

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, the First Baptist Church of Vancleave (formerly Vancleave Baptist Church) was organized in 1902 after a series of meetings led by Rev. Boone (a medical doctor by profession)—the first church building was destroyed by a hurricane in September 1906—the second building was erected near the Vancleave Lower Elementary and was also heavily damaged by another hurricane in 1916; and

**WHEREAS**, although the church was damaged, the building was reconstructed and the congregation continued to meet and grow even through the wars and the Great Depression; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 1940's, there were no regular services held and during this time, the Vancleave School building burned—the church voted to allow the school to use its building until a new school could be built; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in 1943, services were held twice monthly until the growth of the congregation demanded full time worship services, Sunday School, prayer meeting and eventually a Vacation Bible School and the construction of a parsonage; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1950's the church purchased land from C.L. Dees on Highway 57 to build a new sanctuary and education space was added as the church grew; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1980's, the community of Vancleave began to experience a growth in population and the church grew to the point that a new sanctuary, additional education space and offices were necessary—the church moved into a beautiful new sanctuary and facilities in 1988 but needed to expand again in October of 2001 to accommodate the growth of the congregation; and

**WHEREAS**, the congregation of 1350 now occupies the First Baptist Vancleave facility, totaling 61, 758 square feet, and averages a weekly morning worship attendance of 600 and an average Sunday School attendance of 540—God has blessed the First Baptist Church of Vancleave over the last 100 years and the church continues to praise Him for His blessings during their Centennial Celebration *“100 Years Sharing the Love of Christ”*:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 29, 2002, in honor of

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VANCLEAVE, 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, September 18, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR