



The Cog

Rotary Club No. 3503
P. O. Box 544,
St. Marys, OH 45885.
www.stmarysrotary.org
November 27, 2013

Call to Order

President Dan Burke called the meeting to order. Kathy Sampson offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kraig Noble led us in singing "Shine On, Harvest Moon." Dan Hosek introduced our guests Mary Cogan, Michelle Wale, Buzz Howard, Kathy Gorby, Alisher Khudakulov, Katie Burke, Jan Heinrich, Jonathan Noble and Ron Meyer. Allen Baskett, Paige Canfield, and Pat Cogan celebrated birthdays this week.

Happy Dollars

Gayle Masonbrink was happy the Day of Giving Luncheon at the high school on Thanksgiving, Randy for skiing, Kathy for Elizabeth speaking today and for Kraig's son Jon being a guest today, Robbie for Elizabeth speaking and Katie Burke being here, Ron Gorby for Elizabeth, his wife Kathy being a guest today,

and for the circus coming to St Marys on May 17th, Tami Sanford for Elizabeth speaking, Ellen Hunter for Buzz Howard being her favorite former teacher and Jon, who she used to coach on the swim team being with us today, Rita was happy her mother-in-law is home from the hospital, Keith had a Go Bucks for Don Hinckley, And Rev Maki was happy Michigan State will play Ohio State in the Big Ten Championship and MSU basketball #1 ranking in nation.

Fines

Rev Bill Maki was our finer today. Elizabeth was exempt from fines for coming today to share her story. Dan Burke on the other hand wasn't so lucky, and was fined for telling the finer who to fine. Today's maximum fine was \$2 in the spirit of Thanksgiving and anyone who planned on eating turkey tomorrow, shopping on Black Friday, watching football or putting up a Christmas tree this weekend, was fined. Also anyone who has never sung for Ryan Seacrest or had a heart transplant was fined.

Program

PE Randy Elsass introduced our speaker today, Elizabeth Sampson. Elizabeth shared her amazing story, which highlights God's perfect plan for each and every one of us.

Four years ago Elizabeth's cousin, Jenny, collapsed in gym class and had to be rushed to the hospital. Through a series of testing it was found that Jenny had a genetic heart condition. This tragic experience was a blessing in disguise for the family in that everyone in the family was able to get

tested for the condition. Elizabeth cared this gene and was diagnosed with the rare heart disease called Restrictive Cardiomyopathy.

She was heading into her senior year of high school and was captain of the varsity volleyball team, but due to the diagnosis couldn't play any sports and had to carry a defibrillator with her. Elizabeth embraced the radical change in life and became the volleyball team's biggest fan throughout the season and explored her other talents in music which have soared. She reminded us that with every door that closes The Lord opens a new door and there isn't a more wonderful example than with Elizabeth's musical talent.

For the next two years, Elizabeth was determined to live a fairly normal life, going to college at Bowling Green State University, staying active in campus life and meeting new friends, all while combating heart failure. Initially, Elizabeth didn't feel a heart transplant was the path she would choose, but as time went on and through her faith found that she would be willing if it came to that.

In December of 2012 her doctors informed her that she would need a heart transplant and she was put on the list with one of the hardest blood types to match. Just four months later, she received the call in her dorm room that a heart was available for her. She rushed to Cincinnati and hours later received her new heart.

Since her transplant last April, Elizabeth is living as normal a life as possible. She recently went for her first run with her new heart.



She thanked everyone in Rotary for their prayers, cards, donations, and the amazing benefit held for her that was organized by Ron Gorby.

Queen of Hearts

Jim Heinrich won the weekly drawing but the Queen lives.

Upcoming Programs

12-4 Abby Balster-Big Brothers/Big Sisters
12-11 Meeting @ Otterbein
12-18 Christmas Party

Upcoming Greeters

12-4 Mark Ashman
12-11 Gary Newton
12-18 Gayle Masonbrink

**Please note: All Rotarians scheduled to greet, please be in place by 11:30 a.m.*

The meeting was adjourned following the recitation of the Four Way Test of the Things We Think, Say or Do.

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?