



November 22, 2016

Thanksgiving Message

Cheryl Banks, John Powell, Kim Brattain



Every Thanksgiving program is a special gift to Rotarians. We are so privileged to have established the precedent of inviting three speakers to provide their thoughts around the Thanksgiving holiday. This tradition has provided personal insights into thoughts and expressions celebrated with this time of year.

This year was one of the best ever. John Nicolay said at the outset that when he called each of the candidates for presentations this year, each responded affirmatively without hesitation. When we heard them speak, it was clear that each speaker had solid messages that connected with the Rotary audience.

The first Rotary member to speak was Cheryl Banks recently retired from pre-trial services at the federal court. Cheryl opened with a very genuine expression of thanks to speak about her favorite holiday...Thanksgiving. She said a friend recently mentioned that Thanksgiving is the one time that families get together to give thanks for their lives together. Cheryl said that the way she sees it, we should all give thanks every day for the lives that we lead. She cherishes her life, especially after her cancer diagnosis in 2014 which she had not seen coming. When her tumor was removed, she clung closer to God than she had ever before. She knows the amazing grace of God that carries her each day. She remembers that "Today is all I have and today is all I need." What is most important to me is the celebration of life and to celebrate others."

Cheryl recalled an old news article from the Shelby Star with the headline saying "Rotarians Honor the Man Who Passes the Test!" The article was about her father. Cheryl had remembered being interviewed for the story. Her father, David Banks, was honored at the annual Rotary banquet as that year's winner of the four-way test, one of the most prestigious awards in the club. She described him with a strong love for his family in service to his community. First, he was a godly man. He was the member who best represented the four-way test in things that reflects the way they think, say or do. Banks was a modest man of integrity and was a listener and was always patient to learn the attitudes of those he met before he responded and was one of the kindest people to know. One of his goals in life was to combat racial barriers. He said, "you don't look at color, you look at people as people." He sought peace and harmony in all races.

You could hear Cheryl speak with pride about her father and her mother. She has dedicated her life to follow in her father's footsteps. And she ended by passing the blessing to each Rotarian in the room.

The second presenter was John Powell. John works in commercial real estate and

spoke about his honor to be a member of Rotary. He especially thanked Phil Van Hoy for nominating him to Rotary. John thanked his parents and his three siblings and his spouse, Tanya and his stepdaughter, Amanda and his two sons, Jonathan and Joshua. His thanked his close friends who he trusts, works with and laughs with.

John Powell was especially thankful to the opportunity to express different opinions and attitudes. Early in life, his family moved to a new community and became the new people...different from others. He struggled to get along and had to learn to trust others. He realized that he is not welcome in certain places around town. He knows about differences in race and gender and ethnicity and religion. He knows that he can engage anyone, but he learns more when he listens. He seeks collaboration and not compromise. He knows that he has the option to approach every day with a fresh and supportive attitude. John Powell seeks to embrace every day and learn to work with others in his community.

The third presenter was Kim Brattain. Kim has been in media, journalism, film work and a writer. Kim opened with comments about gratitude and faith and how they go together with Thanksgiving. She said she would share something personal that she had not shared openly before, but felt safe to do at Rotary. She told about a spiritual awakening while she was in school and how she was going to commit her life to Christ. She soon realized that she still needed to attend to earthly chores. In college, she became an existentialist by the age of 21, before finding her way back to her faith. She found professional opportunities with NBC news and was on a fast track. Then she met her husband, John. She won a couple of Emmy's. Three years into their marriage, her husband was diagnosed with cancer and the treatments would diminish their chances of having children. Fortunately, they soon had two boys in 18 months. She remains immensely grateful for that happening. And then the cancer came back three times and after a bone marrow transplant, John died.

She was supported by her church in major ways. She was so grateful for the meals that were delivered and for the Pastor who would walk around the block with her. She became a single Mom and went to work for WSOC TV. Years later, she met a new man from the YMCA named Ellison Clark. He traveled to Nepal, but called her from Bangkok and asked her to marry him. She said yes. She looks back at the bumps in the road and is so very grateful for all that she has. She knows about the value of her personal faith and reflects on the miracles of every day. She even gives thanks for attending Rotary every Tuesday so that she can meet someone new and learn about their lives. Kim passed the blessing to all in attendance at Rotary.

Peace be and Happy Thanksgiving.

Speaker Write-Up: *John Galles*

Head Table: *Cheryl Banks, Tom Bartholomy, John Nicolay, Kim Brattain, John Powell*; Invocation: *Laura Thomas*; Visitors & Guests: *Bill Bradley*; AV: *Jessica Dupree & Steve Eanes*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*

CLUB NEWS



Major **Larry Broome** touched on the good work done through the Salvation Army to provide help and support to thousands of children, the disabled and the homeless. The Army Band provided beautiful music as **Herb Harriss**, **Mike Crum** and **Stephanie Hinrichs** managed the raffle ticket sales, which will be added to Kettle collections. **Mark Norman** is organizing the bell ringing schedule and due to some unexpected schedule conflicts, there is currently a need for bell ringers Tuesday, November 29 at 11:30- 12:30 and Friday, December 2 at 11:30-12:30. Please email mark.norman@jwu.edu if you are available to help out. Ask a co-worker or family member to join you.

Byron Bullard's memoir, *Byron Bullard-A Patron of Patients and the Staff that Cared for Them*, is available in Hardback: \$24.95 plus \$5.05 for shipping and handling. Order online at www.poplarstreetpress.com.

On behalf of the District Grant Committee, Sean Gautam presented a check for \$27,500 for the soccer project. With Charlotte Rotary's donation of \$15,000 and the match from the grant, the total project stands at \$55,000. **Chase Saunders** and **Carolyn Carlburg** are very pleased with the way things are coming together. Almost half of the twenty-five member board consists of Rotarians. The National Organization is very excited to help Charlotte AYSO move things forward and are expecting to sign up 10,000 new players over the next 3 years. The plan to refurbish 10 soccer fields has risen to 13. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities as the first season kicks off in February.

Jerry Coughter had the pleasure of re-introducing **Ron Mikels** to the club. Ron had been a member of Charlotte Rotary for ten years and had left the club in 2013. Ron is back with Clancy & Theys Construction Company as their director of business development and can be reached at ronmikels@clancytheys.com.

Brent Cagle discussed Charlotte International Airport's current expansion project called Destination CLT and growth opportunities along the Wilkinson Boulevard corridor in this week's Charlotte Business Journal.

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.

100 SERVICE PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS in red

ONGOING

-Allenbrook Elementary School: North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3rd grade student one hour a week. Eric Davis: 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, snack shack worker, etc. Kathy Riley at rc@ayso05.com or Carolyn Carlburg c.carlburg@gmail.com

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (11/27/16 – 12/04/16)

11/30 Carolyn Carlburg, Byron Bullard, Tony Marciano, Bob Freeman

12/01 Mary Ellen Player

11/03 Steve Meckler

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (11/27/16 – 12/04/16)

No anniversaries

Club Members	135
Guests	10
Total	145 (49.3%)

GUESTS: Lynn Lee, Hank Harris, Gail Syfert, Gail O'Neill, Raj Merchant, Scott Nelson, Paul Bill, Ranjay Sarda, Sean Gautam, Tripp Pound

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016	318
11/22/2016	320
Net Increase:	+2

New Members: Leanne Skipper, Ron Mikels
Resignations: Mark Crockett

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

(www.charlotterotary.org and click on the events tab)

11/29 – Allison Houser, Augustine Literacy Project

12/01 – GALA at Charlotte Convention Center 6:00 Reception/7:00 Dinner

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](#)

