



# NORTH CAROLINA The Mason



Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina

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## Unanimity steps up to offer shelter

By Ric Carter

EDENTON — Bud Sowers and John Bond have several things in common. Both are masters of Masonic lodges here — Sowers of Unanimity 7 AF & AM, Bond of John R. Page 13 PHA. They were both in the military in their younger days. Bud in the Marines and John in the Army.

"I was fresh out of boot camp, '54, Paris Island, getting ready to go to Korea," Sowers recalls. "Me and this other fella, Youngblood, he's black and I'm white. We're walking down this street in South Carolina, a police car pulls up says, 'You can't be with that man.'" He was so angry he went to the police station to complain.

"Similar thing happened to me in Louisiana in '65, Fort Polk," remembers Bond. "Me and this white

friend left post together to go to town. Went to this night spot." Bond was not welcome due to his color and accompanying a white friend. He was man enough to defend his country, but not share a table in a night spot.

Both recall those moments today as well as the frustration with such intolerance.

In the early morning hours of April 9, a storm line moved through Edenton producing down burst straight-line winds that brought down trees and damaged several building in town. Sustaining the worst damage was John R. Page Lodge's home, the last remaining fraternal lodge among a half-dozen built by blacks here between 1885 and 1927. The building was blown off its foundation and lost part of its roof.

Sower was called about the storm damage in the early morning hours, found that it was not his lodge that was damaged, but the Prince Hall lodge just four blocks up the street. Soon, he was on the phone with District Deputy Grand Master Jim Carr and District Deputy Grand Lecturer Mickey Spruill. They discussed the matter and began calling around to lodge members.

On Saturday morning, they were at Unanimity Lodge meeting with members of Page Lodge to see what they could do to help. They offered to lend their facilities until Page Lodge could get back on their feet.

The invitation was accepted, and use has already



John R. Page 13 PHA suffered dire damage when blown off its foundation in an April 9 storm. They are just four blocks from Unanimity 7.



Edenton Masters John Bond, left, and Bud Sowers discuss Unanimity's master's chair.

see SHELTER, page 5



Above, Joe Lineberry checks one of his bluebird boxes behind Care Center. Below, Eunice the brown-headed nuthatch watches Joe at the front door.



## Life's little pleasures, brought to you by Joe

By Ric Carter

GREENSBORO — Yes, his work offers pleasure to many folks, often becoming a topic of cheerful conversation in the dining room at WhiteStone. His labors offer solace to animals who have suffered at the hands of mankind's chemical infatuations. But, truthfully, Joe Lineberry will very likely confess to you that he does it all for his own joy. Lineberry could easily be known as the Birdman of WhiteStone where he maintains a bluebird box trail around the perimeter of our retirement home.

"I've been messing with bluebirds ever since I was a kid. My dad got me interested in it," says Joe. "When I was a kid, my dad had some bird boxes around the house. After reading about DDT, I started helping bluebirds. I picked it up more when I retired."

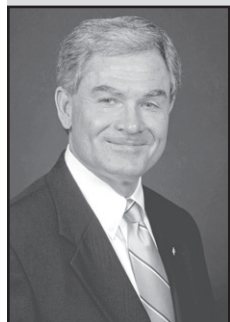
Joe maintains about 22 bluebird boxes these days. Joe says, "That keeps me busy, I've been doing that since I retired about 20 years ago."

Joe was raised in Greensboro and spent his working life as a pipefitter with Lorillard for 33 years. He retired to Long Beach, NC for a few years, but eventually found his way back home to Greensboro. The Revolution 552 member moved into the Masonic and Eastern Star Home (now WhiteStone) in September 2001.

He very soon talked to the Home's groundskeeper about his

see BIRDS, page 4

### THE BOTTOM LINE



## Do you deserve the title Master Mason?

By William L. Dill  
Grand Master

During my years before being elected grand master I often asked myself, "Am I a Master Mason?" "Am I living my life as a Master Mason?"

After being elected Grand Master I have told myself everyday that I am a Master Mason.

And then I asked, "Am I deserving of the Title?"

This simple question has driven me to ensure I am deserving of the title Master Mason.

We are assured by each brother that we came to our fraternity of our own free will and accord, drawn by a desire for knowledge. Kneeling at our sacred altar we were asked, "What do you most desire?" Because of this, I believe being a Master Mason is a very personal commitment.

In order to answer truly, "Am I deserving of the title of Master Mason?" a man must be in full possession of the knowledge of what a Mason is required to know. That knowledge must be personal. It is, therefore, evident we must try to develop ourselves at the very outset of our Masonic career.

Before going further, let us decide that Masonry is something that does not come to us by the conferring of degrees alone or by the accumulation of Masonic honors. A grand master may be no more a Mason than an Apprentice. The quality of a Master Mason is determined by his knowledge of himself (the end and aim of Masonry) and the application of that knowledge towards the advancement of those with whom he comes in daily contact. Such a man would be in fact, a Mason under any other name.

The power to choose is given to each candidate for Masonry. Will he choose to evolve upward along the more difficult pathway of scientific and moral knowledge, or will he choose the easy pathway and become just a member with a dues card?

The three degrees of blue lodge Masonry cover a period of time. This time includes a man's initiation into life and his ultimate dissolution at death, together with a reference to another life hereafter. One must study this period of time to discover what a Mason must know to deserve the title Master Mason. We trace the pathway of man through his mortal existence. We discover man emerging from childhood to manhood, or from ignorance to understanding. He is uneducated. He lacks understanding. He is eager for work. He fearlessly explores the highways and byways of creed, doctrine, and dogma, in order to reason upon the various beliefs that enter into the formula of life and matter, and the more complex problem — man himself.

The question and answer should receive the most earnest and reverent attention of every Mason, for depending on his ability to delve into and solve this problem is he able to construct an edifice that can truly be said to be Masonic, built according to the plans of the Great Architect of the Universe.

As we advance, we have a vivid picture presented to us of life. Below our feet is the checkered floor, white and black, representing good and evil side by side, yet so strongly in contrast that even a dull sight can easily discern the difference. The checkering is constant. It would be very difficult to walk across the floor without touching some part of either the white or black, yet there is no other way to go, for the skirting represents the limit of all things. Therefore, the inference is that so long as we are on the earth there is no escape from contacts with evil elements. We must pursue

our journey regardless of all obstacles. Again, before proceeding, remember to keep in mind that the whole work of Masonry is individual, and it is your mentality that is being refined for the ordeal that you will be later called upon to pass through.

We, however, arrive at a conclusion that Masonry is dealing with something far more subtle and elusive than appears on the surface — something that is behind the symbols and allegories given to us in our lodges.

It is, therefore, the business of every Craftsman to be able to enter upon the work of his degree with a full knowledge of what is required of him, and unless he is building on a sure foundation, he should pause and become familiar with every factor with which he may have to deal, lest he discover that his progress is retarded by insufficient knowledge of the dangers along the way.

Our ritual says that no one but the Master Mason is allowed to enter the Sanctum Sanctorum. If, therefore, the masters have found that you have also become the master of the inner temple of your own being, it is part of your wages that you should acquire all the benefits that result from the fruits of your labor. You have discovered the point within the circle, the point from which a Mason cannot err.

These are the Mysteries, which Masonry tries to teach by allegory and symbol.

A Mason who is endowed with the desire to advance, will each night before he sleeps ask himself, "Have I been a true builder, and can I truly say that I have gained a step that will help me to my ultimate goal — knowledge of myself?"

These thoughts I give for what they are worth, with the hope that they will help each and every one of you to decide the question you or nay, "Am I deserving of the title Master Mason?"

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

# Questions cross our desk

**Q:** I recently attended lodge meeting in Georgia. They designate their lodges as F & AM. I know we are AF & AM. I am curious to learn the difference between an AF & AM lodge and an F & AM lodge. How did the designation F & AM come about? — Harry Franklin, Denver 757

**A:** Free and Accepted Masons and Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. Today, the designations essentially have NO meaning and do not denote any specific differences in lodges.

The terms are leftovers from the days when the Grand Lodge of England was split into Ancients and Moderns. That spat about ritual was finally worked out in 1813 when the two factions united into a single grand lodge — the United Grand Lodge of England that we know today.

At various times in our history, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina has been Ancient York Masons, Free & Accepted Masons, and Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. We have never found an explanation for the name changes.

**Q:** How does a Mason get into the Grand Line, how does this happen? Do you have to be a past master? Do you have to be a 32? What are the requirements? — Josh Edwards, Bula 409

**A:** There is no procedure or set method. Each incoming grand master chooses a grand steward. He makes that choice solely according to his will and pleasure.

Few men who find themselves in the line have sought it. They are often first noticed in their lodges as those who had the skill to make things happen and lead others. Many have shown similar skills in appendant bodies, but membership in an appendant body is not required. Grand Lodge officers are always on the lookout for talent. Men they respect and notice are usually appointed to grand lodge committees where their performance is further seen. Most appointees have been watched by line officers for years, with their appointment list being winnowed as the line officer progresses toward the east.

By the time to make the appointment comes, a deputy grand master has generally talked to several men he is considering, before finally settling on one who will accept the large responsibility for the hundreds of hours he will have to spend at the job.

The Code's requirements for the job are simple — he must be a resident of North Carolina, a member of one of our lodges, and a past master.

# Masonic exhibit set for Mt. Vernon

MOUNT VERNON — A singular moment in American Masonic history will occur in February 2011. For the first time, a major American museum will present an exhibition on Freemasonry and George Washington. A joint project of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the exhibition will open in Mount Vernon's new museum and education center.

The exhibition's working title "A Deserving Brother: George Washington and Freemasonry" derives from Washington's letter to King David's Lodge in Providence, Rhode Island in 1790. He wrote, "I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving Brother." The title refers not only to Washington, but to all men who join the Craft seeking to be a "deserving Brother."

With more than one million visitors to Mount Vernon ev-



Kelly Hooper, center, with the award he received from GM Dill, left, and Custodians Secretary Sigmon.



Bill Goodwin, center, holds the award he got from Custodians Secretary Sigmon, left, and GM Dill.

# Two lecturers earn unique honor

In the last few weeks, the Grand Lodge has seen and recognized a new milestone. Kelly Hooper of Robbinsville 672 and Bill Goodwin of Unanimity 7 have both reached 60 years as certified lecturers, the first NC Masons to do so.

They have both been masters of their lodges and district deputy grand lecturers in their areas. They both were certified as Class

A Lecturers in 1950. Members of the Board of Custodians and Grand Master William L. Dill visited to present recognitions of their achievement.

Class A Lecturers essentially must know the OSW in order to earn their title. The current system of certifying ritual experts began in 1941. — Mack Sigmon



# Big meeting in a small hall

UNION GROVE — Grand Master Billy Dill kicked off his district meetings this year here at Grassy Knob 471. Small lodges often fear they do not have enough room to host big meetings. Grassy Knob proved that it's those snug meetings that are often the best. Take a chance, and see what your results can be.

— Tom Gregory

ery year, this exhibition will be a golden opportunity for Freemasons to articulate their history and moral philosophy. The exhibition will open on President's Day weekend 2011 and run through January 2012.

— Mark Tabbert, *The Messenger* by way of *EMESSAY* Notes

## NC Mason Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
January/February.....	January 1
March/April .....	March 1
May/June .....	May 1
July/August.....	July 1
September/October.....	September 1
November/December.....	November 1

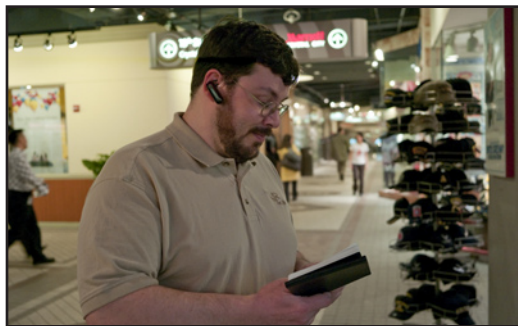


# Polk Lodge hosts Prince Hall visit

CHARLOTTE — On January 10, James K. Polk 759 did a triple Third Degree while hosting a visit from three local Prince Hall lodges. Lodge reports say, "It was an incredible turnout and marvelous time." The Prince Hall visitors participated with other visitors in helping raise the three candidates.

— Randy Richardson

# Tech helper knows his ritual, too



TROY, NEW YORK — When you MORI users need help with a software question, you call the Vita Rara help desk here. The voice you hear is that of Ken Crandall. You have already noticed that he is a man of good humor and almost endless patience.

You may not know that Ken is a Mason. He's a member of two New York lodges, Seneca 797 in Webster and Van Rensselaer 87 in East Greenbush. A third generation Mason, Ken joined the lodge in 2003.

He is senior warden of Van Rensselaer 87 and expects to be installed as master of June 5. His father will be there to install him.

Masonic Online Registry Interface (MORI) is the database used by the Grand Lodge and your lodge secretary to keep track of lodge finances and member information.

Ken is seen here in Alexandria, Virginia studying during a break at the Conference of North American Grand Masters back in February. He was to sit in the East for a First Degree as soon as he returned home.

# St. John's Day Schedule June 26, 2010

7:30 A.M.....	Children's booths serving breakfast open .....	upper campus
8:30 A.M.....	Stated communication of Orphans Lodge.....	Masonic Center
9:00 A.M.....	Walking tour sites open .....	various locations
	Museum opens.....	Cobb Center at Dunn Cottage
	Souvenir vendors open .....	Cobb Center at Dunn Cottage
10:00 A.M.....	Welcome .....	York Rite Chapel
	Featured speaker Richard B. McKenzie .....	York Rite Chapel
11:00 A.M.....	Rides open, children's souvenir & dessert booths open .....	upper campus
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.....	Tours available .....	meet at information booth
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 P.M.....	Lunch served .....	MHCO Cafeteria
12:00 P.M.....	Dedication of the Colenda Gallery.....	Cobb Center at Dunn Cottage
2:00 P.M. ....	Conclusion of St. John's Day 2010	

Schedule subject to change due to weather  
Handicap parking and shuttle services available 7:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M.



# 7th District makes Prince Hall visit

HAVELOCK — On March 23, a delegation of Masons from the 7th Masonic District visited East Lily 803 PHA here. A capacity crowd was on hand for the first area visit between the grand lodges. After the meeting and before dinner, the meeting was closed in unison by the PHA District Deputy Grand Master Raymond Newby and our 7th District Deputy Grand Master Lee Kyle Allen. It was reported that it "was a delightful and fulfilling experience for one and all."

THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

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# Smiles on the menu

By Ric Carter

SMITHFIELD — There are many reasons besides raising money to hold a fundraiser. Just ask the guys at Fellowship 84. Their most recent fundraiser was a pancake breakfast April 27 to bring in money for their Fellowship Evander S. Simpson Masonic Scholarship.

Yep, they made more than \$3,500 to support their college scholarship fund. It was a great success by the most fundamental measure. But, it was also a great success on other levels.

The guys had fun hanging out with each other and sharing a task. They coordinated wonderfully, and laughed with each other as things went along on that Saturday morning.

The greatest thing about the event, though, was the fun and laughing and activity around the lodge hall. The place was wrapped up with young families with kids enjoying a special Saturday morning out with one of their favorite breakfast menus.

Dozens of children will remember going to a Masonic lodge on a Saturday morning with their parents or grandparents. For years, pancakes will be comfort foods, and Masonic lodges will be things associated with such comforts.

For young adults, the lodge will be a place that does things they enjoy and trust. When Dad decides he wants to be part of a community organization, chances are he'll remember the square and compasses he saw in front of the building. Maybe the young member of the lodge brings a friend who hears about the lodge for the first time.

Even if no one new joins or finds the lodge, the members get to see the building filled with smiling faces and warm morning conversations.

It's a no lose situation — everybody loves pancakes.



Ric Carter photos



## Hanks Lodge adopts local school

FRANKLINVILLE — The Porter Anderson Fund is Hanks 128's way of spreading Masonry in the local community while remembering a fallen brother. Porter Anderson was a Mason of more than 50 years who passed away December 2009. Even into his 90s, Porter still actively attended lodge. He served as master twice and spent 20 years in the chaplain's chair. The Anderson Fund is generated by donations from Masons and is used to benefit the children at Franklinville Elementary School, on either a

classroom or individual basis.

Teachers from Franklinville School often send the lodge requests for playground equipment and such. This photo is from April 26, when the lodge delivered supplies to Mrs. Snoterly's first grade class.

Seen here behind the kids are, from left, Franklinville Elementary Principal Williams, Hanks Lodge's newest Mason Ty Leonard, Junior Warden Jeff Whitaker, Ron Horrell, and Mrs. Snoterly. — Ron Horrell Jr.



## Semper Fi Lodge hosts Prince Hall neighbors

JACKSONVILLE — Fourteen Prince Hall Masons from the Seventh PHA District visited Semper Fidelis 680 on April 21 for dinner and to see Ethan Johnston raised. It was the first such visit in Semper Fi. The fellowship was described as "fantastic."

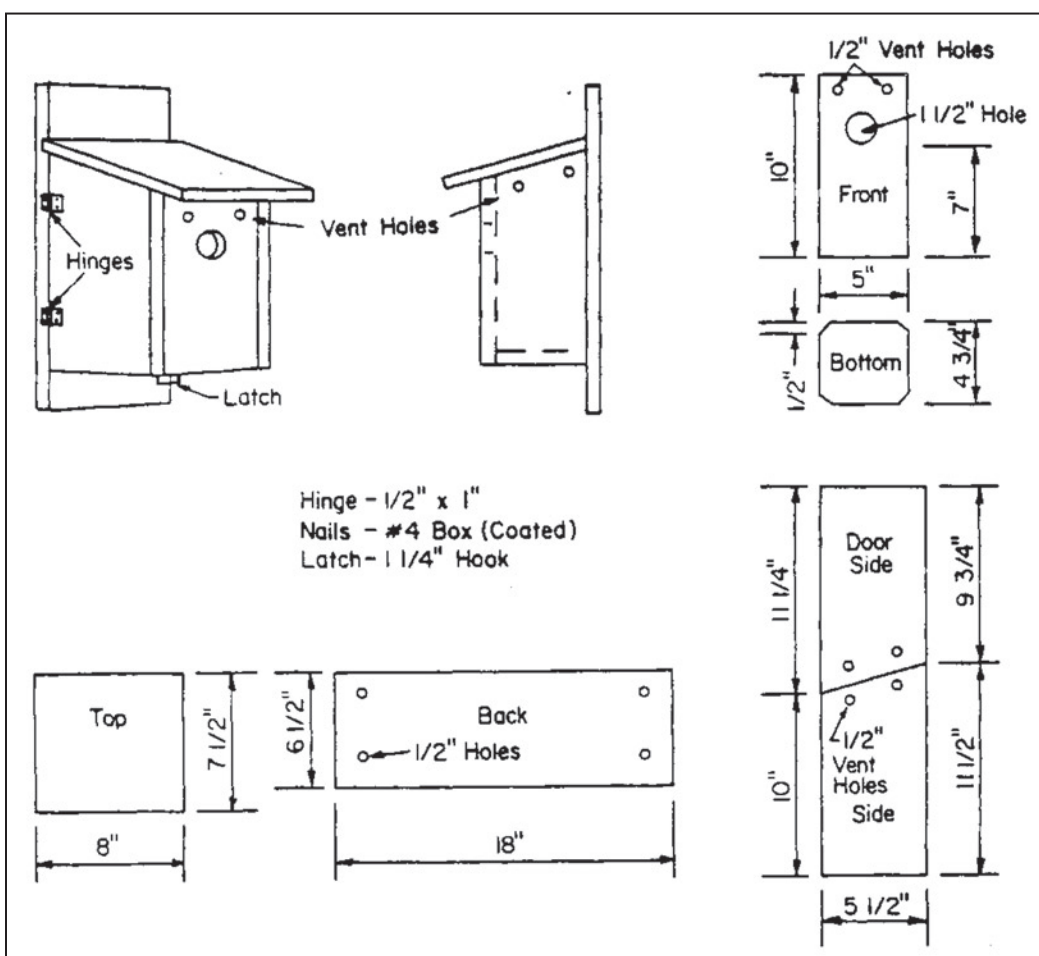
Things went so well, that Onslow County's Masons from both grand lodges will march together in Jacksonville's Veterans Day Parade in November. They will join under a banner proclaiming "Coastal Carolina Masons." —Howard Kahn



## Grand Master Dill lends a hand

SALISBURY — Andrew Jackson 576 cooks gallons and gallons of Brunswick stew every year in one of the state's biggest Masonic fundraisers. They had a little extra help this year when Grand Master Billy Dill stopped by to give a few stirs himself. The pots they use are a bit bigger than the ones Dill uses in the family catering business, but the principle is the same.

## BIRDS, from page 1



hobby, just to make sure he stayed out of the way. Just a few weeks later, by the February start of the 2002 bluebird season, Joe had placed his first bluebird box on the Home's campus. Today, the Birdman's bluebird box trail at WhiteStone includes 12 boxes almost encircling the Home.

Joe continues to maintain a few boxes around the region. He still has a trail at Lake View Cemetery near his old home north of Greensboro. It's his oldest started back in the mid-1960s. He keeps two boxes at Revolution 552 that several members of the lodge have enjoyed over the years. Joe was raised a Mason there in 1963. There's a box at his dentist's office.

Of course, as with any good fanatic for birds, careful record keeping is in order. He can tell you when and how many bluebird eggs each box laid, hatched, and fledged each season. This season's count, as of mid-May, was 35 hatchlings on all his trails — including five eggs in each of four boxes on campus and one nest there with six eggs. He knows the couples by personality and often names them. The bluebirds by the circle in front of the Home's administration building are named Gertrude and Clarence. They dive bomb his head every time he checks their nest. He walks his trail at WhiteStone every day, checking the safety and progress of his charges.

Joe doesn't count or discourage most non-bluebirds. Interlopers are often welcome. There are chickadees occupying at least one box on campus. In fact, the box on Lineberry's own garage houses some of his favorites, a brown-headed nuthatch pair he calls Eunice and Pee-wee.



Joe checks eggs and a nest.

Lineberry used to build all his own birdhouses, then he found the NC State Employees Credit Union. They sell bluebird houses made by a charitable group. Their ten-dollar price Joe finds too attractive to turn down, though he does a bit of customizing to better suit his little friends.

You can find instructions for supporting your bluebirds at a number of places. This Internet site is convenient <<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/>>. Your local Agricultural Extension Office can also help.

Give it a try, you may well find that, like Joe Lineberry, these little creatures can offer a bright spot in your life as well as those around you.

SHELTER, from page 1



begun by Page Lodge and their Eastern Star chapter. Due to the dangerous condition of Page Lodge, they have been unable to retrieve any of their paraphernalia.

Grand Master William L. Dill said, "As Masons, we are regularly charged to aid our brothers in distress. My Brothers in Unanimity 7 have learned their Masonry well. I am especially proud that they did not wait to be called on, but sought out their neighbors and offered to help. This sort of sharing and brotherhood will strengthen their community as much as their lodges. We should all be proud."

Bud Sower is already talking about a joint cookout later this year when the two lodges can get to know one another better.

Plans for the Prince Hall structure are not



Members of Edenton's lodges recently got together to learn their way around.

yet complete. They are awaiting expert surveys of the damage and prospects for salvage of the historic structure. Donations to help John R. Page 13 PHA may be sent to the lodge at P.O. Box 374, Edenton, NC 27932.

PERQUIMANS, from page 8



Memorials to war veterans and Catfish Hunter are in the front yard of the Courthouse.

tional Register of Historic Places.

The lodge room's walls are lined with past master portraits going back to the 1840s. The floor under the lodge room carpet is rumored to still bear a tessellated floor. A starry decked heaven is said to grace the ceiling above the suspended ceiling. One ornate chair in the east of the lodge is thought to be more than 100 years old and have been used there for some

time. The officer's stations were purchased years ago from a Methodist church. Kept in a lodge safe is a Bible given as a gift to Hertford's lodge in 1821 inscribed from Treasurer Francis Toms, one of the men who financed the lodge work on the courthouse.

A number of grand masters have toured the lodge while holding court as judges in the building. Recent visitor grand master judges include our own Clifton W. Everett Jr. and Jerry R. Tillet and current Prince Hall Grand Master Milton F. "Toby" Fitch.

In a recent conversation about this unique lodge, Past Grand Master Tillet talked about its significance, "The history of Freemasonry and the history of our country are inextricably intertwined. This lodge and courthouse are a tangible monument to that history. When you are here, you can feel that history — actually touch it."

"And, it's not just our national history. The local people of Hertford and Perquimans County are tied to that history — to this lodge and to this courthouse. You can see their names throughout the lodge's history right up to today."

"I've been privileged to hold court here and to present service awards in lodge here to the Masons who are important parts of that lodge and community today. I can tell you first hand what a powerful experience this place is."

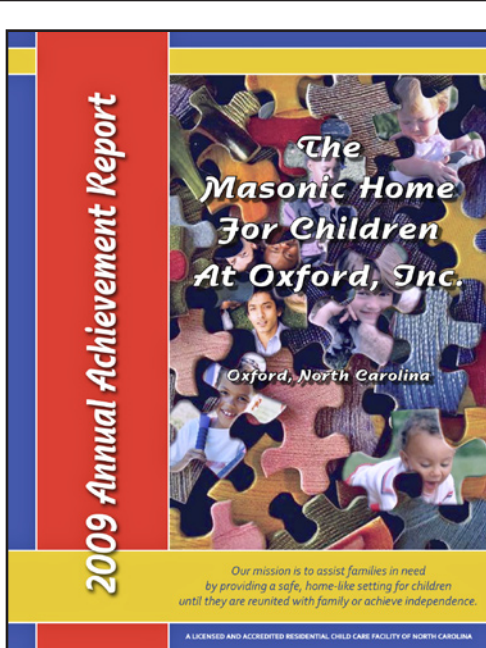
Indeed, the places to feel such history are rare. It is an honor for North Carolina and our Grand Lodge to be part of such a shrine.



106's senior warden's station

Home Annual Report available

Lodge secretaries should have received their 2009 Annual Achievement reports from the Masonic Home for Children. In this report you will find important information on your Home for Children including stats on admissions, financial figures, donation amounts (including the per lodge, per member gifts for 2009), and a special pictorial section honoring friends of the Home in 2009. For extra copies to share with co-workers, friends, family, or childcare experts in your community contact the Home toll-free at (888) 505-4357 or visit the website for an electronic version of the report at www.mhc-oxford.org.



Model for Masonic symbol dead at 80

Albert "Al" Hortman passed away on December 6, 2009 at the age of 80.

Al Hortman was the Shriner carrying the little girl in his left arm and her crutches in his right hand. He was the "poster child" of the famous Shrine symbol — the Shriner in the

"Editorial Without Words" photograph. The famous photo engendered the Shrine slogan: "Shriners are never too tall to reach down to help a child." The little girl he was helping was named Bobbi Jo Wright.

— Fraternal Review, March 2010

The right to be a Freemason

No man has any right to claim to be a Freemason unless he has endeavored to put into practice some of the teachings of the fraternity. It is not necessary to go up to the Lodge room to practice Masonry. The place to practice Masonry is in the busy marts of the world where men meet each other in their daily affairs, and where human kindness and helpfulness and honesty are so much needed. — Illinois Freemason, quoted in the Masonic Messenger, June 1932 by way of Fraternal Review

MORE MILEPOSTS



VANCEBORO — On March 9, Vanceboro 433 made Royce C. Jordan, center, a life member. Seen here making the presentation are, left, Secretary Joseph Whitford and, right, Master Robert Futrell. — Joseph E. Whitford



RALEIGH — Senior Administrative Law Judge Fred Gilbert Morrison Jr. of the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings recently received recognition for his 40 years of state service. He is seen here getting the award from Governor Beverly Perdue and his wife Carolyn. The past master of Thomasville 214 has served under appointment from several governors since Dan Moore in 1965 and has presided over administrative hearings across North Carolina for years. He has been a Mason since 1961. Morrison was recently reappointed to another two-year term on the North Carolina Sentencing & Policy Advisory Commission.



ROBBINSVILLE — Montgomery 426 was serious about retrieving the 41<sup>st</sup> District's Traveling Gavel recently. While Grand Master William L. Dill was at Robbinstonville 672, a large contingent of brothers from Montgomery Lodge stood and demanded the Traveling Gavel. Not wanting to be out done, another large group from Andrews 529 stood and also requested the gavel. When the dust settled, the count and recounts taken, Montgomery prevailed with 14 brothers, while Andrews had an impressive 13 brothers. Andrews did win one battle — they left the Gold Brick with Robbinstonville 672. Seen here holding the gavel are Montgomery member Cecil Allen, left, and Grand Master Dill. — Derek Cheek



DUNN — Palmyra 147 presented service awards at their recent Ladies' and Awards Night. William Stockton "Tittle" Tart, left, got his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years Masonic membership. Tart (clown name Slim) is the last of the original Sudan Shrine Clowns still active. William P. "Abe" Elmore, right, got his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership. Elmore is board member of the Greenville Shriners Hospital. Past Grand Master Gene T. Jernigan, center, made the presentations. — William P. Barfield



GREENVILLE — Most of the lodges of the Sixth Masonic District installed their officers in a joint ceremony January 4. Grand Master William L. Dill did the installation at the Masonic Temple here. The masters installed were, front, from left, Joe Hunnicutt (Bethel 589), Alvis Roberson (William Pitt 734), and John Howell (Farmville 517). Back are Doug Bostick (Greenville 284) and Dan Bishop (Crown Point 708). — Larry Garrett



SELMA — On April 20, Selma 320 Past Master Warren Shepherd gave his lodge a United States flag that was flown over the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan on December 11, 2009. He also gave the lodge a cash gift to help pay for framing of the flag and its authentication certificate. Shepherd has spent time in Iraq and Afghanistan providing security services since retiring from North Carolina law enforcement in 2004. Seen here with Shepherd, right, is Selma Lodge Master Dennis Perry. — David Browning

BENEATH THE OAKS



Telling our story

By Allen Hughes
Administrator
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

As I began this article, it dawned on me that I frequently repeat the same message. But, then I asked myself whether it really matters that I do so because some things need repeating to get action.

There assuredly are many children who can use your help. Not only does the Masonic Home for Children need your financial support, but we need your assistance in telling the families and leaders in your communities about our children's home and about the help we can provide for children while the families work through trying times and financial hardship.

A major frustration we experience is the almost incessant reminder that federal and state initiatives and guidelines are directed at keeping children out of "orphanages" or homes such as ours. With the reduced budgets, the cost of providing care for the children and families, rather than the quality of care, seems to be an overriding factor in deciding what is "best" for out-of-home placement of neglected or abused children.

quality and nurturing care with little or no drain on the county, state, and federal budgets. DSS is reluctant to use our Home to help children and families.

We have a home for children of which we all can be proud. The campus is beautiful and peaceful, the facilities are in excellent shape, and staff members are well qualified and dedicated.

As I see our children at play, at work doing family chores, or earning spending money, at meals, in group activities, on trips, in "family" meetings, or in one-on-one sessions with staff members, I see many signs of contentment and typical family relationships, and I wonder why our Home is perceived as undesirable.

the option for siblings to live in close proximity.

In December 1872, the Masons of North Carolina made a commitment to provide a stable and caring environment for the orphaned, neglected, and abused children, and now into the 138th year of this Home have continued to make good on that commitment.

Again, I ask you to look around your communities for families who need help caring for their children while they get back on their feet after major setbacks, poor health, or temporary separations due to legal issues or other problems.

Let me help Masonry's charities

- The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
WhiteStone, a Masonic & Eastern Star Community (MESH)
The Masonic Home for Children
Send information about wills and bequests.
Please have someone contact me.

My name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ My lodge \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

To assure that your gift is properly credited to the fund of your choice, please make the check payable to that charity.

Mail to The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, PO Box 6506, Raleigh, NC 27628.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Table listing names of new members with their lodge numbers, arranged in three columns.

SENIOR MOMENTS



# WhiteStone updating

By Mark Kolada  
Administrator  
WhiteStone

Since 1912, WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, has provided excellence in retirement living for our fraternal members from all across the state.

Today, WhiteStone continues to move forward on its exciting renovation and development plans, in order to give its residents the best amenities and services possible. Over the past several months a lot has taken place on our campus, and even more change is coming. Here is a summary of what is going on with your Masonic and Eastern Star community in Greensboro.

First, renovation work has been completed in the Bennett residential building. In 2009, work began on repairing the building's elevator and while making these repairs renovation work began on the third floor to replace the drywall, ceiling tiles, lighting, and the hallway



A new fitness center has been completed in the Care and Wellness Center.

carpet. Due to the success of this project it was decided to renovate the remaining three floors of the building, which has taken place over the past few months. Residents of this building are excited to see the transformation and new updated look.

Secondly, in January, work began on building two new homes and four duplexes in the Independent Living village. Anyone that has visited the campus lately will notice the big mounds of dirt being moved. Five of the six units have been pre-sold and will be added to the current 48 houses currently on campus. If all goes well, the first duplex will be completed in July, and the last house will be finished in September.

With the spring season came the fitness center project. Beginning in March, the old multipurpose room in the Care and Wellness Center underwent a remarkable transition into a state of the art fitness center. Opened in late April, the fitness center features several cardio machines and numerous air compressed weight machines to help our residents and staff maintain a healthy lifestyle. To date, the fitness center is utilized on average by 15 to 20 residents and staff daily. Besides the fitness center, the clinic area was updated with new carpet, artwork, and furniture in our lobby.

Our next big project, beginning in July 2010, is the renovation of the Linville Administration building. This exciting renovation project will convert the first floor of the Linville building into a clubhouse for residents, with an updated library, game room, resident store, lounge, and arts and crafts room. The basement floor will be gutted and redone to house a new conference room, marketing area, and administrative offices. The front of the building will be re-graded, and a new front entrance built, so that residents can enter the building at grade, making it much more accessible for residents and visitors. We expect this project to be completed by the end of 2010.

Finally, at the May WhiteStone Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to split the original new development building of 76 apartments into two smaller phases, with the first phase featuring

46 one- and two-bedroom units. The first phase will also include renovating the dining room and rotunda, as well as adding a large multipurpose room and bistro to the campus. WhiteStone currently has 28 apartments pre-sold, and would only need four more sales over the next several months to reach the permanent financing needed to begin construction of the new buildings. If all goes according to plan, the new construction would begin in early 2011 and be completed in time for the start of the community's 100 year anniversary in 2012.

As you can see, many positive changes are taking place at WhiteStone. This summer, Masons 65 and older will be receiving a letter from me asking them to consider WhiteStone as a retirement destination. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about WhiteStone, I invite you to schedule an appointment today to learn more about our expansion plans and experience how WhiteStone could fit into your future. Call (336) 547-2947 to schedule an appointment with one of our marketing staff and join the hundreds of satisfied Masonic residents living an active and healthy lifestyle.



A library to be built in the Linville renovation is seen in this computer rendering.

# MILEPOSTS



ROBBINSVILLE — On March 9, Grand Master William L. Dill, right, presented Burl L. Orr, left, his Diamond Jubilee Award. The award goes to North Carolina Masons who have been members for 60 years. Orr has served Robbinstonville 672 as master five times, the first being in 1956. He has also been lodge secretary and treasurer and was district deputy grand master in the early 1960s. — Jim Hyde



ROBBINSVILLE — O.W. Hooper Jr., left, received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership on March 9. Hooper was secretary of Robbinstonville 672 for 32 years. He is seen here receiving the award from Grand Master William L. Dill. Seventy-five Masons from ten lodges were on hand for the presentation. — Jim Hyde



HIGH POINT — Acacia 674 member Alvin F. Brucke, center, recently received his Veteran's Emblem honoring his 50 years as a Mason. He is seen here with Acacia Master Lewis E. Williams, left, and C. Joe Honeycutt. — Joe Honeycutt



STONY POINT — Service awards were distributed at Stony Point 593 March 23. George Herbert DeLauder got his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years membership. Benny Mack Kerley received his Veterans' Award for 50 years service. Seen making the presentations are, from left, 30<sup>th</sup> DDGM Lloyd Weatherman, Kerley, DeLauder, and 30<sup>th</sup> DDGL Lance Hegler. — Neil Starnes



ELIZABETHTOWN — Members of Bladen 646 recently traveled to Curtis Callihan's home to deliver his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years as a Mason. Several family members were on hand. Callihan turned 95 in December. After the presentation, refreshments were served, and Callihan shared several Masonic stories. — Larry W. Simmons



SWANSBORO — Rona Bell Riggs, center, was recently made a life member of Seaside 429. Seen here presenting the honor are, left, District Deputy Grand Master Jeff Styron and, right, Seaside Master Greg Padgett. Riggs has been a Mason 62 years. — Greg Padgett



ARAPAHOE — Members of Rainbow 479 recently visited Richard Oliver Crystal's retirement home in Greenville to deliver his Veterans' Emblem honoring his 50 years membership in the fraternity. In addition to being a past master, he served for several years as treasurer. Seen here, from left, are Rainbow Master David Peterson, Crystal, and Glenwood Tyndall Jr. — H.T. Banks



HERTFORD — Perquimans 106's Thomas "Erie" Haste Jr., right, was presented his Veterans' Emblem for 50 years as a Mason on April 20. Perquimans Master Joe Elliott made the presentation. Haste is the son-in-law of North Carolina's 1953 Grand Master Edwin T. Howard. — Paul Gregory



WARSAW — Jimmy Strickland, left, was honored recently for serving 48 years as Warsaw 677 treasurer. Master Raymond Turner, right, made the presentation. — L. C. Jones



# Hertford's Masons built a unique lodge building

By Ric Carter

HERTFORD — It must happen from time to time. A Mason determined to visit Perquimans 106 drives slowly past its address on Church Street, and turning his head looking for the lodge, drive by a block or two only to retrace the route, all the while straining to see the lodge. He finally stops in the middle of the street, staring past the memorials to Confederate dead and Catfish Hunter, and says, "The lodge is supposed to be right here, but that's the courthouse!"

The answer to the mystery is deceptively simple: The lodge and the courthouse are the same building.

From their first meetings in 1821, Hertford's Masons had gathered in various public and private accommodations in their hometown. In 1823, the county's leaders had decided their courts needed better facilities. Plans were drawn for a new brick courthouse to replace the old frame one. On May 12, 1823, the Freemasons of Hertford (in the persons of Francis Toms and others) offered to build a second floor on the courthouse to serve as jury rooms and offices. The lodge would add the extra floor at their own expense with the stipulation that the lodge be allowed a room on that floor to serve as their meeting hall. The court officials accepted the offer and deeded the permission to them.

The local Masons bought the material and built second floors on both wings of the T-shaped courthouse. Perquimans County's is one of the three surviving Federal Period courthouses in North Carolina. The others are in Beaufort and Gates counties. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* describes it as a "simplification of the Palladian format with a pediment over the central three bays, the building has brick walls laid in Flemish bond, fanlights over the entrance and in the pediment, and a small classical porch."

For many years, the lodge met in the front of the building's second floor. When the building was enlarged in the 1890s, the lodge voluntarily relinquished its space to county offices, and moved into the back section of the second floor. In a 1930s addition, one side of their lodge room was moved in to make way for a hallway to reach an addition at the rear of the courthouse. A file/photocopy room currently also serves as the preparation room for Perquimans 106. The Perquimans County Courthouse is on the Na-

■ see PERQUIMANS, page 5



Clockwise from top, the Perquimans County Courthouse sits on the Hertford town square, the stair beside the courtroom winds up to the lodge room and offices, an 1821 gift Bible.



## Saint John's Day is June 26

OXFORD — Remember to make plans to head for the Masonic Home for Children for St. John's Day, Saturday, June 26. There will be tours of the Home provided by the residents, a barbecue and chicken lunch, a free commemorative lapel pin to the first 500 guests, and a chance to hear Richard McKenzie, one of the nation's most respected authorities on children's homes. It will be a great day to fellowship and see the Home and the children for whom you work so hard throughout the year. Take this opportunity to see what your charity is doing and how important it is in the life of a child.

The Home is also looking for volunteers to assist with St. John's Day. For one or more hours they are asking people to help assist guests at the inflatable rides and in the cafeteria for lunch, or to simply provide support for guests visiting the museum. If you can help, please call the Home at (888) 505-4357 or email them at <crichards@mhc-oxford.org>. For more information call (888) 505-4357 or visit their St. John's Day website at <www.mhc-oxford.org/StJohns>.

A complete schedule is found on page 2.

## Appeal for Tennessee Relief

May 2 saw massive flooding in many parts of Tennessee including the city of Nashville. Now that the waters have receded and damage assessment can be made it is very extensive. Recovery assistance is greatly needed.

The Masonic Service Association is collecting funds to help our devastated Brethren and their families in this stricken jurisdiction. There are NO administrative fees deducted from contributions to this fund. All monies go directly to helping people in distress.

Make checks payable to the MSA Disaster Relief Fund and send to 8120 Fenton Street, Ste. 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

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Edenton lodge reaches out to their neighbor.



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Lineberry brings birds and pleasure to WhiteStone.



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Perquimans Lodge occupies historic space.

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## Fellowship 84's Pancake Breakfasts raise more than money

When they raise money for their annual scholarship, the Masons of Smithfield also raise awareness of the fraternity and interest among the young families of their neighborhood. We can aim too low when looking for members, but never too young. Take a look around Fellowship's fundraiser on page 4.

Ric Carter photos

Ric Carter photo