

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, originally organized as the Bethel Society in 1866, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has helped meet the spiritual needs of residents of the Midlands for more than a century; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel congregation held worship services at several sites in the Columbia area, including their Sumter Street edifice which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, before relocating to their current five-acre home, reportedly one of the largest African Methodist Episcopal owned and developed campuses in the world; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has served the community, renovating and expanding the ministries as well as the facilities to accommodate the growing spiritual, education, outreach and fellowship needs of the church community; and

WHEREAS, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and its congregation are commemorating 140 years of spiritual worship, education, fellowship, and faith.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 20, 2006, as

### BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate the many contributions and rich history of the church and its congregation.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA