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Gresham becomes grand master



Robert Elvis Gresham Jr.
Grand Master

By Ric Carter

On December 3, 2011, Robert E. Gresham Jr. was installed as grand master of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. He is the 159th man to hold the office. His installation followed his election to the office at our Annual Communication in September.

Gresham was born October 9, 1941 to Robert Elvis and Lila Garrett Gresham in Oxford, North Carolina. Growing up in Oxford, he attended school there, including six years as one of the city students at John A. Nichols School which was then on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1959.

He and Carolyn Jones married in 1962. They have a son and daughter and four grandsons.

Bob studied business administration at Campbell College and later got his masters in business administration from Pfeiffer College.

He has been a certified public accountant since 1967. He has been active in both the American Institute of CPAs and the North Carolina Association of CPAs since 1967. He has served on numerous committees in both organizations and as president and board member of the NC Association. He retired as president of Service Distributing Company in 1996.

Gresham joined Masonry in Albemarle 703 where he was initiated October 15, 1976, passed November 11, and raised January 10, 1977. He was master of the lodge in 1983. He is also a member of Shallotte 727 and an honorary member of Blackmer 127.

Bob was appointed to the Grand Lodge line in 2003 by then Grand Master Leonard Safrit. He has served the Grand Lodge on the Committee on Finance and Board of General Purposes. He was also appointed chairman of the Board

see GRESHAM, page 5



NCGL installs new officers

By Ric Carter

ALBEMARLE — On Saturday, December 3, in a ceremony repeated many times in the history of our state, Robert Elvis Gresham Jr. became the 159th man in our 224-year history to serve as grand master of Masons in North Carolina. He and his officers were installed at a 10:00 a.m. gathering here in the auditorium of the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center.

Gresham's line journey began when he was appointed grand steward by then Grand Master Leonard Y. Safrit shortly after Safrit was elected grand master in 2003. Past Grand Master Safrit, now as installing officer, was again there to assist his appointee in beginning the final steps in his path along the Grand Lodge line.

see INSTALL, page 4



At left, GM Gresham says his thank yous after his installation. Above, his grandsons present him the hat he will wear while serving as grand master. At top is the Albemarle stage during the ceremony.

Sigmon is newest line officer

By Ric Carter

Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr. appointed Dwight MacLauchlin "Mack" Sigmon as grand steward shortly after his election in September. That makes Sigmon the junior man in the progressive line to become grand master of North Carolina.

Sigmon was born July 18, 1951 in the Catawba County town of Newton. He and his wife of 40 years, Linda, have one son, Charles. Charles lives with his wife and two children in Melbourne, Australia.

Mack has worked for more than 31 years in various sales and marketing positions for the General Electric Company. He is currently a commercial segment leader in GE Energy's transformer business.

Raised a Master Mason on July 22, 1975 in Catawba 248 in Newton, he was master there in 1980. He is in Wilkerson College 760 and a charter member of Orphans 761.

He has been a member of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and been faculty member of Wilkerson College.

Mack best known for his work in Masonic ritual. He has been a certified lecturer for 13 years. He has been district deputy grand lecturer and secretary of the Board of Custodians for the last five years. He was grand lecturer in 2011.

Sigmon is a member of the Charlotte Scottish Rite Bodies, Hickory York Rite, and Oasis Shrine. He is active on the ritual casts of all three groups. Scottish Rite honored him with their 33rd in November. He is past patron of the Newton Chapter 187 of the Order of Eastern Star.

Mack is a lifelong member of St. James Lutheran Church. He has taught Sunday School

see SIGMON, page 5



Mack Sigmon
Junior Grand Steward

THE BOTTOM LINE



Our upcoming year

By Robert E. Gresham Jr.
Grand Master

As I sit down to write my first article for *The North Carolina Mason*, I must reflect on the feelings which I have experienced during the past five months.

You can't imagine how you made me feel after the vote that elected me at our Annual Communication in September. Overwhelmed is an understatement. The obligation that comes with the title of grand master is hard to comprehend. You are responsible for the direction and success of The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF &AM for the coming year. What a responsibility. Without knowing that you have the support of the 45,000 Masons who are members of our great Grand Lodge, one might well shirk from assuming the position. I really appreciate the words of encouragement and support that you have extended to me.

You have undoubtedly bestowed upon me the greatest honor possible (other than Carolyn Jones agreeing to marry me and the birth of my two children). The only thing better will be to hear the welcome words at the end of my life's journey, the welcome words "Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

In 1976 when I was presented my lambskin or white leather apron, I was told that "...with light added to coming light, my ambitious feet may tread round after round the ladder that leads to fame in our mystic circle, and even the purple of our fraternity may rest upon your honored shoulders..." Boy, never in a million years did I understand what was said to me that night.

In my acceptance comments, I stated that I will continue to work for and ask for your support of our Masonic charities which are our two homes, the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and WhiteStone, a Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro, and The North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

Our youth, including those at our home in Oxford, they are the future: of our fraternity, our country, and our world. We must provide for them; for in doing so, we are providing for our own future. Our Home was founded because Masons saw a need for children, and we are working to continue to do that today. Masons who believe in this Home and its mission must continue to show it through funding, fundraising, and the contribution of their vocal and constant support in their communities.

We must care for our older members, their wives, and widows. They have worked hard in the quarries of life, they helped provide for us and now it is our turn to help them. WhiteStone is a continuing care retirement community that was established in 1912 (opened in November 1913) to meet the long term care needs of our older brothers and sisters.

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation receives our contributions, invests them, and distributes the earnings to the two Homes as support. The sole purpose of the Foundation is to support our charities. Contributions to all three charities are tax free.

I have already had a conversation with the chief executive officer of the Charlotte Region of the Red Cross. I told her that I would like to see a Masonic Community Blood Drive Month. I say month because the Red Cross does not have the staff or equipment to offer a Blood Drive at all of our lodges on the same day. It must be spread out. The Red Cross is very interested in pursuing this idea and promised to be back in touch with me in the near future. As you know, we already have several lodges that sponsor blood drives. Statesville 27 has for years sponsored a blood drive. I believe that it was started by Past Grand Master Lew Ledford when he lived in Statesville. Over the years, it has grown to five locations over three counties. Last year they collected a total of 515 pints of blood. What a great start for us to build on.

Lastly, for years I have been bothered by this "us versus them," "we verses them" syndrome. Too often we hear "That old Grand Lodge, they have done this, and they have done that." I know that the reference to the "Old Grand Lodge" means the grand line

officers, but my brothers, you are the Grand Lodge. My point is that it is impossible for the 17 Grand Lodge officers to control. At present, there are 372 Lodges in our jurisdiction, each has three votes for a total of 1,116 votes. Yes, the officers have to take positions, make decisions, and lead, but they do not control. I want us all to work together for the "good of Masonry." I assure you that this group of Grand Lodge officers always lets the "good of Masonry" guide their actions and decisions. Remember "who can best work and best agree."

Since I was installed, I have made several surprise visitations to lodges. I have enjoyed the various receptions that I have received. All have been very acceptable, but some different from others. I was invited to attend the installation of the potentate and divan by Oasis Shrine and Sudan Shrine. Carolyn and I could not have been received any more hospitably.

Yes, there have been a few "opportunities," but thankfully they were few in number. Masonry is doing very good and thriving in North Carolina.

Thank you for the many kind words and offers of help and support that I have received. Your kindness will never be forgotten. In closing, I want to leave you with the following thoughts:

Have you met the Tate family?

You may have heard of the Tates. They're in every organization. There's Dic Tate, who wants to run everything; Ro Tate, who always tries to change things; Agi Tate, who stirs up trouble whenever possible, with a helping hand from Irri Tate; Devas Tate, who loves to interrupt; and Poten Tate, who wants to be the big shot. Every time new ideas are suggested, it's Hesi Tate and Vegi Tate, who are there to say they can't possibly work; and Imi Tate, who'd rather copy other organizations than try something new.

Thank goodness for Facili Tate, Cogi Tate, and Medi Tate; they get everyone pulling together. Which Tate are you? — Author Unknown

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Be a positive force

Some while back, we were stuck behind a vehicle covered in negative bumper stickers. The stickers were all about anger, impugning, and threat. There was also a Masonic license tag.

While we eschew the old man's dictum that "civilization is going to hell in a handbasket," it is hard to dispute the view that public discourse in this country is becoming coarser.

There are certainly a number of causes and perhaps as many cures. While we may argue the merits and problems of any suggested cure, there is one thing that we can each do. Be a better Mason.

Politics is a center of inflammatory speech and opinion, especially in this election season. Searching for positive solutions has been supplanted by hateful diatribes and shouted epithets. Partisans plant their meme of the day for your easy consumption.

Bumper stickers and Facebook pages have become popular locations for aggressive, offensive speech. "(Name a politician) is the worst (name an office) ever!!!" "Voting for (blank) is pure ignorance!!!" There are always

plenty of exclamation points to make sure you understand the importance and heat.

Please, realize that when people know you are a Mason, either because they are close to you or because you proclaim your membership with a pin, or ring, or license tag, or bumper sticker, or note on your Facebook page, you are representing the world's oldest, most respected fraternity. Do not squander your opportunity to use its persuasive power for good. Do not let your personal anger or opinion denigrate Freemasonry. You are someone's picture of Freemasonry.

No matter the source of our knowledge, we are the sole arbiter of what message we send to the world. Supplant negativism and anger with affirmative direction. Instead of telling us who you are against, tell us who you are for. Bring solutions, not mere gripes. Become more positive in your actions, and you will become more positive in your life. You, your family, and your community will feel the difference. The world will benefit.

Isn't that what Freemasonry taught you?



King 722 moves into new home

KING — They dedicated the cornerstone of their new lodge building July 14. King 722 held their first meeting in the new facility for their December stated communication. Sixty-five Masons attended the historic meeting. There will be many firsts for King Lodge to experience in coming months as they break in their new home. During that first meeting, Ralph Monroe Patterson was presented his Veteran's Emblem for his 50 years membership. King Lodge turned 50 in 2011. — Larry Oakley

You're invited

Great Landscape Event at the Home for Children
March 10

OXFORD — The Masonic Home for Children will be hosting a day for those wishing to help the Home with beautifying the campus grounds. They will start the day with a continental breakfast at 8:00 A.M. Work starts at 9:00 and ends at 12:30 P.M. with lunch for you afterward.

Come and enjoy the Great Landscape Event. Groups and individuals may register or get more information by visiting <www.mhc-oxford.org> or calling the Home at (919) 693-5111.

Golf tournament
April 28

WALNUT COVE — Walnut Cove 629 is hosting the 11th annual J. Arthur Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament and Raffle. They shot-gun start at Hemlock Golf Club in Walnut Cove at 9:00 A.M. — four-man, captain's choice format, \$240 entry.

There are prizes for the first and second place teams and a free luncheon for players. Proceeds

Financial improprieties draw expulsions

By Ric Carter

FAYETTEVILLE — Recently, three past masters and a past secretary of Fort Bragg 667 were expelled from Masonry as a result of their malfeasance in construction of their new lodge building. The lodge never sought and was never granted approval by the Grand Lodge's Lodge Service Commission to build their facility. The LSC must approve any building plans for a lodge. As a result of cost overruns during the unapproved construction, the trustees of the lodge borrowed \$175,000 dollars from one of the trustees. The debt was not submitted on financial reports of the lodge. The lodge did not have sufficient income to repay the loan. The loan was never submitted to the Lodge Service Commission which is charged to approve all such indebtedness by any lodge.

Apparently, from records of the lodge and from testimony before the Trial Commission, a small group of members recycling through the upper office chairs took control of the project and never consulted the lodge about the decisions and expenditures. No record exists of the lodge ever voting on any part of the construction project.

An investigation was launched when the loan was revealed when a new lodge secretary filed correct and complete financial reports required by the Internal Revenue Service.

go to the Masonic Home for Children.

For details visit <www.angelfire.com/nc/masoniclodge629>.

Imperial Shrine parade
July 4

This year, North Carolinian Al Madsen will be installed as imperial potentate of the Shrine of North America. The international convention will be held here in Charlotte. A place in the huge planned parade is being reserved for North Carolina Shrine-Masons. Their initial goal was a Shriner from each lodge in NC. But, why limit the fun? If you'd like to participate, they'd love to have you there. Any and all NC Shriners have a place.

Wear a shirt with your lodge name and number, your fez, comfortable long pants, and comfortable shoes. To get the details and reserve your spot, contact Alan Hardy at <ahardy124@aol.com> or (704) 535-6815.

Tarboro's Concord 58 turns 200

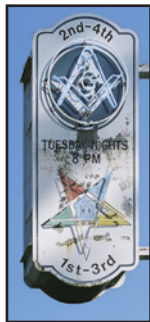
By William Reid

TARBORO — Back in November, Concord 58 held a banquet celebrating the 200th anniversary of their lodge. The following article on their history first appeared in *Carolina Country*.

In Tarboro, where majestic Victorian homes line the streets of the historic district downtown, there is no institution older than Concord Masonic Lodge No. 58. The lodge turned 200 years old on November 22 and has long established its permanence and proven its value to this Tar River community. Mayors, senators, generals, renegades, blockade runners, and a governor have called this lodge home. They gave their time, talents, blood, sweat, and tears for their lodge, community, state, and country.

The comradeship and deeds of Freemasonry coincide with the founding of our country and its communities. The temperament, patriotism, and republicanism of the southern American colonies and later the states were fertile grounds for Freemasonry to grow and spread. As a fraternal society that dates back to the 1600s, Freemasonry's bond of friendship and self-discipline attracted brothers from all walks of life. From farmer to merchant to aristocrat to politician, all brothers in the lodge stood on equal ground and were treated as such, though it may not have been a reality in everyday life.

Freemasonry in Tarboro and Edgecombe County did not begin with Concord Masonic Lodge No. 58. When the state legislature met in Tarboro in 1787, thus making it the state capital that year, Tarboro did not have a Masonic lodge. The leading members of North Carolina lodges, however, were in Tarboro for the meeting of the legislature. While here, they created the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of



GM Lewis Ledford and Claude Childress at Montfort presentation.

Childress named Montfort medalist

By Ric Carter

TRAPHILL — Grand masters get to bestow three Joseph Montfort Medals. They are the highest honor given by our Grand Lodge. On October 18, then Grand Master Lewis Ledford drove to Traphill 483 to surprise Claude E. Childress with the award.

Ledford described Childress: "Quiet, exemplary in his work, never seeking any recognition, service-oriented, has impacted many by his example — and of course passionate and has great competence."

The word is that Childress first came in contact with the lodge when doing some operative masonry for them, repairing the lodge foundation. When done, he inquired, "Just what sort of joint is this anyway?"

When explanation was made, Childress asked them to apply the payment for his bricklaying straight to his petitioning fees. He later went on to become a foundation of the Ashe Lodge.

The Montfort Medal is awarded for distinguished Masonic service or achievement.

GM's district meetings

Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr. plans to visit about half our districts this year. His meetings start in early February and will finish at the end of May. His meetings will be similar to the area meetings of the past few years. Pre-meeting meals are scheduled for 6:15 P.M. with the tyled meeting starting at 7:00 P.M.. District officers and the grand master will be received with usual honors.

You may make your lodge's reservation for the meeting with your district deputy grand master or host lodge secretary. Please be considerate of the host lodge. Make your reservations for dinner at least seven days before your scheduled meeting. It is very frustrating to try to plan for a meal when reservations have not been made. Your lodge will be responsible to pay for all meals reserved. Those who have not made reservations should not expect to eat.

In case of inclement weather, meetings will be cancelled in accordance with local schools cancellations. If a meeting is cancelled, the host lodge and district deputy grand master will be notified. Your lodge may cancel its stated communication to attend your district meeting. Information will also be posted on the Grand Lodge web site: <www.grandlodge-nc.org>. This schedule was the schedule as of November 11, 2011. Changes may be necessary. Please consult your lodge for updates.

District	Date	Host
33.....	March 5.....	Traphill 483
34.....	March 6.....	Cookville 502
26.....	March 7.....	Kernersville 669
38.....	March 20.....	Cliffside 460
36.....	March 21.....	Belmont 627
32.....	March 22.....	Matthews 461
41.....	April 9.....	Blue Ridge 435
40.....	April 10.....	Dillsboro 459
37.....	April 11.....	Vesper 554
39.....	April 12.....	Nichols W. Asheville 650
16.....	April 17.....	Selma 320
14.....	April 18.....	Raleigh 500
6.....	April 19.....	William Pitt 734
22.....	May 1.....	Jefferson Penn 384
21.....	May 2.....	Laurinburg 305
17.....	May 3.....	Stedman 730
1.....	May 14.....	Eureka 317
2.....	May 15.....	Manteo 521
8.....	May 16.....	Royal White Hart 2
4.....	May 21.....	Franklin 109
12.....	May 22.....	Shallotte 727
10.....	May 23.....	Pleasant Hill 304
29.....	May 30.....	Albemarle 703

North Carolina on December 9–11, 1787. That lodge remains the oldest and largest fraternal organization in North Carolina.

On December 11, 1792, the Grand Lodge chartered Raleigh Lodge No. 20 in Tarboro as the town's first. That Masonic lodge was dissolved December 2, 1799, and few records remain.

The first meeting of the Concord Masonic Lodge No. 58 was held at the Tarboro home of John H. Hall on May 24, 1811. The lodge met at least ten times before it received a charter from the state's Grand Lodge. The official charter, which the lodge still maintains, is dated November 22, 1811. The minutes of November 25, 1811, record the first use of the number 58.

The lodge met in the house of Maj. Reading B l o u n t o w n , the same place where earlier George Washington stayed April 18, 1791, during his southern tour. Books of minutes chronicle lodge activities from 1811. Handwritten correspondences and documents tell the story of Concord 58. Penmanship and literacy vary greatly, and they reveal not just official business but also the thoughts and ideals of the times. Some examples:

At the January 1818 meeting, it was "Resolved, that the Tyler procure for the use of this lodge twenty spit boxes." The tyler was an officer who served as the "outer guard," standing outside the door of the room while the lodge was meeting.

In 1821, Concord No. 58 had 28 members who met monthly and paid dues of 50 cents a quarter.

Once funds exceeded \$100, members could apply for personal loans which had to be paid with interest within a year.

On March 15, 1845, it was "Resolved that the interest accruing from the funds of this lodge be appropriated to the education of the orphans or children of indigent Worthy Master Masons and that should there not be a sufficient number of Masonic children that the committee be privileged to make selections among others that are not Masons."

In 1998 when the lodge moved from its Main Street location to a new location off Barlow Road, a collection of portraits was discovered in an attic. These portraits of lodge officers and brothers, dating from the late 1810s to the 1870s, represent a Who's



Who of the Tarboro community's elite: General Louis Dicken Wilson (1789–1841), namesake of Wilson County, state legislator, Mexican War hero, and benefactor of local causes; General William Dorsey Pender (1834–1863), Tarboro native, namesake of Pender County, a West Point graduate who died of wounds suffered at Gettysburg; Governor Henry Toole Clarke 1808–1874, Civil War era governor. Others are still being identified. The lodge plans to restore and preserve these portraits.

William Reid is a member of Concord 58 and is compiling the third and most recent history of the lodge.

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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TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S LODGES

By Ric Carter



Bailey

Bailey 411 was an action center for the town Christmas parade December 3. As they have for years, the lodge loaned their building to the local Boy Scout Troop to hold their annual barbecue dinner fundraiser. Lodge members gave away drinks, candy, and Masonic pamphlets to the crowd gathered to see the parade go through town. They collected more than \$200 for the Masonic Home for Children.

Two of their members, Marshal Brock Jr. and Horace Meacombs, were grand marshals of the parade. They were honored because they are the only remaining charter members of the Bailey Volunteer Fire Department.

In December, the lodge distributed fruit baskets to lodge widows. — *Newsletter*

Hickory

DeMolay launched a new chapter in Hickory in September. Shuford Chapter was presented its charter during Annual Communication in Winston-Salem. It is a renewal of an old charter held by Hickory some years ago.

Look for better communication in Hickory. Darren Cloer and Kevin Johnson have implemented the new phone tree for Hickory 343. Wes King is overhauling the lodge website as well.

The lodge was holding their Annual Chicken Pie Sale November 4-5. Pies were nine dollars each, and there were accommodations for people to donate the pies to Corner Table Soup Kitchen. Proceeds from the sale were to be divided among the Home for Children and local charities.

The lodge Annual Awards Night was scheduled for November 17. — *Hickory Lodge*

Kinston

St. John's 4 will be a partner in Kinston's celebration of the city's 250th anniversary. One of their first projects was offering the first contribution (along with the local Daughters of the American Revolution) toward a scholarship to be presented as part of the commemoration. The yearlong celebration began with two New Year's events. — *Kinston.com* by way of Lynn Hill

Richard Caswell 705 member Harold Lancaster was inducted as a fellow of the International College of Dentists in October. The recognition honors "outstanding and meritorious service to the dental profession and community." Lancaster also chairs the trustees of the North Carolina Dental Society.

— *Kinston.com* by way of Jerry Eubanks

Winston-Salem

Salem 289 has its barbecue fundraiser set for March 30. Proceeds go to the Masonic Homes. — *Jason Anderson*

Old Town 751 held their raffle November 12. Eighty people attended the reverse drawing. They drew numbers one by one. Every tenth draw got one of the door prizes. The final three draws won the grand prizes. They estimated the profit destined for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford to be more than \$3,400.

Old Town Lodge was delivering fruit baskets to the lodge widows December 17. Thirty-one ladies were visited. — *On the Level at Old Town Square*

Old Town continues their plan to launch a DeMolay chapter. They were training leaders at the end of the year, but you can still contact them to offer your help. A degree was planned for mid-January. — *Alan Williard*

Asheville

The Asheville Masonic Temple is organizing a Friends of the Temple group to help with events and fundraisers at the temple. One of their recent events was Dinner With Dickens on December 3. The meal, prepared by Ferris Camp, was served by the Montford Park Players in period costume. The \$25 meal followed Mount Hermon 118's officer installation.

Mount Hermon's Alms Day Fundraiser was held on October 1-2. Lance Grunge won the raffle for the gold, one ounce Krugerrand. They had a rummage sale and enjoyed line dancing to a live band.

Mount Hermon Lodge recently handed out service awards. Elmer Frink got his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership. A Veteran's Emblem for 50 years in the lodge went to Herbert Hill. — *Trestle Board*

Nichols-West Asheville 650 sent volunteers to help the Salvation Army with their Christmas Drive bell ringing in December. — *Jack Barnett*

Thanks to Kyle Kissmann of Biltmore 446, when local no-kill animal shelters Brother Wolf Animal Rescue and Blue Ridge Humane Society held their recent raffle, two drawings were limited to Masons. The prizes were Masonic ties. Masonic entries who did not win were entered in the rest of the drawings. — *Kyle Kissmann*

Kannapolis

Cannon Memorial 626 hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive January 4. — *Richard Secoolish*

Allen Graham 695's ladies were a center of attention during the holiday season. The lodge held their Ladies' Night and Awards Night Banquet November 19. The \$15 ticket included entertainment, dinner, and door prizes.

On December 17, the lodge delivered fruit bags to the lodge widows. There were 69 ladies visited. Volunteers assembled at a local restaurant for breakfast before dividing the deliveries into seven routes.

Motorcycle lodge Knights of Solomon 764 were holding their November meeting at the Kannapolis Masonic Center. — *Randy Crainshaw*

Oak Island

There's nothing like a special occasion to get us to spiff up. Oak Island 758 was fixed up for their 30th anniversary celebration in November. They did lots of pressure washing around the building. They also painted several areas and cleaned several parts of the grounds.

A 30th anniversary was both a celebration and a workday. On November 5, the lodge held an open house from 11:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. with tours and a history presentation and information about Freemasonry. Getting people there was easy, have a barbecue. They sold plates and delivered pre-sold Boston butts. A barbecue plate was \$6.50, and the eight-pound butts were \$25. Money raised was to go to lodge supported charities. — *Bobby Carmon and Eddie Ellis*



Ann Rau photo

Mountain Masons in the Murphy Christmas parade.

Murphy's Masonic float

MURPHY — Masons have been represented in the Murphy Christmas parade for the last three years. Montgomery 426 and Marble Springs 439 entered the float this year. Their entry improves each year as they rethink and redesign.

This year's edition moved the square and compasses and Christmas tree further forward on the float. They raised the tree further above the floor of the float. Chris Tomczak gave them

skirting for the trailer to pretty things up. Derek Cheek and Royce Hughes loaned them the electrics needed to add strings of Christmas lights.

They assemble the float on a trailer loaned by Richard Kilpatrick, and use his truck to tow it in the parade. Royce Hughes lets them use his facilities to build and store the float accoutrements. Homer Greer and his brother-in-law drove it in the parade for them this year. — *Andy Liakos*

Washington

At Christmas, Orr 104 helped the Salvation Army by providing bell ringers for their kettle drive. The lodge also put a float in the Washington Christmas Parade. — *Doug Bennett*

Washington 675 held their Past Masters' and Ladies' Banquet November 11. William Robert Singleton's Veteran's Emblem was announced. The Redeemed Singers entertained, and Ric Carter was the speaker.

Washington Lodge had a pork loin dinner fundraiser December 3.

Gastonia

November 11 was the night Gastonia 369 celebrated Past Master's Night. As it was Veterans Day, they also had a program from Cliff Hamm about the Last Man Club. — *Rick Clanton*

Greensboro

A clean up day was set for November 1 at the Greensboro Masonic Temple. Considerable cleaning was expected as a result of minor, but extensive projects around the building. In recent months, the temple has been sprucing up to bring their landmark facility back to its former glory. A dance recital was scheduled to use the auditorium in November. — *Dillard Moss*

Lodges in the 23rd Masonic District participated the Greensboro Christmas Parade December 3. They have a district float that they have maintained for several years. — *P. P. Turner Lodge*

Guilford 656 held their Awards and Ladies' Night October 15. Sports reporter Rich Brenner was the evening's speaker. Jetze Bouma was named the lodge Mason of the Year. Masons getting Diamond Jubilee Awards for 60 years membership were William Davis Harris, Jesse Howard Hill, Richard Wayne Jackson, James Lee Robinson, and George Clarence Smith Jr. Veteran's Emblems for 50 years membership went to Fred Luther Mounce and Gordon Neil Zane. Sixty guests attended. — *The Trestle Board*

Gate City 694 was expecting to finish their WhiteStone decorating on December 2. They were helping get the holiday spirit showing at the Masonic retirement home.

On December 3, they were doing their street litter pickup on Holden Road. — *Gary Ballance*

Statesville

The 30th Masonic District sponsored the Statesville Christmas Parade this year. Harmony 299 member Al Jones coordinated. The lodges of the 30th District are Statesville 27, Olin 226, Lee 253, Harmony 299, Campbell 374, Grassy Knob 471, Mooresville 496, Snow Creek 571, Stony Point 593, and Mount Moriah 690.

Statesville 27 calls the holiday season a "giving back time." Honorary member Budd Immesberger got them involved with kettle drive bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Another group of volunteers delivered the poinsettias and fruit baskets to the lodge widows. Statesville Lodge's Al Gaylord manned the Santa float in the Christmas Parade.

More than 50 people were on hand for Statesville 27's October 22 Ladies' and Past Masters' Night. It was a busy night. Kevin Combs received the J. C. Brown Award, and the Horizon Award went to Justin LaCount. Veteran's Emblems for Skyler Little and Reid Summers were presented. Dave Gosnell presented a program on prison ministry. The lodge unveiled their grand master portrait of Lewis Ledford. Robert "Cotton" Morrison was later named the recipient of the Lon Shulenberg Award.

Statesville's Fall Pancake Jamboree raised \$1,500 for WhiteStone on what was termed a "very good turnout." The Spring Pancake Jamboree, which has been put on for years by Statesville 27 and Mount Moriah 690, is set of April 20-21. — *The Joppa Informer*

Murphy

Cherokee 146 held their annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Mainstreet Diner November 17. — *Derek Cheek*

Pilot Mountain

Pilot 493 awards a \$500 scholarship each year to a local student. If performance allows, they are given another \$500 for their second year. They collect year-round for the fund.

Pilot Lodge sponsored a blood drive November 28. Held at the nearby Methodist Church, they nearly made their goal by collecting 41 units with six deferrals.

Ten Pilot Lodge widows attended the dinner to honor them. It was held at a local restaurant.

Their recent barbecue fundraiser brought in more than \$1,000. — *The Pilot Mountain Traveler*

Spencer

Spencer 543 and their Eastern Star Chapter celebrated their Thanksgiving covered dish dinner November 22. They got to enjoy the new tables and chairs given to the lodge by the Eastern Star. They handed out lodge awards: Ken Bean was named Mason of the Year, and Sam Krohn took Rookie of the Year honors. Hugh Williams, Tom Seay, and Charles Waller got Diamond Jubilee Awards for their 60 years Masonic membership. Dan Hogue presented a program on Freemason Dr. Seuss.

Spencer Lodge collected Toys for Tots this year. They brought in more than 100 toys for the holiday distribution handled by the US Marine Corps.

The lodge made themselves known at the town of Spencer's Library Park Christmas tree lighting. They gave away more than 250 cups of hot chocolate to warm the hearts of citizens there for the holiday occasion. They were holding an open house December 10 for visitors to come by. Santa was there for the kids.

Spencer 543 continued their more than 35 years old tradition of giving fruit baskets to all the lodge widows.

They've established a new calling system to keep members informed of all the events at their busy lodge. — *On the Square and John Hatley*

South Mills

New Lebanon 314 has hung gutters around their building.

They were pleased with the results of their Fish Fry which raised money for the Masonic Home for Children.

The lodge recently traveled to Virginia to visit Indian River Lodge. It was Crazy Tie Night there. Word is that Ben Stallings threatened to take the prize before being edged out by a lodge regular. — *The Plumb Line*

Charlotte

Charles M. Setzer 693 held their awards night December 3. Rob McDowell was named Mason of the Year for his "enthusiastic spirit for lodge activities and degree work" and revamping the lodge website. He also is sending out their electronic newsletter.

To sweeten the pot at their November clean-up day, a special prize was offered to any member who brought in a newsletter with a certain phrase circled.

Setzer Lodge's new Senior Warden Allan Mann is offering a reward for good attendance. They averaged just under 20 members per meeting last year. Mann vowed to pay \$50 every time more than 25 members attended.

Looking ahead, Setzer has a homecoming set for July 14. — *Trestleboard*

Mint Hill 742 was planning to hold its Chili Cookoff on February 2. — *Mint Hill Lodge*

Excelsior 261 held their Past Masters' and Awards Night November 7.

Excelsior Lodge's officers have dubbed 2012 the Year of Renewal. — *Trestle Board*

Black Mountain

New Master Mike Dixon and the officers of Black Mountain 663 set their installation for Saturday afternoon December 3. They set it for a time that would let them adjourn in time to enjoy the Black Mountain's Christmas parade while they were in town.

Black Mountain Lodge was collecting donations through December 1 to buy gifts for the lodge widows. — *The Traveling Trowel*

Raleigh

James B. Green 735 Held their Past Masters' and Awards Night November 12.

Green Lodge also held a clean up day December 30. They were planning to spend no more than a couple of hours sprucing up in and around the lodge. — *Dustin Tarditi*

Masters 754 held their "move ahead" night at their November stated. That's the night officers get to try out their upcoming station for the coming year. — *The Trowel*

Wallace

Wallace 595 celebrated their 100th birthday in December. They issued special invitations to the lodge's widows and past masters. Junior Grand Warden Dalton Mayo was a special guest and speaker.

Wallace Lodge offered their facility to Day-Spring Assisted Care last year as an evacuation site if emergency required such. The lodge recently renewed the agreement. — *Newsletter*

Warsaw

December 6 was Ladies' and Awards Night at Warsaw 677. Henry West got his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership. Jerry Nelson was presented his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership in the lodge.

Warsaw Lodge's recent Pancake Breakfast earned 975 charity dollars. — *Warsaw Lodge*

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, happy, and informed.

INSTALL, from page 1

Safrit was to administer the oath of office to each of the men who will serve in 2012. Charlotte's Knights of St. Andrews served as ushers. Officers were led into the auditorium by piper David M. Ludlow and drummer William A. Clark.

Safrit was assisted by Installing Chaplain David R. Cash (PGM), and Installing Marshal James L. Blalock. Joseph G. Faulkner welcomed more than 250 guests to the ceremony. The color guard of the Heroes of '76, Camp Lejeune Chapter 329 of the National Sojourners presented the colors. Gresham's daughter, Claudia, sang at the opening and again at the closing of the ceremony. Charlotte Freeman Maness accompanied her on piano.

As Gresham knelt at the altar, Installing Chaplain Cash offered a prayer for the beginning of his endeavor. The ceremony was very similar to the one you have likely seen in your own lodge. All the officers took an oath to serve his office and the Grand Lodge well. Each was then charged and presented the apron and jewel of his office.

Past Grand Master Bunn T. Phillips presented the grand master's apron. Gresham's grandchildren presented him the hat he will wear as grand master.

The Grand Lodge officers installed were Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr. (Albemarle 703), Deputy Grand Master Dewey R. Preslar Jr. (Andrew Jackson 576), Senior Grand Warden Dalton W. Mayo (Hiram 98), Junior Grand Warden Douglas L. Caudle (Statesville 27), Grand Treasurer Lewis R. Ledford (PGM) (Statesville 27), Grand Secretary T.

Walton Clapp III (Mystic Tie 237), Senior Grand Deacon Bryant D. Webster (Nichols-West Asheville 650), Junior Grand Deacon A. Gene Cobb Jr. (Royal White Hart 2), Grand Marshal Jimmie B. Hicks Jr. (St. John's 3), Grand Steward C. Speed Hallman (Eagle 19), Grand Steward Dwight McLaughlin "Mack" Sigmon (Catawba 248), Grand Tyler Scott B. Gresham (Albemarle 703), and Grand Chaplain Joseph L. Hester Jr. (Neill S. Stewart 556). Other appointive officers who are not installed were Grand Historian Michael W. Brantley (Raleigh 500), Grand Lecturer J. Luigi Ammons (Millbrook 97), Grand Orator Governor James G. Martin (Phalanx 31), and Judge Advocate James R. Stevens (Garner 701).

Pro tempore officers were: Ernie M. McSwain (703) as grand master; W. Roscoe Warren (727), deputy grand master; David P. Blalock (637), senior grand warden; George M. Holly (150), junior grand warden; James F. Faulkenberry (348), grand treasurer; Benjamin G. Wallace (127), grand secretary; William C. Capel Jr. (64), senior grand deacon; George R. Katchue (244), junior grand deacon; Michael L. Bowen (276), grand marshal; David M. Smuda II (562), grand steward; Michael A. Brooks (578), grand steward; Seth T. Burris (749), grand tyler; and Jason D. Murray (703), grand chaplain.

On the day before the installation, the Board of General Purposes met for the last time with Grand Master Lewis Ledford. A dinner honoring the incoming grand master was held on Friday night. A reception followed the installation. Johnny Surles directed the ceremony.



Clemmons golf aids Homes

CLEMMONS — Clemmons 755 held their golf tournament August 31 at Oak Valley Golf Course. Larry Holloman and Bruce Ayres recently visited the Masonic Homes to deliver the proceeds to help the missions at the Homes. At top they are seen presenting a check to Mark Kolada, administrator for White Stone. Above, they deliver a check to Masonic Home for Children Administrator Chris Richardson. — Bruce Ayres

Rose earns 60-year award

BENSON — On November 8, Relief 431 presented James W. Rose his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years Masonic membership. They had a dinner before the meeting and invited family members. Jimmy is seen here having his award pinned on his lapel by his wife Miriam. His daughter Anne was also in attendance.



155 adds lift chair

ZEBULON — White Stone 155 recently purchased and installed a chair lift to improve access to their upstairs lodge room. Senior Warden David Alford, Junior Warden Wes Young, and Past Master Bill Chancellor did the installation in time for the lodge's October awards night. — Robert Rideout

Liberty honors Triplett

WILKESBORO — Liberty 45 Treasurer Jerry Triplett, right, recently received the Master's Award from his lodge. Ricky Brewer, the Liberty Lodge master who very recently died, created the award "to recognize long-time and/or key contributors to the lodge."

Triplett has been a member of Liberty Lodge since 1972. He is a two-time Master (1976 and 1993) and was district deputy grand master in 1986. He was a key leader in their building renovation project and has been treasurer since 2002.

Acting Master Scott Curry presented the award.

— Steve Brown

ENGLAND — Remember in the not too distant past it was a big taboo for police and judges in England to belong to the Masonic fraternity. Among the many reasons given was the supposed theory that "Freemasons belonged to a secret society and covertly rule the world." Common sense seems to have prevailed. Judges are no longer required to declare their membership in the fraternity.

—Fraternal Review of the Southern California Research Lodge

DUPLIN, from page 8

short capsule histories of those institutions. Duplin Clerk of Superior Court Katie Quinn Harrell spoke of the last hundred years in the Clerk's Office. Duplin County Register of Deeds David Hiram Brinson (St. John's 13) spoke of the part the Register of Deeds office and its personalities have played locally during those same 100 years. All six of the male Register of Deeds in those hundred years have been Masons. Duplin Sheriff Blake Wallace (Wallace 595) shared his department's history. Five of the nine sheriffs there in the last hundred years have been Masons. Wallace was followed by District Court Judge Henry L. Stevens IV (St. John's 13) who spoke about the court system. Past Grand Master Charles M. Ingram presented a short history of the lodges, the cornerstone ceremony, and its symbolism. He spoke about the importance of the fraternity to the practice of local government institutions through history.

For many, the highlight came as Bullard and Brinson shared the contents of the original cornerstone. As was often the case, memorabilia were deposited in the hollow in the cornerstone. This one contained some Masonic hardware, some coins, and several paper mementos including local newspapers and Masonic publications. Due to failed sealing, the paper documents were largely lost to the elements. The organizers shared with attendees a view of the things to be included in the resealed stone. That included several documents and news items. There were also a number of Masonic pins placed. Among them was the commemorative pin from the 2008 proclamation which officially launched the new recognition relationship between the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina. It was included to salute this cornerstone as the first joint meeting of the black and the white lodges of the county.

The guests and Masons moved to the northeast corner of the courthouse where they reenacted the ceremony from 100 years earlier and rededicated the building's cornerstone. It bears the name of our 1911 Grand Master R. N. Hackett.

The pro tem officers chosen to rededicate the memorial were: Dalton W. Mayo, grand master; Jackie Robinson, deputy grand master; Raymond Turner, senior grand warden; Lafayette Hall, junior grand warden; Gerald Strickland, grand marshal; Davis Brinson, grand secretary; Brian Bullard, grand treasurer; Franklin Brown, grand chaplain; Mike Aldridge, representative of the building authorities; and Charles Boney, principal architect.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, everyone was invited back to St. John's Lodge to enjoy a barbecue luncheon. Twin brothers and Deputy Sheriffs Herbert and Harvey Stroud, members of St. John's 13, did an outstanding job of cooking the pig donated by Raymond Turner. The large crowd enjoyed the lodge's hospitality.



Master Bullard and Senior Grand Warden Mayo



Register Brinson



Sheriff Wallace



Judge Stevens



PGM Ingram

STATE, from page 3

Thomasville

The Annual Thanksgiving Banquet at Thomasville 214 was held November 17. They honor their lodge widows during the event each year. They held it at Memorial Methodist Church.

Thomasville Lodge tried a new holiday project this year. They collected gift cards for the kids at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

— Trestle Board

Cherryville

Both the Chicken Barbecue and Boston Butt sales at Cherryville 505 went well this year.

Hail damage necessitated replacing Cherryville Lodge's roof this year. They are looking toward preparing for future repairs and accepting donations for such things as the parking lot and heating and air conditioning system. They are also collecting for their scholarships.

— News Out of the Blue

Kernersville

Every Monday night without degree works at Kernersville 669, they hold Mason's University. They get to learn lectures or catechisms or ritual or whatever strikes their fancy. It's open to all Masons. — The Kernersville Masonic News

Jacksonville

Semper Fidelis 680 hosted 40 at their December 3 Ladies' Night Out. Bill Frost performed an evening of magic.

Semper Fi had a great year. They raised 15 new members and donated \$2,000 to each of the Masonic Homes. They also contributed to Relay for Life, Special Olympics, Masonic Service Association Veterans Visitation Program, an other local charities. — Trestle Board

Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 suffered minor roof damage in Hurricane Irene. — The Jerusalem Journal

Cary

Breakfast at O'Charleys Restaurant on December 17 brought money for the Masonic Home for Children. All you had to do was buy a ticket from a lodge member and eat between 7:30 and 10:00 that Saturday morning.

— Ben Oakes

Mount Airy

Renfro 691 is relaunching its newsletter and creating a new Facebook page. — Eric Southern

Salisbury

Andrew Jackson 576 was holding their Annual Awards Dinner (with turkey feast to be served) on December 3. — Master's Journal

Fulton 99 held their charity barbecue fundraiser October 27. — Johnny Hatley

Paw Creek

In 2011, Eddie and Judy Ellis again coordinated their Oxford Toy Run for motorcyclists. This year, they emphasized socks, twin bedding, gift cards, and toiletries in their deliveries to the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford. Riders enjoyed chili at Ellis' shop before departure. — News from the West

Mount Gilead

Ahead is the best way to plan. Blackmer 127 is in the second year of a roof replacement fundraiser. Several members pledged to donate \$100 per year for three years. The fund, at last report, stands at \$3,000.

Two changes have been made at Blackmer Lodge for 2012. Dues have been raised to \$107 and their meeting time is now 7:00 P.M., with dinner at 6:00. — Blackmer Buzz

Franklin

Junaluskee 145 held their Past Masters' Night November 15. — Derek Cheek

Southport

Pythagoras 249 got in the Christmas spirit by donating \$300 to the Shop With a Cop program. They also appropriated \$150 for a needy family. — Newsletter

Ranger

Andy Liakos built a new website for Montgomery 426. You can find them on the Internet at <www.montgomery426.org>. — Derek Cheek

Canton

On November 15, Sonoma 472 had a dinner honoring the ladies of their local Eastern Star Chapter. — Sonoma News

Benson

Relief 431 held their Awards Night November 18. They invited family and friends of the awardees for the dinner. — Grover Dees

Newton Grove

Mill Creek 125 cooked twice for the charities last year. On December 3, they cooked more than 250 pounds of sausage and an unknown number of pancakes. Back in June, they cooked barbecue pork and chicken. The charities benefit from all the fun and food. — Earl Daughtry

Benson

Relief 431 held their Awards Night November 18. They invited family and friends of the awardees for the dinner. — Grover Dees

Rockingham

Tommy Greene, of Rockingham 495, had the pleasure of raising his son, Braxton Greene in 2011. Past Grand Master B. T. Phillips Jr. sat in the East for the degree, but yielded to Tommy when the time came to raise Braxton. — Tommy Greene

GRESHAM, from page 1

of Directors of WhiteStone by then Grand Master William L. Dill.

He is a member of Oasis Shrine and the Charlotte Valley of the Scottish Rite.

In his community, Gresham has been active in a number of organizations. He has been on the boards of the Central North Carolina Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Stanly County Chamber of Commerce, Stanly Memorial Hospital, and First Citizens Bank of Albemarle. He and wife Carolyn are members of Central United Methodist in Albemarle and Camp United Methodist Church in Shallotte.

Grand Master Gresham and his wife divide their time between their homes in Mount Gilead and Shallotte.

SIGMON, from page 1

there and held several officer and committee assignments in the church.

He has also been a troop committee member and an assistant scoutmaster of Troop 333 in Newton. Currently, he serves as a merit badge counselor for the Lakeland District of the Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Sigmon enjoys cooking and collecting cookbooks. He also enjoys reading and writing Masonic history.

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



Expansion begins to take shape

By Mark Kolada

GREENSBORO — It is hard to believe that one year has passed since WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Community completed its exciting transformation of the Linville Administration building into a first-rate clubhouse. The new clubhouse features a library, activity room, resident store, game room, lounge, marketing and administrative suites, and a new on-grade entry now without stairs. In addition to the rave reviews from residents, staff, and visitors for its southern comfort feel in its new surroundings, WhiteStone is also garnering national attention for its remodel/renovation work.

Long Term Living magazine recently awarded the Greensboro retirement community with a Best in Category award for common space as a result of recent renovations. They cited transforming the Linville administration building into "The New Front Door and Clubhouse," which now serves as a central location for residents to interact and gather as a community. Long Term Living received more than 200 submissions for its third annual remodel/renovation contest. The submissions were judged by designers, architects, educators, researchers, providers, and culture change specialists. The finalists were then posted to the website for online voting in which the project with the highest vote receiving the Best in Category Award. David Kane, LCS Development Design Manager, Des Moines, Iowa, along with AG Architecture of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin led the innovative design.

In addition to the magazine award, WhiteStone has also recently been named a finalist in the 2012 National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) 50+ Housing Awards in

the Best Repositioning category. The awards are sponsored by Lowes and will be given out at the NAHB International Builders' Show on February 9 in Orlando, Florida where finalists will learn whether they have won gold, silver, or innovation award.

The next phase of the community's expansion, which broke ground in April of 2011, is the completion of the fellowship hall, bistro, and arts and crafts studio within the next few months. After that will come the 46-unit Independent Living apartment complex in the spring. Next, the renovated dining room, kitchen, and rotunda lounge are to be completed by early summer.

Residents and staff have enjoyed the daily excitement of watching the new structures being built over the past several months, even though they have had to adjust to inconveniences such as limited parking, transitional dining facilities, and a temporary walkway connecting buildings. But, the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel" is clearly shining brighter every day as the completion of construction draws near. The community will then begin focusing on plans to celebrate its centennial anniversary in its remodeled/expanded campus in the coming year.

If you would like more information or would like to schedule a tour to check out all the changes at WhiteStone, please call at (336) 547-2947 or visit us online at <www.liveatwhitestone.org>. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to call me at (336) 547-2992 or email me at <mkolada@liveatwhitestone.org>.

WhiteStone staff, residents and future buyers posed for a picture during their recent hardhat tour of construction site.



Lodges hold joint meeting in Greenville

GREENVILLE — Greenville 284 hosted a joint meeting with their Prince Hall lodge neighbors November 22. Lodges from around the area participated. This is the second year for the gathering. Dinner preceded the tyled meeting. This year's program was a demonstration of the differences and likenesses in the staircase lectures of the two jurisdictions. David Stapelton demonstrated the NC AF & AM version, and Paul Kenny recited the NC PHA version. Last year's program did a similar demonstration with opening a Master Mason Lodge.

— Daniel Van Liere

Red Cross honors Workman

FRANKLINVILLE — On August 14, Hanks 128 and Marietta 444 joined Cedar Falls United Methodist Church to host an American Red Cross blood drive. The event was dedicated to Hanks Lodge's John "Jack" Workman Jr. Jack has been the recipient of blood transfusions and drew quite a crowd of friends for donations. The community pulled together to collect 74 units of blood. The lodges got some positive community exposure with the event. Jack Workman is seen here with his minister Terri Howard.

—William Baird



Darren Layton photo



Secretary Aldridge honored

ALBEMARLE — On August 2, Stanly 348 saluted William Stephen Aldridge Jr. for his ten years of service as lodge secretary. Aldridge is seen here with members of his lodge receiving his Secretary of Distinction certificate.

— Alan Burris



Dearmin sworn in by town

PILOT MOUNTAIN — On October 10, Pilot Mountain 493 Master Homer Dearmin, standing center, was installed as Pilot Mountain's new town manager. Several lodge members attended.

— Bert Meijboom

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- 1.....Grace, David Francis
- 1.....Ihrig, Matthew Robert
- 1.....Whichello, Brian Lee
- 8.....Ellis, Matthew Howard
- 8.....Starnes, Emmett Paul
- 8.....Feldschneider, Tommy Lee
- 8.....Rivas, Jose Miguel
- 32.....McGee, Vance Cornelius
- 40.....Holder, David Dietrich
- 40.....Puryear, Fred Leo
- 40.....Squires, Cary Franklin
- 45.....Walters, Kenneth Scott
- 75.....Hassell, Bobby Steven
- 83.....Tyson, Charles Franklin
- 84.....Wilson, Dale Stafford
- 85.....Parker, Philip Andrew
- 98.....Cannady, Christopher Mark
- 98.....Carr, Sherrill Allen
- 98.....Penman, Logan
- 109.....Larka, Erik Raymond
- 117.....Crisp, Justin Ray
- 117.....Webb, Bradford Wright
- 127.....DeBerry, Danny Benjamin
- 127.....Hutchinson, Steven Kreg
- 136.....Gourley, Michael Vincent
- 137.....Butler, Ronald Leon
- 138.....Meece, Frank Hanford
- 138.....Gurganus, Joshua Eli
- 145.....Monteith, Brett Erskine
- 145.....Rueckert, Kenneth Edward
- 145.....VanHook, John Allan
- 146.....Helton, Matthew Scott
- 147.....Wright, Charles William
- 155.....Lloyd, Jared Evans
- 158.....Holland, Timothy Dillon
- 172.....Pickard, Sandy Lee
- 176.....Clinard, David Andrew
- 176.....Headd Jr., Kevin O'Brien
- 176.....Owen, Jeffery Eric
- 176.....Stillwell, Christopher Shane
- 198.....Wooten III, Shade Allen
- 202.....Roberts, David Lee
- 205.....Brady, Christopher Joseph
- 205.....Forehand, Thomas McCellan
- 205.....Sheldon, Harry Crittendon
- 217.....Green, Ralph Everett
- 217.....Henry, Levi Russton
- 217.....Moore, Terry Keith
- 218.....Brock III, Clifton Henry
- 229.....Brummitt, Samuel Wilbur
- 229.....Ramsey, Donald Maryland
- 230.....Joyner, Jonathan Michael
- 237.....Kagan, Lars Christof
- 243.....Edwards, Craig Steven
- 244.....Purser, Eddie Lynn
- 259.....Roberts, David Nathaniel
- 261.....Brent, Phillip Maurice
- 261.....Memene, Abdel Manaf
- 261.....Smith, James Michael
- 261.....Whitlow, Billy Ray
- 265.....Lundy, Mark Hamlett
- 265.....Cohen, Juan Wallace
- 272.....Brooks, Brandon Kyle
- 272.....Buckner, Paul Kyle
- 272.....Cook, Jason Christopher
- 272.....Koczak, Alexander Stephen
- 282.....Williams, Mark Richard
- 284.....Minin, Dmitriy Olegovich
- 284.....Powell, John David
- 284.....Waters, Bryant Leonard
- 289.....Bowman, Jonathan Matthew
- 292.....Shelton, Robert Junior
- 301.....Roper, Kevin Dwight
- 304.....Norville, Stephen Curtis
- 305.....Christian, Donald Brandon
- 305.....Culver, Aaron Matthew
- 319.....Ballard, Kelley Dean
- 319.....Johnson, Mark Scott
- 319.....Lea, Jacob Kendall
- 319.....Lea, Joshua Reagan
- 319.....Baker, Wayne Edward
- 319.....Riggs, Alton Ivey
- 319.....Watkins, Richard Plaski
- 339.....Cooper, Newell Douglas
- 339.....Queen, Charles Thomas
- 348.....Hatley, Adam Richard
- 348.....Miller, Walter Neil
- 359.....Mackey, Christopher Blake
- 374.....Foust, Richard Andrew
- 374.....Murdock, William Jayson
- 380.....Miller, David Leon
- 381.....Edwards, Timmy Daniel
- 381.....Hamrick, Preston Brooks
- 384.....Perdue, William Donald
- 387.....Lobach, Bruce E.
- 387.....Surrette II, Theodore Lewis
- 391.....Haynes, Ryan McCabe
- 391.....Phillips, Daniel John
- 391.....Sullivan, James Edwards
- 397.....Vess, Bradley Glen Mills
- 405.....Capps III, John Talbot
- 405.....Hughes II, Kim Todd
- 405.....Mann, Donald Tyler
- 405.....Kreager Jr., Barrington Scott
- 405.....Rector, Justin Dakota
- 405.....Riley, Jackson Matthews
- 407.....Slane, Christopher Edward
- 409.....Boone, Gerald Wesley
- 409.....Foy, David Allen
- 409.....Hammill, Joshua Slade
- 409.....Hayes, Howard Lee
- 409.....LaRocco, Gregory Michael Victor
- 420.....Dotson, Brandon Lee
- 427.....Roper, Adam David
- 427.....Wiggins, Roger Lee
- 428.....Stump Jr., Leonard Glenn
- 429.....Malagisi, Michael Patsy
- 429.....Owens, Forrest Claude
- 453.....Smith, Michael Brian
- 461.....Albl, Ludwig Wolfgang Amadeus
- 461.....Hudson, Randel Scott
- 461.....Johannes Jr., Roger Allan
- 461.....Walker, Terry Franklin
- 462.....Carpenter, Jason Ray
- 463.....Fairchild, Carl James
- 472.....Smith, Andrew Benjamin
- 474.....Hulon, Jaddie Wayne
- 483.....Epley, Jimmy Lee
- 483.....Lester, Jason Daniel
- 483.....Macemore, Mark Benjamin
- 483.....Brown, Jason Scott
- 484.....Morris, Brian Matthew
- 491.....Turner, Charles Dudley
- 491.....Myers, Alan Scott
- 495.....Adcock, William Walter
- 495.....Williams, Samuel Howard
- 495.....Babson, Ronald Shawn
- 496.....Jonnes, Norman Lee
- 500.....Helms, Michael Jon
- 500.....Latham, Christopher Oden
- 500.....Ritenour, Jason Edward
- 502.....Meeke, Justin Travis
- 509.....Askev Jr., William Ray
- 515.....Clark, Terry Patrick
- 515.....Johnson, Andrew Lloyd
- 515.....Yawn, Troy Clifton
- 515.....Toney, Justin Steven
- 519.....Rolf, Christopher Brock
- 519.....Story, Tracy Thomas Joe
- 521.....Collins Jr., William Randolph
- 527.....Worley, Michael Christopher
- 532.....Hicks, Daniel Kenneth
- 544.....Bennett, Randy Franklin Joseph
- 544.....Crump, Christopher Wayne
- 544.....Lawson, John David
- 562.....Gill, Jody Allen
- 564.....Michael, Edward John
- 568.....Lupton, Steven Louis
- 568.....McKinney, Corey Dean
- 568.....Snow, Clyde Richard
- 571.....Stroud, Adam Lee
- 576.....Starnes, Richard Dolan
- 576.....Capps, Gary Wayne
- 578.....Goodwin, Andrew Barclay
- 578.....Roskoskey, Joshua John
- 584.....Howard, Christopher Gordon
- 589.....Farquhar, Bryan David
- 589.....Lane, Gunner Lloyd
- 589.....Roberson, John Timothy
- 590.....Ballard, Thad Nolan
- 593.....Hartsoe, Clifford Wayne
- 593.....Kaylor, Philip Spencer
- 594.....Edmisten, Alex Shuford
- 598.....Beach, Allen Mark
- 598.....Elkins, Richard Alexander
- 598.....Luther, Frank Anthony
- 598.....Sparks, Skippy Warren
- 602.....Webb, Phillip Wayne
- 617.....Armstrong, Robert W.
- 617.....Deese, Jonathan Bennett
- 618.....Sams, Perry Lee
- 624.....Champion, Brian Keith
- 629.....Hall Jr., Thurmond Hugh
- 629.....Shrewsbury, Clifford Thomas
- 629.....Simmons, Alexander Nicholas
- 650.....Hall, George Matthew
- 650.....Tilley, Jody Eli
- 654.....Wendler, Phillip Justin
- 656.....Goff, James Jason
- 656.....Watson, Samuel Alen
- 657.....Ketner, Charles Rick
- 657.....Shue, Hunter Mark
- 663.....Bush, Jason Dean
- 667.....Bailey, Jeffery Ray
- 667.....Bhatnagar, Prateek
- 667.....Pacheco, Rolando Rodriguez
- 669.....Dobson, James Paul
- 670.....McLeese, Phillip Nathan
- 670.....Carrico, Jerry Gale
- 670.....Horton, John Douglas
- 674.....Sankewitsch, Michael
- 679.....Morris, Jacob Alan
- 679.....Fakhouri, Fouad Kifah
- 680.....Bermudez, Richard Daniel
- 680.....Kneller, Ian Thomas
- 680.....Morrell Jr., Robert James
- 683.....Corry, Carl J.
- 687.....Bailey, William Edward
- 688.....Bonner, Thomas Howard
- 688.....Bunn, Shayne Thomas
- 688.....Drysedale, William Neil
- 688.....Odle, Gary Wayne
- 690.....Wingler, James Jared
- 691.....Hawks, Justen Cody
- 693.....Gordon, Jack William
- 693.....Mackey, Brandon Matthew
- 693.....Wrenn, Donald Wilson
- 694.....May, Ronnie Lee
- 694.....Ogle, Trevor Alan
- 694.....Stringer, Henry William
- 695.....Self, Joseph Ray
- 695.....Yandle, Gary Wesley
- 697.....Bryant, Kevin Todd
- 697.....Cox, Harold David
- 697.....Parkstone, Mitchell Scott
- 697.....Sivak, David Michael
- 699.....Hardy, Rodney Keith
- 699.....Needham, Matthew Ronald
- 701.....Ware, Ian Matthew
- 703.....Bursell, James Darren
- 703.....Huneycutt, Kim Bartley
- 703.....Whittaker Jr., Arthur Maitland
- 706.....Adams, Mark Vincent
- 708.....Kimrey, Justin Wallace
- 708.....Sanborn, Jeffrey Scott
- 709.....Mabe, Brian McNeal
- 709.....Price III, Billy Lee
- 710.....Crotts, Robert Joel
- 714.....Rouse, Jason Scott
- 714.....Rouse, Robert Charles
- 720.....Craft, Christopher Scott
- 720.....Lewis, John Malachi
- 720.....Williams, Kevin Joseph
- 724.....Bersch, Thomas Michael
- 725.....Armstrong, Nicholas Adam
- 725.....Bacsky, Douglas Michael
- 730.....Lowder Jr., John Cannon
- 730.....Spruill III, Vernon Lee
- 732.....Kennedy, Gary Randall
- 732.....Lockhart, Roy Grayson
- 733.....Tate, Michael Arthur
- 734.....Goodwin, Thomas Dall
- 738.....Hughes, Travis Austin
- 743.....Adams, Skylar Alan
- 743.....Hicks, Gabriel Allen
- 743.....Soprano, David John
- 751.....Peacock, Ernest Franklin
- 753.....Harrison, Michael Greer
- 755.....Furrow, David
- 757.....Henderson, Olan Christopher
- 757.....Sallach, Nathan Andre
- 757.....Snyder, Casey Byron
- 757.....Shuford, Robert Daryle
- 758.....Kerns, Cary Justin
- 758.....Salmon Jr., Gary Paul
- 758.....Shorter, Gene Austin



Olin's Operation Oxford 47

OXFORD — Olin 226 spearheaded a project this year that became known by the code name Operation Oxford 47. The 47 stood for the 47 children, ages infant to 18 years of age at that time residing at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford.

Olin Lodge along with other lodges from the 30th Masonic District (Statesville 27, Harmony 299, Mount Moriah 690, Grassy Knob 471, Snow Creek 571, Lee 253, Campbell 374, and Mooresville 496) collected Christmas gifts, toys,

donations since June of this year. On December 10, 14 members and family of Olin 226 traveled to Oxford to deliver over \$4,000 worth of gifts and donations that were collected for this cause. The Oxford 47 smiled a little bigger this Christmas as a result of Olin's efforts. So did the Masons who participated in the drive. — Van Galliher

The Oxford 47 team included, from left, Eddie Bowman, Lawrence Cowan, Bryan Bowman, Kendall Bowman, Hunter Galliher, John Skip Douglas, Calvin York, Tommy Gaither, and Van Galliher.



Tar Heels enjoy degree work in Tennessee

GREENEVILLE, TN — Weather was something of a spoiler July 16 when a joint North Carolina/Tennessee degree team raised a new member for Black Mountain 663. The degree was jointly hosted by our French Broad 292 and Tennessee's Greenville 3. The degree was scheduled to be held on top of Viking Mountain, however, due to inclement weather, and a great contingency plan, the degree was held indoors at Greenville Lodge.

Craig Laney was raised by his father Donald Laney, also a member of Black Mountain Lodge. Eighteen or so Tennessee Masons joined about 22 Masons from

North Carolina for the degree. French Broad 292, Blackmer 170, Vance 293, Nichols-West Asheville 650, and Black Mountain 663 were each represented. This was the 11th year that French Broad 292 and Greenville 3 have put on this joint degree. French Broad Master Jeter Cantrell was the conferring master. Several Tennessee Grand Lodge officers attended.

Seen in the photo, from left, are Tennessee Senior Grand Warden Roy Etherton, Tennessee Grand Master Mack E. Johnson, Craig Laney, Donald Laney, Tennessee Deputy Grand Master Laddie L. Wilson, and NC 39th District Deputy Grand Master Ronnie Reese.

MILEPOSTS



RALEIGH — members of Tabasco 271 recently ventured to the capital city to visit a brother of theirs. They called on Edward Marshall Alderman to deliver his Diamond Jubilee award saluting his 60 years as a Mason. Alderman is seen here, left, receiving the certificate from then Tabasco Master Al Bouldin. — Al Bouldin



GOLDSBORO — Goldsboro 634 celebrated their Past Masters' Night, Widows' Night, and held their Christmas party November 28. During the festivities, Tenth District Deputy Grand Master David Crisp presented Robert Edwin Hill and James Baxter Norris Veteran's Emblems acknowledging their 50 years membership. They are seen here with Lodge Master Ken Woolsey. — Ken Woolsey



NEW BERN — On November 10, Berne 724 Master Thomas Michael Bersch had the pleasure of raising his 20-year old son Thomas Michael Bersch II. Bersch works with the Craven County Sheriff's Department, so a sizable contingent of law enforcement officers turned out for the degree. Father presented son a Masonic ring after the degree. — L. R. "Pete" Thomas Jr.



WILMINGTON — On November 21, a delegation from Seaside 429 visited Angus Derrick Hatsell and presented his Diamond Jubilee award for 60 years Masonic membership. Hatsell is seen here, right, with David Holland who presented the certificate. Hatsell's wife and daughter were there for the honors. — Greg Padgett



GREENVILLE — Greenville 284 put on a full costume Third Degree on November 15. Brothers came from lodges all over Eastern to help raise two new Masons, Bryant Waters and John Powell. — Daniel Van Liere



DUNN — Palmyra 147 presented service awards in December. Robert Jackson received his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years lodge membership. William Sognor and Billie Parson were presented Veteran's Emblems for their 50 years membership. Seen here from left are Palmyra Master Rudy King, Jackson, Sognor, Parson, and Past Grand Master Gene T. Jerigan who presented the awards. — Jonathan S. Johnson



OAK ISLAND — William Scott Lucas received his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years Masonic membership December 17. The Oak Island 758 member is a past master of both Lincoln 137 in Lincolnton (1960) and Columbus 102 in Pittsboro (1970 and 1977). — Jim Griffith



WARSAW — Warsaw 677 held its Ladies' and Awards Night December 6. Henry M. West Jr. received his Diamond Jubilee Award honoring his 60 years membership. Eleventh District Deputy Grand Master Raymond Turner made the presentation. — Luther Jones



NEW BERN — Berne 724 presented three scholarships in 2011. The year's awards went to Lauren Cleland, Amanda Wind, and Tyler Canney. Cleland graduated from West Craven High and is headed NC State University where she plans to study engineering. Wind went to New Bern High and hopes to study pharmacy at Campbell University. Canney also attended New Bern High and plans to major in nursing at Appalachian State University.



WEST JEFFERSON — Ashe 594 had a number of projects this year in which they cooperated with other community organizations. At a late fall banquet, they invited representatives to share the stage at the lodge and presented them certificates of appreciation. They are seen here with Ashe 594 Master Tony Lyall and then Grand Master Lewis R. Ledford.



Duplin County Masons celebrate their civic history

By Ric Carter

KENANSVILLE — On November 18, Masons from local lodges and the Grand Lodge assembled here at St. John's 13 to celebrate. It was one hundred years and one day since a similar crowd gathered in 1911 to dedicate the cornerstone of Duplin County's new courthouse.

Senior Grand Warden-elect Dalton W. Mayo, by appointment of Grand Master Lewis Ledford, opened the Grand Lodge and presided over the ceremony of dedication for the cornerstone. More than 50 Masons were in the lodge for the opening and closing of Grand Lodge. Local lodges of our Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge were there. After the formality, just as was done 100 years earlier, the Masons left the hall and marched in a procession to the courthouse for the public portion of the celebration.

The next gathering was in the main courtroom of the courthouse. There, various local officers of the lodges, courts, and government shared the history of several Duplin County institutions.

With the cooperation and participation of local government institutions, St. John's 13 emptied, cataloged, and presented to the crowd a program about the one hundred-year-old historic cornerstone's contents.

The masters of the Kenansville lodges, Brian M. Bullard (St. John's 13) and Lafayette Hall (Beulah 110, PHA), welcomed the crowd of more than 150. District Court Judge Paul A. Hardison (Mount Horeb 73, PHA) gave the invocation, and Raymond Turner Jr. (Rehobeth 279) led the Pledge of Allegiance. Duplin County Board of Commissioners Chair Frances Parks brought official Duplin County greetings to the gathering.

Speakers representing various court institutions then gave

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Clockwise from top: the courtroom in Duplin County; opening prayer of dedication; Kenansville masters Hall and Bullard with the new deposit box.

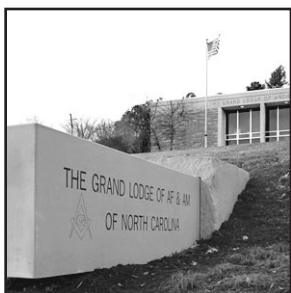


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Grand Lodge installs new officers



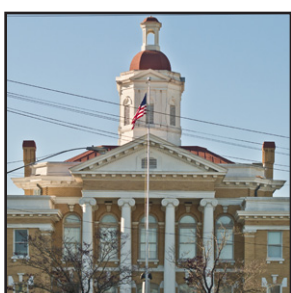
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News from the state's lodges



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Masonic mileposts



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Cornerstone celebrated in Duplin County

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NORTH CAROLINA
The Mason

GM Gresham installed

Duplin celebrates cornerstone

JAN/FEB
2012