



# Charlotte Reporter

## The Rotary Club of Charlotte

### November 20, 2012

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680  
[www.charlotterotary.org](http://www.charlotterotary.org)

## A Rotary Thanksgiving

By: Elly Clary

Faith, family and friends figured prominently in the presentations of three Charlotte Rotary members who delivered our special Thanksgiving program.



Meg McElwain and Tim Newman spoke of how faith, family and friends lifted them through tough times while Colleen Brannon acknowledged them as underpinnings of her continued success.

“I really believe, if you put your faith in the Lord, He will not leave you,” said Meg, whose second child Mitchell was diagnosed with leukemia when he was three months old. She’s thankful for Myers Park United

Methodist Church and its ministry to her husband Frank Turner, her older son Frank Jr. and herself.

She’s grateful to friends in Rotary, and especially for the coordination of their efforts by Sandy Osborne. She also gave thanks for caregiver Pat Sloan, Eastover Pediatrics and Dr. Mike Giftos. Further, she listed Presbyterian Hemby Children’s Hospital, its nurses and its “loving and wonderful staff,” who outfitted her with an office at the hospital where she could pursue the projects of her firm, Magnolia Marketing.

Best of all, she said, Mitchell is in remission. Though recurrence chances are high, she said, “I know he’s going to be OK...and he’s going to have a wonderful life.”

Tim dealt with the loss of his job leading the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority and with highly public court appearances related to driving violations.

“I’m blessed to have three fundamentals: friends, family and faith,” he said. He saw at least one close friend at each Rotary table, he added, then acknowledged, “Goodwill and better friendships helped me through the year, and I appreciate it.”

Tim acknowledged the family of his former wife and “parenting partner,” his mother and the family of his new companion. He’s happy for the straight A’s daughter Rebecca is earning at Clemson University. Meanwhile, he is overjoyed with the enrollment in high school for his twin 16-year-old sons, William and David. Though they struggle with autism, he said, they are accomplishing major milestones in coping.

More than anything, Tim leans on his faith. He recited Bible verses from Thessalonians and Corinthians that he said carry him through daily stress.

“When you’re feeling sorry for yourself, do something nice for somebody else,” he advised. “Your life will be a lot better.”

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock  
2Qtr Colleen Brannon  
3Qtr Bob Freeman  
4Qtr Bill Constangy

### NOVEMBER 2012

27<sup>th</sup> **How I Got Where I’m At**  
George Cochran, Ty Hands, Martin Waters

### DECEMBER 2012

4<sup>th</sup> **Casey Crawford**  
Former Carolinas Panthers and CEO New American Mortgage

11<sup>th</sup> **Pat Riley**  
President and COO Allen Tate

18<sup>th</sup> **Holiday Program**

12:30 Tuesday  
Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42974089870/>

Colleen assured the Rotarians that her mom and dad instilled principles she's used to succeed. She's grateful for husband Scott and children Nicholas and Phoebe – and even puppy Karma.

“Being a mom is the best job ever,” said the owner of Branstorm PR & Marketing.

She's thankful for her friends, those she's known since childhood as well as those she's found in Charlotte.

“Charlotte has everything you need to raise a family and have a good job,” she told her audience. “Charlotte embraces entrepreneurs.”

On a lighter note, Colleen said she's grateful for her health, although she implied that – occasionally – her diet might include fast food and strong drink. Perhaps she's fortunate to count another blessing – she's her own boss.

Head Table: Paul Pennell, Karen Price, Marilynn Bowler, Colleen Brannan, Tim Newman, Meg McElwain, Floyd Davis  
Invocation: Tom Hodges; Visitors & Guests: Lynn Wheeler; Song: Biff Virkler; AV: Nikki Keith; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

## **CLUB NEWS**

→ Welcome three new Rotarians....**Pender McElroy** introduced **Penny Hefner**, who is an attorney at Sodoma Law. Penny can be reached at [phefner@sodomalaw.com](mailto:phefner@sodomalaw.com); **Karen Price** had the pleasure of introducing **Holly Rash**, vice president of talent engagement at Charlotte Works. Holly can be reached at [hgryder-rash@charlotteworks.com](mailto:hgryder-rash@charlotteworks.com); **Ron Kimble** introduced **Angela Mauldin**, director of corporate relations for Johnson C. Smith University.

→ The Salvation Army Band was on hand to play Christmas music and the red kettle was on display. Anyone making a donation received a raffle ticket for a chance to win gift certificates or a ring donated by the Karat Patch. Check your ticket stub and contact **Mark Norman** ([mark.norman@jwu.edu](mailto:mark.norman@jwu.edu)) if you have one of the winning numbers: 592043, 592040, 592030. Did You Know The Salvation Army's Center of Hope is the city's only 24/7, year-round emergency shelter for homeless women and children. Did You Know that over 5,700 women and children were provided a bed to sleep in and a warm meal at the Center of Hope in 2011?

→ **Paul Pennell** and **Tom Hodges** added special messages today. Paul paid tribute to his friend, David Gray, US Air Force, who was deployed to Afghanistan one year ago today. Tragically, David was killed in duty three months ago and will not be returning home to his wife and three children. Paul led the club in saying the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of David. Several have requested the prayer delivered by Tom Hodges.

It seems we are all so busy. In this time of Thanksgiving, grant us time of reflection. For family - for the precious smile of a child, we give thanks; for our spouse - for the special memories of parents, grandparents and others that have so impacted our lives, we give thanks; for friends - for the unexpected call when we needed it most, for the stranger who pulled over to help an elderly person on the side of the road; for helping hands that feed the hungry, we give thanks; for freedom - for the men and women in the Armed Forces who will be spending their Thanksgiving away from family protecting our country, we give thanks; for the many that gave their lives so that we might be free, the Ultimate Sacrifice, for the many hero's that gave their lives so that we might be free, we give thanks; for rest - our health, your healing touch, food, employment and shelter, we give thanks; for love - for the sparkle in the eye and the butterflies in our stomachs when we fall in love, for giving us the power to untie our tongues and look deeply in to the eyes of a close family member this holiday season and finally say that heartfelt “I love you;” for the strong hug of a grandchild, we give thanks; finally for You, unlike us - never too busy, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year; for You - the one who makes all things possible, we give thanks!

→ **Matt Joyner** provided an update on the club's exchange students and encouraged everyone to get involved in this program! A particular need at this time is for someone to step forward to be a host family for Juan Carlos (Charlotte Country Day School) from January 6 to early August. The previously arranged host family has an unexpected illness and their spare room is now the recovery room. Contact Matt ([mjoyner@bdjlaw.com](mailto:mjoyner@bdjlaw.com)) if you can provide lodging or know someone that could help out.

→ **Tom Bartholomy** cautioned everyone to be on the lookout for scams circulating through email or phone solicitation. If you want to provide support to Hurricane Sandy victims, Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc. it would be wise to contact the agency directly.

<b>Attendance</b>	<u>11/20/2012</u>	<u>11/23/2011</u>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>New Members:</b> Kelly Mirt, Claire Blocker, Holly Rash
Visitors & Guests	15	23	07/01/2012 316	Angela Mauldin, Penny Hefner
Club Members	152	140	11/20/2012 319	
Total Attendance	167	163	Net Increase +3	<b>Resignation:</b> Chuck Lew
Percentage	53.9%			

### **Birthdays November 27 – December 3**

30 Byron Bullard      30 Bob Freeman  
30 Tony Marciano      03 Steve Meckler

### **Anniversaries November 27 – December 3**

29 Sonya and Kevin Pitts