

# Rotary Newsletter

## Club of Gainesville



### Meeting Location:

First Baptist Church  
Banquet Hall  
751 Green Street  
Monday at 12:30 PM  
Lunch begins serving at  
Noon  
Founded in 1923

### Links

[Club Website](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)  
[New Member Online Form](#)

### Club Leaders



Amanda Willis  
President



Mike McGraw  
President -  
Elect



Joseph Alan Tripp  
Secretary



Christina D Jones  
Treasurer



Julia Gesch Clay  
Membership  
Director



Carol M. Colon  
Club  
Administration  
Director

Amy Haralson Kienle  
Youth

## Amanda Wilbanks, Founder and CEO of Southern Baked Pie Company



No one can cook like a Southern cook, and that's a fact. Amanda Wilbanks was born into this rich, regional legacy, but had no idea she would be perpetuating it. From the time she was small, she scurried around the feet of her mother, grandmothers, and aunts. She overheard dinner table conversations which began with "How did you make this?" and ended with "Well, it is simply amazing! I must have that recipe!" Amanda witnessed how family titans of cooking compiled cherished recipes into family notebooks, copied and distributed to the next generation. Heirlooms with "great taste", to be sure!

For their part, the men in the family contributed to the effort by planting summer gardens and tending them. For many years, behind Amanda's grandfather's house, her papa and dad had a bountiful garden. Her mother and grandmothers put up (that is, canned or froze) fresh-from-the-garden produce year after year after year. And, Amanda's great-great-grandfather was famous for growing his own rhubarb, then making a killer rhubarb pie! Farm-to-table was a way of life in Amanda's family.

Amanda never set out to be a professional chef, although she has always possessed a strong creative bent. Her first "career" lasted only about a year, because it did not feed her hungry soul. Amanda has the spirit of an entrepreneur, inherited from her daddy's daddy, who was not only a person with great charisma, but was also a dreamer of dreams. Like him, Amanda has the tremendous ability to capture a vision and see it through. So, as 2012 dawned, she left that first job, and threw her talents into designing her own wedding, slated for April of that year.

Then, six months later, as new family met old, newly-wed Amanda spent two weeks in the kitchen with her mother-in-law, Sandy, two weeks which ultimately sent her life spinning off into a marvelous, new culinary direction.

Amanda discovered the magic and beauty of French pate brisee pie crust. This new love turned into a near obsession.

The Wilbanks home was soon filled with the constant aroma of baking pies, as Amanda perfected her signature crust and dug into old family recipes for fillings. Buttermilk pies became so plentiful that Alex, Amanda's husband, demanded she either stop baking or start selling those pies. His waistline was getting wrecked!

Not willing to give up her new-found addiction, Amanda went to her first, local craft fair in 2012, armed with a dream, 1500 business cards, a rented tent, her bemused family members (her aides-de-camp) and dozens of scrumptious pies. What a weekend! Each night, she and her (now amazed) family stayed up until the wee hours, baking, because each day she sold out of pies. Along the way, she schmoozed, shook hundreds of hands as she handed out business cards and smiled as she told each person, "If I can get just one bite of my pies in your mouth, you will be a customer for life."

Built on the back of hard work, vision, email and Facebook marketing, her company was born.

At first, Amanda continued to attend festivals and market the pies while still baking out of her home. As orders began to pour in over the holiday season she had to add another monster oven to her tiny kitchen. And, then, she had to add another!

One year later, since running 3 industrial ovens out of one's home is perilous, the first storefront opened.



Services  
Director



Jon Peterson  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Alison Bagwell  
Smith  
Public Image  
Director



Kathleen  
Owen  
Service  
Projects  
Director



Zachary T.  
Propes  
Rotary  
Foundation  
Director



Bill Hall  
iPast  
President

Today, 9 years later, Amanda is the founder and CEO of Southern Baked Pie Company, headquartered in Gainesville, GA, with 4 beautiful retail bakery locations in Alpharetta, Buckhead, Vinings, and Gainesville, as well as online alliances with several retail powerhouses such as Dean & DeLuca, Garden and Gun Mercantile, and Williams-Sonoma. Southern Baked has an online ecommerce and wholesale division, where pies are purchased and shipped all over the United States and will soon have the capability to ship internationally.

Amanda is also a wife to Alex Wilbanks, mother to two precious boys, Austin (11) and Dalton (6), one daughter, Caroline Grace (2) and a cookbook author. In her most recent cookbook, Southern Baked: Celebrate Life with Pie, Amanda divulges the recipe that made her pies famous: the signature Southern Baked All Butter Crust. Her work has been featured in Taste of the South, Garden and Gun and various other esteemed publications. She is also a frequent guest lecturer. Visit [www.southernbakedpie.com](http://www.southernbakedpie.com) to learn more about Amanda.

Amanda's mantra and mission have remained unchanged since Day One: Celebrate Life with Pie! And that is what she does every day.

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## Annual Fall Cookout is Tonight



SERVE TO  
CHANGE LIVES

## ROTARY CLUB OF GAINESVILLE ANNUAL FALL COOKOUT

You and your family are invited to the club's fall fish fry on September 27. Bring a guest and share the Family of Rotary experience.

This year's event is hosted by Riverside Military Academy and its president, COL Stas Preczewski at his campus home, Mitchell Quarters, 1907 Lake Warner Drive.



Mitchell Quarters  
Riverside Military Academy  
September 27, 2021  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Please RVSP to [carolmcolon@gmail.com](mailto:carolmcolon@gmail.com)

**Thank You to our Ramp Team and Volunteers!**

Ramp #135 was completed over the weekend. Thank you to our volunteers and Rotarians Lou Henderson, Mike Freeman, Hector Colon, and David Masters. Special thanks to Ann Nixon and Beatty D. Alessandro for joining this ramp build.





## Shore Sweep Service Project

Thank you to our Rotary Club of Gainesville Shore Sweep Volunteers - President Amanda Willis, Bob Willis, Robert Shippey and Jurgen Moller.



**September is Basic Education & Literacy Month**

# Rotary

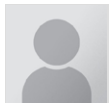


## September is Basic Education and Literacy Month

### Upcoming Schedule

Date	Meeting or Event	Location
September 27, 2021	Rotary Club of Gainesville Annual Cookout	Mitchell Quarters, Riverside Military Academy
October 4, 2021	◆What the Pandemic has Taught Us◆ with Panelists Mike Giles, Carol Burrell and Rob Fowler	Gainesville First Baptist
October 11, 2021	No Meeting ◆ Holiday	
October 18, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting ◆ 11:00 am	Gainesville First Baptist
October 18, 2021	◆The State of Education in Gainesville/Hall County◆ with Panelists Anne Skleder, Bonita Jacobs, Jeremy Williams, Will Schofield, Kirsty Montgomery, and Stanley Preczewski	Gainesville First Baptist
October 25, 2021	Cheryl Legette, Chief Operations Officer, Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia ◆ ◆Herstory◆	Gainesville First Baptist

### Birthdays



[James K Syfan](#)  
September 30th



[Andr  P Pereira](#)  
October 6th

[Sollace M. Freeman](#)  
October 7th

[Tony M. Herdener](#)  
October 8th





[Del Mixon](#)  
October 10th



[Kevin Wetzel](#)  
October 11th



[James Ernest Palmour III](#)  
October 14th



[Tommy Howard](#)  
October 16th



[Carlos Brown Wilder Jr.](#)  
October 21st



[Alan R. McElveen](#)  
October 22nd



[Winston Glen Kyle](#)  
October 23rd



[Brad Donnell](#)  
October 25th



[Harry R. Chapman Jr](#)  
October 27th



## Wedding Anniversaries



[Shane Lazenby](#)  
September 30th



[Dennis Stockton](#)  
October 1st

[Philip A. Wilheit](#)  
October 1st

[Amy Haralson Kienle](#)  
October 10th



[Wendy Joan Dale](#)  
October 17th



[Larry Paul Griffeth](#)  
October 18th



[Mike McGraw](#)  
October 17th



Mailing Address:  
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***Gainesville, GA 30503***