

# NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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Michael Harding photos

The votes are in! North Carolina Masonry celebrated a successful 230th Annual Communication at Winston-Salem in September.

## NC Masons provide aid, choose leaders

By Beth Grace  
Mason Editor

North Carolina Freemasons mixed business with brotherhood and charity at the 230th Annual Communication, selecting new leadership for a new year, rejecting code amendments seeking a per capita increase and opening lodge on the First Degree, and collecting food for the hungry and thousands of dollars for victims of recent hurricanes.

They also got a welcome chance to have their say on the more controversial issues up for vote.

"I am extremely proud of the way we did

Grand Lodge this year, because I feel like the Craft were heard" said Grand Master Gene Cobb (at right). "They got to talk about things – probably longer than some people were comfortable listening – but they got to share their feelings and I let them do it, every one of them.

"I told them I was prepared to stay there till midnight if they wanted to. I am proud that we did that and of the assistance I received from past grand masters, from the brethren and from Grand Secretary Walt Clapp."

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MORE  
INSIDE

**ELECTED** Hallman to be new Grand Master  
**RECOGNIZED** Lion & Pillar Lodges receive awards  
**AMENDMENTS** What was passed, what died on the floor





▲ NC Masons responded generously to Grand Master Cobb's call for donations to help Masons hit by recent hurricanes. He presents a check covering the amount brothers donated to Simon R. LaPlace, executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association. The Grand Lodge pitched in another \$10,000.

► Grand Secretary Walt Clapp and Assistant Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood are on call for quick answers and information throughout the Annual Communication.



## ANNUAL, from page 1

Brethren elected Charles Speed Hallman of Wadesboro as the 165<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of North Carolina Masons. The 57-year-old Marshville native was raised in Eagle #19 in Hillsborough in 1999. Then Grand Master-elect Lewis Ledford appointed him to the Grand Line in 2010. He also is a charter member of Mosaic #762 in Chapel Hill and Lux Libertas in Hillsborough, and is a member of Sophia #767, Wilkerson College #760 and Blackmer #127.

"Brethren, you have entrusted me with a sacred duty," He told the crowd gathered at the Twin City Quarter Grand Pavilion in Winston-Salem. He called for all brethren to share their ideas on how to keep Masonry strong.

"We talk about needing members, but we need Masons," he said. "Be a Mason, and expect those around you to be Masons, and our fraternity will be better. ... We know what we need to do to be successful. We do not need to look to our history to see our best days. Our future is bright. I'm excited by the possibilities of next year and the next decade and I'm absolutely convinced the best is yet to come."

Grand Master-Elect Hallman announced his appointment to the Grand Line: Steve Norris of Ash, N.C., becomes Junior Grand Steward. Norris, treasurer of Shallotte #727, was raised at Shallotte #727 in 1982. He served as Master in 1989, and is chairman of the Board of Custodians. He is a native of Conway, S.C., and is married to Traci Norris.

Brethren also elected the following members of the Grand Line: Deputy Grand Master D.M. "Mack" Sigmon of Newton; Senior Grand Warden P. Shaun Bradshaw of Greensboro; Junior

Grand Warden R. David Wicker, Jr. of Oxford; Grand Treasurer Lewis R. Ledford of Raleigh (re-elected); Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp III of Raleigh (re-elected).

Appointed were: Senior Grand Deacon Larry B. Thompson, Jr. of Salisbury; Junior Grand Deacon Kevan D. Frazier of Asheville; Grand Marshal Donald E. Kehler of Nags Head; Grand Steward Robert W. Rideout of Zebulon; Junior Grand Steward Steve Norris of Ash.

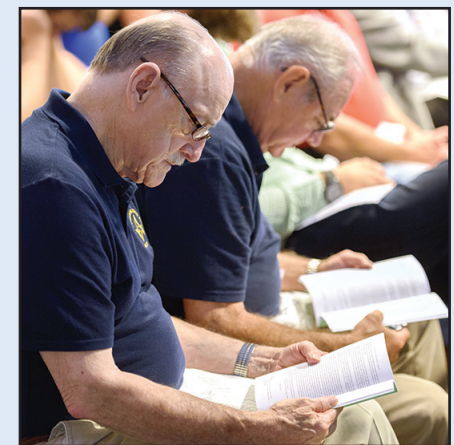
Grand Master Gene Cobb, in his interim report, expressed gratitude for the support and kindnesses shown him from all sides during a busy year as Grand Master.

"One of the greatest experiences this year for me has been the generosity and hospitality extended to the Grand Master all across North Carolina. We raised over \$12,000 for our charities in our District Meetings, brought checks for the hurricane victims, and have brought food to the Masons Can Program again this year," he said.

In addition to creation of the Lion & Pillar Lodge of Excellence program, he reminded brothers to continue to let their "loving light shine."

"Our work in philanthropy did not begin this year, nor will it end," he said. "Do not be deceived by misleading conversation. Be a part of changing the conversation from destitution to benevolence. ... I believe a true Mason finds reason to give more, not less."

Cobb presented Lion & Pillar honors to 56 lodges. An additional 25 honorable mentions were awarded.



## The 230th Annual Communication by the numbers

- Rooms reserved at Embassy Suites/Marriott: 215
- Vendors: 25
- Code Amendments up for Vote: 13
- Amendments Passed: 7
- Amendments Rejected: 5
- Amendments withdrawn: 1
- Lion & Pillar Awards/Honorable Mentions: 56/25
- Credentials: 353 lodges presented credentials, representing 1041 ballots
- Masons Can 2 Drive: 2,233 pounds

■ see ANNUAL, page 8



# Our next Grand Master: Speed Hallman

Charles Speed Hallman has been elected to serve as the 165<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of Masons.

Hallman was elected Sept. 23 at Annual Communication, and will be installed Dec. 2 at the Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill.

Hallman, 57, joined the Grand Line in 2010, when then GM-elect Lewis Ledford appointed him Junior Grand Steward.

He was born April 18, 1960, to Charles Franklin and Anne Dixon Speed of Marshville in Union County. He attended Wingate College and graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1982.

After graduation, he worked in the Washington DC office of US Rep. Bill Hefner, then became director of the Appalachian State University News Bureau, earning a master's degree from Appalachian while working there. He returned to UNC-Chapel Hill in 1994 to work in development and communications for the College of Arts and Sciences, the university development office and the journalism school. He directed communications for UNC's

\$2.3 billion Carolina First Campaign.

He later rose to associate dean for development and alumni affairs for the journalism school, then moved to the university's Pharmacy School development office. His responsibilities in both positions included fundraising for major gifts and overseeing the annual fund and alumni functions.

He retired Sept. 1, 2016.

Hallman was raised in Hillsborough's Eagle Lodge #19 in 1999. He was master in 2004 and helped create the Historic Eagle Lodge Foundation, a tax-exempt organization chartered to support renovations and restoration of the 1823 lodge building. He led efforts to preserve and catalog Eagle's historic documents and open the lodge for community events and activities. He also is a charter member of Mosaic #762 in Chapel Hill and Lux Libertas #UD in Hillsborough, and is a member of Sophia #767, Wilkerson College #760 and Blackmer #127.



His Grand Lodge assignments have included: the Board of General Purposes; the Masonic Ceremonies and Miscellaneous Publications committee, and the Charles E. Cathey Scholarship committees, and the board of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Home. He has been an instructor for Wilkerson College, is a member of the Greensboro Scottish Rite and received his 33rd Degree in 2015. He also received the Grand Cross

of Color from the International Order of the Rainbow Girls in June 2017. He served on UNC's University History Council chaired the nonprofit Eno Publishers. He has served on boards of the Chapel Hill Historical Society, the State Employees Credit Union Chapel Hill Advisory Board, the Sierra Club's Blue Ridge Group, and the Watauga County Hunger Coalition. He participated in a Rotary International Group Study Exchange to East Africa.

He has been married to Susan Walters Hallman, a fellow UNC graduate, for 30 years. They moved to Wadesboro earlier this year. Wadesboro is Susan Hallman's hometown and is near the Grand Master's hometown of Marshville.

Hallman continues to work in development communications for UNC's Rams Club and Pharmacy Foundation on a contract basis.

The Hallmans have two sons: Jason, 25, a human relations specialist for the US Office of Personnel Management in Kansas City, Mo.; and Thomas, 23, a graduate student at Lund University in Sweden.

## Lion and Pillar 2017: Grand Master announces winners at Annual Communication

Last December, Grand Master Gene Cobb urged North Carolina Freemasons to "get to work," side-by-side with him, to strengthen the Craft statewide.

To help lodges reach that goal, he created the "Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence," a designation earned by lodges that followed guidelines in five areas: Education, Patriotism, Philanthropy, Masonic Membership and Affiliated Connections.

In all, 81 lodges applied. Fifty-six met all the criteria and were declared a Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence; 25 more lodges were given honorable mentions. The program is expected to continue in 2018. Watch the NC Mason, the Grand Lodge web and Facebook pages for updates!

### Lion & Pillar Honorees

Eagle 19	Jefferson Penn 384	Oak Grove 750
Hominy 491	William G. Hill 218	Nichols West Asheville 650
Thomas M. Holt 492	Wilmington 319	Person 113
Asheboro 699	Kenly 257	Stump Sound 733
Numa Reid 344	Lux Libertas UD	St. John's No. 1
Revolution 552	Wendell 565	Proctorville 643
Blackmer 127	West Bend 434	Cherry Point 688
Zion 81	Pilot 493	Berne 724
Andrew Jackson 576	Home Lodge 613	James K. Polk 759
Bingham 272	Oxford 122	Semper Fidelis 680
James B. Green 735	Albemarle 703	St. John's No 4
Acacia 674	Allen Graham 695	Cannon Memorial 626
Buffalo 172	Fulton 99	Lebanon 391
Columbus 102	King Solomon 704	Mount Hermon 118
Clemmons 755	Steele Creek 737	Copeland 390
State Line 375	Corinthian 542	Royal White Hart 497
Mingo 206	Ionic 583	Pleasant Hill 304
Ashlar 765	Bald Creek 397	Mosaic 762
Mesh 771	Jerusalem 95	

### Honorable Mentions

Charles M. Setzer 693	Rockingham 495
Black Mountain 663	Henry F. Grainger 412
West Gate 738	Statesville 27
Sonoma 472	East Gate 692
Grifton 243	Radiance 132
Campbell 374	Yadkin 162
Maxton 417	Tabasco 271
Eureka 317	Crown Point 708
PP Turner 746	East LaPorte 358
Temple 676	Friendship 388
Junaluskee 145	
Kernersville 669	
Guilford 656	
Gate City 694	
New Lebanon 314	

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

# Painting signs of a life dedicated to Masonry

I've heard it said that the measure of a man is the company he keeps. Take Ed McBride, for instance.

Ed, at 95, has kept the best of company for decades among the brethren of Kilwinning #64 in Wadesboro.

You can tell. Not by the work these men did to physically move their historic lodge three blocks back in the 1950s. Not by the lodge room, kept in pristine condition by dozens of loving, work-worn hands. And not by the strong bond these men so clearly share as Freemasons.

No. You can tell by the way the faces of the brethren of Kilwinning #64 light up when Ed walks into the room. No, wait – the way they lit up BEFORE he even arrived, when word that he might be coming to lodge that night circulated.

Ed and his son, Tommy, recently made a surprise visit to the lodge at the request of Deputy Grand Master Speed Hallman, who has been helping a small band of would-be authors and one amazing photographer compile a coffee table book looking at some of North Carolina's most historic lodges.

The book will feature about 20 lodges, and will be released by the North Carolina Masonic Foundation next year as a fundraiser for the Historic Lodge Preservation Fund. If it's well-received, it could be the first of a series of such books.

DGM Hallman asked Ed to visit for a

while before the meeting one recent night, to talk about his own history in an historic lodge. Ed also got the chance to pin a 50-year service pin on his son's lapel.

His memory has dimmed a bit over the years, but he remembers everything about his lodge. He was there in November 1951 when the building that houses the lodge was moved a couple of blocks to its present site. He remembers clearly that he was the very first brother raised after the building was moved.

It is brothers such as Ed McBride who have inspired the upcoming historic lodges book. The lodges are beautiful and worthy of note; but so are the men who built and cared for them.

He has not forgotten his role in creating a museum on the first floor that chronicles the history of the lodge, its brethren, and the building's own interesting history.

Ed is a hero within these walls – and within Anson County, where the lifelong sign-painter is known for his generosity of spirit and his ready wit. There's not a soul in this county who can't spot an Ed McBride sign from a mile away. His style is singular – and beautiful.

Two of his hand-painted signs on canvas decorate the lodge – one identifying Kilwinning #64 and the other honoring the Order of the Eastern Star's Wadesboro Chapter #52.

But ego plays no role in all of this. To hear him talk, he's just another brother.

"I have loved being a part of this lodge," he says. "I have always been true and worked hard to do what I was supposed to do.

"Well," he adds quickly, with a smile and a twinkle. "I have tried. I have tried."



By Beth Grace  
Editor



Beth Grace photo

Eddie McBride, right, and his son Tommy.



## LET'S GO TO WORK!



# A heart filled with gratitude

By *A. Gene Cobb Jr.*  
Grand Master

**H**ave you ever thought about what your last words or actions might be?

It is time for me to do so, because this is my final column for the North Carolina Mason as your Grand Master. I will say thank you in my final report to Annual Communication in 2018, but for now, I want to share what I feel is a much more important message with you.

My mother died a little over a year ago. She used to always say to me, "Son, start out like you want to finish up," and "Remember who you are." Throughout my life, I've tried to do what I thought she meant by those words. I have always tried to love others, even when they didn't return it. I've always tried to end things on a good note, even when it was impossible to do so. I've never tried to hurt or disappoint anyone – even though I know that I have. It always has been my intention to lead in love. I've tried to remember my blessings and always be grateful. It's who I am.

Last September after Annual Communication, we went to work as we began striving for excellence in education, patriotism, philanthropy, Masonic membership, and affiliation with the larger community.

At my installation in December, I alluded to

the fact that my father had died a little more than a year before I became a Mason. Using my father's words when he was going out the door to the paper mill, "Lets go to work," we have indeed, worked together. Relationships have been formed and strengthened. I hope we have come to realize that it is our relationships with one another that are the strength, support, wisdom, and beauty of our beloved fraternity. We must continue to go to work on our relationships with everyone, especially those in the world who still wonder what Masons actually do, if we are to become better men and the world is to ever be a better place.

Over the course of a little more than a year, I've asked much of everyone and you have delivered. Thank you. I've loved serving you this year, and especially appreciate my wife's patience. I've met and made many new friends, renewed many old acquaintances, and even tried to engage in some problem solving along the way. No one was ever a bother. All of us are children of God, worthy of love. My heart is filled with gratitude for everyone who wanted to meet on the level, act by the plumb, and part on the square.

One of my favorite stories is about St. John the Evangelist. As he was exiled to the island of Patmos during the persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire, the story goes that he started getting a bit delusional before his passing. Yet, near the end of his life, as those around him were trying to make sense of what

he was trying to say, his final words came out as clear as they could be.

"Little children, let us love one another."

Our last words and actions are important. For me, it's not an "amen" or "So mote it be." While we may not always get to pick what or when our last words or actions will be, we can work toward them while we live, move, and have our being. Quite frankly, "love one another" captures it all for me.

I look forward to the remaining duties there are to perform this year. I look forward to a brighter future because our Grand Line officers are the best Grand Line in the world. Now it's time for me to finish up. Behold how swift the time has passed!

I ask you all to remember Grand Master William Richardson Davie, who roared like a lion and reached for excellence in the early years of our nation. Remember to be a pillar in your communities, lodges, and relationships with one another. Remember to tell people you love them before it's too late.

Thank you, everyone. I love you.

Let's continue to go to work.

Let's "start out like we finish up."

Let's remember "who we are."

Accordingly brethren, as we continue to go to work whether it be our start or our finish, may these words always be as clear as they can be and define who we are: "Love one another." ✦

## Grand Master reminds us Masons are builders

A Statement Of Concern, Care, and Guidance From A. Gene Cobb, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina A.F. & A.M.:

Among the first words a man hears when he becomes a Mason are: "Freemasonry encourages all that is good, kind, and charitable; and reproveth all that is vicious, cruel, and oppressive."

These words were true when our fraternity began and they are even more true and necessary today. We live in a time of religious and political conflict, where tension, anger, and hatred have seized too

many human hearts.

Freemasons in North Carolina do not now, nor will we ever condone behavior that is vicious, cruel, or oppressive.

We are tolerant people, but never of evil, never of murder, never of treason.

We are Masons.

Masons build.

We have built a brotherhood of good men of all backgrounds, a brotherhood that has made them better husbands, fathers, and citizens by encouraging and cultivating friendship, morality, and brotherly

love for more than 250 years.

Now, we must assist in building a bridge to healing.

How will we do this?

We will be good men, strictly obeying the moral law.

We will be peaceable subjects who cheerfully conform to the laws of the country in which we reside.

We do not engage in plots and conspiracies against government.

We pay proper respect to civil law and judges so that we might live creditably and act honorably.

We will remain cautious in our behavior, but courteous to all so that

we might avoid private quarrels.

In fact, we charge our Masters with these responsibilities at every installation and we hold our members to this same standard.

Do we have members who misunderstand our teachings and break our rules? Sure we do. Sadly, such members exist in every organization. Will we exercise appropriate discipline and hold one another accountable to what we are supposed to be? We do and we will.

History has taught our gentle



## OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

### WhiteStone Family Album

# MESH's master pays good fortune forward

By Beth Grace  
Mason Editor

Al Phillips gives as good as he gets. No, wait. He gives much, much better.

The MESH #771 Master, and resident of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, is a big believer in paying good fortune forward.

He does not let a day go by where he doesn't think of – and give thanks for – the generous donations that allowed him to find a modest room at WhiteStone after his wife died in 2012.

WhiteStone is one of three charities North Carolina's 34,000-plus Masons support. Donations to the MESH Foundation LLC go directly to help Masonic brethren, sisters of the Eastern Star and their immediate families make do financially when money runs unexpectedly short. Donations from lodges, Masonic and Eastern Star members and those who love and respect their passion for the Craft help cover room costs, medical emergencies, expensive and unplanned dental surgeries and the like.

Al gets help with his rent – the foundation pays the difference between his Social Security check and the rate for the room.

"I am proud to say it: The North Carolina Masonic Foundation helped me get here, and stay here," says Phillips, who moved in after Barbara, his wife of 56 years, died.

The couple at the time were living with their youngest son, Joe. After Barbara passed away, Joe suggested to his dad that he apply to move into WhiteStone.

"Both Joe and his wife worked, and if something happened to me, they couldn't be with me all day," Al says. "This was a perfect solution."

He moved in and soon found new friends and grew a deep appreciation for the brethren and their families

whose donations made his stay possible.

Al became a Master Mason in November 1977 and was a member of Guilford #656. He is a Past Master of Guilford and is the inaugural Master of MESH #771. He also has been a member of the Greensboro Valley Scottish Rite since 1978. In 1979, he joined the York Rite. He worked hard and received the Knights York Court of Honor.

Because of their exemplary service to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Al and Barbara were honored with the Grand Cross of Color in 1983. Because of Al's commitment to his Scottish Rite valley, he was granted Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 1993. In 2001, he was given the Order of the Purple Cross as an Associate Regent, the highest honor given by the York Rite College. In 2003, Al explored and became a member with the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina. After eight years, Al was elected as Grand High Priest in 2011 and was also honored with the Knight Grand York Cross of Honor.

Al is also a member of the Shrine and the Past Master's unit. In addition, Al also served as Chapter Dad for the Greensboro Chapter Order of DeMolay in 1980.

Al is not a man who misses a



chance to give back.

After years of hard Masonic work, he again joined his brethren in creating the new MESH #771 lodge at WhiteStone. The lodge meets on the second Saturday of each month, which allows those who can't drive at night to come during daylight and is a good time for fellow WhiteStone Masons to join. Visitors, including Grand Line officers, attend regularly. They have some 75 members now, and expect more to join.

This lodge does other things a little differently, he said. Because there's no overhead – no lodge to build or maintain – dues are gathered and divided between the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and the WhiteStone employee fund, a collection that offers a little financial help to the workers who care so well for residents at WhiteStone. As time goes

by, some of that money will also be donated to the new Masonic and Eastern Star Outreach Program.

Al credits the lodge's wardens, Eddie Moody and Gene Lewellyn, among others for making this lodge special – MESH #771 was named a Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence for 2017.

He loves living and making a difference at WhiteStone.

"There is so much to do for people in homes like this," he says. "But you have to make an effort."

He spends much of his time calling on his fellow Masons at WhiteStone to make sure they know they are welcome at lodge.

"A lodge is not one person," he says. "The master happens to be the one who sets the direction but if you have good people in the room, you have a real gift." ♠



# WhiteStone's leader gets new role with management group

Mark Kolada, executive director of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, has been promoted to director of Operations Management for *Life Care Services*, WhiteStone's management company. But he won't be leaving WhiteStone or Greensboro.

In his new role, Kolada will continue to oversee operations at WhiteStone along with five other LCS-managed retirement communities. Kolada's region will be in the Southeast.

"I am excited at the unique opportunity to help serve other retirement communities within LCS, however WhiteStone will always be my home," he said. "I am very pleased to still be able play a significant part in helping to manage WhiteStone's future growth and development."

Kolada takes over the position from Eric Dudasko of Indianapolis, who served the community for five years.



He makes the move with the full support and blessing of WhiteStone's board.

"We are most appreciative of Eric's guidance and support during a critical time in WhiteStone's recent history, however with Brother Mark filling this important role it gives us another person in the organization who we know and trust, and

who will also have greater capacity to support WhiteStone. It's truly a win/win for all involved," said board Chairman Gene Jernigan, Past Grand Master.

Worthy Grand Matron Helen Lentz shared the optimism.

"Mark has worked very hard on behalf of our home and has the complete support of all of the Sisters and Brothers in Eastern Star," she said.

The transition will take effect Jan. 1, 2018. A new executive director will be recruited.

"I am looking forward to working with the board, LCS, residents, and management team to recruit a qualified candidate. It is a wonderful opportunity at a truly special place," Kolada said.

He added that he will continue to live in Greensboro and serve as a fraternal liaison. He also expects to maintain his current role as secretary of MESH #771 and Worthy Patron of MESH #379.

## MHCO SAVE THE DATE

### NOVEMBER 10

MHCO Board of Directors Meeting

### NOVEMBER 22

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

### DECEMBER 9

Orphans Lodge Meeting and Masonic Christmas Luncheon

### DECEMBER 10

Annual Christmas Candlelight Service

### DECEMBER 14

Annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Party

Keep up with the latest at <http://mhc-oxford.org/>

## MESSAGE, from page 5

Craft that our concern with secrecy has prevented the public from knowing or appreciating the beautiful moral and philosophical teachings we espouse. We own that; however, I believe we have evolved to a point that we may actually assist in helping heal the vicious, cruel, and oppressive situation our state, nation, and world now endures by just openly and freely practicing what we preach: friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

When we serve the public by laying cornerstones and dedicating buildings, courthouses, university buildings, and other significant edifices in our culture, we are practicing what we preach.

When we do our charitable work to make life better for victims of burns, crippling conditions, blindness, speech and hearing issues, we

practice what we preach.

When we care for children and for the elderly we practice what we preach.

When we lead blood drives and food drives, we practice what we preach.

In so doing, we strive to be peacemakers assisting our communities within the due bounds of civil law, respect for one another, and the mutual benefit of all.

True Masons from every part of North Carolina are troubled by the rise of anger, hate, and violence brought on by many causes that continue to divide our communities, state, nation, and world.

**"We strive to be peacemakers assisting our communities within the due bounds of civil law, respect for one another, and mutual benefit for all."**

Accordingly, we do not condone the hostile hate speech and angry actions of anyone that destroys people and property.

It is not now, nor will it ever be our approach to a better world.

As Grand Master, I remind our 36,000 members in our 370 lodges that we are accountable to the

obligations assumed and that our task is to make the world a better place through friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

In this time of angry, hateful, and even fanatical episodes in religion and politics, forget not your various duties and obligations that you, as

a Mason, have heard so frequently inculcated and so forcibly recommended in the lodge.

Remember that EVERY human being has a claim on God's kind offices.

Do good unto all.

Spend more time listening for God than listening to others. Spend more time in silence than speaking.

Together, we can accomplish great things. Divided, we accomplish nothing. We want a better world and we have gone to work to make it happen.

May God bless every human being and lead us to continue to learn, to subdue our passions, and to improve ourselves in Masonry as we connect with our communities until peace and harmony prevails and "every moral and social virtue cements us." ❖





Michael Harding photos

The 230th Annual Communication ended in good order with the closing charge and everyone on the level.



You never know when the Grand Master will create one of his famous his videos. He surprises Easter Star Worthy Matron Helen Lentz with an interview on stage at Annual Communication.



Junior Grand Deacon Larry B. Thompson Jr., and Senior Grand Deacon R. David Wicker Jr.



The best part of Annual Communication? Spending time swapping stories with your brothers.

## ANNUAL, from page 2

As he concluded his remarks and moved the agenda of Annual Communication forward, he reminded brothers of the work they came to Winston-Salem to do.

“It is time for this Annual Communication to get the job we came here to do done. Let us not hesitate. Let us have no reservations. Let us have no evasion of dealing with what we need to and must address. Accordingly brethren, let’s go to work.”

On that to-do list was the annual budget. That item, a budget reporting a deficit of almost \$50,000, brought the longest round of conversation from the floor.

Hopes were high that Amendment 8, a per capita increase, would cover that deficit but its failure to pass leaves the budget with the deficit. After much discussion, the budget ultimately passed.

Voting on 13 code amendments proposed for consideration was robust. Some 353 lodges presented credentials for ballots this year, compared to 344 last year. As of 2017, there are 370 lodges currently under charter from the N.C. Grand Lodge. Members of the Credentials Committee said trends over recent years suggest more lodges are arriving earlier and participating longer during the overall session.

Brothers approved seven amendments and rejected five. (See amendments list on page 9.) A proposed amendment to allow suspension of a member charged with a crime but not yet adjudicated in criminal court was withdrawn.

Special guests were recognized periodically during the sessions, but one particularly famous one got to hang around a bit. William Richardson Davie, portrayed by Andy Hicklin of Wendell #565, visited brethren and even sat in the East for a while.

Those in need were not forgotten during the session. Responding to calls from Grand Master Cobb and

the Masonic Services Association, brothers contributed \$20,000 from their own pockets to help Masonic victims of the hurricanes that devastated much of Texas and Florida.

The Board of General Purposes voted to add another \$10,000 to the donation from the Grand Lodge charity budget.

And for the second year in a row, lodges brought cans of food for the hungry. Last year’s “Masons Can” drive – brothers were asked to bring 10 cans of food or \$10 – was wildly successful. Brothers donated about 2,200 pounds of food this year and cash donations hit just above \$3,000. ♠



# How did the various code amendments for 2017 fare?

Results of the amendments proposed for the 2017 Annual Communication. Grand Master Gene Cobb provided the commentary.



## Amendment Group 1

Allows the Board of Custodians to elect officers after the installation of the Grand Master.

*Commentary: "This one passed overwhelmingly, because it made good sense to help the board to do what they needed to be able to do."*



## Amendment Group 2

Clarifies editorial control of Grand Lodge news and information through The North Carolina Mason and other forms of publication.

*Commentary: "This passed overwhelmingly, too. It clarifies editorial control and the role of the Board of Publications in light of the hiring of a new editor and new editorial policies being created in the NC Mason. It also updates our mission to incorporate new ways to communicate with members."*



## Amendment Group 3

This amendment would have allowed a lodge to open on the First Degree and conduct its business.

*Commentary: "This failed because it did not reach the required two-thirds majority vote. We have been doing business on the Third Degree for so many years, but many years ago, in William Richardson Davie's time, they always did business on the First Degree. I'd like to have subordinate lodges feel free to try this if they wish."*



## Amendment Group 4

This amendment would have allowed a lodge to charge a late fee on unpaid dues after March 31.

*Commentary: "This was a way to prompt brothers to pay their dues in a more timely manner. The Grand Master urges everyone to work hard to pay their dues and per capita on time."*



## Amendment Group 5

This amendment closed certain loopholes by requiring the conduct of background checks for those seeking Advancement, Restoration after Exclusion, Restoration after Demitting or Affiliation after two years.

*Commentary: "This passed overwhelmingly. I thank Past Grand Master Webster for his outstanding leadership as he continues to remind us all that we must guard the west gate, not just with initiates but with those who are affiliated."*



## Amendment Group 6

Codifying the Grand Lodge Committee on Personnel, which has functioned since 2013 as an ad hoc committee.

*Commentary: "I appreciate Grand Master Webster bringing this to the floor; I have been working on it as well personally for the last five years. Until now, there has been no formal way to present guidance or support for the Grand Secretary and his work to supervise and manage the Grand Lodge staff. There was no team to make sure reviews were done, or compensation and benefits issues being properly addressed."*



## Amendment Group 7

Allows the Grand Master to dispense with the reading of minutes of any lodge communication he closes in ample form.

*Commentary: "This was just a simple acceptance of what we've all been doing for years!"*



## Amendment Group 8

This amendment would have increased the per capita amount by \$5 to \$25 per member.

*Commentary: "I'm not sure why this failed but it clearly did. I called for a written ballot on this to be absolutely sure. It did not get the two-thirds majority required. I think this issue will come up again. It has to. The last per capita increase we approved allowed us to cover operating expenses for up to three years. This year, we had to pass a budget with almost a \$50,000 deficit. A per capita increase would have covered that deficit. I did promise the brethren that next year, the budget they receive to review for a vote at Annual Communication will include actual expenses for the year."*



## Amendment Group 9 and Group 10

Group 9 would have stopped the purchase of new Endowed Memberships. Group 10 would have created in its place a new type of lifetime membership, Legacy Membership.

*Commentary: "We voted on both amendments together. I'm very sure the reason this failed was because most folks don't want to pay that high an amount for a program that is beneficial to a lodge, rather than to the individual member. I hope we can look at this again and simplify it. It's a great idea. We just weren't ready for it yet."*



## Amendment Group 11

This amendment modifies the order of business for a lodge business meeting.

*Commentary: "I think we need to give subordinate lodges as much decision-making responsibility on their own terms as we can. I think they need to have the freedom to do business in whatever way is most healthy and effective way for them. I really do appreciate lodges who do that; they are among our best lodges in the state. This method has been tried and is proven to increase efficiency in meetings."*



## Amendment Group 12

This amendment makes the Senior and Junior Grand Deacon chairmen of the Committees for WhiteStone and Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

*Commentary: "This was just codifying something we've been doing."*



## Amendment Group 13

Its purpose is to "suspend" membership of a member who has been charged with a crime but has yet to be adjudicated in criminal court.

*Commentary: "I directed the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence to table this. It never came up for discussion or vote on the floor. It will come up again next year, unless the lodge that proposed it pulls it or Jurisprudence rules it out of order. I tabled it because it came in after the Dec. 31 deadline (all code amendments must be submitted by Dec. 31 to be voted on at the following Annual Communication), and I knew it would not get unanimous consent (amendments not meeting that December deadline must get unanimous consent to go to the floor for a vote). I remind lodges that the earlier you get code amendments in to the Grand Secretary, the better. Make sure you get confirmation of their receipt from the Grand Lodge to ensure you meet the deadline."*



# TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## KANNAPOLIS

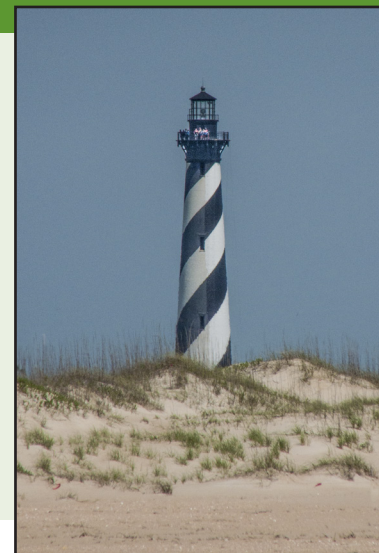
Brothers from Cannon Memorial #626 visited Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8989 to show thanks and appreciation, present coffee and muffins, and present an award of recognition to the local VFW. Post Commander Tony Gullledge accepted the award.



## KERNERSVILLE

More than 30 veterans attended a special ceremony hosted in July by Kernersville #669 honoring their service. Veterans gathered at the local Veterans of Foreign Wars building for hamburgers and hot dogs.

## NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲ **ELIZABETH CITY** – Eureka #317 brothers Gerald Rollinson (left) and Thomas Hobbs were among the 1st Masonic District brothers who came together to hold a two-location spaghetti fundraising dinner. Sales at Eureka lodge and at Gatesville #126 totaled 682 plates for a net profit of \$5,235. The proceeds will be used to continue the corn barn restoration at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. The restoration began many years ago when members of the 1<sup>st</sup> District added lights to the building. The money raised this summer will pay for repairs to the side wall.



▲ **DURHAM** – A lot of fellowship and a day on the links helped the brethren of Fellowship #687 raise thousands of dollars for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Tournament Chairman Worshipful Brother Joseph P. Hackett, left, presents a check from the lodge's 28<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament for MHCO to Brother Chris Richardson, eastern region development director of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

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 from 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.



▲ **RALEIGH** – Twelve workers representing James B. Green #735 staffed a morning shift at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. This is the second year the lodge has volunteered to help the food bank, which provides 70 million pounds of food each year to 34 counties. The shift workers bagged 27,000 pounds of produce – enough to provide 22,737 individual meals.





▲ **CONOVER** – The brothers of Conover #709 knew they had a hit with their first car show in July when they got more than double the number of cars they expected. The lodge’s first of what they hope will be an annual car show offered 105 cars for inspection, and brothers raised almost \$4,000 — to be donated to WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community and the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

**Print or online?**

If you’re reading this, you are more than likely reading it on the paper version of the Mason that arrives in your mail every other month. But we know there are many brothers who are reading this via the online version, which is posted bright and early on the first day of each month we publish.

First off – thanks for reading The Mason – in any form! We are happy to bring it to all in both forms for as long as there are brothers out there who read the paper.

But for those who prefer online reading and don’t want to get a paper version in the mail, we’re offering you the chance to save a tree and some postage. To stop the mailed paper, send an email to [ncmason@glnc.com](mailto:ncmason@glnc.com) with your name, lodge and the words: “OPT OUT.” That’s all you need to do.

# MILEPOSTS

## Recent service awards reported to The Mason

**50 Years**

- Donald L. Brewer, Biscoe #437
- Samuel Rigsbee, St. John’s #4
- William Waddell, Catawba Valley #217
- Thomas Edward McBride, Kilwinning #64

**60 Years**

- Ralph G. Keith, St. John’s #4
- Robert Pruett, Catawba Valley #217
- Bob Schafer, J.J. Crowder #743
- Warren Lee Smith, Unanimity #7



▲ **WINDSOR** – Brother Frank Adams, second from right, celebrates his 100th birthday, surrounded by his Charity #5 brothers, left to right, Keith Phelps, Master Haywood White, and Butch Hassell. Adams, the lodge’s oldest and longest-serving member, was the Eastern North Carolina Golden Gloves Champion in 1937 and played football for Wake Forest University.



◀ Clemmons #755 enjoyed a lecture by Brother Chris Richardson, eastern region development director of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. Richardson also presented Past Master Larry Holloman with a plaque thanking him for the many years of dedicated service on the board of directors for the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Pictured l-r are: DDGM Jon Canupp, Brothers Chris Richardson, Larry Holloman, Neal Johnson and George Powers.



# Scenes from Annual Communication



Grand Tyler William Bruton at his post.



Steve Norris, right, will serve the Grand Lodge next year as Junior Grand Steward.



Photos by Michael Harding



Above: Members had a chance to voice their opinions on the various code amendments.



Right: Collecting ballots.



# Gresham family counts their blessings after devastating fire

By Carolyn Gresham

Editor's Note: Carolyn Gresham is Scott's mother, and the wife of Past Grand Master Bob Gresham.

On Aug. 22 at about 7:30 a.m., the phone rang at our beach house.

It was our son Scott. He had trouble as he tearfully told his dad, "Our house just burned to the ground. The only thing left standing is the chimney."

Scott and two of his three sons are members of Albemarle #703, along with Scott's dad, Past Grand Master Bob Gresham. They all love Masonry and what it stands for.

Tanner is in the Army and stationed at Fort Bragg. Alex is a sophomore at East Carolina University. He is the newest Mason in the family, raised on July 3. He knew that when he turned 18, he would become a Mason – and that he did.

Let's get back to this story.

Scott's family was staying at Bob and Carolyn Gresham's house while they were getting their floors refinished. Perhaps an explosion caused by the fumes from solvents and varnish caused the fire.

Scott, Stephanie and Sam, their youngest son, were sleeping soundly as their home burned to the ground.

The house was engulfed in flames

by the time the first responder, a forest firefighter, arrived. He was sure Scott's family had perished in this massive fire because the entire roof structure was gone, and



Scott Gresham and family, safe and sound.

Scott's car was outside of the garage, burning.

Such a scene, but a very different ending.

We are so thankful and blessed that the smell of floor finishing materials caused them to leave that house.

This is the part that Scott and Bob would like to share with other Masons.

They lost everything related

to Masonry: three white leather aprons, two Masonic rings (Tanner was wearing his) and three Masonic Bibles.

After the fire was extinguished, Scott and the boys took a shovel and started to poke around a little in the ashes. They found some burned-out guns, a tiny burnt baby shoe and a Masonic Bible. We don't know whose it was because the Bible was burned around the edges and the cover.

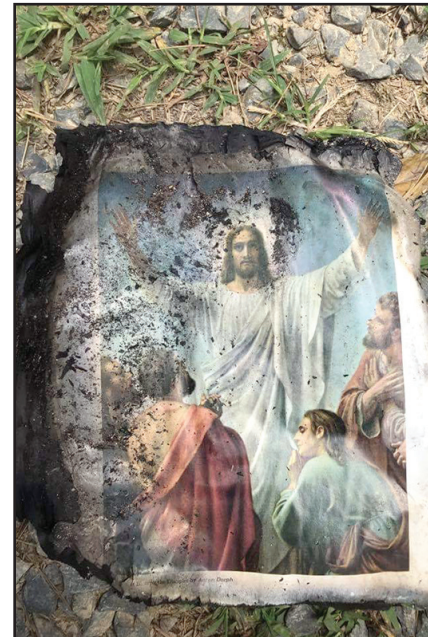
As they opened it, the first thing they saw was a picture of Christ with outstretched arms.

This was a moment they will never forget. Was this a sign or promise from God? They think it was there for a reason. It has certainly given the Gresham family comfort.

**UPDATE:** When asked if brothers could offer any help to him or his family, here's what Scott Gresham said:

"We are fine. We are now settled in a furnished rental house, we have some clothes, friends have helped out and insurance money will be coming soon.

"We are so thankful to have jobs and food on the table. If anyone wants to do something, please chose a lodge or lodges in Texas, Florida or Puerto Rico or help those folks. They are in worse shape than my family."



A sign? The Greshams lost three Masonic Bibles in the fire. They found the remains of one, and opened it to this image.



Firefighters worried the family was still inside when they saw the car burning outside.



WM Bill Faison, Artist Courtney Faison, Senior Warden Bruce Gordon, Artist Assistant Luke Grasty.

## Restored lodge columns bringing history alive

Historic Eagle Lodge No. 19 in Hillsborough was built in 1823 with funds from a raffle authorized by the General Assembly. Its officer chairs were placed in the Lodge in the 1850s, but no one seems to know when the columns arrived. The wooden columns are fitted together in segments with a dowel system, suggesting an 1800s origin.

The columns are one of the centerpieces of lodges. Eagle's columns had become dull and lackluster over the years and the brethren voted for restoration. Two brothers anonymously donated the cost of restoration. Artists were sought and quotes obtained. Local artist Courtney Faison was commissioned to undertake resto-

ration, which began with removing what seemed to be centuries of bronze paint, revealing the underlying wood.

The painting process was meticulous and time-consuming.

The finished product reveals a new depth and the ancient columns are now clothed in hues of paint symbolic of the ancient times.



*The Grand Historian's Courier Case*

# The stories behind one lodge's namesakes

*By Stephen Campbell  
Grand Historian*

On Aug. 7, 2017, your Grand Historian had the honor and pleasure of presenting to Johnston-Caswell #10 portraits of the lodge's namesakes. Our 10th oldest lodge has a long history, and its members continue to keep the flame of masonry aglow in Warren County.

## Samuel Johnston 1733-1816

He entered the world in 1733 near Dundee, Scotland, and at age 3 immigrated to America with his parents and uncle, Royal Gov. Gabriel Johnston, to the colony of North Carolina. The family was upper-tier, whereupon Samuel received his education through tutors and college.

He studied law and passed the bar, becoming a licensed attorney. Moving to the Edenton area, Johnston's political career skyrocketed. He would purchase Hayes Plantation and wed Frances Cathcart, resulting in the birth of three daughters (Penelope, Frances, and Helen) and one son (James). As the turbulent times between the colonies and the Mother Country continued to brew, Brother Samuel, a thus far loyal British subject, directed his energies to the cause of liberty.

His service in North Carolina's Provisional Congress, coupled with early military action (Moore's Creek) would result in

Royal Gov. Josiah Martin fleeing the colony and, even though North Carolina had no state constitution, Samuel became the de facto governor for two years.

His commitment – politically, personally and financially – to establishing a new nation cannot be denied. The eight-year War of American Independence was long, bitter and destructive. Continued service to his state found Brother Samuel serving as the state's governor three times, striving to establish the nation's first public institution of higher learning (University of North Carolina), and becoming the state's first U.S. senator.

His Masonic career began in Royal Edwin #5 in Windsor, and Unanimity #9 in Edenton. On Dec. 12, 1787, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was established in Tarboro and Brother Johnston was elected to become the first Grand Master; it was a position he would hold thrice more.

Samuel Johnston's life would end in its 83rd year on Aug. 8, 1816, at his home, Hayes Plantation in Edenton, where he was laid to rest in the family cemetery.

## Richard Caswell 1729-1789

He was born near Joppa, Maryland, in 1729 and attended a nearby parish school. Moving to North Carolina at 17, he received an appointment as Royal Gov. Gabriel Johnston's secretary (Samuel Johnston's uncle). At the same time, the enterprising young man became a surveyor and was appointed the state's Deputy Surveyor General.

He studied law and became an attorney. Displaying military leadership skills, Caswell would command Royal Militia troops, which suppressed the Regulator movement in 1771. With his talent for politics, military and legal affairs, Caswell was well known throughout North Carolina.

He wed Mary Mackilwean, had three children, and moved into Harmony Hall in Kingston (today's Kinston). When Mary unexpectedly died, he wed Susannah Moore, ushering in the birth of 11 more children.

As the relationship between the colonies and England frayed, Brother Richard would serve in all five North Carolina Congresses, as well as in the first and second Continental Congresses in Philadelphia.

Royal Gov. Josiah Martin, soon to flee, would say that Caswell was "a most active tool of sedition."

He was appointed Brigadier General in the North Carolina Militia. His leadership resulted in the American victory at Moore's Creek.

By 1777, the state's first constitution was penned and Richard Caswell became the first governor. After three terms, he returned to military service, then again entered into the political arena.

Few, if any, men raised more awareness, money, troops, or support for liberty. John Adams would say of him: "He was a model man. We always looked to Caswell for North Carolina."

He would serve as governor five times. Between 1784 and 1789, he would suffer the loss of two sons, a daughter, his mother, sister, and two brothers as a result of yellow fever and other diseases.

His Masonic journey began in 1754, whereupon he was re-obligated in 1772 at St. John's Lodge #3 in New Bern. He would serve as our Grand Lodge's first Deputy Grand Master and then as our second Grand Master.

On Nov. 8, 1789, while serving as Speaker of the NC Senate in Fayetteville, Brother Caswell suffered a stroke and died two days later. He was afforded a Masonic funeral in Fayetteville, and his remains were returned to Kinston where he was laid to rest.





# WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Turner, Luke William	St John's	1	Buffkin, Zachary Brett	Lebanon	207	Yontz, David Lee	French Broad	292	Spragins, Donald Huckstep	Royal Hart	497
Chabrier-Montijo, Christopher	Phoenix	8	Czartoszewski, Walter	Lebanon	207	Robinson, Bobby Allen	Pleasant Hill	304	Whitener, Aaron Brent	Cookville	502
Gray, Jody Clarence	Caswell Brotherhood	11	Crotts, Matthew Landon	Catawba Valley	217	Smith, Brandon Michael	Pleasant Hill	304	Haag, Edward Sean	Rodgers	525
Kylander, Joshua David	Caswell Brotherhood	11	Loudermilk, Andrew Thomas	Mystic Tie	237	Holcomb, Kevin Douglas	Eureka	317	Haseltine, Christopher Todd	Keller	542
Tuck, Michael Cody	Eagle	19	Driggers, Joshua Adam	Pythagoras	249	Logsdon, Frederick Charles	Eureka	317	Carrasco Jr, Julio Manuel	Richlands	564
Ralph, Patrick Carl	Hiram	40	Ferguson, Michael Everett	Pythagoras	249	Pinckney, Jerome Emmett	Wilmington	319	Dail, Kenneth Chase	Ionic	583
Jones, Linwood Tyler	Zion	81	Hewett, Timothy Glenn	Pythagoras	249	Hardwick, Jerry Rudolph	Durham	352	Murray, Colton Kristopher	Cannon Memorial	626
Laur, Carter Lafitte	Lafayette	83	Sellers, Chadwick Lee	Pythagoras	249	Cook, John Travis	Bakersville	357	Peeler, Justin Michael	Keller Memorial	657
Ramirez II, Justo Antonio	Lafayette	83	Huffstetler, Adam Taylor	Excelsior	261	Woody, Adam Wyatt	Bakersville	357	Nelson, Jonathan Mark	Washington	675
Millwood, Brian Edward	Western Star	91	Kotula, Mark Andrew	Excelsior	261	Guffey, Robert David	Forest City	381	Haynes, Travis Ray	Piedmont-Pioneer	685
Chalk, Andrew Blake	Franklinton	123	Burns, James Shannon	Hibriten	262	Nanney Jr, Thomas Wayne	Friendship	388	Eplin, Levi David	Gate City	694
Goswick, Jacob Dillon	Franklinton	123	Carpenter, Jeremy Brian	Hibriten	262	Nanney, Adam Duncan	Friendship	388	Loumiotis Jr, Peter Theodore	Asheboro	699
Washington, Richard Kelly	Franklinton	123	Everhart, Robert Raymond	Hibriten	262	Richie, Randolph Hendrix	Lebanon	391	Brown, George Daniel	Garner	701
Barefoot, Seth Elliot	Palmyra	147	Wimbish Jr, Carey Dickson	Hibriten	262	Francis, Robert Johnson	Lebanon	391	Gresham, Alexander Bradley	Albemarle	703
Swaringen, Bradley Eugene	Pee Dee	150	Grindstaff, Douglas Michael	Gaston	263	Flynn, Brian Keith	Cliffside	460	Chappell, Mark Alan	Forsyth	707
Hart, William Joe	Sanford	151	Keyes, Jonathon Adrian	Gaston	263	McCranie, Jeffrey Lewis	Cliffside	460	Chavez, Carlos Gustavo	Crown Point	708
Baker, Charles William	Yadkin	162	Curtiss, Kevin Edward	Farmington	265	Tataragasi, Kenan Haluk	Matthews	461	Walker, Jesse Norwood	Crown Point	708
Leonard Jr, James Richard	Yadkin	162	Gentry, James Andrew	Tabasco	271	Cope, Michael Perry	Lexington Memorial	473	Moore, Michael Todd	Conover	709
Poits, Mark Andrew	Yadkin	162	Hogan, Harvey Theodore	Tabasco	271	Gleason, Stephen James	Lexington Memorial	473	Baker, Gregory Benjamin	New River	736
Whitt, Jeffrey Brian	Blackmer	170	McVey, Clarkston Forrest	Tabasco	271	Shuffler, Edward Scott	Lexington Memorial	473	Norman, Allen Keith	P P Turner	746
Reeves, Nathaniel Jordan	Carthage	181	Randolson, Mark Arthur	Beaver Dam	276	Lavelly, Evan Alexander	Southern Pines	484	Wiggs, William Eugene	P P Turner	746
Duncan, Justin Michael	Granite	191	Lyseski, Brandon Lewis	Eureka	283	Northen, Matthew Brian	Southern Pines	484	McManus, Jason Ryan	Truth	749
Lewis, Bradley	Granite	191	Elder, Christopher Mark	Salem	289	Frye, Joey Thomas	Thomas M. Holt	492	Szykula, Toby Edward	Denver	757
Giesecking, Paul Edward	Cleveland	202	Vance, Lucas Allen	Salem	289	Putman, David Virgil	Thomas M. Holt	492	Overman, Joshua Matthew	Oak Island	758
Soloway, Mark Burton	Cleveland	202	Cutshall, Kevin Dean	French Broad	292	Schroeder, Benjamin Matthew	Royal Hart	497	Poulos, Theodore George	Sophia	767

## Look to the East – and photograph your letter G

### Send us your photo by Dec. 1

It's impossible to miss. When you visit any lodge in the state it's right there.

The letter G.

It seems that no two are alike. They come in wood and metal. Some are illuminated with old-time lightbulbs and some are neon. But each is special and reflects the personality of its lodge, and most have stories behind them.

Next year, the Grand Lodge and the North Carolina Masonic Foundation are going to showcase letter Gs from around the state in a project for charity. We've photographed lots of them – a few are seen here – but we need your help.

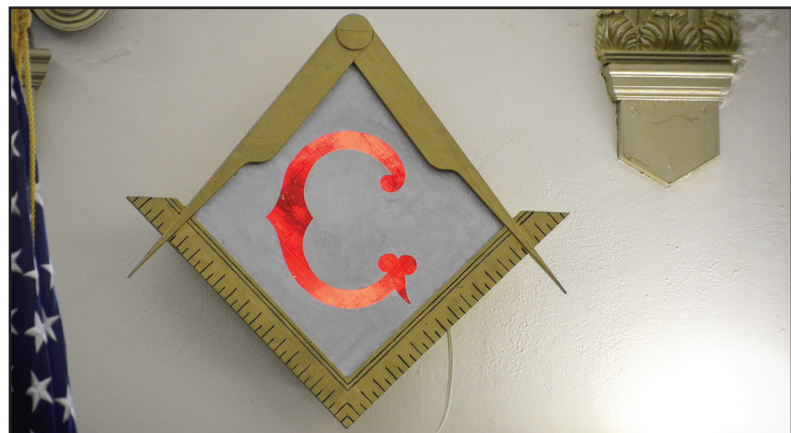
Is your letter G ready for its close-up? If so, shoot a picture and send it to us.

Here's what we need:

- Shoot a *real* photo — we need high-resolution jpeg, not a Smartphone shot — that is at least 300 dpi and sized at 8x10.
- Get up close to the G, shoot head-on, not looking up.
- If your G lights up or has a light that shines on it, turn the light on. The letter will show up much better that way.

Email your best photo **by Dec.1** to Mason Editor/NCMF Director of Communications Beth Grace at [bgrace@glnc.us](mailto:bgrace@glnc.us). Include your name and the name of your lodge.

We can't promise we'll use every picture but we'll use as many as we can. And look for news in the Mason and on Facebook about this project – maybe with a photo of your lodge's letter G – in the new year.







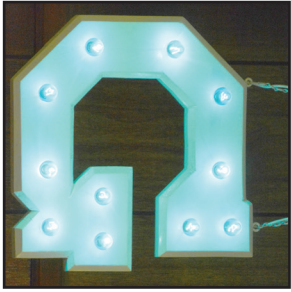
page 3

Speed Hallman elected  
North Carolina's next  
Grand Master



page 4

Painting signs of a life  
dedicated to Masonry



page 15

Send us photos of  
your lodge's "G"

*On the cover*

A special guest joined GM  
Gene Cobb at the 230th  
Annual Communication, William  
Richardson Davie, as portrayed by  
Andy Hicklin of Wendell #565.  
Photo by Michael Harding

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

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

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