
THE FLAGSHIP



December 18, 2022

Tom King, Editor

Coming Up!!!

.....

Dec. 21:
NO MEETING!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dec. 24:
Salvation Army Bell
Ringing, 10 a.m.,
Kroger

Dec. 28:
NO MEETING!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan. 4, 2023:
NO MEETING!

(All meetings begin at
12:15 unless noted
otherwise)



See You in '23!!!!!!

***No Meetings:
December 21
December 28
January 4, 2023***

The Day Was Cold But the Giving Was Hot for the Salvation Army

It was really cold in the shade at Kroger's main entrance Saturday, but hearty shoppers kept us all busy at the **Salvation Army's Red Kettle**.

Farragut shoppers of all ages and all manner of dress — some in shorts and short sleeve shirts — filled our kettle with bills and coins.

Our two-Rotarian teams yesterday were Bill Nichols and Tom Pattison, PP Tom King and PP Bruce Williamson, PP Jim O'Brien and Tom Woodbery (pictured here), Howard Fass and Jerry Schwallier, and Wayne Davis and Brian Elton.



And just as a reminder, next week we have only three teams working — Sonya Ford and Tom Marsh, Steve Krempasky and Tory Kinson and Dan Barnett and our Boss Ringer and fiddler Mike Singletary. And the early weather reports are predicting a high temperature of only 23 and a low of 8 degrees.

Here's a quick report from Jerry Schwallier later in the day: “.... Colder yet with Howard Fass at 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., but several great people offered coffee or hot chocolate. Filled the bucket.”

There is one note of interest we need to pass along: Club Secretary Sonya will be the only female Rotarian out of 16 to work at the Red Kettle this year. Just saying, ladies!

Thanks to our bell ringers!

VMC's Bruce Spangler Says Housing Is the No. 1 Solution to Homelessness

Bruce Spangler is the **Volunteer Ministry Center's** (VMC) chief executive officer and he was our speaker on Wednesday. His primary message was the solution necessary to solve the homelessness problem here and every where: "You have to find housing for these people. The power of housing is what it takes."



Founded here in 1987, the VMC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and offers specialized services to individuals experiencing homelessness and those within our community who are in crisis. VMC's programs support its two-fold mission of facilitating permanent supportive housing for those who are homeless and providing services to prevent homelessness. VMC operates several main programs: The VMC

Resource Center, The Bush Family Refuge, Minvilla Manor, Street Outreach, The Foyer and the VMC Dental Clinic.

Spangler began working at VMC in 2006 and became its CEO in 2015. The center is now conducting a search for Spangler, who is stepping down July 1, 2023. "The people we serve are much more than just a homeless person," he said. "They need our love and compassion and our help. Some 90% of them have mental health issues and 25% have drug problems. The one thing they all have in common is wanting and needing permanent housing."

Contrary to what many think, he says VMC "is serving your own" people from Knoxville — single women and men and both homeless men and women with children. The homeless population is 2-1 male.

To learn more about the VMC, please visit its website at this [LINK](#)

The Day's Guests!

PP Peggy Wilson's guest was her son, **Greg**, who owns his landscaping business here — Wilson Fine Gardens. Here is a [LINK](#) to his website. Very interesting, too.

Javon Crane was the guest of President Megan Belcher (pictured here). He is a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual and last May graduated from Maryville College with a degree in Finance. He also played on the school's basketball team. He's originally from Memphis. He's pictured here with Megan.



Great to have had you guys with us!



Four-Way Test

Rotary's Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

- 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?

Find Us On Facebook

If you have not visited our Facebook page, give it a try!

Stephanie Markowitz does a great job of keeping the page updated. If you have not visited our page, we invite you to do so and to also **LIKE** the page!

Here is a [LINK](#) to our page.

RSVP Time:

After Christmas Party @ Noah's on Jan. 6th

If you have not RSVP'd for our **January 6, 2023 "After Christmas Party"** at the beautiful home of Allison and Noah Myers, well, you can RSVP now using this [LINK](#). Their home is at 503 Concord Rd. We'll try to send out a map for you and a phone number if you get lost. We will have a great dinner, great fellowship and maybe some members will bring some great desserts. Bring your favorite liquid drink too.



No gifts. Pretty casual dress. Drive up the hill and find a parking place on the grass. Maybe we'll have a golf cart for your final ride from the car to the front door. Fun fellowship!!!! It's obvious the Brockamp family (pictured here) enjoyed last year's party!!!!!!

Julie's Interview & Christmas News



If you missed Friday evening's segment of the WBIR 6 p.m. news show, Robin Wilhoit interviewed **Julie Tryukhan** and it's special. Here is the [LINK](#) to her article and the full interview. Julie is pictured here with Polly during the interview.

And Bill Nichols on Wednesday

shared with the club that if you would like to get Christmas gifts for our

Ukrainian family — former Rotary Youth Exchange student (2007-2008) Julie and her kids — Mark and Polly — to not get toys for the kids. Julie said she would like to have gifts cards to parks and fun places to take the kids — experiences, as she put it. “They have all the toys they need,” she said.

PP Jim O’Brien had a long conversation with Bill Vogel and here is Jim’s report: “I’m pleased to tell you that Andrew Vollman (one of our newest members) will be giving three Dollywood tickets to Bill Nichols who will pass them to Julie when he gets together with her. If anyone would like to give Julie tickets to other venues (e.g., Zoo Knoxville, the Tennessee Aquarium, etc.), or Dollywood they would be most appreciated.”

Julie and her children will be spending the Christmas holidays with the Vogels at their house on Norris Lake. Jim added this: “However, if any of our fellow Rotarians would like to get together with Julie and her children for an outing or, perhaps, invite them for dinner, Julie would look forward to the opportunity to meet and get to know them and their families better.”

Julie has a cellphone (865.602.1747) but there’s no voicemail. So, if someone were to call when she’s not available, there’s no way for the caller to leave a message. Thus, Bill Vogel suggests that the best way to contact Julie is via text or e-mail her at this [LINK](#). Julie will reply as soon as she can.

Family of Rotary News

Here’s the latest update on **USMC Lance Cpl. Benji Bash** from Denise: “Slowly but surely he is continuing to recover. Some of you know that he was supposed to have another surgery next week. Unfortunately he has developed a cardiac



issue so they have postponed it until early January. He saw a cardiologist this week and they believe that by then the issue will resolve itself. We are hoping he comes home next week for the holidays and will be here until January 7th. Thank you so much for continuing to pray for him!!!”

Stephanie Markowitz was back at UT Medical Center Thursday when her BP spiked. But she and Madi are home now and doing OK. Here’s how she put it: “We are home! The two of us! No preeclampsia! Still cooking and still doing good!” This could well be a Christmas baby!!!!

PP Bruce Williamson has a report for us on wife **Susan**: “We got her cancer CT scan results Wednesday evening at M.D. Anderson in Houston. There’s still areas, but they seem to be less aggressive. The doctors have gotten her approved for a new growth inhibitor drug trial starting early in 2023. We go back to M.D. Anderson in six weeks for the exam/tests for the drug trial enrollment. I’m hoping (and expecting) the monitoring and the next scans can be done here.”

Dr. Bill Adkins lost his wife, Martha, a week ago today. She has been suffering with Alzheimer’s for the past five years and was 85. She worked at his medical practice with him in West Palm Beach, FL for many years and they were married for 41 years. Daughter Betsy Ingle, who lives here, says they are planning a service in late January in West Palm.

Bettye Sisco says she’s feeling good right here before Christmas. She’s in Greensboro, N.C. at her sister’s home after her clinical trial appointments at Duke Medical Center on Thursday and Friday. Everything is normal with Bettye, Bettye says. She’s spending Christmas with family there!

Benji....Stephanie....Susan and Bruce.....Dr. Adkins....and Bettye....Please keep them all in your prayers and thoughts now and through the holidays!

A Flagship FYI.....

Today's *Flagship* will be the last one of 2022. No Flagship on December 25 and January 1. We will have an abbreviated newsletter on Sunday January 8 after our "After Christmas Party" on January 6 that also will feature our work at the Fostering Hope service project on Sunday, December 18.

PP Tom King says he will be sending email communications to the club if any are needed during the holidays. Please communicate with Tom if you know of something that needs to be shared. You can text him at 865-659-3562.

A Christmas Thought

"Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see." — **Danielle Carson** from "*The Polar Express*"