

RESOLUTION NUMBER 324
107th Anniversary of Centennial Christian Church

Whereas, Centennial Christian Church, a local and nationally prominent church with a rich history in St Louis will celebrate its 107th Church Anniversary in March 2012.; and

Whereas, As vital partners with the residents of Fountain Park, the City and County of St. Louis and the State of Missouri, they have continued to share, support and engage in many outreach efforts on behalf of others; and

Whereas, these efforts include, but are not limited to: offering their building/church to serve as the emergency response site for Lewis Place, the Ville, and other surrounding neighborhoods affected by the 2010 New Year's Eve Tornado disaster; hosting their annual Shooting Hoops for Peace: Three on Three Basketball Tournament to curb violence; operating a food and clothing pantry for our city's homeless; implementing their Annual Back to School Party in the park, where hundreds of book bags with supplies, several bicycles and a variety of resources are provided to families in need; serving as a key partner in the Annual Fountain Park-Juneteenth Celebration; sponsoring three safe and affordable senior citizen residence facilities: Centennial Plaza, Hylton Point I, and Hylton Point II, that speak to the need of caring for the nation's most vulnerable; and Centennial also hosted the city's first interracial nursery and currently serves as the home to the Breakfast Club, Inc., a prominent breast cancer support group that educates the African-American community about the importance of breast examination, early detection and treatment, while providing support for newly diagnosed women; and

Whereas, the keynote and featured speaker for the March 17th banquet and our March 18th morning worship service, respectively, is nationally acclaimed preacher/lecturer, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, pastor/founder of the Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), located in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, Dr. Hale pastors one of the fastest growing congregations in the country and has traveled extensively throughout the world. Ray of Hope has a congregation of more than 6,000 members that enjoy a reputation of making a difference in Atlanta, GA and its surrounding areas. Her accomplishments are many, including being appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, Co-Chair for Women in Ministry for Obama, inducted into the African American Biographers Hall of Fame, and inducted into the Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College. Dr. Hale is also the author of "I'm a Piece of Work: Sisters Shaped by God".; and

Whereas, Centennial Christian Church's Food Program provides emergency food, hygiene products, and clothing to community residents the second and fourth Saturday of each month. In addition, the program hosts a Community Luncheon at the end of each month and a Thanksgiving Luncheon and Turkey Giveaway open to the community; and

Whereas, Centennial Christian Church Community Cares is a program that connects the church to the community by providing services, information, and community projects for the Fountain Park Neighborhood. Abraham's Children is the health component of the Outreach Ministry. Abraham's Children conducts health fairs, workshops, and informational meetings that educates and raises awareness of the health concerns of African Americans. The World Outreach team supports a student in Africa attending college and hosts events that raise awareness of the congregation of the global missions. Circle of Love Women's Health Ministry provides education and raises awareness to women's health issues. "Bibs, Bottles and Binkies Community Baby Shower" is annual event for first time pregnant teens ages 13-18; and

Whereas, Centennial Christian Church led the way in the founding of Centennial Plaza Apartments; the church's first affordable housing for senior citizens. In 1987, Centennial Christian Church formed a partnership with The National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to establish affordable housing for the low income elderly. From that partnership Centennial Plaza Apartments (1988), Hylton Point Apartments (1996) and Hylton Point II Apartments (2000).

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor the 107th Anniversary of Centennial Christian Church and direct the

Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of the resolution over the permanent rolls of this Board and to prepare a fitting copy of this resolution to be presented to the honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by its sponsor.

Introduced on the 9th day of March, 2012 by:

Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this the 9th day of March, 2012 as attested:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen