



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

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<http://www.phalanx31.org>

June 2011

Message From the East

Brethren,

Often we speak of the "Blue Lodge" and of "Blue Lodge Masonry," but do we really understand its meaning and its origin? I am referring to the use of the color "Blue" as used in conjunction with lodge and masonry.

We are told that the Blue refers to the Canopy of Heaven and teaches the universality of Masonry. This is true and I would not take away a bit of this teaching, but would add to and enlarge on our thinking about the color blue and its Masonic symbolism.

Appropriately it is the color of the Ancient Craft degrees. It teaches and is the symbol for universal friendship and universal benevolence, as it is the color of the vault of Heaven, which embraces all the world, so should each Brother Mason be equally extensive in his virtues of friendship and brotherly love.

Among the ancient Jews the robe of the High Priest's ephod, the ribbon of his breastplate and the plate of the miter were of Blue. The people of the Jewish nation were charged to wear a blue ribbon above the hem of their garments and it was the color of one of the seven veils of the temple.

Josephus tells us that the Hebrew word for Blue was "tekelet" and that it symbolically meant perfection. Among the ancients, to be initiated into the Mysteries was to attain perfection and how better to speak of initiation into the greatest of fraternal institutions than to use a word that signifies perfection, BLUE, to designate our symbolic lodges.

Among the Druids it symbolized "truth." The Egyptians esteemed blue as a sacred color, signifying heavenly nature. Jeremiah tells us that the Babylonians clothed their idols in blue, and to the Chinese in their mystical philosophy "blue" was represented as the symbol of Deity. The Hindus assert that their god, Vishnu, was dressed in celestial blue, thus indicating that wisdom from God was symbolized by this color.

Among the medieval Christians blue was considered the emblem of immortality, as red was of the Divine Love of God.

The color Blue is used extensively in the Scottish Rite degrees, with various symbolic significations; all, however, more or less relating to its original character as representing universal friendship and benevolence.

In the Nineteenth degree of Grand Pontiff, it is symbolic of mildness, fidelity, and gentleness. In the degree of Grand Master of all Symbolic Lodges it is used with yellow and refers to the appearance of Jehovah to Moses on Mount Sinai in the clouds of azure and gold. In the twenty-fourth degree it is the color of the tunic and apron of a Prince of the Tabernacle, whose teachings refer to our removal from this house of clay to the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Here it is a symbol of heaven, as we were taught in the Symbolic Lodge.

We learn therefore that by custom and symbolism and not by any adopted law or by-law, we use Blue in referring to the Master Mason lodge as the "Blue Lodge".

Brethren, I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Fraternally,

Brad Hufeld

Master

Phalanx Lodge #31

Message From the West

Brethren,

Upon us is our most plentiful season of charitable giving. You do not have to look far to find a Masonic lodge doing work for our "widows and orphans".

I was privileged to be in attendance at a recent combined meeting of the 31st and 32nd Masonic Districts of North Carolina addressed by our newly elected Grand Master, the Most Worshipful Lewis R. Ledford.

The theme of his meeting was identified by the acronym C.O.P., which is defined as **Competency, Opportunity** and **Passion**.

The **Competency** he spoke of, simply put, means are we truly knowledgeable of what we, as Masons, are called upon to do. Do we recall the words of our obligations and, if so, are we living them?

Opportunity stands for seeking out ways in which we can make a difference. Things do not always fall in our lap. We have to seek them out. That motivation is one way of keeping us active and engaged-not just doing something because we "have to" do it but because we "want to" do it.

Finally, but not least, is **Passion**. Brethren, do we have passion for our fraternity? Do we have passion for the cause of our widows and orphans? I, myself, can recall the fire of commitment

I felt in August of 2005 when I was raised. I was going to go out and be involved in everything I could to make a difference in Masonry and the lives of others while along the way improve myself.

Some may say that I have maintained that vigor. If they do, I hope it is because they see in me the tenants of our institution-Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The fellowship alone experienced with getting involved is invaluable to one's growth.

As an example of what I write, at the previously mentioned meeting Steele Creek Lodge #737 presented Grand Master Ledford with a check in the amount of \$12,000! Yes, \$12,000 they raised in conjunction with a BBQ fundraiser. The funds are to be used at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford.

Wow! I get a warm sensation just thinking about it. About 200 brethren and myself left the meeting revitalized that we are doing what is right when it comes to our charities. We also left asking ourselves "Can I do more?"

Within a short drive of my home, West Gate Lodge #738 (Charlotte) has a "world famous" Chicken Fry, Andrew Jackson Lodge #576 (Salisbury) has an "infamous" Brunswick Stew, Steele Creek Lodge #737 (Charlotte) has a Spring Car Show/Fish Fry and

there are many other opportunities, too!

My point, brethren, is that there is always something for us to do to help out in some shape form or fashion.

Brethren, I give you a charge to seek out opportunities in which you, yourself, can become involved. If not as an active participant then as a donor. There is nothing better that I like to do than drive out on a beautiful Saturday afternoon and find a BBQ, a car show or a fish fry.

You can do this and more within about a 20 mile radius of your home, no matter where you live. If you are having trouble finding an opportunity to support our charities, con-

tact one of the Phalanx Lodge #31 officers through our email addresses or phone numbers. I am sure we will be happy to point you in the right direction. If you are Internet savvy, go to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina's web site. The address is www.grandlodge-nc.org. Look for the "Lodge Links" section and you can get a listing of most of the lodges in North Carolina. You might find a nice weekend getaway in your future.

May the Great Architect of the Universe always look favorably upon us and our work, brethren. Until next month, tavel safely.

Fraternally,
Bro. Ralph W. Harkey
Senior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31

AM I A BUILDER?

Author Unkown

I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.

With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell,
They swung a beam and the sides fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled
And the kind you would hire, if you had to build?"

And he gave me a laugh and said, "No indeed,
Just common labor is all I need.

I can easily wreck in a day or two
What other builders have taken a year to do."

And I thought to myself as I went my way,
"Which of these roles have I tried to play?"

Am I a builder that works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square.

Am I shaping my deeds to a well made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down.

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

We continue to receive 2011 dues payments, but still have almost one-fourth of our membership from whom we have yet to receive this payment. Please take a moment now to 're-rack' that dues invoice for payment. If you've misplaced it and need another copy, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am in the final steps of updating our Membership Roster, hoping to have that available to send out in the next two weeks. If you have an email ad-

dress, but are not receiving any emails from me or WM Brad Hufeld, please take a moment to send me a message so that we can ensure that we have this communication option.

I wish to relate a story from March 31, which begins that evening at Steele Creek Lodge toward the end of the second night of the Spring School of Instruction. The school was wrapping up, and Excelsior's Worshipful Master John Maybury made an announcement, having been contacted by

the Grand Lodge, about a Memorial Service scheduled for the very next day at Sharon Memorial Park. It seems that Brother Charles Reese, a 50+ member of Williamsport Lodge #707 AF & AM in Pennsylvania had passed away, and the Grand Lodge of PA was seeking Masons to conduct Masonic Rites at the entombment. With only 15 hours notice, nine Masons were present the next day at the 12:30pm service.

I was incredibly impressed with this final act of respect and tribute to a late Brother's memory, but per-

haps no more impressed than several family members who expressed their thanks following the service. While not one of the nine of us personally knew Brother Reese, he was our Brother and that alone was enough to justify making the effort to attend and to demonstrate to those present, that we Freemasons do, in fact, sincerely care about each other - both in life and in death.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

Birthdays

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to: *(April and May are included due to unpublished Trestleboards)*

April

03 - Alvin L. Bradley
03 - Blair J. Carpenter
03 - Willie C. Brumbalow
03 - Anthony T. Pressley
04 - Arleigh G. Deyton
04 - Irwin Belk
04 - Charles A. Laymon
05 - Ernest A. Morrison Jr
08 - Thomas M. Sellers
10 - Boyce M. Brown
10 - David W. Morrison
11 - John C. Donaldson
11 - William W. Sealey
13 - Robert T. Dickson
14 - Richard A. Vinroot
14 - Kai T. Ferell
14 - Walter E. Dickson
16 - Tony A. Woodward
20 - John L. Campbell
21 - Lewis D. Berryhill
22 - Charles W. Whitley

May

11 - Ben R. Honeycutt
12 - Christopher W. Crump
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

June

04 - Billy E. Smith
04 - Neal T. Saunders
05 - John M. Dwelle
11 - Robert W. Golibart
12 - Russell W. Kruse
14 - Scott M. Shelton
15 - William T. Snow
15 - Larry S. Martin
18 - Jerry E. Cohen
18 - Roger A. Huse
20 - Christopher E. Farmer
21 - Paul L. Whitfield
23 - Michael P. Kleiber
30 - James G. Shore

July

02 - Thomas A. Kirkpatrick Jr
02 - Eric L. Legvold
03 - Roy J. Vehorn
03 - Brad L. Hufeld
04 - Ralph W. Harkey
13 - Kenneth R. Caudle
13 - Theodore S. Little
19 - Zacquies J. Oudin
21 - Michael P. Davis
24 - Christopher W. Cox
29 - Henry W. Mathis
29 - David J. Campbell

Editors Note: Brethren, I hope you will pardon the absence of the Trestleboard over the past three months. I had thought that I would be able to keep up, but found that I was not willing to give up any of the precious little time left that I could spend with my father. He was proud that I am a Mason. My youngest brother, Scott, was initiated as an Entered Apprentice the night before the funeral and I know that he is just as proud of Scott. Fraternaly, Bill Stout

LAST NIGHT I KNELT
WHERE HIRAM KNELT
(author unknown)

Last night I knelt where Hiram knelt
and took an obligation.
Today I'm closer to my God
for I'm a Master Mason.

Though heretofore my fellow men
seemed each one like the other,
today I search each one apart.
I'm looking for my brother.

And as I feel his friendly grip
it fills my heart with pride.
I know while I am on the square
that he is by my side.

His footsteps on my errand go
if I should such require.
His prayers will lead in my behalf
if I should so desire.

My words are safe within his breast
as though within my own,
his hand forever at my back
to help me safely home.

Good counsel whispers in my ear
and warns of any danger.
By square and compass, Brother now
who once would call me stranger.

I might have lived a moral life
and risen to distinction
without my Brothers helping hand
and the fellowship of Masons.

But God, who knows how hard it is
to resist life's temptations,
knows why I knelt where Hiram knelt
and took that obligation.

| 2011 LODGE OFFICERS | | | Upcoming Dates | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Worshipful Master | Brad Hufeld | 704-844-8976 | <u>Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!</u> | |
| Senior Warden | Ralph Harkey | 704-614-6715 | Tue., Jun 14 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens | |
| Junior Warden | Kai Ferell | 704-995-4676 | Tue., Jul 12 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens | |
| Treasurer | Angus Mercer, PM | 704-542-1422 | Sat., Jul 23 — Lecture Service 9:00am Lodge Opens | |
| Secretary | Mike Hamrick, PM | 704-724-8454 | Tue., Aug 9 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens | |
| Senior Deacon | James Lofton, Jr. | 704-488-1020 | Tue., Sept 13 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens | |
| Junior Deacon | Steven Porter | 704-361-7185 | Tue., Oct 11 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens | |
| Senior Steward | Bill Clark | 704-628-6652 | Tue., Nov 8 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens | |
| Junior Steward | Ralph Lee | 704-661-3220 | Tue., Dec 13 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens | |
| Chaplain | David Morgan, PM | 704-882-6179 | | |
| Tyler | Charles Cutlip | 336-309-1522 | | |
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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.