

The Civic



March Birthdays

David McCracken - 1st
 Laura Miller-McLemore - 7th
 Reeshema Walker - 12th
 George Sawyer - 13th
 Cathy Welles - 14th
 Jim Comer - 15th
 Betty Sweeney - 22nd

Civitan Anniversaries

Helen Shine - 33 yrs
 Frank Court - 27 yrs
 Mary Williams - 27 yrs
 Dev Lippitt - 14 yrs
 Alan Craig - 4 yrs



WHAT HAS YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS BEEN UP TO... A BRIEF REVIEW

Soon, you will be getting a full report on the following items that the Board of Directors have been discussing and working on for a while:

Tee Shirts: We have a committee who are collaborating with sellers to create a Tee Shirt for our Club – using our logo. The Board hopes members will buy these shirts and let the public know about us and how they can join us in our many missions in the community.

Grant/Charity Applications: Van Rice and Dave Super are working on Grant applications for our charities so we have the most up-to-date information about them in addition to what our donations will be spent on and what their needs are. It is our hope that then during the year, we can invite speakers for these charities to update them on our progress.

A Club Picnic on May 8th at Lawson Creek Park.

A Game Day/Picnic for our developmentally disabled friends in conjunction with Special Olympics. We are looking to set this up in May.

Scholarship recommendations and process. Amy Willis is still heading up this project.

Looking for a climate-controlled storage shed at a reasonable cost to “house” our Santa Land Animals and other materials needed for Santa Land as well as our RCS Shelter Christmas party.

Have any suggestions for issues to be considered by our Board of Directors? The Board meets on the second Monday of every month. Contact an officer and request your item to be considered or discussed. send your thoughts to President, Eileen Buscemi (EileenCivitan@gmail.com) or Secretary, Maureen Comer (MaureenComer0720@gmail.com). We will get your thoughts to our Board Members. Thank you.

A LITTLE DIFFERENT CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY



Clergy Appreciation Day has been a longstanding tradition in Civitan Clubs throughout the world since the 1960s. It honors the four clergymen who gave up their life jackets and their lives during World War II to save sailors on the sinking ship, *The Dorchester*. Since the 1960s, Clergy Appreciation has been a worldwide project promoted at this time by Civitan International through local Civitan Clubs. This year, the clergy appreciation luncheon provided by our Club was a community outreach project that serves as a ministry.

In the past, members have been asked to invite their own clergy to lunch to receive lunch, a certificate and to listen to what their churches and congregations were doing for our community. This format has always been well received by our members, but this year it has become a little different. A Clergy Appreciation Day Committee chaired by Jim Comer and members Marie Leonard, Roy Leonard, Holly Lippitt from Christ Episcopal (wife of member Dev Lippitt) and Pastor Robert Johnson, a New Bern minister for 43 years, set forth to recognize clergy who are doing yeoman's work for the underserved in the area who experience almost constant, sometimes unique needs. Nine clergy were invited to lunch on February 13 at the RCS Dining Facility to be recognized.

Months of planning made this a special celebration. RCS provided the facility and many RCS volunteers and staff helped to set up the dining hall. Food was provided by the restaurant La Casetta at a minimum cost. Decorations made by Marie Leonard made the room look like a banquet venue. Roy Leonard was the man who did the "running around" and made sure all the details were done. Holly Lippitt wrote and produced professional brochures and biographies for the honorees. Cyndi Papia designed the certificates each honoree received.

Jim Comer was Master of Ceremonies and the overall coordinator of this effort. More Civitan members stepped forward to help with food serving, set up, clean up, registration, communication, etc. In addition, several members brought their own clergy who also received a certificate and were treated to lunch. Altogether, fifty-five people were present.

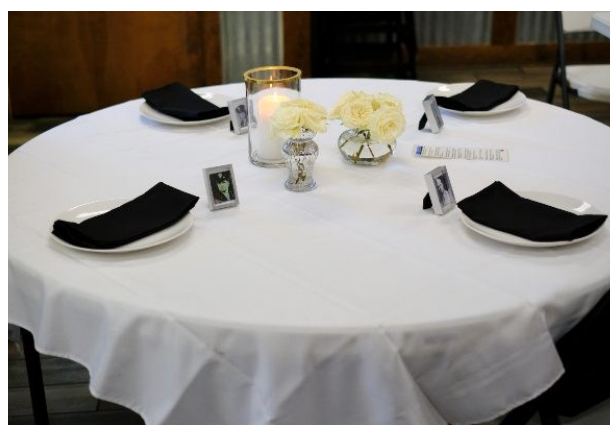
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The nine-page brochure gave a list of accomplishments for our honorees which is briefly summarized here:

- ◇ **Bishop Holly Raby** of Word of God Christian Center who founded the “Sharing and Caring” Food Bank of New Bern.
- ◇ **Pastor G. L. Noble** is founder and Senior Pastor of Kingdome First Church providing outreach to jail and prison populations as well as the local Women’s Shelter and RCS.
- ◇ **Paster Wheeler Blount** of Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church with a mission of “putting the neighbor back in the hood.” He desires to bring people together, uplift families and strengthen the bonds that hold our community together.
- ◇ **Rev. John A. Robinson, Jr.** is Chairman of the Board of Craven County’s Disaster Recovery Alliance, a community based disaster response and long-term recovery agency serving Craven and Jones counties.
- ◇ **Imam Maryan Alexander Dixon** who serves as one of two Imans for the Islamic Center of New Bern, the only organized Islamic presence in New Bern. He is also a Navy Flight Surgeon. He strives to preserve Islamic identity and practice for families who would otherwise have no local faith community.
- ◇ **Rev. Dr. R. E. Midgette, Sr.** is Pastor of West Street Christian Church, District Overseer of the New Bern Fellowship Union Churches, and President of the Coalition of the Regional Christian Churches.
- ◇ **Bishop George E. Royal, Sr. and his wife, Pastor Hazel B. Royal**, founded Abundant Life Miracle Center in the greater Duffyfield community. They serve the community by offering food drives, after-school, and summer programs for children. They also conduct health screenings and wellness initiatives.
- ◇ **Joe Brown**, son of the late Rev. Curtis Brown, who founded the Highway and Hedges Revitalization Center is their Minister of Music. The Center’s mission is to “bring hope of a changed life to all people.” They work closely with RCS, especially with the homeless. Their facility serves as a 24-hour disaster shelter.

This was a wonderful testimonial to some of our local “community heroes.” We hope to continue this celebration during Clergy Appreciation Week/Month in all the years to come!





TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!



At our evening meeting on Thursday, February 26, we were pleased to welcome two speakers whose work beautifully connects around supporting children and families in our community. Both shared inspiring updates and meaningful information.

WE CAN BE

Erin Henry, a pediatric physical therapist, introduced us to WE CAN BE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by pediatric therapists and parents who recognized the financial strain many families in the special needs community face.

Their mission is to provide financial assistance for adaptive equipment, therapy services, and out-of-pocket medical expenses for children and families in Eastern North Carolina. Therapy grants support physical, occupational, speech, and mental health services. Equipment grants help fund items such as wheelchairs, gait trainers, communication devices, and orthotics.

WE CAN BE also offers specialty consideration grants for services like hippotherapy, music therapy, and assistance with NICU or hospital medical bills. In addition, they sponsor an Annual Adaptive Bike Day, bringing smiles and mobility to many children.

The organization has also partnered with the Children's Museum of New Bern to help create an inclusive, educational, and engaging resource for local families. Profits from the museum will directly support WE CAN BE's mission to assist families across Eastern North Carolina.

The Children's Museum of New Bern

Karen Zachreus, a New Bern resident and parent, shared exciting plans for the Children's Museum of New Bern. She has been working closely with WE CAN BE and the new museum organization to develop an interactive learning space in the heart of downtown.

The museum will feature hands-on exhibits, interactive learning zones, arts and crafts areas, and space for workshops, field trips, and family events. Karen shared, "I have seen firsthand how important it is to give our children a safe, enriching place to grow and explore. This museum is my way of giving back and helping to shape a bright future for our youth."

Through its partnership with WE CAN BE, the museum will be thoughtfully designed to welcome and accommodate children of all abilities, creating a truly inclusive environment.

The planned location is 408 Hancock Street, at the New Bern Firemen's Museum Annex. A five-year lease has been secured. While the original goal was to open in summer 2026, that timeline has been extended. Karen noted, "It's a perfect building, perfect site. We have had an amazing amount of support and people willing to come out and help from day one."

PARTNERING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER IMPACT

Birmingham, Alabama, and Washington DC joined forces in May of last year. Civitan International and The Arc announced a strategic partnership to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families, and to connect those families to volunteer activities and resources.

Civitan International, a global network of service clubs dedicated to supporting people with disabilities, and The Arc, the largest national organization advocating for and serving people with IDD, joined forces to expand community support, inclusion, and opportunities for people with disabilities. This new partnership will focus on three core areas:

Volunteer Engagement – Civitan members will connect with local chapters of The Arc to build meaningful relationships and volunteer in programs that directly support people with disabilities and their families.

Shared Resources and Best Practices – the two organization will collaborate to strengthen their programs by sharing tools, knowledge and strategies that promote inclusion and empower people with IDD.

Community Collaboration – Local Civitan clubs and chapters of The Arc will work together on projects and events that bring people together and create more inclusive communities.

As a Club, we have always looked to assist people with IDD,
and we will continue to do so with this information just shared with us.



DUBLIN OVER WITH LAUGHTER



What kind of spells do leprechauns use? Lucky charms.

Why do leprechauns go outside? To sit on their paddy-o.

What did the leprechaun say when the video game ended? Game clover!

What do you call a leprechaun with a sore throat? A strephrechaun.

When does a leprechaun cross the road? When the light turns GREEN.

How does a leprechaun work out? By pushing his luck.

Why shouldn't you borrow money from a leprechaun? Because they're always a little short.

Who catches the lepre-cons? Under-clover cops.

What do you call it when a leprechaun does a prank? A saint Pat-**trick!**

What do you get when two leprechauns have a conversation? A lot of small talk.

Why do leprechauns hate running? They would rather jig than jag.

Why are so many leprechauns gardeners? Because they have green thumbs.

How can you tell if a leprechaun likes your joke? He's Dublin over with laughter.

(Enough with the leprechaun jokes already!)

Why shouldn't you iron a four-leaf clover? You might press your luck.

How did the Irish jig start? Too much beer and not enough restrooms.

How do musicians show off on St. Patrick's Day? They play their **brag**-pipes.

What is a huge Irish spider called? Paddy Long Legs.

How can you tell when a potato is not from Ireland? When it's a French fry.

Why do Irish people recycle? They like to go green!

What's an Irish baby's favorite song? Paddy Cake.

What does it mean if you find a four-leaf clover? That you have too much time on your hands!

Why did the baker pour Coke into her mixer? She was trying to make soda bread.

What's the difference between wisdom and luck? One is clever. The other is clover.

What's an Irish jig at McDonald's called? A Shamrock Shake.

Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day? Because real rocks are too heavy.

AND FINALLY...

Knock, knock! Who's there? Irish. Irish who? Irish you a

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Mon., March 9: Board of Directors Meeting Garber Church at 1 pm, Rm. 222. *Officers and Board Members, please make every effort to attend.* There are issues to discuss and voted on: storage space, charity giving, upcoming events.

Mon., March 9: RCS Shelter Dinner 5:30 pm. will be prepared & delivered by the NBHS Junior Civitan Club. Advisor: Laura Miller-McLemore; Club Liaison: Ann Super.

Members, if you can **sign up to donate for the RCS Dinner on April 13**, please go to <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>.

Fri., March 13: NBCC Afternoon Meeting at 11:30 am, Paula's Restaurant. Speaker TBA. NOTE: **If you are going, let Eileen Buscemi know (EileenCivitan@gmail.com) by Wednesday, March 11**, so she may call the number into the restaurant. DO NOT CONTACT Maureen Comer, she will be out of town.

Tues., March 17: St. Patrick's Day

Fri., March 20: Spring Equinox

Thurs., March 26: NBCC Evening Meeting 5:30 pm at Paula's. Speaker TBA. If you will be attending, please let Maureen Comer know by Tuesday, March 24.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Fri., May 8: Club Picnic at Lawson Creek Park

Sometime in mid-May will be Picnic/Game Day for our IDD Friends! Stay tuned – we will need volunteers and food donations.



Officers

President: Eileen Buscemi
President-Elect: Roy Leonard
Vice President: (Open)
Secretary: Maureen Comer
Assist. Secretary: Susan Husson
Treasurer: Van Allen Rice
Assistant Treasurer: (Open)
Sergeant-at-Arm: Dev Lippitt
Education Officers: Helen Shine & Maureen Comer
Chaplain: Bill Baldree
Assistant Chaplain: Jim Comer

Board

	Term Exp
Buck Irvin	2026
Randy King	2026
Clark Saylor	2026
Betty Todd	2026
Wendy Fleming	2027
Marie Leonard	2027
Judy Lopez	2027
Tommaso Serra	2027

Webmaster, Civic Editor & Social Media: Cyndi Papia

MARCH FACTS & TRIVIA



- ◆ The first successful blood transfusion using human blood was performed in March 1818.
- ◆ March 1, 1872: Yellowstone became the world's first national park, established in the U.S. to preserve its geothermal wonders.
- ◆ March 1, 1961: President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps.
- ◆ March 3 is a full moon, known as the Worm Moon, reaching peak illumination on the morning of the 3rd. That same night, is a full lunar eclipse, called a Blood Moon.
- ◆ March 4, 1789: The first meeting of the new Congress under the new U.S. Constitution took place in New York City.
- ◆ March 7, 1876: Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone.
- ◆ March 7, 1933: Monopoly was invented.
- ◆ March 8 is the start of Daylight Savings Time.
- ◆ March 10, 1862: The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation.
- ◆ March 10, 1880: The Salvation Army was founded in the United States.
- ◆ March 11 is Johnny Appleseed Day, celebrating John Chapman and everything apple!
- ◆ March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. Despite being Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick (real name Maewyn Succat) was actually born in Roman Britain (he's a Brit!) and arrived in Ireland the hard way: he was kidnapped by pirates and sold into slavery.
- ◆ March 20 brings about the March equinox, marking the beginning of spring.

CIVITAN CREED & MISSION

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.

Mission Statement: The worldwide mission of Civitan International is to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs, with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities.

Civitan's Vision: A global community where people of all abilities and talents make the world a better place.

Organizational Values: Civitan was founded on three tenets we hold dear – knowledge, fellowship, and service. These are the values that make the heart of a Civitan:

Service

Selflessly serving individuals in our communities

Inclusion

Giving everyone a seat at the table

Respect

Treating all people with the respect and dignity they deserve

Fellowship

Providing a place of belonging and kinship to neighbors and strangers alike

Courage

Having the confidence and conviction to stand up for what we believe in

Leadership

Embracing our knowledge to step up and lead within our communities