Meeting Notes – Apr. 1, 2025

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.  Being the first Tuesday of the month, this was Get to Know You week.  We had the pleasure of learning more about our fellow Rotarian, Steven Dobbs.

Steven is a LaFayette native and was home-schooled.  As a youngster he was very involved in 4-H (Forestry) and went to Nationals, where his team placed second. He also attended Camp Elba every summer as a child and began working there as soon as he aged out of their camp experience.  He has worked there for 22 years, and this is his first year as Camp Elba's director.

He married his wife Donna in April 2022, and they have a three-month old daughter, Hazel.  The family attends LaFayette Heights Baptist Church where Steven serves as a deacon and is part of the praise team.  Steven spoke of his faith and the influence of his family (his two grandfathers were preachers) and Camp Elba on his decision to follow Christ.

Steven began working at Charter Bank in West Point, GA, in 2015.  After the bank was sold and the decision was made that he should work from home, he sought employment with Farmers and Merchants Bank in LaFayette, where he has been since April of 2022.  Fellow Rotarian and F&M Bank President Stanley Tucker commended Steven for being an outstanding employee and Rotarian.

Steven brought us information on Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS).  AGS is a serious, potentially life-threatening condition.  Symptoms occur after eating red meat or other items containing alpha-gal, such as cow's milk and milk products.  Alpha-gal is a sugar molecule found in most mammals, but not in fish, reptiles, birds, or people.  AGS is associated with tick bites, especially the bite from a lone star tick commonly found in the US.  Other tick species have been connected with the development of AGS in other countries.  AGS reactions can include hives, itching, or itchy, scaly skin; swelling of the lips, face, tongue, throat or other body parts; wheezing or shortness of breath; stomach pain, diarrhea, upset stomach or vomiting.