

NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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

Volume 146 Number 3

Oxford, North Carolina

May/June 2021

Bringing Masonic charity full circle

Program delivers MESH services to members

*By Beth Grace
Mason Editor*

The Masonic widow didn't know where to turn. Her husband had passed, she had no money ... and a mortgage to pay off that she had not known about.

The brother was at wit's end. His cancer was gone but the huge bills were not. How was he going to handle this and not lose his house?

Another brother who suffered a debilitating stroke and lost his leg was denied disability. Who could he turn to for help in appealing a very bad decision?

Who could he turn to? Who in the world would be willing to take his troubles on and help him out of a terrible fix?

His fraternal brothers and sisters, of course.

If you think you know all you need to know about the power of brotherhood and a giving heart, you should have a chat with Rebecca Gallimore, director of the **Fraternal Friendship Program**.

The program, formerly known as the Masonic and Eastern Star Outreach Program or MESOP, helps aging Masons and Eastern Star members in trouble and has become a force in helping our fraternal family seek care at home, without having to relocate.

"It's all about the brothers and sisters of Masonry. It's about helping them where they are ... and making sure they all know they are not alone," Gallimore says. "As we age, many people feel they're the only ones feeling what they're feeling. They think hardships will never happen to them. That's why we're here to help."

The program is funded entirely by NC's Masons and Eastern Star members, their lodges, chapters, as well as the NC Masonic

and Eastern Star Foundations via gifts to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home Foundation LLC – more commonly known in the Craft as MESH LLC.

MESH, an arm of the NC Masonic Foundation, is governed by a five-member board of managers – all Masons and Eastern Star members – to serve fraternal members directly. It is not a program of WhiteStone, our senior care home in Greensboro.

The MESH LLC is run *by* Masons and Stars *for* Masons and Stars.

The WhiteStone Board of Directors supports the work but the program isn't about moving to WhiteStone. It primarily connects people with services they need locally, provides some limited-term financial assistance, or makes phone calls to help them find local resources.

In fact, WhiteStone receives no revenue from this program, meaning *all* contributions you make to the MESH program are used directly for the care of brothers and sisters.

"This is old-fashioned, straightforward Masonic charity," says MW Gene Jernigan, chairman of the WhiteStone board, which helped shepherd the program into existence in 2016. "This is the way Masons can reach from the mountains to the farthest point in the east. You can ask for help through MESH and receive help through MESH. This is all funded by brothers and sisters and goes directly to brothers and sisters.

"This brings us full circle, in a way, back to the beginning, paying our blessings forward."

The public face of the program is Gallimore, who works hard trying to help brothers and sisters with problems they consider

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Fraternal Friendship
Program Director
Rebecca Gallimore

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insurmountable. The Illinois native moved to North Carolina in 1999. She worked in various mental health positions until she joined the WhiteStone home health staff in 2016 and began to gravitate toward senior care.

She empathizes with some of the medical and lifestyle hardships aging folks have. She experienced some health issues of her own, including loss of vision in one eye at the age of 27, which gave her true empathy for those living with physical hardships and those in need of special accommodations. That empathy led her to the Fraternal Friendship program.

“This program fulfills many dimensions of wellness. Whether it’s financial or emotional, we are here to offer support,” she said. “I truly enjoy getting to know the people who call. We can evaluate their struggles and oftentimes, come up with a solution together. That is the first step, pinpointing what their needs are.

“Then they get their lives back. They get their pride back,” she said.

Sometimes, she says, symptoms cover up the real problem.

For example, she helped one brother who had run out of money and needed help with medical necessities. Through her research,

she discovered that someone was accessing his bank account and spending his money improperly.

The program is open to all Masons and Eastern Star members in good standing age 60 and older, wherever they are.

The program can also assist qualified and fraternally affiliated brothers and sisters who want to move into WhiteStone with entrance fees, room and board, food costs, prescriptions and healthcare expenses.

What happens when you ask for help? You reach out to Gallimore, who begins the qualification process, which includes confirming fraternal status, and checking financial records, etc., to determine the exact level of help needed and how much each applicant can afford. Each recipient signs a contract that confirms the help being given and promises that if at all possible, the recipient’s estate will repay the program for assistance given. That’s not always possible because of the financial situation that led most applicants to ask for help, Gallimore says.

Folks who need help often don’t find themselves able to pay it forward.

But if they can repay the gift, says Jernigan, “You are basically showing you’re willing to help someone else by repaying what was given to you.” ♠

Program services

The program is open to all Masons and Stars in good standing age 60 and older, wherever they are.

Assistance includes:

- Emergency (short- or long-term) assistance with basic needs such as utility bills, groceries, mortgage, rent or healthcare expenses.
- Help with accessing benefits through Medicare, the VA and Medicaid.
- Funding for home improvements, such as ramps, to aid mobility.
- Long-term care referrals.
- Case management and healthcare navigation services.

Want to donate?

If you are interested in giving to the program, contact:

Rebecca Gallimore

The Masonic and Eastern Star Outreach Program

700 S. Holden Road

Greensboro, NC 27407

Direct line for assistance: 888-558-6374

Email: rgallimore@liveatwhitestone.org

When you contact her, please send along send a description of your needs, indicate your lodge and/or chapter name and number, and provide your mailing address, phone number and email address.

Beloved leader dies at 85

Tommy Leon Jones, a child of the Masonic Home for Children who grew up to become a beloved administrator and chaplain of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, died May 10 after a life of faith, service, compassion and kindness. He was 85.

A 46-year, 33rd degree Mason, he was a Joseph Montfort Medal honoree, three-term Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and two-time Grand Chaplain of Virginia.

“Tommy was just a unique and amazing individual,” said Past Grand Master Gene Jernigan, chairman of the WhiteStone Board of Directors. “He has a passionate heart for everyone he came in contact with. He truly never met a stranger.

“His presence brought about a

peace,” he said. “It wasn’t all about what he said or did ... It was just him, just who he was.”

Tommy was born Nov. 20, 1935, to Zebulon and Mary Edith Jones of Belmont, NC. He was the youngest of five, and just 2 years old when his father died. He was cared for by his mother and sisters Edith, Helen and Edna, and brother Jake. His mother Mary Edith barely made ends meet as a maid in a local elementary school.

She turned to her late husband’s Masonic lodge for help and three of the children – Tommy, Edith and Helen – went to live at MHCO in 1939.

Tommy adapted easily to his new life. He worked in the shoe shop and served as the shop’s errand boy, venturing into town to gather shoes for repairs. He collected payments (heels were 50 cents, soles \$1.50,



WB Tommy L. Jones shares a smile with longtime friend and fellow graduate of the Masonic Home for Children, Past Grand Master Dan Rice (left).

whole soles \$2) and saved the nickels, dimes and quarters from his tips.

He also helped gather coal and cut wood, and in his free time he enjoyed swimming and playing on the school’s football and baseball teams. Tommy attended John Nichols High School, named after a North Carolina Grand Master,

where he dedicated half of his day to academics and the other half to working in the shoe shop.

Tommy graduated in June 1954 and attended East Carolina College on a football scholarship. He joined the Air Force ROTC, excelled in his

Underwood installed as Grand Secretary

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

On a sunny spring Saturday on the back terrace of the historic NC Grand Lodge, one chapter in Masonic leadership ended and a new one began.

On May 1, Grand Master R. David Wicker Jr. installed Jonathan Underwood, assistant to the Grand Secretary, to serve as Grand Secretary of this Grand Jurisdiction. Underwood will serve out the unexpired term of Walt Clapp, who retired after serving the Grand Lodge for 42 years – 26 as Grand Secretary.

Underwood, 40, joined the Grand Lodge staff in 2014, following the retirement of Past Assistant Grand Secretary Ric Carter. From certifying petitions to charting budgets to creating educational programs to delivering the Grand Secretary's message at district meetings, Underwood has performed nearly every task required of the office of Grand Secretary.

"I've had a good teacher in Walt Clapp, a great support staff in the Grand Lodge office, and fine mentors in our Past Grand Masters," says Underwood, past master of State College #770. "The only way forward is to work as a team – as a family, as Walt coined us – and I am honored the Grand Master chose me to fulfill this important station. I look forward to serving the brethren of North Carolina."

A native of Sanford, Underwood is a historian by training and administrator by profession. He holds a bachelor's degree in history and classical studies from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and a master's degree in European history and Public history from North Carolina State University.

Before joining the Grand Lodge office, he served as the Public Services Specialist for NC State University's Special Collections and Archives Department, and then as Director of Historic Preservation for Stanly County. His wife of 13 years, Jennifer, is a director of Oncology Strategy Research in RTP. They have two daughters, Ali, 10, and Anna, 7.



Jonathan Underwood addresses family, friends and brethren as he is installed as Grand Secretary.

Photo by Dan Hopping

GM Wicker praised Underwood's work at the Grand Lodge and said he had, working with Clapp for seven years, developed a true understanding of the complexity of the job.

If you look at the duties of the Grand Secretary," Wicker said, "It is so much more than recording minutes, dealing with correspondence and reports of the lodges.

"The Grand Secretary is really the chief operating officer of a 370-lodge non-profit organization. He oversees records and operations of 370 individual lodges. He must be in the position to be able to understand their issues and how to address them.

"In these seven years on the job, he has had the opportunity to observe the duties and responsi-

bilities of a Grand Secretary and is in a unique position to fulfill those duties."

He said Underwood "knows the Code – and the Tax Code – inside and out, and that's critical. The Grand Secretary also sits on many boards and committees, is a member of the Board of General Purposes and secretary of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation. He is an observer on the Children's Home and WhiteStone boards, he attends every district meeting. And Annual Communication is his bailiwick."

And that's just a partial list of duties.

GM Wicker says it's important to provide continuity when we can, and Underwood's appointment meets that need. He says he hopes brethren welcome him and offer their support as Underwood moves forward in this new role.

"It's a whole different view from that seat," he says.

As for Underwood, he says, "I have full confidence that he can do this job and do it well."

The Grand Master explained that he had several options in how he could fill the vacancy and opted to install Underwood as Grand Secretary for the remainder of Clapp's unexpired term – as opposed to an acting grand secretary – because of his extensive background in the job and his qualifications.

Underwood also has an extensive Masonic history. He is a member of Albemarle #703, Wilkerson College #760, a founding member and past master of State College #770 and an honorary member of Blackmer #127. He is a member of the Charlotte Scottish Rite, Greensboro York Rite, the High Point Council AMD, the Amran Shrine, NC College of Masonic Rosicrucians, and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Outside of Masonry, he is Presbyterian, a regular volunteer instructor for NCSU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, teaching North Carolina and British history, a member of the N.C. Literary and Historical Association, N.C. Genealogical Society, N.C. Society of Sons and Sons of the American Revolution, a guardsman in the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry, and a member of the Order of First Families of North Carolina. ✦

THE PRAYER CORNER

By the Rev. Mark M. Vickers
Past Grand Chaplain

How often do we come into lodge with the mindset that we have to do "the same old thing?"

Probably too often.

A friend of mine reminded me the other day that opening and closing the lodge was one of the most sacred experiences that he knew about and had participated in throughout his life. We all have those

"sacred moments" that stand out in our life; whether a baptism, confirmation, a wedding, a funeral and the list can go on and on.

What determines the "sacredness" of an event we might ask?

I would suggest to you that it is those events in our lives, no matter how frequently they are done, that give meaning to our lives, determines the sacred worth of their existence. The late Rev. Peter

J. Gomes, said in his book, *The Good Book-Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*, "Reading the Bible to find ways of justifying the status quo, then, is an enterprise that is bound for frustration and failure."

Maybe we should be mindful, that when we enter into that lodge room, whether it is two or more times a month, that we have the mindset to enter something sacred and leave the status quo at the door and for the world to worry about.

Brethren, let us be "glad and joyous to gather together in a very special way."

PRAYER: Grand Architect of the Universe, help to absorb the sacred worth you have given each of us. Keep us mindful of the sacred worth of every living creature. May we be reminded to be guardians, stewards, and shepherds to those who need it most. Keep watch over us and all whom we love. SMIB AMEN.

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.

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

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THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Nailed it!

I have been in the news business for decades. I've covered stories that ran in local papers and international gazettes. I have interviewed movie stars, crime kings, fat-cat CEOs and sitting U.S. presidents. I have covered plane crashes, major oil spills and devastating floods.

I've covered some unprecedented things, some amazing things, some life-changing things.

But I had never, not even once, interviewed a man about his toes.

Until now.

Eagle #19 Past Master Charles King is a man of his word. When he makes a promise, he keeps it. Even when it requires him to head to his local nail salon in Goldsboro to spend hours having the square and compasses painted painstakingly onto his big toes and his thumbs. (Not to be ignored, the rest of his digits were topped with fetching splashes of matching metallic blue and gold.)

Why, you ask? What possessed him to do this thing?

Why, he was doing a good deed.

Faced with a pandemic shutdown that curbed fundraising events lodges would normally hold, he did the one thing he could still do to raise funds for his favorite charity, the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

In April, he challenged his lodge to raise \$500 from their pockets for MHCO. In return, he promised, he would have his toenails painted with the Masonic symbol in their honor before the first lodge meeting in May. When his brothers raised the money almost immediately, he upped the ante.

Raise \$1,000 and I'll paint my fingernails, too, he promised.

Well, they did ... and he did.

As we emerge from pandemic restrictions into a new day and new ideas, this wonderful story of painted fingers, toes and the brotherly spirit shows me that charity among the 370 North Carolina lodges is alive and joyful.

I have been hearing from brothers around the state that they are trying new things, new



By Beth Grace
Editor

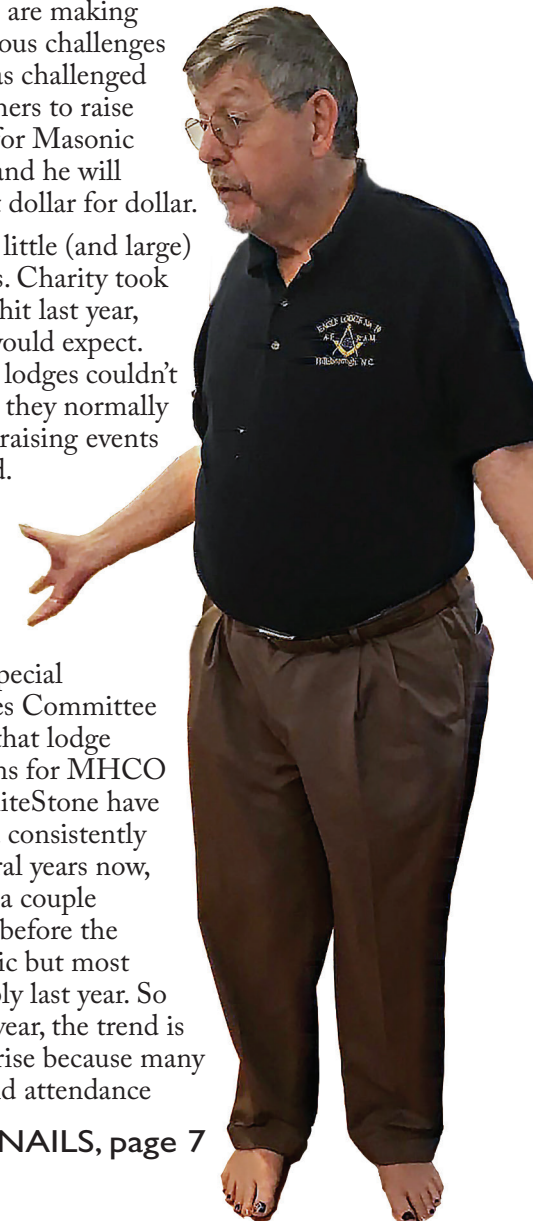
ways to raise at least a little bit to help our charities – which are still incurring unprecedented COVID-related costs and trying to recover from an unplanned downturn, the likes of which none of us has ever seen.

What is your lodge doing to take some of the financial edge off for our charities? Some brothers are making anonymous challenges – one has challenged his brothers to raise \$1,000 for Masonic charity and he will match it dollar for dollar.

Every little (and large) bit helps. Charity took a major hit last year, as you would expect. Because lodges couldn't do what they normally do, fundraising events vanished.

The Special Activities Committee reports that lodge donations for MHCO and WhiteStone have dropped consistently for several years now, starting a couple of years before the pandemic but most noticeably last year. So far this year, the trend is slow to rise because many event and attendance

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FROM THE GRAND MASTER



Of these, the greatest is charity

By R. David Wicker Jr.
Grand Master

As I reflect upon my answer to “What came you here to do,” I am compelled to consider the

tenants of Mason’s profession, brotherly love, relief and truth. We are taught that truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry.

By brotherly love, we learn to regard the entire human species, without exception, as one family. Through relief, Masons are to sympathize with all who are suffering and to assist in restoring to them the peace of God.

Applying these tenants, we learn that it is our duty to be charitable to all mankind. Through our charity, we can make a difference in the world; not only today, but in the future as well. You see, charity extends beyond the grave through the boundless realms of eternity.

My brothers, the Freemasons in North Carolina are unique in that we are one of four jurisdictions that operates a children’s home and a retirement community; the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and WhiteStone in Greensboro.

During my time as a Grand Lodge Officer, I have had the privilege to visit many lodges. During those visits, I was surprised to learn that a majority of our Craft have never visited either of our homes.

With that in mind, I would like to focus on the past, present and future of the Masonic Home for Children.

In the late 1830s, the Grand Lodge began to debate the subject of founding a Masonic College. For the next 20 years, delegates studied the issue, continued the debate and adopted resolutions. But very little action was taken. By 1850, the Grand Lodge Proceedings reveal that six propositions had been made by various lodges to locate the college in their respective county; each lodge pledging to donate money, buildings or both. In his address to the Grand Lodge in 1851, Grand Master A. T. Jenkins supported a proposal for “the erection of a Masonic College in or near the town of Oxford.”

In 1853, the Proceedings reported that “the Board of Trustees availed themselves of a favorable opportunity and purchased a site for

the college, a very handsome situation with the corporate limits of Oxford, at the price of \$4,500.” The property consisted of 119 acres.

The Board of Trustees paid \$2,250 and took out a mortgage for the rest. The Board of Trustees estimated an additional \$17,355 would be needed to build the college, but took no additional action due to the lack of funds.

As reported in the Grand Lodge Proceedings of 1857, construction of the building at St. John’s College had been completed. In 1858, students were attending the college. However, with the advent of the Civil War, St. John’s College began to suffer financially. In 1861, the Grand Lodge assessed \$2 per contributing member of each lodge to raise \$5,000 “to prevent the sale of the property belonging to the said college”. Ultimately, financial hardships forced St. John’s College to cease operations.

In 1870, the committee studying the situation recommended the property be sold. Although no action was taken, the recommendation sparked a great debate among the delegates. In 1871, a resolution was introduced providing “That this Grand Lodge will, under no circumstances, sanction the sale of said institution, nor permit it to be used for any purpose, save that for which it was erected.”

A substitute resolution was submitted to allow the Grand Treasurer to advertise and sell the property “on credit of one, two or three years.” Another substitute resolution was submitted to sell St John’s College to Tuscarora #122 (now Oxford #122) “for one-half of its real value.” These resolutions failed.

The future of St. John’s College was again debated at the Annual Communication in 1872. At that communication, Brother George B. Harris introduced a resolution “providing for the sale of St. John’s College to the State for a Lunatic Asylum.”

Right Worshipful C.A. Cilley, JGW, introduced a resolution to advertise and sell the property. Brother John H. Mills then presented a substitute resolution providing for the creation of “an asylum for the protection, training and education of indigent orphan children.”

After debate, a vote was taken on Brother Mills’ substitute motion. That vote resulted

in a tie and Grand Master John Nichols cast the deciding vote to create the first Masonic children’s home in the United States. (No disrespect to our Brothers in Kentucky. The home they founded in 1867 was not established exclusively as a children’s home but as a home for the widows and orphans of the Civil War. The home in Kentucky has not cared for children since 1989 and is currently operated as senior care facility.)

In December 1873, Robert L. Parrish, Nancy Parrish and Isabelle Robertson, all from Granville County, were the first children admitted to the home. By 1874, nearly 150 children, “many of them without home or friends, being orphans in the true sense” were being cared for.

Following the Civil War, the need for the care of orphan children was so great that in 1875, the Grand Lodge established the Mars Hill Asylum in the western part of the state. At that time, there were 35 children in care. After a short time in operation, the Children’s Home in Mars Hill was consolidated with the Children’s Home in Oxford.

Although continuously supported by the Grand Lodge, the Home historically received funding from the state. In 1878, Sen. W.S. Harris of Franklin introduced a resolution that was approved, appropriating \$3,000 per year to the orphanage. This amount grew to \$5,000 in 1881 and \$10,000 in 1885.

In 1911, the state appropriated \$30,000 for the home, which was serving 325 children. Sadly, the state has not appropriated funds for the home in many decades.

The campus has grown from the original 119 acres to more than 300 today. The property has been in use continuously for farming operations since 1873. In an effort to teach children work skills, there has been on the grounds, a hospital, electrical shop, woodworking shop, shoemaking shop and a print shop.

In 1921, the Oasis and Sudan Shrine Temples installed the first swimming pool. In 1925, the John Nichols School was completed and in 1931, it became a public school, open to children from the city of Oxford. The school closed in 1973 due to a decline in attendance. Since then, the children in our care have attended public school in Oxford.

I was surprised to learn that a majority of our Craft have never visited either of our homes.

Are you ready to build something good?

As I said at my installation, I am honored for the opportunity to serve you. And, thank you, brethren, for your support and congratulations.

The feeling is surreal and time seems to have lost meaning over the last few weeks. Yet, though the many moments sometimes blur together, I can't help but vividly remember standing nervously at the door of the preparation room of Albe-marle #703.

I recall being blindfolded with an old velvet hoodwink, my face just inches away from the old pine door, and listening to the shrill ping of the officers' gavels against an inch thick slab of blue slate stone in synchronous succession—a unique sound I have never heard in any other lodge.

Senses heightened, I turned to my coach, Jimmy Blalock, and asked, "Are they building something?"

"Yes," he said, "in a way."

He took my wrist and held my hand out to the door.

"Are you ready to build something?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied.

The last thing Jimmy said to me before I made my distinct knocks was, "Just remember in whom you put your trust." I still remember.

Twelve years ago, I had no idea what a Grand Secretary was, nor what kinds of business was transacted in the Grand Lodge Office. But through my research as a historian for Stanly County, I quickly found out.

Like many of you, I became very interested in the history of my lodge and the men who came before me. I called the Grand Lodge shortly after I was raised to inquire if the Grand Lodge maintained any kind of archive I could reference in searching for local lodge history.

Cornelia Doherty answered the

phone, and 10 seconds into my request for information, said, "I think you just need to talk to the Grand Secretary, let me transfer you over."

None other than Walt Clapp answered. I was shocked. I was talking to a Grand Lodge Officer – the Grand Secretary!



By Jonathan Underwood
Grand Secretary

I immediately pictured him sitting at a large desk in an expensive chair wearing his collar and apron while he worked. I stuttered my question back to him. Yet, he was attentive and helpful and encouraging, and told me to come visit the Grand Lodge. I have never forgotten the time he took to take my call and answer my

questions.

A few years later, then-Grand Master Dalton Mayo and Walt were interviewing me to be Assistant to the Grand Secretary. After several minutes of reviewing job descriptions and responsibilities, Walt cheekily glanced over at Grand Master Mayo (as he is wont to do) and said, "Our job is to make the Grand Master look good, help the secretaries maintain their records, and serve the brethren – the Grand Secretary works for the membership. And, don't forget it."

Grand Master Mayo peered over at Walt, and nodded, saying, "Yes, I like to look good. And, you do work for the members of our lodges."

It was another moment I have often thought about again and again lately.

I've concluded that I am still building, I am still seeking more light, and I serve you, the brethren of this jurisdiction. It is an occupation, a calling, and an education all rolled into one. Like I said, I am honored by the opportunity.

As I think back on my first contact with the Grand Lodge Office, I remember the mystique I perceived to surround the office and Grand Secretary.

Seven years into my "apprenticeship" under Grand Secretary Clapp, that aura still exists, but through a different lens. Far from the deep-state conspiracies most profanes – and a few of our members – perceive it to be, the Grand Secretary oversees the business of the fraternity, like a Chief Operations Officer.


The "business" of the fraternity encompasses everything from processing petitions and affiliations, lodge elections, and the dozens of forms in place coordinating the massive genealogy of lodge membership to overseeing expenditures, audits, investments, and federal and state tax submissions.

There are trials to clerk for, minutes to take at Board of General Purposes and North Carolina Masonic Foundation meetings. There's local, foreign, and international fraternal correspondence, philanthropic outreach, and public relations.

Of course, there's serving as personal assistant to the Grand Master, facilitating strategic planning sessions for the Grand Lodge Officers, and implementing policy through laws, rules, and regulations.

Then, there's the planning and execution of the Annual Communication—a conference that hosts between 1,200 and 1,500 guests. That gathering, of course, requires the generation of Proceedings.

It is a lot. But it's a beautiful way to see how Freemasonry serves the greater good. I feel confident that the lessons of service instilled in your Grand Lodge staff – Vicki Lam, Hayley Moll, Matthew Robbins, and myself, by Past Grand Secretary Walt Clapp will continue to serve our fraternity well in the years to come.

Brethren, please visit your Grand Lodge. Please ask questions. Please know and understand how your fraternity is administered. We take our work in the quarry very seriously and want to ensure your experience as Masons is as successful and rewarding as we have found it to be. 

Grand Secretaries of North Carolina since the founding

A list of Grand Secretaries elected to office and years served since the founding of our Grand Lodge in 1787:

- ✂ James Glasgow 1787
- ✂ William J. Dawson 1788-1789
- ✂ Matthias Handy 1790-1791
- ✂ Richard W. Freear 1792-1794
- ✂ Robert Williams Jr. 1795-1807
- ✂ Thomas L. Williams 1808-1810
- ✂ Alexander Lucas 1811-1819
- ✂ Bazaleel Gillett 1820
- ✂ Benjamin A. Barham 1821-1822
- ✂ Alexander J. Lawrence 1823-1827
- ✂ John C. Stedman 1828-1830
- ✂ Charles D. Lehman 1831
- ✂ Thomas J. Lemay 1832
- ✂ John J. Christopher 1833-1835
- ✂ William T. Bain 1836-1839
- ✂ William A. Harrison 1840-1843
- ✂ William T. Bain 1844-1866
- ✂ Donald W. Bain 1867-1892
- ✂ Gustav Rosenthal (Acting) 1892-1893
- ✂ William H. Bain 1893-1894
- ✂ John C. Drewry 1895-1916
- ✂ William W. Willson (Acting) 1916
- ✂ William W. Willson 1916-1928
- ✂ John H. Anderson 1929-1944
- ✂ Charles B. Newcomb 1945
- ✂ Wilbur LeRoy McIver 1946-1958
- ✂ Charles B. Newcomb (Acting) 1958-1959
- ✂ Charles A. Harris 1959-1973
- ✂ Robert P. Dudley (Installed) 1974
- ✂ Robert P. Dudley 1975-1996
- ✂ T. Walton Clapp III (Installed) 1996
- ✂ T. Walton Clapp III 1997-2021
- ✂ Jonathan A. Underwood (Installed) 2021

■ WICKER, from page 5

Seeing a change in how traditional orphanage facilities were being viewed by the state, the board of directors of the MHCO applied for licensure and in 2002 received a license for institutional child care from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Since then, the home has received national accreditation by the Council on Accreditation. The Home has since maintained its license and accreditation.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the “orphanage” care model began to fall out of favor. Trying to stay ahead of anticipated change in the desired care model, in 2003 construction was completed on seven new residences, allowing the home to transition into the family-based model of care that is used today. Under this model, children live in a home with a child-care-worker couple. Each child has his or her own individual room and meals are taken together as they would in a traditional family setting.

Today, the Home offers residential care for minor children and an independent living program for children who have graduated high school, but are not yet ready to move out on their own.

In addition, at its most recent board meeting in May, the board voted to create and staff a third care model: a transitional living program for children who are becoming the age of majority, but are not yet mature enough to move into independent living. This care model will

allow them to continue to mature under the supervision of a child-care couple, while developing the skills to move into an independent living setting.

Since its creation, the home has cared for more than 12,000 children.

Today, we have no children orphaned by war. But 150 years after its creation, there are still children in need. Children who are homeless from causes other than war. Children who are in a dangerous and unstable living environment, facing physical and emotional trauma.

During the majority of my Masonic career, Masonry was something I did on the third Monday of every month. My wife knew a little about Masonry, but she considered it “my thing.”

Prior to the quarterly board meetings at the MHCO, the board will often have dinner together, sometimes in the cottages with the children. One such occasion was the first opportunity my wife had to directly interact with the children.

As we were talking during dinner, a child suddenly stopped, looked at me and asked “Do you know who my daddy is?” I said no, I don’t believe I do. He looked down and said, “Me either. I never met my dad.”

Overcome by emotion, my wife redirected her attention to another child at the table. She turned to him and said, “I heard you say you have 2 names. Is one your first name the other your middle name?” He said “No. The first name is my

birth name and the second is my adopted name. But neither of my parents wanted me anymore. That’s why I am here.” At this point, she struggled to hold back her tears.

The need for the MHCO is as great today as it has ever been. The Home exists to provide a stable, caring, loving home that some children have never experienced. Each child is provided the opportunity to complete their primary education. In recent years, the graduation rate has been 100 percent.

After high school, transitioning into the Independent Living Program allows children to continue their education or learn a skill or trade by attending Vance Granville Community College. For those who want to continue their education, the Home helps them in obtaining an undergraduate degree, master’s degree and in at least one case I know of, obtaining a Ph.D.

Despite the Covid pandemic, in 2021, we have a young woman graduating from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and three young ladies graduating from high school.

Today, the goal of the Masonic Home for Children remains the same as it was 150 years ago: To teach, guide and nurture children, helping each child to determine his or her own path for the future. This goal can be accomplished only with the help of every Mason in North Carolina.

The challenges we face today are not new. In 1873, the Grand Lodge

adopted a resolution that required each subordinate lodge to have a committee on the Masonic Home for Children and “that the support of the Orphan Asylum be a regular order of business in each subordinate Lodge at each communication.” That practice continues today.

I offer a two-part challenge to each Masonic Lodge and to every Mason in North Carolina.

First, visit your Children’s Home. Come to Oxford and see for yourself the work that is being done. After traveling across North Carolina, no one appreciates the size of this state more than the Grand Master. Visiting the home at least one time is not such a burden that cannot be endured. I encourage you to bring your wives and children to our Home. Let them experience firsthand the good you do.

Second, support your Children’s Home financially. The amount of support does not matter. As long as we all offer such support as our cable toes will allow. Our home is not blessed with a permanent endowment. But if we all do a little, a lot will be accomplished.

Without the support of the Masons in North Carolina, we would not be able to continue caring for children as we have done for almost 150 years.

As you continue on your Masonic journey through life, remember to reflect upon the question of “What came you here to do.” The answer to that question can help determine the future of tomorrow’s children. ♀

■ NAILS, from page 4

restrictions remain in place, and lodges are busy just trying to get back to regular business again.

I’m not sure what the answer is to how lodges can find workable ways to support our Masonic charities as well as local groups in need, while dealing with all the other present-day issues facing the Craft.

Nobody knows for sure. But I do know that good minds are working on it.

So blessings be on the heads of the brothers who try, the brothers who don’t mind looking a little silly if it saves a life or two, the brothers who are willing to give from their hearts ... while painting their toes. ♀



The Grand Lodge Eagle Scout Task Force has developed a patch to recognize Eagle Scouts. The patches will be presented to Scouts who have recently earned the Eagle Scout rank, along with a certificate and letter from the Grand Master.

The task force has decided that every patch will be personally presented by a Mason to ensure that the Eagle Scout has some understanding and impression of Masonry. A short ceremony has been created for use in presentations and can be provided for use.

If your District or Lodge would like to host a recognition ceremony, or you would like to present patches to a specific Scout you know at a Court of Honor, please e-mail glnceagles@gmail.com and we will work with you to get everything set up.

To purchase a patch, visit tinyurl.com/glnceaglepatch. Patches are \$11 and proceeds above cost will go to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Order online and an invoice will arrive in the mail.



GM's pin focuses on charity as central to Masonry

When you give to others, you can change the world.

That's the essential message of the pin Grand Master R. David Wicker Jr. has designed to give away during his year in the East.

Grand Masters have for some years now presented a pin with a design representing a key theme for his year to brethren and friends he encounters from District Meetings to lodge meetings to raisings to the Annual Communication in Winston-Salem in September. Many brethren collect such pins from year to year.

He says he wanted his pin to serve as a reminder of the central role charity plays in the Masonic journey. The center design combines the logos of our charitable homes. It shows the square and compasses and the Eastern star surrounded by the iconic oak trees of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. On the back of the pin is RDW, our Grand Master's initials.

As he writes in his column in this issue, GM Wicker has given much thought to what charity truly means to every brother.

"I am compelled to consider the tenants of Masons' profession, brotherly love, relief and truth. We are taught that truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. By brotherly love, we learn to regard the entire human species, without exception, as one family. Through relief, Masons are to sympathize with all who are suffering and to assist in restoring to them the peace of God," he writes.

"Applying these tenants, we learn that it is our duty to be charitable to all mankind. Through our charity, we can make a difference in the world; not only today, but into the future as well," he says. "You see, charity extends beyond the grave through the boundless realms of eternity."

Edging ever closer to normal

By Beth Grace
Mason Editor

Long time, no see.

Slowly, but surely, lives are returning to normal, doors are opening and masks are growing scarce as the world – including our Masonic world – returns to normal. Or at least, a bit more normal.

Barring unhealthy trends in the nation or local positivity rates, vaccinated adults got the go-ahead to move about without masks if they choose, meeting restrictions have eased, and events – long postponed by the pandemic – have been rescheduled.

The Grand Master's District Meetings are on again (look for a list in this issue), lodge meetings are resuming and brethren can see each other face to face again.

Take a look at the Grand Lodge Facebook page to get a look at how things are going. (I scrolled through recent weeks and found post after post to illustrate the change. Thanks to all those who posted without having any idea I would take a photo from their pages to share the smiles.)

You will see a lot of smiles there.

But nowhere are the smiles wider than at our two Masonic homes.

For a year, access to the campuses of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and at WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro has been closed to all but residents

and designated officials and staff.

But with the easing of mask and meeting restrictions, each campus can now welcome more folks.

On April 5, MHCO made a real event. Kids and staff conducted a ceremony to officially remove the "STOP: Campus Closed" signs.

Following a prayer by House Parent Andy Newton, the announcement was made official that the signs were coming down and some of the guidelines were being relaxed. Children's families could now visit on campus, (except inside the cottages). And, adding another smile all around, the requirement of wearing masks while outside was removed.

Groups are now allowed to return and hold events, but safety guidelines for events involving the children – who are not yet all vaccinated – remained in place as of presstime.

At the ceremony, each cottage had the opportunity to cut a tie on a sign. Then everybody took a turn stomping on the signs before they were discarded.

A few weeks later, some 80 miles away, WhiteStone announced that pending ongoing good numbers in the county positivity rate, the dining room would reopen to full capacity on June 1 and guests will be allowed. Visitors – masked – were welcomed back to campus in April.

■ see CLOSER, page 9

Ready, set, go! Virtual run dates announced

Get your running (or walking) shoes ready for the second annual Grand Master's Run, set for this fall.

This statewide virtual event – with some cool new rewards for your participation this year! – honors our outgoing Grand Master and welcomes the new. The run begins Sept. 24 with the opening of Annual Communication and runs through Dec. 4, the date of installation of our next Grand Master.

Cost to register will be \$20 per person, with proceeds going to support our charitable homes: the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, and WhiteStone (both the home and the Fraternal Friendship outreach program for brothers and sisters in need in their own homes).

Participants can choose their event:

- 1K walk/run-0.62 miles
- 5k run-3.1 miles
- 10K run-6.2 miles.

You can walk, run or even hop ... just submit

photos or some other way to show you completed your pledged activity (like a stopwatch with your total run time, etc.). Or you can show some love by participating as a "ghost runner," meaning you get to register to support the run ... without actually running. Support our homes and our Grand Masters from the comfort of your favorite chair at home!

The event was created during the pandemic to keep brothers active and to just help folks get outside. This year, with restrictions easing, the sky's the limit on how you can fulfill your pledge.

Participants will be announced and honored in the January-February Mason and we'll run some of the best pictures submitted by participants. Be creative and wear your Masonic gear – spread the good word that Masons care about kids and seniors!

Watch the Mason, as well as the web and Facebook pages of the Grand Lodge, the NC Mason and the NC Masonic Foundation for details over the next few months!



JONES, from page 2

academics, and made pocket money by repairing shoes. He graduated in 1958 with a B.S. in Physical Education and a minor in world history.

He went to work as a teacher and coach at Cave Spring High School in Roanoke, Va. It was there he met his future wife, Jill Waldron. Tommy and Jill decided to pursue master's degrees at Radford College, while keeping their jobs.

In 1965, Tommy received his degree in public administration. Later that year, Tommy became the principal at Bent Mountain Elementary School in Roanoke. As a new member of Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, Tommy was baptized and his relationship with the Lord grew and deepened.

He then became principal at Mt. Vernon Elementary School in Roanoke.

In 1970, the Jones family grew with the adoption of 11-day-old Laurie Ann.


Remembering his father's commitment to Masonry and the Masonic affiliation with the orphanage, Tommy petitioned to become a Mason in 1974 at Virginia Heights #314 in Roanoke, Va., in which he served as master

in 1980. In 1975, Tommy became a member of the Scottish Rite, the York Rite and also became a Shriner.

In 1980, Tommy became superintendent of WhiteStone. He sometimes sought comfort and respite in the chapel.

The Jones family lived on campus while Tommy's dedication to his Masonic work continued. He joined P.P. Turner Lodge #746 in 1981 and affiliated with MESH Lodge #771 in 2015. He was awarded the Joseph Montfort Medal in 1986 – NC Masonry's highest honor. Not long afterward, he was coroneted a 33rd degree Inspector General Honorary in the Scottish Rite, at a ceremony held in Charleston, SC.

For 14 years, Tommy served as the Masonic Home's superintendent, later to be called administrator. In 1994, he moved back to Virginia to become administrator of the Masonic Home in Richmond.

In March 2002, Tommy was called to be WhiteStone's chaplain and served for 16 years. The chapel was named in his honor in 2014. He retired in 2018 and a year later, Tommy and Jill became residents of their beloved WhiteStone. 

Scheduled District meetings

NOTE: This list may change. Meeting dates and locations that are tentative as of press time are in italics. Follow the latest updates at www.grandlodge-nc.org, on the NC Grand Lodge Facebook page or via Groupable (MORI).

Date	District	City	Host
Jun 15	District 12	Wilmington	St. John's 1
Jun 16	District 4	Jacksonville	Semper Fidelis 680
Jun 17	District 11	Clinton	Hiram 98
Jun 22	District 14/15	Raleigh	William T. Bain 231 at Amran Temple
Jun 23	District 23	Greensboro	Corinthian Lodge 542
Jun 24	District 31/32	Charlotte	Oasis Temple
Jul 12	<i>District 16</i>	<i>Wilson</i>	<i>Wilson Masonic Temple</i>
Jul 13	District 17	Fayetteville	Fayetteville Masonic Center, C. Proctor Lodge & Sudan Shrine
Jul 14	<i>District 21</i>	<i>Southern Pines</i>	<i>Roman Eagle 550</i>
Jul 19	<i>District 2</i>	<i>Cape Hatteras</i>	<i>Cape Hatteras Lodge 698</i>
Jul 20	<i>District 1</i>	<i>Elizabeth City</i>	<i>Eureka Lodge 317 Building</i>
Jul 21	<i>District 3</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Orr 104</i>
Jul 26	District 28	Salisbury	Andrew Jackson Lodge 576
Jul 27	<i>District 8</i>	<i>Halifax</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Aug 2	<i>District 41</i>	<i>Franklin</i>	<i>Junaluskee 145</i>
Aug 3	<i>District 39</i>	<i>Asheville</i>	<i>Asheville Masonic Temple</i>
Aug 4	<i>District 34</i>	<i>Hickory</i>	<i>Hickory Lodge 343</i>
Aug 9	<i>District 33</i>	<i>Boone</i>	<i>Snow Lodge 363</i>
Aug 10	District 25/26	Elkin	Elkin Lodge 454
Aug 11	District 13	Oxford	Oxford Lodge 122
Aug 16	District 19	Durham	Oak Grove 750

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS


Torres Sánchez, Jermaine X.....	8	Phoenix	Whitaker, Bradley Tyson	484	Southern Pines
Grasty, Preston Luke.....	19	Eagle	Avent, Karl Cantor	484	Southern Pines
Wood, Bryce Alexander.....	83	Lafayette	D'Adamo, Michael James.....	492	Thomas M. Holt
Cole, Derrick Lindsey.....	85	Morning Star	Scott Jr, Robert Adderson.....	500	Raleigh
Gilmore, Robert Harding.....	98	Hiram	Abrams, Jonathan Craig.....	505	Cherryville
Simmons, Redden Lloyd.....	98	Hiram	Stivala Jr, Edward Gerard.....	505	Cherryville
Howell, Matthew Wayne.....	109	Franklin	Davis, Christopher Brian.....	528	Fairmont
Zink, Michael Noel.....	122	Oxford	Emanuel, Kyle Morgan.....	528	Fairmont
Williams, Donald James.....	126	Gatesville	Davis Jr, Allan Michael.....	552	Revolution
Connolly, Mark.....	137	Lincoln	Roberson, Thomas James-Arthur.....	552	Revolution
Houk, John Alexander.....	137	Lincoln	Brewer, Brian Keith.....	555	Elise
Ferrell, Douglas Scott.....	158	Knap Of Reeds	Galloway, Ethan Christian.....	555	Elise
Wilson, Mark Anthony.....	167	Winston	Robinson, Lucas Grady.....	555	Elise
Chalfant II, Kenneth Ray.....	198	Cary	Sheffield, Adam Lee.....	555	Elise
McGinnis, Sean.....	198	Cary	Strong, Carl William.....	555	Elise
Currie, Barten Shane.....	205	Long Creek	Stelman, David Johnson.....	576	Andrew Jackson
Hampton, Robert Michael.....	205	Long Creek	Giles, John Robert.....	578	Meadow Branch
Rivera, Roberto Daniel.....	205	Long Creek	Smith Jr, James Blair.....	579	Casar
Roper, Michael Brandon.....	248	Catawba	Fredell, Jimmy Calvin.....	579	Casar
Scott Jr, Lincoln.....	261	Excelsior	Miller, Jeremy Wayne.....	590	Lowell
Doster, Timothy Bryan.....	263	Gaston	Roberts, Matthew Jennings.....	590	Lowell
Bullard, Zachary Paige.....	271	Tabasco	Bradshaw, Darrell Wray.....	592	Maiden
Cable, Jimmy Bryan.....	271	Tabasco	Smith, Kenneth Walter.....	606	Riverside
Johnson, Ralph Loftin.....	271	Tabasco	Pearson, James Robert.....	606	Riverside
Miller, Corey Alan.....	271	Tabasco	Dayvault, Kevin Doyle.....	626	Cannon Memorial
Ringholz, Michael Kevin.....	271	Tabasco	Nelson, Brian Cameron.....	637	Yadkin Falls
Wheeler, James Brandon.....	271	Tabasco	Buffaloe, James Henry.....	654	Elberta
Wrightenberry, Jacob Charles.....	271	Tabasco	Roach, Ross Randolph.....	654	Elberta
Hamm, Mitchell Lee.....	282	Wake Forest	Jones, Joseph Dakota.....	670	Lovelady
Hodge, David Lee.....	282	Wake Forest	Allen Jr, Leon Curtis.....	672	Robbinsville
Waldroup, John Aaron.....	301	Clay	Hyde, Kenneth Lee.....	672	Robbinsville
Branum, Zachary Allan.....	319	Wilmington	Mays, Brantley.....	674	Acacia
Duppini, Dylan Isaiah.....	319	Wilmington	Jackson, Donovan Clinton.....	685	Piedmont-Pioneer
Breakfield, Lucas Cody.....	339	Fairview	Brennan, Joseph Lewis.....	688	Cherry Point
Guin, Thomas Stephen.....	339	Fairview	Estrada, David Emanuel.....	688	Cherry Point
Smith, Rocky Dwayne.....	339	Fairview	Burch, Mark Alexander.....	690	Mt. Moriah
Edwards, Joseph Grey.....	340	Harmony	Engels, James Roy.....	695	Allen-Graham
Wiley, Raymond Scott.....	340	Harmony	Howell, William David.....	695	Allen-Graham
Moser, Steven Andrew.....	352	Durham	Gresham, Samuel Garrett.....	703	Albemarle
Scoville, Christopher Eugene.....	352	Durham	Hill, Carl Jackson.....	703	Albemarle
Sine, Luke Bobby Charles.....	352	Durham	Cundiff, Joseph Michael.....	706	Newport
Richardson Jr, George Allen.....	377	Youngsville	Ficken Jr, Charles David.....	707	Forsyth
Bradley, Axl Keys.....	381	Forest City	Roark Jr, Danny Clay.....	707	Forsyth
Gallman, Jacob Brice.....	381	Forest City	Scott III, William Curtiss.....	707	Forsyth
Roach, James Newton.....	381	Forest City	Nichols III, Wyman Andrew.....	730	Stedman
Wofford III, Joe Fox.....	391	Lebanon	White Jr, James Lee.....	730	Stedman
Laughridge, Gregory James.....	401	Joppa	Brown, Kevin Paul Alexander.....	737	Steele Creek
Tipton, Alexander Walker.....	401	Joppa	Gillie, Thomas Patrick.....	737	Steele Creek
Suggs, Wyatt Sanford.....	404	Denton	Tate, Ryan Scott.....	739	Newell
Bauer, Robert Edward.....	409	Bula	Mason, Tyler Clayton.....	741	Crissie Wright
Isley, Michael Lee.....	409	Bula	Hamrick, John Ronald.....	746	P P Turner
Kivett Jr, Raymond Edward.....	409	Bula	Perla, Sean Afsheen.....	746	P P Turner
Ryan, Joshua James.....	409	Bula	Bailey, Joshua Shawn.....	752	Enterprise
Peters, James Robert.....	461	Matthews	Halages, George Angela.....	755	Clemmons
Emery, Gene Theodore.....	479	Rainbow	Halages, John Nicholas.....	755	Clemmons
Brown, James Andre.....	484	Southern Pines	Blake IV, Raymond Elmore.....	758	Oak Island
Compton, Brian Quintin.....	484	Southern Pines	O'Neal, David Shaun.....	758	Oak Island
Forbes Jr, David Allen.....	484	Southern Pines	Shaheen Jr, Lawrence Joseph.....	759	James K. Polk

CLOSER, from page 8

“These changes are a result of careful planning and closely following CDC and CMS guidelines. But they are also a direct result of how well you have all taken care of each other during these past 14 months,” Administrator Mark Lewis wrote in his announcement to the community. “It has taken a while to get here but we remain optimistic that we will continue to see improve-

ment as we move ahead.”

There have been no new cases reported at either Masonic home in many weeks. Routine testing continues, however.

Watch for more changes at our homes as guidance comes from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the Governor's Office. 

NEWS OF THE CRAFT



▲ **OXFORD** – The Annual Great Landscape Event at the Masonic Home for Children took place this year – just in a different way. Because of pandemic restrictions, there were not as many participants as in the past, but the folks who attended (by invitation since campus was closed) worked as hard as usual. MHCO Board Chairman MW Dewey Preslar led a group from Andrew Jackson #576 in beautifying God's Half Acre. Other groups spread mulch at the playgrounds and planted flowers at the York Rite Chapel. Also, children of the Home helped replot oak trees that will be available for purchase during the 2023 150th Celebration of the home.

CHARLOTTE – Brothers from Temple #676 pay a special visit to WB Bill Parlier at this home to commemorate his 99th birthday. He was presented with a large birthday card, circulated among some local lodges for signatures. Brother Bill was in good spirits and even danced a little when his brethren sang "Happy Birthday." He is the lodge's senior surviving past master, having served in the East in 1967. During his tenure at Temple, he was secretary for several years. He doesn't get to lodge very often as he has hearing difficulties and doesn't like to drive at night, so the brothers took the party to him. ▶



▲ **HIGH POINT** – Acacia #674 in May celebrated brother WB Jacob R. Summey, as he graduated from East Carolina University with two bachelor's degrees: one in Biology and one in chemistry. Summey is a Past Master of Acacia in High Point, serving as Master in 2019 while attending school, a member of Crown Point #708 in Greenville, a Knight Templar in High Point Commandery #24, and a 32nd Degree Mason in Guthrie Valley, Orient of Oklahoma. Jacob is a Marine Corps veteran and a major in Civil Air Patrol, active since 2000.

GATESVILLE – Nineteen 1st District past masters joined their brothers at the annual Gatesville #126 fish fry. Brothers Ralph Wilkins, Ben Stallings and Gilbert Cherry caught the fish and helped prepare the meal. Brothers from across the 1st Masonic District enjoyed a dinner of fried white perch, catfish stew, and all the fixings. What made this evening more special was that WB Steve Stallings, Master of Gatesville #126, invited Past Masters from the district to fill the chairs for their Stated Meeting. Thirty Brothers were in attendance. Grand Steward Phil Johnson sat in the East.



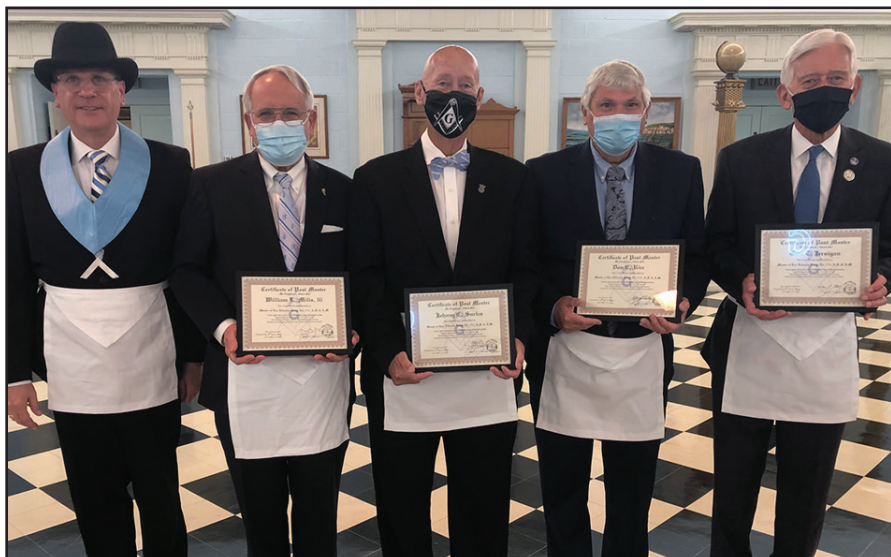
◀ **OXFORD** – The newest team of Ambassadors for the Masonic Home for Children spent a recent weekend in April on campus, getting to know the home and its kids. They spent a day learning about the home's history, referral process, current operations, and marketing. They were all awarded the MHCO Ambassador Pin and Walking Stick. Ambassadors spread the word about MHCO in lodges around the state. They are: Marty Silverwood, Michael Grantham, Kenneth Liles, Tracy Walter, Tim Merritt, Chris Vancil, Job Connor, Jason Ross, Aaron Slyter and Jordan Roddy.



▲ **GREENSBORO** – P.P. Turner #746 held its final meetings in April and May as it prepares to merge with Corinthian #542. In April, the lodge raised emergent Brothers David Hamrick and Sean Perla to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Most Worshipful R. David Wicker Jr. presented the 3rd Degree lecture. Grand Lecturer Herbert Lyon also attended and participated in the degree. At the final stated communication in May, 10 past masters were among attendees.



▲ **GREENSBORO** – The brothers of Revolution #552 spent an evening of excellent third-degree work in April with two brothers. The new brothers, both in plain aprons, are Thomas Roberson (left) and Mike Davis Jr. (to his left).



▲ **RALEIGH** – Lux Libertas #772 Master Gary Handy, left, honors the lodge's past masters. Honorees, from left after WB Handy are: William L. Mills III (2020); WB Johnny Surles (2019); MW Dan Charles Rice (2018); and MW Gene Jernigan (2016-2017). Lux Libertas is an affinity lodge for alumni, faculty, staff, friends and fans of the University of North Carolina. The lodge received its dispensation in 2016 and was chartered in 2017. It meets quarterly in lodges around the state. The lodge also holds a meeting at UNC on University Day (Oct. 12), which marks the date Grand Master William R. Davie laid the cornerstone for Old East in 1793.

JACKSONVILLE – Semper Fidelis #680 has adopted the Alumni Cottage at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. The lodge has already received letters from the five young men and the house parents who reside there and are starting a correspondence. Working with Leigh Ann Adcock as in-kind gift coordinator, brothers hope to assist the young men as needed. WB Joe Reyes has been appointed chairman and the committee includes the Master and both Wardens. The Lodge is planning at least one outing to the home when pandemic restrictions lift. The lodge's goal is to provide the necessities, and some pleasantries, to the residents.



▲ **CARTHAGE** – Three lodges teamed up to hold an outdoor degree in April, raising five brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Brethren of Carthage #181, Roman Eagle #550 and Southern Pines #484 – all from the 21st Masonic District – gathered for the degree, held in front of a home built in 1887.



◀ **STATESVILLE** – Snow Creek #571 recently awarded Brother Jack McLelland with the "Chaplain of Distinction" certificate for his many years of service to the lodge as Chaplain. He has served the past 16 years. Jack has served also as Junior and Senior Deacon, Junior and Senior Warden and Master, and has been a Master Mason for 68 years. From right, Jack McLelland and Master Jimbo Melton.



▲ **JACKSONVILLE** – Grand Master R. David Wicker Jr. (front row, center) re-dedicated Semper Fidelis Lodge 680 in April in honor of the 75th anniversary of its charter. Past Grand Masters MW Shawn Bradshaw and William Dill were in attendance. After a catered meal in the dining room all adjourned to the Lodge.



page 1

MESH program
brings the help to you



page 8

Charity at the heart
of Grand Master's pin



page 4

What lengths will
Masons go to help
our charities?

On the cover

There's a new brother in the Grand Secretary's chair: WB Jonathan Allen Underwood is installed at a special weekend ceremony at the Grand Lodge. Page 3.

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MAY/JUNE 2021