**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND BROWN’S CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANDREWS FOR A CENTURY AND A QUARTER OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO EXTEND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH’S HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED TWENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, having been founded in September 1889, Brown’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Andrews is celebrating its historic one hundred twenty‑fifth anniversary in 2014; and

Whereas, due to lost documentation, some dates and times of the church’s historical record may not be accurate. However, information is recorded from the memories of long‑standing church members, and all statements are certain as given. Some information is also found in the files of court records; and

Whereas, on September 18, 1889, a parcel of land was purchased from the heirs of Nat Parker for the sum of fifteen dollars and deeded to church trustees Aden Alston, George Gourdine, Matthew Parker, N.T. Parker, and G.W. Timmons. At that time, a wooden church house of approximately twenty‑five by forty feet was erected to be used for praise and worship. Baptism was held just down from the church house at the place known as “Baptism Pond.” Sometime later, a pool was built inside the church house for baptizing and for the convenience and safety of the people, as the pond was infested with alligators. It is also believed that at that time Buddy Brown was the first pastor of the church and that perhaps that was where the name Brown’s Chapel came from; and

Whereas, Reverend J.O.S. Montgomery and Reverend J.A. Mustapher succeeded Reverend Brown. Nothing has been recorded to give reflection during their tenure. Deacons Mose Parker, Matthew Parker, and Sippo Alston served during that period; and

Whereas, after Reverend Mustapher, Reverend Frank Haskell was elected pastor. Under his leadership, in the year 1959 a new church building with dimensions of thirty by sixty feet was erected from masonry cinder blocks. During the 1970s, an additional twenty‑five‑foot space was added to the church’s sanctuary, along with a twenty‑five‑by‑twenty‑five‑foot fellowship hall. Reverend George Gourdine, Reverend Mose Prince, and Reverend Horace Nixon served as associate ministers. Those added to the deacons’ ministry were Willie Gourdine, Flander Brunson, Sr., John Smith, Andrew Miller, William Prince, Ellis Brown, Samuel Smalls, Sam Gourdine, Ezekiel Moyd, Troy Moyd, William Rutledge, and William Timmons. The church experienced some growth spiritually. In 1972, Minister Lottie Rutledge was licensed into the ministry by the church under Reverend Haskell’s leadership, and the choirs were upward bound; and

Whereas, due to illness, Reverend Haskell was no longer able to maintain the pastoral duties of the church. The church then elected Reverend Horace Nixon as pastor. He served approximately three years. Under his leadership, the baptism pool was moved to the inside of the fellowship hall; this, too, was for convenience; and

Whereas, after the passing of Reverend Nixon in 1981, the church elected Reverend Thomas Lance as pastor. Under his leadership, other improvements were added to the church building. With not much room to spare on this parcel of ground, the original wooden church building was removed, and the new structure was built fifteen feet larger than the original one. The building was bricked in and the parking lot paved. Through many struggles and hardships, the church continued to grow spiritually, and new converts were added. The church was furnished with new pews, choir seats, and pulpit furniture. The deacons added under Reverend Lance’s leadership were Lee Timmons, William Rutledge, Jr., Lee Jay Cooper, Michael Staggers, Jimmy Staggers, Therman Gourdine, Bobby Cooper, Edward Cooper, Sr., and Hossie Davis. Joan Moyd, Lillian McGirt, Carl Stokes, and Michael Staggers were all licensed by the church under the leadership of Reverend Lance. After twenty‑four years of service, Reverend Lance became ill, and in spite of the love and affection he had for God and the church, he was no longer able to serve effectively. In the year 2005, he retired from the pastorate; and

Whereas, Reverend C.W. Green was then elected by the body of the church as pastor. Under his leadership, Minister Gerald Bynum was licensed by the church and added to the ministerial staff. Reverend Green served as pastor for four years until his health began to fail. He, too, then decided he could no longer be effective in the growth of the church, so he retired. The church then elected Reverend Hennighan Howe as pastor, and he served one year; and

Whereas, for the next three years, the church was under the leadership of the deacons. The ministerial staff included Ministers Rutledge, Moyd, and Bynum. Reverend Walker Linnen, the field missionary of the Jerusalem Association, was always available and would come in and conduct Communion Service, which was held on the first Sunday of the month. He also served as interim pastor. Elliot Duncan was added to the deacons’ ministry during this time. Through the prayers of the believers and the grace of God, the body was held together while patiently waiting on God to act in this matter of a new pastor. In February 2013, the church received what was unanimously believed to be God’s answer in the person of Reverend Sam Giles, who came in with great visions. Today, auxiliaries and ministries are being motivated to higher heights, Bible study is at an all‑time high, heartfelt children’s ministry is prospering, and Saturday‑morning men’s prayer hour is growing as the love of God is displayed through these servant‑hearted men. Deacons ministering under the leadership of Reverend Giles are Chairman Bobby Cooper, Hossie Davis, Elliot Duncan, Therman Gourdine, Jimmy Staggers, and Lee Timmons. The ministerial staff includes Lottie Rutledge, Joan Moyd, and Gerald Bynum; and

Whereas, church trustees are Chairman James Timmons, Laverne Staggers, Glennie Brunson, Edward Cooper, Jr., Grover Middleton, Preston Mitchum, Norman Staggers, and Ricky Staggers. Current church enrollment consists of eighty members; and

Whereas, other officers, ministries, and auxiliaries are as follows:

Church clerk: Sister Brenda Timmons; Assistant: Sister Felisa Matthews

Sunday School superintendent: Sister Lois Middleton; Assistant: Licentiate Gerald Bynum

Sunday School secretary: Sister Alberta Scott; Assistant: Licentiate Joan Moyd

Adult Class Sunday School teacher: Deacon Roosevelt Timmons

Adult Class Assistant Sunday School teacher: Licentiate Gerald Bynum

Youth Class Sunday School teacher: Deacon Jimmy Staggers

Senior Class Sunday School teacher: Sister Carleatha Duncan; Assistant: Sister Teresa Barr

Missionary Society: Sister Anna Timmons, president

Usher Board: Sister Lila Moyd, president

Pastor’s aide: Sister Sharon Cooper, president

Youth Ministry: Licentiate Joan Moyd, advisor

Kitchen Committee: Sister Betty Moyd, president

Senior Choir: Brother Edward Cooper, Jr., president

Adult Choir: Sister Felisa Matthews, president

Male Choir: Brother Grover Middleton, president

Brotherhood: Deacon Jimmy Staggers, president

Musicians: Brother Frederick Timmons, Brother Keith Moyd, Brother Daryel Moyd, and Brother Derrick Moyd

Church sexton: Sister Dorothy Gaskins; and

Whereas, on Saturday, October 18, 2014, Brown’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church will hold a special celebration of its one hundred twenty‑fifth anniversary; and

Whereas, Brown’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in Andrews for one hundred twenty‑five years, and God willing, will continue its godly heritage in 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, commend Brown’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Andrews for a century and a quarter of service to the community and extend warmest congratulations on the occasion of the church’s historic one hundred twenty‑fifth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Sam Giles for Brown’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

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