



Guiding Light

December 2014

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

IN THIS ISSUE: COUNCIL DEGREES

Worshipful Master's Message

by Joe Byrd (Worshipful Master)

Brethren and Friends,

My year in the East is drawing to a close, and I want to thank the members of Greenville Lodge No. 3 for allowing me the honor of serving as Worshipful Master.

It would be impossible to individually name everyone who has helped contribute to what I believe has been a successful year. Rather than leave someone out, please know there is gratitude in my heart for each individual who has answered questions, given me guidance, worked in degrees, served on committees, assisted at funerals, helped with building maintenance, traveled with me, simply attended meetings, or offered a hand on any number of other things that needed to be done.

I do need to thank my wife, Suzanne, for understanding why I have been gone from home so much this year. Without support at home, a year in the East wouldn't be possible, and it certainly wouldn't be as meaningful.

Obviously, I have to thank my mom and my dad. If I hadn't been born into a Masonic family, I don't know if I would have ever knocked on the door of the lodge. Both have done much to make my job as Master easier during my term of office.

My term of office has been marked, I believe, by a great period of growth for Greenville Lodge No. 3. We raised seven new Master Masons and brought in a similar number through affiliation. We conferred nearly three-dozen degrees and had as many lodge openings. Many lodges across the state don't open as much or do as much work in three years as Greenville Lodge No. 3 did in 2014. That is something for which I believe we should all feel a little sense of pride.

I am proud of the new lights we installed in the lodge. Not only did we complete a much-needed project, we did it at no expense to the lodge thanks to generous contributions from all the other Masonic bodies that meet in our building.

My most sincere wish is that the coming year be better than this one for Greenville Lodge No. 3. I promise to do my part to make it so. Once again, I challenge each and every one of you to work toward a better lodge and a better local community.

I will close with something I recently read. These words were written in *Farmer's Almanac* in 1823 in an article entitled "The Character of a Freemason." I don't think anyone could ever put it better, and I don't think it's something any of us should ever forget.

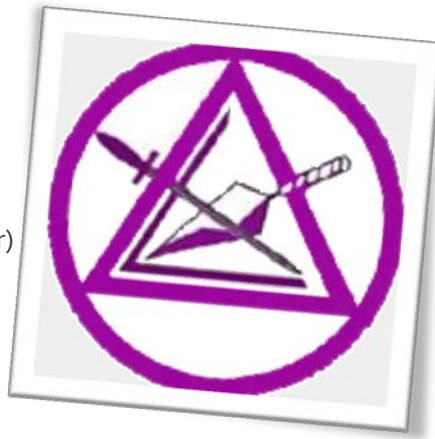
"A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine, except those written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. ... He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessing he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection. ... He is honest upon principle."



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

Council Degrees

by John Sayne (Senior Deacon / Webmaster)



The Council degrees consists of three degrees. The scene takes the candidate back to a time before the Symbolic degrees. The degrees of the York Rite are classified as the Symbolic Lodge (Master Masons), Capitular (Chapter), Cryptic (Council), and Chivalric (Commandery). The Cryptic Rite derives its name from the setting in the underground crypt of King Solomon's Temple.

The Council degrees are some of the most popular in all of Masonry. This is because they complete a story. The story began in the Symbolic lodge where the candidate learned of the "Lost Word." The candidate discovers the "Lost Word" in the Council degrees.

The Royal Master is the first degree of the Cryptic Rite. The ritual fully explains the articles contained in the Holy of Holies of King Solomon's Temple, including the Arc of the Covenant. The principal characters of this degree are King Solomon and his royal assistant.

The second degree of the Cryptic Rite is the Select Master degree. The scene of this degree takes place in the underground vault of King Solomon's Temple. The events that take place are unforgettable and make for intense interest.

The final degree of the Cryptic Rite is the Super Excellent Master degree. This degree is an extra and is generally conferred only one time per year. This is due to the large number of people that are required to put on the degree. It is one of the most impressive and beautiful degrees that can be found in Masonry. This degree takes place after the

destruction of the first Temple. Many historical characters from the Holy Bible come to life including Nebuchadnezer, Zedekiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah. The presiding body is a Chapter and the presiding Officer is the Illustrious Master.

Next month we will take a closer look at each of the Chivalric Masonry degrees. For more information about York Rite Masonry of Tennessee, please visit the TN Grand York Rite website below.

<http://tngrandyorkrite.org/>



A Message From The South

by Josh Cox (Junior Warden)

"Brethren do not put down your working tools."

APPENDENT BODY NEWS

Greenville Scottish Rite Club



SCOTTISH RITE SHOE PROGRAM

Monthly Report

200

Year to Date Report

LODGE OF SORROW

- Lewis Johnson Buckles
- Paul Evert Dixon – P.M.
- Robert Victor King – P.M.
- Charles Douglas Mayo
- Glen Delmar Renner
- Anthony Holace Sutton
- George Richard White
- Howard David White

PRAYER REQUESTS



Past Masters

by John Sayne (Senior Deacon / Webmaster)

Eleven Past Masters of Greenville Lodge No. 3 gathered for supper at the lodge on Monday evening, Nov. 17. Pictured are (front row, from left) A.J. Bible, 2013; Royce Peterson, 1978; Jim Gosnell, 1986; Joe Byrd, 2014; (back row) Bob Bailey, 1962; J.C. Jones, 2004, Robert Ward, 1966; John DeWit 1996; Earl Howe, 1979, Dewey Cox, 1980, and Leroy Jenkins, 1991.

Officer Elections

by John Sayne (Senior Deacon / Webmaster)

It is that time of year again, electing Officers for the New Year. Please try to attend all stated meetings for all of the Bodies to which you belong. We need to support our Lodge and our Officers.

Greenville Lodge will be holding an Open Installation of the 2015 Officers on Sunday, December 14th at 2:00 p.m. Please try to attend. If you have never attended an installation before, it is a great ceremony to see. The Lodge will be open to the public, so please feel free to bring your family and friends.

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".



Announcements

-Greeneville Lodge No. 3 Stated Meeting Tuesday, December 2nd

-Installation of Officers will be December 14th (Open to Public)



-Greeneville Chapter No. 135 and Council No. 77 Sated Meeting Monday, December 8th



-Greeneville Commandery No. 43 Stated Meeting Monday, December 22nd



Please feel free to submit articles, pictures, news, ect. This applies to all Bodies that meet at Greeneville Lodge No. 3 F. & A. M. Submissions can be emailed to greenevillelodgeno3@gmail.com. All submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Worshipful Master before publishing. Having a steady flow of content is crucial to the success of this newsletter.

John Sayne (Editor)

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