

THE SPRIG

DECEMBER 2014

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREEMASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Vol 19 Issue 12

Tidings from the East by WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr. Worshipful Master

2014 OFFICERS

WB Lyth B. Clark Jr. WM
WB David P Stuard Jr SW
James A. Sanders J W
WB Art B Ford Treasurer
WB Richard G. Miner
Secretary
Eddie Hill Sr Deacon
Giff Carpenter Jr Deacon
Eric Lloyd Steward
WB Thomas A. Baker
Steward
WB Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain
Randy Edwards Tyler
Charles A. Marthers
Organist

By the time the members of Acacia #94 read this, Thanksgiving will have just passed. Plans are made for December, viz. what remains of this year. There will be a Master's Degree on the second Thursday, December 11th. Do take a look at your calendars to see if you might be free.

The election of officers for the new Masonic year took place in the Business Meeting in November. In December's Business Meeting, we will have an open installation of those elected and those to be appointed. I wish all the best to the incoming Master, WB Thomas L. Coker. My time is past, and I am honored for having been asked to serve.

The New Year fast approaches, and the work remains, that of improving ourselves and the world around us. We are helping something so much bigger than ourselves and the grandest fraternity in the world. I hope to...

See you in Lodge.

WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr.



DATES TO REMEMBER

12/4

Regular Communication
and
Open Installation of
Officers for 2015
Guests Welcome

Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

12/11

Proposed Master
Mason Degree

Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

From the Secretary's Desk by Worshipful Brother Richard G. Miner

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. I'm looking forward to the Christmas Season and to all of the special activities that make this time of year special.

As you know I had foot surgery on Nov 20th. The surgery went well, however I am not recovering as fast as I had hoped. I was planning on being at the December Business Meeting, but the doctor said to stay off my foot and keep the swelling down.

A reminder: We still have five brothers who have not paid their 2014 dues. I have sent certified notices to each of them. Their names will be read at the December meeting and they do have until the end of December before becoming NPD.

An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest — Benjamin Franklin

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)



**DECEMBER
 BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Howard Wood
- 5 WB James L. Curtis
- 5 Anthony Smith
- 6 WB W. Thomas
Downing, III
- 7 John Dickerson
- 8 Lemuel Knight
- 10 J. Eddie Hill
- 11 Douglas Mathis, Jr
- 11 Andres Goza
- 12 Loren Wise
- 15 Jack Parker, Sr.
- 17 Ryan Woodall
- 20 Preston McDaniel II
- 25 William Dearman
- 25 WB David Stuard Jr
- 27 Brian Gibbs
- 29 Howard Ingle
- 30 Don McLemore
- 31 Clark Cowsert

As you know, our election of officers was held at our last regular communication, and in my opinion, the resulting lineup represents the best outcome possible, in terms of solidarity. For the first time in several years, all of the chairs will be filled with rising stars, up-and-comers who earned their places through participation and proficiency, ready to take up the oars and steer our ship forward. We have cleared the rocks, with open seas ahead, nicely making way.

Those elected to serve in 2015 were Brother Eddie Hill, moving up from Senior Deacon to superintend the brethren in the South, and taking over the West (my favorite seat in the house) is Brother Jamie A. Sanders, reprising the role he played at Shandon Lodge. The duties of Treasurer and Secretary will remain in the capable hands of Worshipful Brothers Art Ford and Richard Miner. Lastly, every vessel needs a captain, and who better than WB Jack Coker, who has guided this lodge for decades. With his experienced hand at the helm, I believe a return to our former greatness is within our reach. These officers will be installed on Dec. 4, in a ceremony open to all comers, at which time they will make their appointments for Deacons and Stewards. Me? My watch is over. I will be retiring to a berth in the south, just another scurvy brother. Come join me, won't you? Your ship - uh, Lodge Mates, will be glad to see you.

The Need for Third Class Masons by Worshipful Brother Tom Davis

Are you a third class mason? I believe that masonry would be improved if we had more members who are third class masons. Before you get upset, let me explain my reasoning. In the days when the west was being settled, the major mode of transportation was the stagecoach. Then, like the modern airplanes, the stagecoach company was selling three different class tickets. Why, you may wonder, would a traveler pay a higher price only to ride in the same open air coach, over the same rough roads, enduring the same hazards as the lower paying traveler? The answer was that when something happened to the coach, perhaps a broken wheel that needed replacing, or assistance in repairing the lines that guided the horses, if you had purchased a first class ticket, you could stay on the coach while the repairs were being made. If you purchased a second class ticket, you had to leave the coach, and could go sit under a tree, playing cards or even sleeping while the repairs were completed. But, if you purchased a third class ticket, not only did you have to leave the coach, you had to assist in making the repairs. You actually had to participate in the work that needed to be done. So I ask again – are you that third class mason that makes our fraternity work? Are you participating in the degree work by learning a part, and willingly accepting committee assignments. Are you being an active member by attending the lodge meetings? We must all be viewed as first class masons by those in our communities, but in order to become better members we need to try to become more like those third class western travelers and get our hands actively involved in our lodges.

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it — Winston Churchill



This month the Sprig of Acacia Trestleboard brought in several messages, as well as a few photos. Thank you all for sending these. I think it is a great way for brothers to stay in touch with each other and with the lodge. Keep 'em coming — ed.

From our Chaplin, Worshipful Brother Wayne C. Smith:

My wife, Betty, who is on the Flower Guild, prepared this arrangement for the Thanksgiving Day religious service at the St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church. It has become a tradition at the church to hold the Thanksgiving Morning Prayer Service at 10:00 a.m. before the congregation goes to the usual Thanksgiving Dinners and Football Games.

Fraternally, Wayne C. Smith, Jr.

I'm sure they appreciated it Brother, thanks for sharing it with us.

WB Smith also writes:

During the summer of 1976, a seedling from a Japanese Red Maple that stood beside the Post Chapel at Fort Totten, New York, was placed in the pocketbook of Betty, the wife of WB Wayne Smith and brought to Columbia, South Carolina.

This seedling became the magnificent Japanese Red Maple now standing in our yard. WB Wayne Smith had just retired from the United States Army and then found his way to make home in Columbia, SC.

There can't be too many of these in Columbia, I'll wager. — ed.

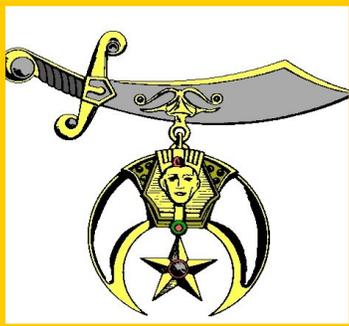
From the coast, Worshipful Brother Wanzer Drane writes:

This is John Wanzer Drane, PM and LM in LA, TX, and SC. I became a Shriner on 1 Nov 2014 in the Oasis Orient that is seated in Charlotte NC and covers the western 50 Counties of NC. I do not know what I will do just yet, but I do know I can't spend the time and effort it would require for ritual work in the Blue lodge, Scottish Rite, or Knights Templar, so I have chosen a route in Masonry that I feel I can be useful at my age of 81 and beyond. Shriners have but one objective, and that is to fund their hospitals for children and to have a good time among themselves. Surely there is a place for me.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

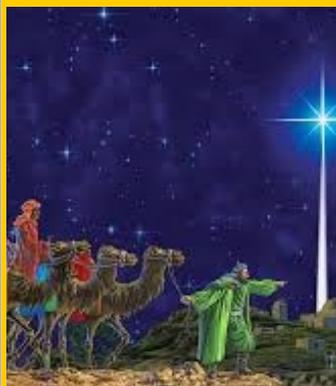
So mote it be, Wanzer.

And one more happy note — Our newly elected Master, Worshipful Brother Thomas L. "Jack" Coker and his wife Carol will be celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary on December 18th. Congratulations to you both on this milestone and to Jack on his return to the East. We wish you all the best.



**SICK AND
DISTRESSED**

WB Don Michie
WB Jim Neal
Charles A. Marthers
and our Secretary
WB Richard Miner
recovering from his
recent foot surgery



Acacia Lodge #94
Wishes each and
every one of you a
very Merry Christmas
and a happy and
prosperous
New Year.
and hopes you will
join us in 2015.
It promises to be a
Great Year for
Freemasonry
and for this lodge
in particular.

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

— Bro. Arthur Nebiker

And know that I am with you, yes always, to the end of time — Jesus Christ