



The Happy Church – September Update

6 Weeks Post Flood

It's amazing how quickly time flies...as it's already been six weeks since the flood waters rose! The Happy Church is probably ahead of the rest of the community due to the constant stream of volunteers coming in from sister churches, and generous donations from those who have a heart for Appalachia.

The first step in flood recovery is mucking out all the mud, getting all the wet drywall and insulation removed, as well as exterior sheeting and flooring. Several of The Happy Church buildings are ripped down to the studs and the floor joists. Then they get pressure washed and sprayed for mold. After it all dries out, the rebuilding can begin. Thanks to the support of so many, all the structures have been through this Phase 1 process and are now beginning to rebuild.

The church building: The basement has been drywalled and repainted. The floors need to be refinished, a new ceiling installed, and a whole new kitchen. The classrooms also need painted and restored.

White parsonage: This home has been re-sheathed on the exterior and wrapped in Tyvek. The electric panel was replaced, insulation has been installed and drywall is going up.

Tabor's Home: Mike and Connie's house has the drywall installed and finished and has been painted this week. Their new kitchen is on order and should be installed mid-October. They have a new electric panel and all new HVAC system, including duct work. As it's the furthest building along, a quick tally of costs would be in the \$20,000 + range. Multiply that over the 9 structures on campus, and you get an idea for the total costs that will be incurred.

Youth Barn: is ready for insulation, wall coverings, and kitchen/bathroom replacements.

Jacobson home: This double-wide has been ripped to the studs and floorboards. Gravel has been distributed in the crawl space so that concrete can be poured and a drainage system implemented.

The Abbey: Another home where Tiffany Tabor, the worship leader, will live, is likewise ripped down to the studs and floorboards.

Gym/Thrift Store: Has been used as the distribution center for the community to receive cleaning supplies, fans, tools, microwaves, boots, clothes, food, diapers...basically anything to sustain life for people who have lost everything and are looking to rebuild. The flow of emergency supplies coming in has been overwhelming, thanks to the support of all those who have a heart for the Happy Church ministry.

Skilled labor still needed:

Several of the buildings still need all new HVAC systems. Lots and lots of drywall to install and finish. Subfloors need installed. Insulation needs stuffed/stapled. Electrical work is ongoing. Kitchen/bathroom installations when materials arrive. Plumbing in the double-wide trailer. Framing up walls in the double-side trailer. Concrete finisher to pour floor in crawl-space.

Unskilled labor:

Everything from cleaning, helping skilled workers, to organizing food, clothes, supplies. There is always something to be done!

Here are a few pics to give you an idea of the progress being made:



Church basement – Game room – drywall done/painted.



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Supplies of drywall and insulation



White parsonage with external sheeting/wrap



Inside of double-wide



Inside of the Youth Barn

Farewell TO John and Chris

Here are some comments from Pastor Mike:

While there is some definite sadness for those of us left behind, we are very happy for John and Chris Jacobson as they move from a “parenting” role of Happy Church, to the “grandparenting” role: being connected from a distance and coming to spoil the “grandkids” on regular occasion.

Being in their early seventies, they were praying for wisdom as to when and how to transition. The second major flood in as many years gave them the final greenlight to move to be with family.

When we, Mike and Connie Tabor, started Happy Church in 2002, God blessed us with good initial growth. But with growth came the realization we needed help. So, in 2005, God sent John and Chris to us. They have been the perfect team members for roughly 18 years. They led well where they were strong and followed well where we were strong. All our gifts complimented each other perfectly.

While selfishly, we are saddened by their transition, God is still providing help to continue His ministry at Happy Church. Thank you, John and Chris, for your many years of faithful service!

It is my honor to introduce to everyone: Pastor Emeritus John Jacobson and Hospitality Coordinator Emeritus Chris Jacobson. I am sure God will continue to bless you both. You have run your race with endurant fervor.

John and Chris are looking to purchase a home somewhere close to Wilmington, Ohio, where their daughter Laura and her family live. They look to remain involved in the Happy Church ministry, from a distance. John and Chris served faithfully, tirelessly, and selflessly for 18 years. They will be truly missed.



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Farewell FROM John and Chris

After 72 years on this earth, we have finally decided to retire. This was a very difficult decision and many factors were included. A major concern was John's health. Another factor was that after the last flood cleanup, we didn't have it in ourselves to go through one more. We have been separated from family for 21 years while in the Air Force and then again here in Kentucky. We look forward to spending some of our final years near family before we go to be Home with the Lord.

We had 18 wonderful years serving at the Happy Church and it is not easy to walk away from what was such a big part of our lives for that length of time. We will never know this side of heaven, the impact we had on the kids and people of Breathitt County, however it really doesn't matter, because it was all the Lord's doing, working through us. Chris has prepared thousands of meals to serve to the Happy Kids over the years. I, John, was involved in almost every aspect of the ministry except music. If anyone has ever heard me sing, you will know why! It is a bittersweet experience to leave, however the time was right. We will certainly miss all our friends that have become like family and the hundreds of children we have ministered to.

Again, How Can We Help?

- 1) **Financial donations:** Think of repairing nine structures, along with the appliances, furniture, heating/cooling, and sound systems (not to mention possessions, clothing, etc.). Our donations we've received have kept us ahead of our expenses so far, but we are just beginning to rebuild. And as we progress, we are turning our attention outward to our community as so many folks lost their homes or need to rebuild what's left.

Simply go to:

<https://thehappychurch.org/donate>
for options on giving.

"You don't have to be rich to be generous, as generosity is not about the size of the gift, but the condition of the heart!"

2) Adopt a Family

If you'd like to adopt a family, there are several families that have been screened/interviewed by the Happy Church Staff. Go to: www.TheHappyChurch.org/adopt to find a family to help.

3) Amazon wish list:

Aside from financial donations, you can go to: www.TheHappyChurch.org/amazon To see a list of items that you can purchase and have shipped directly to the Happy Church.

4) Volunteer teams:

There is an ongoing need for volunteers. We are in the rebuilding phase. We can use anybody!

5) Pray for:

- a) The HC staff members and volunteers
- b) God's provision to rebuild
- c) The community, as the Happy Church is already having an impact
- d) Families whose homes are gone and loved ones lost
- e) People to experience Jesus' love as the Happy Church selflessly ministers to this hurting community.

Who do we contact?

If you are considering volunteering or sending a team, call/text Vanessa Blinn at (765) 661-8987. Vanessa is Pastor Mike's daughter, and she is functioning as project manager. She can match your skills/desire with what needs to be done, as well as timing and potential lodging on-site.

How do we stay updated?

Right now, the best source for updates is The Happy Church Facebook page. Go to:

<https://facebook.com/thehappychurch>

If you want other people to receive this newsletter, they can subscribe by going to the Happy Church website:

www.TheHappyChurch.org

and there's a place to subscribe at the top of the page.