



# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason



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Barnes Store is located next to the original site of Archer 165.

## Town adopts lodge's moniker

ARCHER LODGE — We're accustomed to seeing lodges take a name from the town they call home. But in the case of the newly incorporated Archer Lodge, it's this Johnston County town adopting its name from the Masonic lodge. According to Kati Knowland in a recent issue of Triangle East Magazine, "Archer Lodge, situated just northwest of Clayton, is one of many small crossroads communities scattered across the Triangle East Area. With the tremendous growth in the area, it's probably not the only one that says it 'stopped growing tobacco and started growing houses,' as Mike Gordon, president of the Archer Lodge Community Center, puts it.

"Gordon said that Archer Lodge, which is the general area surrounding the intersection of Wendell Road and Buffalo Road, was originally a farming community. The area got its name from Masonic lodge, Archer 165, which was [chartered] in December 1854. The original lodge was destroyed by Union forces [in Sherman's March to Raleigh] near the end of the Civil War, but was soon rebuilt. "Then, in 1859, Archer Lodge Baptist Church was formed, originally sharing space with the lodge building. After 24 years, the church moved to its own building and was renamed White Oak Baptist Church. In 1959, the church dedicated its current home on the same spot. The church still stands and is an icon of the area."

The Masonic lodge was located next door to



Archer 165 is now situated near Corinth-Holder.

the current landmark C. A. Barnes Store.

A recent referendum in the community (418 of 725 votes cast) endorsed incorporating the community of about 3,400. The incorporated Archer Lodge will cover about two square miles.

"We can't stop change," said Carlton Vinson, who has helped direct the exploratory committee. "We want to manage the change so we don't lose the character of the community." Incorporation also reduces the possibility of being annexed by nearby towns of Clayton or Wendell.

Archer 165 was originally located in Creachville, and is now located near the Corinth-Holder community.

— Triangle East Magazine and the News and Observer

## DOD spotlights Sonoma's Cathey

Since September 2006, the Department of Defense has highlighted the military men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in our current conflicts. They publicize them as "our American Heroes' stories."

On October 7, Thomas Cathey, a member of Sonoma 472 and son of Past Grand Master Charles Cathey, was named one of those Heroes. You may read more and hear interviews at <<http://www.defenselink.mil/heroes/>>.

Here is the story of what got Tom on the list.

For Army Colonel Thomas Cathey, April 10, 2007, started out like a typical day. Stationed in Baghdad, he was chief of a Military Transition Team, a group of U.S. soldiers serving as military advisors to an Iraqi Army Division. Together they had been running cordon and search missions in Baghdad, setting up perimeters around small areas of the city and then searching within that area.

"We had been conducting these missions since January. This was in April," Cathey said. "I thought it was just going to be another typical day in that area."

But by 7:00 A.M. everything had changed. The Iraqi Army soldiers running that morning's mission had encountered enemy fire before the sun was up, Cathey said. And the situation escalated from there.

"We thought it was going to be a normal operation here," he said. "It was the first time that we'd had this volume of resistance for sure."

Before long an Iraqi Army squad had radioed for reinforcements, and had taken protective cover in an abandoned building.

"We are down to our last magazines. We are out of ammunition. We've got to have help now," they told Cathey again via radio.

"There was no time. They were out of ammo. There was no one else who could get them. So I made the decision to go get them," he said. The day's mission changed from a cordon and search mission to an extraction mission, he said.

Cathey prepared a team of 14 soldiers in four

vehicles. While the Iraqi Army soldiers weren't far, Cathey knew getting to them was going to be difficult. They would have to take narrow alleyways to cross city blocks held by the enemy.

"We did know that as soon as we left... and started down this alley that we would be surrounded 360 degrees, and we would be significantly outnumbered. But, we also knew that

we couldn't sit and do nothing and take a chance on these soldiers being overrun by Al-Qaeda," Cathey said.

"I knew it was going to be tough. But, we'd been in the country. We were seasoned guys. We had a lot of confidence in each other," Cathey said. "I don't think we ever thought we couldn't do what we needed to do to get those soldiers out."

The convoy set out, their vehicles moving cautiously forward down a narrow alley-

way. At each intersection, they crossed they encountered adversaries. A grenade exploded just feet from the left front tire of Cathey's vehicle, taking out the power steering. At a subsequent intersection, "as soon as our bumper touched the opening of the alleyway, it turned red with tracers," Cathey said, describing the dust trails some bullets leave behind to help the gunmen know where to aim. Seeing so many tracers was a signal to Cathey that there were even more bullets on their way.

"I thought we couldn't stop the mission, we couldn't turn around. We knew that what was behind us was worse," he said. "We kept pushing forward to find these Iraqi soldiers."

But, as the convoy moved down the alleyway towards safety, Cathey saw another Iraqi soldier waving to him from inside another building. It was a second Iraqi Army squad that had also been forced to take cover.

There was no way to fit the other squad into their vehicles, Cathey said, so they used the ve-



Col. Thomas L. Cathey

see CATHEY, page 2

## THE BOTTOM LINE



## The holidays — Orphanage style

By Dan C. Rice  
Grand Master

Ric Carter informed me last week that this would be my last article for *The North Carolina Mason* as grand master. He also

told me that it would probably be mailed just about the time that Brother Billy Dill is installed as grand master. This year has been a wonderful experience for me. I want to thank the brothers all across the state who have gone out of their way to make sure that my visits in their lodges have been both fun and exciting. I was treated as if I were something special everywhere by everyone. The food that was served at the meetings was great and the respect that was always shown the office of grand master was amazing. The Brothers across the state made every meeting special. We got to laugh at every meeting, and we dealt with the hard issues without any contention or division. I am grateful for the way the brothers handled the tough things in 2009. Two brothers drove me all over the state. Steve Lynch and Don Kehler spent many a late night driving us home from a meeting. These were special times, and a unique lasting bond of deep friendship was formed between the three of us.

I need to thank Walt Clapp and all the staff at the Grand Lodge. They have made my year as grand master extremely easy and have always been there when I needed help which was on a regular basis. Ric Carter has been so gracious and willing to edit my simple scribbles about life into something that can actually be printed. The ladies at the Grand Lodge were amazing helping Debbie and me with all the preparations for the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and the GL ladies luncheon. We know that events do not just happen and that it takes a bunch of work, and we are very grateful for their help.

A thank you is in order for all the DDGMs and DDGLs who served and helped me during this year. I also wanted to thank all the brothers who served on the Grand Lodge boards and commissions. A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes at the Grand Lodge with brothers committing huge amounts of time on behalf of our beloved fraternity. I also wanted to publicly thank my wife, Debbie, for all the help she has given me this year. She has kept me on track and has supported me completely. She took on my installation and the Annual Communication social events as a personal project, and it allowed me to be able to focus just on Grand Lodge business.

Last but certainly foremost, I wanted to thank God for all his blessings. I have had a good peaceful year as grand master. At the Annual Communication, I heard several brothers mention that there was a great peaceful spirit among the brothers present. I

don't believe that it was an accident. God certainly has a keen sense of humor when he allowed a boy from Oxford Orphanage, to 50 years later, serve as grand master.

One of the great honors and privileges that I have had this year is to be able to share stories about my life at Oxford Orphanage with you in *The North Carolina Mason*. I certainly used the I word too much, but it was not because I had any visions of personal grandeur of any kind. Instead, it was because I am not smart enough to write anything in third person. I hope you have enjoyed hearing stories about real children at the Masonic Home for Children who you have helped survive in this very tough world. Most of them have left Oxford Orphanage better off than when they arrived. The Masons and the Orphanage did not save them all, but it certainly tried, and it did save most of them. Your efforts at Oxford would have been a success had you only saved one child from the tragedy of a bad life. To me and to all the children of Oxford Orphanage, the Masons will always be bigger than life. If you are tired of Orphanage stories, stop here and move on to another article in the paper. Otherwise, here are some of my memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas under the oaks.

My first Thanksgiving at the orphanage was one of mixed emotions. We got the day off from work on our regular jobs, but we still had our daily chores to do before breakfast. After breakfast we had to put on our Sunday clothes and get ready for the Thanksgiving service in the Orphanage chapel. Our Sunday clothes were usually rough spun wool that itched something terrible but would not wear out. All the local preachers, regardless of their denomination, came together and put on the Community Thanksgiving service. I was never quite sure why it was done at orphanage chapel, but every year the community came together at the Orphanage and worshipped as a group. On Thanksgiving, there was no division based on a particular creed. Instead, the day was set aside to thank God for the blessings of the year.

Oxford is located in Granville County, and the area has always been a farming community. Farmers know better than anyone else that their lives and livelihoods depend on God's blessings. No rain means no crops, and no crops means no money. Every year, the farmers gambled and put their seeds and fertilizer in the ground, and then they depended on God to make it grow. Some years things went well, and other years the crops failed.

All of us Orphanage children were required to attend the Thanksgiving worship service in our itchy wool clothes. The service was usually divided up and done by different preachers. One preacher would pray, another would read the scripture, another would preach a sermon, and yet another would finally say the benediction. There were usually some Thanksgiving hymns thrown in to make us all stand up and prevent us Orphanage boys from dozing off. All in all, it was usually a great service, and there

was no walk back to the Orphanage. You see, in those days Sunday school was held at the Orphanage Chapel and then we had to line up in two lines and we marched downtown to the church of the denomination that our family said we were from. That was a mile walk to church for most of us children and then a mile back after church. On Thanksgiving, we were blessed to worship at our own chapel. I was thankful for the shorter than usual Thanksgiving service and no walk back.

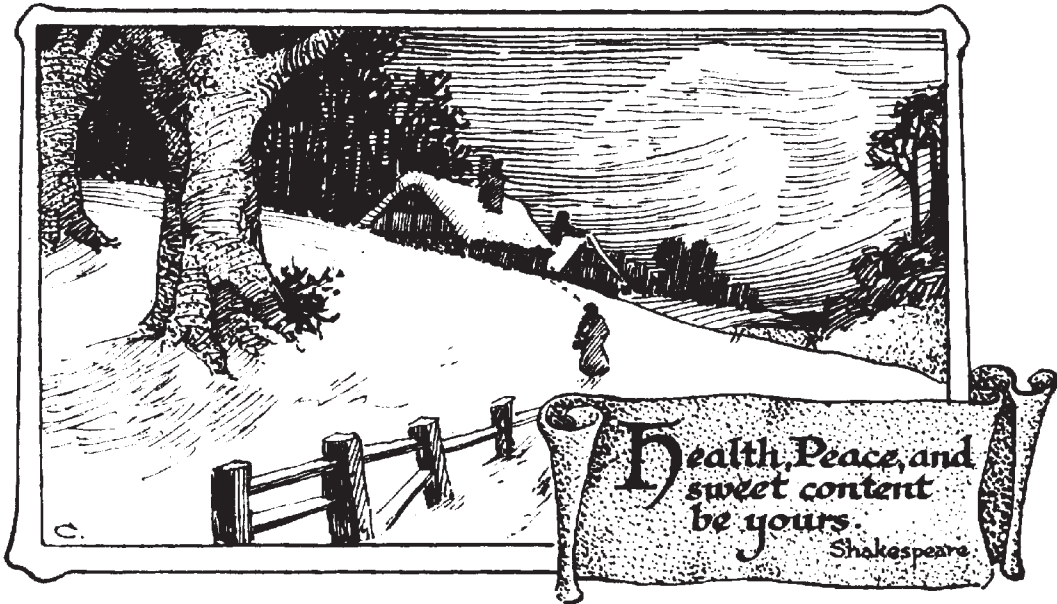
Thanksgiving lunch at the Orphanage was usually really good. Sometimes we had turkey and dressing. Other times we had ham. I remember ham most of the time because that was something that the Orphanage produced. We always had string beans, sweet potatoes, and a couple of other vegetables and pecan pie. For us orphans, it was a meal from heaven and we devoured all we could.

We were usually free on the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day, and we would loaf. Many of us would play basketball, chase girls, or simply wander around the woods at the back of the Orphanage. When you had 320 brothers and sisters there was always enough boys to play ball with or plenty of girls to chase. Life was certainly not boring, and when you had free time, you made it count doing what you enjoyed most.

Thanksgiving was one of those magical free days with no work and no school. I have always been grateful for Thanksgiving and the opportunity to say thanks to our Maker for his blessings. Even as a nine-year-old scared little boy whose life had completely blown up, I knew that things could be a lot worse for me. All I had to do was listen to the life stories of my Orphanage brothers and sisters. Their tragic lives were filled with heart wrenching stories of physical, mental, and sexual abuse. Several of them had even seen their fathers kill their mothers. Several had witnessed tragedies that would make anyone cry just to hear about. These stories were not ever told to the general population of the home, but were shared one-on-one, when a friend could no longer carry his/her burden alone. Usually, this was done in a quiet place and with both the teller and the listener quietly sobbing with the gradual release of gigantic emotional burdens. I have seen the toughest Orphanage boys cry over the life tragedy of an Orphanage brother or sister. There was never shame in those tears, just the washing away of some great pain inflicted on a child. Some of those children were able to unhook from the emotional pain they brought with them to the Orphanage and just walk away from it. Other children could never get over what had happened and had to drag that emotional baggage with them all the way to their graves. My life was simpler because I was at the Orphanage due to the death of my mother. Death is a natural occurrence and can be understood by a child. The children that were at Oxford

see BOTTOM LINE, page 4

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



We wish you a joyous holiday. May you rejoice in the blessings you have in your life without concern for that you lack. May the new year present you opportunities that surpass your needs.

WW I Masonic Ambulance Corps

Dating back to the earliest years of the American republic, there had been a strong aversion to what Thomas Jefferson called "entangling alliances," and many politicians of the early 20th century were wary of getting enmeshed in other countries' conflicts.

hem 453, which consolidated with Crocker 212 in 1961. In a twist of irony and fate, Past Master Adolphus Graupner, who served as a captain in the Argonne campaign, was one of the wounded soldiers picked up and saved by the very organization that his own lodge had helped to create.

Most of the Yanks who served in Europe had no idea what to expect. Prior to being sent overseas, Brother Roy Loomer Davis wrote, "I went to the Masonic Club and learned that our uniforms had arrived... When I stepped out of the hotel and started down Market Street toward the ferry, I frankly admit that I felt very self-conscious. If I looked nearly so conspicuous as I felt, it must have been very amusing to passersby."

While a great deal of Masonic community involvement is centered on programs that serve communities where brothers live and work, the response by California Masons to these two great humanitarian crises a century ago reveals a greater truth about how members of the craft see their role in the world.

— The California Freemason, 2009 by way of Emessay News

No officer photos, please

We regret that The North Carolina Mason has insufficient space to print lodge officer pictures. We continue to receive many new officer photos despite the fact that the paper has not published any since 1998.

More than 80 Masons from California, along with a few from other jurisdictions, made their way to Europe and worked triage on the front lines of France. Their willingness to put themselves in harm's way inspired Grand Master Francis Kessling to say, "The Masonic Ambulance Corps... are on their way to do their part, not as Masons but as citizens. Godspeed to them all and to those thousands who have gone into the service without ceremony."

One lodge that is said to have been instrumental in the creation of the corps was Bethle-

NC Mason Deadlines

Table with 2 columns: Issue, Deadline. Rows include January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December.

Masonic doodling



By Dale Swiggett ©

Myriad of Stones

Hiram King of Tyre was walking through the Temple on his way to a meeting with King Solomon. Along the way, he passed through a particular hallway and noticed all the stones in the walls. "What are you?" King Hiram asked of the stones as he walked by.

CATHEY, from page 1

hicles to shield the building from attack while they radioed for help, and then waited for a second convoy to reach them.

But by that time the enemy had figured out their plan, Cathey said. The Iraqi Army Brigade deputy commander made one attempt to send vehicles to pick up the second squad, but they were forced back by the insurgents.

Cathey finally had to make a decision. He chose to move the first squad to safety, but promised the second squad that he would come back for them.

The Iraqi deputy brigade commander was so inspired by what they had done, that he made a third attempt to get the men out, Cathey said. That third attempt was successful.

"For me personally it was just a very humbling, sobering day," Cathey said. It was only later on when he'd had a chance to be by himself and clear his head that he realized that they "had been able to pull off a very dangerous mission with no injuries, no casualties at all," he said.



"Several of my guys were awarded Army Commendation medals for that day," he said.

The biggest thank you, however, was the next morning when Cathey met with Iraqi Army leadership in the Iraqi General's office.

"Iraqi Colonel Munam stood there with tears in his eyes hugging and thanking me for getting his guys out," Cathey said. "I didn't need any thank-yous, but to me that was the greatest thank you I ever got."

"It was just doing the right thing to do for those Iraqi soldiers," Cathey said. "If someone hadn't helped them, they couldn't have gotten out."

Cathey received a Bronze Star with Valor for his actions that day. — From defenselink.mil/heroics.



Richmond County lodges reach out to National Guard troops

HAMLET — Hamlet 532 and Rockingham 495 have allied on a project to help their local National Guard members on station in Iraq. Members of the lodges donated toiletries and other daily needs of soldiers. Another group of volunteers boxed up the goodies and mailed them to Iraq.

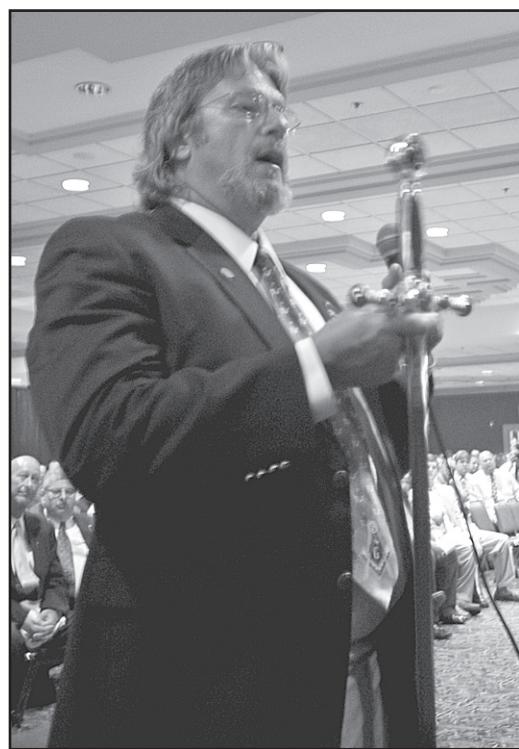
Masonic behavior

By J. Perry Watson

There is certain behavior to which all Brethren must conform while attending lodge; deportment before and after lodge has not been discussed in too many places. So, with apologies and a "tip of the hat" to the American humorist Will Rogers, the following is presented as a tongue-in-cheek guide for Masonic conduct before and after lodge meetings:

- 1. Never slap a Brother on the back while he is chewing tobacco.
2. Always find an opportunity to let a Brother know he's appreciated.
3. If, during a discussion, you find yourself painted in a corner, stop painting.
4. There are two theories about arguing with a member of the opposite political persuasion. Neither works.
5. One soon discovers that good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
6. One will find there are three kinds of men: The ones who learn by reading; the few who learn by listening; the rest have to touch the electric fence and find out for themselves.
7. Remember, one must wait until evening to see just how splendid the day has been.
8. We find that long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft; today it's called golf.
9. If you find yourself dissatisfied and talk about wanting to return to your youth, remember algebra.
10. And finally, don't forget the old story about the mountain lion devouring an entire bull; after which the lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him dead. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

J. Perry Watson is a member of Masters 754.



Mosaic Lodge gives Grand Lodge a new tyler's sword

WINSTON-SALEM — At Annual Communication in September, Steve Sparrow, left, presented a new sword to the Grand Lodge for use by our tyler. The old sword had begun to show signs of wear, and recent repairs appeared inadequate.

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NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

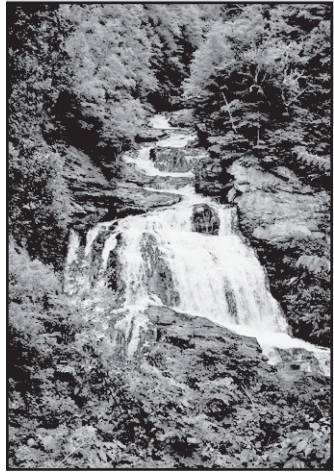
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# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



## NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S LODGES

By Ric Carter

### Hayesville

Clay 301 held a Barn Degree and Fundraiser October 30. The degree was held in Ronnie Smith's barn. It featured hay bale seating. Hope they were careful with those burning tapers.

The degree included a barbecued chicken fundraiser to help fund the lodge's roof repair.

— Derek Cheek

### Statesville

Masons hosted a special Type O Blood Drive at Statesville 27 on August 13. Donors got a t-shirt and a chance to win a \$1,000 gas card.

— *The Joppa Informer*

### Mount Gilead

Blackmer 127 has held its Fifth Annual Charity Fun Shoot at DeWitt Farms in Ellerbe. They enjoyed a day of skeet shooting, food, and fun together. This year, they raised \$1,547 for the Masonic Home for Children and WhiteStone (MESH).

— *Blackmer Buzz*

### Fayetteville

Creasy Proctor 679 held its Past Masters' and Awards Night September 29. Past Grand Master Charles Ingram was the evening's speaker. He delivered a message about William R. Davie, Father of the University of North Carolina, entitled "A Great Man in a Time of Great Men."

Creasy Proctor Lodge's Widows' Night was scheduled for November 3.

— Timothy Williams

Clifford Duell 756 has been enjoying lodge visitations this year. On July 13, nine members of the lodge went to Lillington to see Lillington 302 perform a Third Degree. They were impressed by the lodge's use of piano music in the degree. Duell Lodge itself has done several degrees which featured guitar music. They also enjoyed a "fine" dinner before the degree.

Eight Duell Lodge members also recently visited Aurora 33 in Clio, South Carolina. The south of the border Masons promised to return the visit.

The lodge hosted their first Past Masters Breakfast Forum October 10. The morning's purpose was to consult with the lodge's past leadership about their feelings about the future direction of the lodge.

John Cook recently earned his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership. Lodge Chaplain Ray Utley was the recipient of the Grand Lodge of Florida's 55 year award.

Clifford Duell 756's Past Masters'-Widows'-Veterans' Dinner was set for November 7. Nervous Night, when officers advance to their next stations, was to be held November 16.

— *Blue Sheet*

### Mount Olive

They celebrate a big Family Night every fifth Tuesday at Mount Olive 208. Their next party is December 29.

— *Trestle Board*

### Greensboro

Fifty people attended P. P. Turner 746's first Homecoming August 20. It was termed a "huge success." Rob and Paulette Mitchell prepared the meal and Master Mike Daniels did the program.

Past Grand Master Bill Simpson was to be the featured speaker at Turner Lodge's October 15, Ladies' Night.

Just in time for Thanksgiving, Turner Lodge's Annual Pork Shoulder Sale was held November 21. The 16-18-pound shoulders were sold for \$40 each. Saved Mom a little cooking in more than one house. — *P. P. Turner Lodge*

Gate City 694 stays busy. They've joined Greensboro's Adopt-A-Street. Four times each year they will pick up trash along the 1.3-mile stretch of North Holden Road between Benjamin Parkway and West Cornwallis Drive.

Gate City Lodge is again collecting things for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. The soldiers they are sending goodies to include their own John Thomas Brandt as well as other members of the Armed Forces from Greensboro and elsewhere.

Gate City's PhoneTree is now operating, reminding members of upcoming events and announcing short-notice happenings.

Their pullover shirts with lodge name and square and compasses are now available for \$25.

Gate City Lodge went to two baseball games this year. More than 50 attended the Grasshopper game each time.

Gate City member Percy Sudsbury was featured in an article in the Greensboro News and Record July 19. Sudsbury has been one of the people working on the Ralph Pegrum Memorial Library at American Legion Cone Post 386. The library holds more than 1,700 military-related books (fiction and nonfiction). Pegrum, who died in 1998, started the library. The library includes museum objects and collects artifacts and stories of service men and women. — *Trestleboard*

### Paw Creek

West Gate 738's Fall Chicken Fry was held October 15-16. They have been holding chicken cooking fundraisers twice a year for years now.

Lodge maintenance cannot be stopped because of budget overruns. West Gate Lodge was asking for contributions from members to help cover increasing costs of keeping up the facilities. The air conditioning system required work. They also are installing a wheelchair ramp and concreting the driveway to their dumpster.

OSW classes continue at West Gate Lodge on Monday nights when there is no degree work or stated meeting. — *News from the West*

### Canton

Sonoma 472 held its Charity Fundraising Dinner October 17. They were serving spaghetti.

Veterans' Night was set for November 5. It is an annual event to honor veterans of our armed services. — *Valley of the Moon*



### Smithfield

Fellowship 84's Pancake and Sausage Breakfast this year raised more than \$2,200 for their scholarship fund. The 2009 scholarship went to Emily Jones who is now at UNC-Wilmington.

Fellowship Lodge was handing out service awards at their recent Past Masters' and Ladies' Night. John Simon Shallcross, Billie Eugene Combs, and Daniel Mathews were to get Diamond Jubilees for 60 years membership. They presented service awards to family members of two members who had earned them but passed away before presentations — Gordon Howells' 60 and John Horace Keene's 50. — *The Trestleboard*

### South Mills

New Lebanon 314 is trying to raise \$2,000 to replace the heating and air conditioning system in the lodge. — *The Plumb Line*



## Concord Masons help Relay for Life

TARBORO — On June 19, Concord 58, Corinthian 230, and Scotland Neck 689 sponsored a concert at Edgecombe Community College. The proceeds, \$6,744 was given to the Relay for Life, the well-known charity which supports Cancer research. Here, Concord Lodge Master John J Andrews Jr. and Hartwell Fuller are presenting a check to Pam Gould, local co-chairman of Relay for Life. — *E. Ray Register*

### Kannapolis

Cannon Memorial 626 held a charity breakfast July 25. — *Randy Crainshaw*

### Clyde

A Mason Picnic for the Public was set for October 24 at Clyde 453. The "get to know us" event was serving hot dogs and letting their neighbors learn more about the lodge in a low-key environment. — *Valley of the Moon*

### Raleigh

Members of Masters 754 went to Oxford October 4. There, they visited the Masonic Home for Children and fed the youngsters a pizza supper. In another show of support for the kids, Masters Lodge entered a team and sponsored a hole in Chip Shots for Kids, a golf tournament for the Home for Children conducted by the Home's Alumni Association. Masters' team finished with a 66, six under par.

Frank Gattton and Dillard Thorne received Coaching Recognition Awards for their work with Masters 754's degree candidates. — *The Trowel*

Raleigh 500 was pleased when they recapped their Pig Jig from earlier this year. They raised \$8,000 for the Masonic Home for Children and Central Children's Home with the pig cooking contest. They cooked 21 whole hogs, 600 pounds of Boston butt, 100 chickens, and 160 pounds of precooked barbecue. More than 1,700 people attended the contest. Next year's Pig Jig is set for May 22. Make sure your lodge or Masonic organization enters a team and enjoys the fun.

Raleigh 500's Past Masters' Night was set for October 20. — *On the Level*

James B. Green 735 had hoped to reduce their newsletter budget by reducing their mailing to a few pieces in the US Postal Service with most copies going by email. They did not get enough email addresses to make their goal.

On August 11, Green Lodge's John Held was presented his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years membership. Held is planning a lodge trip to Washington, DC in spring 2010.

James B. Green 735's chicken barbecue fundraiser was to be held October 2. — *The James B. Green Scene*

Millbrook 97 was holding its fall barbecue October 9. They were fixing both pork and chicken barbecue. — *Millbrook Messenger*

J. J. Crowder 743 was holding a pancake breakfast October 10. They were raising money to help a local family with a child suffering with multiple sclerosis. — *Stephen Meserve*

### Rose Hill

Rehobeth 279's annual fundraiser was set for September 18. They were delivering orders of ten or more plates. They were hoping to bring in \$4,000 this year.

Rehobeth Lodge was manning a booth at the Muscadine Harvest Festival. — *Rehobeth Lodge*

### Charlotte

Temple 767 presented service awards in October. Veterans' Emblems for 50 years membership went to Warren Drye and Harry Harris. — *Temple Tales*

Excelsior 261 is signing on to help out at a local elementary school. Lincoln Heights Elementary has asked them to help with their Real Men Read program. Lodge members volunteer to read to or with students there.

Concerns about building maintenance and cash reserves have made Excelsior Lodge raise their dues. Their 2010 dues will go to \$85 and to \$100 in 2011.

Special events scheduled by Excelsior included their September 12 Fall Family Gathering at the Red Fez Shrine Club at Lake Wylie and their September 28 Past Masters' and Veterans' Night. — *Trestle Board*

Steele Creek 737 was planning their Annual Barbecue. Proceeds from the eight-dollar plates go to the Masonic Home for Children. — *Trestleboard*

### Spruce Pine

Vesper 554 was holding its golf tournament October 3 at Grassy Creek Golf Course. Hole-in-one prizes included a Subaru if you hit one on the ninth hole and golf weekends in Las Vegas or Memphis on others. Each member of the winning team got a \$100 gift certificate. Sixty-dollar certificates went to guys who were the runners-up. Proceeds were for the Masonic Homes and local charities.

Vesper Lodge is selling lodge shirts for \$20. They even have several colors to choose from. — *The Beacon*

### Weaverville

Vance 293 was holding a barbecue fundraiser for the Masonic charities September 19. Entertainment was scheduled. — *The Beacon*

### Asheville

Mount Hermon 118 holds an annual Alms Day Dinner to raise money for charity. They were combining it with their awards presentations this year. It was scheduled for August 2. — *Trestle-Board*

### Salisbury

Andrew Jackson 576 will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday January 21. That's the night they'll hold their big banquet. Lodge shirts and hats proclaiming the occasion are also coming.

Jackson Lodge held their Past Masters' Night August 20. Twenty-four past masters were there for the steak dinner. — *Master's Journal*

On August 29, Fulton 99 hosted a visit by local Prince Hall lodges to our 28<sup>th</sup> Masonic District. Fulton Lodge served a simple meal of hot dogs and hamburgers. Lapel pins from Grand Master Dan Rice were presented to Western Star 9 PHA Master John Cole and Faithful 376 PHA Master Jimmy Jones. A return visit by our members to Western Star was planned for October 24.

Fulton Lodge's annual barbecue fundraiser was scheduled for October 22.

Both Fulton and Andrew Jackson lodges are looking for volunteers to do repair chores at the lodge. The jobs include hedge trimming, painting inside and out, stripping and waxing floors, and some minor trim repair. — *Master's Journal*

### Stantonsburg

SAMON, the 16<sup>th</sup> Masonic District's traveling gavel, was snagged by Joseph Warren 92 in October. They got it on a visit to Mount Lebanon 117. — *Grover Dees*

### Hickory

Two lodge members at Hickory 343 arranged for lodge members to enjoy a day of shooting on the gun range at Catawba Wildlife Club. They got a couple of hours on the range together October 5.

Members of the lodge recently enjoyed a Brotherhood Bike Ride along the Virginia Creeper Trail. The site near Whitetop, Virginia is set up for hiking, mountain biking, and horse-back riding.

Hickory Lodge's Chicken Pie Sale was November 7. The eight-dollar pies were available at reduced prices and free delivery for large orders. The proceeds were to help support Catawba County First Step Domestic Violence Services. — *Hickory Masonic Lodge*

### Cary

On October 3, Cary 198 held their annual Ladies' and Awards Night. Sonny Bjork was named Mason of the Year for his work with the cooking crew and for taking charge of the lodge's support of the Masonic Home for Children.

Members of the Chef's Crew were given special aprons and top cook Charles English got one naming him "Grand Master of the Hush-puppy Oil of Joy." They enjoyed New York strip steaks. Lodge officers served the widows. Members served their own guests.

Their Fall Barbecue was set for November 6. The proceeds were going to the Home for Children in memory of Don Ellers. — *Trestle Board*

### Conover

They were calling for a work party October 24 at Conover 709. They were planning to paint the outside stairs and lodge ceiling. — *View From the East*

### Kenansville

St. John's 13 termed its annual picnic this year "the best yet." The entertainment "outstanding" and the chicken and pastry was "delicious." They hold it at Maxwell's Mill. — *Lodge Log*

### Beulaville

Beulaville 658 was to hold its annual golf tournament September 26 at Majestic Pines Country Club. — *Lodge Log*

### Pilot Mountain

Thirty-two people attended Pilot 493 traveled over to the Town and Country in King to entertain their widows. The Widow's Dinner was held August 14.

Four Masons and two Eastern Stars went to WhiteStone (MESH) on September 6 to conduct the chapel service for residents.

Pilot Lodge's Fall Barbecue was coming up in November. — *The Pilot Mountain Traveler*

### Wallace

Wallace 595 was raffling a gun this fall. The drawing was scheduled to coincide with their October 5 Ham and Egg Supper to honor past masters and the ladies.

Wallace Lodge's Wilton Francis Townsend got his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years membership earlier this fall. — *Bulletin of Wallace Lodge*

### Stedman

On November 2, Grand Master Dan Rice visited Stedman 730. While there, he presented H. B. Smith Jr. his Veterans' Emblem honoring his 50 years as a Mason. While there, Rice shared a documentary film about the Masonic Home for Children. — *Thomas Pope*

■ see STATE, page 5

If your lodge has a newsletter for its members, make sure *The North Carolina Mason* is on your mailing list. Lodge newsletters are a major source of news for Masons around the state. If you don't have one, think about starting one. Newsletters are a good way to keep your members active and informed.



James B. Robinson, left, gets the Citizenship Award from old friend and Bald Creek's Jeff Revis.

## Lankford Citizen named

WEAVERVILLE — Vance 293 had their annual awards night and fundraiser barbecue September 19. James B. Robinson received the Willie Lankford Citizenship Award. Family friend Jeff Revis of Bald Creek 397 made the presentation.

The lodge presented service awards including Diamond Jubilee Awards for 60 years member-

ship to Willard C. Rice and Charles D. Roberts.

The lodge barbecue cooker and shed were dedicated to Dan C. Young and Dan C. Young Jr. for their "contributions to Masonry and the community." A marker to that effect was also placed.

More than \$1,200 was raised for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and WhiteStone (MESH).  
— Edward Hamlin



## Clemmons keeps helping

WINSTON-SALEM — One of Masonry's perennial top fundraisers is the golf tournament sponsored by Clemmons 755. At Annual Communication in September, Clemmons Lodge presented checks for \$5,500 to each of the Masonic Homes to help maintain the Home's missions. Seen here, from left, are Tournament Chairman Larry Holloman, WhiteStone Administrator Mark Kolada, Home for Children Administrator Allen Hughes, and Clemmons Lodge Master Bruce Ayers III.

## BOTTOM LINE, from page 1

because they had parents die of natural causes seemed to adjust more quickly and were able to accept life at the Orphanage better. The only time I remember getting upset was when they made me wear a white rose on Mothers Day when my friends wore red roses. My mother was certainly not dead to me, and even to this day, I believe she lives on in my heart and mind.

My first Thanksgiving at Oxford was filled with apprehension and fear. I had been at the Orphanage for about nine months, and it was a huge adjustment and a very tough place to live. The kids were rough, and the faculty and employees of the home were well-seasoned and had 320 children to care for. There was no time for any individual attention regardless of your circumstance. Each Thanksgiving at the Orphanage became easier. Eventually Oxford was my home. I was content and peaceful there and learned what I could and could not do.

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas used to seem like a very long time. Now it is just a blink for me, and it is gone. My first Christmas at Oxford was different. I had never received presents for Christmas, but I had been with my parents and with my brother and two sisters in a family setting. At Oxford, I was in a cottage with 31 other boys my age. I hardly ever saw my siblings. I was never really alone. There was no privacy of any kind, but I was extremely lonely and sad. The death of my mother and the transition to living in an Orphanage had happened in less than five months. My mother had died unexpectedly of a cerebral hemorrhage; she had died in a matter of minutes and had left four children with no one to care for them.

At Christmas, the children at the Orphanage always got a paper bag with fruit and nuts in it. There were always oranges, apples, pears, and different kinds of nuts. If we were lucky, we got some hard candy in the bag. If we were really lucky, we got some chocolate or coconut candy. Each cottage always had a Christmas tree, and every child received at least two presents. One of the presents came from the Masons in Little Washington, and the other present came from the Masons in High Point. These Masons and their families did not know us children and were just told to buy for a child named Jennie Smith who is 8 years old. There was a boy a year older than me named Laurie DeBose. When Laurie was about twelve years old, he got a ladies' pocket book for Christmas. Everyone wanted to laugh, but Laurie was a tough kid and would have whipped us bad. He later became an All-American football player for the Orphanage at quarterback and was an amazing athlete. Laurie made out extremely well because our cottage counselor bought the purse from him for what appeared to us orphan boys as a giant sum. I guess he got the last laugh. He is a member of a Masonic Lodge in Wilmington. I was lucky because Bakersville 357 always sent me a present and so did my mother's Sunday School Class from Bakersville Baptist Church. I am still very grateful for everything I received at Christmas.

Another year, when I was about eleven, we had a boy named Roger get up in the middle of night and open all the presents under the tree regardless of whose names were on them. When the wake up bell rang at six o'clock, we all headed downstairs to open presents. What we found was Roger in a giant pile of Christmas paper and toys. He had picked one wallet and had everyone's money in that wallet. I am not sure what he was thinking, be-

cause he was in big trouble. We had a heck of a time writing our thank you notes to the Masons for the presents, because we did not know what we had received.

Every Christmas the Orphanage would play Tennessee Ernie Ford's Christmas music from speakers in the steeple of the chapel. You could hear it playing all over the campus. We had radiator heat from a coal boiler in the basement of each cottage. Those of you that have ever had steam heat from a radiator know that steam heat is not controllable. It is very warm and after a while the radiator controls do not work at all so you burn up. That is what the old Orphanage cottages were like. We slept with the windows open even in the dead of the winter because you could not cut the heat down. This worked out perfect when there was music in the air. Tennessee Ernie Ford had a voice that seemed to soothe all our emotional issues. To this day, I don't think I have ever heard anyone sing Christmas songs as well. When I hear any of his songs, my mind always drifts back to Christmas time at Oxford Orphanage.

The Orphanage was alive at Christmas. It seemed every year some of the smaller boys received skates for Christmas. Back then skates were fitted over your regular shoes and were adjusted with a skate key. I don't remember anyone skating with two skates for any length of time at the Orphanage. We would take a metal dust pan and attach it to one skate and use the dustpan handle to steer. The main part of the dustpan was the seat. This was a perfect setup for riding down the hilly roads at the Orphanage. In my mind's eye, I can still hear the laughter as we raced down the road with our hineys on those dust pans. Life was sure simple back then, and it did not take anything expensive to make us happy.

Money at the orphanage was always in short supply for us orphans. We saved our allowance and any other cash we could get our hands on to buy presents for our family. In my case, it was for my siblings as we had almost no contact with anyone else. Based on today's standards, our gifts to each other were almost pitiful because we had so little to spend. Just a token present from a family member meant so much to all of us because it was an expression of true love. Back then, it was truly the thought that counted because our means were so small that our gifts were really insignificant. On the other hand, the sacrifice to buy those little things required so much more effort and thought than even buying a car does now. Somehow, we as a society have lost the real meaning of Christmas. I have learned that you cannot buy happiness or anything that will make you happy for any length of time. One of my great disappointments in life was when I bought a Corvette. I had lusted after one since I was about ten years old. I was sure that owning a Corvette would just make me completely. It broke my heart to find out that a Corvette was not the answer for me. I tried finding happiness in several other material things, only to be ultimately disappointed.

Christmas was a time of music, good food, and laughter at the Orphanage. I can still remember the smell of an orange when it was freshly peeled. They have a distinct smell and when you get only one a year it makes them a real treat. Hard candy was something else we got only at Christmas. I try to buy some every year and make it last just like we did when we were in the Orphanage. I loved the smells of the Christmas trees and the sounds of the Christmas music. I remember the sparkle of the tinsel and the big,



## Hickory Masons have summer fun with their families

By Wes King

On Saturday, August 15, Hickory 343 held its annual family day. The event was a tremendous success bringing together members of the greater-Masonic community as well as non-Masons of the general community for a time of fun, entertainment, and feasting. With such activities as a dunking booth, a bouncing castle, water slides, face painting, and more, there was plenty of entertainment for kids of all ages.

This event, organized by the stewards of the lodge, provided an opportunity for the officers and appointees of the lodge to give back to the brethren and their families. Whether through cooking or manning the water slides, everyone from the brothers to stewards to Master Richard Rozzelle took part in the service of this event. Several of the officers said they were practically ecstatic to be able to provide an event of this caliber for the lodge members and their families. Those on hand expressed great gratitude to the work the Masons did.

As has become customary at this annual event, there was homemade ice cream — thirteen gallons of ice cream in more than 15 flavors. Junior Warden Lee Spach takes it as a personal challenge to create the best tasting and greatest assortment of flavors for the event. He even takes requests. In addition to the ice cream, many of the lodge's members were responsible for cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs. They served them with anything anyone could want on them.

One of the greatest attractions at this year's



event was Becky, of Balloons by Becky. She kept everyone, children and grownups alike, on the edge of their seats, waiting to see what she was next going to sculpt out of latex and air. In speaking with Becky, she said that this event was a very fun event to be a part of and that she had been treated well by everyone there. Becky made animals and other objects out of her balloons — from Spiderman to extravagant hats to a motorcycle for Master Rozzelle.

The lodge has accomplished a great deal this year already and has successfully used opportunities like this to improve their fellowship and improve the community's perception of Freemasonry. More recently, the lodge held a Chicken Pie Sale to benefit the Catawba County First Step Domestic Violence group. The event took place November 7. The lodge has raised over \$6,000 this year for charities and will raise more than \$4,000 with this event.

Wes King is a member of Hickory 343 and a student at UNC-Wilmington.

old colored lights that we used on the trees. Life as an orphan at Oxford Orphanage was pretty good at Christmas. Even the mean old teachers seemed to lighten up some at Christmas.

Christmas was also a time when some of the children would get really sad and depressed knowing what they were missing at home. After a couple of years at the Orphanage, I never felt that way because I knew I had no where to go and no one that wanted me. The Orphanage was my home and that's just the way it was.

Over the last fifty years since the Masons took me in at Oxford Orphanage, I have grown to love both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Both of these holidays are special times to spend with my family and my perfect grandchildren. I love the smell of food cooking in the oven. I know that sounds silly but in the Orphanage you never got to smell food cooking. When the turkey is roasting on Thanksgiving, I always want to be there to enjoy the aroma. Nothing smells better than a cake, pie, or cookies baking. I absolutely love the smell of the holidays.

To this day, I always listen to Christmas carols from Thanksgiving to New Years day. They are just special. I know the tune and the words to a lot of them. What a blessing to be able to see the Christmas trees. We always ride around through what we call the rich peoples neighborhood and look at all the Christmas trees through the glass doors and windows. Then on Christmas Eve, I always sit back and look at our tree and marvel at the beauty of it even if it was a cedar cut off our land.

Then on Christmas Day, I get to watch my grandchildren open their presents. Their laughter and squeals of joy give me a warm feeling all over. They get tired and crawl up in my lap in my recliner and snuggle against me until they fall asleep. As I watch them sleep and I hold them close to me, I understand just how much God has blessed me.

Then, I close my eyes and relax, and my mind wanders to the distant past at Oxford Orphanage. In my mind's eye, I see my friend's faces just as they were as children fifty years ago. I hear their laughter and see their smiles. I listen to Tennessee Ernie Ford sing "Silent Night." It still gives me chill bumps to listen to the strength of his voice. The smell of a freshly peeled orange crosses my senses, and I can taste the sweetness of a piece of hard candy. Then, with complete excitement, I carefully examine my presents under the tree. I have no clue who the actual person was that sent them to me, but I know they are Masons who somehow care about orphan children.

I am startled by my granddaughter waking up in my lap and reality creeps back in.

It occurs to me that some of the children who I saw in my dream have passed away, and others are almost sixty years old like me. I take the time to ponder my life and the blessings that I have received along the way. It occurs to me that the Masons of North Carolina and I have had a very long relationship. That relationship has been one of my greatest blessings.

I have spent my whole year as grand master talking about Masonic charity. Thanksgiving is the time to stop and thank God for what he has given each of us. Christmas is the time of giving and sharing with others. I hope that this year you will give to both of our Masonic Homes as God has given to you.

May God bless each of you.



**Lodge serves bikers on closed Main Street**

MOUNT AIRY — Granite 322 held a Pancake, Sausage, and Gravy Breakfast on August 21 at the North Carolina H.O.G. (Harley Owners Group) rally held being held here. Mt. Airy closed Main Street on Friday morning as the lodge lined tables down the center of the street. Harley Davidson motorcycles were parked down both sides of the street. Granite Lodge served 268 breakfast plates from 6:00 and 10:00 that morning. This was their second food fundraiser this year for the Masonic charities. In March, they held their annual Country Ham & Egg breakfast. Twenty-eight lodge members helped prepare and serve food. — Joe Arnder



**Salisbury lodges have dinner together**

SALISBURY — Gary Yost wanted to have an event during his year as master in Fulton 99 that included both the town's lodges. Yost is a dual member in Andrew Jackson 576 and a past master there. Yost said, "I wanted to come up with something that our two sister lodges could do together and include our entire Masonic families. I invited members, wives, family members, and ladies of both lodges to attend a dinner at a local restaurant." On July 30, 50 people enjoyed dinner together at a local restaurant. None of them even had to stay late to clean up. — Gary S. Yost

**OUTREACH, from page 7**

dential living. WhiteStone's management team continues to work hard on programs to make our residents more satisfied, After all, that is what our mission is all about.

We also continue to work hard at maintaining the Masonic culture of the community. The Eastern Star Chapter at the community which started last May continues to do really well and currently have approximately 50 residents as members. We are also hosting a Masonic luncheon on the first Tuesday of every month, where approximately 30-35 brothers from the community and local area meet, eat good food, and share fellowship with one another. Finally, we host a weekly Masonic coffee club each Friday morning as well. All of this is in conjunction with hosting various Masonic committee meetings and Wilkerson College, and being a site for Past Masters night for local lodges etc. WhiteStone continues to try to give back to the Masonic fraternity that has given so much over to us over the years.

There are exciting things we are planning for our future. First is the future of our charity. We recognize at WhiteStone that, particularly during these tough economic times, more of our fraternal members are struggling to make ends meet, and we want to help. As a result, we are now looking at ways to potentially expand our charity with the hopes of becoming a truly state-wide fraternal charitable organization, with the goal of continuing to provide assistance to those in Greensboro, but also to extend our charity, and make it more flexible and accessible to our brothers and their families all across the state.

Earlier this year a special charity committee was established by WhiteStone's board of directors with the directive to begin to research and build outreach programs that would extend charity. As a result, the committee is working on three programs: The first is a medical equipment loan program which would make equipment such as scooters, motorized wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers, etc. available for loan to those fraternal members anywhere in the state who needed them. When those people are done using them, the equipment would be returned to WhiteStone and given to another person for use down the road. WhiteStone already has in its storage numerous pieces of equipment that are available, and we are always accepting donations for more. Just as an example, we recently received a beautiful walker from a neighbor of mine that had hardly been used. I brought it in to work the next day. Later on I ran into a resident and noticed that her walker was beginning to look a little worn. This was the proud wife of a Mason who never asked for much and was currently receiving financial assistance. When I asked her whether she would be interested in upgrading her walker her eyes lit up and said she would, as the one she currently had was over ten years old and used by her husband. When I delivered the new walker to her, you would have thought I'd just given her the keys to a new car! Since then this widow has thanked me several times. It is an example of the small difference

we can make in a person's life simply by sharing that which we already have. I am happy to announce that the program is now in effect. We have printed posters with the toll-free number you can call to access the program for a brother or family member you know who needs a piece of medical equipment. We would also be happy to get your donation.

A second program we are proud to announce is a toll-free hotline that will make available to fraternal members and their families, experienced WhiteStone staff who can help access benefits through Medicaid, Medicare, Home Health, and Veteran Affairs. We know how tough accessing these bureaucratic systems can be, and our experienced staff can help navigate these systems and get people the benefits they are entitled to in order to make their lives a little more comfortable. The same toll-free phone will be used as the medical equipment program. I encourage each lodge or district to pick up the posters and take them back to your lodge to post.

The third program currently in development is an outreach program that would provide financial assistance to fraternal members in their own home and allow them to stay in their own community. We know that there are people out there who perhaps only need a few hundred dollars a month to meet their obligations. Rather than move them to Greensboro, we would like to set up a system whereby WhiteStone can send funds on a monthly basis to keep that person in their own home, where they have access to their social support of family and friends. It is a more cost-effective way of doing charity, allowing us to help more people with the same amount of funds. While we are excited about the potential of this program, we do not foresee it being implemented for a few more years until such time as the amount of charity provided at WhiteStone decreases and sufficient systems can be put in place, but it is an achievable goal that I believe will be the long term future of our charity.

Finally, another project that illustrates the future of our community is our current expansion and development. We continue to make progress on the \$30-plus million expansion/development plan for WhiteStone that will add 75 independent living units as well as new common areas. We are currently about 30 percent pre-sold. If all goes according to plan, we will begin renovation work to our Linville building at the beginning of the new year. New construction we hope to begin in late 2010 and complete sometime in 2011, before our centennial anniversary in 2012.

On behalf of the residents at WhiteStone, we say, "Thank you," to all the Masonic members for your hard work fundraising and for the continued financial support of our Masonic foundation.

I'd like thank the 12 brothers who serve on our Board and also extend gratitude to Grand Master Rice for his dedicated service over the past three years as chairman of our Board of Directors. His leadership during WhiteStone's most challenging period in its long history has been irreplaceable, and he will be missed by



**Masons entertain their softball team**

WAYNESVILLE — Waynesville 259 sponsored a little league softball team this past season. After the season, the lodge invited the girls and their parents to the lodge for a cookout to meet and congratulate the team. The girls finished the season in second place and several of the girls played with the all stars. — Joel Chambers

**BELL, from page 8**

patriot troops melted down King George's statue in New York.

As Excelsior 261 Brother David McKenzie sounds his bagpipe, Mecklenburg-area children will bring flowers to lay at the base of the American Freedom Bell just outside the Charlotte Museum of History. Inside, a free reception from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 1, 2010, will pay tribute to the largest ground-level bell

in the world: seven feet wide, seven feet deep, and weighing seven tons — equivalent to 100 people. It's to be one big photo opportunity.

A visit to the bell website, AmericanFreedomBell.org, gives computer owners the chance to ring the bell at any time, at any volume, and any number of times.

The cost of manufacturing the bell was underwritten by John Belk of Excelsior 261.

**STATE, from page 3**

**Shallotte**

The Boston Butt Sale at Shallotte 727 was set for October 3. — James Robinson

**Thomasville**

Thomasville 214 was holding their Annual Masonic Thanksgiving Banquet November 17. They were honoring their lodge widows with a traditional Thanksgiving meal. They were also entertaining them with tribute to Elvis by Kiley Holder. — Thomasville Lodge

**Warsaw**

Warsaw 677 held their Annual Pancake Breakfast Saturday, November 7. — Warsaw Lodge

**Jacksonville**

Semper Fidelis 680 is holding a lodge breakfast each month. It runs from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. on third Saturday mornings. Semper Fi's annual barbecue fundraiser was set for September 11. — Trestle Board

**Bailey**

Marshall Brock Jr. made two wall plaques for Bailey 411. The plaques will carry a name plate for each past master of the lodge, dating back to 1916. — Newsletter

**Spencer**

They've switched from pre-meeting meals to after meeting refreshments at Spencer 543. Their Annual Thanksgiving/Awards Dinner was scheduled for November 24. — On the Square

**Manteo**

Manteo 521 held their Past Masters' Night October 3. They were presenting service awards the same night. — More Light from Manteo Lodge

**Green Level**

Earlier this year, Green Level 277 named Michael Prince a Secretary of Distinction for his years of service to the lodge. — Stan Latta

**Clayton**

Chuck Coats rounded up a few friends to take a motorcycle ride to the Masonic Home for Children November 7. He didn't get as many people as he wanted, but then, it was only the first try. — Grover Dees

**Black Mountain**

There are maintenance projects to be done at Black Mountain 663, as in any lodge. They were requesting volunteers to spray weeds, do some gutter work, and exterior painting. — The Traveling Trowel

**Kenly**

Kenly 257 held a Rusty Nail Degree in October. That's a time when men who haven't visited lodge in a long while may reacquaint themselves with the words and signs needed in lodge. — Grover Dees

**Asheboro**

Asheboro 699 was to hold an outdoor degree October 24. They served breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and started the degree at 10:00 a.m. They held it at the Randolph County Shrine Club. — Craig Russell

*WhiteStone*  
A MASONIC & EASTERN STAR  
COMMUNITY EST. 1912

**Need Assistance ?  
WhiteStone Can Help!**



WhiteStone's Outreach Program is a statewide program designed to help North Carolina Masons and Eastern Star Members or their family get the assistance they need.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>We can help you with the loan of Medical Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canes</li> <li>• Wheelchairs</li> <li>• Motorized wheelchairs</li> <li>• Scooters</li> <li>• Walkers</li> </ul> | <p>Help you access community Health &amp; Social Services such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Housing Options</li> <li>• Medicare/Medicaid Benefits</li> <li>• Veteran Services</li> <li>• Support Groups</li> <li>• In Home Assistance</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**WhiteStone's Toll Free Helpline:  
1-877-784-9309**

WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community  
700 S. Holden Road  
Greensboro, NC 27407  
www.LiveatWhiteStone.org

BENEATH THE OAKS

You make a difference

By Allen Hughes
Administrator
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford



As we go through the feasting and celebrations of Thanksgiving and approach the Christmas holidays, it is a good time to reflect on the things for which we are thankful and to consider opportunities to assist the less fortunate.

Thankfully, many of our donors share their time and resources throughout the year to brighten the lives of our children. The donations and activities provided and sponsored throughout the year by numerous Masonic lodges, individuals, and businesses make



Gardening shed for the girls

Noting the Home for Children's needs list, Granville 380, with a generous donation from Stock Building Supply of Youngsville, built and donated a storage building. Knowing the girls of Jefcoat Cottage's love of gardening and landscaping, Jim Lanore, the members of the Lodge, and some employees of Stock Building Supply built the shed. They delivered it in early May.

it possible for our children to enjoy experiences they otherwise would not have had. To attempt to recognize by name all the donors and special activities would take more space than I have here and may detract from the significance of the gifts.

Our children are treated to many activities off campus as well. A few lodges and Eastern Star groups take children from one or two of the cottages to eat at a local restaurant or at their lodge. Groups are hosted on camping, fishing, and beach trips; others attend Camp Rainbow or leadership training at Valley Forge, courtesy of the National Sojourners.

Not all the gifts are for the entertainment of the children. A couple of lodges and business volunteers have donated workdays on campus to erect playground equipment, clean and repair grills, plant flowers and shrubs, paint and spruce up the picnic area and gym, and install new equipment.

homes. The in-kind gifts help support the children and are important because they help offset operating expenses.

All this shows the Masonic Home for Children has a wonderful support base to provide for the needs, well-being, and happiness of our children. More important, most of our donors who sponsor the activities are willing to coordinate their support and activities with the schedule of other activities for the children.

Let me regress to the holidays. All our children would fall in the "less fortunate" category, so it is important that we do what we can to make the holiday period pleasant for them. Part of the process involves coordinating gifts so all the children in each group receive gifts of their choosing, but of similar value, and something they can enjoy while trying to prevent a child from receiving two or three of the same item.

We occasionally receive more gifts than we can appropriately use for our children, and we usually are able to give these to other groups needing support. We also encourage groups and individuals who wish to give presents for the children to purchase gift cards which can be used later.

Enjoy your holidays and know that the children at MHCO are blessed that you care. Thank you for all you do. As we face probably an even more financially challenging year ahead, please help spread the giving spirit throughout the year to help care for the children.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- 3..... Johnny Mack Godley
3..... Matthew Cramer Grady
3..... Christopher Ryan Muse
8..... William Kirk Bobbitt
8..... Gary M. Hallett
8..... Kristofer Sagan Norris
8..... Theophilos John Pryor
8..... Mariano Quinata Quinata
8..... William George Ross Jr.
8..... Ness William Lee Van
27..... Mark Alan Carr
31..... Billie C. Stout II
32..... Jeffrey Keith Canipe
32..... Darryl Ethan Faust II
39..... Brian David Harrell
39..... Brian Mitchell Lockwood
53..... Keith Alan Sadler
58..... John Felton Hale
64..... Eric Forbes
75..... Kevin Jon Jungman
76..... James Wayne Belcher
76..... Daniel Adam Boyd
81..... David McKinley Andrews Jr.
81..... William Henry Batchelor
81..... Brian Andrew Higgins
81..... Franklyn Lee Higgins
81..... Jeremy Scott Howard
81..... Kyle Lee Koonce
81..... Edgar Earl Mills
81..... Keith Alexander Mills
81..... Kevin Earl Mills
81..... Nicholas Wayne Norris
83..... Timothy Brian Abbey
83..... Steven David Antwine
83..... Paul Anthony Crawford Jr.
83..... Aaron Robert Kinsley
83..... Dustin Edward Kirby
83..... Grady L. Nichols III
83..... Jonathan Christopher Snyder
90..... Bobby James Cherry Jr.
98..... Robert Franklin Carter Jr.
98..... Harley Lee Mehaffey Jr.
102..... William James Fox
102..... Preston Dale Mason
104..... Matthew Allen Wesley
106..... Thomas Welling Barrett
109..... Benjamin Lee Brooks Jr.
109..... Ryan Nathaniel Daw
109..... Gregory Augustin Goolishian Jr.
109..... Barry Dean Lawrence
112..... Troy Gray Lee
114..... Charles Howard Britt
114..... David Ray Cook
114..... Scott Elliott Nims
114..... Bradley Oliver Thompson II
118..... Kevan Delany Frazier
118..... Peter Bohdan Hura
118..... Archie Alden Huskins
118..... Perry Allen James
122..... Jonathan Kelley Whitehead
125..... Jacob Wade Giddens
125..... Jeremy Lee Hudson
125..... Jason Kenneth Thornton
126..... Daniel Scott Powell
127..... Justin Alan Saunders
134..... Bradley Davis Blackwelder
134..... Darby William Correll
136..... Lindberg Charles Meeks
137..... Tommy Ray Smith
145..... Justin Karr Conley
145..... Brian Emery Walker
146..... Rory Justin Byers
146..... Stephen Eugene Lane
146..... Eric Lane Teague
158..... James Harold Clark Jr.
158..... Ronald Wayne Seeberg
162..... Ralph David Nixon
162..... Jamison Morgan Roe
162..... Jason Douglas Stewart
162..... Benjamin Eric Stinson
172..... Thomas Leslie Collins
181..... John Grayson Ballard
181..... Patrick Ronald Dunning
188..... Thomas Alexander Dixon
188..... Jason Robert Gilliland
188..... Joshua Carliss Parrish
188..... Dennis Micheal Spinks
198..... Kevin Duane Johnson
202..... Russell Evans Beam
202..... Billy Dean Byers
202..... Wilson Scott Trammel
205..... Brian Sanders Carey
205..... Joseph Wright Carey IV
205..... Byron Eugene Falls
205..... Robert C. Furr
214..... Jessie Allen Reynolds
218..... Robert Ashley Capps
218..... Jeffery Scott Johnson
218..... Sharl Taron Whitaker
229..... Edward Frank Spain
230..... William Thomas Jenkins
230..... Michael Fraser Watson
243..... Gary Christopher Johnson
248..... Richard Mark Brittain
248..... Travis Willis Lance
248..... Howard Lee Osborne
248..... Mark William Phelan
249..... Kenneth Duane Scott
249..... Thomas Darryl Taylor
249..... James Timothy Tippet
249..... John Lewis Weathers Jr.
259..... Charles Joseph McNally
262..... Ralph Edward Ashburn Jr.
262..... Michael Everett Austin
262..... Jordan Mikeal Clark
263..... Robert Johnston IV
263..... Jonathan Chad Propst
263..... Charles David Ross
263..... Kenneth Shane Towery
265..... Chad Martin Boger
265..... Darren Gilbert Boles
265..... Allen Lee Cline Jr.
265..... Robert John Kassel
265..... Dean Plott Miller
267..... Christopher John Landreth
272..... Matthew Quinton Maness
272..... Archie Lee Martin
272..... Brandon Alan Sams
282..... Bruce Arthur Jantella
283..... David Gary Faulkner
283..... Christopher Wayne Hamilton
289..... Darrel Luther Clemmons
289..... Gil Gendel
289..... Bryan Cole Lee
293..... George Edward Cole
293..... Jerry Scott Griffith
293..... Jacob Weston Reeley
293..... Lance Jerome Stewart
293..... David Eugene Turner
300..... Christopher David Edwards
301..... Roger Dean Powell
302..... Matthew James Noel
304..... Deral Wayne Raynor II
314..... Marion Clifton Durden Jr.
314..... Jonathan Michael Herring
317..... Scot Robert Hardwick
322..... John Douglas Arnette
339..... Robert Dale Dover
344..... Clifford Longworth Michael
348..... John Christian Hall
348..... Jeremy Michael Laton
356..... Gregory Albert Davis
356..... Daniel Monroe Dixon
356..... Mark Edward Eaker
356..... Timothy James Hawkins
357..... Tony Leon Hoiland
358..... Curtis Mack Queen
359..... Shawn Michael Lyon
359..... William Joshua Ward
363..... Jason Douglas Hatfield
363..... Samuel Gregory Hinnant
363..... David Baxter Searcy
384..... Edward Alden Mason
391..... James Walter Rutherford
395..... Richard Darrell Bodine
395..... Buck Stone Honeycutt
395..... John Cameron Poland
397..... Jeremy Shane Briggs
397..... Benjamin Aaron Tipton
404..... David Wayne Bass
404..... Zachery Shane Lewis
404..... Gene Wayne McIntyre Jr.
407..... Austin Allen Freeman
407..... David Wilson Stephens
409..... Donnie Landon Allred
409..... David Michael Cook
409..... Christopher David Davis
409..... Geoffrey Clifton Elliott
409..... George Ray Maness
409..... William Brent McDonald
409..... Austin Gray Wood
423..... Timothy Marion Joines
429..... James Lee Stolarczyk
446..... Troy Justin Hornberger
446..... Aaron Matthew Johnson
446..... David Mitchell Mears
453..... William David Thomas
454..... Michael Wayne Deason
473..... Steven Swain Myers
474..... Bradley Hall Rountree
474..... Harrell Eugene Walters II
475..... Alexander Nathaniel Durland
482..... Billy Herbert Jackson
482..... John Rolla Kinard
483..... Bobby Lee Billings
483..... Reggie Eugene Prevette
483..... Dahl Jerome Tritt Jr.
484..... Felice Antonio Schillaci
491..... James Bradley Parker
491..... Matthew Everette Taylor
492..... Mark Antony Bare
492..... Daniel Vance Barnes
492..... Jason Matthew Broadway
493..... Fred Carlisle Atwell Jr.
496..... David Michael Christie
500..... Elmer Hubbard Gibson
500..... Dennis James Lee Jr.
500..... Randy Alan Mason
500..... Ryan Leslie Page
502..... Johnny Michael Hull
502..... Dennis Dale Weaver Jr.
505..... Robert Francis Laiweneek III
505..... Joshua Aaron Poole
505..... Larry Gene Wright II
515..... Michael Eric Broome
515..... Chad Stephen Carpenter
515..... Anderson Certain
515..... Donald Ross Ellis
515..... Robie Alan Matheson
515..... Cedron Scott Shirley
517..... Harrison Edward Barkley
517..... James Robert Corbitt III
521..... Bruce Alan Copeland
527..... Jimmie Dail Aycock
527..... Lonnie Keith Wells
532..... Douglas Alan Walter Rembisz
532..... Jason David Wise
542..... Scott Lauchlin McLaurin
544..... Ronald Ernest Downer
544..... Michael Cornell Underdown
552..... Keith Alan Koch
555..... William Earl Spivey
562..... Donovan Todd Matthews
562..... Stephen Forrest Sawyer
563..... Billy Shane Nealey
564..... John Edward Harris III
564..... Thomas James Marshburn
565..... Adam Cayton Bynum
571..... Gary Paul Henderson
571..... Michael Andrew Laws
573..... William Riley Cotton
573..... Brian Keith Wolfe
576..... Brian Lucien Bellis
576..... Robert William Pegram III
576..... William Steven Wright
583..... Christopher Lee Harrelson
583..... Curtis Harvey Hawkins
583..... Ryan Gayle Holsopple Jr.
583..... Gary Theodore McDaniel
583..... Joseph Russell Nobles
594..... Jeremy Dwayne Busby
594..... Dana Quin Shatley
595..... Jeffrey Brant Beaman
595..... Thomas Casey Knowles
595..... David Charles Powell
602..... Justin David Ellis
606..... Randall Lee Henderson
606..... Derrick Chad Houston
616..... John Seth Perry
616..... Benjamin Lee Puckett
626..... Dalton Mack Jordan
626..... Christopher Lynn Newsome
626..... James Mark O'Daniel
626..... James Robert Shaffner
626..... Joseph Evan Staton
634..... George Andrew Fafoulas
634..... Robert Linley McCoy
643..... Thomas Earl Smith
646..... Richard Lynn Shaw
646..... George Garrett Smith
646..... Donnie Mitchell Williamson Jr.
650..... Alan Barton Wray
657..... Benjamin Farabee Taylor
657..... Randy Lee Troutman
663..... Paul Douglas Morrow
669..... Gerard Clapso
670..... Phillip Keith Ramsey
674..... Matthew Shelton Ashby
674..... Luke Joseph Boudreault
674..... Kenneth Chaite Kaufman
676..... Jason Liam Dorn
676..... Andrew Ray Heim
676..... Luis Albeiro Loaiza
676..... Joshua Hamilton Rimany
676..... Steven Carol Seiler
680..... Travis Lee Adkins
680..... Stephen Alan Farage
680..... Roy Daniel Jaquez
680..... Brent Foster Keelan
680..... Andrew Robert Spaeth
683..... Mitchell Thomas Pruitt
685..... Jon Tyler Chadwick
685..... Joseph Feighner Johnston Jr.
685..... Patrick Christopher Morton
686..... Charles Drew Edwards
686..... Daniel Lee Stephens
686..... Thomas Gilmore Stephens Jr.
687..... Christian Ellis Farrell
687..... Douglas Marion Rowland Jr.
688..... Charles Thomas Clink
688..... Michael Salvatore DiFrancesco
689..... Brandon Lee Bridges
692..... Timothy James Wood
692..... Fernando Raul Ycaza
694..... Clem Flemon Ellis
694..... Ray Franklin Johnson
694..... Bryan Ceciel Patraw
695..... James Durant Foster Jr.
699..... Timothy Lendis Hayes
701..... Josh Randall Williams
703..... George Louis Miller Jr.
703..... William Henry Smith III
703..... Jamie Ryan Springer
704..... David Christopher Wheeler
708..... Carter Eugene Adkins
708..... Garrett Brandon Beaver
708..... Philip Whit Covington
708..... Scott Thomas Grady
708..... Samuel Clarence Losew
708..... Kyle Stephen Weaver
708..... Jordan Matthew Whichard
709..... James Omer Ballard Jr.
713..... Michael Gene Rhyne
719..... Lonnie Wayne Lassiter II
723..... Matthew Edward Bradley
723..... Raymond Curtis Eure
727..... John Philip Callison
727..... Mitchell Wayne Dowless
727..... Bryan Cody Long
727..... Bradley David Norris
731..... Noel Van Gilmore
733..... Justin Michael Crown
733..... IV Daniel Clay Stoner
735..... Wade Alexander Vandiford
736..... Ferdinand Alago Jr.
736..... Trent Brachus Melville Meadows
737..... John Frederick Foster
737..... Richard Carl Gelsomino
738..... William Shane Fields
738..... Randy Scott Hathcock
739..... Thomas Orlando Evans
739..... David Oliver Harmon
739..... David Paul Hux
741..... Brandon Corey Styron
742..... Charles David Chalmers
742..... Robert Walter Deese
742..... Robert Bradley Orr
742..... Lenzy Clayton Vibbert
743..... Joshua David Alexander
743..... Tyler Kevin Stevens
744..... Cody Stuart Allen
744..... Henry Forest Horne
744..... Gregory Steven McIntyre
746..... John Kevin Antonson
750..... Richard Owen Clayton
750..... Jason Dwayne Gullie
750..... Tommy Joe McCorkle Jr.
750..... Jeremy Edward McFalls
750..... Michael Gene Painter
751..... Jonathan Neil Bailey
752..... Walter Harrison Craver III
752..... Andrew Stewart Eads
752..... Steven Ray Tesh
757..... William Paul Baker
757..... Phillip Wayne Berry
757..... Jeremiah Everett Buff
759..... Benjamin Lanier Hobbs
759..... Samuel Ryan Hobbs
759..... Clair David Anthony St.
759..... Richard Stanley Wasson
759..... Marcus Bradford Whitman
763..... Timothy Jason Connor
763..... Jonathan Lee Gonia
763..... Joshua Lee Mize
763..... Marcus Tyler Strickland
763..... John Daniel Tadlock

SENIOR MOMENTS



# Outreach programs introduced

By Mark Kolada  
Administrator  
WhiteStone

Apologies to all the Brothers who attended Grand Lodge in September and have heard this annual report already. For those of you who were not able to attend Annual Communication or will not have a chance to read the Proceedings, below is a copy WhiteStone's annual report to Grand Lodge:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished members of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, fellow Brothers:

I am pleased to report that our 97-year-old community in Greensboro is steadily improving on all fronts. In 2008, after years of financial challenges, WhiteStone achieved its goal of getting into the black and reported a small profit of \$82,000, primarily due to consistently high occupancy, qualifying more of our subsidized nursing home residents on Medicaid, and continuing to be diligent about expense control. As a result of our efforts, despite the economy, we have also successfully increased our cash flow by \$1.3 million. It feels good to be putting money back in the bank rather than always taking it out. So far in 2009, our positive fiscal trends have continued with our net operating income ahead of budget by approximately \$200,000 and in the black by over \$500,000. Looking forward to 2010, our fiscal goal is to be substantially in the black to the point where we will not have to rely on donations as part of our ongoing revenue and to have WhiteStone

self-sustaining on its own operating revenue.

As our financial situation improves, it has allowed our charitable mission at WhiteStone to remain strong and generous. WhiteStone currently serves over 270 residents, of which about 25% require some sort of financial subsidy. Of these 68 current residents, 41 were Masonic affiliated and 27 are sponsored by an Eastern Star Chapter. In 2008, the cost of our charity remained stable and was approximately \$1.8 million. WhiteStone collected close to \$1.4 million in contributions, of which Masons gave more than \$537,000. We are extremely grateful for your continued financial support. Please know that 100% of your contributions directly go to support our Brothers and their family, assisting with their expenses such as room and board, medical supplies, medications, and other medical bills.

I do want to recognize several lodges which continue to contribute more than \$25 per member to WhiteStone. These distinguished lodges are: William T. Bain 231, Temple 676, Raleigh 500, Clemmons 755, Bula 409, Semper Fidelis 680, Pilot 493, Selma 320, Kilwinning 64, Fellowship 687, Mill Creek 125, Cary 198, Vandora 745, Casar 579, Garner 701, Green Level 277, Jerusalem 95, Henry F. Grainger 412, Millbrook 97, Mingo 206, Ararat 558, Archer 165, Long Creek 205, James B. Green 735, Wilson 712, Creedmoor 499, Statesville 27, Person 113, Hiram 40, John H. Mills 624, and Andrew Jackson 576.

We congratulate these lodges on their leadership, hard work, and dedication toward the WhiteStone charity. In addition to the financial contributions, we are also very fortunate to have lodges

which volunteer at the community, whether its putting on the Sunday afternoon service to entertain our residents or in the instance of members of Gate City Lodge in Greensboro, who every Friday continue to have several members stop by and perform odd jobs for our residents such as fixing computers or moving furniture among other things. We are extremely grateful for this support as well.

Going forward, the level of charity the Home continues to provide, will be dependent on the amount of donations it receives. In other words, the more donations we receive, the more charity we can provide. Know that every day, your dollars make a profound impact the lives of our Brothers and their family at WhiteStone.

But it's not only about dollars and cents at WhiteStone. We are working hard to continue to make improvements in the services and amenities offered. We make investments in needed capital improvements to our Home. Over the past year we have renovated the historic Latham building, replaced carpet in our nursing home, and made necessary repairs to our historic chapel.

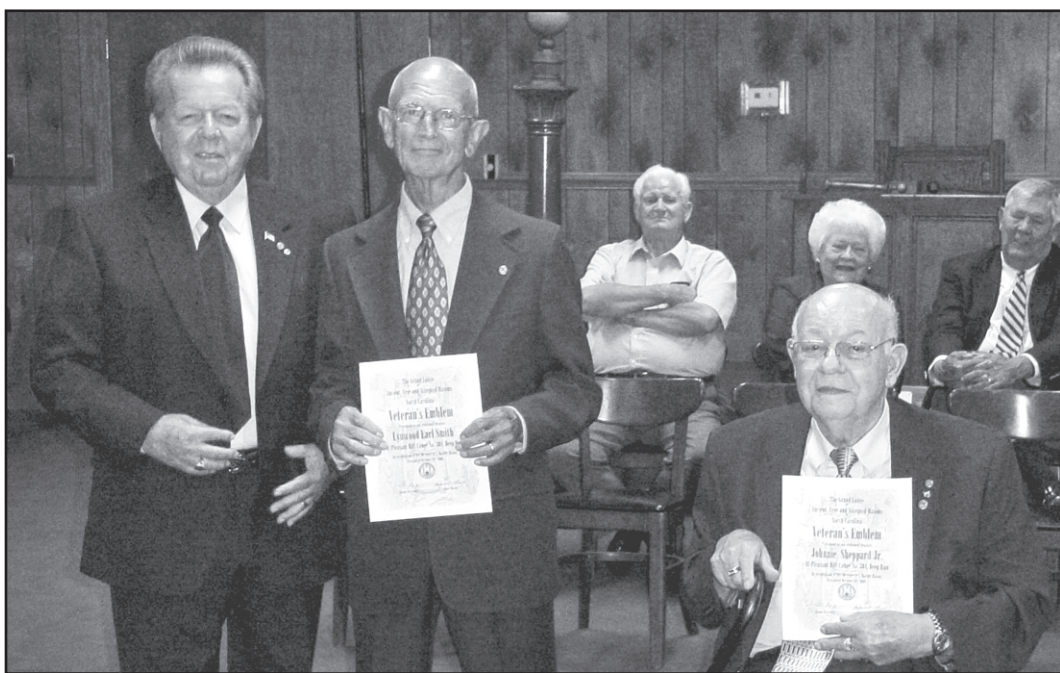
At WhiteStone, we also continue to focus on resident satisfaction or, as I like to call it, "keeping our residents happy." It's a tough job. Some days we do a better job than others, but our commitment is unwavering. I am pleased to report that earlier this year we received the results of the bi-annual resident satisfaction survey with overall satisfaction increasing from 67% in 2006 to 88% in 2008. Areas showing substantial improvement included food, resident communication, care and wellness center, and resi-

see OUTREACH, page 5

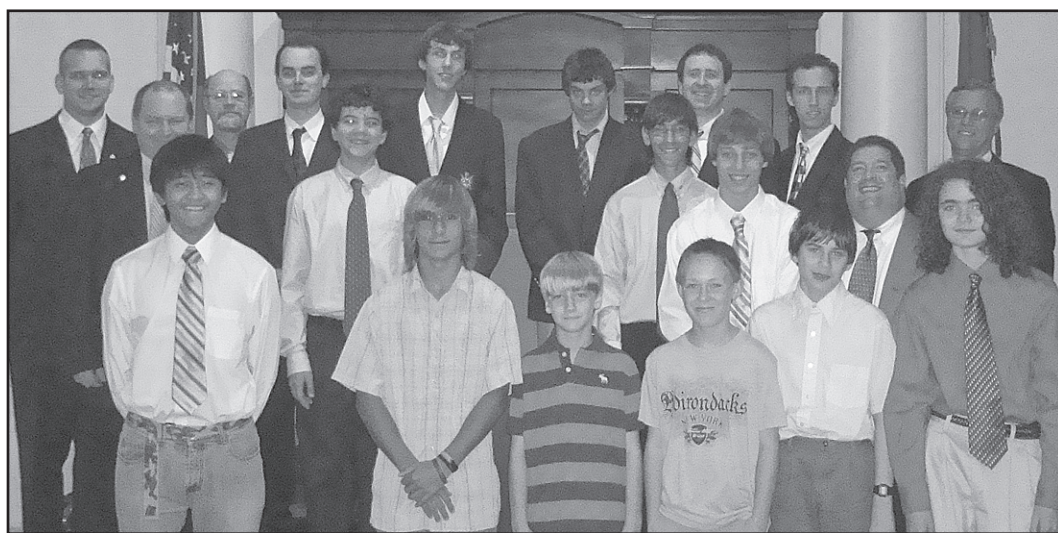
## MILEPOSTS



DEEP RUN — Four Diamond Jubilee Awards were handed out October 3 at Pleasant Hill 304. Lodge Master Raymond L. Turner Jr. presented the awards. Seen here, from left, presenter Turner, Vance Leslie Harper, Robert Leo Harper, Ethro Dail Hill, and Rupert Shelton Rhodes. — Rick Stroud



DEEP RUN — Pleasant Hill 304 presented two Veteran's Emblems for 50 years membership on October 3. Lodge Master Raymond Turner, left, is seen here congratulating Lynwood Earl Smith, center, and Johnnie Sheppard Jr., right. — Rick Stroud



RALEIGH — The DeMolays held an induction ceremony in Raleigh on October 10. Pictured above are the seven new DeMolays who joined along with those participating on the induction team. One of the boys who joined was the son of Sean Hughes, a member of St. John's I, who is leading efforts to start a new DeMolay Chapter in Wilmington. After the ceremony, the DeMolays finished off the day with a disc golf tournament. — Frank Silber, NC DeMolay Executive Officer



MOUNT OLIVE — Mount Olive 208 welcomed another member of the Daniels family to its lodge September 1 when they initiated Tim Daniels, center. He is seen here with his father Craig Daniels while being congratulated by Mount Olive Master Willie Ray Starling. — Trestle Board



WASHINGTON — Washington 675 celebrated its Past Masters' and Ladies' Night October 30. They enjoyed bluegrass music from Crossroads and a slide show about the history of Masonry in North Carolina. Two members were on hand to get their service awards. Left is Dallas Jackson, who got his Veterans' Emblem for 50 years membership. John Morgan, right, (retired register of deeds for Beaufort County) was honored with his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years membership. Washington Lodge Master Jack Smiley, center, presented the awards.



HERTORD — Cecil Winslow spent more than 35 years as secretary of Perquimans 106. At the lodge's October 13 Ladies' Night Banquet, his lodge saluted Winslow, naming him a Secretary of Distinction, a special honor from lodges to accomplished secretaries. Winslow is a past master of the lodge as well as a past district deputy grand master. A lodge member said, "Cecil Winslow is and lives what Masonry is all about; he is and has been a Guiding Light in Masonry for many." Seen here are, from left, are Secretary Paul Gregory, Winslow, and Master Jeff Perry. — Paul Gregory



FARMINGTON — William L. Brock, left, recently received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years of Masonic membership. Master J. Yoman Smith (right) presented the award to the Farmington 265 member. — Craig P. Steelman



FAYETTEVILLE — Ft. Bragg 667 Master Mart Lewis, right, recently visited the home of Charles A. Norris, left, to present his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership. — John Franklin



ELIZABETHTOWN — Red Springs 501's John H. Creech was recently presented his Veteran's Emblem saluting his 50 years Masonic membership. An active Mason, the retired North Carolina Highway Patrol trooper described his life in Masonry as "a long and adventure-filled journey... filled with many happy and fulfilling moments." Creech is seen here, center, receiving the award from 18th District Deputy Grand Master Gary C. Bass, left, and Red Springs 501 Master Norman White. — Ken Pervine

# Charlotte celebrating Masonic history at Alexander House and Freedom Bell



## Alexander House and CMH link to Masonic ties

By Walter Klein

CHARLOTTE — New revelations are spreading the fraternal fame of the Hezekiah Alexander homesite in Charlotte.

As a result, the Charlotte Museum of History now welcomes Masons with an enthusiasm unmatched since its 1774 opening as a combined lodge meeting hall and residence of the 13 members of Charlotte's largest family.

Publication of "The Hezekiah Alexander House — a Guide for Freemasons" will herald unprecedented Masonic activity at the Charlotte Museum of History which is charged with protecting the region's oldest building and honoring its rich Masonic History.

The illustrated story will have its own website Alexander-Homesite.org with Douglas Spicer of Excelsior 261 as webmaster. It will be available as a hard-copy publication as well.

Mary Davis Smart, president of the museum, is inviting all Masons — individually and as lodges — to regularly visit and use the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, the American Freedom Bell, and the Charlotte Museum of History "in the spirit of the sacred Masonic history of their location" at 3500 Shamrock Drive.

Mecklenburg Masonic leaders made history at that stone house the afternoon of September 19, 2004, when they signed their own declaration that forever ended 230 years of bickering over the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The argument, begun by no less than Thomas Jefferson, threw doubt on that document but never on the Masons who signed it. It took all those years for the people to wake up to the fallacy of questioning the honesty of a document while never questioning the honesty of its signers.

The North Carolina Grand Lodge formally met within the Hezekiah Alexander house at 4:00 P.M., November 5, 1999, for the purpose of dedicating the site of the American Freedom Bell nearby. Grand masters of both white and black North Carolina Masonic orders were present as former Governor James G. Martin led them.

Is treasure — Masonic or otherwise — hidden next to the Hez House cornerstone? Thermal images were made May 21–23, 2000, by a Kenner, Louisiana, firm which reported a suspected cavity in the southwest corner of the Hez House. The thermal imaging project also revealed two possible blacksmith shops (Hez was a blacksmith), smokehouses, a possible 120-foot tunnel, two outbuildings, a wagon road, possible cistern, carriage turnaround, and unmarked graves. The tunnel was supposedly dug as an escape route, first from Indians — there were 5,000 of them living on the nearby river — and later from the British enemy.

What makes the house a national Masonic treasure is the many signs and symbols all over it. It is clear Hez used his house to examine men seeking to meet with brother Masons inside. Example: two balls and a cane. It is now known Hez used his blacksmithing tools to chip out symbols of a trowel, square-and-compasses and all the other Masonic designs today decorating his unique "palace."



Ric Carter photo

## Duell Lodge gets national recognition

WINSTON-SALEM — Fayetteville's Clifford Duell 756 was named a winner of the Masonic Service Association's Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award this year. The award recognizes "demonstrated exemplary work in constructing a positive Masonic identity within the lodge and for the local community." Twenty-four lodges in 17 states were honored in 2009.

Grand Master Dan Rice presented the award to Duell Master James Baker at Annual Communication in September.



## Sanford Lodge weathers disaster

SANFORD — When torrential rains passed through North Carolina November 11, the downpour overwhelmed the drainage of the flat roof on Sanford 151's home. The weight of the water build-up proved more than the support beams could stand and collapsed the roof into the lodge room.

Good luck and good planning have taken care of Sanford Lodge. They carried good insurance (the Grand Lodge program) and have a good Masonic neighbor in town. They are covered for full replacement of their facility by their insurance. They are moving their meetings across town to Buffalo 172 until repairs on their lodge are complete.

But the message for the rest of us is clear — prepare for the worst so you won't be devastated if it occurs.

## Freedom Bell to celebrate tenth birthday

By Walter Klein

CHARLOTTE — New Years Day 2010 will see crowds surrounding the American Freedom Bell and the Charlotte Museum of History as they celebrate the famous bell's tenth birthday.

Conceived by NC Masons, its cornerstone laid by two grand masters and initiated by former Governor James G. Martin and Charlotte Mayor John Belk, both Masons, the American Freedom Bell has been the focus of attention by tens of thousands of visitors.

That's just the beginning, according to its Netherlands manufacturer, who predicts a life of 5,000 years of ringing true.

The Liberty Bell, today silent in Philadelphia, was rescued by two Charlotte Masons from sure meltdown by British troops during the Revolutionary War. Father and son Thomas Polk and William Polk, leaders of early Charlotte, secretly transported the first national treasure to an Allentown, Pennsylvania church just before enemy troops approached to melt it into bullets the way

see BELL, page 5

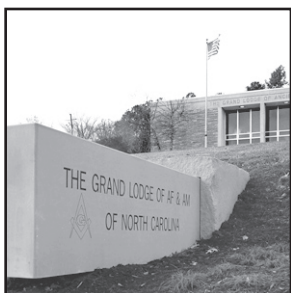
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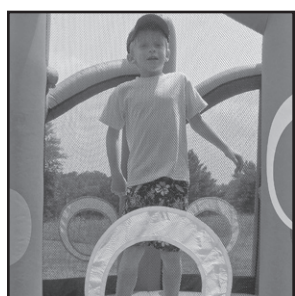
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Tom Cathey collects DOD recognition.



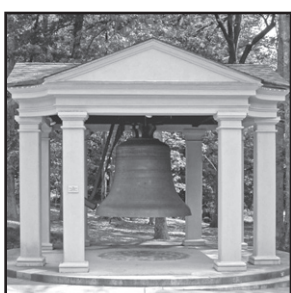
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Masonic news from around the state.



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Hickory Lodge entertains their families.



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Masonic history is being honored in Charlotte.

**The North Carolina Mason**  
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM  
600 College Street  
Oxford, North Carolina 27565

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason



Volume 134 Number 6

November/December 2009



## The Calvin Taylor Ride cruises the Blue Ridge for the ninth year

CANTON — The Calvin E. Taylor Ride just completed its ninth annual motorcycle ride for the kids. Held in September, the ride memorializes Highway Patrol Trooper Taylor, a Mason, who was killed in the line of duty. In its nine-year history, the ride has brought thousands of dollars to the Masonic Home for Children. They also collect stuffed animals to place in police cars and ambulances for comforting children in distress. They also contribute to a scholarship fund named for Taylor. The event is sponsored by the eight lodges in the 40<sup>th</sup> Masonic District. — Mike Hooper