

Proclamation

A Proclamation Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church May 15, 2021

WHEREAS, on May 15, 1921, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church was founded in the basement of an A&P Store at the corner of Sixth Street and McMahon Avenue, organized by Rev. D.D. Dantley and Rev. Talton, and;

WHEREAS, the membership of the congregation grew to 28 members and Rev. Dantley was named the Pastor, and;

WHEREAS, Mt. Calvary moved to the west-end of Monessen, called Wireton, and after the resignation of Rev. Dantley, saw the Pastoral leadership of Rev. K. Sanders, Rev. Bates, and Rev. I.H. Garner, and;

WHEREAS, in 1926, one of their own members became their Pastor – Rev. H.B. Hilton; Through him the church was reorganized, rededicated, and continued to grow, moving from various storefronts and buildings, and;

WHEREAS, Rev. W.M. Parker became pastor in 1931, and after meeting with his officers, suggested building a church, and;

WHEREAS, a church building was built on Morgan Avenue, where it continued to grow and thrive, and;

WHEREAS, upon the appointment of Rev. Edgar Archie, the church grew and continued to improve the church building, making numerous improvements, and;

WHEREAS, due to the redevelopment in Monessen, and the demolition of Morgan Avenue and much of the West-End, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church moved from Morgan Avenue to their present site at Rostraver Street and Reed Avenue – the former St. Hyacinth Polish Church, and;

WHEREAS, Rev. Ernest Love became Pastor in 1974, with Rev. Griffin Mason replacing him in 1976, and;

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Rev. Mason, the membership continued to rapidly grow, and 12 new ministers accepted the call to preach the Gospel, and;

WHEREAS, the following members were called to preach the Gospel through Mt. Calvary Church – Pastor/Minister Ricardo Hall, Pastor Sheila Davis, Pastor Terry Davis, Apostle Royal Mason, Minister Richard Carter, Minister Catherine Barrett, Pastor/Minister Patricia Barrett, Dr. Odessa Jackson, Minister Virginia Henderson, Minister James Floyd, Evangelist Luenetta Mason, Bishop Karl Jackson, and Pastor/Minister Robert Spence and Evangelist Spence. Pastor Mason also ordained 6 deacons, and;

WHEREAS, Pastor Mason served as Moderator of the Youghioghney Western Baptist Association for six years, during which time the YWBA Christian Center was built. He also served as song leader for the Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention, and;

WHEREAS, Pastor Mason was called to the Lord on October 31, 2007, after 31 years of dedicated service, and;

WHEREAS, Bishop Karl Jackson was installed as Pastor on August 24, 2008; he serves as a dedicated, dynamic and passionate Pastor, devoted to the expansion and ministry of Mt. Calvary, and;

WHEREAS, Mt. Calvary Church currently has new ministries such as, the Men's Ministry, Youth Choir, Breakfast with the Pastor, Summer Lunch Program, and Vacation Bible School, and;

WHEREAS, Mt. Calvary Church is an integral part of the City of Monessen, providing support, guidance, community, and a century-long legacy. Their growth and success are a testament to their love and dedication to their Church and their Faith.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matthew T. Shorraw, Mayor of the City of Monessen, do hereby commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. Our community is more enriched, vibrant, and blessed because of their work and dedication to their faith and their community.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MS", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Shorraw
Mayor, City of Monessen