

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the African Methodist Episcopal Church's mantra is "*to carry the gospel to the dying world; to seek man everywhere; and to hold up as an example to men, the life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historic New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1885 by a small group of devout, conscientious Christians who decided to trust God; they pooled their money to purchase a small lot, on which they built the first A.M.E. church in Ormond Beach. Today that building is still standing and in good condition, now known as the "Old Parsonage"; and

**WHEREAS**, the church membership grew over the years and needed a larger space in which to meet. In 1926 under the leadership of Reverend A.L. Bennett, cement blocks were made by young school boys of the church and stacked away until enough existed to build the present church. Congregants worked hard to complete the Sanctuary in its new location; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Phyllis Rose Brown, the current pastor, started at Historic New Bethel in 2016, right before Hurricane Matthew blew the church's 25-foot steeple off the roof. Through fundraising and community support, the congregation repaired and returned the steeple to the top of the sanctuary, where it serves as a beacon calling lost souls to the Lord. Pastor Brown continues to lead the church and volunteers to give the invocation at our City Commission meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, Historic New Bethel is one of the oldest churches in Volusia County. The church's mission is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. Their ministries include the Women's Missionary Society, Sons of Allen, Young Peoples Division, the Lay Organization, and a weekly bible study. Historic New Bethel is committed to stewardship, finding that there is an inseparable relationship between stewardship and spirituality.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim September 15, 2019, as a time to celebrate the 134<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ministry of the

## HISTORIC NEW BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen.

  
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**BILL PARTINGTON**  
Mayor