

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 May 2008 – June 2008



Brethren,

Thanks to all of you who attended our two open meetings in May.

On May 1st, St. James presented Honesty and Integrity Awards to Matthew Foval, Laurel Morgan, and David Weldon.

Brother Chuck Morgan spoke about the history of the Honesty and Integrity Program and the award recipients were very appreciative. Thanks to the Honesty and Integrity Awards Committee, Mark J. Paxton, P.M., Chairman, Adib Shahla, P.M., William E. Mote, Sr., P.M., and Gerard A. Ruth.

On May 15th, St. James heard a report from Reverend Mike Hammett, Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church, on his recent Holy Land Pilgrimage, as a guest of Plains Commandery No. 11 and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Reverend Hammett's appreciation at being able to walk where Jesus walked was quite evident and his discussion of what he saw while visiting the holy sites was both educational and interesting.

Degree work continues at St. James Lodge. So far this year, we have raised five Master Masons and have several others at various stages of the process. I would like to thank Joe Richard, S.W. for his diligent efforts in organizing the degree teams and organizing practice sessions. If possible, please express your willingness to Joe concerning your participation in upcoming degrees.

On June 19th, please join your Brethren for an open meeting to honor the flag of our country.

Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by a program in the Lodge Hall at approximately 7:30 p.m. The Boy Scouts will be taking an active part in the program.

At this mid point of the year, let me take this time to express my gratitude to the Officers and Brethren of St. James Lodge for your efforts this year. Thank you for your help and patience!

William E. Little, W.M.

RECENT EVENTS

May 1, Thursday - Honesty and Integrity Awards. **Open meeting** with 6:30 P.M. excellent dinner prepared by Shanna Little, wife of W.M: "Mac" Little. See 'From the East' for details.

May 8, Thursday – A Special meeting was held to raise Bro. Rudy Herman Perciful, Jr. to the rank of Master Mason. Welcome Brother Perciful! 29 attended or participated in the degree. Visitors included W. Jack Claunch, Trinity Union # 372; W. Bill Wimack, Istrouma # 414; and Keith Gates, Goldonna # 293.

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.** 34 attended; the

excellent one-hour program of slides. Rev Hammett was introduced by W: Bro. Don Park. Photographs of the York Rite & speaker were made and will be sent to The Advocate. Attendees included W: Bro William Womack from Istrouma 414, Bro. (Rev.) Michael Hammett of Hope # 145, Lafayette, Bro. Peter Dietrich from Naval Lodge # 4, Washington D.C., and W: Bro. William Mollere from Trinity Union Lodge # 372. A delicious dinner of spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, Texas toast, and brownies and ice cream was prepared by Shana Little, wife of W:M: Mac" Little. One petition was received, an investigation committee assigned.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

June 1 1:30 p.m. Relief Lodge & 2:30 p.m. 13th District Lodge at Baker # 441 at 4807 Groom Road, Baker, LA. **M:W: Grand Master Hennigan has requested that the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens and Senior Deacon from each Lodge attend to qualify for Achievement Award.**

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-----

Sep. 4 **Guest Night (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)**

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)**

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIPS - 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, in a lump sum, OR 20 times annual dues PLUS interest over 5 years, and is calculated at 4.52 times annual dues, to allow for the interest factor.

Sickness, Relief and Sorrow

Remember our ill members and their families:

W: Bro. Jim Grady is gravely ill.

Carolyn Pence was in Oschner Hospital for tow days until May 9, and is now at home and welcomes brief phone calls.

W: Bro. Bill Gagnon, Past Master of St. James Lodge, is in serious condition and can use our prayers.

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.

Sojourner and 56-year member, Brother Robert E. Shillington, from Lincoln requested St. James Lodge perform his Masonic funeral on May 22.

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

Nothing more, from the West, Joe R

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.



St. James Lodge No. 47
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May 2008 — June 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

Although the following words are NOT from our rituals, I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did.

Borrowed from 'The Grand Lodge of Main' web site

Apron Charge

- It may be that, in the coming years, upon your head may rest the laurel wreaths of victory;
- pendant from your breast may hang jewels fit to grace the diadem of an Eastern potentate;
- nay, more than these, with light added to the coming light, your ambitious feet may tread round after round of the ladder that leads to fame in our mystic circle, and even the purple of the Fraternity may rest upon your honored shoulders;
- but never again from mortal hands, never again until your enfranchised spirit shall have passed upward and inward through the pearly gates, shall any honor so distinguished, so emblematical of purity and all perfection's, be conferred upon you as this which I now bestow.
- It is yours; yours to wear throughout an honorable life, and at your death be deposited upon the coffin which shall enclose your lifeless remains, and with them laid beneath the clods of the valley.
- Let its pure and spotless surface be to you an ever present reminder of a "purity of life and rectitude of conduct, " a never-ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements.
- And when at last your weary feet shall have come to the end of life's toilsome journey, and from your nerveless grasp shall drop forever the working tools of life, may the record of your life and actions be as pure and spotless as this fair emblem which I place in your hands tonight;
- and when your trembling soul shall stand naked and alone before the Great White Throne, there to receive judgment for the deeds done while here in the body, may it be your portion to hear from Him who sitteth as the Judge Supreme the welcome words, "Well done, good and faithful servant! Thou hast been faithful over a few things;
- I will make thee ruler over many things! Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Preamble to Yonder Book\

It must indeed be gratifying to know that you are at last a Master Mason, and once you have affixed your signature to the Bylaws of this lodge, you will have sealed your allegiance to the oldest and greatest fraternity in existence, one that encircles the globe and whose influence for good is never ending.

The particular reason that you chose to become a member of this grand and noble order is known only to yourself. It might have been the prompting of idle curiosity. That being true, you should now be well satisfied. It might have been for financial reasons. That being true, be at once undeceived for Freemasonry offers no financial benefits to any of its members. It might have been for social aspirations. That being true, you are now afforded the opportunity to acquaint yourself with many interesting and intelligent gentlemen. It might have been because a relative or close friend is a Mason and expressed a desire that you should become one also and follow in their footsteps. That being true, it is not only an honor to you, but to the fraternity as well.

But, be the reason what it may, there are two great questions that still confront you. Will you be worth anything or nothing to Freemasonry and, will Freemasonry be worth anything or nothing to you? The answers lie within you yourself, for if you will apply to your own life the lessons that you have received in the three degrees, it will make you a better citizen, a better father, a better son and a fonder husband,,,

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