

where the feed for his horse was also. On arriving home from church, he had forgotten about the minutes, and his cows chewed up the records along with the feed. But records from the Kehukee Association do show that in May of 1787, Fountain Creek was the host of an associational meeting, thus indicating the existence of the congregation. Regretfully, due to the loss of the early minutes (records of church go back to 1870), no specific date or month can be given.

William Garner was the first pastor of Fountain Creek. His tenure consisted of approximately forty-one years. He took care of the church in its organization, and under his leadership the church had its ebbs and floods, but was generally a prosperous church. In 1802, it is recorded that "the rich clouds and mercy gathered and they had a pleasant shower," in other words, people were added and a great revival broke out among the congregation.

Also, it is recorded in 1788 that Fountain Creek had "an arm of the church" at Vasser's Meeting House in Northhampton County, North Carolina. This "arm" later became Elam Baptist Church, and was organized in 1844. This congregation is presently located near Gumberry, North Carolina, in Northhampton County.

The church during the Garner years was associated with three associations. It started out with the Kehukee Association, and remained in it until 1791, when the Virginia churches of the association formed the Portsmouth Association. In the new association, there remained the problem of participation due to the great distances from the church to the annual meetings. From 1791 to 1798, there was no representation from Fountain Creek at the gatherings due in part to the planting of the crops in spring, and such distant places as the meetings in Portsmouth and Prince Anne County. In