

Project Christmas Cheer Angels

By Phyllis Makuck

A large group of enthusiastic volunteers helped set up the Project Christmas Cheer Angel Tree at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church on November 9. There are still angels to adopt for Christmas, and we need your help to ensure this is a merry Christmas for needy Carteret County children.

The schedule at Shepherd of the Sea, 201 Fort Macon Road in Atlantic Beach, is as follows:

- Wednesday and Friday 1-4 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday 12-3 p.m.
- Last Date to Select Angels: December 11
- Deadline for Returning Gifts: December 16, but sponsors are encouraged to return gifts as soon as possible.

The phone number for Shepherd of the Sea is 726-0103.

If you prefer to go to one of the other Angel Tree sites in Carteret County, the schedules and contact information are as follows:

- One Harbor Church, 1605 Fisher Street, Morehead City, telephone 422-2899. Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sundays 8:30-9 a.m., 10:15-11 a.m. and 12-12:30 p.m.
- One Harbor Church, 214 Turner Street, Beaufort, telephone 528-0038. Sundays 8:30-9 a.m., 10:15-11 a.m., 12-12:30 p.m.
- Smyrna Pentecostal Church, 85 Highway 70, Smyrna. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sundays 12-1 p.m.

All Project Christmas Cheer families have been screened according to the criteria of Carteret County's Department of Social Services. Monetary donations are welcomed. Checks can be made out to Project Christmas Cheer and mailed to P.O. Box 1914, Morehead City, NC 28557.

PINE KNOLL SHORES

Women's Club

By Michelle Powers

Did you know that the first time a female candidate appeared on the ballot for President of the United States was in 1884? Of course, at that time the candidate couldn't even vote for herself as women did not gain the right to vote until the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920.

Club member Barbara Baccolla, presenting the Famous Women segment on the club's agenda at the October meeting, shared information about Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood. Born in upstate New York in 1830, Belva Lockwood was widowed at age 22 and responsible for supporting herself and her infant daughter. She struggled to secure a college education and went on to fight for women's rights with her friend, activist Susan B. Anthony. In addition, she served as headmistress at women's schools in New York where she offered girls challenging classes and business courses to prepare them for careers once available only to men. She moved to Washington, DC, fought to be accepted in law school and, upon the successful completion of her studies, petitioned President Ulysses Grant to allow her to receive her law school diploma, which was initially denied to her by her law school. At age 43 Lockwood went on to practice law and, in spite of the many obstacles placed in front of her because of her gender, she was admired for her competence, winning many cases on behalf of women's rights, including fighting for equal pay for women. She was the first female attorney allowed to argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, winning landmark cases. As a member of the National Equal Rights Political party, she ran for president in 1884 and again in 1888.

At the time, newspapers warned voters of the dangers of "petticoat rule." Despite the fact that she had no chance of winning as a third party candidate, and without the votes of potential female voters, she was not deterred and still received 4,100 votes amid cries of voter fraud when her ballots in Pennsylvania were thrown in the trash. Lockwood paved the way almost 100 years ago for women to pursue any public office in the land.



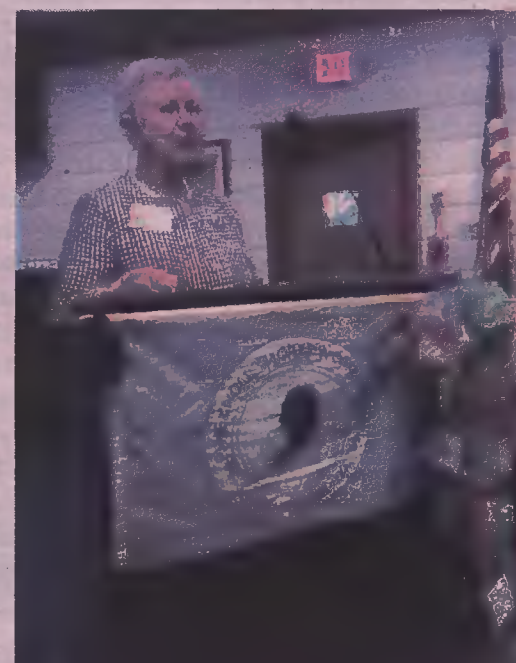
Volunteers gathered in November to set up the Angel Tree for Project Christmas Cheer at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church in Atlantic Beach. There's still time to take a name or donate to this worthwhile project.—Photo courtesy of Shepherd of the Sea

Club members welcomed to the meeting our town's own "famous woman"—former Pine Knoll Shores Mayor Joan Lamson. In her talk, entitled "Networking Next Door," she pointed out that "social wellness" is important to our health, especially as we age. Ms. Lamson presented networking strategies to help us connect with neighbors, new residents and strangers whom we may meet. She is an experienced networker and community leader, serving in leadership roles in local government—as former president of The Country Club of the Crystal Coast, in fundraising for our local hospital and as founder of the North Carolina Chapter of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), among other notable community roles.

She offered some easy approaches to connecting with people, including remembering names, making eye contact and smiling as we speak to others. Other successful tactics include demonstrating your interest in others (their hobbies, travels, children/grandchildren, etc.) and communicating your interest in what they are saying with facial expression and body language as well as by verbal responses. She further recommended books to help us get better at connecting with new people, including Dr. Eric Berne's *What Do You Say After Hello* and Bernardo Carducci's *The Pocket Guide to Making Successful Small Talk: How to Talk to Anyone Anytime Anywhere About Anything*. In conclusion, Ms. Lamson reminded us that it has been said that "if you only know those you already know, you will miss one of life's great blessings."

Club members and their spouses and guests will have an opportunity to practice their networking skills at the club's December 1 Christmas luncheon at The Country Club of the Crystal Coast.

The first regular meeting of 2017 will be held at the Pine Knoll Shores town hall on January 27, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and will feature a guest speaker from the UNC School of Marine Science. Guests are always welcome to attend club meetings.



Joan Lamson addresses the Pine Knoll Women's Club on achieving "social wellness." —Photo by Carroll Beckham