

January 2023 - General Meeting

Dinner: 7:00, CTO: 8:00 PM

This month's Membership meeting was held at Faith Chapel.

Attending: Adams, Cleland, Dunn, Fabboli, Falk, Frankenfield, Hart, Hillebrand, Kohler, Logue, McKenzie, Menendez A and M, Penaranda, Quitter, Roques B, Rubright E, Ruth, Tassi

Thanks to P. Logue for providing the dinner.

Welcome: Guests: Wendy Gagnon, Melissa Fye, Esdras Pineda, Brian Clark from Riverside Church-Co-Pastor and Trustee of Faith Chapel.

Convocation by John Adams.

Minutes: Secretary noted no minutes taken for December 2022 because of our Annual Dinner, held at Raspberry Falls. Minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report: M. Dunn reported for D. Stanley, who was ill and not present. Mike reported our accounts as of the end of December. We had \$23,892.14 in our Truist checking account; \$137,572.56 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$126,148.08 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$96,806.04 and Opportunity Fund \$29,342.04), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$287,687.78. Mike noted that a meeting of the Financial Committee is scheduled for January 24th, and that we received a \$1,000 donation from a local family.

Program

Our speaker was Brian Clark, Co-Pastor and Trustee of Faith Chapel, who spoke about the status of the church and plans for its use going forward. Brian came from western Pennsylvania to find a community characterized by growing secularism. Brian acknowledged that churches are changing, joking that, "the problem with church is that people go there," meaning that within any group, there will be disagreements and struggles. Over the years, the Faith Chapel building has served as a school, a hospital, and a church.

In 1855, Faith Chapel was built as a Presbyterian "low church," physically characterized by clear windows and no stained glass except for one small window, and meaning that the sanctuary was not considered to be "holy." Brian noted that people make it holy. The National Capital Presbytery owns

the building and manages it via a Board of Elders. A few years ago, this Board saw a need in the Lucketts area and asked Riverside Church in Sterling, VA to take on the task of developing a church community at Faith Chapel. Elder Gary Mears moved to this area, determined community needs, and eventually established the Food Pantry, which was especially active and needed during the Covid time period. However, as time went on, Faith Chapel never developed as a viable church community, and Gary Mears eventually left for Fairfax County. Brian Clark is now leading the management functions of Faith Chapel, with Lucketts Ruritan Club member, Barbara Roques, managing the food pantry and Amanda Vila managing the development of a community space where groups can hold meetings, attend classes and events (including weddings), and socialize. Because of the need for a sustainable model, income from the manse and from donations pays for the church utilities and upkeep, with all received monies matched by the National Presbytery. Faith Chapel is now thriving, thanks to the efforts of these dedicated people! Our Ruritan Club now meets at Faith Chapel for our monthly club and Board meetings.

President's Announcements

1. Congratulations to Tom Small as Ruritan of the Year, Cindy Kohler as Rookie of the Year, and Barbara Roques for special recognition as manager of the food pantry.
2. Many thanks to Don and Patty Stanley for finding the beautiful venue at Raspberry Falls for our annual dinner; to Peter Hart for again soliciting and receiving a \$5,000 to the club from AutoNation; to Cindy Kohler and Tom Small for trash collection on Christmas Eve, and to Rich and Jackie Cleland for supporting the food pantry with a donation jar at trash.
3. Pres. Logue announced that the once-a-month Fellowship Fridays will return to Faith Chapel on Jan. 27th.
4. Pres. Logue is compiling a spouse mailing list; she asked members to email her with contact information.
5. Update on Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church (Bald Hill Rd.) renovations: P. met with Arthur Davis, the last living trustee of this historic church. Our club role is continuing by coordinating an evaluation of the building by a structural engineer and supporting

Donna Bohannon from Balch Library on her oral history project. For further information, contact Pat, Jay Frankenfield, or Peter Gustafson.

Business Meeting: Committee Reports

GiveChoose – M. Dunn

We have already received a commitment of \$10,000 for GiveChoose. Please remember to give during the campaign in March.

Scholarships – R. Cleland

Rich reported that the committee approved several changes to our program: 1) we are including an element of financial need in our application to better serve those students in our community without resources for higher education; 2) we are putting procedures in place to reach students who plan to attend a community college or vocational school. We now have two applications, one for those planning to go to a four-year college or university and one for those planning to go to a vocational school. We have reached out to NoVA and Monroe to identify vocational students and also plan to mail informational post cards to Lucketts residents to reach homeschooled students.

Environment – P. Logue for B. Scott

We are looking into starting a Friends of Temple Hall group to assist with events at the park.

Youth Programs – M. Menendez

We have four very active participants in our Rudy Youth Club at Smarts Middle School. The group managed a successful clothing drive for seniors during the winter.

Fellowship Report – P. Logue

We plan to send out a survey about our club programs for member input.

Our February Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15th to avoid conflict with Valentine's Day on Tuesday.

Announcements

1. We have no update on the Small Area Plan. B. McClain is our POC for this initiative.
2. Barbara Roques daughter received a scholarship to the London School of Economics!

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

January 2023 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

The January BOD meeting was held at Faith Chapel.

CTO: 7:20 p.m.

Attending: Bond, Dunn, Gustafson, Hart, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Rubright E, Ruth, Scott, Stanley

Minutes: Sec. Penaranda summarized minutes from the January General Membership meeting. Minutes are available on the Ruritan Club website.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley provided a financial report as of December 31st, 2022. We have We had \$23,892.14 in our Truist checking account; \$137,572.56 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$126,148.08 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$96,806.04 and Opportunity Fund \$29,342.04), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$287,687.78. Don noted that our Vanguard account is up, total assets are up, and member dues are strong, with over half already in; however, trash receipts are down (about \$8K short), and he noted that our compactor service fee will go up in February. Our banquet cost is \$2,500 under budget.

Swearing in of 2023 Board

P. Gustafson, representing our Nominating Committee, swore in our new Board.

Updates/Committee Reports

Finance Committee – M. Dunn

M. Dunn reported that our goal for GiveChoose is now \$15K to meet our current budget deficit. The committee reviewed our budget and recommended no other changes other than the GiveChoose adjustment. J. Ruth presented an idea to sponsor Bingo games to raise funds; she noted that Bingo seems to be a consistent draw, and other clubs have been successful with this type of fundraising. Jody and others will check out other Bingo venues and report back to the BOD. M. Dunn suggested that if we go forward with this idea, we could hold the games at the old firehouse.

GiveChoose – M. Dunn

We need to show early activity, so the Board will match gifts up to \$1K as appropriate, with monies going directly to the club. Early giving begins on Feb. 14th; see link to GiveChoose on our website.

Financial Review – A. Menendez

Two committee members each reviewed 10 transactions at random, following the paper trail and documentation of disbursements. They found no discrepancies or improprieties.

Shopping Bag Project – P. Logue for C. Kohler

An idea was presented for a way to market the club by selling reusable shopping bags featuring artwork from students at LES and Smarts Middle School and the Lucketts Ruritan logo. The club would sell the bags at trash and at SEAS environmental exposition this spring. This is not a budgeted item, so we will pursue sponsorships by local businesses to cover the cost of the bags. Artwork will be determined from an art contest at the two schools.

July Event with Piedmont Heritage Area (previously the Mosby Heritage Area) – P. Gustafson

At this event, the group plans to focus on Lucketts. Last year, they sponsored a horse trail ride that began at Temple Hall and proceeded to River Farm and along the river to Whitmore's farm. This year, the group wants the event to be broader to include the community at large. One idea is a tour of historic Lucketts venues. They are planning an event on July 16th at LCC and are applying for a grant.

Grant Committee Update – P. Logue

We have a draft MOU with LCC. We have reviewed the indemnification language. We are looking for a personal injury lawyer or corporate attorney to help us with legal issues.

Miscellaneous Updates:

1. Holly McTiernan will become an At Large member.
2. The February General Meeting will be February 15th to avoid conflict with Valentine's Day.
3. Temple Hall is planning an event in April to kick off their spring/summer season.
4. Paige Neeley, Dir. of LCC, has volunteered to assist Suzanne Eblen with the Spring Yard Sale event in Berryville.
5. The court has appointed five trustees for the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. Trustees have received a report from the structural engineer on the condition of the building. This group is in the process of becoming a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
6. Fellowship Fridays at Faith Chapel will be discontinued for lack of participation.

Adjourned 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

