



## Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

### This Week:

December 15  
Bill Ireland  
*First Baptist Men's  
Ensemble - Bryan  
McAllister*

### Upcoming Meetings:

December 22  
**No Meeting**

December 29  
**No Meeting**

### Club Officers:

**Jason Parker**  
President  
**Bruce Satterfield**  
President-Elect  
**Frank M. Hogshead**  
Secretary, Treasurer  
**David Aft**  
Immediate Past President  
**Teresa Carter**  
Club Administration Chair  
**John Hutcheson**  
Public Image Chair  
**Rick Cobb**  
Membership Chair  
**Janice Kiker**  
Community Service Chair  
**Scott Rhoden**  
Youth Service Chair  
**Kevin Brunson**  
Vocational Service Chair  
**Archana Srivastava**  
International Service  
Chair  
**Greg Dent**  
Foundation Chair

## A Christmas Message from Robin Lindse

By: John Hutcheson



Rotarian Robin Lindsey, Senior Pastor of Dalton's First United Methodist Church, offered the club a three-part Christmas Message which brought forward figures as diverse as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Charles Dickens, and Robin himself.

He began with an account of Rudolph's origins and path to the central place he now holds in American Christmas tradition. In 1939 Robert L. May, an advertising copywriter for Montgomery Ward, was asked to write a children's book for his company to distribute during the Christmas season. The request came at a sad time in May's life, for he had recently lost his wife, leaving him with a small daughter. With her help he composed a story in rhyming couplets which related how Rudolph, though rejected by other reindeer because of his large glowing nose, was discovered by Santa during his travels one foggy Christmas Eve and became a hero by guiding Santa's sleigh through the bad weather, enabling him to finish his deliveries on time. Robin read the original story from a facsimile copy of the first edition and related how in 1949 Johnny Marks, May's brother-in-law, made a slightly modified version of the story into a song. After many producers had refused it, the song was recorded by Gene Autry and within a year had sold 2.5 million copies, eventually reaching 25 million copies and holding the title of best-selling recording until the 1980's.

Robin then turned to Charles Dickens and paraphrased an essay Dickens wrote in 1851 entitled "What Christmas Is as We Grow Older." In a set of observations rather than a story, Dickens reflected on how the experience of Christmas changes as we move from childhood through parenthood, grandparenthood, and finally to old age. At each stage, the joy we take from Christ's birth embraces ever-widening circles of family and friends, until in our late years we open our hearts and homes to all without boundaries or barriers, including even our enemies and those who have passed on before us.

Finally, Robin mentioned the difficulty many clergy like himself have faced over the past few weeks to proclaim the Christmas message convincingly in a world that seems to have become exceptionally violent. Our generation is not the first to have to live in that situation, however—he recalled the Christmas of 1941, following Pearl Harbor, and other Christmases in time of war or social strife. The peace of Christ endures through all, and Robin reminded us of the story behind Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," written in 1863 after Longfellow had seen his wife burned to death in an accidental fire and his son severely wounded in the Civil War. The bells

of Christmas gave the poet hope in his despair—"The Wrong shall fail, / The Right prevail, / With peace on earth, good-will to men!" Set to music, the poem has become a familiar Christmas carol, which Robin sang to close his message for Christmas, 2015.

## December 15th Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Member Birthdays

Sponcler, Maurice M. Jr. (MAURICE) 17-Dec  
Woodward, Philip F (PHIL) 20-Dec

### Birthday

### Partner Birthdays

Poehlman, Sally  
Barnett, Tammy

### Member Name Birthday

Poehlman, John H. 17-Dec  
Barnett, George S 18-Dec

### Member Anniversaries

Langner, Bruna (BRUNA)  
Minor, John Thomas V (JOHN)

### Start Date

17-Dec-13  
17-Dec-13

### Years

2  
2

### Wedding Anniversaries

McCoy, Norman D. (NORMAN)  
Bailey, Philip Bates (BATES)  
Farmer, Joseph (JOSEPH)  
McLeod, Robert S (BOB)

### Partner's Name

Barbara  
Dell  
Sierra  
Carolyn (CAROL)

### Anniversary

18-Dec  
18-Dec  
20-Dec  
21-Dec

### Years

55  
44  
6  
50

