

**Historical Summary**  
**By Robert Carruthers**  
**Director of Missions, 1999 to present**

ARTICLES OF UNION of the UNITED BAPTISTS OF CHRIST.

1. We believe that to us there is but one God the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, and we by Him, --1 Cor. 8 ch. 6 ver.; and that the Holy Ghost is that which proceedeth from the Father and the Son, and is the comforter of the church and the reprove of the world.
2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the infallible Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
4. We believe in the perseverance of the saints in grace to glory.
5. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general and universal judgement; that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
6. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons who have obtained fellowship with each other, and agreed to keep up a godly discipline according to the rules of the gospel.
7. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and that the government thereof is with the body.
8. We believe that Water Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Washing Feet are ordinances of the Lord, and to be continued by the church until his Second Coming.
9. We believe that true believers are the only proper subjects of baptism, and that burial is the only scriptural mode.
10. We believe that none have a right to commune at the Lord's table but those who have the Spirit of God to bear witness with their spirit that they are born of God.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. We agree to meet annually, at the time and place designated by the Association.
2. This body is composed of Messengers and Elders from churches; members in good standing.
3. A Moderator and Clerk, to be chosen by a majority of all present in the Association. It is the duty of the Moderator to keep order and put all subjects to vote, and to give the casting vote when the Association is equally divided, and extend the right hand of fellowship to churches received into the Union. The Clerk shall make a record of all the proceedings of the annual meetings, preserve all papers and deliver them to his successor.
4. All the meetings shall be opened by prayer, and closed by returning thanks on the bended knees.
5. This body, when assembled, shall be considered a vicarious council, and shall acknowledge the power and preponderance of the churches, and in no case exercise any power or authority over the churches.
6. This Association shall have power and authority to drop from fellowship any church, which in the opinion of the Association is corrupt in principle or practice contrary to the Word of God.
7. All ordained ministers, members of churches forming this body, shall be members of the same by virtue of their office.
8. That each church sends four messengers to the Association.
9. Visiting brethren to be invited to seats, -to discuss all subjects, but vote on none.
10. No question shall be taken up and voted upon but by a motion and second.
11. No member shall absent himself in time of business without leave of the Moderator.
12. Any Motion containing two or more points shall, at the request of any member, be divided, and vote taken separately.
13. No church shall receive an excluded member until satisfaction is made to the church from which they were excluded.
14. No member shall speak more than once on any subject until all have spoken who desire to speak on the subject, and shall confine himself to the subject under consideration; ten minutes being the time allotted to each speaker.

1858 The Sandy Creek Baptist Association began with three churches: Mt. Zion, Pleasant Point, and Sandy Creek, June 11 & 12, 1858. The first meeting was held at the Mt. Zion church. According to the call of the Sandy Creek Church, a convention convened with the Mt. Zion church and was composed of 12 delegates from these three churches. This meeting was for the formal organization of the association.

The first annual meeting actually took place with the Pleasant Point church, October 16, 17 and 18 of 1858. At this meeting there were 15 messengers listed and a total of 176 church members on the church roles.

The sermon texts were listed in the minutes as well as visiting ministers from other churches and associations.

1859 The Second Annual Meeting of the Sandy Creek Association of United Baptists was held. The meeting was held at the Mount Zion Church, Macoupin County, IL (Scottville).

There were five churches represented: Sandy Creek, Mount Zion, Pleasant Point, Glasgow and Wilmington. Glasgow and Wilmington were received into the Association at this meeting. The Statistical Table reported Church Meetings, those received by Experience, those received by Recommendation, those received by Letter, those Restored, Dismissed, Excluded, Dead, and total membership. For 1859 there were 300 members within these five churches.

The Association's Annual Meeting was held on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 14-15-16, 1859. The first session was one whereby the committees were appointed, did their requested duty, and reported back at a following session. Committee were entitled "for Religious Exercises," "Arrangements," "Resolutions," and "Finances."

The Articles of Union were included in the Annual printing along with the Rules of Decorum, which we still read at our current Annual Meetings.

A Circular Address was also published. This year the subject was the "Trinity," by Elder A. J. Johnson. (We will never know his real name; they only printed the first initials, and on occasion actually used a first name.)

1860 The Oakland Baptist church joined the association

1861 New Hope joined the association.

Elder Benjamin Johnson is memorialized. He departed this life on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1861 at the age of 69 years. He was born in Augusta county, Virginia in 1792 and moved with his parents to Kentucky, in 1810. We learn that he father served eight years under Gen. Washington, and bore all the trials and severities of a revolutionary soldier. Elder Johnson professed religion in the year 1810 and joined the church and lived a devoted member until his death, a space of 51 years. He was licensed to preach in 1811 and ordained in 1815, which office he filled with ability the remainder of his life. He moved to Illinois in 1830 and settled six miles south of Jacksonville, when the country was nearly a wilderness. He was the first man who preached the Gospel in Buckhorn Prairie.

1862 Pacific Union joined this year. They are listed as west of Carrollton and stayed in membership until 1867 at which time they requested a letter of dismissal.

Very little is mentioned of the current war that is taking place in our nation at the time. In fact the only hint given in the association's minutes was that two ministers' addresses were listed as "army" in the 1864 minutes.

1865 In each of the annual meetings a protracted meeting is encouraged by each church, as well as "Sabbath Schools."

1867 An Itinerate ministry was mentioned at the annual meeting. This idea did not gain much support until 1870

1870 This year we are thankful to say that there are 16 churches in the association with a total membership of 652. Churches included Mt. Zion Church in Brown County, Bethel in Adams County, Union in Pike County, along with those from Morgan, Scott, and Macoupin Counties.

A special obituary was printed in this edition of the minutes:

In memory of our departed brother, Elder J. B. McGlasson, who departed this life on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 1869, at the age of ninety-three years.

Elder McGlasson was born in Bedford County, Virginia, in the year 1776 and married to Miss Dosha Holla in 1801 moved to Kentucky in 1807. He professed religion and joined the church in 1811, and lived a devoted Christian until his death, a period of fifty-seven years. He was licensed to preach the gospel in 1811, and ordained in 1812, which office he filled with ability the remained of his life. He moved to Illinois and settled six miles south of Winchester, Scott County, in 1829, where he labored faithfully in the gospel field until the year 1846, when he moved to Iowa. He there spent a number of years in the ministry, and then moved back to Scott County, Illinois, where he spent the remainder of his days in warning sinners to flee the wrath to come. In his death this Association has lost a faithful minister and a devoted Christian. His funeral was attended by a large and attentive congregation. The service was conducted by Elder Milton McGlasson and Deacon Jewett, of Scott County, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 1869.

1874 This year we had 14 churches reporting and 812 members among our churches.

Of note is the Resolutions Committee Report:

*Resolved*, that we disapprove the act of a Church member or Christian in loaning money at an unlawful or exorbitant rate of interest.

*Resolved*, that we most heartily disapprove of the Woman's Temperance Movement for the suppression of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

*Resolved*, that we believe the Christian Sabbath is ordained of God, and that the tendency to convert it into a day of festivity and sensual pleasure, is a perversion of God's ordinances, and we call upon all good citizens to assist in maintaining our religious and American institutions.

*Resolved*, that it is the sense of this body that every Baptist Church should maintain a denominational Sunday School, in which Bible doctrine can be fully taught.

*Resolved*, that every Baptist should patronize our Bible Publication Society and Denominational Periodicals, and thereby assist in spreading Bible truths at home and abroad.

*Resolved*, that the Minutes of the Association be printed under the supervision of the Clerk, who is authorized to retain \$10 for his services.

*Resolved*, that the thanks of the Association are hereby tendered to the members of Mt. Zion Church and community for their Christian hospitality in caring for those attending during this Annual meeting.

An annual occurrence in the Minutes was a Corresponding Letter to the churches. This one is from 1874.  
Corresponding Letter.

*The Sandy Creek Association of United Baptist in Christ to the Christian bodies with whom we correspond--Greetings:*

Dear Brethren: We have enjoyed another Annual Meeting, in which we feel that the Spirit of God has been made manifest among us. Good tidings reach us from most of our Churches, and some revivals are reported with an ingathering of souls to Christ. We are still endeavoring to maintain and spread the Gospel in its purity.

Your Corresponding Messengers were cordially received, and we were much refreshed by their presence. We desire to keep up and strengthen the Correspondence between us. Any of our members who may be present at your Annual Meeting will be recognized as our Correspondents.

Given by order of the Association at its Seventeenth Annual Meeting, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1874.

ISHAM ROBERTS, Moderator  
S. D. Cannedy, Clerk. P.O. Greenfield, Illinois

(The development of Home Mission work was spawned and supported through the Sandy Creek Association. Here are some records from the minutes showing this development.)

Morning Session: Saturday, September 19, 9:00 o'clock, a. m.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator is in the chair. Opened with Prayer by Elder J. P. Guthrie.

1. A motion to change the time of holding the Annual Meeting of the Association was lost.
2. The report of the Committee on itinerancy was received, and the Committee discharged.
3. The itinerant Missionary, Elder Isham Roberts, reported that he had labored one month, preached forty sermons, made fifteen exhortations, witnessed forty-five conversions, organized one Church with forty members, baptized thirty-eight converts, and received the sum of \$60 for his services.
4. The Committee of Arrangements made its final report, which was received and the Committee discharged.
5. Agreed to send out a Home Missionary, to preach during the year within the bounds of the Association.
6. Authorized the Moderator to appoint a Committee of three Brothers and four Sisters to solicit funds to support the Home Missionary, and report at the next Annual Meeting. Moderator appointed Brothers J. T. Dougherty, H. A. Roberts and John Adams, and Sisters Hester Million, Winna Ford, Eliza Blair and Sister Robbins, as such committee.

Other business was conducted, but this is significant in the evangelization of our area.

Friday, September 17, 1875                      Afternoon Session

At this Annual Meeting the Report from the Committee on Home Missions was received and the committee was dismissed. At this same session the association agreed to send out a Home Missionary to preach in the bounds of the association. The following day Elder H. L. Johnson was chose to travel and preach in the bounds of the association as the Home Missionary.

Morning Session, August 19, 1876

1. 9 o'clock a. m. met pursuant to adjournment. Moderator in the chair. Prayer by Elder A. H. Scott.
2. Agreed to have a home missionary and his boundary be unlimited.
3. By private ballot, elected Elder Isham Roberts as home missionary.
4. By permission of the Moderator, the Clerk appointed Bros. A. L. Steelman, J. T. Daugherty and Elder Wm. M. Rhoads as committee, to draft a plan to secure funds for the support of the home missionary.

The Circular Letter was on the subject of "Preaching the Gospel of Christ" by Elder H. L. Johnson. The Statistical Table reported that there were 16 churches in the association with over 1000 church members.

This year also brought three significant obituaries:

Elder John C. Caudle: Died July 30, 1876 with consumption, brought on by public speaking. His funeral was preached by Elder C. P. Johnson. And many friends came to see the last remains of the beloved brother. The last sermon preached by him, was from the words, "Blessed and holy is he who hath part in the first resurrection, for on him the second death shall have no power." During his illness he often spoke of his hopes in God being strong. He was ordained as a Baptist Minister, June 5<sup>th</sup>, AD 1862; he, like Job of old, held to his integrity, and presented the plain truths of the Gospel. He leaves a devoted wife and two children to mourn his loss. While they have lost from there company a devoted husband and father, this Association feels the loss of one of their most efficient and worthy Ministers. Knowing that God doeth all things well...we submit.

Elder Jonathan B. Robbins: Died February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1876 of lung fever. He made a profession of religion in his 16<sup>th</sup> year. Ordained as a Baptist Minister, AD 1868; he was an exemplary Christian; he had many friends, and few enemies; he was a native of New Jersey. Being a resident of this State near 26 years; he was one that did much for the upholding of the Church; he leaves a wife and many friends to mourn his loss. This Association feels that our loss is his eternal gain.

Elder J. L. Garrison: Died, April 8<sup>th</sup> AD 1876. Ordained as a Baptist Minister, AD 1865; he was a member of the Pleasant Dale Church, Greene County, Illinois. He leaves three children and many friends to mourn his loss. May God watch over his sleeping dust, is the prayer of this association.

Friday, September 13, 1878

11. Called for the Home Missionaries' reports, which were read, received and synopsis ordered printed in the minutes.
12. Home Missionaries' reports:

Elder J. W. Bush preached 135 days; witnessed 225 conversions; baptized 42, and received \$181.75.

Elder Wm. M Rhoads preached 134 days; witnessed 230 conversions; baptized 46, and received \$104.75.

13. Called for Committee on Home Missions, which reported no collections, but some money subscribed.
14. On motion, report of Home Mission Committee was received and committee discharged.
15. Agreed to continue the Home Mission work. Elected Elder's J. W. Bush and Wm. M. Rhoads Home Missionaries, and asked the churches to sustain them.

Of note this year is the Resolutions Committee Report:

*Resolved*, that we heartily approve of the temperance reform movement and that we will aid it with our influence and our prayers. **This is a reversal from the 1874 report.**

*Resolved*, that we sympathize with the yellow fever sufferers in the South, and that we will help them with our prayers and contributions, and that a collection be taken on Sunday for that purpose.

*Resolved*, that the eighth article in our rules of Decorum, be changed to read three instead of four messengers.

*Resolved*, that the eighth article in our principles of union be changed to read, "we believe that the ordinances of the church are two; water baptism, and the Lord's Supper, and that washing feet is an example which should be practiced by Christians until the Lord's Second Coming."

*Resolved*, that we still recommend our churches that have ordained ministers that are not preaching or officiating, to request them to go to work for the Lord or surrender their credentials.

*Resolved*, that we request our churches to organize and sustain Sunday Schools.

*Resolved*, that we request our ministers and messengers to come prepared, if possible, to remain through the entire session of the association.

8. On motion, agreed that the Committee on Arrangements and Resolutions hereafter be one.
9. By ballot, agreed to hold the next annual meeting of the association with Pleasant Point Church, Greene County, four miles north of Greenfield, Ill., on the St. Louis division of the C., B. & Q. R. R., commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. Friday, before the third Lord's day, in September 1879. J. W. Bush to preach the introductory sermon and Wm. M. Rhoads alternate.
10. Adjourned to meet at 2:30 p. m. Prayer by Elder C. P. Johnson.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2:30 o'clock

1. Association met pursuant to adjournment, Moderator in the chair. Opened with prayer by Elder J. Whitaker.
2. A very interesting essay was read by Elder J. W. Bush on Conversion.
3. Resolved: That we believe that deacons have a right to administer the ordinances of the church.
4. Resolved: That we believe that ministers have a right to baptize persons upon a confession of their faith in Christ, if demanded by the candidates without requiring them to first be attached to a church.
5. Requested the Union Church to hear a statement from C. L. Hamilton, and duly consider the same.

This year's circular letter was on the subject of "Feet washing" by Elder J. W. Bush.

1879                    19 Churches reporting                    1451 church members

1882                    The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association  
24 Churches reporting                    1534 church members

1883    In this edition of the annual minutes there is a list of other associational meetings that the members of Sandy Creek Baptist Association will be attending this year.

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3. Mutually agreed to ask correspondence with the following named Associations, and the Brethren's names as appears volunteered to attend them:

Apple Creek Association: Elders J. P. Alexander and J. W. Bush.

Macoupin Association: Elders J. D. Johnson and H. L. Johnson

Illinois Conference: G. W. Lear and J. J. Varner

Central Illinois: W. M. Rhoads, J. W. Bush, and J. D. Johnson

Edwardsville Association: Elders H. L. Johnson and J. A. Smith

Quincy Association: J. J. Varner, G. W. Lear, and J. P. Alexander

Carrollton Association: J. D. Johnson and J. Manley

1886 At this annual meeting there was a report from the Home Missionary, but the name is not mentioned. And there was a resolution stating: That we recognize all ordained ministers of our Association as Home Missionaries and advise that they labor as much as possible and raise means for their support in their respective fields of labor.

At this time there is more interest and encouragement in developing Sunday Schools in the churches.

On the back of the Annual is a list of the officers of the Association. Being the Moderator, Elder W. M. Rhoads; Clerk and Treasurer (one person), I. Whitlock; a Home Mission Board made up of three men, and the local Missionary, Elder Elijah Anthony.

1887 Resolutions:

1. That we still adhere to the belief that every Christian is, and of right ought to be, a consistent advocate of total abstinence from the use of intoxicating drinks. And, that we are in hearty sympathy with the people of the United States in their endeavors to prohibit the use of intoxicating drinks.
2. That we rejoice in the success of our mission work in this association. And, we urge a faithful continuance in well doing.
3. That we recommend the circulation of religious Baptist periodicals among the churches of the association.
4. That we recommend our people as they may feel able to support the Illinois Baptist General Association, the Missionary Union, the American Baptist Home Mission Society.
5. That there should be a Sunday School in each of our churches, and there should be such Missionary work and Institute work done as will secure efficiency and uniformity in the work of such schools, and that this Association devote Friday evening of each annual meeting to Sunday School work.
6. That a higher degree of education is needful in order to the successful prosecution of our work in evangelizing the world, therefore we urge on our ministers a close application to study, and our young men to attend Shurtleff College or other Baptist Schools.
7. That a vote of thanks be tendered the Moderator and Clerk for their faithful performance of their duties.
8. That a vote of thanks be offered the good people of Sheffield Church and vicinity for the cordial and hospitable manner they have entertained us at their homes.
9. That we extend our thanks to the M. E. Church for the use of their house, and to Mr. Charles Scandrett for the use of his beautiful grove.

During this Annual Meeting there was a healthy exchange of church policy that was reported:

1. Query: "Does a church have a right to exclude a member for public offence without regular trial when he was notified and failed to attend? The member was excluded for keeping an open saloon. The Association answered by a unanimous vote: Yes is has!"
2. Query: "Has a minister of another Association who is preaching to one of our churches the right to act as a messenger?" No.

This year the Annual listed 28 churches and 2017 church members in the Statistical Table.

1888 A list of Sunday School Statistics is on the last page of the Annual. In fact a Sunday School Convention was included in the Annual Meeting of the association.

Elder J. D. Johnson died at this home in Athensville, Sunday September 16, 1888. He was a well-known Baptist minister and humorous orator. He was born in Morgan Co. IL March 28, 1843, and was consequently 45 years, 5 months, and 18 days of age. Elder Johnson was a well-known and respected citizen of our community and his loss will be severely felt by all. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his loss.

1889 Not only was a Sabbath School Convention part of the Annual Meeting, but also a Ministerial Conference was included. Various sections of the meeting were divided up. The Bible Doctrine of Church Discipline was first. The 'necessity of doctrinal preaching' was led by Elder W. E. Vaughan, followed by others. Elder B. F. Drake led "How should revivals be conducted?"

Another Minister's Conference was planned to be part of the next Annual meeting of the association.

1890 A Constitution first appears in the Annual Minutes for the Association. This constitution was the guiding document for the Sandy Creek Association until it was rewritten in 2004.

1891 The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sandy Creek United Baptist Association was held with the West Union United Baptist Church on September 17, 18, and 19.

Of note: the resolution included various good and noble items as well as this one. Number 6: Inasmuch as we are taught in God's word to shun every appearance of evil, and as we believe that those play-parties, so called, and fish-fries on Sunday to be detrimental to the young Christians, therefore, we advise our young members to avoid attending these places.

1892 The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

An issue was brought up described as "Alien Baptism" because a man became pastor of one of the churches, but had questionable credentials. The pastor was counseled, baptized, and welcomed into the fellowship of the association.

1893 An important resolution was passed. The resolution being those three offerings be taken up in the coming year. One in November for Associational work, one in March for State and Home Missions, and one in June for Foreign Missions.

1894 Uncle Henry L. Johnson passed away. In the Association's Annual these words were offered about his ministry.

His family and many friends followed his remains to the Bethel cemetery. He was laid beside his wife, who so recently preceded him. As a man he was plain and frank in his manner. As a citizen he stood high in esteem among his neighbors. In his business transactions he was very conscientious and prompt in meeting his every obligation. As a minister he was clear in his deduction, and so powerfully would he present his arguments that his hearers ere moved to action or deeply impressed with the importance of Christianity. He was peculiarly adapted to the work of an evangelist, although he was always pastor of one or more churches. He baptized 1784 persons, solemnized over 400 marriages, officiated at more than 1000 funerals, organized and built up many churches, assisted in the organization of Sandy Creek Baptist Association, helped in the ordination of a large number of ministers, traveled thousands of miles on horseback and in buggy. He traveled in all kinds of weather, his motto being to never fail to meet his appointments. He was pastor of one church, Wilmington for 19 years, traveled 7500 miles in preaching to it. The experiences, trials, hardships, sacrifices, and labors of this grand old soldier of the Cross-would make a large and interesting volume. Truly his life blessed the world. He planted, others watered. He sowed, and others are now reaping. We must close with this quotation, "blessed are the dead that die in the Lord," Rev. 14:13.

1897 W.P. Throgmorton attended the annual meeting and preached a sermon. This man was instrumental in the beginning of the Illinois Baptist State Association that was established in 1907.

There were 20 churches reporting to the association with 1710 church members. Fifteen of the churches reported Sunday Schools this past year.

Elizabeth Ford was listed as a licensed minister in the association's annual. She was listed as such until 1907.

Shurtleff College was a good source for seeking Baptist Ministers in training.

Reports from the American Baptist Home Mission Society were a regular occurrence in the association's annual. A report on State Missions and Foreign Missions were also staples.

1904 Support for a missionary couple serving in Syria was encouraged. They were sent out by the Gospel Missionary Convention of Illinois. This convention met at the Wilmington Baptist Church at Patterson this past year where Elder J. K. David and his wife were elected to serve in Syria.

Adjustments in our statements of belief came up on occasion. The contrast found in the Articles of Union from 1903 and 1904 will explain this issue.

Article 1. We believe that to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him (1 Cor. 8:6) And that the Holy Ghost is that which proceedeth out from the Father and Son, and is the comfort of the church, and the reprove of the world.

This was changed to:

Article 1. We believe there is but one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Article 7. We believe that the ordinances of the church are two; water baptism and Lord's Supper; and that washing feet is an example and should be practiced by Christians until the Lord's Second Coming.

This was changed to:

Article 7. We believe that the ordinances of the church are two, water baptism and Lord's Supper.

Article 8. We believe that only baptized believers have a right to the communion, and they should have repented of their sins and have been baptized by a qualified administrator, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

This was changed to:

Article 8. We believe that only baptized believers have a scriptural right to the Lord's Supper and they should have repented of their sins and have been baptized by a scripturally qualified administrator and belong to a Baptist Church.

It was decided at this meeting to have the Annual meeting take place the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before the fourth Sunday in August. This was a tradition that lasted into the 1990's.

1908 We do not have a 1907 annual available for review. However important documentation is listed in the 1908 Annual regarding the beginnings of the Illinois Baptist State Association. It is listed under the heading of "State Missions."

The report reads:

The Illinois Baptist State Association stands for the original faith and practice of the Baptists, as found in the Bible alone.

The Illinois Baptist State Association draws the line against false doctrine and false practices, declaring non-fellowship with Baptist Churches, members, churches and associations that believe, teach and practice false doctrines.

It not only looks with disfavor upon the union of the Memorial Baptist Church and the First Christian Church of Chicago as the legitimate result of false doctrines believed by both bodies; but also declares the action to be but the fruitage of false practices in the conduct of both bodies.

The Illinois Baptist State Association therefore would raise a warning voice against the ordination of men to the ministry, who like D. N. Simmons of Paw Paw, who not only take Unitarian ground but advertise their belief in the heathen doctrine of Pantheism. Such are unworthy and disqualified men, though graduates from the University of Chicago, and are not fit to preach to the weakest and poorest Baptist Church. Such ordinations are in harmony with the teaching of George B. Foster of the University of Chicago, which giant is the Goliath now defying the armies of the Living God in general, but of Illinois in particular

The Illinois Baptist State Association is as David meeting these blasphemies with the five smooth stones.

1. The full inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. 2. The absolute necessity of spiritual regeneration. 3. Salvation by grace through faith in Christ's atoning blood. 4. The essential Deity of Jesus Christ. 5. Scriptural baptism and membership in a Baptist church are orderly and essential pre-requisites to communion at the Lord's supper as observed among our people.

The Illinois Baptist State Association has had under appointment thirty-four evangelists. During the ten months ending August 1, 1908 there were thirteen hundred ninety additions to the churches.

There has been about eight thousand dollars raised in cash and pledges during these ten months.

The next annual meeting will be held at Marion, Ill., Oct. 26-29, 1908.

We recommend to our churches the doing of State Mission work in co-operation with the I. B. S. A. so far as is practical.

B. F. Rodman, H. L. Derr, and Leslie Jackson were on this committee.

The report was discussed and adopted.

1911 Persons representing different institutions in the state were listed:  
W. P. Throgmorton presented the claims of the Illinois Baptist newspaper.  
B. F. Rodman, the State Association  
C. W. Haskins, the Huddleston Home.  
W. R. Johnson, Shurtleff College and Aged Ministers' Home.  
W. B. Morris, American Baptist Publication Society.  
E. L. Carr, Ewing College.  
J. O. Raines, Tabernacle church.  
Henry Raines, Mt. Olive church.  
J. N. Barrett, Beardstown church.  
John Rhoads, Kampsville church.

The churches of the Sandy Creek Association continued support for the Gospel in Syria, Palestine, and Galilee. Support was sent to J. O. Raines and forwarded on to the Baptist Missionary Convention.

Rev. John Alexander is first listed as a licensed minister in the association. His ministry continued until the 1950's. Bro. John could not read, but his wife would read the scriptures to him and he would memorize them prior to the delivery of his sermons.

29 churches were listed in the Annual this year.

1913 15 Sunday School Conventions took place at various churches this year.

During these years there were more reports given, the Annual meeting lasted three days, as has happened for a few years already, and more sermons were preached. There was a Committee on Committees which elected all other committees. These are the following committees: Resolutions, District Missions, State Missions, Revisions, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Ministerial Institutes, Sunday Schools, Religious Literature, Orphanage, and the Obituary report were all reported in the Annual Minutes.

Various institutions were also present at the Annual meeting. Illinois Baptist State Association and the Illinois Baptist Newspaper, as well as one from the Home Missions and Church Building, Foreign Missions. Correspondents from different associations present were: Apple Creek Association, Macoupin, Greene and Jersey, Morgan and Scott, Alton, Central Illinois.

1915 This year all we have is the huge framed newspaper clipping that commemorates the campaign to raise support for missionaries in Persia, Syria, and Palestine. J. O. Raines was the primary correspondent for the foreign missions efforts in Sandy Creek Association at this time.

1916 At this meeting an order of business was adopted. It was more organized with specific committees giving their reports at specific times over the three day meeting.

Miss Mary Worthington represented the State Association on Women's Work. The women of the State Association during the last year have raised four scholarships for the W. M. U. Training School, have kept a state worker for the women, paid the salary of Miss Mary Kelly of Herrin, who is working among the foreigners, and have helped to support the women on the foreign field.

Mission work within the association took place at Chandlerville, Kampsville, Straut, Virginia, Franklin, New Providence, Brushy, Beardstown, and Sandridge. W. A. Fuson ministered at Sandridge. He was fondly known as "Bill the Baptist." Stories of his ministry permeate Illinois Baptist history for many years.

This year there were 37 churches listed as member churches for the association.

At this meeting a rift between the Glasgow and Sandy Creek Churches was investigated and reported to the association. Glasgow became part of the American Baptist Churches until the 1970's.

1924 The 75 Million Campaign is referred to in alleviating the Home Mission Board of its debt load. This campaign was the predecessor to the Cooperative Program, soon to be unveiled.

During the 1920's an historical table first appeared in the annual.

1925 Rev. Leo Crossman first appears under the Ordained Ministers list. He served Bedford, Oakland, Union Grove, and West Union churches. He preached the Annual Sermon in 1926.

1926 Rev. Kenneth Day is mentioned in this edition of the Annual Minutes. He is regularly mentioned in the Annuals for many years to come.

1928 The Annual Meeting took place at Chandlerville.

Elder Elijah Anthony passed away December 27, 1927. An obituary is written in the minutes to memorialize his life. Here are a few of those words.

He was born on July 4, 1849; born again in 1867. He was ordained to the Gospel Ministry on February 14, 1875 at Barrow, IL by a council called by the Barrow Baptist Church, among those in the council were Elders W. P. Hart and Isham Roberts, Elder Roberts being the pastor of the church.

In addition to pastoring churches Brother Anthony spent about 21 years as Missionary Evangelist among the churches of Sandy Creek Association. According to his own records, he was privileged to witness during his ministry more than two thousand conversions. Of this number he was permitted to baptize or assist in baptizing more than eighteen hundred. For sixty years he attended the annual meetings of the Sandy Creek Association.

There were 16 preachers in attendance at his funeral. In all probability there are today more preachers living who were brought to Christ under the preaching of Bro. Anthony than any other preacher who has lived among us during the last 25 years.

1929 Even though the Cooperative Program began in 1925, it is first listed in our minutes this year.

1930 Miss Wanda Lynch and Miss Lucille Dawdy leave this year to attend the W. M. U. Training School at Louisville, KY. Paul Siebermann and his wife are preparing to leave for missionary assignment in Brazil.

A note from the clerk is worthy of our reading:

As clerk of Sandy Creek Baptist Association for twelve years and having attended ten years previous to clerkship, the writer feels that this the 73<sup>rd</sup> session was one of the greatest of Sandy Creek Association. With brotherly love and a Christ-like spirit in all, there seemed to the writer to be the least of malice and envy.

And all of the fine sermons that were heard, all were orthodox Missionary Baptist sermons. Record breaking crowds attended all service.

Surely Sandy Creek Baptists are going to support missions.

Stanley E. Day, Clerk

1933 A girl's camp was held at the Bishop Dell School, west of Patterson with 25 girls in attendance. This was the first of many great camps to come.

Gifts to the Carmi Baptist Orphanage were in cash and "other than cash." The other items were canned fruit, bedding, quilts, and clothing.

1935 September 1, Ruth Ford sails for China. She sailed on the same boat that delivered Bill Wallace to China as a Missionary Doctor. The Book, Bill Wallace of China, inspired many young Baptists to pursue serving the Lord Jesus Christ on a mission field.

1936 The association voted to begin Quarterly Mission Board meetings. These continued until 2000 when we went to Bi-monthly Mission Board meetings.

1935 Maude Hathaway, George Johnson, and E.V. Reeder attended our Annual Meeting. For many years the Illinois Baptist State Association workers participated in our committee meetings during the annual session. They gave reports and made suggestions right along with our committee personnel.

1938 Dr. George Johnson reported on the work of the Baptist Foundation at Carbondale. In the 1960's, when Dr. Johnson was unable to keep functioning as the head of the Baptist Foundation, it's work folded up and college ministries took a different direction.

The Carmi Baptist Orphanage proposed a special offering, "a mile of dimes," to offset their current indebtedness.

1939 Uncle Newt, or N. M. Antrobus, delivered the closing message to the Annual Meeting. He had served as the Moderator from 1906-1926 with only one year of being replaced in 1916. After his term of service ended, the service of moderator was limited to two years in succession.

B.T.U. or Baptist Training Union began in the 1920's and picked up steam becoming one of the biggest programs in the Sandy Creek Baptist Association in the 1940's and 50's.

1941 J.O. Raines passed away. No obituary notice is given in the Annual Minutes. However, this man's influence for missions cannot be overstated. J.O. raised support for missionaries serving in Syria, Persia, and Galilee from 1904-1919. The work of supporting these missionaries was then turned over to the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board.

1942 Three seasons of prayer were to be offered to all of our churches. State, Home, and Foreign missions were to be observed and a special offering to be taken up for each purpose.

Vacation Bible School works began in five of our churches this year.

A reference is made to "rationing" and the fact that some of our graduates from the Carmi Orphanage are now serving in the military.

The Co-operative Program funds were split 50% for state mission work and 50% for other SBC causes.

1943 The association voted to purchase a white faced calf for the Carmi Baptist Orphanage. They were hoping to begin a herd of cattle to support the work of the orphanage.

There was no youth camp this year due to the poor health of the camp leader.

Mr. & Mrs. Z. Paul Freeman, furloughing missionaries from Argentina, attended the annual meeting this year.

Support for the Co-operative Program was encouraged in expectation that more fields for ministry will open up at the close of the current war.

Elder Newt M. Antrobus deceased this past year.

Special prayer was offered for the soldiers in the military service.

1944 Calvary Baptist Church, White Hall, was formed from a group that left Tabernacle Baptist Church, White Hall.

This year, as in many past years, an offering was taken up for the Carmi Baptist Orphanage. This tradition continues at our current Annual Meetings.

Comments were made about the establishment of SBC Churches in Northern Illinois.

No young people's camp was held due to war conditions affecting us locally.

The phrase "one million more" was repeated throughout the Co-operative Program Report by E.W. Reeder. This slogan was used nationally for the Sunday School Campaign in 1954: "A million more in '54."

A Centennial Crusade will be launched in 1945, with aggressive goals for ministry and sacrificial giving. This being the one-hundredth year of the SBC.

1945 Calvary Baptist Church, White Hall and Central Baptist Church of Jacksonville were received into the Sandy Creek Baptist Association. Bethany Baptist, Grace Baptist of Winchester, and New Hope Baptist of Petersburg requested membership into SCBA.

585 churches were reported in IBSA this year. 214 of those churches had an organized Brotherhood work.

23 churches held VBS this past year in our churches.

1946 Training Union Meetings this past year were held at Murrayville with 150 in attendance; Hillview with 160 in attendance; Richwoods with 146 in attendance; Winchester with 256 in attendance; and Providence with 150 in attendance.

Dr. Noel Taylor attended the SCBA Annual Meeting.

1949 Lloyd K. Spencer was the Associational Missionary. Lucille Dawdy was the Camp Director at Bishop Dell this year. 20 churches conducted VBS. And, the Carmi Orphanage became known as the Baptist Children's Home.

1950 Church Camp was held at Oak Grove this year. The association voted to purchase the Mt. Zion church property for an Associational Camp. There were 206 baptisms reported this year in our churches.

1951 Dr. Noel Taylor reported that the State of Illinois had 4 million people with no church affiliation. Today, 2007, that number has grown to 8.5 million.

1952 Camp was held at Mt. Zion this year.  
A mission was started at Jerseyville.

1953 Very aggressive goals for Training Union were published in the Annual Minutes this year.  
Sister Etta Alexander, wife of Pastor John Alexander died April 29, 1953. She was 75 years old.

1954 Richard Stewart is the Associational Missionary. A new mission was started at Versailles. The Cooperstown Baptist Church sponsored this new mission.

1955 Rev. Duard Handling became the Associational Missionary. Bro. Handling has left us slide photos of all the churches in existence in 1955-56 in the Sandy Creek Baptist Association.

Elder John Alexander passed away December 30, 1954. Bro. John could not read. His wife, Etta, read the Scripture Passage to him and he memorized it before preaching his sermon.

1957 683 attended "M" Night this year. A mission was started in Chapin.  
Avery Courtney was the Associational Missionary.

The Association voted to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 12, 1958. June 12, 1858 was the organizational meeting for the SCBA with its first Annual Meeting, taking place that fall.

1958 From 1950-1958 there were 246 new churches started in Illinois. Chapin Southern Baptist Church and Faith Baptist Church of Carrollton were received into the SCBA.

The association stopped giving to the American Bible Society because of their actions in printing and distributing the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

B.V.H. Bentley began serving as the Associational Missionary on November 4, 1957.

1959 Central Baptist Church withdrew from the SCBA. Immanuel Baptist Church of Jacksonville and New Testament Baptist Church of Meredosia requested membership in SCBA.

Discussion was made regarding the starting of a church in Rushville. The Greenfield mission is now meeting as well as the mission at Frederick.

1960 Charity Baptist Church, Greenfield joined the SCBA. 29 churches conducted a Vacation Bible School this past year.

Elder Earl Bryan passed away this past year.

A calendar of events was first published in the Associational Annual minutes.

1961 839 attended "M" Night this year.

The Cooperstown Baptist Church sponsored the new work at Rushville.

Rev. James Jones, 87, deceased this past year. He served for 55 years in ministry and for a while he served as the Associational Missionary for SCBA. (I could not find out the dates of his service.)

1962

922 attended the "M" Night Event this year. There are 23 churches with Training Unions.

A map of the association's churches first appeared in the Annual Minutes this year. Bethany Baptist, west of Kane, is the southern most church and Rushville is the farthest to the North.

1963 There are 46 churches listed in the Annual this year. The Northeast Chapel of Jacksonville constituted as a church on July 28. It was renamed to Calvary Baptist Church at a later date.

The Women's Missionary Union conducted Quarterly Meetings. There were 85-95-83 & 32 present at these meetings.

Of the 38 churches reporting their information, five had worship services two times per month. The others had worship services each Sunday. For many years, if a church did not have a pastor, they always had Sunday Bible Study for the church body.

1964 Calvary Baptist Church of Hardin joined the SCBA. 818 attended "M" Night. And, 176 kids attended the association's youth camps.

1966 10 people attended Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly this year during Training Union Week. This event was a reward to those who participated in the Bible Drills and Speakers' tournament. The cost for the gas for two cars = \$100.

1967 Vivian Bentley Sr. resigned as Associational Missionary. Richard Sanders becomes the new Superintendent of Missions.

Lucille Dawdy is currently serving in Taiwan teaching English.

An Association Wide revival was planned.

Northeast Baptist Chapel changed its name to Calvary Baptist Church.

During these years several Annual Meetings have been held at the Mt. Zion Campgrounds.

1968 August 26-September 1, an Area Wide Crusade was held at the Morgan County Fairgrounds.

The Crusade of the Americas took place in April 1969.

M Night attendance was at 518, which was held at the Annie Merner Chapel.

A school of missions (World Missions Conference) was held in which 22 churches participated.

1970 The Annual Meeting was changed to be held in two full days instead of 2 ½ days. Jeanette Weber is listed on the Camp Committee this year.

1971 The Illinois Baptist State Association moved from Carbondale to Springfield this year.

Robert Hastings and Arthur Farmer attended the SCBA Annual Meeting that year.

The Evangelism Report encouraged churches to use the WIN Program for reaching people for Jesus. Churches were using Bus Ministries and growing. Plans were being made for a Lay Evangelism School. Bill Smith, Arnold Hoffman, and Ervin Harris were on the committee that year.

A constitution change took place and the Moderator can now be elected for three years.

#### Camp Development Committee Report

The Camp Committee recommends that we proceed with the development of the Camp Program.

1. by getting gas, water, and electricity to the camp grounds.
2. by building a permanent building to house the kitchen, dining area, sleeping quarters for the cooks, camp pastor, and missionaries, and a dining area capable of seating 200.
3. by building a centrally located shower and bathroom combination.
4. by providing sleeping quarters for the campers.
5. by providing a lake site with swimming area when possible.
6. and by developing a playground as necessary.

Dean Spencer, Chairman

1972 Lay Evangelism Schools were scheduled as well as an Association Wide Crusade for 1973.

During the 1970's the Sermon Outlines began to appear in the Annual Minutes. Prior to this a note about the strength of the sermon or how well it was received was all that appeared in the Annual Minutes.

Perry E. Sherwin's obituary notice is given in the Minutes.

Elder Perry E. Sherwin was born May 13, 1904 and passed away October 20, 1972. He was Ordained to the Gospel Ministry May 29, 1937 and served in pastorates in the SCBA faithfully until the Lord called him home. Bro. Perry also served as Clerk and Treasurer of the SCBA for 25 years plus. He had been elected for his 26<sup>th</sup> term in August 1972. Bro. Sherwin served longer in an Associational office than any other person.

He has shown the Spirit of Christ, loyalty to the task and love to the brethren in the performance of his duties. We thank him for his service and know that only eternity can justly reward him for all he has given to the SCBA of Baptist Churches and to the Lord.

Bro Sherwin was the son of J.F. and Mary Davis Sherwin, who preceded him in death. He leaves his wife, Mabel, a son, Larry Sherwin of White Hall, a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Betty) Bridges of Elgin, IL, and a stepson, James McClure of Glasgow, IL.

Bro. Sherwin was a school teacher and received his B.A. degree from Southern Illinois University. He was a member of the Greene County Historical Society. He was a member of the Sandy Creek Baptist Church.

What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul." This partial quotation describes bet the aims and goals of the brother to whom we dedicate this memorial page.

1973 Charles Hayes and Kenneth Day were recognized for their years in attendance to the Sandy Creek Baptist Association's Annual meetings. Mr. Hayes attended for 50 years and Mr. Day for 51 years.

This past year the association mailed out 8100 newsletters.

1974 Pastor Dean Spencer made a mission trip to Jamaica and the association assisted with raising \$435 toward his expenses.

There were seven churches not reporting to the association this year: Kampsville, Oak Dale, Oakland, New Providence, Panther Creek, Pleasant Dale, and Union Grove. Each of these churches were small neighborhood churches that came to the end of their church lives for a variety of reasons, however each was successful in ministering the Word of God in its season.

1974 John Burnell was ordained as Deacon at Calvary Baptist Church, Jacksonville on May 26. He is currently (2007) the pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church in Waverly.

David Ford was ordained to the Gospel Ministry on July 20 at Hillview Baptist Church.

Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church purchased land to the west of the church facility.

Bus ministries were in vogue as eight buses were in use in our churches.

1975 The association was finishing up the septic system at the Retreat Center. During 1974 and 1975 the youth camps were held at the Koinonia Retreat Center.

1976 Over 100 campers attended Camp this year. And the need for a church in Woodson was discussed.

1978 An offering was taken to purchase a mower for the Retreat Center this year.

1979 Boyce Bible School is holding classes in Springfield and several of our pastors followed through with graduation certificates.

Money is still needed to purchase a mower for the Retreat Center.

During the 1970's

During the 1970's nine churches ceased to be a part of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association. Those churches were: Cooperstown, Kampsville, New Testament Meredosia, Oakland, Old Bethel, Rockbridge, Sandy Creek, and West Union all disbanded as churches. Hart's Prairie continues today, but as an Independent Baptist Church.

It is worthy to note that the association operates on a cash and carry basis. Training Union is still encouraged by Clarice Harp. And the **Bold Mission Thrust** is promoted throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. The goals that were set in 1975 were met and exceeded in 2000.

1980 The Woodson Baptist Mission is supported the SCBA at \$100/month.

The association's budget for this year was \$35,000.

Calvary Baptist Church became a popular place for associational meetings. Each Mission Board meeting was held here from 1979 to 1999.

Pastor Bill Smith moved that the association build permanent structures for housing at the Retreat Center.

1981 Southview Chapel is spoken of, and eventually becomes the Beth-EL Baptist Church. Thirty people are in regular attendance at the Woodson Mission each week.

The youth workers held monthly rallies at different churches throughout the year.

This past year the dorm building on the West Side of the lake at the Retreat Center was named for Richard Sanders and the Lake was named for Lena Eiler, who attended the youth camps each summer for many years, even into her 70's.

1982 The Annual Meeting consisted of six sessions in two days. Each morning, afternoon, and evening made a separate session for the Annual Meeting. This tradition continued until 1999, when the body voted to go to Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon sessions. There was an Annual Sermon, a Doctrinal Sermon, a Moderator's Message, a Director of Mission's Message, and two other ministers assisted with sermons in addition to the Bible Studies that were presented at each session. An Illinois Baptist State Association Staff member presented the Bible Studies.

This year the association purchased an Allis Chalmers 5020 with a mower and a blade to use at the Retreat Center.

1983 Rev. Richard Sanders, Director of Missions, passed away on April 23. He served Sandy Creek Baptist Association for 15 years and seven months. In the interim period Bro. Bill Martin and Bro. Ken Barger held down the responsibilities.

1984 Kenneth S. Barger became the Director of Missions for the Sandy Creek Baptist Association. Until 1998, Bro. Barger served tirelessly, with dignity and honor for our Lord Jesus Christ. He is spoken of with deepest appreciation each year in the Association's Annual Minutes. His efforts at being frugal were not an option, as the association did not have a very large budget.

This year the association supported the Woodson Mission, Southview Chapel, and a Hispanic Mission in Northern Illinois.

A new office building for associational operations was built in Murrayville. What a blessing it was and continues to be. Prior to 1984, the association's office was in the parsonage that also served as the home for the Director of Missions.

1985 The Woodson Baptist Church, Woodson, and the Faith Southern Baptist Church, Winchester were received into the association this year.

"Good News America" Revivals were taking place in April 1986. Several churches in the association participated in this evangelistic effort.

1986 Thirty-six churches reported to the association this year. Beth-EL Baptist Mission is meeting.

Walkerville Baptist hosted the SCBA's Annual meeting this year. It was Walkerville's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church.

The first edition of the Sandy Creek Roots was published. Distribution was much wider than anyone expected.

A new computer was purchased for the association, which made the publishing of reports and the Annual Minutes much easier.

1987 An "Operations Manual" was published as part of the Annual Minutes this year.

1988 Women's Missionary Union celebrated 100 years of service to Southern Baptist Churches this year. And arrangements were made for the purchase of two John Deere 935 mowers for the Retreat Center. These mowers are still in use today at the Retreat Center (2008).

1989 Allen Barber was working at a city dump and checked into a box of materials that looked important. He discovered copies of the SCBA Annual Minutes for 31 years. Twenty-eight of those years helped to complete the collection of SCBA Annual Minutes. Up to this time those years were missing from our collection.

New church starts were referred to in the Annual Minutes at Chapin, Beardstown, and the Beth-EL Mission in Jacksonville.

1990 Hillview Baptist Church recognized Pastor Bill Smith for 30 years of service.

Meredosia purchased and redecorated a parsonage.

Unity Baptist Church in Beardstown constituted as a church.

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Roodhouse ordained four men as deacons.

Beth-EL Baptist church had a ground breaking service for a new building.

1991 Beth EL Baptist Church constituted as a church and was received into the Sandy Creek Association.

Rev. Ted Rhoades was Ordained to the Gospel Ministry by Grace Baptist Church.

Hillview began a bus ministry.

New Hope Baptist celebrated Rev. Milton Powell's 25<sup>th</sup> year as the pastor of the church.

1992 New Life Baptist Church, Waverly experienced great growth and blessing.

1993 The Flood of 1993 deeply affected Hillview Baptist Church as well as all of the churches along the Illinois River. Hillview was five foot deep in water after the levee broke.

1994 "M" Night was attended by 230 faithful believers. "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby is being promoted throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, and a World Missions Conference was held in Sandy Creek Baptist Association and Bay Creek Baptist Association this past year. Altogether there were 28 churches involved.

It was in 1994 that the Freesen family donated a large, framed newsprint that described the Sandy Creek Baptist Association as the mission sending organization for the missionaries going to Galilee, Persia, and Syria. This ministry began in 1904 and was turned over to the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1919.

1995 A Gestetner Copy Printer was purchased for the associational office. The sandpit was dug at the Retreat Center for the purpose of playing volleyball.

This past year Mrs. Gayle Barger had surgery for cancer and was currently enduring chemotherapy treatments.

1996 Jeffrey Maxwell from Hannibal LaGrange College led in the Bible Studies for the Annual Meeting.

During these years Bro. Ken had made arrangements for volunteers to clean the associational office. All of the volunteers were mentioned in the Associational Annual.

At the March 1996 Mission Board meeting several guidelines were adopted with regards to the Associational Youth Camps. However the motion to allow the camp program to be done on a co-educational basis failed. Boy's Week and Girls Week continued through 1999.

1997 Cornerstone Baptist Church was received into the association this year. Murrayville Baptist hosted the Wild Game Supper. Women's Missionary Union and Brotherhood joined together to put on a Missions Rodeo at the Retreat Center. Several booths were set up and all those in attendance had a great time.

Pastor Herman Ware became the pastor of the New Unity in Christ church for African Americans.

Beth-EL Baptist Church is sponsoring church starts in New Berlin, Ashland, Carbondale, and Jacksonville.

1998 Bro. Ken Barger resigned as Director of Missions this year. His fourteen years of service were an exercise in frugality. The association has never had a very large annual budget. In 1997 the amount was \$61,000. Bro. Ken was creative, dedicated, and extremely conscientious about his ministry. He served without any secretarial help, however Sister Madge Bentley and Sister Gayle Barger put in many hours to get the work completed.

Besides his expertise in tax law for churches and ministers, Bro. Ken served many hours at the Retreat Center with Rev. Bill Martin, Rev. Jim Martin, and Rev. Milton Powell. Others assisted from time to time, but Bro. Ken was the main cog that kept the other elements of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association going.

It was also this year that Sister Ruth Ford passed on to being with the Lord. Ruth got her start with the Wilmington Baptist Church, Patterson. She spent 1935-1972 as an employee of the Foreign Mission Board. These were very tumultuous years in China and South East Asia. Her story is fascinating, filled with drama, and most of all, Jesus Christ. I thank God that Ruth came from a small beginning in the Sandy Creek Association, and that she made a huge impact for our Savior and touched many lives.

1999 John and Norma Sexton served as volunteers during this past year and continued for the next few months in the transition from Bro. Barger as DOM to the next person to take his position. John and Norma contributed with many hours of service at the Retreat Center, in the office, getting the newsletter out, and facilitating the work of the Sandy Creek Baptist Association. Not enough can be said about their dedication to our cause.

Robert Carruthers was called as the Director of Missions. He came from the North Side Baptist Church of Fairfield, IL as Pastor. He, Melissa, and their three children arrived on the field August 15, 1999. The Annual meeting was the following weekend. What a way to start your service.

2000 A new church start was in progress at Palmyra, IL. Charles Barnes is the pastor. Athensville Baptist is the sponsoring church.

Glasgow had 45 in Vacation Bible School this year. And the Historical Committee did their report on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the District Missionary for the association. In 1949 Rev. Lloyd K. Spencer served. In 1954 Rev. Richard Spencer served. Rev. Durard Handling began serving in June 1955. From December 1957-1966 Rev. Vivian Bentley Sr. was the Associational Missionary. From October 1967 to April 1983, Rev. Richard Sanders was the Associational Missionary. Rev. Kenneth S. Barger began serving in 1984 and continued until 1998. He was titled the Director of Missions. Rev. Robert Carruthers began in August of 1999.

2001 A small boat dock was built by Robert Britenstine at the Retreat Center and three paddleboats were purchased. The Association conducted a Consignment BookStore with Lifeway, for the purpose of selling Vacation Bible School materials and we received \$395.00 for our efforts.

“True Love Waits” was in high gear around the country. Many youth made public commitments to keep themselves sexually pure before marriage.

2002 Pastor LeRoy Hedrick put together an Area Wide Crusade with Pastor Darrell Robinson as the Evangelist. Darrell is from Mobile, Alabama.

This year Illinois Baptist State Association made funds available for ministry projects. This was called “Partnership Grant Funds” and contributed \$2600 to mission trips and ministry projects in our association.

The Anchor of Hope mission was meeting in Griggsville. And New Unity for Christ closed down its ministry in Jacksonville.

2003 The Sandy Creek Baptist Association was supporting three missions this year: One at Mt. Sterling, another at Ashland, and a third one at Jerseyville. A team of seven went to Lander Wyoming to serve in evangelistic block parties. And an “On Mission Celebration” was conducted between the Sandy Creek and Bay Creek Baptist Associations. We had 25 churches participate.

The Western Asphalt Company paved the road at the Retreat Center and the Martin House began taking shape with the help of Jim Hendricksen as the coordinator of this construction project.

2004 Grace Baptist Church in Palmyra constituted this year. They were able to purchase the property from the Catholic Church in town. They continue to grow and see God bless their community.

Cornerstone Baptist built a new sanctuary with educational space. Their first services in this facility were held on Easter Sunday and this year they baptized over 30 people. Lincoln Avenue Baptist also put up a new Sanctuary and they have experienced significant growth. In fact both churches added staff members the following year.

With God's help we hosted a missionary family for eight weeks. Chris and Siu Yuk Zaino visited our churches and served at the Youth Camps. They returned to China and are still active there.

2005 Due to budget concerns, Bro. Bob and the Associational Council pursued an agreement with the Bay Creek Association with regard to Bro. Bob's service as Director of Missions. This contract worked well until December of 2007 when Bro. Bob needed to focus on issues in the Sandy Creek Baptist Association.

New Beginning Christian Fellowship in Ashland constituted as a church this year. They continue to thrive and dream about reaching their community for Christ.

This year there was a tremendous turnover with regard to pastors. Ten of the churches in Sandy Creek and four in Bay Creek were without a pastor at the same time. However, by 2007 each church had received from the Lord a pastor uniquely suited to their ministry setting.

Over the years Sandy Creek Baptist Association has existed to give credence and coherence to the Baptist Churches in our area. We strive to redefine ourselves based upon the need of the churches and the available resources of the association to work with. Our member churches have provided faithful members to the SCBA Mission Board who have provided the conviction, service, and care needed to make our churches a better place to honor the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ gives our lives purpose and meaning. Our future is so bright; it is truly beyond description. Even though our days and seasons may be filled with trials, our Savior is always there with comfort and guidance to direct our paths.

Jesus is the answer for our world and for every person. Jesus is the message that gives hope for every cause. To this hope we lend our efforts. May the Sandy Creek Baptist Association be known in eternity for the wonderful work it has accomplished with our churches. May we exist with meaning and purpose until Jesus comes again. May His name be praised forever and ever. Amen.