

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

Volume 145 Number 1

Oxford, North Carolina

January/February 2020

Installations bring new faces, ideas to North Carolina lodges

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

All officer installations within the Craft are special. A brother never forgets that moment when he is invested with the implement of his office.

This winter, as always, lodges from Murphy to Manteo, from Charlotte to Chapel Hill, from Wilmington to Wilkesboro, installed their officers with fanfare, brotherly love and, in many cases, a hearty meal afterward.

Some lodges took the ceremony a bit farther. They made a statement, beyond the routine ascension of the line.

At Charles M. Setzer #693 in Charlotte, brothers added some new elements to create what they called an “Installation and Celebration of the Universality of Masonry.”

The installation was scheduled for Jan. 18, the eve of World Religion Day, an international interfaith celebration that calls for members of all religions in the world to recognize that all religions have common spiritual goals.

“We wanted to recognize and celebrate diversity in religion, race and thought,” says newly installed Master Kenneth Lambert. “We included various religious texts on the altar, in addition to the Christian Bible, and we invited representa-

tives of other religions and races to join us.” Other books included the Bhagavad Gita, The Quran and the written Torah.

Grand Steward Mike Register, the installing



master, welcomed the crowd and explained how things work. For those who have never attended an installation, he explained, things can be a little confusing. For example – the knocking. One knock of the gavel means come to order. Three

knocks is the signal for everyone to stand. He told those gathered to keep an eye on the hats. Whoever wears the hat in lodge is in charge.

Brother Mike Trest of James K. Polk #759 opened the ceremony with a Hebrew blessing.

*May Adonai bless you and guard you
May Adonai make his face shine unto you
and be gracious to you*

*May Adonai lift up his face to you and give to you
peace.*

He also explained that while he is not Jewish, he is a member of “the global family of Masons, a believer in one God ... creator of the universe.” He added that he is comfortable speaking in Hebrew, English, German and a few other languages.

“The point is that all who honor a supreme being are welcome here,” he said.

Brothers also invited the National Sojourners to deliver a “Toast to the Flag,” and Prince Hall Brother Jake Drisker served as installing chaplain.

Historian Stephen Campbell of Blackmer #127 addressed the gathering, reminding brothers of the words of great Masons of the past. Several members of DeMolay International assisted in the ceremony, escorting brothers into the lodge. Their own installation was held right after the

■ see INSTALLATIONS page 2

Across the state, lodges are installing their new officers with fanfare — and a twist or two. Above is from Charles M. Setzer #693 with various holy texts on the altar. At right, the officers of Mount Hermon #118 prepare for installation.



INSTALLATIONS, from page 1

end of the Setzer lodge event.

Many installations were special, but among those that stood out was the installation of officers at Sophia #767. Clad in black tie and kilts with the family tartan, brothers were installed by Installing Master Senior Grand Warden Larry Thompson.

Brothers celebrated in style that evening at their second annual Burns Night dinner, complete with haggis and bagpipes.

In other formal events and rituals of the season, one lodge made history.

Kernersville 669 organized a First Degree for three young petitioners and invited Shaun Bradshaw, Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, and Daniel L. "DT" Thompson, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Together, both grand masters welcomed the young men and spent some time with brothers in what is believed to be a first – a degree attended by the two sitting Grand Masters in North Carolina. ⚡



Newly installed Charles M. Setzer #693 Master Kenneth Lambert pauses to thank Grand Steward Michael Register, right, for presiding as installing officer.

Photo by Beth Grace



Cary Lodge #198



A sample of installations of lodge officers for 2020

Top: Wilson Lodge #712

Above: Catawba Lodge #248

Right: Prometheus UD



Fundraiser approval going paperless

Changes made in procedures, personnel, email address for Grand Lodge committee

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

It's a new year and with it comes some new rules and a new team to oversee fundraisers that subordinate lodges hold across North Carolina.

As of January, there are new committee members and special assistants in place, a one-stop email address, a required event tracking/approval number and coming soon – a presence on the Grand Lodge web page for quick-lookup info such as code references, state and federal law, all forms, email address, team member biographies and the committee's mission statement. The NC Masonic Foundation web page also will include a handy link for lodges to follow to the Grand Lodge page.

New team members are Chairman Charles Barrett and committee members Chris Hall and Jeff York. Special assistants to help lodges and the committee out are:

Robert Rideout, firearms consultant; Jim Medlin, fundraising presentations for Wilkerson College and speakers bureau; and Grand Master Shaun Bradshaw, consultant.

The changes come for a couple of reasons. First, it gives Brother Jim Medlin, who has handled most of the duties of the Subordinate Lodge Special Activities Commission for years, some time of his own to travel, have fun and get involved in other things, Brother Barrett said.

"Jim will still be part of this committee and will take on some new duties in this format," he said. "But now, instead of one hard-working person answering all the questions, we'll do it in rotation. That helps groom new members each year to handle the paperwork and questions that are always involved. The special assistants will be on call to answer questions in their areas of expertise."

Here's what lodges interested in

staging fundraisers need to do under the new rules:

First: Send all inquiries and correspondence to this new email address: glnc.slsac@gmail.com. If you don't have email, send US mail to the Grand Lodge. Note: Jim Medlin will be cutting off the email account he was using soon, so start using the new address as soon as possible.

"The committee member on board will get back to you when you email," Barrett says. "So instead of just one person, we'll have more people there to help."

After sending an application (via new forms you can fill out online), the committee will assign each event a tracking/approval number. The committee no longer will send back a signed approval; the tracking number will be all you need. For your records, print out the approval email and/or write it on your copy of the application.

You must put the tracking/approval number on your final report form, which helps the committee match the final report

to the application. Note that the committee no longer will send a confirmation that your final report has been received. A committee member will reach out to you if they don't have the form. You can still file an amended report if you need to make changes to the final report.

All forms are now in PDF format and are fillable online. Old paper forms will no longer be accepted; committee members will send them back to you and ask you to fill out the new form.

The new format saves time and paper, Barrett says. It also ensures that state and federal laws are being followed and that proper insurance is in place. It also spreads the workload among more than just one brother.

"We especially thank Jim Medlin for his many years of service and dedication on this commission," he said. "With these changes in place we can make this transition seamless for the next set of committee members and the set after that and after that."

Grand Master's District Meeting Schedule 2020

DATE	DISTRICT	LODGE	ADDRESS
Feb. 25	22	Caswell Brotherhood 11	986 Firetower Road, Yanceyville
26	8	Johnston-Caswell 10	611 Main St., Warrenton
27	14	J.J. Crowder #743	9920 Falls of the Neuse Rd, Raleigh
March 3	1	New Lebanon 314	Eureka Lodge Bldg., 218 S. Hughes Blvd, Elizabeth City
4	5	Davie 39	105 N. Mitchell St., Ahoskie
5	9	Queen City 602	1700 S. Winstead Ave., Rocky Mount
10	20	Siler City 403	114 S. 3rd Ave., Siler City
11	24	Blackmer 127	109 S. School St., Mt. Gilead
12	28	Sophia 767	401 N. Fulton St., Salisbury
23	12	St. John's 1	4712 Oriole St., Wilmington
24	17	Phoenix 8	221 Mason St., Fayetteville
25	18	St. Alban's 114	600 N. Elm St., Lumberton
31	35	Cleveland 202	1456 E. Marion St., Shelby
April 1	32	Phalanx 31	500 N. Sharon Amity Road, Charlotte
13	40	East La Porte 358	6294 Hwy 107, Culhooee
14	38	Kedron 387	229 5th Ave. W, Hendersonville
15	34	Mystic Tie 237	163 S. Main St., Marion
16	33	Liberty 45	1228 School St., Wilkesboro
20	2	Cape Hatteras 698	48338 Hwy 12, Buxton
21	3	Washington 675	1115 W. 5th St., Washington
30	23	Stokesdale 428	8420 Ellisboro Road, Stokesdale



#WEAREGLNC! If you are using the new hashtag #WeAreGLNC on all your postings about NC Masonry, events and news ... THANK YOU! If you aren't, take a minute to tag your posts with this hashtag. The Public Relations Committee came up with the idea and announced it at Annual Communication last fall. Since then. It has popped up everywhere, making it easier to find stories that have a direct link to how we do Masonry in North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

(USPS 598-260) is published bimonthly by The Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina, 2921 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608.

Third class postage paid at Oxford, NC 27565.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The North Carolina Mason*, School Of Graphic Arts, Masonic Home for Children, Oxford, NC 27565.

Grand Master
P. Shaun Bradshaw

Board Of Publication
Kenneth Wayne Lambert, Chairman
Adam Cloninger
Dwight Decoskey
Stan Dodd
Thomas VanEtten

Editor
Beth Grace

Good quality pictures are essential for suitable reproduction. The right to reject any submission not suitable for use is reserved. Pictures will be returned to the sender only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Email submissions are welcome; high resolution, unaltered JPGs and Rich Text Format documents are preferred. Submissions and other correspondence should be sent to the editor at 2921 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608 or <NCMason@glnc.us>.

Each North Carolina Mason is a subscriber to *The North Carolina Mason*. If you know a member who is not receiving the paper, please send us his full name, his complete address, and the name and number of his lodge. Masonic widows receive *The Mason* free upon request. Subscriptions are available to others at a rate of five dollars per year. Subscription inquiries and address changes only should be sent to: The School of Graphic Arts, Masonic Home for Children, 600 College Street, Oxford, North Carolina 27565.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of *The North Carolina Mason*, the Grand Lodge, or Board of Publication.

Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.....sbradshaw@glnc.us
Deputy Grand Master R. David Wickerdwicker@glnc.us
Senior Grand Warden Larry B. Thompson Jr.....lthompson@glnc.us
Junior Grand Warden Kevan D. Frazier.....kfrazier@glnc.us
Grand Treasurer Lewis R. Ledford (PGM).....lledford@glnc.us
Grand Secretary T. Walton Clapp III.....wclapp@glnc.us
Senior Grand Deacon Donald E. Kehlerdkehler@glnc.us
Junior Grand Deacon Robert W. Rideout.....trideout@glnc.us
Grand Marshal Steve M. Norris.....snorris@glnc.us
Grand Steward Gilbert D. Baileygbailey@glnc.us
Junior Grand Steward Michael A. Registermregister@glnc.us
Judge Advocate James R. Stevens judge.advocate@grandlodge-nc.org
Grand Tyler Gary D. Handy
Assistant Grand Tyler Graham S. Bradshaw
Grand Chaplain Mark M. N. Vickers
Grand Historian Ludwik J. Wodka
Grand Lecturer Christopher L. Wright
Grand Orator Benjamin G. Wallace



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

NCMF has a story to share... and the story is all about you

The very best stories, I have been told by the experts, have these essential elements: great characters, a strong plot, action, conflict and ultimately, a resolution.

Thanks, experts. I am sure you know your stuff, but in my experience, the best stories begin with "Hello."

Story is part of everything we do. When you meet someone, you exchange stories. Where do you live? What do you do? Are you married? Kids? You golf? Me, too! Tell me more.

When you read the paper, you read the story. When some guy cuts you off on the drive home, you charge into the kitchen, ready to tell the tale. A friend does something stupid and you can't wait to tease them by telling everybody in your circle all about it.

I want to tell you a great story ... and it's about you. Seriously. Without you, this story couldn't have happened.

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation in recent weeks shared some interesting numbers with the NCMF board and others, showing how things have progressed in the three years since the board created a plan to restructure and strengthen the way Masons raise money for our charities.

You'll see a full roundup of this information in the next NCMF annual giving report, due out this spring.

But I thought you might want to see how you made a difference in the life of our charities – the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro.

Why you? The foundation works with Masons to raise the funds that support opera-

tions and other costs at our charities every year, freeing those entities to pursue their work, rather than spend 24 hours a day raising funds to stay afloat. Both charities are privately funded ... by you, by brothers who have come before you, going all the way back to 1929, when the NCMF was formed.

Here are some great stats to prove my point. Let's start with the best.

Between 2017 and the end of 2019, your gifts – from checks to annuities to bequests to gifts in memory of someone who changed your life – have grown funding to the foundation by 105 percent. Giving to MHCO and WhiteStone was up as well, at a time when money was tight for everyone.

The NCMF was once the silent partner of our charities. Thanks to dozens and dozens of lodge visits and other appearances by the foundation staff and board members, many of you have a better understanding of what the foundation does and why.

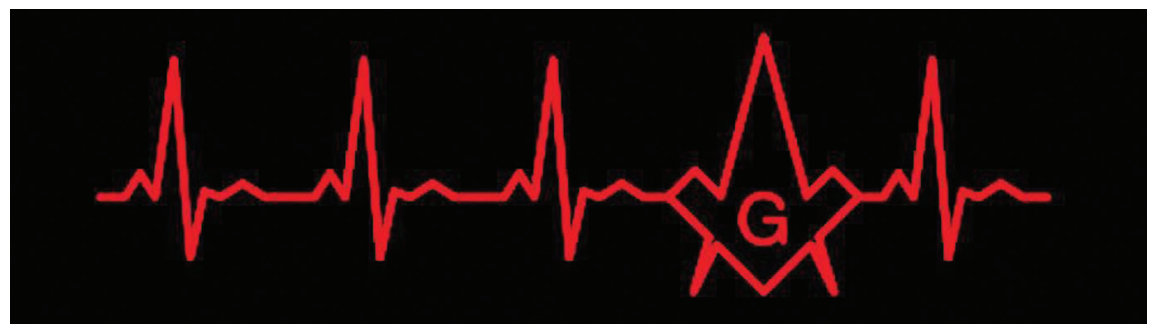
You quadrupled your giving to the Historic Masonic Properties Fund and almost doubled your giving to youth scholarships! You gave generously to the MHCO pool project and are already giving to the Campaign for WhiteStone!

This is a great story. It's YOUR story, and every last brother (and Eastern Star sister) who has given what they can to support these worthy services and causes are the true hero.

Thanks to you, we get to add another element of exceptional storytelling: a happy ending that leads to a new beginning, a renewed Craft-wide dedication to financially supporting our charities.



By Beth Grace
Editor



FROM THE GRAND MASTER



Consider the Tyler's sword

By P. Shaun Bradshaw
Grand Master

As I've traveled throughout the state, many brethren have thanked me for my willingness to speak openly about the esoteric nature of our Craft – bringing it to equal footing with the more frequently discussed fraternal and charitable aspects of the fraternity.

On the other hand, I've heard that some of my brethren aren't quite sure what to make of a Grand Master who is a "Masonic Esotericist." Mostly this seems to stem from a lack of knowledge or a misperception of what Masonic Esotericism is.

Masonic Esotericism is simply the idea that our rituals and symbols hold deeper truths than are readily apparent to the uninitiated. By reflecting on them, we begin to see connections and meanings that may not have resonated with us before.

And, as we come to understand and act on the deeper meanings of our symbols, we can begin to transform ourselves to be "better men."

Let me illustrate this concept with a personal story ...

Some years ago, I was at my lodge's installation of officers, sitting with the other brethren and family members in the audience. As one tends to do in a situation like this, my mind began to wander as the Installing Officer enumerated the duties of each officer in the lodge until he reached the Tyler.

At that point, probably because we were nearing the end, my mind snapped back and I began paying close attention to the ceremony as the Marshal placed the Sword in the Tyler's hands. The Installing Officer explained the practical and symbolic (esoteric) purpose of the sword as follows:

As the sword is placed in the hands of the Tyler to enable him effectually to guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and suffer none to pass or repass, but such as are duly qualified. So it should morally serve as a constant admonition to us; to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenues of our actions, thereby excluding every unqualified and unworthy thought, word,

and deed, and preserving consciences void of offense toward God and man.

As I heard those words, I had a little epiphany. It dawned on me that the symbolism of the Tyler's Sword aligned with a certain part of the second section of the Master Mason's degree. I began to visualize the obstructions that are met when the candidate moves from the altar to the South, West and East gates.

That led me to think about the working tools and actions that occur at each of those obstructions. With that scene fixed in my mind, I considered the idea that there might be a deeper meaning to those obstructions than I had previously understood. What if those obstructions correspond to the idea that I should "place a watch at the door of [my] lips" (throat), "post a sentinel at the avenues of [my] actions" (heart), and "set a guard at the entrance of [my] thoughts" (forehead)? Suddenly these correspondences resonated with me. That is, I really began to think about how I should be careful about my thoughts, words, and deeds. It was, as I said, an epiphany for me.

The other thing that struck me was how many times I had heard the explanation of the Tyler's Sword, but the lesson had never really stuck until I came to my own realization.

Now, you may think about those same symbols and that same part of the ritual and come to a very different conclusion – and that's OK! The beauty of symbolism is it speaks to each of us in a way that aligns with our own needs and abilities to understand them. As you learn more about yourself and contemplate the rituals on a more regular basis, you'll begin to notice that these little epiphanies occur more frequently and will often be more profound to you.

So that's Esoteric Masonry – to me at least. Taking time to contemplate the rituals and symbols, finding internal and external correspondences and then using those realizations to affect a change in our future behavior.

Here's another thing – I believe our ritual is clear that esoteric discussions, contemplation, and reflection should be a regular part of our lodge experience. In the First Degree we are taught the Principle Tenets of a Mason's profession are Brotherly Love, Relief AND

TRUTH.

Truth in the context of our rituals is not fact vs. fiction or honesty vs. dishonesty. Rather, Truth in the Masonic sense is explained as the "divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue." Further, our ritual admonishes us to "contemplate" truth "and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct."

When we understand Truth at this deeper level, we come to realize as important as fraternalism and charity are to our beloved Craft, Truth must be an equal part of our fraternal experience. Truth reveals the root of our nature and our connection to Deity.


It allows us to recognize how much of what we say, what we do, and what we think, is driven by our ego, our false self, rather than by who Deity created us to be. And by understanding that connection with Deity we can be transformed into men who are viewed by society as something beyond our ego-driven selves.

So for those of you who may be a bit wary of Masonic Esotericism, do me a favor – take a few minutes out of your day to quietly reflect on a particular symbol, think about what the ritual says, how it makes you feel, and how you might use your understanding of it to improve some aspect of yourself.

Or perhaps you can engage with the brethren in your lodge and ask them what they think about a symbol and what it means to them.

Personally, I've found these types of discussions to be enormously helpful in my own study of the ritual. After you've done this a few times, or if Masonic contemplation is something you already do on a regular basis, tell me about your revelations, your contemplations, your connections. What symbols speak to you and what do they say? What have you changed about yourself as a result of one of these little epiphanies?

I'm interested in hearing your story – just email them to sbradshaw@glnc.us, or if you prefer, send me a letter to the Grand Lodge. They'll get it to me.

Brethren, keep the light and tell your story! 

Masonic Esotericism is simply the idea that our rituals and symbols hold deeper truths than are readily apparent to the uninitiated.

OUR MASONIC CHARITIES AT WORK

MHCO celebrates, thanks donors at fest

OXFORD – Santa was there, the brothers were gathered and all the young residents of the Masonic Home for Children got lost in a sea of wrapping paper, love and goodwill at MHCO's annual Christmas Party in December.

Administrator Kevin Otis says so many people who came not only give of their time each year, they give of their treasure.

"Their gifts brought joy, wishes fulfilled, and vital needs to the lives of children living at The Masonic Home for Children," he said.

Here's a who's who of those recognized at the party:

COTTAGE SPONSORS

- OO/MHCO Alumni Association
- Martin & Jones
- McGregor Enterprise
- Triangle Italian American Heritage Association
- Novella Clinical Inc.
- Oak Grove #750
- 22nd Masonic District & OES Battle of Alamance
- Happy Home Heating & Cooling

GIFTS

- Grand Master and Mrs. Shaun Bradshaw
- Mr. Johnny Surlles and Zion #81
- Aurora #300
- Mike Queen and Kernersville #669
- Gary Cooke and West Gate #738
- Ashe #594
- Sylvia Sanger
- New River #736
- Mr. Dwight Pruitt
- St. Patrick's #617
- Fall's Lake Academy High School
- Duke University Health Systems
- Duke Respiratory Care Services
- Orr #104
- Mr. Larry Mason
- Abatement Restoration Specialists
- Mrs. Melissa Hogan and OES Battle of Alamance
- Donna Collins
- Pam and Scott Edwards
- Easy Eddie's Toy Drive
- Murhphey's Toy Run
- The Preserve at Smith Creek
- Ole' Time BBQ – Jerry and Ben Hart
- Ballentine Associates, PA



MHCO CALENDAR

APRIL 18

8th Annual Great Landscape Event

APRIL 24-25

Ambassador Orientation

MAY 31

Baccalaureate Service & Scholarship Ceremony

JULY 17

MHCO Public Service Appreciation Day

OCTOBER 9-11

10th Annual Masonic Homecoming Festival

DECEMBER 10

MHCO Christmas Party

For updates visit the Home's website at mhc-oxford.org

Video: This is what Masonry is all about

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

Mike Register and Alvin Billings love WhiteStone. They love the place, the people, and the level of care.

They have good reason to. WhiteStone is family.

That's why the two men, made true brothers by Masonry and by fate, agreed immediately when they were asked to tell their story in front of bright lights, rolling cameras and interviewers asking questions straight from – and straight to – the heart.

Yes, both said. Just tell me when and where.

"When it comes to WhiteStone, I will tell my story to anyone who will listen," Brother Mike Register, newly appointed Grand Steward, says. "My family owes so much to those people for giving my father wonderful care and a wonderful home."

Register and Illustrious Sir Billings, newly installed 2020 Potentate of Amran Shriners, have a story to tell.

Both men loved their fathers dearly and worked hard to care for

them as they grew old. Time took its toll on their dads and the money – neither father was wealthy – began to run out.

Unaware of the other's issues – they knew each other then, but not well – Mike and Alvin contacted WhiteStone, our Masonic and Eastern Star Community.

In both cases, WhiteStone wasted no time trying to find help for the men. Independently, both Robert Register and Clyde Billings were brought to the home.

"I made a phone call and told them I needed help," Alvin said. "They said right away to bring him in, and we would worry about the cost later."

Mike experienced the same thing. His family was about a week away from running out of money to care for his dad, when he contacted WhiteStone. They found a place for him and they worked together to figure out finances.



Both of their fathers ended up, eventually, in the same room. The roommates bonded quickly, becoming the best of friends.

"My dad had a roommate who passed away," Alvin says. "We all walked in to visit one morning, and there was an older gentleman in a wheelchair – that was Mike's dad. He offered my wife some bubblegum. By that time, my dad was barely able to talk.

"We got to talking with Mr. Register and found out he was a Mason and Shriner. I'm

a Shriner. I had heard of Mike but didn't really know him. I would meet him in that same room. He and I struck up a bigtime friendship."

Since Alvin's dad couldn't speak, Mike's dad, whose habit of passing out bubblegum gave him the nickname of "Mr. Bubblegum," became his voice. He protected his friend

and made sure he was comfortable – even hollering down the hall for help when sunlight poured through the blinds. Neither man was able to close them and Clyde Billings was directly in the line of fire.

"No way my dad was going to let him sit there in the bright sunlight," Mike says. "That's just the way he was."

Over the years, WhiteStone has become a respected haven for senior living, known for its excellence in health care and wellness care. WhiteStone is expanding with 24 new assisted-living apartments, 12 memory care suites and is renovating its popular Care and Wellness Center.

That's why Mike and Alvin said yes when they were asked to "star" in a video on behalf of the Campaign for WhiteStone.

"We were part of what the MESH foundation does for two thirds of the time my dad was there," Alvin said. "They never treated him with anything but respect. They were always there to help him, even though he was getting help to be there. WhiteStone isn't a factory like so many places are now. WhiteStone is a home."



Take a few minutes to hear their story and watch the video. You can access it on the NCMF YouTube channel, or via the Campaign for WhiteStone page at mfnc.org/news/cat/videos.



Foundation board elects officers

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation elected officers for the new year at its annual meeting in January.

Elected were:

- Mike Faulkenbury, chairman
- PGM Bob Gresham, vice chairman
- PGM Lew Ledford, treasurer
- Grand Secretary Walt Clapp, secretary

PGM Gresham also was re-elected to another five-year term on the nomination of Grand Master P. Shaun Bradshaw.

The officers join emeritus member PGM William G. Mathis. The board also paid special tribute to the late PM David Wilson of Oak Island #758, who died in 2019. He had served on the NCMF board for some 35 years until his retirement in 2016.

Also serving on the NCMF board are brother Guy Cline, and PGMs Leonard Y. Safrit and Dan Rice.

The board also unanimously voted to add RW William Mills as counsel, as a non-voting member of the board.

What's in a lapel pin?

A whole lot if you look at it real close

Every year in recent years, Grand Masters have commissioned a lapel pin that they hand out during District Meetings, GM visits and other events throughout the year. Each Grand Master works hard to craft a design that has meaning to him and to his mission for the year.

It's no different for Grand Master Shaun Bradshaw. In his own words, here are the meanings – visible and one hidden – in his pin.

As a whole, the pin symbolizes our need to maintain balance in our lives, to align our thoughts, words, and actions with the will of Deity. While we may view some circumstances of our lives as positive or negative, we can be assured that Divine Providence is always watching over us.

There is a hidden symbol in the image of the pin. MW Bradshaw encourages brethren to carefully study the symbols to see what they might glean from it and let him know their thoughts. Here's a hint he offers: Those who paid close attention during the presentation of his 2020 initiatives have seen the hidden symbol and may be able to discern its presence in the pin.

The pin is made up of a variety of symbols of upmost meaning to all Freemasons.

The all-seeing eye, like the blazing star in the center of our lodges represents our faithful reliance on Divine Providence in our lives.

The Square and Compass (with the compass on top) represent that our spiritual nature, that part of ourselves which is connected to deity, should always govern our human actions, represented by the Square.

The columns, Jacob and Boaz, are another symbol of balance. When we stand between the two, we become the third pillar, the pillar of beauty/balance/harmony.

The sun and moon teach us to maintain regularity and balance in all that we think, say, and do ("As the sun rules the day and the moon governs the night ...").

The point within the circle is a symbol of deep meaning. In astrology/astronomy, it is the symbol of the sun. In alchemy, it is the symbol of gold. In Freemasonry, we say it represents maintaining a centered nature and by staying within the circle we may never materially err.

The checkered pavement represents the idea that, throughout our lives, we will face joys and challenges.



Need help becoming a Lion & Pillar Lodge?

Four regional sessions planned to give aid

It's not easy to become a Lion& Pillar Lodge of Excellence. It's not meant to be.

But that doesn't mean there's no help available for lodges trying to win the award again, or those trying to become an L&P lodge for the first time.

Starting in March, special district-wide events that will teach lodges how to become a lodge of excellence – while giving attendees credit toward the award – will be held in four locations.

Past Grand Master Gene Cobb, who created Lion & Pillar and helps shepherd the program at the behest of the Grand Master, says details are still being worked out and will be posted on the Lion & Pillar Lodge of Excellence Facebook page and shared with the Grand Lodge and

the North Carolina Mason Facebook pages.

As of press time, meetings were scheduled at three locations from 10 a.m. to noon; a fourth will be added:

March 21

District 13

**James A. Johnson #413,
124 Jolly St., Louisburg**

April 11

District 17

TBA, Fayetteville

April 18

District 12

**Shallotte #727, 5072 Main St.,
Shallotte**

All districts are encouraged to attend any of the meetings. Not only will PGM Cobb and others talk at

the meetings about ways to meet the requirements, lodges that send three or more brothers to attend get credit toward their Lion & Pillar application.

And there's a bonus: If you're a member of multiple lodges, your presence at any of these meetings counts for ALL lodges to which you belong. (The only catch is this: All lodges seeking to become a lodge of excellence must fill out the paperwork.)

There's yet another opportunity to earn some credits.

"At the Shallotte meeting, brothers will hold a First Responders' breakfast. Any lodges that help out with that breakfast and stay for the meeting get credit," PGM Cobb said.

"Any of the locations already set that want to do the same should contact their DDGM."

By attending and listening to a selection of guest speakers from

National Sojourners, MSANA, NCMF and others, your lodge qualifies for credit in these areas:

- Hosting a Speaker's Bureau member (Category 1).
- Hosting a National Sojourner for a program (Category 2)
- Hosting a member of the Grand Lodge Masonic Renewal Committee for a program (Category 4).
- Holding a Masonic education program on the MSANA Hospital Visitation and Disaster Relief initiatives (Category 2).
- Holding a Davie session on philanthropy (Category 3).
- Holding a "district event" (Category 4).

The meeting could meet other requirements that are being worked on at this time.

PGM Cobb said the meetings

Communicating creatively with memes



NEW AND NOTEWORTHY IDEAS FROM LODGES ACROSS THE STATE

Editors Note: This is a periodic feature focusing on new ideas emerging from lodges across North Carolina. Got a great program to share with your brothers? Send a story to ncmason@glnc.us!

meme (*noun*) 'mēm

- 1: an idea, behavior, style, or usage that spreads from person to person within a culture
- 2: an amusing or interesting item (such as a captioned picture or video) or genre of items that is spread widely online especially through social media

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Let's all agree: it's hard to get your message out these days, even to those you know are interested.

We are all flooded with emails, alerts, "breaking news," sales pitches, reminders, news updates, and cat videos from all sides.

So when you want to tell the world your news, it may help to go "meme."

Over the last few years, the brothers at Cannon Memorial #626 in Kannapolis, have gotten more involved with the community, pushing to become a more recognized name locally, through road cleanups, food drives, community awards events and more.

"With that said, however, our online presence was lacking," said Thomas VanEtten, secretary at Cannon Memorial and new member of the Grand Lodge Board of Publications.

Brother Srujan Katanguri had an idea, and began making memes to help catch the eye of social media.

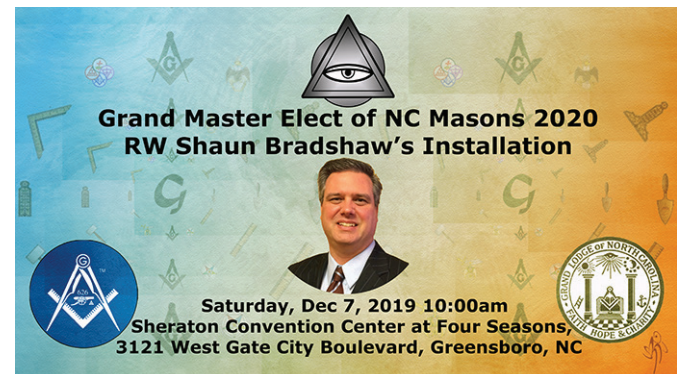
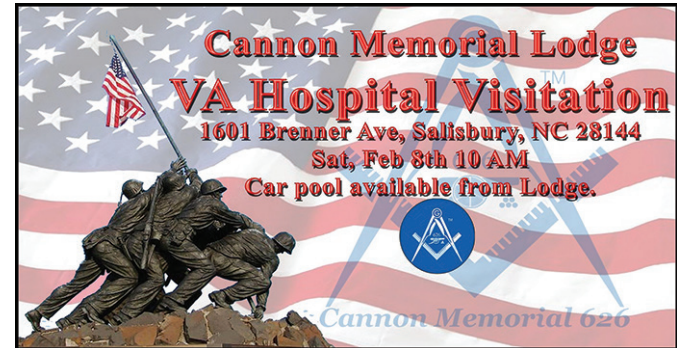
It didn't take long for the brothers to see that this approach was working, drawing attention to the lodge and the brothers' work.

Katanguri began making more memes. He generally creates them from scratch using Photoshop.

"What began as a single instance – a picture to remind brothers what Masons are, the men we should aspire to be – turned into a series of evolving pictures. He took more pictures and added words to remind brothers of upcoming holidays, meetings, events and activities," VanEtten said.

The North Carolina Mason has begun using memes to remind brothers that the submission deadline is coming near, or to alert the Craft that the latest issue of the paper has been posted online. The reaction has been great and a wave of stories and photos usually follows the posting of a meme, said Editor Beth Grace.

The use of memes is growing in other Masonic jurisdictions. The Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation



posts at least one meme per day, always a message about brotherhood and Masonic thoughts. They make their own in some cases, or "facelift" them from other Facebook pages.

If you have the skills, making a meme from scratch can work, but for those who are not blessed with such skills, there are many online meme generators. They are incredibly easy to use and most often are free. (Some offer upgrades to get fancier fonts or some design changes, but you can get a lot done on most sites for free.)

Some good meme generators include: www.imgflip.com, www.iloveimg.com, www.spark.adobe.com.

■ LION from page 8

"were scheduled as a sincere effort help lodges do what they need to be doing, and to get recognized for work they're already doing. The purpose of this whole thing has always been to help lodges pursue and achieve excellence."

Plans are also under way to structure the program to ease transition to a new group of leaders when PGM Cobb steps back from this work down the road. He would like to organize a regional L&P director for the east, west and central parts of North Carolina.

"I had no idea this program would become so successful," he said. "My soul is lit up by that. Now, it's my goal to groom future leaders to take this program wherever it will go next." ♦

Cathey, Hinton James Scholarship application period opens

Ah, springtime, when a parent's fancy turns to ... college costs.

Brothers with college-bound high school seniors in the house should take advantage of Masonic scholarships, now open for applications.

The Cathey Scholarship, founded by Past Grand Master Charles Cathey and funded by NC's Freemasons, rewards high school seniors who have demonstrated academic achievement.

Eight scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded for the 2020-2021 academic year. The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee selects recipients.

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 will consider factors including scholastic achievement, participation in extracurricular and civic activities, involvement in the community and personal recommendations.

The application form is available here: grandlodge-nc.org/the-grand-lodge/grand-lodge-scholarship

The Hinton James Masonic Scholarship is for study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Funded by Lux Libertas #772, Freemasons and individual donors, it rewards a high school senior who has demonstrated academic achievement and community service.

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for the 2020-2021 academic year.

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 will consider factors including scholastic achievement, participation in extracurricular and civic activities, involvement in the community and personal recommendations.

Applications are available at your local lodge, or here: mfnc.org/news/hinton-james-scholarship-application-available

The Lux Libertas Scholarship Committee selects recipients.

Deadline for applications for both scholarship opportunities is March 15.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲**WILSON** – The holidays got a bit warmer for the Flynn Christian Home. Brothers of Wilson #712 presented a donation of more than \$1,500 to the home. The funds were raised from the lodge’s Fall pancake/sausage suppers. Pictured from left, Cameron Reaves, Earl Reaves with the Flynn Home, Johnnie Albritton and Bill Fardy.



NEWS FROM OUR LODGES



▲**CLEMMONS** — Sometimes, brothers take some time to give thanks for those who can’t show up. The brothers of Clemmons #755 in December gathered to thank longtime Clemmons Charity Golf Tournament supporter Theresa Phillips, who couldn’t attend the 17th annual tourney due to illness. The brothers said they just wanted her to know they can’t wait to see her next year! Pictured are, from left, Bruce Ayres, Jon Canupp, Doug Mason, Theresa Phillips and Richard Brewer. ▼



▲**ROXBORO** – Lodges in the 19th District gathered 224 boxes filled with gifts for distribution to veterans and other groups for the holiday season. The gift drive came after DDGM Ron Bowling challenged each lodge to participate. Every lodge responded and sent in gifts. The district connected with veterans through the Give Me Five project, a nonprofit organization that helps collect and distribute items to veterans in North Carolina and other states.



▲**SMYRNA** – The brothers of Crissie Wright #741 welcomed family and friends to a family night meal, followed by awards night. On hand were, from left, PM Billy Jack Taylor and PM Charlie Goodwin, 50-year honors; presenter PGM Gerry Smith; Dean Graham, 25 years; Master Casey Tosto; and PM Sam Taylor, 50 years.

TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE



▲ **DUNN** – Palmyra #147 has started a Rainbow Girls auxiliary and is organizing a DeMolay chapter. Master Jerry Lee Honeycutt II says the idea came from a random conversation with Brother Carl Underwood about how Underwood loved Masonry and first got involved through DeMolay. He came to lodge and told his story and about the impact DeMolay had on his life. Not long after that, Honeycutt ran into Bill McMillan and his wife Mandy. Bill, who was becoming a Shriner, mentioned they were involved with Rainbow Girls. They, too, came to Palmyra to talk about the organization. The lodge readily agreed to take action to start a chapter of each organization. Within a few months, almost 18 girls were recruited and in November, the lodge initiated the girls. Work is under way on a DeMolay chapter. Six boys have been recruited so far. More are expected.



▲ **SOUTHERN PINES** – Brothers donned historic garb to welcome two Entered Apprentices in January. The Southern Pines #484 degree team wore colonial attire for the ritual welcoming Brian Campton and Bradley Whitaker. The degree team consisted of Southern Pines officers and two others from the 21st District.

When in doubt, best solution is to always digitize lodge records

By Thomas Pope
Stedman #730

So, your lodge has a file cabinet(s) full of minutes, Records of Doings, photos, correspondence, and so on.

What's one to do with all that stuff?

Here's one option every lodge should strongly consider: Digitize all those items, and more, and provide the Grand Lodge with a copy for archival purposes.

"That's the history of the lodge," Grand Secretary Walt Clapp said. "That's recorded history."

Think about it: Wouldn't your lodge want to leave behind a legacy that can be studied for generations of future Masons, historians and researchers? Wouldn't you want to have a backup copy of everything that's been important to your lodge's existence someplace other than a file cabinet?

It's not difficult to digitize this kind of material. Anyone with access to a scanner and a computer can handle the job. It's just a matter of devoting the time to the endeavor.

It can even become a lodge project if several people can agree on "naming conventions" – that is, how the files will be named for uniformity.

Lodges wanting to digitize their historical documents should stick to a few basics.

Minutes, letters, lodge histories, installation bulletins and such are best saved as PDF (Portable Document Format) files, as that allows the sharing of files between computers and across operating systems.

"The history of a lodge is something you'd want to digitize, as is correspondence," said Jonathan Underwood, assistant grand secretary. "People don't write letters the way they used to, but if there is something of interest, consider scanning that. Letters from DDGMs, DDGLs, the Grand Lodge; that kind of thing."

Scanned photographs are best saved in .jpg or .tif formats, he added.

What's the best way to get those digitized files to the Grand Lodge for safekeeping? A thumb drive is fine, or they can be transmitted via applications such as Dropbox. Use of a DVD or CD works, too.

If your lodge doesn't have access to a scanner, there's a solution for that: the Grand Lodge office in Raleigh has them. Lodges that are willing can bring their documents there, drop them off for processing, then return at a designated time to retrieve them.

"If lodges feel like it's daunting to try to tackle it themselves," Underwood said, "we'll help them any way we can and write them a receipt."

REMINDER: Time to opt Out!

If you're holding this issue of the newspaper in your hands, here's your chance to save some trees and bucks. Join your brothers who have begun reading the Mason online, via the link on the Grand Lodge web page every month.

We thank you for reading the Mason, in any form, of course! We are happy to bring it to all in both forms for as long as there are brothers out there who read the paper.

And we invite your stories and photos via our dedicated email address: ncmason@glnc.us.

But for those who prefer online reading and don't want to get a paper version in the mail,

you're just a few clicks away from setting that up. Send an email to ncmason@glnc.us with your name, mailing address, lodge and the words: "OPT OUT." That's all you need to do.

Then go to www.Grandlodge-nc.org and link to the NC Mason via the big blue tab on the left, halfway down the homepage. On the right side of that page, you will see this blue tab: **SUBSCRIBE**.

That guarantees that we will send you an automatically generated email when a new issue is posted online.

Again, thanks for reading the Mason!

MILEPOSTS



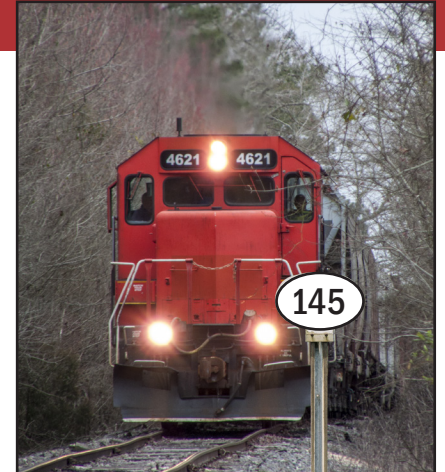
▲ **GREENSBORO** – All hands were on hand to celebrate Gen. Lloyd Wilkerson's 100th birthday in November. Among those celebrating the birthday of the 74-year Mason were six members of Semper Fidelis #680. Gen. Wilkerson is a member and past master of Semper Fidelis, and also is a member of Wilkerson College #760 and MESH #771, and is an honorary member of Blackmer #127. Semper Fi brothers at the celebration included, from left, WB Stephen Smith; WB William Fitzpatrick KCCH, III. Brother Tom Wilkerson; WB Joe Reyes, Wilkerson; III. Brother Howard Kahn; and III. Brother Ron Sortino.



▲ **WALNUT COVE** – Walnut Cove #629 recently honored past master WB Gary Handy with an event recognizing his significant service to Masonry. Many brothers were in attendance to celebrate Brother Gary and all that he has done for Masonry. The Montfort medal winner has been a member of the lodge since 2003 and also is a member of Wilkerson College #760, Sophia #767 and Lux Libertas #772, and is an honorary member of Kernersville #669. He also is Grand Tyler this year.



◀ **CHARLESTON, SC** – Mack Sigmon presented the final 70-year award of his tenure as Grand Master in November to Thomas Jules Mann, Past Master of Phalanx #31 in Charlotte. He presented the award at the Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community, where Mann lives. Mann was raised at Friendship #9 in Charleston, SC, in 1948, and affiliated with Phalanx a year later. He was coroneted 33rd Degree, Inspector General Honorary, in 1969 and reached the rare achievement of 50 years as a 33rd Degree Mason.



▲ **INDIANAPOLIS** – One of North Carolina Masonry's own is hard at work this year as National Commander of The American Legion. James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander in August at the organization's 101st national convention in Indianapolis. The Lenoir, NC, native has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1986. He is a member of Hibriten #262. His theme as national commander this year is A Foundation for the Future, as the organization enters its second century of service.



◀ **OXFORD** – A much loved member of the School of Graphic Arts print shop retired. Faye Orr bid everyone a farewell at the July board meeting, receiving the heartfelt applause of her boss, coworkers and the entire board of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. She had been involved in the printing industry for 36 years, including 18 years as the print shop's graphics specialist. Her design work was recognized by the North Carolina Press Association several times. She was the driving force behind many NCMF projects, and was an eagle-eyed editor for the newspaper.

Lodge room too big? Time to get creative

Utilizing a smaller space within the existing structure can help overcome empty-room blues

Brethren, size matters. Across our state we have built hundreds of Masonic lodges and temples — large and small — and we pride ourselves on that fact. Lodges and temples serve as our Masonic homes and clubhouses.

They are a place to gather, renew friendships, and share experiences. For the public, our lodges (especially our larger temples) are an outward expression of who and what the fraternity is—or what people perceive it to be.

We've talked before about the importance of keeping our lodges looking good and in good shape, not just for the public's eye, but for our own psychological wellbeing. This translates into the functionality of our lodges, too.

Lately, we've been fielding calls from lodges concerned about the proper use of their lodge building's space. More often than not, it turns out the massive lodge rooms we constructed in the middle of the 20th century are much too large for our current needs.

Let's look at why we built such large rooms. Different generations interpreted and used Freemasonry in different ways. The generation that fought in World War II came home from that conflict desiring a camaraderie among their friends reminiscent of the relationships they had in the service.

Freemasonry was just one of many outlets for the redevelopment of those relationships. Popular civic and service clubs served a similar function and also exploded in size.

It was in this era where the mentality of "bigger is better" developed.

But Freemasonry's functional requirements are a little different than mere civic clubs. Freemasonry's ritual component is theatrical and requires seating, sets, players, and

participants.

As our numbers swelled throughout the 1950s, so did the space required to hold our meetings and degree work. Lodges that once comfortably held 20 or 25 men were crowded with 50, 75 and even 100 members. A few of our lodges reached 800 members by the 1960s — and by the standards of that day were much too large. By the 1960s lodge buildings and lodge rooms across the North Carolina doubled, tripled, and even quadrupled in size.



*By Walt Clapp
Grand Secretary*

What we failed to understand as a fraternity at that time was that this membership inflation was a trend, and all trends come to an end. Logically, within a generation, by the 1980s, the need for these gigantic buildings and large rooms waned. Lodges shrank back down to more manageable sizes. In fact, our population at the end of 2019 is about 10 percent greater than our total population in 1919, and is probably about on par with what we think it should be.

But the psychological impact of "bigger is better" continues to menace our interpretation of success and sustainability. The feeling of loneliness, insecurity, and failure is palpable when you sit with say 10 or 15 brethren in a room designed to sit 100 or more.

Over the last year I have fielded more and more questions about re-adapting lodge space to meet the modern, smaller needs of our membership. Time and again, lodges perceive they are failing because 10 or 15 men show up and the room looks empty.

This is a psych-out, pure and simple. Don't let it get to you! The remedy is not to grow our numbers but recapture the intimacy of smaller lodge rooms. It's time to cut those rooms in half, literally.

Recently I traveled with Brother

Matt Robbins, who holds a master's degree in architecture from NC State University. He's also past master of State College Lodge and remarkably well-versed in the psychology of built environments, public areas and ritual spaces — including our Masonic edifices and lodge rooms.

Together, we visited several lodges to help advise and encourage them to downsize — not to sell — but how to renovate the space they have. The best building you have is the one you own.

One lodge building we visited was a massive structure built in the 1950s and meant to hold 150 men. The lodge now hosts only about 20 brothers regularly. First, we need to understand that smaller lodges are OK. Freemasonry works best when our lodges are smaller and our brethren know each other intimately.

Second, given we over-engineered our lodges a half century ago, how do we keep our brethren from feeling lost in a cavernous lodge room?

Yet, just a year or so ago a lodge called up and wanted to expand or build a bigger building. The brother complained that so many men were meeting in their lodge that they had to bring out extra chairs and were cramped. I told him that was the perfect problem to have.

After some discussion, his lodge's woes were not dire, they were simply being what Masons should be — fraternal! Do you ever notice the best restaurants are the crowded ones? Or, the ones with the longest lines?

Restaurants that expand seldom do well to handle more customers. Larger spaces look empty. The atmosphere of close quarters dissipates, the uniqueness of the locale becomes sterile, and customers fall away. The psychology of space is paramount to our ability to relate to those around us.

The lodge, which is two stories, houses a lodge room, offices, a kitchen, and a huge dining hall centered around a brick fireplace. Matt quickly pointed out the best room in the building was the dining

hall. It was warm and inviting and accessible and conducive to meetings.

With Matt's help, we suggested the lodge's members develop a plan to partition off the dining room around the fireplace. The goal was to make a new lodge room within a room. The work does not require permits or heavy construction, just some partitions, preferably temporary, but something that can accommodate the brethren. These partitions could be canvas accordion doors, plywood barriers, or screens. As long as the space can be tyled, the lodge can meet.

Some lodges can afford to be cut in half and extra rooms created. Perhaps your lodge can create a big room and a small room and use either depending on the nature of the meeting you hold. Be creative and scale down!

Reducing our footprint within a building can also help us realize some additional income. In earlier years, lodges were rarely meant to be standalone buildings — they were community buildings and multi-purpose.

If your lodge is composed of 25 or 50 or 75 members, do you need a 10,000-square-foot building? Probably not. For pure business meeting purposes, Masonic meetings require only as many seats as men are present — on average across the state, about 15 to 20 men. Make a room to fit your needs.

Now, ritual space is different and requires more space. But, how often do we need ritual space for initiations, passings and raising? The number varies across the state, but on average, a lodge only initiates two men a year.

Have you considered having your rituals in a larger masonic temple? Perhaps it's best, more economical, and more psychologically acceptable to have a small lodge hall for business and fraternalism, and adjourn to grander settings for special occasions. It's a logical application.

Think about rooms in your house — formal dining rooms or guest rooms. Yes, some of you use them

From the *Grand Historian*

How Stevenson Work became the 'best'

By *Ludwik Wodka*
Grand Historian

Up until about the middle of the 20th century, North Carolina's Masonic ritual had another name: the "Stevenson Work," named after Levi Stevenson, a lecturer and Past Grand Master of Virginia.

He is largely responsible for introducing and propagating in North Carolina the ritual work we are all know and love.

However, this ritual was briefly replaced by a variation known as the "Best Work."

The story begins in 1868, when Grand Master Robert W. Best made the following comments in his address to Grand Lodge:

"You are all doubtless aware of the re-adoption at our last Annual Communication of what is called the 'Stevenson Work.' Brother Stevenson being present, was called upon to exemplify the work, which proved very unsatisfactory to the representatives then present, including many of the supporters of his system. ...

"My proposition was this: To call a convention of Masons who had directly or indirectly received and taught the work of Brother Stevenson (as taught by him in 1849), to meet with him and myself and go over the work and see if any changes had been, and if it were necessary any should be made."

This revised ritual was exemplified before the Grand Lodge and subsequently approved when, "On motion of Brother E. Grissom, the name of 'R.W. Best' was substituted for 'Stevenson'" in reference to the North Carolina ritual.



PGM Robert W. Best (above) and the beginning of the text of his address to the Grand Lodge concerning the the Stevenson Work.

Thus emerged the "Best Work."

The Best Work includes numerous minor changes, and several noticeable deviations from the Stevenson Work. Some of these changes include the Master's admonitions to the candidate before each obligation as well as the encounter at the port of Joppa. Also, the lectures are delivered in a question-and-answer format as opposed to the narrative form we currently use.

While the ostensible purpose of the Best Work was to stabilize the ritual, it had almost the opposite effect. Upon adoption, the ritual work that had been taught for more than 20 years was changed, only adding to the confusion and frustration amongst the brethren.

In 1874, events took an unfortu-

WORK.
You are all doubtless aware of the re-adoption at our last Annual Communication of what is called the "Stevenson Work." Bro. Stevenson being present, was called upon to exemplify the work, which proved very unsatisfactory to the representatives then present, including many of the supporters of his system. Being an advocate of his system, I must confess that I was not satisfied. I thought that either he had changed it or I did not have his work, and I felt certain that if the work, as exemplified by him, was taught throughout this jurisdiction, that it would tend greatly to mar the labors of this meeting and for years to come, would be a bone of contention in the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. By the assertion that Bro. S. had changed, I did not intend to convey the idea that he had made any changes; but in view of his advanced age, the troubles and perplexities incident upon the late four years struggle, it is but natural for him or any one else to have changed. After the session closed, my mind was so much exercised upon the subject, that I called the Jurisprudence Committee and several of the leading Masons of the city together for consultation and advice in the matter; I suggested a proposition which was acquiesced in by them all; I then had an interview with Bro. Stephenson and stated my proposition to him, which he accorded in most cheerfully. Not being entirely satisfied to act upon so grave a subject, even with the approbation of those mentioned, I wrote to several of the leading Masons in the State, including several P. G. Masters, to get their opinions on my proposition, and am gratified to state that not a solitary objection was

nate turn. Past Grand Master Best was discovered to be in possession of a printed cipher of the Best Work with additional copies he intended to sell. He was brought up on Masonic charges and expelled from the fraternity.

The Grand Lodge proceedings of 1874 report a resolution that "The action of the Grand Lodge, at its Annual Communication in 1868, in substituting 'R.W. Best' for 'Stevenson' in connection with the authorship of the work of this jurisdiction, be rescinded."

The original Stevenson Work was once again adopted.

Grand Master George W. Blount stated in his address in 1875 that he "felt justified by the action of the last Grand Lodge in discarding the

interpolations and addenda to the work and lectures, and in declaring that taught by Stevenson as the Ancient Work of Masonry, and that intended by the Grand Lodge to be taught and practiced."

Robert Best was reinstated after admitting the wrong, destroying the cipher, and appealing to the mercy of the Craft.

The Grand Lodge still has a cipher described as the "Best Work," dated 1873. It is unknown if this is the same cipher book Best possessed, but its publication date and "interpolations and addenda" make it very likely.

It is all that remains of this brief but unfortunate detour in the story of the North Carolina ritual. ♦

SPACE from page 13

regularly, but most of us do not. They collect dust and debris for a lack of use or need. Oversized lodge rooms are the same — usually unnecessary.

Centralize your degree work and focus on fraternalism at home in a small, intimate space. If you can,

rent out your remaining space, and open it to public functions.

Brethren, don't fall prey to the psychological fallacy of believing your lodge is failing because it appears no one attends your meetings. Your best members and your best friends are the men

who regularly attend. Those are the men with whom you should commune and enjoy. Make your space fit your needs and your personality.

Brethren, size matters. It's not about the size of your room, it's how you use it. ♦



Like The NC Mason
on Facebook:
<http://bit.ly/2irdm6m>

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Moody, Landon Colton	4	St. John's	Troutman Jr, Wade Earl	257	Kenly	Ross, Jeffrey Dan	409	Bula	Washburn, Brett Shelby	629	Walnut Cove
Carver, Travis Dwayne	8	Phoenix	West, Thomas Ryan	257	Kenly	Hardison, Joshua Marlon	479	Rainbow	Burroughs, Rusty William	637	Yadkin Falls
Firpi, Jose Alexander	8	Phoenix	Abbott, Douglas Bruce	277	Green Level	Coggin, William Carl	483	Traphill	Hopkins-Teeter, Cassidy Fagan	637	Yadkin Falls
Jackson, Chad Alan	13	St. John's	Leek, John Samuel	301	Clay	Pennell, Toby Lee	483	Traphill	Horan, Carl Hunter	650	Nichols-W. Asheville
Stewart, Terrance	97	Millbrook	Beuckman, William Franklin	302	Lillington	Lopez Soto, Gerardo Rene	484	Southern Pines	Snyder, Steven Kent	658	Beulaville
Adrian, Jeffrey David	128	Hanks	Harrington, Gordon Cayce	302	Lillington	Wess, Sean Matthew	484	Southern Pines	Fulton III, Richard Melvin	686	Angier
Gaines, Chason Wyatt	143	Mt. Vernon	McMillion, Guy Mitchell	322	Granite	Leonhardt, Alex Charles	486	Lawndale	Webb, Clyde Michael	691	Renfro
Andrews, Robin Heath	190	Chadbourn	Brafford, John Lee	339	Fairview	Williams, Andrew Brent	492	Thomas M. Holt	Bostian, Rocky Alexander	695	Allen-Graham
Britt, Alexander Douglas	190	Chadbourn	Rochford IV, James Joseph	339	Fairview	Robertson, Henry Foster	519	Widow's Son	Goodnight, Randall David	695	Allen-Graham
Nobles, Harold Wayne	207	Lebanon	Atwood, Jason Wayne	391	Lebanon	Britt, Jody Lee	555	Elise	Readling Jr, Brady Alan	720	Cabarrus
Fitzgerald Jr, John Joseph	237	Mystic Tie	Daniel, Michael James	391	Lebanon	Dearien, Zachary William	568	Doric	Floyd, Charles Thomas	735	James B. Green
Leatherman, Charles Christian	237	Mystic Tie	Phillips, Sherrill Tate	403	Siler City	Van Apeldoorn, Bruce Charles	568	Doric	Boles, Christian Alan	736	New River
Waycaster, Dustin Eugene	237	Mystic Tie	Billings Jr, William Michael	409	Bula	Kirkland, Benjamin DeWayne	592	Maiden	Travers, Calvin Joseph	756	Clifford Duell



W R Davie
WILLIAM R. DAVIE
 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

2020
 Class Schedule



Month	Class	East	Central	West
January 4th	Lodge Finance & Budget Workshop	EUREKA 317	NCGL	SHELBY 744
		WILMINGTON 319	LEBANON 391	
February 1st	The Appointed Lodge Officer Class		OXFORD (COBB CENTER)	
March 7th	Everything You Need to Know Workshop	SEMPER FIDELIS 680	EAGLE 19	OCONEE 427
		ORR 104	MINGO 206	GASTONIA 369
April 4th	The Appointed Lodge Officer Class	GREENVILLE TEMPLE		
May 2nd	District Officer/Grand Lodge Committee Member Class	TBD	GREENSBORO TEMPLE	NICHOLS-WEST ASHEVILLE 650
June 6th	The Appointed Lodge Officer Class			YADKIN 162
July	We are Dark in July			
August 1st	Art of Chairing a Lodge Meeting Workshop	PERSEVERENCE 59	MARIETTA 444	JAMES K POLK 759
		SEASIDE 429	ST. PAULS 474	PILOT 493
September 5th	The Elected Lodge Officer Class			BILTMORE 446
October 3rd	Preparing for the East Workshop	HIRAM 98	KING 722	LOVELADY 670
		ST JOHN 1	FAYETTEVILLE MASONIC CTR	WAXHAW 562
November 7th	The Elected Lodge Officer Class		WHITESTONE	
December 12th	The Elected Lodge Officer Class	LAFAYETTE 83		



page 3

Approval procedures
for fundraisers updated



page 8

What's the story
behind the pin?



page 9

It's a meme world
after all!

On the cover

Tradition lives on (with a twist or two) in installations around the state, including this year's installation at Sophia #767.

Photo by Michael Harding

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OXFORD, NC 27565
PERMIT NO. 56



NORTH CAROLINA
THE MASON
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020