

Perquimans church shares the love during 'Love PQ Week'

BY PETER WILLIAMS
The Perquimans Weekly

HERTFORD — For the second year, a Perquimans County church has been sharing the love.

"Love PQ Week" involves members of Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church getting involved in community cleanup and service projects around the county.

PQ is short for Perquimans.

As of Thursday the group had cleaned up the yards of 15 homes for residents who needed help. Nearly three dozen volunteers gathered one night last week at the Food Bank of the Albemarle. Another group was working for two days at Perquimans County High School.

"We've done mission trips in the past and I've always had the desire to do a mission trip here at home," said Pastor James Spaugh.

Teenagers made up a bulk of the workforce on last year's project, but this year Spaugh said more adults participated. Some took vacation time.

"Four or five people took time off work," Spaugh said. "I told them 'you understand what you're doing? You could be going to the beach or something.'"

Between 31 and 36 volunteers a day went out and as of Thursday a total of 67 individuals were involved. Another five members prepared lunch every day at the church.

Some volunteers worked eight hours a day every day and some worked less. With one exception people who got a helping hand were not members of the Bagley Swamp church.

"Some were widows who used to keep up the yard real nice, and now they can't."

Spaugh said people were approached diplomatically about the offer to help. Only three declined.

Spaugh would like to see the effort grow. He cited the "Clean The Bay Day" in Virginia as an example. It's been going on for 26 years and in June some 6,000 volunteers



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Phil Johnson trims a hedge along Railroad Avenue on Friday as part of "Love PQ Week."

removed about 110,000 pounds of debris from 250 sites along 450 miles of streams and shoreline.

"Somebody started that (event) and maybe the first time they had four people doing it and now look," Spaugh said. "I'd like to see us get to that point and one day nobody will remember who started it all. We don't care about that. What we'd really like to do is for this to grow even larger, so it's a community event."

Hertford resident Beth Ferguson appreciates the effort.

"I work a whole lot and I don't have the time or the tools sometimes to do certain things," she said. "It was a big help for me. They did it all and cut the grass on a place where I couldn't get my lawnmower. I told somebody I felt like I'd won the Publisher's Clearinghouse Giveaway."



Men of Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church's "Love PQ" project tackle an overgrown hedge along Railroad Avenue in Hertford Friday morning.

A member of the church group reached out to Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf to find out where they could help. Spaugh said last year the group didn't have a lot of locations to choose from. Among other areas,

that may be in need and the group also wanted to do something good for the town, which we greatly appreciate. The railroad track right of way was in need and was something that made a big impact on the appearance of town. We're very thankful that the church decided to do this type of project as part of their outreach."

Verity Therapeutic Riding Center north of Hertford will also be a benefactor. The center uses horses to promote healing, especially with those people with disabilities.

The promoters of the Chapanoke 300 truck and tractor pulling event will be giving \$5 out of every \$15 admission to the riding center and Bagley Swamp. "I'm pleased that the Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church took an interest and organized," Shoaf said Friday. "Staff helped with locating contacts

it does happen, his group will be there.

"If we sell a hot dog for \$1, that's a \$1 donation to Verity," Spaugh said.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

WINNER!



Ava Jordyn Page

August 21, 2012

Parents:
Brandon & Tabitha Page