**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE NAZARETH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LEESVILLE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR TWO CENTURIES OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1813, Nazareth United Methodist Church (Nazareth UMC) of Leesville celebrated its historic two hundredth anniversary in 2013; and

Whereas, in a small house located east of the Old Cherokee Trail on the south side of the Little Saluda River, Nazareth UMC worshipped and established its roots with only eight founding members; and

Whereas, in 1827, the church was relocated to the north side of Cloud’s Creek near the old gold mine and Watkin’s Bridge. Nazareth’s second building, like its first, was constructed of logs and owned the distinction of being the first church in the area to have glass windows. While the facility was being built, the members of Nazareth met at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church; and

Whereas, about 1870, the church was again relocated, this time to the site on which it stands today. For some years, members worshipped in the wooden framed, arch‑windowed building they had constructed when they first moved to this location. In 1962, the congregation erected the present sanctuary, the A‑framed shape of this brick building being chosen to represent praying hands; and

Whereas, the first service in the new building was held January 6, 1963. In 2004, colorful stained‑glass windows representing biblical scenes, a beautiful addition to the sanctuary, replaced the original windows; and

Whereas, on Sunday, January 6, 2013, the grateful congregation of Nazareth UMC began its anniversary commemoration with an impressive service to reconsecrate the sanctuary and celebrate God’s faithfulness to the church, both spiritually and materially, over two centuries. A covered‑dish luncheon followed the service. On February 28, a song service composed of old‑time favorite hymns and their histories was enjoyed by all; and

Whereas, other celebratory events are planned for the remainder of 2013, including an “old‑fashioned day” featuring a “pig pickin’ ” and dinner on the grounds after the worship service. Additional special services will be announced throughout the year. Finally, the church will offer a commemorative ornament, a miniature replica of the sanctuary; a memory book; and a church directory; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, Nazareth UMC’s present congregation “presses toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), continuing to preach and teach the Word of God; and

Whereas, Nazareth UMC has been a beacon of light in the Leesville area for two hundred years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage for many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Nazareth United Methodist Church of Leesville on the occasion of its historic two hundredth anniversary and commend the church for two centuries of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Pastor Frank Copeland on behalf of Nazareth United Methodist Church.

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