HOLSTON UNITED METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

New Christian Life Center 'An Indescribable Blessing'

BY CICELY BABB
SUN CONTRIBUTOR

Holston United Methodist Home for Children dedicated its new Christian Life Center at a ceremony Thursday.

The Christian Life Center, 1014 Wesley Ave., "is a long time in the making," said Bradley Williams, president of Holston Home.

To have a freestanding church on the Holston Home campus has been a goal since 1944, Williams said. In March 2014 the concept was approved, and construction began in December 2017.

The building will serve not only as a church, but also as a space for ac-

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SUN PHOTO BY CICELY BABB

Holston United Methodist Home for Children dedicated the new Christian Life Center, pictured, in a ceremony Thursday.

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tivities, recreation, and events such as performing arts and school assemblies.

It will be called "The Rock," Williams said, because God "is our rock and the foundation for the work he has called us to do in the lives of young people and families."

The dedication service took place in the sanctuary and was well attended by Holston Home's board of trustees and facilities committee members, members of the design and building team, donors, and members of the community.

"God gave us the vision, the design, the like-mindedness, the talented design team, and the funding to add this facility to our campus," Williams said.

The service opened with music and a worship service led by Director of Christian Life Abel Carrico. Carrico compared the building to a safe, saying that the valuables are the people who will occupy and use the building. He led a prayer that Holston Home staff never "miss the point" of the Christian Life Center.

Williams led the dedication, beginning with a reading of Solomon's Prayer of Dedication from 1 Kings 8:22-24 and 27-29.

Williams said he could not think of a better way to dedicate the building than with faith in what it will be used for.

Bryan Jackson, board of trustees chairman, and Kent Bewley, facilities committee chairman, also spoke, followed by representatives of Thomas Weems Architect and J.A. Street, who expressed pride in having contributed to the project.

The service was closed with a prayer led by Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor of the United Methodist Church Holston Conference.

Williams said the day was "an amazing display of joy in the Lord."

"Being led in worship by our gifted Christian Life team, seeing our youth and others expressing their hearts for the Lord, and sharing the moment with so many friends was an indescribable blessing," Williams said.

ANNUAL 'FRIENDS OF CHILDREN' DINNER TUESDAY

Holston United Methodist Home for Children will have its annual Friends of Children fundraising dinner Tuesday at the new Christian Life Center.

The evening will begin with an open house at the new facility from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and a program will follow at 7 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Holston Home and its ministries.

Seating is limited, so attendees are asked to RSVP to Susan Bernier at 423-787-8753 or susanbernier@holstonhome.org.