



NORTH CAROLINA THE MASON

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Finding new paths toward Masonic revival

Willpower, alternative approaches could ensure the future of lodges

*By Beth Grace
Mason Editor*

It's not easy being a Freemason in North Carolina these days.

The chatter is everywhere: membership is down, lodges are merging or closing, brethren are aging out, and new blood is not flowing in as fast as it once did.

That sounds like bad news. But depending on how you crunch the numbers and your view of what will fuel the future of Masonry, there may be an entirely different interpretation.

First, some numbers. In the last 12 months, 10 lodges have merged or surrendered charters

(one charter was arrested). That's a loss of 3 percent of lodges in a year. Currently, there are 365 lodges in North Carolina, although that number changes frequently. For example, two new lodges have sought dispensation or opened in that time.

The number of brethren is dropping, as it has for many years. North Carolina logged its highest number of lodges in the 1920s. That number rose significantly after World War I, dropped again during the great Depression and bumped upward post World War II.

The number of lodges in North

■ see REVIVAL, page 2



“It’s OK to close if you need to, but make sure you’re good and ready and have tried a few alternatives first.”

GM Larry Thompson

Before even considering throwing in the towel, make sure to get a measurement of your lodge with a self-assessment. Use the tool on your Grand Lodge’s website: www.grandlodge-nc.org/education-resources

■ REVIVAL, from page 1

Carolina has remained relatively constant since the 1980s, while the number of Freemasons last peaked in the 1980s and has never rebounded. The current membership in North Carolina – around 34,000 Masons – is now equal to the number of memberships recorded in the post WWI era.

In other words, says Grand Master Larry B. Thompson Jr., the numbers tell a bigger story.

“History tells us this is the natural ebb and flow of things,” he said in a recent interview. “And I think, with some effort and care, history tells us we’re going to be just fine.”

“What we do and offer as Masons is a value that is never going anywhere but forward,” he said.

That said, it’s a sad day when a lodge closes or merges. Inevitably, some brothers won’t attend the new lodge and are not likely to join a different lodge. They become lost to the Masonry they once loved.

“It’s a hard thing,” MW Thompson said. “Some lodges just get to the point where membership is down or brothers are simply not coming to lodge and they don’t know what to do next. They may not know that it’s OK to do something completely different.

“It’s OK to close if you need to, but make sure you’re good and ready and have tried a few alternatives first.”

For example, try meeting fewer times a year and make those meetings BIG, a real event. Try changing your mission. Be an observant lodge.

One lodge – Royal White Hart #2 in Halifax – changed the playing field when membership dwindled so low it threatened the future of the historic lodge located just yards away from Joseph Montfort’s burial site.

Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood was among about 20 Masons who joined the lodge last year to ensure it would live on. None of the new members live in Halifax, but all of them care about preserving such a major site in Masonic history.

“Royal White Hart retooled how and when they met, and who its constituents are,” he said. “They are reinventing who they are.”

Some lodges in the course of life run out of steam. Brothers who once loved the lodge find they don’t really get along as well, or don’t do things they all enjoy. In some cases, MW Thompson said, those lodges are right to close.

“The ultimate goal of any lodge is to be close to one another and enjoy being in each other’s company and doing the things that they do. We don’t talk about lodge culture all that often, but maybe we should – sometimes lodge culture just changes over time. Too many lodges stick together because they have a charter. But they’re not friends anymore.”

Some suggest that capping membership in lodges is something to consider. For example, the United Grand Lodge of England hit 10,000 lodges as of the end of 2021. The culture there is to limit lodge numbers to a size that supports close friendships and fellowship.

Newer observant lodges are capping membership at 50, as a way to make lodge meetings more collegial and transformative.

Entering such a lodge, MW Thompson says, “you change the way you act. Like you would in a museum or a courthouse. You’re entering a place of reflection.”

A lodge shouldn’t be a social club or just another man cave, they say.

So how does a lodge facing closure move forward?

MW Thompson suggests a true lodge self-assessment. Find it here on the Grand Lodge web site: <https://www.grandlodge-nc.org/education-resources>.

“Ask the hard questions, get a real handle,” says Grand Secretary Underwood. “Follow a path of continuous improvement. Masonry should find ways to be modern. Lodges should create new lodges and harmony. Truly, the only reason to have a Masonic meeting is to make new Masons or to have a philosophical discussion.”

MW Thompson has one word for lodges that want to survive hard times: Willpower.

“That’s what it takes. Be willing to do the work. Be prepared for change. Make your lodge look great and inviting, especially from the outside. Spaghetti suppers are great – but they just don’t work anymore. People today, especially younger men, want an experience, not just something to do. They want to invest their time instead of just spending it,” he said.

Welcome the new, he advises. Give younger brothers a chance to shine in lodge, like others once did for you.

And finally, remember that numbers don’t matter in a lodge. Quality does. ♦





Warm feet, warmer hearts: Sock sale will benefit MHC

What is the well-dressed Mason wearing this winter?

Socks. Stylin' socks. Masonic socks. They're comfy for the feet – and good for the soul.

Sales of the socks is part of Grand Master Larry Thompson's efforts to help raise awareness and some money in his year for our Masonic charities. Proceeds will benefit our Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

The design – the Grand Lodge square and compasses – was based on a drawing submitted by one of the kids for the 2022 MHC calendar.

And keeping it in the Masonic family, the socks are being manufactured in North Carolina by Wrightsock, a company owned by Brother Jerry Wrihtenberry and managed by Worshipful Brother Joe McCluskey.

The socks are spun of yarn made from recycled plastic. They are available in two sizes: Large (size 10-13) and X-Large (12-14) and in three colors: Bahnsen Black, MHC Yellow, and Code Blue. The price is \$15 per pair plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling. You can pick your order up at the Grand Lodge or have it shipped.

You can order via the QR code or grab your credit card and call the NC Grand Lodge at 919-787-2021 to order.



New service awards head out to lodges

It is very likely reward enough for any Mason to spend decades in active fellowship with his brethren, but a beautiful pin to recognize service to the Craft makes it all the more special.

The Grand Lodge has issued new service award pins in a long-awaited update that harkens back to some very old symbols.

The three try squares and compasses are unique to North Carolina and were designed by architect and brother Lesley Boney in November 1955. Boney was also architect of the Grand Lodge Office Building.

The blue is based off what is believed to be the blue of Joseph Montfort's Provincial Grand Master's collar and apron. It also represents the daytime sky.

The updated medals, which are slightly larger than a nickel, meet requirements of the Code. By tradition, 25-year awards are silver and 50-year awards are gold. The 60-, 70-, and 75-year awards, which were left open to interpretation, and will be made in silver and include gems.

They are based off the 1940s octagonal pins the

Grand Lodge used through the 1960s and include the Grand Lodge's three try square and compasses emblem.

- The 25-year pin is silver with NC Masonic blue (day sky).
- The 50-year pin is gold with Navy blue (night sky).
- The 60-year pin is silver, NC Masonic blue and white, with a diamond in the hinge of the compasses.
- The 70-year pin is silver, NC Masonic blue and white, with a sapphire in the hinge of the compasses.
- The 75-year pin is silver, NC Masonic blue and white, with a ruby in the hinge of the compasses.

Per the Code, the Grand Lodge annually provides these pins and a certificate. As of press time, this year's service awards were on schedule to go out in February.

The original award is free to the honoree. A replacement can be ordered for \$10.

Explore more of Masonry with NOCALORE

RALEIGH – In 1930, several Masons from across North Carolina sought to create a lodge whose purpose was to explore the more academic aspects of Freemasonry – its meaning, history, legends, mysteries, myths, and rituals.

The lodge's members were encouraged, if not expected, to conduct research and write papers on such topics.

The North Carolina Lodge of Research No. 666 (NOCALORE as it was affectionately known) was chartered on Jan. 21, 1931, in Monroe, and was very successful in attracting capable men seeking to illuminate the fraternity's knowledge of its own nebulous past and pieces.

Long out of print, this volume has now been reprinted by the North Carolina Grand Lodge. It is the hope of the Grand Lodge that the reprinting of NOCALORE will help redirect a light on some lost Masonic scholarship and inspire a new generation of Masonic thinkers, philosophers, and seekers of light.

Each hardcover book costs \$29 and can be ordered via



the links here: <https://tinyurl.com/465zpx4>. Can't find it by linking? Surf to www.grandlodge-nc.org and click on Center for Members. Look for Books and Reading Materials.

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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 PATRERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hope: Let it spring!

Hope springs eternal, they say. Really? Does it? If you're like me, it does ... until it doesn't. Time and reality can make that uplifting sensation fade, leaving the door open to apathy or boredom.

By the time you read this, we'll be a month or more into a new year. I love a new year – all of that expectation, anticipation and preparation for a new beginning, a new day, maybe even a new life.

But this time, this year – my springy feeling of hope is not fading, even a little bit.

Why? Some great changes are coming, and some inevitable changes we have already seen are coming into focus.

For instance ... A brand new Board of Publications has been seated and the brethren are hard at work for a succession plan of sorts for the NC Mason. It's early days yet, but the goal is to liven this newspaper up, while retaining its mission to serve all brethren of the Craft in NC.

The board – please see their names listed immediately to the left of this column – is taking on a stronger advisory role to help create more diverse content.

That means we'll have more personality

profiles, more features about lodges and the towns they call home, more articles about what Masons love. Did you know, for example, that Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood has a world-class recipe for an Old Fashioned? You might just see that in a future Mason. (I insist upon properly testing it first ...)

The first change – well, maybe it's a restoration – will be a necrology, a list of brethren who have passed (as reported to the Grand Lodge) since the last issue. We ran such a list many years ago; it's a good idea to bring it back. Watch for it in this issue.

The paper also may look a little different down the road. The newsprint version you have seen for many years has had its day.

We're looking at alternatives – brighter, lighter, more colorful. Did you know the Mason has been printed in color only since 2015? That's the same time (and issue – July-August), we switched to the smaller tabloid format you now receive.

The board is looking at options and pricing; printed materials are not cheap, and the board wants to spend the budget responsibly. We'll fill you in on progress as we go.

If you have ideas for changes in a new NC Mason, please share – send them to ncmason@glnc.us or to bgrace@glnc.us.

In the meantime, a happy, hopeful 2022 to all! 🍀



By Beth Grace
Editor

222nd Annual Communication held in Winston-Salem
Grand Lodge is peaceful and historic

Most voting at Annual Communication was done by show of hands.

Amendment Record Board

Group 1	Reinstatement requirement.....	Passed
Group 2	Define certain form work.....	Passed
Group 3	Detail NPD procedure.....	Failed
Group 4	Limited alcohol usage.....	Failed
Group 5	Allow EA and FC membership.....	Passed
Group 6	Annual meeting schedule.....	Passed
Group 7	Annual meeting updates.....	Passed
Group 8	Record keeping requirements.....	Failed
Group 9	Add background check.....	Failed

THE BOTTOM LINE
Jobs and entitlements

Each lodge has a different method to make up its grand committee and to do so we have been working with our Grand Lodge level for many years. The Grand Lodge has been working with our Grand Lodge level for many years. The Grand Lodge has been working with our Grand Lodge level for many years.

EXTREME MAKEOVER
LODGE EDITION

New lodge outreach program will 'Help you start to dream again'

What does your lodge building say to the world? Does it welcome? Does it please the eye? What message does it send? Does it make you want to step in and attend a meeting? If you are interested in making the question, would you be willing to help with a face-to-face outreach campaign to finish the Mission?

Believe on the North Carolina Mason University campus after he had discovered it was never completed as designed. The project would follow the 1920 plan that called for a full exterior treatment, having a full exterior treatment, having a full exterior treatment, having a full exterior treatment.

Working with Grand Secretary Wade Chapman and Jonathan Underwood, a restoration program was designed to help each lodge help itself. And the only money the lodge would spend is in its own improvement.

The Grand Lodge is offering an experience and training of no charge to lodges willing to do things up, repair and restore – and lodge determine what needs to be fixed, how it can be done, and even work out a financial plan that lodge can implement.

"This is a face-to-face outreach campaign to finish the Mission."

Denise Soltes, senior steward of Stone College #776, gives a Customized lobby colors a fresh coat of white paint, has photos removed of the age of previous Brother Robbins creates for each lodge.

The Mason in 2009 at left. An issue from 2021 above.

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



Apathy can be a lodge killer

By *Larry B. Thompson, Jr.*
Grand Master

Have you ever driven by an unfamiliar lodge building in your travels and, based on outward appearances, find yourself questioning whether the lodge is still active? Do you know of a lodge that consistently struggles with poor participation or has not performed a degree in years? Similarly, we all know lodges that have not held a fundraiser for our Masonic charities in years.

Why would a lodge neglect its building? Why does a lodge struggle to fill its chairs on meeting night? Why are we not fulfilling our obligations and supporting our charities?

In a word – apathy.

Regardless of the perceived problem (finances, membership numbers, participation, lodge culture, etc.), apathy is the cause ... and it can be a lodge killer if the source is not identified and addressed.

None of us want to see a lodge fail and yet we have 434 lodges that have gone inactive since our Grand Lodge was formed.

So, how do we identify the causes of apathy?

The first step in addressing this issue is to fully commit to making a change and believing that change is possible. Regardless of how we got there, our perception is our reality. Events in the past got us to this point but it is our current mindset that keeps us mired.

Knowing this, we must change our attitude and understand that this will require a significant amount of work. If we are fully committed there is no room for indifference, and we will begin to see involvement.

Change your attitude, and you are on your way to eliminating apathy in the lodge.

The next step is to perform a lodge self-assessment and discover the origin of the problem. We cannot ignore the past; the source of the problem must be identified and

addressed. If ignored, the source can resurface and hinder progress.

A good starting point is to reflect to better days and make note of the things that were taking place that created excitement and motivated your members (lodge improvement projects, fundraisers, community involvement, etc.). You will also want to determine when things started to go wrong, and you will likely find the source of the problem – the reason why members became apathetic.

Again, this will require commitment and willpower to make necessary changes. There will be days when you just do not feel moti-

ap·a·thy

/'apəTHē/

noun

lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.

vated to do what it takes – you will have to force yourself to show up with the right attitude and help get things done. Convince yourself that you can battle apathy and overcome it!

Apathy can lock a lodge into a tailspin. The good news is that once you are motivated to pull out of the tailspin, it becomes easier to do so.

The question is: What is the first step we need to take?

Again, a lodge self-assessment is key. Take time to identify positive changes that can be made by writing down agreed upon action items. Pick an easy task to begin with. It does not have to be exceptional, it just has to get done.

The key is to find something that you can easily accomplish and motivate your membership. The first step may not get you where you want to be, but it will take you one step further

from where you do not want to be!

As you work through your action plan, do not be afraid to mix in new ideas along the way. Subtle changes to your lodge meetings can have a profound impact, whether it be condensing business (consent agenda), inviting in guest speakers, adding music, candlelight, etc.

Lodge improvement projects are another opportunity to generate enthusiasm and improve your curb appeal. Creating an esoteric study group (our Grand Lecturer can help with that) is another great idea that has the potential to change the paradigm.

Just this week I received an encouraging email from a young Junior Deacon who is working to make a difference in his lodge. He felt compelled to write after reading “Freemasonry’s future is up to us” in the November/December 2021 issue of the *The Mason*.

His lodge is in decline, but he is adamant that his lodge doors will not permanently close while he has his foot in the doorway. He has already willed himself to help effect positive change in his lodge and I know he will be successful.

One man can absolutely make a difference!

Brother Henry Ford provided us many inspirational quotes. Two of my favorites that I find apropos when pondering a path forward are:

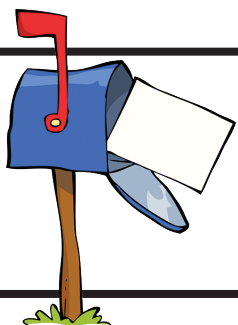
“Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t, you’re right.”

“Obstacles are those frightful things that you see when you take your eyes off your goal.”

Commit to making positive changes in your lodge. Assess your needs, set goals, and work to accomplish them.

Doing this, you will get your lodge closer and closer to its full potential. You will enrich your community and the lives of your members.

You will experience the success that has carried us forward for centuries! ✦



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WORDS: “OPT OUT.” THEN GO TO WWW.GRANDLODGE-NC.ORG TO SUBSCRIBE FOR
NOTIFICATION WHEN THE ONLINE VERSION IS AVAILABLE.



Runners have a Grand time raising funds

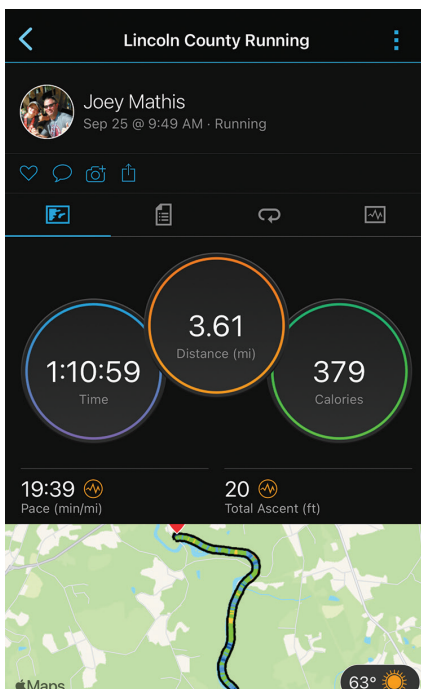
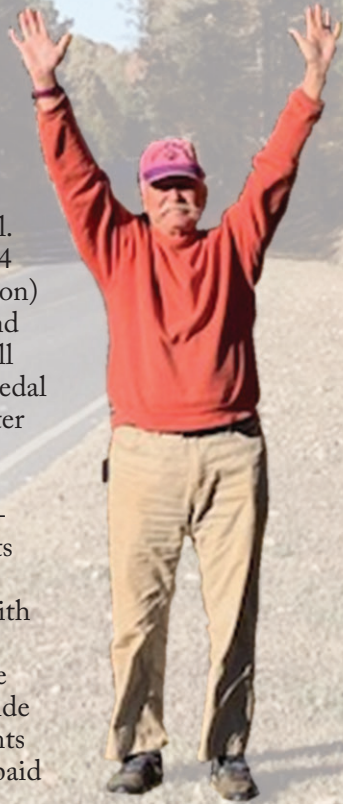
They came, they saw, they ran. The 2021 annual Grand Master's Run honoring the current and outgoing Grand Masters of Masons of North Carolina was a success.

Some 177 registrations were logged, more than double the total for the first year's event. Total raised for our Masonic charities was not available as of press time. Because of COVID, both events have been virtual.

The 2021 run was held from Sept. 24 (the first day of Annual Communication) through Dec. 4 (the day the new Grand Master was installed). Participants will be receiving the promised lapel pin, medal and signed note from the Grand Master by late February or early March.

Among this year's highlights: Two high school cross-country teams sponsored runs; the staff and some residents at WhiteStone joined in the fun; One brother participated while deployed with the U.S. Marine Corps; a Minnesota Mason and his family participated; the Grande Representative from the Grande Oriente do Brasil joined; and registrants included "ghost runners" – folks who paid for registrations but opted not to run.

The run will be held again this fall.





Thank you for the many participants in this year's Run! And thanks for sharing your photos of your runs.

2021 Grand Master's Run participants



Arthur Apolinario
 Nathan Ashcraft
 Mark Bagley
 Joshua Bailey
 Matthew Ballance
 Mark Batchelor
 Dan Beal
 Emily Beal
 Darlene Bennett
 Alvin Billings
 Jimmy Dean Blair
 Dee Blake
 James Blankenship
 Robert Breyer
 Kevin Bridges
 Amy Bridges
 Joshua Bristol
 Brittany Bristol
 Rick Bumgardner
 Elvandro Burity
 Don Butto
 Robert Byrd
 Jason Caldwell
 Zach Campbell
 Chris Clark
 Douglas Collins
 David Collins
 Perry Cozart
 Van Crandall
 Earl Creutzburg
 Rita Daniels
 Stephen Davis
 Jason Davis
 Vincent DeBenedetto
 Kyle Dortch
 John Dullaghan
 Sean Duncan
 Jerry Dutton
 Tim Epps
 Eric Fair
 Heriberto Fernandez
 Lyle Fiore
 John Frechette
 Richard Gelsomino
 David Gertz
 Kyle Gonzalez
 Gregory Goolishian
 Beth Grace
 Anderson Greene
 Elaine Grieder
 Luke Grieder
 Dustin Gurley
 Kevin Hall

Steve Hamlin
 James Hamrick
 Randy Harrigan
 Andrew Hartman
 Jeremy Hetrick
 Will Highsmith
 Todd Hirm
 Greg Hirsh
 Robert Hoblit
 Christine Hoblit
 Dennis Hutchinson
 Vince Hyatt
 London Ivey
 Jeff Jackson
 Prerna Jha
 Jill Jones
 Brent Kaleta
 Will Keeton
 Tim Keeton, PM
 Gabriel King
 Mitchell Kyle
 Bobby Leatherman
 John Ledford
 Steve Lengyel
 Mark Lewis
 Amy Lewis
 Creighton Lovelace
 Herbert Lyon
 Sylvia Lyon
 Alan Mabry
 Cyndi Mabry
 Joey Mathis
 Robert McDowell
 Michael McGuire
 Eamon McGuire
 Mac McKenzie
 Jamie Measmer

Tim Merritt
 Chuck Moser
 William Mosier
 Hunter Murphy
 Kevin Nelson
 Andrew Norton
 Alejandro Ortiz
 Darrell Parker
 J.J. Pettit
 Kimberly Pettit
 Lucas Pettit
 Jonathan Pettit III
 sam prestipino
 Gina Prevost
 Daniel Reuben
 Elin Reuben
 Francesco Ria
 Matthew Robbins
 Jim Roche
 Ronald Sandritter
 Morton W Sanford Jr
 David Services
 Julian Setzer
 Joseph Silberman
 Alan Simpson
 Tyler Singleton
 Bill Smith
 Dave Smith
 Rick Smith
 Gary Spencer
 Karla Stapleton
 James Stem
 Gary Stevenson
 Jonathan Strange
 Mark Teague
 Andrew Townley
 Jonathan Underwood
 J Gregory Wallace
 Joshua Waters
 Evan Watson
 Bryant Webster
 Bryant Welch
 Mason Welch
 Kenneth Wical
 David Wicker
 Alex Wilson
 Mark Wilson
 Dustin Wood
 Robert Yoakum
 Michael Zink

Change is here; are you ready for the revival?

No one can argue that things do not change. Sometimes the process is welcomed, sometimes it's dreaded. The mere thought of change is sometimes more difficult to comprehend than the actual change itself. It takes a certain amount of courage to embrace a new way of doing something.

I recall as a child sitting on the third pew, right-hand side of the church during a congregational meeting—probably one of the first I ever attended.

The church was in need of sprucing up inside and out. The HVAC system was shot. The windows needed caulking. The carpet was looking shabby. And the cemetery was overrun with gnarled tree roots and runaway ground cover.

As the elders and deacons discussed — and debated — these upgrades, the tone of their voices changed, growing louder at times, more harsh at others.

“My grandmother made those cushions,” came one reply. “Granddad planted those trees!” came another. A cadre of elderly ladies objected to the repainting of the sanctuary, claiming, “Our fathers painted the walls this color when we were children, you can't change that!”

Our minister's weary eyebrow remained raised as he worked to moderate the chatter, but by the end of the session little was set for change or alteration.

As the talk subsided a gentleman looked about the room. He was relatively new to the church. His face was flustered, but he raised his hand to speak — one of the few following the

rules of the meeting. The minister recognized him, and he stood and eloquently (but briefly) explained to the congregation that change was necessary and the improvements presented would benefit each of them.

When murmurs and some louder voices chided him for being a

newcomer and ignorant of our traditions, he raised his hands and looked over the congregation. “Friends!” he said, “All I can say is that thank God I joined this church AFTER you all decided to use toilet paper!”

As we move into 2022, everyone is looking forward to a new beginning. The past two years of pandemic, social unrest, and economic shifts have forced us to rethink all aspects of our lives — and Freemasonry is no different.

But change, by and large, has proved beneficial.

More than ever, our brethren made efforts to reach out to each other to stay in contact. Younger generations taught older generations to use technology to stay in touch and even meet virtually online.

Because of social distancing, lodges became creative and moved outdoors (as we once met anciently) and conducted degree work and even business. Districts became “smaller” and lodges banded together to host fundraisers for local members and our charities.

Educational programs hosted online united men across continents and time zones. Our Annual

Communication moved into new, larger quarters and mastered its technological hurdles to provide a remarkable meeting.


We are still realizing other changes and making sense of them. We know membership is declining and some lodges are closing, but declining membership and lodge closures are not indicative of poor institutional health.

Demographics change. Populations shift. We have opportunities before us to plant new lodges in growing cities geared toward giving back. We're definitely within a paradigm shift and our ability to pivot and address issues as they arise will serve us better than clinging to “the way we've always done it.”

To quote Grand Master Thompson, we're ready for a revival — for new growth, new direction, and new opportunities.

Our brotherhood — our friendship — is the constant in our lives. Our ritual unites us on our path as brethren.

The rest is just details.

Are you ready for change? Are you ready for the revival? 



By Jonathan Underwood
Grand Secretary

Grand Historian's Courier Case

Do not despair for united we are one

By Steven Campbell
Grand Historian

Through morality, spirituality, ethics, integrity, comradeship and honor, Freemasonry offers good men the opportunity to become better men and to make the world a better place — no matter their creed, nationality or race.

We historians seek facts, and the fact is that when I look about a Lodge room, I see a vestige of Masonic experience and a most promising future for our nation and our fraternity. For you see, those men who came before us, many of them Freemasons, created the blueprint for our republic through their deeds and actions.

We should strive to maintain

those values we know to be right, endeavoring to pass them along to future generations. And though we live in the present, there was a past from which we can learn, and there shall be a future for which we can prepare using the blueprint provided us.

Perhaps echoes from the past will prepare us for difficult times and the future, so let me share with you some of those words.

From perhaps our most esteemed



American, Brother George Washington: “Let prejudices and local interest yield to reason. Let us look to our national character and to things beyond our present period.”

From an immigrant who in essence created the United States Navy, Brother John Paul Jones: “If fear is cultivated it will become stronger; if faith is cultivated it will achieve mastery.”

From a man who, through leadership and vision, ushered the United States onto the modern world stage in the early 20th century, both in war and peace, Brother Theodore Roosevelt, speaking of the Rough Riders: “I am proud of this regiment beyond measure. It is primarily an American regiment and it is

American because it is composed of all races which have made America their country.”

And though rising to the highest elected office in the land, he would state: “I enjoy going to some little lodge where I meet plain hard-working people on the basis of genuine equality. It is the equality of moral men.”

And then the farewell words spoken by Jack Benny in 1965 over the final resting place of an internationally famous musician, singer, and Master Mason, Brother Nat King Cole: “He had success as an entertainer. But he was an even greater success as a man, as a husband, as a



Everybody's wearing it ... the new GM pin

It hasn't always been a tradition, but in recent years, Grand Masters have designed and distributed a lapel pin created to commemorate their year in the East.

Grand Master Larry Thompson, installed in December, is sharing his own pin this year, crafted from elements that are meaningful to him and his vision for the year.

The overall design is an adaptation of our Grand Lodge seal without the anchor and ladder. The

all-seeing eye reminds us of the watchfulness of the Great Architect of the Universe, while the columns represent harmony and balance. Passing through these pillars during a degree represents a chance for a new beginning, the beginning of a transformative experience.

The altar is our place of communion with the Supreme Architect and the mosaic pavement represents our journey in life with its dark and light periods, its challenges, and achievements.

The border is green not only because that's his favorite color but it's the primary color used by the historic motorcycle club he belongs to: The Boozefighters MC. The Boozefighters were founded by a group of WWII veterans and have always had a strong Masonic connection; quite a few members are Masons.

Want a pin? Just attend a district meeting, be at an event at which the Grand Master is appearing or just ask him for one.

HISTORIAN, from page 8

father, as a friend." What man would not strive for such an epitaph?

When you may feel the world has become too demanding, crisis driven, or gloomy, I beseech you not to despair and to find comfort in the values of our fraternity and your fellow man. Take heart from the 18th century words penned by Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, a Master Mason's wife who would lose her parents, all of her brothers and sisters, and outlive all four of her children: "I am determined to be cheerful and to be happy in whatever situation I may be, for I have also learnt from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions and not upon our circumstances; we carry the seeds of the one or the other about with us, in our minds wherever we go."

Unity, Brothers, is our strength in challenging times, and Masonic values and beliefs are cornerstones of life. Do not misplace them. ✦



Apply now for Hinton James, GL-Cathey Scholarships

The application period for two major Masonic scholarships is now open.

Lux Libertas #772 is accepting applications for the \$1,000 Hinton James Masonic Scholarship for a first-year student enrolled at UNC-Chapel Hill. The scholarship honors James, UNC's first student, who enrolled on Feb. 12, 1795. He graduated in 1798 with a degree in engineering and later became a Freemason. He was elected to three terms in the state legislature and served as mayor of Wilmington. WB Charles Barrett, the senior deacon in Lux Libertas Lodge, is a direct descendant of James.

The scholarship rewards a high school senior with a record of academic achievement and community service. Applications must be postmarked by April 15, and the Lux Libertas Scholarship Committee will select and notify the recipient. The award is funded by an endowment created by the lodge and invested in the NC Masonic Foundation.

More information and the application are available here: <https://mfnc.org/news/application-for-hinton-james-scholarship-available>

Applications are also available for the Cathey

Scholarship, funded by the Freemasons of North Carolina through the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. The scholarship, which honors Past Grand Master Charles Cathey, rewards high school seniors who have demonstrated academic achievement. The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee selects recipients.

In 2000, then-GM Cathey initiated a drive to raise money for scholarships that could be awarded to deserving North Carolina students. The Freemasons of North Carolina generously supported his call. For his tireless efforts to educate the youth of North Carolina, the scholarship program begun by Charles Cathey now bears his name.

Ten scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded for the 2022-2023 academic year. 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. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 15.

More information and the application are available here: <https://mfnc.org/news/grand-lodge-scholarship-applications-are-open>

**WE
PAWS**



FOR A REMINDER THAT WORKING ON EARNING YOUR LODGE'S LION AND PILLAR AWARD IS A YEAR-ROUND EFFORT WITH A REWARD WORTH ROARING ABOUT.

NEWS OF THE CRAFT



▲ **STATESVILLE** – Many hands make light work. And the caring hands of the brothers of Statesville #27 worked hard recently as the lodge participated in the city’s Adopt a Street cleanup. Participating brothers were, from left, Scott Zanotti, Worshipful Brother Eddie Rimmer, WB Steve Horinka, Michael Wright, Most Worshipful Doug Caudle, Dan Cook, Wesley Thompson, and Wayne Craddock.



▲ **LINCOLNTON** – Lincoln #137 dedicated a cornerstone plaque on the new Lincoln County Courthouse in December. Lincoln Lodge had previously laid a cornerstone in 1853 and again in 1921. Lodge Secretary Tommy Smith gave the history of the Masonic cornerstones in Lincoln County. Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 114 Worthy Matron Jennifer Smith gave remarks as did retired Lincoln County Sheriff and lodge brother David Carpenter. Master Marty Paris unveiled and dedicated the plaque and Prince Hall Lomax #29 Chaplain Sammy Ross gave the closing prayer.



▲ **WILMINGTON** – Brothers all over the country gathered in December to participate in the Annual Wreaths Across America event, including a crew in Wilmington. On hand, from left, were Past Master Ashlar #765 Binh Q Nguyen; current Master Wilmington #319 Matthew Collins; current Master Ashlar #765 Dennis Reel; Brother Garrison Cooke of Wilmington #319.

OXFORD – In honor of four Masonic Home for Children employees seeking their Masters of Social Work degrees from Walden University, the accredited online school decided to give back. As part of its Acts for Good program, the school remodeled the MHCO gym lobby into a hangout for the kids. The remodel included a library of books, reading areas and a gift card for every MHCO kid. Walden will use video of the remodel in its marketing.

Congratulations to these members reaching milestone anniversaries:

60 YEARS

CW Boyette, Person #113
Fred Patton Sr., Person #113

50 YEARS

Franklin Childress II, Statesville #27
Allen Joseph Klemmer, Berne #724



▲ **BROADWAY** – Brother Wilson Myers, treasurer of Friendship #763 received the lodge’s Treasurer of Distinction Award in December. He earned this award for outstanding leadership as treasurer for more than five years. He was presented this award by Past Master Donald V. Collins.



▲ **UNION GROVE** – Grassy Knob #471 partnered with Union Grove Ruritan, Union Grove Fire/Rescue, and North Iredell Rescue Squad to provide and deliver bottled water, Gatorade, and snacks to Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department. Brother Avery Williams (second from left) delivered the supplies to appreciative volunteers.



◀ **JACKSONVILLE** – WB Leonard Mendonca, past master of Richlands #564 and member of Knights of Solomon #766, leads by example. Known by his brethren for his willingness to help anyone in need was on his way to lodge recently when he spotted an elderly man hitchhiking with his dog in a cold rain. WB Leonard went over to chat with the man and bought him coffee. The man told WB Leonard he had hitchhiked from Florida and was trying to get to Morehead City to see his sister, who had taken a bad fall and was in a rehab center there. WB Leonard offered to drive him to Morehead City – about an hour away. After the man saw his sister, WB Leonard gave the man a ride back to Jacksonville. He took him to a hotel and gave him money for a hotel room and food.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

Gundlach, Christopher Lee.....3	St. John's	Williams, Jimmie Louis.....304	Pleasant Hill
Mull, Robert Dayton.....3	St. John's	Wolfe, Daniel Ryan.....322	Granite
Tripp, William Terry.....3	St. John's	Lewter, Ayrton Michael.....377	Youngsville
Griffin, Jerry Lynn.....13	St. John's	Solomon, Michael Lee.....391	Lebanon
Stokes, Stratton Fielding.....13	St. John's	Chapman, Noah Anthony.....420	Harmon
Burnside, Dustin Harlon.....19	Eagle	Hinson, Brett Charles.....444	Marietta
Waters, Joshua Kevin.....91	Western Star	Nixon, Charles Douglas.....444	Marietta
Applewhite, Jeffrey Bryan.....99	Fulton	York, Josiah Daniel.....444	Marietta
Harrison, Conor Jacob.....112	Wayne	Nadel, Martin David.....461	Matthews
Reinhardt, Michael Tyler.....162	Yadkin	Gentry, Mitchell Lee.....491	Hominy
Sears, Jaron Gray.....162	Yadkin	Fain, Tryston Shea.....515	Whetstone
Manard Jr, Robert S.....165	Archer	Sanders, Timothy Arnold.....515	Whetstone
Branch, Adam Jason.....207	Lebanon	Martin, Christopher Thomas.....519	Widow's Son
Gupton, Henry Lee.....229	Henderson	Lara, Arturo Emmanuel.....521	Manteo
Pearson, Corey Alan.....229	Henderson	Simonsen, Isaac Burch.....521	Manteo
Shearin, Nathaniel Ray.....229	Henderson	Cooke, Bryan Jacob.....578	Meadow Branch
Isley, Larry Lee.....230	Corinthian	Helms, Corey Matthew.....578	Meadow Branch
Auton III, John Logan.....231	William T. Bain	Swenby, Timothy Wayne.....0583	Ionic
Brinkley, Jerry Todd.....231	William T. Bain	Hines, Michael Anthony.....0669	Kernersville
Hocutt, Marcus Reggie.....231	William T. Bain	Kretzer, Caleb Michael.....0680	Semper Fidelis
Levesque, Sage.....231	William T. Bain	Adams, Timothy Reid.....0691	Renfro
Andrews, Cody Dean.....237	Mystic Tie	Harold, Clarence Dale.....0691	Renfro
McDaniel, Raymond Nelson.....237	Mystic Tie	White, Joshua Andrew.....0691	Renfro
Hayes, David Brannon.....248	Catawba	Morris, John-David Patrick.....0693	Charles M. Setzer
Simpson, Richard E.....282	Wake Forest	Blackwell, Jason Lea.....0699	Asheboro
Porcher, Juwan Xavier.....289	Salem	Long, Aaron Stephen.....0699	Asheboro
Saxton, Robert Kent Farmer.....289	Salem	Wilkins, Robert Maynard.....0699	Asheboro
Sutton, James Howard.....304	Pleasant Hill	Pedigo, Brett Douglas.....0714	Liberty

NECROLOGY

Reports recently received of those brothers from North Carolina lodges who have laid down their working tools.

Earl Clayton Davis.....13	St. John's	Paul David Fields.....403	Siler City
Edmund Bernard Cook.....32	Stokes	Kenneth Wayne Ferrell.....409	Bula
David Sawyer Burgess.....75	Widow's Son	Maurice Phelps Edmondson.....521	Manteo
Michael Todd Daughtry.....84	Fellowship	Charles Russell Carroll.....552	Revolution
Medicus Ernest Bragg.....123	Franklinton	Kenneth Kirksey Brittain.....556	Neill S. Stewart
Charles Franklin English.....198	Cary	Harvey Brooks Fowler.....563	Tabor
Marvin Hartley Bland.....217	Catawba Valley	Jan Raymond Caddell.....594	Ashe
Alton Bruce Clements Jr.....243	Grifton	Oliver Ray Bishop.....617	St Patrick's
Claude Albert Burrell.....259	Waynesville	Edward Aldridge.....626	Cannon Memorial
Wilfong McLeod Frazier.....262	Hibriten	Glenn William Bell.....657	Keller Memorial
Calvin Mack Beam.....263	Gaston	Harry Shafer Drury.....657	Keller Memorial
Bobby Wayne Chandler.....276	Beaver Dam	Phillip Wayne Farlow.....694	Gate City
John James Calhoun.....289	Salem	Charles Buddy Billings.....695	Allen-Graham
Donald Jackson Byrd.....302	Lillington	Boyd Roger Chandler.....703	Albemarle
Jesse Odell Bridgers Jr.....319	Wilmington	Melbourne Gray Doub.....709	Conover
Toy Max Davis.....339	Fairview	Larry Norwood Faulk.....727	Shalotte
Julian Carl Adams Jr.....344	Numa F. Reid	John Michael Correll.....738	West Gate
Arthur McKinley Byrd Jr.....352	Durham	William Mark Carlisle.....739	Newell
Gregory Jay Chaney.....359	Mount Vernon	Thomas Leonard Davis.....741	Crissie Wright
James John Dimeo.....369	Gastonia	Bobby Lee Clontz.....749	Truth
Gary Lee Brown.....391	Lebanon	Boyd Adams Byrd.....751	Old Town

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(Group membership required)



page 3

New design for
service awards



page 9

Speaking of pins, what
are the details of the
new GM pins?



page 6

Running for fun
and for charity

On the cover

'Tis the season for installations.
We have so many submissions
from lodges we don't have
space to run them all — but we
can at least highlight a random
selection on our cover!

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The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, AF&AM
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