

# NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

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## Answering signs of distress

### Outreach service for aging brothers, Eastern Star sisters debuts in July

By Beth Grace  
The Mason Editor

Growing old is not easy. It brings new joys and new problems. With the wisdom of years comes worries and questions you didn't even know you had to ask.

But you're not alone.

A new program designed by Freemasons and Eastern Star members for senior Freemasons and Eastern Star members is about to launch in North Carolina.

Starting July 1, the Masonic and Eastern Star Outreach Program of North Carolina will begin working with brothers and sisters age 65 and older who want to stay in their own

homes but need a little help finding resources, short-and long-term financial aid, and a strong shoulder to lean on.

The program is open only to fraternal members in good standing, and their families.

The program is funded by the NC Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation LLC, which also assists with funding fraternal charity at WhiteStone, our Masonic and Eastern Star community in Greensboro. The Outreach program will be administered from the WhiteStone administrative offices by Executive

Director Mark Kolada, newly hired Outreach Director Crystal Carter, and overseen by the five-member MESH Foundation LLC board.

"We're changing the conversation," says Kolada. "Not everyone

**"We're changing the conversation."**

Mark Kolada  
WhiteStone Executive Director



who is aging wants to move to a retirement community when they need help. So many people are able to stay in their own home but

may need a little help from time to time to get over a rough patch. That's what we're here to do: Help brothers and sisters who just need a hand."

How can the program help?

It depends on the needs each person brings to the table. Each client will fill out an application and outline their needs, Outreach Director Crystal Carter said. From there, assistance will be tailored to each need.

"We will get the whole picture of what their lives look like, then sit down and do a holistic assessment of their needs together," she said.

Carter will go for a home visit as needed, but otherwise will talk with applicants by phone and work with them to fill immediate needs and get them help right where they are.

■ see OUTREACH page 3

### Is our Grand Master kicking the bucket? ►

Nobody drops dead from giving to our charities. Here's proof. GM Gene Cobb is surrounded by helpers just in case as he drops a \$20 into the bucket at a recent district meeting. If you didn't get the chance to join in the giving, all is not lost! Take a look at Page 5.

### Mark your calendars

Set aside the weekend of Oct. 13-15 for a trip to Oxford. That's the date for the annual homecoming festivities at the Masonic Home for Children and Youth. Get more details on the event on Page 3



Michael Harding photo



The 357 crew at work creating a podcast: At left, Riley Beaman far left and Ben Wallace, right, interview Junior Grand Warden P. Shaun Bradshaw. Above, Ben Wallace, left, consults his notes while Shawn Brown gets the camera ready.

## 357 puts a new shine on the square & compass

By Beth Grace  
Mason Editor

A weathered tractor shed on a country road in Troy is not the sort of place you'd expect a revolution to break out.

But the hand-built home of 357 Productions, where The Masonian podcasts are shot, is the birthplace of an educational movement designed to bring Masonry home in a whole new way to brothers across North Carolina.

357 was born a little more than two years ago, the brainchild of three Masons who love the Craft and wanted to do more – to be more – and to bring their brothers along for the ride.

“We have been good friends for a long time, riding motorcycles together and that kind of thing,” says Ben Wallace, who takes the lead in hour-long Masonian interviews, along with Riley Beaman in front of the camera. Working behind the camera is the third member of the group, Shawn Brown. All three are members of Blackmer #127; Brown is Master this year.

“We decided to make a few videos together, just goofing around really,” Wallace remembers.

“We started out doing interviews

of the more seasoned members of our lodge, the real pillars of Masonry, before they passed on. But the more we did of those, the more we realized they required editing, and we're not good on heavy editing. So we moved off that and began the podcasts.”

For those who are invited to be on the podcasts, the experience is more than just a chance to talk about issues of interest to the Craft.

Wallace cooks dinner for his guests, and family and friends drop by to have a bite and say hello before shooting begins. The atmosphere is stress-free and the conversation – both over dinner and later, when the microphones are on – is good.

“We like to keep things conversational and light, rather than something like NPR,” Wallace says.

And even if there's no guest scheduled for the month, no problem. “We can just talk,” he says. “And we can talk!”

Before and after interviews, Wallace and Beaman often talk on air about current issues facing Masons around the state and news from the Grand Lodge. They do their homework – getting the latest news from the Grand Lodge in hand so they can answer any ques-

tions viewers might have.

The podcast is not an official production of the Grand Lodge, although Grand Masters and Grand Lodge staff have appeared on it. 357 maintains a strong working relationship with the Grand Lodge and listens to critiques and suggestions from the Grand Line.

But they have a voice all their own.

“We do want to be a little edgy

sometimes and push boundaries, but we don't want to suggest we speak for the Grand Line at all,” Wallace says.

From the minute the podcast opens, there's no question you're about to hear something a little different. Every show begins with a clip from Metallica's To Live is to Die, and closes with Dead and Bloated by Stone Temple Pilots.

Beaman signs off with an old favorite: “We'll meet on the level and part on the square.”

Wallace, Beaman and Brown

are all about sharing resources and educational opportunities through 357. In addition to a couple dozen Masonian podcasts produced so far, they have compiled an education video series called Darkness to Light. Those videos feature lectures and interviews with fellow North Carolina Masons and Masons from other Grand Jurisdictions.

The podcasts may not be to every-

one's taste, but they have developed a following in the

Craft. “The brothers at 357 are having conversations in the Tractor Shed that are always free-ranging, mostly informative, and occasionally illuminating. The best part is, they're posting them so the rest of us can listen in,” said Deputy Grand Master Speed Hallman.

“Free thought, free inquiry and free speech are the hallmarks, and that's a wonderful thing and totally consistent with our Masonry,” he

Where can you find the podcasts?

The Masonian has a YouTube channel (search for “Masonian” or “357 Productions”), and a Facebook

page [www.facebook.com/357productionsnc/](http://www.facebook.com/357productionsnc/).

You can also access some 357 videos via the Education Resources link on the Grand Lodge web page: <http://grandlodge-nc.org/education-resources>.





You CAN go home again! Mark your calendar for this year's Homecoming at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

## Home celebrates Masons during Homecoming 2017

SAVE THE DATE! Plan to join The Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, this fall, for the 7th Annual Masonic Homecoming Festival, set for Oct. 13-15.

This celebration of North Carolina's first home for children honors those who have lived here and those who have made it possible – our Masons.

The weekend kicks off Friday with the Oxford Orphanage/ Masonic Home for Children Alumni Association's annual golf tournament, Chip Shots for Children.

Spend Friday evening at MHC's Yard Party featuring music from Tim Cifers. Join us

again Saturday to enjoy the state's best Shrine parade, dance to the music of Jim Quick & Coastline, and enjoy delicious BBQ and chicken on campus, courtesy of our cooking teams – or participate as your own BBQ team.

While at the home, celebrate our Masonic history of charity and visit the Sallie Mae Ligon Museum and Archives, take a tour of the children's cottages, and see the School of

Graphic Arts.

Make this a weekend to remember, to celebrate and to support MHC. Hope to see you there!

Visit [www.mhc-oxford.org](http://www.mhc-oxford.org) for more information and updates.



## OUTREACH, from page 1

The program can, among many other things, help people find medical equipment, assist in finding and applying for benefits from Medicaid or the Veterans Administration, pitch in on the rent for a while, help arrange for food stamps or Meals on Wheels, even help examine budgets to make those dollars stretch as far as possible.

The mission is to get people what they need – not to be just another deep pocket.

"This is not a blank check," Carter said. "We allocate for what they need through third party providers and community resources as available."

Kolada agreed. "We will provide, mostly, short-term financial assistance where needed. An example of that might be that a couple from eastern North Carolina who needs \$300 a month for a while to get past a rough patch when a visit to the dentist set them back. We help them get back on their feet," he said. "There may be cases where longer-term assistance is needed, and we'll deal with that as it happens and as resources are available."

He said the program also will be a resource for Masons who know of brothers and sisters in distress, but don't know where to turn.

"Just call us and we can help find the resources you need," he said.

It's too soon to tell how successful the program will be but indications are good from similar Masonic programs in California, Missouri and the state of Washington that

this is a service whose time has come, Carter said.

Carter is a social worker who has worked extensively for Humana, and has significant experience in caring for seniors. For now, she is both director and the sole coordinator.

"To start, I'll be covering all of North Carolina, but once word gets out, we are expecting we will need to develop a larger program" with regional case, she said.

The program has already won fans among brothers who heard Kolada outline the plan at recent district meetings. It debuts with a strong endorsement from Grand Master Gene Cobb.


"Who does not know somebody in their family or among their friends who just don't want to go to a retirement home or seek help elsewhere? Who doesn't know someone who wants to be in their own home and live their lives as they want – but might need a hand in times of trouble?" Cobb asked. "This program is one of the greatest advancements ever in the lives of our brothers and sisters and allows us to truly live up to our promise to care for those in need."

More details will be released soon directly to lodges and chapters. Also watch for updates on Grand Lodge and North Carolina Mason Facebook pages. Questions or have a need? Contact Crystal Carter at 336-601-5593 or email her at [ccarter@meshhome.org](mailto:ccarter@meshhome.org).

## 357, from page 2

said. "What a lot of people don't know is that visiting Masonic speakers and writers who do the program are telling folks around the country that North Carolina has a good thing going on with 357."

Most Masons go to meetings, join in the occasional fundraiser and go home, it seems. Why take it to this next level?

"Being a student of Freemasonry and having taken my own deep dive into it, I know that it has the ability to change a man's life. Masonry changed my life and made me a better person," Wallace said, smiling. "I am a believer with a cause." 



Brothers at the 25th District Meeting in Mount Airy on March 21 stand together wearing orange ribbons in support of WB Brother Phil McCraw's fight against MS. Thanks to Phil's son, WB Stephen McCraw, for the ribbons and for raising awareness.

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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.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

# Everything I know about sending stories to the Mason\*

Dear Mason Editor:

*I have been sending news items in and sometimes they get in, sometimes they don't. What's up with that? What do I have to do to get into print???*

*Signed,  
Baffled Brother*

Dear Baffled, I'm glad you asked! While there are many, many items I can fit into a 16-page newsletter – this is one very big newsletter – there are often many more that I can't.

There are some good reasons why one news item is perfect and why another won't ever hit print. Why?

Here are some reasons ...

► **Timeliness.** Our newsletter goes out every other month, so it hits mailboxes in mid-to-late February, April, June, August, October and December. So, if you send me a promo for an event happening in the next couple of weeks, I can't use it in the newsletter. The event will be a memory by the time anyone reads about it.

If you send me an item that happened a couple of months ago, it will be VERY old by the time it hits print. We're working hard to keep the news in the newsletter as timely as we can, so we can't use anything more than a few weeks old. Send your stories and photos in AS SOON AS YOU CAN after the event

ends. That increases your chances of getting a little bit of newsletter real estate.

And don't forget – you can post your news on the North Carolina Facebook page! Here's how to find it: <http://bit.ly/2mhr11a>

► **Photos.** Everyone and their brother can shoot a picture these days from a smart phone. It's so easy and handy. Trouble is, the pictures are often not very good. Here's what we're up against at the Mason. We create two versions of the newsletter – one for online reading, and the other for print/ mailing. Reading the

online version is easier on the eyes because it is so clear and because photos are displayed at higher resolutions.

What does that mean? The higher the resolution, the sharper and clearer the image. So, if you send smart phone photos, they must be clear with no blurring or we just can't use them. That's because when they run in the printed version, they will look terrible and you won't be able to tell one face from another.

Your goal in shooting photos is to shoot the clearest and best-lit shots you can. If you have a digital camera, choose that over a smart phone. Only the newest smart phones can really take a good photo we can use.

Now, a word about who's IN the photo. So many

brothers send in shots of large crowds of people lined up and smiling happily. While that's a nice thing to do, making sure everyone is included, the truth is that nobody looks at those photos because there are too MANY faces. Try to keep your group shots to five or so. Remember to list names, left to right, including spelled out titles. (Check your spelling on the names before you hit "send.")

► **Subject matter.** I want to be up front about this first rule. As proud as we all are of our new officers each December and January, and as much as we thank them for their service, this is a photo we just can't run. There are more than 300 lodges in NC and virtually all of them send in their officer installation photos each year. Even though the newsletter is a large one, we can't fit them all in. And we can't pick and choose one lodge to highlight over another.

I'm sorry about that – it's truly a moment for all of us to celebrate. But take heart. You CAN and SHOULD post those photos and identify your officers on the North Carolina Facebook page. It's there for exactly that purpose! Please "like" the North Carolina Mason page – there's a lot of news there!

► **Missing information.** When you send in an item, make sure you have answered these questions: Who, what, when, where, why and how. Who is this about, and who

■ see BAFFLED, page 5

\*I learned by reading this column

## LET'S GO TO WORK!



# Defining 'best work, best agree'

By A. Gene Cobb Jr.  
Grand Master

One of my favorite stories about Abraham Lincoln was when he assembled his Cabinet during the War and

asked this question: "If you call the tail of a dog a leg, then how many legs does the dog have?"

Those who answered, "Five" were corrected by the President, who said, "A dog has four legs. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

When each one of us became a Mason, we agreed to take on certain obligations that made us a Mason. We live out those obligations in many ways through our various stations and places of life. Many of us learn, improve, and ignite our passion for charitable work in multiple areas. Some of us are passionate about charity with a singular focus.

Yet, we are Masons.

We are those who define for the world, "best work and best agree." Ours is a lifestyle dedicated to the highest principles of friendship, morality, and brotherly love. We do not always agree on what it looks like, but we do all agree these are the vital parts of our beloved fraternity.

I am amazed at friendship, morality, and brotherly love occurring all over the state of North Carolina. My joy and privilege to visit in the lodges has been a constant reminder of who we really are and what we really do.

I've seen similar and different approaches to openings and closings that have warmed my heart and been a gentle reminder that our quest for excellence in education, patriotism, philan-

thropy, membership, and affiliated connections beyond our doors is being accomplished by people we call Masons.

Our District Meetings have been a little bit different this year because we have welcomed people into the meeting who are not Masons.

The square and compass hasn't fallen off the building in any place. We have raised more than \$12,000 in the district meetings for Whitestone, MHCO and the NC Masonic Foundation.

Many people may call us many things and we may call ourselves something, too.

At the end of the work day, my hope and prayer is that we will be able to call ourselves "Lodges of Excellence." To do that, we will not bark like a dog. We will roar like a lion!

Let's go to work! ♦

**"If you call the tail of a dog a leg, then how many legs does the dog have?"**

## BAFFLED, from page 4

is in the photo; what is this about and what is the full name of the event, lodge and people in the photos; when did this happen, and is there anything significant about the date or timing like an anniversary or important date in the life of your lodge; why is this important for others to know, why did this even happen; and how ... how did it happen, how was it made possible?

Truth be told, with so many stories coming in, if I come across a story that requires too much time and effort to fill in missing information, I very likely just won't use it. I wish I had time to track everything down. Helpful tip: Have someone read your story before you send it in and ask them to look for missing info. Or read it out loud to yourself. After you write it, let it sit for an hour or so and come back to it and read it in full again. I often find things I have forgotten in my own writing by doing that.

► **Snail Mail.** Those of us of a certain age love getting hand-addressed envelopes in the mail. For most of us, that means somebody sent a card or a letter with news of family. There's no argument: this is a

great way to stay in touch, but not when it comes to sending news in for the Mason. Electronic is best.

Snail mail takes longer to arrive, of course, and it brings extra work on this end. We have to re-type the news into a laptop and try to scan the photo so it comes out as clear as we can make it – which usually isn't very clear at all. That means chances of meeting deadlines are not as great and if the picture isn't good, we generally can't use the accompanying story. If you don't do digital, ask a brother – they are wired! I guarantee you someone in your lodge can help you. If not, someone in your family or office can help.

► **No Secrets!** Don't send photos that have Masonic secrets in them. Be mindful that the newsletter goes to folks all over — and many of them are not brothers. It doesn't happen often, but let's keep all secrets secret! If you're not sure what is and isn't fair game, check out the list the Board of Custodians compiled and offered in last month's issue. It's on page 5.

I hope this helps. As always, if you're not sure what to send, just email or call me!

## Not too late to help out

Couldn't get to any of the Grand Master's district meetings this year? Didn't have the chance to join his "Kick the Bucket" campaign to raise money for our three charities?

This is your chance! Join the Mail Bucket Campaign and join your brothers who gave so generously at the GM's 21 district meetings statewide!

Pop a check made out to North Carolina Masonic Foundation in an envelope, address it to Grand Secretary Walt Clapp at the Grand Lodge AF&AM of North Carolina, 2921 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27608. (Make a note on the check that this donation is for the Mail Bucket Campaign.)

Don't like checks? Call the Grand Lodge at 919-787-2021 with your credit card handy. You can also donate online here: [www.mfnc.org](http://www.mfnc.org).

Where will your money go? Directly to our charities: The Masonic Home for Children in Oxford; WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro; and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation's many programs designed to help the Craft, our lodges and brothers in Freemasonry.

Thank you for all you do for our Brotherhood, and thanks for giving to our hardworking charities and the people they serve!

## Scholarships given to 12

North Carolina High School seniors have won a 2017 Cathey Scholarship, a Masonic award honoring academic achievement and community involvement.

In 2000, then-Grand Master Charles Cathey initiated a drive to raise money to fund scholarships that help deserving North Carolina students pay college expenses. Fellow NC Freemasons generously supported PGM Cathey's call to help and named the scholarships in his honor.

Twelve scholarships of \$1,000 were awarded this academic year.

Some 200 applications are received every year. A committee of brothers reviews applications and makes final selections. To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, or the equivalent average under the school's grading system, and be enrolled in an accredited North Carolina high school. The scholarship committee also considers other factors.

Scholarship awards may be used only for tuition, fees, room, board and/or books.

### Winners are:

- ▶ Hannah Wilkins of Hurdle Mills; Cedar Ridge High
- ▶ Shane Dubbs of Laurinburg; Scotland High
- ▶ Cole Roberts of Asheville; Enka High
- ▶ Trevor Rogers of Franklin; Franklin High
- ▶ Timothy Facemire of Mebane; East Alamance High
- ▶ Katelyn Clarke of Sanford; Southern Lee High
- ▶ Maxwell Loelius of Charlotte; Independence High
- ▶ Cody Stultz of Asheboro; Southwestern Randolph High
- ▶ Thomas Wallace of Leland; North Brunswick High
- ▶ Jennae Jacobs of Waxhaw; Marvin Ridge High
- ▶ Angelina Nacca of Princeton; Wayne School of Engineering
- ▶ Sarah Woods of Columbus; Polk County Unity High

## OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK



Some 50 people gathered to participate in a weekend Strategic Planning retreat and focused on strengthening the home for years to come.

## Home of the Future: Stakeholders gather to imagine 2021 at MHCO

By Tina Gilreath

*MHCO Financial Development and Communications Coordinator*

Your Masonic Home for Children has been extra busy in the past two months, planning for the future, while taking care of business every day!

A Strategic Planning Retreat was held March 24-25 with almost 50 people — MHCO personnel, board members, alumni, community partners, and other stakeholders — in attendance.

Friday evening's activities included reflecting on MHCO's past, sharing resident and staff experiences, discussing the current organizational profile, and analyzing where MHCO stands currently including internal strengths and weaknesses and external threats and opportunities for growth.

Saturday's activities included workshops for envisioning the future and strategizing how to close the gap between MHCO's operations in 2017 and vision for 2021.

Breakout groups revised the mission, vision, and quality statements and developed a new tagline. Goals, objectives, and initiatives were developed to enhance the sustainability of MHCO including utilization and stewardship of resources, community partnerships, and recruitment and retention of employees.

The strategic plan ideas will be



Bad weather didn't stop volunteers from helping out at Landscaping Day!

compiled and discussed at the May meeting of the Board of Directors for feasibility and implementation.

This retreat was the first of many discussions about the bright and promising future of MHCO. Thanks to all who attended!

### The Great Landscape Event

It was cold and rainy but that didn't stop friends of MHCO from working at our Home for the 2017 Great Landscape Event!

Flower beds were mulched, God's Half Acre was spruced up, things were painted, trash was collected, and our York Rite Chapel got a major overhaul! Special thanks to all those who came out!!

### Participants:

- Lebanon Lodge #391
- Boy Scout Troop #629
- James B. Green Lodge #735
- Hiram Lodge #40
- Andrew Jackson Lodge #576
- Oxford Lodge #122
- Oxford Preparatory School
- Currituck Lodge #463
- Creedmoor Lodge #499
- Chris Richardson, NC Masonic Foundation
- Perquimans Lodge #106
- Girl Scout Troop #508 & 961
- Creedmoor United Methodist Church
- Break Through Physical Therapy
- Selma Lodge #320
- Lowes Henderson
- Girl Scout Troop #1119
- Hall Lodge #53
- Youngsville Lodge #377
- MHCO Staff and Families



The MHC0 Ambassador Class of 2017

# Ambassadors earn their walking sticks

## Second class of graduates to spread the word of Children's Home

The weekend of April 21 was a very special one for your Children's Home. The second class of Ambassadors gathered at the Cobb Center and took in the storied history of our beloved Children's Home.

Fourteen "Ambassador" Masons from across the state gathered, most with their spouses, to experience life on campus and learn specific information regarding the operation, programs, and plans of MHC0.

These Ambassadors have been commissioned to carry the message of the Children's Home to families in need.

The weekend began with a welcome from Past Grand Master and Board Chairman Dewey Preslar and was followed by dinner in the cottages.

The Ambassadors toured the cottages, asked questions, and interacted directly with children and House Parents. The group later gathered to play games in

the gym with Bemis and Gray Cottages. Groups then met in the York Rite Chapel for reflective activities.

Older residents and Class of '89 Alumnus Tina Gilreath shared their experience at MHC0 and how important the Home has been in their lives.

As a group, we discussed the difficulties of being raised outside of one's home, having to live by campus rules, and the perspective of guardians having to let go and trust others to raise their children.

Saturday began early with a welcome from PDDGM Phil Johnson from the First District and a working breakfast. Ambassadors took in a lot of information that gives them a well-rounded understanding of MHC0 and its mission, which they will share with interested groups and individuals.

The Ambassadors also began to develop an action plan to share the

message and connect the Home with families in need and those who can help with the Mission. For example, Ambassadors are spreading the word that the home is searching for house parent couples to work as child care workers. Anyone who knows of a good candidate should have them contact MHC0 at 919-693-5111 or visit the website at [www.mhc-oxford.org](http://www.mhc-oxford.org).

The weekend culminated with a graduation ceremony in which each Ambassador received from PGM Preslar a certificate, pin, and a walking stick to represent their mission to take the light of the Home to those in dark times. Grand Master Gene Cobb then commissioned the class in accordance with the Ambassador Charter, which is displayed in the York Rite Chapel. Each class is recognized in framed photos that hang next to the Charter.

### The Ambassador Class of 2017

- Douglas and Deborah Brickhouse - District 1
- Earl "Buddy" and Donna Wilson - District 4
- Johnny & Estelle Surles - District 7
- Randy Bowen - District 8
- Don and Wendy Steichen - District 14
- Will Barham - District 16
- Marc and Paula Sessoms - District 18
- Michael & Hilary Verville - District 19
- Velton W. Taylor - District 20
- Tracy and Jennifer Lucas - District 25
- Clifford and Jenny Shrewsbury - District 26
- Mark Mabe - District 29
- Gary and Donna Ramey - District 30
- Chris and Britt Hawkins - District 35
- James B. "Eric" and Kim Call - District 36
- Jesse and Jennifer Padgett - District 39

Ambassadors pledge three years of service to the program, which is expected to grow enough to provide an ambassador for each Masonic District in North Carolina by 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA  
**THE MASON**  
**DEADLINES**

As plans to redesign the NC Mason progress, deadlines may change. Watch this space for updates. We'll keep you posted!

July 5 – Issue arrives at your home end of August  
Sept 5 – Issue arrives at your home end of October  
Nov. 5 – Issue arrives at your home end of December



# MILEPOSTS



▲ **TABOR CITY** — Brother Roscoe Beck receives his 50-year Veterans Award from Tabor #563 WM Danny Long, left, and SW Sean Mitchell, right.



▲ **GRIFTON** — Fifty years to the day he became a master mason, Walter Bruce Cannon, center, of Grifton #243 is honored for his achievement with a Veteran's Emblem certificate presented by Grand Master Gene Cobb, left. Cannon's wife, Geri, looks on with pride.



▲ **GASTONIA** — Paul L. Teem Jr. receives the Order of the Long Leaf Pine at a meeting of Gastonia #369. Victor A. Willis, right, past president of the Masonic Temple Association, presents the award. Teem has been a Mason since 1973 and has served on the board of directors of the Masonic temple Association since 1981, including terms as secretary and treasurer.



◀ **RALEIGH** — Past Grand Master and NC Masonic Foundation Board Member Bob Gresham, left, and National Sojourners President-Elect Ron Sortino, right, surprise Grand Master Gene Cobb with news that the NCMF Board of Directors and the board's financial representatives, Frank and Patrick Golden of Wells Fargo Financial Advisors, have donated five scholarships in Cobb's honor to the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program, sponsored by the Freedoms Foundation. Two of the scholarships will be given to residents of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Each year, nearly 3,000 students and educators, from across the country, visit the foundation's campus at historic Valley Forge for a four-day program that teaches them about America, the democratic system of government and gives them an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

► **OXFORD** — Oxford #122 held a special dinner and ceremony in April to recognize its Veteran, 25-, 50-, and 60-Year members. Two of the award recipients are brothers: Archibald and William Hicks, who joined the Lodge more than 50 years ago during the same year. Pictured (L-R): Thomas Newton, Eric Hinman, Sherby Slaughter, Bobby Young, William Ford, William Hicks and Arch Hicks.





# MILEPOSTS



◀ **DURHAM** – Fellowship Lodge #687 welcomed visitors from three Prince Hall lodges at its March 9 stated communication. Representatives from A. S. Hunter #825, Shepard Memorial #840, Dorcas Lodge #460 and Knap of Reeds #158 participated.



▲ **KERNERSVILLE** – Kernersville #669 Master Brian Anderson, left, presents a lodge scholarship to Destiny Eller. Miss Eller's parents, Clifford and Jenny Shrewsbury, were in attendance to help present the scholarship. Miss Eller's father is an officer and member of the lodge. Her mother is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, lodge 205 in Kernersville. Destiny recently joined the OES as well. Miss Eller plans to use the Scholarship money to assist with college expenses.



▲ **WASHINGTON** – Brother Roy Smith is a well-traveled man. And he's got the Masonic passport to prove it. Smith is on an informal quest to visit as many North Carolina lodges as possible. He hit number 100 on May 3 when he attended the District 3 meeting held at Washington #675. Smith, a member of Revolution #552, Greensboro #76, Guilford #656, MESH #771, Marietta #444, and Balfour #188, says he doesn't ever expect to hit every lodge in the state – that's about 370 – but will keep going as long as he is able. He started his quest in January 2015. "I just enjoy the fun and fellowship I have received at all the Lodges," he said. "Made some very good friends in some of the Lodges, and try to go back to them when they have degrees. Oh – had some fine food. Started rating the lodges by the dinner. Hanks #128: warm banana puddin' ... best ever."



▲ **ROWAN COUNTY** – The Rowan County Masonic Scholarship Fund has awarded four \$1000 scholarships to, from left, Mai Xe Vang, North Rowan High School; Austin Jordan Chrismon, South Rowan High School; Cody Larue Hannold, West Rowan High School; and Alyssa Renee Potts, East Rowan High School. The scholarship is the outgrowth of an initiative undertaken by Fulton #99 more than 30 years ago, and the project has grown steadily thanks to the dedicated support of the men who comprise the seven Masonic Lodges in Rowan County. Originally known as the 44th Masonic District Scholarship, it was renamed the Rowan County Masonic Scholarship when the Grand Lodge of North Carolina reorganized the state's districts. The seven lodges which support this scholarship are: Fulton #99, Andrew Jackson #576 and Sophia #767 in Salisbury; Scotch-Ireland #154 in Cleveland; Eureka #283 in China Grove; Spencer #543 in Spencer; and Keller Memorial #657 in Rockwell.



▲ **THOMASVILLE** – Julian Mann, right, director and chief administrative law judge in the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings, presents Brother Fred Morrison Jr., with the first Administrative Law Award for Excellence, created by the Administrative Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. Morrison, a member of Thomasville #214, is senior administrative law judge in the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings. He has practiced law for more than 50 years and has served in the Office of Administrative Hearings for more than 30 years.

## Dressed for the occasion ▶

The guest of honor at this year's Masonic Carolina Pig Jig BBQ Cookoff, organized by Raleigh #500, is all dressed up and ready to go. Hundreds of hungry folks lined up in late May to taste samples from lodges that traveled here from all over the country. The Pig Jig has been cooking up some great BBQ, chicken and sauces since 2006. Watch Facebook for the winners list and more photos! Photo by Danielle Hensley.



# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## WILLIAMSTON

Brother Jason Roberson, Worshipful Master of Skewarkee #90 was recently honored for quick thinking in rendering first aid to a choking victim at an auto repair shop in town, while emergency personnel were en route. Brother Ray Bowen, also of Skewarkee #90 presenting him with an award from Woodmen of the World for his actions.



## WILMINGTON

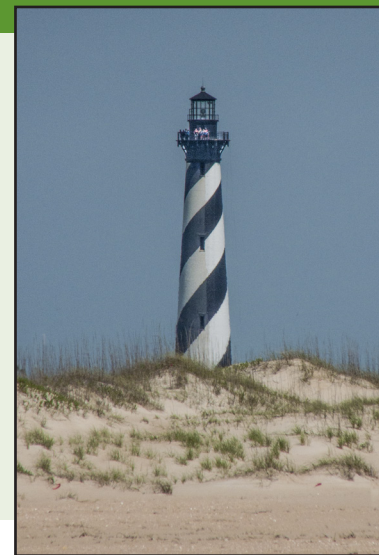
Orient #395 hosted a successful Rainbow Girl reception/membership and pledge drive in April for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Wilmington Assembly #29. This event was an open forum for young women ages 11-21 interested in learning about being a Rainbow Girl. There also was a presentation for a new pledge group called the Azaleas for girls ages 6 -10. The Assembly gained three young ladies, who will be joining the Rainbow Girls, and five young ladies for the pledge group.



▲ **HAMLET** – Larry Mercer, past master of Hamlet #532, a Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, leads the Pledge of Allegiance at the Arbor Day Celebration of Trees in April. The event was presented at the Hamlet Library by Hamlet Tree and Beautification Group and Monroe Avenue School.

► **SALUDA** – After many years of a flooded dining room and other leakage problems, the brothers of Polk County Unity Lodge #482 have had the full foundation excavated and drain lines installed with a professional contractor. An addition to the back of the lodge allowed for installation of a kitchen and an upstairs storage room. Bathrooms were renovated and tile was installed all around. The lodge plans an open day soon to celebrate the renovations.

## NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲ **CULLOWHEE** – Get rid of your junk and help our charities at the same time! East LaPorte #358 held a spring yard sale in Sylva in April, raising \$1,050 for our Masonic charities.



# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



**▲BLACK MOUNTAIN** – Black Mountain #663 in April celebrated U.S. military veterans at its stated communication, sharing fellowship, stories and memories with those who had served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and the Afghanistan-Iraq and Iran conflicts. Altogether, there were 22 veterans from various lodges and districts who joined in the celebration. Past Grand Chaplain, Vietnam Veteran and retired U.S. Army Col. Henry C. Hilliard Jr. offered the Masonic Veterans program and presented each Veteran with a Masonic Veterans’ lapel pin.



**▲HERTFORD** – During a recent First District meeting, Brother C.W. Overton of Perquimans #106 and Doug Layden of Layden’s Country Store were recognized for their support of Belvidere, their local community. PDGM Mike Burnham learned while visiting Layden’s Country Store’s Facebook page that Brother Overton had volunteered to take 30 minutes in the “Dunk Tank” to support the local Belvidere-Chapel Hill Fire Department and their annual scholarship fund for graduating seniors. Brother Burnham issued a challenge: the lodge would make a donation to our Masonic Home for Children if Brother Overton hit the water at least 10 times during his 30-minute time slot. Needless to say, Brother Overton did not need a shower that day. As promised, a donation was made to MHCO. Both Brother CW Overton and Doug Layden were presented certificates of appreciation for their continued dedication and service to the community. Pictured from left to right: Ben Roberts Jr., DDGM; Doug Layden; C.W. Overton; PM Damon Winslow Master Perquimans #106



**▲BURLINGTON** – Three Alamance County lodges – Bingham #272, Bula #409 and Thomas M. Holt #492 – joined forces in April to help out at the Pink Ribbon Foundation luncheon. Brothers helped with parking, traffic control, drove golf cart shuttles and manned umbrellas to escort more than 500 women through the rain into the event, which raised more than \$112,000 for breast cancer patients. WB Todd Smith, past master of both Bingham & Thomas M. Holt, was asked to serve on the Pink Ribbon planning committee next year. Thomas M. Holt helps this organization every year at its Pink Pancake fundraiser, held on the first Saturday of October every year. Mark your calendars to attend this year on for Oct. 7.



**▲CHARLOTTE** – One event is great, two is better but three on the same day is outstanding! On Saturday, March 18, Charles M. Setzer #693, brothers held three events. One was a “Spring Into Giving” blood drive, the second was a “Tacos for Toddlers” to benefit MHCO, and the third was a collaboration with The Rainbow Girls for “Helping Animals To Survive.” Brothers collected 17 units of blood, sold 70 tacos and the girls collected about \$400 worth of supplies to donate to a local “no kill” animal rescue.

## TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **SPENCER** – About 150 brothers attended this year's second annual Railroad Degree at the North Carolina Transportation Museum at Spencer. The afternoon started off with BBQ sandwiches and a silent auction, followed by a train ride around the historic museum to the roundhouse. Then Spencer Lodge 543 began the Railroad Degree in the roundhouse with Spencer #543 Master WB John Ogden was in the East for the first section of the degree; Past Grand Masters MWB Bryant Webster was in the East for the second section and Past Grand Master MWB Dewey Preslar was on the degree team. Congratulations to the candidate, Brother Marvin Rogers, who worked for the railroad.



▲ **ASHEBORO** – Asheboro #699 sponsored a community meal at the Randleman First United Methodist Church in April. The "Your Place at the Table" community outreach meals are offered bi-monthly by various civic and community organizations to citizens in need of a meal and some fellowship. The lodge served more than 200 barbecue meals at the table and nearly as many take-outs. Since its inception, over 6,000 meals have been served. In all, 24 brothers participated by cooking, preparing plates and serving guests in this opportunity to give back to their community.



## Wilkerson College graduates new class

Thirty-six leaders graduated May 6 from Wilkerson College, a leadership school for Masons sponsored jointly by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Orient of North Carolina and the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. Wilkerson's mission is to provide Freemasonry with the best trained leaders possible.

Students learn about the origins and traditions of Freemasonry, budgeting, lodge operations and membership services. It is the goal of Wilkerson College to provide each student with a well-rounded exposure to the tools needed to be a confident, effective leader in his lodge, the fraternity, and in his community. Instructors are recognized Masonic leaders in whose life Freemasonry plays a vital part.

Sessions are scheduled at or near our Masonic charities: the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro. A session also is held at or near the Grand Lodge office in Raleigh. Participants tour all three facilities.

Interested in more information? Check out [www.wilkersoncollege.com](http://www.wilkersoncollege.com).

"There are those who believe we face a leadership crisis in just about every walk of life. From stations and places of religious and political activity to homes all across America, we need both men and women to step up to the responsibilities of leadership without fear and without trying to make excuses for how we fall short," Grand Master Gene Cobb said in his address to the graduates. "Every human being, so we say, has a claim upon God's kind offices. As graduates of Wilkerson College you have committed yourself to: seek excellence; never underestimate your leadership and stay focused; living up to the highest standards; time and financial obligations.

"What you do with it is entirely in your hands now. What miracle will you make?"

# Academy track takes on Grand Lodge

The William R. Davie Leadership Academy is offering its Track 4, "The District Officer and Grand Lodge Committeemen," in July, August and September in three locations across the state:

- July 1 at Corinthian #230, Rocky Mount
- Aug. 5 at Masonic Home for Children, Oxford
- Sept. 2 at Junaluskee #145, Franklin

The class is for North Carolina Masons who want to know more about leadership opportunities

through the Grand Lodge, including committees and district offices.

Topics include an overview of Grand Lodge boards, commissions and committees; duties and responsibilities of committee members; the appointment and election processes; and the duties and responsibilities of District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers.

While the class provides information on these positions, it is not a prerequisite or qualifier for holding any position in the Grand Lodge. These appointments are made annually by each incoming Grand

Master.

Sessions begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$45 in advance, or \$60 at door, and includes lunch, all instructional materials and a certificate awarded upon successful completion.

Preregister on the Grand Lodge web site. Follow the links to Education Resources and Davie Academy.

The Davie Academy offers practical education on lodge management and leadership, with classes on North Carolina Masonic history, traditions and structure.

Each class is offered in the eastern,

central and western regions of the state. The instructors are experienced Masonic leaders specially trained to deliver coursework for maximum impact and efficiency.

The Academy replaces the Grand Lodge Wardens Bootcamps and opens Masonic leadership training to a broader range of members in more locations.

It does not replace Wilkerson College, an intensive leadership training program taking place over three weekends in Greensboro, Oxford and Raleigh.



**KERNERSVILLE** – Guess who's coming to lunch? In late May, several members of Kernersville #669, led by Master Brian Anderson (pictured) travelled to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford to serve lunch to the children, house parents, and staff. After the lunch, the brothers played games with the children and enjoyed a tour of MHCO.

## NCMF adds Blake to development team

Kenidee Blake has joined the North Carolina Masonic Foundation staff as western region development director, bringing the NCMF's new development team to full-strength.

Blake, who goes by "Dee," is a recognized leader in fundraising and development who joins the NCMF after nine years as director of development for Duke HomeCare & Hospice in Durham. She brings 25 years of management experience, including six years as CEO of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Mid South Chapter. She also has extensive experience in staff and volunteer training, and media and marketing.

Blake also is the daughter of a Mason, and is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Blake will oversee development efforts for Masonic charities on the western side of the state, with special focus on WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro. Her work also will benefit the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and the NC Masonic Foundation itself.

She joins Chris Richardson, eastern regional development director based in Oxford, NC., in

fundraising activities designed to financially support our Masonic charities for generations to come and create new charitable opportunities to further Masonry and its mission statewide. Both report to foundation Development Director Jeff Hensley.

At Duke HomeCare & Hospice, Blake was responsible for building all aspects of a strong development program, as well as increasing awareness and long-term support for DHCH from individuals, corporations, foundations and the community at large.

She previously served as executive director of the YWCA of Wake County; director of the Office of Advancement for the University of North Carolina School of Nursing at Chapel Hill; senior vice president of the Triangle United Way and Easter Seals UCP North Carolina; and president of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Memphis, TN. She is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and

holds certifications from the University of Indiana's School of Philanthropy.

NCMF Board President Mike Faulkenbury called Blake's appointment "a home run for the craft and our charities."

"Rarely do you find someone who not only meets every requirement, has great experience, character, a strong work ethic and a track record of success, but also feels a calling to support the mission of our charities," he said. "That's what Dee bring to us."

NCMF Chief Development Officer Jeff Hensley looks forward to working with Dee to raise additional support for our charities.

"She uniquely combines an extensive and successful career in fundraising with an eagerness and entrepreneurial spirit to help build our new fundraising initiative at the Foundation, he said. "Moreover, her OES identity allows her to understand and relate to the Craft and develop new relationships between the Eastern Star and the Foundation—this great Masonic family that our Grand Master has been celebrating this year. I'm delighted that she is joining our team!"



# Just who is this Davie person, anyway?

By Andy Hicklin

Member Wendell #565, Lux Libertas #UD, and Knights of Solomon #768

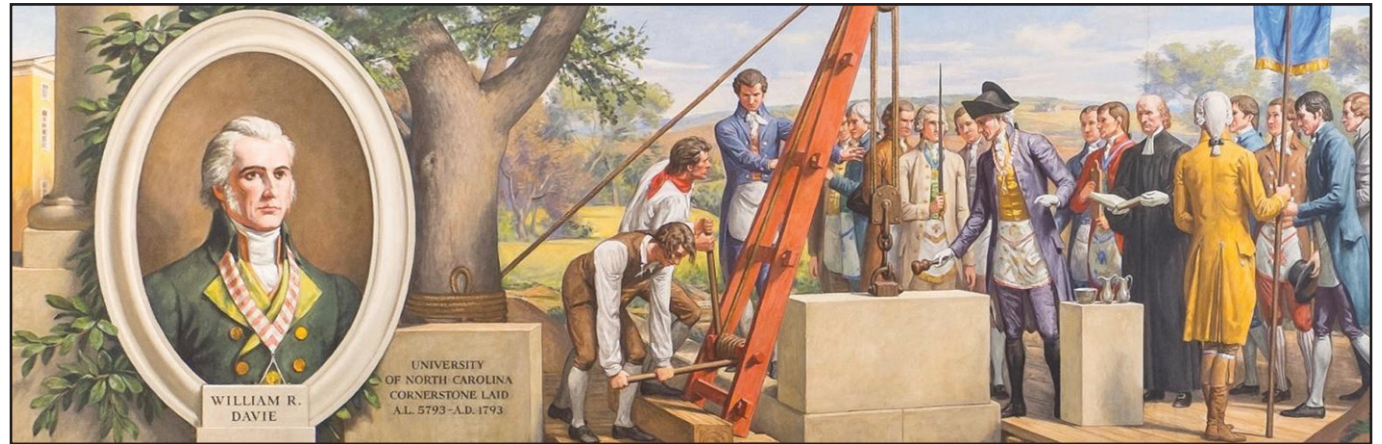
Thanks to Grand Master Cobb, there is a concerted effort to make William Richardson Davie a household name among North Carolina's Masons.

So, who is this long departed and oft forgotten brother of ours and why should his name shine as a beacon to our fraternity?

Here is an all-too-brief summary of his deeds and services to our state and fraternity. I have a special interest, because he's family. My great-great-grandfather Hicklin married Davie's great-granddaughter.

At age 20, Davie was attending Princeton when the Revolution broke out. The school was shut down due to the battles which were raging nearby.

He joined a militia and fought in the Battle of Long Island. When school resumed, he completed his studies and returned to North Carolina where he hoped to receive a



Mural at the Grand Lodge offices depicts Davie laying the cornerstone at the University of North Carolina.

commission in the Continental Army. Since there were none available, he assisted in raising a local cavalry unit, for which he was given a commission as a lieutenant.

He would diligently serve this unit until he was wounded at the Battle of Stono Ferry. He continued his studies during his convalescence and earned his license to practice law in North Carolina.

He would return to military

command until his appointment as Commissary General, a role in which he would often use his own funds for keeping the Army supplied. After the war, he would serve as a traveling circuit court lawyer the state Legislature, where he pushed for establishing a public university.

He served as a representative to the Constitutional Convention. He would become the longest serving Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina with a term

that extended from 1792-1798. As Grand Master, he presided over the laying of the cornerstone at UNC and established a foundation for the Grand Lodge that would allow Masonry to thrive for centuries to come.

In 1798, he would be elected Governor of North Carolina, although he would resign this position when President John Adams enlisted him to

■ see DAVIE next page

## WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Scott, Alex Joseph	Phoenix	8	Payne, Dayton T	Pythagoras	249	Davenport, Jeffrey Slade	Southern Pines	484	Hennighan Jr, Christopher Patrick	Temple	676
Simmons, Gregory Nicholas	Phoenix	8	Shipley, Benjamin Joe	Pythagoras	249	Johnson, Kyle James	Southern Pines	484	Christensen, Travis Elliot	Semper Fidelis	680
Jones, Ryan Jordan	Phalanx	31	Allen, Stephen Cordell	Waynesville	259	Shaw, Kenneth Charles	Pilot	493	Pearce, Jared Randall	Semper Fidelis	680
Voelker, Nicholas James	Phalanx	31	Willis, Derek John	Waynesville	259	Wilson, Coy Dale	Pilot	493	Beauchamp, Christopher Shane	Piedmont-Pioneer	685
Huffer, Chase Edward	Perseverance	59	Arney Jr, Jonathan Neal	Hibriten	262	Brucato, Benjamin Robert	Mooresville	496	Farmer, Aaron Bryan	Allen Graham	695
Dowd, Benjamin James	Greensboro	76	Lowe, Ethan Daniel	Tabasco	271	Vanderlick, Bruce Frank	Mooresville	496	Scarborough, John Foster	Allen Graham	695
Gonzalez, Louis	Lafayette	83	Sykes, Jarred Heath	Tabasco	271	Alligood, David Herrington	Raleigh	500	Sherrill, Joshua Lewis	Allen Graham	695
Wildin, Andrew Clark	Lafayette	83	Parks, Robert David	Tabasco	271	Avila, Brandon John	Raleigh	500	Beck, Nelson David	Garner	701
Helms, Kenneth Brian	Morning Star	85	Gideon, Jeremy Glenn	Wallace	279	Preddy, Harrison Teasley	Raleigh	500	Clinton, Paul York	Garner	701
Humphreys, Robert George	Morning Star	85	Miller, David Evan	Wake Forest	282	Shore, William Edward	Raleigh	500	Moore, Justin Scott	King Solomon	704
Higginbotham, Jeffrey Neil	Western Star	91	Merriman, William Payton	Salem	289	Thomas, Colby Simmons	Raleigh	500	Pierce, Jonathan Stephen	Crown Point	708
LaSorsa, Joseph Anthony	Franklin	109	Curtis, Dennis Edward	Clay	301	Bradley, Jacob Lawson	Cookville	502	Wade, Douglas Ray	Crown Point	708
Taylor, Chadwick Allen	Franklin	109	Ledford, Ralph William	Clay	301	Chapman, Kevin Lee	Cookville	502	Gander, Michael Dean	Crown Point	708
Dixon, Joseph Bryan	Blackmer	127	Zeagler Jr, Jerry Parvin	Pleasant Hill	304	Loftin, Landon Roy	Cookville	502	Holton, Matthew Russell	Crown Point	708
McCrary, Justin Gregory	Mocksville	134	Skipper, Devin Marris	Wilmington	319	Thomas, Bailey Lewis	Cookville	502	Stroupe, Jason Kyle	Stanley	713
Mabe, William Charles Edward	Sanford	151	Ramsburg, Charles Francis	Wilmington	319	Anderson, Steven Leigh	Manteo	521	Carper, Matthew Alan	Derita	715
Mabe, William Nicholas	Sanford	151	Dellinger Jr, James Woodrow	Fairview	339	Bledsoe, Philip Wayne	Hamlet	532	Talley, Neil Carson	Cabarrus	720
Persons, William Todd	Sanford	151	Pillar, William Irvin	Jefferson Penn	384	Rogers Jr, Marvin Nathaniel	Spencer	543	Smith, Jordan Michael	King	722
Reconnu, Mark Donald	Sanford	151	Banks, Charles Brett	Bald Creek	397	Barnes, Richard Dean	Mount Holly	544	Epps, Timothy Allen	James B. Green	735
Michael, Myron Gay	Scotch Ireland	154	Hinton, Nicholas Carrington	Bula	409	Wood, William Andrew	Mount Holly	544	Reid, Brian Anthony	James B. Green	735
Cooper, Robert Scott	Buffalo	172	Porcher, Brian Eugene	Bula	409	Andrews IV, William Joseph	Revolution	552	Stevenson, John King	James B. Green	735
Tyndall, Wesley Ray	Mingo	206	Satterfield, Jamie Blake	Bula	409	Badger, Dennis Vondelle	Wendell	565	Taylor, Gerald Leslie	James B. Green	735
Lynch, Justin David	Thomasville	214	Young, Gregory Thomas	Bula	409	Shuping, Christian Allen	Andrew Jackson	576	Groff, Jason Louis	Newell	739
Harris, Darren Lee	Catawba Valley	217	Walker, William Ryan	Seaside	429	Ingram, Joseph Allen	Cranberry	598	Wieder, Nicholas Scott	Newell	739
Cutler, Bradford Ellison	William T. Bain	231	Lujan, David	Seaside	429	South, Brian Clint	Cranberry	598	Tyson, Carlton Mark	Truth	749
Kuly, Myles Benjamin Griffith	Monroe	244	Waterfield, Andrew Joshua	Seaside	429	Eckerich, Chad Austin	Nichols-W. Asheville	650	Hedges, Peter Eugene Austin	Friendship	763
Martinez, Lawrence William	Catawba	248	Redden, Christopher Michael	Biltmore	446	Carlyle Jr, Allen James	Keller Memorial	657	Oakley, David Wayne	Friendship	763
French, Michael Richard	Catawba	248	Lawrence, Michael Jack	Biltmore	446	Lanier, James Jay	Beulaville	658	Peeden, Robert Alan	Friendship	763
Forester, Charles Michael	Pythagoras	249	Jones, David Lawrence	Rainbow	479	McElroy III, Samuel Larkin	Ft. Bragg	667	Velarde, Marc Lester	Friendship	763
Inman, Casey Ross	Pythagoras	249	Shumate, Jason Wayne	Traphill	483	Clark, Ricky Dwayne	Washington	675			

# Springtime: Time of beginning, time for Fraternity to blossom

By Steven Campbell  
Grand Historian

In the Old North State each spring our grounds, plants and trees that have lain dormant during the winter months flourish anew. When one ponders such an event it is quite amazing. And, yes, there are those who lament the return of the “mowing season,” yet perhaps it is a blessing compared to other parts of this world where a drop of rain has not fallen in years.

Springtime also has harkened the time of change in our young nation's history. For 169 years, the 13 North American colonies bordering the Atlantic Ocean owed their allegiance to their Sovereign Majesty of Great Britain.

Perhaps as a result of a rebirth of thought or an awakening, the spring of 1775 ushered in a new era in American history.

Men and women desiring a greater voice in their lives committed to armed rebellion culminating in an eight-year war against the government of King George III.

Was it by chance, fate, design, or happenstance that many men of our Fraternity would prove to be the leaders in this struggle?



North Carolina's signers of the Declaration of Independence were Brothers Joseph Hewes, William Hooper and John Penn.

Whilst George Washington, John Hancock, Sam Adams, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin and Joseph Warren would become household names, let us not forget our North Carolina brothers. Men such as Richard Caswell, Cornelius Harnett, Robert Howe, Thomas Person, William Polk, the Stokes brothers, William R. Davie, Jethro Sumner, Samuel Johnston, Edward Buncombe, William Lenoir, Alexander Martin, Benjamin Williams, Joseph Montfort Sr. and Jr., and countless others would risk everything near and dear to them in this endeavor.

Upon the top of the King's List of seditious, treasonous, and “misguided subjects” would be Brothers William Hooper, Joseph

Hewes, and John Penn who, by affixing their name to the Declaration of Independence, pledged “their lives, fortunes and sacred honor” in the name of liberty. The commitment, determination, dedication, and resolve these men put forth to create a new nation reflect many of those beliefs found in Freemasonry.

The United States of America is a nation forged in the fire of freedom, and it is the responsibility of each of us to keep the fire aglow.

So, as yet another season of renewal is upon us, perhaps it is a befitting time to review those beliefs which we hold so dear so they may once again flourish, as does springtime. ✦

Library of Congress

From the Medical  
Committee

## Vaccinate or abstain?

R. Keith Bailey, MD, Chair  
Junior Deacon, Scotch Ireland #154

Part 1 of a two-part series.

### Children's Vaccinations

There is a lot interest in the world today about whether to get a vaccine or not.

Should you vaccinate your child or not?

While I don't see children in my practice, I have read some the data on the question of whether there is a connection between certain vaccines and autism.

(Autism spectrum disorder or ASD is a wide variation of social, communicative, and cyclical behaviors that are considered out of character for children).

The science appears clear to many physicians. Polio, Smallpox, plague, diphtheria, tetanus – the list goes on – have all been eradicated due to vaccines.

In fact, some laboratories continue to make vaccines for such illnesses. Is it possible that some children have responded badly to vaccines due to allergies or chemical imbalance? Yes.

These diseases were killers, crippers that left families devastated, and even wiped out societies.

So, the vaccination of children should be taken seriously – but it is a decision to be made by parents with the advice and involvement of their pediatrician.

Society dictates that children who attend public schools must be vaccinated. That policy is a school's obligation.

There may be differing opinions, but the consequences of a wrong decision can be life altering beyond the family.

Next issue, part 2: Adult Vaccinations.

## DAVIE from page 14

serve as an envoy to France. As envoy, he helped resolve disputes that had erupted between the two countries. Although he declined an offer from President James Madison for command over all American forces, he would still serve in the War of 1812.

In short, Davie was one of the greatest patriots to have ever lived and should be an inspiration to us all. In today's age, to try and meet his standard of excellence in service to so many causes is an overwhelming

charge if not a seemingly impossible task.

How can any of us expect to have an effect anywhere near that of Davie? Is that even possible? Perhaps we should remember that there was something about our noble craft that inspired this great man to dedicate more than 10 percent of his life to serving as our Grand Master. He served in such a way to ensure that Masonry would endure through the ages even if his name would not.

And that is how we can meet that standard which Davie set, by serving a cause greater than

ourselves and letting the success of the craft be our legacy without concern for personal glory.

This is not a super-human ability but rather it is just a simple passion for our craft that will enable us to have an effect like what Davie has had upon us all. Know that your actions can and will reverberate throughout the fraternity for years to come and let that be your driving force. If we all let that passion guide our actions then not only will our fraternity survive but it will thrive and continue to be the needed force for good it serves as in this world. ✦



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page 1

Outreach service  
to expand what  
WhiteStone can do  
for older Masons and  
Eastern Star members



page 2  
Podcast talks  
Freemasonry

*On the cover*

"Brethren, we are now about to quit the sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world." Brothers share a final moment as the Grand Master's 2017 district meetings – 21 in all held between January and May – come to an end for the year. The MWGM invited District Deputy Grand Lecturers to have the final word at his meetings as they led the closing charge.

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

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**THE MASON**

MAY/JUNE 2017