

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 for November – December 2005



November 21, 2005

My Brothers,

As 2005 draws to an end so does my year as Master of St. James. It has been a privilege and an honor to sit in the East this year. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so.

I wish to thank all of my officers for the good work they have done during this year. They have certainly made my job easier and I will always remember their help and devotion to their lodge. I wish also to thank many of the Past Masters for their help and advice throughout the year. Our lodge is so fortunate to have such an asset as these Worshipful Brothers. Together they have a vast body of wisdom and experience in just about every line of business or endeavor. Their wise counsel as well as the work that was done in past years made it possible for me to undertake several projects that would have been daunting without them.

In years to come I will be available to help our lodge in any manner possible. The friendships I have formed during my years as a Brother are very precious and sacred to me and I will always treasure them. After all, that is what our fraternity is all about.

Thank You, Brothers,
Kenneth Streater
Soon to be Past Master

St. James Lodge No. 47
Year 2006 Committees

Finance

Dr. Stephen Mavor Selby, P.M., Chairman
Ben Francis Melanson, P.M.
Mark Jefferey Paxton, S.W.
Timothy Hilary Atkins, J.D.

Relief etc.

Ben Francis Melanson, P.M., Chairman
Dr. Lawrence Durell Wade, P.M.
Lloyd Gerald Pence, P.M.
William Daniel Zollinger, P.M.
Billy Harold Lyon
W.M., S.W., & J.W.

Building (Temple)

Gerard Adam Ruth, Chairman (3 years)
Lloyd Gerald Pence, P.M.
Adib A. Shahla, P.M. (2 years)
David Thomas Dodge, W.M.
Turhan Ak, J.S.

Guest Night & Entertainment

Mark Jefferey Paxton, S.W., Chairman
David Thomas Dodge, W.M.
Gerard Adam Ruth
George H. Jones, P.M.
William Haskell Brown, P.G.M.

Honesty & Integrity

Gerard Adam Ruth, Chairman
Mark Jefferey Paxton, S.W.
Adib A. Shahla, P.M.

Coaches & Degrees

Frank Earl Dedman, P.M., Chairman
Mark Jefferey Paxton, S.W.
Adib A. Shahla, P.M.
Calvin Lee Elliot, P.M.
C. Lenton Sartain, P.M.
Naresh Sharma, P.M.
Dr. Stephen Mavor Selby, P.M.

Masonic Education

Dr. Lawrence Durell Wade, P.M., Chairman
Mark Jefferey Paxton, S.W.
David Joseph Cattar

Refreshment

William Ellis "Mac" Little, J.W., Chairman
Robert Ronald Zinn, S.S.
Turhan Ak, J.S.

Attendance, Telephone & Email

Timothy Hilary Atkins, J.D., Chairman
Alfred James Blanchard, T.
Joseph George Richard, Jr. (Email)
David Thomas Dodge, W.M.

Legal

Ben Francis Melanson, P.M., Chairman
William Haskell Brown, P.G.M.

Newsletter

Robert Ronald Zinn, S.S., Chairman
Dr. Lawrence Durell Wade, P.M.
Turhan Ak, J.S.

Funeral

Steven Allen Newman, Chairman
Frank Earl Dedman, P.M.

Charity Fund

C. Lenton Sartain, P.M., Chairman
Billy Harold Lyon

Greetings

W.M., S.W., & J.W.
All Past Masters

Sick & Visitation

William Haskell Brown, P.G.M., Chairman
Alfred James Blanchard, T.
Joseph George Richard, Jr., S.D.
W.M., S.W. & J.W.

RECENT EVENTS

Nov. 3 Election of Officers for 2006
Nov. 10 Special, 2 FC degrees
Nov. 17 Two Master Mason's degrees

FUTURE EVENTS

Dec. 1 Installation of 2006 Officers(Open/meal 6:30)
Dec. 5 5:30 Practice for Dec 9th
Dec. 8 6:00 pm, special, two EA degrees
Dec. 15 A Night dedicated to our deceased 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 7:30 p.m. Acacia Shrine Temple meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Lodge of The Nine Muses, U.D., 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. 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, Jim Pecoraro

"The Old Past Master" by Carl Claudy -1924

THE MASONRY YOU MAKE

"Well, I know you'll be glad to hear I am through learning the Work!" announced a young brother to the Old Past Master, "One more lesson and I'll know all about Masonry!"

"That's fine, son. I congratulate you!" answered the Old Past Master.

"Some conceit!" murmured another brother, as the satisfied young brother moved away. "I've been studying Masonry many years and I don't think I know all about it, by a long chalk!"

"Of course you don't, and neither does he. But we all have to learn of the Masonry we make for ourselves."

"Oh, do you think so? I thought we learned of the Masonry our ancient brethren had made for us!"

"That, too, of course. But the Masonry they made for us is the Masonry which can be written down, or put in symbols, or taught by word of mouth. It is a concrete thing; a thing of words and phrases, of symbols and figures, of stone and wood and temple and rough ashler and square and compasses. But the inner Masonry... that we make for ourselves.

"Do you ever read Ingersoll? Somewhere he says 'an honest God is the noblest work of man' and thousands of people have shuddered away from the sentence and calls it blasphemy. But they fail to understand what the great agnostic meant. Our modern conception of the Great Architect of course falls infinitely short of reality, but at least we do not do him the injustice of confining Him within the limits of our human frailties. But up through the ages man has limited his gods and his God, according to himself. The gods of Greece and Rome (to go no further back) were gods and goddesses who felt jealousy, anger, revenge. They interfered in the affairs of men for their own pleasures. They were made in the image of men who made them! Later, God was a cruel tyrant, who sanctioned the torments of the Inquisition and loved those who were wicked in his name... at least such was the middle ages' conception of Deity. Only within a few hundred years has the world as a whole come to consider God as the all-wise, all-loving, all-merciful, all-tender Father of us all. This was what Ingersoll meant when he spoke of the honest God as the noblest work of men; and honest conception of a God infinitely wonderful and beautiful, is a noble conception.

"Masonry is a conception. After one gets through learning the ritual, the mere words and phrases, he begins to absorb the philosophy and moral system of Masonry. Still later he begins to carry Masonry in his daily life and live by it. Later on... but wait a minute. We have a word for Masons to whom the ritual is the whole. We have Masons to whom the symbolism is the whole thing, and who see nothing beyond the inner meanings to squares and compasses and stones and angles. We have others who add to this, philosophy of

Masonry, but to whom Masonry is yet a perfect system which can be learned in its entirety by those who apply themselves.

"But there are others... more every year, thank God!... who make their own Masonry beyond that of the books and the lodge, the word and the symbol. To these, Ingersoll might have said that 'an honest Masonry is the noblest work of the Craft' with no more irreverence than he intended in his famous epigram.

"Masonry, to such thinking men, is illimitable. It has no end. It is as infinite as space, as unending as time, as distant in boundary as the faintest nebula. It is not a thing of earth only; it encompasses the universe, and joins man's hands with God. This is the Masonry we make for ourselves, and, could what we make be measured, its proportions would be exactly the proportions which are our own. For the hidden Masonry we make is large or small, wide or cramped, beautiful or ugly, grave or gay, useful or ornamental, fine or dross, exactly as are we.

"In each of us is an idea conception of all we would attain. We have our ideal man, our ideal woman, our ideal job, our ideal position, our ideal happiness. Some of us are so inarticulate we cannot express them; some of us are so inchoate in our thinking we cannot clearly visualize them, but they are there, these ideals, each and every one a measure of what we are.

"And we have, also our ideal of Masonry, the hidden Masonry we make, each man for himself. Your inner temple is not like mine and mine is not like yours, though each may be beautiful and perfect; two faces may be equally lovely, you know, yet totally unlike.

"To my way of thinking, we are better Masons as we grow our inner Masonry for ourselves, as we perfect it and polish it, and raise it higher and higher. It is sadly true that no man may teach another how to build this hidden temple, but it is beautifully true that all of us may build the better by getting for ourselves better working tools. And the working tools with which we as Craftsmen build our own inner, hidden temple of Masonry, into which none may ever step but ourselves and God; the rough and perfect ashlar, square and plumb, trowel and compasses, by which we build this edifice, are available for us all. Our young friend has one, when he secures a perfect working knowledge of the ritual. The student has another, when he has mastered most of the symbolism. The doctor has a third, when he understands and can formulate the philosophy of Masonry, and all of us get a new edge to our tools as we live according to Masonic light and gain in Masonic experience."

"The Old Past Master stopped and looked off, as if he saw a vision.

The brother to whom he spoke sighed. "I wish," he said, "I might have the inspiration of looking at your temple of Masonry, that I might make mine better."

Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn,
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