

A RESEARCH PAPER
presented to Mr. Donald A. Parvin
at Cedarville College
by Robin Joye Strobe

This small church was organized in the year 1816 in a little village in New York, which was just a few miles from the Pennsylvania border. It was first named the Owego Free Will Baptist Church. The reason for this was because the later designated village of Apalachin was found in the township of Owego, New York. As the years went by and the village was given the name of Apalachin, the "Owego" title was given the name of Apalachin, the "Owego" title was changed to read South Apalachin Free Will Baptist. This change occurred about 1954. It was the next year that the name of the church was given its present title of South Apalachin Baptist Church.

In the fundamental stages of the church, their regular meetings were called "Covenant Meetings". These were held every two weeks on Saturday evenings, instead of the Sunday worship that we now have. As the faith began to grow within the surrounding communities, new churches were being planted. To keep communication open among these churches, a Quarterly Meeting was established. This type of structure enabled the faith to prosper and kept a close bond between believers. It revealed the needs and the praises taking place among the sister churches.

In the early 1900's when liberalism became so widespread, the Gibson Quarterly Conference, to which South Apalachin was a member, became determined that they would not heed to the liberal's teaching. They showed this determination by not joining the Northern Convention after all other Free Will Quarterly Conferences had. It is from viewing the stand that my forefathers took on such issues as this that my own strength can be rekindled and strengthened. It is not amazing to me at all to see that God has rewarded this church down through the years. Although at times it has had its trials, I stand in adoration to see that the same faith which made my ancestors strong is the same faith I see evident in the men who lead the church today.

Chapter 1 - When the South Apalachin Church was Started

It was in the month of October in the year of 1816 that the South Apalachin Baptist Church, then called the Owego Free Will Baptist, originated. It consisted of one newly ordained evangelist and fourteen eager members. It took great courage and faithfulness to step out in those times and to stand for what you believed. But the starting members of this church had a common eagerness to study the Word of God and to have fellowship with other believers.

Chapter 2 - Why the Church was Started

The Owego Free Will Baptist society was organized out of true concern for fellowship among local believers. The Free Baptist faith originated in the New Hampshire area around the year 1790 by Rev. Benjamin Randall. The faith flourished and progressed to this area in New York through an ordained minister sent from the yearly meeting in Vermont. The society embraced two neighborhoods: one in the location of Little Meadows, Pa. and the other in the hamlet of South Apalachin, New York.

Churches in those times were hard to establish, mainly due to the space there was between farms. People couldn't go to church every week because of the distance required in traveling. Therefore communication among members was hard to obtain and continue. But the residents in this community had determined to establish a society, and eventually a church, in which Christ would be exalted and worshipped. The believers had been introduced to the Free Will faith and decided to stand on these doctrines, although in the future they would be altered by their descendants. So on these terms the Owego Free Will Baptist Church was born.

Chapter 3 - The Charter Members of the South Apalachin Church

The South Apalachin Baptist Church had begun its existence with only fourteen members. Unfortunately, among the early records these people were not named individually, but instead were stated just under one title. Therefore, it is impossible for one to tell who were the charter members and the founders of the church.

Chapter 4 - The Pastors Who have Served in the South Apalachin Church

Down through the years there have been a number of pastors who have ministered to this church. In the 1800's there were several ordained ministers that traveled from church to church within the area. Therefore, during this time the south Apalachin Church, then called the Owego Free Will, did not have one particular pastor, but instead several that ministered to them on the Lord's Day. As the years went on the church enrollment increased, the people saw the need to have their own ordained pastor to minister to their needs. The following is a list of all the pastors that have ministered in this church down through the years:

1870-1877	Rev. Welcome Johnson
May 12, 1877	Rev. D.D. Brown
Dec. 13, 1879	Brother Sails
July 10, 1880	Rev. M.W. Dodge
1887	Rev. W. Fuller
Jan. 14, 1888	Rev. D.D. Brown
April 14, 1888	Rev. F.A. Jaynes
Sept. 12, 1891	S.S. Snell
1894-1895	S.S. Snell resigned
1896-1897	Brother J. Chidester
1903-1907	Rev. Glasson
1908-1911	Pastor Slocum
1911-1912	Rev. Henry Space
1912-1925	Interim pastors from Practical Bible Training School
1925-1927	Rev. William Owens
1928-1929	Pastor Ralph Chaffee
1932-1935	Rev. Charles Young
1935-1937	Rev. Alvin Harms
1938-1939	Rev. Shoemaker
1940-1943	Rev. Leroy Westbrook
1943-1953	Rev. Ralph Chaffee
1953-1960	Pastor Gordon Hay
1961-1968	Pastor Gordon Houser
1969-	Pastor James Walter

Many of the early record books were destroyed in the fire that brought the church down to its foundation. Because of this, one cannot really tell for sure what exactly happened in many instances. For these reasons, the list of pastors before the year of 1870 is left to speculation. One cannot tell when the first ordained pastor was designated. Records show that in the beginning of the church, they had travelling ministers, but one cannot know for sure when this discontinued.

Chapter 5 - What the Building Programs at South Apalachin Consisted of

Down through the years the church has had several building programs, such as helping various missionaries or fellow Christians in need. But there have been basically six building projects that have gone on within the church itself. In the beginning of the church, the society was meeting in various farmhouses or barns. But as the group increased, they found a need to build a church. So it was through the means of donations of both labor and money that a building was erected on the corner of the little village in 1844. In 1847 records show that the covenant meetings were regularly held every two weeks on Saturday evenings in the meeting house. They consisted of devotional meetings with reading of Scripture, prayer and testimony, followed by any business needing attention and receiving of candidates for baptism or membership. But as records go on, an event is recorded that quickly brought these meetings to a halt for a temporary time. Because of a church quarrel, a fire of "undetermined" origin reduced the building to ashes on November 12, 1859.

As a result of the fire, the second building project was conceived. The church family had started the planning and building of a new church in 1860, but it wasn't until the year 1865 that the building constructed on the site, was finished.

This church building was seen as very satisfactory to its members. It was finally constructed by the men in the church and it provided ample space for the family. But as the years passed, the number of members continued to grow. More families were populating the area and were attending the South Apalachin Church for their fellowship and time of worship. Therefore, it was around the year 1943 that the church felt compelled to build an annex onto the building to provide for its continually increasing family. This resulted in the third building project.

After World War II the village of Apalachin and areas surrounding, continued to increase in population. Large plants, such as IBM and General Electric, were built, adding to the growth in the community. For these reasons, South Apalachin Church continued to increase. And it was in the year 1965 that a new and larger church was constructed near the site of the older building that had provided for its members in the past.

For the fifth building project, in 1970 a new parsonage was constructed in front of the new church. It was trimmed with similar brick as that of the church so to add to the beauty of the community and bring honor and glory to the Lord. Because of the tremendous growth in the youth department in the late 1960's, the church decided to build an all-purpose gym for the recreation of its family. It was added right to the church itself, so that it could be used at the people's convenience. This has been latest building project the church has derived. It has been widely used by the old, as well as the young, within the church. I believe it was this project that brought the church family closer together as they were able to fellowship in many informal activities.

Chapter 6 - The Growth of the Church

The South Apalachin Church has grown from only fourteen members to the present attendance which numbers around three hundred. In the early history, the church was as inspiration to the community and a real stronghold of it but it wasn't until close to World War II that a significant increase in membership began to take place. It was about this time that the Industrial Revolution was taking shape in the small hamlet and areas surrounding. Transportation was becoming more accessible, enabling members to attend church more regularly. As a result, the Owego Free Baptist increased in number. Other denominations within the community sprang up, but the church in the small town of Apalachin was the only Baptist church as of yet.

Within the middle to late 1900's, the growth of the church has fluctuated. For example, when the war raged at home and abroad, the number of members decreased because of the enlistment of husbands and sons. But in times of peace, the growth of membership increased as a result of the evangelism that was not able to be done in times of war. For example, in the last twenty years, the church has made a steady increase. This can be attributed to more children being raised within the church and also a more effective outreach within the community.

As a whole, the growth of the church can be seen significantly. We began with our founding fathers numbering fourteen, to where the church now holds approximately three hundred. But not only has the church grown in numbers in the past twenty years, it has also strengthened spiritually. People are beginning to understand what being a Christian really means. To be Christ-like is their ultimate goal. It is this kind of growth that God is more concerned with. Although one cannot forget that the numerical growth of the church needs to be seen when Christians are living righteously before the Lord.

Chapter 7 - The Youth Work within South Apalachin Baptist

In the early history of the church there was no established form of youth work to be found. As the work increased they had divided Sunday Schools, but still no form of youth program was needed, mainly because of all the work the children had to do at home on the family farms. But again, as the area became more populated, more attention was given to the need of filling the young people with good spiritual food. It was about this time that an evening youth group program was established. It was designed to give the young people a more concentrated study of the word. The youth leaders have been older people within the church who have had a desire to help the young people mature spiritually. In the beginning years of this organization, material was derived from various sources. But in 1976, the Word of Life program was established. It was prosperous for four years, and then the young people were not able to keep up with the material because of too many activities. It was in the early 1960's that the other organizations were established called Pioneer Girls and Christian Service Brigade. These were developed not only for the furtherance of their own children's spirituality, but also to filter out and reach other children's lives within the community.

It can be seen that the youth programs within the church have grown steadily, not only concerning members, but also spiritually. It is important for young people to be founded in the Word before they are to leave home and live in the world on their own.

Chapter 8 - The Missionary Emphasis within South Apalachin Baptist Church

From looking in the old records, one would come to the conclusion that the Owego Free Will Baptist Church had no missionary emphasis in its fundamental stages. In fact, it wasn't until the early 1900's that any evidence of missionary support is found taking place. The church began to send out fellow members to various fields and supported their work through financial means.

As the years have progressed, the South Apalachin Church has increased in its financial support of missionaries. The congregation has become concerned with the various needs of missionaries and has found it biblically needful for the church to support "laboring Christians". One aid that has found its own way of helping in this area is the Ladies Missionary. This group of women has regularly organized barrels of goods to be sent to supported missionaries to satisfy their daily needs. This organization gives the women of the church opportunity to help in an area from which they are able, while at the same time, satisfying the needs of the missionaries. The missionary emphasis in South Apalachin is steadily growing from year to year. By presentations given by various missionaries, the people in the church are

continually being made aware of different needs that have to be met. The congregation has sought to find the Lord's will on this issue of which missionary to support financially. But no matter what the final decision is, they intend to hold each candidate up in prayer.

Chapter 9 - The Visitation - Evangelism Outreach of the Church

South Apalachin has never had a set technique or organization for the duty of evangelism. It is not mentioned what they did in earlier times, but one can speculate that evangelism was done very casually between neighbors. No suit and tie were needed to invite their neighbor to church on Sunday. But as time has gone on and the village has become more populated it can be seen that people do not know who their neighbors are anymore. Christians need to take the time to sit down with their friends and talk to them about the Lord. This is why a few years ago, Tuesday nights were designated as visitation evening. This is a time when members go and visit people for whom they have a burden. It's a time for edification of weak Christians and the exhortation of believers.

South Apalachin Baptist does not put a great deal of emphasis on evangelism within the church service (i.e., altar calls, salvation invitations). It deals more with the edification of the believer. For it is basically the individual's responsibility for witnessing to people, not the church's. The church's responsibility is held in edifying and developing a person spiritually, so that he can go out and witness for Christ. This is the philosophy of the members as they continue to reach out to the Lord.

CHURCH MISSIONARIES & 1981 SUPPORT

	<u>Jan. 81</u>
Paul Weimer	\$250
Kay Ulmer* (50)	75
David Seymour	150
James King	50
Gene Thomas* (32)	108
Herman Turner	190
Audley Charleton	75
Ira Wagner	100
Jack Corbett	45
Leila Jump	70
Elaine Holden	75
Cindy Miles* (12)	138
Steve Seeley	150
Pat Blasdel*	100
El Rancho DePaz	100
Baptist Bible College	30
Ross Corners Christian Academy	60
Practical Bible Training School	30
Mark Misulich	100

Students:

Joy Barnhart Sims	75
James Crane	50
Andrew Roberts	50
Robin Strobe	50
Craig Palmer	50
	<u>\$2,171/mo.</u>

\$26,052/yr.

* In addition to church support these amounts are given monthly from the Sunday School.

Support level increase:

December, 1979	\$1,391 per month
December, 1980	1,561 per month
January, 1981	2,171 per month

Active Membership Roll As Of April 1981
South Apalachin Baptist Church

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Gary Acker	Theodore Forde	Barbara Roberts
Patricia Acker	Bernice Hall	Stanley Roberts
Arthur Andreasen	Glenna Hall	Mary Ann Seeley
Carl Andreasen	Lois Hall	Steve Seeley
Carolyn Andreasen	William Hall, Jr.	Janice Shear
Christine Andreasen	William Hall, III	William Shear
David Andreasen	Arlene Harper	Joy Sims
Marie Andreasen	Levert Harper	Gwen Sorber
Bruce Barnhart	Wayne Harper	Grace Spicer
Glenn Barnhart	Edith Harrington	Albert Stephens
Helen Barnhart	Roger Harrington	Joy Stephens
Karen Barrett	Edward Harrison, Jr.	Marie Stephens
Nancy Benthin	Janice Harrison	Grover Stone
Kim Blasdel	Bernard Holden	Lois Stone
Pat Blasdel	Elaine Holden	Myrtle Stone
Glenda Bridges	Frances Holden	Elmer Storozow
Walter Bridges	Jacqueline Jensen	Harriett Storozow
Lona Brinser	Wayne Jensen	Almeeda Strope
Joseph Brougham	Mary Johnson	Douglas Strope
Cindy Brougham	Judy Keith	Gertrude Strope
Dorothy Brown	Philip Keith	James Strope
Gordon Buckley	Joyce Kwiatkowski	Kelly Strope
Elizabeth Buckley	Bonnie Lillie	Mabel Strope
Sharon Card	Bruce Lillie	Maxine Strope
Gretchen Churchill	Deborah Lillie	Richard Strope
Gretchen Churchill(daug)	Harry Lillie	Rhonda Strope Baker
Linda Churchill	Clella Maslin	Robert Strope
Sharon Churchill	Ernest Maslin	Robin Strope
James Costley	Robert Mead	Stephen Strope
Lorraine Costley	Virginia Mead	Dean Sunderland
Lynn Costley	Holly Mikalonis	Ellen Sunderland
Andrew Crane	Gerald Mikalonis	Duane Sunderland
Daniel Crane	Karen Mikalonis	Marilyn Sunderland
James Crane	Mark Mikalonis	Rebecca Swackhammer
Bertha Cretser	Wendy Mikalonis	Edward Swackhammer
Christine Curran	Cindy Miles	Sharon Truax
Glenys Curran	Edith Miles	Thomas Truax
Roger Curran	Richard Miles	George VanGorden
Dorothy Decker	Shawn Miles	Marian VanGorden
Harold Decker	LaVern Miles	Bonita Walls
Debbie Dodge	Mark Misulich	Doris Walter
Dorothy Dodge	Luella Myers	Rev. James Walter
James Dodge	Beulah O'Connell	Albert Welch
Linda Dodge	James O'Connell	Ann Welch
Ronald Dodge	Craig Palmer	Kathleen Welch
Myrtle Dunham	Betty Payne	Michael Welch
Donald Eldred	Robert Payne	Norma Welty
Lydia Eldred	Denise Pitcher	Peggy Wilkins
Sally Eldred	Barbara Race	Bonnie Wilkinson
Sarah Eldred	Carol Race	David Wilkinson
Carol Forde	Melvin Race, Sr.	Elizabeth Wilkinson
Catherine Forde	Melvin Race, Jr.	Paul Wilkinson
Harrison Forde	Mary Rider	Deborah Williams
Patricia Forde	Andrew Roberts	Joanne Williams
		Kenneth Williams
		Raymond Williams

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1979

	<u>1978 Budget</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>1979 Budget</u>
Pastor's Salary	\$11,000.00	\$11,211.53	\$11,960.00
Pastor (Associate	3,200.00	2,617.16	3,432.00
Albert Welch	---	5,000.00	5,200.00
Insurance	2,400.00	1,498.00	2,400.00
Health Insurance	570.00	636.20	650.00
Retirement Insurance	460.00	458.81	460.00
Utilities (Oil & Electric)	7,500.00	7,578.32	8,000.00
Pioneer Girls	300.00	272.00	300.00
Christian Service Brigade	300.00	257.00	300.00
Word of Life & Young People	300.00	408.50	300.00
Music	250.00	1,650.45	250.00
Library	225.00	109.25	225.00
Janitor	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,640.00
Supplies & Maintenance	1,200.00	1,946.40	1,500.00
Building Payments	20,000.00	22,609.85	20,000.00
Missions - Regular	16,932.00	15,305.60	16,932.00
Non-Designated	1,000.00	1,955.60	1,000.00
Bus Expense	600.00	642.56	600.00
Supply Pastors - Films, etc.	1,000.00	565.00	1,000.00
Office Supplies	500.00	342.14	500.00
Sports	200.00	25.00	200.00
Grounds Maintenance	600.00	567.55	600.00
Church Telephone		144.23	
Pastor's Gas & Telephone (Rebate 991.80)	3,000.00	3,421.39	3,300.00
Garbage Collection	50.00	45.00	50.00
Advertising	400.00	120.00	400.00
Miscellaneous	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>994.56</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	<u>\$76,587.00</u>	<u>\$83,782.10</u>	<u>\$84,197.00</u>
Total Regular Income -	\$61,582.00	20.6%	21.3%
Building Income -	\$21,876.75		

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1979

	<u>1978 Budget</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>1979 Budget</u>
Pastor's Salary	\$11,000.00	\$11,211.53	\$11,960.00
Pastor (Associate)	3,200.00	2,617.16	3,432.00
Albert Welch	---	5,000.00	5,200.00
Insurance	2,400.00	1,498.00	2,400.00
Health Insurance	570.00	636.20	650.00
Retirement Insurance	460.00	458.81	460.00
Utilities (Oil & Electric)	7,500.00	7,578.32	8,000.00
Pioneer Girls	300.00	272.00	300.00
Christian Service Brigade	300.00	257.00	300.00
Word of Life & Young People	300.00	408.50	300.00
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Building Payments	20,000.00	22,609.85	20,000.00
Missions - Regular	16,932.00	15,305.60	16,932.00
Non-Designated	1,000.00	1,955.60	1,000.00
Bus Expense	600.00	642.56	600.00
Supply Pastors - Films, etc.	1,000.00	565.00	1,000.00
Office Supplies	500.00	342.14	500.00
Sports	200.00	25.00	200.00
Grounds Maintenance	600.00	567.55	600.00
Church Telephone		144.23	
Pastor's Gas & Telephone (Rebate 991.80)	3,000.00	3,421.39	3,300.00
Garbage Collection	50.00	45.00	50.00
Advertising	400.00	120.00	400.00
Miscellaneous	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>994.56</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	<u>\$76,587.00</u>	<u>\$83,782.10</u>	<u>\$84,197.00</u>
Total Regular Income -	\$61,582.00	20.6%	21.3%
Building Income -	\$21,876.75		

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1980

	<u>1979 Budget</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>1980 Budget</u>
Pastor's Salary	\$11,960.00	\$11,960.00	\$12,800.00
Pastor (Associate)	3,432.00	3,432.00	3,672.00
Albert Welch	5,200.00	5,200.00	300.00
Insurance	2,400.00	3,787.64	3,500.00
Health Insurance	650.00	640.97	770.00
Retirement Insurance	460.00	458.81	460.00
Utilities (oil, Elec. & wood)	8,000.00	8,092.45	6,000.00
Pioneer Girls	300.00	165.00	300.00
Christian Service Brigade	300.00	181.00	300.00
Word of Life & Young People	300.00	466.00	300.00
Music	250.00	305.12	250.00
Library	225.00	154.19	225.00
Janitor	3,640.00	3,640.00	3,890.00
Supplies & Maintenance	1,550.00	1,928.80	2,000.00
Building Payments	20,000.00	20,037.76	20,000.00
Missions - Regular	16,932.00	13,726.00	18,392.00
Non-Designated	1,000.00	1,474.50	1,000.00
Bus Expense	600.00	657.77	750.00
Supply Pastors - films, etc.	1,000.00	577.60	750.00
Office Supplies	500.00	366.72	500.00
Sports	200.00	70.00	500.00
Grounds Maintenance	600.00	421.76	600.00
Church Telephone		115.17	125.00
Parsonage Telephone		647.65	650.00
Pastor's Gas & Car Expense (Rebate \$906.36)	3,300.00	3,103.99	5,000.00
Advertising	400.00	125.00	200.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	1,792.00	1,500.00
Soda Machine (received \$833.00)		843.25	900.00
Tape Ministry			500.00
Total	<u>\$84,197.00</u>	<u>\$84,371.15</u>	<u>\$86,134.00</u>
Total Regular Income -	\$65,243.84		
Building Income -	19,825.45		

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1980

	<u>1979 Budget</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>1980 Budget</u>
Pastor's Salary	\$11,960.00	\$11,960.00	\$12,800.00
Pastor (Associate)	3,432.00	3,432.00	3,672.00
Albert Welch	5,200.00	5,200.00	300.00
Insurance	2,400.00	3,787.64	3,500.00
Health Insurance	650.00	640.97	770.00
Retirement Insurance	460.00	458.81	460.00
Utilities (oil, Elec. & wood)	8,000.00	8,092.45	6,000.00
Pioneer Girls	300.00	165.00	300.00
Christian Service Brigade	300.00	181.00	300.00
Word of Life & Young People	300.00	466.00	300.00
Music	250.00	305.12	250.00
Library	225.00	154.19	225.00
Janitor	3,640.00	3,640.00	3,890.00
Supplies & Maintenance	1,550.00	1,928.80	2,000.00
Building Payments	20,000.00	20,037.76	20,000.00
Missions - Regular	16,932.00	13,726.00	18,392.00
Non-Designated	1,000.00	1,474.50	1,000.00
Bus Expense	600.00	657.77	750.00
Supply Pastors - films, etc.	1,000.00	577.60	750.00
Office Supplies	500.00	366.72	500.00
Sports	200.00	70.00	500.00
Grounds Maintenance	600.00	421.76	600.00
Church Telephone		115.17	125.00
Parsonage Telephone		647.65	650.00
Pastor's Gas & Car Expense (Rebate \$906.36)	3,300.00	3,103.99	5,000.00
Advertising	400.00	125.00	200.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	1,792.00	1,500.00
Soda Machine (received \$833.00)		843.25	900.00
Tape Ministry			500.00
Total	<u>\$84,197.00</u>	<u>\$84,371.15</u>	<u>\$86,134.00</u>
Total Regular Income -	\$65,243.84		
Building Income -	19,825.45		

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1981

	<u>1980 Budget</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>1981 Budget</u>
Pastor's Salary	\$12,800.00	\$12,800.00	\$12,800.00
Pastors (Associate)	3,672.00	2,436.00	3,640.00
Secretarial Services	---	---	2,000.00
Insurance (church)	3,500.00	4,995.00	4,000.00
Health Insurance	770.00	845.00	850.00
Retirement Insurance	460.00	458.00	1,500.00
Utilities (oil, elec., & wood)	6,000.00	7,102.00	8,000.00
Pioneer Girls	300.00	442.00	300.00
Christian Service Brigade	300.00	235.00	300.00
Young People	300.00	84.00	300.00
Music	250.00	237.00	250.00
Library	225.00	122.00	150.00
Janitor	3,890.00	3,890.00	4,160.00
Supplies & Maintenance	2,000.00	2,171.00	3,000.00
Building Payments	20,000.00	17,507.00	20,000.00
Missions - Regular	18,392.00	19,623.00	26,000.00
Non-designated	1,000.00	4,341.00	1,000.00
Bus Expense	750.00	535.00	500.00
Supply Pastors - films, etc.	750.00	460.00	500.00
Office Supplies	500.00	377.00	500.00
Sports	500.00	160.00	400.00
(Lawnmower)		430.00	
Grounds Maintenance	600.00	209.00	500.00
Church Telephone	125.00	146.00	150.00
Parsonage Telephone	650.00	588.00	650.00
Pastor's Gas & Car Expense	5,000.00	3,656.00	3,600.00
Advertising	200.00	25.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	1,500.00	779.00	1,000.00
Soda Machine	900.00	539.00	600.00
Tape Ministry	500.00	340.00	500.00
Improvements Not Budgeted*		2,415.00	
Total	\$85,834.00	\$87,947.00	\$97,250.00

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1981 (cont)

* Well Work	\$550.00
Water Heater	518.00
Wood Stove	725.00
PA System	283.00
Sign Letters	339.00
Total	<u>\$2,415.00</u>

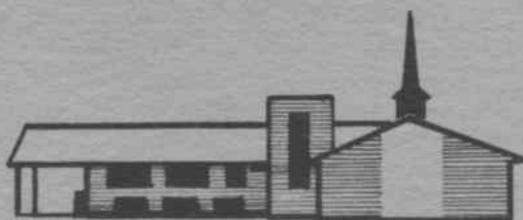
1980 Income -

Offerings -- General Fund	\$66,826.00
Pastor's Rebates	1,335.00
Love Offerings	3,462.00
Miscellaneous	414.00
Interest on Savings	21.00
Soda Machine	714.00
Building Fund	18,602.00
Total	<u>\$91,374.00</u>

Projected income increase - 9%	= \$8,225.00
Total 1981 projected income	= 99,599.00

Projected 1981 income minus expenses = \$2,349.00

Constitution
of the
South Apalachin
Baptist Church



South Apalachin Does Not
Publish An Annual Report

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

of the

SOUTH APALACHIN BAPTIST CHURCH

South Apalachin, New York

APPROVED 1968

ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This church is to be known as the South Apalachin Baptist Church of South Apalachin, New York.

Section 2. The temporal affairs of this church shall be managed according to the laws of the State of New York relating to Baptist Churches, under the corporate title of "The South Apalachin Baptist Church of South Apalachin, New York".

ARTICLE II - BELIEF

Section 1. THE SCRIPTURES. We believe in the Supernatural Inspiration and Infallible Authority of the Scriptures, including both the Old and New Testaments, and accept the whole Bible as the Word of God and our rule of faith and practice. We grant to each individual the right to interpret the Scriptures for himself, but "Interpretation" must not be construed as meaning the right to disbelieve the plain statements of the Bible.

Section 2. GOD. We believe the scriptures reveal God as eternally existing, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, a trinity of three persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- One in essence and power.

Section 3. THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS WORK. We believe in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; His Virgin Birth; His sinless life; His substitutionary death on the cross for our sins; His physical resurrection from the grave; His ascension to the right hand of God where He ever liveth to make intercession for believers, and His personal, visible, bodily return.

Section 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, a member of the Holy Trinity, possessed of all the Divine attributes of God. We believe that He is the administrator of the things of God, convicting of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement, bearing witness to the truth concerning Jesus Christ. We believe that He indwells every born-again believer, guiding him in matters of prayer and service. Every believer should not only be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but is commanded to be filled with the Spirit. We believe the Holy Spirit is restraining evil "until He is taken out of the way."

Section 5. MAN. We believe that God created man in His own image and that man came into the world by direct creation of God and not by evolution; that this creative act of God was separate and distinct from any other work of God and therefore we reject the theory of man's origin which links him with the brute. We believe the scriptural record of the fall of man, through disobedience to God, which was only possible because God gave man a will to choose for himself, and that by choice and by nature, man is "dead in trespasses and sins."

Section 6. SALVATION. We believe the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who, by appointment of the Father, freely "took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man" yet without sin; honored the Divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for our sins, that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies and Divine perfections. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior. Salvation is by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Section 7. THE CHURCH AND ITS ORDINANCES. We believe a local Fundamental Baptist Church is a Voluntary association of baptized believers, equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of Christ, and independent of any external ecclesiastical control whatsoever. We believe God's Word commands every believer (and believers only) to be baptized and that the only scriptural mode is by immersion. We believe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper should be observed as Christ said, "In remembrance me" (or His broken body and shed blood for us). "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come." We don't believe the supper has any sacramental virtue.

Section 8. EVANGELIZATION. We believe it is the solemn obligation of every believer to be a personal soul-winner and to do his utmost to carry out the Saviour's command to give the gospel to the whole world.

ARTICLE III - COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the needy, and the spread of the gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to scripturally educate our children; to

seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage to be, zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of God. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Saviour, to secure it without delay. We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we shall as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of this church shall consist of immersed believers who subscribe without mental reservation to the Articles of Faith and the Covenant as contained in Articles II and III.

Section 2. CANDIDATES. A person may be considered candidate for admission to membership in this church by a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Saviour giving evidence of a change of heart and adopting the doctrines and practices of the church to the satisfaction of the church. They shall appear as individuals before the Board of Deacons to give testimony to this effect and give evidence of subscribing to Article IV, Section 1.

Section 3. ADMISSION. Any candidate recommended by the Board of Deacons and approved by the vote of the church shall be admitted to regular membership in the church after being baptized by immersion. If the candidate has been previously baptized by immersion, he shall not be required to be baptized. Candidates shall not be admitted otherwise than provided in this section.

Section 4. REQUIREMENTS. All members of the church shall be required to conduct themselves in accordance with the doctrines and practices of this church and shall, unless impecunious, contribute regularly to the financial support of the church "as God hath prospered".

Section 5. DISMISSAL. (a) Members in good and regular standing may, at their request, and vote of the church, receive letters to any other church, of like principles and spirit, otherwise a letter of dismissal will be granted upon recommended action of the church.

(b) Any member of the church, after having been given due opportunity to be heard, upon at least one month's notice, may be dismissed from membership on recommendation of the Board of Deacons and by vote of the church for any of the following reasons:

1. Admission to membership in any other church.
2. Conduct contrary to or incompatible with the doctrines and practice of the church.

Section 6. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS. (a) The Board of Deacons with the Pastor shall safeguard the purity and peace of the church and shall move with special promptness and vigor against one who is obstructing the work or disturbing the peace of the church by slander, falsehood, unseemly gossip, conspiracy or other unfair or unChristian methods.

(b) Inactive members. Any member showing no interest in the activities of the church for one year and having no valid reason, shall be removed from the Active Church roll. However, such actions shall not be taken until a personal effort by the Deacons (a visit when possible) is made, to restore interest and fellowship, and such names be submitted to the Church for removal from the Active Membership list.

Notification of such action shall be sent to the persons in question. A list shall be kept of these inactive members but they shall be denied the right of franchise.

ARTICLE V - MONIES

Section 1. All monies shall be raised in no other way than voluntary subscription or offering.

ARTICLE VI - CHURCH YEAR

Section 1. The official and fiscal year of the church shall begin the first day of January and close the thirty-first day of December of each year.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Section 1. NAMES. The officers of the church shall be; the Pastor, Clerk, Church Treasurer, Building Fund Treasurer, Sunday School Treasurer, Missionary Treasurer, Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, and Sunday School Superintendent. No officer shall be chosen to serve in the church who is not consecrated and living a separated life unto the Lord. He must be spiritual, in good and regular standing, not a divorcee or married to a divorcee, without any bad habits, and must be a member of the church for a minimum of six months in order to be eligible for office.

Section 2. ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE. (a) The Pastor shall be of Baptist persuasion, who shall be chosen by the church. If he is not ordained, he must comply with this demand at an early date. His election (see Article VIII, Section 5) or dismissal shall take place at a special business meeting called for that purpose (See Article X, Section 2c), and he shall hold office indefinitely.

The relationship of the pastor and church may be terminated by mutual consent, or by the church upon giving the pastor thirty days notice, or by the pastor giving the church thirty days notice. Upon dismissal of the Pastor, the church may, by a majority vote restrict the Pastor from speaking in the church pulpit for the 30 days he would continue to receive his salary as Pastor.

(b) The Clerk shall be elected by the church at its annual business meeting for the term of one year.

(c) The Treasurers shall be elected by the church at its annual business meeting for the term of one year.

(d) The number of Deacons shall be six regular and active, with a possibility of honorary deacons, upon the vote of the church. Two Deacons shall be elected each year for the term of three years.

(e) The Deaconesses shall be elected by the church at its annual business meeting, six in number for the term of one year

(f) The Trustees shall be six in number. Each shall be elected by the church at its annual business meeting for the term of three years, and in such manner that only two shall be elected each year.

(g) The Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected by the church at the annual business meeting for the term of one year.

(h) Sunday School Teachers of Adult classes shall be elected by their respective groups, subject to the approval of the Superintendent and Pastor. No Sunday School teacher shall be elected or appointed who is not consecrated and living a separated life unto the Lord. Any teacher whose conduct or teaching is considered injurious to the class, school or church, upon recommendation of the Board of Deacons, shall be dismissed from the position held.

(i) The Director of the Young People's Organizations, Pioneer Girls, and Christian Service Brigade shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons.

(j) All organizations affiliated with the church shall meet the approval of the Board of Deacons, in its officers, purposes and conduct.

Section 3. DUTIES. (a) The Pastor shall have charge of the spiritual welfare of the church; he shall preach the gospel according to the principles of faith covered by Article II and shall be required to subscribe thereto before entering upon this office or upon request of the church at any time thereafter. He shall have in his charge stated services of public worship; shall administer the ordinances, extend the right hand of fellowship to new members, and perform the usual duties of a Baptist minister.

(b) The Clerk shall make and preserve all records of the church; keep a register of the names of the members of the church with the dates of admission and dismissal or death, and record of Baptism. He shall notify all officers, members of committees and delegates of their appointment or election. He shall issue letters of dismissal and recommendation voted by the church, and shall keep a record of the transactions at all business meetings of the church, which shall be read at the close of the business meeting and approved as well as at the next regular business meeting.

(c) The Treasurers shall be responsible for the finances of church offerings, and shall keep accurate accounts and present quarterly and annual reports at the respective business meetings of the church.

(d) The Board of Deacons with the Pastor, shall have the general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church; they shall assist with the ordinance of baptism, aid in the administration of the Lord's Supper and have charge of all matters of discipline. They shall hold regular meetings, at least once a month, and shall report at the annual business meeting of the church.

(e) The Deaconesses shall provide for the Lord's Supper and assist with the ordinance of baptism.

(f) The Board of Trustees shall have charge, subject to the order of the church, of all temporalities and properties of the church, real and personal, and provide for the care and maintenance of the church; provided however, they shall have no power to purchase or dispose of any property, real or personal, for, or belonging to the church, or disburse any moneys of the church other than provided in the budget except by specific authorization of the Church. They shall meet upon the call of the pastor or the chairman of the Board. They shall count all service collections, be responsible for auditing the books of the church treasurer, and draw up a temporary budget to submit to the church.

Section 4. SALARIES. No officer shall have a salary except the pastor. His salary shall be altered in amount and method of payment by the church at a regular business meeting or special meeting thereof called for that purpose and in no other manner.

Section 5. VACANCIES. (a) Filling vacancies in the offices of Clerk and Treasurer shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees until the next regular business meeting.

(b) Filling vacancies in the Board of Deacons shall be the responsibility of the Board of Deacons until the next annual business meeting, and then shall be the responsibility of the church until the remainder of the term.

(c) Filling vacancies in the Board of Trustees shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. A nominating committee, consisting of one Deacon and four members shall be elected by the church at the quarterly business meeting previous to the annual business meeting, to nominate officers, members of boards and members of standing committees. The nominating committee shall appoint a chairman who shall have responsibility for adhering to the sections of the church constitution regarding necessary qualifications of officers as defined by the constitution. Additional nominations may be made by any member just prior to voting. Election of all officers, members of boards, and members of committees shall be by ballot. The nominating committee must be members of the church.

Section 2. SOCIAL COMMITTEE. There shall be a social committee composed of five people. Their duties shall be to assist in the activities necessary for social events of the church. The term of office is one year.

Section 3. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. The membership committee shall be comprised of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. Its duties shall consist of the making, revision and preservation of the church roll, examination of candidates for baptism and church membership.

Section 4. USHERS COMMITTEE. This committee shall consist of six men. The ushers shall have charge of taking the offering, shall serve as reception committee at the public services of the church, and shall have charge of the seating the congregation and keeping of order in the House of God at all times. The term is for one year and they must be members of the church.

Section 5. PULPIT COMMITTEE. The Board of Deacons shall act as the pulpit committee; it shall be their duty to provide a supply in the absence of the pastor and in the interim of pastorates. When the pastor resigns it shall be their duty to make inquiry in the securing of a possible candidate for the pulpit. They must make sure that the candidate with whom they are negotiating believes in the Articles of Faith as contained in Article II. The candidate must claim said Article of Faith to be his very own belief, orally from the pulpit and signed in writing before he is called as pastor. He shall also promise not to deviate, in his preaching and teaching, from these Articles of Faith so long as he shall serve his church.

It shall be the duty of the committee to write to each and all persons whom they shall invite as candidates, a letter in the following form:

Date

South Apalachin Baptist Church
South Apalachin, New York

Dear Brother:

Our church believes the Bible to be the Word of God: supernaturally inspired from the beginning to the end; and infallible in its original text. If this belief is in accord with yours will you kindly advise us whether or not you will be a candidate for us at both services Sunday, , 19 .

Yours for Christ,

Chairman of the Pulpit Committee

Enclosed is a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Any candidate who refuses to answer same in the affirmative, shall not have his name placed before the church to be voted on in connection with the calling of a pastor or minister of the gospel.

Upon diligent inquiry, when this committee has satisfied itself that they have secured a candidate to whom they can give their most hearty support, they shall recommend him to the church as a candidate for the pastorate. This committee shall meet with the candidate immediately after the morning services to hear anything further the candidate has to say, and also to have an opportunity to question him, and inform him on matters of finance, etc. No more than three candidates shall be presented to the church by the committee to be voted upon at one time. A candidate pastor shall be called if a minimum of 3/4 of those eligible members present approve.

The church and pastor shall enter upon the agreement that he shall have a regular paid vacation annually. When the pastor is absent from the pulpit other than vacation, sickness, or death in the family he shall be financially responsible for filling the pulpit in his absence. Permission may be given the pastor to be away for outside services by 2/3 vote of the members present at a regular or special business meeting.

Section 6. MUSIC COMMITTEE. There shall be a music committee consisting of five people; two of which will be the Organist and the Music Director. Primary responsibilities of this committee are as follows:

- (1) Said committee shall meet no less than four times a year.
- (2) At least two members of said committee shall meet with prospective choir members to question them concerning their spiritual condition and musical ability.
- (3) The Choir Director will consult the music committee for advice and assistance when purchasing new music material for the choir.
- (4) Said committee will draw up a music schedule for special music on Sunday evenings or when deemed necessary.
- (5) The music committee should recommend outside special music and musical groups to the Pastor and the Deacon Board to be heard by the church when possible.
- (6) Said committee will act in an advisory capacity to the church and Board of Trustees concerning the purchase of any musical equipment.
- (7) The music committee will care for the tuning of the organ and pianos.
- (8) Only church members may be a member of the music committee.

Section 7. OTHER COMMITTEES. Other committees may be appointed by the church as and where they are deemed necessary, the Pastor, ex-officio, shall be a member of all committees, Boards and organizations of the church.

ARTICLE IX - ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. MISSIONARY SOCIETIES. It shall be the purpose of the church to maintain societies for the purpose of promoting the cause of missions.

Section 2. YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY. It shall be the purpose of the church to maintain a Young People's Society for the purpose of developing the Christian life of the young people.

Section 3. SUNDAY SCHOOL. It shall be the purpose of the church to maintain a Sunday School to teach the Word of God to young and old.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

Section 1. FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP. (a) Public services shall be held stately, morning and evening on the Lord's Day. These services shall not be given to anything but the preaching of the Gospel, neither shall they be merged into Union Services, except on special occasions and that by the approval of the church.

(b) In addition to the services of the Lord's Day, once each week there shall be held a meeting for prayer and praise.

(c) The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed once each month. Special times, such as New Year's Eve Candlelight Communion will be up to the vote of the church.

Section 2. FOR BUSINESS. (a) The annual business meeting of the church shall be held the third Monday of January, in the evening. The meeting shall be announced two weeks in advance for the election of trustees in compliance with the New York State law. Voting for trustees is restricted to men over 21 years of age who have been a member of the South Apalachin Baptist Church for one year, according to Section 40 of New York State Religious Freedom Laws.

(b) Regular business meetings of the church shall be held the third Monday of April, July, and October.

(c) Special business meetings of the church may be called by the Pastor or by either Board, or by request of any ten members of the church to the Clergy providing the particular object (or objects) of the meeting is clearly stated to the congregation two Sundays in advance, and no other business shall be transacted in such special meetings.

(d) The Pastor shall preside as chairman, in his absence, the chairman of the Board of Deacons shall preside.

(e) Ten percent of the active members of the church shall constitute a quorum at all business meetings thereof unless otherwise provided by law.

(f) Only members on the active membership list above the age of 16 years shall be entitled the right of franchise. In accordance with State laws, the voting for Trustees must be 21 years and older.

(g) To the end that all business may be conducted with a degree of uniformity, and in the spirit of devotion, the following order of business is suggested:

Scripture reading

Prayer

Reading of minutes of previous meeting

All Treasurer's reports

Other reports, committees, etc.

Old or unfinished business

New business

Reading of the minutes of the meeting, as nearly complete as possible, and approval

Adjournment

ARTICLE XI - AFFILIATION

Section 1. Affiliation or disaffiliation of the church with any organization must be approved at a church business meeting by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting. Public announcement of the pending vote must be made from the pulpit two weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XII - BY-LAWS

Section 1. The church or organizations of the church may adopt from time to time such by-laws as may be necessary or desirable. Such by-laws shall be in accordance with the Constitution and shall be approved by a two thirds vote of the church.

ARTICLE XIII - PROPERTY

Section 1. The property of the South Apalachin Baptist Church shall forever remain in the control of its members.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This constitution of the church may be amended at any business meeting thereof, duly called for that purpose, upon two weeks notice publically announced from the pulpit, by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting, EXCEPT that Article II, shall NOT be amended.

June 17, 1970. Amendment to Article IV.
Add to Article IV, Section 6b:

"To be readmitted to the Active membership of the church, an Inactive member must appear before the Board of Deacons and satisfactorily meet the requirements for admission as stated in Article IV, Sections 2, 3, and 4."

December 2, 1970 Amendment to Article IV

Added to Article IV, "Section 7, DIVORCE. As the Word of God clearly teaches that a person who is divorced and re-married to another while his or her first mate is alive, or one who is married to a divorced person whose first mate is alive, is living in adultery (Matthew 5:31, 32; 19:3-11; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:1-3; I Corinthians 7:10-15; I Corinthians 5:11-13).

1. Therefore a divorced member who re-marries or a member who marries a divorced person while his or her first mate is alive shall automatically be removed from the membership of the church.

2. Furthermore, no person, having professed to know Christ prior to the following taking place, shall be received into the membership of the church.

a. One who has been divorced and re-married to another, his or her first mate still being alive.

b. Nor any person who is married to a divorced person whose first mate is still alive.

3. Re-instatement of divorced and re-married persons.

a. A divorced and re-married person may be recommended for re-instatement into the church membership after appearing before the pastor and the Board of deacons and clearly manifesting a spirit of repentance and a forsaking of the sin involved.

ARTICLE VIII - Section 6. MUSIC COMMITTEE. There shall be a music committee consisting of six (6) people: three of which will be the organist, the pianist and the music director.

ARTICLE VIII - Section 6. (9) The elected pianist will be responsible for selecting and scheduling piano players for all services.

ARTICLE X . Section 2 (a) The Annual business meeting will be announced three (3) Sundays in advance for election of trustees in compliance with the New York State law.

ARTICLE X - Section 2 (f) In accordance with State laws, those voting for trustees must be 18 years and older.

ARTICLE XIV - Section 1. This constitution of the church may be amended at any business meeting thereof, duly called for that purpose upon three (3) Sundays notice publically announced from the pulpit.



Church's Annex



Baptism Performed in South Apalachin Creek





South Apalachin Baptist Church



Church Parsonage