**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE MEMBERS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JAMES ISLAND UPON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF THEIR NEW CHURCH, AND TO CELEBRATE WITH THEM AS THEY COMMIT THIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP TO GOD.

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to learn that First Baptist Church of James Island dedicated its new church to the glory of God on March 22, 2009, a cause of much rejoicing to its pastors, officers, and members, who understand the words of the sweet songwriter of Israel in Psalm 122:1, “I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’”; and

Whereas, one hundred forty years ago, First Baptist Church of James Island was founded for the purpose of worshipping the Lord God Almighty, Creator of all things, and freely opened its doors to the citizens of James Island for that purpose; and

Whereas, its present‑day members, led by Reverend Bernard J. Gadsden, Sr., affirm that First Baptist Church of James Island stands as a building and as a living testimony of believers because the men and women who have attended through the years have held firmly to Jesus Christ as the foundation of the salvation of man and of the Christian life; and

Whereas, the church’s first house of worship was the Ferguson family’s home, located on the corner of what is now known as Camp and Dills Bluff roads. In 1869, a wooden structure was built to serve the congregation, followed by construction of a new church in 1958, necessitated by an increase in membership and ministry; and

Whereas, the present new facilities will allow the church to provide, among other offerings, its weekly Sunday School classes, worship services, Bible studies, and prayer services to the benefit of the entire surrounding community; and

Whereas, grateful for its near century and a half of service to the James Island community, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in congratulating First Baptist Church of James Island on the dedication of its new church, and the members wish the congregation many more years of blessing in ministry. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the members of First Baptist Church of James Island upon the occasion of the dedication of their new church, and celebrate with them as they commit this house of worship to God.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Reverend Bernard J. Gadsden, Sr., for the church.

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