

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, in 1885, a small group of people gathered in a wooden building on a dirt road that would be named Yonge Street, in Ormond Beach, Florida. Reverends Price and Hayes served the church, with Charter members Mattie Chatman, Essie Boyce, the Roses, Romeos, Miles, Douglas's, Redmonds and many others not recorded who organized the first congregation. The first Bishop to serve Historic New Bethel was Rt. Reverend Daniel Alexander Payne (1885-1888), who was followed by Rt. Reverend Benjamin William Arnett (1888-1892). During this time the ladies sold ice cream, fish dinners, sandwiches, and barbecue to raise money for the church. During 1927, Historic New Bethel was rebuilt at 115 South Yonge Street, across the street from the original site under the leadership of Reverend A. L. Bennett, as Pastor and Architect; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1977, under the leadership of Reverend Allen C. Williams, the parsonage was constructed by Fred Gamble, with the help of church members and furniture upholstered by Brother John Miller, for the Reverend Wayman Dixon and his family, the first Pastor to occupy the parsonage. Reverend Carl Brinkley served as Pastor for 12 years from 1982 to 1994. Under Reverend Brinkley's leadership, numerous accomplishments were realized, such as the expansion of the choir stand and pulpit, the installation of a wrought iron railing around the pulpit area, the furnishing of the Stewardess room with a counter-top cabinet, sink and running water, replacement of the central air and heating units, installation of new ceiling fans, enclosing the entire front of the church with tinted glass and carpeted front steps, the repainting and upholstering of all pews and pulpit furniture, the purchase of an eight-burner, two-oven gas range for the kitchen, and the installation of wall light fixtures in the sanctuary; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of current Pastor, Reverend Willie W. Branch, Jr., we continue to lead by example in the Ormond Beach community. The congregation has endured many hardships, trials, and tribulations through the years, but through it all, they have remained faithful and served a God who has never left them alone, bestowing upon them his grace and mercy, whose love continues to sustain them; and

**WHEREAS**, today, the Historic New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is celebrating 125 years of service to the Ormond Beach community. May God continue to bless Historic New Bethel and those who made/make it the "Blessed Church" on Yonge Street at the corner of US1 and Live Oak Avenue;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ed Kelley, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim August 28, 2011, as

## HISTORIC NEW BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH DAY

in the City of Ormond Beach and urge all residents to join with me to celebrate with the Historic New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church as it continues its ministry to the community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eleven.



  
ED KELLEY  
Mayor