



Foundation Donates Cottage

WILMINGTON — The North Carolina Masonic Foundation is donating the cost of one cottage at the Masonic Home for Children. They announced their decision at the Grand Lodge installation ceremony in December. Foundation Chairman Charles Scott is seen here, left, making the announcement with Grand Master Charles Lewis. There's still quite a way to go on the Vision Campaign though. You can find ways to help on page eight of this issue of The NC Mason.

From the Grand Master Off To Masonic Work We Go

When Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? The poet reminds us of the fickle nature of things. Here I sit the morning after my second district meeting and it is snowing outside! Praise be to God for speckled, dappled things! Thanks to the Supreme Architect for the poets of the world!

The best is yet to come for North Carolina Freemasonry. This I believe and if it is to be, it is up to you and to me. As individual Masons we must raise the bar of personal fraternal expectations. We must renew our commitments to our Lodge. We must share in making the spirit of Masonry come alive in real and practical terms. Do you have a topic of personal Masonic interest or have you participated in an event of personal significance to you? Have you served on a jury or been one of those who served your country on foreign soil? Surely there is a short program that you can present



Charles A. Lewis Jr.
Grand Master

during a stated meeting that will highlight your experience for the brethren present. The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education has issued its most recent lodge Night Program booklet for January-March 2003. It features the NC Masonic Foundation, MESH, and MHCO. Your lodge committee members should be on the agenda at a stated for a program based on the booklet's content. Let's not let a single stated go by without a program. Minimums are not good; let's make a great effort to enrich our brethren when they make the effort to attend.

When is your Lodge going to have a scheduled family activity beyond those things that you have routinely done? Lodge members gathering at a local eatery at a specific time after church on Sunday? Couples attending a theater performance or a concert? Brethren meeting at the lodge on a Saturday morning to take breakfast with the master and his officers and just plain, good, talking and sharing? How about a 15 passenger van trip to MESH and Oxford for couples, or better yet, a bus trip from the district? How about a special homemade ice cream and pie thank you for your ladies and the Eastern Star Chapter that is always there for you?

Charity extends beyond writing checks and making contributions. Has your lodge made a statement about what it values in your community? Can you get a team to volunteer at the local soup kitchen or Habitat for Humanity or to the local Parks and Recreation Department to pick up trash? Have you given a spaghetti dinner to thank the local Little League coaches and the Scout leaders who influence the lives of the young boys and girls in your community? We're a great fraternity and the public needs to be reminded that a lodge exists in their midst.

The real essence of fraternity is how we feel about each other. Have you asked a Brother to meet you for lunch on a given day? Better yet, several brothers! When was the last time you were in a brother's home or he in yours? Have you offered a ride to lodge, visited one of your elder brethren in assisted living, a hospital, or nursing home? Asked a brother if you can help with a home repair? Offered your kind services to anyone?

Can you assist in making an appropriate lodge display at

See TO WORK WE GO, Page 4

Home For Children's Grissom Leaving

OXFORD — David R. Grissom, administrator of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford for the past 14 years, resigned January 6. He is returning to the ministry in the Methodist Church. Allen Hughes, business manager of the Home, has been named interim administrator while the Board of Directors searches for a permanent replacement. A committee will be appointed by the Board at their February meeting to conduct a national search.

Grissom brought great trust and respect to the position. He also presided over the Home's entry into a period of improvements in facilities and care for our children. He brought us the first phase of new cottages, anticipating the use of a family model of care. He oversaw the first state licensure of the Home, a step toward increasing public respect for the facility, making us accessible to more children who will benefit from our Masonic model of child care.

Grissom will be helping with lodge communication and the new administrator's transition until his reassignment by the Methodist Church later this year.

Charles A. Lewis, grand master and chairman of the Home's Board of Directors said, "David Grissom will leave many fond memories in the lives of the children he has touched; he will be a constant reminder to them and to us that the rich history and achievements of his tenure at Oxford have established the platform for yet greater work and attainment. God has great things yet for David to do in the spreading of His word and love. David, never forget that your fraternity and your children love you."

Grissom asked that we share with you the following letter: *There are moments in our lives when we need to take a look at who we are, what do we want to accomplish, and where are we going as we pass through this earthly life.*

As the administrator for the Masonic Home For Children at Oxford, I have appreciated 14 years of working with a wonderful group of children and adults on this beautiful campus. Of course, the experiences, over this period of time, have had their many positives, and a few less positive moments, but the joy of sharing, hugging, and loving the children have always been a priority. When my family and I moved to Oxford in 1989, we knew this would be a special ministry where we could make a difference in the lives of deserving and special children. I will always be

grateful to the Board of Directors and Grand Master Pete Thomas at that time, for giving my family and me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. There have been many accomplishments, and we have seen numerous success stories from many of the children who have become adults and are making a difference in their adult lives.

It is now time for this administrator to return to his original calling — the church. As of January 6, 2003, I

resigned as administrator, but will remain on staff as an advisor and consultant and assist with the transition to a new administration. Grand Master Charles Lewis Jr. has asked that I continue to help with fund raising efforts and maintain contacts with various Masons and individuals who have pledged their support toward our Vision Campaign. In June 2003, my duties will conclude at the Masonic Home For Children and I will assume the duties of a United Methodist Minister in a church which will be determined on or before June 30, 2003.

During this transition period, Allen Hughes, who has served as assistant administrator and business manager has been asked by the grand master to assume the duties of interim administrator until a permanent administrator is named later this year. Brother Allen is a good man and Mason and a member of our local Oxford 122. He is an alumnus of our Masonic Home For Children from the graduating class of 1962. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and a retired major in the US Army. Allen has our Home and the children as a top priority and the Brethren throughout the state will enjoy getting acquainted with him.

Finally, on a personal note, I wish to thank all of you for your dedication to our children and this wonderful Masonic Home. I have enjoyed watching and seeing you when you visit and share your time, kindness, and love with our big family. Keep up the excellent work Brethren because the children need you. This Home cannot perform its continued quality care without your involvement and support. Please keep the Grissom Family in your prayers and thoughts as we continue in ministry and seek to fulfill the calling God has given us to do.

*With deep appreciation,
David Grissom*



David Grissom



Lodge Secretaries Carson Clippard, left photo, and John Litaker, right, get Harris-Dudley Award.

Harris-Dudley Awardees Announced

RALEIGH — As most Masons know, the master may be the most important officer in a lodge, but it's usually the secretary who keeps things running smoothly. In many lodges the same man serves in the position for years. The best secretaries have a number of skills — they know how to take care of details, they know how to help others lead without wanting to steal the spotlight, they follow the rules without being slaves to them, they are enablers for the best instincts in their lodges.

Just a few years ago, a new award was created to honor the best of the best — the Harris-Dudley Grand Secretary's Award. It is given annually to the most outstanding of this outstanding group of men. In 2002, two men were honored: Carson A. Clippard Jr. of Cary 198 in Cary and John R. Litaker of West Gate 738 in Charlotte.

Clippard has been secretary since 1981. He joined the lodge in 1972.

Litaker has been a Mason since 1957 and secretary of West Gate Lodge since 1981. He was West Gate 738's charter master and was master again in 1980.

Grand Secretary Walt Clapp said of the honorees, "Both John and Carson have always been a pleasure to work with. Not only do they make sure that their lodges are functioning well, they encourage them to be better, more active lodges. They're always respectful of our office staff and willing to go the extra mile to help. They are wonderful examples of the kind of men we'd recommend any lodge choose as a leader."

The award is named for well loved and respected past Grand Secretaries Charlie Harris and Pete Dudley.



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THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED UPTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

From the Editor's Desk

Living With Change

Change is the way of life. Fighting to keep things from changing is doomed to failure.

Our bodies change with age. We begin as small vulnerable creatures and change into larger animals more capable of self preservation. With time the trend reverses itself, pulling us ever slowly back to vulnerability. Fight as we may, the changes are inevitable. Embrace it or fight it, we will face the inevitability of change.

Change is also the way of society and its institutions. We are not special for living in a time of change. All times are times of change. Freemasonry is in a time of change along with everything else. We may embrace it or accept a life of frustration. While the specifics of coming change are unknown to us, we can be sure that things will change. What changes in Freemasonry will prevail?

Many grand lodges are experimenting with one-day classes — taking all three Masonic degrees in a single sitting. Many think these experiments have been a success and brought Masonry many new members. Others say that building a true relationship with others requires a real investment of time, not just a one day "experience." They believe that it is the slower pursuit of a goal, the willingness to be tested, to study, to work toward a reward that is important. They believe that labor, not a viewing of ritual, makes a Mason more than a member of a club. Inevitable change? We don't yet know.

Another change in the making is our racial perspective. No amount of railing against change can, or should, slow Freemasonry's drift toward truly embracing its own lesson that, "It is the internal and not the external" that is the measure of a man. While there is room aplenty for improvement in North Carolina, much progress has been made in recent years. Denial of this change can only be a denial of our fundamental teachings and thus a nullification of our fraternal existence. To deny the teaching would make us something other

than Masons.

Modernizing the philosophy and facilities of the Home for Children has made many uncomfortable. Change is fundamentally unsettling, but it need not be a renunciation of the past. Change should be an acceptance of the lessons of experience, a striving toward unattainable perfection with a self awareness and optimism that there is always room for improvement.

David Grissom's departing the Home for Children at Oxford has been a striking lesson in change for the editor. We will not soon see one so loving of and loved by the children of the Home. We will not soon see an administrator so trusted in his caring as David. We are torn.

What do we do when confronted with inevitable change? Do we rail against change? Do we shake our fists against the storm or return the embrace of the winds of change?

Perhaps the key to living with change is discerning what is desirable, what is best avoided, and what is inevitable. We must work toward the desirable, resist the undesirable, and embrace the inevitable change.

No matter how much we wish to hold onto a dear friend and protector, he will go. We must see this change as an opportunity to grow and add new elements to our Home for Children. We must thank him for making past changes less painful, for the time of soothing he provided, for the path he illuminated toward making our Home a better place to raise children.

David's course and ours will, for a while at least, be in different directions. Change for David and for us is inevitable. We can only wish David Godspeed on his new path.

When we embrace inevitable change, we do not turn our back on history. We acknowledge that the past laid the course of the change we face today. Today we must do what we can to promote positive change. When we can no longer deny change, we must embrace it because any other course is without hope. When we surrender hope there is no more reason to go on.

Communication Awards Go To NC Mason Editor

BISMARCK, North Dakota — *North Carolina Mason* Editor Ric Carter recently placed first in the Editorial in a Specialized Publication division of the National Federation of Press Women's communication contest. The national best editorial was "Squirrels at Our Feeders" published in 2001.

Carter received the award at the Federation's annual meeting here September 19-21.

Carter was also one of the 18 Communicators of Achievement from around the country honored at a special banquet during the meeting. He is currently president of the North Carolina Press Club.



Luigi Annone Photo

Senator and Mrs. Helms after presentation of the Montfort Medal.

Helms Awarded Montfort

RALEIGH — Senator Jesse Helms has gotten lots of special recognitions over the last few months as he has finished his long reign as a North Carolina's senior senator and one of the best known voices in the nation's capital. Now he can add another to his list — North Carolina Masonry's Montfort Medal. Grand Master

Jerry R. Tillett presented the award to Helms in January. Helms took his degrees in *Widow's Son* 519 in Roanoke Rapids, but has been a member of Raleigh 500 since 1949. The Montfort Medal, the highest award of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, is named for 18th century Provincial Grand Master Joseph Montfort.

Buzz's Diary

Who's To Blame?

My lodge, Acacia #357 installed officers the other night. Dave Bliss, Bill Warren, Addison Long, and I were asked to do the installing. W. Brother Long did a fine job as installing officer, and I did my usual job as marshal.

We've got a very good line of officers coming up, and if the other past masters and I do all we can to support them, it will likely be a good year for our lodge. The new master is sharp, and I think he has good leadership potential.

One of our senior past masters is Truett Bledsoe. Truett means well, but sometimes he says some things that are destructive. Truett had to stand up right before the meeting closed and point out that the work of the lodge had a long way to go, that he would be happy to help with practices, as they would certainly be needed. He didn't mean to sound pushy, but he did — it was sort of like "You're doing sloppish work, call me, and I'll show you how to straighten it out!"

My old mentor and coach always told me to criticize someone in private and



brag on them in public — I think we should all try to do that.

We ought to give a new master and new officers the credit for having the good sense to do what they need to do to be the best they can be. They don't need pushy past masters, they need strong support.

Brother Bledsoe has always had a knack for saying the wrong thing, and back in 1999, I was at his farm as he and the wife were slopping the pigs.

Gladys, Truett's wife, remarked as how they would celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary the following week, and how they should throw a party. "Truett," she said, "we ought to kill this here pig and have a big barbecue."

Truett responded, "Gladys, I don't see why that there pig ought to suffer over something that happened almost 50 years ago!"

Truett may still be sleeping in the barn!

My Masonic Hero

A Challenge To Give

By Joe Walls

Recently at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford a dinner was held. The guest of honor was a humble, somewhat shy past master. He shuns personal publicity. Yet he does not hesitate to interrupt the master of his lodge, with a subsequent apology, to remind him to pass the hat for the orphanage. On the average they collect \$60 at each stated communication. He also urges this practice be continued at some point during degree work.

At Christmas, for as many years as I can remember, he canvasses the community for presents for the children from local businesses and friends. He has an array of heart-warming pictures taken of the children when he, his wife, Masonic and non-Masonic friends have visited. He has told many stories of his family and friends staying up until the dusky light of dawn wrapping presents for the Oxford children. Then, with little or no sleep, he and a relief driver hit the road, trailer in tow, for the more than three-hour drive to deliver the goods.

It is inspiring that he continues this routine during the entire year. It's as if the children were his personal responsibility. He is also still extremely active in his lodge and with the Shrine. As you now see, he was a logical choice to have a dinner in his honor. He knows most of the Oxford staff on a first name basis because he makes several trips there during each year, and is in frequent telephone contact with them.

Earl and Queenie

Old Earl Noe lived in Beaufort. Earl, now deceased, was known as "Earl the Pearl," and in some quarters as "The Earl of Carteret." He had a Labrador retriever named Queenie, a gifted lady who could dig clams and catch crabs. If you don't believe that was a real talent, just try catching a live crab with your mouth sometime.

Earl's friendship with Queenie was strong and steadfast. He had an old battered van that remained in operation only through sheer luck and the Grace of God. He went all over the country, including Alaska, in that thing. Queenie's position in the van was on the floor, near Earl's seat. Earl was a certified lecturer and often

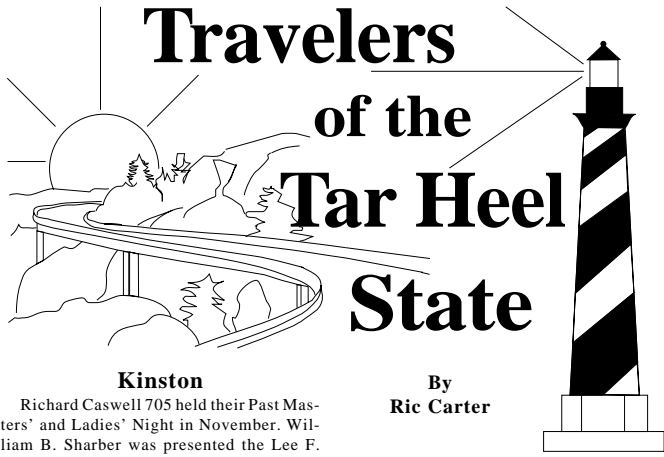


practiced the ritual aloud as he, Queenie, and the van roamed the highways. He used to say that Queenie had heard the ritual so often that she had memorized it and would always offer a low growl when he made a mistake. He said if he happened to commit a major blunder, Queenie would stand up and bark.

By Reynold Davenport, from "Something Else," his column in *The Bagpipe*

Apology

We apologize for the late delivery of the November/December issue of *The North Carolina Mason*. A number of problems at the printer delayed mailing.



Kinston

Richard Caswell 705 held their Past Masters' and Ladies' Night in November. William B. Sharber was presented the Lee F. Dorsey Award. Just a month later Sharber got his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years membership. The Southwood Christian Church Possum Pickers performed their gospel-bluegrass music for the banquet.

At Caswell's December communication they gave the Ralph D. Dudley Award to L. Thomas Boone and R. Harper Grant for their "proficiency in the ritual and practice of its precepts for the betterment of the fraternity and the world at large."

James D. Potter was, that night, the recipient of a special award for his "enlightenment of the minds of men, the practice of our fraternal precepts, encouragement to the souls of the faithful, and creating enjoyment to those around him."

— *The Plumb Bob*

Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 recently lost one of its best beloved members in John I. Whitfield. He served more than 20 years as secretary of the lodge. John I. had been named district deputy grand master just before his short illness. More than 40 Masons marched behind the mule-drawn hearse of the Sudan Mourners unit as they carried our brother to his grave.

— *The Jerusalem Journal*

Bailey

The Boy Scouts used Bailey 411's building to sell plates during Bailey's Christmas Parade last December. The lodge also firmed up some of the requirements for other community groups to use their facility.

Financial concerns are also being addressed by the lodge. Shortfall in income has them concerned about their long term fiscal health. To answer the concerns, they're not exempting 50-year members from dues this year. They are also voting on increasing dues from \$50 to \$75 annually.

— *Newsletter*

New Bern

St. John's 3 member Tim Gray Fodrie recently got the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award for outstanding service to youth and Freemasonry. He is assistant scout master for New Bern's Troop 13.

— *George Herring*

Greensboro

Members of Revolution 552 are participating in a mentoring program at Brooks Elementary School. They find it a great way to be "a positive force in the community."

Each year Revolution Lodge sets up a Christmas tree at the lodge. The name of each child at the Masonic Home for Children is hung on the tree. Members pull a name from the tree, buy a gift for the child, and place it under the tree. In December they visit the Home, attend chapel, have lunch, and give the kids the presents. They have extra gifts for the kids they sponsor.

— *The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Revolution Lodge*

Gate City 694 always reserves a big part of their December for our Masonic Homes. They had about 80 kids and adults from the Masonic Home for Children visit for the Annual Gate City Lodge Christmas Party. After everyone ate until they were full, Santa and Mrs. Claus handed out gifts. Shortly afterward, the lodge building and parking lot became a hot bed of stereos, bicycles, remote control cars, and games of all kinds as kids tried out those new goodies. Betty Johnson and Ken Shelton organized the party.

They also had lunch with the residents at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in December. They handed out goody bags to each of the residents as they reached the dining hall. They later set up the Christmas decorations at MESH, as they do each year.

They delivered Christmas fruit baskets to 26 widows of their lodge who live in the Greensboro area.

— *Trestleboard*

Wilmington

Frank Jones of Orient 395 got the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award in November. The award is given to Masons who have shown outstanding dedication to Scouting.

Orient 395 made Ralph Shipton an honorary member in November.

— *Orient Express*

Laurinburg

Harold Gibson of Laurinburg 305 got his Veteran's Emblem recently.

— *Trestleboard*

By Ric Carter

Salisbury

Superior Court Judge Larry Ford was to speak at Andrew Jackson 576's Awards Banquet. The lodge newsletter urged, "Those of you who have not as yet had to appear before him, should come!"

— *Master's Journal*

Washington

Washington 675 had Past Masters' and Ladies' Night Banquet in November. Two past grand masters were there, Bill Brunk and Cliff Everett. Brunk presented Edward Ray Edwards' Veteran's Emblem. Everett was the after dinner speaker. Lodge member J. D. Edwards performed with his band Cross Roads Blue Grass Band.

Waynesville

Officer installation at Waynesville 259 resembled an Allen Family affair in December. Steve Allen was installed as master by his dad, John. His Uncle Bobby Gene was the marshal, Uncle Albert was chaplain, and Uncle Robert was secretary. All except Robert, who is a member of Dillsboro 459, are past masters of Waynesville Lodge.

— *Al Manning and John Purvis*

Garner

Vandora 745 has been getting plenty done around the lodge of late. They moved the piano downstairs, cleaned the gutters, spread a load of gravel, and repaired the water fountain.

Their Kans for Kids program brought in nearly \$2,600 last year. They collect and recycle aluminum cans and scrap in the program. Thievery from their trailer resulted in lower donations this year. They hope to reduce that problem with the addition of a security light Jim Baker installed.

Vandora has some holiday traditions. One started by Mitch Blackmon is their Thanksgiving fried turkey dinner. About 70 people attended this year. They celebrated Jarvis Lawrence's 90th birthday that night.

In December they have some kids from the Masonic Home for Children over for a Christmas party. They took 20 children shopping for shoes this year. The lodge and Garner Eastern Star 321 gave gifts to all the kids there.

Garner 701 sent fruit baskets to 17 lodge widows for Christmas this year.

Greg Ray took on the plumbing repair at Garner Lodge, including replacing the hot water heater.

— *Masonic News from Garner, NC*

South Mills

New Lebanon 314 held their Past Masters' Night in late fall. It was held this year in honor of Everett Brothers. They had 22 of their own past masters and four visiting past masters there.

— *The Plumb Line*

Kenly

After donating \$100 to Kenly Area Ministries in November, Kenly 257 decided they "could be more proactive in assisting them by collecting canned food." Master Stevie Waddell asked each member to bring at least five cans of food for the drive. They saw it as a great opportunity to "spread brotherly love and friendship to the less fortunate in [their] community."

Lodge Chaplain Lyn Renfrow won the lodge's Holland Grill raffle. The proceeds sent \$440 each to the Masonic Homes.

— *Past Meridian*



Masons Send Scouts to Camporee

SCOTLAND NECK — Boy Scout Troop 287 recently presented Scotland Neck 689 a Certificate of Appreciation for sponsoring the trip two of their members took to summer camp in 2002. Seen, from left, are Scout leaders James Tolston and Ron Kanthak, lodge master Kenneth Branch, and camp attendees Bob Meadows and Bennett Tolston.

— *Gene Todd*

Hickory

Plez Teague is famous around Hickory 343 for his efforts to raise money for Masonic charities. He's running another personal drive, this time for the Home for Children.

Plez says, "I believe strongly in what they are doing for the children... Every contribution will receive a jar of my wonderful jelly. My objective is to raise \$25 per member."

— *Hickory Lodge*

Southern Pines

Several service awards were being handed out at Southern Pines 484 in November. Chalmer Donal Hansen got his 60-year award. Robert Leroy Craig, Ernest Woodrow Davis, Paul Steele Morton Jr., Victor Turchick, and John Everett Ussery were getting 50-year pins and certificates.

Thirteen past masters joined a total of 39 guests at Southern Pines Lodge's Past Masters Night in October. They enjoyed grilled steaks.

— *Trestleboard*

Albemarle

Stanley 348 used to meet above First Union Bank. Before the building was recently demolished, Gareth Smith rescued the light that once hung above the master's station. He's now hung it in the lodge and it's burning once again.

— *Stanley Lodge*

Gastonia

As a courtesy to Coventry 665 in Ohio, Gastonia 369 recently presented Harry Laver Jr. his 50-year membership award.

— *The Trestle Board*

Wendell

Wendell 565 held its own celebration during the town of Wendell's Bright Leaf Folk Arts Festival. They gathered lots of product and service donations from local businesses. Just before the Embers appeared on stage that night, they held an auction for the donations. They brought in \$750 for the Masonic Home for Children.

— *Frank Spear*

Denton

Denton 404 put a float in the local Christmas parade during the holidays. They also celebrated their Annual Thanksgiving Banquet. Profits went to their charities. Topping off the season was another of their traditions, a Christmas visit with the girls at Shipman Cottage at the Home for Children in Oxford.

— *Denton Lodge*

Chapel Hill

Rudi Leeds entertained at University 408's Annual Awards Night, "delighting the many children present and captivating the adults" with his magic act. He was also one of the honorees, getting his 25-year service award.

— *The Plumb Line*

Wake Forest

Horace Macon, secretary of Wake Forest 282, got his Veteran's Emblem in November. Grand Secretary Walt Clapp presented the 50-year award.

Kannapolis

Cannon Memorial 626 held its Ladies' Night Banquet in November. It is also the night they hand out lodge awards. Richard Secoolish was named Mason of the Year. Charles William Brandon got his Diamond Jubilee Awards for 60 years membership. Guy Wilson Atkinson was ill and unable to attend, so a contingent of Masons visited his home to present his Veteran's Emblem.

— *Ken Davis*

Dunn

Bad weather didn't prevent a "resounding success" for Palmyra 147's Christmas Banquet. Don Eason and Jonathan Johnson shared the Mason of the Year honors for 2002. Special awards for outstanding service last year went to David Whittenton Jr. and Brian Pope.

Several members traveled to Senior Citizens Village in Dunn to deliver Bill Ennis's 50-year membership award.

— *The Trestleboard*

Manteo

The Eastern Star and Amaranth have made and hung new drapes in the lodge room for Manteo 521.

— *More Light from Manteo 521*

Asheville

Mount Hermon 118 knows that members sometimes stay away because they fear messing up giving the pass or other Masonic information during the lodge opening. Mount Hermon recently reminded members they could get any tutoring or help they needed by simply calling the lodge secretary.

— *Asheville Masonic Bodies*

Pineville

James K. Polk 759's new home is finally staked out and ready for footings to be poured.

Jimmy Wilson's team went 14 under par to win Polk's September golf tournament.

At their November stated, Polk Lodge had "a great time of laughter, seriousness, and fellowship" as past masters took over the job of putting on a third degree.

— *Messenger*

Smithfield

Fellowship 84's George H. Brodrick and William I. Talton recently got their Veteran's Emblems for 50 years Masonic membership.

— *The Trestleboard*

Holly Springs

Holly Springs 115 teamed up with their local Methodist church to hold their annual Red Cross Blood Drive last fall. Jim Minor headed up the event that brought in 29 pints and two first time donors. Among donors was Holly Springs Mayor Dick Sears. Cary 198 came over with some of their famous barbecue for the staff. Blood Drive Day in Holly Springs is the first Friday of October.

Troutman

Campbell 374's R. B. Sloan was elected to the North Carolina Senate in November.

Campbell Lodge says they're saving quite a bit of money after converting their heating system from natural gas to LP gas.

— *Campbell Chronicle*

Matthews

The golf tournament at Matthews 461 was termed a "great success." There were 104 paid players, many hole sponsors, and a brisk auction after the action. All that added up to more than \$12,000 for the Masonic Homes. Mark Arcelesi, Daarinen Cain, Michael Warr, and Mike Morrow took first place on the links.

— *Trestle Board*



George Washington was initiated, passed, and raised a Master Mason in "The Lodge at Fredericksburg" in Virginia, but was never its master. He became a charter member, and first master of Alexandria 22, Virginia and served two terms. His second term did not end until eight months after he was inaugurated President of the United States. He was never grand master, though he was nominated for that position at the formation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. He was proposed as grand master of a national grand lodge which was never formed. He declined both honors.

— *Light From The Great Land*

Canton

Past masters filled the officers' stations for Pigeon River 386's Past Masters' Night in November. Twelve past masters were on hand. Four lodge widows attended the dinner. — *Pigeon River Lodge*
Sonoma 472 presented Gene Canter a special award for his work as president of the Second Annual Calvin E. Taylor Toy Ride for Kids. The event, a memorial to a Mason and Highway Patrolman killed on duty, raises money for children in need.

— *News-Letter*

Commission Report on Recognition of Prince Hall Masonry

In 2001 Grand Master William G. Mathis appointed four distinguished North Carolina Masons to a commission to study the recognition of North Carolina's Prince Hall Grand Lodge — NC Governor Jim Martin, NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Jim Exum, NC Attorney General Lacy Thornburg, and NC Secretary of Administration Jim Lofton. They made a preliminary report at the 2001 Annual Communication. They presented a resolution at 2002 Annual Communication for voting in 2003. That Resolution was printed in our last issue.

Grand Master Charles A. Lewis Jr. asked that they make a more complete report of their reasoning and recommendations. He has further asked district deputy grand masters to present its findings to the membership. Their report follows.

Re: Fraternal Recognition of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Its Jurisdictions, Inc. (hereinafter "the Prince Hall Grand Lodge" or "Prince Hall")

The Commission on Fraternal Relations is pleased to present the following report on the Masonic propriety of mutual and reciprocal fraternal recognition between the Grand Lodge of North Carolina (hereinafter "the Grand Lodge") and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. After careful study of the matter, the Commission concludes such mutual recognition would be Masonically proper and desirable. The Commission also concludes that failure to do so would be construed by many as contrary to the basic tenets of Freemasonry and damaging to its future in North Carolina.

The Code Of The Grand Lodge

We start with *The Code* of the Grand Lodge. Section 6-1 of *The Code* sets out the requirements for extending fraternal recognition to other grand lodges. Prince Hall meets all these requirements.

1. Requirement No. 1 of Section 6.1 will be satisfied when the Grand Lodge extends fraternal recognition to Prince Hall. Brother James G. Martin, 330, reported to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication in 2001 as follows:

Myth and legend to the contrary, there is nothing inherently "clandestine" about Prince Hall Freemasonry. What that term means is that any grand jurisdiction that has not been granted recognition is for that reason differentiated as clandestine. Once recognition is granted to such a grand lodge, it can no longer be deemed clandestine.

In short, the lineage and heritage, the work and stature of Prince Hall Masons are attributes worthy of respect, and we as a commission have concluded that mutual recognition is the right thing to do.

Moreover, Prince Hall Masons have been recognized as "regular" by the predominantly white grand lodges of at least thirty-three states, seven Canadian provinces and eleven countries, including the Grand Lodge of England, and the Grand Lodges of New York, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Virginia. Of the 41 states that have both Prince Hall and predominantly white grand lodges, the predominantly white Grand Lodges in twenty-seven states have granted "full" recognition (mutual memberships) and in four other states the recognition permits only mutual visitations. (Report of Committee on Joint Masonic Fraternal Relations, The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Missouri, September 23, 2002, www.bessel.org/masrec/pha.htm; *Annual Reports*, 220th Annual Communication, 2001, The Grand Lodge of New York, pp. 40-42)

The Commission is satisfied that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina was lawfully formed by at least three duly constituted Masonic lodges. The Commission members have considered several research papers on the history of Prince Hall Masonry in the United States. The most detailed and credible account of the origins of Prince Hall Masonry in North Carolina is the preface to the North Carolina Prince Hall Masonic Code entitled "Whence Came We." This account, first published in 1904, outlines the Masonic lineage of Prince Hall Masonry in this country and in North Carolina. Because of its detail in terms of dates, names, and activities of the various lodges and grand lodges involved and the early date of its first publication, the earliest date by far of any of the other papers we considered, the Commission considers it to be the most reliable account available. It has the "ring of truth."

According to this account, the organizing lodges of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge were King Solomon Lodge at New Bern, Giblem Lodge

at Wilmington, Eureka Lodge at Fayetteville and Widows Son Lodge at Raleigh. These four lodges organized the Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the State of North Carolina in the Giblem Lodge room on March 1, 1870. These four organizing lodges were themselves organized by authority of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, which, in turn was organized by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Boston, now known as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Massachusetts. (Prince Hall Code, pp. 2-3) The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, from which all Prince Hall Grand Lodges are descended, was recognized as regular by the Grand Lodge of England in 1994. (Report of Committee on Joint Masonic Fraternal Relations, The Grand Lodge AF & AM of Missouri, September 23, 2002, www.bessel.org/masrec/pha.htm);

The predominantly white Grand Lodges of both Massachusetts and New York have extended fraternal recognition to the Prince Hall Grand Lodges in their respective jurisdictions, thereby recognizing the legitimacy of each of those Grand Lodges. (*Annual Reports*, 220th Annual Communication, 2001, The Grand Lodge of New York, pp. 40-42)

2. As for requirement No. 2, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge is an independent, self-governing and responsible organization with exclusive administrative authority over all its subordinate Lodges within its jurisdiction. (Prince Hall Constitution, Article I, Section 4)

3. As for requirement No. 3, Prince Hall Grand Lodge makes Masons of men only. (Prince Hall Code, Landmark 18th) Interestingly, this provision of the Prince Hall Code provides that "a slave, or one born in slavery, is disqualified for initiation into the Rights of Masonry."

4. As for requirement No. 4, The Prince Hall Grand Lodge (A) acknowledges a belief in God (Prince Hall Code, Landmark 19th); (B) complies with the Secrecy Requirement of Masonic Bodies (Prince Hall Code, Landmark 23rd); (C) Utilizes the Symbolism of Operative Masonry (Prince Hall Code, Landmark 24th); (D) Provides for the Division of Symbolic Masonry into Three Degrees (Prince Hall Code, Landmark 2nd); and (E) Acknowledges the Legend of the Third Degree (Prince Hall Code, Landmark 3rd).

5. As for requirement No. 5, the Commission is confident from an examination of Prince Hall's Constitution and from discussions with its leadership that its dominant purposes are charitable, benevolent, educational and for the worship of God and that it excludes controversial politics and sectarian religion from its activities. (Prince Hall Constitution, Article III, Sections 19(4), (12), (16) and (18); Prince Hall Code, Landmark 19th).

6. As for requirement No. 6, The Sacred Book of the Divine Law is indispensably present in Prince Hall Lodges. (Prince Hall Code, Landmark 21st)

7. As for requirement No. 7, both the Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge exercise exclusive jurisdiction, respectively, over their subordinate lodges. They have coexisted in North Carolina peacefully and without interference from each other since 1870, over 130 years. It is fair to say that this has been in fact by mutual consent of the two Grand Lodges, implied if not expressed. In any event, the required mutual consent will exist expressly upon mutual fraternal recognition by the two grand lodges.

8. As for requirement No. 8, the Commission has not been presented with and knows of no evidence that Prince Hall was formed against the wishes of the Grand Lodge or that it has established subordinate lodges against the wishes of the Grand Lodge. As set out above in paragraph 7, both the Prince Hall Grand Lodge and its subordinate lodges and the Grand Lodge and its subordinate lodges have coexisted in North Carolina peacefully and without interference from each other for over 130 years.

Sovereignty

Properly understood, Section 2-2 of *The Code* of the Grand Lodge dealing with "Sovereignty of the Grand Lodge" provides no legal impediment to mutual recognition between the Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. Section 6-1 (7) of *The Code* of the Grand Lodge provides that two Grand Lodges may occupy the same territorial jurisdiction by "mutual consent." This mutual consent has existed in fact, by implication, since 1870, when the Prince Hall Grand Lodge was established. It will exist expressly upon mutual fraternal recognition by the two grand lodges.

From Page 1

Construing Section 2.2 (The Sovereignty Provision) together with Section 6.1 (The Recognition Provision) of the Grand Lodge Code, neither having any more authority than the other, one must conclude that the prohibition against another grand lodge having "rights" within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge would be removed by mutual consent of the two grand lodges. A resolution of mutual fraternal recognition between the two lodges would provide the required mutual consent for removal of the prohibition.

The Meaning Of Mutual Recognition

A proper understanding of what mutual recognition means helps to resolve whatever lingering questions concerning sovereignty there might be. Mutual recognition between the two grand lodges does not mean merger or the surrender of any rightful sovereignty that can be claimed by either grand lodge. Each grand lodge, even after mutual recognition, will remain fully sovereign and will have exclusive jurisdiction over its respective subordinate lodges.

Indeed, retention of each grand lodge's sovereignty over its subordinate lodges is a prerequisite to mutual recognition. Under Section 6-1(2) of *The Code* of the Grand Lodge, mutual recognition can occur only if both grand lodges continue to exercise exclusive jurisdiction and administrative authority over its own subordinate Lodges. This section of *The Code* prohibits either grand lodge from dividing such authority with the other.

As Brother Martin stated in his report for the Commission to the 2001 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge:

Our Committee does not find a basis for merger of these two sovereign grand lodges. We do find a clear basis for "regularizing" relations between them. Mutual recognition is nothing more than this. This provides for regularizing the relations between the two lodges. It simply means that both lodges recognize the legitimacy of the other and that duly initiated members of each lodge can, upon demonstrating the appropriate credentials, visit subordinate Lodges of the other Grand Lodge.

Conclusion

The Commission is confident, after careful investigation, that there is no Masonic impediment to mutual recognition between the Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. There being no such impediment, the Commission concludes that it altogether right and fitting that mutual recognition be accomplished. Again, as Brother Martin reported to the Grand Lodge at its 2001 Annual Communication:

While there are other Masonic bodies that would not qualify for such recognition, it is important to note that Prince Hall Masons have charters deriving from the United Grand Lodge of England, just as do we. Every evidence we have observed affirms that their standards of conduct and decorum and obligation are exceptionally high, both in their Masonic activities and beyond, just as we expect they will conclude regarding our own. We find no prohibition in Masonic jurisprudence based upon any racial or geographic distinctions, nor did the other thirty-three other Grand Lodges of AF & A Masons in America.

In short, the lineage and heritage, the work and stature of Prince Hall Masons are attributes worthy of respect, and we as a Commission have concluded that mutual recognition is the right thing to do. The particulars that will define this relationship will be fully developed at the time

that a proposal is submitted for action. We do believe, at a minimum, that the essential terms of recognition would entail a workable and orderly procedure for visitation of Freemasons vouchsafed by one grand lodge at regular meetings of lodges under the jurisdiction of the other grand lodge. The absolute sovereignty of each grand lodge would be retained and promoted, and each would continue as an autonomous grand jurisdiction.

A Resolution of Mutual Recognition as described by Brother Martin was introduced by the Commission at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in Raleigh, North Carolina, in September 2002. This resolution, to be considered at the Grand Lodge's Annual Communication in 2003, simply extends fraternal recognition to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the same privileges of visitation and fraternal association to its members that it has granted to members of other grand lodges with which it presently enjoys fraternal relations. The resolution makes it clear that each grand lodge will remain autonomous within its jurisdiction and will retain its absolute and supreme sovereignty over its own subordinate lodges and membership.

To fail to pass this resolution will be seen by Masons and non-Masons in North Carolina, other states, and the world to be nothing more than discrimination against Brother Masons on the basis of race. It will damage the Grand Lodge and Freemasonry in the eyes of most people and will hinder the future growth and prosperity of our fraternity. Brother Martin eloquently reminded the Grand Lodge in 2001 that:

This issue has been before this Grand Lodge since 1947. With an improvement in race relations and understanding, there has been a growing readiness in some Southern States, including Virginia and North Carolina, to begin a more enlightened consideration of the universality of Freemasonry. As a large majority of our sister grand lodges in America have affirmed the legitimacy of Prince Hall Freemasonry, there can be no pretense of any Masonic principle that would deny granting the same recognition to Prince Hall Masons as we have granted to other grand jurisdictions. Even more compelling is the need to settle this issue in a way that will advance the future of Freemasonry. America today is a land of equality of opportunity. It is a bastion for religious and philosophical tolerance. Few of our young men hold to views on racial separation such as were more common only decades ago. There is still a propensity for "birds of a feather to flock together," but there is very little acceptance today of rules or organizations that would compel segregation based on race. That is why today there are no statutory social distinctions in Masonry.

The Grand Lodge should heed these words both of encouragement and warning. The Commission strongly believes that extending mutual fraternal recognition to Prince Hall Grand Lodge is necessary to ensure that Freemasonry in North Carolina will prosper in the future as it has in the past.

To defeat such a proposal will be a step backward for our brotherhood and will be the source of damaging, negative repercussions for years to come.

The Commission On Fraternal Relations members are James G. Exum Jr. (Guilford 656), James G. Martin (Phalanx 31), James S. Lofton (Hiram 40), and Lacy H. Thornburg (Dillsboro 459).

Have you got questions about Prince Hall Freemasonry, their practice, or rules? Send them to The North Carolina Mason and we'll get answers for you.

37th District Degree Team

BAKERSVILLE — The lodges of the 37th District have started a district degree team. They quickly filled all the degree roles and have other men who want to join as reserve replacements. They did their first performance on a Saturday morning in November at Bakersville 357. They raised three candidates for Bakersville and one for Vesper



Vinnie Bonaminio photo

554. They enjoyed breakfast between sessions. Standard fee for the team performance? Supper. — Vinnie Bonaminio

TO WORK WE GO

the tyler's desk for the pictures of the guests you sponsor at MESH and MHC? These pictures will be coming to those lodges involved and, as we display our OES and past master photos, so should we display these pictures with pride.

Have you got a favorite recipe for a stew, bread, meat loaf, or saffrafas tea? Offer to help your stewards. Buy a four-foot sub sandwich, order pizza, step up to refreshment, and help do the dishes. You'll be glad you do. I bet there are many brethren who have been on Scout cook crews, men's church picnic teams, and barbecuers who can help provide variety to our after meeting socializing. Has your lodge ever tried a version of a Festive Board? Cider works!

The lifeblood of any organization which sustains itself through members and their dues is a continuing effort to increase its membership. Who do you know in your workplace, church, neighborhood, golf group, hunting club, or bridge group that would absolutely make a good Mason? Have you ever suggested that such a man "look into Masonry?" I am making use of the Masonic Renewal Task Force booklet which poses "YES" questions — yes, I am a family man; yes, I am public spirited and patriotic; yes, I believe in ethics and morality; yes, I enjoy friends who make me feel wanted and needed. If you know any YES men, you should encourage them to explore the opportunities provided in Masonry. Just like you did! And for goodness sake, invite them to lodge activities that are open and social in nature. This is not solicitation; you have not asked anyone to join. Good

men will come to us of their own free will and accord. They just need to know who you are and why your life is made better by your Masonry. Dues are not the primary focus in this process.

Wilkerson College 760 is now a reality. It's the first lodge chartered by us in twenty years. What a wonderful testimony to highly motivated Masons who have bonded by coming together to learn to improve themselves in Masonry. The result — men equipped and dedicated to Masonic excellence. Invite a member of this lodge to come to a program for your lodge on Wilkerson College. Don't delay; our next class is now being recruited. Encourage and help fund a participant from your lodge. Three weekends is all that is required initially. Then we'll have the hook set — for life. That's the way it should be in every regular and well-governed lodge.

The bar is being raised on the concept of recognition. We will not schedule any Summer seminars that focus on recognition per se. All grand jurisdictions that meet the criteria set for recognition are worthy of recognition. Our Commission on Recognition consisting of Brothers Exum, Thornburg, Martin, and Lofton — Masons distinguished in government and in the judiciary of North Carolina — has reviewed the criteria set for recognition. Sovereignty has been declared a non-issue in the analysis they have prepared and this relates specifically to our consideration of recognition for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina. The analysis suggests that we need only be concerned about

our Grand Lodge and its subordinate lodges in this context. The issue relates to extending recognition to Masons that have been declared regular in the Masonic community. Details of such items as visitation can be items for future negotiation. [The Commission's report is on this page of *The North Carolina Mason*.]

I have asked our District Deputy Grand Masters to present the Commission findings to the Lodges in their districts. Their presentation does not need to intimidate, divide, or suggest penalties for the positions we take as individuals. The presentation should be an educational tool for North Carolina Masons. Our procedures now require two-thirds as a voice of approval for all future recognitions. As we do in all matters of jurisprudence, proposals should be considered on their merits and the good of Masonry.

The Sixth World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges is now history. Representatives assembled in November in Delhi, India, from Europe, Russia, the United Kingdom, Central and South America, Australia, and the US and Canada. They came with their diversities in ethnicity, race, creed, religion, and Masonic practices. Multiple books of faith were on the altar of Freemasonry. This Conference is truly a gathering of the Masonic family worldwide. I came away feeling very tall indeed, in spite of my 5 feet 4 inches frame!

In 2004 representatives from our Grand Lodge will sit at the table of brotherly love and friendship at the Seventh Conference to be hosted in Chile. A special treat for my wife and me was to be invited

to the home of a Regional Deputy Grand Master in the north — the Punjab — that we might, in his words "see how I live as a Sikh, an Indian, and a Mason." Our several days in the Punjab enabled us to reinforce the concept of the universality of Masonry. The Masonic hospitality we experienced was equally evident throughout the World Conference, in the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Grand Lodge of India, and in the Excelsior Lodge in Chandigarh (The Punjab). There is an exciting world of Freemasonry there; it just sits there waiting for our knock at its doors.

Brethren, we have good lodges, good lodge officers, good districts, and many Masons with good intentions. Are you satisfied with the results? Good is the enemy of great. To be great we must raise the bar of what we expect; the Shrine, the York Rite, the Scottish Rite, appendant bodies, the Eastern Star, and Masonic youth groups — we are a family. We should be taking care of each other; we should be finding ways to help, aid, and assist each other. Pray for your fraternal family. The world needs fraternal unity and growth more than ever.

I am having a great time as your Grand Master. Heigh Ho, brethren. It's off to Masonic work I go. Those of you who attend the district meetings will know the song and its meaning! You have honored me by giving me the opportunity to have that special experience that is changing my life forever. I will do my best for you. I am confident that you will raise the bar and build this good fraternity into the great fraternity that it has the capability to become.



Team coaches Tom Felton, Jack Morris, and Andy Ashley present the championship trophy to Gatesville 126 Master Ralph Wilkins.

Pool Parties and Baseball In Gatesville

GATESVILLE — For the past six years Gatesville 126 has sponsored a youth league baseball team. One measure of the success of the team is their five championship seasons in those six years. But, the real measure of success is seen in the faces of the kids who have played on those teams. After the season the lodge invites the coaches, team members, and their families to a cook-out and pool party. Ray Felton furnished the pool for the party this year.

Lots of lodges around North Carolina sponsor youth sports. Everyone we've heard from wholeheartedly recommend it to other lodges as a satisfying way to support your community. It also offers a good focus for lodge members — a team to follow, a source of pride. Every game can be a lodge event. Maybe your lodge should try it.



Team members celebrate a successful season with a dip in Ray Felton's pool.

Encompassing The World

By Ric Carter

Ohio Hopes for Another Big Day

Hoping to recreate last year's hugely successful one-day Masonic degrees class, the Grand Lodge of Ohio has scheduled another for March 2003. There will be degree sites in each of the state's 25 districts. They have set a goal of 5,000 new Masons.

Lodges are allowed to act on petitions at special meetings. Each candidate is assigned a mentor who will accompany him through the event. All three degrees will be conferred in the same location and on the same day. No memorization or examination requirements will be enforced. All candidates are allowed to choose between the standard degrees and the one-day edition.

Last year 7,750 men took all three degrees at the one-day event. — Beacon

Wisconsin Renovating Masonic Home

DOUSMAN, Wisconsin — A \$9 million program is renovating the 79-year-old Van Brunt Hall, the jewel in the crown of Three Pillars Senior Living Campus. They are also building a new three-floor, 31-unit assisted living facility. They've already raised \$6 million. — The Wisconsin Masonic Journal

Texas Reacts to Crisis at Masonic Home & School

WACO, Texas — Texas Grand Master Michael Nanny called a special communication of their grand lodge to deal with a financial crisis at the Masonic Home and School of Texas in Fort Worth. Operation of the 103-year-old institution is suffering from falling private donations and declining earnings on their endowment. More than 3,000 Masons met to discuss 20 proposals to remedy the situation.

They rejected selling part of the 206-acre campus, limiting admissions to those with Masonic connections, and closing portions of the facility. They voted to take as much as \$10.6 million from the Home's endowment and use it for operations. — The Texas Mason

Notes

• When the Grand Lodge of Minnesota hosts the Conference of Grand Masters of North America this February, they'll be celebrating their 150th anniversary. They're expecting 66 grand masters to attend the kickoff banquet. — The Minnesota Mason

• "Improving the education of our young people" is the stated purpose of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts' scholarship program. They awarded a new high \$396,000 in grants in 2002. That brings their total to nearly \$1.5 million dollars since 1995. — Trowel

◆ The only hope for continuous achievement in Freemasonry is through the generation of force, and not through the perpetuation of form... Freemasonry must be a Force to be used and not a Form to be served.

— M. H. Voss, Minnesota grand master, 1960

A Reminder of Our Shrine Brothers' Good Works

The following is a reminder of the good work that Shrine Masons do every day. It happens to be a North Carolina story. Dear Shriners:

In early April, we were told that my son, Robert, needed surgery on his left hip because of a slipped growth plate. I was very concerned not only for my son, but also for the economic strain that something like this would have on our family.

I was told of your organization and, to my disbelief, found myself at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, SC, the very same day that my son and I had been at the doctor's office. It was nothing short of a miracle to me that someone would care

enough to act so quickly to attend to my child's problem.

The moment we arrived at the Sudan Shriners in New Bern, NC, two gentlemen greeted us and then presented my son with a stuffed dog to take on the trip. That started the tears in my eyes.

After eight hours of driving and a few stops, we were at the hospital door. Again, the greeting was pleasant and sincere, and the staff was ready, willing and able to meet our every need. Because it was after midnight, Robert was put to bed, made comfortable and assured that everything would be okay. The nurse then gave me a tour of the hospital. I could not believe it. I was told,

"Take whatever you need; it's here for you." Was I dreaming? I thought so. Finally, after a long day, I went to sleep on a cot beside my son's bed. I prayed to God and thanked Him over and over again for the care, kindness and generosity that you people have showed me.

In the morning, we met with Drs. Peter Stasikelis and Gregory Green, the surgeons who would be performing the hip surgery. They explained to Robert the procedure they would be using in the operating room and answered all of his questions in plain English, putting his mind to rest. Then Dr. Deborah Nicholas, the director of anesthesiology, talked to him. I think she charmed

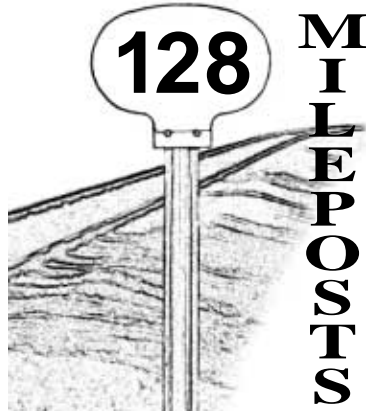
him a bit. Her answers to Robert's questions were honest and to the point.

Thanks to the staff doctors and all attending to my child's care, we were home in three days. The progress that Robert has made continues to be fantastic.

I am sure that if our family was wealthy with lots of \$\$\$, my son and I could not have been treated any better. This experience will always put Shriners "No. 1" on my list of fantastic people. I hope in some small way that I can help you in the future.

Humbly yours,
Gloria Pizzuti
Atlantic Beach, NC

— Between Us, Shrine Hospitals publication



GREENSBORO — Jim Cudworth, left, was presented his 60 year Veteran's Award by his son Gary Cudworth in November. Both are members of Revolution 552. The presentation was made at the lodge's annual Fellowship Dinner and Awards Night. — Allen Spain



CANTON — Sonoma 472 makes a sportsmanship award presentation after each sports season in Bethel's youth recreation league. The award is named in honor of Scotty Canter, the late son of lodge member Gene Canter. This past season's Scotty Canter Sportsmanship Award went to Eathan Deaver, son of Mike and Vickey Deaver. Eathan is seen here with Sonoma Lodge member Bentley Rogers. — Gene Canter



RAMSEUR — Marietta 444 held its Awards Banquet in October. They presented 50-year Veteran's Emblems to Victor Reid, top, and Horace Coleman, above. — Wallace Jarrell



WAKEFIELD — Addison E. Pearce of White Stone 155 got his Veteran's Emblem in October. He is seen here, right, receiving the 50-year membership award from his son Randy Pearce, also a member of White Stone Lodge. Pearce began his Masonic journey as a Highway Patrolman in Charlotte, but, due to an assignment transfer, he took all his degrees in Wayne 112.



KANNAPOLIS — Cannon Memorial 626 presented several service awards during their Ladies' Night Banquet in November. From left, Twenty-Eighth District Deputy Grand Master Dennis Sims presented Veteran's Emblems to Harold Eugene Belk, Tola James Litaker, and James Baxter Shelton. — Ken Davis

Down East Currents

Things Hopping at Jones



Bryan Lassiter
Project Manager
Jones Masonic Campus

Exciting things are happening in Masonry, and Jones Masonic Campus is in the mix! The Octagon House project is in the final stages, and the calendar for use of the building already shows much interest. Projects in the renovation are too numerous to list here, but in the beginning, the 4000-square-foot house had 67 woodpecker holes in the outside. All 34 windows and 23 doors were repaired or replaced, and of course, all new mechanical systems had to be installed. The result of all of this effort is a beautiful and useful structure that impresses everyone who sees it. The house will serve as office space, meeting rooms, a museum of artifacts from the property and Masonry, and, hopefully, a Masonic library. A big thank you is in order for the many who have come by to lend a hand in getting all the work done. Another big thank you is due the Octagon House Committee for all the time and effort they gave in turning the project into a labor of love.

As the house nears completion, other parts of the campus are also picking up steam. One of the most challenging aspects of designing Jones Campus is the diversity of uses planned for the property. The Board of Directors, in agreement with the original plan of the land donation, desires to build a camp for children, a full retirement community, and have specific areas of the property dedicated to use by lodges and chapters. All of this includes leaving as much of the property as possible in its beautiful natural state.

Ideas for the children's camp include places for organized activities such as baseball and volleyball, swimming and other water sports, fishing, archery, visits to local attractions, such as the beautiful beaches, the North Carolina Aquarium, hiking and camping in the Croatan National Forest adjacent to our property. We hope to schedule local

craftsmen, professional fishermen, and boat captains to come to the campus to give our children an idea of what it is like to live and work at the ocean. Volunteers will be needed to help us realize many of the ambitious plans laid out for the children's camp.

The retirement community will likely offer independent living, assisted living, and eventually skilled care right here on the property. Residents desiring independent living may have options that would include individual houses or joined apartments in a variety of layouts. Planned activities and social functions, as well as legendary restaurants and other local attractions such as the outdoor drama *Worthy is the Lamb*, and two golf courses within five miles will provide residents with many options for keeping active. Residents who need assisted living or skilled care will enjoy breathtaking views of this beautiful property. They will live in the most modern and convenient facilities available, and will be cared for by a courteous and caring professional staff. All of the diversities in living and activities will be brought together in an atmosphere of brotherly love and friendship to make Jones Masonic Campus a truly unique and wonderful place to live.

Please keep in mind that while we know where we are headed, developing any property in this economic environment requires steady, well-planned steps. One of the primary concerns in developing Jones Campus is making sure that every dollar spent is done so in a way to provide the most long term benefit to the Craft. Another primary concern is making sure that all plans not only meet the guidelines set up by local, state and federal authorities, but exceed those minimum guidelines in areas of life safety and care for residents and visitors. With all of these things taken into consideration, an overall map for the projected layout of the property should be available by early summer. Approximately a year later, the children's camp and independent living accommodations should be available.

Keep an eye open for the latest developments as they happen! The development of Jones Campus will prove to be as exciting and fruitful as the Craft in North Carolina expects.

Ramblin' Rose

Harbor or Horizon?



John A. Rose
Administrator
Masonic & Eastern Star Home

The Masonic and Eastern Star Home is considering expansion of a business plan designed to improve its aging buildings, improve the activity and other ancillary areas of the Home, and to move away from small rooms and apartments to more spacious studios, one, and two bedroom apartments.

The challenge and the content of the Home's plans remind me of a story about an old boat. The old boat was in need of work. The hull of the boat was rotting, the deck was stained, planks were missing, and old sails were mended with large patches. The boat could not sail very far, so could not earn money available through trade in distant ports. The crew was not paid well and morale was low. Often, crew members left the boat to serve on another that was going somewhere.

A new captain ordered the boat to be dry-docked. He shared his plans with the crew and other investors. From the crew that could, he borrowed money for repairs. He obtained the remainder from investors and donors that believed in the potential of the boat.

While docked, the boat's hull was scraped, sanded, and painted. The deck was repaired, cabins cleaned, and new sails sewn and hoisted. The old boat sprang back to life.

Former crew members returned to work alongside new members. Everyone's love for the old boat blossomed.

When the work was done, the captain made plans to leave the harbor. Some of the crew members were afraid. Pointing with his finger farther than anyone could see, the captain said, "This boat is not made for the safety of the harbor, but for the horizon." The boat sailed. The boat again became an instrument for trade and commerce. The crew members had gainful employment long after the loans were repaid. There was adventure again.

That solution required several attributes. The solution required a market beyond the horizon. It required willing and dedicated participants who could overcome the fear of risk and who desired adventure. It required effort to get beyond the tide. It required a mission. It required leadership.

Like that boat, the mission of MESH is filled with risk and adventure. Like the new captain, our leaders, the officers of our Board of Directors, rise to a challenge and aim for the horizon. MESH knows the market upon which it is called to serve. MESH confronts the tide beyond each harbor. Our employees, our leaders, our residents, and our supporters are like the crew on the boat — willing, dedicated, and loyal.

To make this plan work, we need the support of donors who make up for what some residents of MESH are unable to contribute. Please continue to remember MESH and believe in the potential of our boat.

As stewards of MESH, we must constantly decide. Which will it be, harbor or horizon?

Final Phase of MESH Houses On the Way

The Masonic and Eastern Star Home has always been known for its charitable services. In 1995 the Board of Directors addressed the issue of eligible members who need the services of MESH, but for reasons other than financial. Examples are the need and desire for security, health care, absence of family, need to be close to services, the hope that family members will not become responsible for decision making and the care of an aging family member. The result is a wonderful blend of charitable and other needs-based services at our retirement community.

There has been strong interest in the new admission system under the umbrella of a Continuing Care Retirement Community at MESH. There has also been much interest in the new two bedroom homes and our patio apartments.

We are now completing the 37th new home with space for just nine more homes. In order to take advantage of volume discounts, we will complete the final phase at one time. We think we'll be underway this spring. Our first-time occupants of these spacious two-bedroom homes can select from available options to customize their home to suit their needs and desires. Once these final houses are occupied, admission will be when a house becomes available.

Under this new admission plan NO assets are assigned to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home. An approved applicant pays an entrance fee for a new house (1,700 square-feet, two bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, dining room, living room, entry



"It's so nice to know that I'll never have to rake leaves, mow the lawn, or shovel snow again" — A new resident of the Masonic and Eastern Star Retirement Village

foyer, patio, carport, and storage room) and a monthly maintenance. The monthly maintenance includes utilities, maintenance costs inside and out, one meal daily, yard work, house-keeping services, security, emergency medical response by nursing personnel, access to all common areas, and other ancillary services.

If you are interested in this village as a retirement option and want to be included among those applying for the final phase, or wish to apply and be placed on a waiting list, please call Susan Cutter, fraternal assistance coordinator, or John A. Rose at (336) 299-0031 or toll free in NC, at (888) 558-6374.

Guilford Masons Golf for Charity

By Ray Hall

ARCHDALE — The 23rd District held the first Arthur Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament on September 14, 2002, at Holly Ridge Golf Links here. The day started out very rainy and dreary, but the Supreme Architect smiled on us and our endeavors. About 45 minutes from tee time the rain stopped and we were able to play with only a couple of very light showers. The tournament had 33 teams of four registered to play. Thirty-two of those teams showed up in spite of the weather. We had a fun afternoon.

After play was concluded we enjoyed a dinner provided by Chic-Fil-A and Guilford 656. The hard work and sponsorship sales by the lodges of the district enabled us to raise over \$9,000. The district scholarship fund and MHC will get \$7,000 with the remainder going into an endowment fund for future scholarships. The second Annual tournament is being planned for Spring.

The lodges of the 23rd District would like to thank all the companies and individuals who helped make this fundraising effort a great success.

Ray Hall is DDGM of the 23rd Masonic District

MESH Resident Wins State Senior Games

RALEIGH — October 5 Masonic and Eastern Star Home resident Florence Crutchfield walked away — or shall we say swam away — with the gold, silver, and bronze medals in the 2002 State Finals Senior Games. At the Pullen Aquatic Center here Florence won her medals in the 25-Yard Butterfly Stroke, the 50-Yard Back Stroke, and the 100-Yard Back Stroke. This qualifies her to participate in the National Finals in Senior Swimming in Hampton, Virginia in 2003.

Florence qualified for the State Finals by winning Gold Medals in the Greensboro Local Games in Free Style, Back Stroke, and the Butterfly Stroke.

Florence stays in shape by swimming several times a week in the swimming pool at MESH. Renee Bunton, the Aquatic Director at MESH, says that Florence is a "go getter." Bunton took several of Flo's MESH swim buddies to Raleigh to cheer Florence on in the finals. They were Hazel Lane, Laura Langley, Ruth Strider and Flo's special beau, Dewey Crutchfield.

Way to go, Flo!



**Swimmer
Florence
Crutchfield**

VISION HELP

From Page 8

ing rights to that donor. Whether for themselves, their family, a loved one, or a group, this gift will recognize those who build a home for children today and those of tomorrow, by naming that cottage.

Our own Oxford Orphanage alumni have pledged to build one home and will be naming that home. The North Carolina Masonic Foundation has pledged another. An image and brief history of the donor, or that of the donor's choosing, will be placed in the home.

Naming of Room(s)

The Cornerstone Layer

By contributing to certain elements of our new homes, you add strength and support to our Vision and can help make our houses into homes. Your name or those of your choosing will be placed in the home of your choice, recognizing those units or items you contributed for the children.

From a window to a \$100,000 wing caring for four children, you can contribute to the construction of our homes while making your contribution a permanent part of the home.

Naming of the Children's Garden

The Life Grower — \$25,000-\$499,999

A special garden commons is being planned for our new homes and you can be a part of it. Along with brick sidewalks your donation to the Vision Campaign will be recognized on a special edifice located in the garden commons. Your gift could also be recognized on the benches and other landscaping items located throughout the garden area.

This garden commons will allow our home to recognize those donors who contribute to our overall Vision building plan.

Faith, Hope, and Charity — \$5,000-\$24,999

These three words will make our Vision a reality. This gift includes our "Paving the Way" recognition brick, as well as a special framed and matted rendering of our new Vision homes.

Engraved with our official opening date and your name, this special gift is given to you and your family, lodge, or organization to keep in your home or office as a remembrance of your gift towards the homes for our children.

Paving the Way — \$500 or more

Leading the way to our special Children's Garden will be brick sidewalks with names chosen by special contributors. This affordable gift will be recognized by three lines of up to twenty characters each of the donor's choice, embossed on a brick leading to our garden commons. Whether in one's memory or to recognize a special person or group, this gift will allow all who visit our garden commons to see those who made our Vision a reality.

Making a Difference

The Child's Friend — \$1-\$499.99

Every gift will make a difference and your contribution is essential to making our Vision a reality. A special certificate of recognition will be given to you displaying your gift to the children and the difference you made in the life of a child.

All these wonderful recognition methods have options to fit your priorities and wishes. Our Home would be happy to work with you in recognizing a gift in a special way. These gifts may be tax-deductible and will remain as a part of your home's history.

For more information on these or other ways to say thank you, contact the Development Department at our Home in Oxford (888) 505-4357 or in Raleigh at our Grand Lodge (919) 787-2021.

Complaints about noisy cell phones and pagers in lodges are increasingly frequent as more and more Masons carry them. Grand Master Lewis reminds you to please turn your cell phone off or silence your ringer when lodge is in session.

Open Your Own Lodge!

A craftsman left his master's lodge and went to visit Grand Master Hiram Abif in Tyre. Hiram asked: "What do you seek?"

"Light!" replied the craftsman.

"You have your own lodge. Why did you come here?" Hiram asked.

The craftsman replied: "I left my master's lodge, so where is my lodge now?"

Hiram answered: "What you are asking is your lodge."

The craftsman was brought to light. Ever since he has urged his brothers: "Open your own lodge and see the light!" — www.geocities.com/zenmasonry

Masonic Home for Children Q & A

Question

What is it with all these social workers now at the Home? What kind of services are they providing? Does their presence change the make-up of the Home?

Answer

For years the Masonic Home for Children has recognized that there has been an increasing need for mental health services for the children. In order to help meet that need, the Home used the local mental health clinic. The clinic could provide some counseling and mental health services for a small number of the children here.

Getting a state license as a residential child care facility in the state required us to bring in a team of clinicians. Presently the Clinical Services Department is made up of five clinicians, a clinical supervisor, and a director of Clinical Services.

The children and staff are quickly and warmly embracing these new employees. For many of our children, it is an opportunity to privately deal with the multiple disappointments in their lives. Our clinical social work staff has also begun establishing relationships with our children's families.

This process of working with the children and their families is sometimes criticized by some who feel that the children should have little to do with their families. Like them, we feel the hurt that our children have suffered and want to protect them from further harm. Yet, it has been shown over and over that it is important to our children's development that we help them maintain whatever piece of their family relationship is safe and reasonable. As odd as it may seem, it is a curious fact that no matter what a child has experienced in their family, the attachment they feel never goes away.

In order to make the best of what family attachments are available, social workers arrange family visits and discussions. These sessions help our children be more at peace with their past and current circumstances. As much as we may want to protect these children from the source of their hurts, the children themselves hunger for a resolution of those relationships. That resolution can only come from learning what family attachments might, or might not, be possible.

Question:

How do we discipline children who are disruptive or disrespectful of adults?

Answer:

The Masonic Home for Children no longer "paddles" children. Paddling tells children that the only way we could change their behavior was through force and intimidation. This often created either overly compliant or inappropriately angry adults. It also further isolated the Masonic Home for Children from the mainstream of quality child care programs.

The Home teaches children that they are responsible for their own behavior. Just as in the real world, there are rewards and consequences for proper and improper behaviors. Our Home does not "coddle" and "pamper" the children. We do hold the children responsible for their behavior.

It is a demanding program with extremely high expectations of the children. Our methods are designed to create lasting, internalized change, not change by fear of retribution.

The Masonic Home for Children's Responsibility Level System has a daily review system to evaluate with each child their progress in the Home. Based on these evaluations, the child is given a "responsibility level" twice a week. Those who show that they are "responsible" in their behavior are rewarded with a higher level of freedom. Those children who are struggling with behavior that is counterproductive and disrespectful have more restrictions.

This system gives the child ownership of his or her own behavior. Our children learn that, with our help, they can begin to forego some of their previously unproductive behaviors and learn new, productive ways to conduct themselves. Since we won't always be there to make their decisions for them, our approach is one of teaching children how to control themselves.

Providing our children with the skills necessary to become productive citizens will always be uppermost on the Home's agenda. Many of our children have already suffered the worst that our society can bring to bear. It's our responsibility to now provide only the very best for them.

Under the Oaks

We Appreciate Your Support



Allen Hughes
Acting Administrator
Masonic Home for Children

I want to take this opportunity to thank Reverend David Grissom for his 14 years of dedicated service to the Masonic Home for Children. He has been a valuable asset to the Home and has been wonderful for the children. I also wish to thank him for his willingness to offer his assistance to the Home and me during this transition period while he is awaiting assignment. We all wish Reverend Grissom and his family the best as he returns to ministry in the church.

It is both a privilege and a challenge to be appointed as interim administrator of the Masonic Home for Children. I thank Grand Master Charles Lewis and the Board of Directors for their confidence and support. I ask for the support of every North Carolina Mason as we try to build your confidence in our efforts to provide a good home, with love and caring for our children.

There have been many changes at the MHCO in recent months leading to some misinformation and rumors. There have been situations which have caused dissatisfaction and concern with the way some things have been handled. I invite you to visit our Home to see what we are doing for

our children. If you have questions or concerns about the MHCO, please contact me.

My love for the Home is deep-rooted. As some of you know, I lived at Oxford Orphanage for 10 years. I still call it the "Orphanage," and I still call it home. The Orphanage provided me with the moral values, discipline, work ethic, and self-confidence to become a productive citizen. I am indebted to the Masons of North Carolina, past and present, for giving me a new chance in life. I remember what this Home has meant to me as I go through the daily challenges of making a difference in the lives of our children. I will try to ensure that each child has the same chance I was given.

As long as I am in the position to affect policies and procedures of the MHCO, I will try to ensure that we keep the "Masons" in "The Masonic Home for Children" and that all children admitted will be sponsored by a Masonic lodge through the proper application process. I will seek to improve our direct child care staff through recruitment and training to provide the best care possible for our children. I will try to work through the Masonic Lodges to find children whom we can help. I will focus on working with the children admitted as long as we can meet their needs and will see that our staff works to instill the values and knowledge they need to succeed after leaving the Home. We need the help and support of every lodge and each Mason to turn our vision into reality.

I ask for your support and will do all I can to earn it.

I Want To Help

- I want to add my support to Masonic Charity.
- The Home for Children Vision Capital Fund
 - The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
 - The Masonic Home for Children
 - The Masonic and Eastern Star Home
 - Send information about wills and bequests.
 - I would appreciate a visit. Please contact me.

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

My Phone Number _____ My Lodge _____

In Memory of (optional) _____ Address _____

To assure that your gift is properly credited to the fund of your choice, please make your check payable to the charity of your choice.

Please mail your check to:
The Grand Lodge of North Carolina
P.O. Box 6506
Raleigh, NC 27628

Some Birthdays From The Home For Children

Michael Keith Hawkins	February 4, 1987
Haverly Swart	February 5, 1993
Joshua Ollis	February 5, 1991
David Ault	February 7, 1988
Tabitha Nicole Wilson	February 9, 1989
Amanda Hogan	February 9, 1989
Bianca Shonte Waller	February 11, 1990
Selena Austin Helton	February 18, 1992
Jessica Nicole Spencer	February 19, 1990
Bradford Jones	February 20, 1998
Rebecca Anne Joines	February 28, 1986
David Wesley Taylor	March 7, 1986
Kenneth Wade Watson	March 11, 1985
Wendy Nicole Oakley	March 12, 1985
Joseph Edward Poplawski	March 13, 1990
Sean Michael Carrese	March 13, 1984
Gannon Robert Matthew Owens	March 19, 1987
Katrina Lace Dean	April 7, 1993
Krystal Love Dean	April 7, 1993
Jarrell Walker	April 7, 1993
Kimberly Ann Poplawski	April 8, 1989
Christopher White	April 8, 1995
Jessie White	April 15, 1998
Victoria Mae Baker	April 27, 1992

Masonic Youth Day Enjoyed By State Kids

Have you ever been to five different Masonic lodge buildings in one day? Have you ever been part of a 30-car caravan traveling over 300 miles? Have you ever had a private party on a battleship? Members of our Masonic youth organizations have done all these things — and much more — all in the same day!

This year's Masonic Youth Day was held September 21, and was once again planned by young leaders of each organization (Steven Gourley, Michelle Hall, and Carla Batchelor), with assistance from Frank Silber, chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Youth. The event was a day-long affair, but it started for different groups at different times, depending on where they were located. Stops were made in Charlotte, Salisbury, Greensboro, Raleigh, and finally Wilmington. At each stop, Rainbow assemblies, DeMolay chapters, and Job's Daughters Bethels in the nearby area assembled into teams, and completed one or more "Road Rules" style missions. Each mission consisted of certain competitive activities that encouraged each team to work together in a fun and constructive manner. After each mission, the group traveled caravan style to the next stop, growing more numerous as the day continued. After the final mission in Wilmington, everyone headed over to the Battleship North Carolina for a dance on the ship's fantail, overlooking the water. The weather was perfect and the DJ rocked the boat for around 150 folks in attendance.

Much of the funding needed for the event was made possible by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. However, there were a number of lodges and individuals who also made contributions of time, money, and resources and by doing so, expressed their dedication to the future leaders of our Masonic order. For example, Fulton 99 and Andrew Jackson 576 in Salisbury graciously donated funds to cover an all-you-can-eat breakfast for all those stopping in Salisbury. St. Johns 1 and Orient 395 in Wilmington also assisted by allowing those wishing to stay overnight in Wilmington to stay at their lodges in a lock-in style sleeperover. In addition, thanks to support from Cleo and Phyllis Haase in Wilmington, everyone enjoyed a free dinner.

As in the past, this year's Masonic Youth Day was successful in bringing together all of our youth organizations. People came from all over to attend this event. Michael Shillings, a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Youth, came all the way from Manteo to join the group and help judge competitions in Raleigh and Wilmington. There were even a dozen DeMolays from South Carolina and Georgia who attended the event!

If you would like more information on upcoming activities or ways in which you can support our Masonic youth organizations, please contact the following individuals: DeMolay: Chuck Rouse at (919) 876-6459, Rainbow: Kay Letterman at (919) 847-6712, Job's Daughters: Sandy Dunbar at (919) 782-8692 or Connie Williams at (848) 238-4481.

Join Us In Welcoming Our New Master Masons

1 Frank Lawrence Chapman	205 Lewis Alonzo Helms Jr.	348 Mark Lyndale Butler	525 Lonnie Joe Vanover	683 Matthew David May
1 James Albert Grantham	205 Trent Alan Hand	348 Rex Elton Burleson	528 Charles Worth McCormick	688 Eugene Anthony Velez
1 Kevin Shane Hull	217 Larry Ben Causby	357 Richard Wayne Hale	552 Cary David Moon	694 Christopher Lee Jarrell
8 George Ellsworth Miller Jr.	226 Bryan Edward Bowman	357 Robert Michael Morgan	552 Colin Emerson Vance	694 James Dale Hall
8 Jimmy Shane Blackwell	226 James Scott Campbell	357 Ronnie Lane Sparks Jr.	552 Robin Dean Barnes	694 John Douglas Starr Jr.
8 Jonathan Hadley Merritt	226 Wesley Edward Feimster	387 Alexander Greeley Klosek	554 Frank Seldon Beam	694 William David Musso
32 Stephen Wayne Pigg Jr.	231 Andrew Scott Honeycutt	387 Roy Edwin Masters III	554 Timothy Mitchell Glenn	695 William Huntington Hoffield
76 Richard Talmadge Sneed Jr.	231 Bernd Werner Herrmann	387 Scott Hyland Sheffron	555 James Edward Mashburn	699 Wesley Bryan Seamon
90 Herbert Barbour Long II	231 Rodney Verlin Dye	391 Benjamin Franklin Clark	578 Brian Dewey Helms	699 Howard Harold Davis
95 Marty Willie Morris	249 Israel Christopher West	395 Gerald Milton Watkins	585 Daniel Preston Raley	701 James Wesley Lee
97 Michael Lloyd Jones	249 Stephen Allen Raleigh	409 Joseph Daniel Re' Jr.	593 Phillip Edward Starnes	706 Cris Lee Sonnichsen
97 Richard Colbert Matlack Jr.	249 Stephen George Lanier	412 Kenneth Wade Wilson	606 Philip Andrew Robinette	709 Jeffrey Lee Barger
98 Bryan Douglas Smith	253 Thomas Lynn Elder	433 Jeremy Ray Mills	607 Kevin Wesley Thompson	709 John Ashley Warren
98 Christopher O'Neil Bouchard	262 Albert Brent Jackson	433 Robert Earl Futrell	616 Sheldon William Stanley	709 Winfred Shawn Greene
137 Sam Ray Adams	262 Frank Russell Heavner	446 Andrew Alan Weinkle	646 Kenneth Ray Pervine	713 Joe Elno Brackett
138 Wilson Earl Knowles	267 Nelson Medina	459 James Denman Lovin	650 Jason Hugh McCurry	735 Brian Paul Allison
147 Danny Paul Tripp	272 Ernest John Caviness	473 Ryan Neal Gobble	650 Spencer Christian Richards	737 Jonathan Lewis Campbell
151 James Robert Bradford Jr.	293 Rickey Lee Jefferson	479 Monnie Filbert Golden Jr.	668 Glenn Michael McComas	739 Frank Marcel Vogt Jr.
151 Phillip Eugene Lawrence Jr.	293 Thomas Allan Wood	491 William Burgin Pressley	668 Joe Wayne Buckner	739 Richard Mark Weathers
172 John Louis Maskew	317 Erna Dare Bright	493 Michael David Ramey	669 John Evan Thompson	742 James Allen Jones
176 Harry Andrew Armstrong	319 Don Allen Simmons	501 Chad Elvington Huntey	670 Kenneth Dale Fortenberry	742 Stefan Richard Peniston
191 Michael Scott Hemphill	320 Jeffrey David Weaver	502 Stephen Stanley Norton	675 Wayne Nelson Boyd Jr.	742 Wesley Trent Bowers
191 Todd Curtis Narron	322 Jackie Dempsey Combs	505 Charles Steven Morgan II	679 Dale Snyder	749 Henry Bonnie Arnette
198 Robert Dale Walkup	339 Christopher John Hutchins	505 Gregory Todd Sain	680 David Heald	749 James Franklin Smith
202 George Bryan Ledford	343 Kieth Eckron Mayberry	505 Nicholas Gerard Torney Hopkins	680 David Fredrick Ames	759 James Claiborne Norwood
				759 David Joseph Jordan

Ledford Named To Line

By Ric Carter

Lewis Ray Ledford is our new junior grand steward. He was appointed to the Grand Lodge line by incoming Grand Master Charles A. Lewis Jr. in September and installed with the rest of the Grand Lodge officers December 7. Tradition places him on the path to become grand master himself after completing the eight-year apprenticeship of the line.

Ledford was born in Monroe, North Carolina July 16, 1954, the son of Stokes R. and Norma Jean Street Ledford. Stokes was a member of Bakersville 357. He grew up in Mitchell County and attended Bowman High School in Bakersville. He received a degree in biology from Appalachian State University in Boone in 1976.

After a brief stint as a teacher at McDowell High School, he was asked to become a park ranger with North Carolina State Parks. He worked in parks in Wake, Wilkes, Burke, and Yancey counties before becoming park superintendent at Mount Mitchell in 1979. He was promoted to western district superintendent in 1984. In November 2000 he became superintendent of State Parks, the sixth person to hold the position and the first to rise to the job from entry-level ranger.

As superintendent Ledford is responsible for the operations, maintenance, building, and conservation of the State Parks, current physical plant value \$336 million. He manages the Parks' \$25 million budget and \$12 million trust fund and oversees its 400 permanent employees and several hundred more seasonal employees and volunteers.

Lew is a graduate and fellow of the Natural Resources Leadership Institute of North Carolina State University. He is on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Society and the National Recreation and Parks Association.

His community volunteer efforts have earned him the Governor's Award and recognition from the Golden Rule program. He was honored recently by the Carolinas Region of the American Red Cross for his 12 years service.

Lew joined the lodge in 1986, taking his degrees in Statesville 27. He served there as master in 1992. He is a 33° member of the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Bodies. He is a member of the Salisbury York Rite as well as Greensboro York Rite College and AMD, NC College of Societas Rosicruciana, and the Royal Order of Scotland.

He was coordinator of the Masonic Community Blood Drive in Statesville until his

move to Raleigh in 2000. He saw it grow from a small community drive to the largest one-day drive in the Carolinas with collection sites in Statesville, Mooresville, Hickory, Catawba, Taylorsville, and Boone. It is thought to be the largest Masonically sponsored blood drive in the country.

He has served on the Board of General Purposes, Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, and Committee on Masonic Education. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford of which he is currently chairman of the Policy and Personnel Committee.

Ledford currently lives in Raleigh where he attends Tabernacle Baptist Church. He enjoys working on his mountain house and farm on Roan Mountain in Mitchell County. He is a wood-worker and an avid antique collector — especially of oak furniture of the early 1900s.

The following is adapted from Lew Ledford's comments at Annual Communication upon acceptance of the position of junior grand steward.

I am very humbled and honored by Brother Lewis's faith in me in appointing me to the Grand Lodge line.

My first memories of this fraternity go back to very young age in accompanying my father to a Masonic picnic atop Roan Mountain. And indeed my reason for joining this gentle craft was the favorable opinions that I began to form as an 11-year-old as I watched the Freemasons of a small mountain lodge come to visit and sit with my father during his bout with terminal cancer



Junior Grand Steward Lew Ledford in his Raleigh office.

Ric Carter Photo

— men that I later came to know to be the respected men of the community, and men that always seemed to have an especially kind word or pat on the shoulder for me as a kid growing up there. Obviously, I later came to better understand why.

The presence of so many assembled here for Annual Communication demonstrates the value and respect that we all have for this Grand Lodge institution. Yet in a paraphrase of the well known statement that "all politics is local," I expect that many of you also would agree that "Freemasonry is local" as well. The value of the local blue lodge, in its community, and to its members is fundamental to our success. I look for-

ward to working for you in this regard.

I have had the good fortune with my vocation to see many of the beautiful places and natural resources of North Carolina and in doing so, I have to become acquainted with a number of very fine people across this great State. I've often looked for the lodges in towns and remote places, and on a few occasions, have visited. I look forward to becoming acquainted with more of you, which this opportunity provides.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve. Bottom line, I'm just an old ranger that greatly enjoys what Freemasonry offers us all, and I pledge to you my fervency and zeal in this office. Thank you.

World Conference Held in India



NEW DELHI, India — Grand Master Charles A. Lewis Jr. attended the Sixth World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges here in November. Grand lodges from more than 30 countries were represented at the two-day conference.

Chief guest L. M. Singhvi cited the "universal character" of Freemasonry and exhorted those present to "work together for the good of humankind, peace, and solidarity."

Indian Grand Master Dilip Dwarkadas Udeshi explained the conference: "The world conference of Grand Lodges provides and international forum for interaction amongst the world leaders of Freemasonry for further improvement of the institution." Wide ranging views and suggestions from around the world contribute to better understanding and solutions.

Those who attend are always impressed by the variety of Freemasonry — the way that regional interests and character can affect the face of Masonry — the differences that brotherhood can bridge.

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Several residents of our Home for Children take a look at the kitchen, top, of one of the new cottages nearing completion, above.



How to Help the Vision Campaign

There are two words that are as important as any gift, whether it is big or small, elaborate or simple, given once or pledged over time. These words, "thank you," express appreciation, joy, heart, and acceptance. W. J. Cameron once stated, "Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action." With the Vision Building Campaign, the Masonic Home for Children has the opportunity, as well as the obligation, to truly make "thanks" a word of action.

Our vision includes a goal of \$7 million, which will fund the first phase of our building project. But our vision also includes the goal to recognize those Lodges, individuals, friends, family, and loved ones who have given of themselves to fund the building of new homes for our children.

A special group of individuals, made up

of Oxford Orphanage alumni, employees of the Home, and Masonic leaders, came together for the very purpose of defining ways to recognize those who contribute to our Vision Campaign. Their mission — to recognize every gift, from \$1 to \$1 million in a special and lasting way.

Outlined here are some of the exciting ways our Home will be recognizing you, our supporters and friends, for your contribution to our Vision Campaign.

Naming of a Home The Haven Builder — \$500,000

Our Home is honored to recognize those who contribute to the construction of one or more homes, by allowing exclusive nam-

See VISION HELP, Page 6