



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

August 13, 2018

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our speaker, Mr. Jerry Jacob, Grace Place director. Jerry also has the distinction of being the founder of the Good Samaritan Clinic. Tonight, he spoke about memory loss and the impact on the individual, his/her family, and caregivers; then, he told us how Grace Place has been created to lessen these impacts. Jerry related the difficulties of his mother-in-law after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, both for her and for her care-giver husband, who were living in his home at the time. This experience is what led him to establish Grace Place to help others in circumstances, similar to his own past. He visited churches in Birmingham and Montgomery which already had programs to assist people with memory loss, hoping



(L to R) Deacon Jerry Jacob and Lion President Mike Ponder as the Deacon accepts a token the Club's appreciation for his presentation.

to get advice and ideas for establishing such a program at his own church, Grace

Episcopal Church in Cullman. Thus, after more than a year of research and coordination, Grace Place had in first program meeting in January 2018 in the church's Parish (fellowship) Hall. It now meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 10AM to 2PM. The program is not just for those with Alzheimer's; it provides mental, physical, social and spiritual stimulation for people with mild to moderate memory loss, whether it be from any disease or from an accident. A participant may attend as many of the sessions as they desire.

A typical four-hour session of the program provides a hot lunch, along with opportunities for mental and physical stimulation, with activities that encourage socialization like puzzles and games and physical exercises that the participants are able to do in their chairs. The sessions also include music, with the singing of songs from the 1940s and '50s that many of the participants should recognize from their childhoods or early lives. All of the activities are meant to encourage the participants to speak with each other, and the program keeps them from sitting at home alone. Also, "The respite is gold for caregivers," Deacon Jacob said.

The program costs \$30 per four-hour session to help cover its expenses, but if a participant can only pay a portion of the \$30 or can't pay any of it, they will still be allowed to participate in the program. Jerry said the first session of the program is also free for new participants, so they can visit and see if they like Grace Place. There are no paid employees; it's all run by



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volunteers. Each participant has a one-on-one volunteer the entire session. Participants must be able to feed themselves and to move about on their own, even if using a walker or wheelchair. Grace Place is not allowed to give medication, just to remind participants to take it.

Along with the Grace Place program to help adults with memory loss, Grace Episcopal also hosts the Caring Support Group, which provides support to the caregivers of people with memory loss. This support group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Arnold House of the church, which allows caregivers to provide each other with mutual support, encouragement and understanding fellowship.

Grace Place, "A Grace-filled Respite Ministry," is certainly a much needed asset to our community. Much appreciation is due for Deacon Jerry Jacob. For more information call 256-426-7722.

Other Business

Secretary Lion Don Smith discussed updates to Cullmanfair.com and requested the member review for errors. He also distributed additional LCI license plates and pins.

Lion Alton Pitzing and Lion Morris Mangum were back in attendance at tonight's meeting after their recent medical procedures. Lion Javon Daniel's wife is undergoing testing for possible cancer. Lion Mariman Pope's condition remains

unchanged. Lion Jim Walker has required a return stay in the hospital.



Lion Alton Pitzing seems to be doing quite well since his recent operation.

Upcoming Programs and Events



Cullman Mayor, Lion Woody Jacobs

August 20: Cullman Mayor, our own Lion Woody Jacobs.

August 27: TBD.

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).