

# TRESTLEBOARD

## PHALANX LODGE NO. 31



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<http://www.phalanx31.org>

October 2012



Ralph Harkey  
Master

Greetings from the East!

We are in the last quarter of the year! My, where does the time go? It has always been said that time flies when you are having fun. And that has been the case with Phalanx Lodge #31 this year. Just to recap some of the things "your" lodge has done this year...

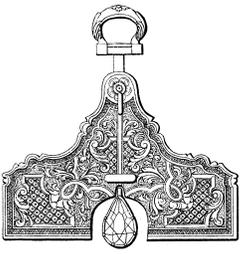
- 1) Auto Bell Car Wash Fundraiser
- 2) "Master's Hat On The Alter" initiative to raise additional funds for our charities
- 3) Joe & Jan Edwards concert to support Masonic Charities
- 4) 225th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of NC attendance
- 5) November 3, 2012 BBQ scheduled
- 6) Representation on behalf of the Daughter's of the Nile for their Supreme Queen's visit to Charlotte
- 7) Numerous degree work on behalf of new candidates
- 8) Institution of a standing ritual practice day (Tuesdays)
- 9) Spring School of Instruction
- 10) Etc., etc., etc...

Brethren, the list is in no particular order and could go on and on. There have been numerous opportunities for fellowship and fun, and will be many more as we wind down 2012. I urge each of you reading this article to come and participate. We have an exciting 4th Quarter 2012 planned, including the election of new officers at our November Stated Communication and their installation on December 8, 2012. The Fall School of Instruction will precede the election and it is looking like we will have another Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degree!

Make your plans to help us round out the year with a bang! Phalanx Lodge #31 is "your" lodge. It just isn't the same without you!

Fraternally,

Bro. Ralph Harkey, Master 2012



Kai T. Ferrell  
Senior Warden

Not long after becoming a member of Phalanx Lodge, I was told that as I learned and gained insight into masonry, I would have some “ah-ha” moments where something random would make more sense to me, and I would be able to relate it to the lessons I’ve learned in the lodge. I’ll admit that I’ve had a number of those moments over the past several years, but wanted to share one that hap-

pened recently.

A few weeks ago I was watching “Storage Wars” on TV (bear with me and you’ll see where I’m going with this). The show is about buying abandoned storage units at auction, and one of the groups of buyers is a father and son team, Darryl and his son Brandon. Darryl is your typical good hearted guy, but comes across as not so intelligent and always fumbling for the right words to say. His son is also your typical know-it-all who doesn’t think his father gives him enough credit. In one scene, on their way to an auction, this conversation took place:

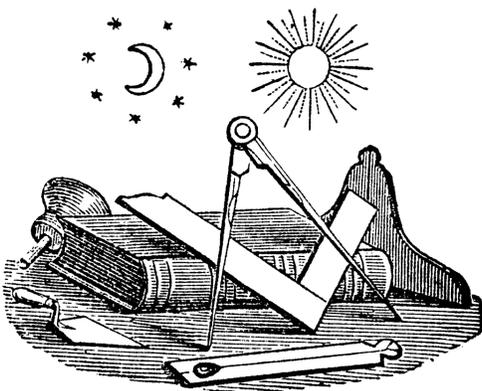
**Darryl: “Brandon, take the wheel.” ...as he removes his hands from the steering wheel.**

**Brandon: “I’m not in the proper seat.” ...he responds from the passenger seat.**

**Darryl: “That’s what I thought you would say. You’re ALWAYS in the proper seat, and need to be ready to take over at any time.”**

This little piece of banter between a father and son gave me pause, and I ended up watching that scene several times. What I saw in this was that as we move through our several stations before God and man, that we need to be prepared to take that next step, and be diligent in our duties. Life is ever changing, and we need to adapt and learn as we move through it.

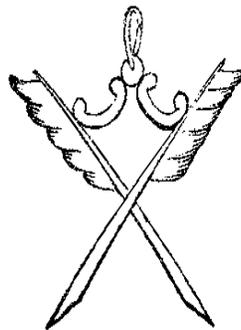
Every lesson in Masonry has a meaning that we can learn from. That lesson may be small, or life changing, and what one person learns, another may learn something completely different from that same lesson. But the point is this, we learn, we grow, we become better, and better prepared for that next step in life. ❖



Jim Lofton  
Junior Warden

Brothers, as the year winds on I begin to look more at my life as a Mason. As many of you know I announced at the end of last month’s stated communication that my wife and I are expecting our first child in March of next year. I find that I now have a completely new outlook on life in general, but more especially the life that I choose to live, and the example that it will inevitably set for my yet unborn child. I can tell you

with all the assuredness I have in me, that it will give me great amounts of pride to tell my child that their father is a Mason. When we host events such as fundraisers and parades, we always discuss how the community will perceive our fraternity. Thankfully, we are taught to square ourselves by the square of virtue, so that those who see us, and recognize that we are Masons will look favorably on the fraternity. I realize now that while our perception in the community is of great importance, we should regularly look at the example that we are setting for our children and families. We should always remember that while they may see us as dad, brother or husband, they also know us as Masons. The principles we are taught should extend to our interactions with them above any others. I know that in this lodge I am surrounded by a terrific group of honorable men, but while as Masons we hold ourselves to a higher standard, we are all human, and we all have our faults. As often as you can, remind yourself, that whether in a public or private, as a co-worker, husband, or father, you are always a Mason, and should always conduct yourself in such a manner. ❖



Mike Hamrick, PM  
Secretary

As we enter the third quarter of the year, we will find ourselves quite busy in the coming months.

In October we will hear a report on the happenings at the NC Grand Lodge Annual Communication, a report from the Member Retention Committee and the Finance committee and the recommendation of an Investigating Committee on an Affiliation. Other October events include the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford Homecoming, and the 32<sup>nd</sup> District Fall School of Instruction.

Also remember the Service Award Presentation scheduled for October 30. November will start with the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Cletus O’Dell Fulp Barbeque on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and will also bring the election of 2013 Officers and December the Installation of those Officers and our final Stated Communication of the year.

We have one Brother working on his EA Catechism and two other men who have inquired about the fraternity and will hopefully be joining us for dinner in the coming months.

Our plate seems to be full, but our Lodge has not been. Please mark your calendar for some of these upcoming events and plan to join us. We would love to see you in the Lodge. ❖

# **GOLDEN SENTENCES**

From an address by De Witt Clinton  
before Holland Lodge  
the evening of his installation, Dec. 24, 1793

## **HIS DEFINITION OF FREEMASONRY**

It is well known that our Order was at first composed of scientific and ingenious men who assembled to improve the arts and sciences, and cultivate a pure and sublime system of morality. Knowledge at that time, was restricted to a chosen few; but when the invention of printing had opened the means of instruction to all ranks of people, then the generous cultivators of Masonry communicated with cheerfulness to the world those secrets of the arts and sciences which had been transmitted and improved from the foundation of the institutions then our Fraternity bent their principal attention to the cultivation of morality. And Masonry may now be defined as a moral institution, intended to promote individual and social happiness.

## **THE EQUALITY OF MASONRY**

Our institution asserts, in language not to be misunderstood, the natural equality of mankind. It declares that all brethren are upon a level, and it throws open its hospitable doors to all men of all nations. It admits of no rank, except the priority of merit, and its only aristocracy is the nobility of virtue.

## **THE ONEROUS CARES OF THE MASTER**

Sensible I am that neither my age, experience nor abilities entitle me to fill this place. Sensible I am that it is surrounded with difficulties and embarrassments; that it requires promptitude of expression, quickness of thought and presence of mind, and that it demands conciliatory manners and instantaneous perception of character, and a considerable knowledge of mankind.

## **THE BENEFICENT WORK OF MASONRY**

How often has it showered down its golden gifts into the seemingly inaccessible dungeons of misery! How often has it radiated with its beneficent rays the glooms of affliction, and converted its horrors of despair into the meridian splendor of unexpected joy! How often has it, with its philanthropic voice, recalled the unhappy wanderer into the paths of felicity, and with its powerful arm, protected from the grasp of malice and oppression the forlorn outcast of society! Let the widow, the orphan, the prisoner, the debtor, the unfortunate, witness its beneficent deeds, and in a symphony of gratitude, declare that on the flight of all the other virtues, charity as well as hope remained to bless mankind.

## **THE DUTIES OF A MASON TO HIS BROTHER**

A Mason is bound to consult the happiness and to promote the interests of his brother; to avoid everything offensive to his feelings; to abstain from reproach censure and unjust suspicions; to warn him of the machinations of his enemies; to advise him of his errors; to advance the welfare and reputation of his family; to protect the chastity of his house; to defend his life, his property, and what is dearer to a man of honor, his character, against unjust attacks; to relieve his wants and his distress; to instill into his mind proper ideas of conduct in the department of life which he is called to fill; and, let me add, to foster his schemes of interest and promotion, if compatible with the paramount duties a man owes to the community. If such are the obligations which a man owes to brother, they are precisely the duties that one freemason ought to perform to another. Our Order enjoins them as rules from which nothing can justify a deviation, and considers their infraction a violation of honor; conscience and religion; a prostitution of all that is deemed sacred and venerable among men. But Masonry does not confine the benignity of her precepts to her followers; she rises higher in the scale of excellence, and enjoins the observance of honor, honesty and good faith to all men; she espouses the cause of universal benevolence and virtue; she declares as unworthy of her patronage those who violate the laws of rectitude, and her votaries exemplify in their lives the truth of the remark that, although there are vicious men in the fraternity, yet they are better, than if they were not Masons.

## **THE RELIGION OF MASONRY**

As Christian Masons, acknowledging the divinity of Christ, we have introduced the Bible into our Lodges, to manifest our belief in the doctrines which it inculcates. In like manner the followers of Moses, Mahomet and Burmah may introduce into their Masonic assemblies their Pentateuch, their Alcoran, and their Vedan; and yet the unity of Masonry would remain - the essential principles on which she moves would be the same; she would still declare to her votaries, I regard not to what sect you attach yourselves; venerate the popular religion of your respective countries; follow the light of your understanding; forget not, however, the doctrines of the religion of nature; adore the Great Architect of the Universe, acknowledge the immortal soul, and look forward to a state of future retribution when the virtuous of all religions and countries shall meet together, and enjoy never fading bliss. ❖



# Join Us In Wishing Happy Birthday to our Brethren!!



# In Memoriam

## 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

## November

- 02 - John B. Tallent Jr
- 02 - George T. McDonald
- 02 - Roy M. York
- 07 - John A. Gallimore Jr
- 07 - Juergen P. Schuetz
- 07 - Winston W. Way
- 08 - Balvantrai B. Desai
- 09 - Arnold Wilson
- 09 - Jerry W. Church
- 10 - Ian C. McIntyre
- 10 - Stuart M. Singer
- 10 - William T. Blalock
- 11 - Alan S. King
- 12 - Justin F. Hendrix
- 12 - Harvey S. Bailey
- 13 - Robert M. Kirkpatrick
- 13 - James B. Contreras Jr
- 15 - Howard L. Braverman
- 15 - Willie A. Freeman
- 15 - Billie C. Stout II
- 16 - Charles S. Jessup
- 16 - Frank M. Williams
- 16 - Cameron C. Caudle
- 17 - Louis A. Bledsoe
- 18 - Charles L. Spivey
- 19 - Claude Cochran
- 20 - Richard D. Horne
- 20 - William P. Gallimore
- 24 - Charles C. Andrews
- 25 - Henry N. Graham
- 25 - Glenn R. Sigmon
- 27 - Reid J. Brown
- 29 - William L. Spruiell



## 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., Oct 9** — Stated Communication  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Sat., Oct 13** — MHCO Homecoming  
9:45am Shrine Parade  
11:30am—2:00pm Lunch
- 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  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Service Awards Presentation
- Sat., Nov 3** — Cletus O'Dell Fulp Barbecue  
11:00am
- Tue., Nov 13** — Stated Communication and Officer Elections  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Dec 11** — Stated Communication  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens