

Pownal church steeple taken apart; will be restored elsewhere

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POWNAL — With the help of Jan Lewandoski, owner of Restoration and Traditional Building, a company that restores historic architecture, along with personnel and a crane from Burgess Bros. Inc., the steeple that has been sitting next to the Pownal Center Community Church on Center Street was to be deconstructed and removed by Friday evening.

The roof was off before noon on Friday, but rain slowed the project somewhat, said the Rev. Lise Boulerice, pastor of the church. It was raining while the Burgess Bros. crane moved the bell out of the steeple and set it to be stored in a nearby shed. The rain let up later on and the work was able to be completed, she said.

The steeple was removed from the town's oldest church in 2006 after it was deemed unsafe. Volunteers began working Monday to remove siding from the steeple and prepare for Friday's work, Nicky Forest, Steeple Committee chairwoman, said.

The roof will remain on church property while the material that Lewandoski feels is salvageable will be taken back to his shop in Greensboro Bend, where he will further analyze what can be saved and what will have to be replicated, Boulerice said.

Lewandoski said that from what he has seen, half of the steeple might be salvageable.

Work still needs to be done on the church's roof as well as the box the steeple sat on. Lewandoski said that at least one side of the box needed replacing but the rest might

Forest said cleanup work should be completed by early next week.

A Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday to discuss the next step, Boulerice said. A contractor still needs to be hired to do the roof work as well as look at the box. She said that it was likely the church would continue to work with Burgess Bros. and Lewandoski.

Forest said that the work on the steeple would not have been possible without the aid of local volunteers and donations.

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