

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



Frank Earl Dedman, Secy., P.M.

Home: 927-8196

Frankededman@cox.net

Monthly News Letter November 2007 –December 2007



Brethren,

Happy Thanksgiving to all. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving Day.

Don't forget the installation **OPEN meeting** on Thursday **December 6, 2007**. Come and support the newly elected officers I am confident that they will have a great year. *Officers: wear your tux!*

I believe that congratulations are in order: To the Officers elect, congratulations! I hope your year will be as rewarding as mine has been. To Ben Melanson, IGH on receiving his "white hat;" AND last but not least; To Frank Dedman and Joe Richard on receiving their "red hats." Well done brethren.

Another year has come and gone and I would like to thank all the Brethren for your support this past year. I, also, want to thank the members for their having given me the opportunity to serve as Master of St. James Lodge #47. It has been an honor and a privilege to do so. At the beginning of my year I had a meeting of the officers and outlined their duties and expectations. Each performed above and beyond what was expected, thus making my job as Master very easy. I want to thank each officer, from the Treasurer to the Junior Steward.

With Communication as the theme for this year I know the officers were kept informed and they kept me well informed about what was and is going on in the Lodge. Hopefully, each member has been kept abreast of all that was and is happening in the Lodge and that excellent communications will continue. I believe it is important for all the members to be informed of what is happening in your lodge.

I hope that each of you have a safe Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And, I again want to thank each and every member for your support this past year. And, If there is anything that I can do for you please do not hesitate to call on me.

Thanks,

Mark Paxton, WM

2008 Dues and Perpetual Membership -- The 2008 dues are due by December 31, 2008. Perpetual Membership currently costs \$1,190.00, or 20 time annual dues. That amount can be paid over 5 years as \$238.00 per year. Frank E. Dedman, Secretary, PM

RECENT MASONIC EVENTS

Nov 17:30 PM - Rededication & Reobligation; Election of Officers for 2008.

Nov 8 - SPECIAL held to confer two Fellow Craft degree.

Nov. 15, Thursday at 6:30 PM - Open Meeting - Thanksgiving was celebrated with a delicious turkey and dressing dinner with all the trimmings for the 44 who attended. The dinner was prepared by Frank's Smokehouse and the congealed salad made by Bettye & Joe Richard. A gift of financial support for Pelican Chapter of Demolay was presented by W.M. Mark Paxton to Bro. Nicholas Auck, Senior Advisor to Pelican Chapter. Bro. Auck gave a brief description of Pelican Chapter activities and that it meets at East Gate Lodge # 452. The evening entertainment was provided by Larry Bumgardner and Anna Paxton. Larry, who is a member of

Platinum Sounds, played a selection of songs on the mandolin. He also played a small joke on the audience, by "playing three songs at one time: 'Somewhere My Love', 'Lara's Theme', and the 'Theme from Dr. Zhivago'." The joke was that the three are one piece of music. Anna, the wife of W: M: Mark Paxton, played the keyboard and sang appropriate hymns. It was announced that another bid is expected for roofing replacement before a decision is reached.

FUTURE EVENTS

Dec. 2 Sunday, meeting of 13th Masonic District at Olive Lodge in Clinton at 2:30 PM with Relief Lodge at 1:30 PM. Officers of St. James Lodge *should* attend. All Master Masons are welcome.

Dec. 2; Sunday at 6 pm Incoming worshipful master wants to meet with all incoming officers on the 2nd floor at the lodge.

Dec. 6, Thursday at 6:30 PM - **Open Meeting** Dinner will be prepared by Shanna Little, wife of our incoming Worshipful Master, William Ellis "Mac" Little. Since Shanna is an excellent cook and a native from "down the bayou", it will be delicious. Officers for 2008 will be installed and entertainment will be provided by a flautist and the belle choir from Broadmoor Baptist Church. The attire for officers is black tie tuxedo.

St. James Lodge wishes members and their families "Happy Holidays and New Year". There are many holidays this month. Hanukkah begins at sundown on December 4th and lasts for eight days and nights. Eid al-Adha starts on the 20th and lasts three days. It commemorates Abraham's willingness to obey God by sacrificing his son and concludes the annual Hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca. The celebration of the birth of Christ, Christmas, is December 25th. Kwanzaa starts on the 26th and lasts for 7 days reflecting seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. And finally St. John the Evangelist Day is December 27th.

Sickness And Relief

On Monday (11/19) afternoon W: Bro. Lloyd returned to Ocshner Hospital at O'Neal Lane & I-10. He was running high fever and blood count was elevated again. They have run MRI & EKG and have not located the source of infection. The Doctor said they would keep him there this time until they found the source of infection.

Keep Bro. Lloyd in your prayers.

JoeR

Brother H. Carroll Lalumandier's wife, Lorraine, joined the Celestial Realm on Friday, November 9. We join Brother Lalumandier in his sorrow. We hope and pray for comforting thoughts to ease him and his family through their sorrow.

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.

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

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. 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, Members: Tim Atkins, Larry Wade, Alva Clay Smith; Clayton Johnson Borne, III; Shane Crump; Glenn Cupit; Jay L. Martin, Mike Carpenter; William Little

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
 Post Office Box 444
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

NOVEMBER 2007 —DECEMBER 2007

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W. Bro. Mollere presented a short talk at the First Baton Rouge Table Lodge held by the Masonic Discussion Group Ashley Manor in April 2003. W. Bro. Sharma presents us with a copy of that lecture.

HISTORICAL LECTURE by W. Bro Mollere

This information is taken primarily from Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, 1961 edition.

"A Table Lodge is a form of a Masonic Lodge meeting. It was the most common form of lodge meeting in the early and mid 1700's in Europe and throughout the world as Masonry spread through colonial possessions. In simple language, it merely meant that the lodge met for dinner, and as the members sat around the table, eating and drinking, conducted the business and conferred degrees. This was described in Dr. Oliver's 1859 Institutes of Masonic Jurisprudence, and virtually the same description appeared in 1844 in the Freemasons Quarterly Review, the leading Masonic publication of that day.

"Lodges were not arranged according to the practice in use today. The Master stood in the East and both Wardens were placed in the West. The South was occupied by the senior Entered Apprentice, whose business it was to obey the orders of the Master and greet and welcome visiting Brethren, after determining that they were Freemasons. The junior Entered Apprentice was placed in the North in order to prevent the intrusion of cowans and eavesdroppers. A long

table, and if a large group, two parallel tables, ran from the pedestal in the East to the Wardens who sat at the end of the table(s). The emblems of Freemasonry were placed on the table, or on a pedestal, near the Wardens, together with the materials of refreshment. Every section of the lectures had its own peculiar toast and sentiment, and at its conclusion, the lodge was called from labor to refreshment by certain ceremonies, and a toast called "the charge" was drunk in a "bumper", with all due honors, and accompanied by an appropriate song. After the toast, the lodge was called from refreshment to labor for another section of the degree or meeting. This continued throughout the lodge meeting as the members ate."

"Festive boards were special feasts that were called to celebrate festivals of Freemasonry, June 24 as St. John the Baptist Day, December 27 as St. John the Evangelist Day, and in England, April 23 as St. George's Day, and in Scotland November 30 as St Andrew's Day.

"Table Lodges continue in many European Lodges today as an extension of the regular lodge meeting. The lodge completes all business and retires to the dining hall where a meal is served and toasts are offered. The ritual varies, but the fellowship is the same. We gather this evening to perform a small section of the Table Lodge ritual and perform a portion of the ceremony performed by our ancient Brethren, all in fellowship.

 "Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

CHRISTMAS IS INFINITE LOVE

Christmas! To the child it is the beautiful mystery- a wonderful time of year when the ordinary things of life are transformed, as if by the wave of a magic wand, into the realm of a veritable heaven on earth. To the grown-ups who have retained the spirit of childhood, and who still carry in their hearts the remembrance of their own Christmases as children, it is also a time when the ordinary is transformed into a mystical and overpowering beauty.

To many who sorrow it is a time for calm contemplation and prayerful meditations. To the parents and loved ones at home and to the sons who are far away fighting in defense of the very principles for which Christmas is a symbol, it is a time of sadness, yet a sadness mingled with gladness and supported by a Glorious Hope. And there too, is the wonder and mystery increased by the very thoughts which sacrifice and love of country elicit.

To those who are sick in heart and body, to those who find the world a difficult problem to live, to those who have little of the luxuries of life, and to those who have honestly tried and failed, Christmas is a magnificent gift.

To the oppressed, to the meek, to the poor in spirit, to all who hold fast to a faith in the Ultimate Triumph of Good, Christmas is a symbol of a "never say die spirit" which spurs man on his search for the door that leads into the Temple of Spiritual Enlightenment.

Upon the Holy Altar of Freemasonry rests the Great Light.
 The force of that Celestial Radiance is limited only by our failure to look in the right direction.
 Men will learn the Christmas is not a day.
 It is the light that never fails.
 Its source is Infinite Love.

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