

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the first member of the Free Springs United Methodist Church of Como, Mississippi, as found in the Methodist Membership and Church Record No. 185, was received in 1853—but due to loss of records, no complete record of membership exists for the period of 1857 to 1967; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 1857, the first deed of the church was given by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Childress with the price stated as “for the love of God”—although the original deed was destroyed during the Civil War when the Court House at Oxford was burned, the original was rewritten by memory and later recorded; and

WHEREAS, God blessed the Free Springs United Methodist Church with the opportunity to construct a new facility that was dedicated on September, 25, 1925, containing the original bell that has been integral part of the church’s history and still tolls in the spire today—the congregation met at the Free Springs School house during construction; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 the Methodist Episcopal Church, now the United Methodist Church, adopted “The message our tradition has proclaimed is grace and freedom,” which has been the same message that Free Springs has used for 130 years; and

WHEREAS, at this time, Free Springs is now an independent church in the Senatobia District of the Northwest Mississippi Conference; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2003, Free Springs United Methodist Church will be celebrating 150 years of God’s blessings and will rededicate themselves to sharing God’s word and their love of Christ in the community:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim June 22, 2003, in honor of

**FREE SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
COMO, MISSISSIPPI**

and their love and dedication to an awesome God, their community and the State of Mississippi.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, June 20, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR