

The Swainsboro Kiwanian

December 19, 2006

President John Black opened the meeting tonight promptly at 7:30, a half hour later than usual, since it was spouses' night. Tobe Karrh led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. For the invocation, President John read the Christmas story as recorded in the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.

We had an attendance of 40 Kiwanians and spouses along with 5 guests. Tobe had as his guest Linda Lamb. L.H. Weise had as his guests Marcelle Brannon and newcomers to Swainsboro Nelson and Jo Arnold. It was great to have these guests and all the spouses present tonight.

President John gave a brief history of the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, noting that it was the first civic club in Emanuel County, founded in August, 1922. This club has produced two district governors, Colonel Ivy Rountree, and Homer (Chip) Durden. The Swainsboro Kiwanis Club has sponsored the Pinetree Festival continuously since 1946.

Vice President Dess Smith formally inducted our newest member, Caroline Harless into the club. I have introduced Caroline to the club in a previous issue of the bulletin. We look forward to working with Caroline. She was sponsored for membership by President John.

In sports, Tobe reported that the Falcons lost last weekend. He also mentioned that the first bowl game is tonight in San Diego, the San Diego Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl. Tim Goodman informed us that Kiwanis International is helping to sponsor the game and will have four spots during the game to emphasize the work of Kiwanis in serving the children of the world.

Judge Charles Brewer, in the spirit of Christmas, recessed court tonight. Nobody seemed disappointed to hear that. I thought I heard something about "Wait until January!" We'll see what the judge has in mind.

Tim Goodman was program chair tonight. He brought Betsy Johnson, who led the club in singing a number of popular Christmas songs, ranging from White Christmas to Blue Christmas, with a lot of snow, holly, mistletoe, sleigh bells, and reindeer thrown in between them. I still think that if we work at it, we still have a shot at a grammy! Of course, having our spouses here to help us tonight undoubtedly contributed to improving our performance.

Before beginning the musical part Betsy mentioned a couple of items that might be of interest to Kiwanians. The Emanuel Arts Council has sets of note cards available for sale. They feature a

photograph of the rose window above the entrance to the Arts Center, taken by Linda Parrish. Betsy also mentioned a history of Emanuel County, written by Warren Candler Budd, which will become available in January. Thanks to Tim for inviting Betsy and to Betsy for a great program that helped us to feel the spirit of the season.

Ten table decorations were given away, but your bulletin editor did not get the names of all the winners. Congratulations to each of you.

Kiwanis Kalendar

	Program	Cake
December 26	Christmas Holidays – No Meeting	
January 2	Justin Peebles	Bob Losser
January 9	Stacey Barber	Rodney Beckworth
January 16	Dwight Watt	Jimmy Wedincamp
January 23	Tobe Karrh	Paul Cerpovicz

Program Chairs: Let me know your program as soon as you nail it down, and I'll put it in the bulletin ahead of time so our members will know what is coming up. You can phone me at home or email me at edbolton@ega.edu

Note that the Kiwanis Club will not meet on December 26. If you forget and show up, you will be very lonesome!



As bulletin editor, I'd like to wish to everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year. -Ed

A Christmas Treat

The following article is reprinted with the kind permission of the author, Dr. Bill Burch, who is the senior minister at Sam Jones Memorial United Methodist Church in Cartersville, Georgia. It appeared in the December 10 edition of the Cartersville *Daily Tribune News*. I hope it brings a smile to your face and triggers fond memories of Christmases past for you as it did for me. A big Kiwanis thanks to Dr. Burch for allowing me to share it with you.

"The Five Senses of Christmas"

By Dr. Bill Burch

Sights of Christmas: The world wrapped in holiday colors of red and green, silver and gold. Crimson berries nestled in the emerald green of holly leaves. Wreath-clad doors, mailboxes garbed with garland scarves, and shrubs robed in lights. Rudolf, Frosty, Charlie

Brown, Ebenezer Scrooge, and the Little Drummer Boy on TV. The “Big Tree” towering over Lenox Square. Piled gifts spilling beyond the sheltering arms of a Christmas tree’s embrace. On, off, on, off, on, off, on, off of blinking bulbs. Windows alight in warm candle glow. Stockings hung by the chimney with care. Cardboard manger characters casting long shadows in flood light. “Kiss-me-quick” mistletoe dangling from doorways. Diamond stars displayed on a black velvet night. Clydesdale horses stomping through a Currier and Ives winter wonderland. Santa Claus swooshing down a snow-covered hillside on a Norelco electric razor ad. Traffic-jammed mall parking lots. Church pageant children clothed in oversized bathrobes, cardboard wings, and pipe-cleaner halos.

Sounds of Christmas: Salvation Army, red kettle ringers. Jingle bells jangling. Salutations of “Merry Christmas” and “Happy Holidays.” Crackling fires of wood or gas. Mailboxes crammed with catalogs, cards, invitations, and bills. Carolers’ off-key singing. Horn blare of traffic jams. Canned carols endlessly looping on store speakers. “Blue Christmas,” “The Hallelujah Chorus,” and “Mama got ran over by a reindeer” played back-to-back-to-back on the radio. A bedtime story of “’Twas the Night before Christmas.” Children’s Christmas morning squeals of surprise, delight, and excitement.

Smells of Christmas: Dusty boxes of attic-stored decorations. Fir-scented Christmas tree smell. Hickory wood smoke wafting from ice-frosted chimneys. Oven roasted turkey basting. Sugar cookies baking. Cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, peppermint, and allspice. Apple cider simmering on the stove. Flavored coffee steaming in a mug.

Feelings of Christmas: Sticky, sappy, prickly, pine boughs. Polar breezes that cut through pants and find where underwear ends. Cozy down comforters for long winter’s naps. Fleece, flannel, wool, fur, cashmere, leather, velvet, cardigan, and cotton clothes. Overcoats, gloves, hats, and scarves. Candy-cane kisses from a candy-smearing child. Children laying awake on Christmas Eve, knowing the night will never pass. Home for the holidays. The presence of loved ones, both present and absent.

Tastes of Christmas: Anjou pears, delicious apples, navel oranges. Hot cocoa with sliver sprinkles of chocolate and topped with marshmallows. Sweet eggnog sprinkled with cinnamon. Honey ham, sweet potato soufflé, cornbread dressing, and deviled eggs. Gingerbread dunked in milk. Unopened fruit cake “regifted” from person to person, family to family, home to home. Chex mix baked with butter and garlic. Some homemade pumpkin pie.

In the Gospels, one title given to Jesus is “Emmanuel” which means “God with us.” For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, God’s grace is all about us in these Holiest of Days. During this Christmas season, see, hear, smell, touch, and taste that the Lord is good!

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