

## Senate Resolution 528

By: Senator Crotts of the 17th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Salem United Methodist Church on the occasion of its 179th anniversary; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Salem Methodist Church was organized in 1824, when a log structure was built  
4 on five wooded acres donated by Green B. Turner in the northwestern part of Newton  
5 County, on the Conyers to Porterdale road, for use as a meeting house; and

6 WHEREAS, Salem Camp Meetings were begun by members of Salem Church and others  
7 the first summer of the church's existence, were held at the meeting house the first two years,  
8 and have continued every summer to the present day at Salem Camp Grounds just north of  
9 the present Salem United Methodist Church sanctuary; and

10 WHEREAS, Salem Church and Salem Camp Grounds exchanged the site of the original  
11 church for land to be used for the construction of a new sanctuary in 1903. This wood frame  
12 structure continues in use, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and having been  
13 expanded twice, in 1946 and 1956, to increase the size of the sanctuary and add classrooms  
14 and other facilities for the growing congregation. A multi-use family life center was  
15 completed in 1999, which has become a focal point for a wide variety of community  
16 activities including basketball tournaments, musical presentations, weddings, receptions,  
17 soap box derbies, and meetings in addition to worship services, a Passover seder, Vacation  
18 Bible School, and other Christian events; and

19 WHEREAS, Salem United Methodist Church has nurtured and sent many ordained clergy,  
20 teachers, and lay leaders into the community and been the home of educators, physicians,  
21 attorneys, judges, legislators, and community leaders, a tradition continues to this day; and

22 WHEREAS, Salem United Methodist Church serves the surrounding communities in both  
23 Newton and Rockdale counties by sponsoring Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Red Cross

1 CPR programs and blood drives, literacy programs, and other outreach programs including  
2 partnering with local public schools; and

3 WHEREAS, the congregation of Salem United Methodist Church has built churches in  
4 Mexico and worked to improve the lives of people in Appalachia and impoverished rural  
5 areas of our state and region, as well as providing financial support to United Methodist  
6 ministries for global relief, elder care, and children's homes; and

7 WHEREAS, the Reverend Randy Kanipe, the current senior pastor, is leading this historic  
8 church as it moves forward, building from a solid spiritual foundation to meet the needs of  
9 a changing community that is part of the expanding metropolitan Atlanta area; and

10 WHEREAS, as Salem United Methodist Church embodies its motto, "an old church for new  
11 friends," and strives to live out their belief and faith as United Methodists through "open  
12 minds, open hearts, and open doors" it is most fitting to honor and commend this  
13 congregation for its faithfulness to the Christian teachings of John Wesley who held that faith  
14 must be lived.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
16 recognize and honor Salem United Methodist Church on its 179th anniversary and convey  
17 their appreciation to Pastor Randy Kanipe and the entire congregation for their invaluable  
18 contributions and services to the community and the entire state of Georgia.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
20 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Pastor Randy Kanipe.