

THE SPRIG

JANUARY 2012

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 17 Issue 1

2012 OFFICERS

Jeffrey Hall WM
Richard Miner SW
Doug Hall JW
Art Ford Treas.
Jack Coker Sec.
Thomas Rotureau SD
John Rotureau JD
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain
Eric Crowe Stew
Art Nebiker Stew
Thomas Baker Tyler
Charles Marthers Organ

DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication
1/5
Fellow Craft Practice 1/12
Fellow Craft Degree 1/19

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jack Parker, Jr.
Dr. J. Leonard Baiser
Samuel E. G. Linyard
G. Larry Railey
Jason E. Chittum
Charles D. Williamson
Robert K. Strickland
Thomas Monahan
James T. Davis



FROM THE EAST By JEFF HALL, WM

Welcome to the 2012 Masonic Year Brethren. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas with friends and family. I enjoy this time of year and all of the opportunities to get together with loved ones. As a York Rite Mason, I was also able to enjoy a couple of the Knights Templar Christmas Observances around the state. This is a beautiful ceremony that is open to the public and all of the Sir Knights are in full Templar uniform, a very impressive site indeed. I have just returned from a visit with my family in Louisiana for the Holidays. I look forward to being with the family at Christmas and seeing the familiar sites that I remember growing up. There is nothing like being home for the Holidays. As the 2011 year has come to a close, it is now time to look ahead to a new year. 2011 was a very good year for Acacia Lodge. We raised a good number of

new Brothers and had one or two affiliate with us. Some of these Brothers are taking active parts in the Lodge as Officers or learning some of the work. It is great to see this enthusiasm in our Lodge. I am looking forward to another great year in 2012. I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Worshipful Master in 2011. I am also extremely honored to have been re-elected to serve in this honored position, once again, in 2012. I very much enjoyed my time in the East last year and I look forward to being with you all in Lodge in the upcoming months. Sadly, we had quite a few of our members pass on to the Grand Lodge above this past year, the latest of which was WB William Rotureau Sr. PM. He laid down his working tools just before the Christmas Holiday and will be missed. I know he was

very proud of his two sons, John and Tom, who are both Deacons in Acacia Lodge this year. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Brethren, thank you for a terrific year. I am excited about our future and all that it holds for us. Hopefully, we will continue gaining members this year. We have two Brothers that should be ready to be passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft in the next several weeks. Come on out and join us help confer this beautiful Degree on these deserving Brothers. I want to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2012. Thank you for all you do for our great Fraternity and for your Lodge in particular. May the Blessings of Heaven continue to rest upon you and your families. God Bless and Happy New Year!
Fraternally,
Jeff Hall WM

FROM THE WEST By RICHARD MINER, PM

Greeting from the West. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I consider it an honor to again server as your Senior Warden for this year. I am looking forward to another great year in our Lodge. I will also edit the Sprig again this year and I encourage everyone to submit articles and make suggestions

to improve our communication with those brother who are not able to attend lodge on a regular basis. There are some brothers who many of us have never had the opportunity to meet and get to know. It would be great if some of these brothers would take time to write a short bio telling about your accomplishments. Include a little known fact about yourself.

something about your likes or dislikes As terrible as this sounds many of us never hear all of the great things a brother has accomplished until we read it in his obituary. I will publish each of these bio in the YOUR SPACE section of the Sprig. Looking forward to seeing you in lodge.

THIS MONTH'S DONATIONS

W/B Hugh J. Bickley
 W/B Thomas A. Baker
 Roger W. Doyon
 Frank C. Varn
 Arthur W. Nebiker
 Mrs. Jewel Stevens in honor of Acacia Lodge and in memory of Bro Dean Stevens

Thank you brethren

SICK AND DISTRESS:

Remember the family of W/B William T. Rotureau, Sr. in the passing of their father

W/B Bill was life member of Acacia. He was also a member of both the York and Scottish Rite Bodies

Jack Coker has had two strokes and is currently recuperating at home. Keep Jack and Carol in your prayers.



Scenes from Ladies and Awards Night

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK By Jack Coker, PM

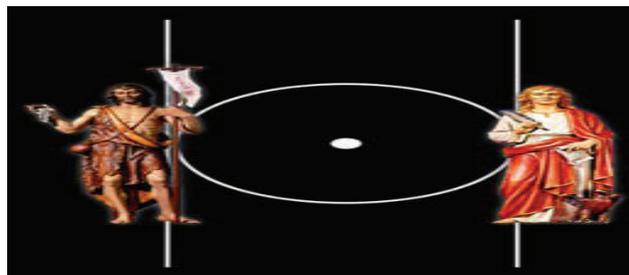
Brethren we have 29 members who have not paid their 2012 dues. Please keep in mind that you will not be in good standing after December 31, 2011.

YOUR SPACE ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY Richard Miner, PM

This is an article I found on the internet explaining the Masonic meaning of St John the Evangelist Day. Hope you enjoy it.

December 27th is Saint John the Evangelist Day, the 2nd feast day in the year to celebrate the Holy Saints John. The date of the holiday marks the winter solstice, and is directly opposite Saint John the Baptist's day marking the summer solstice in June, thus completing the cycle of the solar year.

But why was John the Evangelist Masonically chosen? Was it because he represents the counter balance of John the Baptist, and the opposite pillar of a point within the circle that all masons endeavor to emulate in their physical and spiritual being that of balancing ones desires and passions in the pursuit of knowledge.

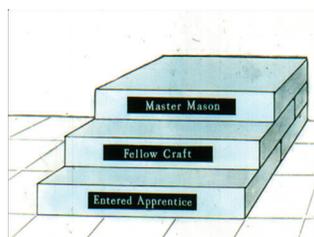


I cannot answer that question nor can anyone of us but could it be the Holy Saints John, represent zeal and equilibrium on the both sides of the circle.

St John the Evangelist is also called the Apostle of Charity, which may be in part, his connection to Freemasonry. Or perhaps it is his unwavering resolve and purity for his love of the divine. The message then to be taken from John the Evangelist is to "Apply yourself, to purity of heart, and you shall be like Saint John, and you shall be filled with heavenly wisdom."

The feast of St John's Day is little remembered today. It was once a high feast day for Freemasonry because of its proximity to the holidays and the lodge members being close to home. It gave them a festival to meet under to punctuate the closing of the year. Meeting like this however is something that is not so convenient in this modern day where many travel during the holidays.

So the days following Christmas, pause for a moment to reflect and remember the feast day of Saint John the Evangelist, that pillar on the opposite side of John the Baptist balancing that circumscribed a point within a circle.



THANKS TO THE 2011 OFICERS FOR YOUR SERVICE

