

these days it was quite a task to ride horse and buggy along unpaved dirt roads. It was difficult enough to just ride horseback to such places in the elements of the weather. The church in these meetings was listed as a member under the name of Fountain's Creek, the early rendering of its name. One hundred and eighty members were recorded during this partnership of ministry.

It must also be pointed out that this was a time of development. As new communities were being established, new churches came about to meet the spiritual needs of the people. As a result ministers were not abundant- Fountain Creek had to share its pastor with other congregations by having preaching only on the third Sunday of each month. Salaries of ministers were low or non-existent, and there were no incentives to cooperate much among the churches. People were more concerned with raising enough crops to feed the family, and cooperation was often set aside.

From 1790 to 1795, Portsmouth reported twenty two churches with Fountain Creek being one. Also recorded were thirteen ordained and eleven licensed ministers with a total membership of of the churches being one thousand six hundred and eighty six.

Portsmouth was not immune to the issues of the day. By now large plantations had developed and slavery had been instituted. Was this right? Also, this system of farming had left many small farmers who were often stricken to poverty and to a lack of education for their children. Was slavery a big issue to these folks who could not afford this form of farm help? In 1794, at the associational meeting, it was discussed whether or not member churches should send free black men as delegates to its annual meetings, and the decision was made that this would be the prerogative of the church.

Also, in 1799, the lotter and after some discussion the that it was not agreeable to church members to purchase tid This same meeting produced July 4 would be a day of fasti to "revive religion in the sou

On May 26, 1798, Fountain at the associational meeting, with Garner listed as pastor, William Avant and Charles because of the above factors, them to be present. Also, it shillings was given to the work. It was not until May 2 Creek actively participated Elder or Pastor Garner, along made up the delegation. T reported a full account to th baptisms, four dismissals excommunications, one resto members were recorded. Twelv to the association for its wo given for the cause of missi

For the remaining years affiliation with Portsmouth, existed. In 1801, one hundre were listed, and William Swe messengers with twelve bapti excommunications, two decess shillings were contributed f In 1802 and 1803, no informa annual meetings.

In 1804, Fountain Creek Portsmouth Association to Meherrin Baptist Association the Hays Creek, Geneto Cr churches joined in. During Garner years, the church's