

Volunteers tackle home projects as part of Project Inasmuch

By DEVINN WINKLEMAN McLean County News, Owensboro, KY, September 28, 2017



Evelyn Lovell, of Livermore, stirs a large pot of vegetable soup that was served to a number of widows, widowers and shut-ins in the McLean County and Owensboro areas as part of Buck Creek Baptist Church's Operation Inasmuch Saturday, Sept. 23.

Buck Creek Baptist Church's Operation Inasmuch brought more than 200 volunteers together Saturday, Sept. 23, to help with home improvement projects throughout the community.

At 8 a.m. volunteers dressed in red shirts showed up at the church to do numerous jobs inside and outside of the church. The majority spread in teams to Livermore, Utica, Calhoun and Owensboro to help residential home owners with a task they couldn't do themselves, like trim trees, pressure wash sidings, install a new window or a ramp, burn a brush pile or haul off trash.

Remaining volunteers stayed at the church to help run a free yard sale, clean around the building, prepare soup for home owners who were widows, widowers and shut-ins, and fix lunch bags for the volunteer workers.

Operation Inasmuch chairman Bill Lovell said the purpose of the program is to perform any job the community requests help with that the volunteers can do in a day. If the job is possible, then the program attempts to find people with the necessary skills to perform those jobs, he said.



Mike Casebier, of Heflin, power washes the front of a Livermore resident's home as part of Buck Creek Baptist Church's Operation Inasmuch Saturday, Sept. 23. The program aids members of the McLean County and Owensboro area communities by having volunteers travel to houses and complete various home improvement tasks that homeowners are unable to do themselves.

The program first began two years ago when the Kentucky Baptist Convention talked about the opportunity to help the community statewide. The name is derived from the Bible scripture Matthew 25:40 which reads, "Truly, I say to you, inasmuch, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

"As southern Baptists, we decided we would partner together," Buck Creek Baptist Church Rev. Thomas Webb said. "Not every church ... is able to participate in it, but we've decided that what we would do is we would get on board with this."

When the church made the leap to be a part of the statewide program, Webb said nine of the church's members visited Beaver Dam Baptist Church during spring 2015. There, they were trained on how to carry out the program. After a successful first year, the church continued the program in 2016 and this year, making it the third consecutive year of running Operation Inasmuch.

This year and last year, Webb said around 250 people from the church and the community have volunteered to help with the project.

"We got neighbors that say, 'hey, I don't need anything done, but can I come help out,'" Webb said. Not only was it a good way to help out the community, Webb said it was a good time of fellowship for the church and the program's volunteers and to spread the love of Jesus Christ.

Volunteering was also a way of sharing Jesus through the community in a practical way, Lovell said, and it can be a life-changing moment for some. "We just ask this one time a year that we do this big job one time a year, Inasmuch, and to me, we get more out of it then even the people we're helping," Lovell said. "It's just amazing. You have a good feeling about helping someone else."

Lovell said the church first spread the word about the program through door knob flyers that its members had hung on door knobs within a five-mile radius of its location during August. Inside the flyer were illustrations of jobs that the church could perform and the church's contact information. Once the job requests were sent in to the church, they were put on a jobs list. "Then we (would) have to physically go out and look at them to see if we can handle that job," Lovell said.

Most of the job requests that came in were reasonable enough to deal with and could be completed in a day, but there were a small number that were too elaborate for the church to handle and would have taken days to complete.

But the number of elaborate jobs that the church had to turn down was insignificant compared to the number of jobs the program's volunteers had completed on Sept. 23. In total, 59 jobs were performed around the county throughout that day with two additional jobs completed on Sept. 21 and 22.

One of these jobs was performed by Mike Casebier, 69, of Heflin, who chose to power wash the siding of a Livermore home as one of his first jobs. He said this was his second year participated in Operation Inasmuch, and that he enjoyed doing it. He was inspired to volunteer to help the church out. "That's the main thing with the church, wanting to help and show our love to the community and everybody that we can come into contact with," he said.