

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Lin Spears, KCCH

Thanks to all Scottish Rite Masons in the Richmond Valley for their patience. Things are starting to come around with some live meetings and events. The attendance has been low and this is understandable. Some people are just not comfortable going out yet.

We had a virtual installation in February, but we still needed to elect and install our Junior Warden at a Tiled meeting. We did this at the April Stated Meeting. We now have a full line of officers.

We have some that still need to pay their dues. We cannot afford to lose any members. If you have not sent your dues, please do so as soon as possible.

The Spring Reunion in memory of Ill. Malcolm R. Holley Jr., 33°, will be this month. The Reunion will be held in our dining room the same as last fall. We look forward to several new Masters of the Royal Secret.

Ill. Sam Dunn, 33°, is to be commended for all of his hard work involving the potential sale of our building. The trip to the Winston-Salem Valley in N. Carolina was extremely informative. Hopefully this will be of help to our Valley in the changeover process.

The Childhood Language Center is very busy helping children with communication difficulties. The Center and the Valley continue to be creative in assisting our youth to be able to communicate.

We are fortunate to have the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia as a member of our Valley and the experience of our Valley Representative and Secretary definitely are an asset to the Valley. Thank you to all who are assisting in moving the Valley forward.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, KCCH

During my journey through the Master Craftsmen program, I continue to find significant and interesting teachings in the Rose Croix degrees. The 16th Degree, Prince of Jerusalem, concerns itself with Zerubbabel and his return to Babylon to seek permission from King Darius to resume the construction of the second Temple. While there, a debate occurs where Zerubbabel wins the day by proclaiming truth greater than wine, kings, or women, and therefore his request is granted. He then returns to Jerusalem laden with many gifts and money to resume the building.

Besides King Solomon, Zerubbabel is mentioned in more Masonic degrees than anyone else. Why is he important? What can we learn from his words? In today's society, the existence of absolute truth is under constant attack. It is hard to know what to believe when we see and hear so many variations of stories and accounts of events. Even science and the evidence of our eyes and ears seem to be in dispute. When Jesus appeared before Pilate and said he had come to testify to the truth, Pilate responded "What is truth?" Words that many people believe and utter today.

As Freemasons, we know the absolute truth and where it is found. When we first became Entered Apprentices, we were taught that the Holy Bible is a great light in Masonry and the rule and guide of our faith. Later in the degree, we learn that truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. What is the truth? The truth as proclaimed in the 18th Degree and others is that God is in charge, that all secret things will become known, and that righteousness will be rewarded. That truth comes from the Holy Bible, the divinely inspired word of God.

When I was a young Mason in Waynesboro, the Secretary of Lee Lodge No. 209 was Right Worshipful Ray R. Turner. He seemed as old as Methuselah to me and had a raspy voice. But, I have never forgotten his words almost 40 years ago when he gave me my Masonic Bible: "If you read this Book carefully and study its teachings, you will find the answer to every one of life's problems within its pages." Since then, as a Lodge Secretary for a number of years, I have always used the same profound words when I do Bible presentations.

Now that the pandemic is lessening, I encourage you to continue to study the Holy Bible and our Scottish Rite degrees and enjoy the many lessons therein. "Go and do likewise".

**SCOTTISH RITE
MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, May 24, 2021

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
Program to be announced

Monday, June 28, 2021

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
Education Night

**RICHMOND VALLEY
COMING EVENTS**

— 2021 —

MAY

Sunday 9 Mother's Day
Monday 24 Stated Meeting
Monday 31 Memorial Day
 Office Closed

JUNE

Sunday 20 Father's Day
Monday 28 Stated Meeting

JULY

Monday 5 Independence Day
 Observed - Office Closed

Wednesday 14 Honour Court

NO STATED MEETING IN JULY

AUGUST

Monday 23 Stated Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Monday 6 Labor Day
 Office Closed
Monday 27 Stated Meeting

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°



Spring is a beautiful time of the year. The April showers have departed and we are now graced with our May flowers, along with all that yard work, blisters, and working your fingers to the bone that goes with the coming of spring.

Spring always brings changes. One change this year is our mailing address. Please note the new return address on your newsletter and copy it down for future reference. The new PO Box is as follows: PO Box 9581, Henrico, VA 23228-0581.

Our Spring Reunion in memory of Ill. Malcolm R. Holley, Jr., 33°, will shortly be over and we welcome the members of that class as new Masters of the Royal Secret in the Richmond Valley. To our new members, come often, be active and make new friends. In order to get the full value from your membership, you need to participate.

Our delinquent list is now down to 45 members who have not paid their 2020 dues. If you would like to help, stop by or call the office to see if there is anyone on the list that you can contact. Sometimes it only takes a friendly voice on the phone to remind a brother to pay his dues.

The programs for May and June are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember that there is NO MEETING IN JULY. The By-Laws provide that the Valley is dark in July and December. Your next newsletter will be the August issue, so please save this issue for reference and to remind you of upcoming events.

MASONIC HOME NOTES

Terry Hilton, KCCH, Development Director

Springtime at the Masonic Home

It is wonderful to be able to welcome spring at the Masonic Home and get outdoors to enjoy all the beautiful flowers and be with friends! It is an exciting time at the Home as there are many good things happening.

We have been named among the Top Workplace Awards for 2021 by the Richmond Times Dispatch. This is considered a major accomplishment especially given all the challenges our Home has faced over the past year. We thank our many dedicated employees for their hard work and valued feedback making this recognition possible.

The Chapel on the Campus has recently reopened for services, with residents in limited attendance. The great news is that with the help of Wor. Don Moro, the Grand Chaplain, the Masonic Home was blessed with a very generous donation of an organ for the Chapel. This is a wonderful gift that will be enjoyed by all for many years!

As we head through spring and into summer, be reminded of the residents at the Masonic Home. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we all hope for the day when we can once again get together for activities and fellowship. Thank you for your continuing support.

NOTES FROM THE CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER

Susan Combee, Executive Director^o

There are times throughout our lives when circumstances can become quite difficult...that our dreams or goals seem totally unreachable. There are times that we need that one extraordinary person to help us "push through" the tough situation and encourage us to "fight on" and conquer our challenges.

Interestingly, the difference between an extraordinary person and an ordinary person is that little **EXTRA!** Our clinicians and clients here at the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center give that little **EXTRA** each week in order to reach their goals. Over the past few months, four of our clients have graduated from the program! We celebrate with them on this huge accomplishment! We continue to help others "push through" and "fight on" to improve their communication skills. We are so proud of each of our clients and their families.

As one parent reports, "As a family we cannot begin to thank you for all you have done to help our son. We knew before his second birthday that he was struggling and behind in his speech development. As first time parents, it is such a challenging time to know that your child might be falling behind. The financial assistance offered to us has allowed us to give our son the priceless gift of an amazing speech therapist, and a speech therapy community that we know supports him immensely. Since October our son has gone from basically 100% unintelligible with few words, to a little boy who will speak in sentences. Because of our therapist, the staff at Scottish Rite, and the tools we have learned to implement at home, our son is thriving! We cannot thank you enough."

Gifts from caring people like you help assist families who are so desperate to hear their children say, "I love you" or "Can you help me?". YOU can make a positive impact on a child's life. Please consider providing a monthly donation so that a child can receive a much needed therapy session. We, and those we serve, sincerely appreciate your generosity!

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33^o

By the time you read this newsletter, that has more questions than answers, we will be under contract for the sale of the building to The Virginia Repertory Theatre. This would be a client that would be embraced by the Hermitage Road Historic District Association and would be a great compliment to our very own Childhood Language Center.

A contract does not mean sale. There are many obstacles to overcome to turn a contract into a sale. I have worked long and hard with the Theatre trying to help with any obstacles so things will go as smooth as possible.

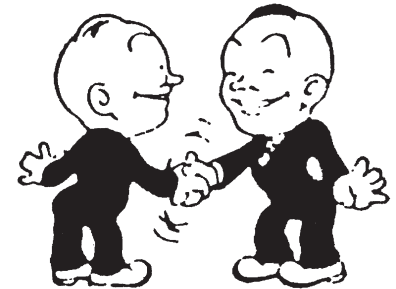
As I look out the window, I see mommy and daddy bluebirds that just gave birth to four beautiful children. They are working hard to care for their children. It is a team effort and they are working harmoniously to provide for their new family. In the other corner of the yard is mommy bunny with her young one, teaching the baby how to survive in this cold cruel world.

The trees just 30 days ago were bare now they are full of new leaves and branches. All of these things remind me that spring is a time of renewal.

With restrictions being eased, now is the time to get back into your Blue Lodge and appendant bodies and help to build up our great Fraternity. We need to set our own personal feelings and desires aside, concentrate on acting like Masons and work together to the benefit of Freemasonry. When I attend a meeting, it is to meet and enjoy fraternal fellowship. If we can all get together and pull on the rope, rather than ½ pulling and ½ pushing, we will be so much better off.

Again, I ask if you have any questions or comments please give me a call at 804-370-1861. Thanks for all you do for Masonry. God bless you, God bless the Rite and God bless this great United States of America.

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



TO INVITE HIM TO BECOME
A SCOTTISH RITE MASON. . .
DON'T DISAPPOINT HIM.

NEW VALLEY MAILING ADDRESS

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MEMBERSHIP

CHARLES ROBINSON, 33°, CHAIRMAN

It is nice to be able to get together for some fellowship. I hope that over the next few months, we will be able to add dinners, programs and a much larger attendance.

Our last two reunions, the fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021 were different from any we have ever had. These new members did not get the opportunity to meet many of us at their Reunion. Let us all take the time to seek out the new members, introduce ourselves, find out what their interests are and, most importantly, make them feel welcome. Be the example to them, which someone was to you!

It is time to roll up our sleeves, not just to get to work, but also to have fun. I hope all of you have a great summer, and when you run into a Brother you think would enjoy being a Scottish Rite Mason, give him a Petition!

Called from Labor

WILLIAM LEE ALLEY

1952 - 2021

CARLTON DAVID BEACH

1942 - 2021

RICHARD THEODORE BISHOP, SR.

1943 - 2021

ROBERT LLOYD CLIFTON

1940 - 2021

JOHN ANDREW EMORY, SR.

1958 - 2021

NORMAN HOMER FRINK

1927 - 2010

ARTHUR BERNARD GREGORY, SR.

1930 - 2021

ROBERT SPENCE LAWRENCE

1921 - 2021

JACK DEMPSEY MACE

1927 - 2021

JOHNSON CLINTON MOSS, JR.

1929 - 2021

JAMES WILLIE NUNNALLY

1926 - 2021

GROVER WILLIAM RIDDLE, JR.

1937 - 2019

CLARENCE EDWARD WHITLEY

1926 - 2021

Virtus Junxit-Mors non Separabit

"whom virtue has united, Death will not separate"

FELLOWSHIP REPORTS

Please take a moment and communicate with our shut-in Brethren either by card or a phone call. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness and you will feel better for it.

NEW SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Jake Hattan

Moultrie "Buddy" Lanier

Charles Thomas Sykes

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