



THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

"The Official Organ of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Alabama."

VOLUME IV, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Information on the
51st Anniversary
'Selma to Montgomery
Reenactment March'**

**Reginal Meetings,
Dates and Locations**



THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

VOLUME IV, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2016



AN OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION OF
THE M.W.P.H.G.L.
OF ALABAMA

The Grand Master's Trestle Board

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Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We are rapidly approaching the scheduled dates for our regional meetings. During this time, I always look forward to traveling throughout the jurisdiction, to hear your needs and concerns, to fellowship with the Brothers, and to see how well our subordinate lodges are doing. All Brothers are requested to attend their regional meetings.

As you go to renew your tags please be reminded about our Prince Hall Grand Lodge License Plate. Thus far, our license plate campaign has been very successful. A donation of \$41.25 of the \$50.00 fee will go to the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation for scholarship purposes. Be proud to show the world that you are a Prince Hall Mason. Let your light shine!

As you peruse this issue of *The Cornerstone Message* take note of the lodges that are actively involved in their communities. Those lodges are fulfilling their duty to mankind. We want to hear from your lodge! What are you doing for others? Share with us the many projects, activities, and community service that your lodge may be involved in. We look forward to hearing from you!

As always, it is my sincere hope and prayer that the God of Peace and Love will continue to bless you and keep you in His care.

The Almighty God has brought us safely through the year 2015 and has allowed us to embark upon the year 2016. We should consider ourselves blessed, for once again, His grace and mercy has spared us. During this month we recognize and celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his many contributions to society. He gave of his life unselfishly. Just as Dr. King did, we should live our lives in a way so that when we have completed this earthly journey we will have impacted those left behind in a positive manner. We may not be able to impact lives on as large a scale as Dr. King; however, we can still make an impact. This Grand Lodge continues to grow and search for ways to increase our visibility. This year on March 6th for the third year, we will participate in the Annual Selma March. Each year we look to increase our participation in this historic event. I am asking all Brothers and Sisters, who are able to attend, to please turn out in massive numbers. Also, encourage as many Brothers and Sisters as you possibly can to attend. We must not forget our history! Nor shall we omit paying homage to those who fought for us to have a right to vote.

Fraternally,

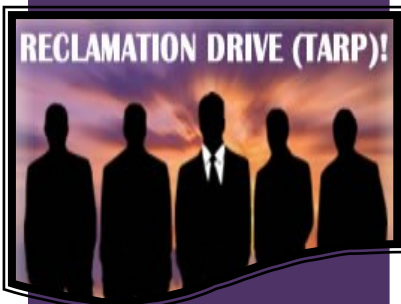
Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master



PM Herman "Jerome" Glover
Publication Editor

"This program is
designed to allow
suspended
members to
reinstate for a
more affordable
fee."



Greetings,

To all readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama titled *The Cornerstone Message*:

First, I would like to take this time to thank the contributors to all issues of the *Cornerstone Message* that have been published under RW Anthony J. Johnson as the Publication Editor. Second, I would like to thank Grand Master Hawkins for the opportunity to serve as your next Publication Editor. RW Anthony J. Johnson has done an excellent job with capturing the excellent community contributions Lodges have submitted throughout the Jurisdiction of Alabama

since the distribution of the first edition in April 2014. It is my sincere desire to continue that tradition. I will be asking the contributors for more detail in the submission of articles to help capture the essence of each event to keep this newsletter one that we can continue be proud of as a Jurisdiction. Therefore Brothers, I ask that you please continue to adhere to the guidelines as stated in this newsletter when submitting your articles.

I solicit your recommendations and/or suggestions for enhancing future publications of this newsletter. Your comments and recommendations can be sent to cseditor@mwphglal.com.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Grand Lodge Staff and the subordinate Lodges within the Jurisdiction for a very successful year in 2015; while moving this Jurisdiction in a positive direction and building upon the foundation that has been previously laid. Your good works have been put on display for all to see through the publication of this newsletter. I look forward to serving you and this great jurisdiction as the editor of our official newsletter.

- PM Herman "Jerome" Glover
Publication Editor

Reclamation Drive (TARP)

In an attempt to give suspended Brothers an opportunity to become active again during these tough economic times, our Most Worshipful Grand Master has devised a plan named TARP – Traveling Again Reclamation Program. This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee.

Members suspended before June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$105.00 Total

Members suspended after June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$105.00 Total

TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members of this jurisdiction to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. TARP will be in effect through July 31, 2016.



51st Anniversary Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March *'Bloody Sunday'*

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Alabama

**Invites all Brothers and Sisters of the
Jurisdiction to be a part of this
Historic re-enactment of our State's
History in the struggle for equality...**

March 6, 2016

**National Participation is Expected
We will gather at 119 Washington Street
Selma, Alabama
at 11:00 a.m.**

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January 5, 2016

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TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Trustees, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama

C: Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Annie J. Pringle, Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Calvin Miller, II

Greetings:

In an effort to be more involved in our communities, to remember our past, and to look to our future, I am calling on the entire jurisdiction to converge on Selma, Alabama, on **Sunday, March 6, 2016**, to participate in the 51st anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am asking all brothers and sisters to meet at 119 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama 36701, diagonally across from Washington Street Marketplace, at 11:00 a.m. The bridge crossing re-enactment will begin at approximately 2:30 p.m. A large crowd is expected; therefore I am asking all brothers and sisters to arrive at the designated time. Please bring plenty of water, snacks and lounging chairs as they will be needed, particularly by our elderly brothers and sisters. All brothers are to participate in the March dressed in **proper masonic regalia to include a black suit, white shirt and solid black tie**. It is very important that we assemble in Selma, Alabama in mass numbers. Last year we had over 1,200 brothers and approximately 700 sisters to attend. Let us do our best to increase our numbers this year. Consider this March as a time to remember for the seasoned brother and a history lesson for the younger brother. I am counting on you to help make this another great success.

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.



MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE of ALABAMA 2016 REGIONAL MEETINGS

DATE	REGION	CITY
MARCH 5, 2016	REGION 2	YORK
MARCH 12, 2016	REGION 4	OPELIKA
MARCH 26, 2016	REGION 5	TUSCALOOSA
APRIL 2, 2016	REGION 3	CLIO
APRIL 23, 2016	REGION 1	ANDALUSIA
APRIL 30, 2016	REGION 6	LEIGHTON

REGION 1 – DISTRICTS 1, 3 and 4

REGION 2 – DISTRICTS 2 and 12

REGION 3 – DISTRICTS 5 and 6

REGION 4 – DISTRICTS 7, 8 and 10

REGION 5 – DISTRICTS 13, 14 and 15

REGION 6 – DISTRICT 17



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!

Message from the Grand Medical Registrar

Greetings Brothers,

I am pleased to talk to you one more time about men's health issues. I would like to discuss briefly an issue that most men, as well as, the population do not believe cause them any problems. It is depression. An acronym that can be used is SIGECAPS. Let us proceed in order of this acronym:

S = sleep you are sleeping too much or too little.

I = interest which means you have lost interest in things that you normally enjoy.

G = guilty feelings over issues that one keeps focusing on or feeling you are worthless.

E = energy which means you find yourself not wanting to get up and go. As elderly people would say, moping around.

C = concentration difficult time focusing.

A = appetite disturbance in which one is eating too much or too little.

P = psychomotor this is having problems with agitation (anxiety) or being lethargic.

S = suicide having thoughts of suicide or preoccupation with death.

If you or someone you may know are experiencing any of these symptoms, please talk with your physician for further evaluation. I tell my patients that if the greatest man, when he was a man on this earth, got depressed then what about us. (I am assuming we all know when this happened.) Seeking help for depression is not a sign of weakness, but strength. It takes courage to face our fears.

Once again, the point I am trying to make is to have a good relationship with your physician. Please talk to someone that may help guide you in the right direction as these are issues that can be treated effectively.

Last, there will be a challenge issued to all lodges and brethren. The challenge is for the brethren to see which lodge can lose the most weight and keep blood pressures under good control. There will be more in depth details sent to each lodge. There will also be individual prizes for whomever achieves the greatest weight and blood pressure maintenance.

It has been my pleasure to correspond with the brothers one more time. Keep looking to the east for strength and guidance.

Contributor— RW Dr. Belfondia Pou (No. 772)

From Whence We've Come...

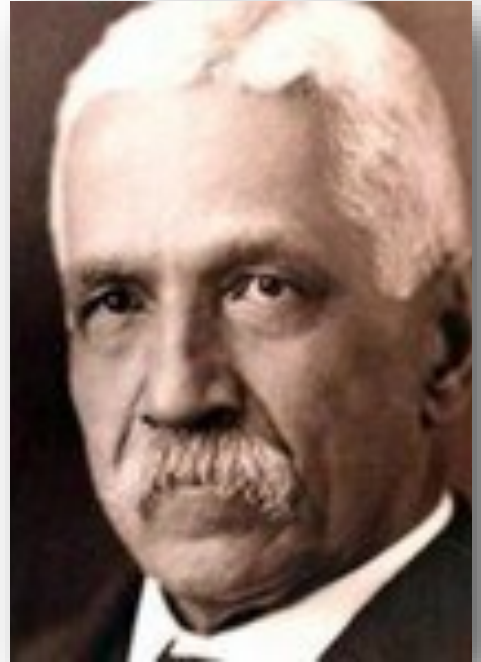
Snapshots into Alabama's Notable Members:

Statesman, Soldier and Freemason, R.W. Herschel Vivian Cashin, Esq.

The seldom discussed secret of many Prince Hall Grand Lodges remains the conversation of the Compact Grand Lodge that shared the State with the Independent Grand Lodge. In Alabama, the Independent Grand Lodge was established in 1870; meanwhile, on her heels was the Alabama Compact Grand Lodge in 1874. Within her ranks were men of notable character and backgrounds. One of which was H.V. Cashin.

Bro. Cashin was born in 1854, in Augusta, Georgia. Born as the son of French/Cherokee/African mother Lucenda Boudre Cashin and Irish father John H. Cashin. Cashin's childhood was far from the norm living in Augusta, as his father being white who bucked social norms by marrying his wife of color.

Just before the Civil War and emboldening of Southern traitors to rebel against the Republic, John moved his wife to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she was listed, along with Bro. Cashin in the 1860 Census as free inhabitants.



In 1870's, Bro. Cashin would move from Pennsylvania, to Georgia and ultimately wind up in Montgomery, Alabama. In Montgomery, he would become one of the Father's of Reconstruction in the State of Alabama, being elected in 1874, re-elected in 1876 and leaving office in 1878. Although he did not win re-election in 1878, he broke boundaries becoming the first African-American to be admitted to the Alabama Bar. He would later marry his lifelong companion Ms. Minnie Virginia Brewster Cashin on July 2, 1879.

It was during the 1870's that Bro. Cashin would become a member of the Rising Sun Lodge in approximately 1873. He was listed as the Secretary of Rising Sun Lodge, No. 5 under the Alabama Compact Grand Lodge in 1874 and also the Grand Secretary Pro-Tem of the same year. He would later serve as Grand Secretary until the 1878 Consolidation. Thereafter, he was a member of Rising Sun Lodge, No. 8 under the current Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Bro. Cashin would also serve his country by joining the 10th US Calvary. His stellar performance and political acumen saw him receive an appointment by President Garfield as the Railway mail Clerk in Decatur, AL. He was later appointed by President McKinley as the Registrar of the US Land Offices in Decatur.

Bro. Cashin became a well-respected lawyer in Decatur and Huntsville. In 1893, Bro. Cashin lobbied the Decatur City Council to its open first Free Colored School. He would later become the third African-American City Councilman in Decatur. His political involvement also spanned serving as a Delegate to the National Republican Conventions in 1896, 1900 and 1904.

In 1899, Bro. Cashin and Charles Alexander penned a book entitled, *Under Fire with the Tenth Cavalry*. The work is used as a contemporary description of African-American soldiers during the Indian expeditions and the Spanish-American War.

Bro. Cashin would later make his final journey to the House not made with hands, Eternal in the Heavens, on March 25, 1924. He served his family, the State of Alabama, his Country and his Grand Lodge faithfully.

Contributor RW L. Ken Collins, II
Grand Lodge Historian



Honoring Black History Month

“Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can.”

—*Arthur Ashe*

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”

—*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”

—*Frederick Douglass*

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

—*Booker T. Washington*

“We all have dreams. In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.”

—*Jesse Owens*

Achievements

Convention Coordinator and Corporate Liaison RW Gregory Clark Elected FAMU National Alumni Association's President

Gregory Clark, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, has been elected President of the Florida A. & M. University National Alumni Association.

Clark received 82 percent of the vote to defeat Seaborn Dixon III, who collected 18 percent. Clark succeeds Tommy Mitchell and becomes the Association's 18th president.

Clark, 46, lives in Chelsea, Alabama, and works as a financial planner with Prudential Advisors. He has been in the U.S. Army Reserves for 27 years and serves as a commander with the 7242 Installation Medical Support Unit, in Gulfport, Mississippi. He is a Past Master of Magnolia Lodge No. 218 in District No. 5. He serves the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama as Convention Coordinator and Corporate Liaison.

He served as First Vice President and Convention Chairman under Mitchell for six years. In 2014, FAMU President Elmira Mangum appointed Clark Chairman of the President's Alumni Advisory Committee on Athletics.

Clark said his goals include increasing total national alumni membership to 10,000 by 2019, including 5,000 life members and 1,000 student members.

Currently, there are about 3,400 members, including 1,500 life members, with regular and associate members making up the balance.

Clark said he will be appointing a strong membership team to recruit new members. He will also target non-FAMU graduates, including FAMU faculty, employees, and trustees, who can become associate members.

"One way of boosting numbers is to bring on board the Marching 100 Band Alumni Association and the Baseball Alumni Association as affinity groups that would be affiliated with the FAMU National Alumni Association, while their members maintain their ties to those organizations."

Other major priorities, Clark said, are to increase revenues and to strengthen association relationships with federal, state and local governments, through the creation of a NAA Governmental Affairs Network.

He plans to announce the launch of a fundraising campaign to raise \$500,000 by the association's national convention in May in Tampa. "That money will go toward providing retention scholarships for juniors and seniors who now drop out because they have run out of money. Sometimes, it can be as little as \$3,000," he said.



"We want to take care of juniors and seniors who can't come back and register because they have no resources," Clark said.

He said the money also could be used to help potential applicants pay for their application fees and other expenses.

Clark graduated from FAMU with a bachelor's degree in business economics in 1993. He also attended the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College from 2009-2010.

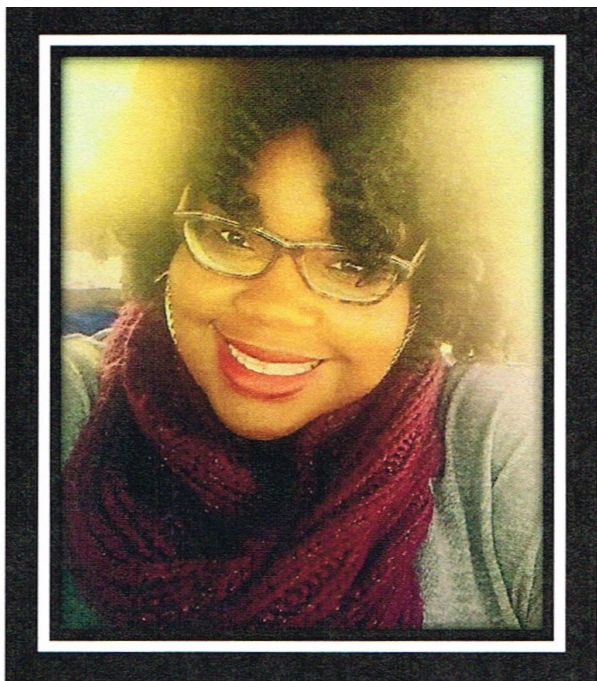
"My first introduction to the FAMU NAA was right after college," Clark said. "I was looking for a way to stay connected to that Rattler Spirit that I experienced while in school. The NAA became my extended family and I jumped at the chance to help build the alumni association from the inside out."

With the Association, he has served as Chapter President, Southern Region Vice President and Election Chairman.

Clark said he wants the National Association to have a hands-on relationship with University President Mangum and with trustees in addressing university challenges such as recruitment and fundraising. About \$1.5 million was contributed by alumni between July 1, 2014 and last October.

"At the end of the day, my priority is the students," he said. "The student body makes FAMU."

Contributor— RW Robert W. Glenn



I am Shavonda K. Drake, a 2010 honor graduate of Sumter County High School and now a graduating Senior at Stillman College majoring in Elementary Education. I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a 2010 recipient of the Grand Lodge Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to further my educational endeavors at Stillman College. Getting this scholarship was a great honor. It was not about receiving money but instead gave me hope for my potential for the future of our society.

Through my matriculation at Stillman College I was able to concentrate on what was important for me, education. Now I am just a few months away to getting my degree in hand in May! Your financial generosity has allowed me to be one step closer to my goal and has inspired me to help others by giving back to the community. One day I will be able to help other students achieve their goal just as you have helped me.

*Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn."*

-Benjamin Franklin

- Shavonda Drake

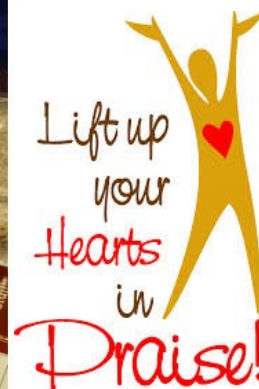
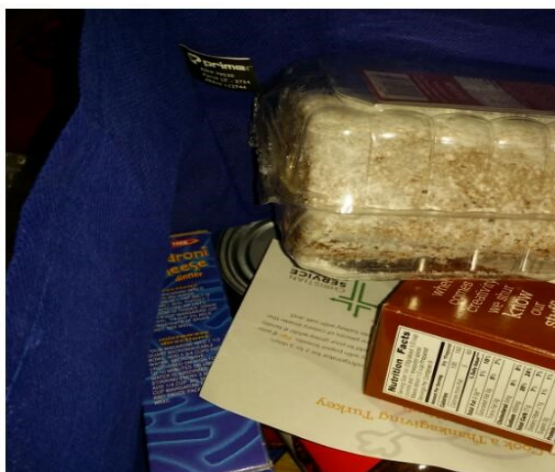
REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Happy Thanksgiving from Pride of Jemison-Clanton Lodge No. 630

Pride of Jemison-Clanton Lodge No. 630, under the leadership of Worshipful Master James Neil, blessed five families with full baskets for Thanksgiving meals. This project was spearheaded by Bro. Richard King (Junior Warden) and Bro. Antoine Head. The baskets were obtained from Christian Service Missions of Birmingham and delivered to families in Clanton and Prattville, Alabama. Giving to others is a blessing and the brothers are looking forward to continue to be a blessing to the community.

Contributor- Bro. Antoine Head (No. 630)



A Sight for Sore Eyes 2015

On November 13, 2015, the members of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 participated in a fundraising concert to benefit LaShundra Hawkins. LaShundra is a loving mother, sister, and daughter who suffers from lupus. Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body. Ms. Hawkins also suffers from ocular manifestations which is a by-product of lupus. This condition is causing her vision to deteriorate and she will eventually go blind if left untreated. The surgery to repair her eyes and prevent her from going blind cost approximately \$10,000. Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 sponsored the benefit concert which featured House of Electa Chapter No. 895 OES choir, Shady Grove Baptist Church Mulga, Shady Grove Praise team, The Birmingham Male Chorus, Randall Carter-Mime and additional invited guests.



(L) Members of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 and guests at a Sight for Sore Eyes Benefit Concert 2015

March to End Violence

On November 28, 2015, members of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 partnered with Mount Calvary Baptist Church for the "Take Back" march. The members and gathered participants marched down the streets of the West End community, stopping to interact with residents and encouraging others to stop the violence in the streets of Birmingham. The goal of the march was to raise awareness and decrease violence in the city.

Contributor- Bro. Thalamus Mahand (No. 319)



(L) Reverend Fred Farness and Pastor Timothy L. Sanford at the "Take Back" 2015 March

(R) Members of Pride of North Birmingham No. Lodge 319 with other PHA Masons and community members at the "Take Back" 2015 March

Phoenix Lodge No. 428 hosts their “Party with a Purpose”

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Phoenix Lodge No. 428 hosted their annual “Party with a Purpose” scholarship fundraiser. This is an annual benefit and is one of their main scholarship fundraisers. All money donated to this benefit is given back in scholarships. Phoenix Lodge conducts two annual “Party with a Purpose” scholarship fundraisers. Last June they raised \$2,000 and presented four \$500 scholarships to four deserving students at the District No. 7 St. John’s Day ceremony. This year Phoenix Lodge’s goal is to surpass that amount and are well on the right track in meeting that goal. The American Legion Post No. 135 in Phenix City, Alabama graciously allows the lodge to use their building for the benefit at no charge to the lodge. At the December event, guests were treated with good music, food and drinks.



Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428

Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Giving back to their Community

Phoenix Lodge No. 428 partnered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Russell County, Alabama and sponsored 7 year old Cameron Smith of Phenix City, Alabama. Cameron’s mother, Ms. Jeremiskia Smith, is stricken with Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson disease. Big Brothers & Sisters representative, Kia Farmer, called on Phoenix Lodge No. 428 for assistance.



Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 with Cameron and Jeremiskia Smith

With just one phone call to the Worshipful Master, a plan was put in

place to surprise 7 year old Cameron with something he always wanted, a bike. However, that was not enough for the brothers of 428, they decided to purchase more toys and games for Cameron. The mother was also given a small token of love from Phoenix Lodge in the form of a Wal-Mart Gift Card.

Contributor- Brother Carlton Jones (No. 428)

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Stillman Lodge No. 490

Sharing and Caring in the Community

On November 24, 2015 Stillman Lodge No. 490 had their Annual Masons “Sharing and Caring” event. Stillman Lodge has been sponsoring this event for over 20 years. The lodge served over 200 people. The event took place at Robinson Towers, where some of our senior citizens that have paved the way for so many of us reside.



Stillman Lodge No. 490

Supporting Toys for Tots

On December 17, 2015 the Brothers of Stillman Lodge No. 490 came together to together to donate several toys to Toys for Tots. This is the first year that Stillman Lodge has worked with directly Toys for Tots. Stillman Lodge looks forward to fostering a lasting relationship with Toys for Tots.

Contributor- WM Ronnie Eatmon (No. 490)

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

George W. Braxdall No. 28 Participates in Decatur Community's "Operation Thank You"



On November 23, 2015, there was a very successful collaboration between George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28, Elizabeth Chapter No. 40 OES, Harris Chapter No. 633 OES, the Decatur Police Department, Grace Point Church, EnTrusted Tees; and a host of other vendors and volunteers to make "Operation Thank You" another successful endeavor. This year's event, which was once again, spearheaded and organized by Brother Demetrius Hightower, Secretary of George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28, focused on continuing the vision of giving back to the community by helping and feeding the less fortunate in Decatur.

The sisters worked alongside the brothers to do an exceptional job of cooking, serving and attending to the guests every need with style, class and humility. Bikes, toys and numerous items were given to the children and in turn induced smiles. Hearts were warmed by the generosity of the benefactors which exceeded expectation.

This event was fun-filled for the kids and entertaining for everyone.

This is a prime example of what hard work and dedication, fused with the cooperation of multiple groups can accomplish.

Contributor- Bro. Terrance Stevenson (No. 28)

George W. Braxdall No. 28 Sends another Christmas Blessing

This year it was a blessing to be a blessing for a family in need. George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28 and Elizabeth Chapter No. 40, OES collaborated to provide food, clothing, toys, and household goods for a family in need. A mother of four children stated, "This blessing was very much needed. I did not know what I was going to do for Christmas." The family was filled with joy as they joined hands in fellowship and thanked God from whom all blessings flow.

Contributor- WM Winston Engram (No. 28)



Morning Star Lodge No. 50

In the Community

On November 3, 2015, and November 12, 2015, Worshipful Master Benson of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Worthy Matron Angela Brown of Hendley Chapter O.E.S. No. 855; in a joint community service effort, joined to provide assistance and serve over 250 meals to the homeless men, women and children of The Downtown Rescue Mission in Huntsville, AL. The Downtown Rescue Mission helps to provide for Huntsville's homeless, but they also serve the working poor - both by providing meals and shelter. Unknown to many, the mission also provides help fighting addiction. The mission had over 1,500 different people spend the night with them last year. The mission provided just over 70,000 nights of rest. In addition, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter O.E.S. No. 855 also attended the pre-worship service and prayer. The brothers and sisters engaged in general conversation with the mothers, children and men providing good and wholesome encouragement to all they encountered. They also assisted with the dining facility clean-up and re-organization after dinner was completed. Lodge and chapter members received many handshakes and thanks for the assistance during both events. The residents were very thankful for the service and invited them back again. The Lodge and Chapter were blessed through the experience and interaction. The members look forward to continuing efforts to make a difference in the lives of those that are less fortunate throughout the community, city, state and the world. Morning Star Lodge and Hendley Chapter truly realize that no one can do everything, but everyone can do something. The brothers and sisters stand proud to serve whenever needed.

Contributor- WM Jimmy D. Benson (No. 50)



Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Members of Hendley Chapter No. 855, OES at the Downtown Rescue Mission

Obituary

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

Walter J. Bruce was born on May 20, 1944, to Eddie and Eloise Bruce in Birmingham, Alabama, and passed away peacefully, at his home, on Friday, October 23, 2015, in Fultondale, Alabama, at the age of 71.

Walter confessed Christ at an early age and worshipped at Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church under the leadership of the Rev. Percy C. Lee, Sr.

Walter was a member of the 1964 graduating class of A. H. Parker High School. He served two years in the United States Army and in the Army Reserve. He later carried those same attributes into his Masonic travels. He was a member of Triune Lodge No. 430, F. & A. M., P. H. A., Robert's House No. 115, H. R. A. M., Khedive Temple No. 16, Oasis of Birmingham, Desert of Alabama, and Red Cross Consistory No. 2A.

Walter was employed by Jefferson County Family Court as a Detention Officer. There, he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the youth placed under his watchful care. He retired after 25 years of service.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Vivian Bruce Lovett and brother, Eddie J. Bruce. Walter was an individual who loved his family and who was passionate about life. He will truly be missed by those that knew him best, his family, friends and Masonic PHamily.

Walter lived a full life. His memories will forever live in the hearts and minds of his wife: Brenda Y. Bruce; two daughters: Surella Hill and Cynthia Spencer; three sons: Walter (Kimberly) Bruce, Jr., Jermaine (Marshall) Bruce, and Jermaine Kelley; one brother: Paul Bruce of Atlanta, GA; twenty-two grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, six sister-in-laws, six brother-in-laws, a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives.



*Brother Walter J. Bruce (No. 430)
Sunrise May 20, 1944—Sunset October 23, 2015*

Support the Temple Renovation

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Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interests to Prince Hall Masons throughout the state of Alabama. *The Cornerstone Message* is published quarterly in the months of April, July, October, and January. Submission of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's editor via email (cseditor@mwphglal.com). Please include a point of contact and telephone number with each article submission. Articles and photographs become property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is **5 April 2016**. These articles should include events conducted from **January 2016-March 2016**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph and using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be of good quality JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



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