

Actions speak louder than words

Project Cross Walk and Local Churches join together

By Wanda Godso
Staff Writer

There are many benevolent organizations around that you hear about during the Christmas season. Almost everywhere you go you can see the Salvation Army collection pot at store entrances. There is the United Way and the Red Cross to name some of the bigger and better known ones. These mega organizations do a great service and provide for many, many families. But here in Whitewright and Grayson County there is a group unknown to many who are out there taking care of our own all year-long. In all communities, there are folks who need help from one time or another from minor home repairs to vehicle repairs. The main reasons these repairs do not get done are financial or the lack of physical ability to handle it. So, the churches in the area have stepped up to take care of some of these needs. The churches are participating with Project Cross Walk (PCW). PCW acts as a project manager by finding the projects, sending out a screener and coordinating the church with the specific project.

Right now several on-going projects in Whitewright are powerful blessings for the churches and families involved. First United Methodist Church of Whitewright is currently serving two families. The first project is centered around the completion of a home that the family started and was unable to continue to completion. The family has over the course of the past year suffered serious health issues and deaths in their immediate family. After being contacted by church member, Laura Freer, the home construction is back on track with the work

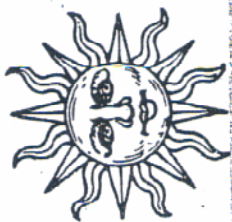
being done by FUMC volunteers. A local Whitewright company, R & K Wholesale has donated shingles and doors. Church member, Larry Reck was excited about the project and said, "It was like an old-fashioned barn raising with the women cooking and 15-20 guys working" on the structure. Another project the Methodist church is working on is for a widow who needed some plumbing, and bathroom work done around her home. These volunteers have completely re-plumbed the bathroom, the sewer and then rebuild the bathroom. This again is being handled by local church volunteers.

First Baptist Church of Whitewright also has an on-going PCW project. This project involves a home that needed windows, siding and painting. For the past three months the church has cleaned out sheds, hauled off loads of stuff and replaced siding. In January they are scheduled to scrape, paint and clean out another building and haul off the contents. The liaison with PCW at FBC is Steve Crites. FBC has recently budgeted 1.5% of their offerings in 2010 to PCW. Pastor Leon Veazey said, "It's been great seeing what God is doing bringing the churches together in our community."

According to Robert Zischkale, Director of Project Cross Walk there are four official projects in Whitewright going on right now. Zischkale was a man with a vision and said this type of ministry was "laid on his heart years ago". He stated that the "emphasis is on the churches who actually adopt the family and the project" and get the work done. According to their website, www.projectcrosswalk.org, PCW is an all volunteer, Christian-based non-profit and non-denominational group. Their stated purpose is "to help the needy with home, yard and automobile repairs" at the local level. PCW is here to "open doors for sharing the Gospel through the love and outreach of local churches".

This is grass-roots action that works at Christmas and throughout the year. It is good to know that Whitewright is a community that cares for and takes care of its own at times when the help is especially needed.

IN
S



Whitewright

ESCAPE YOURSELF FROM THE GREY