Holston Happenings
newsletter
Fall, 2019



Providing Hope
and Healing for a Brighter Future...

A publication of
Holston United Methodist
Home for Children

From the President



HOLSTON HOME'S MISSION:
Holston United Methodist Home for Children provides hope and healing for a brighter future by sharing the love of Jesus with children and families struggling with life's challenges.

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Peter quotes the prophet Isaiah when writing, "Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed" (I Peter 2:6). Children arrive at Holston Home feeling hurt, scared, and certainly disappointed that their lives are not what they dreamed of. Our approach has been the same for more than 120 years—love them where they are and introduce them to the One who will never disappoint them.

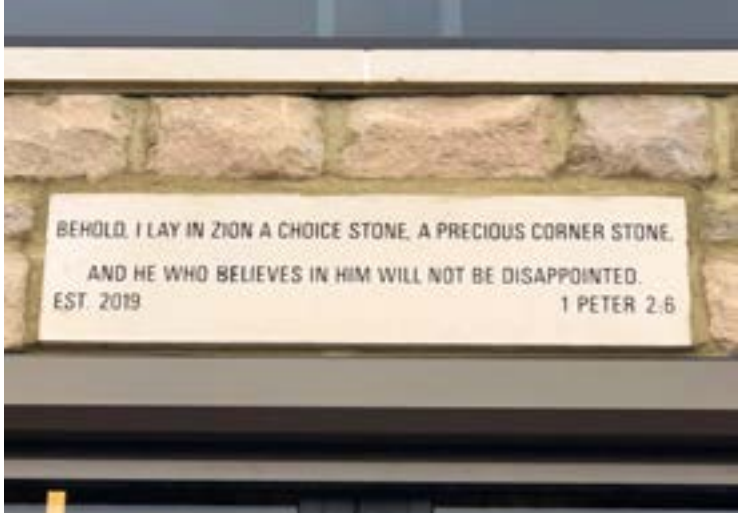
All through the Bible "rock" and "stone" are used to remind us of the strength, stability and security that are found in the Lord. These elements are essential as God uses this ministry to help young people begin to heal and grow in His love. Our vision in building a worship center became more and more clear as God led us through constructing what we call "The Rock."

The building and its finishes are conversation starters with youth about who Jesus is and how He feels about them. We began to see that the facility itself could communicate God's heart and facilitate encounters with our Savior. The stone, steel and timber speak of His power, strength and protection while at the same time being warm and welcoming – a retreat from the weight of the world. Its glass and windows demonstrate His light and transparency for all to see and find Him. The Rock has places for reverence and awe, and it also has rooms for joy and laughter. The artwork captures stories from the gospels where people crossed paths with Jesus and were never the same. Each one had his own back story filled with different hurts and shame just like the kids we serve, and they all found more than they thought was possible when meeting Him.

This past Sunday was the third service in The Rock. We baptized 21 youth and adults. Most were our kids, but we also baptized 2 college students from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes ministry we lead at Tusculum University. There was a staff member who was baptized and a former youth who lived here who is now 37 years old living in our community. The room was full and the Lord was exalted! I could easily end this article celebrating how many people encountered Jesus yesterday, but instead I want to end by sharing about one boy and his dad.

As we sang about God's incredible love, several of our youth went to pray at the altar. One little boy looked back at his dad who was there to see him get baptized. The dad looked weighed down and battered by the false promises of the world but saw his son looking at him. He motioned for his dad to come to the altar with him. The man sat torn by wanting to go to his son but not knowing if the altar was intended for him. The





son locked eyes with his dad again and mouthed another invitation, and this time the father couldn't stay seated. He walked down the aisle with his son, and we watched as this little boy put his arm around his daddy and prayed to his Heavenly Father. I have no idea what was prayed or what happened at the altar but as the gentleman walked back to his seat, his face said that he had encountered Jesus. A couple of songs later the boy looked back again and formed a heart with his fingers towards his dad. When it was the boy's turn to be baptized the father almost ran down the aisle with his phone's camera to make sure he captured every moment of the experience.

In all honesty, the world has plenty of beautiful buildings. So if constructing another one would have been our main goal, we may have achieved that objective only to have missed the point. The children at Holston Home and each of us are in desperate need of a Savior that will always motion for us to come closer so that He can reveal His love and grace, never leaving us disappointed. Thank you for your prayers and gifts that God is using to transform lives. You are a critical part in God's plan for our children, their parents, and our friends to experience the lives He intended for them. Thank you again for answering His call and may God bless you and your family.



Celebrating Jesus at "The Rock"

Building a freestanding church on our grounds has been a goal since 1944 and the dream recently became reality. In September Holston Home's children and members of the Board of Trustees, the design team, the community, as well as staff and donors gathered to dedicate the facility to the Lord Jesus Christ. "The Rock," will function first as a church for Holston Home's youth and also as a place to hold activities, recreation, and events such as performing arts and school assemblies. Sunday morning worship services are open to the community.

"We call it 'The Rock' because God is our rock and the foundation for the work he's called us to do in the lives of young people and families," explained Holston Home's President Bradley Williams. "God gave us the vision, the design, the like-mindedness, the talented design team, and the funding to add this facility to our campus."

The dedication event was a spirit-filled worship service featuring songs, scripture, and a special message from Pastor Abel Carrico, in which he compared the new 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's staff would never "miss the point" of The Rock.

Williams said he could not think of a better way to dedicate The Rock than by faith that it will be used to glorify God.

Bryan Jackson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, along with Kent Bewley, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, also shared remarks, as did representatives from Thomas Weems Architect and J.A. Street & Associates, all of whom expressed great pleasure in their contributions to the project.

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor of the United Methodist Church's Holston Conference closed with a benediction.

Williams called the day "an amazing display of joy in the Lord" and "an indescribable blessing."

To schedule a tour of The Rock, please contact Sue Bernier, at 423-787-8753.



- Holston Home has **served more than 600 children** in Tennessee and Virginia within the past year.
- 21 Residential youth **graduated from Beacon High School** during the 2018-19 school year.
- 18 of those graduates **enrolled in college or technical school**.
- 53 Youth **made professions of faith** in 2018/2019.
- 37 Youth **were baptized**.



"The best thing about Holston Home is the support system and having people around that give unconditional love. I love Holston!"

Holston resident

"Holston Home has been so good for our daughter and our home; we have learned so much. Holston helped her get her life together and helped her know how much she is worth and how much she is loved. Holston is a wonderful place, and we are so thankful she was there."

Parent

Christmas Community Night



Please join us on:

Thursday, December 5, 6 pm

for Christmas Community Night at Beacon School

Photos with Santa • Face Painting • Crafts
Hot Chocolate & Cookies • Horses

Christmas Wish List

Please consider making this Christmas the most memorable one for our boys and girls. Help us purchase gifts for our youth (up to $150 per child). For more information about the Christmas Wish List, please contact Susan Bernier in the development office at (423) 787-8753 for more details.



Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

More than a century ago, Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley received a call to help children who were in desperate circumstances. The Spirit of God led her to establish Holston Orphanage and Industrial School, now Holston Home, with an idea that every child should have a place to live that was safe, warm and caring. She felt they should have an opportunity to develop their God-given potential and learn about Jesus. We have not wavered from those principles. To see children change because a loving, caring church invests in their lives is truly a great experience.

We are not a social service agency with a Christian component. Holston Home is a Christian organization with a social service component. We believe children need counseling and guidance to



help them overcome their fears, frustration, despair and hopelessness. We believe in the kind of support that comes from people who have a value system based on the Wesleyan tradition and an understanding of Christian faith.

Holston Home Ambassadors have demonstrated willingness to put your shoulder to the wheel and help churches understand and be involved in the Holston Home ministry. You help to promote Fifth Sunday offerings, which are essential to our work.

About 25% of our churches make no gift at all. Our prayer is that Ambassadors and Pastors of those churches will get caught up in the mission of Holston Home and become a part of this ministry. Church offerings are vital to what we do.

On behalf of the children, staff and trustees, I personally thank you and your pastor for helping us provide a ministry that is making a difference. Without your help this ministry and our Holston Conference church connection would not be possible. Thank you for caring, for sharing, and for your willingness to be the church without apology as an Ambassador for children.

Rev. Charles A. Hutchins
Director of Church Relations
and Estate Planning

James 1:27

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Holston Home for Children plans to participate in **Giving Tuesday** this **December 3rd** and invites your goodwill and prayer support. Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by people in countries all over the world. It is a way to start the charitable season when many folks are preparing their holiday and year-end giving. We believe that everyone has something to give whether it's financially or through prayer. Please visit the Holston United Methodist Home for Children Facebook page to watch special impact videos and remember to mark **Giving Tuesday – Tuesday, December 3rd** – on your calendar to join us in supporting children at Holston Home!



Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
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To protect the privacy of youngsters in our care, photographs of children in this publication may or may not represent actual youth residing here.

Next 5th Sunday is December 29, 2019

A Glimpse of History

Education Has Always Been a Priority. We often realize how fast and how much the world has changed in the past century. Then we reflect on the ways it has not changed at all.

Mrs. Wiley had a very small staff with which to operate the orphanage, and when all of the children were at home (e.g., during summer break or extended holiday breaks) her staff was too small to do all that needed to be done. She was able to find some "good women" to help "gratis." That part of our world has changed.



The children who lived at the orphanage had to work all summer to help with tasks that needed to be done. They cleaned, did laundry, tended the garden, harvested the fruits and vegetables, helped to preserve what they could for the winter months, took up hay and mended fences. That, too, has changed.

"God is blessing the labor of our hands," wrote Mrs. Wiley. "Good women are helping me, gratis, for the summer. Schools will soon open, then my industrious girls and boys will lay down broom and hoe, and for nine months will learn alongside the happy children who have parents to help them. But these of mine know that One is their Father—even God."

For more history...
Visit us online!
www.holstonhome.org
or
www.facebook.com/HolstonHome.FCA/

Children at Holston Home no longer attend school "alongside the happy children who have parents to help them." Children in residential attend Beacon School because they need individualized attention. That has changed from the early years.

What has not changed, however, is that the importance of education is still a priority and every boy and girl is helped to make up whatever educational deficits they might have.

Without these two components—feeding the mind and nurturing the spirit—Holston Home could not have existed for 124 years. Mrs. Wiley inspired the staff to continue what she began: rescuing children who had been cast aside and helping them to learn and to know the fullness of God's love.

– Eva Grey Hutchins