



THE CIVIC

New Bern Civitan Club's Award Winning Newsletter



Chartered October 4, 1956

Celebrating our 61th Year

January 1, 2017

SANTA'S "OTHER GIGS"



You all know that Santa Jim has been playing Santa at the tree lot for over 8 years. It has been a labor of love for him hosting the children from the Family Literacy and Pre K program of Craven County. But did you know that he has been doing various additional "Santa Gigs" in the name of New Bern Civitan?

During the month of December, he has played Santa at the following venues –

The Special Olympics Christmas party at Brinson Elementary

School

The Christmas party at River Stone Nursing Home

Soft Santa at the United Cerebral Palsy facility in New Bern

The Christmas party for Autistic children at River Bend Country Club

A special photo session with Santa at the McCarthy Independent Living Facility

The Christmas party at the Cove City Fire Department supporting a local family whose father was seriously injured in a car accident

At all of these functions, information about the New Bern Civitan Club is shared. He emphasizes the good works of the Club and how our fund raisers help support local charities. Sometimes, pictures of the children participating in the events are taken and distributed to them. The folders used always credit New Bern Civitan for the gift.

These additional "Santa Gigs" continue to spread the good will that is the core of Civitan International as well as our local Club. The Santa suit is hung up for the year - ready to be dry cleaned. The beard has been trimmed down. But "Santa" is still smiling knowing that the lives of some local residents have been touched by him in honor of the spirit of the New Bern Civitan Club.

*Respectfully submitted by
Maureen Comer*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JANUARY CIVITAN BIRTHDAYS

Susan	Husson	January 02
Dominic	Alicandro	January 04
Sandy	McClinton	January 17
Karen	Crump	January 19
George	Powers	January 23
Karen	Betz	January 23
Bob	Husson	January 24
Hobey	White	January 24
Jerry	Frank	January 28
Norma	Judd	January 29

JANUARY CIVITAN ANNIVERSARIES

Arthur	Behrer	January 1988
Dan	Roberts	January 2008
Rich	Petri	January 2016

New Bern Civitan Club Web Page
www.newberncivitanclub.org
 North Carolina District East Web Page
<http://www.ncdecivitan.org/>
 Robert Brock, THE CIVIC Editor
 Email: robertbrock@yahoo.com

The Civitan Creed



I am Civitan: as old as life, as young as the rainbow, as endless as time.

My hands do the work of the world and reach out in service to others.

My ears hear the cry of children and the call throughout the world for peace, guidance, progress and unity.

My eyes search for others to join in the fellowship and service of Civitan.

My mouth utters the call to daily duty and speaks prayers in every tongue.

My mind teaches me respect for law and the flag of my country.

My heart beats for every friend, bleeds for every injury to humanity and throbs with joy at every triumph of truth.

My soul knows no fear but its own unworthiness.

My hope is for a better world through Civitan.

My motto: builders of good citizenship.

My belief: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

My pledge: to practice the Golden Rule and to build upon it a better and nobler citizenship.



OFFICERS

President

Dev Lippitt

President-Elect

Jan Snyder

Secretary

Helen Shine

Assistant Secretary

Maggie Schneider

Treasurer

Joe Judd

Chaplain

Alvia Hearren

Sergeant-At-Arms

Ken McCain

Education Officer

Jan and Bill Snyder

DIRECTORS

Two Year

(Term expires 9/30/2018)

Joe Alcoke

Irv Geary

Ernie Williams

Bill Snyder

One Years

(Term expires 9/30/2017)

Betty Todd

Karen Crump

Gene Cesca

Renee Salvatore

New Bern Civitan Club

January 2017 Calendar

- 6 **Friday** Regular Meeting—at Hibachi –Lunch at 11:30, Meeting at 12:00
Speaker, Dre Nix Boy & Girls of New Bern
Bring Items for Coastal Women’s Shelter
- 9 **Monday** Board Of Director’s Meeting at Hibachi- (Lunch-11:30)(Meeting-12:00)
- 9 **Monday** RCS Shelter Dinner—Contact Maureen Comer
- 10 **Tuesday** RCS Soup Kitchen—Contact Cindy Scalion
- 12 **Thursday** Regular Meeting-Evening Meeting –Dinner at 6:30, Meeting at 7pm
Business/Education Meeting
- 14 **Saturday** NCDE Board Meeting
- 16 **Monday** MLK Birthday
- 20 **Friday** Regular Meeting—at Hibachi –Lunch at 11:30, Meeting at 12:00
Speaker, Kathy Adolph owner of City Laundry
- 21 **Saturday** Special Olympics Polar Plunge



To Sun or Not to Sun – That is the Question...



Dr. Brent Mizelle

Dr. Brent Mizelle, a New Bern dermatologist, addressed our club meeting on December 2nd at our new location at the Hibachi restaurant. Dr. Mizelle is a 2000 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Instead of the usual power point lecture, Dr. Mizelle led an informative question and answer period focused on skin cancer. He touched on many aspects of this disease and we came away with the following information –

Yearly, there are more new cases of skin cancer than breast, prostate, lung and colon cancer combined

One in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime

There are 3 types of skin cancer – basil cell, squamous cell and melanoma

About 90% of non-melanoma skin cancers are associated with exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the SUN

Most of the sun damage to our skin is done before we are 25 years old

If you are going out in the sun, you should wear clothing that covers you completely

Sun block should always be used if you are out in any kind of daylight

Effective sun block should contain zinc or titanium

Spray sun blocks are less effective than oils or creams

Sun block should be rated 50+

Tanning salons and tanning beds are dangerous to the skin

If you see something on your body that looks different or unusual and does not go away in 4 weeks or less – go see a dermatologist – DON'T WAIT

Most skin cancers are removed surgically – there are salves that can be used but they are very expensive and often not covered by insurance

The majority of people diagnosed with melanoma are white men over 55. Melanoma spreads rapidly through nerves and blood vessels to metastasize throughout the body.

As Dr. Mizelle said, “The best way to deal with all types of skin cancers is to educate the public about sun (UV) exposure and the dangers inherent to doing so. You should have a yearly full body check by a doctor and see a dermatologist immediately if you see an usual mark or spot on your body that doesn't go away.”

This informative presentation helped many of us realize that the warming rays of the sun are not always our friend. Use caution when out in the sun and play it safe!



Dev Lippitt and Jan Snyder present Dr. Mizelle with a Certificate of Appreciation and a can of Civitan peanuts

*Respectfully submitted by
Maureen Comer*

CIVITAN – CELEBRATING 100
YEARS OF SERVICE

Part 5

(Adapted from the Civitan International Website)



1950-1959

Claxton Fruit Cake and Civitan team up in the early 1950s. It is the longest, enduring fund raising project in Civitan history. Civitan International expands membership by introducing Collegiate Civitan. Ernest A. Moore from Toronto, Canada is elected as the first non-United States resident to be Civitan International President.

Civitan International seizes on the opportunity to buy its own first permanent home in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. It is a three-story building purchased for \$70,000.

*Respectfully submitted by
Maureen Comer*

CLUB'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Karen Betz organized a wonderful Christmas party for the Club this year that was held at Broad Street Christian Church on December 16th. Approximately 40 members attended. Food was provided by local caterers Strange and Sons. Everyone enjoyed the lunch which included ham, chicken, salad, mashed potatoes, rolls and desserts.

After lunch, we were entertained by the choral group, Encore. Karen had first heard this group at MUMFEST two years ago. This group volunteers to sing for whoever would like to hear them. They love giving back to the community and they love to sing.

They use Craven Community College as their home base. Chauncey Stephenson is their current director but Encore has been in existence for over twenty years – with different members throughout the years. The singers are not always music majors. They represent a whole variety of majors at the college.

Chauncey's assistant, Bonita Simmons, helps to organize the group. Bonita is a singer and her CD is nominated for a Grammy in the category of gospel music. She resides right here in New Bern.

Encore presented a variety of religious and secular Christmas selections. The session ended with a rousing sing along. The lunch and entertainment was a delightful end to a very unsettling time for our Club – with the abrupt closing of the Golden Corral. In 2017, we are hoping to settle in to noon meetings on the first and third Fridays of the month at the restaurant Hibachi (located on Rte. 17 next to Gold's Gym) and we will be trying out different restaurants for an evening meeting on the second Thursday of the month. Members will be kept posted on the locations of the evening meetings via e-mail and phone messages.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

*Respectfully submitted by
Maureen Comer*



Santa Land

Santa came all the way from the north pole to bring joy to boys and girls at the New Bern Civitan Club Christmas Tree lot in December. He talked to each child personally, and then each child was given a stuffed animal, gloves and a hat. Groups of Children from various agencies came to tell Santa their Christmas wishes. Santa's elves made the total experience possible with their smiles and generous spirit.



Santa and his Elves



Santa greets the children



Elves at Work



Santa with Children



Santa with visiting groups



**NB CIVITAN CLUB - TREES, WREATHS,
PEANUTS AND SANTA LAND 2016**

Longer than any NB Civitan can remember, the Club has sold Christmas trees and used the profits to help fund our yearly local charity donations. This year was no exception. As always, the trees and wreaths were lovely and all was sold in less than 3 weeks. Congratulations to new tree lot chairman, Gary Todd, for coordinating an excellent season. Approximately 500 trees were sold this year.

We also had an excellent wreath season. Under our President, Dev Lippitt's leadership and craftsmanship, 192 wreaths were created and sold decorated or undecorated. Dev was assisted by dedicated cutters and assemblers. The wreaths were decorated by Betty Todd. As you might be aware, we use the cuttings from the trees to create these wreaths so wreath sales are almost pure profit for the Club.

HUBS peanuts were sold again this year at the tree lot and at the Farmers Market every Saturday. Over 1600 cans were sold. Again, Frank Court coordinated this effort as he has done for many, many years with the abled bodied assistance from Joe Judd.

Santa Jim Comer continues to "play Santa Claus" (even though he says he IS Santa Claus) for children in Craven County's Family Literacy and Pre-K program. These children, who are aged 3 to 5 and are physically or mentally handicapped or economically disadvantaged, visit Santa at the tree lot and are given age appropriate books, school supplies, hats, gloves/mittens and scarves (another project – Operation Keep Warm – run this year by Eileen Buscemi), as well as stuffed animals. NB Civitans donate the gifts for the children. Many members knit or crochet the scarves and hats that are distributed. We also have many community members who donate to this event.

This year, approximately 192 students visited the lot and in addition to their presents, they received pictures of themselves on Santa's lap. Class pictures are also taken. This year, we have had many of the teachers and aides from the program come to the lot to buy trees, wreathes and peanuts. The unanimous statement they make is, "We want to support your Civitan club because you do such good work in the community," AND WE DO. What the teachers and aides don't know is that every volunteer says that WE get a lot more from the children at Santa Land than they get back from us. It's true – Santa Jim smiles the whole month of December just thinking about these children and how he and ALL our club members have helped.

This year, 15 Civitans and two "imports" acted as "Santa's Elves" in assisting the children to see Santa, passing out gifts, and getting their pictures developed and distributed. We were assisted by two photographers from the Coastal Carolina Photography Club. We appreciate their help.

Civitans work all year long to collect and make all the necessary items to make this project a long standing success. We just finished our 8th year of this project. This amounts to about **300 total volunteer hours** for the year. Santa Land is over for this year, but we will begin in January to start to prepare for Santa Land 2017. Stay tuned for a future article to see what YOU can do to help and thank you to all those who HAVE been helping over the last eight years.

*Respectfully submitted by
Maureen Comer*

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS...

When delivering the RCS monthly dinner to the Shelter in December, Renee and Frank Salvatore noticed a three year old child and her very pregnant mother living there. They found out that mother and child would be there on Christmas day. Would this homeless child and her mother have a Christmas? The Salvatores were determined to make a Christmas for this little one. NB Civitan treasurer, Joe Judd, was contacted by Renee and he said there was enough money collected throughout the year by the Club's 50/50 and Pennies from Heaven funds to support a Christmas for one more child. Ten other foster children had already been sponsored in the Department of Social Services Holiday fund.

Renee and I immediately swung into action. I contacted the Shelter coordinator and she got us a list of needs for the little girl and for the unborn male child (due January 7, 2017). The baby had nowhere to sleep so Renee bought a Pack n Play portable crib/playpen. She also bought diapers, receiving blankets and several outfits for this little fellow. I got the little girl's sizes and went to "The Next Time" a previously owned children's clothing store. I told the owner the child's story and she immediately said she would take 10% off. As we continued to talk, the owner started to give me additional clothing, educational toys and books at a fraction of the price marked on the tags. I left the store with 5 outfits, a ski vest, a winter coat, pajamas and boots. I supplemented these items with winter necessities like socks, gloves, hat, scarf and a huge stuffed Teddy Bear – hmmm – wonder where they came from?

We delivered the items to the Shelter on the Friday before Christmas. Although we would not be there to see the 3 year old and her mother celebrate Christmas with gifts, we left with the feeling that we had made a difference in their lives. It felt really good! I am sharing this story with you to let you know that ALL the hard work to raise funds done by the Club throughout the year and especially at Christmas time DOES make a difference. Renee and I were fortunate enough to be able to do the shopping for these two on YOUR behalf as club members.

Many times while donating funds to local charities we do not see or hear how we have helped. We are sharing this individual story with you so you, too, may smile and personally say, "We helped two homeless people have a brighter Christmas day." Their struggles continue but for at least one day, we put a smile on their faces.

*Respectfully submitted by
Maureen Comer*

