

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year and will host a special commemoration on Saturday, August 22, 2015; and*

WHEREAS, *the church's history dates back to 1856 when a group of African-American Christians met with Reverend Cyrus to form an African Methodist Episcopal Church; this was the first black church in the City of McKeesport and parishioners were visited by a circuit rider who preached to them; and*

WHEREAS, *Reverend Sandy Christian was the first pastor to be assigned to the new congregation and for several years the church met in Pierce Hall at Walnut and Tenth Streets; in 1888, the church purchased a lot on Locust Street to build a small church; the first service in the new building was held on November 11, 1888 and the church was dedicated by Bishop J.P. Campbell; and*

WHEREAS, *following Reverend Christian's tenure of service, Reverends G.L. Lacy, E.A. Walton, G.W. Riley, C.H. Brown, R.H. Henderson, Harley Thomas, Daniel Newsome, and C.H. Butts served as head pastors; following these leaders, Reverend George T. Smith led the church in purchasing its present site in 1905; and*

WHEREAS, *other pastors of the church included Reverends E.R. Bazier, T.E. Wilson, W.N. Young, D.S. Bently, T.A. West, Norman Brown, N.D. Temple, R.H. Morris, Sidney King, C.R. Goggins, F.W. Thompson, E.J. Jones, J.R. McClendon, and G.A. Bryant; subsequently, Rev. A.I. Maura took over, and he was followed by Reverends F.E. Johnson, B.H. Harris, J.K. Frazier, D.E. Owens, B.H. Gaiton, P. Morris, Y.S. Wright, and J. McCanats, Jr.; today, the church is led by Reverend Dr. John F. Newby, Jr., and the church and its congregation continue to be a light in the world.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate St. Paul A.M.E. Church on its 150th anniversary and wish all members of the congregation and pastoral staff many more wonderful years to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 22nd day of August, 2015.

Rich Fitzgerald

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