

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 November 2008 – December 2008



Brethren,

The holiday season is now upon us and with it comes many traditions and customs. We are often told to enjoy the many blessings of the season, yet we often have difficulty focusing on the holiday's true meaning amid the hustle and bustle of the season.

The traditions of Christmas should call us to remembrance and thanksgiving. We should properly give thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe for His many blessings. We should give thanks, not only for our material blessings, but also for those gifts of even greater value, the blessings of health, family, and friendship.

Regardless of what religious faith we may profess, a Mason must be moved by the Christmas message. Throughout the ages, the spirit of Masonry and the spirit of Christmas have marched hand in hand.

As my year in the East comes to a close, I am truly humbled by the honor that my Brethren have bestowed upon me by allowing me to serve as their Master. None of the accomplishments of the past year could have taken place without the capable service of a committed cadre of officers, nor the support of the Brethren. I leave you in the capable hands of Worshipful Master Elect Joe Richard and hope that you will give him as much brotherly love and support as you have given me.

The Christmas season is a time to share in the promise of the year yet to come. As my duties as Master draw to a close, it is my sincere hope that your upcoming year may be filled with brotherly love and Masonic light.

-William E. Little, W.M.

Welcome to Bro. Joe Cooper on his becoming a plural member of St. James Lodge. Joe is also a member of Center Lodge # 244 in Bogalusa.

A Dispensation was received from the Grand Master, Lloyd E. Hennigan, Jr., to allow the conferring of all three degrees in one day in late January 2009 on a Candidate who is a member of the U.S. Army and will be on leave from Iraq. Tentative plans are to have it in the afternoon and evening on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday on a date to be determined.

One petition for plural membership was received and referred to Committee.

Visitors recognized were Robert Hoover from East Gate Lodge # 452, Past Potentate of Acacia Shrine, and Lynn Braswell from Galilee - George Washington Lodge # 810A at Frankfurt, Germany.

November 20, Thursday - Thanksgiving dinner at 6:30 P.M. and Open Meeting at 7:30 P.M. Guests and families are invited.

FUTURE EVENTS

December 1, Sunday - 13th District meeting at East Gate Lodge. Relief Lodge at 1:30 P.M. and District Lodge at 2:30 P.M.

December 4, Thursday - Installation of Officers for 2009 at **Open Meeting at 7:30 PM with dinner at 6:30 P.M.** Guests are invited.

December 9, Tuesday - 5:30 P.M. Officers & Degree Practice (tentative)

December 11, Thursday, 6:30 P.M. A Special Communication to confer one Master Mason Degree is anticipated.

December 18, Thursday, 7:30 P.M. - Stated Communication - Necrology service & St. John the Evangelist observance.

January 1, Thursday, 7:30 P.M. - Stated Communication - Meeting is required, even though it is New Years Day.

Sickness, Relief and Sorrow

Bro. Al Blanchard is seriously ill with Hospice care. He has congestive heart failure. We pray for his comfort and peace.

Bro. Rudy Perciful had surgery to remove benign growths from his back and has been home in Lafayette. He plans to attend the Officers Installation. His mother was hospitalized two weeks ago and is recovering.

Worshipful Brother Adib Shahla went for out patient stomach surgery, went home, and was rushed to the hospital when his stomach failed to function properly after the anesthetic. He was in the hospital for two days, but is home and doing better

Bro. Wilbur Clay Williams, 50-year member of St. James Lodge, joined the Celestial Lodge above on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008. Bro. Wilbur will be missed by St. James Lodge and Masonry. Our prayers and sympathy go to his two daughters and their families.

We regret to inform you that Companion and Sir Knight, Dudley J. Theriot, who served as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of LA in 2003, passed away Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008 about 4 P.M.

Keep these in our prayers.

Please keep these special people and all others in your prayers.

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.

Dues for St. James Lodge have not gone up in several years. In 2009 the total annual dues will increase by \$1.00 to a total of \$60.50, including Grand Lodge per capita dues and various assessments. In recent prior years total annual dues have been \$59.50. Future annual Grand Lodge per capita dues will increase \$1.00 per year for each of the next ten years. In 2009 the Grand Lodge portion of our dues, except for exempt categories of members is:

Per Capita	\$14.50
Grand Lodge Magazine	\$2.50
Board of Trustees and Masonic Charities	\$3.00
200th Anniversary Commemoration in 2012	\$0.50
Total Grand Lodge	\$20.50

Of the 2009 total of \$60.50, St. James Lodge retains \$40.00, as provided in Article VIII, Section 2 the By-Laws of St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A. M. which was last amended January 1, 1990.

In view of a dues increase in each of the next nine (9) years, it is appropriate to consider a PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP at twenty (20) times current annual dues.

RECENT EVENTS

October 16, Thursday - Bro. John Tilly was presented his Proficiency Certificate. It was announced that Bro. Joseph "Jay" Reynolds has also passed his Certificate examination.

November 6, Thursday - 27 members were present for election of officers. See page two for the list of officers.

The Achievement Award Certificate and an engraved brass addition to the Lodge plaque was presented to W: Bro. Mark Paxton from the Grand Lodge for St. James Lodge's 2007 achievement recognition.



St. James Lodge No. 47
Post Office Box 444
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November 2008 — December 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

The installing team is:

Welcome - William Ellis Little, W.M.
Dinner Prayer - Calvin Lee Elliott, P.M.
Installing Master - William Haskell Brown, P.G.M.
Installing Marshal - Dr. Stephen Mavor Selby, P.M.
Installing Chaplain - Mark Jeffrey Paxton, P.M.
Closing Prayer - Ben Francis Melanson, P.M.

The list of officers to be installed is:

Worshipful Master - Joseph George Richard, Jr.
Senior Warden - Timothy Hilary Atkins
Junior Warden - Dr. James William Robinson, V
Treasurer - William Daniel Zollinger, P.M.
Secretary - Frank Earl Dedman, P.M.

Chaplain - Ben Francis Melanson, P.M.
Senior Deacon - Joe Arthur Bardwell
Junior Deacon - Turhan Ak
Master of Ceremonies - Henry George Scanlan
Senior Steward - John Wesley Tilly
Junior Steward - Robert Ronald Zinn
Tyler - Dr. Lawrence Durell Wade, P.M.

Organist ** - Rudy Herman Perciful
Photographer ** - Albert James Meek
Assistant Tyler ** - Michael Sale Stinson
Assistant Steward ** - Edward Overton Cailleateau
Assistant Steward ** - Norman Johan Martinusen, P.M.
Assistant Photographer ** - Gerald Tarnate De La Cruz
** Not required to wear tuxedo for Installation

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

JUST A DREAM

He was an inveterate kicker. His fellow workers had come to take his complaints with a forced smile. They wanted to like him but he made it difficult for them to enter into his heart. To this forever complainer the world and all that is in it were all wrong. Amazing to tell, however, there came a time when his whole attitude changed. There was a perfect transformation. He went about with a smile on his face and a song in his heart. The change was so remarkable that one of his co-workers asked him: "What happened?"

The former kicker told him: "The other night I had a dream. I was talking with God. I told Him how unpleasant everything was down here-how things were all wrong an, and just how I would have made the world and people if I had been given the job." "What next?" asked the astonished questioner. "Well, God told me to go to it, to change the unpleasant to the pleasant, the wrong to the right, hate into love, the ugly into the beautiful-to just go ahead and make this a better world-because that is why He put me here."

A story-a dream? Yes. But it is a story that tells a great deal. It's one that we can all ponder over and examine from a very personal standpoint.

So many times we are prone to see the faults of others while we remain blind to our own. The other fellow's sin is always more terrible than the one we privately own. The other fellow often reflects our own faults so vividly that we dislike him for that reason alone. Let us see good in others. It is always there. And, just as surely as we contribute kindness, Love, and Unselfish Service to life, this old earth will take on a Radiant Robe of Beauty.

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