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Cleary Baptist Church Nears Completion of New Center, Shelter

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Officials of Cleary Baptist Church announce that construction of a new multi-million dollar building will be complete June 30, 2007.

"This building represents the fulfillment of the dreams of the hundreds of families who make up our church family," said Kevin Wade, Associate Pastor for Students and Activities of Cleary Baptist Church.

The 27,000 square foot Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) will house eight new classrooms, a basketball court, shower facilities, an industrial kitchen, a dining hall, and a youth worship center. In addition to its ongoing use for the church, the ARC can also serve as a community disaster shelter.

"The American Red Cross has approved the ARC to be a disaster relief shelter in the event of an emergency," Wade said.

"With the start of this year's hurricane season in June, the ARC's completion couldn't be more timely," said Byron Green, Associate Pastor for Worship and Education whose childhood home was gutted by Hurricane Katrina.

Work began on the ARC in 2005. There will be a grand opening celebration and media open house after construction is complete.

Cleary Baptist Church, located at 1580 Florence Byram Road in Florence, has a congregation with an active attendance of 350. The church was established in 1963.

Photos are available for media use at: <http://www.clearybaptist.org/media.php>

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