

RESOLUTION NUMBER 74
83rd Anniversary of Scruggs Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Scruggs Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will be celebrating its 83rd Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the Scruggs Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was purchased and organized in July 1925 under the leadership of Bishop Randall A. Carter, D.D., A.M., LL. D., Presiding Bishop, assisted by the late Bishop N.C. Cleaves, Dr. Holman Wadsworth Evans, who was then Pastor of Lane Tabernacle and Mrs. Laura Sneed Fox. After the transaction was completed, the name Scruggs Memorial was retained by the congregation because of its historical significance; and

WHEREAS, the church is designed in the “Gothic Revival” style that was prevalent during the latter part of the 19th century and is constructed of Indiana limestone and concrete with Belford stone trimming all around the front and side of the building. It is believed that the church is one of the few remaining Missouri churches (built in the late 1800’s) in that architectural style. The church was designed by a local St. Louis architect, Thomas B. Annan, and created in 1884. Members of the congregation added a brick annex to the church in 1964; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price for the church in 1925 was \$45,000.00. The church is grateful to Lane Tabernacle for underwriting the first \$10,000.00 paid on this great building. Rev. R.O. Langford, Secretary of Evangelism served as the first pastor until the Annual Conference meeting in October. In the first few years this newly organized congregation made some progress but found it rather difficult to meet the indebtedness of the church. In 1934, while the General Conference was in session at Scruggs, Rev. T.J. Moppins, pastor and a delegate to the General Conference succeeded in introducing a Resolution to this body to underwrite the indebtedness of Scruggs. In 1944 under the pastorate of Rev. J. Clarence Colclough, the entire debt was liquidated followed by a mortgage burning service led by Bishop Randall A. Carter; and

WHEREAS, the spiritual growth and development of this church is one of everlasting credit to the founding fathers and the succession of consecrated ministers that have led this great congregation to its place of leadership in this community. The growth of the church has been constant with all the Pastors contributing to its success. Scruggs is one of the landmarks of the C.M.E. Church and stands as a monument to the many sacrifices made, not only by the local membership, but by the General Church. One of the Charter Members of Scruggs, Mrs. Jeanette Stith, is still living; and

WHEREAS, the following is the Pastor’s Roster at Scruggs from 1925 to the present: Rev. R.O. Langford, Rev. W. T. Moore, Rev. I.C. Nicholson, Rev. H. W. Evans, Rev. H. L. Bolden, Rev. A. W. Womack, Rev. T. L. Moppins, Rev. F. L. Lewis, Rev. J. Reed, Rev. J. C. Harris, Rev. E. W. Walker, Rev. W. L. Liddell, Rev. J. C. Colclough, Rev. J. R. McClain, Rev. D. S. Cunningham, Rev. F. M. Dickey, Rev. J. H. Douglass, Rev. L. L. Reddick III, Rev. J. C. Clay, Rev. W. H. Crenshaw, Rev. G. H. Williams, Rev. D. L. Fitten, Rev. I. A. Hentrel, Rev. J. D. Johnson, Rev. M. L. Lue, Rev. J. T. Stewart and Rev. G. H. Williams; and

WHEREAS, Scruggs has provided a variety of ministries to the Midtown area of St. Louis City. They have operated a Child Abuse Prevention Program, had a strong viable youth and young adult ministry extending its outreach activities into the community, been a site for the Summer Lunch Program, provided after-school tutoring during the school year, and had a weekly Arts and Crafts Program for Senior Adults.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Scruggs Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on their 83rd Anniversary and thank them for their innumerable contributions to the City of St. Louis in the community and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 19th day of June, 2009 by:

Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderman 19th Ward

Adopted this the 19th day of June, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

