

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

My Brothers,

I just want to say how proud I am of everyone for bringing the energy back to Masonry in South Carolina. Each time I see a Facebook Post showing the numbers attending Lodges to support those receiving their degrees, I thank the good Lord for allowing us to get back into our Lodges for fellowship and fun.

I have been fortunate to have been able to visit several Lodges and Square & Compass/Master’s and Warden’s Club Meetings and have been received very cordially. I also thank the elected and a number of appointed Grand Lodge Officers for attending these meetings with me. It’s truly a TEAM effort.

In my last Article in the Masonic Light, I told you that you would be hearing the word TRUST often this year. To understand the meaning, I googled the word trust just see what the written meaning is. I found some twenty (20+) words related to trust. From that list, I found words I feel you expect from your Leaders and they are: Faith, Confidence, Hope, Care, Count On, Depend On, and Look To.

Faith and confidence – you are placing your faith and confidence in your Grand Officers to make the right decisions to carry our Grand Lodge into the future.

Hope – that your Grand Officers will listen to your suggestions with the possibility that they understand the needs of the Craft they serve.

Care – for those they serve. Listening and acting on the things that are important to them.

Count on – knowing they can count on the Grand Officers to serve them when asked.

Depend on – the Grand Officers to follow through on their promises to the Craft.

Look to – the Grand Officers to be the leaders they have been elected to be.

Once again, thank you for your support and for bringing such energy back to South Carolina Masonry.

Fraternally,

Ronald C. Mitchum

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Why Mount Moriah?

Have you ever stopped and wondered why Solomon’s Temple was built on Mount Moriah?

The Lord had promised the children of Israel and King David that he would establish His Kingdom in power forever. We know that King David was not going to live forever, but His Kingdom would endure.

King David, at a young age, found favor with God and was chosen to lead a mighty nation. David was a powerful warrior and led by God, conquered all his enemies.

David ruled for seven years in Hebron. After he conquered the Jebusite (Canaanite) Community of Jerusalem, David established his throne and ruled there for the next thirty-two years.

King David’s palace was magnificent, made of cedar and stone, while the Ark of the Lord was in curtains and the altar was still at Gibeon.

King David heart’s desire was to build a great temple, for Jehovah his God, where the children of Israel could offer sacrifices on one altar. David searched for many years for the proper site to build the temple.

Because of his many grievous sins against God and his blood-stained hands, his designs were frustrated. David continued to anger God by allowing himself to be tempted by Satan and numbered Israel. God was so displeased with David that he sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. David saw the angel of God standing between heaven and earth by the threshing floor of Ornan with a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. David repented and asked God to spare Jerusalem and punish him.

David was told by the angel of God, through Gad, to set up an altar on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. David purchased the threshing floor for six hundred shekels of gold. Ornan offered to supply wood, oxen, and wheat for burnt offerings. David refused to take anything for burnt offerings without cost. David called on the name of the Lord and he answered with fire from heaven.

This was the second time divine intervention occurred on Mount Moriah. The altar David constructed was near the spot where God stopped Abraham from sacrificing his only son, Isaac.

The threshing floor of Ornan, on top of Mount Moriah, was more of a rock than a mountain. The floor was a very rough and rugged so that the oxen could grind the wheat. It was a Holy place that God had chosen as the place for the temple to be constructed.

Where have you built your altar? Have you asked God to direct your life, or have you tried to impose your will on God? Take your lessons from David!

Thomas E. Watson

Senior Grand Warden

Chm. Masonic Education

Committee

GRAND LODGE SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Brethren, our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Ronald C. Mitchum has scheduled and will be calling the Grand Lodge to meet in the following Special Communications:

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021, FORT MILL SC: For the purpose of rededicating Indian Land Lodge No. 414, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge’s 50th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 am at the Lodge. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Indian Land Lodge on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm and will be open to the public. Indian Land Lodge No. 414, AFM is located at 9189 Charlotte Hwy, Fort Mill, SC 29707.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021, EDGEFIELD, SC: For the purpose of consecrating a Past Grand Master Grave Marker for Most Worshipful Brother Orlando Sheppard, Sr., who served as Grand Master from 1899 until 1901. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Concordia Lodge No. 50 on the Third Degree at 11:00 am at Concordia Lodge Hall which is located at 392 Penn Street, Edgefield, SC 29824. Afterwards, everyone will travel to the historic Willowbrook Cemetery located at 212 Church Road, Edgefield, SC 29824 where the Past Grand Master Grave Marker Consecration Ceremony will be conducted. The Past Grand Master Grave Marker Consecration Ceremony will be open to the public.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021, ANDERSON, SC: For the purpose of consecrating a Past Grand Master Grave Marker for Most Worshipful Brother Garland Ray Marsh, who served as Grand Master from 1989 until 1991. At 11:00 am, the Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will declare the Grand Lodge, Hiram Lodge No. 68 and Boyleston Lodge No. 123 open on the Third Degree in Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Forest Lawn Memorial

Park is located at 2609 US Highway 29 North, Anderson, SC 29621. The Past Grand Master Grave Marker Consecration Ceremony will be open to the public.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021, DILLON & MULLINS, SC: For the purpose of rededicating Blue Lodge No.142 and Damascus Lodge No 161 in Celebration of both Lodge’s 150th Anniversary. At 10:00 am, the Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Blue Lodge No 142 on the First Degree. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 10:30 am. Blue Lodge is located at 2724 Gaddy’s Mill Road, Dillon, SC. Afterwards, everyone will travel to Damascus Lodge No 161 for Lunch at 12:00 pm. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Damascus Lodge No. 161 on the First Degree at 1:00 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:30 pm. Damascus Lodge is located at 114 E. Proctor St., Mullins, SC 29574. The Rededication Ceremonies will be open to the public.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021, AIKEN, SC: For the purpose of rededicating Aiken Lodge No 156 in Celebration of the Lodge’s 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at the Lodge at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Aiken Lodge No.156 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm and will be open to the public. Aiken Lodge No. 156 is located at 443 Laurens St. NW, Aiken, SC 29801.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021, SPARTANBURG, SC: For the purpose of rededicating St. John’s Lodge No 333 in Celebration of the Lodge’s 100th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at the Lodge at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and St. John’s Lodge No 333 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm and is open to the public. St. John’s Lodge No. 333 is located at 190 W. Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29309.

NOTE: Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers and the District Deputy Grand Master of the Host Lodge’s District should be present. Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters should wear black tails with black bow tie, black vests, jewel, and apron. All other Grand Lodge Officers should wear black tuxedos with black bow ties, black cummerbunds or black vests, jewel and aprons.

INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Friday, August 13, 2021, 6:30 pm, 8th District, RW Richard R. Barton, DDGM, at Brookland United Methodist Church located at 541 Meeting Street, West Columbia, SC 29169. Guest Speaker will be Mrs. Paula Howell Strickland. Dinner will be served.

Friday, August 20, 2021, 7:00 pm, 14th District, RW Barry L. Volrath, DDGM, at Ruff Lodge No. 240 located at 611 Piedmont Avenue, Anderson, SC 29625. Guest Speaker will be RW Rev. A. Robert Nix, Grand Chaplain. Dinner will be served.

Thursday, August 26, 2021, 7:00 pm, 9th District, RW H. Dee Doolittle, DDGM, at Little Stevens Creek Baptist Church, 1194 Meeting Street Road, Edgefield, SC 29824. Guest Speaker will be MW Gerald L. Carver, PGM, Grand Secretary. Refreshments to be served.

Saturday, August 28, 2021, 6:00 pm, 24th District, RW Richard L. Robinson, DDGM, at Fork Hill Baptist Church, 1125 Fork Hill Road, Heath Springs, SC 29058. Guest Speaker will be RW Gary James, PDDGM. Dinner will be served.

Friday, September 10, 2021, 6:30 pm, 10th District, RW Ronnie Thompson, DDGM, at the Scottish Rite Center, 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209. Guest speaker will be MW Ronald C. Mitchum, Grand Master. Dinner will be served.

Friday, September 17, 2021, 7:00 pm, 12th District, RW Bruce Keisler, Sr., DDGM, at the Union Lodge No. 75 located at 805 S. Duncan Bypass, Union, SC 29379. Guest Speaker will be MW Michael D. Smith, Sr., PGM, SGIG, Lt. Grand Commander, Supreme Council, AASR, S.J. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, September 18, 2021, 6:00 pm, 23rd District, RW James K. Mobley, Sr., DDGM, at Great Falls Lodge No. 277 located at One Masonic Avenue, Great Falls, SC 29055. Guest Speaker will be RW Thomas E. Watson, Senior Grand Warden. Dinner will be served.

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 6:00 pm, 11th District, RW James W. Logan, DDGM, at Mathews Lodge No. 358 located at 328 Kirksey Drive, Greenwood, SC 29646. Guest speaker will be M.W. Brother Barry A. Rickman, PGM. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 6:30 pm, 19th, 20th & 21st Districts, RW Jim Padgett, II, RW Jeffery L. Honeycutt, & RW Jamie P. Willis, II, DDGMs, at Spartanburg Shrine Club located at 1450 Fernwood Glendale Road, Spartanburg, SC 29307. Guest Speaker will be RW Thomas E. Watson, Senior Grand Warden. Dinner will be served.

Friday, September 24, 2021, 7:00 pm, 3rd District, RW James B. Jenkins, Jr., DDGM, at Summerville Lodge No. 234, 111 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483. Guest Speaker will be WB Donald W. Cool, Grand Worthy Patron, OES. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 8:00 am, 4th District, RW Craig B. Dopson, DDGM, at American Lodge No. 98 located at 990 Grays Highway, Ridgeland, SC 29936. Guest Speaker will be RW James N. Barron, PDDGM. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 6:00 pm, 13th District, RW William R. Bryant, Jr., DDGM, at Palmetto Lodge No. 19 located at 316 Hillcrest Drive, Laurens, SC 29360. Guest Speaker will be MW Ronald C. Mitchum, Grand Master. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 6:00 pm, 25th District, RW

Stephen E. Buffkin, DDGM, at Hartsville Lodge No. 173, located at 411 West Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550. Guest Speaker will be RW Thomas E. Watson, Senior Grand Warden. Dinner will be served.

Monday, September 27, 2021, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW C. Daniel Welch, DDGM at Edisto Shrine Club, 2265 Five Chop Road, Orangeburg, SC 29115. Guest Speaker will be RW A. C. “Acy” Flora, IV, Junior Grand Warden. Dinner will be served.

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 6:00 pm, 17th & 18th Districts, RW Kenneth F. Lothridge & RW Mark Bennett, DDGMs, at Greenville Scottish Rite Center located at 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601. Guest Speaker will be MW Michael D. Smith, Sr., PGM, SGIG, Lt. Grand Commander, Supreme Council, AASR, SJ. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, October 9, 2021, 6:00 pm, 6th District, RW Jacob A. Anthony, III, DDGM, at Aiken Shrine Club located at 1526 Columbia Highway North, Aiken, SC 29801. Guest Speaker will be RW Thomas E. Watson, Senior Grand Warden. Dinner will be served.

Friday, October 15, 2021, 6:00 pm, 15th District, RW L. Joe Granger, DDGM, at Seneca Lodge No. 185 located at 205 N. Townville Street, Seneca, SC 29678. Dinner will be served.

Monday, October 18, 2021, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Lucius A. Gardner, Jr., DDGM, at El Bab Shrine Club located at 571 Patterson Mills Road, Barnwell, SC 29812. Guest Speaker will be RW Robert W. Sanders, PDDGM. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 6:00 pm, 22nd District, RW Nelson D. Horton, DDGM, at Adnah United Church Family Life Building located at 1615 Adnah Church Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732. Guest Speaker will be Dr. Daryle Hawthorne, Pastor, Cherokee Creek Baptist Church. Dinner will be served.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 7:00 pm, 28th District, RW Johnson B. Dean, DDGM, at Damascus Lodge No. 161 located at 114 E. Proctor Street, Mullins, SC 29574. Dinner will be served.

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 6:30 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Mark J. Beasley & RW Robert H. Heck, Jr., DDGMs, at Charleston Scottish Rite Center located at 1051 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Charleston, SC 29407. Dinner will be served.

Friday, November 12, 2021, 6:00 pm, 16th District, RW Patrick J. Mulligan, Sr., DDGM, at Bates Lodge No. 189 located at 439 NE Main Street, Easley, SC 29640. Guest Speaker will be RW James “Chico” Mathis, PDDGM. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, November 13, 2021, 6:00 pm, 27th District, RW Benjamin S. Byers, DDGM, at Hampton Lodge No. 204 located at 206 S McQueen Street, Florence, SC 29501. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, November 13, 2021, 6:00 pm, 29th District, RW Donald C. Cox, DDGM, at Jamestown Baptist Church located at 2501 9th Avenue, Conway, SC 29527. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, December 11, 2021, 5:30 pm 26th District, RW David A. Thompson, DDGM, at Sumter Masonic Temple located at 215 Alice Drive, Sumter, SC 29150. Guest Speaker will be WB Zan Tracy Pender, PM. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, January 15, 2022 4:00 pm, 30th District, RW Randall G. Owens, DDGM, at J.J. Mitcheom Community Center located at 2233 Hemingway Highway, Hemingway, SC 29554. Guest Speaker will be MW Ronald C. Mitchum, Grand Master. Dinner will be served.

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES JACKSON HOLMES
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
September 25, 1947 Gaffney, SC
April 25, 2021 Spartanburg, SC

Brother Norman Francis Gay, Past Grand Steward, passed away April 17, 2021.

Worshipful Brother John Marion Brailsford, Past Master and current Senior Warden of St. Peter's Lodge No. 54, passed away July 16, 2021.

We wish to express our deepest sympathies, to the family, friends and Lodge Brethren.

SEVENTY YEAR PRESENTATION



On June 22, 2021, a Seventy-Year Award was presented to Brother Paul Fillman at Allendale Lodge No. 109, AFM. Brother Fillman was raised May 11, 1951 in Port Washington Lodge No. 202, F & AM, Gnadenhutzen, Ohio and affiliated with Allendale Lodge No. 109, AFM on May 25, 1954. Brother Fillman became 98 years old in July. Congratulations to Brother Fillman on reaching this Masonic Milestone. Pictured from left to right are: Seated is Brother Fillman. First Row: WB Jamie Dyches; WB John Heard; WB James Sanders; RWB Lucius A. Gardner, Jr., DDGM. Second Row: RWB Don Kirby, PDDGM; RWB Keith Zissette, PDDGM; WB Gordon Kearse, RWB Billy Dyches, PDDGM. Third Row: WB Kim Still, WB Curtis Ward, WB Keith Smith, WB Benny Crosby, WM, WB Joe Blair, RWB Ricky Smith, PDDGM; RWB Terrell Altman, PDDGM.

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