



# The Knightlighter



The Official Publication of the Knights of Columbus, Msgr. James R. Jones Council 3303  
and Kenneth I. Parker Assembly 1820, New Bern, NC

## January

January 4 - Bingo

January 5 - Council Business  
Mtg @ 7 pm

January 6 - Assembly Officers  
Mtg @ 7 pm

January 11 - Bingo

January 13 - Assembly  
Mtg @ 7 pm

January 18 - Bingo

January 25 - Bingo

January 26 - Council Officers  
Mtg @ 7 pm

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Editor: Guy Ferrante  
kingandeverhard@outlook.com

## Grand Knight's Comments



Brother Knights,

The month of December was highlighted by the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of our Chaplain, Father Thomas Tully. Congratulations and best wishes for many more years of service to our council and our parish. Once again, our Knights have demonstrated their love of our community by the donation of

time and talent to enhance the lives of many. Thank you. A brief description of several events follows

Santa Visit to St. Paul School: Instead of a Christmas Party in the Hall, Santa and Mrs. Claus visited the children at St. Paul School on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Gordy Barnes organized all the details which are discussed in an article later in this issue. Thanks Gordy.

Craven County Senior Center Holiday Lunch: The annual Craven County Senior Center Christmas Party was replaced this year by a Drive Thru Lunch supported by the Knights. Jerry Abramowski coordinated this event with the Senior Center staff. See an article with pictures later in this issue. Hats off to Jerry for a job well done.

Poinsettia and Christmas Card Delivery to Widows: The Poinsettia Team, led by Vince Fragnito delivered almost 5 dozen poinsettias and Christmas cards to widows of departed Knights. Team members and their delivery areas are as follows: Danny Gennantonio - Trent Woods; Dick Dodson - James City/Taberna; Fred Amend - Simmons/Hospital; Henry Schfranski - Fairfield Harbour; Kevin Blust - River Bend; Vince Fragnito - Greenbrier/Amhurst. Thanks to all and to Mikie Casem for designing and procuring the Christmas cards.

Bingo Continues: Slowly but surely the bingo players are returning. Our dedicated Bingo Team, led by Doug Uhland, has insured a safe environment for everyone.

Membership: We now have 337 members with a net of 5 additional members this Fraternal Year. Our Membership Director, Dan Macsary will be contacting all our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree members with an opportunity to attain full knighthood. The process has been simplified with the use of on-line exemplification. If you are in one of these categories be on the lookout for an email from Dan.

LAMB: I want to thank Tom Henry, our LAMB Director, for his leadership during this challenging year. Kudos also for Jim Kelly for having the insight to go after a \$1000 grant and matching money donated by the Town of New Bern. See the LAMB article later in this issue for details.

**Looking Ahead**: Our council will continue to be busy in the next few months.

Spiritual Day of Reflection: Brother Dick Dodson is leading the planning for a Spiritual Day of Reflection to be held in the Spring. The event will be held in the Columbus Club Hall and will include a Mass, followed by a snack and then a series of lectures and discussions with lunch included. The Knights of Columbus NC State Chaplain, Reverend William P. Lesak will lead the discussions. The event is open to men and women of the parish. We will select a date depending upon COVID-19 guidance provided by the governor. Additional details will be provided in parish media as the day draws near

Wives Appreciation Dinner: Planning is under way for our Wives Appreciation Dinner to be held on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at the New Bern Golf and Country Club. George and Louise Halyak are the leaders for this event. Reservation forms have been sent via email. If you did not receive an email, please call George at (252) 637-9225 for details.

St. Paul Parish Bicentennial Event Coordinator Duties: We will be an Event Coordinator for one of the St. Paul Parish Bicentennial events. We will help the Bicentennial Committee with the event to be held on Sunday afternoon, March 28, 2021. Deputy Grand Knight Randall Raiman and Sir Knight Bo Wernersbach are the leads for our council. We will publish more detail as it becomes available.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner: Planning is under way for this dinner which supports the Special Olympics community. This will be a Drive-Thru only event with food being distributed from the Columbus Club Hall. The date is Thursday, February 18, 2021. The local Pizza Huts will provide the food. Tickets will be sold after masses in early February. All proceeds are used to support the Special Olympic organizations in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico Counties. Stan Namowicz is our lead.

Fish Fries During Lent: We are planning to have three Fish Fries during Lent. The dates are February 26, March 12, and March 26, 2021. COVID-19 rules will dictate whether they are held in the Family Life Center or as Drive Thru events. Once again Ralph Aviles will lead this event

A Beloved Brother and Wife Have Passed: We recently received word from the son of former Knight Frank Pocta that Frank passed in January 2018 and his wife Gladys Pocta passed in December 2020. They had relocated to Mechanicsville, VA, several years ago. Their son Steve has said that their ashes will be interred in St. Paul Cemetery in July 2021. May they Rest in Peace.

Vivat Jesus!

**Steve Harman, Grand Knight**

## Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit St. Paul School



As with most events in 2020, our Christmas Party took on a different format with the Knights going out rather than families coming into the hall. Most children attending our annual Party go to St Paul's School, so it was decided to have an in-school event with Santa & Mrs. Claus (Jerry & Pam Schill) and two elves delivering gifts to each classroom and each specialty teacher along with a candy cane for the children. Santa explained the story of Saint Nicholas to each class. It was uplifting to see the expressions on the faces of the children, especially the younger ones. We prepared and served a beautiful meal of lasagna, garlic bread and salad for the school staff. Thanks to Paul Masotta for cooking, Marie Masotta for helping to serve, elves Steve Harman & Dick Dodson, and Rosemary Wetzell, Lucy Andre, and Joan Considine for wrapping the gifts. These pictures capture the joy associated with the event.



**Gordon Barnes, Event Leader**

## Family of the Month – December

This month we honor another exemplary couple as Family of the Month. The distinction goes to Doug and Nancy Uhland. They set a high standard for Knight participants.

Doug comes from a small farming community in Northern California called Arbuckle. He graduated from the University of California at Davis with a BS degree in physical sciences. He then went into the Air Force and served for 32 years flying C-141 aircraft. He later flew for Eastern Airlines and then did a stint in a civil service position with the Air Force Reserve.

Nancy graduated from Penn State with a degree in elementary education. She served in the Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey where as a 2d Lt was the Assistant Adjutant for a training brigade. She later served as a production manager for three separate corporations and then taught second grade at a Catholic school in New Jersey.

Doug met Nancy while stationed at McGuire Air Force Base right next to Fort Dix. They have one son who is an Air Force pilot and who interestingly is stationed at McGuire AFB. The Uhlans moved to New Bern in 2004 and immediately became involved in the Knights, the parish and the community.

Doug is the 3303 Council treasurer, the BINGO chairman, and Faithful Navigator for the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly 1820. He also devotes time to LAMB and the Yard Sale. Outside of the Knights, he's a member of VFW Post 2514, Post 529 of the American Legion, and Elks Lodge 724. Nancy volunteers at the Yard Sale, is a member of VFW Post 2514 Auxiliary and is a past commander of the American Legion Post 539.

One becomes somewhat exhausted visualizing the hours the Uhlans devote to their many endeavors. Such selfless devotion to the Knights and the community easily enables us to tip our hats this extraordinary couple.

**John Murphy, Family Director**

### A Most Sincere “Thank You”

It has been a very challenging year, 2020, to say the least. What with just life alone going on, then we have had covid-19 to deal with, upsetting our schedules and lives.

I would like to take a moment to thank all who helped me co-ordinate the LAMB collections this year, and to also include all who donated extra for the cause. It is truly appreciated and goes toward a great cause. From the church collections, the business collections, the personal donations, and other activities where there was a collection involved.

Currently we have collected approximately \$5,400 this year, with another \$2,000 being donated from the Town of New Bern, and a covid-19 grant which we have been selected to receive.

While we were unable to collect in the front of Wal-Mart this year because of covid-19, there has been a sizeable amount collected by other means with a lot of work by you, the members.

**Tom Henry**  
**LAMB Administrator, Knights of Columbus Council 3303**

## January 25 is the Feast Day of the Conversion of St. Paul, Our Parish's Patron Saint

St. Paul, named Saul at birth, was born at Tarsus, Cilicia, of Jewish parents who were descended from the tribe of Benjamin. He was a Roman citizen from birth. As he was "a young man" at the stoning of Stephen and "an old man" when writing to Philemon, about the year 63, he was probably born around the beginning of the Christian era.

To complete his schooling, Saul was sent to Jerusalem, where he sat at the feet of the learned Gamaliel and was educated in the strict observance of the ancestral Law. Here he also acquired a good knowledge of exegesis and was trained in the practice of disputation. As a convinced and zealous Pharisee, he returned to Tarsus before the public life of Christ opened in Palestine.

After the death of Our Lord, Saul returned to Palestine. His profound conviction made his zeal develop to a religious fanaticism against the infant Church. He took part in the stoning of the first martyr, St. Stephen, and in the fierce persecution of the Christians that followed.

Entrusted with a formal mission from the high priest, he departed for Damascus to arrest the Christians there and bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he was nearing Damascus, about noon, a light from heaven suddenly blazed round him. Jesus with His glorified body appeared to him and addressed him, turning him away from his apparently successful career.

An immediate transformation was wrought in the soul of Saul. He was suddenly converted to the Christian Faith. He was baptized, changed his name from Saul to Paul, and began travelling and preaching the Faith. He was martyred as an Apostle in Rome around 65 AD.

— Excerpted from *Lives of the Saints*

St. Paul is the **Patron** of the people and of authors, the Cursillo movement, evangelists, journalists, lay people, musicians, public relations work, publishers, reporters, saddle-makers, tentmakers, and writers; he is against snakes. **Symbols** of St. Paul include book and sword, three fountains, two swords, scourge, serpent and a fire, armor of God, twelve scrolls with names of his Epistles, phoenix, palm tree, shield of faith, and sword; book. He is often portrayed as a thin-faced elderly man with a high forehead, receding hairline and long pointed beard; man holding a sword and a book; man with 3 springs of water nearby.

**Deacon Jim Hackett**

### Do You Have the Right Type of Life Insurance?

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a Merry Christmas.

When speaking to Brother Knights, they usually tell me they have "enough life insurance". My response to them is, "Do you have the right type of life insurance?" Of course, this always brings on strange looks.

Having the right amount of life insurance is sometimes not as important as the having the right type of life insurance. Members who have term insurance may not realize that most term

insurance ends at age 70. Many of you will live beyond age 70. In fact, less than 1 out of 100 term policies will ever actually pay a death claim. Now at age 70, you realize that you need whole life insurance that has a guaranteed death benefit until age 120. Plus, the death benefit is paid income-tax free to your beneficiaries.

About 50% of working persons participate in a group life insurance program through their employer. This “security blanket” is not guaranteed to be there when it is needed the most. The benefit amount is not based on the needs of the insured or their family, but an amount that is mostly tied to a salary multiple. Companies may reduce or cancel this benefit in bad economic times, they may not be transportable, and they do not provide cash value the insured can access in emergencies.

Younger members should be looking for whole life insurance for the same reason. You can learn from your experienced Brother Knights and buy whole life insurance now to “lock in” at a much lower rate. Our whole life insurance pays dividends that increase the death benefit and have a cash value that increases as well (if you continue to pay your premiums). The cash value can be accessed for such needs as emergencies, funding education, or to supplement your retirement income.

You may be one of the members who bought universal life or variable life, which is sometimes sold as “whole life insurance and an investment”. However, the actual cost of insurance is increasing while your premiums remain the same. As the cost grows larger than the premium, they deduct the difference from your cash value until the money runs out and the policy lapses.

To protect my brother knights, I ask that ALL OF YOU request a 20-year projection of future values from your other insurance companies. Call me when you get it. Together, we will review the information to decide what options are best for you. Don't just assume you have a whole life policy or that all insurances are the same.

**Norman J Wilson, FICF**  
**Knights of Columbus Field Agent**  
**910-803-8002; [norman.wilson@kofc.org](mailto:norman.wilson@kofc.org)**

### **Membership Update**

The year 2020 is coming to a close and what a year it has been! Hopefully, we won't see another like it. This is also the time of year we make our resolutions for the New Year. As Brother Knights I would ask that each and every one of you make a resolution to bring into our fold at least one new member this coming year. More so now than ever we need to strengthen the bonds of our faith and help others dedicate themselves to the principles we believe in: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year. For those that want to advance their degree Online Exemplification is available and for new members I will be glad to help them through the process of becoming a Knight. I can be reached at 252-658-4014 or email address [d.macsay@gmail.com](mailto:d.macsay@gmail.com).

**Dan Macsay, Membership Director**

## **Knight of the Month – December**

The Msgr. James R. Jones Council Knight of the Month is Brother David R. Nelson. Thirty years ago, Sir Knight Danny Gennantonio, a neighbor of David, sponsored him to become a Knight in Council 3303. David has been a mainstay with the Council's Bingo program for the past several years, where he can be found calling Bingo games on a regular basis.

David was born in Lenoir, North Carolina, and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, where he met his wife, Carrie. David received his bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences and Carrie a bachelor's degree in Nursing. An oil field geologist was David's first career after college and he and Carrie lived in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Houston, Texas, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They relocated to Trent Woods in 1988 after he made a career change. He is now a partner in Capital Insurance & Financial Services Inc., a full-service independent insurance agency based out of Raleigh, North Carolina, with two offices in Raleigh, an office in Fuquay Varina, and an office in New Bern. Carrie has worked as a nurse at Carolina East Hospital for the past 26 years. David and Carrie have four children - Lisa, Lara, Andrew, and Adam. Andrew and Adam are both Brother Knights in Council 3303.

In addition to working on the Bingo crew, David is involved with the Columbus Club and is also an Usher at St. Paul Church. He is a member of the Wolfpack Club and his family attends as many North Carolina State University athletic events as their schedules permit. He enjoys hiking, fishing, and hunting.

Congratulations on your selection as December Knight of the Month and thank you for all your efforts with our Council and St. Paul's Parish.

**Randall Ramian, Deputy Grand Knight**

### **Patriots' Prayer**

Our Father, Giver of life,  
we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care.  
You are the rock on which this nation was founded.  
You alone are the true source of our cherished rights  
to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  
Reclaim this land for your glory and dwell among your people.  
Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders.  
Open their minds to the great worth of human life  
and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.  
Remind your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your Will.  
Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate,  
Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death."  
Lead us into a new millennium of life.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**Mikie Casem, Past Grand Knight**

## Columbian Year 2019-2020 Awards



During the December 1, 2020 Knights of Columbus Monsignor James R, Jones Council #3303 Meeting, District Deputy Joe Banks presented several awards to Steve Harman, Grand Knight and Mike Lynch, Past Grand Knight.

Awards presented for Columbian Year 2019-2020: Recognition Award - Charity Council; Columbian Award; Duane Russell Newsletter Award (Third Place); and Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign Award.

Of note, these awards would have been presented to Council 3303 during the North Carolina Knights of Columbus State Annual Meeting earlier this year, but the meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Randall Ramian, Deputy Grand Knight**





## Faithful Navigator Report



Well, the events of the past year have certainly presented challenges to our organization. We saw the emergence of the Covid19 virus which soon touched every facet of American life. Businesses have closed, schools have closed, jobs were lost, and hospitals and food banks have been stretched to their limits. The virus has killed over 5,900 in our state, over 300,000 in our country and over 1.6 million world-wide. Restrictions imposed by the authorities have affected our Council and Assembly in a number of ways. The Council's bingo operation was totally shut down until just recently. The Columbus Club has been unable to rent the Hall. Most of our meetings have either been cancelled or held virtually. The only bright spot, if there is one, is that our Yard Sale has continued to go strong. Our volunteers have continued to work tirelessly to collect, sort, and price the myriad donations that continue to flood into our operation daily. Sales this year have generated over \$77,000 which enabled us to continue to support our church, school, and over 30 local and

national charities at pre-covid levels. With the arrival of the new vaccines, there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel. We will, however, have to get through the coming winter. The number of hospitalizations and deaths due to the virus have continued to increase in recent weeks, so we cannot let our guard down. We must continue to take the recommended steps to mitigate the effects of the virus. Wear your mask, keep your distance, and wash your hands. Get vaccinated as soon as it becomes available and hopefully in the next few months we can get back to normal.

On another subject, the Vietnam traveling wall we be coming to New Bern this coming April. As you may remember, it was supposed to have come last April, but the whole tour was cancelled due to Covid19. The tour is back on in 2021 and New Bern will be the first stop. The Wall will be on display for four days and we will need volunteers to act as docents, parking attendants, volunteer coordinators and to cover other odd jobs. Ralph Aviles, Randall Ramian, and I are in charge of lining up volunteers. Please consider helping us out. We will be sending out information on how to volunteer in the next couple of months.

Finally, on behalf of myself and the officers of our Assembly, I want to wish every one of you a very merry Christmas and happy New Year. Stay safe and here's to looking forward to a happy, healthy, and "normal" 2021.

Vivat Jesus!

**Doug Uhland, Faithful Navigator**

## Sir Knight of the Month – December

Our Sir Knight for the month of December is Denny Cobert.

Denny's hard work has earned him this honor. Denny has served his country in the USMC. We thank him for his great service. Denny has also helped the Red Cross – he sets up their blood drives. He is like a vampire always looking for blood. We now can call Denny a true truck monkey. He has now earned his wings. The long days picking up furniture on the truck has made him a monkey.

We thank you for stepping up and doing all that you do for the Knights. May GOD BLESS YOU.

**Philip Nassef, Faithful Captain.**

## The Senior Center Christmas Drive-Thru Celebration

The Craven County Senior Center Christmas celebration was modified this year due to COVID-19. Instead of several Knights serving a meal and then supporting an in-house Christmas Party with Santa (Danny Gennantonio), a few Knights helped the staff prepare to-go boxes with a first-class southern fried chicken dinner. In addition to the Drive-Thru crowd, the Senior Center staff traveled to the far reaches of the county to deliver meals. In all, about 70 citizens enjoyed the meal. Both the Council and the Assembly generously supported this Senior Center event. In the picture below from left to right are Brothers Jerry Abramowski and Denny Colbert and staff members Tanya Davis, Michelle Amundsen, and Melanie Reed. Grand Knight Steve Harman was part of the team to hand out the meals.

**Jerry Abramowski, Event Coordinator**



# K of C Council 3303

## Request for Personal Information Update *Help keep the Council informed so they may keep you informed*

Member Name

Member #

Date of Request

### Information to be changed

What do you wish to update?

Existing Information

Change to Information

Please return this form to:

A drop box will soon be available in the Chambers to return your request:

Post Office costs continue to rise and add considerable expense to the Council's budget.

Do you have an email address or have access to an email address?

**Email Address to use:** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for helping us to keep accurate and up to date records.

All Information will be sent to the Financial Secretary for his attention.

The Tech Team

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### THE KNIGHTLIGHTER

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### Officers of Father Kenneth I. Parker Assembly 1820

### Father Kenneth I. Parker Assembly

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