Jobe Blackburn and Trixie Blackburn, his wife, and all the deceased on that cemetery at the old home place on Pigeon Roost Fork of Wolf Creek on Sunday following the fourth Saturday. Ministers called: Wayne Herald, Jr., Thomas J. Dials, Gary Blevins, Arthur Mathis, and Greg Stanley.

BETHANY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the Hannah Cemetery on Sunday following the fourth Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: Kenneth B. Jude, Sam Frye, Billy Joe Robinson and Albert Cable with Moderator attending. Everyone is welcome.

MEMORIAL MEETING will be held on the Stanley and Hinkle Cemetery on the Right Fork of Brushy Creek on the fourth Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. Ministers called: Duane Smith, Richard Staton, Danny Runyon, Andrew Walters, Harold Sesco and Gary Young.

MEMORIAL MEETING will be held at the Dix Fork Church of all buried on the Cochran Cemetery on the last Saturday in May (May 26), 2018 at 4:00 p.m. Ministers called: Sam Frye and Edward L. Smith.

MEMORIAL MEETING will be held on the Stanley Cemetery at Dix Fork on the last Sunday in May (May 27), 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: Chester Cochran, Lacy Walters, Bruce Williamson, Charles Edwards and Edward L. Smith.

JUNE, 2018

DIX FORK CHURCH will have a Memorial Meeting at the church house for all those buried on the Morris/Mullins Cemetery at the Double Hollows on Dix Fork the first Sunday in June at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: Paul Maynard, Randy Newsome, and Mike Lowe.

MEMORIAL MEETING will be held on the Smith Cemetery on the Rockhouse Fork of Big Creek on the first Sunday in June at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: Dale Williamson, Richard Staton, and Lacy Walters.

TABITHA CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members on the first Saturday and Sunday. Ministers called: Jerry Runyon, Leonard Napier, Lester Cochran, Clyde Perry and Chester Cochran.

LEANNAH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased on the Muncy Cemetery, also Elder Homer Muncy, Sr. and all others buried on the Ruby Muncy Cemetery as well as Sister Garnet (Lowe) Maynard who is buried on the cemetery near the mouth of Lackey Branch as well as others buried on other area cemeteries. This will be at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday following the second Saturday. Ministers called: Richard Staton, Albert Cable and Kenneth B. Jude.

LITTLE TAVIE CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on the Cemetery next to the Church of all deceased members of the church on our regular church time 10:30 a.m. Ministers called: Wayne Sartin, Greg Sowards, Ralph Cloud, Rex Napier and Albert Cable.
MARY ELIZABETH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of Glen Lowe and his wife, Mary E. Lowe, at the church on Sunday after the second Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Ministers called: Richard Staton, Elbert Sesco, Harold Sesco, John Paul Hamilton and Hobart Hamilton.

BRIDE OF CHRIST CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the church house for Elder Sammie Moore and all the deceased on the Webb Cemetery on the third Sunday in June at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: Leonard Napier, Sam Frye, Arthur Mathis and Gary Blevins.

MEMORIAL MEETING will be held on the Robinette Cemetery on Sunday following the third Saturday in June at 11:00 a.m. and of all those buried on the John Gilford Blackburn Cemetery at Dix Fork. Ministers called: Duane Smith, Greg Stanley, Elbert Sesco, Bruce Williamson and Harold Sesco.

SIDNEY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members on the Howell and Jude Cemeteries in the head of Peter Cave at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: Randall Lowe, Kenneth B. Jude and Gabe D. Lowe, Jr.

BENT BRANCH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Bent Branch Church on the third Saturday and Sunday. Ministers called: Edward L. Smith, Jimmy Amos, Ron Gannon, and Hobart Hamilton.

MEMORIAL MEETING will be held on the Blackburn Cemetery on Dix Fork Road at Sidney, KY on the fourth Saturday in June at 3:00 p.m. in memory of James Ballard and Mazine Smith Blackburn, William Cashier and Opal Crigger Blackburn, William Cody and Leona Blackburn Stanley, Geraldine Blackburn, Linda K. Deskins, Delores Johnson Blackburn, Elder Rush Stanley, George and Sylvia Blackburn Smith and Ermal and Dolly (Blackburn) Deskins and Vernon and Darlene (Blackburn) Crigger who are buried on the Crigger Cemetery. We welcome all Old Regular Baptist Ministers.

ANTIOCH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the Mathis Cemetery in the head of Buffalo Creek in Wayne County on Sunday following the fourth Saturday in June at 10:30 a.m. Ministers called: Leonard Napier, Jimmy Stewart, Sam Frye and Edward L. Smith. Everyone welcome. Dinner to be served.

JULY, 2018

MEMORIAL MEETING of Brother Dewey Jude’s Family will be held on the Jude Cemetery in the head of Big Peter Cave on the Sunday after the first Saturday in July. Ministers called: Lonnie Jude, Todd Dials, Randall Lowe, Kenneth B. Jude and Gabe D. Lowe, Jr. Elizabeth Church will give away for this meeting.

TURKEY CREEK CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the church house of the deceased members of the Reed and Lockard families on the first Sunday. Ministers called: Gary Young, Stony Blackburn, Richard Staton, Hobart Hamilton and Paul Maynard.

LEANNAH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased on the Robinson and Scott Cemetery near the Leannah Church at 10:30 a.m. on the Sunday after the second Saturday. Ministers called: Kenneth B. Jude, Lacy Walters, Bruce Williamson, and Danny Runyon.
BETHANY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on Sunday following the second Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the May Cemetery in the Flatwoods on Marrowbone Creek in West Virginia. Ministers called: Arthur Mathis and Sam Frye with moderator and assistant moderator attending. Everyone is welcome.

BUCK CREEK CHURCH will give away to a memorial meeting on Sunday after the third Saturday to be held on the Dials Cemetery on the Jack Cassidy Branch of Coldwater Road. Ministers called: Kenneth B. Jude, Thomas J. Dials, Albert Cable, Todd Dials and Wayne Herald, Jr.

MEMORIAL MEETING will be held at the Narrows Branch Church on Sunday following the third Saturday beginning at 11:00 a.m. of all the deceased on the Julius Scott Cemetery (Blackberry Fork), Hardy, KY and Brother Clyde Brown and Sister Fern Brown who are buried on the Hill Crest Cemetery at Kenova, WV and all the Julius Scott heirs. Ministers called: Elbert Sesco, Edward L. Smith, Richard Staton and Hobart Hamilton.

BIG BRANCH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of the J. M. Taylor family and will include the Maynard, Lowe, Taylor, Scott, Blackburn and Nichols families on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: Danny Runyon, Dale Williamson, Duane Smith, Andrew Walters and Richard Staton.

SIDNEY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of Johnnie Stacy and Rachel Stacy, his wife, and of Cora Stacy, Tan Howell, Ora Howell, his wife, May Jude, Mary Moore, Ralph and Carey Reed, Robert Howell and other family members on Sunday after the fourth Saturday. Ministers called: Wayne Herald, Jr., Sam Frye, Albert Cable, Chester Cochran and Thomas J. Dials.

ELIZABETH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of Brother Joe Fletcher; his wife, Hazel Fletcher; and son, Roger Fletcher; Lacy Orville Fletcher; Orville Spence; infant baby of Jeff and Mary Spence; Estil Spence; Sammy Spence; Mary Alice Spence; Ernest Spence; Ollie Spence; Unice Jude; Ernestine Perry, and others buried on the cemetery on Orville Road. This meeting to be on the odd Sunday in July, 2018 (July 1). All Regular Baptist Ministers invited.

AUGUST, 2018

MEMORIAL MEETING of George Lowe, Jane Lowe, Sam Staton, Lora Staton, Joseph Staton, Mont Staton, Liburn (Zeek) Staton, Jerry Staton and Mary Staton will be held at the Elizabeth Church at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday after the first Saturday. Ministers called: Sam Frye, Kenneth B. Jude, Gabe D. Lowe, Jr. and Wayne Herald, Jr.

SAMARIA CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the Dillon-Prince Cemetery on Sunday after the first Saturday. Ministers called: Duane Smith, Arthur May, Eric Williamson and Jeffrey Dillon.

APPLE ORCHARD CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all the deceased on the Apple Orchard Cemetery, the Pine Grove Cemetery in Lennox, GA, the McCealy Cemetery at Maher, WV, the Millwood Cemetery in Reddick, FL, the Joe Taylor Cemetery and Joe Taylor family buried at Maher, WV, the Bent Ridge Cemetery, the Rose Hill Cemetery in Ashland, KY, the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida, Ft. McCoy Cemetery in Ft. McCoy, Florida and Hennon Scalf Cemetery on Curry Branch and Sister Hester Maynard and all that are buried on the Williamson Cemetery, the Bobby Fields Family Cemetery on Billy Lowe Branch, on Sunday following the first Saturday. Ministers called: Kenneth B. Jude, Richard Staton, Earl Dean Newsome, Harold Sesco and Hobart Hamilton.
DIX FORK CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Dix Fork Church on Sunday following the first Saturday. Ministers called: Gary Adkins, Stony Blackburn and Sam Frye.

BUCK CREEK CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of the deceased on the Blackburn Cemetery at Marrowbone, WV. This meeting will be held at the cemetery on Sunday after the second Saturday. Ministers called: Kenneth B. Jude, Lacy Fletcher, Thomas J. Dials, Wayne Herald, Jr. and Albert Cable.

LEANNAH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday after the second Saturday of all the deceased on the Lowe Cemetery and of Clinton B. Lowe and Marie Lowe that are buried at Maher, West Virginia. Ministers called: Richard Staton, Harold Sesco, Danny Runyon, Kenneth B. Jude, Lonnie Jude and Mike Lowe.

LITTLE ROSIE CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Little Rosie Church on Sunday after the second Saturday. Ministers called: Elbert Sesco, Harold Sesco, Stony Blackburn, Larry Thacker and Lloyd Brown.

PILGRIMS REST CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on Sunday after the second Saturday of the deceased members of the Church and the friends of the community and veterans killed in action. Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. Ministers called: Stanley Stacy, Richard Staton, Earl D. Newsome and Greg Stanley, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator attending.

BRIDE OF CHRIST CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the Community Garden Cemetery located on Route 37 approximately 5 miles south of Wayne, WV (Maynard Memorial) on Sunday following the second Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: Ralph Cloud, Arthur Mathis, Clarence Mathis, Sam Frye and Leonard Napier.

BIG BRANCH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all the deceased on the McCoy Cemetery including John and Margret McCoy, Oscar McCoy family, Tolbert McCoy family, also Johnnie Nichols, Sr. family and Lowe family of Gulnare, KY, Sister Victoria (McCoy) Maynard, Brother R. C. Maynard, Sr. and Elder Randall Scott on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: Richard Staton, Danny Runyon, Dale Williamson, Abe Howell and Jimmy Amos.

BUCK CREEK CHURCH will give away to a memorial meeting on Sunday after the third Saturday to be held on the Dave Jude and Fletcher Cemetery on Peter Cave. Ministers called: Wayne Herald, Jr., Albert Cable, Danny Hurley, Todd Dials and Thomas J. Dials.

MARY ELIZABETH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of Elder J. W. Smith and all the deceased members of the Mary Elizabeth Church on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: Arthur May, Gayle Brown, David May, Curt Carroll and Glenn Hall.

BRIDE OF CHRIST CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the church on Sunday following the third Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: Chester Cochran, Gabe Lowe, Jr, Jimmy Stewart, Jerry Runyon and Albert Cable.

SIDNEY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of Will and Charity Jude, Johnny and America Jude, Mark Jude, son of Kenneth B and Dolly Jude, Henry Lee and Doris Jude, Mitchell Jude and other family members buried at the head of Peter Cave on Sunday following the third Saturday. Ministers called: Lacy Fletcher, Billy Joe Robinson, Lonnie Jude, Gabe Lowe, Jr., Dewey Jude and Kenneth B. Jude. Church will be held at the cemetery.
SIDNEY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Sidney Church and of Elder W. W. Fields and all that are buried on the Bascom Maynard Cemetery on Peter Cave on Sunday after the fourth Saturday. Ministers called: Gabe Lowe, Jr., Wayne Sartin, Hobart Hamilton and Kenneth B. Jude.

BIG BRANCH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the Henry Taylor Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday after the fourth Saturday. Ministers called: Gabe Lowe, Jr., Billy Joe Robinson, Randall Lowe and Kenneth B. Jude. Dinner will be served nearby.

SEPTEMBER, 2018


LEANNAH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on the McCoy Cemetery in the head of Meathouse, about a mile above the Leannah Church, on the first Sunday in memory of Shirlen McCoy, his wife, Lucy McCoy, Van Avory McCoy, and others buried on this Cemetery. Also, Elder Dike Blackburn and his wife Ora Blackburn, and daughter Mae Blackburn and all others buried near the mouth of Wolf Creek are included. Ministers called: Albert Cable, Billy Joe Robinson, Lonnie Jude, Kenneth B. Jude and Thomas J. Dials.

LEANNAH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting in memory of all deceased members of the Leannah Church on the first Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. at the Leannah Church. Ministers called: Lacy Walters, Harold Sesco, Richard Staton and Hobart Hamilton.

MEMORIAL MEETING of Ervin Morrison and all others buried on the Maynard Fork Cemetery on Wolf Creek on Sunday after the second Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Minister called: Kenneth B. Jude, Randall Lowe and Gabe D. Lowe, Jr.

BUCK CREEK CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the Church of all the deceased members of the Buck Creek Church and the deceased buried in the Maynard Cemetery at Warfield, KY on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: Clyde Perry, David Lester, George Thomason and Preston Lewis.

MARY ELIZABETH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of Elder Wallace Jackson, George Fraley, Donnie Lowe, William (Tom) Fraley and his wife, Inis Fraley Jackson and others on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: David Crigger, Northern Gayle Brown, Paul Maynard, Arthur Mathis and Lacy Walters.

SAMARIA CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on the Hannah Cemetery on Sunday after the third Saturday. Ministers called: Kenneth B. Jude, Albert Cable, Leonard Napier and David May.

BETHANY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Bethany Church on Sunday after the fourth Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: David Crigger, Wayne Herald, Jr., Edward L. Smith, Clyde Perry and Gary Blevins.

OCTOBER, 2018

ELIZABETH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on the first Saturday and Sunday of all deceased members of the Elizabeth Church. Ministers called: Albert Cable, Arthur Mathis, Leonard Napier, Wayne Herald, Jr. and Sam Frye.
SALEM CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on the first Saturday and Sunday of all deceased members of the Salem Church. Ministers called: Lloyd Brown, Harold Sesco, Duane Smith, Richard Staton and Sam Frye.

TURKEY CREEK CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Turkey Creek Church on the second Saturday and Sunday. Ministers called: Leonard Hamilton, John Paul Hamilton, Kelly Slone, Ralph Slone, Jr., Squire Hamilton and Scott Hamilton.

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Mt. Pleasant Church on Sunday after the second Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Ministers called: Johnny Thornsberry, Paul Boggs, Mike Justice, Billy Joe Robinson, Harold Sesco and Murl F. Caudill.

LEANNAH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting at the Church of all the deceased who are buried on the Scott Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday after the second Saturday. Ministers called: Kenneth B. Jude, Thomas J. Dials and Albert Cable.

LITTLE TAVIE CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on the second Saturday and Sunday. Ministers called: Randall Lowe, Gabe Lowe, Jr., Sam Frye, Clyde Perry, Arthur May and Charles Edwards.

ROSA CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members of the Rosa Church on the third Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Ministers called: Albert Cable, Richard Staton, Zeb Justice, Arthur Mathis and Phillip Estep.

SIDNEY CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting on Sunday following the fourth Saturday of John Jude and Belle Jude, his wife; Annie (Howell) Jude, wife of Warren G. Jude; J. T. Jude, son of Warren G. Jude and Annie Jude; two daughters, Mary Ann and Betty Jane, children of Henry and Connie Jude. Ministers called: Wayne Sartin, Todd Dials, Kenneth B. Jude and Lonnie Jude.

PILGRIMS HOME CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members and friends of the Pilgrims Home Church on the fourth Saturday and Sunday. Ministers called: Richard Staton, Jerry Overstreet and Mike Lowe.

NOVEMBER, 2018

ANTIOCH CHURCH will hold a memorial meeting of all deceased members and friends of the Antioch Church on the fourth Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Ministers called: Jimmy Amos, Ralph Cloud, Kelly Slone and John Lewis.
## SPECIAL MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHURCH</th>
<th>DAY AND TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bent Branch Church</td>
<td>Every Odd Sunday at 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bent Branch/Pilgrims Home at Bent Branch</td>
<td>New Years Eve at 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leannah Church</td>
<td>Every odd Sunday at 10:30 a.m. New Year’s Eve at 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Tavie Church</td>
<td>Every odd Sunday at 10:00 a.m. New Year’s Eve at 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Elizabeth Church</td>
<td>Every odd Sunday at 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Pilgrims Home Church</td>
<td>Second Saturday night at 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilgrims Rest Church</td>
<td>Every fourth Saturday night at 7:00 p.m., (no meetings in the months of December, January, and February)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem Church</td>
<td>Easter Morning, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samaria Church</td>
<td>Every odd Sunday at 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sardis Association at Building</td>
<td>Every odd Saturday Evening at 6:00 p.m. (None on March 31, 2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosa Church</td>
<td>Every first Saturday Evening at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey Creek Church</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve at 7:30 p.m. Every odd Sunday at 11:00 a.m. June second Saturday and Sunday. Ministers called: Estill Hamilton, Edward L. Smith, Ray Hamilton, Freddie Murphy, James Barney, Kelly Slone, Ronnie Hensley and Lloyd Brown.</td>
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31
OBITUARIES
of
BRETHREN AND SISTERS

ELDER BEN SCOTT

With sorrow, and precious memories, I will try to write this obituary of my Dad. Elder Ben Scott, born June 10, 1921, and died January 10, 2017 at Pikeville Medical Center, leaving behind four sons that loved and miss him very much; Dewey and (Lana) Scott, Pittsboro, NC, Jackie and (Laura) Scott, Pilgrim, KY, William and (Marry) Scott, Inez, KY, Mack Arthur and (Oma) Scott, Pilgrim, KY. Twelve grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and friends. Two brothers, Paul D Scott and James L. Scott. Dad was preceded in death by his parents, Axton Scott and Kate Fletcher Scott, his ex-wife Dorthy M. Morrison Scott, one great-grandchild, Chris Scott, six brothers, Rass Scott, Jeff Scott, Andy T. Scott, Leonard Scott, Willard Scott and Wayne Scott; three sisters, Isabell Scott Hancock, Marry Scott Collins and Ellen Scott; one great-grandson, Tyler Lee Scott. Dad will be missed by his family and friends very much.

Dad joined Leannah Old Regular Baptist Church on October 11, 1969 and was ordained to preach May 9, 1992. He was a faithful member as long as he was able. Dad said if he couldn’t go to church, he would just as soon go on home and it seems that it happened that way. Dad didn’t have a lot of material things, but he had the Lord in his heart, and that is what everyone needs most of all. I’m trying to close, but I know I couldn’t say enough good things about him. I would like to thank everyone that visited him at home, the hospital, the wake services and funeral. A special thanks to all the preaching brothers that came. He would have been pleased. Rest in peace Dad, we love you.

Written by his son, Jackie L. Scott

ELDER BOBBY GENE SCOTT, SR.

Revelation 21:4, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

Elder Bobby Gene Scott, Sr. passed from this life on March 9, 2017 at the age of seventy-seven. He was born on July 15, 1939 at Hardy, KY, and was the son of the late Doc and Goldie (Thornsbury) Scott. In addition to his parents, Bobby was also preceded in death by one of his sisters, Geraldine (David) Crigger.

Bobby served his country in the U.S. Army where he was a member of the military police. He was a retired carpenter and engineer. Even after retirement, Bobby never stopped. He taught himself how to build computers and was a legal researcher for the Baird & Baird Law Firm. He spent many hours at the Pikeville Courthouse teaching himself how to research titles of mineral rights for people.

On March 11, 1973, Bobby and I were baptized arm and arm, and became members of the Old Regular Baptist Church. He loved his Salvation and served as the moderator of the Narrows Branch Old Regular Baptist Church for many years and was the current moderator there.
when he passed away. He and the small Narrows Branch congregation built that old church building up by adding a lunchroom, replacing the old wood with brick and paving the parking lot.

The Sardis Association bought the Brushy Grade School as a permanent building for the association to hold their yearly meetings. Even with a bad heart, Bobby worked tirelessly until the building was ready. He also got the Association five-hundred dollars a year from coal rights. His life was his church and the good Lord blessed him with a beautiful talent. He was well known throughout the Sardis and other Old Regular Baptist Associations for his gifts of singing and preaching the Word of God.

We would have been married fifty-six years this year. We were wed on Oct 10, 1961 in Clintwood, VA. Together, we had three beautiful children. Our oldest and only daughter, Pamela Elaine (Derrick) Justice was born, March 25, 1963 and has two daughters, Megan Blair (Chris) Wright and Bhrett Lauren (Josh) Eanes. Bobby lived to meet our first great-granddaughter, Sophie Layne Wright. Eleanor June Eanes arrived 3 months after his death. Our oldest son, Bobby Gene (Norma) Scott, Jr. came eleven months later on Feb. 17, 1964. He has one son, Isaac Preston (Anna) Scott. Thirteen months later, our little family was complete with the arrival of Gregory Dale (Lynn) Scott on April 24, 1965. They have one daughter, Tiffany Shae (Josh) Dillon. Our three children are a Godsend to me. I could not have faced life if I didn't have them to lean on after losing my soulmate. Bobby is also survived by a sister, Janice (Wilmer) Bogar. Janice misses her baby brother and while her heart is broken, she knows that through God's grace, she will see him again one day.

My husband will be missed by so many people, but most especially by me. How do I say goodbye to someone that took care of me for fifty-six years? Some nights I hear his voice as plain as if he were right beside me. Living through the day is hard but the nights are almost impossible. I look around at the life we built together and he should still be here with me. In a blink of an eye, my world was turned upside down. Wherever I am, even in a crowd of people, I am alone. My heart aches and it is only with God's help that I can bear what I must face. But God saw he was getting tired, his little feet and mind were just worn out. So, he wrapped His loving arms around Bobby and whispered "Come with me." I sat alone with him the night God took him home and held his hand as he took his last breath at exactly 3 a.m. He didn't struggle. He gently passed into that long sleep. And with tears in my eyes, I watched him fade away. A golden heart stopped beating. Hardworking hands lay at rest. So, sleep on my dear and walk slowly down that long, long road for soon I'll call your name. I'll meet you again on God's great shore.

Your heartbroken and weary wife

ELDER FRANKIE SCOTT

It is with unmeasurable grief, a broken heart and God given strength that I attempt to write this obituary for my beloved father, Frankie Scott. How does one capture the light, love and laughter this humble man brought to each and every person that he encountered in his life? For if you met my father, you instantly loved him and were somehow changed by him. In all the days of my life, I have never met a man that could leave such a lasting impact on everyone he encountered.

Dad was born on October 10, 1944, at Hardy, KY, the son of the late Ethel and Clayton Scott. Three brothers Tommy, David and Jimmie Scott also preceded him in death. A born caretaker, my father spent most of his life caring for his family. At the early age of eight, he would come home from school and prepare dinner for his family while his parents were still working. He would continue to care for his beloved Mother for the majority of her ninety-four years of life. Leaving him broken hearted, she
departed this world only a few months prior to her precious son.

On October 11, 1969, only one day after his birthday, my Father married the love of his life and best friend, Jewel Stollings Scott. He always said she was the best belated birthday present. While we know perfection doesn't exist, if there was ever a marriage that was perfect, it was my parents' union. Growing up, I learned what I know about love and respect by watching their example. Dad's treasured nephew Tim recently told me that if ever two people were made for each other it was my parents. Their example had left a lasting impact on his life as well. In Dad's final days on this earth, he would lovingly look at his dear wife and wink at her out of the corner of his eye as he so often did throughout the years. As he struggled for breath, he recalled the memory of seeing my dear mother sitting four rows back in church as he prayed to God to give her to him as his companion. God answered his prayer and they were gifted with forty-seven years of beautiful, blissful marriage.

Dad also leaves behind his loving daughter, Sherry Scott of Richmond, KY. I was without question a daddy's girl. So much of who I am as a person I learned from my father. I am blessed with my father's strength, judgment, problem-solving skills, natural curiosity, and just a dash of his humor. From the moment I was born, he strived to take care of my every need, ensuring I had every opportunity and always putting my needs before his own. He was my constant advisor and friend. Throughout the years I used a number of beloved terms for my Dad: Daddy, Father, Pops and my favorite Poppa. Each term of endearment expressed a little about his character. Daddy was the innocent, pure love of his child. Father was the Christian, caretaker, humble, respectful man. Pops was the comedian and prankster that loved to laugh. Poppa, well Poppa was the sweet, gentle, endearing and loving man. I always kissed his forehead and asked, "How's my Poppa?" and he would respond, "Hi honey." As he lay unresponsive in the hospital, I prayed I would hear his voice one more time. In the wee hours of the morning of his final day, he opened his eyes and I said, "There's my Poppa" and kissed his sweet forehead and one final time, I heard him say, "Hi honey".

In addition to his grieving wife and daughter, Dad's survivors also include his niece Gina (Tony) Tincher of Howell, MI and nephew Tim (Sue) Scott of Saint Claire Shores, MI; two great-nieces Marissa Scott and Selena Klaassen; two great-nephews Hunter and Treyton Klaassen. His niece and nephew were precious in his sight and he loved and cared for them as if they were his own children. Finally, Dad leaves behind a host of cherished family, friends and special cousins.

In 1969 Dad joined the Old Regular Baptist Church and was baptized into the faith. He was a long-time member of the Mount Pleasant Old Regular Baptist Church in Sidney, KY and served the church faithfully as moderator since 1996. Dad's faith has shown bright as his love and devotion to Christ was ever present in his life. He was such a humble servant and deeply loved the Lord, his church and all his beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. Dad was blessed with the honor and privilege of baptizing not only his loving wife, but also his father and mother.

On October 2, 2016 my father breathed his last labored breath and departed this life. He was surrounded by the presence of love from his dear family and friends as they sang and prayed over him. Most importantly, however, he was embraced by the presence of God's love. As he was struggling for his final breaths, his eyes became bright as the sun and he looked heavenward and declared three times, "What a Beautiful Sight!" He glanced up at his wife and daughter and said, "Kiss me Goodbye. I'm going to close my eyes now."

My father's faith became sight as he got a little glimpse of heaven before leaving this earth and left one final witness of his faith and belief in Jesus Christ. While countless friends, family and loved ones mourn our loss of this humble, loving, kind, strong, gentle, smart and faithful man, we would not bring him back for his labor on this earth is done. There was a crown of righteousness
awaiting my father for he fought the good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith. Thank you for the love, laughter and example you left for us all. We love and miss you deeply but take comfort that by God's promise and grace we will meet again someday. So, this is not goodbye only farewell for a little while.

His loving daughter,
Sherry Scott and beloved wife, Jewel Scott

EUGENE BLACKBURN

Eugene Blackburn, age seventy-five, of Meta, KY passed away on Saturday, November 19, 2016. He was born March 20, 1941, the son of the late Burnis and Goldie Ratliff Blackburn.

He worked hard all of his life, whether it was logging, coal mining, or serving the Big Branch Church and Sardis Association.

He is survived by his loving wife, Grace Maynard Blackburn; three sons, Keith (Winnie), Terry (Patricia), and Jonathan (April) Blackburn; four grandchildren, Joshua, Tyler, Burnis and Lily Blackburn; and a host of brother, sisters, nieces, and nephews, all of whom miss him greatly.

Everyone who met Brother Gene knows that he was a very humble man. He would and has given the coat off his back for anyone in need. From fishing trips to sitting on the front porch, Brother Gene always made time for each of us. The great lengths he went to take care of his family and friends are insurmountable.

Brother Gene may have been a quiet, soft-spoken man, but his smile would dominate a room. He had the love of God in his heart and he extended that love to every person he met. He taught us all that life was about more than material things. Even while he was sick, as soon as someone walked in, his face would light up and he would reach out for a hug. It was important for him to see his family, ask how everyone was doing, and make them feel loved. He was always concerned about everyone else; that memory truly resonates throughout the family. He had a humble spirit, a caring soul and an important relationship with God. While we will always miss Brother Gene, if we follow his example and advice, we have the hope of seeing his smiling face again.

Written by his loving family
INIS CRIGGER THORNSBURY BROWN

Inis Crigger Thornsbury Brown, eighty-eight, of Sidney, KY passed away on Sunday August 13, 2017 at her daughter’s home in Forest Hills, KY. Inis was born on April 15, 1929 at Sidney, KY, the daughter of the late James Harvey and Martha Jane Hankins Crigger. She was also preceded in death by her first husband, William Frank Thornsbury; her second husband, Claude Clifford Brown; her son, Donnie Brown of Point Pleasant, WV; two brothers and six sisters.

Inis was a graduate of Belfry High School and attended Pikeville College. Later, she worked as a cook for the Pike County school system. For most of her life though, she was a homemaker because she truly loved to cook and take care of people. She also loved to go to church, she attended Dix Fork Old Regular Baptist Church, where she was a member for over forty-five years.

Inis is survived by her two sons, Roger (Linda) Thornsbury of Oil Springs, KY and Keith (Tamera) Thornsbury of Lowmansville, KY; her two daughters, Janie (Claude) Vermillion of Forest Hills, KY and Melinda (Steve) Bowman of Erwin, TN; her sister, Edith Williamson of Sidney, KY; twenty-seven grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren as well as a host of loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 1 PM at the Dix Fork Old Regular Baptist Church with Stony Blackburn, Lacy Walters, and Ivan Neal Thornsbury officiating. Burial followed at the Thornsbury Cemetery Dix Fork of Sidney, KY with son-in-law and grandsons serving as pallbearers. Howard Phillips served as an honorary pallbearer.

CHARLES CANADA

It is with great sadness, joy and respect that we attempt to write the obituary of this humble servant of God. There is sadness for our loss, joy for Brother Charles as he joins his parents and brother at the pearly gates and respect for the light that he was for so many.

Charles Canada was born May 7, 1940 at lower Johns Creek Heenon, KY. He was the second born child to Tom and Sallie Nichols Canada. Preceded in death by one brother, TomJr. Canada (Ginger) of Elkhorn on Oct 19, 1982. Survived by three sisters and one brother; Anna Lea Williamson(Freddie-deceased) of Brushy; Rosa Dean Ward(Leon-"Buck") of Brushy; Connie Sue Walters(Mike) of Zebulon; Paris Canada(Nell) of Brushy.

Brother Charles had many accomplishments in his life, one of which was caretaker for the Triple Crown winner "Secretariat" during his eight years at Hobeau Farm near Ocala, FL. He also worked as a Diesel Mechanic for approximately fifteen years when his health forced him to retire. Since then he has spent most of his time serving the Lord and helping neighbors. One of his biggest accomplishments was his family. Regardless of his many struggles in life, family and God were always first.

He married his wife of fifty-five years Annette Christeen Ray Canada on August 11, 1961 in Harold Edmonds’ home at Big Creek. Together they had four children (two sons & two daughters) and adopted one of his granddaughters. The two sons were-Jeffery Trent Canada (Kathy) of Ocala, FL and Charles Michael Canada (Rose) of Lexington, KY. Two daughters were-Benita Ann Amick
(Matt) of Pikeville, KY and Lucretia Lynn Harris of Bakersfield, CA. Twelve grandchildren; Rebecca (Werner), Jessica, David, Jonathon, Jason, Matthew (Lynette), Tara(Jesse), Tyler, Justin, Austin, Brietta and Nicole. Five great-grandchildren; Laylah, Emilia, Benjamin (coming soon), Arc, Cynthia, Kynlee, Gracie and Charlie.

He turned his life over to God in 1983, and has been a shining light to his family, community and brothers and sisters of the church since this time and continues to shine today from Heaven.

After a very long battle with medical illness, Brother Charles peacefully went with the angels on October 22, 2016 at 8:44 a.m. at home with his wife Annette, his son, Michael and daughter-in-law Rose and his daughter, Benita at his side.

The family can never express or be thankful enough for all the love, prayers, food, flowers, handshakes and hugs that were given during this time of sadness. A special “thank you" to the brothers and sisters of the Sardis Association and Pilgrim Home Church for all the prayers and support.

We may have lost a great humble man, but God has gained an amazing, glorious angel. Until we meet again Daddy. We love you!

Written by his children and wife

LAURA REBECCA GOLDEAN BURKE FRANCIS

Laura Rebecca Goldean Burke Francis of Riner, VA formerly of Turkey Creek, KY, was called home on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at the age of eighty-nine. Goldean was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold Francis; her parents, Sherman and Trula Burke, her sister, Delores Robinette and her daughter, Deborah Francis.

She is survived by her sons, Gary (Brenda) Francis and Isaac Shane Francis; grandchildren, Sharon (Tom) Zuckerwar and Steven (LeeAnn) Francis; great-grandchildren, Avery and Alex Zuckerwar. She is also survived by her siblings, Leroy (and Linda Burke), Roberta Varney and Billy Ray Burke; and many nieces, nephews and other family members that she adored. Goldean was born March 3, 1928 in Pike County, KY and lived on Turkey Creek. She spent her early years as a teacher and loved spending time painting, quilting and making sock monkeys. She was devoted to her family and loved her many animals. She was a member of the Turkey Creek Old Regular Baptist Church. Visitation was on Friday, August 4, 2017, from 5 - 7 PM at Horne Funeral Home, Riner, VA with a graveside service to follow at Mountain View Memory Gardens, Huddy, KY on Saturday, August 5, 2017, at 2 PM with Mikie Smith officiating. The family would like to thank Skyline Nursing Facility for Goldena's care.
PHYL LIS GIBSON

It is with a heavy heart that we try to write this obituary of a dear sweet lady, Phyllis Gibson. Phyllis was born on September 20, 1946 to James and Myrtle Smith. When she was born they didn’t expect her to make it, but by the grace of God she survived. God had a purpose for her. When she was twenty-one, she met and married Rolland Gibson. To this union was born one son James Gibson. Phyllis helped Rolland raise his children from a previous marriage, as her own, Billy Harold, Gene Ed, Sonya Lynn, David Kimbell and Laura Victoria. Phyllis loved her family but she loved God more. She gave her life to the Lord and joined the Pilgrim Home Church of Old Regular Baptist. She loved going to church as long as she could and when she got down and couldn’t go anymore, the brothers would come and have church at home for her. She loved to sing and shout. She loved to sing the songs with the brothers. She loved the old church and the Lord so much.

Phyllis had a long sickness but never lost her faith in God. She passed away October 22, 2016 at her home, quietly, with her loving husband holding her hand.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents and her children Billy H. Gibson, Gene Ed Gibson and Laura Victoria Branham. She is survived by her beloved husband Rolland Gibson, treasured sons James Gibson and David Kimbell Gibson and a cherished daughter Sonya Lynn Bevins Hayes; seven grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; four brothers William, Don, Carl, and Jerry Smith; one sister Ruby Young and a host of other family and friends.

Phyllis will always be remembered for the many and generous contributions she made to her family, friends, and community. She will be greatly missed by all whose lives were touched by her loving presence. Love you Sweet Sweet Lady, sleep in peace until we meet again. Love you.

Written by those that loved her

HENRY "HEN" JUDE

It is with great sadness and so many memories, that we write this obituary of our dear Uncle and brother in Christ. Brother Henry Jude, age seventy-five of Pilgrim, passed away Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at Pikeville Medical Center. Born November 22, 1941, in Martin County, he was the son of the late John Butler Jude and Sadie Maynard Jude and step mother, Amalia Jude. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Connie Ramey Jude; two daughters, Betty Jane Jude and Mary Ann Jude; six brothers: Joe, Dallas, Floyd, Russell, Shadle, and Lloyd Jude; and two sisters, Ruby Jude and Stella Kay Jude. He is survived by two sons, Danny Jude of Flat Gap and John Henry Jude of Kermit; seven brothers: Butler (June Bug) Jude Jr of Pilgrim, Doris Jude of Columbus, Larry Jude of Inez, Frank Jude of Hager Hill, Roger Jude of Inez, Landon Jude of Pilgrim and Oscar Jude of Beauty; six sisters: Mabel Fletcher of Louisa, Hazel Brewer of Wayne County WV, Lois Carter of Columbus, Ellen Fay Fletcher of Pilgrim, Gracie Ann Bowen of Wayne County, and Kathy Maynard of Van Lear; fourteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren also survive.

He worked in logging most of his life and enjoyed the hills where he would camp, hunt and herb with his friends and family. He was a long-time member of the Sidney Old Regular Baptist
Church and is missed and was loved by all the members and his friends. He was baptized in July 1984 at the hands of Elder Sabert Nichols and Thomas J. Dials. Brother Hen preached for several years until his health wouldn't let him any longer. He liked to sing and rejoice in the lord. Surely brother Hen is resting from his labors.

Written by Butler Fletcher and other family members.

**PHILLIP JUSTICE**

With God, mercy, strength and love I will attempt to write the obituary of my husband, Phillip Justice. Phillip was born April 8, 1930 at Huddy, KY.

He was the Son of Farris and Ora Justice, the oldest of nine children. God broke our hearts on June 1, 2017, when God called him home.

Phillip lay praying sweet Jesus please come take me home, I am so tired, God knows my pain and how I long to hear His voice. I am so thankful we had a blessed home and was blessed with three wonderful children. Only God knows why he took Mike to be with Him at age seventeen and Larry at age thirty with a brain tumor. Pam lives with me. We have three grandsons and two great-grandchildren. Starsky Howell and his wife Becky, Chase Howell and his wife Brittany and Cody Robinette and his wife, Morgan. Great-grandson, Corbin Michael Howell and great-granddaughter, Carley Reese Howell.

When we get low in the valley just a beautiful song lets me feel that good Spirit and I know He hears me. I don’t worry about where Phillip is, I lived sixty years with him. He was a Christian seven days a week. Phillip joined the church at Burning Springs on May 23, 1976 and took membership to Bent Branch where I had mine. Phillip served the Bent Branch Church for many years as a deacon. Phillip loved to visit the sick at the nursing home and hospital when he was able and the homes of those not able to go to church. Brother Ed May said he was a peace maker and a humble brother and the Bible said "blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" Matthew 5:9.

The book would not hold the love I have for him and I miss him so much. I will always feel an empty place in my heart. Someday I will be happy when we meet again.

Signed with love,
Joyce Justice and Daughter Pam Robinette
CULLEN LACY LOCKARD

Cullen Lacy Lockard, seventy-four of Turkey Creek, KY, passed away Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at the Tug Valley Regional Medical Center. He was born November 23, 1941, at South Williamson, KY, the son of the late Condor Lockard and Frances Reed Lockard of Turkey Creek, KY. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Edith Gayle Lockard; a son, Cullen Lockard; grandson, Blake Musik; brothers, Ernest and Condor Lockard and a sister, Jennie Rivard.

Lacy was a retired coal miner from Rawl Sales and Processing and an active member of the Turkey Creek Old Regular Baptist Church.

Other than his mother, survivors include his children, Edwin Eugene (Gina Lynn) Lockard and Brian Lockard all of Morganton, NC, Jenny Lea Lockard and Ashli Danielle Grim both of Turkey Creek, KY; sisters, Gloria Coleman of Conley Springs, NC, Daisy Ray and Sarah Davis both of Turkey Creek, KY and Sharon Estridge of Big Creek, KY; grandchildren, Jonathan Lockard, Jasmine Lockard, Brianna Lockard, Taylor Lockard, Ilexandra Grim and Izaiah Musik; great-grandchild, Natily Lockard and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral services were held Sunday, October 16, 2016, at 11 AM at Turkey Creek Old Regular Baptist Church with Hobart Hamilton, Richard Staton and Eb Sesco officiating. Burial followed in the Reed-Lockard Cemetery, Turkey Creek, KY, with family and friends serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held after 6 PM Friday and Saturday at the Church with special services both nights at 7 PM.

FRANCIS LOCKARD

Francis I. Lockard, age ninety-five of Turkey Creek, KY passed away Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017 at her home. Born Oct. 15, 1921 in Pike County, KY, she was the daughter of the late Ken and Elzie Curry Reed.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Condor Lockard, three sons, Condor Travis "Tad Pole" Lockard, Earnest Lockard, and Cullen "Lacy" Lockard, one daughter, Jeannie Rivard, infant daughter, Juanita Lockard, and several brothers and sisters. Francis was a homemaker and a member of the Turkey Creek Old Regular Baptist Church. Survivors include 4 daughters, Daisy Ray of Turkey Creek, KY, Sharon Estridge of Canada, KY, Sarah Davis of Hardy, KY, and Gloria Rose Coleman of Connelly Springs, NC, twenty-five grandchildren, thirty-nine great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren, and a host of other family and friends.
LYDIA MAE LOWE

Lydia Mae Lowe, ninety-two of Turkey Creek, KY. Passed away August 4, 2017 at the home of Ernest and Beatrice Sesco. She was born December 7, 1924 at Heenon, KY, the daughter of the late Steward Maynard and Victoria (McCoy)Maynard. Mom was a homemaker and a member of the Salem Old Regular Baptist Church. She loved to sew and make quilts, was an avid gardener, and could do most anything she wanted to.

She was married to Willis Lowe on December 13, 1943, a marriage that lasted for seventy years until his passing. To this union were born two children. Kermit (Jane) Lowe of Mio, MI and one daughter Beatrice (Ernest) Sesco of Turkey Creek, KY. She had five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She also had one sister who died in infancy (Mexie Maynard). She also had six step brothers, one step sister, two half brothers and one half sister. Mom’s daddy passed away at a young age with typhoid fever and her mother remarried again. His name was Richard Maynard, and he raised my Mom, and he became her step daddy whom she always called Daddy. Mom was the last survivor of this family.

Mom’s life here on Earth is over, All we have now is memories. So sleep on Mom there is a better day a coming when the Lord opens up those eastern skies, then we will all be happy who died in the Lord. Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother and your days will be lengthen.

Mom I believe you made it home, I pray someday I’ll get to see you and Daddy again, Where ever you are, whether you are laying beneath the sod of the earth or resting at the foot of Jesus, I hope you are at peace.

Written with a heart full of love,
Beatrice (Ernest Sesco) Daughter

OLIVER D. LOWE

Scriptures state the journey a person takes between birth and the appointed time to depart from this world is short and only a few days. Though our time here on earth is short, in heaven we know our time will be an eternity of peace in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Daddy’s journey ended on Friday, January 30, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. while surrounded by family and friends. He requested not to return to the hospital and remain at home with his family. He had struggled so long with COPD and emphysema that he knew he couldn’t live much longer. He wanted to be where his wife of sixty-eight years could be with him all the time. As he would say he wanted to be with his Rose.

Daddy was preceded in death by his parents, Ance Rell and Ida Mae Sesco Lowe; one sister Violet Lowe and one brother, Billie Lou “Bill” (Geneva) Lowe. He is survived by his wife Dixie Rosalie (Rose) Parsons Lowe; one sister, Annie Justine (late Clifford) Coleman; one brother-in-law, Alec Jay (late Katherine) Parsons; three daughters: Bonnie (Waltust, Jr.) Reynolds, Carol Ann (Bill-William) Freeman and Glenda France; one grandson, L. Bradley (Ashley) Reynolds; two granddaughters, Amanda France Hurley and Devon Reynolds Akers; three great grandsons: Jonathan Hurley, Greyson Akers and Gryffin Akers, one great-granddaughter, Kassidy Hurley, and one son, Donald Ivan Lowe.
Oliver Lowe and Dixie Rosalie Parsons were married on August 10, 1946 and remained married for sixty-eight years. Daddy and mother made their first home on Maynard Fork of Gulnare, KY from 1946 until 1959. Here the three girls were born into their family. In 1959 Daddy was hired to work at Green Meadows Country Club as maintenance/green keeper north of Pikeville, KY. He soon moved the family along with his mother and father-in-law, John Henry Parsons and Ella Mae Nichols Parsons so he could be close to his work and be able to spend more time with the family. He also thought it would give the children a better chance to get an education. Then, in 1963 their only son was born. All of us girls were so proud to have a brother, but not as excited as Daddy was to finally have a son to carry on his family name, (Donald Ivan Lowe).

Daddy worked very hard and long hours to provide a home and living for our family. He would always remind us of how important an education was and what it would do for you. He often bragged to friends and family of how proud he was the day that he and mother watched the last of four children receive a college education degree. Daddy and mother had instilled in us good work ethics to help us throughout our lives and we will always be grateful.

Because of his working so much he would try to include us children whenever he could. One of my first and most vivid memories was during the early years at Green Meadows. During the summer months the greens would need watering a lot. He would ride us all around the golf course in an old green army jeep at night to water them. Of course we would run through the sprinklers to get wet. He would just laugh and say that mother wouldn’t like us getting wet. Later on he delivered mail and then a paper route for the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times. When we were out of school or off for summer he would let us go with him. At the end of the route we would get a milkshake and sit at a table outside and read the comics. While out on deliveries we met many people who become friends. Daddy always took extra time to talk to the elderly customers who seemed to enjoy our visit. He would always ask if they needed anything which made a great impression on me.

As the years went by Daddy had many other jobs and we were older and didn’t need a lot of attention. At one time he operated a service station then drove a powder truck and coal truck. He was working as a mechanic on coal trucks when he was injured and couldn’t return to work. After several years he opened up a small engine repair shop where he worked on lawn mowers and plows, etc. Then on he was known as the lawn mower man. All the neighbors depended on him to keep their equipment running. He kept the shop going for over twenty five years until he lost most of his sight to macular degeneration.

Daddy had a great love for the Old Regular Baptist Church which extended to its preachers along with his many brothers and sisters of the church. He would be at church every meeting time and hadn’t missed but very few when he became unable to see good enough to drive. His son-in-law would take him to church anywhere he wanted to go as long as he was able to make the trip. He would always call Waltust, Jr. up and want to know where are we going to church Sunday. He loved to go to church and was a faithful member ever since his baptism in the mid 1980’s. He took his membership at Pilgrim’s Home Church at Varney, KY or called Brushy Creek.

Daddy had a multitude of friends accumulated from all his different jobs, coon hunting, and especially at church. One of his best friends who would call him every night for many, many years to check on his and mother’s well being is Warren Baker. Baker as Daddy called him, was a friend met while coon hunting and trading dogs that became a lifelong friend. Baker always laughs and tells a favorite moment in time that his friend Oliver took grandson, Bradley Reynolds, coon hunting at fourteen years old and let him drive home all the way from Central Kentucky to Pikeville because he had a nose bleed. He probably just wanted to sleep so he could be at church the next day.

Daddy loved his grandchildren and great grandchildren just as much as he loved his children. Daddy will be missed not only by his wife and family but all of his neighbors and friends. Daddy we will all be there with you some day.

Written by Bonnie Lowe Reynolds
GERALDINE DESKINS MAY

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Proverbs 31:10-31, is a fitting tribute to our treasured matriarch, Geraldine Deskins May, who passed from this earthly life on May 15, 2017 in Abingdon, VA.

"Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Her ninety-six years here on earth began, May 27, 1920 in Kimper, KY. She was the eldest child of the late Garrett and Erma Deskins, the beloved big sister to seven brothers: Jack, Dover, Gene, Garrett, Jr (Shorty), William, Charles, and Linton and one sister, Christine Young. Her brother, Linton of Tipton, OK, with whom she shared a special relationship, survives.

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her..." At the young age of fifteen, she married Elder Edwin May and thus began a marriage that lasted fifty-six years. Her life's work was to be a helpmate to her husband, supporting him in his ministry, providing food and lodging to the many who came to her home, and most importantly, finding solace in the Lord at Bent Branch Regular Baptist Church where she was a member.

"Her children arise up and call her blessed..." And blessed she was to be the mother of eight children. One of her sorrows was to see three of her children face death before she did, her daughters Janice Blackburn and Lydia May, and most recently her son, Don May. Her children left to honor her are one son, Larry (Botema) May of Kimper, KY and four daughters, Phyllis Taylor of Johnson City, TN; Linda (David) Fisher of Lovingston, VA; Erma (Alvin) Thornbury of Abingdon, VA; and Mary (Will) Markland of Bristol, VA. She is also survived by a devoted daughter-in-law, Pamela May of Meadowview, VA.

"She looketh well to the ways of her household..." The lasting memory she wanted her grandchildren to have was knowing when they came to Granny's house there was always plenty of good things to eat. Her twenty-three grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren will cherish that memory. A much-loved great-granddaughter preceded her in death.

"Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come."

Thank you Lord for her and the life she lived before us.

The Family of Geraldine Deskins May

DIANA LYNN MAYNARD

Diana Lynn Maynard, sixty-six of Huddy, KY, passed away Sunday morning, May 28, 2017, in the Tug Valley Regional Medical Center, South Williamson, KY. She was born August 17, 1950, in Williamson, WV, the daughter of the late Charles Thomas and Reba Lorraine Booth Staten. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Clifford Maynard and a granddaughter, Casey Maynard. Diana was a former sales clerk at K-Mart and a member of the Turkey Creek Old Regular Baptist Church.

Survivors include her children, Leonard (Chrissy) Young of Grayson, KY, Stephanie (Joe) Pinson of Huddy, KY, Roger Young of Morehead, KY and Tracy (Olivia) Young of Huddy, KY; step son, Mike (Angie) Maynard of South Williamson, KY; sister, Nancy Staten Davis of Williamson, WV; grandchildren, Chelsea (Terry) Whitt, Matthew Young, Lexi Young, Jonathan Young, Kadence Young, Caleigh Young, Jakob Young, Brooklyn Young, Haleigh Blankenship, Leann Young, Mason Young, Kaiser Young, Travis Maynard, Nikki Maynard and a host of other family and friends.
Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at the Turkey Creek Old Regular Baptist Church with Hobart Hamilton, Richard Staton and others officiating. Burial followed in the Mountain View Memory Gardens, Huddy, KY, with family and friends serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held from 6 - 9 PM Monday and Tuesday at R. E. Rogers Funeral Home Chapel with special services both nights at 7 PM.

RUEL B. McGUIRE

Ruel B. McGuire, eighty-four years and twenty-one days of Hatfield, KY (formerly Heisy, KY) passed on to his heavenly home, peacefully surrounded by his loving family, after suffering from a lingering illness of Black Lung. Funeral services were conducted at 1 PM Sunday, August 27, 2017 at the Pilgrim Home Regular Baptist Church at Varney, KY with Brother Ebb Sesco officiating. Burial followed at the McGuire Family Cemetery at Rockhouse Fork, Hatfield, KY.

Ruel B. was born August 2, 1933 on Higgins Road at Heisy, KY to Rell Lawrence and Mary (Reed) McGuire. He was a retired coal miner and truck driver. He was a member of the Pilgrim Home Regular Baptist Church of Varney, KY. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Lillie (Gibson) McGuire. They celebrated sixty-one years of marriage before she passed on. He also was preceded by two brothers, Melvin Bruce, and Paul David; four sisters, Brooke, Nannie Lou, Emma Jean, and Juanita. He had one living sister, Grace Eileen and one brother, Rell, Jr. still living. Survivors include three sons, Mark Allen (Tina), Albert (Tammy), and Arnold (Patricia). He also had two daughters, Uslie Alberta (Tommy), and Annette; fifteen grandchildren and thirty-five great-grandchildren and several special nieces and nephews and a host of special church family and friends.

He loved to ride his four-wheeler with his companion Bailey and visit the neighborhood. He also loved reading the newspaper from front to back. Family was very important to him, and God always came first. He sure loved the Lord and is truly missed. He was so faithful to go to church. God truly blessed him for over eighty-four years and his fruit truly bared for God’s glory.

Written by, Uslie Alberta Dotson

SARAH HAZEL REED

Sarah Hazel Reed, eighty-five, of Turkey Creek, KY, passed away Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at Trinity Healthcare. She was born October 23, 1930, at Turkey Creek, KY, to the late Lark and Ellen Young Lowe. She is also preceded in death by her husband, G. C. Reed, son, Rocky Randall Reed and several brothers and sisters. She was a homemaker and a member of the Turkey Creek Old Regular Baptist Church.

Sarah is survived by her children, Kenneth (Anita) Reed of Aflex, KY, Judy (Calvin) Thompson of Turkey Creek, KY, Paul Douglas Reed of Toler, KY, Tracy (Jack) Chandler of Elizabethtown, KY, and Patsy (Richard) Kimble of Hardy, KY. She is also survived by fifteen grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, Two great-great grandchildren and a host of loving family and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 AM Saturday October 15, 2016, at R. E. Rogers Funeral Home with Hobart Hamilton and Richard Staton officiating. Burial followed at Reed Cemetery, Turkey Creek, KY, with grandsons and son-in-laws serving as pallbearers. Visitation was from 6 to 9 PM Friday night at the funeral home.
JOHN CHRISTOPER (CHRIS) AND GERALDINE (ELKINS) ROBINSON

With broken hearts and cherished memories of our parents, WE, the Robinson siblings, write this obituary. During the past months we have learned the meaning of "Gone But Not Forgotten", as we struggle to adjust to the missed phone calls, our visits, dinners and holidays.

John Christopher (Chris) Robinson died November 11, 2016, at the Pikeville Medical Center. He was eighty-two years old. Chris was born in Pike County, KY on December 31, 1933, to the late Kenis and Rebecca Almeda (Maynard) Robinson. Chris was a retired equipment operator and a member of the Apple Orchard Old Regular Baptist Church.

Besides his parents, Chris was preceded in death by three brothers, Moses Robinson, James Robinson, and George Robinson (infant); and one sister Darlene (Robinson) Canada. He is survived by his loving sister, Bessie Jane Robinson Maynard Williamson.

Chris' wife of sixty years died only fifteen short days later, at the Pikeville Medical Center on November 26, 2016 at the age of seventy-seven. Geraldine (Elkins) Robinson was born July 11, 1939, in Pike County, KY to the late Russell and Fonnie Mae (Bevins) Elkins. She was a retired restaurant worker and homemaker. She was of the Brethren Faith.

Besides her parents, Geraldine was preceded in death by three brothers: George Thomas Elkins, Russell Elkins, Jr.; five sisters: Magdalene (Elkins) Trent, Edith Gail (Elkins) Lockard, Josephine (Elkins) Francis and Nannie Irene Elkins (infant) and a set of infant twin siblings Bobby Joe and Betty Jean Elkins. Our parents also lost their special granddaughter, Holly Robinson. Geraldine is survived by one brother, Philip Elkins.

Chris and Geraldine were married on June 9, 1956 at the Mt. Pleasant Old Regular Baptist Church at Sidney, KY. Chris and Geraldine leave their six children to mourn their death: four girls and two boys. They are Patty Ann Maynard of Raccoon, KY, Barbara Stotridge and Christine (Jimmy) Clark of Lower Johns Creek, Pikeville, KY, David (Kimberly) Robinson of Kodak, TN, Bruce (Cheryl) Robinson of Zebulon Highway, Pikeville, KY, Valerie (Tommy) Williamson of Brushy Road, Varney, KY. They are survived by thirteen grandchildren: Brian (Robin) Runyon, Kevin Runyon, William Tyler Maynard, Whitney Tara Maynard, Ross (Melissa) Stotridge, Chris Stotridge, Todd (Stephanie) Clark, Eric Nichole Clark, Sarah (Robinson)(Ajen) Shireman, Josh Robinson, Brandon (Ashely) Williamson, Alex (Elizabeth) Williamson, and Bradley Williamson. Dad and Mom also leave seventeen great-grandchildren, and numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends to mourn their death. Dad and Mom were buried on the Apple Orchard Cemetery on Lower Brushy. May they rest in peace together until the coming of our Lord. Comforted with hope that generations to come, through our cherished memories, will know how much they loved and were loved by their family.

Written with love by,
Children of John and Geraldine Robinson
LEE ETTA SCOTT THORNBURY

Lee Etta Scott Thornbury was born on October 5, 1930 to John J. Scott and Gay Justice Scott. She was one of eight children. Three brothers, Ester, Charles, and Chester (infant) and two sisters, Ruth Williams and Nolaine Coleman preceded her in death. Two sisters, Erlene Anderson and Patty Looney survive.

On February 15, 2017, while the outdoors she loved so much lay dormant in the winter cold, Mom “bloomed again” when she passed away at age eighty-six, and was welcomed into her Savior’s arms, into the land of pure delight.

At the age of fifteen, on a hayride with neighborhood children, she met a handsome young man named Alson Thornbury. On January 18, 1946, they married and were blessed with six children; four sons, Kennith Alson, Kenny, Alvin and James Garfield and two daughters, Barbara Wright and Alfreda Harper. Her husband and three sons preceded her in death. Barbara, Alfreda and Alvin survive.

She and Dad both joined the Little Virgie Church of Old Regular Baptist of Jesus Christ in November 1949 and allowed that Godly Light that was within them to guide throughout their lives.

We read in the book of Proverbs, in The Holy Bible, of the virtuous woman, whose price is far above rubies. “Her husband doth safely trust in her; she will do him good and not evil all the days of his life…she riseth while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens… she stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hand to the needy…her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”

Mom worked hard raising, preserving, and cooking food for her family and others, washing and ironing clothes without all our modern conveniences of today. Many late nights were spent to prepare for the next day, where it all started over again. Whether it be baking bread for communion at church, feeding a motherless child after a hard day at ball practice, fixing a special dish for a family who had just lost a loved one, or making a dress for her daughter; she always did her best to help everyone. That depicts the selflessness of this precious lady.

Mom taught us what she learned early in life; to be loving, honest, truthful, kind, and hard-working. Even though she only had a ninth-grade education, she knew the value of a good education and wanted better for us. She said good grades were important, but if conduct and effort were good, that meant we were doing our best. Rest peacefully upon the mountain, Mom, until we meet again for a perfect family reunion, in our hearts and memories, she will remain forever our precious mother.

Lovingly written by her heart-broken daughter,
Barbara Wright
IDA VIOLA WALTERS

Ida Viola Walters who was born July 9, 1922 at Varney, WV and crossed over to her external home at 8:05 am on August 25, 2017 at her daughter’s residence in Chatteroy, WV. Along with her parents Thomas and Bertha Ray Hinkle she was preceded in death by all ten of her siblings in which she was the oldest. She was preceded in death by two children, Norma Walters who passed away as an infant and Johnny Walters who passed in 2013, and a loving son-in-law Donnie Smith who passed in 2005. She is also reunited with her loving husband Troy Walters in which they would have been married seventy-seven years.

Mrs. Walters was a faithful member of the Pilgrim Home Old Regular Baptist Church for over sixty-eight years. She loved gathering with her brothers and sisters as long as her health permitted. She was a wonderful and dedicated mother of five children, Lacy Walters of Sidney, KY, Naomi (Freddie) Smith of West Liberty, KY and Hazel (Benny) Sammons, of Chatteroy, WV, daughter in-law, Donna Walters of Louisville, KY. She was a loving grandmother to thirteen wonderful grandchildren, Kevin (Lisa) Smith, Kim (Eric) Sammons, Tia (Shane) Fouch, Pam (Steve) Mullins, Kathy (Ray) Daugherty, Missy (Robert) Lockard, Tammy Jo (Charlie) Moon, Dee Dee (Carl) Wehner, Dwayne Smith, Angie (Will) Thompson, Greg Smith, Michelle (Don) Walker and Desha (Tony) Harris. She was a loving great-grandmother to twenty-two great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. She was known as a kind and humble woman who was loved by all who knew her. She was the best cook we ever knew and we will miss her apple stack cakes, chicken and dumplings and apple pies. We all know she is resting easy now in the arms of her savior Jesus Christ and we will meet her again when this life is over.

Funeral services were held at the Mt. Pleasant Old Regular Baptist Church at Sidney, KY on August 27, 2017 at 11:00am with Elders Hobart Hamilton, Richard Staton and Charlie Edwards officiating. Burial followed in the Smith Cemetery at Sidney.

Written by the family.

HI EDWARD (EDDIE)WILLIAMSON

Hi Edward Williamson seventy, of Sidney, KY departed this life on December 21, 2016 at the Williamson Memorial Hospital in Williamson, WV around 8:00 AM surrounded by his loving family. He was born May 25, 1946 to Glen and Edith Crigger Williamson. His grandparents were Don and Linnie Smith Williamson and Harvey and Martha Hankins Crigger.

Eddie married Anita Stanley on April 3, 1962. They took their wedding vows religiously and seriously to love, honor, cherish, and to keep each other for life. On December 7, 1972, they became the parents of their only child, James Edward Williamson, who was their pride and joy. In the early years of his marriage, he and Anita moved to Columbus, OH and then later moved back to Kentucky to live out their later years.

He is survived by his mother, Edith Williamson, his wife Anita Williamson, his son James Williamson and daughter-in-law Susan Mullins Williamson, two grandchildren, Elainea Susanne Williamson and Branden Tyler Williamson, a sister, Brenda (Howard) Phillips. Also, surviving are
sisters-in-laws, Carman (Charles) Edwards, Helen Brown, and Myrtle (Chris) Stepp, brothers-in-laws, Daniel (Dalene) Stanley, Kent (Teresa) Stanley, Noah (Connie) Stanley and his only living aunt, Inis Crigger Thornbury Brown. He is survived by many nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly. Eddie’s father, Glen, preceded him in death in 2006. Also, preceding him in death were his brothers-in-laws, George, Jeff and Floyd Stanley, Lloyd, James CB and Bobby Fish, sisters-in-laws, Anna Deskins and Celia Cochran and several Aunts, Uncles and Cousins.

Eddie became concerned about where his soul would spend eternity, so he chose the good part and would serve the Lord throughout the remainder of his life. He, his wife and Wayne Blackburn joined the church and were baptized on July 2, 1995 by Elders Lacy Walters, Curtis Carroll and Ernest Cochran. He took up membership with the Dix Fork Church of Old Regular Baptist where he later became a Deacon. He remained faithful to his faith and was great help to the Dix Fork Church and the Sardis Association.

Eddie was devoted and loving husband, father, son, brother and grandfather. He was a good neighbor and friend to all who knew him and will be greatly missed by everyone in his family, the church and the community. Sleep on Brother Eddie until that great resurrection morning when we all meet again.

Visitation was Thursday, December 22, 2016 at R. E. Rogers Funeral Home at Belfry, KY after 6:00 PM with services officiated by Old Regular Baptist ministers at 7:00 PM. The funeral services were held at the Dix Fork Church of Old Regular Baptist at 11:00 AM on Friday, December 23, 2016 with Elder Lacy Walters and the Elders of the Dix Fork Church. Pallbearers were: Daniel Stanley, Howard Phillips, Charles Edwards, Walter Bogar, Bruce Williamson, Tony Ray Williamson, Noah Stanley and Wayne Kline. Honorary pallbearers were Wayne Blackburn Arnold Mullins, Bob Thacker, Ronnie Gannon and Edward Smith. Interment followed in the Cochran Cemetery on Dix Fork, Sidney, KY. R.E. Rogers Funeral Home of Belfry, KY were in charge of the arrangements.

Written by Fay Blackburn

KENNETH LEE WILLIAMSON

Kenneth Lee Williamson, seventy-nine, of Hatfield, KY, passed away Tuesday April 4, 2017, at Tug Valley Regional Medical Center ER. He was born November 21, 1937, in Pike County, KY, to the late James Landon and Belle Francis Williamson. He is also preceded in death by his son, James Kenneth Williamson, brothers; Ralph and Junior Williamson, sisters; Joyce Young and Betty Ruth Lowe and his grandson, Todd Williamson. He was a truck driver for Smith Transport and a member of the Turkey Creek Old Regular Baptist Church.

He is survived by his children, Richard (Kim) Williamson of Hatfield, KY, Lisa Phillips of Belfry, KY, and Mavis Elaine Williamson of McDonough, GA. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Ashley Williamson, Andrew Elkins and Hunter Williamson; great-grandchildren, Makayla Lester, Mykah Davis, Addyson Davis, Myki Williamson and one on the way. Funeral services were conducted at 1 PM Saturday April 8, 2017, at R. E. Rogers Funeral Home with Hobart Hamilton, Gary Young and Richard Staton officiating. Burial followed at Bent Ridge Cemetery, Meta, KY, with family and friends serving as pallbearers. Visitation was after 6 PM Friday at the funeral home with special services at 7 PM with Old Regular Baptist Church Ministers. R. E. Rogers Funeral home of Belfry, KY, is in charge of arrangements.
OBITUARIES
of
FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

JOHN TRIMBLE BLACKBURN

John Trimble Blackburn was the son of John Blackburn and Victoria Sparks Blackburn born on July 13, 1923 and transferred from this life on May 29, 2017, who lived on Bent Branch at the Mouth of Open Fork in Pike County, Kentucky. A place that bridges Pikeville and Williamson, WV, which became a halfway house for all the comers and goers traveling to and fro. Our Grandmother was an old-time school teacher, but had to take leave to care for all nine children. His father a hillside farmer and tradesman, who journeyed often from Pikeville to Williamson with a team of mules and a wagon transporting people and supplies along the way for local stores in the community. Daddy would tell the stories and pause to say then,” my mother’s income from school teaching was used to purchase a team of mules and wagon for our way of life then.

He was the last living brother of Fred Blackburn, Joe Blackburn, Ray Blackburn, Claude Blackburn, Donnie Blackburn, Blanch Justice, Louise Compton, Lucille looney, and baby Blackburn who died at Birth. He was the husband of Lois Madeline Billiter for sixty-five years, our beautiful mother who gave him her love and blessed the family with a wonderful home. John Trimble is survived by daughter, Vickie Blackburn, son John George Blackburn (Terresia), and son, Andy Jerome Blackburn (Delores), Special Nephew Michael Ray Blackburn (Faye), four grandsons, one granddaughter, and eight great-grand children.

He was a railroad worker for the N&W and CSX Railroad, where he retired at the age of sixty-three to enjoy his independence of farm work, hunting, and a quality of time to dig Ginseng.

Of a way of life not forgotten as he continued to tell the stories of the family farm on Bent Branch, Open Fork, and Blackburn Bottom. A time during the great depression when people worked together to survive. And Daddy would pause to comment as a boy the jobs he knew well were plowing, planting corn, picking cotton, and pulling the other end of a cross cut saw. A community drawn together with trade goods, bartering supplies and goods, grinding sacks of corn hauled down to the Johnstown Mill on old BARNEY the family mule, who was treated like one of the children by our grandfather to sustain health for another year of plowing and planting crops to feed the livestock and the family. And Daddy would pause to say, “Old BARNEY was the best he ever plowed.” Old Barney was known by all for miles, because our Grandfather loaned him to work for the community, but never went out of the barn and down the Bent Branch unless one of boys, Fred, John T, or Ray went along to secure travel and care, Old Barney had his place. And now after all these years we can say if there was ever a Mule that could be in Heaven, old BARNEY is there. We worked hard to survive and were sustained by the crops of corn we grew and harvested. We kept livestock in the holler by the barn, there where herds of sheep, hogs that run wild, cattle, chickens, and mother’s garden. Daddy would pause to say,” if people were hungry and could raise a crop of corn they could get by and feed their livestock, pork chops, lamb chops, eggs and grit bread at meal time and eggs could trade for whatever was needed at J Mount Bevin’s store. He passed that way of life on to us when we farmed while growing up. Plowing our fields, planting corn, blade and shock fodders stored in the barn, and a field of corn where you could see just the ear of corn on the naked stalk, stripped of the blades and topped, stood to display our way of life. Feeding our livestock, milking cows and gathering eggs, a time we can reflect back on when times were good and life was at a slower pace than today.
John was an outdoorsman, who loved to hunt and ginseng. Stories told from front porch sitt’n goes back to real time when he taught all of us the skills to hunt and dig ginseng. The places he loved to go and hunts he often told about with old Molley and old Ben and then he would pause to comment,” Old Ben was the best.” Old ben died of old age and was buried on the hill near the house. People came from miles around and from many states who knew of Old Ben, the National Champion Mountain Cur to inquire what price for sell. Daddy would never part with him even though he was past hunting, cared for him until he died. We know now besides his family and friends he loved, there was the family mule that he inquired of in his delirium before he died asking his father where was old Barney and old Ben, the famous mountain cur of Pike County, KY.

He was a veteran of WWII and the Korean War to establish freedom for this country he loved so well. He was drafted into the Army in 1943 until he was discharged in 1945. He re-enlisted and served until 1949 and called back to active duty in 1950 and served during the Korean War until 1951. After returning home he enlisted in the Army Reserves and served seventeen years. We would talk some about the war and question him we would ask,” where were you at when Pearl Harbor was attacked? “I was home in a dark room with the mumps.” Where were you on D-Day? “I was on a ship in the English Channel waiting to go ashore. And then the story he tells, our landing came in at Omaha Beach on July 4, 1944. One of the hardest things I ever had to do was to climb down off that ship into a landing craft to go ashore and face all that we’ve heard during the Normandy invasion, but I did and from there I walked all the way across France. He tells of the hard winters, sleeping out in the snow, wearing the same change of clothes for a month at a time and only pulling off his boots to change socks. He tells a story of chance when he and his lieutenant were making rounds and discussing plans of pulling up and marching on and the lieutenant was shot by a sniper and he says,” we’re here because he was of higher rank than I was. And then he tells of a better time in April 1945 it was still snowing and down the road came hundreds of German soldiers with white flags of surrender and he paused to say,” I knew I was going to get to go home, it was the prayers of my Mother that kept me alive all these miles of marching.” Some say that time alone can help erase your memory and think of brighter days, which is true. We know now that his soldiering is over, his marching has ended to just strolling the hills of home with the greatest peace of freedom known to humankind, the Master and King has called him home.

John Trimble was a member of the Brushy Creek Baptist Church, but his heart was at the Bent Branch Old Regular Baptist Church. A place he recalls from his younger days, 80 years ago when his grandfather’s funeral was held on these same grounds, with gospel preaching and line singing, it could be no better. A place that has long set the example of God’s way of life and a community drawn together during hard times and memories of his mother and other women of the community during the depression hauling in sacks full of corn shucks in grain sacks and sowing them together for a corn shuck mattress to sleep on and he says,” that was what I slept on when I was a boy.” A place where he attended church as a boy and carefully planned so that his funeral would be here on the same grounds as his fore-fathers, if it was good for them it’ll be good enough for me.

Written by his family.
HAROLD COCHRAN

It is with a sad heart that I will try to write the obituary of my dear Uncle and Brother in Christ, Harold Cochran. Brother Harold was born March 13, 1930 in Pike County, KY on a little road called Dix Fork. He was the son of John and Octavia Cochran. He met and married his childhood sweetheart, Faye Maynard, and to this union was born two sons: Gary (Shari) Cochran of Point Pleasant, WV and Gene (Kathy) Cochran of Waverly, TN. After Faye's death, he met and married Emma Jean who had three children: David Smith of Columbus, OH; Linda (Smith) and Andres Ayala of Jefferson City, MO; and Jamie Smith, who preceded him in death. Together they had eight grandchildren: Gary Allen, Jack Ryan, Nicholas Harold, Rebecca, Brittany Hall, Brad Hall, Michael Beavers, and Jeremy Ayala; and 12 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by six brothers which included John Jr., Earl, Ernest, Julius, Luther, William, and one sister, Grace.

Survivors include his wife, Emma Jean, and two brothers: Chester Cochran of Pt. Pleasant, WV and Eugene Cochran of Oak Hill, OH; and one sister Magdelaine Smith of Pike County, KY.

Written by Elder Lester Cochran.

ELMER DIALS

Families are usually made up of several personalities each having their own input into the family unit. Pete and Wilda Dials' family is no exception to this thought. One such person in the Dials family is Elmer Dials, the youngest of Pete and Wilda's children. He was strong when it came to physical strength, loving when it comes to his family and happy. It is difficult to find one who could tell a bigger tale than he could. The watermelon story was unbelievable. I did not know they grew that big, but every time he told it, they grew. He was always fun to listen to and always had a smile. Elmer Dials who lived to the age of eighty-two at Tomahawk, KY passed away Monday, November 28, 2016 at his residence. Elmer was born October 17, 1934 in Martin County, to the late Peter and Wilda Jane Pauley Dials. In addition to his parents, Elmer was preceded in death by four brothers: Ellis, Burgess, Jerome, and John Dials; five sisters: Oma Muncy, Nona Mills, Mary Ellen Moore, Hattie Mae Cassell, and Gladys Hale; one granddaughter, Chloe Madison; and a son in law, Gerald Thomas.

He leaves behind to mourn his passing a devoted loving wife Jean Stepp Dials; one son, Paul and his wife, Lori Dials of Stamping Ground, KY; three daughters: Beverly and her husband Jerry Fugate of Wittensville, KY, Patricia and her husband, Terry Johnson of Columbia KY and Myra and her husband, David Brammer of Culloden, WV; one brother, Ace Dials of Medicine Lodge, KS; two grandchildren: Nathaniel Paul Dials of Paintsville, KY and Ethan Douglas Dials of West Liberty, KY; several step grandchildren, step great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews also survive with the memories of a loving man.

Elmer gave a confession of Jesus Christ but was unable, because of sickness, to be baptized. Jesus knows all our hearts and will come to get the bride of Christ in the Morning of the Eternal Day.
JAMES CHARLES ELKINS

It is with much love and with the help of the Lord that I will try to write the obituary of my Dad, James Charles Elkins, age eighty. Dad was born on June 23, 1936 in Pike County, KY to his parents, the late Charles Auther and Finice Marie (Bevins) Elkins. Along with his parents, Dad was proceeded in death by one brother, George Harold Elkins and one brother-in-law, Donald Webb.

Dad is survived by his wife of twenty-six years, Carolyn (Bevins) Elkins, one daughter, Teresa Lynne (Mitchell) Smith of Mt. Sterling, two sons, Charles Kent (Vonda Lynn) Elkins of Sidney and James Keith (Angie) Elkins of Waco. Dad is also survived by one brother, John Henry (Pat) Elkins of Rockhouse Fork of Hatfield, KY, two sisters Lois Marie Webb of Williamson, WV and Joyce Ann (Joseph Wayne) Smith of Canada, KY.

He is also survived by five grandchildren, Kendra Leann (Joey) Tackett of Lexington, Crystal Nicole Elkins of Sidney, William Clay Elkins, James Kyle Elkins, and Katherine Shae Elkins of Waco. He also leaves behind several nieces, nephews and a host of loving family and friends.

Dad loved the Old Regular Baptist Church and attended regularly. Dad left us many memories. He was always laughing, joking, and reminiscing about the friends he worked with during his days as a coal truck driver. Dad made many friends and never met a stranger. Dad was a hard worker and was always involved in a project. He and Carolyn were never afraid of a challenge. They worked side by side, when you saw one, you saw the other. When not working, they could be found camping and spending time outdoors.

Dad had many talents. He was a welder for Norfolk Southern Railroad, an excellent carpenter and owner of J&L Trucking. He has passed many of those skills to his two sons. Dad had a big heart. He loved his children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters and extended family. Dad was always willing to help his children in our times of need.

Dad passed away on Friday, April 21, 2017 at Pikeville Medical Center. Although I will miss Dad, I take comfort in knowing we will meet again.

Written lovingly by his daughter,
Teresa Lynne Smith

WILLIAM BILLY HINKLE AND KENTUCKY MEADE HINKLE

William Billy Hinkle was my Grandpa and Kentucky Meade was my Granny. They were two nice people, facing life together, and enjoying every minute together. My Grandpa was married before he married my Granny. Her name was Mary Bevins. They had three children. She died and he later married my Granny, and they had four children. She cooked three hot meals every day, and took care of all those seven children. She raised cotton and spun it to make socks for her sons’ to wear. They had an outside toilet, washed their clothes on a wash board. They couldn’t afford to buy soap and had to make their own lye soap. They couldn’t buy a mattress had to save chicken feathers or corn shucks for their beds. She lived on Brushy Creek at the Varney Post Office up the hollow, which was called Rise Straw.

She belonged to the Church of Christ, and went every time she could. I don’t know if Grandpa belonged to church or not. Granny’s Mother said, “Tuck don’t leave me”. So my Granny pulled off her bonnet and stayed with her mother. My Granny’s mother’s name was Barbara Ellen Pinson Meade. There was a little
store on Brushy Creek. In the fall of the year, they would get four packs of flour, fifty pound of lard, one hundred pound of soup beans, and their can stuff to do them through the winter. She would get someone to plow the garden up, and she had plenty of vegetables to can for the winter. There was no bus on the road, and they had get their own coal and wood for the winter. Grandpa died with a heart attack. She moved in with her younger son, and had plenty of friends and grandchildren at the funeral.

Here’s a little verse about my Granny. Her journey just began. Don’t think of her as gone away. Her journey just began. She holds so many facts, the Earth is only one. Just think of her resting from the sorrow and the tears. In a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days or years. Think of how she must be wishing that we could know today, but nothing but our sadness can really pass away. Think of her as living in the hearts of those she loved and nothing loved is ever lost. For she was loved so mush. She was a midwife and helped deliver babies. She is buried on Thompson Cemetery beside her husband. We will meet again in Heaven.

Written by her granddaughter,
Edith Hinkle McCoy

DAISY LEA RAY

Daisy Lea Ray, sixty-five, of Turkey Creek, KY, passed away Friday June 2, 2017 at the Pikeville Medical Center. Daisy was born January 5, 1952 at Williamson, WV, to the late Condor Willie Lockard and Frances Irene Reed Lockard. She is also preceded in death by her husband, William Edward “Ed” Ray, three brothers, Ernest Lockard, Cullen Lacy Lockard and Condor "Tadpole" Lockard and one sister, Jeannie Rivard. She was a homemaker and a member of the Turkey Creek Freewill Baptist Church.

Daisy is survived by her children, Susan (Jeff) Norman of Hazard, KY, Chris (Carrie) Ray of Winston Salem, NC, and Jason Ray of Turkey Creek, KY. She is also survived by her sisters, Gloria Rose Coleman of Morganton, NC, Sarah Jane Davis of Turkey Creek, KY, and Sharon Marie Estridge of Sidney, KY, grandchildren, Brett Norman, Dillon Norman, Zac Norman, Harper Ray, Mason Ray, Bella Ray and a host of loving family and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 AM Tuesday June 6, 2017 at R. E. Rogers Funeral Home with Old Regular Baptist Ministers officiating. Burial followed at Reed-Lockard Cemetery, Turkey Creek, KY, with her nephews serving as pallbearers. Visitation was from 6 - 9 PM Monday night at the funeral home with special services at 7 PM. R. E. Rogers Funeral Home of Belfry, KY, served the family.
LARRY ROBINETTE

In the early morning hours of Monday, April 24, 2017, Larry Robinette took his last earthly breath and made his entrance into eternity where we know he was greeted with great love and anticipation by many. He was surrounded by those who loved him most, as he passed and the farewell was as sweet and tender as one should be. Never leaving his side during his last twenty-four hours was his wife, Anna Sue Robinette. The two shared nearly forty-nine years of life together, faithfully committed as they walked through life’s great trials and joys. Their love never wavered, but only grew stronger and deeper. They were truly a light to so many who knew them. They had become one-serving one another in sickness and in health and Anna’s heart will forever remain his. Together in their Waterford home they raised their two children, Tammy Renee Chouinard and Eric Anthony Robinette.

Larry was born to Edward Robinette and Mary Fay (Francis) Robinette in the beautiful mountains of Eastern Kentucky. After the death of their father, he and his siblings were raised by their grandparents, Lilburn Robinette and Fanny Stanley Robinette, at their beautiful homeplace on Brushy Creek. He and his siblings, Verlin, Clayton, Brenda and Reba Gaye shared their childhood with the children of their grandparents: Ernestine Robinette England, Maxine Robinette Davis, Clayton Robinette, Clinton Robinette, Ledna Robinette Young, Victoria “Tori” Oettel, and Landon Robinette. These aunts and uncles, (more like sisters and brothers to them), were a lifelong source of love and support to Larry and his brothers and sisters. The only remaining are Clayton Robinette (Larry’s brother) and Ernie England.

His childhood was in no way easy. He and his siblings worked hard from an early age, but those work ethics stayed with him throughout life and he was so proud of where he came from. Those childhood stories will live on through his children and grandchildren forever.

If Larry could write of his greatest accomplishments and greatest loves, it would be of his marriage, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It was for his wife and them that he worked so hard, not only on the railroad for thirty years, but even after he became sick from the confinement of his home. His family truly believes that a house full of kids and the chaos that comes with it, kept him alive for far longer than had it been empty. They were a constant source of joy and hope for him and he was adored by them all.

Tammy and her daughters and grandchildren all live here in Michigan: Perri-Rae Randolph and her children Luke, Elle and Leo; Maggie Link and Wren Chrysanthemum; Sydney Chouinard. Anthony’s oldest son, Jake Robinette lives in Michigan and Anthony and his wife, Janetta live in Columbus, IN with their children Peyton, Landon, Jonah and Macy. This family will never be the same without the presence of their dad and papa. This obituary would not be complete without the mention of both Larry’s huge extended family of brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, nieces and nephews and his countless friends. They were deeply loved and cherished by Larry and are surely heartbroken at the loss of their cherished friend and fishing buddy.

A celebration of life took place on Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Center. A memorial service was held at the Pilgrim Home Church, Varney, KY on May 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
SARDIS ASSOCIATION

From a long series of experiences we, the OLD REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, being baptized upon a profession of faith in Christ are convinced of the necessity of a combination of Churches in order to perpetuate a union and communion among us and to keep the order and rules of an Association according to the following plan of government.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union and sent to represent them in the Association and, upon their producing Letters from their respective Churches certifying their appointment, they shall be entitled to a seat.

ARTICLE 2. In the Letters shall be expressed their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by Letter, dismissed, excluded, and deceased since our last Association.

ARTICLE 3. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord anything over God's heritage nor shall they have any clerical power over the Churches nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of any Church in the Union.

ARTICLE 4. The Association when convened shall be ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

ARTICLE 5. The Association shall have a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk each chosen separately by a majority vote of the delegates present.

ARTICLE 6. New Churches may be admitted to this union who shall petition by Letter and delegates and, if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly, shall be received; and every Church in the union shall be entitled to a representative in the Association.

ARTICLE 7. Every query presented by the Church to the Association, being first debated in their own Churches, shall be taken up by the Association.

ARTICLE 8. Every motion made and seconded shall come under consideration of the Association, except when withdrawn by the one who made it.

ARTICLE 9. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the Churches with Minutes of the Association.

ARTICLE 10. We think it necessary that we should have an Association Fund for defraying the expenses of the same. We think it the duty of each Church in the union to contribute such sums as they think proper and to send it by their delegates to the Association; and such sums be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer chosen by the Association who shall be accountable for the money paid him by the Association, and paid out according to the Association.

ARTICLE 11. There shall be an Association book kept wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be recorded by a Secretary appointed by the Association who shall receive a compensation for his services.

ARTICLE 12. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if need be, and signed by the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk before the Association rises, unless the same is dispensed with.

ARTICLE 13. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made by a majority of the union, if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE 14. All matters coming before the Association shall be decided by the will of the majority of the delegates present.
ARTICLE 15. The Association shall have the power to provide for the general union of the Churches; to preserve inviolable a chain of communion among the Churches; to give Churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause of the Churches failing to represent themselves at any time in the Association; to appropriate the money contributed by the Churches for the Association fund to any purpose they may think proper; to appoint any member, by their consent, to transact any business which they see necessary; and they shall have the power to withdraw from any Church in the union which violates the rules of the Association or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion; and to admit any orderly Minister of our order to seat with us. The Association shall have the right to adjourn themselves to any future time or place they may think most convenient to the Churches.

ARTICLES OF FAITH
OF THE
SARDIS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God; the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost; and these three are one, equal in power, essence and glory.

ARTICLE 2. We believe the scripture of the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible are the written words of God and are the only rules of faith and practice.

ARTICLE 3. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace, for by grace are ye saved through faith.

ARTICLE 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin and of man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, therefore the Saviour is needed for our redemption.

ARTICLE 5. We believe that sinners are called to repentance and believe in the Gospel and regeneration of the soul and sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, and none shall fall away and be lost.

ARTICLE 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 7. We believe that baptism is the ordinance of God's Church on earth and the mode IMMERSION, back foremost, so as to cover all over.

ARTICLE 8. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the command of the Saviour, and that by use of bread and the fruit of the vine, and feet washing should be kept up until his second coming by his believers.

ARTICLE 9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.

ARTICLE 10. We believe that no Minister has the right to administer the ordinances and commands of the Gospel except such as are regularly baptized by immersion of a legal administrator of the Gospel and ordained coming under the hands of a regularly chosen presbytery of the Church.

ARTICLE 11. We believe it to be the duty of all Church members to contribute for defraying all reasonable expenses of the Church, never forgetting the poor according to their several abilities.

ARTICLE 12. We believe that every doctrine that goes to encourage or indulge people in their sins or cause them to settle down on anything short of saving faith in Christ for salvation is erroneous, and such doctrine shall be rejected by us.

ARTICLE 13. We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of faithful believers in Christ who have obtained fellowship with the Lord and one another, and have given themselves to the Lord and have agreed to keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel.

ARTICLE 14. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and the government thereof is upon His Shoulders.
ARTICLE 15. We believe that a sanctioned marriage of God is between a man and a woman only. Also, we believe in receiving members into our fellowship that follow the natural dating relationship that leads to holy matrimony between a man and a woman only: thereby, preserving the family unit of father, mother and children. Ephesians 5:22,23 and 28, St. Mark 10:6,7,8 and Romans 1:26 and 27.

ARTICLE 16. None of the above Articles shall be considered as to hold with particular election and reprobation so as to make God partial, directly or indirectly, nor to injure any of the children of men, nor shall any of those Articles be altered without legal notice and free consent.

RULES OF DECORUM
OF THE
SARDIS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ARTICLE 2. The Association shall have a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk each chosen separately by a majority vote of the delegates present.

ARTICLE 3. Only one member shall speak at a time who shall arise from his seat and obtain consent from the Moderator when he is about to make his speech.

ARTICLE 4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by anyone except the Moderator until he is through.

ARTICLE 5. He shall strictly adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the person who has spoken so as make remarks on his slips or imperfections, but shall fairly state the cause as nearly as he can so as to convey his ideas.

ARTICLE 6. No person shall abruptly absent himself from the Association without leave of the Association.

ARTICLE 7. No person shall speak more than three times on any subject without leave of the Association, and only five minutes at a time.

ARTICLE 8. No person shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same nor whisper in time of public speech.

ARTICLE 9. No member of the Association shall address another in any other term or appellation than that of "brother."

ARTICLE 10. The Moderator shall not interrupt or prohibit any member from speaking until he gives his light on any subject unless he violates the Rules of Decorum.

ARTICLE 11. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called as often as the Association requires.

ARTICLE 12. The Moderator shall have the same right of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled; and he shall have no right to vote unless the Association be equally divided, then he may give the deciding vote.

ARTICLE 13. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly violate any of the Decorum shall be reproved by the Association as they think proper.
CHURCH DELEGATES
TO THE
SARDIS ASSOCIATION 2017

MT. PLEASANT:  Lacy Walters, Daniel Stanley
APPLE ORCHARD: Charles Lowe, Freddie Maynard, John Young
BENT BRANCH: Dean Lowe, Harold Collins, Michael Lowe
BIG BRANCH: Mitchell Robinson, Don Preece, Brad Tibbs
MARY ELIZABETH: David Staten, Eddie Walters, Clifford Harrison
BETHANY:  Arthur May, Albert Cable, Monty Messer
PILGRIMS HOME: Clyde James, John H. Elkins, Clifton Robinette
SALEM: Ferrell Sesco, Stephen Johnson, Ernest Sesco
SIDNEY:  Butler Fletcher, Eugene Moore, Ronnie Lowe
DIX FORK: David Crigger, Wayne Blackburn, Charles Edwards
NARROWS BRANCH: Donnie Farley, Roscoe Williamson, Bobby Scott, Jr.
LEANNAH: Larry Robinson, Clarence Robinson, Billy Joe Robinson
BUCK CREEK: Vadis Blackburn, Todd Dials, Marion Duncan
TABITHA:  Rex Napier, Alex Hensley, Avery Hensley
LITTLE ROSIE: Harvey White, Alonzo White, Danny Allen
TURKEY CREEK: Ron Hamilton, Danny Reed, Clayburn Varney
SAMARIA: Bernard Aldridge, Larry May, Chester Lackey
ROSA: Franklin Cline, Freddie Cline, Charles Paynter
LITTLE VIRGIE: Alvin Thornbury, Paul Maynard, Ron Gannon
PILGRIMS REST: Andrew Walters, Duane Smith, Gary Young
OKEECHOBEE: Ivan Neil Thornsbury
ELIZABETH: Clyde Perry, Randall Lowe, Tony Mullins
LITTLE TAVIE: Jim Cochran, Lester Cochran, Urias Hall, Jr.
ANTIOCH:  Arthur Mathis
BRIDE OF CHRIST: Sam Frye, Darrell Maynard, Leonard Napier
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Telephone</th>
<th>Church Membership</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackburn, Stony (606)353-4522</td>
<td>Pilgrims Home</td>
<td>2598 Dix Fork Road, Sidney, KY 41564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable, Albert (681)735-3222</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
<td>24 Toms Branch, Lenore, WV 25676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church, Bill (606)353-6480</td>
<td>Pilgrims Home</td>
<td>569 Walters Fork Road, Hatfield, KY 41514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cline, Freddy (304)664-9293</td>
<td>Rosa</td>
<td>204 Pickering Fork, Baisden, WV 25608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochran, Chester (304)675-5162</td>
<td>Little Tavie</td>
<td>151 Chapel Drive, Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochran, Lester (304)675-3324</td>
<td>Little Tavie</td>
<td>Rt. 1, Box 8669 Sand Hill Rd., Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crigger, David (352)732-2017</td>
<td>Dix Fork</td>
<td>P.O. Box 402, Anthony, FL 32617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dials, Thomas J. (606)395-6572</td>
<td>Buck Creek</td>
<td>59 Jacobs Lane, Warfield, KY 41267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dials, Todd J. (606)298-0960</td>
<td>Buck Creek</td>
<td>168 Creekwood Estates, Inez, KY 41224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards, Charles (740)364-0636</td>
<td>Dix Fork</td>
<td>144 Pierson Blvd., Newark, OH 43055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frye, Sam (304)429-2181</td>
<td>Bride of Christ</td>
<td>668 Lewis Subdivision Rd, Huntington, WV 25704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gannon, Ronald (606)237-6275</td>
<td>Dix Fork</td>
<td>2632 Forrest Hills Rd., Forrest Hills, KY 41527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilman, Randy (863)357-3214</td>
<td>Okeechobee</td>
<td>60 N. W. 98th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton, Hobart (304)475-4225</td>
<td>Turkey Creek</td>
<td>270 Riffe Branch Road, Delbarton, WV 25670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hensley, James (304)393-9219</td>
<td>Tabitha</td>
<td>P. O. Box 16, Naugatuck, WV 25685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hensley, John Henry (304)475-5122</td>
<td>Tabitha</td>
<td>Route 2, Box 84C, Delbarton, WV 25670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herald, Wayne, Jr. (740)377-9461</td>
<td>Buck Creek</td>
<td>113 Franklin Street, South Point, OH 45680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard, Willie (606)353-1253</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>P. O. Box 142, Canada, KY 41519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude, Dewey (606)395-5402</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>610 Frog Pond Road, Inez, KY 41224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jude, Kenneth B. (606)673-3003</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>701 Norris Fork Road, Louisa, KY 41230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude, Lonnie (606)390-5470</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>P. O. Box 396, Lovely, KY 41231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jude, Robert (606)395-5009</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>P. O. Box 146, Lovely, KY 41231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lackey, Randall Lee (304)542-2283</td>
<td>Samaria</td>
<td>246 Hickory Lane, Williamson, WV 25661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowe, Gabe D., Jr. (606)395-6355</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>8773 Meathouse Road, Pilgrim, KY 41250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowe, Michael (606)631-6355</td>
<td>Bent Branch</td>
<td>169 Scott Fork, Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowe, Randall L. (606)631-3734</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>13739 Brushy Road, Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathis, Arthur (304)272-5972</td>
<td>Antioch</td>
<td>1915 Craig Road, Wayne, WV 25570</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathis, Clarence (304)272-6732</td>
<td>Antioch</td>
<td>1912 Craig Road, Wayne, WV 25570</td>
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<tr>
<td>May, Arthur (304)393-4118</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
<td>115 May Road, Breeden, WV 25666</td>
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<tr>
<td>May, David (304)393-9109</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
<td>200 Silk Branch, Kermit, WV 25674</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maynard, Paul (606)631-5835</td>
<td>Apple Orchard</td>
<td>12941 Brushy Rd., Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muncy, Homer Jr. (606)395-5686</td>
<td>Leannah</td>
<td>HC 67, Box 620, Pilgrim, KY 41250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Napier, Leonard (304)486-5119
Napier, Rex (304)595-5438
Perry, Clyde (606)298-4481
Robinson, Billy J. (859)321-6919
Robinson, Leon (606)631-9825
Robinson, Timmy (304)235-3425
Runyon, Danny (606)631-7630
Runyon, Jerry (740)992-2687
Sesco, Elbert (606)353-7794
Sesco, Harold (606)353-0161
Smith, Duane (606)631-3423
Smith, Edward L. (606)834-9958
Stanley, Greg (606)437-7978
Staton, Richard (606)237-1217
Thornsbury, Ivan Neal (304)475-3908
Walters, Andrew (606)631-9717
Walters, Lacy (606)353-7468
Williamson, Bruce (606)637-9184
Williamson, Dale (606)631-9738
Williamson, Eric (606)631-9926
Young, Gary (606)631-3959

Little Tavie
Tabitha
Elizabeth
Leannah
Little Virgie
Little Rosie
Pilgrims Home
Little Tavie
Pilgrims Home
Pilgrims Home
Pilgrims Home
Dix Fork
Bent Branch
Pilgrims Home
Dix Fork
Pilgrims Home
Mt. Pleasant
Dix Fork
Pilgrims Home
Pilgrims Home
Pilgrims Home
431 Rocklick Branch Rd., Prichard, WV 25555
1417 1st Avenue, Box 462, East Bank, WV 25067
P.O. Box 1767, Inez, KY 41224
475 Lackey Branch Road, Pilgrim, KY 41250
356 Stanley Fork, Varney, KY 41571
92 View Avenue, Williamson, WV 25661
Brushy Rd., Varney, KY 41571
38143 State Rt. 143, Pomeroy, OH 45769
20 Fonso Stanley Road., Canada, KY 41519
Box 130, Sidney, KY 41564
80 John Young Branch, Varney, KY 41571
2911 Camellia Drive, Flatwoods, KY 41139
4233 Millers Creek, Pikeville, KY 41501
3668 Long Branch Road, Belfry, KY 41514
399 Academy Drive, Delbarton, WV 25670
4981 Brushy Road, Varney, KY 41571
3600 Dix Fork Rd., Sidney, KY 41564
37 Marie Street, Kimper, KY 41539
5213 Zebulon Hwy., Pikeville, KY 41501
1079 Callahan Branch, Kimper, KY 41539
1344 Brushy Road, Varney, KY 41571
LIBERATED BRETHREN

Name and Telephone                  Church Membership                  Address
Hall, Urias, Jr. (740)710-9080        Little Tavie                      216 Florence Avenue, Jackson, OH 45640
Messer, Monty, Jr. (304)752-7986     Bethany                           222 Earl Vance Dr., Dingess, WV 25671
Stacey, Therman (606)625-8442        Dix Fork                          117 Burgett Br. Rd., Hatfield, KY 41514

SARDIS ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS and ADDRESSES

Elder Thomas J. Dials (606)395-6572  Moderator                        59 Jacobs Lane, Warfield, KY 41267
Elder Richard Staton (606)237-1217  Assistant Moderator               3668 Long Branch Rd., Belfry, KY 41514
Elder Michael D. Lowe (606)631-6355  Clerk                           169 Scott Fork, Pikeville, KY 41501
Brother Alvin Thornbury (276)628-8670 Assistant Clerk                   26335 Pewter Lane, Abingdon, VA 24211
Elder Todd J. Dials (606)298-0960    Assistant Clerk                   168 Creekwood Estates, Inez, KY 41224

TRUSTEES OF THE SARDIS ASSOCIATION

Brother Archie Prince   Elder Paul Maynard

61
# CHURCHES and CLERKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHURCH</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>CLERK and ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MT. PLEASANT</td>
<td>17321 East Big Creek Road, Sidney, KY 41564</td>
<td>(606)353-9507</td>
<td>Daniel Stanley, 78 Brown Branch Road, Sidney, KY 41564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLE ORCHARD</td>
<td>10770 Brushy Road, Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
<td>(606)631-9314</td>
<td>Johnny L. Thacker, 356 Billy Lowe Branch, Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENT BRANCH</td>
<td>87 East Helena Ave., Pikeville, KY 40501</td>
<td>(606)631-6355</td>
<td>Michael Lowe, 169 Scott Fork, Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIG BRANCH</td>
<td>16784 Brushy Road, Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
<td>(606)205-1505</td>
<td>Charles Lowe, 13987 Brushy Road, Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARY ELIZABETH</td>
<td>Hatfield, KY 41514</td>
<td>(606)353-9320</td>
<td>Eddie Walters, 56 Davidson Hill, Belfry, KY 41514</td>
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<tr>
<td>BETHANY</td>
<td>654 Laurel Creek, Lenore, WV 25676</td>
<td>(304)486-5960</td>
<td>Archie Prince, 242 Sundance Lane, Prichard, WV 25555</td>
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<tr>
<td>PILGRIMS HOME</td>
<td>3331 Brushy Road, Varney, KY 41571</td>
<td>(606)631-9391</td>
<td>Mike Johnson, 565 John Young Branch, Varney, KY 41571</td>
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<tr>
<td>SALEM</td>
<td>30 Goody Road, Goody, KY 41514</td>
<td>(606)237-4723</td>
<td>Ernest Sesco, 289 Sukey Fork Road, Belfry, KY 41514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDNEY</td>
<td>288 North Wolf Creek, Pilgrim, KY 41250</td>
<td>(606)297-2810</td>
<td>John B. Fletcher, 2976 Natts Creek Road, Louisa, KY 41230</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIX FORK</td>
<td>2484 Dix Fork Road, Sidney, KY 41564</td>
<td>(606)834-9958</td>
<td>Edward L. Smith, 2911 Camellia Drive, Flatwoods, KY 41139</td>
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<tr>
<td>NARROWS BRANCH</td>
<td>1699 Narrows Branch Road, Hardy, KY 41531</td>
<td>(606)353-9747</td>
<td>Bobby Scott, Jr., 148 Josh Hollow Rd, Hardy, KY 41531</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEANNAH</td>
<td>9016 Meathouse Road, Pilgrim, KY 41250</td>
<td>(606)631-4893</td>
<td>Hayes Robinson, 15835 Brushy Road, Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUCK CREEK</td>
<td>12 Big Elk Road, Beauty, KY 41203</td>
<td>(606)298-0960</td>
<td>Todd J. Dials, 168 Creekwood Estate, Inez, KY 41224</td>
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<tr>
<td>TABITHA</td>
<td>218 Wonderland Road, Verdunville, WV 25649</td>
<td>(304)393-9219</td>
<td>James P. Hensley, P. O. Box 16, Naugatuck, WV 25685</td>
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<tr>
<td>LITTLE ROSIE</td>
<td>2791 Buffalo Creek Rd., Williamson, WV 26661</td>
<td>(304)235-0041</td>
<td>Harvey White, 1275 Dan’s Branch Road, Williamson, WV 25661</td>
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<tr>
<td>TURKEY CREEK</td>
<td>1348 Turkey Creek Rd, Turkey Creek, KY 41514</td>
<td>(734)482-3148</td>
<td>Ron Hamilton, 7332 McKean Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAMARIA</td>
<td>3646 Dingess Road, Dingess, WV 25671</td>
<td>(606)534-7487</td>
<td>Larry May, 481 Little Laurel Lane, Louisa, KY 41230</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROSA</td>
<td>Baisden Fork, Baisden, WV 25608</td>
<td>(304)664-9333</td>
<td>Charles Paynter, 1055 Gilbert Creek Road, Baisden, WV 25608</td>
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<tr>
<td>LITTLE VIRGIE</td>
<td>50 Long Fork Road, Kimper, KY 41539</td>
<td>(276)628-8670</td>
<td>Alvin Thornbury, 26335 Pewter Lane, Abingdon, VA 24211</td>
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<tr>
<td>PILGRIMS REST</td>
<td>5051 Brushy Road, Varney, KY 41571</td>
<td>(606)631-9085</td>
<td>Clifton Robinette, 2955 Brushy Road, Varney, KY 41571</td>
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<tr>
<td>OKEECHOBEE</td>
<td>201 S.W. 10th Ave., Okeechobee, FL 34974</td>
<td>(863)763-7347</td>
<td>John Sheppard, 408 S.E. 7th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELIZABETH</td>
<td>8068 South Highway 3, Louisa, KY 41230</td>
<td>(606)631-3734</td>
<td>Randall L. Lowe, 13739 Brushy Rd., Pikeville, KY 41501</td>
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<tr>
<td>LITTLE TAVIE</td>
<td>151 Chapel Drive, Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550</td>
<td>(740)710-9080</td>
<td>Urias Hall, Jr., 216 Florence Avenue, Jackson, OH 45640</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTIOCH</td>
<td>1869 Craig Road, Wayne, WV 25570</td>
<td>(304)272-5972</td>
<td>Arthur Mathis, 1915 Craig Road, Wayne, WV 25570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIDE OF CHRIST</td>
<td>5064 Rt Fork Camp Creek, Huntington, WV 25701</td>
<td>(304)429-6183</td>
<td>George Saunders, 1685 Buffalo Creek Rd, Huntington, WV 25704</td>
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### STATISTICAL TABLE

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<td>Mt. Pleasant</td>
<td>11:00/11:00</td>
<td>Lacy Walters</td>
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