

The Civic



Birthdays

Dave McCracken – Mar. 1
Laura Miller-McLemore – Mar. 7
Annette Silvers – Mar. 11
Reeshema Walker – Mar. 12
George Sawyer – Mar. 13
Cathy Welles – Mar. 14
Jim Comer – Mar. 15
Betty Sweeney – Mar. 22

Civitan Anniversaries

Joe Alcock – 55 yrs
Helen Shine – 32 yrs
Frank Court – 26 yrs
Tim McClear – 15 yrs
Dev Lippett – 12 yrs
Jennifer Potter – 10 yrs
Alan Craig – 3 yrs



COMING UP – CIVITAN AWARENESS MONTH

Next month – April – is Civitan Awareness month. It is a time the organization utilizes to increase membership and encourages those interested in serving to build clubs in their area.

It is a time to remind potential new members about the organization's mission to:

Serve those with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Provide service club experience for volunteers to help those in their communities

Support the Civitan International Research Center in their research efforts

President Roy Leonard has been in contact with the New Bern Mayor, Jeffrey Odham, to renew a City Proclamation to declare April as Civitan Awareness month. The City Proclamation will be published in our April Newsletter.

BIKE BOX FOR PARKINSON'S



Bethany Richards, founder of Bike Box, spoke at our evening meeting in February. She is the founder, owner, and head coach of New Bern's Rock Steady Boxing. A native of New Bern, she found out over ten years ago that her father, Michael, had Parkinson's Disease. At first, Bethany attached a donation box to her bicycle and began pedaling towards a cure. With much community support, Bike Box Project became an official non-profit in 2016 and is now eastern North Carolina's resource for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Bike Box is closely aligned with the Michael J. Fox Foundation. It is dedicated to giving hope to people with Parkinson's disease, particularly those in our community, by raising awareness and funds to meet their needs and the needs of their caregivers.

By 2020 with support from local grants to get certified and to purchase equipment, Bike Box began hosting Rock Steady Boxing – a fitness class that allows people with Parkinson's to FIGHT BACK! With growth and continued support, Bike Box recently moved into their very own gym headquarters in August 2022 at 2607 Trent Road.

Bethany is a native of North Carolina and is a graduate of New Bern High School and holds a BS in Broadcast Journalism from Appalachian State University. A truly multifaceted woman, she retired as a firefighter with the Alexandria, Virginia Fire Department before taking on this heroic effort. Not surprisingly, she was recognized by the New Bern Women's Club as their 2024 Citizen of the Year.

The group's "Bern to the Beach" fundraiser occurs the last Saturday of each October. All funds raised are contributed to the Michael J. Fox Foundation to find a cure.

Bike Box welcomes anyone for a tour of their facility. To learn more or to donate, check out their website at www.bikeboxproject.org.

MARCH MADNESS

Here are a few riddles and “one-liners” for all you basketball fans out there...

- *Why did the college basketball player sign up for the crafting class? He wanted to learn how to make baskets.
- *How do NCAA basketball players stay cool during a game? They stand near the fans.
- *Where do basketball players get their uniforms? New Jersey.
- *Why do referees carry mops during March Madness tournament basketball games? Because there is so much dribbling.
- *Why do basketball players eat donuts? They love to dunk them.
- *Why is college basketball the yuckiest sport? The players dribble all over the court.
- *Why do people buy so many trampolines during March Madness sales? It's springtime.
- *Why was Cinderella thrown off the basketball team? She ran away with the ball.
- *Why did the basketball player sit on the bench doodling pictures of chickens? The Coach told him to draw fowls (fouls).
- *What did March say to the Madness? What's all the bracket about?
- *What drops during March Madness but never gets hurt? Rain.
- *Where do Notre Dame fans sit to watch games during March Madness? Paddy O'Furniture.
- *Why are college basketball players so excited to make it to the last hold in golf? They love the final fore.
- *What do you call an unbelievable story about a basketball team's underdog win in the final four? A tall tail.
- *A basketball riddle: Two basketball teams play a final four game. The underdog team ends up winning, but not a single man from either team scored a basket. How can that be? They were women's basketball teams.
- *What does a basketball player say when he misses? “Ah, shoot!”
- *What do you call a basketball player who misses a dunk? Alley Whoops.
- *What do you call a fantasy show about basketball? Hooper-natural.
- *What does a basketball player do when he loses his eyesight? He becomes a referee...**Sorry, Roy!**

WHAT IS CIRC?

Some of you newer members to Civitan may not know about CIRC - The Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) is an interdisciplinary center focusing on the development of the mind-brain through the unique mission of service, education and research. The CIRC was established in 1989 on the campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham with the support of Civitan International.

The mission of the Civitan International Research Center is to improve the well-being and the quality of life of individuals and families affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities. It seeks to:

- Expand the knowledge about human development and developmental disabilities through basic and applied research
- Provide interdisciplinary clinical and research training in developmental disabilities
- Use this knowledge to develop and provide high quality, exemplary services, and programs
- Exchange information in a timely way with consumers, practitioners, scientists, and society

The Civitan Center's activities are guided by a strong commitment to values that recognize all people first as individuals. Through partnerships with consumers, professionals, organizations, and agencies, the Civitan Center seeks to shape policy decisions related to research and to increase the opportunities for inclusion, independence, productivity, and personal life satisfaction for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Our Club donates to this Research Center and part of our dues goes to support their work. If you ever get the chance to tour this facility – GO! They are doing amazing work on behalf of the developmentally disabled.

CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY 2025

Jim Comer gave a brief explanation of Civitan International's Clergy Appreciation Day at the February 14th meeting. Jim is also looking to work with other Civitans in the Club for the 2026 Clergy Day where the intent will be to highlight the workings and accomplishments of clergy people in the community through outreach programs. If you are interested in assisting him, please contact him at jmcom7272@embarqmail.com

The following is a summary of why Civitans celebrate the clergy in the month of February:

“Civitan International celebrates Clergy Appreciation in the month of February. Since 1963, Civitan clubs worldwide honor local faith leaders for their acts of service. The project was inspired by the story of the Four Chaplains. On February 3, 1942, four military chaplains – a Methodist minister, a Catholic priest, a Reformed minister, and a Jewish rabbi – sacrificed their lives in service to others on board the USS *Dorchester*.

The troop transport ship, in route to Greenland, was hit by a torpedo. The four chaplains removed their life jackets to give to other soldiers and locked arms in prayer for the safety of others as the ship sank into icy waters. The four chaplains were George L Fox, Alexander D. Greenland, John P. Washington, and Clark V. Poling. The ship was the *Dorchester*.

The *Dorchester* was a coastal passenger steamship. In January 1942, the ship was allocated to the US army for use in WW II to carry troops during the war. It was torpedoed by a German U-boat. The ship sank with loss of 674 of the 904 on board with one of the 230 survivors lost after rescue.

The story of the ‘Four Chaplains’ who gave away their life jackets to save others before they died, gained fame and led to many memorials – including Civitan clubs throughout the world.”

VALENTINE'S DAY MEETING

This year our February NBCC afternoon meeting fell on Valentine's Day. In addition to an explanation of Clergy Appreciation Day and the Business meeting reports that had been postponed from the January evening meeting – due to harsh weather – a lovely red rose was given to all the “ladies” by our President Roy Leonard. And that was not all!

Jan Snyder brought Valentine's Day candy and necklaces for everyone. Flowers and candy – what could be better – right? How about getting over one hundred cards and notes from club members to be delivered to the Veterans Home in Kinston. Jan is grateful for the Club's show of support for this project.

Club activities and fundraising reports were given by:

Marie Leonard: Peanuts. It was a fantastic year – a sell out before Christmas.

Gary Todd and Randy King: Tree Lot – made a profit but will be ordering fewer trees for December 2025

Dennis Pymm for Van Rice: Ramps - thousands of boards and screws

Jan Snyder: Cards will be collected and delivered three times per year – no occasion – “Just Because You're You!”

Judy Lopez: DSS Angels – the Club sponsored 10 children from the DSS Foster Child Program

Maureen Comer: RCS Shelter Dinner and Christmas Party 20 adults in the Shelter got presents and two teens got a present from their “Wish List” – Full ham dinner served

Jim Comer: Santa Land – almost 300 children seen this year at the Santa Land trailer at JT Barber School

Eileen Buscemi: Operation Keep Warm – almost halfway to our goal for December 2025

Roy Leonard – Treasurer's report for Van Rice – We are solvent and in good shape!

Thanks for all the reports and treats at this meeting.

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, March 10 – Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church, 1 pm Rm. 222, *Officers and Directors please make every effort to attend. Your input is invaluable. Members – if you have a topic that you want the Board to address – please contact Club President – Roy Leonard at roy_leonard@hotmail.com*

Monday, March 10 – RCS Shelter Dinner – 6 pm. This month the Junior Civitan Club of New Bern High School will be making and delivering the meals to the Shelter. In addition, they are running a food drive for the Shelter. Thank you to the students and their advisor, Laura Miller-McLemore, and our NBCC liaison, Ann Super. We still need someone to sign up for dessert for the April RCS Shelter dinner on April 14. If you can help, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>

Friday, March 14 – NBCC Afternoon Meeting at 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant. Speaker – Candace Parker new Executive Director of RCS... *If you are planning to attend, please let Maureen Comer know by Wednesday, March 12 – maureencomer0720@gmail.com*

Thursday, March 27 – NBCC Evening Meeting at 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant. Speaker – TBA. *If you are planning to attend, please let Maureen Comer know by Tuesday, March 25 – maureencomer0720@gmail.com*



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

COOL FACTS ABOUT MARCH



- On March 20, the sun shines on the equator for the vernal equinox, giving us a near 50-50 split of day and night.
- If you were born in March, you have two birth flowers: daffodils and jonquils.
- March babies are spoiled with two birthstones: aquamarine and bloodstone, which symbolize courage.
- Many migratory birds begin their return journeys to northern breeding grounds in March and animals start waking up from hibernation.
- March 2nd is National Read Across America Day, celebrated on Dr. Seuss's birthday.
- March is the second busiest month for U.S. travel, after July.
- March is one of the best months to visit the Grand Canyon, as the temperatures are mild and the crowds are smaller than during the summer.
- March is the most unproductive month of the year in the U.S. This is the result of "March Madness," which is the season of the NCAA. Some companies lose up to \$1.9 billion in wages paid to workers who were not productive and instead spent company time betting on the NCAA tournament.

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.