

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 August 2008 – September 2008



Brethren,

Let me begin by thanking Senior Warden Joe Richard for filling in for me in the East on August 7th.

I am sorry that I could not attend, but it is heartening to see that in a Worshipful Master's absence, his fellow officers can satisfy the needs of the Lodge so capably.

At the stated communication on August 7th, the Alter was draped in memory of Worshipful Brother Jim Grady who was called to his Celestial Home on August 4th. Jim was active not only in St. James Lodge # 47, but also filled leadership positions in the Downtown York Rite Bodies, Baton Rouge Valley AASR, and Hi-Twelve. A Masonic service was held in the Chapel of Rabenhorst East Funeral Home on August 6th, conducted by Worshipful Brother Frank Dedman. We are indeed sorrowful for the loss experienced by Masonry at the loss of such a true and trusted Brother. Our collective prayers go out for his family and loved ones.

On August 16th, your Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens attended the annual Masonic Wardens Retreat in Woodworth. Many interesting topics were discussed including how Masters can use the media, the use of the Honesty and Integrity Awards, and leadership from the chair. We were indeed honored to meet and hear from Most Worshipful Lloyd E. Hennigan, Jr., Grand Master.

On August 21st, Brothers Chuck Morgan and Brent Salter made a presentation concerning the Youth Federation of Louisiana, Inc. Brother Morgan accepted a check from the Lodge in order to further the organization's efforts in support of local DeMolay chapters and other youth activities. In addition to Brother Morgan's presentation, Worshipful Brother Steve Selby received his Certificate of Proficiency card from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana and Senior Warden Joe Richard gave a Masonic education program.

Please remember that Guest Night is September 4th. Please invite any guests or associates who you feel might be an asset to the Lodge. The presentations for the evening will be handled by Worshipful Brother George Jones and Most Worshipful Bill Brown. Please bring your spouses and friends for a good meal and pleasant company with your Brethren.

William E. Little, W.M.

RECENT EVENTS

Thursday, August 7, 2008 - The Alter was draped in memory of W: Bro. James Edward Grady Jr. A report of the Treasurer was received. One

petition for degrees was received and one petition for plural membership was received. Investigation committees were appointed.

Thursday, August 21, 2008 - 26 members and guests attended. Guests were: Chuck Morgan and Jeff Searles from East Gate #452, and Peter Dietrich from Naval Lodge #4, Washington, D.C.. Chuck Morgan spoke on behalf of Youth Foundation of Louisiana, Inc and the Foundation received a donation from St. James Lodge. Foundation members present were Morgan and Searles of East Gate Lodge, along with Brent Salter and Frank Dedman of St. James Lodge.

Petitions were received, one for degrees, and one for plural membership. The proficiency examination of an Entered Apprentice was reported by Committee and accepted by the Lodge. A favorable Investigation Committee report was made, a favorable ballot was cast, and we welcome Jonathan Avery Bossier as a plural member to St. James Lodge from Livonia Lodge # 220. He is a U.S. Marine and will soon return overseas. The Building Committee reported that two bids were received to replace the cooling tower which serves the tenant on the 1st and 2nd floors. The low bid was for an identical unit to that existing with horizontal draft and belt drive. Approval was given for the second bid, which has a direct drive updraft fan.

The Worshipful Master reported on the Wardens' Retreat on August 16 that was attended by our W.M., S.W. and J.W.

Masonic Education consisted of the reading of the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling, who was a Mason and received the 1907 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 6:00 PM one Fellow Craft degree was conferred. Degree team practice was held Monday, April 25 at 5:30 PM.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

Sep. 4	Guest Night (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)
Sept. 7 at 2:30 PM -- 13th District meets at St Albans Lodge # 28 in Jackson.	
Sep. 18	TBA
Oct. 2	Past Masters' Night (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)
Oct. 16	TBA
Nov. 6	St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2008 Officers
Nov. 20	Thanksgiving Program (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)
Dec. 4	Installation of 2009 Officers (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)

Sickness, Relief and Sorrow

Memorial - W: Bro James Edward Grady Jr., P.M. St. James Lodge died on Monday, August 4, he had a Masonic Funeral on August 6 with 30 Masons attending, and he was memorialized in Lodge on August 7, 2008.

W. Bro. Larry Wade's mother died and was buried on in Mississippi on Tuesday, August 19, 2008.

Bro. Al Blanchard was in hospital and is home and doing well now from pacemaker - defibrillator implant.

It is good to see Bro. Joe Bardwell recovering from his surgery.

Carlisle Richard continues to improve and is driving again. Pray for his continued recovery and return to Lodge soon.

Nothing more, from the West, Joe R

Other Masonic Events

Acacia Shrine meets at 6:00/7:00 PM every 3rd Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave

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.

HELP NEEDED – Volunteer(s) to be the Lodge Photographer(s). Contact Joe Richard if you think you can handle this important job.



St. James Lodge No. 47
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August 2008 — September 2008

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Notify our Secretary, W.Bro. Dedman and Joe Richard if you change your address or telephone.
Your article could have been here. Send articles to Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu

Shane is a member of the Lodge of Nine Muses #9, SW of *Feliciana Lodge No. 31* and active in Scottish Rite.

College Graduation, A Celebration of Fortitude
By Shane Crump (written 8/10/2008)

In a little less than 48 hours, LSU will be holding its summer commencement. I mention this because each of you has influenced me. I would like to share a few thoughts with you. I hope you won't mind my ramblings.

Often times, I believe that "Crump" and "Gump" must sound close for a reason. On many occasions, I relate to my hero, Forrest Gump. When he says, "I'm not a smart man." I guess I feel that way because it seems that through my life I never missed an opportunity to make a mistake.

Many of you do not know that I was about half-way through the tenth grade when I dropped out of school. While I would like to say that it was because of my disenchantment with public education and "the establishment," truthfully it was due to my interest in all things not having to do with education. Basically, I was a horrible student. When asked about giving up my chance to go to college, I replied (and believed) that college had nothing to offer me.

I confirm the rumor that a person without a college degree often works twice as hard for half of the pay. I thoroughly enjoyed trucking throughout my twenties. As an over-the-road driver, the pay was not shabby and the always-changing view out of my "office window" was astounding.

North America is a beautiful continent, populated by many fascinating people. So, although I drove 60-100 hours a week (yes, I was the kind of trucker who kept two logbooks) the pay and working conditions seemed worth the effort.

However, after having a son I realized that he was destined for a life growing up without a father at home. I am sure that at some point in my trucking career I celebrated every holiday (birthday and anniversary included) at least once in a truck stop.

Local drivers do not make as much, but have the luxury of being home every night (or day, as was my case.) Driving a gasoline tanker is one of the better paying local jobs for the brave driver. However, working 60-70 hours a week (and on nights) still takes a person away from his family.

One year, a few weeks before Christmas, a coworker blew up. No, I do not mean that he got angry. He suffered the fate feared most by gas haulers. He was one year younger than I, and left two children without a father. The next week I enrolled at Baton Rouge Community College.

Over the following eighteen months, I worked up to going to school for a ¾-time schedule and was still driving 50-60 hours a week at night. I brought my textbooks to work. I would study on the fender of the tanker while loading the trailer at the refineries and when delivering at the gas stations. Some drivers would encourage me and jokingly call me "Professor Crump." I even turned down a much higher paying job at another company because the terminal manager did not think it was safe, and would not allow me to be in school and work at the same time.

Once again, my "Forrest Gumpness" took over. I was not smart enough to know when I should give up, or even that I had begun an impossible task, so I just kept on going to school. I have had the same experience mountain climbing. Focusing at the summit, not too far above, I reached it after a few hours of climbing, only to discover the true summit. I

realize that I had only gone halfway! (Yes, I stubbornly kept going until I reached the peak – many, many hours later.) So, I eventually reached a point of transferring to LSU, becoming a full time student and then the real test began – the engineering curriculum.

I should mention that I started college about the same time as my initiation into Freemasonry. As an Entered Apprentice Mason, a man is taught the four cardinal virtues: fortitude, prudence, temperance and justice.

I love the word "fortitude." I have said it, repeatedly, in my head for several years now. In addition, as a Mason, a man is encouraged to be a good father, husband, neighbor, and citizen in his community and country. He is also taught the importance of the seven liberal arts and sciences, and the importance of learning and overcoming ignorance.

My brethren in Masonry encouraged my pursuit, even when it seemed an impossible goal. Masonry's lessons came at a time when I really needed them. Thank you, Brethren! On Friday, August 8, 2008, I will walk across the stage to graduate for the first time ever in my life! I am still in shock at going from tenth-grade dropout to electrical engineer.

Some may say that this is proof that even ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things – but I disagree. I did nothing worthy of praise. All I did was try my best to learn fortitude.

No, I'd say rather, that even disadvantaged people can experience extraordinary events – with the grace of God, some fortitude and a little encouragement from others.

When I walk across the stage on Friday, I want you to know that I am not walking alone. All of you will be walking with me. To my wife and son who sacrificed so much, I can find no words to express my feelings of love and appreciation. To my whole family who always believed in me, your continued support is what gave me strength. To my dear friends and mentors, your encouragement suppressed my doubts and kept me believing in myself.

No, I will not walk alone. All of you have carried me thus far. Therefore, know that all of you will be walking with me in my heart as I take the last few steps of my journey and receive my diploma. For the support, for the encouragement, for carrying me – I am forever grateful. Thank you.

Now, should you decide to be at the ceremony Friday, you are welcome to attend – but please do not feel obligated to be there. It will surely prove to be a boring experience. I debated for a long time over announcing my graduation. I did not want to make a big deal about it, but also did not want to exclude anyone who may like to be there.

In addition, I realize that people often give gifts to graduates, and I absolutely do not want any gifts – well, except for one. I decided that for a gift, should you feel compelled to give one, I wanted to be able to tell you about my journey. But, I do not want to only tell it. The graduation gift I want is for each of you to encourage anyone who is standing at the foot of a mountain and looking up at their 'impossible' task. Tell them that with a little fortitude and Divine compassion, anything is truly possible. And, more importantly, believe this for all of the challenges in life that you face as well.

With sincerest gratitude, Shane Crump.

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