

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

Inspired Freemasonry

The fall of the year is perhaps my favorite time of the year, as the temperature begins to moderate, nature paints a beautiful and vibrant picture with the changing hues of the leaves, the bountiful harvest and offers the anticipation of peace and plenty. With the approach of fall, we all can take great interest in the beauty and majesty all around us. Color abounds and is a key part of all things fall. Being from the South, it is also a great time of hope for the success of your favorite college football team too!

The fall of the year is also a time to come together as Freemasons in our Grand Jurisdiction to celebrate a successful year, come back to labor and prepare for the year end. For many of us, this is a welcomed tradition in South Carolina, to see old friends, make new friends, and spend time together, as the family of Freemasons. I hope you make plans to attend your District meeting and to gather some new insight regarding our Fraternity. It is a time to celebrate our success and recommit to our plans for the future. It is time to prepare for the approaching New Year!

Inspirational Meetings come in all formats from the new family picnic format with picnic foods, fun and games for the children and great fellowship, to the traditional banquet with a great meal, fellowship and educational presentations, hopefully, not too long and not boring!

Regardless of how we celebrate, the goal is to inspire Freemasons to engage and contribute their talent, skill and capacity for our Craft and to expound our great teachings! We hope to increase fellowship and Fraternity, create interest with our new members, and engage our family members. Regardless of what format is selected, the real objective, in my mind, is how we are creating a positive and meaningful experience for our members.

At a recent events in Washington DC, I had the honor and privilege to attend the conference, as Master of Ceremony for of several events as part of my duties as Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite at the Biennial Session. At the Gala Banquet, I had the privilege of presenting one or our George Washington Portraits to the Supreme Council in front of approximately 1,200 people from all over the World. We shared the successful program and how we have made a difference in the schools in South Carolina while contributing to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Program. The inspirational part to me was what the audience did at the close of the ceremony, they came on stage and had pictures made with the George Washington Portrait and asked about the program. Again, Freemasonry Inspires! It inspires us to think of what we might do to assist others. It inspires Action, focused action, to make a difference. Gentlemen, as I frequently say, we make a difference every day! Keep up the good work. Be the Freemason that works for others, lives worthily and supports your Brethren.

While in Washington, I also saw a young lady born with a rare genetic disorder, Osteogenesis Imperfecta. She was born with 50 broken bones and thus created issues with her development. She learned to play the violin, not by the traditional method but as a miniature base or cello. Her method of play created a beautiful harmony as if multiple violins were playing in perfect harmony. When she was asked about being an inspiration, her answer was actually more inspiring. Don't think I am inspiring because of my

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circumstance, it is who I am, it is part of what God made of me. It is more important that we work and develop our talent to share with others. Freemasonry when in action does this too!

May God grant each of us the recognition of our talent and dedication to develop our talent and skill in order to benefit of others.

Our Grand Lodge Officers look forward to seeing you at our Inspirational Meetings.

Fraternally,
Michael E. Smith, Sr.
Grand Master

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MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Out of the Darkness

From the dawn of humanity, mankind has asked a variety of questions, who am I, where did I come from, is there a GOD, and how do I communicate with Him? Consider how when we were born into this world, the doctor slapped us on our butt and the shock caused us to breathe and life began. From that instant, our sole existence depended on family members and caretakers to feed us, clothe us, and to protect us from all harm developing our “spiritual being” to learn who God is and His demands for His children. From the instant we opened our eyes, we sought to leave the darkness and advance towards the light. Through support, we began to develop. We were taught to crawl, communicate, to speak, to think on our own, to reason things out and walk out of the darkness. This gift of God to man endowed us with the knowledge of right from wrong, calling mankind out of the darkness to eternal life.

We learn things from our family members, friends, acquaintances, and GOD's great light, how to survive and to develop our spiritual being (soul). Conversely, when we entered Masonry, we needed the same care and teachings to survive. We used our skill and reasoning to come out of the darkness when we asked a Brother how to be a Mason? This desire came only after we observed Masons in our communities, workplaces, churches, synagogues, and houses of worship, demonstrating their dedication to God, Family, Community and the desire to serve mankind in any way they could.

Our first entrance into the Lodge was a shock as we came out of the darkness into “new birth.” This was followed immediately by Brethren teaching us the allegorical and archetypal meaning of Masonry. The Lodge prayed an earnest plea to God to ensure us with competency of His divine wisdom so we may understand His goodness.

Consequently, it is the duty of all Masons to teach, model, instruct and insure each new Entered Apprentice is given all the tools ensuring he can and will build the house of the eternal spirit. We are often reminded of the necessity to continually and carefully study the Great Light of Masonry, the Holy Bible that rules and governs our everyday life and our interaction with all mankind. By being encouraged to continue our study of the Great Light, we come out of the darkness to build our spiritual house, not made with hands.

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Consider the color of the lambskin apron and how the color is to remind us of purity of life, which is one of the characteristics of a Mason. RW Brother Cal, our DGM, has reminded the Craft, an aspirant joins Freemasonry, we do not join him. He is in the dark, he may have no knowledge of the Great Light nor God's plan for each of us. The aspirant should align with our tenants; however, he must be mentored. Those of us who were blessed by our parents who loved and raised us to be men of faith, men that care for the human race, men that love and obey the Great Architect of the Universe, owe it to be faithful and do the same to those in our circle of acquaintance. As Masons, we should study the Great Light of Masonry, to renew our minds so we can know the will of GOD. Establishing GOD's word as the authority for our life, is vital for defending against the spiritual attacks seeking to distract, deceive, and waylay our Father's greatest creation...man. Never forget that without guidance and the proper instruction, we will lose each Entered Apprentice, exiling them to the world of darkness.

Quote of the Month: “Individual commitment to a group effort, which is what makes a team work, a company work, a society to work, a civilization to work.” Vince Lombardi

Thought of the Month: Commit yourself to change the world in small ways by investing yourself into others one life at a time.

Word for the Month: Knowledge Facts, information and skills acquired by a person through experience or education, theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.

Fraternally,
O.B. Smith, Senior Grand Warden
Chairman, Masonic Education Committee

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SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017, NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Pythagorean Lodge No. 21 AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 200th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Charleston Masonic Temple. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Pythagorean Lodge No. 21, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE) The Pythagorean Lodge No 21 AFM Rededication Event will be held at the Charleston Masonic Temple located at 1285 Orange Grove Road, Charleston, SC 29407. It will not be held at the Lodge's usual meeting place in the Dorchester Lodge Hall.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Recovery Lodge No. 31 AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 200th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Dunean Lodge Hall. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Recovery Lodge No. 31 AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow.(NOTE LOCATION CHANGE) The Rededication event will be held at the Dunean Lodge Hall No. 359

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located at 214 Piedmont Highway, Greenville, SC 29605, not the Greenville Scottish Rite Center.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017, ST STEPHEN, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Mt. Hope Lodge No. 128, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Mt. Hope Lodge No. 128, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Mt. Hope Lodge is located at 110 Brick Church Circle, St. Stephen, SC 29479.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017, TROY, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Stonewall Lodge No. 124, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge Hall. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Stonewall Lodge No. 124, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Stonewall Lodge is located at 119 Church Street, Troy, SC 29848.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017, NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Acacia Lodge No. 315 AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Acacia Lodge No. 315 AFM on the First Degree at 4:00 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Following the ceremony, Dinner will be served in the Lodge's Dining Hall. Acacia Lodge No. 315 AFM is located at 499 Brookside Ave, North Augusta, SC 29841.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Camp Creek Lodge No. 317, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Camp Creek Lodge No. 317, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Camp Creek Lodge No. 317 AFM is located at 1864 Stinson Road, Lancaster, SC 29720.

All Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons with their ladies and friends are invited to attend. All Grand Lodge Officers are expected to attend and all Past Grand Masters are invited to attend. All Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters should wear their 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 Apron. All Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons with their ladies and friends are invited to attend. All Grand Lodge Officers are expected to attend and all Past Grand Masters are requested to attend. All Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters should wear their 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, and Jewel and Apron.

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INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6:00 pm, 4th District, RW Brother Paul S. Griffin DDGM, Evergreen Lodge No. 153, 510 Elm Street East, Hampton, SC.

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6:30 pm, 14th District, RW Martyn H. Dixon, DDGM, Ruff Lodge No. 240, 611 Piedmont Avenue, Anderson, SC. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Tony Smith.

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6:00 pm, 25th District, RW Brother Daniel H. Hart, DDGM, Marlboro Lodge No. 88, 106 McColl Street, Bennettsville, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW O. B. Smith, III, SGW.

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 5:00 pm, 26th District, RW Joseph Thomas Kelly, Sr., DDGM, Patesville Lodge No. 295, 3513 Una Rd. Bishopville, SC 29010.

Monday, October 16, 2017, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Brother Richard T. Dixon, DDGM, El Bab Shrine Club, 571 Patterson Mill Road, Barnwell, SC. Guest Speaker will be MW Brother D. Samuel Tennyson, Sr., PGM.

Monday, October 23, 2017, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW Brother Carroll C. Cheek, DDGM, Edisto Shrine Club, 1235 Five Chop Road, Orangeburg, SC. Guest Speaker will be Reverend Brother Terry Martin.

Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 7:00 pm, 28th District, RW Brother Tommy E. Hayes, Jr., DDGM, Dalcho Lodge 180, 102 N. Mauldin Street, Latta, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Walter C. (Cal) Disher, II, DGM.

Thursday, October 26, 2017, 6:30 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Brother Lloyd F. Christopher, DDGM & RW Brother Larry Nicodin, DDGM, Charleston Scottish Rite Center, 1051 Sam Rittenburg Blvd., Charleston, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW O. B. Smith, III, SGW.

Saturday, November 4, 2017, 6:00 pm, 27th District, RW Brother Phillip R. Anchors, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, 206 South McQueen Street, Florence, SC, 29501.

Saturday, November 11 2017, 6:00 pm, 29th District, RW Brother David E. Harrell, DDGM, The Horry Electric Building, 2774 Cultra Road, Conway, SC. Guest Speaker will be MW Brother Jay Adam Pearson, PGM.

March 17, 2017, 6:00 pm, 30th District, Jonathan E. Ford, DDGM, Kingstree Lodge No. 46, 313 E. Main Street, Kingstree, SC 29556.

TEXAS AND FLORIDA HURRICANE – FLOOD APPEALS

Appeals have been received from the Masonic Service Association of North America to all of the Grand Lodges for assistance for the Texas and Florida Brethren, their families, and Lodges affected by the recent devastating Hurricanes and resulting floods in those States. Lodges and individual Brothers wishing to contribute should make their checks payable to the Grand Lodge of AFM, Charities and Disaster Relief, Inc. and mark “Texas – Florida Disaster Relief. All checks should be mailed to the Grand Lodge Office, P O Box 2185, Lexington, SC 29071-2185. Donations by individual Brothers are tax deductible.

MASONIC EDUCATION PLANNING MEETING

The Annual Grand Lodge Masonic Education Planning Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Grand Lodge Office in Lexington. All Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, Masonic Education Committeemen, and Masonic Service Association Committeemen should attend and Past Grand Masters are welcome to attend. The dress is business casual. A hamburger – hot dog dinner will be served.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

We wish you and your family a most happy and bountiful Thanksgiving. As we gather together with our Families, Brethren and Friends on this most important day of Thanksgiving, may we give thanks to our great, merciful and loving God for the many blessings that he has bestowed upon each of us, our families, our Fraternity, and our Country, the Great United States of America. Let us remember in our prayers our Florida and Texas Brethren and other victims of the terrible Harvey and Irma Hurricanes and resulting floods. May we always remember and give thanks for those Brethren, men and women in our Armed Forces who are away from their love ones this Thanksgiving and sacrifice daily in harm's way for the protection of our Nation and the Freedoms that we are so fortunate to have.

PRESENTATION OF SIXTY-YEAR AWARD



On July 27, 2017, RW Carroll Cheek, DDGM of the 7th Masonic District presented a Sixty Year Award to Worshipful Brother Glen Porter, Past Master of Charity Lodge No. 62, AFM at the Annual Awards Banquet. Our congratulations to Brother Porter for reaching this milestone.

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH MCPHERSON MCKNIGHT
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

September 10, 1925	Claussen, SC
August 26, 2017	Florence, SC

JESSE LEON “JACK” BAILEY
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

December 1, 1928	Edgefield Co., SC
September 11, 2017	Edgefield Co., SC

OTHER DEATHS

Brother Stephen Fogle, Secretary of Kershaw Lodge No. 29, AFM passed away August 12, 2017.

Worshipful Brother Charles Witherspoon Huggins, II, Secretary of Hiram Lodge No. 68, AFM passed away August 27, 2017.

Worshipful Brother John Corbett Mizzell, Sr., Secretary of Fidelity Lodge No. 304, AFM passed away September 13, 2017.

Brother Roy Jackson Dorman, Sr., a member of Flat Rock Lodge No. 178 Kershaw, SC passed away on August 16, 2017. Brother Dorman was 101 at the time of his death.

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

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