



NORTH CAROLINA The Mason

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Dewey Preslar prepares to accept his election as grand master.

225th annual meeting elects Preslar

By Ric Carter



GM Gresham and his gavel

WINSTON-SALEM — The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina held their 225th Annual Communication here September 21–22. Grand Master Robert Elvis Gresham Jr. presided before nearly 1,100 voting delegates from 360 lodges. Deputy Grand Master Dewey R. Preslar Jr. was elected to become our next grand master. There were no surprises in elections with officers advancing or holding their offices as anticipated.

Some Grand Lodge officials arrived at the headquarters hotels on Wednesday, September 19 to be present and ready for the board and committee meetings that were to begin early Thursday morning when even more officials were on hand. The Committee on Finance and Board of General Purposes had their final meetings prior to bringing business before the membership. The Board of General Purposes voted on various nominations and appointments of Deputy Grand Master Preslar pending his election as grand master for 2013. It was BGP's next to last meeting with Grand Master Gresham, the last being just before Grand Lodge officer installation December 1. Jurisprudence had their last conference before bringing amendments to the delegates.

The Committee on Appeals met to review all actions and trials by the judge advocate in the last year and held hearings for men asking for permission to return to the fraternity after being expelled. They recommended upholding the actions of Judge Advocate Jimmy Stevens and restoration of one of the three requests for reinstatement. They recommended that one trial commission sentence be changed from expelled to suspended for one year.

The Board of Custodians, Committee on Public Relations, Board of Publication, and other committees met before the general session. There were two continuing education courses for lodge secretaries on Thursday.

Thursday night, Grand Master Gresham hosted a banquet for his guests at Annual Communication. The praise band from his church entertained.

The formal opening began at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning. The opening procession was led by the United States and North Carolina flags and the banner of the Grand Lodge carried to their places by members of the National Sojourners Spirit of '76ers. The officers of the Grand Lodge entered and opened Annual Communication. Visiting officers from other grand lodges and in-state appendant bodies were received and introduced.

District deputy grand masters and grand lecturers were seated on either side of the ceremonial lodge floor. Grand Lodge officers from the grand lodges of Prince Hall North Carolina, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, and sitting officers from state appendant bodies were escorted to the stage which held the podium and the symbolic East. Our past grand masters were brought to the stage. Each group was welcomed, and they were accorded private grand honors.

Grand Orator Governor James G. Martin, delivered the keynote about his scientist's perspective on the compatibility with science and religion.

Through the rest of the morning, recognitions were presented, and a number of reports were introduced before breaking for lunch.

Immediately after lunch, and before resealing the lodge, representatives of North Carolina's Masonic youth groups, Rainbow for Girls Grand Worthy Advisor Kaitlyn Kubacki and DeMolay State Master Councilor Derek Rains, spoke to the gathering. New Masonic Home for Children Administrator Kevin Otis also spoke at this time. A cure for his non-Masonic status is in the works.

After the non-Masons were escorted from the lodge hall, labor was resumed. A ceremony was conducted to honor our members who died this past year.

It was during Past Grand Master Lewis Ledford's presentation of his final report that there was a novel addition to the program. A fire alarm required evacuation of the meeting hall. We now know that Masons can

■ see AnnComm, page 4

WhiteStone unveils new facility

GREENSBORO — WhiteStone, a Masonic and Eastern Star Community, North Carolina's first senior living community, held a Grand Opening Celebration for its newest expansion August 11. The new and renovated facilities include 46 new residences, expanded amenities, and enhanced common areas. More than 500 people attended the a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication where they enjoyed guided tours and live music. The celebration coincided with WhiteStone's 100-year anniversary.

The \$30 million expansion of the popular WhiteStone senior living community is helping meet a critical need in Greensboro, as a growing population of seniors pursues active lifestyles in communities known for outstanding wellness and continuing care. WhiteStone has already sold 80% of the 46 newly built, spacious one- and two-bedroom, independent living apartments.

The new residences range from 844 square feet for a one-bedroom to 1,299 square feet for a two-bedroom with sun-room. Residences are designed to ensure plenty of natural light — with large windows and spacious closets, the latest kitchens and bathrooms, and other current amenities. The residences have ample kitchens and great rooms perfect for entertaining. The open floor plans include upgraded finishes with granite

counters, crown molding, and balconies.

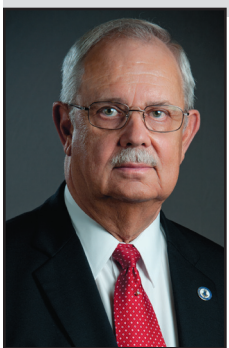
As part of the expansion, WhiteStone also completed extensive renovations to the common areas, which have been updated to offer more amenities and lifestyle enhancements, such as a new clubhouse, library, salon, indoor and outdoor dining where meals are cooked to order, new coffee bistro with fresh baked goods, and a sports pub.

Located at the heart of the 42-acre campus, the newly renovated Linville Clubhouse includes 12,000 square feet of renovated space and 4,820 square feet of new space. In addition to the Clubhouse, a 360-degree sports pub with all glass walls, invites residents to socialize and enjoy refreshments before proceeding to the newly renovated 4,900-square-foot dining room. In all, there are 39,157 square feet of renovated or new common spaces. Other amenities include an activity room for gaming and visiting; WhiteStone Convenience Store; a spa offering hairstyling, manicures, pedicures and massage therapy; a woodworking/arts & crafts room; multiple garden plots for growing vegetables and flowers; fitness and aquatic centers; and a five-star health care center.

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THE BOTTOM LINE



Thank you for the honor

By Robert E. Gresham Jr.
Grand Master

As I sit down to write my last article for *The North Carolina Mason*, we have just finished the 225th Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge. It was a great session. We accomplished a lot of work, saw a lot of

old friends, made some new friends, and generally had a good time. I have heard a lot of positive comments about our Grand Lodge Annual Communication. We received and gave private grand honors to representatives from Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. It was a pleasure to have these out-of-state visitors. Most Worshipful Milton F. "Toby" Fitch Jr., grand master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM, and representatives from our appendant bodies and the Shrine were received. A special treat was to have Imperial Potentate Al Madsen with us on Friday morning.

Friday afternoon brought a new experience. The fire alarms went off during the afternoon session, and we were ordered to evacuate the building. I invented a new "ample" form for calling from work

to refreshment and for calling from refreshment to labor. Everyone evacuated the building in a very orderly fashion and most returned. There was no fire that we know of, but we did get to take an unscheduled break. The brothers were reminded that they could not use my short cut method unless their building was on fire.

Deputy Grand Master Dewey Preslar Jr. was elected to serve as grand master for next year. My congratulations to Dewey. He has been a close friend for years and has been a very loyal supporter during my year as grand master. I appreciate his willingness to give wise council and advice. The Grand Lodge of NC will be a better place due to his leadership. He appointed Shaun Bradshaw as the new junior grand steward. My congratulations to Shaun who will continue to be a valuable asset to our Grand Lodge. I look forward to working with all of the officers in the future. Their Installation is scheduled for December 1 in Salisbury.

Masonry is growing in North Carolina. Everywhere that I have traveled across our state and from all reports that I have received, lodges are active with degree work. They are participating in community projects, holding fundraisers for our charities, and in general practicing our teachings. New blood drives have been started this year along with older ones being continued.

Last year, PGM Lew Ledford stated that he was hopeful that

our Grand Lodge would have a positive growth for the year 2011. As I reported during my district meetings, we had more NPDs than expected, and we did not meet the goal. A major emphasis of mine during my District Meetings has been NPDs. I have encouraged our lodges to make personal contact with members who have not paid their dues. Many have heard me say "Get in their face, explain to the brother(s) that they are important to us. These members are wanted, tell them why we believe that they need Masonry." If we will all work on this problem, I firmly believe that we can reduce the numbers of NPDs and put us well on the way to have a positive membership growth in 2012.

The enthusiasm exhibited by our lodges and members is gratifying. We are seeing growth in younger people petitioning our lodges for the degrees. This is great for the continuation and viability of our fraternity. With our older membership, it is great to see these younger men join asking for petitions for the degrees. Yes brothers, Masonry is alive and well in North Carolina.

On August 11, 2012, WhiteStone held a Grand Opening Ceremony for the new Independent Living building consisting of 46 one and two bedroom units. These units were financed with a bond

■ see BOTTOM LINE, page 2



Grand Lodge will celebrate 225 years November 3

RALEIGH — Be there when the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina celebrate their 225th anniversary. On November 3, a salute to our history as well as the restoration of our executive office building will be held at the Grand Lodge headquarters at 2921 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. It's a floating event with attractions from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. If you're going to be there a while, bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating on the grounds. A shuttle bus will be running back and forth from ample parking across Glen Eden Drive.

Be one of the first to tour the Grand Lodge office's return to its former grandeur. Once named in Raleigh's 50 best buildings, the glass walls of the office and its rear deck are once again visible. It's like seeing it for the first time.

The newly restored building will be rededicated, historic reenactors will tell us their stories, and building tours will be conducted. One-of-a-kind, seldom seen artifacts of Masonry will be on display — the Bible used at the 1787 creation of our Grand Lodge, Royal White Hart 2's 1767 master's chair, the 1813 cornerstone from our first building, the 1771 patent naming Joseph Montfort "Provincial Grand Master of and for America," and much more. There'll be docents to answer your questions and show you around.

The McFarland Road Band will be playing bluegrass music throughout the day. We'll be serving barbecue and chicken from 11:30 to 1:30 (buying tickets ahead of time is necessary). Lunch tickets and souvenir coins are available at <<http://tinyurl.com/GLNC225>> or by phoning (919) 787-2021. Don't miss it!

Boot Camps coming soon

Officers' Boot Camps and Coaches' Workshops will again be held this fall at three different locations around the state. The sessions are designed to train lodge officers in essential leadership skills for their travels to the East. They provide up-to-date and informative material on effective lodge management and planning. The Board of Custodians is hosting a Coaches' Workshop in conjunction with the Boot Camps this year. The coaching and leadership session are held simultaneously and run from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The October 20 sessions will be held at Waynesville 259, 508 Marshall Street in Waynesville; the November 13 sessions at the Masonic Center at 34 Miller Street in Winston-Salem; and the November 20 sessions at the Masonic Center, 2860 Village Drive in Fayetteville.

These single session Boot Camps are provided free of charge by Wilkerson College and the

Grand Lodge Masonic Education Committee. Participants receive a workbook and other material. Lunch is on your own. Lodges are welcome to send more than one representative.

Topics include "Masonic Education in the Blue Lodge," "Motivation," "Fundraising," "The Master's Toolbox," and "The Proven Path." Scheduled presenters include PGM Tom Gregory, Jim Medlin, Rick Smith, Shaun Bradshaw, Larry Thompson, and Kevin Combs.

The Coaches' Workshops focus on wording of the catechism, commonly misused words, and mentoring techniques. Attendees are encouraged to bring their *OSWs* and *Babnson Manuals*.

For more information on the Coaches' Workshop contact Mack Sigmon at <msigmon@glnc.us> or (828) 244-0391. For more on the Boot Camp, contact Kevin Combs at (704) 929-9707 or <secretarync27@gmail.com>.

Your articles and NC Mason Deadlines

Got something you want to say? Have an announcement to make or invitation to get out? If your lodge never gets mentioned here, appoint yourself lodge reporter, and keep us posted on what you guys are doing. Got suggestions for features? Requests for information? We don't have the space for everything, but we'll make every effort to take care of those things with the broadest interest across the state. The dates below will give you an idea of when you need to get timely matters to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

Grand Lodge installation set for December 1

SALISBURY — Grand Lodge officers will be installed Saturday, December 1, 2012 at 11:00 A.M. at the Norvell Theater, 135 East Fisher Street in Salisbury. Grand Master-Elect Dewey Preslar Jr. invites you and your family. Details will be on the Grand Lodge website <glnc.us> as soon as arrangements are finalized.

You're invited

Table lodge October 18

RALEIGH — J. J. Crowder 743 will hold its second annual Table Lodge and dinner at 7:00 p.m. on October 18. The table lodge dates to the early days of Masonry and is used to solidify the social aspects of the fraternity. Masons of all three degrees are welcomed at the ceremony. Dinner is seven dollars. The Lodge is located at the corner of Falls of the Neuse Road and Durant Road in Raleigh. To learn more contact Francesco Scrivano at (919) 562-7685.

Pheasant hunt November 3

HALLSBORO — Honey Hill Hunting Preserve is the site for the NC Mason's Annual Pheasant Hunt on November 3. There will be three hunts at 9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., and 1:00 P.M. with three hunters per peg. Entry fee is \$400 per peg. For details contact Edwin Russ (910) 840-0110 or <edwinruss@embarqmail.com> or James Britt at (910) 734-5865 or <jamesebritt@yahoo.com>

Perquimans presents gift to Grand Lodge Museum

By Ric Carter



HERTFORD — Instructive aids for the Masonic lectures have changed their technology over the years. When lodges first formed in our country, the floor cloth was the method of choice. It was a carpet with painted symbols that was rolled out on the floor to show the student Mason. The technology in the 1800s was the magic lantern. Early models used kerosene lamps as the light source which powered projectors for large glass slides carrying the same symbols. Later they went to electric lamps.

Later still came the filmstrip. Then came the two-by-two-inch 35mm slides many of you remember from the Kodak Carousel projectors with fans and halogen lamps. Today, most lodges are moving on to computer projectors.

At Grand Master Gresham's May meeting of the First Masonic District, Perquimans 106 presented two generations of the devices to the Grand Lodge. They shared an early (mid-1800s) Magic Lantern projector. It used wood mount, hand-colored slides for the degree lectures. The kerosene-lit instrument had been converted to use early technology electricity. It is complete with travel/storage case, and a number of early slides. They also gave the Grand Lodge Museum/Archives a filmstrip projector with Masonic filmstrips. The projector likely dates from the 1950s and included a set of lecture slides.

As the Grand Lodge building restoration continues, the museum area will expand to allow Masons and the public to share these artifacts of our collective history. If you or your lodge has some Masonic artifact in the attic collecting dust, consider presenting it to the museum.

First District Deputy Grand Master Phil Johnson and Perquimans 106 Master Jeff Perry present the historic artifacts to Grand Master Bob Gresham.

BOTTOM LINE, from page 1

package authorized by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission in 2011. Residents are already moving into their units and appear to be very happy with their new living arrangements. I want to thank the Board of Directors, executive management under Mark Kolada, and the staff who have performed a yeoman's job during this construction period. During the construction, inconvenience has been kept to a minimum and resident satisfaction has been maintained at the highest level possible. I thank all of them for their untiring efforts which make our home one of the finest in our state.

MHCO has hired a new administrator who started to work on August 16. Kevin Otis comes to us from a home in Illinois and has hit the road running. The entire Board of Directors is satisfied that we have hired the right man to lead us forward in the future of our home. Long time Director of Development Chris Richardson served as interim administrator and did a fantastic job. His efforts are to be applauded. My sincere thanks to Chris for a job well done.

The Second Annual MHC Oxford Homecoming/Festival is scheduled for the weekend of October 12 - 14. I have been assured by the potentates of Amran, Oasis, and Sudan Shrines that they are supporting the Homecoming Festival and that their units will turn out in force to make our parade the best in North Carolina. The golf tournament, parade, crowning of the homecoming queen, barbecue cooking contest, and other events will be featured. On Friday evening, Andrew Jackson Lodge # 576 has offered to cook its famous Brunswick stew for those attending. They do a great job, and I highly recommend it to you. I hope that you will bring your family and join us for this occasion.

I want to thank the Grand Lodge officers, past grand masters, DDGMs, DDGLs, members of boards, commissions, and you, the members of The Grand Lodge of North Carolina for the many courtesies shown to me during this year. All of you have been most gracious and generous with your time and talents. The advice, counsel, and guidance given to me has been appreciated. I have relied on this information in helping me decide which direction I should take with some of the decisions I have been called on to make. To Past Grand Master Leonard Y. Safrin, my Masonic dad, thank you for having the faith and trust in me when you appointed me into the grand line. I hope that I have been able to live up to your expectations.

A special thank you is due to our staff in the Grand Lodge. To Grand Secretary Clapp, your counsel and advice have been deeply appreciated. You have made your time available, sometimes at crazy times, and your assistance will always be appreciated. To Ric Carter, assistant to the grand secretary, thank you for your assistance. To the ladies, Cornelia Doherty, Vicki Lam, and Lisa Mondeau, thank you for your dedication to our Grand Lodge and for all of the assistance and accommodations that you have given to Carolyn and me. It is deeply appreciated. I am glad that I can call all of you my friends.

To the members of Albemarle 703, Blackmer 127, Yadkin Falls 637, and Shallotte 727, thank you for furnishing drivers to accompany me on my nightly travels. The companionship and offers to drive home are most appreciated. Many afternoons, Carolyn would say, "Take good care of him," as we departed.

And to a little girl from Bennett, I can never express my ap-

preciation and thanks for the love and support that you have given me over all of the years. They say that behind every successful man stands a woman who gets it all done and makes it happen. Thank you for all of the words of support and for being that patient listening ear. Your wise council is deeply appreciated. You have truly stood behind me and with me for the last almost 50 years. Without your support, I could not have taken this journey.

And, in closing always remember my friends, the Tate Family. Have you heard of the Tates?

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

As I close, remember that I still have two months to go before my year is over. I don't plan to stop working for you, so don't be surprised if you hear from outside the door "Knock, Knock, Knock."

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart, for the opportunity of serving as your grand master this year.

God bless America, and God bless Masonry!

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

Boone

Watauga County Deputy Sheriff William Mast Jr. was killed in the line of duty July 26. The Snow 363 member had a Masonic funeral. Mast left a pregnant wife who delivered just days after his passing. A least one scholarship fund has been started for the child. For details on helping the family contact <info@snowlodge363.com> or Snow Lodge, PO Box 2672, Boone, NC 28607. — Aaron Whitener

Southport

Pythagoras 249's seventh annual Masonic Golf Tournament was set for September 22. An August report said that they were ahead of all last years markers at that point in time. The Tournament was to be played at Lakes Country Club in Boiling Spring Lakes. A continental breakfast was included, and there were numerous awards to be made. Ladies even had a special putt to win a chance to win a \$300 rug.

The lodge has voted to install a new emergency exit at the back of the first floor.

South Carolina Masons Chris Holland and George Wertheimer have been made honorary members of Pythagoras Lodge. — Newsletter

Mount Gilead

A committee at Blackmer 127 has been appointed to investigate the viability and desirability of installing a lift chair in the lodge.

— Blackmer Buzz

Greensboro

The Greensboro Masonic Temple is getting a new roof. Leaks were becoming an aggravation at one of Masonry's landmarks. Roof repair inspectors found damage which was covered by insurance. This made a huge dent in the cost of restoring the temple to its former glory, freeing up funds to take care of other parts of the project. Replacement of the roof was estimated to take four to five weeks.

Inside, the several of the main stairways have been scraped and repainted. The dining hall has a fresh paint scheme. The Fellow Craft stairway behind the lodge room has been refurbished. Air conditioners have been replaced and old radiator pipes removed. Scottish Rite offices have been moved back into the Temple.

The Temple will be sponsoring what they call a Grand Re-Opening on December 19. Public tours will be offered and many of the lodges in the 23rd Masonic District will be installing their officers.

The Greensboro lodges were cooperating on the annual Community Servant Luncheon to be held October 6. They serve lunch at the lodge that Saturday. The meal is free for policemen, firemen, servicemen, emergency medical technicians, veterans, and so on. — Philip Bialek

Corinthian 542 was to hold their Past Masters' and Ladies' Dinner September 15. There was to be live entertainment, and Ray Hall was to be guest speaker. — Trestle Board

Gate City 694 held their annual fish fry at the Temple September 8. It's one of their most anticipated family events. The next day, they were sponsoring the chapel church service at WhiteStone. On July 14, they patrolled their Adopt-A-Street run along Holden Road. As usual, Arthur Marshal marshaled the crew.

Maybe having such an active schedule is what keeps attendance up at their meetings. Gate City Lodge normally runs 40 to 55 members present for their communications.

Lodge logo clothing is available at Gate City. They have both sweatshirts and polo shirts in several colors. — Trestleboard

Greensboro's DeMolay Chapter is making a comeback. P. P. Turner 746 is sponsoring the boys. The chapter will meet in the Greensboro Masonic Temple. — Trestleboard

Winston-Salem

The Winston-Salem Masonic Temple is being sold and a new building being built. They plan a smaller, better equipped, cheaper to maintain facility. They expect to build debt-free from the sale of the old building.

A pork barbecue for the charities is being held October 5 by Salem 289, West Bend 434, Winston 167, Piedmont-Pioneer 685, and Forsyth 707. Big Boy BBQ, two-time grand champion and five-time People's Choice Award winner at the Carolina Masonic Pig Jig, is doing the cooking. — The Salem Sentinel

OldTown 751's raffle fundraiser dinner is set for November 3. A \$25 ticket gets you supper and a chance in the raffle. This year's raffle prizes a Charles Daly shotgun, an Apple iPad, and large screen television. Proceeds will go to Masonic charities.

Their pancake supper was scheduled for September 28.

Old Town Lodge was hosting Masonic Heritage Day September 10 for Triad Masonic Youth. — On the Level at Old Town Lodge

Gatesville

On May 16, 13 members of Gatesville 126 braved six inches of rain to travel to Hampton, Virginia to see their honorary member Tom Powell receive his 60-year service award from the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Powell's son Scott is Gatesville's senior warden. They enjoyed a Hawaiian style meal at Virginia's Army/ Navy 306.

Gatesville held their annual fish fry May 3. They enjoyed their many visitors from around northeast North Carolina and southeast Virginia.

The lodge's Ladies Picnic was set for Colerain Beach on July 14. — The Compasses

Paw Creek

You may remember the recent crash of a National Guard firefighting aircraft battling forest fires in South Dakota. One of the victims in the crash was Master Sergeant Robbie Cannon. He was the son of West Gate 738 member Robert Cannon.

The recent workday at West Gate got lots done. They removed trash from the grounds. There's fresh paint on the doors, railings, and posts. Less visible, but maybe more important, is the new underground pipe diverting water from the building foundation. — Gary Cooke



John Sullivan photo

NASCAR's David Ragan is now a Mason

CORNELIUS — North Carolina gained a speedy member May 22 when Williams 176 raised NASCAR standout David Ragan. Ragan was joined in his degrees by his crew member Chris Dilbeck. The lodge was overflowing with visitors from as far away as Savannah, Georgia.

Seen here, from left are then Deputy Imperial Potentate of International Shriners Al Madsen, Dilbeck, Ragan, and Williams Master Steve Hamlin.

Ragan and Dilbeck managed to go through

the same requirements of the degrees as other North Carolinians, despite their very demanding travel schedule. They are owed a special salute for taking the slow road when they likely could have gotten special treatment in some other jurisdictions.

The 26-year-old Huntersville resident this year drives the Number 34 Ford Fusion for Roush Fenway Racing. Ragan joins other NASCAR drivers Cale Yarborough and David Pearson who have been Freemasons. — John Sullivan

Chapel Hill

University 408 and Mosaic 762 had a lodge cookout on Labor Day. It fell on their usual first Monday family/guest meal night. Nothing fancy, they enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs.

University Lodge enjoyed a baseball night out on August 25. They were attending a Durham Bulls game. — Steve Sparrow

The fifth Monday education night at University Lodge was going free form on July 30. They were not sure what they were going to talk about, but one suggestion was to have Danny Ferguson, Dickie Lyon, and Will Towne each recite a different degree lecture, to see which one lasts the longest. Not really. — Keith Morgan

South Mills

On April 17, at New Lebanon 314, Mike Burnham had the pleasure of raising his son Josh as a Master Mason. — The Compasses

Pineville

James K. Polk 759 had their annual Pig Pickin' set for September 15 at their lodge shelter. Buy a ten-dollar ticket, and you could enjoy plenty of bluegrass music, food, fun, and games. All proceeds were destined for lodge charities.

Jenna Beswick, a UNC-Greensboro bound student won Polk Lodge's \$500 scholarship this year.

Polk members are giving free eye exams to the kids and staff at the Masonic Home for Children this year. Doctors Sam and Ben Hobbs are providing the exams and glasses for kids who need them. — Randy Richardson

Wilmington

July stated meeting at St. John's 1 was beach themed. They were pursuing the Fourth of July holiday with hamburgers, watermelon, and other standards of the season. A Hawaiian shirt was required for admission. They later were judged in a shirt contest.

Ten members of St. John's 1 traveled to Grand Strand Lodge in Myrtle Beach to see some "foreign" degree work. They plan to return soon for another visit.

The local Woodmen of the World recently gave St. John's Lodge an American flag. The flag has given away more than 2,000,000 US groups in the last 60 years. — Trestle Board

Raleigh

Things are "better anticipated than reacted to." That's why James B. Greene 735 Master Dustin Tarditi has set up a planning schedule for his lodge to more effectively deal with necessities of the lodge. The lodge will take up future planning on a three- to five-year horizon. Master, wardens, and trustees will plan and evaluate needs in a six- to 36-month range. Officers will plan and execute activities and projects on a three- to six-month range.

Green Lodge has long held several ice cream social each summer. They host one at each of our Homes as well as at the lodge. In July, they visited WhiteStone and served up 14 quarts of homemade. They were to visit the Home for Children August 18 to deliver school supplies and host an ice cream and fixings bar for the residents.

NC School of Science and Mathematics student Nicolas Munsen is helping research Green Lodge's history for their upcoming 50th anniversary. His work will not only help the lodge, but will be a part of his community project required by the school. — The James B. Green Scene

Concord

Cabarrus 720 has long had an ambition to own its own lodge. Years ago they bought a piece of property only to lose an acre and a half to the expansion of NC Highway 49. Luckily, the Department of Transportation paid them more for that portion than the lodge paid for the whole lot. But, that left them a lot no longer suitable for a lodge. They recently sold the remaining property to the bordering family. As a result, they have made a profit on the sales which will go into the continuing dream of building ownership. — Newsletter

Mint Hill

Mint Hill 742's June 2 Bluegrass/Gospel Fest featured the Hinson Girls. It netted nearly \$350. The lodge brought in more than \$4,000 with their March 17 Spring Fish Fry. Proceeds will be shared by our two Masonic Homes.

There was to be a taste of Hawaii at Mint Hill Lodge August 2. That was the night for their luau. They were enjoying whole pig roasted Hawaiian style and other classics from our 50th state. Prizes were also to be awarded for best costumes. — Mint Hill Lodge

Highlands

Blue Ridge 435 had a successful hot dog sale June 30. They have donated \$100 to the local Relay for Life.

The Lodge has recently installed a gate in the fence between their property and the neighboring Methodist church — sign of good neighbors.

Blue Ridge Lodge has authorized the placement of a plaque bearing the names of their past masters. Jim Dautel is donating the plaque. — Trestleboard

Charlotte

Excelsior 261 hosted the local Masonic ladies groups to dinner on August 6. Members of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, Easter Star, and Amaranth were invited to share a Low Country boil of crabs, shrimp, sausage, potatoes, and corn.

A silent auction for a mantel clock was held by Excelsior Lodge. Bids ended September 16. Proceeds from the sale went to Masonic charity.

They did their Adopt-A-Street cleanup August 11. — Trestle Board

David Ludlow visited Derita 715 at their August stated meeting and taught them about the bagpipe and its Masonic history. According to reports, the program was "very entertaining and educational and enjoyed by all."

Derita's April Chicken Fry Fundraiser brought in \$1,400 for Masonic charities. The next one is scheduled for October.

In September, Derita members Donald Ray Bonds and Edward Irwin Wingate Jr. received their Veteran's Emblems for 50 years lodge membership. — Derita Lodge

Temple 676 is investigating starting a Masonic Book Club. They would select a book that all would read and then discuss.

Temple Lodge has new lodge lapel pins for sale at ten dollars each. — Trestle Board

Phalanx 31 hosted Guitar Thumbpicker Hall of Famer Joe Edwards in a fundraiser performance. They raised about \$500 for Masonic charity. Terry Lawson spoke at the dinner. He and Mack Wilson facilitated the Masonic Home for Children ski outing the lodge helped sponsor. — Trestleboard

Charles M. Setzer 693 is having an enviable problem in keeping up with their coaching chores; they have 11 candidates in the pipeline. Among them is the lodge's first African American initiate. Three more petitions were in the hopper.

The lodge's first Open House/Homecoming was held July 14. About 70 people attended the four-hour event.

Setzer Lodge is also becoming a community activity center. They are the home to Knights of Solomon 764, the motorcycle traveling lodge and Charlotte's recently reinstated DeMolay Chapter. A neighborhood church also meets in their dining hall.

Donnie Wrenn has completely redone the lodge's landscaping. — Trestleboard

Pilot Mountain

For the three years it took them to relocate, King 722 met in Pilot Lodge's building. They are now safely in their new facility. In July, a delegation of King's members visited Pilot and presented a thank you gift: new officer aprons and jewels.

On August 7, Pilot Lodge once again participated in National Police Night Out. They handed out free hot dogs and drinks at Dickie's Sandwich Shop.

Sam Carson recently gave Pilot 493 new gavels for the master and wardens.

An expensive roof repair is needed at Pilot Lodge. They let a contract after taking several estimates. — The Pilot Mountain Traveler

At their August 21 annual Dinner for Widows of Masons, Pilot Lodge entertained six ladies. Each of the ladies was pinned with a corsage and given the opportunity to catch the lodge up on what they had been up to during the previous year. They got the ladies to fill out a contact information card which was then used in a drawing for the flower centerpiece from the dinner. — Rick Smith

Wilson

Mount Lebanon 117 was celebrating Independence Day at the lodge. They were having a pot luck lunch at noon, and the rest of the afternoon was given to fun and games. They were to have a bounce house, water balloon toss, and penny pitch for the kids. The old folks were having a corn hole tournament and just visiting. Texas-style barbecued brisket, hot dogs, and hamburgers were on the menu. — David Browning

Wilson 712 and Mount Lebanon 17 are inviting other local Masonic bodies to co-sponsor a blood drive they were holding October 4 at the Wilson County Shrine Club. — Sixteenth District News

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.

Ann Comm, from page 1

leave a meeting in a quick and orderly fashion — it does not require the imminent beginning of a degree lecture. After a short break and reassurance by Fire Department officials, delegates returned to the hall and resumed their business. Grand Master Gresham presented his preliminary report on his year in the East.

Throughout the day, slideshows were presented featuring photographs of Masonic events around the state during the last year. There was business requiring voting on Friday afternoon including the Report of the Committee on Appeals. All actions of the judge advocate and trial commissions were reviewed, and the recommendations of the Committee were approved.

Grand Master Gresham called the membership from labor to refreshment a little after 4:00 P.M. Many delegates enjoyed a reception by the grand master immediately following. On Friday evening, Masons were seen in groups all over downtown Winston-Salem. They enjoyed the entertainment and many restaurants around the center of the city.

On Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M., the final business session of the Annual Communication began. The first business before us on the second day was, as always, the budget for 2013. Finance Committee Chairman Sam Lee presented the budget and called for discussion after each section. Interspersed between those parts, delegates marked ballots to elect Grand Lodge officers for next year. The budget, with a small surplus projected, was approved as presented.

Elections proceeded without any other surprises. Dewey R. Preslar Jr. of Andrew Jackson 576 was elected to become our next grand master. Preslar is a retired vice-president of Food Lion and currently executive director of the North Carolina Self-Insurance Security Association.

Code changes were considered on Saturday morning. Amendment Group 1 was passed. It replaced a few remaining references to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home with the current WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. Group 2 was passed to maintain the privacy of the children at the Masonic Home for Children. Group 3 created a three-day cooling off period on requests for demits allowing the requester to reconsider. Traceable email became an acceptable means of official notifications with the passage of Group 4.

Group 5's adoption gave us a standard bylaw that may, if lodges choose, be adopted to ban all tobacco use in their building. It forbids all tobacco use during degree conferrals. Group 6 was passed to clarify that lodge secretaries may read condensed minutes of previous communications if the lodge desires.

Amendment Group 7 as originally submitted by the grand secretary would have eliminated the minimum for initiation fees. The Code Commission changed that to increase the minimum from \$50 to \$150. The amendment was defeated, leaving a required minimum of \$50.

A housekeeping matter related to the modified ballot procedure allowed in uniform bylaws was passed in Group 8. Group 9 was rejected. It would have relaxed the unanimous ballot requirement for Life Memberships. Group 10 to allow limited use of alcohol in lodge facilities won a majority of the votes (475-425), but failed because it fell short of the necessary two-thirds majority.

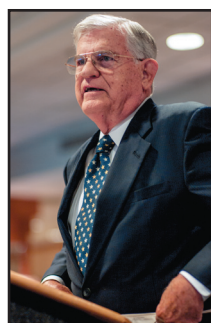
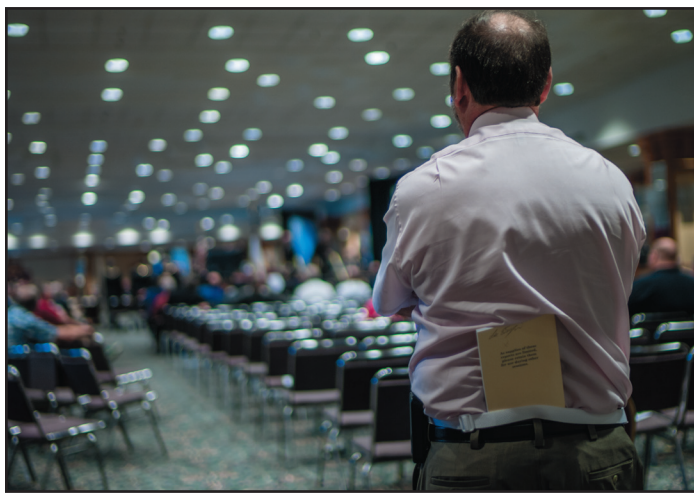
Groups 11 and 12 were passed creating awards for lodge treasurers and tylers. All changes to *The Code* take effect January 1, 2013.

Four grand lodges were recognized. Foreign jurisdictions recognized were Grande Loja Maçonica Do Estado de Sergipe in Brazil, Grand Loja de Santa Catarina in Brazil, and Grande Loge Reguliere de Tahiti in Tahiti. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska was also recognized.

The most awaited appointment each year is the new grand steward, the man who will join the line of men advancing toward the office of grand master. The new steward is P. Shaun Bradshaw of Stokesdale 428. Bradshaw has been active for several years in helping organize Annual Communication.

Elected to Grand Lodge offices were Dalton W. Mayo (Hiram 98), deputy grand master; Douglas L. Caudle (Statesville 27), senior grand warden; Bryant D. Webster (Nichols-West Asheville 650), junior grand warden; T. Walton Clapp III (Mystic Tie 237), grand secretary; and Lewis R. Ledford, grand treasurer.

This year's appointed officers include A. Gene Cobb (Royal White Hart 2), senior grand deacon; Jimmie B. Hicks Jr. (St. John's 3), junior grand deacon; Speed Hallman (Eagle 19), grand marshal;



Left to right, top to bottom: delegate looking for his seat; pianist Roy West; GM Gresham; PGMs Dill, Simpson, Everett, and Gregory; Preslars Jr. and Sr.; Bradshaw; Martin; Gr. Historian Brantley; Gr. Tyler Gresham; fire evacuation; PGM Tillett preparing for report; out-of-state guests talk before opening procession.

Amendment Scorecard	
Group 1	WhiteStone name correction.....passed
Group 2	MHCO child privacy.....passed
Group 3	Demit cooling off periodpassed
Group 4	Emails for official notificationpassed
Group 5	Tobacco ban.....passed
Group 6	Summarize minutespassed
Group 7	Minimum initiation fee.....failed
Group 8	Ballot reference correction.....passed
Group 9	Ease life membership ballotfailed
Group 10	Alcohol usefailed
Group 11	Treasurer of Distinction.....passed
Group 12	Tyler of Distinction.....passed

Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon and Shaun Bradshaw, grand stewards; Steven D. Schenk (Fulton 99), grand tyler; Paul F. Kelly (Sanford 151), grand chaplain; F. Grady Hall III (Scotch Ireland 154), grand historian; L. David Hall (Andrew Jackson 576), grand lecturer; Andrew C. Brock (Farmington 265), grand orator; and James R. Stevens (Garner 701), judge advocate.

Annual Communication was adjourned shortly after noon on Saturday.

Installation of Grand Lodge officers is set for Saturday, December 1 at 10:00 A.M. in the Norvell Theater in Salisbury. You are all invited.



Grand Lodge scholar

GARNER — Toniqua Taylor, a 2012 graduate of Garner Magnet School here was awarded a Charles E. Cathey Masonic Scholarship by the North Carolina Grand Lodge. Miss Taylor and her mother attended a meal before Garner 701's June 11 staid communication at which she was presented the award. Seen here, from left, are Miss Taylor's mother Latashia Clark, Miss Taylor, and Lodge Master Richard Lynch. — Richard Lynch



From left are Master George Maxwell, recipient Smith, and Richard Secoolish.

Kannapolis Masons' ten-year tradition

KANNAPOLIS — Cannon Memorial 626 sees the need to invest in the future by investing in students. This is the tenth year the lodge has offered scholarships to local graduating high schoolers. Their criteria are simple, choose from among well-rounded students with a GPA of 3.5-3.9. Why not raise the bar to the students with a GPA of 4.0? It's because those are the students already seeing most of the scholarship attention. The lodge sees the students who barely fall short of perfection more needing of the additional funding.

A committee of two lodge members, two educators, and one community representative interviewed the nine applicants from two local schools. While all nine applicants were impressive, Wes Smith from Northwest Cabarrus High School and D. William Osborne from A. L. Brown High School were selected to receive the Cannon Memorial awards. They choose one from each school, each year. — Thomas Van Etten



Outer Banks scholar

BUXTON — Sarah Martindell was the recipient of this year's scholarship from Cape Hatteras 698. Ms. Martindell is seen here receiving a check for \$500 from lodge Secretary Mahlon Williams at the Cape Hatteras Secondary School of Coastal Studies Awards Night. The scholarship continues a tradition of several years. — Mahlon Williams



Holly Springs makes grant

HOLLY SPRINGS — Cailey Munana was the recipient of Holly Springs 115's college scholarship this year. The lodge invited Munana and her family to dinner at the lodge on May 8. Scholarship Committee Chairman Davis Smith presented the check for \$500. Munana is seen here with her family: her dad Paul, Cailey, her mom Karen, and brother Brenton. — Vinnie DeBenedetto



Onslow scholars named

JACKSONVILLE — On July 17, five students were presented Onslow County Masonic Scholarships. The \$1,200 scholarships went to, from left, Erica Gurganus, Jacksonville High School; Destiny Bengston, Jacksonville High School; Samantha South, White Oak High School; Morgan Drye, Dixon High School; and Taylor Scott of Southwest High School. Denny Norris and Loren Jones are seen here with the young ladies. — Howard Kahn

WHITESTONE, from page 1

"We are proud to carry forward our 100-year tradition of excellence," says Mark Kolada, Executive Director of WhiteStone. "As a senior living pioneer, we remain committed to leading the way in Greensboro. We're meeting the high demand for new residences with our expansion, and our enhanced common areas are enabling us to continue developing a community that provides an active and fulfilling lifestyle for today's seniors." In fact, WhiteStone won the 2012 National Association of Home Builders "Best of 50+ Housing" Silver Award.

The architect on WhiteStone's expansion project was AG Architecture, a Wisconsin-based firm with 40+ years of experience in innovative senior living design. Interiors were handled by Spellman Brady & Company out of St. Louis, Mo., a nationally recognized interior planning and design firm that specializes in health care, higher education and senior living.

All non-fraternal guests of WhiteStone are full payers for their services. The income from them helps control and underwrite the care of our fraternal brothers and sisters who are in need of financial assistance. Your donations also help.



Ric Carter photos

STATE, from page 3

Tryon

The 38th Masonic District was to hold the District Picnic at Harmon Field in Tryon August 18. Members of all the area Masonic bodies were invited to come and bring family and prospective members along to enjoy the fun.

— *Dunn's Rock Lodge*

Thomasville

Five teams played in Thomasville 214's USSA sanctioned slow pitch softball tournament. The winners qualified for a spot in the upcoming state tournament. Money raised went to the Masonic Home for Children. They hope to make it an annual event.

The lodge had a workday planned for July 14.

— *Trestle Board*

Bonlee

On July 25, Mount Vernon 143 Master Michael Wilson had the pleasure of raising both his sons, Alex Joseph and Eric Michael.

— Glenn Dunn

Greenville

Greenville 284 held a blood drive August 18. They were shooting for 100 units.

— Daniel Van Liere

Warsaw

The Duplin County Masonic Blood Drive was being hosted by Warsaw 677 on August 14. They were supplying four or five volunteers to help with registration and assisting donors. The 11th District sponsors the event each year.

During their recent yard sale, the lodge raised more than \$100 for the local Boy Scouts.

— *Warsaw Lodge*

Gastonia

Gastonia 369 has changed their meeting night from Friday to Thursday, second Thursdays. Fridays will be reserved for degrees.

— *Trestleboard*

Brevard

Though suffering increasing costs, the same as other lodges across the state, Dunn's Rock can at least take some solace in the reduced consumption their new furnace/boiler is bringing them.

— *Dunn's Rock Lodge*

Southern Pines

A great way to raise money for lodge use is to have souvenirs of your lodge available for lodge members and visitors. Southern Pines 484 sells vinyl decals as well as limited edition coasters.

The lodge's Ninth Annual R. C. Yoder Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was set for August 11.

— *The Trestle Board*

Selma

Selma 320 is holding their annual golf tournament October 19.

— *Sixteenth District News*

Hayesville

Clay 301 was to hold their Pancake Breakfast on July 14. Proceeds were for our Homes in Greensboro and Oxford.

— Derek Cheek

Hookerton

Stanley Lucas has given Jerusalem 95 an interesting gift. On his recent trip to Israel, he found a ceramic tile with a square and compasses and Jerusalem emblazoned upon it. He brought it home for his lodge.

— *The Jerusalem Journal*

Oak Island

Oak Island 758 was raffling a gun to raise money for the charities. They were launching sales July 4 at the Independence Day parade in Southport. The drawing of the winner was set of Labor Day.

— Bobby Carmon

China Grove

Eureka 283 was holding their annual fundraiser for the Masonic Home for Children during China Grove's July Farmers Day. They were selling ham biscuits in the morning and hamburgers and hot dogs the rest of the day.

— Jason Whitley

Hertford

Perquimans 106 made Elmer "Bean" Butt an honorary member this past spring.

— Paul Gregory

Whiteville

Lebanon 207 recently handed over the 18th Masonic District's traveling gavel to St. Pauls 474.

— Chad Eason

Lexington

Lexington Memorial 473 was to hold its 67th Annual Widows' Banquet October 6.

The lodge Homecoming is scheduled for November 1. Oyster stew will be served. It's their first try at the event, and they will consider making it a yearly happening.

— Tommy Jolly

Kannapolis

Cannon Memorial 626 held their Charity Breakfast July 21. The do a six-dollar all you can eat buffet. Proceeds go to the Masonic Home for Children.

— Thomas Van Etten

\$90,000 stolen from lodge

By Ric Carter

COLUMBUS — Ronald Reagan famously said, "Trust, but verify." It is a message we as Masons should remember. Take the case of Horse Creek 719 here in Columbus.

For several years, the lodge Audit Committee was frustrated with the poor cooperation and records of long-time treasurer Tony Grigg. But, he was a trusted Brother, twice a past master, a certified lecturer, Past DDGL, and a 33rd Degree member of the Scottish Rite. They eventually settled for incomplete records and photocopied bank statements for their audits.

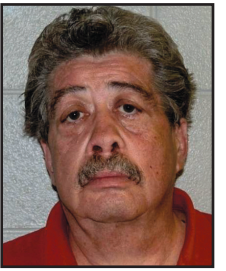
Eventually, suspicions grew that something was awry. Investigations by the lodge officers discovered that more than \$150,000 of lodge money was missing. They removed Grigg's ability to access accounts and hired a forensic accountant who once worked for the SBI. He found \$60,000 of the lodge money in an account of which the lodge had no knowledge. He discovered that Grigg has been paying personal bills with lodge checks for several years. The report of the forensic audit was that about \$90,000 was yet unaccounted for.

The report was carried to the local sheriff and district attorney. When questioned by police in mid-June, Grigg confessed. They brought 21 charges including felony corporate malfeasance, felony embezzlement, and felony obtaining property by false pretenses. The charges stem from violations occurring from 2006 through 2012. Within a few days, Grigg was arrested during a routine Highway Patrol traffic stop. He was placed in the Polk County jail.

Before his August trial, he was persuaded to plead guilty to seven felony counts and sign an agreement of repayment that would put the lodge high on the list of those claiming his assets in any civil actions including his personal bankruptcy. In exchange for the agreement, the lodge refrained from taking any position at his sentencing hearing. The move was made to maximize the recovery of lodge funds.

On September 1, Grigg was sentenced to five to six months in the county jail and 24 months of supervised probation. He received credit for the time he has already served. As of this writing, he has not been released since his June arrest.

The 54-year-old Grigg was treasurer from 2001–2012. He was expelled by Judge Advocate Jimmy Stevens July 17 based on his confession to local police.



Grigg



Lodge does all night Relay

KANNAPOLIS — Cannon Memorial 626 made their first all nighter for the Relay for Life earlier this year. This time they actually marched instead of just donating to a team as they have the past few years. Lodge members George Maxwell, David Maxwell, Richard Secoolish, Randy Hill, Thomas Van Etten, Harold Koontz, Jerry Tucker, and Chris Everhart were joined by friends and family Carol Maxwell, James Secoolish, Randy Toledo, Joshua Adcock, and Myra Jean. There were hot wing eating competitions, zumba lessons, locks of love haircuts, and much more which were enjoyed by the participants. The Kannapolis event brought in \$30,000 this year. Cannon Memorial Lodge plans to lose sleep over cancer again next year.

— Thomas Van Etten



Home enjoys degree work

GREENSBORO — On May 8, Cannon Memorial 626 visited WhiteStone. With a dispensation from Grand Lodge, they held an emergent communication to initiate a new candidate. WhiteStone residents Bob Keiffer, Ray Coulter, Calvin Burr, Jack Gunkle, Paul Walter, Hurley Cates, Harvey Boyotte, and Cliff Lamere attended the degree in their Home. Together they brought more than 500 years Masonic membership to the meeting. Traveling from Cannon Memorial Lodge with candidate Chris Everhart, were George Maxwell, David Maxwell, Dalton Jordan, Richard Secoolish, Randy Hill, Thomas Van Etten, Johnny Furr, Ken Davis, Joe Goodnight, Harold Koontz; and Bobby Puckett from Stokes 32.

— Thomas Van Etten



Midgett earns 60

BUXTON — Hatteras 698 recently presented Theodore Stockton "Stocky" Midgett his Diamond Jubilee award for 60 years Masonic membership. His son Ted Jr. made the presentation. Stocky is a charter member of Hatteras Lodge as well as past master and past district deputy grand master. Twelve past masters and three past district deputy grand masters were among those who attended the awards dinner. Seen here, from left, are, Senior Deacon Jay Hardin, Stocky Midgett, Ted Midgett, and Master Chris Tenpenney.

— Mahlon Williams



McWhirter



Godwin



Drake



Britt



Little

Mint Hill's big year

MINT HILL — Back in May, Mint Hill 742 held a steak dinner and presented service awards to a large group of their members. Fifty-five guests were on hand for the lodge's largest awards night ever. Lodge Master Robert Johnston presented the recognitions.

Marshal Little was the senior winner receiving his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years membership. Veteran's Emblems for 50 years membership went to Judson Britt, Fredrick Smith, William McWhirter, Thomas Pritchard, G. T. Godwin, Charles "Bud" Wallace, William Black, and Joel Drake.

— Peter Larsen



Pritchard



Wallace



Smith



Black

THOUGHTS, from page 8

fare. Today's work with children brings many hurdles and conditions which were not present in the past. Licensure, accreditation, risk management, and ongoing changes within the system must be adhered to while promoting a safe, loving, caring, supportive and educational environment designed to meet the children's individual and group needs. At the same time, the Masonic Brotherhood, Alumni Association, and community must feel a vested interest and unified in purpose.

In many ways, life for the children residing at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is different today. In some instances, parents have more resources to draw upon, which can result in shorter stays or back and forth placements for the children. Demands on children's time conflict with each other. For example, many soccer leagues and other sports outside of the mainstream have been relegated to conducting games and practices on Sundays as a way of fitting into otherwise busy family schedules. Obviously, this is in direct competition to many worship services and creates uncomfortable decisions. Issues children face now include cyberbullying, dealing drugs to support the family, unprecedented violence in families, and neighborhoods, and the eroding of the institution of family. New research has explored the effects of trauma on individuals from children to soldiers. The effects are varied, but often result in a "rewiring" of the brain works to support survival mechanisms. The effects of trauma are not simply mitigated when the child is placed in a safe environment. Often, behaviors exist that were necessary for survival, but are quite destructive for the individual outside of the traumatic environment. The world is changing at a rapid pace, and with it, the requirements for children in care must adapt.

What does this mean for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford? It means the business of providing care for children will need enhancements, revisions, and additions. One idea is to broaden the programmatic offerings of the Home to include community based programs. Additional programs will provide a continuum of care designed to reach children before they require residential care, offer more step down placements as they leave residential care, and provide aftercare support to insure greater success as children return to their parents or strike out on their own. Other ideas focus on augmenting the programming already in place. Emphasis on vocational counseling, educational mentorship, spiritual development, and recreation will help teach the children at all levels of development the skills necessary to be independent.

In many ways, the changes proposed will not be visual. Community based programs can increase the number of children we reach, without ever seeing the campus bursting with children at play. Programmatic enhancements will also be difficult to notice, but should be seen through increased academic success, job placements, and groups or activities.

One noticeable change can begin to occur with your help. The

Home is currently operating under capacity. We have open beds. Children who could benefit from the wonderful work being done daily could move in almost immediately. Children across North Carolina need you to refer them to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. The messages of the past, present and future of the Home need to get out. Positive and correct messages need to be shared to promote the connection of families in troubled circumstances to the loving care and support the Home has to offer. The Masonic Brotherhood has developed a sanctuary for children, which has lasted for almost 140 years. The niche the Home provides is unique. Growth and development will allow more children, youth, and families to heal, become healthy, and who hopefully are happy.

At my previous child welfare agency, smaller children came through the offices, but there were no residential programs for children under twelve. Seeing the younger children daily has been a pleasure. The house parents, Mr. and Mrs. White have impressed me with their energy, commitment to the children, caring structure, and heartfelt support they provide. Upon my first official work day, the young children from Jefcoat cottage were making their daily rounds to the offices. As I saw the children, I called one by name and he came up to hug my leg. Soon afterwards, I had to wear everyone's hats, and we laughed. What a wonderful tradition and beautiful way to teach the children how to interact and respect adults. Recently, the older children were assigned to work with the youngest children so they could "swim" in the big pool. I watched with pride as seven teenagers worked individually with children all five or younger for almost an hour. The teenagers never complained. You could see in their faces they genuinely enjoyed interacting with the young children. As the teens role modeled, you could see the youngsters were happy to receive the individual attention and feel "big" by being in the big kid pool. The children who were aged in-between witnessed the interaction, and I am confident, will assume this responsibility when it is their time to be the leaders.

I share these examples as a way of saying; the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is more than a residential facility. It is more than a charity. It is more than a place to work. It is a Home. It is a family. It is history. It is tens of thousands of children's futures. It is a great place to be a kid.

These are exciting and energizing times for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. I believe with the resources of people, facilities, ingenuity, and support from the board, staff, families, community, alumni, and Masons, the Home is poised to become a child welfare agency that others look to and ask, "What are they doing and how can we do that here?" The possibilities are unlimited. The opportunity exists for bringing the International Masonic Brotherhood into focus on a united and mutually beneficial cause. Families can benefit from a wide array of services that reach across the state. Success and initiatives will bring new members to our "family." In the long run, I envi-

sion a Home that looks very similar to the storied history, but whose reach goes far beyond these sacred grounds, enveloping many more into the graciousness of the Masons of North Carolina.

I encourage you to visit with us and get the "draw" of the Home for yourself. I want you to come on campus just as I did and have that "Oh my" moment. Then I want you to interact with our staff and children for yourself and see the true treasure here – the people – past, present, and future. The children need your help. For some that means they need your support while they live here; gifts of time, talents, attention, and resources. For others that means you need to make that referral or talk positively about the Home so others can make the referral, and they can receive the blessing so many have known.

Thank you for this opportunity to walk with you as we change children's lives and give them hope for the future.



Masons help Food Bank

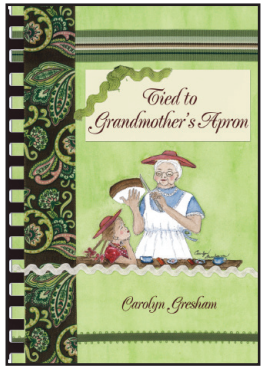
NEW BERN — Berne Lodge 724 and St. John's 3 teamed up to help local victims of Hurricane Irene. They had a food drive and collected cash donations for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and Eight Days of Hope for Pamlico County. The lodges set up collection boxes for donations in local businesses and also collected money within the lodges. The Food Bank helped refill the pantries of storm victims after last year's Hurricane Irene, while the Eight Days of Hope volunteers helped rebuild storm damaged homes in Pamlico County. Seen here are, from left, Riley Hughes of Berne Lodge, Food Bank representative Erin Francis, and James Warren of St. John's Lodge. — Rex Smith

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1..... Chestnut Jr, Donald Wayne | 151..... Holder, Brandon Scott | 390..... Brinkley, Jeffery Kent | 544..... West, Russell Gary | 680..... Fricke, George Charles |
| 1..... Efstathiadis, Efstathios | 158..... Clements, Travis Blake | 391..... Cooper, Christopher Lee | 552..... Coleman, Brano Van | 680..... Greene, George Alonzo |
| 1..... Jones, Christopher Blair | 158..... Morgan, Stephen Ray | 391..... Hamilton, Joshua Kirby | 552..... McMasters, Jason Bryan | 680..... Hogue, Adam Michael |
| 1..... Moore III, Edwin Holt | 162..... Moxley, Billy Joe | 391..... Pugsley, James Leonard | 554..... Ramsey, James Wesley | 680..... Kraemer, Anthony Morris |
| 2..... Tripp Jr, Samuel Wesley | 162..... Wagoner, Jacob Alexander | 391..... Woolfolk, Garland Jon | 554..... Duncan, Nathan Corey | 680..... Stafford, David Glenn |
| 3..... Bell, Joshua Adam | 176..... Dilbeck, Christopher Andrew | 391..... Bright, Donald Steven | 564..... Brennan, Thomas James | 680..... Wood, Dustin Matthew |
| 3..... Farmer, Wesley Langton | 176..... King, Edwin Watson | 391..... Walters, Nickolas Steven | 564..... King, Deric Andrew | 683..... Blackwood, Stephen Forrest |
| 4..... Fordham, George Speight | 176..... Ragan, David Lee | 391..... Faires Jr, Allen Wayne | 565..... Bass, Charles Ryan | 683..... Walter, Tracy Alan |
| 4..... Hill, Michael Justin | 181..... Paschal, Ryan Wylie | 391..... Frazier, Sean Christopher | 565..... Rogers, Brandon Lee | 685..... Edwards, Lee Daniel |
| 7..... Dunn, John Barnes | 181..... Romine, Oscar Carl | 391..... Hughes, Daniel Raymond | 565..... Pippin, Eric Matthew | 687..... Randolph Jr, Wayne Edward |
| 27..... Goldman, Mark Alan | 191..... Balenovic, Gordan | 391..... Mayer, James Dean | 573..... Ellis, Derek Royce | 690..... Duncan, David Albert |
| 27..... Miethe, Nicholas Alexander | 191..... Riddick Jr, Thomas Lindsey | 391..... Morgan, Michael Alan | 573..... Day, Patrick Allen | 692..... Frasco, Michael |
| 31..... Latif, Hasan Yousif | 191..... DeHerrera, Christopher C-R | 391..... Norris, Matthew Edward | 573..... Pulaski, Paul Alan | 692..... Dougherty, Patrick William |
| 31..... Mangum, Charles Michael | 198..... Livecchi, Brian Patrick | 391..... Shatley, Christopher Michael | 573..... Scott, David Glenn | 694..... Brendle, Seth Benjamin |
| 32..... Parsley, Brian K. | 202..... Scruggs, Anthony Wayne | 391..... Zolman, Zachary Scott | 576..... Bryant, Sanford Ray | 698..... Cox, Bobby Harold |
| 53..... Dennis Jr, James Felix | 205..... Pruett, Willie Samson Shane | 395..... Earnhardt, Eric Dean | 576..... Vick, Tyler Kenneth | 699..... Graves, Robert Bradley |
| 53..... Howle, Andrew Wilds | 205..... Sanderson, Larry Dean | 397..... Owens, Steven Christopher | 576..... Plummer, Timothy Scott | 699..... Stultz, David Brian |
| 53..... Kight, Johnathan Tyler | 208..... Bell IV, John Richard | 401..... Terrell III, Albert Johnson | 578..... Clawson, Tyler Wayne | 699..... Walker, Bradley Rogon |
| 53..... Irving, Thomas Lee | 208..... Caudill Jr, Howard Davis | 405..... Napier, Carl Lee | 578..... Davis, James Thomas | 701..... Claggett, Eric Todd |
| 58..... DuVall, Jason Donald | 208..... French, Jeffrey Allen | 407..... Blackburn, Derrick Neal | 578..... Wilson, Brian Keith | 701..... Farmer, William Floyd |
| 64..... Berry, Charles | 208..... Moose, David Eric | 409..... Booth, Adam Lee | 579..... King, Hunter Webb | 705..... Hines, Jonathan David |
| 64..... Wright, Travis A. | 214..... Thomas, Jonathan Cayne | 409..... Brotherton, David | 579..... Miller, Caleb Kenneth | 706..... Cannon, Jeremy Eric |
| 76..... Kraft, David Allen | 218..... Gadke, Brandon Hess | 409..... Hunter, William Marc | 585..... Dew, Michael | 707..... Gibble, James Brian |
| 76..... Chiellini, Dominic Angelo | 218..... Hopping, Albert Earl | 409..... Doucette, Geoffrey Paul | 590..... Brown, James Aaron | 707..... Hemmings, Chad Waylon |
| 76..... Heilig, Daniel Jacob | 218..... Marshall, Michael Patrick | 412..... Logan, Douglas Paul | 592..... Early, Eric Mark | 708..... Dorsey, Jason Osborne |
| 76..... Welser, Richard Evan | 248..... Mazzocchio, Jason Arron | 412..... Wilkins, Holden Lee | 593..... Sherrill, Thomas Lee | 709..... Anderson, Mark Jerome |
| 81..... Eimer, Justin Thayne | 253..... Heffinger, Brandon Everett | 426..... Edmondson, James Russell | 596..... Spivey, David Allen | 709..... Williams, Thomas Reginald |
| 81..... King Jr, Felix Darrell | 261..... Pettit, Clay Eugene | 426..... McMillan Jr, Dallas Frank | 596..... Watts, Ricky Banks | 710..... Dinger, Wendell Lorin |
| 81..... Ward Jr, Stephen Derrick | 261..... Tompkins Jr, Glenn Edward | 427..... Howe, Tyler Barrett | 602..... Brown, Matthew Kent | 713..... Sainz, Thomas Anthony |
| 81..... Harriett, Austin Wilson | 265..... Eakin, Christopher Robert | 428..... Sluder II, Charles Thomas | 602..... Griffin, Jamie Michael | 715..... Callahan, Michael Jason |
| 83..... Melsoni, Charles David | 265..... Hoover, Michael Heath | 429..... Hudson, Ray Anthony | 602..... Layton III, Frank Kenneth | 715..... Doran, Randall Joseph |
| 83..... Casebier II, Kenneth Randall | 267..... Alley, Wayne Arthur | 429..... Townsend, Ronnie Lynn | 602..... Rackley, Daniel Allen | 715..... Stillwell, Douglas Jeremy |
| 83..... Mueller, William James | 267..... Turner, Justin Michael | 432..... Carson, Brian Keith | 602..... Williams, Gregory Tolston | 725..... Christie, Andrew Ronald |
| 83..... McNeal, Lorenzo Cartell | 277..... Ryan, Christopher Michael | 435..... Henry, Timothy Chris | 602..... Workman, Travis Andrew | 725..... Sweat, Randy Lee |
| 84..... Wilson, Rodney A. | 283..... Cranfield, Brian Sharpe | 446..... Bryson III, Frank Marion | 606..... Morrison, Travis Garrett | 727..... Gregory, John David |
| 85..... Milks, Keith D | 289..... Barrett, Samuel Nelson | 446..... DeHart, Paul Thomas | 618..... Nash, David Gordon | 730..... Dickerson, Eric Lee |
| 85..... Barnes Jr, Kenneth Carl | 289..... Perry, Daniel Dean | 446..... Edwards, Kenneth Amos | 618..... Nash, John Robert | 730..... Dockery, Steven Barrett |
| 90..... Cowin, Jason Clayton | 289..... Trawick, Evan M. | 446..... Emory, Ricky Charles | 618..... Kiker, Dennis Ray | 730..... Perez, Herman Antonio |
| 90..... Cowin, Thomas Clayton | 289..... Varney, Eric Victor | 446..... Harrell, Justin Michael | 624..... Bell, Arthur Jordan | 735..... Hale, Wesley Garrett |
| 98..... Smith, Timothy Ted | 289..... Cane, Lawrence Zachary | 447..... Aycock, Steven Dale | 626..... Everhart, Christopher Roy | 735..... Marshburn, Bradford Leo |
| 98..... Vann, Jason Kern | 289..... Cash, Algenon L. | 447..... Wirtz, Andrew Bruce Hawkins | 626..... Montgomery, Brian Keith | 735..... Mazzoleni, Ruben Humberto |
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| 104..... Jefferson, Robert Jacob | 293..... Sitton, Derrick Lee | 461..... Kirkland Jr, Wyman Rexall | 634..... Morris, Christopher Edward | 736..... Dail, Dennis Wayne |
| 106..... Arnold, Daren Ray | 304..... Canady, Jeremy Howard | 461..... Komst, Christopher Earl | 643..... Britt, William Troy | 737..... Cecil, Charles Eddie |
| 106..... Chase, Kevin Robert | 304..... Cash, Jason Leon | 461..... Lee II, Barry Scott | 646..... Guy Jr, James Riley | 737..... Feil, F. Scott |
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| 118..... Cooper, Brian Edward | 322..... Smith, Garrett Travis | 482..... Freeman, Brannon Mitchell | 657..... Cruse, Christopher Alan | 746..... Dickson, Ronald Eugene |
| 118..... McDivitt, Tadd Everett | 343..... Menzel, Ulf Klaus | 482..... Guice, David McKinley | 663..... Pullium, Christopher Scott | 749..... Burch, Clay Franklin |
| 118..... Rutherford, Eric | 344..... Davis, Joshua Allen | 484..... Kumi, Gent | 667..... Goodman, Jason Richard | 749..... Meagher, Benjamin Matthew |
| 118..... Lloyd, Chad Anthony | 344..... Payne III, Robert Otis | 492..... Apple, Leon Edward | 667..... Kenny, Padraic Francis Harold | 749..... Schofield, William Robert |
| 118..... Cooper, Blake Andrew | 357..... Geouge, John David | 499..... Brinkley, William Michael | 667..... Maggard, Tommy Wayne | 750..... Crowder, Stanley Worth |
| 118..... Lopez de Jesus, Damian | 357..... Porter, Daniel Jeffrey | 499..... Thoman, Kurt Kyle | 667..... Nuss Jr, Benjamin L. | 751..... Sanders, George Giffen |
| 129..... Brannock, Seth Adam | 358..... Buchanan, Micol Ryan | 515..... Bowen, Robert Austin | 667..... Wallace, Jacob Alan | 751..... Leinbach, Tyler Jackson |
| 132..... Merrill, Robert Franklin | 363..... Lucas, Joey Stanley | 515..... Cloninger, Todd Alan | 669..... Oringderff, John Scott | 756..... Eavers, Thomas Michael |
| 134..... Myers, Brian Scott | 363..... Munday, Jared Clayton | 515..... Cole, Bobby Gene | 670..... Holder, Brooks Irwin | 756..... Quatrone, Alex Raymond |
| 134..... Reavis, Jacob Ezekiel | 363..... Tarbutton, Kenton Lyle | 527..... Parrish, Gary Steven | 670..... Morton Jr, Bobby Gene | 756..... Walker, William Lee |
| 137..... Jenks, Jason Lee | 374..... Ramey, Gary James | 527..... Ward, Stephen Anderson | 670..... Casby, Rodney Brent | 757..... Bennett, Marsol Scott |
| 137..... Norwood, Douglas Brian | 375..... Wall, Joseph Fred | 528..... Graham, Jake Warren | 670..... Engelman Sr, James Hudon | 757..... Champury, Richard Adam |
| 143..... Johnson Jr, Clarence Horton | 381..... Ingle, Ronald Joseph | 529..... Daniels, Jon Curtis | 670..... VanNorman, Joel Andrew | 759..... McIntosh, Maurice Daniel |
| 143..... Wilson, Alex Joseph | 381..... Jones, Stephen Michael | 529..... Rogers, Johnny Darrell | 675..... Radcliffe, Marvin Wayne | 762..... Covington, Kevin Leon |
| 143..... Wilson, Eric Michael | 381..... Roberts, Ryan Joseph | 535..... Hamrick, John Wesley | 676..... Anderson, James Patrick | 762..... House, John Wesley |
| 145..... Maddox, Nathan | 384..... Coleman, Craig Thomas | 535..... Toney III, Forrest Yates | 679..... Alcorn, Michael Patrick | 762..... Brackett, Mark Raymond |
| 147..... Warfield, Jason Eric Alan | 386..... Standifer Jr, William Harold | 542..... Cardille, Todd Edward | 679..... Morgan, Johnathan Todd | 763..... Breyer, Robert Forrest |
| 147..... White III, Patrick Gaston | 387..... Rogers, Robert Allan | 543..... Crews, Jeremy Kevin | 680..... Chantiles, Stavros Demetrios | 763..... Dunlop, Mark Frederick |
| 150..... Griffin, Samuel David | 390..... Brewer, Timothy Allen | 543..... West, Eric Warren | 680..... Crall, Daniel Allen | 763..... Hilliard, Jonathan Wayne |
| 151..... Nicol, Matthew Brian | 390..... Darden, Robert James | 544..... Cope, James Lewis | 680..... Eastgate, Tyler Joseph | 763..... Pinard, Russell Dale |
| 151..... Teel, Dillon William Lester | | 544..... Gibson, Joseph Matthew | | 765..... Tyer IV, James Franklin |

GM's wife cooks up support for MHCO

At Annual Communication, Carolyn Gresham, wife of Grand Master Bob Gresham, released Tied to Grandmother's Apron. Mrs. Gresham's cookbook is a collection of family recipes interspersed with quotes, musings, helpful hints, and the inspirational meaning of grandmother's apron, and reflections on her youth and the cook who was her grandmother. Recipes run from artichoke dip to zucchini pie. The proceeds of every copy sold are donated to the Masonic Home for Children. You may pick up your copy at the Home for Children for \$15 or order one on-line for \$20 by visiting <www.mhc-oxford.org>.



Planned givers honored by Home

OXFORD — For a seventh year the Masonic Home for Children and its Board of Directors honored those who left a lifetime gift for the children through planned gifts in 2011. A luncheon held May 11 honored thirteen individuals who provided a major gift. The Board and staff of the Home welcomed the donors and their family and friends. These important gifts add to the already generous individual, memorial, corporate, matching, and foundation gifts which annually provide for the operation, improvement, growth, and fiscal stability of our 140-year-old residential children's home.

In 2011, planned gifts like those recognized at the luncheon, equaled over 65% of the total donations and earnings revenue. "The gifts received from wills, estates, and other types of planned gifts have been and continue to be so important to providing a foundation for the future of this Home," said Financial Development Director Chris Richardson. "It is truly amazing to have friends and supporters such as those we recognize with this luncheon who give after they have left us. It is the ultimate act of charity for this Home and its future."

The Hayes/Neal Planned Giving Society was created to recognize special donors and planned givers to the Home. The Society acknowledges their importance to the future of the Home. Members are honored on a plaque in the Cobb Center Museum and Archives. A replica is presented to the donor or their family.

Brandon Gilreath, son of Oxford Orphanage alumni, William and Tina



PGM Dan Rice, Inductee Linda Cabe, and GM Gresham are seen here at the banquet.

Gilreath, made the presentations and shared the unique and emotional perspective of the child of a child, of the Home. Citing the importance of his parents and what they learned and passed to him during their time at the Home, Brandon gave a wonderful presentation that embodied the impact of the Home, from family to family, and generation to generation. Brandon is a rising sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and recipient of the Charles Cathy Grand Lodge Scholarship.

This year's inductees were, by level: Diamond — Garland S. Hastings; Gold — Phil and Gerry Rominger of the Phil and Gerry Rominger Foundation Inc.; Silver — James D. McQueen and Velton J. O'Neal; Bronze — Annie Lou Chandler and Henry L. Miller; Legacy — Linda Cabe in memory of Stephen Conely Cabe, Patrick D. Duncan, Thelma D. Hutchens, Robert E. Riddle, and Vance O. Ward; and Benefactor — Douglas Case, and William J. Evans.

The Hayes/Neal Society was established in 2005 and is comprised of more than 624 known planned givers in the history of MHCO. Donors, who name the Home in a will, provide a lifetime gift of stock, property, or assets with cash value, or those which name the Home in a trust or annuity are recognized yearly. For more information on planned giving at MHCO or about Society recognition, please contact the MHCO Financial Development Department at (919) 603-3906 or at <crichards@mhc-oxford.org>.

MILEPOSTS



STEDMAN — When Grand Master Robert E. Gresham made his visit to the 17th Masonic District, he brought a special recognition for long-time Stedman 730 Secretary Jim Hay, right. Hay, 96 years old, has been a beacon of Masonry during his nearly 60 years as a Mason, many of them as a lodge secretary.



HOLLY SPRINGS — Holly Springs 115 created the David L. Tollefson Mister Mason Quarterly Award this spring. The award was named after and dedicated to Tollefson, left. He was recognized at their March 27 meeting. Following the dedication, the first recipient of the honor, Jack Johnston, right, was recognized. These two Brothers have been very important to both the growth of Holly Springs 115 and to the betterment of the Fraternity. — Mark K. Stanton



HOOKERTON — Glen Whitfield Garner, right, visited Jerusalem 95 on May 8. She was there to present a memento of her late husband Nolan Garner. Garner was giving Lodge Tyler Thomas Forrest, left, a tyler's sword that Nolan had used. Garner was a past master of Jerusalem Lodge and long-time tyler of St. John's 4 in Kinston. Glen Garner, a past worthy grand matron of North Carolina Eastern Star, was accompanied by three nieces, Ruby Smith, Mary Smith, and Wanda Forrest. — Thomas Forrest



HIGH POINT — On May 21, Numa F. Reid 344 held an extraordinary Past Masters' Degree. District Deputy Grand Lecturer Murray Skeen had passed the word around the 23rd Masonic District inviting all past masters to take part in the degree. Answering the call were a total of 30 past masters, six sitting masters, one past grand master (Bill Simpson), and ten certified lecturers (six of whom are members of Numa F. Reid Lodge). There were 52 Master Masons representing 12 lodges in attendance. Joshua Allen Davis and Robert Otis Payne III were raised. The work earned high praise from those present. — Kevin P. Wood



ADVANCE — Bob Robertson, right, of Advance 710, recently received the Grand Lodge Diamond Jubilee award saluting his 60 years as a Mason. He is seen here with Advance Master Jim Patton. — Mark Howell



WASHINGTON — On August 13, Jessie Ray Mayo, fondly known by his brothers in Orr 104 as Uncle Jessie, was presented his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership. A large contingent of members of the lodge family visited the long-time lodge treasurer at his home to present the award. The 89-year-old had recently been diagnosed with cancer and passed away within days of presentation. — Sandy Blizzard



ELIZABETH CITY — Eureka 317 recently presented formal Letters of Appreciation to four members for their "devotion and support to the lodge and Freemasonry." The honored Brothers were, from left, Larry S. Newell, Julian H. Copeland, Herbert P. Lange, and Chris S. Blake. — Paul Miller



PILOT MOUNTAIN — On April 30, Pilot 493 raised Richard Cole Carson (second from right). His father, Richard Carson was honored to do the raising. Cole, age 18, is youngest Mason ever raised in Pilot Lodge. Cole is the sixth generation of the Carson family to become a Mason. During the meeting, Cole was given his great-great-great-grandfather Robert Carson's ring from around 1860. Seen here, from left, are Wendell Bullington (Cole's granddad), Richard Cole (his father), Cole, and Richard Howe (Cole's JROTC instructor). — Bert Meijboom



GREENVILLE — Crown Point 708's Pete Eure, left, recently received his Veteran's Emblem saluting his 50 years Masonic membership. He is seen here receiving the award from Sixth Masonic District Deputy Grand Lecturer Dennis Campbell. — Stephen Natale



BEULAVILLE — On August 7, Jack Albertson received the Diamond Jubilee award honoring his 60 years as a Mason. Beulaville 658 invited award recipients and their families to join them for supper that night. "Albertson captivated the audience with his stories of joining the lodge and what it meant to him," say reports. — Bill Rhodes.



WASHINGTON — In March, Edward Ray Edwards, left, was presented his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years Masonic membership. He is seen here receiving the honor from Washington 675 Master John David Lee. — Mac Mallison



BEULAVILLE — Carl Daniel Pate of Beulaville 658 recently received his Diamond Jubilee for 60 years Masonic membership. A party of his lodge brothers visited him at home to present the honor. They enjoyed hearing Pate tell stories of joining the lodge. — Bill Rhodes

Mercer visits an old friend

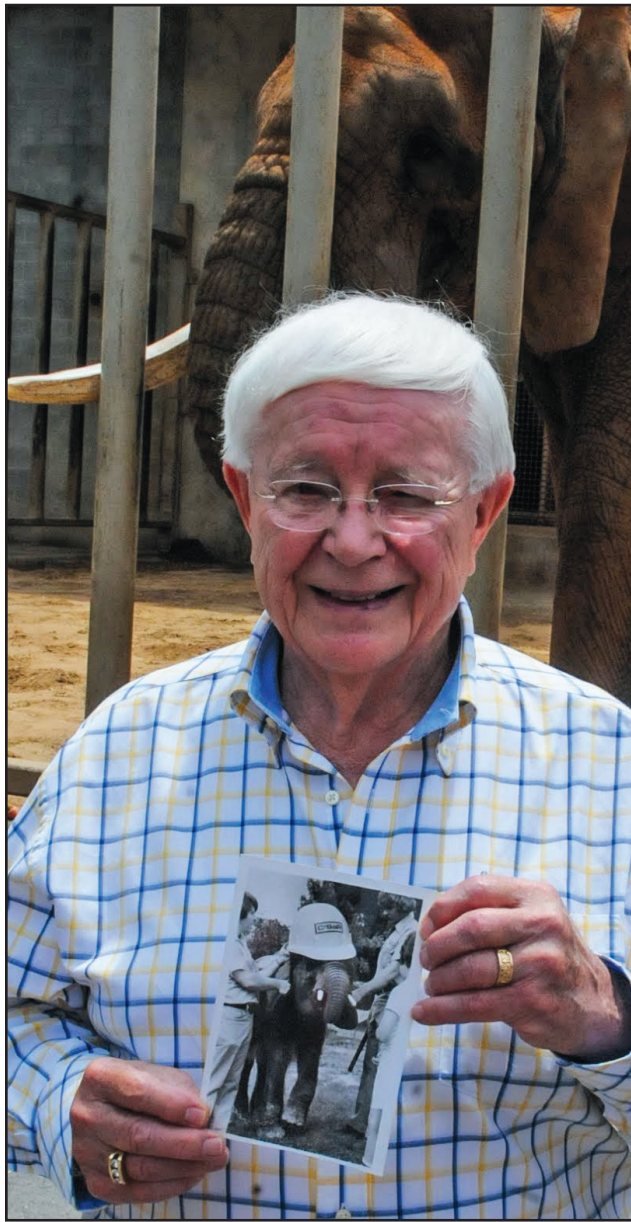
By Renee Wright

ASHEBORO — Angus Mercer of Charlotte gave the North Carolina Zoo \$12,000 to purchase C'sar, its first elephant, all the way back in 1978. Recently, Mr. Mercer made a return trip to Asheboro to see "his" elephant for the very first time since the young elephant, then a mere four feet tall at the shoulder and weighing 1,600 pounds, arrived at the zoo. In this picture, he holds a photograph taken of baby C'sar shortly after the elephant's arrival. The adult C'sar, now 11 feet tall and tipping the scales at nearly 12,000 pounds, stands in the background. The elephant recently made the news for undergoing successful cataract surgery.

Mercer and his family were able to see and feed the elephant in an off-exhibit holding area. C'sar was given the shortened name of the company Mercer owned in 1978, Contractors Service and Rentals.

While we applaud Mr. Mercer's generous donation that has brought pleasure to many thousands of children and other zoo-goers, there is something sort of sad about this story. Don't let 30+ years go by before you make the trip to Asheboro to see the N.C. Zoo, one of the state's most wonderful treasures. It's really a lot closer than you think.

Duplin County native Mercer has been a Mason since 1978 and is a member of Phalanx 31.



Tom Gillespie/NC Zoo photo

Oasis Shriner new imperial potentate

By Wes Lefler

CHARLOTTE — Alan W. Madsen of Cornelius, North Carolina was elected and installed imperial potentate of Shriners International at the Shriners 2012 Imperial Session July 1-5 in Charlotte. As the highest ranking Shriner in the world, Madsen is president of the Board of Trustees of Shriners International and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Al is a native of Manistee, Michigan and a graduate of Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. The 71-year-old took his Masonic degrees in 1982. Madsen is a member of Excelsior 261 in Charlotte and for three years served on the Grand Lodge Committee for Finance. He is a member of both the Scottish Rite and York Rite bodies in Charlotte. He joined Oasis Shriners in 1981 and was appointed to the Oasis Divan in 1992. In 2000 he was elected Oasis potentate, and two years later he was elected to the Imperial Divan as outer guard.

The new Imperial Potentate has been executive editor of the Oasis *Desert Dust*, a member of the Oasis Marching Patrol, captain of the Patrol Color Guard, and director of the Royal Order of Jesters Court 109.

In his non-Shrine related life, Al is a member of the Advisory Board of United Carolina Bank and the Branch Bank and Trust Corp. He is also a member of the development Board of Central Michigan University.

In 1975, he and his wife Jan Madsen established Corporate Personnel Consultants, Inc., and in 1998 they sold their company to devote



Imperial Potentate Al Madsen

full time to Masonic and Shrine responsibilities.

The Madsens have two adult children, Paul, a Southwest Airlines pilot (captain) and Lisa, a registered nurse, and one grandchild, Ryan. The Madsens are very active in church, serving on the church council and the building committee. Al is a life member of Alpha Kappa national business fraternity. Both the Madsens are members of several professional and civic organizations.

Wes Lefler is a member of Union 618.

Thoughts on your Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

By Kevin Otis, Administrator

Editor's Note: Kevin Otis is the new administrator at our Masonic Home for Children. We share with you here his first impressions of the Home and his view of its future at this point in time.

I first arrived on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford at 11:30 P.M. the night before my interview with the selection committee. I had traveled several hours and had few hours of sleep. As I turned through the front gates, I first noticed the soft light illuminating the circle drive. As I drove slowly through the campus, I caught myself saying, "Oh my," over and over. I simply couldn't believe the beauty, resources, trees, and pristine grooming of the Home. I am still in awe of the facil-

ity with which the Masons have graced North Carolina to provide a home, safety, and future of hope for nearly 140 years. I continue to be amazed at the resources available to develop the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford into the premiere child welfare agency befitting the support, history, and loving care the Masons have provided and continue to provide.

Very soon, I realized the fantastic facility and the potential it offers for the future were second to the greatest resources at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford — the people. Initially, I was impressed with the board



and their concern for the Home. Clearly, the Board has a genuine and strong passion in preserving the legacy and securing the future of the Home. Upon my official arrival at the Home, I was greeted by Director of Financial Development Chris Richardson. Chris quickly put me at ease, welcomed my family, and has continued to provide an atmosphere of warmth, caring, and support that is shared by the staff. The talent and dedication of the staff assembled at the Home are impressive, and it is an honor to be part of this incredible team.

One of the many treasures at the Masonic

Home for Children at Oxford is the Colenda Gallery and Sallie Mae Ligon Archives at the Cobb Center. Within these displays, 173 years of Masonic Home history is captured and preserved through a grant from the Cobb Foundation. Chronicled are the lives, education, work experiences, play, successes, and difficulties of 10,000 children who have grown up here over the years. You should know the preservation of the history of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford at this level is a rare commodity in child welfare.

The ultimate goal is to continue the storied history in a way that is progressive, effective, and possible in the current environment of child wel-

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WhiteStone opens new facilities



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David Ragan raised in Williams 176



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Tar Heel Madsen leads Shriners of the world

On the cover

Speed Hallman, Mack Sigmon, Gov. Jim Martin, and Scott Gresham line up for officers procession at Annual Communication.

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