

Lewis County Gospel Mission

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God is at Work in Lewis County

Some remember it as the Saw Shop and some as the Funtime Daycare, but it will soon become the new home of the Lewis County Gospel Mission. Located at 72 Chehalis Ave., across the street from Darigold and north of Thorbecke's, it sat abandoned for a number of years. Flooded by five feet of water, broken windows, moldy walls, damp carpet and looking like a big, red barn with a funny colored wall around it, 72 Chehalis is taking shape for a new task.

Demolition inside the building has been extensive. Walls, carpets, linoleum, a raised floor, some electrical and plumbing has been removed to make way for new. A leaky roof was patched and the downspouts repaired. You may not see an external change in her when you drive by but inside she is a different story.

The building committee approved a floor plan which include a bigger kitchen than our present one, a larger clothing room, a client pantry and an office for our new director. There will be restrooms, washer and dryer, a shower and a great big dining room. We will have a kitchen pantry and a lot more storage than at present. The best part is that there is more room to do even more great things as God leads.

Framing some of the new rooms has already begun with lumber salvaged from the tear out and new pressure treated lumber for bottom plates donated by Palmer Lumber. Stan, Justin and Teresa Gist have volunteered their talents as electricians. They are rerouting and removing circuits and lights required by the demolition and reconstruction. Bob Braden, a local plumber, has volunteered to do our plumbing in the kitchen and bathrooms. It is exciting to see God working and bringing the people and material for this project.

The expanded kitchen will, with the help of the Lewis County



Health Department, become a wonderful asset to help accomplish one of the missions goals, feeding people. St. Timothy Episcopal Church Women (ECW) donated funds for the new kitchen's steam table, one of many new appliances needed for our updated kitchen. Some of those new appliances will, hopefully, include a commercial dishwasher, a triple sink, commercial refrigerators and freezers, a new range and double convection ovens. What a blessing to see God working to bring vision, workers and materials together.

If you have a desire to serve, the new Mission could sure use you. We need persons with skills including carpentry, painting, sheetrock, taping and texturing, cement work, roofing or just a good, strong back and a willingness to help.

Thanksgiving

The Lewis County Gospel Mission will be serving Thanksgiving day dinner from 1 to 3 pm on Nov. 28. Our volunteer coordinator, Deanna, has cleaned out a freezer to receive turkeys and pies for the big day. Presently, not one turkey or pie may be found in that freezer. We are relying on God to provide by touching hearts within our community. If you feel His touch to help, you can drop off your donated turkey or pie at the current mission, 249 NW Chehalis Ave., Chehalis, from 9 am to 2 pm,

Monday thru Friday. The mission relies solely on private donations of food and money to serve the 1200 to 1400 meals every month. We are grateful to those who give. Thanksgiving is not the only day we like to serve turkey so don't be afraid of overdoing it.



Dave Wanger, Giving Back

Dave Wanger, a mission client and former construction worker, has been the major driving force behind the latest round of demolition and construction of the new rooms. He found himself temporarily homeless and began coming to the mission for meals and day shelter several months ago. When he found out about the new mission project, Dave offered his assistance.

Dave is pretty quiet and unassuming with a good sense of humor. He is generous with his time and tools, giving back to the mission and the community. Dave quietly set about demolishing walls and floors in the new mission that needed to go. When asked why he is donating so much of his time he said, "It's the least I can do for all the mission has done for me."

Dave is now back in his own home and especially happy to have a shower again. When asked if he would still be helping at the mission he said, "Why not!"



From Our New Director Fay Ternan



Gold and brown leaves litter the driveway. As the wind picks up, more spiral down from the biggest of our maple trees, slowly covering the lawn. No wonder this season is called “fall”! I grab a rake and create mounds I can pick up and move to the burn pile.

A flash of lavender-blue catches my attention. A closer look reveals one of our azaleas is flowering. Knowing the shrubs had already bloomed earlier in the year, this is quite a surprise. Over a period of several days, another two of the remaining five azaleas burst into out-of-season color. How odd they look together, new blooms and dead leaves.

Why did they blossom again so late in the year? Maybe its our sunny weather and the fact we haven’t had a freeze yet.? Eventually, I decide to just enjoy the color and contrast .

As the days go by and the flowery flash remains, I find myself reflecting on my recent life changes resulting in unexpected, unseasonal blooming in me. Accepting Christ as Lord in my mid-40’s began a new creation. As the Holy Spirit worked in me, I discovered areas of service, talent or skill I hadn’t realized I had. (I like to think I was just a really late bloomer.)

Years of service passed and one day I felt I had pretty well topped out my areas of usefulness to God. After all, I’d finally retired, had my ministry moments at church and volunteer work at the local mission. It was my “fall” season. I was comfortable and content. But God had something quite different planned. He was going to provide me with another “flowering” opportunity.

The Lewis County Gospel Mission had lost its Director over a year ago. The growing number of people being served along, with the opportunity to purchase a building, required someone be appointed Director.

When another board member suggested I think about taking on the Director’s role, I declined quickly and completely. I wasn’t qualified and didn’t have a clue what a director should do. Then someone else made a comment that caused me to re-think the situation. I could still come up with a lot of reasons I shouldn’t, couldn’t or didn’t want to. However, knowing God at times has directed my steps through the words and encouragement of mature Christians I trusted, I chose to pray about it.

I didn’t exactly ask for a sign, but God knows how my brain works. One Sunday, Pastor referenced a verse and I missed most of what he said because those words stuck like glue to my brain. In Genesis 22, God called Abraham by name and Abraham said, “Here I am.” His response opened my eyes to see how I had been replying to God’s call to me. Then God’s answer to my objections came within a Facebook posting:

“GOD DOESN’T CALL THE QUALIFIED, HE QUALIFIES THE CALLED.”

I asked myself if I was willing to trust God to provide all that might be needed, to believe the call was real and take a step of faith. My answer had to be YES!

With the help of Godly counsel from my husband and some trusted friends, I followed that “yes” with a proposal to the board. So here I am in my “fall” season with some new and unexpected flowering coming in my Christian walk. Because I know God is faithful and He always finishes what he begins, I’m looking forward to this new opportunity with the assurance that something God-sized is going to happen and I am privileged to participate.

The mission exists because of the collaborative generosity of our community. We would like to thank and acknowledge the following new partners and organizations who have helped us this quarter:

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Timothy Episcopal Church—Cash donation.

Centralia Christian School— Food donation.

SERTOMA Club of Chehalis— Food, clothing and cash donations.

Palmer’s Lumber— Lumber for new mission.

Bethel Church— Clothing and food donations.

The James Family—Cash donation.

Dayspring Baptist Church—Clothing and food.

Rochester Life Church—Sunday brunch, food and serve weekly.

St. John’s Lutheran Church —Food and serve monthly.



Centralia Christian School soup donation.

We are grateful to the many people who regularly donate supplies, food, clothing, time and dollars to increase the effectiveness of our ministry. If you would like to discuss ways to be involved, call the Gospel Mission at 748-9444.

Volunteers wanted: Christians with teachable hearts.



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