

**Rotary**  
Club of  
Charlotte



# REPORTER

November 15, 2016

## REVEREND OLLIE RENCHER

St. Peters Episcopal Parish Church



We had the pleasure today to hear from Reverend Ollie Rencher of St. Peters Episcopal Parish Church. Ollie and his wife arrived at the Parish in September 2012 from Memphis and by way of Oxford, Mississippi. Ollie is a 2003 alumnus of the Theological Episcopal Church of Manhattan. He has had leadership roles in race reconciliation, social justice ministries, community revitalization and is currently quite active in local center city not for profit boards.

Ollie began his comments by stating when we hear the word race, something happens in our bodies. It can make you joyful and you want to talk more, or makes you want to shut down or perhaps pack it up and leave early. When he hears race he is hopeful that we all see that we are interconnected and when we realize this, a lot can get done. Ollie feels community is the connection about all of us being in common. He becomes hopeful with the power that community can create. He recalled his father as a Rotarian and how Rotary played a role in his life about getting in the ministry, service above self!

He went on to explain how we are connected to one another, but at our foundation we are Imago Dei, all created in the "Image of God." When we interact with any person as broken, beautiful, weak, hopeful and deplorable we are interacting with God. Our city has been fractured recently and he invited all of us to live in hope and for the impossible to be made possible through community.

Ollie shared with us the word Ubuntu, which means "I am because you are, I am broken because you are broken." This is a foundation of self....we choose to serve/care for people we do not/will never know. We have connection with everyone in community. He suggests we take action and go across the street, reach across the table, invite the stranger who is not like us to be connected to us. Ollie finds great hope in our community and challenges us to go deeper within ourselves because the things we have run from for so long are not going away and it is time to "lean in" and make real change in our community.

Ollie has great joy for what community can do. Energy is high here and we need to leverage this to expand our connectivity to the people who we will never meet in our community. If we all dig a little deeper we can close these divisions in our community. He is encouraged in what he sees in Charlotte, he wants us to all know what Ubuntu feels like. We all must be open with our thoughts and feelings for us to have community we can celebrate. Ollie has a great perspective on an uncomfortable subject for all of us to discuss. Ubuntu "I am because you are" and when we know that deeply, community can be formed and we can definitely serve others over ourselves.

Speaker Write-Up: *George MacBain*

Head Table: *Floyd Davis, Natalie English, John Nicolay, Elly Clary*; Invocation: *John Snyder*;

Visitors & Guests: *Bill Gill*; AV: *Tom Bartholomy*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*; Piano: *Em Syrewicze*

## CLUB NEWS

Condolences to our Rotary family: President **Natalie** lost her father-in-law and will attend funeral services in New York later this week; **Sandy Osborne's** mother, Dot Cook, passed away November 15. Thank you for remembering both families.

**Leanne Skipper** was introduced as the club's newest Rotarian. Leanne is sponsored by **Kristina Aquilone** and she serves as executive director for the Arthritis Foundation. Welcome Leanne by reaching out to her at [lskipper@arthritis.org](mailto:lskipper@arthritis.org).

### SERVICE PROJECTS UNDERWAY – Report your participation to Sandy

Clothing drive for Crisis Assistance Ministry will continue throughout the month of November. Thanks to **John Cantrell** and **Daryl Larner** for organizing and delivering the donations.

Reminder of the need to donate frozen turkeys for Charlotte Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Food Boxes...11-15 pounds, drop off between November 8 & 20, 907 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

Ring the bell at the square to support the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. **Mark Norman** will have his sign-up sheet at next week's meeting.

PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING THE **Foundation Banquet** that will be held November 19 at Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge. Opening reception at 6PM; \$60/Rotarian or \$100/Rotarian & Guest; registration is through the database (sandy can help get you registered). **President Natalie** is on board to MC the event! Thanks to those that have already signed up: **Tom Cottingham, Mark Markanda, Luther Moore, John & Lee Tabor, John zumBrunnen, Peirce Ward, Phil Volponi, Natalie English.**

## 100 SERVICE PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS *in red*

### ONGOING

**-Allenbrook Elementary School:** North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student one hour a week. Eric Davis: [eric.davis@wellsfargo.com](mailto:eric.davis@wellsfargo.com).

**-Platelet Donation:** Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. **50 donations to date!**

**-American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO):** Coach, referee, board member, linesman, snach shack worker, etc. Kathy Riley at [rc@ayso05.com](mailto:rc@ayso05.com) or Carolyn Carlburg [c.carlburg@gmail.com](mailto:c.carlburg@gmail.com)

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (11/19/16 – 11/26/16)

11/19 Kelly Mirt, Pat Millen

11/20 Keith Nowokunski, Elizabeth Harrison

11/22 Kim McMillan, Floyd Davis

11/23 Terri DeBoo

11/24 Jim Woodward

11/25 Mason Alexander

11/26 John Shell

### UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (11/19/16 – 11/26/16)

11/19 Barbie & Gene Williams

11/20 Catherine & Art Ringwald

11/21 Kathy & Steve Montgomery

11/23 Sheng Li & Wangzhong Lu

11/26 Debbie & Sadler Barnhardt

Club Members	134
Guests	12
Total	146 (48.6%)

**GUESTS:** Michael Warner, Stan Teague, Charlotte Donovan, Lynn Lee, Blake Shell, Alex Mercer, Jim Gamble, Al Killeffer, Ranjay Sarda, Peter Hewbergen, Josh Hall

### MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016	318
11/15/2016	319
Net Increase:	+1

*New Members:* Leanne Skipper

*Resignations:* Mark Crockett

### UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

([www.charlotterotary.org](http://www.charlotterotary.org) and click on the events tab)

11/22 – Thanksgiving Program

11/29 – Allison Houser, Augustine Literacy Project

12/06 – USO Show Troupe

12/13 - Phil DuBois, Chancellor, UNC Charlotte

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on **Flickr** [Click here](#)



[charlotterotary.org](http://charlotterotary.org) 704.375.6816  
1850 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street | Suite 220 | Charlotte, NC 28204 USA  
Rotary Club of Charlotte