Welcome to this special occasion that recognizes the completion and opening of the Lackey Chapel. This building – beautiful in its understated grace – is a testament to the bond, faith and hope of family.

As many of you know well, Ron Lackey and his wife Marva joined the Coastal Carolina family when he was named dean of Student Affairs in 1974. In those early years, the college had fewer than 1,000 students, only four buildings, no residence halls, and only two alumni who had earned bachelor’s degrees.

What the college did have was a core of leaders – led by Dick Singleton, and Larry Biddle and Bob Squatriglia, among others – who believed in the possibilities of Coastal Carolina. Ron Lackey was among this group of believers. His service went far beyond his roles as administrator, professor of religious studies, and our first chaplain; he was a leader of students and the entire Coastal Carolina family through his faith and stellar example.

In his honor, the Ronald D. Lackey Service Award is presented each spring to a deserving Coastal Carolina University senior on the basis of conspicuous service through involvement and leadership in campus organizations. This award is among the most prestigious recognitions of the University.

After Ron retired in 1994, he and Marva embraced the community – and the community embraced them – through their remarkable story of healing, hope, and spirit spread so beautifully in the video “Mystery of the Dance: Healers and Wounded in Dialogue.”

And today, family, in both the immediate and the far-reaching family of friends and community, has come together to honor the life of Ron Lackey and dedicate this chapel that carries his name, which, for years to come will be a place that serves as a beacon of peace, reflection and welcome for the many faiths that are part of Coastal Carolina University.

The Lackey family has placed Ron’s personal Bible in a sealed capsule at the back of the chapel, further connecting this special place to a very special man.

Marva, thank you for the love you and your family share with the University family. And thank you Sarah and Ed (Jackson) and the many who answered your call; your selfless generosity has created a lasting expression of your love, as embodied in Lackey Chapel.