



# MAKING FREEMASONS FOR LIFE!

DECEMBER, 2006

...TO SET THE CRAFT TO WORK AND GIVE THEM GOOD AND WHOLESOME INSTRUCTION...

**Hail Brethren!...** Well, another Lodge year is winding down to a close. It has been a good year and we have made many strides in advancing the work of Freemasonry. We have had some very memorable events and projects this year; all of which have been planned and executed by a very competent group of young officers. They very much deserve your thanks for their efforts. Our degree work was also done very, very well by these officers; and I am pleased to say that ALL of our degree parts are filled with our Lodge members, with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Craftsman in the Master Mason Degree. If anyone wishes to step up and take that part... We are also capable of conducting the Masonic Memorial service without having to farm it out. We are progressing.

But, there is more to be done! This has also been a very frustrating year for me and our officers. Our attendance was horrible in the last four months of the year; and that certainly dampens the commitment and enthusiasm of competent officers. I believe that part of the problem lies in the fact that we take a two month "vacation" when we go dark for the summer. To start up again and build enthusiasm after being off is difficult at best. Many other Lodges around the state meet year around and they thrive instead of stumble. I would advocate that this Lodge take the crucial step to meet year around, soon.

My frustration with this year has been so intense, that I actually wrote a different Trestleboard article for December. It is included with this issue...; view it as a "State of the Lodge" address.

December's Stated Meeting will be held on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. It is the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Please come out and support your Lodge! As always, a great meal will be served by Brother Aaron Busch. Please e-mail your reservations to Aaron at [abusch224@earthlink.net](mailto:abusch224@earthlink.net).

Time is the biggest adversary for a Master. There is NEVER enough time to complete the things you want and know you should do. Thank goodness we have capable officers rising in the line to carry on our work of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth into the future.

**See you at Lodge!** Fraternally, *Dave Wood*, Master



## HARMONY BEING THE STRENGTH AND SUPPORT.....

**Two dates of importance are coming up in the month of December. First is the annual Installation of Officers, which will be on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 PM. This year, we are fortunate to have our Grand Master, James M. Barkdull, as our installing officer. This event is open to the public and we encourage you and your families' attendance. Bring a prospective member with you; as he may be interested enough to complete a petition. There will be refreshments following the Installation.**

**The second big event is the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. This year, Council Oak Lodge is hosting the event; and we anticipate participation by St. Joe #45, St. Peters # 31 and Terre Coupee # 204. The feast begins at 6:30 PM. Aaron Busch will be providing the meal and you can e-mail your reservations to him at [abusch224@earthlink.net](mailto:abusch224@earthlink.net); or you can call him at 574.658.9300, or call the Lodge at 574.272.4073.**

**Congratulations to Brother Bob Osthimer on completing 50 years of Masonic Service! Brother Bob was presented his 50 Year Award of Gold at the November Stated Meeting.**

May Brotherly Love Prevail, *David Fuller* SW



## 2006 LODGE OFFICERS

Please advise WM of changes or corrections

Lodge Phone.....574.272.4073

- \*1 - Lodge Messages
- \*2 - Reservations and transportation
- \*3 - Reports of illness or distress

- Master** **WB David F. Wood**  
574.286.5686, dwood52281@aol.com
- Senior Warden** **Bro. David A. Fuller** (Liz)  
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- Junior Warden** **Bro. Jeff VanMele** (Tonya)  
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- Secretary** **WB D. Eugene Ralstin** (Dody)  
574.784.3545 gralstin@athenet.net
- Treasurer** **WB Roland A. Klockow** (Jayne)  
574.277.6174 phishing5@msn.com
- Senior Deacon** **Bro. Dean Engle** (Sandie)  
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- Senior Steward** **Bro. Adam Collins** (Jen)  
574.246.9081 haliker@yahoo.com
- Junior Steward** **Bro. Chad A. Klein**  
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- Chaplain** **Bro. Marlin J. Lynn** (Mattie)  
574.277.1132 marlin.j.lynn.1@nd.edu
- Tyler** **Bro. David R. Vaughn**  
574.234.9509
- Trustee** **WB Richard Engle** (Jackie)  
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- Trustee** **WB William Fox, Jr.** (Linda)  
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- Trustee** **WB Robert S. Maurer** (Diane)  
574.273.9724 wellman619@aol.com
- Chef** **Bro. Aaron Busch** (Barbara)  
574.658.9300 abusch224@earthlink.net
- Property Manager** **Bro. Rodney A. Strozewski**  
574.271.1739

## FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

- **Keep in your prayers..** WB Jerry Jank is finally back home and has been coming to Lodge!
- WB Tommie Campbell continues his recovery from a stroke and is now getting back to a normal life.
- WB Jerry Smith is in serious condition with cancer; and is currently in Room 942 of Memorial Hospital. Please, please go visit him or send him a card. He has very little family in the area outside his Lodge.
- Bro. Mike Aessa had some minor surgery to repair a broken blood vessel in his nose. He looked very fit and healthy, but required a two day stay in the hospital.

**Brethren, if you can, visit or drop these people a note of encouragement!**

- **December Birthdays:** 1<sup>st</sup> – WB Jerry Jank; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joseph Medlin and James Callaway; 3<sup>rd</sup> – David Henry; 4<sup>th</sup> – Leonard Trowbridge; 9<sup>th</sup> – Harry Collier; 11<sup>th</sup> – Kenneth Butterbaugh; 12<sup>th</sup> – Robert Holm; 14<sup>th</sup> – William Whipkey; 15<sup>th</sup> – James Barnes; 16<sup>th</sup> – Edward Bender; 18<sup>th</sup> – WB Roland Klockow and William Ralstin; 19<sup>th</sup> – Donald Moon; 21<sup>st</sup> – Robert Leonard and John E. Sidorowicz; 22<sup>nd</sup> – Paul Rudbeck; 24<sup>th</sup> – Frank Mellinger; and the 26<sup>th</sup> – Fred Jeffers, Jr.

**Contact these Brothers and wish ‘em Happy Birthday!**

## BEAUTY

The third Pillar of Freemasonry, that of Beauty, represents the perfected Soul quality that every Mason would strive to manifest in himself and in every aspect of his life. The keywords for Beauty are Balance and Harmony. Balance between force and form, or masculine and feminine, coupled with awareness produces joy and fulfillment, or the spiritual experience of Beauty. Harmony, like Beauty, relies on the perfect proportions of its several parts – the whole Man – and leads to Unity.

In the Arts, Beauty is subjective, but conditional upon each individual’s subconscious understanding of the laws of Harmony and Proportion.

In speculative Masonry we use the model of King Solomon’s Temple for our Lodges: we use the tools that built the temple, allegorically to portray a system of morality, and we use symbols to illustrate the means by which a Mason may become more perfect. When a Mason enters the Porch of the Temple, balanced between the pillars of Strength and Wisdom, of force and form, he experiences the Pillar of Beauty in all its glory. He then becomes One with all those brethren who have already made the journey back to the Godhead. It is a living Temple built from the enlightened Soul of Man.

Masonry is the story of the transformation of the Soul, and the ritual of its ceremonies is an allegory of that journey that all Masons must make in order to achieve their highest potential.

The principles of the Craft have inspired men throughout the ages to become great artists, poets, musicians, architects, philosophers *and others of great achievement*. The beauty they have created is the natural effect of their journeys through this mortal existence. Soul qualities are not inherited, they are won by dogged persistence to the cause – which is Man’s longing to return to his Creator.

There have been many systems tried by man over the past few thousand years, each new one building on the success of the former. The usages and customs of Masonry bear a close affinity to the precepts of the ancient Egyptians. The system of Pythagoras was also founded on a similar principle, as were many other systems of more recent times. We are told, however, that Masonry is not only the most ancient, but also the most honourable Society that has ever existed. Perhaps in time an even better system will grow out of Masonry, but at the present stage of mankind’s evolution it will suffice, because it contains the perfect blueprint for man on his journey aback to the Source – which is Truth.

## CALENDAR October, 2006

**December 4<sup>th</sup> – Stated Meeting. Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Dinner at 6:30 PM. Lodge opens at 7:30 PM.**

**14<sup>th</sup> – Past Master’s Degree and Dinner. 6:00 PM.**

**18<sup>th</sup> – Installation of Officers. 7:00 PM.**

**19<sup>th</sup> – Officers Call Meeting. Granger Tap and Grill. 6:30 PM.**

**26<sup>th</sup> – Executive Committee Meeting. At the Lodge Hall. 7:00 PM.**

**27<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. John the Evangelist. At Council Oak Lodge. 6:30 PM.**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> – Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6:30 PM. Lodge opens at 7:30 PM.**



Spencer Douglas David Compton  
7<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Northampton  
Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

50 Year Award of Gold Member – Robert Ostheimer

Approximately 65 Brethren and their families attended our Thanksgiving Dinner!!



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