



Kiwanis Club of Grundy, Virginia

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3 JANUARY 2007

## SWVA Region Spring Conference held at the Martha Washington Inn

The Martha Washington Inn began life as an illustrious home indeed! It was built in 1832 as a private residence for General Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan Preston and their nine children.

Much of the architectural integrity of this historic landmark has been meticulously preserved for over a century and a half.



The original brick residence still comprises the central structure of The Martha Washington Inn, and the original living room of the Preston family is now the main lobby of the inn. In fact, the grand stairway and parlors are today much as they were in the 19th century. The rare and elaborate Dutch-baroque grandfather clock, measuring over nine feet tall, was shipped from England by one of the Preston daughters, Mrs. Floyd, and now resides in the East Parlor.

Amazingly, over 150 years ago, the residence was built for just under \$15,000 dollars. Although paltry by today's standards, this was undoubtedly a precious sum at the time! In 1858 the Preston family home was purchased

for the incredible sum of \$21,000 dollars in order for the mansion to become an upscale college for young women. In honor of the first lady of our nation, the school was named Martha Washington College and affectionately coined "The Martha" by locals. The college operated for over 70 years through the years of the Civil War and the Great Depression. In fact, it was during the Civil War that many of the Martha's most intriguing ghost stories and legends evolved.

The "War Between the States" was soon to have a dramatic effect on the college. Schoolgirls became nurses, and the beautiful grounds became training barracks for the Washington Mounted Rifles. Union and Confederate troops were involved in frequent skirmishes in and around the town with the college serving as a makeshift hospital for the wounded, both Confederate and Yankee. Despite the devastating effects of the Civil War, the Martha Washington College survived. However, the Great Depression, typhoid fever, and a declining enrollment eventually took its toll. The Martha was closed in 1932, standing idle for several years.

For the next 50 years The Martha was to experience a number of changes in ownership. For a period of time the facility was used to house actors and actresses appearing at the Barter Theatre across the street. Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine, and Ned Beatty are but a few of the prominent actors who began their career here... all of whom have later returned to visit The Martha. The Barter Theatre is today known as the longest-running professional resident theatre in America.

(Detailed information on the conference will be in the next issue)

## Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 - **Regular Dinner Meeting at Food City** - Program - Joe Tennis, Author, promoting his book called *Crossroads*. (6:00 P.M.)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 - **Regular Dinner Meeting at Food City** - Program - Nuts & Bolts of Kiwanis (6:00 P.M.)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 - **Regular Dinner Meeting at Food City** - K Family Night with Key Club (6:00 P.M.)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - **Kiwanis Club of Grundy celebrates its 60th Anniversary** - Location T.B.D.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH - **Kiwanis Annual Duck Race**

## Note from President Bill Parish

I hope all our members had a wonderful holiday season—let's work to make 2007 one of the best years in history for Buchanan County and for the Grundy Kiwanis Club!

I happened to notice a past issue of the Kiwanis Magazine that had an article headline, "The Time is Now." How true that is in our situation. We have just finished one quarter of our Kiwanis year. We are making many strides toward becoming a vibrant, successful club once more. We do, however, have several tasks left to accomplish. *The time is now!* I distributed our committee assignments prior to Christmas and will e-mail you a copy soon. Look over your assignment and if you feel you could make a contribution in another area, talk to me at a meeting. I am asking each committee to meet soon to plan its projects for the year so we can develop a calendar to share with each member.

Over the years our club has had some wonderful projects that have changed as well as improved the lives of many of our county residents. We want both to continue this heritage and to improve on it. If our committees do a good job of identifying areas in which our club can help, we can be effective. Remember, the time is now!

Yours in service,

Bill



Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to

changing the world one child and one community at a time



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Bill Parish

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Bill Neeley

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Curtis Mullins

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**Editor:**  
Ryan Mullins



## Greetings from your Lieutenant Governor

*By Jon Rife*

Holiday greeting from your Lt. Governor! My sincere wishes that each and every Kiwanian and family had a wonderful holiday. Rita and I enjoyed the official visit in November with Governor Bob Cressy. We attended Wise and then our banquet hosted at ASL; nine of ten Division 8 clubs were represented. Our December has been filled with planning the Spring Conference set for March 30 and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mark this date as this will be fun-filled as well as educational. Plans are finalized for Martha Washington Inn for Friday night with the Banquet at the Martha and then enjoying a play at Barter Theater. On Saturday we have scheduled workshops. Governor Bob Cressy, Past Governor Yvonne Holley, and Governor Art Riley will attend. If you have not had the honor of meeting these special people, you are in for a treat. Also the Grundy Key Club held true to the spirit of Christmas.

The Key Club adopted a family with two children and spent \$300 in toys and clothes. Also they donated to the Grundy High School Christmas Dance. All was not joyful for the Council Club in November; we lost a dear member Eula Compton to complications following heart bypass surgery.

Eula served as secretary of the Council Club and she will be missed. Another important date is Feb. 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Capital District Board will meet for the first time in over 80 years in our Southwest Region in Abingdon. I will have details for any Kiwanians who wish to attend.

We have successfully finished one quarter of our year and I am looking forward to working with my home club and the other nine clubs for the rest of our year.

## Programs for January 2007

*By Jon Rife, January Program Chair*

**January 9th**---PROGRAM will be on COMMITTEES and their functions. Everyone is encouraged to come and in particular the committee chair person: their will be NO Buffet!

There are 5 STANDING Committees that report on our Monthly Report for 'scoring' of the report:

- COMMUNITY SERVICE----- Debra Green Chair
- YOUTH SERVICES-----Ernie Hertzog Chair
- HUMAN & SPIRITUAL AIMS----- Bill Neeley Chair
- K FAMILY & KEY CLUB-----Priscilla Johnson Chair
- YOUNG CHILDREN-PRIORITY ONE----- Lee Hibbitts Chair

**January 16TH**----- Author JOE TENNIS will speak on his book "Southwest Virginia Crossroads" featuring Buchanan County and other southwest counties. For those who would like to know more about this area and how places got their names this would be the time to learn! Buffet dinner is served

**January 23rd** ----- Kiwanis 101 this will be a nuts and bolts of basic Kiwanis. Should be good for all to learn more about KIWANIS

**January 30th**-----K Family Night with our KEY CLUB and their sponsor Karen Brown

## Elderly Woman and Family Adopted for Christmas

*By Priscilla Johnson*

We adopted an elderly woman (with the help of the Sheriff's Department) for Christmas. We bought her some gloves, hat and scarf sat and gave her a Food City gift card. That is what was requested.

The Grundy High School Key Club and Grundy Kiwanis Club adopted a local family for Christmas. They bought them clothes, DVD, shoes and toys. The Key club went to a local store and did the Christmas shopping between both clubs. They spent a little over \$300.00. Then they took it to the family ad the family was very overwhelmed and very appreciative. This family was picked by the Kiwanis Club because they were having some hard times and needed some help.

*Special thanks to Grundy Funeral Home for the use of their equipment for the design and printing of this newsletter*

