



December 15, 2020

We meet on Tuesday at 12:30 pm at Fairfield Inn & Suites – Charlotte Uptown, 201 South McDowell St, Charlotte NC 28202

2020- 2021 Board Members

President Jerald Coughter

Pres Elect Carol Hardison

Past Pres John Lassiter

Secretary Bill Bradley

Treasurer Edwin Peacock

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2020-2021

Colleen Brannan

Kandi Deitemeyer

Stuart Hair

Stephanie Hinrichs

Chris Kemper

Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

Directors 2020-2022

Patrick Baker

Bill Bartee

Suzanne Bledsoe

Kim McMillan

Rex Reynolds

Ranjay Sarda

John zumBrunnen

Membership Clyde

Robinson

Foundation John Tabor

Programs Elly Clary

Jeff Atkinson

Cheryl Banks

Bill Bartee

Bill Bradley

Kim Brattain

David Tobin

THE CHOIR SCHOOL AT SAINT PETERS



Elly Clary introduced Davis Tapp, the Executive Director of [The Choir School at Saint Peters](#), a non-profit organization that provides music education and choral presentation opportunities

to young men and women (8 to 18) from across the Charlotte region. Elly recalled the impressive program presented by the Choir School singers at the 2019 Good Fellows Luncheon.

Davis noted he is the first permanent Executive Director of the school, and defined his job as doing all of the not-fun stuff that allows the fun stuff to happen. The Artistic Director, Elizabeth Lenti, provides the artistic vision and musical force behind the school. The Choir School was founded 27 years ago to provide classical musical training for young people, which they deliver through the lens of choral music. The students learn ancient and modern choral pieces that develop them into competent musicians, not just great singers. They focus on both music theory and rigorous vocal training.

The Choir School is an after-school program that meets once each week in normal times, but in the current pandemic situation, they are receiving individual training from each of the school's three artistic staff members.

Davis, who has spent his entire career in the non-profit management world, joined the school in July to help lead it into the next era. The first question was, "What does a performance look like in the current environment?" Before he arrived, the school had produced one virtual choir project, which was difficult to

do, but which had the benefit of allowing them to reach a broader audience than they could with live performances that reached only about 2,000 audience members in any given year. By comparison, their first video performance had over 15,000 views.

The presentation we were shown was an abridged version of the first virtual program available for a small fee on their website, www.thechoirschool.org. It began with an introduction from narrator Tom Bullock, followed by a beautiful rendition of the *Carol of the Bells*, performed by all of the combined choirs of the St. Peter's Choir School. Elizabeth Lenti, the Artistic Director, spoke about the history of the song and how it was produced—she directed the groups of singers, all on 'mute', recording in each of their homes.

Garrett Law, Assistant Artistic Director, spoke about the process. First, the individual singers videotaped themselves singing the songs at their homes, and then sent in the videos to the school. The individual performances were then time-synchronized and combined into one choral performance. Garrett, the organist for the school, used the same techniques in the production of Leroy Anderson's *Sleighride*, videotaping the base line played with the feet, and then the melody played on the keyboard, and stitching them together with other instruments being played by him for the production, which we subsequently watched.

Elizabeth Lenti then introduced the song *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, a must for every Christmas choral program. We were invited to record ourselves singing along with the choir and post the recordings on social media (it will be interesting to see if anyone did!). After that song, the program closed with a piano performance of *Let it Snow*.

A thoroughly delightful and different experience! ***Merry Christmas to All!***

Written by: Rick Handford

A recording of the program is available here:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/rdxcJOrnaA7M1TBsyZnExsB1aSTNzGmZCGz1xpVHygMtrBypwhoKNvJ3wkG92AC5.Q5Mzgg4FQ5BQNA2n>

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*This link will only be available for one month from the recording date.

CLUB NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH with our Rotary members is important. If you hear of anything you find interesting, other members may too! To help us stay connected, report updates for this newsletter to Christine Cipriano at christine@charlotterotary.org

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

Miriam Seel Searcy, wife of long-time member (42+ years), **Jeff Searcy**, died on December 6th. Miriam and Jeff were married for 53 years. In addition to Jeff, she is survived by their children, Scott (wife, Jenny), Susan, and Stephen (wife, Tangelita). Miriam and Jeff have seven grandchildren. **Kenneth W. Poe Funeral & Cremation Service** will handle the private services.



Details can be found here:

<https://www.kennethpoeservices.com/obituaries/963-miriam-seel-searcy>

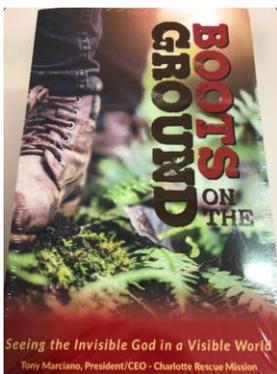


Due to the pandemic, we will not be serving Christmas Breakfast at **Charlotte Rescue Mission** this year. However, our Club still has an opportunity to help this great organization and its important work. They are in need of certain items to help them in their mission. Here is their Christmas wish list:



- Twin sized sheets and pillow cases (XL). (This is a **significant need**. Perhaps members can pick up one set of sheets and drop it off at the Mission.)
- In-season clothing
- Pajamas
- Activewear
- Shoes
- Belts
- Accessories (purses, wallets, jewelry, etc)
- Thumb drives

Items and donations can be dropped off at the Rescue Mission, 907 W. 1st St.



While there, grab a cup of coffee at Community Matters Café, located at 821 West 1st Street, where you can also pick up a copy of **Tony Marciano's** new book, *Boots on the Ground*. His book, sold only in the Café, is a collection of 100 stories of Tony's life with a spiritual application similar to the Rotary 4 Way Test article he presented to us at a recent meeting. The book cost is a gift of your preference.

Hours at the café: M-F: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sat: 8 a.m. – Noon; Sun: Closed

[Community Matters Cafe - Because Community Matters](#)



Charlotte Rotary in partnership with **NC MedAssist** is sponsoring a Mobile Free Pharmacy - Free Over the Counter Medicine Event

Date: January 23, 2021

Time: 9am-2pm

This Drive-through event will be in northern Mecklenburg County at a location TBA soon.

The Mobile Free Pharmacy (OTC) Program provides free over the counter medicines to our low-income neighbors in need. Even with insurance, many individuals and families struggle to purchase medicine cabinet staples such as, first aid, digestive aids, cold and flu and vitamins. Last fiscal year, NC MedAssist served 38,384 individuals with OTC medicines and saved NC more than \$30 million in healthcare cost avoidance.

In the midst of COVID-19, our goal for this event is to serve around 1000 low-income individuals and families with much needed over the counter medicines. Volunteers will work indoors and observe all COVID-19 protocols. No prior experience is required for most positions.

Please join your fellow Rotarians and sign up to volunteer using this link: <http://cerv.is/m?0332qzyfV9>



Trees Charlotte will hold the next tree planting on

Date: Saturday, January 30, 2021.

Location: University Meadows Elementary

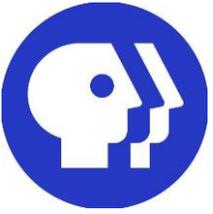
Goal: To plant over 300 trees in 3 shifts (2 hours each) throughout the morning

Since events are very different from years past, there are stricter guidelines. Current restrictions on outdoor gatherings are limited to 50 volunteers each shift. To ensure these guidelines, all volunteers (adults and children) are required to register at <https://treescharlotte.org/event/university-meadows-elementary-treeday/> to sign/acknowledge a liability waiver, review COVID-19 protocols and choose a time shift. Unfortunately, volunteers that do not sign up will be turned away and no food/drinks are provided at our events this year.



Thank you to all those who contributed to the Red Kettle Campaign to raise money for The Salvation Army this year. Team Captain [Mark Norman](#) reported this week's donors were: [Pat Millen](#), [Jeff Atkinson](#), and [Lynn Johnson](#).

For every \$50 raised towards the Red Kettle Campaign and Pennies from Heaven gave you a chance to win a raffle prize. Details on raffle will soon be unveiled.



Returning guest [Laura Little](#) (fellow Rotarian from Idaho moving to Charlotte soon) shared with her breakout room, *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*, a musical she brought off Broadway, was recorded and is playing on PBS.

Show synopsis: The Western Front, Christmas, 1914. Out of the violence a silence, then a song. A German soldier steps into No Man's Land singing "Stille Nacht." Thus, begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music, peace. A remarkable true story, told in the words and songs of the men who lived it.

Free streaming began yesterday and runs for roughly two weeks. It is streaming on [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) or video.idahoptv.org and will also air on PBS Charlotte later this month.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2020 259

12/8/2020 232

Net Increase -27 Resignations: Charles Bones, Wangzhong Lu

Meeting Attendance, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020: 53 members participated in the Zoom meeting.

We welcomed:

- Linda, Elly Clary's wife
- Returning guest Laura Little (a current Rotarian in Idaho who will be moving to Charlotte soon)

CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAY (12/23/2020 – 1/5/2020)

Dec. 25 – Pender McElroy
Dec. 26 – Andy Dinkin
Dec. 28 – Kip Kiser
Dec. 30 – Ed Kizer
Jan. 3 – John Nicolay
Jan. 4 – Doug Bean
Jan. 4 – Jim Kothe
Jan. 5 – Angela Broome Powley

Happy Birthday to each of you! And many more!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (12/23/2020 – 1/5/2020)



Dec. 27 – Ruth and Ed Wadsworth
Dec. 28 – Elizabeth Teagarden and Scott Anderson
Dec. 29 – Beverly and Jim Kothe
Dec. 30 – Alice and Benton Bragg
Jan. 4 – Leslie and Mac McCarley
Jan. 5 – Carole and Kip Kiser

Happy Anniversary to you!

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (12/23/2020 – 1/5/2020)

39 years, Jan. 1 – Henry Bostic
32 years, Jan. 1 – Dick Klingman
31 years, Jan. 1 – Jim Woodward
30 years, Jan. 1 – Bob Knight
29 years, Jan. 1 – David Anderson
26 years, Jan. 1 – Doug Bean
21 years, Dec. 31 – Brian Gibson
20 years, Dec. 31 – Benton Bragg
20 years, Dec. 31 – Russell Ranson
16 years, Dec. 31 – Tom Cottingham



*That's a combination of 264 years of service! Happy Rotaversary Everyone!
We are delighted you are in our club!*

UPCOMING PROGRAM SPEAKERS

The Club is always looking for new, interesting speakers. Please forward ideas to Christine at christine@charlotterotary.org

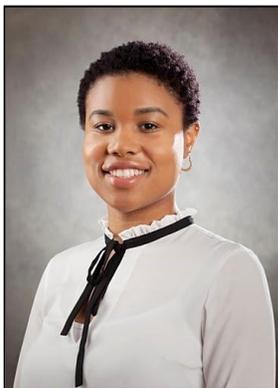


*December 22 and December 29 – **Holiday Break** - No Meetings scheduled*

January Schedule

Mark your calendar for these upcoming hallmark speakers.

January 5



Beverlee Sanders

Solid Waste Services,
City of Charlotte
"Recycling Charlotte"

January 12



Kelly King

Chairman and CEO
Truist Financial Corp.



Heath Campbell

President, Truist Financial Corp.
Charlotte/Metrolina Region

January 19 – Rhett Brown, President of Wingate University

January 26 – Dr. Sharon Gaber, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

DISTRICT EVENTS

ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES. *Our club is part of District 7680*

Our District offers **Volunteer Opportunities** beyond our club. Here are some possibilities.

- **NC MedAssist** – 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: [Sign up here.](#)
- **Second Harvest Food Bank** – opportunities through January: [Sign up here.](#)

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL **Vision Statement:** *“Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”*

The Four Way Test

Rotary



1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Happy Holidays to you and yours. Wishing you peace and prosperity in the upcoming new year!

