

1 SJR97
2 192839-1
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

8 COMMENDING BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON ITS
9 200TH ANNIVERSARY.
10

11 WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein proudly
12 presented to Bethlehem United Methodist Church on the occasion
13 of its 200th Anniversary; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Tarrant, Mrs. Margaret Sadler
24 Prude (wife of John Prude), and Nancy Sadler (Mrs. William
25 Rose Sadler) organized the church; Reverend Tarrant was a
26 saintly man and promised to preach until a circuit pastor
27 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
26 Church is highly honored and commended on the occasion of its
27 200th Anniversary, and this resolution is offered in highest

1 tribute, along with sincere best wished for success in future
2 endeavors.