

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

The St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, led by Pastor, Dr. John F. Newby, Jr., is the oldest African American Congregation in Lima, Ohio, and is now celebrating 154 years of service; and

WHEREAS:

The Mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 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; and

WHEREAS:

The African Methodist Episcopal Church engages in carrying out the spirit of the original Free African Society, out of which the A.M.E. Church evolved: that is, the Church seeks out the lost and the needy through a continuing program of preaching the gospel, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, cheering the fallen, providing jobs for the jobless, administering to the needs of those in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, asylums and mental institutions, senior citizens' homes; caring for the sick, and encouraging thrift and economic advancement; and

WHEREAS:

The Free African Society was a non-denominational community formed in 1787 in Philadelphia by Richard Allen and many others for the benefit of African-Americans released from slavery. The FAS operated as a combined church, local government and charity, providing aid to the poor, teaching morality, regulating marriages, and working to reduce alcoholism. It was Richard Allen who would later form the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS:

Presiding Elder James H. Harris of the Cleveland District AMEC is the keynote speaker for the 154th Anniversary Celebration which will initiate the St. Paul AMEC Renovation Project to raise funds needed to restore and maintain this historically significant building.

NOW THEREFORE:


I, David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio, do hereby proclaim Sunday, August 12 as

**ST. PAUL AME CHURCH
154th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY**

in the City of Lima and ask all citizens to congratulate The St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church on their 154th Anniversary, and extend to all members of the congregation sincere appreciation for their dedicated service to and ministry in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 8th day of August 2012.




DAVID J. BERGER, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO