

*Minutes*

MINUTES

OF THE

*34th*

West Florida Baptist Association,

SAMPSON LIBRARY

JOHN B. STEINSON UNIVERSITY

HELD WITH THE  
DeLAND ✧ FLORIDA

CAMPBELLTON CHURCH,

October 16th, 17th & 18th, 1880.

**OFFICERS:**

T. E. LANGLEY, MODERATOR,	- - -	Greenwood, Fla.
A. P. ASHURST, CLERK,	- - -	Greenwood, Fla.
N. B. LONG, TREASURER,	- - -	Greenwood, Fla.

**Notice.**—The next Annual Meeting of the Association will be held with the Friendship Church on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1881. Bro. A. P. Ashurst is appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon,

COLUMBUS, GA.:

THOS. GILBERT, STEAM-PRINTER AND BOOK-BINDER.

1880.

## MINUTES.

CAMPBELLTON, FLA., October 16th, 1880.

THE WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met with the Campbellton Church this day at Campbellton. The Introductory sermon was preached by Eld. D. A. Skipper, from Eph. ii., 8.

At 2½, P. M., the messengers assembled in the house, were called to order by Bro. T. E. Langley.

Letters were then read from the churches and messengers' names enrolled.

The body was organized by the election of Eld. T. E. Langley, Moderator, and A. P. Ashurst, Clerk.

1. Called for petitionary letters, and Chipola Lake, Circle Hill and Grassy Point churches, were admitted, and the right hand of fellowship was extended by the Moderator.

2. Called for correspondents, and received brethren Jno. T. Davis, J. L. Wilson, David Williams, Davis Coonrod, J. Coonrod, T. F. Coonrod, and J. M. Coonrod from the Judson Association.

Received from Newton Association brethren Eld. Pitt Calloway and P. Calloway, Jr.

Brethren Davis from Judson, and Calloway from Newton, brought cheering news from their Associations.

3. Appointed the following correspondents to the Judson Association: Robert Hering, J. W. Johnson, Jos. Lynn, Silas Williford, W. A. Creamer, T. E. Langley and A. P. Ashurst.

4. Appointed as correspondents to the Newton Association, D. A. Skipper, J. J. White, John Stewart, J. W. Rowls, T. E. Langley and A. P. Ashurst.

5. Appointed the following committees, to wit:

*On Preaching*—Alford Beavis, Wm. Dikes, W. J. Daniel, E. W. Dekle and William Farrior.

*On Missions*—A. P. Ashurst, W. J. Daniel and John Stewart.

*On Documents*—N. L. Cornell, E. Z. Taylor and J. B. Henderson.

*On Finance*—E. N. Dekle, J. Lynn, and T. A. Paramore.

*On Sabbath Schools*—W. M. Farrior, R. C. B. Laurance, and J. W. Rowls.

*On Deceased Ministers*—D. A. Skipper, R. Kidd; and J. W. Johnson.

*On Nominations*—J. W. Godwin, H. Sewell and Z. T. Messer.

Appointed correspondents to Sandy Creek Association—D. A. Skipper and M. Osburn.

The committee on Divine Service made the following announcement: Eld. M. Osburn preaches to-night, Eld. P. M. Calloway preaches at 11 o'clock to-morrow, and Eld. C. B. Laurance Sabbath afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Body then adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Monday.

MONDAY, 9 A. M.

Association met. Prayer by Bro. M. Osburn.

Renewed the call for correspondents.

Called for petitionary letters.

Read and adopted the report on Nominations.

Suspended the regular order of business for the purpose of spending a few minutes on the subject of Publications. Bro. Langley represented the claims of the *Christian Index* and the *Baptist* in a forcible speech.

Upon motion, the following committee were appointed to arrange an order of business to be published in the Minutes: A. Beavis, D. A. Skipper and J. Stewart.

Read and adopted the report on Deceased Ministers.

Upon motion, Selma Church was granted a letter of dismissal.

Appointed the next session of the Association to meet with Friendship Church.

Read and adopted the report on Sabbath Schools.

Read the report on Missions, and pending its adoption, speeches favoring its recommendations were made by T. E. Langley, A. P. Ashurst, R. Kidd, A. Beavis, D. A. Skipper, and J. Stewart. The report was adopted, and Eld. T. E. Langley was employed half of his time as an Evangelist, to receive a salary of four hundred dollars.

Upon motion, \$15 was appropriated for the publishing of the Minutes, and \$15 for the Clerk for his services.

Upon motion, the Association proceeded to raise by cash and pledges \$400 to pay Bro. Langley for his services as an Evangelist.

The following pledges were made, to be paid at the next session of the Association:

H. H. Hinson.....	\$ 3 00	M. L. Dekle.....	\$ 10 00
Samuel Daniel.....	1 00	Wm. H. Taylor.....	10 00
Mrs. --- Hood.....	1 00	N. L. Cornell.....	5 00
M. Osborn.....	1 00	Theophilus Kent.....	5 00
H. Sewell.....	10 00	J. W. Rowls.....	5 00
E. N. Dekle.....	10 00	H. G. Land.....	5 00
Jake Stephens.....	10 00	Robert Herring.....	5 00
William Farrior.....	10 00	Alford Pamphrey.....	5 00
Henry Hinson.....	10 00	Mrs. R. E. King.....	5 00
William Dikes.....	5 00	J. N. Parish.....	5 00
Alfred Beavis.....	5 00	Silas Williford.....	10 00
Joseph Lynn.....	5 00	Caroline Daniel.....	5 00
J. B. Henderson.....	5 00	N. B. Long.....	5 00
J. Carter.....	5 00	Raised in Cash.....	214 80
R. C. B. Laurance.....	5 00		
W. A. Creamer.....	5 00	Total.....	\$385 80

A balance of \$14 20 has been promised by brethren who are not willing for their names to appear.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Association met.

Read and adopted Treasurer's Report.

Upon motion, the Moderator was authorized to appoint the Treasurer and Executive Committee, as follows: N. B. Long, Treasurer; J. W. Godwin, W. H. Taylor, H. Sewell, and W. A. Boone.

Read and adopted the Report on Finance.

Appointed general meetings as follows:

1. At Providence Church, on Saturday before the fifth Sabbath in January, 1881.

2. At Bethlehem Church, on Saturday before the fifth Sabbath in May, 1881.

3. At Cedar Pond Church, on Saturday before the fifth Sabbath in July, 1881.

Upon motion, Correspondence was opened with the Southwestern Association in Georgia, and Brethren R. Kidd, T. A. Paramore, J. W. Johnson, D. A. Skipper, and Z. Johnson appointed.

Adopted the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That we hereby express our sincere thanks to this Church, and the citizens of the town and country, for their hospitality to us during this session.

Read and adopted the Minutes; after which the body adjourned.

T. E. LANGLEY, Moderator.

A. P. ASHURST, Clerk.

#### RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

Eld. D. A. Skipper preached Saturday at 11 o'clock; Eld. M. Osburn at night. Eld. P. Calloway preached on Sabbath at 11 o'clock; Eld. A. P. Ashurst at night. Eld. R. C. B. Laurance preached Sabbath afternoon at 2 o'clock; Eld. T. E. Langley preached Monday night.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

### REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, the Committee on Nominations, submit the following report: To preach the Introductory Sermon of the next Association we nominate Bro. A. P. Ashurst.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. JOHNSON, Chairman.

### REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your Committee are glad to inform you that none of our ministers have fallen by death during the associational year. To God be all the praise.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. SKIPPER, Chairman.

SAMPSON LIBRARY

JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY

DeLAND

FLORIDA

## REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions beg leave to report: That nothing has been done since our last session by our Association in obedience to our Lord's command to "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Your Committee beg leave to urge the brethren of the West Florida Association to put an Evangelist in the field, and for that end we herein endeavor to present to your minds the importance, the necessity, as well as the commands of our blessed Saviour to carry on His work in this way. The language of Christ; "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem," is the fullest authority for missions, in the most enlarged sense of the term. "Beginning at Jerusalem" embraces the work of home missions, in all the forms of that work; while the words "among all nations" direct attention to foreign missions, in their world-wide operations. How sublime is the missionary enterprise! It contemplates the evangelization of the world, the salvation of immortal souls, the triumph of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the manifestation of God's glory in all the earth. This enterprise calls for the large contributions of the rich and the smaller offerings of the poor. Every Christian who is not "an object of charity," should give to this cause. How can money be so wisely used? How can gold be employed for a better purpose than in extending the Gospel of salvation, which is "more precious than gold—yea, than much fine gold"? "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts." We must not only cease to do evil when we become Christians, but we must learn to do good. This is our mission on earth—to bear fruit. "I have ordained you," says Christ, "that ye might bring forth fruit." My dear brethren, God has called on us to come up and prove Him by giving our substance for the support of His kingdom on earth, and says He will pour out a blessing in return more than we can contain. Solomon says: "There is that giveth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

Now, while we have no authority to say to any man that in giving to the cause of Christ he will be paid back in kind, we are authorized to say that "he who soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully"; and that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." We are authorized to say that benefactions thus bestowed shall be returned, "full measure, pressed down, and running over." Whether this return shall be in kind, or its equivalent, may well be left to the direction of Infinite Wisdom. It may come in the way of health and vigor to a form wasted by disease; or it may come in blithe, buoyant, happy spirits to a mind surcharged with corroding care; or it may come in "the peace of God that passeth all understanding"—that is itself a priceless boon that money could not buy; or it may come in tears of gratitude from those whose souls have been enlightened by the precious truths of the Gospel that you have sent; but, come when or how it may, it will be accepted by the Giver as a fulfilment of the Divine promises.

To refuse to give to this great work, is to lay our talents up in a napkin. We know that giving is indispensable in Christian worship, or God would not have promised a blessing to follow it, for He does not bless that which is not a duty.

If this be so, then pecuniary sacrifice is an essential element in the religion of Jesus Christ. Whether the absence of such sacrifice, when possible, is a fatal defect, is a question of profound import. Certainly such a defect, to say the least, must be fearfully dangerous; and a man whose religion is wanting in this essential element, has cause for the greatest alarm. Is prayer essential to Christian life? Certainly we should think so. Suppose it to be wholly wanting, would not any one say that such religion is vain? We have no right to distinguish between essential elements. If the absence of one be fatal, we can see no reason why the absence of another should not be equally so; and if this be so, then a religion that costs nothing is worth nothing—and if this be so, then thousands of our brethren are deceiving themselves

with a false hope, and when their house falls, great will be the fall of it. We, too, are deceiving ourselves when we count on them as part of the people of God. The light that does not shine, is not to be reckoned; the salt that has no savor, is fit for nothing but to be "cast out."

Under the former dispensation the tithes due to the altar could be counted; under the Gospel the arithmetic of the case is dispensed with, and something above arithmetic and beyond its reach is substituted for it and enjoined: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." What does not this all-embracing precept involve? If we are required to do a certain thing, the conditions on which alone that thing can be done are also required, whether expressed or unexpressed. What are the conditions to the great work before us? Does it not involve a large outlay of money? Yet we claim to rejoice in the Lord, and we sing psalms in honor of His name, and talk of our sweet experiences, and boast of the number of our converts, when our offerings have cost us nothing, and when we know in advance that the offerings of most of our converts will cost them nothing! Was there ever such empty worship? Is it possible that anything could be more vain and worthless? Is it worship—or is it insult?

But we hope for better things in this Association, and feel that when our brethren are brought to realize the importance of this work, that they will thank God that it is in their power to advance His great cause on earth.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

A. P. ASHURST, Chairman.

## REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee on Documents beg leave to submit the following report: The Salem Church, in Geneva county, Ala., asks for a letter of dismission from your body. The churches at Cedar Pond and Friendship both ask to entertain the next Association. We recommend the vote of the body be taken as to which church the Association shall meet with.

Respectfully submitted,

N. L. CORNELL, Chairman.

## REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Sabbath School is not designed to take the place of pulpit or parental instruction, but to serve as an auxiliary to both. In this capacity it has accomplished much good, and we cordially commend it to the diligent use of all our churches. While we would encourage special efforts to induce the young to attend Sabbath School, we deem it a great and hurtful mistake for persons of riper years to slight its advantages. Indeed, no reason can be urged in favor of children being Bible students, that will not apply with equal force to their parents. If correct views on this subject prevailed in our churches, every Sabbath would witness the assembling of old and young on a common footing to spend awhile in searching the Word of Life. Such a practice would not only make it easy to keep up a school in every community, but would also make the study of the Scriptures a matter of course in every family.

We report Sabbath Schools in the following churches during the last year: Greenwood, Campbellton, and Friendship. Chippola Lake Church has a union school.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM FARRIOR, Chairman.

## REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

CHURCHES.	MINUTES.	ASSOCIAL PURPOSES.	MISSIONS.
Bethlehem.....	\$1 50	\$1 50	\$2 00
Bethesda.....	1 00	75	40
Cedar Pond.....	1 50	1 50	12 80
Chippola Lake.....	75	1 50	
Circle Hill.....	1 00		3 30
Campbellton.....	2 50		28 00
Damascus.....	1 00	1 50	2 00
Ephesus.....	1 00	50	
Friendship.....	1 50		26 45
Greenwood.....	1 90	1 90	75
Grassy Point.....	50	50	1 00
Hickory Level.....	25	50	3 00
Magnolia.....	1 50	50	
Memphis.....	1 00	1 65	10
Mt. Pleasant.....	1 00	1 00	1 00
Mt. Olive.....	1 00		2 50
Orange Hill.....	50	75	
Paradise Grove.....	1 00	1 00	50
Poplar Spring.....	50	75	
Providence.....	1 50	2 20	
Rehoboth.....	1 00	1 20	
Rocky Grove.....	1 50	2 25	
Selma.....	1 50	50	
Sardis.....	1 00	1 70	
Total.....	\$27 90	\$23 65	\$83 80
Sunday Collection.....			21 25

\$105 05

E. N. DEKLE, Chairman.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

	Dr.	Cr.
Oct. 19—By—Cash from Association.....		\$68 45
Nov. 10 " " " Providence Church.....		2 00
" 10 " " " Providence Grove.....		1 00
" 10 " " " Cedar Pond.....		7 65
" 28 " " " Rocky Grove.....		1 30
" 28 " " " Magnolia.....		1 00
March 1—To Cash paid Clerk for services.....	\$15 00	
" 1 " " " for Minutes.....	15 00	
Cash on hand.....	51 40	
	\$81 40	\$81 40

Respectfully submitted,

A. P. ASHURST, Treasurer.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one true and living God, and that there is a trinity of persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.—[Mark xii., 32; Matt. iii., 16, 17; Matt. xxiii., 19; 1st Tim., i., 2, 5; Ex. xx., 1, 3; John i., 1, 4; v., 23; x., 30.

ART. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only rules of faith and practice.—[2d Tim., iii., 16, 17; 2d Peter, i., 21; 2d Sam., xxiii., 2; Rev., xxii., 18, 19.

ART. 3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and the imputation of sin to his posterity; in the corruption of human nature, and the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability.—[Isa. i., 5, 6; Ps. xiv., 1, 3; Rom. v., 12; John vi., 44; 1st Cor. xv., 20, 1; Job xiv., 57; Eph. ii., 8, 10.

ART. 4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to His people, and the eternal election of a definite number of the human race to grace and glory; and that there was a covenant of grace of redemption made between the Father and the Son before the world began, in which their salvation is secure, and they in particular are redeemed.—[Jer. xxi., 3; John xv., 16, 17; Isa. xl., 8, 9; Eph. i., 4, 5, 11; Acts xiii., 48; 2d Thess. ii., 13; 1st Pet. i., 2; Rom. viii., 29, 30; Rom. ix., 11, 12, 23; and xi., 4, 7; 2d Tim. ii., 9.

ART. 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.—[Rom. iii., 21, 5, 56; Ps. xlv.; John x., 9, 15; Rom. v., 1, 10; 1st Cor. i., 30.

ART. 6. We believe that all those who are chosen of God in Christ, will be effectually called, regenerated, converted and sanctified, and supported by the Spirit and power of God, so that they shall persevere in grace, and not one of them be finally lost.—[John x., 29, 30, and vi., 37; Phil. i., 6; 1st Pet. i., 3, 9; Heb. vi., 16, 20; John xvii., 2, 3; 2d Tim. i., 9, 10; Tit. iv., 4, 7; Eph. ii., 45; Rom. viii., 28, 31.

ART. 7. We believe that good works are the fruit of faith, and follow after justification; and that they only justify as in the sight of men, and are only evidences of our Christianity.—[Eph. ii., 10; James ii., 13, and iii., 13; 1st Pet. ii., 3, 5; Matt. v., 16.

ART. 8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment; and the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked, will be eternal.—[Mark xii., 24, 27; 2d Cor. v., 10; 1st Cor. xv., 12, 29; Acts xvii., 31; Matt. xxv., 46; John v., 28, 29; Thess. i., 7, 10.

ART. 9. We believe that the Church of Christ is a visible congregation of baptized believers, who have gained Christian fellowship with each other; and that immersion is the only Scriptural mode.—[Rom. vi.

ART. 10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great-Head of His Church and only Lawgiver, and that the government is with the body and is the privilege of each individual, and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclamation of those Christians who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and the peace and unity of the church.

ART. 11. We believe that Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Lord, and are to be continued until His second coming.

ART. 12. We believe that none but those regularly baptized, and who are in fellowship with the church, have a right to commune at the Lord's table.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	CLERKS' P. O.	Rec'd by Baptism	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dismis'd by Letter	Exclud'd	Dead	Total.	Day of Meeting
Bethlehem	D. A. Skipper	J. W. Rawls, H. G. Land	Marianna	4	...	...	5	...	1	42	3
Bethesda	J. J. White	B. F. Smith, M. Holoway	Big Creek, Geneva Co.	7	4	...	3	1	...	50	8
Cedar Pond	A. P. Ashurst	T. A. Paramore, J. H. Watt, H. Oswald	Neal's Landing	15	5	...	14	1	1	62	2
Circle Hill	Robert Kidd	E. J. Moodie, Henry Cloud	Neal's Landing	8	1	...	1	...	...	25	4
Chipola Lake	T. E. Langley	H. L. Connell, E. Z. Taylor	Wewahitchka, Fla.	5	4	...	1	...	...	14	4
Campbellton	T. E. Langley	E. N. Dekle, W. M. Farrow, W. J. Daniel	Campbellton	2	...	...	3	1	...	42	2
Damascus	J. J. White	J. Franklin, M. H. York, J. Miller	Graceland	15	9	5	4	2	1	96	3
Ephesus	J. W. Johnson	R. Harris, J. W. Johnson	Campbellton	2	11	...	...	...	...	30	1
Friendship	A. P. Ashurst	L. T. W. Baxter, H. Sewell, J. Lynn	Greenwood	...	...	...	...	4	...	48	4
Greenwood	T. E. Langley	W. W. Godson, J. H. Stephens, Bevis	Greenwood	4	2	...	...	...	...	52	1
Grassy Point	John Stewart	T. O. Kent	Bear Creek, Wash'n Co	11	1	...	...	...	...	19	...
Hickory Level	D. A. Skipper	A. Pumphrey, W. Madox	Marianna	2	...	...	7	...	...	29	...
Magnolia	R. C. B. Laurence	Z. T. Messer, John Mathis	Chipola, Oalhoun Co.	14	5	1	...	...	...	21	...
Memphis	S. Williford	W. H. Creamer, T. J. Creamer	Dalton, Henry Co., Ala	6	7	4	...	...	...	40	...
Mt. Pleasant	D. A. Skipper	J. Parish, R. Harrell, J. Sharpe	Campbellton	2	1	1	5	4	1	43	...
Mt. Olive	Robert Kidd	J. H. Gabel	Ochesee	1	...	...	3	...	...	12	...
Orange Hill	J. W. Johnson	R. W. Peel, S. Arnold	Orange Hill	...	...	...	7	1	...	21	...
Paradise Grove	R. C. B. Laurence	Henry Groen, John Messer	Dellwood	1	4	...	...	...	...	27	...
Poplar Spring	R. C. B. Laurence	John Dykes, Geo. Dykes	Marianna	...	...	...	1	...	...	25	2
Providence	W. D. Simpson	Moses Dykes, Z. Johnson, L. Daniel, J. Owens	Ochesee	...	4	2	1	1	1	45	...
Reheboth	J. J. White	Jas. Rogers, W. J. Smith	Big Creek, Geneva Co.	3	3	1	3	4	...	37	...
Rocky Grove	Robert Kidd	J. B. Henderson, W. H. Dykes, J. Y. Folsom, J. Stephens	Marianna	2	1	1	4	1	8	55	3
Selma	S. Williford	S. Martin, P. Martin	Dalton, Henry Co., Ala	5	4	1	5	1	...	53	...
Sardis	W. D. Simpson	W. J. Edenfield, D. Player	Ochesee	1	...	2	6	2	...	59	4
				-110	66	19	72	23	12	947	

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call for Petitionary Letters.
2. Invite Visiting Brethren to seats with us.
3. Call for Correspondence.
4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
5. Appoint Committee on Nominations.
6. Appoint Committee on Deceased Ministers.
7. On Publications.
8. On Sabbath Schools.
9. On Missions.
10. On Documents.
11. On Temperance.
12. On Finance.
13. Arrange for Meeting and Adjourning.
14. Appoint Correspondents.
15. Elect Executive Committee and Treasurer.
16. Elect Delegates to State Convention.
17. Appoint General Meetings.
18. Arrange time and place for next meeting.
19. Call for Report of the Executive Committee.
20. Call for Report on Missions.
21. Call for Report on Finance.
22. Call for Report on Temperance.
23. Call for Report on Sabbath Schools.
24. Call for Report of the Treasurer.
25. Call for Report on Documents.
26. Call for Report on Publications.
27. Call for Report on Deceased Ministers.
28. Call for Report on Nominations.
29. Read and Adopt the Minutes.
30. Adjourn.