

St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly News Letter April 2008 – May 2008



Brethren,

Exciting and interesting things continue to take place at St. James Lodge.

On April 17th, the Lodge elected six individuals to receive the degrees in Masonry. Many Brethren could not remember when so many petitions had been balloted upon at one communication. With this in mind, three Special Communications were announced for April 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, with two Entered Apprentice degrees to be conferred each night, beginning at 6:00 P.M.; the second degree immediately following. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the degree teams for their diligent efforts. Please welcome these newly initiated Brothers into the Masonic fraternity.

On May 1st, St. James annual Honesty and Integrity awards will be presented. Three very qualified candidates from local high schools have been selected by the Honesty and Integrity Awards Committee. The speaker for the evening will be Chuck Morgan and some past Honesty and Integrity Award winners have been asked to come and discuss what the award means to them.

On May 15th, St. James will have another open meeting. Reverend Mike Hammett, Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church will talk about his February 2008 trip to the Holy Land. Reverend Hammett's trip was sponsored by Plains Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

Please come out to St. James Lodge to enjoy these events with your Brethren and their guests.

-William E. Little, W.M.

RECENT EVENTS

April 3 - Stated Communication - The Fellow Craft degree was conferred on one Candidate. Visitors included R:W: Bro. Jimmy Dean Duncan, DGL, from Trinity Union Lodge # 372; W: Bro. Jack Claunch, P.M. Trinity Union # 372; W: Bro. William Womack, P.M. Istrouma # 117; Bro. Keith Gates, Goldonna Lodge # 293 at Goldonna, LA, a relative or friend of the Candidate; and Bro. Doug Browder, New Haven Lodge # 740, New Haven, IN, the brother-in-law of W:M: "Mac" Little.

April 5, Saturday - There was a successful Scottish Rite Reunion in New Orleans. It was told that there were 12 Candidates for Baton Rouge Valley and 85 Candidates came by train from Chicago, IL.

April 17, Thursday - Stated Communication - at 7:30, P.M. A talk on Masonic Charity was given by Bro. Joe Richard.

April 19, Saturday - There was a successful York Rite Festival at Istrouma Lodge on April 19 that conferred all Chapter and Council degrees on seven (7) Candidates. The next scheduled York Rite Festival is at Leesville on Saturday, May 10.

April 21, 22 & 23, Monday Tuesday and Wednesday - SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS at 6:00 P.M. to confer two (2) Entered Apprentice degrees each evening. Visitors to the degrees include Bro. Mark Warden of Tipton # 33, Logansport, IN; an E.A., from the Lodge of Nine Muses # 9; Bro. Robert D. Hoover of Abe Hinson # 472, Alexandria; W: Bro. Jack Claunch of Trinity Union #372; W: Bro. Bill Womack, Istrouma # 414; and 3 new E.A.s.

FUTURE EVENTS

May 1, Thursday - Honesty and Integrity Awards. Open meeting with 6:30 P.M. dinner prepared by Shanna Little, wife of W:M: "Mac" Little.

May 15, Thursday - Report on Holy Land Pilgrimage by Rev. Mike Hammett, Associate Minister, First United Methodist Church, whose trip was sponsored by Plains Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. Open meeting with dinner at 6:30 P.M. prepared by Shanna Little.

-----Begin Casual Summer Attire, except for Degrees-----

Jun. 5 St. John the Baptist Program

Jun. 19 Honor the Flag of Our Country Program OPEN Meeting.

Jul. 3 4th of July Program

Jul. 17 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports

Aug. 7 Masonic Education Program

Aug. 21 TBA

-----End Casual Summer Attire-----

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIPS - W: Bro. David Dodge reminds that now, while St. James Lodge dues are \$59.50 per year, before the per-capita dues increase takes effect, is the time to start YOUR Perpetual Membership for 20 times annual dues. You just pay 4 times this years annual dues, for 5 years, and you are a perpetual member forever.

Sickness And Relief

Remember our ill members and their families:

W: Bro. Jim Grady is gravely ill.

Bro. Chris Dalton, our SS, has been busy taking care of his father. Bro. Chris is now ill with an infected tooth and root canal.

Bro. Carlise Richard is home from the Hospital. He had one of his Kidneys removed. He is doing well and can take phone calls or visits. Better yet, to e-mail him at csrich1@bellsouth.net.

For these and all worthy brothers in need, we pray swift relief.

Nothing more, from the West, Joe R

It was good to see Bro. Al Blanchard and W: Bro. Preston Eggers at recent meetings! Keep getting better, Brothers!

Other Masonic Events

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Consistory on Florida Boulevard with Advisory Council at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, and meeting at 7:30 PM

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:00 P.M. on the first Friday of each month at Hurd Murrell # 454 in Livingston, LA and Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets at 6:30 P.M. on the third Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372.

The Lodge of The Nine Muses, No. 9, F. & A.M., meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Red Room of St James Lodge. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members to find time, dress code and other details.

Special Notice: Please notify the Secretary, W: Bro. Dedman and Joe Richard if you change your address, telephone or email address.



St. James Lodge No. 47
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April 2008 — May 2008

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"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

MASONRY'S "FAILURE"

"Why does Masonry fail so much?" puzzled the New Brother, dropping into a chair beside the Old Tiler in the anteroom.

"I didn't know it did," commented the Old Tiler. "But then, I'm an old man and my eyes are not very good. Maybe I don't see clearly any more. Tell me about it."

"Oh, you see well enough! You just don't want to admit that the order to the service of which you have devoted so much time and thought is just a failure!"

"Is that so!" The Old Tiler seemed surprised. "You interest me! But pity my foibles and tell me your side of it!"

"Masonry fails because it doesn't interest men sufficiently to make them practice what they preach. I was at Jones' house tonight. Went to bring him to lodge in the car. After we had left he said: 'Of course you know I'm not really going to lodge! Got a hen on! Nice fat lil' poker game. Want to sit in?' I told him I didn't. But I took him to his 'nice fat lil' game!' Now, there is a man who tells his family he is going to lodge, and then plays poker. I say Masonry has failed with him. It hasn't even taught him to tell the truth!"

"Remember Roberts? He was arrested last week for forgery. He has been a member for several years. Yet Masonry couldn't teach him to be honest. There was Williamson, who tried to kill his doctor; and Burton who has been defending an ugly divorce suit...they are lodge members, but Masonry didn't teach them to be what they ought to be. And say...did you hear about Larson? Well..." the New Brother lowered his voice. "It's being whispered about that..." He leaned over to talk in the Old Tiler's ear. "Now, that isn't Masonry...it's a violation of all his obligations. So I say Masonry has failed with him. What do you say?"

"Yes, Masonry failed to make an impression on these men to suit you, even as Masonry has failed to make an impression on you to suit me!" snapped the Old Tiler. "That last remark you made was an unadulterated scandal! Does Masonry teach you to talk scandal? But never mind that! Let me dig a few weeds out of the scrubby, ill-tended, and unwatered garden you miscall your mind and see if we can't get it ready to grow one straight thought!"

"I know Jones. He is a member of the city club, the country club, Dr. Parkin's church, and a luncheon club. Neither church nor luncheon club teach deception or foster lies. Both instruct in morality, one by precept, the other by practice. By what right do you blame Masonry for Jones' failure to tell the truth, any more than the church or the luncheon club? Is Jones'

mother to blame because she didn't teach her boy never to tell a lie? How about his Sunday School teacher and his wife? Are they to blame? If not, why is Masonry to blame?

"Roberts has been accused of forgery. I don't know whether he is guilty or not. Williamson seems to have had some real justification for feeling enmity toward his doctor, although nothing justifies murder, of course. Burton may be a sinner or sinned against...I don't know. As for Larson, it will take more than your whispers of scandal to make me believe ill of a brother until I know something.

"But let us suppose Roberts a forger, Williamson a murderer, Burton a Don Juan. All these men grew up, went to school, got out in the world, joined clubs, societies, orders, became Masons, members of a church...Why pick on Masonry as the failure when these men go wrong? Is it just? If the church of God can't keep a man straight how can Masonry be expected to?"

"It is rankly unjust to blame Christ for the failures of those who profess to follow Him. Was it Christ's fault that Peter denied Him and Judas betrayed Him? Was it the fault of the religion they professed? Or was it the fault of the man, the character, the up-bringing, the times?"

"Men fail, and fall, and rise and try again...or fall and stay in the mud. To those who rise, Masonry has a helping hand to extend. To those who fail and stay fallen, she has charity. Not hers the fault that humanity is frail. She holds the torch; if they close their eyes to its radiance and refuse to see the narrow path that the torch illumines, will you blame the torch?"

"Masonry does not fail men. Men fail Masonry. Masonry has the teachings, the thought, the ennobling influence, the example to set, the vision to show those who have eyes to see. If they close their hearts to the ennobling influence, will not profit by the example and shut their eyes to the vision, is that the fault of Masonry?"

"You, my brother, have just talked scandal without proof; a whispered slander against the good name of a Mason. Has Masonry failed with you that it has not taught you tolerance, brotherly love, reticence, charity of thought? Or is the failure in you as it may be within these men you mention?"

"The Old Tiler waited. The New Brother hung his head. At last he spoke.

"I am most properly rebuked. How shall I make amends?"

"A great teacher said to you and all like you and to me and all like me; 'Go, and sin no more!'" answered the Old Tiler reverently.

If you change phone, address or e-mail, PLEASE send updated information to Joe Richard jgr2@cox.net