

# SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG



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## Hattiesburg Rotarian in the News

by Wes Brooks

On Tuesday, February 4, our very own Dr. Erik Graham was featured on WDAM's 6 o'clock news. WDAM dedicated part of their prime time news to a week-long series recognizing the one-year anniversary of the horrific EF4 tornado.

Directly in the path of that storm was Erik's church Westminster Presbyterian. WDAM's segment on Erik showcased the unique way he's found to raise money for his church's restoration efforts.

Knowing his wife Ginny's love of their church, Erik crafted a set of earrings and a pendant from pieces of stained glass he salvaged from church and materials donated from his clinic, Baker & Graham Dental. When Ginny posted pictures of her Valentine's Day gift on Facebook, Erik says the pictures went "viral."

Since the segment on Erik aired *demand has skyrocketed.*



## Minutes - January 21

Scott Hummel presided over the meeting. Thanks to Allen Anderson who gave the invocation and Wes Brooks who led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Chris Price for serving as our greeters today.

Brian Moore, introduced today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Brittany Fletcher is a guest of Chase Munro. Delores Kirkland and Gene Winters are visiting from the Petal Club.

Lucy Parkman reminded members about the winter social. It will be held on the evening of February 25 at the Camellia House. A buffet dinner and entertainment will be provided beginning at 6:00 pm. Members are invited to bring your spouse or a guest but you are asked to RSVP in advance. You can let Lucy know you're attending or you can visit the Rotary website and RSVP.

Jennifer Payne reported that Allen Anderson has donated a \$250 gift certificate to be auctioned off. Ticket prices are \$3 each or you can buy 4 for \$10. The drawing will take place during the winter social. Other prizes are anticipated for the auction.

Wes Brooks thanked the Rotary board and members for supporting the Westminster Presbyterian Church's rebuilding fund raiser. Our board voted to become a sponsor for the 5K run to be held on February 15<sup>th</sup>. See Wes if you want more information.

Jennifer Payne then came forward and introduced today's guest speaker, LaShaunda René. LaShaunda works for the Mississippi Girl Scouts of America organization.

Girl Scouts is not just about cookie sales according to LaShaunda. Girl Scouts is about girl leadership, which Girl Scouts of America

believes is critically important to our communities.

The girls engaged in Girl Scouts are challenged to learn about their communities and then share that knowledge with others. Finally they are asked to take actions using their knowledge to make improvements in their communities. When you see a Girl Scout selling cookies in the next few weeks, LaShaunda encourages us to ask them about their community project.



Cookie sales generate \$700 million dollars of revenue throughout the nation with just over \$4 million of that coming from Mississippi. For each box of cookies sold, the local organization gets to keep \$.65 for use in their community project.

Cookie sales has a five-step leadership development training attached to it that helps girls learn skills they can apply to everyday life.

They learn about money management, business ethics, setting goals, making decisions and developing people skills. Girl Scouts believe the program helps them build a lifetime of skills and confidence.

Find your cookies at [girlscoutcookies.org](http://girlscoutcookies.org).

**Minutes courtesy of:  
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary**

# Our Guest

## Chris Buckhalter

At the age of 23, Chris Buckhalter was incarcerated and spent time in the Mississippi State Penitentiary. He learned from experience that you can be categorized by the company that you keep. His incarceration has enabled him to broaden his perspective on life and realize his responsibilities to others as well as himself. Prior to his incarceration he had thriving opportunities in athletics as well as academics. He attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he was a premiere athlete before his world began to change for the worse.

Today, his desire is to help others realize their abilities and to encourage them to believe in themselves. He has shared his life story with hundreds and uses his new found optimism to encourage others who are walking on the same unsteady ground that he once traveled.



## Teacher of the Month

Chaquita Roberts

Rowan Elementary

This month's recipient is 4th grade reading and social studies teacher at Rowan Elementary. Chaquita is a Hattiesburg native, is a 2006 graduate of Hattiesburg High School, and received a Bachelors of Science in Degree in Elementary Education with a Reading and Social Studies endorsement in the spring of 2011.

Congratulations to Ms. Chaquita Roberts!

## Perfect Attendance - January

Ember Ahua  
 Stanley Carpenter  
 Lamar Evans  
 Greg Garraway  
 Dan Kibodeaux  
 Chase Munro  
 Lucy Parkman  
 Steve Ramp  
 Johnny Stevens  
 Wally Weakley

Mickey Allen  
 Mary Cromartie  
 Francis Farmer  
 Bill Hughes  
 Bill MacLauchlan  
 David Owens  
 Brett Phillips  
 Kemi Simmons  
 Richard Topp  
 Conrad Welker  
 James Winstead

Wes Brooks  
 Rusty Edwards  
 Tracie Fowler  
 Scott Hummel  
 Maura McLaughlin  
 Gene Owens  
 Sean Priebe  
 Curtis Smith  
 Lynn Walton  
 Janet Williams

## Upcoming



**Martha Dearman**  
 February 18



**Winter Social**  
 February 25



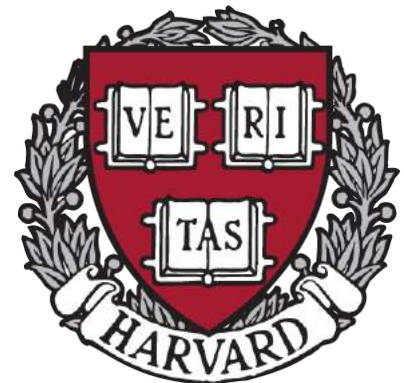
**Wes Brooks - ClubRunner**  
 March 4



**Ole Man River PETS**  
 March 7-8



**Dr. Faye Gilbert**  
 March 11



**Dr. Robert Kent**  
 March 18