



BEND LODGE #139 A.F. & A.M.
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WORSHIPFUL MASTER
 BRIAN CANADY

SENIOR WARDEN
 LEE RANSALL, PM

JUNIOR WARDEN
 MATT ALEXANDER

TREASURER
 JOHN PINCKNEY, PM

SECRETARY
 TERRY GRIFFITH

SENIOR DEACON
 RYAN DUFFY

JUNIOR DEACON
 STEVE KARPSTEIN, PM

SENIOR STEWARD
 SCOTT BRASHER

JUNIOR STEWARD
 TRACE HARRIS

CHAPLAIN
 DAVE JOHNSON, PM

TYLER

MARSHAL
 ED BOUSQUET, PGM, PM

HISTORIAN
 DALE CLAYPOOL

FACILITIES MANAGER
 JEAN STEVENS

**TRESTLEBOARD /
 WEBMASTER**
 NEIL MACKEY

From the East

Greetings Brethren...

These are indeed interesting and challenging times we find ourselves in as a society.

Case in point: over the Thanksgiving holiday I had a brief and disappointing discussion with a family member over the issue of homelessness. An obvious and serious societal concern, once we got beyond that basic point in the conversation, if it could be called that, my relative quickly became self-righteous, condescending and dismissive. I decided to just let it go but quickly realized this incident was emblematic of the larger issues of entrenchment, polarization and dismissiveness that seem to pervade so many important discussions in our country. I always enjoy a lively and thoughtful debate but didn't engage in one this instance, thinking instead about what Masonry teaches about the importance of *harmony*.

I have had many engaging discussions with Brothers over the years that have always been thoughtful, respectful and productive, the fraternity providing something of an oasis of calm wherein true communication can consistently take place. Over the past couple of weeks I have reflected on how much I value those conversations, knowing they will be civil and within due bounds - a seemingly simple expectation, but one not so readily evident in everyday life.

Our Masonic tool set provides us with many opportunities to ever live, walk and act as a Mason. As we apply our craft on a daily basis I encourage all of us to remember that the small things really do matter, maybe more so now than ever.

As my extended stay in the East comes to its conclusion I am confident in saying that our Lodge is consistently improving and the future is bright. My priorities have been



around addressing the foundational needs of our Lodge and setting it on a course upon which future Masters can build and expand without constant obstructions. One of those priorities was to develop a stable financial footing for the Lodge. Over the past year-plus we have adjusted our revenue model in a manner that affords the Lodge consistent and relatively dependable income that has exceeded our revenue goals and should provide opportunity to expand Lodge programs going forward.

Another priority has been to address the needs of our aging facility. While there is still much important work to be done, working together we have made many repairs and upgrades to our building that have improved the functionality and aesthetics of many areas of the Lodge. Just a few examples included repairs to the Lodge Room, the elimination of Lake Brotherhood, an overhaul of the Lodge apartment, a new wheelchair ramp and drainage system in the back, more paint applied inside and out than I care to remember and a new illuminated Lodge sign. It truly takes a team to accomplish these improvements and with continued effort to stay on top of issues we can all take pride in our facility while hopefully avoiding costly unplanned repairs in future years.

Inside the Lodge we raised three new Master Masons this year (Bros. Brasher, Lee and Harris) and were fortunate to have three of our own presented with their prestigious 50-Year Jewels (WB Claypool, WB Johnson and MWB Bousquet). We held numerous trainings, got a Lodge history lesson, went bowling and set off a lot of fireworks. We changed our By-Laws, enjoyed an award-winning Trestleboard, honored our Brothers who passed and benefitted more kids and families than ever before with our Bikes for Books and Christmas Food Packages programs. We actively engaged with our Brothers from Redmond Lodge in executing numerous degrees and somewhere along the line even managed to clear out some of the dusty and dark recesses within the Lodge. In all of these areas we can and should do more going forward but what an excellent way to get the ball rolling again!

(continued on Page 2)

From the West

December, and the final month of the year. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that your upcoming Christmas and New Year holiday season is even more enjoyable.

A reminder that our installation is on **Saturday December 10th** at 10:00 AM. Brother Gary Bailey, PM will be the installing Master and MWB John Turner will be the installing Marshall. Installation will be immediately followed by a light brunch down stairs. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

The apartment is coming along nicely albeit not as fast as we would like. Check it out if you haven't been in it recently. It really is a nice apartment. Many thanks to Steve Karpstein, Matt Alexander, our WM Brian Canady, Trace Harris and others for their help. (Update: the new carpeting has been laid and final details have been done...our upgraded 1-bedroom, 1-bath daylight apartment is finally ready to rent! \$750/mo. including utilities and 2x/month basic cleaning. No smoking/pets/drugs!)

WE HAVE FAITH

I'm a Mason and we have faith...

...In the power, wisdom, and goodness of the Supreme Architect of the Universe;
...In our country, our fellow man, and ourselves;
...In our various roles for a purpose and not by chance;
...That Masonry has been in existence through the ages for a purpose and that it will remain a strong force for good as far into the future as man will go...and I have confidence in that future;
...That the teachings of Masonry parallel those found in the Volume of Sacred Law, that no conflict between the two can exist;
...That our ancient customs have proven their worth and value and are as sound today as ever and will withstand the test of the future;
...That Masonry can be as good as its members want it to be, and that we will all be better men, and our fraternity, our country, and our world will be better for our having passed this way;
...That we have the opportunity as Masons and as men of good will to move to new heights in every area of life as we study and act upon our high principles of **brotherly love, relief, and truth.**

MASONIC FACTS AND HISTORY

In China, about 300 B.C., Mencius wrote:

"A master Mason, in teaching his apprentices, makes use of the compasses and the square. Ye who are engaged in the pursuit of Wisdom must also make use of the compasses and the square."

Additionally, in a book called Great Learning, 500 B.C., we find that:

"A man should abstain from doing unto others what he would not they should do unto him; and this is called the principle of acting on the square."

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(*'From the East', continued from Page 1*)

My experiences in Masonry thus far have led me to believe that complacency is a dry rot, of sort, that can slowly eat away at the Lodge and our Fraternity. It seems self-evident that a progressive science and complacency do not go hand-in-hand. I would urge all Brothers to choose commitment over complacency!

It is always invigorating to see what Masons can accomplish when they choose to commit – individually and collectively. Each of us enjoy different skills, interests and availabilities, but I have yet to meet a Mason with nothing to offer. An effective Lodge is the sum of many parts, big and small, working together for the larger good. The fewer the parts, the less effective a Lodge will be. On the cusp of a new year, consider what you have to offer moving forward – and make the offer – to yourself, or to Master-elect Ransdall. I am confident that he would welcome a conversation about how you can commit to helping him make 2017 the exceptional experience I hope it will be.

As I prepare to pass the gavel, I hope you will show your support of our new Master and his officer line by attending the Installation of Officers ceremony **Saturday, December 10th** starting at *10am*.

In closing I would like to say "*Thank You*" to all of you who have worked hard to help get our Lodge on a path for a very bright future. My years in the leadership of our Lodge have been extremely challenging and rewarding and I will always be grateful to have been honored with the opportunity to serve as Master of Bend Lodge #139 A.F.& A.M.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Brian Canady
MASTER



If a man empties his purse into his head,
no man can take it away from him.
An investment in knowledge
always pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

Secretary's Desk

For the past several years, Bend Masonic Lodge has been helping the local community with Christmas Baskets. Local area families in need are provided with the fixings for a nice Christmas Dinner, complete with turkey, dressing, gravy mix, rolls, potatoes, and vegetables. In prior years we had utilized the dinner provided by Food 4 Less, but this year the Lodge has partnered with North Albertsons, and Mike Conner, store manager. He was very excited about being able to help us and the community.

On **Sunday, December 18th** we will gather at the Lodge at 10am to prepare the boxes and then deliver them to the selected families in the Bend area. Based on the donations received and the need in the community, we anticipate **60+** Christmas baskets will be put together and delivered to that many individual households...so we welcome ALL the help we can get to make this happen!

A big thanks goes to the donations received from WM Brian Canady, SW Lee Ransdall, Sec. Terry Griffith, Treasurer John Pinckney, MWB Dave Johnson and Bros. Scott Brasher, Neil Mackey, Steve Karpstein, Dan Johnson and Trace Harris. It is not too late to contribute...just contact me and we can make arrangements for your donation.

I would like to wish you and your family the merriest Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. If there is anything I can help with, please let me know.

Terry Griffith
SECRETARY

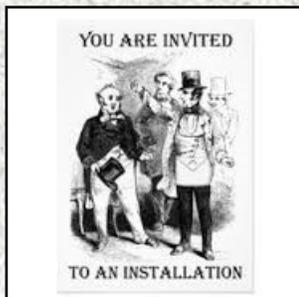
2017 OFFICERS ELECTED

At the November 2016 Stated Meeting, elections were held for the five elected 2017 officer positions...**Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer.**

Our current Senior Warden, Wm. Lee Ransdall, PM was elected as Master. Current Junior Warden Matt Alexander will be moving up a chair to Senior Warden. Bro. Neil Mackey was elected as your new Junior Warden. Bro. Terry Griffith was reelected as Secretary and WB John Pinkney, PM was reelected as Treasurer.

Master-elect Ransdall, who served as Worshipful Master at Bend Lodge in 2014, has talked to a number of Bend Lodge Brothers and will make an announcement on the "full" (Master-appointed) line of officers after he is installed...

Speaking of which...please come support these newly-elected / appointed officers at their Installation on **Saturday, December 10th**, starting at 10am. A light brunch will follow downstairs after Installation... friends and family are cordially invited to both!



(*From the West', continued from Page 2)*)

The Holy Book must be opened upon the altar before a Masonic Lodge may be opened. Freemasonry is not concerned with doctrine or dogma or sect or denomination, but only with "that natural religion in which all men agree."

Therefore, the Holy Book is called the V.S.L. or Volume of Sacred Law or the Book of the Law. If the members of a Lodge are Christian, Moslem, Jewish or Buddhist, the V.S.L. of their particular belief is opened upon their altar. The V.S.L. is, therefore, a symbol of the revealed will and teachings of the Great Architect of the Universe - a name under which any Freemason can worship that Deity in whom he puts his faith and trust.

According to Solomon's Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M. in Savannah, Georgia, founded February 21, 1734 by the English statesman, philanthropist and Freemason Bro. James Edward Oglethorpe... it is the oldest Continuously Operating English Constituted Lodge of Freemasons in the Western Hemisphere. Solomon's Lodge has in its possession a 1733 John Baskett Bible which was actually signed and given to the Lodge during its earliest days by Oglethorpe, the founder of the Colony of Georgia."

From 'Masonics.org'

LODGE ETIQUETTE

If an officer is absent, the officers below his station do not necessarily move up, each a chair. There is no "advancement by right" for any office except that of Master. The Master fills any vacancy by temporary appointment. In the absence of the Master the Senior Warden presides. In some jurisdictions it is Customary for a Master to ask a Past Master to fill a temporarily vacant chair; in others, he may ask any brother he believes qualified.

From the 'Masonic Lodge of Education'

Hope to see all you in Lodge at our next Stated Meeting on **Thursday, December 8th**....dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm.

Happy Holidays and New Year to all...

Wm. Lee Ransdall P.M.
SENIOR WARDEN
(and 2017 Master-elect)



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(Masonic style!)

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all though the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The children were sleeping, so sweet and so simple,
In bed he was reading, in a manner habitual,
A particular part of his little blue 'ritual'.

Then slowly as his eyelids drooped, and then closed,
And into the realms of slumber he dozed.
And as he quite happily started to snore,
He dreamt such a dream as he'd not had before.
He thought that he saw, o'er the rooftops so high,
A reindeer-drawn sleigh flying through the night sky.

The driver he knew in an instant, of course,
It was... Worshipful Brother Santa Claus,
Driving his reindeer across the snow.

With names that the dreamer seemed to know!
"Up Deacon, Up Warden, Up Pursuivant, too!
On Inner guard! On Tyler! And Treasurer true!

Then the sleigh came to rest with a bump on the tiles,
And Santa Claus entered the room, wreathed in smiles.
"Happy Christmas, my brother" cried out the good soul,
"And greetings fraternal from the North Pole!

*I'm here to fulfill my mission in life,
I've gifts for your children, and one for your wife".*

The dreamer accepted the presents with glee,
Then said, "Is there naught in your sack for me?
Pray look, there may be a small gift inside,
It will be thankfully received and faithfully applied"

Santa looked in his sack, but nothing he found,
He searched and he sought, but nothing he found.
Then he smiled, and produced from a fold in his jacket,
A small, but important-looking packet.

"Here's your gift" quoth he, "I felt sure I had one,
And it's just the thing for the "widow's son".

The dreamer tore the wrappings asunder,
And looked at the contents within, in wonder,
Just a small, printed card was revealed to his eyes,
Bearing the following, message-wise:

**"BROTHERLY LOVE IS YOURS FOREVER...
RELIEF- IF YOU NEED IT -AND MAY YOU NEVER...
AND THE TRUTH THAT HAS BEEN DECREED...
THAT, BEING A MASON, YOU'RE A RICH BLOKE INDEED!"**

The dreamer awoke, the room was all bare,
But there drifted back on the still night air,
A sound of bells, and a message of cheer...
"Joyous Noel - and a Happy New Year!"

"TEN MASTER MASONS"

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine;
One listened to a rumor, then there were nine.

Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late;
One didn't like the "Master," then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven;
One joined too many clubs, then there were seven.

Seven Master Masons, got dealt some hard licks;
One grew discouraged, then there were six.

Six Master Masons, all very much alive;
One lost his interest, then there were five.

Five Master Masons, wishing there were more;
Had a dispute, then there were four.

Four Master Masons, busy as could be;
One didn't like the programs, then there were three.

Three Master Masons, was one of them you?
One got too tired, then there were two.

Two Master Masons with so much to be done;
One said, "What's the use?" and then there was one.

One Master Mason, found a brother who was true,
Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two.

Two Master Masons didn't find work a bore;
Each brought another, then there were four.

Four Master Masons saved their Lodge's fate;
By showing others kindness, then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, thought their Lodge was keen;
Talked so much about it, they numbered sixteen.

Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true;
Were pleased when their ranks swelled to thirty-two.

So we can't put our troubles at the Lodge's door;
It's our fault if we harm the Lodge we adore.

Don't fuss about the programs or the Master in the East;
And keep your obligation well by serving the very least.

*(author unknown, courtesy of
Oriental Lodge No. 33,
Chicago, Illinois)*

MONTHLY EVENTS AT BEND LODGE

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH:

STATED MEETING, 7pm

4TH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH:

LODGE TRAINING, 7pm

(Topic varies from month-to-month)

DECEMBER, 2016 EVENTS

- MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH @ 7pm:
 - ◊ *OFFICER'S MEETING*
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH @ 7pm:
 - ◊ *STATED MEETING*
 - * Dinner preceding at 6pm
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH @ 10am:
 - ◊ *INSTALLATION OF 2017 OFFICERS*
 - * Brunch to follow downstairs
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH @ 10am:
 - ◊ *FOOD BOX PREP AND DELIVERIES AROUND BEND*
 - * Come show your holiday spirit and help a needy family!
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH:
 - ◊ *ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S DAY*

*CHECK THE "TICKER" ON THE LODGE WEBSITE FOR
LAST-MINUTE ADDITIONS, CANCELLATIONS OR OTHER
INFORMATION*

THE TWO SAINTS JOHNS

Among American Freemasons there are two festivals in the Masonic calendar. The Feast of St. John, the Baptist, is celebrated on June 24th and the Feast of St. John, the Evangelist, on December 27th.

The two dates fall at the time of the summer and winter when the sun attains its greatest north or south declination when it apparently stands still for a short time before turning in its course. These are known as the summer and winter solstices.

Why is it that Masonry has chosen these two men as patrons? Why are Masonic lodges dedicated to them? Why do Masons hold celebrations in their honor each year? Were the Saints John Freemasons?

Before answering these questions, let us review a bit of ancient history. Before the days of Christianity the early Greeks and Romans dedicated their temples and sacred things to some god. To the ancients the sun was the source of power. They observed the course of the sun through the year and knew that at one period the sun brought them warmth, new vegetation, bountiful crops and with it all, a new source of energy and hope. Then the sun, after a fruitful season, left them and they felt the cold, the grains in the field failed to flourish, and all nature seemed to sleep. The ancients knew that, after due time, the friendly sun in its cycle would come back to them bringing again light, warmth, food and hope.

Is it any wonder that these people worshipped the sun as a god? Even today people the world over, revere the sun and welcome its warmth, and even travel to follow it during the cold and dark winter months.

It is significant to note that the two festival days of the Saints John fall at these two seasons - first when the sun is nearest, and second, when the sun has reached its northern-most summit and again turns toward the south.

People in the early ancient days had their organizations and guilds even as we do today and dedicated them to a pagan god for protection.

The worshipping of the sun or other deities had so permeated mankind that when Christianity was introduced to the world the church found it was impossible to stop the people from such pagan celebrations. It was natural to feel the need for adopting some patron for protection. The church therefore consecrated its churches to God and wisely substituted the names of its saints as patrons. Other societies and organizations followed the same practice.

ST. JOHN, THE BAPTIST

Why did the Freemasons choose St. John, the Baptist, as patron? One would suppose that they would name some outstanding person. But, St. John, the Baptist, was a humble man, a plain man who held, above all, his obligations to God and, with almost unbelievable steadfastness, met martyrdom. He continually preached repentance - and virtue - and humiliation.

Yes, the early freemasons chose well in selecting such a man as St. John, the Baptist, as a patron of Freemasonry!

ST. JOHN, THE EVANGELIST

For a long period only St. John, the Baptist, was patron saint of Freemasonry. It was not until after the 16th century that St. John, the Evangelist, was also adopted as a patron. The "Old Charges" of Freemasonry speak of St. John, the Evangelist, as a "Saint of the Craft." He was constantly admonishing the cultivation of brotherly love. Of all the gospels, The Gospel of St. John is the most Masonic for the central theme is LIGHT. It portrays God as "the Light of the World."

LODGES DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SAINTS JOHN

Lodges then came to be dedicated to the Holy Saints John and it is interesting to note that the early Masons were called "St. John's Masons" or "St. John's Men."

It matters not whether the two Saints John were actually members of the Masonic fraternity. But they have been called the patrons of the fraternity down through the ages because they have exemplified the principles of Freemasonry in their daily lives by their deeds and their words. These two humble men did not engage in any of the pomp and glory of the world.

It is because Masonry regards the character and internal qualifications of a man - not the exterior appearances - that these two men are fittingly called the patrons of this great fraternity. They possessed those internal qualifications that made the TRUE MAN. Masonry honors them above all others for they were the living examples of the Golden Rule, the practice of virtue, love for their fellow-men and love for their God.

