

1 SJR97  
2 192839-2  
3 By Senators Coleman-Madison, Albritton, Allen, Beasley,  
4 Blackwell, Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Dial, Dunn, Figures,  
5 Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw, Livingston, Marsh,  
6 McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Sanders, Sanford,  
7 Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Stutts,  
8 Waggoner, Ward, Whatley and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 13-MAR-18

1 SJR97

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4 ENROLLED, SJR97,

5 COMMENDING BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON ITS  
6 200TH ANNIVERSARY.

7  
8 WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein proudly  
9 presented to Bethlehem United Methodist Church on the occasion  
10 of its 200th Anniversary; and

11 WHEREAS, Bethlehem United Methodist Church is one of  
12 the oldest churches in Jefferson County, dating back to the  
13 work of Ebenezer Hearn in 1818; and

14 WHEREAS, the land for the church and cemetery was  
15 donated to the church officials by James Rutledge in 1818; the  
16 original church was built under the direction of Reverend  
17 James Tarrant who was born in the Colony of Virginia, and was  
18 a Captain in the service of the United Colonies in the War for  
19 Independence; and

20 WHEREAS, Reverend Tarrant, Mrs. Margaret Sadler  
21 Prude (wife of John Prude), and Nancy Sadler (Mrs. William  
22 Rose Sadler) organized the church; Reverend Tarrant was a  
23 saintly man and promised to preach until a circuit pastor  
24 could be found; Reverend Tarrant died in the 1830's at his

1 home and was buried on his own premises, a few hundred yards  
2 from Bethlehem Church; and

3 WHEREAS, the original church was a one-room log  
4 building and in the early 1890's the logs were removed to the  
5 floor and a frame building was erected, using the old logs and  
6 six-inch board flooring for the floor; they are still in use,  
7 well preserved, and are in the same location as they were in  
8 1818; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1954, the church was raised eight feet  
10 due to the building of a new four lane highway in front of it  
11 and the old log sills and six inch board flooring became a  
12 part of the ceiling in the dining hall; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1956, the downstairs area was dedicated  
14 to the memory of James Rutledge and named "James Rutledge  
15 Fellowship Hall"; Dr. J. D. Hunter, a former pastor, was in  
16 charge of the dedication service with several descendants of  
17 James Rutledge present; from the beginning there has always  
18 been at least one member of the church who was one of his  
19 descendants; and

20 WHEREAS, the church has grown from a one room log  
21 building to one containing two large auditoriums, a large,  
22 fully equipped kitchen, and 13 air conditioned rooms and gas  
23 heating systems; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Bethlehem United Methodist

1 Church is highly honored and commended on the occasion of its  
2 200th Anniversary, and this resolution is offered in highest  
3 tribute, along with sincere best wished for success in future  
4 endeavors.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR97  
Senate 13-MAR-18  
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution  
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 20-MAR-18

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By: Senator Coleman-Madison