

SP KES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG



Fellow Club members Tracie Fowler, Steve Ramp and Richard Topp manning the Angel Tree booth at Turtle Creek Mall.

MINUTES: DECEMBER 1, 2015

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. He thanked Jaclyn Adams for presiding in his absence last week. Thanks to Conrad Welker who gave the invocation and to Bill MacLauchlan who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Ryan Kelly and Jerome Brown who served as our greeters today.

Jaclyn Adams then introduced our visitor. Vanessa Hensen is a guest of Jim Prout and will assist him with today's presentation.

Today's Mystery Rotarian was born in Paducah, KY and lived in Indiana and Tennessee before moving to Hattiesburg at age 13. He is the oldest of four children and pursued careers in sports and music before deciding he would be a better concert goer than musician or athlete. He has seen the Rolling Stones, the Eagles, Eric Clapton and Nora Jones to name a few and many of these artists he has seen multiple times. He attend a public university in north Mississippi and went to school with a former governor and a famous author. Today's Mystery Rotarian is Mike Ratliff.

Sean then presented Richard Topp with a Rotary recognition pin for recruiting a new member. Richard sponsored Jim Prout.

Aaron Ladner reminded Rotarians to bring unwrapped Christmas gifts for the next two weeks. The gifts will be given away by Christian Services during their Birthday for Jesus party on December 19th. Volunteers are also needed for that event and signups will begin next week. Toys should be unwrapped and for ages birth to sixteen.

Sean also announced that Amanda Lee is resigning from the club. Her new job involves travel from Tuesday through Friday of each week. She plans to re-join when and if her travel schedule changes.

Sean also reminded members that our December 15th meeting will be hosted on the USM campus by the Business College. We will not have meetings on December 22 and December 29.

Mike Ratliff then introduced today's guest speaker and Rotarian, Jim Prout. Jim is the Executive Director and COO of Christian Services.

Jim reported that his parents, Bill and Cookie Prout decided some thirty years ago to leave their professional careers and do something they were both led to do. They founded Christian Services which is a multi-faceted ministry involving churches and other organizations that come together to help those in need, spreading the hope of Christianity.

Christian Services opened first with a *Soup Kitchen* in downtown Hattiesburg. Today the Kitchen serves between 5 and 7 hundred lunches daily. Last year they estimate they prepared and served more than 150,000 lunches. The Kitchen is open Monday through Friday. Although the food is prepared to be a meaningful meal, the focus of the Kitchen is to build relationships.

They expanded into a *Meals on Wheels* program. It first began with meal service provided to inbound members of one church. It has grown over the years and last year the program prepared and delivered more than 78 thousand meals in Forrest and Lamar counties. Jim says the meal delivered by *Meals on Wheels* may be the only daily meal a person gets.

The *Birthday Party for Jesus* was established to serve children who are sometimes starving for attention and always in need of assistance. In addition to other activities during the party the children leave with a Christmas gift, which may be the only gift they get.

The *Loving Hands Ministry* is a benevolence program. It provides whatever assistance that can be provided for those in need. The Ministry receives and processes about 150 applications each month and serves about 2,000 people annually.

The *Abundant Harvest* program began about twelve years ago. Jim says Christian Services receives hundreds of pounds of food that sometimes cannot be prepared for their other feeding programs before it spoils. Therefore, they found a way to send that food to 25 other agencies who use it in their feeding programs. Jim estimates they provided 800,000 pounds of food to those agencies last year.

Liberty Ministries is a program they founded to help men who are suffering with life controlling issues or may be having difficulties caused by a variety of

L-R: Jaclyn Adams, Vanessa Hensen, Sean Priebe and Jim Prout.



factors. The goal of the program is to house the men and help them get back on their feet. Right now it provides housing and support services for 40 individuals. It is a one-year program. Another goal of the program is to teach the residents ways they can give back to their communities when they leave *Liberty*.

Thrive is a new money management program designed to teach people ways they can better manage their money. Participants attend two weeks of classes that are taught by community volunteers. Participants learn how to balance their checkbook and how to not spend more money than they have.

Jim says Christian Services has never gone searching for something new to do but is willing to accept whatever challenges come their way. He thanked the United Way of Southeast Mississippi for their continued financial support.

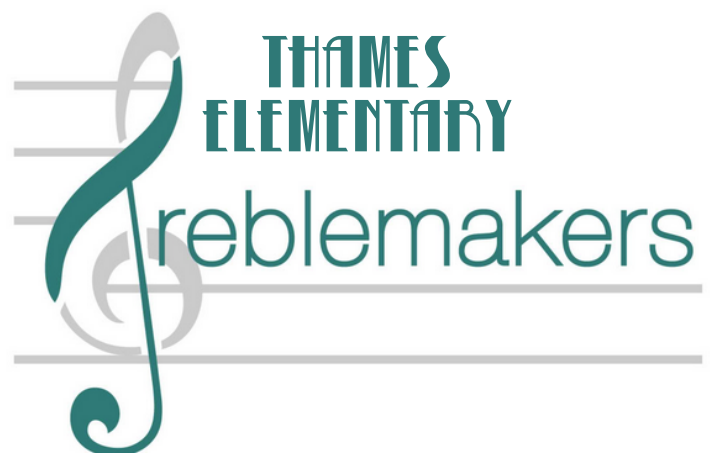
If you are interested in helping, Jim asked that you talk to someone who may not know what Christian Services is doing. He says you never know who you may help by spreading information about their many programs. He is also looking for volunteers to deliver one Meals on Wheels route. If five people volunteered they

each would only have to spend one hour a week delivering. Another way to help would be to host a food drive. Set up a box at work or at church and ask for food items. Servers are also needed daily in the Soup Kitchen and will also be needed to assist with the Birthday Party for Jesus.

If you're interested in helping, call Jim at 601-582-5683 or you can mail a contribution to P.O. Box 1994, Hattiesburg, MS 39403.

Minutes prepared by:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary

OUR GUESTS TODAY



UPCOMING

DECEMBER 15—LUNCH & TOUR OF SCIANNA HALL (Please check rotaryofhattiesburg.com for event details, e.g. location, parking, etc.)

DECEMBER 22 & 29—NO MEETING

JANUARY 8—PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY GALA

Great Southern Club, Gulfport, MS. Registration for this event is \$45 per person. Use this link to register for this event: <http://bit.ly/1YC8UBg>

JANUARY 9, 2016—MID-YEAR CHECKUP

This year the Mid-Year Checkup will focus on two-minute presentations by district clubs highlighting their achievements over the past six months. Use this link to register for this event—<http://bit.ly/1Q6YRAV>

JANUARY 12—DICKIE SCRUGGS

FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE CALGARY 2016

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2016

For Mardi Gras 2016, D6840 will be hosting a delegation of Canadians from the Calgary area, D5360. The 6 couples selected to participate were chosen from a group of 24 who expressed interest in coming to The Big Easy!!

The plan is for the group to arrive on Tuesday, February 2, with the actual program beginning on Wednesday, February 3, and until their departure on Monday, February 15. Since Mardi Gras is February 9, logistics and lodging are both challenging, especially for such a large group. I am very interested in lodging possibilities near the St. Charles Avenue Parade Route around “Mardi Gras Weekend,” as well as lodging with Rotarians along the Gulf Coast (especially between Bay St. Louis and Biloxi) from February 10-15. Please let me know!

THURSDAY, JULY 7 TO TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016

D6840 Rotarians are invited to D5360, a special part of Canada, to enjoy the Calgary Stampede, the beautiful Canadian Rockies, and other activities during the early part of our HOT July!

I already have a growing list of D6840 Rotarians who are interested in visiting the cool Canadian Rockies in July, 2016! Please let me know if you would like to get on the list. The maximum number of visitors is 12.

Both in Calgary and in New Orleans, the plans are basically home-stays with Rotarians, “Bed & Breakfast style.” Guests may not need to have their own rental cars/vans. Visitors will be responsible for their personal expenses and meals when they are on their own.

Karen Babin, 2016 Friendship Exchange Coordinator for D6840

504-875-4342, 518-588-9096 (mobile) ksbabin@gmail.com

2015-2016 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Sean Priebe, President

Jaclyn Adams, President-Elect

Brett Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer

Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary

Wes Brooks, Past President

Dan Davis

Tracie Fowler

Faye Gilbert

Ryan Kelly

Bill MacLauchlan

Mike Ratliff

**Rotary Club of
Hattiesburg
629 N. Main St.
Hattiesburg, MS 39402**