

# THE SPRIG

DECEMBER 2013

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 18 Issue 12

Exit, Stage Left by David P Stuard, Jr. WM

## 2013 OFFICERS

David P. Stuard Jr. W M  
Douglas Hall S W  
RW Jeffery L. Hall J W  
WB Art Ford Treasurer  
WB Jack Coker Secretary  
Jason Eric Crowe S D  
Art Nebliker J D  
Eddie Hill Steward  
Howard Wood Steward  
Wayne C. Smith Jr.  
Chaplain  
Thomas Baker Tyler  
Charles Marthers Organist



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication  
and Installation of Officers  
12/5

Proposed Masters Degree  
12/19

### PLEASE NOTE

The Installation Ceremony  
will this year be open to all  
Masons, family, guests and  
to anyone else interested  
in our Great Fraternity  
Dinner is at 6:30. Join us.

## LODGE CONTRIBUTORS

This month include

Alton R. Blanks  
David H. Clamp  
Frank C, Varn  
WB James A. Neal  
and  
RW Jeffrey L. Hall

Thank you Brothers,  
your generosity is an  
example to us all.

Seasons Greetings brothers. Yes, it's that time of year again, and although until just this weekend the Carolina weather remained deceptively warm, there are to be seen many signs that the year is coming to an end, and that with it, as winter follows autumn, my own tenure as Worshipful Master of Acacia Lodge draws at last to a close. I do not regret this, it is as natural as the turning of the leaves, and in fact, just as necessary, for our lodge's continued growth requires that the charge of maintaining our venerable traditions must be passed on, and be refreshed, from time to time, with the influx of young minds and new ideas to bolster the old so that, like the evergreen which is our namesake, our ancient craft may be renewed with each coming spring, and that our happy labors and patient instructions may foster a new generation of leaders able and willing to take up the Stewardship of our legacy. This is as it should be.

It was in this spirit that, at the close of our regular communication on Nov. 7th, we also held our election of Lodge officers for the upcoming year. This was done a month early because this year we have decided that our installation of officers on December 5th, a ceremony typically held in conjunction with the elections themselves, would now be opened to our friends and family, many of whom have expressed curiosity as to how their husbands and fathers have been spending their Thursday nights, and I might add, upon whose love and support we, as Masons, draw upon most deeply (as evidenced by our recent Ladies night and awards banquet, which many of you attended). As is traditional on the last, first Thursday of the year, I, as outgoing Master, will be in charge of the catering, and I hope you will all attend. Dinner will be at 6:30, at 7:30 the lodge will be opened in due form, after which guests will be invited to join us upstairs for the swearing-in of officers and their appointees. This new line-up consists of WB Lyth B. Clark, reprising his 2006 term as Worshipful Master, yours truly as Senior Warden, and new affiliate Jamie Sanders, who sat in the West at Shandon Lodge, as Junior Warden. Most notably, WB Richard Minor will be taking over as Secretary when WB Jack L. Coker retires his pen after so many years of service. This Lodge truly owes you a lot, Jack. Thank you.

Christmas is a season of hope, and I, upon taking office last winter, was filled with hope for the future of our Lodge, although to read my articles and postings at the time, you may have thought me otherwise. I wrote of fear and worry, of loss and decline, and of my concern that Acacia, like too many other lodges of late, might fall by the wayside, while in my heart, I never ceased to hope that, with your help, still she might prevail, and that our fate yet lay in a better tomorrow. I now declare that, thanks to you my brothers, this hope has led to fruition. Many of you are returning to lodge, filling our chairs and our spirits with fraternal brotherhood, and bringing with you the joy and love that this season embodies. I do not take credit for this, I merely wrote. You are the strength and support of our lodge. You have saved her, and I thank you all for a wonderful year. Sincerely, David P. Stuard, Jr. Worshipful Master (ret.)

Even so, we in like manner, as soon as we were born, began to draw to our end — Solomon

**ACACIA LODGE #94**  
 is located at  
 1518 HAMPTON ST  
 COLUMBIA, SC 29201  
 OFFICE HOURS  
 MON-THURS 9AM-2PM  
**(803) 256-2538**

Regular communications  
 held every first Thursday  
 at 7:30 (dinner at 6:30)



**SICK AND DISTRESSED**

**Bro. Roger W. Doyon**  
**WB Don Michie**  
**WB Jim Neal**  
 and  
**RW Jeffrey L. Hall**

**DECEMBER  
 BRITHDAYS**

- 1 Howard Wood
- 4 Grover Lynch
- 5 Don Cousins, Sr
- 5 James Curtis
- 5 Anthony Smith
- 6 Thomas Downing II
- 7 John Dickerson
- 8 Lemuel Knight
- 11 Andres Goza
- 11 Douglas Mathis, Jr.
- 12 Loren Wise
- 15 Jack Parker, Sr.
- 17 Ryan Woodall
- 20 Preston McDaniel II
- 25 William Dearman
- 25 David Stuard, Jr.
- 27 Brian Gibbs
- 29 Howard Ingle
- 30 Don McLemore
- 31 Clark Cowser

On November 14th, Acacia Lodge celebrated its annual Ladies Night and Awards Banquet, and with a tip of the hat to RW Jeffrey L. Hall, who coordinated the event, I must say it was a complete success in all respects. I was pleased to see so many in attendance. and I met several of our oldest members for the first time, along with family members and many friends old and new. Dinner was excellent, being well and capably tendered by brother Mike Morrow of Hilda Catering, and WB Layne Waters gave an interesting lecture on Masonic aspects of the CSS Hunley. The evening's true purpose, however, was to honor our ladies and to pay our respects to those members whose work behind the scenes has carried Acacia Lodge to the 21st century. I'm referring, of course, to WB Thomas L. "Jack" Coker, who is hanging up his hat as secretary of Acacia after over a dozen years in office. The lodge's tribute to Jack seemed small when compared to his years of devoted service, and we are all grateful to him for his labors and for his guidance. Jack was also awarded his 50 year pin, as well as a special presentation, a medal from the Republic of South Korea, in honor of his military service. Also receiving awards were 40 Year Members Charles A. Marthers, Preston F. McDaniel II, and Austin P. Turbeville, Jr. 50 Year pins went to James T. Davis, Larry P. Collins, Earnest B. Andrews, James W. Dugger, and Kenneth P. Halvelks Sr. The Reverend Ewell C. Black received his 60 year award and John Dickerson received an amazing 70 year membership award. Congratulations to you all.

**A CHILD IS BORN - a Christmas poem by Art Nebiker, Junior Deacon**

**A CHILD IS BORN**

The Heavens did open  
 The Angels did sing  
 The Kings did bring  
 The Shepherds did follow  
 This Majesty did happen  
 To celebrate the child  
 Rejoice and be glad

The Star did shine and  
 Heaven was on Earth  
 To celebrate the birth  
 The firmament trumpeted  
 Announcing the triumph  
 To celebrate the child  
 Rejoice and be glad

That long ago night  
 With Glory from above  
 Brings light and love  
 To all who must follow  
 This Majesty did happen  
 To celebrate the child  
 Rejoice and be glad

The Trumpeting  
 From the firmament  
 Calls to the Highest  
 The sight of man  
 To love each other  
 Be kind to each other  
 To celebrate the child  
 Rejoice and be glad

Shed darkness with  
 His light  
 Bring love where there  
 Is none  
 Do good works in his  
 Teachings  
 That child is a part of you  
 Rejoice and be glad

Arthur W. Nebiker, 1991

**I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year — Charles Dickens**