

Dig Deep, Aim High, Build Together!

“Dig Deep” devotional

Colossians 2:7 says we should be “... rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith..., and overflowing with thankfulness.”

The foundation under the new SHALOM Woolery Barn will be deep. There is a building code for that. If not, the building could eventually be damaged by heaving, shifting ground caused by frost.

The deep part is unseen, but gives stability over a lifetime to the whole.

Stability in life is a rare thing. We experience upheaval in relationships, while illness and accidents shift priorities in a moment. Cultural changes shift and heave, threatening our values, our beliefs and our security. We thought life would be easier. We get disillusioned. Our personal foundation is threatened by upheaval..

We need a deep foundation. We need to be “rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith.”

Jesus teaches about the wise builder

in Matthew 7:24-25. “Therefore every-one who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Dig deep!

1) How is the deep part of your life doing? Is it adequate to give stability over a lifetime to the whole of your being?

2) Are you digging deeper or just hoping for the best?

3) How ready are you for the next storm or upheaval? What can you do to be ready?

Dig Deep, Aim High, Build Together!

A special FUNd Raising Dinner and Program for the new SHALOM Woolery Barn, Thursday, October 3; request an invitation from the SHALOM office, 269-382-3840, klewis@shalomkazoo.org.

Save the Dates!

Groundbreaking Dedication SHALOM Woolery Barn – TBD. Daytime for Woolery Participants. Friend us on Facebook @shalomkazoo to view update.

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Farm Days Open House – Sat. & Sun., October 5 & 6, SHALOM Farm, Pavilion and SHALOM Woolery Barn site.

SHALOM depends on the financial gifts of individuals, churches and civic organizations. We are a non-profit, 501c3, faith-based public charity. Please consider using the enclosed Gift Planning card to partner with SHALOM!

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Assisting adults with disabilities to find new abilities in the context of Christian family.

SHALOM is published to keep our support base informed of blessings and opportunities for ministry. To add or remove your name from the mailing list please write SHALOM, P.O. Box 265, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 or call 269-382-3840 or e-mail at shalomkazoo@aol.com.

The SHALOM Network includes adult foster care homes, supported living homes, other adults with disabilities and our many partners in ministry of the same heart and purpose.

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SHALOM!

Summer 2019 NEWSLETTER volume 26 issue 2

SHALOM Woolery Barn Update!

Hurry Up and Wait - Progress Nonetheless!

“Everything takes longer... than you think.” - Murphy

But we have progress nonetheless! As of today we have just two small hoops to jump through before we have the building permit and can get on the excavator’s schedule. One is an improved energy efficiency plan (that’s a good thing!) and also the septic system permit (flushing is a good thing, too!). Both should be ready within days. Then we will secure the building permit we need to begin. And - Progress!

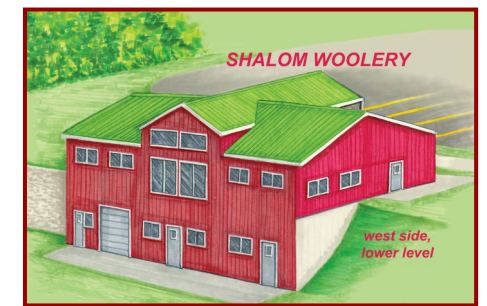
Our goal is \$520,000 for the entire project. When we had about one third, or \$165,000, in hand, we committed to breaking ground and building in stages as we had funding. We now have \$306,000 toward the project in hand! PROGRESS!

Thank you for your generous hearts and contributions toward the new SHALOM Woolery Barn!

More than a Barn, the SHALOM Woolery’s purpose is all about people:

The purpose of the SHALOM Woolery is to grow in the wholeness of Jesus physically, emotionally, relationally, mentally and spiritually in the context of meaningful work, through a cooperative Team approach!

The goal continues to be “wintered in” before the snow flies. Then work can continue through the winter and everything will be protected from the weather. That means the goal is to have roofing, siding, windows and doors before winter! Would you pray for progress, provision and safety?



FUNd Status Report

We have a goal of \$520,000 for the SHALOM Woolery Barn and so far have received \$306,000! Thank you for all donations, small and large! Every penny gets us closer to serving more people through the love and wholeness of Jesus Christ!

The SHALOM Woolery Participants themselves completed a goal of \$1,000! Next, the Participants determined they would take a bigger chunk – and set an additional goal of \$4,000! This is harder, but so far they have collected \$1,551 toward their new goal! **GO TEAM!**

We encourage you to prayerfully consider your role in FUNd Raising for this project. We are investing in lives. We serve people who live all their lives with developmental disabilities, and together we are all seeking our wholeness in Jesus Christ.

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SHALOM COMMUNITY TOURS

SHALOM tours are a great way to learn more about who we are and what goes on at the SHALOM Woolery and Farm on a daily basis! SHALOM Participants love to give the tours and it’s a great growth opportunity for them!

This is a thank you we received following a recent group tour:

“We had a fantastic visit and tour of SHALOM today. It was a blessing to meet so many of the very friendly workers and to hear how the Lord is training His children to love and serve Him. We learned so much about the body of Jesus Christ and His love for the ‘sheep.’

Thanks for a warm welcome, interesting information, tour, snacks and visits with the farm animals. Everyone in our group loved it, plans to return, and pray

for our new friends at SHALOM. You do a beautiful job with God’s creation, adding and restoring shalom to His world. We look forward to seeing you again. In Christ, Pastor Fred, and Second CRC Church.”

We were touched and this feedback for our Participants is so meaningful!! If you haven’t had a chance to attend the monthly SHALOM community tour yet, now is your chance!! We are continuing to have regular community tours with our next one scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 10:45 am.

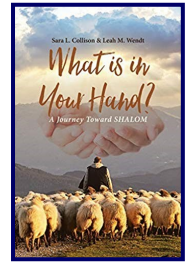
If you have a group that is interested in scheduling a tour, we can do that too! E-mail klewis@shalomkazoo.org to set up a tour! Your group will have a blast!

Christian people working with caring communities to provide housing, social and educational opportunities for adults with physical and mental disabilities.

What is in Your Hand?

Sara Collison, SHALOM co-founder, along with Leah Wendt, SHALOM volunteer, have written an excellent book!

It's about the names of God and how He works in our lives; it's about the origins of SHALOM, about our personal search for shalom in our lives, and how God works all things together for the good of those who love Him; it's about the personal journey of Glen and Sara as they sought shalom for themselves and many others. *It's about...YOU!*



The book is available through SHALOM for a donation of \$25 (soft) or \$35 (hard), signed by the authors! It is also available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

All proceeds are assigned to SHALOM and go toward the new SHALOM Woolery Barn! Purchase yours at SHALOM Connection Depot Thrift Store (6276 N Riverview Dr., Fri. & Sat., 9-3) for the best financial return to the SHALOM, plus a free, handmade,

woven bookmark!

A unique quality of the book is how it challenges the reader to see God in a new light, using the name of God that connects with the stories being told. We all seek the shalom of God (peace and wholeness) in our lives. That shalom, our wholeness and peace, comes only through Jesus!

God places us on the journey to discover what He designed just for us, what will give a sense of wholeness and peace. As Sara shares, "You see not a single experience is wasted in God's spiritual kingdom." God uses what we already possess (talent, influence, skills, resources, circumstances, health / sickness) to do what we were created to do.



What is in your hand?

A Faithful Volunteer

Nancy Bell retired from nursing and knew she wanted to work with people. She was looking for a place to volunteer and feels Christ led her to SHALOM. We are thankful that He did!! The ministry and the people have been so blessed by Nancy!

Nancy has been a faithful volunteer with SHALOM for the past year and a half. She comes and works on the farm alongside participants almost every Tuesday and Thursday. She has also served at many SHALOM activities including farm camp and farm days.

While she loves talking with participants, she finds even more joy in listening to them, hearing their stories, and taking the time to learn who they are.

Nancy has a passion for animals and also for gardening and many times she stays after to work at the farm even after regular hours are over.



Nancy relates that she also enjoys working with the different coaches and when asked about her future plans, she tells me she wants to stay and help at SHALOM as long as possible. We pray that Nancy continues to be with us at SHALOM for a long time!

SHALOM in the Community

We love to have fun!! Getting out into the community and sharing God's love with others is one of the highlights here at SHALOM.

We had an amazing day of fellowship at Camp Warner and South Haven, attended a Kalamazoo Growlers baseball game, had a fantastic cookout with a community tour group, and attended a production of Wizard of Oz at a local theatre..

It is awesome to see the impact

that our joyful group has on our community. We are thankful for many volunteers who accompany participants on these outings and for your loving support to help these trips happen.



Meet the People of SHALOM

From cleaning to gardening, and everything in between, if you're looking for a helping hand at SHALOM, Karen is your lady! Karen is always ready to help and does so with a joyful heart and warm smile!!

Before coming to the SHALOM Woolery, Karen worked at Harding's for 23 years! If you are ever out and about with Karen, you will soon learn that she knows EVERYONE!! There is always someone saying hello or coming up to give Karen a big hug!

Karen is a hard worker at any task she puts her hand to, but one of her greatest passions is baking. She has a successful cookie baking business called, "Karen's Wonderful Cookies." If you haven't tried one of Karen's cookies, you are missing out! They are the best around!



The most important role I have seen Karen take on is that of a disciple. Karen doesn't just talk about being a Christian, she lives it out! She often puts the needs of others before her own.

Just recently, Karen gave up her spot on the farm team (Karen LOVES to go to the farm!) so that another participant who also loves the farm would be able to go. Before she decided, I could see Karen was torn about what to do. She prayed about it and decided to forgo her chance to work on the farm so the other participant would be able to. WOW!!! Talk about selflessness!!

We are all on a journey towards peace and wholeness through Jesus Christ. Witnessing Karen's heart and act of kindness was a reminder of what SHALOM is all about and what it looks like to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

GIFT REMEMBRANCES March 1, 2019– July 15, 2019

Honor of Aktion Club
Betty Lujan-Roberts & Arthur Roberts

Memory of John and Joan Bretz
Jan Boynton

Memory of Mark Brown
Joyce McNally

Memory of Ed Burkett
James and Ruth Bacon
David and Deanna Lingg
Lillian Sibbersen

Memory of Glen Collison
Linda Hinds
Dr. K Patrick & Cathy Ober

Honor of Glen & Sara Collison
Doc & Julie Stevens

Honor of Sara Collison
Gretchen Baker
Ethlynn Dewitt
D. Rosalind Epstein-Wolhowe

Memory of Jack & Pearl Doorn
Linda Hinds

In honor of Emma, Sophia, and Giuliana
Steve & Sandy Hart

Memory of Dr. Thomas Fillar
Robert & Carolyn Walton

Memory of Zach Green
Keith & Andie Lohman

Memory of Fred Heckman and Clayton & Ruth Starkey
Cheryl Starkey

Honor of Layla Jabboori
Elizabeth Dykhouse

Memory of Hank & Agie Kuiper
Ronald & Linda Lance

Honor of Our Lord and Savior
J.D. & Janet Vander Meer

Honor of Patricia D. and Joseph D. O'Keefe, and David O'Keefe
Mary Beth and Bernie Buescher

Memory of Ron McLain

Pamela Steele Gregg
Mary Johnson
Marvin & Ebby King
Ron McLain Family
Jason & Kim Neil

Memory Ron Miner
Sally Miner

Memory of Richard Nielsen
Robert & Carolyn Walton

Memory of Ruth Piazza
Ramon Piazza

Memory of John C. Pike
Beverly & Stephen Pike

Honor of SHALOM Special Olympic Athletes
Ethlynn Dewitt

Honor of SHALOM Woolery Volunteers
Ethlynn DeWitt

Honor of Karen Sheridan
Louis & Sharon Terpstra

Memory of Beverly Slack
Dave & Bonnie Flora

Memory of Cecile Spitters
Alan Spitters

Memory of Sheri Stiger
Beverly & Stephen Pike

Memory of Thomas L. Swiat
Thomas & Priscilla Swiat Jr.

Memory of Bob Woodruff
Shanon Browne
Keith & Andie Lohman

THANK YOU FOR THESE GIFTS OF LOVE GIVEN ON BEHALF OF THESE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE!

Bob Woodruff was 55 when he passed into the Lord's presence on April 14, 2019. For many years, Bob enjoyed the SHALOM annual trips, camps and other activities. More recently, he was a Participant at the SHALOM Woolery. A lasting mark Bob left with his peers was his love for wood burning.



Although we hesitated, we allowed Bob to bring his wood burning tools. Many watched with keen interest. Since Bob's passing, wood burning has become the next new thing among SHALOM Woolery Participants! We miss Bob's prayers, his confidence, his focus and artistic flare. He was a good friend to all. We will see you soon, dear friend!

Zach Green entered the Lord's presence June 9, 2019, at age 26 (almost 27). Zach lived at the Homestead for a year as part of the SHALOM Network. He participated in the SHALOM Woolery and many activities such as meals, trips, parties, worship, farm



chores, projects, and general community living. His smile and joy brought much friendship. He never let up trying to connect and communicate with friends and

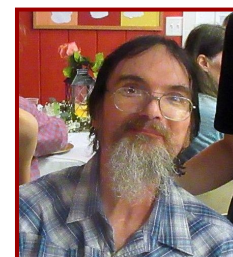
family. Zach loved to play games and study the Bible in a small group setting. He loved asking the group to pray for his family. And he loved the simple joys like lunch, his lanyard name tag and teasing. His body is now whole, his words must be non-stop and his stories epic. We miss you, Zach, and will see you soon, dear brother!

Ed's Legacy Story

As reported in our last newsletter, we said good-bye to Ed Burkett in January. Ed was a constant presence and helper for many years and even through absent in body, he will continue to have an impact for many generations.

As a legacy gift, Ed was able to leave a large gift designated for the SHALOM Woolery Barn! Amazing!

We are so grateful! We share this in Ed's absence only. He would be so embarrassed, but we want to give glory to God for this gift of gener-



ous forethought and investment.

And we want to prompt thoughtful prayer and planning in others as is fitting.

Your Legacy Story

Have you wanted to make an impact, yet hesitate because of unknown future needs? Or maybe you do not know what to do?

Legacy giving through your estate plan is an ideal way to offer huge ministry rewards for generations! Please consider such a practical strategy for giving!