



SPARKS

Grand Rapids Y Service Club
Y Service Clubs International
Mid East Region
November 16, 2012

OUR MISSION

As Y's Men International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on the Christian teachings, in partnership with and supporting the YMCA, its mission is to strive through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for all humankind.

CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Peter Chadwick
Pres. Elect: Neil Topliffe
Secretary: Ethan Ray
Treasurer: Bob Smith
Asst. Treas: Tom Johnson

BOARD MEMBERS

Brad Howell
Mark Radtke
Harry Capogna
Bob Williams
Past Pres: John Duiven

ACTIVITY CHAIRS

Chaplin: Gary Davis
Run Thru the Rapids:
Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie
Santa Claus Girls:
Bob Smith
White Elephant Sale:
Gregory Winer, Chair
Sparks Editor:
Neil Topliffe
[Sparks Editor](#)

President-Elect Neil Topliffe called the club together. Don McWatters offered an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Carlos Velasco, David Ellis, Jean Van Coevering, Paul DeVries and Edwin Collazo.

Grateful Dollars were received.

New Members:

Welcome to our newest members, Christopher E. O'Malley, Belmont, introduced to the club by father-in-law Bob Smith; and Kenneth C. Haines, Rockford, sponsored by Loyd Winer.



Christopher O'Malley



Kenneth Haines

Club News:

- **Santa Claus Girls:** Bob Smith reported that Santa Claus Girls work is continuing and going well. Thanksgiving week schedule will be Monday to Wednesday beginning at 8 am. After Thanksgiving it is expected to pick up with an increase in requests being received. Distribution day is December 15. We are working in the Amway warehouse at [5101 Spaulding Plaza SE, Ada](#), south of Fulton.
- **White Elephant Sale:** Greg Winer reported is exploring contacts he has to find a new location for our 2013 White Elephant Sale since the Plainfield site is not available.
- **Member Dues:** Neil reminded the club that our annual membership dues need to be into Tom Johnson in the next couple of weeks.
- **Board meeting:** It will be December 5, 5:30 pm at Pinnacle Insurance office board room, 1430 Monroe Ave., NW.

LifeQuest Ministries Impact on Young Men

Did you know?

Our **Y Service Club Endowment Fund** is 3/5ths the way to being fully funded. Contributions go to “Y Service Club,” “Endowment Fund” Send checks to Bob Smith, treasurer.

SPARKS NEWS:

If you have anything to put in the Sparks, email Neil at: editor@gryserviceclub.org



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Grand Rapids Y Service Club

475 Lake Michigan Dr NW
Grand Rapids MI 49505

www.gryserviceclub.org
www.runthrutherapids.com

is a member of
Y Service Clubs International.

www.ysmen.org
www.ysmenusa.com



Pastor Jerry Bishop, challenged and inspired club members at the Friday meeting, sharing his ministry that began in 1998 when a small group of young African-Men began playing basketball and praying together between games. It soon became a ministry known as “Save our Sons,” reaching out to those recently released from prison or on the verge of heading there.

Bishop told the group that it was the YMCA in his hometown that “helped me see the way out of my circumstances as a young child when my family situation fell apart.” He credits the YMCA with planting the seed in him that came to fruition in the ministry in which he’s now engaged.

LifeQuest Ministries focuses on helping 14-25 year old urban young men, who are the most underperforming group in our nation with some of the least attention being received by our social service networks, Bishop noted. The program now also supports fathers and others of the age group to become trained in job skills, receive employment to support themselves and family. Buying, renovating and selling several former crack houses was one way in which they made skill training possible.

The ministry is centered on the teachings of the Bible, the inspirational speaker said. The direction in recent times has been toward strengthening the economic development for the young men and families and moving into more cross-cultural experiences.

November 30 Speaker
Father Michael Fedewa, Rector
Saint Andrews Episcopal Church