



Text File

Introduced: 5/12/2015

Bill No: 2015-1637, **Version:** 1

Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, The first Sunday in May 1885, Reverend Willis Duvall was called to preach at 6400 Penn Avenue in East Liberty for the Siloam New Church. It was one of the first Baptist Churches in East Liberty. After 2 1/2 years, the church split and reorganized. Rev. Duvall took his half of the church and changed the name to Second Baptist Church of East End, where they met in East Liberty in the rear of Liberty Hall over the Feed Store. In 1887, two lots were purchased on Carron Street to meet the needs of the fast-growing congregation. The church was chartered on September 19, 1887. The congregation changed their place of worship from the rear of Liberty Hall to their new building on Carron Street in January 1890; and,

WHEREAS, On February 11, 1900, Rev. Rodney C. Fox of Harrisonburg, Virginia, became pastor. He submitted the plans to have Second Baptist Church demolished and construct a new church with the name Carron Baptist Church. He pastored for nearly 20 years before passing on due to illness. Between the passing of Rev. Fox in 1919 and 1985, there have only been three pastors: Rev. Murray, Rev. Jenkins and Rev. Phillips. Under the guidance of these men, Carrone Baptist underwent substantial growth in congregation size, creation of numerous groups and boards such as The Deaconess board, Junior Usher Board, the Rodney C. Fox Brotherhood Club and the Dramatic Club. In 1930, The Drama Club hosted the First Black Negro Opera House in the City of Pittsburgh. Carrone Baptist Church also became one of the founding churches of the A.U.B.A. (Allegheny Union Baptist Association); and,

WHEREAS, From 1988 to 2009, Carrone Baptist Church had only two pastors. Rev. Gary E. Brandon, whose tenure began on April 3, 1988, was instrumental in forming groups like God's Little Sunbeams, Tuesday Morning Prayer Band Service and the Audio Tape ministry, which recorded services and delivered them to the sick and shut-in. Rev. Kenneth Johnson accepted his call in 2002. He is credited with having our first-ever sound room installed. He resigned in September of 2009; and,

WHEREAS, On December 1, 2012, God answered their prayers and sent them Rev. Alonzo Murphy Jr. He has spearheaded a committee for their annual "Rejoicing on the Lawn" June celebration. Rev. Murphy is very active in the community as he has outreach dinners for the disadvantaged and regularly visits the Senior High Rise apartments in the neighborhood; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby commend Carrone Baptist Church on 130 years of service and commitment to the residents of Homewood and City of Pittsburgh; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Tuesday, May 12, 2015, to be "*Carrone Baptist Church Day*" in the City of Pittsburgh.