

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

Mark Jeffery Paxton, W.M.

Home: 752-2568

Office: 769-9923 x106

mjpaxton@cox.net

315 Convention Street, Post Office Box 444, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

225-344-7658

Web Site: <http://www.stjameslodge47.org>

Stated Communications: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



Frank Earl Dedman, Secy., P.M.

Home: 927-8196

Frankededman@cox.net

## Monthly News Letter for March 2007 – April 2007



Brethren,

It's the Ides of March and right in the middle tax season again. We had an informative talk on tax issues by our own Brother Ben Melanson at Guest Night.

Thank you, Ben, for your inspiring words on an uninspiring topic. Your talk was well received and informative. Also, I cannot neglect Brother George Jones' discussion on masonry; he did his usual eloquent job of speaking about masonry from early times to the present. As for guest night on March 1, we had a great turnout, accepted one application, and hopefully we will have more to come as there were several very interested young men at guest night.

Remember that we will have another GUEST NIGHT on September 6. It is not too early to start planning whom to invite.

There is a movement by the Grand Lodge to get a blood drive going and I spoke to a local blood bank. We can set up a blood bank for the lodge with a 40% participation of the membership. They will come to the lodge or you can go to their facility to donate. I will bring this topic up at the first meeting in April to find how the lodge would like to participate in this easy and almost painless way to give to a great cause. Hope to see you then.

Put May 3 on your calendar and plan to come to lodge as we will have our Honesty and Integrity program. We have selected another outstanding group of young adults and wish to acknowledge their accomplishments. Please plan on attending and supporting the future.

I look forward to seeing you at your lodge and if there is anything that I can do for you please let me know.

Fraternally,

Mark Paxton, Worshipful Master

Time to 'GET OUT THERE and beat the bushes' for prospective masons!

Look at all the open meetings coming up ('open/meal') in the schedule.

Look at your friends.

Try to match your friends with those dates.

Invite those friends!

### RECENT EVENTS

Past Events:

Mar. 1 \*Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

A good time was passed by all. After a tasty dinner, courtesy of Frank's Restaurant, WBr. Ben Melanson passed along timely tax tips and WBr. Jones explained the secrets of masonry, such as how we 'take good men and make them better' and 'how one becomes a mason'.

Mar. 15 The FC degree went well. Several visitors were in Attendance: R.W. Guy Jenkins, District Deputy Grand Master, WBr. Gene Dawson from St Alban's lodge, Jackson Ms. WBr. Morrell "Jack" Claunch stirred us all as he charged the new Fellow Craft.

### FUTURE EVENTS

Mar 27 5:30 pm, practice

Mar 29 7:00 pm, Master Mason degree

Apr. 5 TBA

Apr. 19 Masonic Education Program

Apr. 22 Grand Commandery of Louisiana Houma, LA.

May 3 \*Honesty & Integrity Program (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

May 17 TBA

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

Jun. 7 St. John the Baptist Program

Jun. 21 \*Honor the Flag of Our Country Program

Jul. 5 4th of July Program

Jul. 19 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports

Aug. 2 Masonic Education Program

Aug. 16 TBA

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

Sep. 6 \*Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

Sep. 20 TBA

Oct. 4 \*Past Masters' Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

Oct. 18 TBA

Nov. 1 St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2008 Officers

Nov. 15 \*Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

Dec. 6 Install Officers for 2008 (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

\* Represents possible entertainment TBA = To Be Arranged

**REMINDER: Invite guests to open meetings!**

Other Masonic Events –

13th Masonic District meets quarterly on the first Sunday of the last month in each quarter, except the 2nd Sunday in September. The next meeting of the 13th District is June 3 at Trinity Union # 372.

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Acacia Shrine Temple meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Lodge of The Nine Muses, No. 9, F.&A.M., meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Ernest Easterly, W.M., Ricks Bowles, S.W., Adib Shala, J.W., Sam Roberts, Treasurer, Larry Moore, Secretary, William Mollere, Chaplain, Naresh Sharma, Sr. Deacon, Danny Smith, Master of Ceremonies, Gerard Ruth, Sr. Steward, Robert Zinn, Jr. Steward, Kristopher Easterly, Tyler, Tim Atkins, Member.

### Memorials

March 14, Calvin C. Hodges, Past Master of St. James lodge, 1994, demitted to the celestial Lodge. He will be buried in Texas where he has been living for some time. A Masonic funeral is scheduled.

Our prayers go out for his family and friends, especially his Son in Law, Mark Griffin, a member of our Lodge, who also is living in Texas.

### Sickness and Distress

Remember Brother John Staples as he recovers from his hippy operations. He welcomes visits or phone calls at 387-7540.

Jeanette Ak, the wife of Brother Turhan, is home and in rehab. According to Brother Ak, she seems to be doing well.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

#### WHY MEN LOVE FREEMASONRY

The New Brother sat near the Old Tiler in the anteroom, crossed his legs and took out his cigar case.

"Have a smoke and unpuzzle me." [no longer done in lodge!]

The Old Tiler accepted the proffered cigar with a smile.

"I am often puzzled, too," he sympathized. "Tell me."

"I am crazy about Masonry. I love it. So do a lot of other men. And I don't know why. I can't find anyone who will tell me why. Old Tiler, why do men love Masonry?"

The Old Tiler got up and crossed the room to a book case, extracted a volume and returned.

"I read that question in this little book, 'The Magic of Freemasonry,' by Arthur E. Powell. Let me read to you--" The Old Tiler fluttered the pages. Finding his place he sat and began:

*"Why do men love Masonry? What lure leads them to it? What spell holds them through the long years? What strand is it that tugs at our hearts, taut when so many threads are broken by the rough ways of the world? And what is it in the wild that calls to the little wild things? What sacred secret things do the mountains whisper to the hillman, so silently yet so surely that they can be heard above the din and clatter of the world? What mystery does the sea tell the sailor; the desert to the Arab; the arctic ice to the explorer; the stars to the astronomer? When we have answered these questions mayhap we may divine the magic of Masonry. Who knows what it is, or how or why, unless it be the long cabletow of God, running from heart to heart..."*

The Old Tiler closed the book and waited.

"The cabletow of God," repeated the New Mason. "That's a beautiful phrase."

"It's more than a phrase, I think," the Old Tiler answered. "As I see it, the heart of Freemasonry by which all manner of men are attracted and held, is just that- the longing for communion with the Most High."

"Oh, you must be mistaken. Men who want God go to church."

"Do you go to church?"

"Er, oh, well, sometimes."

"Yet you never miss coming to lodge?"

"No, I don't, but--"

"Never mind the 'but.'" The Old Tiler smiled. "A lot of men come to the lodge who do not find heart's ease in the church. The lodge is not a substitute for church. Masonry is not a religion, although it has religion. If the church fails, occasionally, it is because all human institutions must fail at times. No minister or church can satisfy all men. Some men find communion with the Most High in Masonry a greater satisfaction than in a church. I think that is the real reason some men love Freemasonry so much."

"You give me credit with being a lot more religious than I do," retorted the New Mason.

"Men are incurably religious," asserted the Old Tiler. "Many don't know it and refuse to call it by that name, like you, for instance! In a church, men are told various things about God. In a lodge they are allowed to tell themselves what they will. In a church you are taught a creed, a dogma. In a lodge there is neither. In a church you are quiet and respectful and whisper if you speak at all. It is kept high, unspotted from the world. A lodge is more intimate, personal. You can be jolly in a lodge, except during a degree. Here are just other men, brothers. They think as we do; they believe in the one God, as we do. They repeat the same words, think the same Masonic thoughts, do the same Masonic acts, as we do. We feel at home with them in consequence."

"Through years of simple, profound degrees, we weave the Mystic Tie. We cannot say of what it is composed. We cannot put a name to it. St. Augustine, asked of God, answered, 'I know until you ask me- when you ask me, I do not know.' In your heart you know, and I know, what the Mystic tie is- what Freemasonry is. But you cannot say it, nor can I. It is too deep for words. It is the reason we use symbols, for words cannot express it."

"Deep in us is something which understands what our brains cannot think; something which knows what our minds cannot comprehend. Masonry speaks to that something in its own language. If we must put it into words, God is the only syllable which seems to fit. But when we say God we mean no special deity, but all that is beautiful in life, in friendship, in charity, in brotherhood."

"So, my brother, there is no reason for you to be puzzled; no man can answer your puzzle. Freemasonry is loved by men because it strikes deep into the human heart, and supplies the answer to the question, the food for the hunger, which the tongue cannot express."

"Unless it is the tongue of a wise, wise Old Tiler," finished the New Brother thoughtfully. "And thank you, I am not puzzled now."

[note: the spelling 'Tiler' in the article is NOT in accord with the spelling we use: Tyler.]

#### Masonry's Light

It would be so very well indeed, if more people could find their way to seek and find the wonderful light of Masonry. To seek and find, to understand the significance of the "LIGHT" would enhance the beauty of their lives as it has mine.

I know without a doubt I am a better person for having found the light of Masonry.

I am inspired to do my best to live by the teachings of Masonry each day.

Ed Lane 3/14/07 St. James Lodge

## Your article could have been here

Send articles to Bob Zinn, [bz@chem.lsu.edu](mailto:bz@chem.lsu.edu)

If you change phone, address or e-mail, PLEASE send updated information to Joe Richard [jgr2@cox.net](mailto:jgr2@cox.net)

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**St. James Lodge No. 47**  
Post Office Box 444  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

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