

By: Cook

H.R. No. 189

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of First United Methodist Church of  
2 Palestine are joining together on September 11, 2011, to celebrate  
3 the 100th anniversary of the dedication of their present building  
4 and to mark 175 years of Methodism in the Palestine area; and

5           WHEREAS, It was in 1836, the same year that Texas won its  
6 independence, that a Methodist missionary first arrived in the  
7 settlement of Fort Houston, situated two miles west of present-day  
8 Palestine, and began conducting services; in the early days, when  
9 area residents gathered for worship, men would take turns standing  
10 guard against the threat of Indian attack; and

11           WHEREAS, In 1840, the fledgling congregation began meeting in  
12 the home of Roland Box, where services were led by the Reverend John  
13 Wilson, from the Crockett Mission in adjacent Houston County; after  
14 Palestine became the county seat in 1846, the congregation moved to  
15 the new town, along with most of the other residents of Fort  
16 Houston; a frame church, Bascom Chapel, was built by the Methodist  
17 Society in 1850, and as the only church building in Palestine, it  
18 was also used by the Baptists, Presbyterians, and Disciples of  
19 Christ; the first Methodist Sunday school was organized in 1853;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, The Methodist congregation erected a new building,  
22 designed by the noted Galveston architect Nicholas J. Clayton, in  
23 1884 and named it Centenary Church, to mark a century of Methodism  
24 in the United States; construction was begun on the current church

1 building in 1910, and a formal dedication took place the following  
2 year; recent improvements have included new Sunday school and  
3 children's buildings and a new fellowship hall; and

4 WHEREAS, Countless Texans have looked to First United  
5 Methodist Church of Palestine for spiritual sustenance and guidance  
6 through the years, and it is indeed a pleasure to recognize this  
7 historic congregation; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
9 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the 100th  
10 anniversary of the dedication of the First United Methodist Church  
11 building in Palestine and 175 years of Methodism in the Palestine  
12 area; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for First United Methodist Church of Palestine as an  
15 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.