



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 213, Issue 5

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

May 2010

Message From the East

Brethren,

Wow, what an April...in the last four and a half weeks we've seen two Fellow Craft degrees, one Master Mason Degree, a Stated Communication, two evenings of the District 32 Spring School of Instruction, the District 32 Family Picnic and even throw in a Scottish Rite Spring Reunion for some of us.

I'll start with the April 13 Stated. I received a call just the day before, with the news that a swarm of Honey Bees had decided to take up residence in the rear wall of the York Rite Masonic Center. I want to thank Temple Lodge and Brother Brad Hufeld for making the Blue Lodge at the Scottish Rite Temple available for our meeting. Even with this change of venue, we had a good many Brothers attend, and Brother Allen Hughes, Administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford joined as a special guest speaker. Brother Hughes gave an inspiring 20-minute presentation on MHCO, but was the first to admit that his presentation is no substitute for a Mason actually visiting the

complex and interacting with the youth and staff. To that end, we are planning a trip to Oxford on Saturday, June 26, to participate in and enjoy the St. John's Day Events. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us that day in Oxford. Should you wish to consider riding up with others in a van or shuttle, we will be working on transportation details and keep you posted as these are nailed down. Brethren, please also note that the needs list for MHCO has been updated in this Trestleboard. Should you have any of these items, or have a willingness to contribute, please bring items to the Lodge, or call me and I will arrange a pick up.

Our Fellow Craft proved quick studies, and we raised four good men on Tuesday, April 27th. I am also proud to say that three of our newer Master Masons also attended the School of Instruction.

Lastly, the District Picnic on the grounds of James K. Polk Lodge in Pineville was a great opportunity for many families to enjoy some good food, fun and

fellowship. Beyond a Masonic Funeral Ceremony or the rare Masonic laying of a cornerstone, this picnic is one of few opportunities for the public to get "up close and personal" with a Mason-sponsored event. The day was full of joy, good conversation and wonderful fellowship and was a great testament to our Masonic principals.

Brethren, as I mentioned last month, we've effectively 'balanced' the Lodge Budget, and in doing so, you need to know that we have now increased the Fee for the Petition for Degrees to \$150.00 (this after calculating that we are currently spending over \$137 in materials for each candidate). Please also note that as a result of the way the 2010 calendar falls, a Motion was passed that the Election of 2011 Officers will occur at the November 9th Stated Communication.

Looking forward, we do have ten men who are due a Service Award this year and I would like to target our August Stated for those presentations, given the availability of these men. I will provide an

update as these plans come together.

Finally Brethren, be mindful of your "thoughts and acts of the day. The wrongs of today must not be repeated on the tomorrow, for each day should add some light and truth for our guidance for the next, and then as time goes by our characters should be so far above reproach that the world would instinctively say: "There is a good man for he is a Mason." – from the description of the Scottish Rite 31st Degree.

I look forward to seeing you in the Lodge.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick
Master

Phalanx Lodge #31

*We look forward to seeing you
the **Second Tuesday** of each
month for our
Stated Communication
held at*

*Charlotte York Rite Temple
1229 N. Sharon Amity
Charlotte, N.C. 28211*



Message From the West

Brethren,

Many a member has expressed interest in having his Lodge perform a Masonic funeral upon their death. This is your right as a Mason. But how does one go about making this preparation and where can such a service take place?

First, a Masonic funeral is held at the request of a departed Brother or his family. Second, the service may be held in a chapel, home, church, synagogue or Lodge room with committal at graveside, or the complete service can be performed at any of the aforementioned places without a separate, com-

mittal. Also, a memorial service may be requested, however, you should make your wishes known to your immediate family.

The Masonic service may be held in conjunction with a religious service. This is a pleasure of the family, the only restriction being that Masonic service, once started, must be completed without interruption for another service.

There is no single Masonic Funeral Service. Some Grand Lodges have a prescribed service. Others permit several services. Sometimes a few of the customs involved may seem unusual to non-Masons. For

example, the presiding officer may wear a hat while doing his part in the service, the Lodge members may place sprigs of evergreen on the casket, and a white leather apron may be placed in or on the casket.

The hat is worn because it is a Masonic custom for the presiding officer to have his head covered while officiating. To Masons the sprig of evergreen is a symbol of immortality. The white leather apron, is the badge of a Mason and his to wear even in death. He wore that apron when he was a Mason, on the day he received his first degree. It

has symbolic allusions to God's care which is provided for us, but which we can not supply to ourselves.

So my Brothers, I feel this is something we must all think about, plan and talk to each other about. I have acquired Masonic Last Rites Request Forms which I will make copies and hand out at our Stated Communications. Until we our together again, in his house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Fraternally,
Brad Hufeld
Senior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

Included with this Trestleboard is the 2010 Spring Needs List for the MHCO. On the opposite side is a donation form. Please take a minute to review the needs and then give it to your spouse to review, after all we are only "guests in her house". Right away, my wife, Cyndy, listed several things from the list that we have which she was planning on putting in a yard sale, but will now be going to the MHCO. For those of you with children or grandchildren with WII's, ask them if they have any games they don't play anymore. And don't forget that a money donation is always acceptable.

If you haven't noticed, Mint Hill Lodge #742 now has a website and the link to it from our website has been updated. In addition, it looks like Steel Creek Lodge #737 has updated their site. Take a moment to visit these sites. I'm always looking for ideas for our website, so feel free to let me know what you like or think will be useful.

The Grand Lodge has asked that we remove the Petition for the Degrees from our websites. They have good reasons for this which I won't go into here, however, it does make it inconvenient for those that were used to getting a petition from the website. The petition is

still available electronically, so if you need one, please send me an email and I will send it to you.

If you enjoy or find useful the various columns we've been publishing, let the author know. It is never inappropriate to pass along a compliment. To that end, I would like to thank both Brothers George Ginn and Kai Ferrell for their articles based upon their tours as part of the Wilkerson College experience. They gladly stepped up to the plate when asked and did a fine job of it.

If you've been in the lodge lately, you might have noticed the fine new knockers on the door to the lodge

room or the hot-air hand dryer in the men's room (Sorry, I don't know about the ladies room). I will provide a more directed thank you next month after finding out who is responsible.

There has been no more progress on getting dues paid. Please see to this important business item as soon as possible. If you don't have your 2010 dues card, I'm talking about you.

Please call or email if you need anything from your lodge secretary. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Fraternally,
Bill Stout
Secretary

Whitestone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community

Brethren,

Whitestone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, was established in 1912, and was the first visit we made with the Wilkerson College group. Nestled in the heart of Greensboro, it's comprised of 42 private acres, and offers its residents homes ranging from free standing houses, to smaller cottages, to apartment homes. All of these options also include in-home healthcare. When driving up to the entrance of Whitestone, you first check in at the guard shack before proceeding through the main entrance gate. Whitestone is a gated community, and has a very secure and safe feeling about it. Also, most all of the individual buildings that comprise the main campus, not the private homes themselves, are interconnected

with enclosed breezeways which offers its residents a safe and easy stride between buildings.

I'll admit that my only real experience with retirement homes was easily almost 20 years ago when I had a part time job making deliveries. All I can really say is that I was nervous about what I might see.

We first gathered in the rotunda before the tour, and talked briefly among ourselves along with a couple of the residents. The Rotunda is a circular building with windows on all sides, and offers a great gathering area. From there we proceeded through one of the main lobby's, and towards some of the residential areas. The entire place has a clean and inviting feel

about it. Not a medicinal smell that you might expect, but clean and orderly. Moving down the halls, we were shown a number of things like gathering areas, the gym, a hair salon, more rooms that are under construction, and a sensory room. A sensory room is unique in that it's therapeutic for individuals with sensory processing disorders like dementia, and is comprised of highly sensory stimulating devices such as strobes, neon lights, brilliant colors, and pleasing sounds. A comment was made that it was like a 1960's era psychedelic trip. Having been born in the 60's, I can't vouch for that, but would be happy to hear from any of the brethren that may have taken part. Moving along we soon entered the Alzheimer's care facility where the residents are in-

capable of taking of themselves. Even here, everything was neat, clean, and inviting. From there we moved along and were shown some newly remodeled apartments that were being enlarged and updated, then eventually through the dining hall and back to the Rotunda. We were also shown the Chapel which had been recently remodeled. Overall, the residents we encountered had all positive things to say, and genuinely appeared content.

I was very impressed with what I saw, and would highly recommend making a visit and seeing for yourself the great work that's being done here.

Fraternally,
Kai Ferell
Junior Deacon
Phalanx Lodge #31

Stories From the South—Continue From Back

Continued from back:

I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me.

Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I can not change. I read the words,

"In God We Trust," and had to laugh. I remembered upon my first admission into the lodge I was asked "In Whom do you put your trust?" My response to that question assured me that my faith was well-founded and that I should fear no danger. If only I put that knowledge into practice more often...

Yes, Oh, Great Architect of the Universe, I get the

message. How many times are messages; revelations, even, placed right in front of us yet go unrecognized because we are caught up in our own world? It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And God is patient.

Fraternally,
Ralph Harkey
Junior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31

Birthdays

Join us this month in wishing Happy Birthday to:

11 - Ben R. Honeycutt
14 - Ted C. Caudle
16 - Edward D. Norris
19 - William R. Mooney
20 - John H. Caudle
22 - John C. Long
25 - Gregory F. Strother
27 - Jeffrey S. Brooks
28 - William D. Hodges
30 - Richard F. Langford

Stories From the South

Brethren,

I'll never again pick up a penny without thinking of this! Several years ago, a friend of mine was invited to spend the weekend at his employer's home. My friend, Dave, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the lake, and cars costing more than his house.

The first day and evening went well, and Dave was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The employer was quite generous as a host, and took him to the finest restaurants. Dave knew he would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying himself immensely.

As the two of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Dave. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Dave wondered if he was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he

even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at Dave. Finally, he could stand it no longer. He causally mentioned that his daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some valuable.

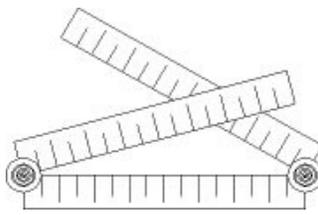
A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for him to see. He had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said.
"Read what it says." He

read the words "United States of America." "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it!

God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him...For a short time; at least, I cherish it as if it were gold.

Continued



2010 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	Mike Hamrick	704-724-8454
Senior Warden	Brad Hufeld	704-844-8976
Junior Warden	Ralph Harkey	704-614-6715
Treasurer	Ken Caudle, PM	704-502-8640
Secretary	Bill Stout	704-996-4110
Senior Deacon	George Ginn	704-291-9445
Junior Deacon	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676
Senior Steward	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020
Junior Steward	Will King	704-400-3042
Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179
Tyler	Ralph Lee	704-661-3220

Upcoming Dates

<u>Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!</u>	
Sat., May 1	— 32nd District Picnic James K Polk Lodge Grounds
Thu., May 6	— Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
Tue., May 11	— Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Tue., May 25	— Grand Master Dill's 32nd District Official Meeting, held at Steele Creek #737 6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens
Thu., June 3	— Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
Tue., June 8	— Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Thu., July 8	— Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
Tue., July 13	— Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Thu., Aug 5	— Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
Tue., Aug 10	— Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Thu., Sept 9	— Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm

Brother, if you've received this Trestleboard by mail, it is because we do not have a current email address for you. If you would prefer to receive this via email, and save the Lodge some expense, please email the Secretary at Secretary@Phalanx31.org.

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford—Current Needs—Spring 2010

Master Mason Cottage

- Roaster
- Yard Tools
- Couch pillows
- Kid pictures
- Kid area rugs
- Electric Skillet
- Long Handled Duster
- Bird Batch for Yard

Alumni Cottage

- Lego's (age 7 and up)
- Wii games
- Queen size sheets
- Pillows
- Large Area Rugs
- Towels and Wash Clothes
- T.V.

Temple Cottage

- Grill Cover
- Rocking Chairs (4)
- Boy's Comforters
- Kitchen Towels
- Picture Frames
- Wii Games
- Duffle Bags
- Axe Body Wash

Gray Cottage:

- 4 Slice/Bagel Toaster
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Digital Camera
- Shoe Shine Kits
- Outdoor Furniture
- Beach Towels
- Gift Cards
- Vacuum Cleaner

Eller Cottage

- Outdoor Grill
- Griddle
- Bath Mats and Matching Towels
- Outdoor Swing for Patio
- Patio Furniture
- Living Room Lamps
- Bedroom Lamps
- Comforters Girls Room (age 9-12)
- Wii Games
- PG Movies
- Vacuum
- Rake, Shovel, Hoe, and other tools for Gardening
- Blower

Williams Cottage

- Croc Pot
- Serving Platters
- Serving Bowls
- Throw rugs for girl's rooms
- Wii Games
- Cereal Containers (3)
- Bread Container
- Kitchen Dish Rags
- Large Wok Skillet
- Large Cooking Pot
- Patio Furniture
- Outdoor Water Hose Reels

Clothing Department:

- Beach Towels
- Flip Flops
- Pajamas
- Laundry Baskets

Bemis Cottage:

- Blender
- Pictures to hang on walls

Cottage 7

- Outdoor Shed
- Large Plastic Storage Containers
- Board Games (Taboo/Don't be a dork)
- Wii Games
- Wii Controllers
- Gift Cards

Parham Cottage:

- New Living Room Furniture or professionally cleaned or recovered
- Plastic food storage containers (no extra large ones) preferable stackable
- Plants, flowers, vegetables, herbs
- Cooler (picnic)
- 3 Rods and Reels
- Tackle Box
- Hose and Nozzle
- 2 Plastic pitchers
- 2 large cereal containers

Recreation Department:

- Beach Towels
- Flip Flops
- Sunscreen
- Pool Toys
- Goggles
- Handheld Weights

Direct Care:

- TI - 83 calculators (10)
- TI - 84 calculators (10)
- Disposable Camera's
- Scrapbook supplies
- Board games
- Holiday/Seasonal Decorations
- 2" - 3" Binders
- Money for Educational Material for Summer Enrichment Program

Card Supplies:

- Cardstock paper
- 12x12 Scrapbook Paper
- Double sided tape
- Brads
- Craft gift cards
- Rubber stamps

For Our Volunteers:

- Needs in Clothing Dept
- Needs in Ceramics
- Needs in Recreation
- Needs in Card Making
- Sponsorship of Summer Trips
- Sponsorship of Individual Children for Summer Camps
- Repair of Tennis Courts
- Preparation of a Volleyball Court
- Preparation of a Horseshoe area w/ supplies

Contribution to The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

Phalanx Lodge #31

Amount: \$ _____

Gift Type – (mark one)

General Gift _____ Designated Gift _____ Sponsorship _____ Gift-In-Kind _____

Pledged Gift _____ \$ _____ a _____ for _____ (weeks/months/years)

Memorial/Honor Gift _____ Person to be memorialized/honored _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Payment Method

Cash/Check _____

Credit Card _____ Type: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ No. _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Signature (required): _____

Mail Donations and this form to:

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
600 College Street
Oxford, North Carolina 27565

For More Information Contact:

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
(919)693-5111/1-888-505-4357
Visit www.mhc-oxford.org

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is a licensed, residential foster home and a federally recognized 501 (c)(3), (Tax ID No. 56-0603924) not-for-profit charity. All contributions are tax-deductible as prescribed by law. Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service, donors do not receive any goods or services in return for contributions to MHCO. MHCO prescribes to all ethical and legal practices of fundraising as outlined by the Association of American Fundraising Professionals. All gifts to MHCO are kept confidential. Donor's names, but not donations, may be publicized, unless donor notifies MHCO. Financial Information available on request.