

SP KES

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg

Officers

Wes Brooks, President
Sean Priebe, President-Elect
Erik Graham, Vice President
Amanda Lee, Secretary-Treasurer
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Scott Hummel, Past President

Directors

Allen Anderson
Dan Davis
Tracie Fowler
Chase Munro
David Owens
Lucy Parkman
Valencia Williamson

Rotary Club of Hattiesburg
629 North Main Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401



OFFICER LIQUORI TATE, AGE 25



Officer Benjamin Deen, age 34

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

MINUTES: MAY 12, 2015

President Wes Brooks presided over the meeting. Thanks to Scott Hummel who gave the invocation and to Paul Presley who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to James Duncan, Jaclyn Adams and Amanda Lewis for serving as our greeters today.

Aaron Ladner thanked those who participated in today's meeting and introduced our visiting Rotarian. Joey Jarrell is visiting from the Petal club.

Condolences and prayers were offered for the families of those involved in the shooting this past weekend that left two Hattiesburg Police Officers dead and four people behind bars. The Hattiesburg community continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with each other as we work through these tragedies. Wes reviewed the visitation and funeral arrangements for the two officers. He also noted that downtown merchants and businesses were displaying wreaths in honor of the police department. Home in the Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood and perhaps other neighborhoods throughout the city will replace their outside lights with blue lights for the next few days in respect for the service of our police officers.

Wes noted that the grant application deadline for District grants is May 31. Anyone with an interest and a plan for this grant should speak to a board member in the very near future.

Lynn Watson then introduced today's guest speaker, Scott Pfaff. Scott is the Executive Director of The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club. He has served in this position for the past two years.

When he first took the job the Club was being subsidized by The Army by about \$105,000 a year. He has made a number of changes in the operation and generated new revenue sources and has now cut that deficit to just over \$12,500. It is his goal to have the Club self sufficient in the very near future.

The Boys and Girls Club sees between 120 and 130 children on a daily basis. Their ages range from 6 to 16 years of age. They are collected from school and often stay at the Club until 7 p.m. Scott says he is very lucky to have the children for 15 to 16 hours each week and during those hours his ministry is to change the culture and the environment of the participants so they can move forward and be successful in life. He and his staff start this process of finding out what the child is good at and then creating successes for that child in those and then



other areas. He says if he can change the way they are wired he can teach them that everything in life matters and help them achieve success as adults.

Utilizing space in the 15,000 square foot facility the staff and volunteers of the Boys and Girls Club help with homework, teach art, participate in all city league sports and many other events and activities that Scott says will help each child develop what the Club has developed as the "picture of success" for each child. It is a long-term and time consuming job, but one Scott says must be accomplished if we are to make a difference in the lives of these children.

The Boys and Girls Club is a United Way Agency which Scott says is invaluable to the Club's ability to keep the doors open. Participants are expected to pay a \$25 per month enrollment fee but many are granted scholarships. The Club hosts an annual golf tournament as their primary fund raising project. That tournament is coming up in June if anyone is interested. There are also 10 to 12 consistent donors who help pay expenses.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and offering your talents to help develop the talent in these children, Scott encourages you to call him. If you are interested in making a contribution, participating in the golf tournament or if you have suggestions that can help him develop a better program, please call Scott Pfaff at 601-544-5437.

*Minutes courtesy of:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary
Rotary Club of Hattiesburg*

Ali Kasolo Matembe, Congolese, (bass)

My name is Ali Kasolo Matembe. I am the third member of a family of six children. I was born in 1987. I am in the faculty of humanities and social sciences majoring in music and minor in environmental studies. I started singing when I was 10. Coming to Africa University choir, has been such a blessing as I continue to grow in my music career. Besides singing bass which is my greatest love I also have a working knowledge of the keyboard, bass guitar, head guitar and konga. Learning songs in different African languages is such great fun!

Desire Niyonkuru, Congolese, (tenor)

My name is Desire. I am the second born in a family of six. Here at Africa University I am in the faculty of health sciences majoring in health services management. I have always loved Gospel music. Africa University Choir is such a blessing; this choir performs Gospel, African traditional worship songs, hymns and anthems. This wealth has quenched my musical thirst. Long live Africa University!

Jatutu Pambi Yusuf, Nigerian, (alto)

My name is Pambi. I am the last born in a family of five children. I was born May 8, 1992. I am a United Methodist church member. I am in the faculty of humanities and social sciences majoring in psychology and also hoping to pursue a master's degree in neuropsychology. I started singing at a young age in Sunday school. I sing alto and also lead songs. Joining Africa University Choir has advanced my passion and love to minister through singing. I now regard it as a privilege and opportunity to praise God in diverse language. Africa University choir is a unique group full of inspirations from God.

Julian Lennon Kanombirira, Zimbabwean, (tenor)

My name is Julian Lennon Kanombirira. I was born February 16, 1990. I am Zimbabwean and I come from a small town in the Mashonaland East Province called Mutoko. I come from a family of musicians with even my grandmother and grandfather both still singing in the United Methodist Mutoko Center Church Choir. I am a second year student in the faculty of management and administration majoring in accounting. I hope to pursue a master's degree in auditing and then establish myself as an influential business person. Music is the voice through which I speak and the hands through which I touch lives. The Africa University Choir to me is a calling. Viva Africa University Choir!

Martha Mugwebi, Zimbabwean, (alto)

I am Martha Mugwebi, born May 24, 1994. I am 21 years old and I am Zimbabwean. In our family of three, I am the first born. Currently I am studying accounting in the faculty of management and administration. I have been at Africa University for two years. Being at this great and unique institution that houses students from all over Africa, I have learned the significance of diversity. Africa University Choir is more than just a music ensemble, but a family. Singing in different languages is the best experience ever. I am majoring in psychology. I hope to become one of the greatest psychologists in Africa and worldwide. The Africa University choir has blessed me with a great opportunity to sing and praise the Lord Almighty with different nationalities. Becoming an Africa University choir member has changed my life for the better spiritually. What a blessing it is to be part of the Africa University choir

Mbuya Kabala Jonathan, Congolese, (bass)

My name is Jonathan Kabala and I was born in 1994, in a family of six. I am a computer science major. I hope to proceed to a master's degree in software engineering. I really enjoy singing and accompanying songs on the piano. The Africa University Choir has given me the opportunity to sing, play piano and above all, interact with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Patricia Simakwezi, Zambian, (soprano)

I am Patricia Simakwezi, the seventh born in a family of eight children. I was born May 8, 1992. I am a second year student in the faculty of humanities and social sciences majoring in psychology. I hope to become one of the greatest psychologists in Africa and worldwide. The Africa University choir has blessed me with a great opportunity to sing and praise the Lord Almighty with different nationalities. Becoming an Africa University choir member has changed my life for the better spiritually. What a blessing it is to be part of the Africa University choir.

Rudaviro Mvundura, Zimbabwean, (alto)

My name is Rudaviro. I was born October 10, 1994. I am the first born in a family of three. I am a second year student in the faculty of humanities and social sciences majoring in psychology. I began singing at the age of 8 in a United Methodist Church choir. Singing has since become a big part of my life. At the present moment, I am working on my first album which I am hoping will be published by mid- 2015. I am greatly honored to be part of Africa University choir in which I sing mainly alto but I can sing soprano. Africa University has presented me with an opportunity beyond my wildest dreams of going to the United States of America. I am more than grateful, Viva Africa University.

Rupan Jonah, Nigerian, (bass)

I am Jonah Rupan and I was born July 4. I am studying medical laboratory sciences in the faculty of health sciences. I have been involved with music since the age of seven. In later years, I have become the instrumentalist in our local United Methodist Church. I play both keyboard and bass guitar. I also sing bass. Africa University Choir is such a blessing as it affords the opportunity to continue to improve and develop my music.



Samy Kasong Mwintubund, Congolese, (tenor)

My name is Samy Kasong Mwintubund, I am the second born in a family of six girls and five boys. I am a second year student in the faculty of humanities and social sciences majoring in environmental studies. My great love for music is expressed through the beating of the African drum, my second passion is in soloing especially rumba songs. Africa University choir offered me an opportunity and growth in terms of music. I now feel that I am a better singer. Travelling to the United States of America is the best thing that has ever happened to me. Surely THE DREAM IS ALIVE!

Ashley Rutendo Chapendama, Zimbabwean, (soprano)

My name is Ashley and I was born January 4, 1994. I am currently working on my bachelor's degree in computer science, after which I hope to pursue my studies for a masters in networking and programming. Life to me means friends and family whom I can trust. I am pretty much on the happy side of life and I enjoy singing. I have a passion for singing and I am therefore very thankful to Africa University that has enabled me to pursue my dream. I am indeed grateful to Africa University Choir. Viva Africa University!

Erica De Fatima Lourence Vandum, Angolan, (alto)

I am Erica, the last born in a family of four girls. I am 24 years of age. I am a second year student in the faculty of humanities and social sciences majoring in environmental studies and Portuguese as a minor. I certainly hope to proceed to a master's degree. Having been a choir member in The United Methodist Church in Angola and now selected to be the president of the Angolan Community choir here at Africa University, makes Africa University the most appropriate destination. Africa University Choir really is God's choir made of God's children from all over Africa, what a unique experience. I look forward to my trip to the United States in which I will extensively minister through singing.

Teresa Lopes Cassule, Angolan, (soprano)

I am Teresa Lopes Cassule and I was born in 1991. I am the fourth child in a family of four children. Currently I am living with my brother in Angola. I am in the faculty of humanities and social sciences majoring in environmental studies and minoring in psychology. I enjoy both listening and singing gospel music. At home I am part of a United Methodist Church choir in which I participate as a soprano singer. The Africa University Choir has given me the wonderful opportunity to glorify God in many different languages through singing.

Simbai Nicholas Mhuka, Zimbabwean, (bass)

My name is Simbai. I am Zimbabwean, the first born in a family of two. I was born March 25, 1994. I am a second year student in the faculty of management and administration majoring in computer information systems. I am passionate about music and have been singing since I was 11. I sang in a school choir at the age of 13 and ever since I have been involved in music performance in my church the Salvation Army. Africa University Choir has afforded me the opportunity to advance my music. Before, I just sang bass, but now I am challenged to sing a solo against the whole choir.

Mukalay Mutwale Hedwige, Congolese, (soprano)

My name is Mukalay. I am the forth born in the family of six. Leadership and training are the main activities that I have been involved at my local church and in an adult community where I belong. Currently, I am a member in Africa University Choir, singing soprano. I am in my first year pursuing a master's degree in peace, leadership attitudes and skills that are needed for success in today's world and mostly in Africa. As a Congolese, I have come to understand how important peace is and recognize that there is nothing better than peace in this world. One of my goals is to be a good leader who solves conflict into durable peace. Africa University Choir has enabled me to learn to live and operate with God's children from all over Africa.

Tendekai Kuture, Choir Director

Tendekai Kuture is Head of the Music department, and choir director at Africa University. He joined Africa University in 2008, and he describes the Africa University Choir as one of the choral wonders of the world. Kuture's music career and experience spans 40 years. In 1984, Kuture enrolled for a diploma in music at Hillside Teachers' College. This qualification enabled him to be employed in the music department of Mutare Teachers' College in 1985. He taught music theory, appreciation, history and practicals and conducted the Mutare Teachers' College Choir from 1985 to 2002. During this period, he started working with the St. James United Methodist Choir in Mutare, a choir which he also directed from 1989 to 2000.

The Zimbabwe Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church would eventually discover Kuture's choral gifts, resulting in his appointment as conference director. He held his post from 1989 to 2002, and he was in charge of the music ministry of Zimbabwe Annual Conference which at that time included Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Botswana. His task was to improve both congregational hymnal and choral singing in The United Methodist Church. He organized and ran choral workshops, coaching clinics, and he also composed and arranged competition set pieces.

JUNE 2 - CLUB SOCIAL AT THE HOME OF HOLT McMULLAN