



Guiding Light

June 2014

GREENEVILLE LODGE NO. 3 F. & A. M.

IN THIS ISSUE: THE MIGHTY ACACIA

Worshipful Master's Message

by Joe Byrd (Worshipful Master)

Brethren and Friends,

June is here, and the summer months are upon us. This is an especially trying time for the fraternity because warm weather activities and chores create competition for our time. I hope each of you has a chance to spend time with your family and has the opportunity to get done those much-needed projects around the house this summer. But please don't forget, your Lodge needs you, too.

A Lodge is only as strong as its membership, and a Lodge must have an active membership to remain a viable part of its community. I love Greenville Lodge No 3, and I love Greene County. My biggest desire in life is to see both thrive. Can I count on your help?

We didn't have any degree work during the month of May, but we did have a very good night of practice. I want to thank everyone who came out and took part. The night was not only beneficial for the officers getting ready for the inspection; it was helpful to many of our new Entered Apprentice Masons, as well. They had a chance to see what degree work looks like from the sidelines and had a chance to ask

questions. I believe they learned a lot, and hopefully it inspired them to get their lectures turned in so they can receive their Fellow Craft degrees.

Speaking of our Lodge inspection, it is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15. We need as many members in attendance as possible. Grand Lecturer Robert Reed is coming to grade our Lodge. That score doesn't just reflect on the officers; it reflects on all of us. The more members we have in attendance, the better it looks for Greenville Lodge No. 3. There is nothing sadder than to visit another Lodge and see it nearly empty. I want the other Lodges not just in our area but also in the entire state to look to Greenville and see a Lodge that is flourishing. Our Lodge bears No. 3. There is no 1 or 2 in Tennessee. Therefore, it is my belief that Greenville Lodge No. 3 bears a responsibility to be the exemplar of Freemasonry in the Volunteer State.

Noted Masonic scholar and author S. Brent Morris, PhD, 33° once wrote, "Masons join these groups because they enjoy the fellowship, the ritual ceremonies, and the opportunity for community participation." I find Greenville Lodge No. 3 a great place for all three, and I hope you do, too.



May the blessings of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons! May brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us.

The Mighty Acacia

by John Sayne (Senior Deacon / Webmaster)

The acacia tree is a cherished symbol in Freemasonry and acts as a gentle melancholy memento of mortality. Through Masonic teachings, the mighty acacia serves as an emblem of life and encourages us to live a life well lived. Though the acacia teaches lessons of morality in the Lodge, it extends those lessons beyond into the world, and acts as a living lesson.

There are few things stronger than the bond between Brother Masons. The mighty acacia also makes a fraternal bond with an unlikely companion. I present *Pseudomyrmex ferruginea*, also known as the acacia ant.

The acacia tree and the acacia ant form a bond referred to in Ecology as a mutualistic symbiotic relationship. Symbiotic means that both organisms can live amongst one another in peace. The mutualistic term means that both organisms benefit from the relationship.

In this particular relationship, the acacia tree serves as the provider. The tree contains nectary glands on the stems which secrete sugary nectar. The tree also provides Beltian bodies. These bodies are generally yellow-



orange in color and are produced on the leaf tips. This provides the ants with a high protein-lipid rich food supply for the ant larvae.

The acacia tree does not only provide a sustainable food source, the first rule of survival is to find shelter. As a defense mechanism against large mammalian predators, acacia trees have developed very large and very sharp thorns. The ants cut holes into the thorns which provides them with shelter

So what do the ants provide the tree? The answer lies in what ants do best, bite and sting! The ants serve as guardians of the

tree. If the tree represented a Lodge, then the ants would definitely be the Tiler! "You shall not pass!" The ants defend and protect the tree with sleepless vigilance against the constant bombardment of predators and competition of daily life.

The mighty acacia is a shining example of teamwork and unity. We each face difficult times. That is just part of living. However, we never have to face them alone. We all know that the acacia is a deep-rooted shrub, and we should strive to allow the lessons it teaches to dig deep into our hearts and minds.

A Message From The West

by Dewey Cox (Senior Warden)

"Brethren do not put down your working tools".



Greenville Scottish Rite Club



SCOTTISH RITE SHOE PROGRAM

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Monthly Report

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Year to Date Report

LODGE OF SORROW

Brother Howard White

PRAYER REQUESTS

Brethren, please keep Bro. Karl Sabey in your prayers. Bro. Sabey (EA) lost his home to a house fire.

Brethren, please continue to keep Bro. Carl Bird and his family in your prayers.



Greenville Chapter No. 135 R. A. M. will be hosting the York Rite Chapter District Meeting on July 12th, 2014, at Greenville Lodge No. 3 F. & A. M. This is a casual dress event and guests are welcome to attend. This is another opportunity to represent Greenville well, so I hope all will attend.



Bro. Bill Moncier and Alicia Ricker are pictured with shoes donated by the Scottish Rite Mercy Fund.

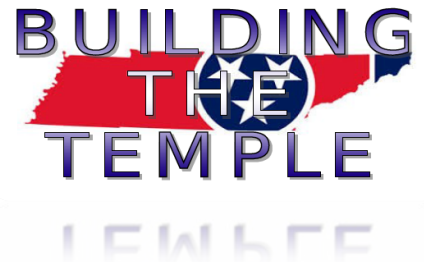
District Meeting

by John Sayne (Senior Deacon / Webmaster)

The school year has finally come to a close. The children have all gone home for the summer, but the work is yet to be done. Brethren I know all of our Masonic groups which we have become a member of need money, but I sincerely hope that you will all do the best that you can to support the Scottish Rite Mercy Fund.

For those of you who are unfamiliar, the Scottish Rite Mercy Fund is a Shoes-For-Kids program that provides shoes to school aged children. We often take for granted something as small as a pair of shoes, but to these children it truly makes a difference.

On July 12th, 2014 the Greene County Scottish Rite Club will be hosting their annual car show in the parking lot of Big Lots. This is the clubs biggest fund raising event. The Greene County Scottish Rite Club averages giving out 300 pairs of shoes every year. We desperately need your help. I urge all of you to come out and show your support.



The Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Tennessee have started a new newsletter called Building the Temple. Its purpose is to provide useful information from the Grand Chapter and Council to the Companions such as announcements of upcoming festivals, degree conferrals, Group Meetings, and events and to provide educational articles concerning the history, symbolism, and meaning of Royal Arch and Cryptic Masonry.

The plan is to publish six times per year. The current newsletter is in its final drafts so be on the lookout soon.

To **subscribe** or to **send articles** email the editor George Ladd at BuildingTheTempleTN@gmail.com

A Message From The South

by Josh Cox (Junior Warden)

"Brethren, let us strive each day to be the light in a world so covered in darkness".



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