

THE SPRIG

AUGUST 2013

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 18 Issue 8

Many Glad Tidings from the East 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 Nebiker J D
Eddie Hill Steward
Howard Wood Steward
Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain



DATES TO REMEMBER

Fellowcraft Degree
7/18

Master Mason Degree
7/25

Regular Communication
8/1

Proposed Degree Work
EA 8/8
Masters 8/22

AUGUST BRITHDAYS

2 James Rauch Jr.
4 Cecil Sveum
7 Kenneth Havelks, Sr
11 William Martin
12 Jason Johnson
14 Richard Cobbs
16 Charles Belcher
19 Thomas L. Coker
20 Richard Hazekamp
25 David Coates
25 Jared Smith
27 Roy Johnson
29 William Dawson

Greetings brethren. Hope you all had a happy 4th of July holiday. We have had a busy summer so far, with more degree work than I can remember us having in recent years, and I pray this trend continues for as long as I sit in the East. Our new Master Masons, Brothers Olin Longino, Randy Edwards, and Giff Carpenter all seem ready and able to assume active roles in Lodge. Brother Edwards has been standing in for vacationing WB Tommy Baker as Tyler, a position he has expressed interest in continuing, and most recently. Brother Giff Carpenter stood a most excellent Master's proficiency at our business meeting last week. He told me he plans to put his new Ahiman Rezon to good use, beginning with the Entered Apprentice Apron Lecture. Our other new members are studying hard as well, with Brother Reese Way giving a very good demonstration of proficiency on his recent passage to the second degree, and Brother Eric Lloyd, our newest addition, set to do the same just a few days hence. I have no doubt that he will also do well, as he seems determined to complete his studies and will soon become the youngest Master Mason Acacia has ever raised.

We are continuing to represent our lodge throughout the region, traveling through much of the 8th and 10th district including regular stops at Lexington and Pacific Lodges. Brother Lloyd and I attended an Entered Apprentice degree at Dentsville Lodge this week, in preparation for his proficiency this Thursday, and as always, were made very welcome. They still have our Kitchen Flag, a situation I intend to remedy before our next newsletter. Most importantly, I must mention that on July 9th a delegation from Acacia including myself, Worshipful Brother and Tyler Tommy Baker, Junior Deacon Art Nebiker, and Brother Giff Carpenter accompanied Right Worshipful Jeffrey L. Hall to Sinclair Lodge #154, for the official visit of our Grand Master, the Most Worshipful David J. DeChant and his party. He gave a very inspiring talk, and left me feeling both hopeful and confident about the direction of the craft for the next two years.

I am also very pleased to report on the success of our annual St John the Baptist Fish Fry, coordinated by Right Worshipful Hall and the good sisters of Eastern Star chapter 59. The cooking chores were expertly handled by Claude Leitner, assisted by our own Brothers Doug Hall and Giff Carpenter. I was present, with my daughter Angel and nearly had to be rolled out on a dolly. I am told that this was the most successful such event yet held, nearly doubling last year's totals. Our thanks and praise go out to RW Hall, Sister Carol Coker and all others involved, and I look forward to next year with hot sauce in hand.

And lastly, it is my pleasing duty to inform you all of the joining of Right Worshipful Jeffrey L. Hall and Miss Melinda McCormick in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, July 13th, in the Church of the Good Shepard, just a few blocks from the Lodge. Standing with him were Worshipful Brothers Layne Waters, Best Man, and Dean Strickland, Groomsman, with many others of our fraternity present including RW's Charles Schofield and Acy Flora, past and present 8th District Deputy Grand Masters, and several brothers from Acacia, including Worshipful Brother Jack and Mrs. Carol Coker, WB Richard Minor, Junior Deacon Art Nebiker and myself, and with our own Brother Randy Edwards acting in his professional capacity as Photographer. I, and all of Acacia Lodge #94 wish them a long and joyful life together although I must note that this seems a forgone conclusion, as I can testify truly that I have never seen Brother Jeff look happier. Congratulations my friend, and may the Blessings of Heaven be upon you and yours. Oh and go ahead and take an extra week or so off for your honeymoon. I'll write you a note for your boss. I'll say that you're too well to come in.

Lord, let me seek not so much to be loved, as to love – St Francis of Assisi

ACACIA LODGE #94

1518 HAMPTON ST
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

(803) 256-2538
OFFICE HOURS
MON-THURS 9AM-2PM

**SICK AND DISTRESSED**

WB Don Michie
Bro Roger Doyon
and
Mrs. Jane Grigg, Mother
of Brothers Doug and
Right Worshipful Jeff Hall

OBITUARIES
Robert Waites July 10

Brothers, we are still trying to restore our Lodge E-mail list which was lost recently due to a computer crash. Please contact WB Richard Minor at rminor@sc.rr.com or myself at akhenaton1707@gmail.com and update your contact information. It only takes a minute and would enable us to reach all of you so much more efficiently.

My Masonic Membership Card — Reprinted from Knight Templar Magazine

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper, 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches in size. It is of no intrinsic worth, not a bond, not a check or receipt for valuables, yet it is my most prized possession. It is my membership in a Masonic Lodge.

It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual kinship with my fellow Masons to practice charity in word and deed; to forgive and forget the faults of my brethren; to hush the tongues of scandal and innuendo; to care for the crippled, the hungry, and the sick, and to be fair and just to all mankind.

It tells me that no matter where I may travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among brothers and friends.

It tells me that my loved ones, my home and my household are under the protection of every member of this great Fraternity, who have sworn to protect and defend mine, as I have sworn to protect and defend theirs.

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune, through no fault of my own, the hands of every Mason on the face of the earth will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

And finally it tells me that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered around my lifeless body friends and brothers who will recall to mind my virtues, though they be but few, and will forget my faults, though they be many.

It tells me that and a great deal more, this little card, and makes me proud, yet humble, that I can possess this passport into a society of friends and brothers that are numbered in the millions.

MASONIC EDUCATION By ART NEBIKER, 32nd Degree, Junior Deacon

Man has always asked the question - what is the meaning of life, why am I here, what is the purpose of it all? The fundamental and most basic response is, simply put, to learn, to continually develop and grow, to enhance and to enrich your life and the lives of your fellow man in all matters, spiritually, scientifically and socially, with a care and concern for all things living. To strive for perfection, an ever out-reaching goal. Freemasonry provides the essential working tools to help make this happen, both by receiving Light and by generating more Light. And we are indeed obliged to assist the Widow's Son. The very word "Enlightenment" is in itself most special; in the Middle Ages men were punished, even killed for seeking Enlightenment, burned at the stake for daring to oppose accepted dogma - just to say that the Earth was not the center of the universe was a death sentence. Today, happily, we are, as Free and Accepted Masons, able to practice our Rights, Lights and Benefits without fear of persecution. At our Lodge Meetings all Masons are equal, welcomed and greeted in the Light of Masonic Fellowship. Enjoy our fraternal Brotherhood as we meet on the Level and share in the Light together as we honor Masons past and present, such as:

John Hancock -- Signer Dec. of Independence
Sam Houston -- President Republic Texas
Arthur Godfrey -- Radio Celebrity / Talk Show
James Bowie -- Frontiersman / Alamo
William Travis -- Frontiersman / Alamo
James Hoban -- Architect of the White House

Gene Autry -- Actor
W. C. Fields -- Actor
Will Rodgers -- Actor
Peter Sellers -- Actor
John Wayne -- Actor
Oliver Hardy -- Actor

Are you a Mason? I am so taken. What makes you a Mason? My obligations to widows & orphans, mankind in general and more especially to my fellow Masons. Strange - your fellow Masons would like to share in your obligations - but we need to sit in lodge together to share together. First Thursday—No reservations needed.

We understand why children fear the dark, but why do so many men fear the light? - Plato