



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

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<http://www.phalanx31.org>

September 2012

Message From the East

Greetings from the East!

Brethren, as you are reading this article you will note that the calendar has turned the page once more. We are two thirds through the year of 2012 in what has been one of the quickest moving years of my Masonic life. This month will be no slower, I am afraid as we have a number of activities on the agenda.

Firstly, we will welcome two new Master Masons into our fold on Saturday, September 8, 2012. This Saturday morning degree will be complete with a tremendous breakfast offering, fellowship and the fun of raising two brothers, Mike Mangum and Hasan Latif, who are anxious to get under way with the work of the Craft. I hope you all will plan on being in attendance.

Secondly, our Stated Communication for the month of September will be held as scheduled on Tuesday, September 11, 2012. Dinner will commence at 6:30pm followed by our business meeting at 7:30pm. This Communication is of particular interest because it is just before our attendance at the annual Grand Lodge of North Carolina meeting later in the month. Worshipful Brother Mike Hamrick, Secretary, will be reviewing in detail the proposed amendments that will be voted on this year. Please mark your calendars and be in attendance. Your principal officers need to know your feelings so we may accurately cast the votes for the lodge. I urge you to attend the Grand Lodge meeting, if it is within the length of your cable tow. For the past 2 years I have been required to attend. This is my third time; however, it will not be my last. The friendships and bonds you make over the years transcend the office which we hold. This fellowship is part of what makes this fraternity so great.

Speaking of Grand Lodge, the 225th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, A.F. & A.M. will be held in Winston-Salem, NC, September 21-22, 2012. Your principal officers are preparing to make the trip and represent Phalanx Lodge #31, A.F. & A.M. in fine form as always. If there are questions or concerns about any of the proposed amendments, feel free to reach out to Kai Ferell (Senior Warden), Jim Lofton (Junior Warden), Mike Hamrick (Secretary) or myself. This fraternity is "ours", not yours or mine, so we should communicate as such.

Thirdly, but certainly not lastly, Friday, September 28, 2012, will be the annual York Rite Masonic Center Barbecue. This event ushers in the Fall season with a taste of what it is like to live in the South, particularly North Carolina, this time of year. Our brothers, many of whom are Phalanx members, work hard each year at making this a successful event. I urge you to lend your support by volunteering to work a few hours or buying lunch or dinner during the course of the day. I promise you will not be disappointed. If you think you can sell some tickets for the event, which will run from 11:00am-8:00pm (or until the "cue" runs out), contact a member of your Charlotte York Rite fraternity. A good place to start with that is Worshipful Brother John Caudle or myself.

Brethren, I am sure there are many other events and opportunities for us to be involved with this month. I ask that you seek them out and remember what our tenets state-"Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth". You don't have to look far to see those exemplified. As I have always stated, if you are a Mason in the Charlotte Metro and find yourself bored, you are definitely not connected to your Masonic fraternity.

My blessings to each one of you!

Fraternally,
Bro. Ralph Harkey, Master 2012
Phalanx Lodge #31

Message From the West

Brethren,

I hope everyone is enjoying the 'official' last weekend of summer, and that your summer in general has been a good one. As summer fades away, soon fall will be upon us and a new cycle begins.

This year has been a year of reflection for me. Not only was I reunited with some close friends whom I hadn't seen in about 28 years, but also I did something I swore I'd never do again. I attended my high school reunion... I attended a small high school in the town of Cullowhee. Most of you know Western Carolina University, but outside of the university, there's a small local population of about 9,500 residents.

Cullowhee is a beautiful small town nestled in the mountains. The name 'Cullowhee' is actually a Cherokee word that means, "Valley of the Lilly's." And like many small towns, graduating high school students can't wait to leave. I was one of those who thought there was nothing for me there, and that my life wouldn't begin until I left. 30 years later I question that reasoning. While it's true that there are many drawbacks to a small town (lack of jobs, limited resources, horrible cell phone reception, etc.), there are also many great memories that I never could have had growing up in a much larger, less close knit community. I'll always have fond memories of those early days on Wilson Creek.

Brethren, cherish the good times. Life is ever changing and sometimes life's paths can take us away from those happy times. We're fortunate enough to have our own close knit community within Masonry. We support each other, look out for one another, and have a bond that those outside of Masonry don't have. Each lodge is its own small town. Never lose sight of the greater good.

Fraternally,
Bro. Kai T. Ferell
Senior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

As we enter the third quarter of the year, we are finding ourselves quite busy...and that's a good thing.

With the upcoming Master Mason degree on September 8, Fall School of Instruction on October 23 & 24, Service Award presentation on October 30, the continuation of Joppa's annual fall barbecue (date TBD), a likely Fellowcraft Degree as well as a cleanup day in the coming weeks and the 2013 Officer's election at the November stated, the calendar has filled with opportunities for fellowship and work at the Lodge. Please make plans to join us if you are able...as always, we would love to see you there.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

Message From the South

Brethren,

First of all I would like to thank every brother that attended our first degree at the end of August, which happened to my first time in the east. We had a fantastic group of brothers there to support our newest entered apprentice, Graham McAlpin.

I would like to issue a special thanks as well to Worshipful Gilbert Bailey and Brother Robert McDowell,

who brought two of their entered apprentices from Seltzer to witness our degree. It is a very special occasion, in my opinion, for a brother to begin his journey through the several degrees surrounded by so many friends who he learns very quickly to trust.

WB Bob Braswell has always been one to provide me with words of wisdom, and something he tells me regularly is that you only get one chance to make a

first impression. I spent some time speaking with Graham after the degree and I can assure you that the impression we left on Graham was one of intrigue and interest in continuing through the degrees and learning more about our fraternity. In my opinion, this sort of impression can only be achieved through ritual practice and proficiency with each part being played.

Again I appreciate all of the brothers who were able to join us for this very important first degree, and I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday Sept 8th for a third degree.

Fraternally,
Jim Lofton
Junior Warden

GEOMETRY AND THE LETTER G

From The Salem 289 Lodge Website

The first men in the world were childlike in mind to a degree difficult for us to imagine. The natural scheme of things must have puzzled them almost beyond endurance. What a medley it was! what a chaos! the simplest sequences of events, such as the succession of the seasons, was unknown to them so that they were like babes peering helplessly into the dark, unable to make it all out. To men living under such conditions the discovering of order, of number, of geometry must have broken with a surprise like the coming of a new religion. Little wonder that they made so much of numbers, calling them sacred and attributing to them all manner of secret and occult properties, as if the relations among the forces and substances of creation were the immediate operation of an Infinite Mind. If modern philosophy gives a different account of it that does not detract from the value of the old thinking.

The rank and file of men, so it appears, have in the back of their minds a vague notion that matter in itself is a formless thing without character or structure, so that their picture of creation is that some outside Power took charge of the original chaos of brute stuff and impressed upon it shape and order in much the same manner that a clay modeler imposes upon a lump of dirt the likeness of a human face. According to this view there is no such thing as order in the nature of things; order is fugitive and transient, a something from without. But such is not the finding of modern science. There is no such thing as matter by itself, matter as an abstract entity; there are such things as water, air, gasses, wood, stone, metals, soil, etc., etc., and every such substance has a structure unimaginably complicated, so that order is in the nature of things. Geometry is a revelation of that order, a reducing to line and diagram of the everlasting relations among all the substances and properties of the universe. Can anything be more sublime than that?

There is reason to believe that the Letter G stood for this precious science, though in our day and more particularly in American lodges it is a symbol of T.S.G.A.O.T.U. In either event, and in the last analysis, the significance is the same, because the Sacred Letter would have reference to that which is the Origin of the Orderliness of the universe.

The God of Heaven and Earth is the beginning and end of all Masonic mysteries; it is from Him that we have come, it is unto Him that we go, and in all the journey between the canopy of His love is over us. The definitions of His nature, the description of His attributes may be left to the arguments of the theologians and the disquisitions of the metaphysicians; the fact of His existence admits of no argument; it is "sure as the most certain sure," the alpha and the omega of thought.

The grandson of Thomas Henry Huxley in a book recently published argues that in our modern world men of scientific training are finding out a new approach to God; instead of trusting to vague reports from the past or to ancient traditions, they are examining, so he says, into the nature of life and the structure of the universe at first hand. If this be so the scientist will find God as surely as the saint, because He is there.

We human beings are not intruders from another world, temporary pilgrims from some realm outside the universe; we are part and parcel of the universe, as much a part of the natural scheme of things as the blowing clover or the falling rain. There is but one system of reality; this is it; we are a part of it. The soul in us, the immortal spirit, our inmost thoughts and ideals belong as much to this system of reality as clods or boulders, so that in the very structure of the universe there is that out of which spirit can come, self-consciousness, thought, love, prayers, and dreams, so that the scheme of things is not a soulless mechanism, a pile of dirt, a flux of blind forces, but a Something that can bring souls into existence, and sustain them. The Letter G is inscribed on the forehead of creation, it is written on the tiniest atom.

It is a mistake to suppose that education is a mere device to train a man in a handicraft, or a collection of pieces of information of more or less practical use; education leads at last to truth, and God is the truth about the universe. This is the real Holy of Holies, the true Inner Chamber into which, at the last, a Fellowcraft comes; and the vision he has there, the consolation, the strength and the confidence of everlasting life together make up the wages he receives. Such wages are life indeed, to earn which it is worth every man's most manly endeavour, and that at any price.

Birthdays

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to:

September

01 - James T. Brandenburg
 01 - James C. Brown
 01 - Matthew T. Sawtelle Jr.
 07 - William F. Nunn
 09 - Carlton W. Mason
 09 - Jeffrey A. Katz
 11 - James B. Morrow Jr.
 11 - Bennie R. Crosby
 13 - George K. Middleton
 13 - William L. Mccall
 17 - Triston G. Stegall Jr.
 19 - Frank W. Neal
 21 - Ernest C. Hunt Jr.
 23 - Earl F. Biles
 23 - William A. King
 24 - Joseph R. Linn
 27 - Francis E. Price
 27 - Ralph O. Lee
 28 - Gordon P. Reed
 28 - Cleatus W. Crump
 28 - James Z. Pittard
 29 - Dennis A. Wilson
 30 - Michael S. Hamrick

October

01 - Robert H. Wright
 01 - Jason L. Hamorsky
 02 - Ralph L. Porell Sr
 03 - Dan H. Queen
 04 - Brandon J. Ballard
 06 - William D. Wilson
 09 - Zeb L. Parrish
 09 - James M. Hobbs
 09 - Benny D. Neely
 09 - James B. Simons II
 10 - Albert M. Sullivan
 13 - Carl W. Barentine
 16 - Herman W. Noles
 16 - Henry H. Lee
 16 - Leo Long
 18 - Darren E. Brown
 19 - John M. Stephens III
 22 - Boyce G. Mauney Jr
 23 - Reuben F. Folger
 23 - Gary D. Taylor
 30 - William N. Manning
 30 - Worth L. Rippy

In Memoriam

Edward Gerard Overman

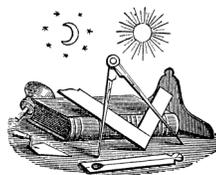
Born: 10/13/1918
 Brooklyn, NY
 Initiated: 01/11/1991
 Passed: 06/19/1991
 Raised: 08/10/1991
 Died: 08/11/2012

A Brother who lived
 respected and died
 regretted.

Farewell until we meet again

2012 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	Ralph Harkey	704-614-6715
Senior Warden	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676
Junior Warden	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020
Treasurer	Neil Crossley, PM	704-365-9431
Secretary	Mike Hamrick, PM	704-724-8454
Senior Deacon	Steven Porter	704-361-7185
Junior Deacon	Bill Clark	704-756-0343
Senior Steward	Bill Stout	704-996-4110
Junior Steward	Chris Crump	704-913-1568
Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179
Tyler	Michael Davis	704-957-6046



Upcoming Dates

Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!

Tue., Sept 8 — Master Mason Degree
 8:30am Breakfast, 9:30pm Degree

Tue., Sept 11 — Stated Communication
 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Fri., Sept 28 — Annual York Rite Masonic Center Barbecue
 11:00am—8:00pm

Tue., Oct 9 — Stated Communication
 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Sat., Oct 13 — MHCO Homecoming
 11:00am Cletus O'Dell Fulp Barbecue

Tue., Oct 23 — Fall School of Instruction
 Temple Lodge # 676
 6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Work Begins

Wed., Oct 24 — Fall School of Instruction
 Steele Creek Lodge # 737
 6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Work Begins

Tue., Oct 30 — Service Awards

Tue., Nov 13 — Stated Communication and Officer Elections
 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Tue., Dec 11 — Stated Communication

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.