Rotary Club of Thomasville

Thomasville HTML Template

DECEMBER 22, 2020

Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas to you and your family. May you have a joyful and safe holiday!

What You Missed Last Week!

The tagline for Rotary International is, “Rotary Opens Opportunities.” Sometimes those opportunities are found at our weekly meetings. Whether we attend the in-person or online meeting, opportunities are opened to us. If you missed last week’s meeting, you missed the opportunity to hear some great music performed by the Thomas County Central High School Jazz Band.

There was also the opportunity to meet several past district governors. There was a combined attendance of about one hundred last week. The highlight of the meeting may have been the announcement of Rotarian Andre Marria as the district governor for the 2023-2024 year. Congratulations Andre! We wish you much success.

Last week’s program was Walter Geer. Walter is CEO & co-founder of JingleRing / Santa's Fantastical and co-owner of PictureU. He lives in in Alpharetta, Georgia. Walter shared several of his business ventures with the club. JingleRing, one of his latest ventures focuses on having a “Virtual Santa, Your Way!” Walter explained how he had to make creative with his businesses because of Covid-19. We thank Walter for making it possible for families to enjoy the holiday season even in the midst of a pandemic.

For those who may not know, our hearts are heavy with the passing of Rotarian Pat McLeod on Saturday. At the time of this

MEETINGS

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

12/24	MERRY CHRISTMAS - NO MEETING TODAY
12/31	NO MEETING TODAY - HAPPY NEW YEAR
1/7	William Lokey - Reflections on 9/11 at the World Trade Center
1/14	TBD
1/21	William Lokey - Lessons from Hurricane Katrina --That Was Then, This is Now
1/28	Jacklyn Donovan - RYLA
2/4	The New Black History Makers
2/11	Archbold CEO Darcy Craven

BIRTHDAYS

12/23	Eugene McNease
12/24	Carlton Bryant
12/29	Susie Shin
12/31	Rob Milberg
1/1	Randy Watts
1/6	John Taylor
1/7	Kim Walden
1/8	Julie Carter
1/9	Teri White
1/9	Carol Jones
1/9	Sally Bowman
1/9	Frances Parker
1/13	Albert Park
1/16	Ray Thompson
1/17	Ashley Palmer

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12/29	Joe Brown (62)
1/9	Bob Drummond (39)

writing, there is no further information available. Please keep Pat's family in your prayers and thoughts. Also please remember those Rotarians who have had surgery or are recovering from other health challenges.

"If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade."

The Story of Silent Night



Father Joseph Mohr sat at the old organ. His fingers stretched over the keys, forming the notes of a chord. He took a deep breath and pressed down. Nothing. He lifted his fingers and tried again. Silence echoed through the church.

Father Joseph shook his head. It was no use. The pipes were rusted, the bellows mildewed. The organ had been wheezing and growing quieter for months, and Father Joseph had been hoping it would hold together until the organ builder arrived to repair it in the spring. But now, on December 23, 1818, the organ had finally given out. St. Nicholas Church would have no music for Christmas.

Father Joseph sighed. Maybe a brisk walk would make him feel better. He pulled on his overcoat and stepped out into the night. His white breath puffed out before him. Moonlight sparkled off the snow-crusted trees and houses in the village of Oberndorf. Father Joseph crunched through the snowy streets to the edge of the little Austrian town and climbed the path leading up the mountain.

From high above Oberndorf, Father Joseph watched the Salzach River ripple past St. Nicholas Church. In the spring, when melting snow flowed down the mountains and the river swelled in its banks, water lapped at the foundation of the church. It was moisture from the flooding river that had caused the organ to mildew and rust.

Father Joseph looked out over the Austrian Alps. Stars shone above in the still and silent night.

1/14	Wayne Newsome (42)
1/17	Debbie Goodman (40)

YEARS OF SERVICE

1/1	William Jones (35) 40 years in Rotary
1/1	Richard Vann (25)
1/1	GRSP Admin (4)
1/14	Scott Smith (13)
1/15	Vann Middleton (6)

ROTARY ONLINE

https://thomasvillerotary.org
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE

Thursdays, 12:15 pm
The Plaza Restuarant
217 Broad St
Thomasville, GA 31792

LEADERSHIP

President	John Brown
President-Elect	Wayne Newsome
President Nominee	Danny Braddy
Immediate PP	Kim Walden
Treasurer	Teri White
Secretary	Angela Williamson
Public Image	Michael Bixler
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Directors

Club Vice President	Scott Rich
Foundation	Fran Milberg
Membership	Janet Liles
Service Projects	Adrian Smith Burns
Youth Service	André Marria
Admin	Cameron Jahnke

Silent night? Father Joseph stopped. Of course! "Silent Night!" He had written a poem a few years before, when he had first become a priest, and he had given it that very title. "Silent Night."

Father Joseph scrambled down the mountain. Suddenly he knew how to bring music to the church.

The next morning, Father Joseph set out on another walk. This time he carried his poem. And this time he knew exactly where he was going -- to see his friend Franz Gruber, the organist for St. Nicholas, who lived in the next village.

Franz Gruber was surprised to see the priest so far from home on Christmas Eve, and even more surprised when Father Joseph handed him the poem.

That night Father Joseph and Franz Gruber stood at the altar of St. Nicholas Church. Father Joseph held his guitar. He could see members of the congregation giving each other puzzled looks. They had never heard a guitar played in church before, and certainly not during midnight mass on Christmas Eve, the holiest night of the year.

Father Joseph picked out a few notes on the guitar, and he and Franz Gruber began to sing. Their two voices rang out, joined by the church choir on the chorus. Franz Gruber's melody matched the simplicity and honesty of Father Joseph's words.

When the last notes faded into the night, the congregation remained still for a moment, then began to clap their hands. Applause filled the church. The villagers of Oberndorf loved the song! Father Joseph's plan to bring music to St. Nicholas Church had worked.