

Town of Blythewood

Office of the Mayor
Bryan S. Franklin
Shady Grove AME Church
201st Church Anniversary
September 25th, 2023
Town of Blythewood, South Carolina



WHEREAS, in the early 1800's the Lord caused several early-oppressed worshippers to see the same vision about establishing a House of Prayer thus began their first church, believed to have been a Brush Harbor; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Columbus Cooke, Brother Nelson McDonald, Spence Ruff, and Rev. Aaron Leevy, and their faithful spouses heeded the call, worshipping in a wooden structure that stood the test of time until 1976 when a new church was built on the hill and remained a viable place of worship continuing the vision of these early parishioners; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1900's, these faithful members were instrumental in the establishment of the Shady Groove School and the Cooke School, serving the children of Richland and Kershaw County; and

WHEREAS, over the years, many changes occurred, but nothing more consistent than the outreach to the community and the countless families that worship together and the many notable deacons and worship leaders that have ministered in harmony; and

WHEREAS, in her glorious 201st year history, Shady Grove AME Church has been truly blessed with "divinely called" leadership, while members participated in two world wars, the Great Depression, and countless other calamities, nevertheless, continues this day as a beacon of light to all and a lamp to the feet of many souls that have come to the Cross by way of Shady Grove AME Church; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED I, Bryan Franklin, Mayor of the Town of Blythewood, and Town Council members, on behalf of the community, hereby congratulate Shady Grove AME Church and recognize the vision shown by the founders and forerunners of the Church, and proclaim this day as Shady Grove AME Church Day in Blythewood, South Carolina.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the Town of Blythewood on this day, the 25^h Day of September, in the year of Our Lord, 2023.



Bryan S. Franklin, Mayor