

# The Civic



## Birthdays

**Pam Kubik – Feb. 7**  
**John Klecker – Feb. 8**  
**Judy Lopez – Feb. 10**  
**Amy Willis – Feb. 12**  
**Mary Saylor – Feb. 18**  
**Mary Trainer – Feb. 20**

## Civitan Anniversaries

**Eileen Buscemi – 10 yrs**  
**Laura Miller-McLemore – 5 yrs**  
**Roy Leonard – 3 yrs**  
**Barbara McCue – 3 yrs**



## DONATIONS UPDATES

January and February are SALE months in most stores so we usually update you this time of year to be on the lookout for what we will need in the coming year for our charitable contributions:

### Santa Land

- \*We need children's knit hats.
- \*We have enough children's scarves and gloves/mittens.
- \*We just received a donation of 300 stuffed animals in addition to the other stuffed animals that we already have in storage. We have run out of space to store them so for the time being – we cannot accept them.
- \*We also have enough children's books.

### RCS Christmas Dinner and Party

- \*We need men's wallets and women's French purses.
- \*Men's and Women's White Socks.
- \*Men's and Women's Toiletries.

### Pre-K School Supplies (collected in July)

- \*Lap Blankets
- \*Children's 15" backpacks
- \*Spiral Notebooks
- \*Pocketed Folders

### Charitable Giving

If you are disposing of still-working appliances, beds, or slightly used furniture, contact Jim Comer. He will then look for a new home for them via the Pre-K program families or the Peace Foundation.

### RCS Shelter Dinner

Every second Monday of the month, we provide dinner for the Shelter which houses between 20 and 25 people nightly. We do a special ham and trimmings dinner in November for Thanksgiving and December for Christmas. The other months of the year, we provide pasta and meatballs, salad, bread/butter/soft drinks, and dessert. We need five members to donate each month.

Check out the website at <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr> and it will give you specifics in each category as to what is needed. It is becoming more difficult to get members to donate and this project depends on your generosity. Please consider looking into this very worthwhile project.

# BRING A LITTLE SUNSHINE



For the past several years, Eileen Buscemi has been our “Sunshine” lady. What is a “Sunshine” lady? When a member of our Club is sick or injured, loses someone close to them, or a joyous event happens in their life, Eileen sends a card to them from the Club noting the occasion. No birthday or anniversary cards are sent as that could become a full-time job, but sending notes to people and members on our Prayer List can be a meaningful gesture for our sick or hurting members.

Eileen has done an outstanding job spreading some “sunshine,” but she has now taken on the responsibility of President-elect, so it is time for another member to take over the reins of this undertaking. We need another member to step up and take on this task.

What does this job entail, you might ask? Eileen would have cards to share with you and if you come across a box of appropriate cards (perhaps at Dollar Tree or Ollie’s) you would buy them, save the receipt, and get reimbursed for your purchase. You would buy postage to use, and the Club would reimburse you for it. You would check the weekly update to see if there is someone new on the Prayer list that may need a card. This is a perfect job for a member who might feel that they cannot do too much physical activity or cannot volunteer for any of our other Civitan projects.

If you are interested and want more information, please contact Eileen at [ejbuscemi@gmail.com](mailto:ejbuscemi@gmail.com) or call at (917) 846-9001. She would be glad to fill you in with further details.

# A NEW DIRECTOR AT RCS

After going for over a year with an “Interim” Executive Director, RCS has chosen a new one. She is Candace Parker who formerly had a director role at the Food Bank of ENC. Candace has big shoes to fill following the departure of Zeb Hough, but be assured – she can do it.

Our Club’s affiliation with RCS goes back over 15 years. Then President, Jim Comer, held a Board Meeting at the RCS facility and many Board Members’ eyes were open to all they did for the community. Right after that meeting, the Club voted to take part in the monthly Shelter dinner, and we have done that every second Monday of the month for 15 years. By the numbers - that is 180 times.

Further, five members have donated for each meal, so 900 times members have donated. It is almost impossible to count how many residents have been fed over the years. And we are just a fraction of those who have been involved with RCS.

This past year, 2024, by the numbers: 15,389 individuals assisted from the Pantry and Operations Outpost; \$43,442 was spent in Rent and Utility Assistance; 674,516 pounds of food was given out to the community; 17,704 nights of shelter; 40,117 meals were served in the Community Kitchen; \$5,618 was spent in prescription assistance; 552 individual case management sessions; 45,750 number of volunteer hours.

RCS is guided by respect for everyone’s intrinsic value. Recognizing that homelessness and financial struggles can be traumatic, they aim to promote healing and hope through personal connections and impactful support. Their efforts embody their love and reverence for God, emphasizing their faith-based mission.

After our RCS Shelter Dinner and Christmas Party on December 9<sup>th</sup>, Candace met us and thanked the Club for all we are doing and have done for them. She has invited any member who might want to tour the facility to come. She has offered to speak about her new role at RCS at a future meeting. Perhaps after then, we can get a group together to visit the facility and see firsthand all its great works. We are proud to give monetary support to RCS in addition to our many meal donations.

# CARDS FOR VETERANS



At a potluck lunch held at the home of Renee and Frank Salvatore on January 16, five Civitans gathered to write cards and notes for vets housed at the Kinston Veterans Home.

The plan then was to bring note cards to our evening meeting on January 23 and ask members who attended to write a card or two to add to the cards written at the luncheon. These cards would then be delivered to the Home by Doug Foster – a former Civitan and current Elk. Mother Nature had other ideas as the meeting was cancelled due to the cold and snowy weather.

At the January 23 meeting which was to be a Business Meeting with project chairpeople updating the membership on recent events, Card Chair, Jan Snyder, was going to update and further explain this endeavor. All of this is on hold until the Business meeting can be rescheduled.

In the meantime, if you are “stuck” in your house due to weather conditions, why not write a card or two to a Vet? It doesn’t have to be long – just a few words of thanks or encouragement. Do not seal the envelope. Sign only your first name and identify yourself as a member of the New Bern Civitan Club. It takes only a few minutes to do this, and you could be brightening the day of a lonely or shut-in vet.

Thanks to Renee Salvatore, Frank Salvatore, Bill Snyder, Jan Snyder, and Maureen Comer for attending the lunch and writing the cards.

# A MESSAGE FROM NORMA

Our good friend and three-time NBCC President Norma Judd recently moved from the area. Now that she is settled in her new home, she sends us the following message:

*Dear Friends,*

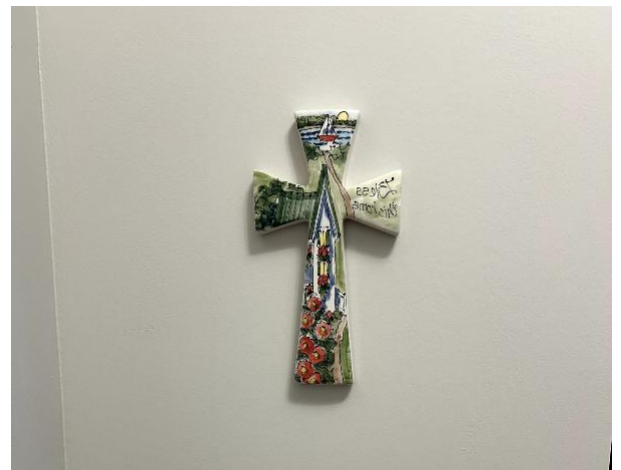
*Thank you so much for the lovely gifts. I love the plaque, and my cross is right where I come in the front door, and I just love having it there – it's such a great entrance to my home.*

*Things are going well. I have been able to get some pictures hung and things are starting to look like a house. They remodeled my closet for me. It took a long time, but that's now done so that's helping a great deal, so I am enjoying being here and enjoying all the nice restaurants. The food is really good. I miss everybody, but I don't think people have been out doing very much. It has been very cold here, so we have just been staying in.*

*I found a vet for Ace and then I found somebody to groom him so we're doing good. But thank you again – I appreciate these gift so much. Love to everybody.*

*Norma*

We miss you too, Norma, and thank you for all your years of service to our Club. Norma's new address is 2240 Windsor Run Lane, Apt. 212, Matthews, NC 28105, Cell: 252 288-1116. She would love to hear from her Civitan friends!



# NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

**Monday, February 10** - NBCC Board of Directors Meeting – Garber Church 1 pm, Rm. 222 – Officers and Board Members – please make every effort to attend. Members - if you have a topic that you would like the Board to consider – please contact President Roy Leonard.

**Monday, February 10** – RCS Shelter Dinner, 6 pm

**Friday, February 14** – **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

**Friday, February 14** - NBCC Afternoon Meeting at 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant. Topic: Clergy Appreciation and the Story of the Four Clergymen – Jim Comer. If you intend to be at the meeting, please contact Maureen Comer by Wednesday, February 12 so she may call in the reservation to Paula's.

**Monday, February 17** – **PRESIDENTS' DAY**

**Thursday, February 27** – NBCC Evening Meeting 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant. Speaker: Bethany Richards of Bike/Box, a facility to support Parkinson's Clients. If you intend to be at the meeting, please contact Maureen Comer by Tuesday, February 25 so she may call in the reservation to Paula's.



## Officers

**President:** Roy Leonard

**President-Elect:** Eileen Buscemi

**Vice President:** Open

**Secretary:** Maureen Comer

**Assistant Secretary:** Open

**Treasurer:** Van Allen Rice

**Assistant Treasurer:** Amy Willis

**Sergeant-at-Arm:** Ken McCain & Dev Lippitt

**Education Officers:** Helen Shine & Maureen Comer

**Chaplain:** Bill Baldree

**Assistant Chaplain:** Jim Comer

## Current Board

	Term Expires
Alan Craig	2025
Ann Super	2025
Dave Super	2025
Joanne Tello	2025
Marie Leonard	2026
Buck Irvin	2026
Mary Dougherty	2026
Clark Saylor	2026

Webmaster, Civic Editor &  
Social Media: Cyndi Papia

# “MIKEY” HAD A DREAM



Our guest speaker on January 10<sup>th</sup> was Marshall Williams, a highly respected community leader and Director of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outreach Ministry. Since Dr. King's Day is celebrated on January 20<sup>th</sup>, this was not only an informative talk but a timely one also.

Mr. Williams is a noted figure in the New Bern community. He attended High School in Chicago but studied at both Craven Community College and ECU. A man of many talents, Marshall worked at Cherry Point as an industrial engineering technician for over thirty years. He is the past president of the Craven County NAACP and is a Civil War reenactor with the New Bern 35<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment of the U.S. Colored Infantry. He has also served as the New Bern Police Department's chairperson for the Fort Totten/Green Park communities and on the New Bern Community Development Advisory Committee for Ward 3. This is just a part of Marshall Williams' long and distinguished resume.

Marshall's recollections of Dr. King touched upon many interesting and varied aspects of his life. Did you know that...

- Dr. King was born in 1928 into a religious family. His father was a minister. He was named after his father, Michael King, but everyone called him "Little Mikey." In 1934, his father made a pilgrimage to Germany and studied the works of the Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther. He returned to the US, took the name Martin Luther King, and renamed his son Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Dr. King was a prankster and liked to tell jokes in private. To the public, he appeared focused and serious.
- He promoted nonviolence and studied the works of Gandhi – even though it was difficult sometimes to turn the other cheek.
- The "I Have a Dream" speech was delivered in Rocky Mount, NC, a year before it was delivered at the great march in Washington, DC
- He knew his mortality was forthcoming but was grateful that God allowed him to "go to the mountain top."
- He was assassinated in Memphis in April 1968. He was scheduled to come to NEW BERN but went to Memphis instead!

These are just a few of the fascinating facts Mr. Williams shared with us about this remarkable man. He had so many notable quotes, but let's close with this one, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Marshall urged us to keep Dr. King's spirit alive, especially to the younger generation.

# LETTERS OF THANKS TO THE CLUB

From **Ann Marie Devanney** – Chief Communications Officer at RCS:

*Thank you for your recent donation and the wonderful Christmas party for our Shelter residents as well as the support over the years. Whether it's for food or where the need is greatest, thank you for trusting us to be a place where lives are impacted.*

*Please feel free to contact us soon. I'd love to take your group on a personal tour of the campus. Merry Christmas!*

From **Kimberly Boyd** – Family Literacy Specialist – Craven County Schools/Craven County Family Literacy/Craven County Early Childhood Program:

*...On behalf of The Craven County Family Literacy Program and the NC Pre-K Program, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions and the countless volunteering hours you dedicated to the recent Santa Land event.*

*Your commitment to our community and the children involved in our programs has made a significant impact. The winter hats and gloves you donated will help keep our children warm during the cold months, and your presents at Santa Land brought joy and excitement to the event.*

*It is truly inspiring to witness the kindness and generosity of organizations like yours. Your effort not only brightens the lives of the children and families we serve but also fosters a sense of community and togetherness that is invaluable.*

*Thank you once again for your support and dedication. We look forward to collaborating with you in future endeavors to continue making a positive difference in our community.*

# COOL FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY



- The odds of being born on February 29<sup>th</sup> are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a “leaper” or “leapling.”
- Did you know that "February" is one of the most misspelled words in the English language?
- If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, and your flowers are violets and primroses.
- Groundhog Day, observed on February 2nd in the United States and Canada, is based on the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter.
- Valentine’s Day, celebrated on February 14th, is named after Saint Valentine, a Roman priest who performed secret marriages for soldiers forbidden to wed.
- The first valentine’s note was sent in 1477.
- Six million people get engaged on Valentine’s Day.
- The Victorians sent rude cards on Valentine’s Day.
- The first heart-shaped chocolate boxes appeared for Valentine’s Day in 1861.
- Hallmark started mass-producing Valentine’s Day cards in 1913.

## 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.