

Chatham County
*Proclamation Honoring the Installation of the
Reverend Ida Louise Johnson*

WHEREAS, St. Bartholomew's Parish was chartered in 1771 as part of the establishment of the County of Chatham; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1831, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church is among the County's oldest churches; and

WHEREAS, through ministries in housing, feeding the poor, and educating children, the rectors, vicars, and parishioners of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church and St. James' Episcopal Mission have a long-standing tradition of community service not only to residents of Chatham County, but also to those who live outside the county's borders; and

WHEREAS, as the oldest integrated churches in Chatham County where people of diverse ethnic backgrounds continue to worship and celebrate the Eucharist together, the Church and Mission have contributed greatly to racial unity; and

WHEREAS, through nurturing and education of Primus Priss Alston, a Chatham County slave born in 1851, St. Bartholomew Church contributed significantly to the 1892 appointment of Reverend Alston as one of the first African-American rectors in the Diocese of North Carolina; and

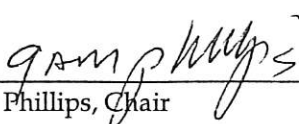
WHEREAS, on February 7, 2002 the date of her installation as the Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, the Reverend Ida Louise Johnson becomes the first African-American woman to hold that position in the Diocese of North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, North Carolina, that we hereby proclaim the occasion of the installation of Reverend Johnson as a significant event in the history of St. Bartholomew's Church and indeed the entire County;

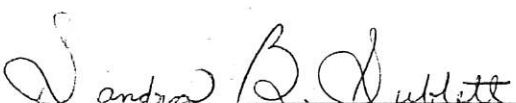
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that we hereby celebrate Reverend Johnson's appointment, as she leads the Church into its third century of service to Chatham County.

Adopted this, the 4th day of February, 2002.

ATTEST



Gary Phillips, Chair



Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board