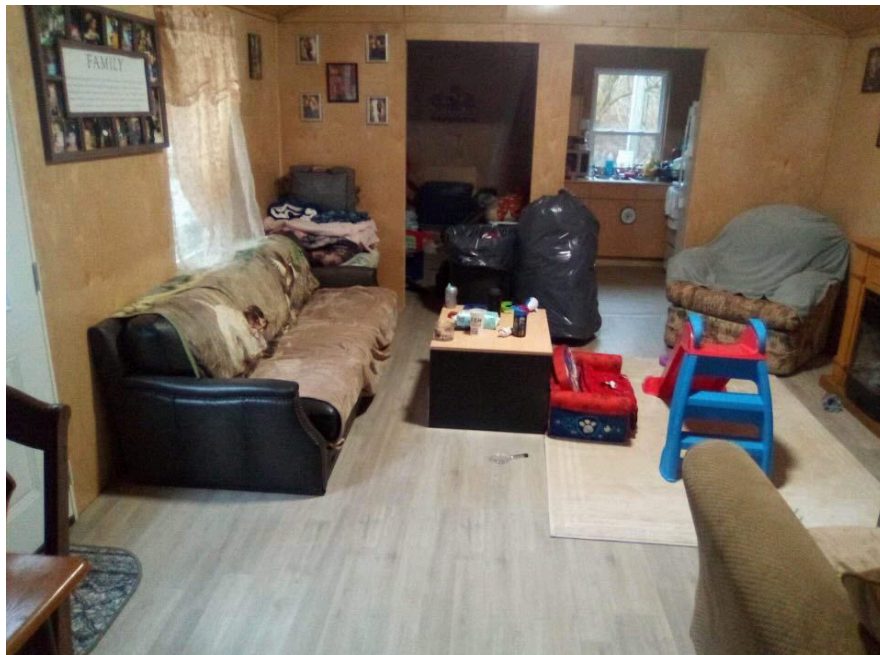


Happy Church Community Updates continued...

Steve, Kacey, and Steven Robertson

Steve, Kacey, and Steven Robertson had water entering from the roof of their mobile home that was crushed by a fallen tree.

Steve had closed off his kitchen and they were living in the other half of their trailer. We tore down this mobile home and put the third cottage in its place. Steve with the help of a friend and the provided supplies went right to work. In less than a month, he had his family in.



Cambi and Amanda Tharpe

Cambi and Amanda Tharpe were in shock when we first saw them following the flood. Cambi said her only asset, bought and paid for in full only 9 months prior, looked like a hopeless mess. Thanks to some skilled men, Bob Sidwell and Kevin Smith, and many who helped with cleanup, hope was revived. Ashland Grace (Encompass World Partners) made it their project to get Cambi and Amanda back in their home. This took place in mid-January. To see this transition on youtube you can click the following link:

<https://youtu.be/WxAnDd3sYZo>



JP and Michelle Fugate

JP and Michelle Fugate live across the road from our Clayhole campus. They continue to work to complete their home's rehabilitation but send a special thanks to The Happy church and the many workgroups the Lord has provided for them.

"Just a portion of the progress we have made so far, thanks to the happy church. Not only did they provide the fridge and the cabinets, but they also made it possible for a group to practically rebuild half of my house along with installing flooring and hanging the cabinets and many other things. These guys went above and beyond! Also, like to thank the Resurrection home they were sent to help us through the cleanup process in the beginning and were nothing short of a blessing. Also, "thank you" to Aspire Appalachia for the donation of drywall and insulation and CORE for helping us with appliances and furniture."



Josh and Wilma Combs

This first paragraph was sent shortly after the flood:

Flood 2022

It started one day as a drizzle. Then the heavy rains and winds hit. July 28th is a day we will all remember. As waters began to break the banks and overflow our neighbors woke us with a desperate need for help. The waters were coming. We rushed out of our beds and began to help evacuate those closest to the river. Within an hour or so we were all wading through water. Our neighbors were carrying their things past our own home and up the hill. I remember stopping my husband and children from helping the neighbors for just a few minutes to bring their attention to the fact that the water had also surrounded our home at this point. It was time to grab a few things from our own home. We hurried as fast as possible to move important things up high hoping the water wouldn't reach the inside of our home. We had gone through this very thing last year. At least that was what we thought. Little did we know what awaited us in the days to come. After we grabbed a few things we got back to helping our neighbors.

We eventually had a visit from our local police



dept doing a

home to home evacuation for our area. The water was going to get worse much faster than last year. The water was swift and the currents were stronger than the year before. That's when the fear really hit. Leaving our home with our 4 children, my brother, my uncle, Mamaw, Papaw, and my husband was terrifying. Little did we know it was only going to get worse. After a day or so of hearing the absolute worst we were able to wade through the water only to find out we had lost all our earthly possessions. Everything we had worked to build for our children and ourselves was gone. No way to rebuild. A complete and total loss.

We were left with something.

We were left with fear, uncertainty, brokenness and lots of displaced emotions. What are we to do now? The only thing that came to mind.

“Wilma, you have to take it one day at a time.” This rang over and over in my heart. I knew God was talking. More like whispering. Everything was silent as I peered into our home.



I could hear God whispering. “One day at a time. Tomorrow is not for you yet. It is for me”. I know God is taking care of our tomorrows. The pain is still so real. Nightmares plague us. Those displaced emotions creep up trying to ravage the peace God has given us. We walked through inches of mud with heavy hearts and tears in our eyes. We were finally in our home looking at what was once our safe place, our shelter, our home. The weeks of cleaning began a few short days later. It was unbearable cleaning out our home and throwing everything into piles for pickup.

All this time we had stayed in hotel rooms. Finally a breakthrough. A camper trailer was presented to us from papaws workplace. Which is now where all 10 of us are living. Not an easy thing but God definitely delivered. One day at a time. God new before the flood what's ahead of us. We have learned our home is a total loss. Our contractor gave us the numbers. To rebuild from the ground up we are looking at over \$192,000. It must be torn

down and rebuilt from the ground up. That to us is an impossible number. Another devastating blow. Our hearts ached from the news. Our hope is in God and finding a home that will fit us all. God whispered Tomorrow is for me not you. My heart overflowed with tears. I know my God has us. Pushing aside the news we have pushed on doing the best we can one day at a time. Never before had I been faced with such uncertainty but yet calmness in knowing my God is still working on our tomorrow. We may not know what that looks like. Our children asked “what are we going to do?” I simply smile and tell them we are going to wait on the Lord our God. He has our tomorrow and is taking way better care of us then we ever could on our own. They are still scared of course. They’re young and this very situation is growing them for the Lord. God is growing us. So I don’t know what tomorrow looks like or where we will be but I can comfort my family in the undeniable truth that God is already taking care of it. We also recently learned that our family of 10 is growing by 1. Our precious blessing will be here in March. God gave us a wonderful little girl. If you don’t know us, we are raising 2 of our nephews, 1 of our nieces and our only son who will be 17 this year. He was our miracle. Never did we imagine we would have another for health reasons. God sent us this little girl when he knew we were going to need this blessing. August 8, 2022 was the day we learned we were having another baby. God works in the most amazing ways. Yes it's a scary time and no I don't know where the help will come from or what it will look like but I do know God has it all. God has our tomorrow and he knows where the help will come from and what it will look like. I pray our story reaches those who need to hear it. Maybe it will help someone else. Hold faith for tomorrow belongs to God. One day at a time.

-Wilma

Josh and Wilma are currently living in a small home in Clayhole, but will be purchasing a house that was affected by the flood. It should be ready for them in August! Here is a list of needs as they prepare to move into their new home. Please contact Kimmy (606) 568-2873 if you would like to contribute.

It is also worth noting that Josh and Wilma later found out that their baby girl was actually a handsome [baby boy \(Emmett\)](#)! The umbilical cord tricked the ultrasound tech. LOL

Kitchen

Stove, Fridge, deep freezer. Shelves for storage Big and smaller ones for the bathroom

Laundry room

Washer & Dryers. Unfortunately the ones we have are not working well. We are washing each load 2 times in order to clean them. The dryer is running on low heat because it gets really hot. They are all we have right now. They we're older and used when we got them. They have been such a blessing but I fear their end is near. With a family the size of mine the appliances get used to their fullest potential.

Living room

Couch
Shelves
Coffee Table
Table for the TV
End tables
Lamps
Blinds/Curtains

Bedrooms:

Desmond

1 twin bed and Mattress
bed covers/sheets lamps

Destiny

1 full size mattress bed covers/sheets
Curtains/Blinds
Already has a bed frame
Lamps

Dawson

1 Queen size mattress
Bedcover/Sheets
Curtains/blinds
Already has a bed frame
Lamps

Josh

1 Queen size mattress
Bedcover/Sheets
Curtains/blinds
Already has a bed frame
Lamps

Emmett

will have a nursery at the new home. It will be very barren for a while. Any help with a crib,dresser,changing table, baby toys,high chair, baby walker, musical toys. We don't mind noise at our house. Especially musical toys. Emmett loves anything led light changing and anything musical,lamps,

This newsletter cannot contain the many stories of families you have helped through The Happy Church. It would take too long for me to write them and too much time for you to read them.

One hundred and four groups and approximately 50 deliveries have been to The Happy Church to administer disaster relief since the flood in July 2022. We continue to help our community through our local agency C.O.R.E. (Community Organized Relief Effort), Breathitt County Long Term Recovery, and our many work teams by providing housing, supplies, and guidance. This would not have been possible without your help and support.

Thank you, and God bless!