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Saving the Historic Woolsey Baptist Church

Local Non-Profit Holds Open House

Brigitte Greer

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Woolsey Baptist Church

Since 1875, the Town of Woolsey has embraced its community and its history, which was showcased as local non-profit organization Friends of Historic Woolsey held an open house on Oct. 28 at which the group opened the doors of the now-defunct Woolsey Baptist Church to display

photos, share stories, and inform attendees of the group's plans to restore the church. Pam Laggis, who sits on the board of directors for Friends of Historic Woolsey, expressed the importance of the church in the community.

"There was talk of tearing this down, I was just beside myself," Laggis said.

Friends of Historic Woolsey President Jamie Lovett contacted Laggis and asked if she was interested in helping save the historic building, and she joined the cause immediately.

"I said, 'Absolutely!' Anything to not have this torn down. Woolsey is small, but there was a lot here. We had a peach packing plant, there was a sawmill, the railway was where [Highway] 92 is. There was a lot here, it was a thriving community." Laggis continued.

But time had a different plan for the Town of Woolsey.

"Then, slowly but surely, all the old buildings are going away. And with the IG Woolsey house burning a few years ago... if you tear this down, what's left? The town goes away. This is like the cornerstone of the town," she explained.

The open house also served as a fundraising opportunity. To help with the restoration of the historic church and maintenance of the cemetery, the nonprofit is seeking donations, volunteers, and grants.

According to the nonprofit's website, once the church is fully restored to appear as it did back in 1889, it will provide a gathering place for educational, literary, civic, religious, and cultural arts programs and events for not only the community of Woolsey, but also for Fayette County and surrounding areas.

The cemetery on the church grounds will not go without attention. Dana Sams, landscaping chair of the organization, shared her plans to plant a flower garden outside the gates of the cemetery to further memorialize those who are laid to rest.

For more information about the restoration project and Friends of Historic Woolsey, visit

www.friendsofhistoricwoolsey.org.

MORE INFORMATION



'Help Save Woolsey Church'

Woolsey Seeking to Preserve History Through Nonprofit Organization

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