



**BULLETIN: For Wednesday, May 21, 2025**  
[www.BelmontRotaryClub.com](http://www.BelmontRotaryClub.com)



## Birthdays



Thomas M. Hunter III  
June 7th

## Wedding Anniversaries



Don M. Hartsoe  
May 20th



Tammey C. Thomas  
May 20th



Jennifer Grant  
May 21st



Rebecca Monk Johns  
May 30th



Richard S. Cromlish Jr.  
June 1st

## Club Officers



Kenneth J. Pahon  
President-Elect  
President

Jennifer Grant  
Treasurer

## Club Meeting

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**102 S. Central Ave.**  
**Belmont, NC 28012**

*Time: Wednesday at 12:30 PM*

## Speakers

**May 21st**

**Board Meeting Today at 11:30**

The Belmont Rotary Club Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month one hour before the regular club meeting in the conference room at First Presbyterian Church.



**May 28th**

**Holocaust survivor**  
**Suly Chenkin**

The powerful story of survival, resilience and hope after the Nazi invasion of Lithuania in WWII will be told by one who experienced the horrors of the Kovno ghetto as a child. Rotarian Whitney Norton will host the program.



**May 21st**

**Dr. Dixie Abernathy**

Author and Educator Dr. Abernathy will speak about her new historical fiction trilogy on Cramerton founder Stuart W. Cramer and his descendants, written with the founder's grandson R. Warren Cramer.



**June 4th**

**Speaker and program topic TBA.**

Rotarian Seth Sherrin will host the program.

## Events

**June 26th, 6 - 8 PM**

**2025-26 Club Officers Installation Social**

Celebrate the installation of Ken Pahon as president for a second term along with other 2025-26 officers at the beautiful McLean South Shore Clubhouse.

**McLean South Shore Clubhouse**  
 229 Seven Oaks Drive  
 Belmont, NC 28012





Bradford R. Frazier  
President-Nominee



Ted B. Hall  
Public  
Relations/Image  
Chair



Michelle Petty  
Membership Chair



Thomas M. Hunter  
III  
iPast President

## District Officers



Kevin Kendrick  
District Governor



Donna M. Moffett  
DG - Elect



Laurel Roe Morris  
Assistant Governor-  
Gaston County

## Rotary Scholarship winners announced

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Rotary 4-Way Test Scholarship Challenge was recently concluded and four Gaston students were awarded a total of \$5,000 in post-secondary educational scholarships. The contest is sponsored by five Gaston County Rotary Clubs: Gastonia, Gastonia East, Gastonia-Evening, Belmont, and Mount Holly. Scholarship winners for 2025 shown above are from left:



Honorable Mention: Helayna Myers, Mountain Island Charter School; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Marielle Lavega Gorlach, Piedmont Community Charter School; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Ann Sproul, Stuart W. Cramer H.S.; 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Seth Hooks, Forestview H.S.

## LAST WEEK AT ROTARY

### MITE - Local nonprofit helps Zambian villagers

Wednesday, May 14, 2025



MITE Project Coordinator Abigail Toal with Belmont Rotary Club President Ken Pahon. She traveled to Zambia to document the results of a MITE project to teach villagers how to grow vegetables for their families and to sell.

**"For generations, the villagers relied on fishing for both food and income. But with fish populations declining and their once-rich soil exhausted from years of unrotated cassava farming, learning to grow nutrient-rich vegetables became a necessity."**

-- Abigail Toal  
MITE Project Coordinator

Poorly nourished and isolated villagers in the wetlands of Zambia are for the first time able to grow vegetables to feed their families, in part because of the work of a non-profit organization in Belmont.

Abigail Toal is a project coordinator for the MITE organization, which is headquartered in the former National Mill on Catawba Street in Belmont. She spoke recently to Belmont Rotarians about the role MITE played in partnership with an organization called Farm Stew to teach gardening skills to people in Zambia who had spent their lives fishing and subsisting mainly on fish.

Because of their limited diet, villagers were in poor health, and they were depleting the fish they depended on for food.

MITE is a philanthropic program founded by the Toal family which owns Bisque Imports, Short Run Pro and other local businesses. In her project coordinator role, Abigail visited the village in Zambia to document the results of a MITE project begun in 2024 and concluded early this year to fund training for the villagers.

"For generations, the villagers relied on fishing for both food and income," she said. "But with fish populations declining and their once-rich soil exhausted from years of unrotated cassava farming, learning to grow nutrient-rich vegetables became a necessity."

Before taking on a project, MITE staff members thoroughly vet the organizations with which they partner. And when a project concludes, a MITE team goes onsite to document the outcome and confirm that donor contributions were properly and effectively used.

"Farmland For Souls - Zambia" is just one of many projects completed, or still in progress, at MITE. Learn more about MITE at [www.mite.org](http://www.mite.org). Watch the Zambia wetlands video on You Tube here: <https://youtu.be/rFeZLVtVFxI?si=XKFzJ1xVzcY9RTD7>