

# TRESTLEBOARD

## PHALANX LODGE NO. 31



Volume 216, Issue 10

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

December 2013



Kai Ferrell  
Master

Brethren,

As I write this, we're just finishing up with Thanksgiving, and now moving into the Christmas season. And with that, our last stated communication of the year, and my last stated sitting in the East. It's been an honor and a privilege serving as Master of Phalanx Lodge #31, and I've learned so very much along my journey through the chairs. To me, that's what Masonry is, a journey through life and a growing experience.

When I first became a Mason, I'll admit that I wasn't completely sure of what I got myself into. But what I did know was that I needed guidance in life as I was only drifting along day to day. No one else in my family has ever been involved with Masonry, so I was treading on new ground. Along my journey I've met people from all walks of life. Many of whom I may not have ever interacted with in my normal life, and all calling me "brother" which took some getting used to. Through it all I've gained perspective, knowledge, a deeper faith in God, and an overall feeling that I've improved myself, although I still have a long way to go as we never stop. I'm still looking forward to many more years of growing, learning, and improving myself in Masonry, but for now, it's time for me to pass the gavel onto a new Master, and simply offer support and encouragement as he finds his new place in the East.

I'd like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season, and may God's love bless and enrich us all!

Fraternally,  
Kai Ferrell - Master



Mike Hamrick, PM  
Secretary

Brothers,

As we near the end of yet another year, I want to first wish you all a very Happy Holiday season. It is my hope that we all take a moment to recall the teachings and charges of our fraternity, and measure ourselves against the ideals, character and behaviors that Masonry asks us to aspire to. I believe that one of the greatest gifts I can give to my family and friends is that of always being a better person tomorrow than I was today.

I do want to note the results of the November election of Officers for those of you who were not able to be present. The following were elected to their respective stations and places for 2014: **Brother James S. Lofton - Master, Brother Bill A. Clark - Senior Warden, Brother Chris W. Crump - Junior Warden, Worshipful Brother Neil Crossley - Treasurer, Worshipful Brother Mike Hamrick - Secretary and Brothers Bill Clark and Chris Crump - Trustees.**

There are two more events scheduled before years end, the December 10th Stated Communication and the December 17th Officer Installation. We would love to see you at both of these, particularly at the 2014 Officer's Installation. The installation is one of very few Masonic rituals to which non-Masons can be invited. Please feel free to invite family and friends as we install our 2014 Officers. Also for consideration, should you have a friend who you believe would benefit from, and be a benefit to our fraternity, this ceremony might be one of our more meaningful introductions to Masonry.

Lastly, 2014 dues payments are coming in...should you not yet have dropped that in the mail, please que it up in your next checks to be written.

Mike Hamrick, PM



# OPPORTUNITY

Brothers, one of our newest members, Brother Ben Asseff (affiliated from William G. Hill Lodge #218, Raleigh) manages an Edward Jones branch which is a drop off location for TOYS FOR TOTS. If you are interested in donating new and unwrapped toys for needy children, he will be glad to take the donations to his office. You may bring any donation to the December 10th Stated or the December 17th Officer Installation.

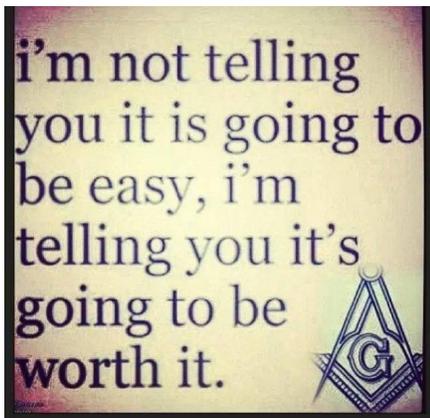


Jim Lofton  
Senior Warden

Brothers,

I can't begin to express to you how much it means to me that you have elected me to lead our lodge during 2014. I hope that the coming year affords me the opportunity to assist our lodge through times of growth, strengthening and above all charitable giving. I began my journey to this point in 2007, and during the last six years I have learned so much about the inner workings of the lodge. I have learned that being an officer means taking the will of the lodge and turning it into action. It means paying very close attention to the officers who have come before you to draw on their successes and learn from their mistakes. As I am sure is the case with many newly elected officers I view the coming year with anticipation and hope, but above all I look to this next year with a great deal of excitement and energy. We have a terrific lodge and with several new masons in the process of going through the degrees, so we continue to grow and add to our ranks. It remains important for brothers to engage with the lodge not only during stated communications, but during degree work. We raised our newest brother the other evening, and in doing so ignited the passion for masonry in another individual just the way it was once done for us. I hope the many of you will be able to attend our December stated and our officer installation ceremony on December the 17<sup>th</sup>. If you can't, I challenge each of you to attend at least one stated communication during the year. Brothers this is your lodge, and while I have taken on the responsibility of leading it, I expect you to participate. Your participation will help me understand where we are, and where you would like to see us end up. A lot can be accomplished in a year, but I have to know what the goal is in order to reach it. I look forward to seeing you all soon, and I wish for all of you and your families a happy and safe holiday season.

Fraternally,  
Jim Lofton



## Upcoming Masonic Happenings

**Tue, December 10** - Stated Communication  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

**Tue, Dec 17** - 2014 Officer's Installation  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Installation Begins

**Tue. January 14** - Stated Communication  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

**Tue, January 28** - Entered Apprentice Degree  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

## 2013 OFFICERS

|                   |  |              |                |  |              |
|-------------------|--|--------------|----------------|--|--------------|
| Worshipful Master | Kai Ferrell  | 704-995-4676 | Senior Deacon  | Bill Clark   | 704-756-0343 |
|                   | <a href="mailto:master@phalanx31.org">master@phalanx31.org</a>             |              |                | <a href="mailto:seniordeacon@phalanx31.org">seniordeacon@phalanx31.org</a>   |              |
| Senior Warden     | James Lofton, Jr.  | 704-488-1020 | Junior Deacon  | Bill Stout   | 704-996-4110 |
|                   | <a href="mailto:seniorwarden@phalanx31.org">seniorwarden@phalanx31.org</a> |              |                | <a href="mailto:juniordeacon@phalanx31.org">juniordeacon@phalanx31.org</a>   |              |
| Junior Warden     | Steven Porter  | 704-361-7185 | Senior Steward | Chris Crump  | 704-913-1568 |
|                   | <a href="mailto:juniorwarden@phalanx31.org">juniorwarden@phalanx31.org</a> |              |                | <a href="mailto:seniorsteward@phalanx31.org">seniorsteward@phalanx31.org</a> |              |
| Treasurer         | Neil Crossley, PM  | 704-365-9431 | Chaplain       | David Morgan, PM   | 704-882-6179 |
|                   | <a href="mailto:treasurer@phalanx31.org">treasurer@phalanx31.org</a>       |              |                | <a href="mailto:chaplain@phalanx31.org">chaplain@phalanx31.org</a>           |              |
| Secretary         | Mike Hamrick, PM   | 704-724-8454 | Tyler          | Brad Hufeld, PM  | 407-335-0887 |
|                   | <a href="mailto:secretary@phalanx31.org">secretary@phalanx31.org</a>       |              |                | <a href="mailto:tyler@phalanx31.org">tyler@phalanx31.org</a>                 |              |



## FROM THE CRAFT

Brothers,

As the incoming Senior Warden for Phalanx Lodge #31 in the coming New Year, I want to thank the brethren for their faith and trust in me for this high honor and I sincerely look forward to the challenge. We have a great lodge but it would be wonderful to see more of our brothers at the lodge on a more regular and consistent basis. There are positive changes on the immediate horizon and we want to make lodge attendance well worth your time. I want to personally invite each and every one of our brothers to Phalanx Lodge in 2014 to come and be a part of this great lodge. I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Fraternally,

Bill Clark, Senior Warden elect



Brothers,

I would like to say it was an honor to be elected Junior Warden for Phalanx 2014... We will have a first degree kicking off in the first month of the new year. I know we have one candidate for certain, and possibly a second. I would love to have many Brothers there for fellowship and to help bring our newest brothers into masonry... more information will follow with dates and times.

Fraternally,

Chris Crump - Junior Warden elect



### **WE ARE BUILDERS**

We are all agreed that Freemasonry is a splendid Fraternity; that it is steeped in tradition; that it numbers many great men of the past and present as its Members; that it has a beautiful ritual; and that it is, indeed, a great honor to be a Freemason.

However, in the final analysis the future of Freemasonry depends not on these things but on the influence it exerts in the life of each one of us. If society is to be successful and everlasting, it must live and breathe the principles on which it is founded. It must be workable, and this means that the individual Members must live in the spirit of real Brotherhood, we must be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer only.

To assume obligations of friendship, morality, and brotherly love; to reaffirm love for the dependence on an Eternal Father, are but empty words lost forever in the restless air if they are not practiced in our daily life. In this sense, we as present-day Masons could very well classify ourselves as Operative Masons.

Our Lodge is not just a room. It is not merely a place in which to enjoy fraternal fellowship. It is not an organization which replaces the Church. It is not the means of promoting ones self in business. What our Lodge really is, is a group of men, a group of Brothers, who have dedicated themselves to a common task, and that is to build. A Freemason is a builder; a builder of character; a builder of a better community; a better nation; a better world in which to live; a builder of an Eternal Temple for the indwelling of God.

Such should be the real meaning of Freemasonry to each of us. If not, we should re-dedicate our lives right now to those principles of Freemasonry to which we have obligated ourselves to accept, to learn, to keep and to exemplify.

We are brought to Light in order that we may let our Light so shine before our fellowmen, that they may see our good works and join us in glorifying The Great Architect of the Universe.



**IN MEMORIUM**

**Worshipful Brother**

**Raymond Eugene "Gene" Crawford**

Born - January 25, 1928

Initiated - May 9, 1961

Passed - May 23, 1961

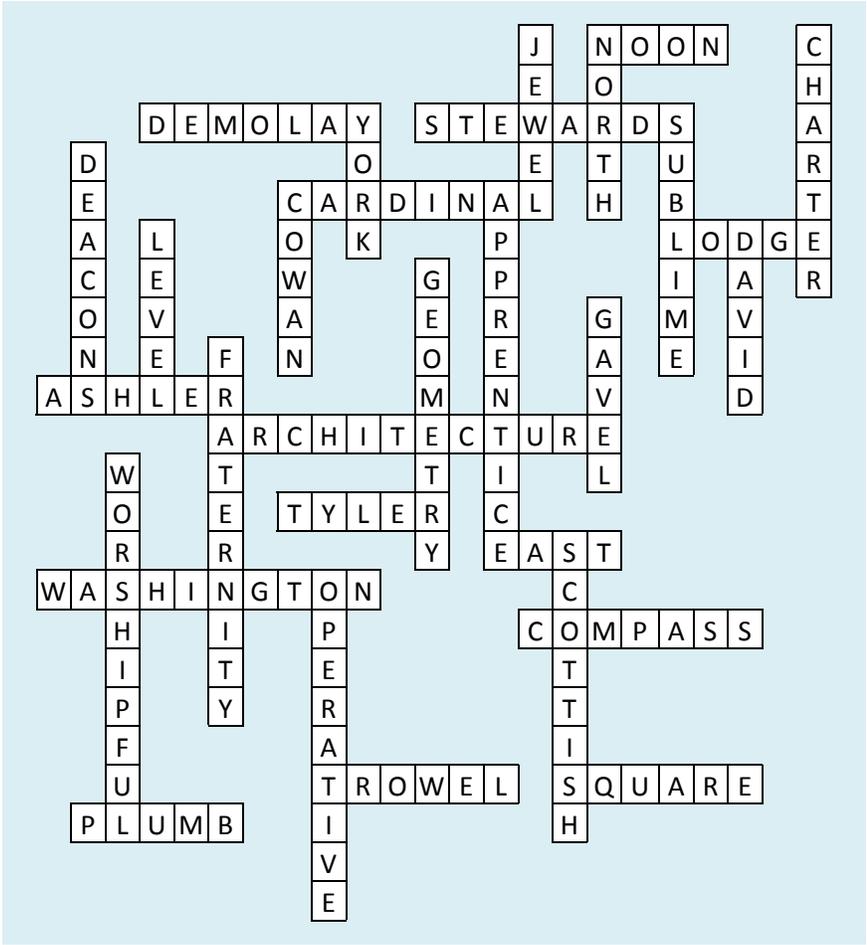
Raised - June 20, 1961

Master - 1975

Died - November 24, 2013



**SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD**



## Freemasonry and Christmas

Compliments of Brother Neil Neddermeyer who writes Cinosam

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On one hand, many say it's too religious, and thus don't want Christmas trees in public buildings and nativity scenes within a shepherd's-crook length of government lawns. On the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial. They've been saying it for years-it's the central theme behind the charming animated cartoon A Charlie Brown Christmas which was made some 40 years ago.

Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th.

Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies. The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do until you." In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount.

Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator." Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.

Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of the virgin birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft - faith, hope and charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at Christmas-time.



### WHAT'S COOKING?

The December 10th Stated Communication dinner will feature Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans and Carolyn Morgan's famous desserts.



### BIRTHDAYS

| BIRTHDAYS              |                          |                        |                         |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>DECEMBER</b>        | 12 - James A. Pollock Jr | 28 - Kent Schevlin     | 07 - Marvin Morrison    | 24 - Marc Strickland     |
| 01 - Roy Atkins        | 13 - Wayne Barentine     | 28 - Brandon Lacy      | 07 - Paul Raynor        | 25 - John T. Price       |
| 01 - John Litschert II | 13 - Gary P. Kleiber     | 29 - James D. Cain     | 08 - John A. Walker     | 25 - Jeff Walters        |
| 02 - Jack Goode        | 13 - Warren S. Bennick   | 29 - Robert Tosti      | 10 - Joe Narciso        | 26 - Philip Dunn         |
| 02 - Stephen Taylor    | 13 - Scott McCorkle      | 31 - Ralston Pound     | 10 - Amir Farahany      | 28 - Angus Mercer        |
| 03 - Michel Badawi     | 15 - John A. Martin      | 31 - Horace Horne      | 12 - Curtiss Burnett    | 29 - Robbie Robinson III |
| 05 - John Lamb II      | 17 - Gene C. Pitman      | 31 - William E. Graham | 14 - George McCormick   | 29 - Graydon Miller      |
| 05 - Charles R. Massey | 18 - John E. Marr III    | 31 - Bill Robertson    | 14 - Guy T. Comer       | 29 - Joel Blady          |
| 06 - Mark Rosen        | 21 - Bill Cowan          | <b>JANUARY</b>         | 15 - William E. Webb Jr | 29 - Charles Lilly II    |
| 11 - Jim Martin        | 24 - Paul Poley          | 04 - D.F. Presley      | 20 - James Zell         | 31 - John Litschert      |
| 11 - Mark Magyar       | 24 - James Lofton Jr     | 06 - Frank B. McDowell | 20 - James F. Huckabee  | 31 - James Robinson      |
|                        | 26 - Robert F. Oliver    |                        | 20 - Bill Clark         |                          |