



THE CORNERSTONE

M E S S A G E

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

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE III

JULY 2025

BEHOLD...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

155th Annual
Communication
Schedule of Events

Districts Celebrate
St. John's Day

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



155 Years of Making Good Men Better

HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY!

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

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:

Editor's Message	2
Temple Renovation	3
From Whence We've Come	5
A Blast from the Past	8
Dollars and Sense	9
Books of the Bible Word Puzzle	10
Health and Wellness	11
Military Affairs	13
Achievements	15
In The Spotlight	17
News & Events from Region 1	18
News & Events from Region 4	19
News & Events from Region 5	24
Grand Lodge Schedule of Events	25
News & Events from Region 6	33
Article Submission Guidelines	51

THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Deuteronomy 5:33

among many others. We have walked in the ways which the Lord has commanded us. Thus, we have prolonged our days in the land we possess.

It is incumbent upon us to continue this great legacy. We must do all we can to continue to solidify the future of our beloved Grand Lodge, so that 155 years from now, it will still be successful in its quest to make good men better and will continue to be the greatest Grand Lodge in all of freemasonry.

As I travel throughout the jurisdiction, I cannot help but be encouraged by the enthusiasm and excitement expressed about the progress of this Grand Lodge. Our membership continues to increase and interest in this Grand Ole Order continues to grow. None of our success would be possible without YOU! Your support, your energy, your devotion to the Craft is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to all newly elected Worshipful Masters and Officers of our subordinate lodges. You are the pillars of this institution, and you play a very pivotal role within this prestigious organization. I challenge each of you to give your best, be shining examples, and uphold the constitution, rules, regulations, and edicts of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama.

As we convene in our 155th Annual Communication, let us enter with malice-free hearts and with our eyes fixed on Him. Let us conduct the business of this esteemed Grand Lodge with respect and decorum. Remember to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

May the Grand Architect of the Universe, the All-seeing Eye, continue to bless us all and may He bless our precious gift, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Alabama!

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

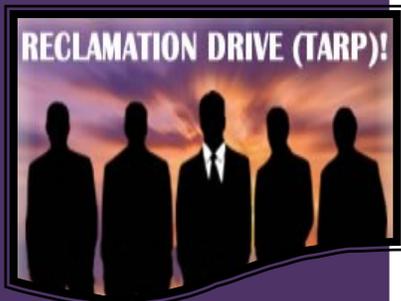
Front Cover: 155 years of making good men better.

Message from the Editor



RW Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

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



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

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your unwavering commitment to excellence and for leveraging *The Cornerstone Newsletter* as a powerful platform to showcase the meaningful work of our jurisdiction throughout the great state of Alabama. Within these pages, you'll find just a glimpse of the extraordinary service and dedication demonstrated by our lodges—proof that our legacy of leadership remains strong.

As we look ahead to future editions, I kindly ask for your

continued support and close attention to the **Article Submission Guidelines** located on the final page of this newsletter. When submitting content, please ensure your email subject line follows this format: "[Your Lodge Name and Number] Cornerstone Newsletter Article"—for example, **Unity Lodge No. 46 Cornerstone Newsletter Article**. This helps us accurately identify submissions, even when sorting through spam folders.

To help your lodge shine, please submit a complete article of at least two paragraphs, detailing who was involved, what occurred, when it happened, and where. Articles should be written in third person, using pronouns like he, she, or they, rather than I, we, or us. Also, please spell out

"No." rather than using symbols like "#" when referencing lodges or organizations (e.g., Lodge No. 123).

High-resolution JPEG images—unedited and not in collage format—should be attached separately from your Word document. Feel free to send additional photos in a separate email if needed.

Lastly, include a contact name and phone number so we may follow up with any questions regarding your submission.

Together, let us preserve, uplift, and proudly share the enduring contributions of our lodges. Let's continue telling our story—with heart, purpose, and pride.

- RW 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:

- \$25.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$125.00 Total

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

- \$25.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$125.00 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 until further notice.

Support the Temple Renovation

Most
Worshipful Prince
Hall Grand Lodge
of Alabama Temple
Renovation Lapel
Pins are still
available for new
and existing
members upon
receipt of donation
(s). Collect up to
each level.
Display your
support
for the temple
renovation!



SUPPORT THE PRINCE HALL LEGACY FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

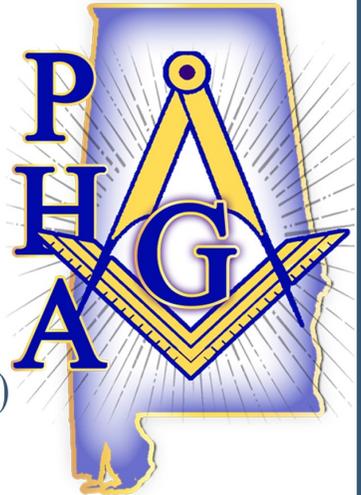


PURCHASE YOUR ALABAMA PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE LICENSE PLATE

**YOUR PLATE MAY BE DISPLAYED UPON
THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF VEHICLES**



- private passenger automobiles
- pickup trucks
- motorcycles
- pleasure motor vehicles (i.e., recreational vehicles)



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/license-plates/>

(You may purchase the MWP HGL of AL Tags Anytime, You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)

From Whence We've Come...

The Historical Evolution of Masonic Aprons: A Symbol of Labor, Purity, and Legacy

The Masonic apron stands as a prominent and symbolically laden garment within the Freemasonic fraternity. Beyond its functional role, it embodies a badge of honor, a token of initiation, and a constant reminder of the moral principles and responsibilities that guide its wearers. Originating from the practical garb of medieval stonemasons, the apron's development has mirrored the growth and evolution of the Craft itself. This article delves into the historical origins, transformations, and significance of the Masonic apron, elucidating its transformation into one of the most enduring emblems of Freemasonry.

I. Operative Origins: The Practical Apron

During the Middle Ages, the earliest aprons were worn by operative stonemasons engaged in the construction of cathedrals, castles, and bridges across Europe. These artisans utilized aprons crafted from sturdy leather to safeguard their attire and bodies from the hazards posed by sharp tools, scorching lime, and airborne debris. These aprons served as practical implements, characterized by their broadness, thickness, and often equipped with a flap that could be raised to provide protection for the chest when necessary.

Essentially, the apron served as a distinguishing mark of the working tradesman, symbolizing skilled labor, practical knowledge, and membership within a guild or lodge of builders. This association held significant weight in medieval society, as stonemasons were highly esteemed artisans due to the sacred and royal nature of their commissions. Consequently, the apron transcended its role as a mere tool of the trade, embodying a symbol of a disciplined life dedicated to construction, precision, and collaborative labor.

II. The Transition to Speculative Masonry

With the decline of cathedral construction and the emergence of intellectual and philosophical movements in the 17th century, operative lodges commenced admitting non-operative or "speculative" members—gentlemen who were interested in the moral and allegorical teachings of the Craft rather than the physical act of construction. This transformation marked the emergence of modern Freemasonry.

As speculative Masonry emerged, it preserved many of the symbols and customs of the operative tradition. Notably, the apron, initially a tool of physical protection, transformed into a symbol of moral and spiritual labor. Instead of lime and dust, speculative Masons were reminded to safeguard against vice, corruption, and moral decay.

The earliest recorded references to speculative Masonic lodges mentioning aprons appear in the early 18th century. In the early rituals of the Premier Grand Lodge of England, newly initiated Masons were presented with an apron as part of the ceremony, signifying their entry into the brotherhood and their commitment to the Craft's moral teachings.

III. Evolution of the Apron: Styles and Regulations

As Freemasonry spread across Europe and the Americas, aprons acquired regional characteristics and stylistic variations. Initially, the speculative apron retained the broad leather appearance of its operative predecessor. Over time, however, the apron's size and shape became smaller and more symbolic. Flaps were retained in homage to the original chest-protecting design, but the materials employed shifted from rough leather to fine lambskin, symbolizing purity and innocence.

By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, as Masonic lodges became more formalized and hierarchical, regulations emerged specifying the design, color, and ornamentation of aprons based on degree and rank. Generally:

- Entered Apprentices wore plain white aprons with a triangular flap.
- Fellowcrafts incorporated subtle decorations or minor modifications.
- Master Masons might have blue trim or rosettes to signify their advancement.
- Officers and Past Masters often possessed more elaborate aprons adorned with symbols representing their specific office.

The use of blue trim, particularly in English and Prince Hall Freemasonry, became a standard for Master Masons due to the symbolic association of blue with fidelity, wisdom, and eternity.

In contrast, members of the Scottish Rite or Royal Arch branches often wear aprons of various colors—red, black, purple, or multicolored—each carrying symbolic significance pertinent to the degree and rite.

IV. The Apron as a Moral Emblem

The Masonic apron holds paramount significance due to its moral symbolism. From the moment a candidate is invested with the apron during initiation, they are informed that it is “the badge of a Mason,” surpassing even the Golden Fleece, Roman Eagle, Star and Garter, or any other order bestowed upon them.

This elevated accolade underscores the symbolic and ethical dimensions of the apron. It serves as a poignant reminder to Masons of their obligation to engage in moral, spiritual, and social labor to construct a just society and enhance their personal development. The white lambskin, in particular, embodies innocence and purity of life. Consequently, the apron embodies the tangible manifestation of the Masonic ideal: continuous self-improvement, virtuous conduct, and the construction of one's moral framework.

In numerous jurisdictions, Masons are informed that they may be interred with their apron, and certain rites incorporate the placement of the apron on the body during funeral ceremonies. Consequently, the apron transcends its role as a badge of initiation, becoming an enduring symbol—an eternal reminder of one's obligations to the Craft and to humanity.

V. Notable Aprons in Masonic History

Throughout history, numerous historically significant Masons have worn aprons that have become iconic. Among the most renowned is the apron worn by George Washington, the first President of the United States and a Master Mason. His apron, believed to be crafted from lambskin with intricate embroidery, is preserved at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. It is frequently cited as a tangible link between the principles of Freemasonry and the founding values of the American republic.

Similarly, the apron of Brother Lafayette, the French general and fellow Mason who supported the American Revolution, embodies the international brotherhood of the Craft and the shared values that transcend national boundaries.

Certain Masonic jurisdictions also maintain aprons as heirlooms or artifacts—passing them down through generations or preserving them in museums and Grand Lodges. These aprons serve as physical manifestations of the enduring traditions of the Fraternity and the individuals who have upheld them.

VI. The Apron in Contemporary Practice

In the present day, aprons continue to hold central significance in Masonic ritual and identity. While many are standardized by Grand Lodges and prescribed by ritual, Masons continue to imbue their aprons with personal and symbolic meanings. Some aprons are plain and unadorned, reflecting the humility and equality emphasized in the Craft. Others are richly embroidered, incorporating symbols such as the square and compasses, the all-seeing eye, or the tools of operative masonry—each conveying layers of moral allegory.

Custom aprons have also gained increasing popularity in contemporary lodges, particularly for officers or special ceremonies. These aprons may incorporate lodge emblems, regional insignia, or commemorative designs, seamlessly blending tradition with personalization.

Despite modernization, the fundamental symbolism of the Masonic apron remains unaltered. Whether handcrafted or mass-produced, the apron continues to function as a symbol of labor, duty, and devotion, serving as a constant reminder of the wearer's obligations to their brethren, their community, and their own conscience.

VII. Philosophical Interpretations

From a philosophical perspective, the Masonic apron can be interpreted as an allegory for the soul's preparation for higher knowledge and service. Just as a laborer dons an apron to commence their work, so too does the Mason wear their apron to signify readiness for moral and spiritual development. The apron safeguards both the body and the soul, protecting against moral stain and embodying the wearer's willingness to undertake the Work.

In certain interpretations, the apron serves as a counterpoint to worldly regalia. It is not worn for ostentation or vanity but for service. It does not signify aristocracy through bloodline or wealth but rather a nobility of character. Consequently, the apron embodies one of Masonry's central messages: that true greatness resides in labor, virtue, and fraternity, not in rank or title.

Conclusion: A Timeless Symbol

The Masonic apron, in all its forms and variations, continues to be a foundational emblem of the Craft. Its evolution from the rough leather of cathedral builders to the lambskin worn in solemn rituals reflects the transformation of Freemasonry from a guild of skilled laborers to a global fraternity dedicated to moral instruction and human advancement.

To the Mason, the apron transcends its ceremonial role, becoming a sacred badge of identity, a vestment of labor, and a lifelong reminder of duty. As long as Freemasonry endures, so too will the apron, encircling the waist of those who aspire to construct, both physically and spiritually, a better world.

RW Dr. L. Ken Collins, II
Grand Historian

A Blast from the Past



Grand Marshal Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. escorting Grand Master Dr. William O. Jones at the 140th Annual Communication in Birmingham, AL on July 20, 2010.

\$ Dollars and Sense \$

The Benefits of Dividend-Paying Stocks in an Investment Portfolio

Dividend-paying stocks offer a compelling advantage for investors seeking both income and long-term growth. These stocks represent companies that regularly distribute a portion of their earnings to shareholders, typically in the form of cash payments. While capital appreciation is often the focus of stock investing, dividends provide a complementary and often underappreciated benefit.

1. Reliable Income Stream

Dividend-paying stocks generate consistent cash flow, which can be particularly valuable for retirees or income-focused investors. Unlike bond interest, dividends often increase over time, especially from companies with a strong history of dividend growth. This provides a hedge against inflation and enhances purchasing power over the long term.

2. Lower Volatility

Historically, dividend-paying stocks have exhibited less price volatility than non-dividend payers. Many of these companies are well-established with stable earnings, which can help cushion an investment portfolio during market downturns. Their ability to consistently pay dividends, even during tough economic conditions, reflects financial strength.

3. Total Return Enhancement

Dividends can significantly contribute to an investor's total return. Reinvesting dividends can lead to compounding growth over time, amplifying the benefits of long-term investing. In fact, a large portion of the historical returns of major indices like the S&P 500 comes from reinvested dividends.

4. Signal of Financial Health

A steady or growing dividend often signals a company's confidence in its future earnings and cash flow. While not a guarantee of performance, consistent dividend payments can indicate a well-managed business with strong fundamentals.

5. Flexibility and Reinvestment Options

Investors can choose to receive dividend payouts as cash or reinvest them through dividend reinvestment plans (DRIPs), allowing for flexible income management and compounded growth over time without needing additional capital.

Incorporating dividend-paying stocks into a diversified portfolio can balance risk, enhance returns, and provide a dependable income stream—making them a valuable tool for both conservative and growth-oriented investors.



*Contributor – RW Gregory Clark
Convention Coordinator/Corporate Liaison
and Financial Planner*

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

K H T U R Q V T J S U X A V U T T P I
 A U H S O J Q Z Q E X D M E V O Y W F
 C S U T I T E W A N R G Q S N T H E A
 Q H E B R E W S P A D E G A G J T H O
 R E V E L A T I O N N O M C X P O T X
 B P X R Q N N Y I E P O H I Z Q M T Q
 B H I E J V A V H Y Y R E S A O I A S
 O E P H C S H E A A O G B A X H T M U
 N S J T J A M E S N A I T A L A G K C
 K I U S D I P S I B Z E R Z Y H R P I
 E A D E A A G C I O B A D I A H O D T
 T N G H V Y L D P S O K Z V N A M E I
 U S E F H E D X U F E W Y G N B A K V
 F C S W S J C C O R I N T H I A N S E
 R R I N Z P O K Q Q T M E Q G K S Q L
 Y P A I P T S S I J F C U G S K G N N
 H T L E I K E Z E J L M O L Q U H I S
 A M N O M E L I H P G P Y O X K U P H
 L G C O M W C O L O S S I A N S D K G

Chronicles

Colossians

Corinthians

Ephesians

Esther

Ezekiel

Galatians

Genesis

Habakkuk

Hebrews

James

Jeremiah

Joshua

Judges

Leviticus

Matthew

Nehemiah

Obadiah

Philemon

Revelation

Romans

Ruth

Timothy

Titus

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE IN ADULTS (BEYOND THE BASICS)

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE OVERVIEW

Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure. Blood pressure refers to the pressure that blood applies to the inner walls of the arteries. Arteries carry blood from the heart to other organs and parts of the body.

WHAT IS BLOOD PRESSURE

An individual's blood pressure is defined by two measurements:

- Systolic pressure (top number) is the pressure in the arteries produced when the heart contracts (at the time of a heartbeat).
- Diastolic pressure (bottom number) refers to the pressure in the arteries during relaxation of the heart between beats.

Blood pressure is reported as the systolic pressure over diastolic pressure (eg, 120/80 or 120 over 80).

Untreated high blood pressure increases the strain on the heart and arteries, eventually causing organ damage. High blood pressure increases the risk of heart failure, heart attack, and or stroke.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE DEFINITION

Normal blood pressure: Less than 120 over less than 80

Prehypertension: 121 to 139 over 81 to 89

People with hypertension are at increased risk of developing hypertension and cardiovascular complications.

Hypertension Stage 1: 140 to 159 over 90 to 99.

Stage 2: Greater than 160 over greater than 100.

Most adults with hypertension have essential or primary hypertension, which means that the cause of their high blood pressure is not known. A small subset of adults has secondary hypertension, which means that there is an underlying and potentially correctable cause.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE RISK FACTORS

Hypertension is a common health problem. In the United States, approximately 32% of African Americans and 23% of white people and Mexican Americans have hypertension (ref. Mayo Clinic 2024).

Hypertension is more common as people grow older. As an example, among people over age 60, hypertension occurs in 65% of African American men, 80% of African American women, 55% of white men, and 65% of white women (ref. Mayo Clinic 2024).

Unfortunately, many people's bloods pressure is not well controlled. According to the National survey of 2024, hypertension was in good control in only 25% of African Americans and whites and 14% of Mexican Americans (ref. Mayo Clinic 2024).

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SYMPTOMS

High Blood pressure does not usually cause any symptoms.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE DIAGNOSIS

Many people are anxious when seeing a doctor or nurse. As a result, you are not diagnosed with hypertension unless your blood pressure is persistently high at two office visits at least one week apart.

The only exception to this is if the blood pressure is very high or if you have damage from high blood pressure, such as heart, eye, or kidney injury. Before a decision is made to begin treatment, you may be asked to measure your blood pressure at home or work.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE TREATMENT

Untreated hypertension can lead to a variety of complications, including heart disease and stroke. The risk of complications increases as your blood pressure rises above 120/80, which is still in the healthy range. Treating high blood pressure can reduce your risk of heart attack, stroke, and death.

Lifestyle changes- Treatment of hypertension usually begins with lifestyle changes. Making these lifestyle changes involves little of no risk. Recommended changes often include:

- Reducing the amount of salt in your diet.
- Lose weight if you are overweight or obese.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol.
- Stop smoking
- Exercise at less 30mins per day most days of the week.

Medicine- A medicine to lower blood pressure may be recommended if your blood pressure is consistently at or above 140/90. Treatment with medicine is recommended at a lower blood pressure for people with diabetes, atherosclerosis (fatty deposits lining the arteries, as in coronary heart disease, stroke, or peripheral artery disease) or chronic kidney disease.

Stay Healthy and Safe!!

Miguel L Ferguson, BSN, MPH, RN

Military Affairs

Keeping our MWPHGL of Alabama Veterans Informed

Protecting Veterans' Benefits Data from Fraudsters

Understanding Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when someone steals personal information, such as Social Security Numbers (SSNs), bank account details, medical records, account numbers, or credit card information to commit fraud. This can lead to unauthorized purchases, drained bank accounts, and even fraudulent claims for benefits in your name. Identity theft can have severe consequences, impacting not only financial stability but also access to Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.

Types of Scams Targeting Personal Data

- **Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Scams:** Fraudsters can use AI to create fake identities or impersonate real people, businesses, or charities to access secure information and file claims for benefits. They may develop convincing voice or video messages for social engineering attacks to trick people into giving money to fraudsters.
- **QR Code Scams:** With the rise of contactless payments and information sharing, fraudsters use QR codes as a quick scam. These codes may appear in emails, social media, flyers, websites, or public places, such as parking meters, and direct users to phishing sites intended to steal personal data or request payment under false pretenses.
- **Phishing:** Phishing, also known as clickbait, scams, comes in many forms, such as emails, phone calls, text messages, fake websites, advertisements, and social media videos. Clicking on links can lead veterans to phishing sites designed to steal personal information, infect devices with malware, or request payment for nonexistent services. Veterans should be constantly vigilant, alert, and skeptical to stay safe online. Veterans who share military service or employment information online put themselves at risk of phishing scams.
- **Romance and Friendship Scams:** Fraudsters create fake profiles on dating apps and social media platforms to befriend individuals. Once a connection is established, they gather personal details to later pressure potential victims with blackmail to gain PII, account numbers and passwords, or financial payment.

How You Can Secure Your Data

- Screen emails carefully and only open emails from senders you know and trust. Delete and block emails from unknown or suspicious senders.
- Be cautious of pop-ups and links on websites, emails, and texts that can be used to infect your device with harmful malware.
- Limit the PII you post online, such as your address, date of birth, workplace, or kinship details. The less information scammers can find about you online, the safer you will be.
- Maximize privacy settings on all active social media accounts to protect information from unknown users and prevent unauthorized access to sensitive information.
- Do not accept friend or connection requests from individuals with only an online presence. Only add friends or connections you know and trust in real life, not those you have only met online.
- Download strong antivirus software to protect yourself from malware attacks. If your computer runs unusually slowly or frequently crashes without explanation, it may indicate that it is infected with malware.
- Never send bank information or payment to “online only” friends or unverified entities. Fraudsters create an emergency, threatening to destroy your files or lock your account if you do not send payment. If you experience ransomware, do not respond to any threat and report the incident immediately.
- Only scan QR codes from trusted sources. Always verify the code’s authenticity by visiting the organization’s website or contacting them directly.
- Contact your VA Privacy Officer. Veterans can contact their local Privacy Officer to file a complaint regarding an alleged VA privacy violation or for general privacy questions and concerns. The VA Privacy website contains VA privacy guidance and resources, including information on how to:
 - * File a Privacy Complaint.
 - * Access and download information sheets about protecting Veterans’ identity and privacy.

Taking proactive measures to secure personal data is one of the most effective ways to prevent identity theft and other types of fraud. During Data Privacy Week and every day, VA is here to help ensure Veterans keep their personal information and benefits safe from harm. Veterans who suspect they have been a victim of fraud can find resources to file a report with the appropriate agency by visiting www.vsafe.gov or calling 833-38V-SAFE.

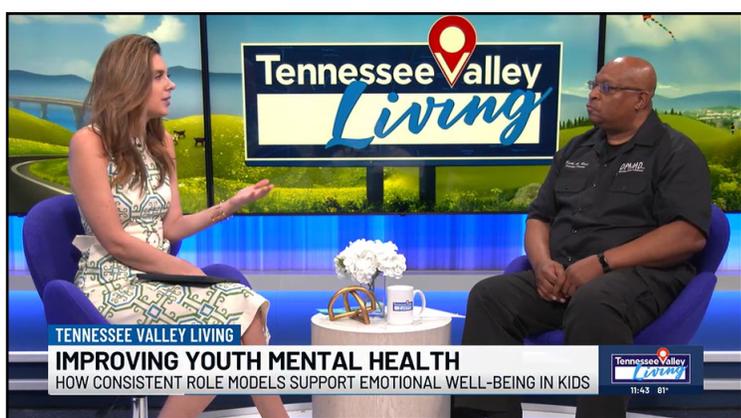
For more information on this topic, Veterans can visit <https://news.va.gov>

*Contributor – RW Carlton Jones
Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs*

Achievements

Brother Keith A. Reed

A Guiding Light in Mentorship and Service



Bro. Keith A. Reed interviewing on Tennessee Valley Living Show

organization, Operation Making a Difference (OPMAD). The interview highlighted the emotional and social impact of consistent mentorship—an area Bro. Reed has championed for nearly 20 years.

Founded in 2005, OPMAD offers a “Back to Basics” intensive mentoring program that spans a minimum of 120 days. Designed for at-risk youth and their families, the program serves children between the ages of 9 and 18, many of whom face behavioral or learning challenges. Sessions are held twice weekly, with parents or legal guardians attending at least one session, reinforcing the importance of family involvement in each child’s development.

The program’s curriculum is both comprehensive and transformative. Participants engage in topics such as mental health, peer pressure, conflict resolution, sexual health, drug awareness and prevention, and self-discipline. These sessions are led by a committed team of staff, local mentors, and community partners. OPMAD also provides tutoring, employment placement assistance, volunteer opportunities, extracurricular activities, and—for those who choose—an optional Bible study to support spiritual growth.

During the interview, Bro. Reed emphasized the importance of having consistent, compassionate role models who guide young people through life’s challenges. Through OPMAD, he has created a safe and nurturing environment where youth across Madison County can build confidence, make positive choices, and realize their full potential.

Bro. Reed’s work is a reflection of Morning Star Lodge No. 50’s values: faith, leadership, and unwavering service to the community. His conviction that instilling foundational life principles can transform not just the individual but society as a whole continues to inspire all who know him.

*Sources: The Power of Role Models – TVLiving.com
Contributor – WM Taurean F. Dawkins (No. 50)*

On May 19, 2025, Brother Keith Reed was featured in an insightful interview on Tennessee Valley Living, where he discussed the profound impact of consistent mentorship on children’s emotional well-being, as the founder of Operation Making a Difference (OPMAD), Bro. Reed highlighted how dedicated role models can help youth build trust, feel supported, and thrive emotionally.

Brother Reed, a dedicated member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, was recognized for his outstanding contributions to youth development through his nonprofit

Brother Corwin Jones Publishes *Quotes for the Culture*

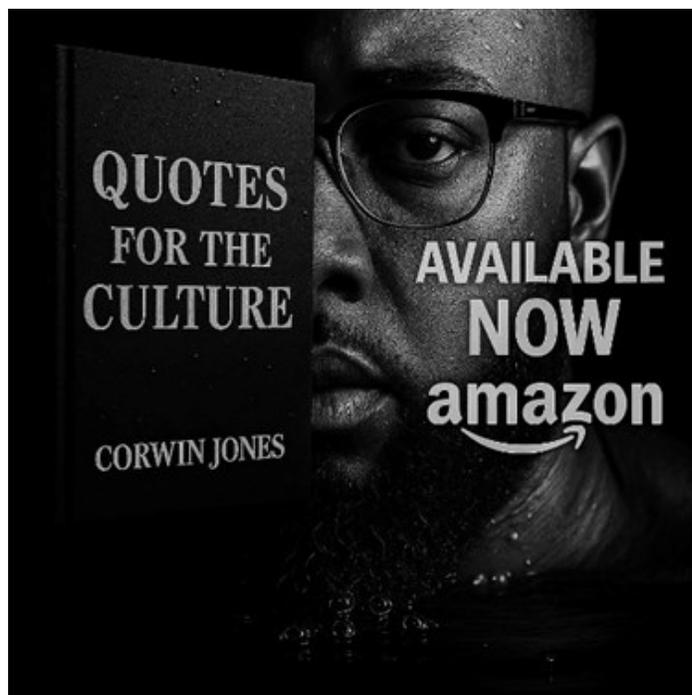
District No. 17 proudly celebrates the recent literary achievement of Brother Corwin Jones of Temple Lodge No. 98. In June 2025, Brother Jones released his debut book, *Quotes for the Culture: A Collection of Wisdom and Culture*, an independently published work that has already begun making its mark.

According to an Amazon editorial review, *Quotes for the Culture* is “a powerful collection of wisdom, humor, and spirit drawn from African American culture, family sayings, and legendary voices.” The book is described as “A tribute to the words that raised us, shaped us, and continue to inspire.”

At 120 pages, this thoughtful compilation honors a legacy of shared wisdom that resonates across generations. Following its release, the book reached a ranking of 916th in the motivational self-help category—an impressive achievement for an independent publication.

Brother Jones’ creative contributions exemplify the values of Freemasonry: inspiration, reflection, and service to others. We are immensely proud of his accomplishments both within the craft and beyond, and we encourage our community to support and celebrate this meaningful work.

Brother Jones describes his work as “a celebration of the wisdom, humor, and spirit that flows through our families, our history, and our everyday lives.” With quotes shared from mothers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, and community icons, *Quotes for the Culture* honors the voices of the past while sparking inspiration for the future. His call to readers: “Take what you need. Pass it on.”



Brother Corwin Jones

In The Spotlight

Each quarter the MWP HGL of Alabama will place one of our worthy brothers In The Spotlight. The worthy brother placed In The Spotlight this quarter is:

Brother Gerald Brooks



Brother Gerald Brooks

Brother Gerald Brooks grew up in the small town of Livingston, on the western edge of Alabama's Black Belt, and has carried forward the small-town values of hard work, respect, and fairness into his law practice. Brooks graduated from the University of Alabama twice — with an undergraduate degree in 1999 and with his law degree in 2002. After receiving his J.D., he joined a Birmingham insurance defense firm, where he stayed for five years until he realized that he wanted to work on behalf of injured people instead of insurance companies.

“Working for a defense firm on behalf of insurance companies, I learned a lot and it made me a better attorney,” he says. “I don't know if I'd be as good helping my current clients but for the experience of seeing how the other side evaluates cases, and the tactics that they utilize. By doing defense work, you're representing corporations, and your point of contact is an insurance adjuster who's not concerned about anything but reports and evaluations. They don't care right or wrong.”

In 2009 he crossed over to the plaintiff side of the law, joining a Montgomery law firm that concentrated in that area. He stayed there for three years, then ventured out on his own and joined forces with Chuck James, an old law school friend and brother mason, in 2013, to form Serious Injury Law Group.

Brooks dedicates his practice primarily to wrongful death and catastrophic injuries caused by accidents involving commercial vehicles, medical malpractice and defective products. He has to his credit several multi-million dollar civil judgments including a \$5,000,000 wrongful death judgment.

Brother Brooks enjoys trying cases on behalf of his clients. He believes, however, that his clients can often be best served by obtaining a fair settlement without having to put the client through the stress associated with litigation and trial. To that end, he has obtained countless seven-figure settlements for his clients including a \$7,500,000 wrongful death settlement involving a commercial vehicle.

“I take pride in aggressively fighting for my clients and consider it an honor to be trusted to serve my clients at perhaps the most vulnerable points in their lives. As our firm name suggests, I take that responsibility seriously. The best part of all is when you get a favorable outcome for a client, seeing their reaction, and knowing that you have positively affected their life.”

Brother Brooks also values positively affecting the communities that he serves, especially the youth. In 2017, the firm launched its first Serious Injury Law Group Living History Essay Contest. Fifteen high-school students received \$1,000 scholarships for essays on living heroes in their communities. He also has given scholarships to numerous high school seniors.

Brooks has been recognized by the National Trial Lawyers Top 100, as a Top Attorney by Birmingham Magazine, as a Super Lawyer and has received a host of other awards and recognitions.

In his spare time, Brooks enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, travel, Crimson Tide sports and community engagement. He is a member of Council Lodge No. 778, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Dennis Simmons.

*Courtesy of Serious Injury Law Group
seriouslawyers.com*

REGION 1

News and Events from Region 4

St. John Lodge No. 2 Serves with Compassion and Celebrates Outreach Effort

On May 10, 2025, the brothers of St. John Lodge No. 2, in partnership with Pensacola Caring Hearts, brought the spirit of compassion and service to life at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile. Together, they led a massive food distribution effort that delivered over 10,000 pounds of food to families in need, proving what's possible when unity meets purpose.

From the break of dawn, a long line of cars wrapped around the stadium, highlighting both the profound need in the community and the trust placed in those stepping up to serve. Despite inclement weather, volunteers stood strong, moving efficiently, serving joyfully, and treating every family with dignity and care.

This was more than an act of charity—it was a defining demonstration of how grassroots partnerships can have a profound, tangible impact. The success of the event was made possible thanks to the unwavering dedication of community members and the invaluable support of Pensacola Caring Hearts.

St. John Lodge No. 2 remains firmly committed to uplifting the Mobile community. With efforts like these, their mission continues—one family, one act of service at a time.

On May 17, 2025, St. John Lodge No. 2 extended a beautiful gesture of appreciation to their sister chapter, Juliette Chapter No. 613, OES, by hosting a special Mother's Day Luncheon in their honor. The event celebrated not only the season but the enduring partnership and mutual support that define the bond between the lodge and chapter.

The brothers thoughtfully prepared and served a delicious lunch, creating a welcoming space filled with gratitude and fellowship. Each guest received a meaningful Mother's Day gift, symbolizing the lodge's deep appreciation for the sisters' contributions to their shared mission of community service.

Laughter, connection, and celebration filled the room, making the luncheon a truly memorable event. St. John Lodge No. 2 looks forward to continuing this meaningful tradition in the years ahead, strengthening fraternal bonds through acts of kindness and unity.

Contributor – WM Tim Turk (No. 2)



Left: Members of St. John Lodge No. 2 with Pensacola Caring Hearts food distribution event.

Right: Members of St. John Lodge No. 2 at Mother's Day Luncheon event.



REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

District Eight Preserves Sacred Ritual Through Masonic Burial Ceremony

In a powerful demonstration of unity and reverence for tradition, the Worshipful Masters Council of District 8 came together to conduct and record the official Masonic Burial Ceremony for presentation at the Jurisdiction of Alabama Monthly Training. This landmark effort marks a meaningful advancement in the preservation and teaching of one of Freemasonry's most sacred rituals.

Under the guidance of Grand District Deputy Loveless Belser, Jr., Worshipful Masters and Brothers from across the district donned full funeral regalia—white gloves, aprons, and evergreen sprigs—to solemnly exemplify the ceremonial form expected of the craft. Their coordinated effort reflected the highest standards of dignity, decorum, and fraternal respect.

The recording was later presented during the statewide Monthly Training session via Zoom, where the Most Worshipful Grand Master personally commended the brothers of District 8 for their exceptional work and dedication. This initiative stands as a meaningful contribution to the Masonic Jurisdiction of Alabama, ensuring that the lessons of tradition are preserved with fidelity and shared with care.

Contributor – WM Ferry Nye, Jr. (No. 267)



Abraham Lodge No. 267 Uplifts Montgomery From Gridiron to Classroom

On May 5, 2025, Abraham Lodge No. 267 reaffirmed its enduring commitment to youth development by making a second donation to Carver High School's football program, continuing its support of the team's fueling station. The contribution provides much-needed nutritional resources to sustain the athletes as they strive for excellence on and off the field.

The gesture goes beyond physical nourishment—it reflects a belief that Masons build not only better men, but stronger communities. By supporting these young athletes, the lodge is investing in their discipline, determination, and long-term success.

During their visit, lodge members were welcomed by Coach Head and Carver staff, who offered a private tour of the school's new, state-of-the-art field house. The facility—designed to support player growth year-round—provides an ideal home for the lodge's mission to make a tangible impact. Coach Head expressed his gratitude, emphasizing that access to proper nutrition within the new space will help players remain engaged and energized, particularly during the summer months when positive outlets are essential.

This initiative stands as a shining example of Abraham Lodge No. 267's dedication to uplifting Montgomery's youth and strengthening the bonds between the fraternity and the next generation of community leaders.

On May 6, 2025, Abraham Lodge No. 267 celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week by visiting Blount Elementary and McKee Elementary to personally thank the educators and support staff shaping Montgomery's future. In heartfelt fashion, the brothers arrived bearing flowers, sweet treats, and warm fellowship—small tokens of deep appreciation for those who dedicate their lives to educating the next generation.

Worshipful Master Nye captured the spirit of the day, stating, "To every teacher, staff member, and support worker: We see you. We appreciate you. We thank you." His words reflected the lodge's commitment to meaningful community engagement and the vital role educators play in a thriving society.

The visits were filled with gratitude and genuine connection, further strengthening the bond between Abraham Lodge and the Montgomery education community.

Contributor – WM Ferry Nye, Jr. (No. 267)



Members of Abraham Lodge No. 267 presenting donation to Carver High School's football program.



Members of Abraham Lodge No. 267 visiting schools during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Abraham Lodge No. 267

Hosts Its Second Annual Table Lodge

On June 7, 2025, Abraham Lodge No. 267 hosted its second annual Table Lodge, reaffirming its role as a beacon of tradition and leadership within District 8. The event served not merely as a banquet, but as a ceremonial celebration of fellowship, heritage, and the enduring light of Prince Hall Masonry.

Following the Supplemental Guide issued by The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, the evening featured the ancient observance of the seven toasts, accompanied by Masonic instruction and a full-course meal. Brothers gathered in unity, reflecting the shared purpose and spirit that define the craft.

The occasion was made even more distinguished by the presence of several Grand Lodge officers, whose attendance added ceremonial significance and honored the lodge's dedication to excellence.

Worshipful Master Ferry Nye, Jr. warmly welcomed visiting brothers and members of neighboring lodges, setting the tone for an evening filled with inspirational messages, fraternal connection, and uplifting reflection. With each toast and every moment of shared fellowship, the spirit of Prince Hall Masonry radiated brightly.

Abraham Lodge No. 267 extends heartfelt appreciation to all who helped make the evening a success. As the light of the craft continues to shine in District 8, the lodge remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen bonds, honor tradition, and elevate the Jurisdiction of Alabama as a model of Masonic excellence.

Contributor – WM Ferry Nye, Jr. (No. 267)



Members of Abraham Lodge No. 267 at their Second Annual Table Lodge.

Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Brings Joy Across Generations



Top: Members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 with children and staff of Dorothy's Angel Daycare bringing Easter cheer.

Bottom: Members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 with residents of Capitol Hill Nursing Home playing games.



In April 2025, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 brought Easter cheer and heartfelt generosity to the children and staff of Dorothy's Angel Daycare in Montgomery, Alabama. In a meaningful act of community outreach, the brothers delivered a colorful array of sweet treats and pre-stuffed Easter eggs, ensuring every child received a joyful surprise.

The lodge's visit created a vibrant atmosphere filled with laughter, smiles, and excitement. As the children discovered their treats, the daycare was transformed into a festive celebration of kindness and care. The staff also expressed deep appreciation for the thoughtful gesture, which brought warmth and connection during a cherished time of year.

This initiative stands as a shining example of Hamilton Lodge No. 365's dedication to benevolence and its enduring commitment to uplifting the lives of others through meaningful service.

In May 2025, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 continued its mission of community enrichment with a heartwarming visit to Capitol Hill Nursing Home in Montgomery, Alabama. The brothers hosted a spirited afternoon of bingo that brought smiles, excitement, and connection to both residents and staff.

As the game unfolded, lodge members joined in the fun, assisting residents and celebrating each win with warmth and camaraderie. The day's biggest surprise came when winners were awarded generous monetary prizes, courtesy of Hamilton Lodge. The thoughtful gesture added an extra spark to the event and left a lasting impression on all in attendance.

This joyful outing is a shining example of the Masonic principle of brotherly love in action. By sharing their time, enthusiasm, and support, the brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 once again affirmed their dedication to uplifting the lives of others and strengthening the bonds of community.

Contributor – Bro. Marion Avery Dortch, Jr. (No. 365)

Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511

Uplifting Boys and Men Conference

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511 partnered with the Laymen of the Town Creek District to host their highly anticipated Boys and Men Conference—the first held since the COVID-19 pandemic. Set in the historic city of Tuskegee, the event brought together youth and mentors for a day dedicated to growth, faith, education, and fellowship.

The program featured a dynamic lineup of speakers, each addressing vital aspects of life development. Pastor Joshua Lewis of New Light Baptist Church opened with a powerful call to action, engaging the young men in a conversation about mentorship and transformation. “What can we, as men, do to help you become better?” he asked, setting the tone for an honest and inspiring dialogue.

Retired Colonel Willie Boyd highlighted military service as a path to opportunity, noting its potential to provide structure, financial stability, and educational advancement. Pastor Sterling Marshall of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church followed with a message on faith-led decision-making, emphasizing the strength found in spiritual grounding.

Educator Mr. Chrystopher Walker delivered a compelling presentation on the transformative power of education, urging the young men to remain focused and determined. Bro. Henry Wilson, of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511 and President of the Town Creek Laymen, closed the speaker lineup with motivational words encouraging self-belief and principle-centered living.

Worshipful Master Terry Buford concluded the conference by thanking all participants and reaffirming the lodge’s commitment to uplifting young men during pivotal moments in their lives. His closing remarks underscored the importance of mentorship in a time when positive influences are more needed than ever.

The day ended with a shared meal and heartfelt fellowship, leaving participants inspired and united. The event was a true reflection of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511’s dedication to building a brighter future through community, leadership, and brotherly love.

Contributor – Bro. Dominguez C. Hurry (No. 511)



Top: Group picture of the attendees and members of Mt. Nebo Lodge No.511

Middle: Colonel Willie Boyd speaking on a career in the military.

Bottom: WM Terry Buford giving closing remarks.

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

District No. 14 Observes St. John's Day with Worship and Recognition

On June 22, 2025, the brothers of District 14, joined by members of Districts 13 and 19, O.E.S., came together at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church for the annual observance of St. John's Day. The event was graciously hosted by GDD RW Walter Greene and his staff, offering a meaningful opportunity for fellowship, reflection, and renewal.

Attendees received a powerful Word from God delivered by RW Rev. Cedric Hrabowski, Grand Chaplain and District 14 Chaplain, whose message inspired and uplifted all in attendance.

The celebration concluded with the presentation of District awards by RW Greene, recognizing the outstanding contributions of lodges across the district. New Beginning Lodge No. 970 was honored as District Lodge of the Year, followed by P.S. Howard Lodge No. 516 in second place, and Tuxedo Lodge No. 431 in third.

Contributor – WM Gerald Beal (No. 970)



Members of District No. 14 and Districts 13 and 19, O.E.S. at St. John's Day Service.

***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama
155th Annual Communication***

~ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ~

Sunday, July 20, 2025

7:00 a. m. - 10:00 p. m. Vendors.....Preconvene 2 Center (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
12:00 p. m. - 8:00 p. m. Grand Lodge Office Tree House

Monday, July 21, 2025

7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m. Grand Lodge Office Tree House
7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m. RegistrationMoonlight Foyer
7:00 a. m. - 10:00 p. m. VendorsPreconvene 2 Center (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
7:00 a. m. - 7:00 p. m. Nursing Station.....Ashland Place B
7:00 a. m. - 8:00 a. m. Worshipful Master’s Certification Registration.....Moonlight B-E
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p. m. Worshipful Master’s Certification..... Moonlight B-E
8:00 a. m. - 11:00 p. m. Trustees MeetingMoonlight A
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m. Choir RehearsalOakleigh Garden
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m. Committee MeetingsBienville Square
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Veteran Affairs Workshop.....Moonlight A
1:00 p. m. - 3:00 p. m. Trustees LuncheonCrystal Ballroom
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Alabama School of Masonry Testing.....Moonlight B-E
3:00 p. m. - 6:00 p. m. WorkshopMoonlight A
5:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m. Holding Room.....Jubilee Suite (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
6:00 p. m. - 8:00 p. m. Welcome & Awards Program...Bon Secour Bay (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
8:00 p. m. - 10:00 p. m. Meet and Greet.....Mobile Bay Ballroom (Riverview Plaza Hotel)

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m. Grand Lodge Office.....Tree House

***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama
155th Annual Communication***

***~SCHEDULE OF EVENTS~
(Continued)***

7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m.	Registration	Moonlight Foyer
7:00 a. m. - 10:00 p. m.	Vendors	Preconvene 2 Center (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
7:00 a. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Nursing Station.....	Ashland Place B
8:00 a. m. - 12:00 p.m.	Dignitaries Holding Room.....	Bienville Square
8:00 a. m. - 5:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Opening Session.....	Moonlight Ballroom
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Committee Meetings	Bienville Square
8:00 a. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Chorus Rehearsal	Oakleigh Garden
5:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Dignitaries Holding Room.....	Jubilee Suite (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
7:00 p. m. - 9:00 p. m.	Lodge of Sorrow	Bon Secour Bay (Riverview Plaza Hotel)

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

5:00 a. m. - 7:30 a. m.	Past Master’s Degree	Moonlight C-E
7:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Office	Tree House
7:00 a. m. - 12:00 p. m.	Vendors	Preconvene 2 Center (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
7:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Nursing Station.....	Ashland Place B
7:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Registration	Moonlight Foyer
8:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Closing Session	Moonlight Ballroom

Our Mission

The mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama is to continue the legacy of making good men better through fraternal brotherhood, to aid and assist our widows, orphans, and distressed brothers, and to contribute to the community through service, scholarship, charity and training.

District No. 15 Celebrates St. John's Day

On Sunday, June 22, 2025, a day marked by unity, reflection, and celebration, the Brothers of District 15 and Sisters of District 18 came together in observance of one of Freemasonry's most cherished traditions—St. John's Day. This year's gathering was further elevated by the presence and stirring words of RW Deputy Grand Master Robert W. Glenn, whose message spoke to the enduring significance of this sacred occasion.

St. John's Day is more than a historical observance—it is a spiritual cornerstone of the Masonic calendar. Freemasons honor Saint John the Baptist, remembered each June for his unwavering truth and moral courage, and Saint John the Evangelist, commemorated in December for his wisdom, love, and spiritual insight.

Together, these two Saints symbolize the perfect balance between strength and compassion, between action and contemplation. They are the guardians of the Masonic path, representing the light that guides every Mason toward a life of virtue and service.

In lodges, they speak often of brotherly love, relief, and truth, but on St. John's Day, brothers are reminded to carry those values beyond the lodge doors:

- To lead with integrity in their homes
- To serve with compassion in their communities
- To stand as quiet examples of honor, humility, and dedication

In a world too often marked by division, the lessons of the Saints John challenge Freemasons to become builders of unity, peace, and understanding—not with stone and mortar, but with character and conviction.

As brothers reflect on this day, may it serve not only as a celebration of tradition, but also as a personal recommitment to walk in the light of truth and love. May all who gathered—Masons, Eastern Stars, and guests—carry forward the example of the Saints John and help build a brighter, kinder world.

Contributor – WM Patrick A. Sparks (No. 490)



AGDD Johnny Stepp and GDD James Gray presenting DGM Robert Glenn the District 15 Lifetime Achievement Award.



Brothers of District No. 15 at St. John's Day Service.



Members of District No. 18 OES at St. John's Day Service.

Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 12 Serves the Community with Compassion and Care

On April 5, 2025, Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 12 demonstrated the true spirit of Prince Hall Masonry by hosting a feed-the-community event that brought neighbors together in service and celebration. With warmth and hospitality, the lodge provided 150 complimentary hot dogs, chips, and drinks to members of the local community.

The event served as both a charitable gesture and a powerful reminder that Prince Hall Masonry remains a vibrant and active force for good. Community members expressed heartfelt appreciation to the brothers for their generosity, applauding their efforts and looking forward to future events with enthusiasm.

The success of this outreach initiative underscores Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 12's ongoing commitment to uplifting others through action, unity, and sincere brotherly love.

Contributor – WM Michael Meadows (No. 12)



Various pictures of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 12 members giving back to the community.



Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 Continues Its Lecture Series

On April 5, 2025, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 continued their enriching three-part lecture series with a compelling session led by Brother Patrick Johnson of New Beginning Lodge No. 970. Introduced by Worshipful Master Gerren K. Whitlock Sr., the lecture, titled “A Fellow of the Craft – Rite of Passage,” offered profound insights into the symbolic and personal meaning of the Fellow Craft degree.

Brother Johnson challenged the brethren to view the degree not just as ritual, but as a vital life stage. He drew parallels between the three Masonic degrees and the journey of life: Entered Apprentice symbolizing youth and foundation, Fellow Craft representing manhood and growth, and Master Mason reflecting the wisdom of old age.

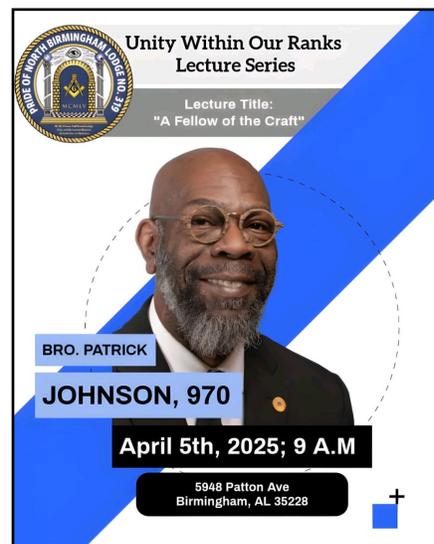
Guiding the audience through the symbolism of the winding stairs, Brother Johnson unpacked the significance of the numbers three, five, and seven, each marking stages of intellectual and moral development. He emphasized Geometry as the cornerstone, linking the craft to both nature and personal elevation. His poetic reframing of ritual called upon the brethren to construct not only physical edifices but also spiritual and intellectual temples within themselves.

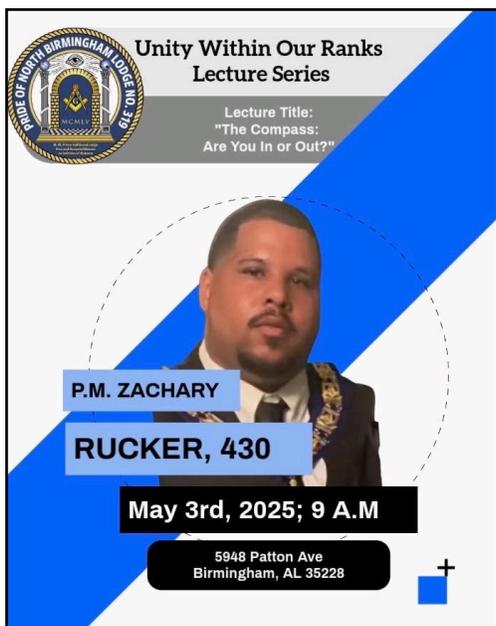
He concluded with three reflective questions that stirred thoughtful dialogue among attendees:

- Are we truly living as Fellow Crafts—not just in title, but in practice?
- How can the sacred knowledge of the craft be better preserved and shared?
- What more can we do as a lodge to uplift one another and our community?

The evening left a lasting impact, reinforcing the lodge’s mission of continual learning, mentorship, and personal transformation.

Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 remains steadfast in its commitment to guarding the West Gate—not just in who is welcomed, but in how the craft is nurtured and passed forward.





On May 3, 2025, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 gathered for the final session of their three-part lecture series—an evening that proved both heartfelt and thought-provoking. The featured speaker, Past Master Zachary Rucker of Triune Lodge No. 430, delivered an inspiring presentation titled “The Compass.”

PM Rucker began with a personal reflection on a pressing challenge facing the Masonic community today: preserving the vitality of the craft. He called upon each brother to be a steward of Masonic teachings, not only within the lodge but in every facet of daily life.

Central to his message was the question: Should Masons burn bridges? His response emphasized the enduring value of relationships with family, friends, and fellow Masons as foundational to the work. He encouraged the use of symbolic Masonic numbers 3, 5, and 7 to circumscribe one’s actions and strive for balance in marriage, parenting, business, and personal

growth.

PM Rucker acknowledged the difficulty of maintaining restraint during life’s trials but reinforced that balance is the key to peace and progress. He urged brothers to prioritize logic over emotion and to draw upon the teachings of Masonry as tools for self-improvement.

One of the evening’s lasting takeaways was this profound reminder: Validation begins at home. While the fraternity provides strength and structure, our most profound sense of purpose is built through the relationships we nurture beyond lodge walls.

The brothers departed with a renewed sense of purpose and a more profound commitment to embodying the craft’s values every day. PM Rucker’s presentation served as a powerful close to the lecture series and a guiding light on the Masonic journey forward.

Contributor – WM Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr. (No. 319)



Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 Champions Civic Duty and Celebrates Educators

On April 30, 2025, Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 made a powerful contribution to civic life by organizing a successful voter registration drive, through the Grand Lodge's GROV Initiative (Go Register Others to Vote), at Wenonah High School. This initiative focused on equipping young adults with the tools to exercise their right to vote—a mission that proved both meaningful and effective.

Throughout the day, lodge members were on-site to assist students with registration forms and provide essential information. Their efforts yielded impressive results: 47 students registered to vote, marking a strong step toward increased youth participation in the democratic process.

The event buzzed with enthusiasm as students embraced their role in shaping the future. Lodge members expressed deep appreciation to Wenonah High School's faculty and staff, whose collaboration helped make the event a success. Their shared dedication underscored the importance of partnerships between educational institutions and community organizations in fostering civic responsibility.

This voter registration drive further reflects Woods Joy Lodge No. 752's enduring commitment to empowering future leaders and strengthening democracy, one student at a time.

On May 5, 2025, Woods Joy Lodge No. 752, in partnership with Queen of the South Chapter No. 892, OES, honored the devoted educators of Lipscomb Elementary School with a thoughtful and festive celebration during Teacher Appreciation Week. In a spirited show of gratitude, the two fraternal organizations treated the faculty and staff to a French-themed breakfast that was as elegant as it was heartfelt.



Members of Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 and Queen of the South Chapter No. 892, OES supporting Teacher Appreciation Week.



Members of Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 at Wenonah High School for the GROV Initiative.

The aroma of freshly brewed coffee, buttery croissants, and sweet pastries welcomed teachers as they began their day. Members of the lodge and OES chapter were present to greet each educator personally, offering warm smiles and sincere words of thanks. The breakfast was more than a meal—it was a gesture of deep appreciation for the passion, commitment, and enduring impact the teachers have on the lives of their students.

This memorable event highlights the lodge and chapter's shared commitment to supporting those who shape future generations, reflecting their ongoing dedication to the local community.

Contributor – Bro. Eric Reese (No. 752)

New Beginning Lodge No. 970 Extends Support to The Foundry Ministries

On May 14, 2025, the brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 reaffirmed their dedication to service by donating 25 thoughtfully assembled toiletry packets to The Foundry Ministries in Bessemer. The donation provided essential hygiene items—including soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary wipes, mouthwash, and shampoo—to support residents and individuals receiving temporary shelter.

This meaningful initiative was led by Bro. James Jackson and Bro. Patrick Johnson, whose coordination and commitment ensured its success. The Foundry Ministries expressed heartfelt appreciation for the contribution, praising the lodge as a trusted partner in its mission to serve those in need.

Through efforts like these, New Beginning Lodge No. 970 continues to be a cornerstone of compassion and community uplift in the region.

Contributor – WM Gerald Beal (No. 970)



Brother James Jackson and Patrick Johnson supporting The Foundry Ministries Directors with their donations.

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

District No. 17 Celebrates St. John's Day Weekend



Various pictures at the Annual Joint St. John's Day Cookout at A.C. Banks Park in Decatur, AL.

St. John's Day holds a cherished place in the hearts of Freemasons across the globe. These annual observances honor the enduring legacies of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist—two saints revered for the values they embody, values which continue to guide the Masonic fraternity today. It is a sacred time of reflection, spiritual renewal, and recommitment to the principles of brotherhood, charity, and moral integrity.

On Saturday, June 21, 2025, the brothers of District No. 17 proudly joined with Districts No. 15 and No. 16, of the Order of the Eastern Star, to kick off a meaningful weekend of fellowship. Held at A.C. Banks Park in Decatur, Alabama, the gathering marked the fourth annual joint picnic since its reinstatement following the COVID-19 hiatus. Brothers, sisters, and their families came together once again—rekindling old bonds and creating new memories.

The picnic offered something for everyone. Children enjoyed the playground while adults engaged in friendly competition during spades, bid-wiz, and dominoes tournaments. Others relaxed under shaded pavilions, sharing laughter, great food, and the rhythm of good music. As the event drew to a close, prizes were awarded to the tournament champions, and heartfelt thanks were extended by Grand District Deputies H. Jerome Glover, Michele King, and Glenda Reynolds. Planning for next year is already underway, with hopes to build on this year's success.

Sunday, June 22 brought a spiritually enriching conclusion to the St. John's Day celebrations. The Northeast Region of District No. 17 held its program at Big Shiloh Baptist Church in Madison, Alabama, hosted by the Northeast Worshipful Masters Council. Pastor Jeffery Jefferson delivered a stirring message from John 8, verse 12 titled "Light of Light," supported by the uplifting song service of the District's Unity Choir. Remarks of gratitude and encouragement followed from Grand District Deputy Michele King, Grand Worthy Patron Calvin Miller II, PM Jeffery Ayers, and Assistant Grand District Deputy Frank Lanford.



Brothers of Northeast Region of District No. 17 at St. John's Day Service.

Simultaneously, the Northwest Worshipful Masters Council hosted its program at Bethel Colbert M.B. Church in Leighton, Alabama, under the leadership of Pastor Rev. Wesley Thompson. Rev. Green Davidson IV of Bethlehem P.B. Church inspired the assembly with his own message from Amos 7, verses 7-8 titled "The Plumline of God." The Dynamic Freeman Tabernacle Choir from Moulton, Alabama, provided a moving musical backdrop, and the event was enriched by the presence of the Order of the Eastern Star. Sister Glenda Reynolds, Grand District Deputy of District 16, PM Robert Johnson, Assistant Grand District Deputy and President of the Northwest Worshipful Masters Council, and Grand District Deputy H. Jerome Glover also offered remarks.



Brothers of Northwest Region of District No. 17 at St. John's Day Service

In both spirit and fellowship, this year's St. John's Day was a resounding testament to unity, purpose, and Masonic pride.



Members of District No. 15 OES at St. John's Day Service



Members of District No. 16 OES

District No. 17

Awards Education Scholarship

District No. 17 is proud to recognize Mr. Niko Pearson, a 17-year-old graduating senior from Buckhorn High School, as the 2025 MWPGLAL District No. 17 scholarship recipient in the amount of \$1,000.

"Niko will graduate from Buckhorn High School after completing rigorous courses that have prepared him for college. He is a dedicated student," said Principal Lavell Everett.

Niko's passion for the arts has defined his high school journey. As a talented trombonist, he earned a place in the prestigious Calhoun Show Band, showcasing both skill and commitment. He also explored the world of Technical Theater for over a year, gaining experience in lighting, sound, set and costume design, and stage management. His excellence in sound design earned him first place at the 2024 Walter Trumbauer Festival and Competition.

Outside the classroom, Niko unwinds to his favorite jazz tunes, enjoys gaming, and cherishes time with his father, Past Master Nick Pearson of Lincoln No. 817.

Niko stood out as a deserving recipient of this year's scholarship due to his blend of academic excellence, artistic achievement, and personal character. District No. 17 extends heartfelt congratulations and looks forward to his continued success.



Left to right: District 17 Scholarship Chairman, WM Carl Cooney, Father PM Nick Pearson, Niko Pearson and Mother Tawana Pearson.



Contributor – RW H. Jerome Glover (No. 50)

Northwest Worshipful Master's Council Hosts Inaugural Men's Day Program

On Saturday and Sunday, June 7–8, 2025, the Northwest Worshipful Master's Council proudly hosted its First Annual Men's Day Program—an inspiring weekend dedicated to honoring the strength, service, and spiritual leadership of men within the Masonic community.

Held under the theme “*Refocused, Restructured, Renewed*,” the two-day gathering began with a Saturday morning breakfast and a powerful series of presentations focused on empowerment and personal growth. Guest speakers—Bro. Marcus Johnson, Rev. Thomas Bates, Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shaw, Mr. Kyle Buchanan, and Rev. Bro. Lathan Strong delivered thoughtful insights on education, financial literacy, health and wellness, and the significance of “Men in the Church.”

The program culminated on Sunday with a stirring message from Rev. Christopher A. Mayes, whose sermon encouraged all men to embody strength, humility, and godly character in their homes and throughout their communities.

Marked by fellowship, reflection, and spiritual encouragement, the event served as a vivid reminder of the crucial role men play in uplifting their families and guiding their communities. The Northwest Worshipful Master's Council extends sincere gratitude to AGDD Robert L. Johnson and all who contributed to this impactful event.

Plans are already underway to continue this meaningful tradition, as the council looks forward to future programs that empower men to lead with purpose and compassion.



Attendees at the Men's Day Program in discussion.



Attendees at the Men's Day Program Service.

Contributor – WM Rudy Trammell (No. 72)

Northeast Worshipful Masters Council Hosts 34th Annual Awards Banquet

“Well done, good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

— Matthew 25:21 (KJV)

Under the leadership of President Winston Engram of George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28, the Northeast Worshipful Masters Council (NEWMC) hosted its 34th Annual Awards Banquet on May 16, 2025, at the Holiday Inn on University Drive. The evening brought together Masons, Eastern Stars, families, and supporters for a night of recognition, reflection, and unity. Attendees included representation from District 17 lodges and members of District 15 Mizpah Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

The banquet served as a time to celebrate dedicated service and outstanding contributions to Freemasonry and the broader community. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Will Boyd, Chief Servant and General Overseer of Zion Ministries. Dr. Boyd, a Master Mason of District 17 and a proud member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, delivered a powerful message on “planting seeds” and the importance of nurturing personal and collective growth through service and perseverance.



NEWMC President Winston Engram presenting award to banquet speaker Dr. Will Boyd.



NEWMC President Winston Engram presenting Master Mason of the Year award to Bro. Carlton Brooks.



NEWMC President Winston Engram presenting Worshipful Master of the Year award to WM Taurean F. Dawkins.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of four distinguished awards, each honoree selected by their respective lodge or the Council for their outstanding dedication and service during the Masonic year. Brother Carlton Brooks of Goodway Lodge No. 222 was recognized as Master Mason of the Year. Worshipful Master Taurean F. Dawkins of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 received the Worshipful Master of the Year honor. In a historic first, Past Master Larry D. Tisdale, also of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, was named the inaugural recipient of the Past Master of the Year award. In addition, Past Master and Grand Trustee Andrew Fuller of Evening Star Lodge No. 6 was honored with the Strength & Establishment Award for his unwavering dedication to District 17 Prince Hall Freemasonry and the powerful legacy he has established through years of faithful service.

In addition to Council-level honors, each Worshipful Master and Worthy Matron present took time during the evening to recognize members of their respective lodges and chapters for their hard work and commitment throughout the Masonic year.

A Souvenir Journal was printed to commemorate the event, serving not only as a keepsake but also as a testament to the wide-reaching support and participation across the Masonic family. Its pages reflected the involvement of lodges, Grand Lodge officers, Past Masters, and Eastern Star Chapters—each demonstrating a shared commitment to excellence, unity, and the enduring principles of Prince Hall Freemasonry.

President Engram extended heartfelt thanks to all in attendance for their continued support of the Council and its mission. The evening served as both a celebration of achievement and a reaffirmation of the lasting bonds of brotherhood, sisterhood, and community leadership.



Top: NEWMC President Winston Engram presenting Past Master of the Year award to PM Larry D. Tisdale.

Below: Candid photos from the awards banquet.

Contributor – WM Taurean F. Dawkins (No. 50)



Evening Star Lodge No. 6

Awards Perry O. Ward Scholarships

May marked a season of celebration across Huntsville and the surrounding areas as local schools held graduations and Senior Awards ceremonies. As part of this annual tradition, Evening Star Lodge No. 6 proudly recognized two exceptional students with the 2025 Perry O. Ward Scholarship.

This year, the lodge committee received ten strong applications from high school seniors representing twelve Madison County schools. After a thorough review process, the scholarship committee selected two standout recipients: Cornelia Peters of Sparkman High School in Harvest, Alabama, and Bayli Drobil of Mae Jemison High School in Huntsville. Each student will receive a \$1,000 award to support their higher education journey.

Ms. Peters maintained an impressive 4.1 GPA while excelling in extracurriculars such as flag football, track and field, and JROTC. She was inducted into both the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society and plans to study Computer Science at Alabama State University in Montgomery.

Ms. Drobil achieved a remarkable 4.5 GPA while contributing to her community and school through softball, youth basketball leadership, and volunteer work at a local soup kitchen. She will pursue a degree in English at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Evening Star Lodge congratulates these inspiring young women and wishes them continued success as they prepare to make their mark on the world.

Contributor – AGDD Benjamin B. Long, Jr. (No. 6)



AGDD Benjamin B. Long, Jr. presenting Education Scholarship to Ms. Cornelia Peters.



AGDD Benjamin B. Long, Jr. presenting Education Scholarship to Ms. Bayli Drobil.

Red Cross Lodge No. 35

Awards Scholarship

Red Cross Lodge No. 35 proudly awarded its 2025 scholarship to Aryana Whitman, an exceptional senior from Buckhorn High School. On June 7, lodge members gathered to present Aryana with a \$1,000 scholarship, recognizing her remarkable achievements and bright future as she prepares to attend the University of Alabama this fall.

Scholarship Chairman PM Clarence Roberts praised Ms. Whitman's accomplishments and character, stating, "We are honored to support a student of Ms. Whitman's caliber. She embodies the principles of excellence, service, and perseverance, and we wish her the utmost success in her future endeavors."

This annual award reflects the lodge's steadfast commitment to the mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, uplifting the next generation through scholarship, mentorship, and community engagement. Ms. Whitman's story exemplifies these values.

An academically driven student, Ms. Whitman has excelled in a demanding curriculum that includes multiple honors and Advanced Placement courses. She is an active member of HOSA, Mu Alpha Theta, and FCCLA, and serves as a dedicated math tutor to her peers. Her talents extend into the arts as a four-year member and current captain of the Buckhorn High School Dance Team, as well as a nationally recognized competitive dancer with the North Alabama Dance Center.

Ms. Whitman also serves her community through meaningful volunteer work, supporting events at Riverton Elementary, and assisting with food and clothing distribution through her church's outreach programs.

Red Cross Lodge No. 35 extends heartfelt congratulations to Aryana and celebrates her commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and service. The lodge is honored to play a role in her journey toward higher education and lifelong impact.



WM Daryl A. Lockhart presenting Education Scholarship Award to Ms. Aryana Whitman

Red Cross Lodge No. 35: A Sacred Renewal, Rooted in Legacy and Purpose

In August of 2022, Red Cross Lodge No. 35 embarked on an ambitious renovation project, a transformation inspired by the enduring legacy of the lodge's forebearers and the timeless symbolism of one of history's most revered structures. Much like King Solomon's ancient temple—a beacon of faith, wisdom, and unity, the lodge hall has long served as the spiritual and operational epicenter, nurturing brotherhood, community service, and scholarship.

The project transcends bricks and mortar. It is a testament to an unwavering dedication to building a stronger foundation for future generations. In the same way that King Solomon summoned skilled artisans and master builders to create a temple of divine purpose, the brothers of Red Cross Lodge No. 35 are investing their hearts, resources, and labor in restoring their sacred space for a brighter tomorrow.

Worshipful Master Daryl A. Lockhart remarked, “The lodge hall has always been more than brick and mortar—it's where service begins, where mentorship is cultivated, and where fellowship thrives. In every board nailed, wall painted, and fixture restored, we honor the legacy of those who paved the way while laying the designs upon the trestle board for those who will continue the journey.”

For decades, Red Cross Lodge No. 35 has remained steadfast in its mission to uplift the community and champion causes, including youth scholarships, food drives, mentorship programs, voter education initiatives, and civic engagement efforts that reinforce the principles of Prince Hall Masonry. Yet, years of wear and aging infrastructure made renewal imperative.



This renovation is not merely physical but symbolic of revival—a deliberate rekindling of a historic vision. Just as the construction of King Solomon’s Temple, completed over seven years under divine guidance with contributions from builders of diverse backgrounds, required vision and collective effort, the brothers at Red Cross have labored passionately for three years to transform their lodge into a house worthy of its revered role.

The upgraded facilities now feature enhanced meeting spaces, state-of-the-art educational technology, and a refreshed aesthetic that proudly displays the name Red Cross Lodge No. 35 alongside the Masonic emblem. This visual reminder signifies the lodge’s enduring commitment to service and excellence.

SW Rev. Dr. Larry L. Smith encapsulated the sentiment, stating, “This project reflects both leadership and followership—vision cast from the front, and dedication carried forward by Brothers who believe in the mission. Glory to the Grand Architect of the Universe!”

Firmly rooted in the mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, Red Cross Lodge No. 35 continues its pledge to transform good men into better men—deepening faith, expanding fraternity, and serving the community with unwavering resolve. With every strike of the hammer and every unfolding blueprint, the spirit of King Solomon’s temple lives on—not in ancient stones, but in the restored walls of a lodge hall dedicated to building a better tomorrow.

Contributor – WM Daryl Lockhart (No. 35)



Before

After



Before

After

Morning Star Lodge No. 50: A Legacy of Service, Celebration, and Community Impact

Morning Star Lodge No. 50 continues to lead by example in the Huntsville community, upholding its Masonic principles through impactful service and outreach. In the second quarter of 2025, the lodge launched several initiatives that exemplify its enduring commitment to brotherhood, civic responsibility, and community betterment.

One of the quarter's hallmark efforts took place on April 19, when lodge members joined forces with Operation Green Team's Adopt-A-Mile program. The brothers officially adopted the stretch of University Drive directly in front of the lodge, pledging to maintain and beautify the area. This initiative went far beyond routine maintenance—it served as a visible symbol of the lodge's values: brotherly love, relief, and truth.

By creating a cleaner, more welcoming environment on a heavily traveled roadway, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 reinforced its role as a steward of community pride. The initiative not only improved the local landscape but also deepened the lodge's ties with residents, showcasing the real-world impact of Freemasonry through meaningful action.

Programs like Adopt-A-Mile provide the lodge with powerful opportunities to build relationships, inspire civic unity, and demonstrate that Freemasonry is a living tradition, rooted in service and purpose.

On May 8, 2025, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 once again brought the spirit of gratitude and community to life by hosting its Annual Mother's Day Luncheon at the Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center. Since its inception in 2018, the event has grown into a cherished tradition for both the lodge and the greater Huntsville community.

This year's celebration welcomed more than 50 mothers from the North Huntsville area. Each guest was warmly greeted by Worshipful Master Taurean F. Dawkins, who shared heartfelt words of appreciation recognizing the strength, sacrifice, and love that mothers bring to their families and communities. The event radiated joy, fellowship, and a shared sense of purpose.



Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 at their Adopt-A-Mile program.



Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 serving mothers at their Mother's Day Luncheon.



Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 at the serving line of their Mother's Day Luncheon.



Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 donating assorted snacks to the Huntsville Community Drumline students.



Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 awarding a \$2,000 donation to the HCDL instructors and students.

Contributor – WM Taurean F. Dawkins (No. 50)

Under the leadership of Junior Warden Brandon J. Wesley and Brother Patrick Moore, lodge members prepared and served a delicious full-course meal featuring lemon pepper chicken, honey-glazed ham, green beans, corn salad, macaroni and cheese, and cake, accompanied by sweet tea, lemonade, and water. As a personal expression of gratitude, each mother received a signed Mother's Day card and a fresh, long-stemmed rose from the brothers of the lodge.

Beyond the food and festivities, the luncheon reaffirmed the lodge's commitment to honoring the women who nurture and shape the foundation of community life. It also strengthened the lodge's ongoing mission to serve with compassion, build relationships, and uplift those around them.

On June 9, 2025, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 extended its commitment to youth development by launching a two-part initiative in support of the Huntsville Community Drumline (HCDL)—an organization devoted to inspiring young people through music education, structure, and discipline.

The initiative began with a vibrant Snack Drive, in which lodge members collected and donated a generous assortment of snacks to fuel HCDL's Mini-Masters (grades 1–4) and Stick Masters (grades 5–9). Contributions included a variety of student-friendly favorites, such as fruit cups, chips, peanut butter crackers, Goldfish crackers, granola bars, veggie straws, and juice boxes. These snacks will help sustain students through summer practices and performances, while reinforcing the lodge's role as a trusted partner in their success.

Following the delivery, lodge representatives held a check presentation ceremony at HCDL's facility, awarding \$2,000 to support the program's operational needs, instrument maintenance, and educational goals. The funds were made possible through proceeds raised at Morning Star Lodge's 2025 Black & White Charity Ball.

Presented in person to HCDL instructors and students, the donation marked more than a financial gesture—it was a powerful moment of partnership and encouragement. Through this initiative, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 continues to invest in Huntsville's next generation, championing programs that cultivate leadership, discipline, and creativity.

Athelstine Lodge No. 71 Participates in GROV Initiative

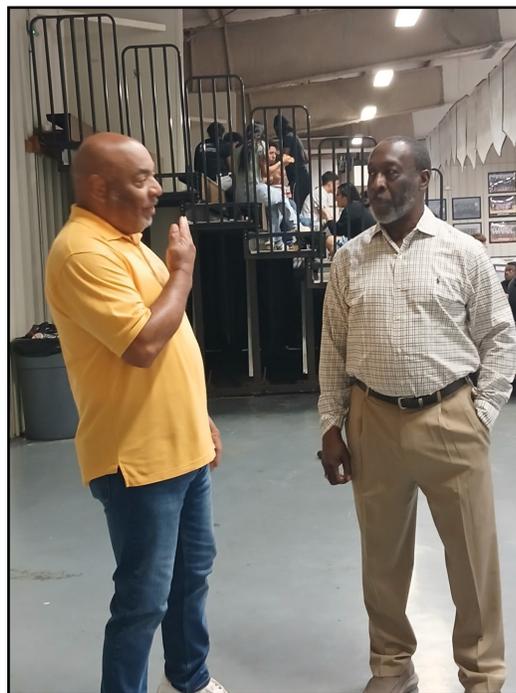
On May 19, 2025, Past Master Buford Thomas proudly represented Athelstine Lodge No. 71 as the Lodge partnered with the Limestone County NAACP Branch for a community-focused initiative—a voter registration drive at Tanner High School in Tanner, Alabama. This is part of the GROV Initiative (Go register Others to Vote) established by the MWP HGL of Alabama. Held between 11:00 AM and 12:00 noon, the event sought to empower graduating seniors by equipping them with the tools and knowledge to engage in the democratic process.

Thanks to the combined efforts of dedicated volunteers, approximately 33 high school seniors were successfully registered to vote. This milestone represents more than just a number—it's a meaningful step in promoting civic responsibility and encouraging the next generation to participate in shaping their communities.

The collaboration underscored the shared mission of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 and the Limestone County NAACP: to uplift, educate, and mobilize young citizens. By emphasizing the value of voter participation, both organizations continue to inspire youth to exercise their voices and make informed decisions at the ballot box. Through partnerships like this, community pillars are laying the groundwork for a more engaged and empowered future.

On June 14th, Athelstine Lodge No. 71, represented by PM Buford Thomas, provided technical support at the Preserving Diversity in America Juneteenth Festival. This multicultural event celebrated freedom and inclusion while showcasing the richness of community diversity. Speakers inspired attendees with a Juneteenth Charge, encouraging progress towards integrity and unity. The festival featured a diverse range of performances, including dancers, martial arts demonstrations, a marching band, a community choir, and a variety of music genres. Attendees enjoyed delicious food from food trucks, a Culinary Cook-Off, and local vendors. A hair exposition started at 1 p.m., and guests participated in games, a children's pageant, and poetry readings. The Townsend Family opened the festivities, fostering a celebratory atmosphere filled with camaraderie and cultural exchange. With college recruiters and healthcare providers present, the event not only honored cultural heritage but also connected the community with valuable resources. The partnership between Athelstine Lodge No. 71 and the Juneteenth Festival highlighted the power of collaboration in bringing people together for a day of joy and unity.

Contributor – WM Johnathan Scott (No. 71)



Above: PM Buford Thomas (Right) with Tanner High School official (Left).

Below: PM Buford Thomas providing technical support at the America Juneteenth Festival.



Ascension Lodge No. 72 Hosts Community Fish Fry

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, Ascension Lodge No. 72 held a spirited fish fry in Hillsboro, Alabama, bringing together lodge members and local residents for an afternoon of fellowship, flavorful food, and shared purpose. Attendees enjoyed piping-hot fish served alongside classic Southern sides, such as baked beans and coleslaw.

The event served as a vibrant testament to the lodge's active presence in the community. Brothers of the lodge cherished the opportunity to connect not only with one another but also with neighbors and friends, strengthening bonds and reinforcing a shared sense of unity.

In addition to the warm social atmosphere, the lodge took time to educate interested guests about Freemasonry and its traditions, offering insight into its enduring values and mission. By blending hospitality with heritage, the event highlighted the critical role Ascension Lodge No. 72 continues to play in the area.

The lodge extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make the event a success and looks forward to continuing this uplifting gathering as an annual tradition.



Members of Ascension Lodge No. 72 preparing fish dinners at community fish fry.

Contributor – WM Rudy Trammell (No. 72)

Sweet Home Lodge No. 179 Community Engagement and Fundraising Initiative



Members of Sweet Home Lodge No. 179 with their Mother's Day Baskets.

Sweet Home Lodge No. 179 recently launched a new initiative aimed at increasing its visibility within the community and encouraging full participation in fundraising efforts. Recognizing the importance of being actively involved, lodge leadership emphasized that supporting other lodges and fostering engagement are key to sustaining long-term viability in the Masonic community.

This event also serves a vital purpose: to bolster funding for the lodge's community service initiatives for the remainder of the year. The first to benefit from the proceeds will be the Meadow Hills Initiative, a project that reflects the lodge's ongoing commitment to service and outreach.

Through this renewed focus on collaboration and public presence, the lodge is laying a strong foundation for collective success and meaningful impact.

Contributor – PM Joseph Kimbrough (No. 179)

Temple Lodge No. 98 Renders Service Through Earth Month, Youth and Senior Care



Top: Members of Temple Lodge No. 98 and other volunteers at the Earth Month Cleanup.

Bottom: Bro. Robert Dubose and WM Carl Cooney with their donation check to Suits for Scholars.



On April 7, 2025, Temple Lodge No. 98 proudly partnered with Operation Green Team to host a community cleanup event in celebration of Earth Month. The brothers joined forces with volunteers to collect an impressive 142 bags of litter, reaffirming their commitment to environmental stewardship and Masonic values.

A heartfelt acknowledgment goes to the lodge members who concentrated their cleanup efforts along the street named in honor of Bro. Erick Wade. Their dedication to the Adopted Mile program—fittingly titled "For Those Who Can't"—resulted in the removal of six bags of debris from the area.

This initiative reflects the Lodge's ongoing commitment to serving the community and preserving the shared environment. Temple Lodge No. 98 extends sincere thanks to Operation Green Team for their support in making a tangible impact.

On April 16, 2025, Temple Lodge No. 98 was honored to contribute to the 11th Annual Suits for Scholars event in Huntsville. This empowering initiative, founded by Mr. Larry Vance, recognizes high school seniors by providing professional attire for their next chapter in life.

Fourteen students were selected by guidance counselors from Huntsville City Schools, and with support from local businesses and Dubois Clothing, each received custom-tailored suits or office attire. Temple Lodge No. 98 proudly contributed a donation to this year's event.

During the presentation ceremony, Worshipful Master Cooney offered words of encouragement to the recipients, urging them to "wear their work attire proudly" and to embrace every opportunity to learn and grow. His uplifting message served as a reminder that perseverance is key to success.

The lodge extends its best wishes to the graduating class of 2025 and looks forward to continuing support for this impactful program in the years to come.



Members of Temple Lodge No. 98 preparing to serve the residents and staff of Brookshire Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.



Members of Temple Lodge No. 98 with their ready-to-eat meals donation at Clearview Cancer Institute.



Members of Temple Lodge No. 98 after clean-up request from Huntsville City Councilman.

In recognition of National Skilled Nursing Care Week (May 11–17, 2025), Temple Lodge No. 98 once again celebrated with the residents and staff of Brookshire Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. With this year’s theme, “Tapestry of Life,” the week served as a tribute to the caregivers and residents whose lives and stories are interwoven with compassion and resilience.

On May 16, the lodge partnered with Gerry Country’s Kitchen to serve a hearty lunch of 150 hot dogs and 150 hamburgers to the Brookshire residents and staff. The festivities also included games such as cornhole, puzzles, and word challenges to bring smiles and fellowship to the celebration.

This annual tradition continues to be a meaningful expression of gratitude and community connection. Temple Lodge No. 98 looks forward to many more shared moments with the Brookshire family.

On June 26, 2025, members of Temple Lodge No. 98—Senior Warden Maurice Brinson, Junior Warden Robert Dubose, Treasurer Jayson Wilson, and Brother William Bennett—fulfilled their quarterly commitment to the Clearview Cancer Institute in Huntsville, Alabama.

The lodge has become a steadfast supporter of the institute through regular contributions to its patient food pantry. By providing nutritious, ready-to-eat meals, Temple Lodge helps ensure that patients facing the challenges of cancer treatment have access to wholesome, comforting food. This initiative not only nourishes the body but also uplifts the spirit, offering vital support to those experiencing food insecurity during a vulnerable time.

Temple Lodge No. 98 remains committed to serving the community and standing beside patients in their journey toward healing.

After Huntsville City Councilman Bill Kling Jr., who represents District 4, received numerous complaints from his constituents about the condition of rear access near Drake Avenue and Lindey Road, he called upon Temple Lodge No. 98 for a quick clean-up and repair of the roads and grounds. Brothers Maurice Brinson, Douglas Simpson, Anthony O’Neal, William Bennett, Don Carter, Mario Fletcher, and Erick Wade took on this project with determination.

The first step was to assess the work that needed to be done. Next, the brothers procured the necessary materials, including 15 bags of gravel, rakes, and lawn equipment. Early in the morning on June 28, 2025, before a heat advisory took effect, the brothers arrived at an alleyway behind Lindey Lane in Huntsville, AL. They began by weed-eating the quarter-mile-long fence line and filling and leveling the uneven gravel surface.

Contributor – WM Carl Cooney. (No. 98)

Hopewell Lodge No. 198 Embodies Spirit of Giving Through Community Donations

Hopewell Lodge No. 198 and Unity Lodge No. 46 have continued to make a meaningful impact in their communities through recent charitable initiatives. On April 28, 2025, the lodges donated non-perishable food items to the newly established Leighton Give & Receive Food Pantry, which officially opened its doors on February 27, 2025. The pantry, monitored by the officials of the Leighton Public Library, has quickly become a vital resource for those in need. Miranda Ball expressed heartfelt gratitude, sharing, “I’m so excited that you all think of us when giving back. We appreciate the support.” The lodges are committed to making this the first of many contributions.

Continuing their outreach, on May 31, 2025, the lodges donated multiple bags of clothing items to the Shoals Dream Center. Known for its long-standing service to the Shoals area, the organization’s mission, “Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow,” resonated deeply with the spirit of the contribution. Members of the lodges expressed it was a blessing to be a blessing, acknowledging that one never knows who may be on the receiving end.

On June 23, 2025, Hopewell Lodge No. 198, along with Unity Lodge No. 46 and Ivy Leaf No. 450, donated multiple gallons of pop tabs at SA Recycling in Sheffield, AL, on behalf of the RMHCA (Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama). Since 2001, this organization has been helping communities across Alabama. These tiny pop tabs have had a significant impact in Alabama! The funds are used to support the mission of RMHCA, which includes covering essential expenses such as utility bills and providing necessary supplies to our families. As their slogan says, “Pull Together. Save Together. Love Together.” This is a charity that Hopewell 198, amongst others, will support yearly.

These acts of service highlight the lodge’s dedication to uplifting their community and living out the values of generosity and compassion. More donations are planned in the future as they continue to extend hope, kindness, and faith to those in need. As it is written, “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – II Corinthians 9:7 (NIV).

Contributor – WM Rev. Craig Hawkins (No. 198)



Left to right: Bro. Maurice Powers of Unity No. 46, Bro. Charles Whiteside of Ivy Leaf No. 450, and WM Min. Craig Hawkins of Hopewell No. 198.



Left to right: WM Min. Steven Ingram, Jr. of Unity No. 46, and WM Min. Craig Hawkins of Hopewell No. 198 at Leighton’s Public Library food pantry.

Goodway Lodge No. 222

Staying Busy in Its Community



The brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 with Cenitra Aaron and Her Team of Volunteers.



Brother Brandon James and Brother Shadi Williams Serving the Homeless.

On Saturday, April 26th, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 joined forces with community advocate Ms. Cenitra Aaron and her team of volunteers for a meaningful day of service. Together, they delivered over 100 hot meals and bottled water to individuals experiencing homelessness on Derrick Street, just outside Downtown Huntsville.

This outreach initiative extended beyond simply distributing food—it represented a powerful gesture of compassion, dignity, and unity. Known as a common gathering space for the city's unhoused population, Derrick Street became a hub of fellowship and hope. Volunteers offered, not only meals, but also heartfelt conversations and genuine support.

The brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 saw the event as a living expression of Masonic values—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Their presence underscored the Lodge's ongoing dedication to serving the community with both action and purpose.

Ms. Cenitra Aaron, widely respected for her grassroots leadership and tireless commitment to service, played a pivotal role in organizing the initiative. Her coordination and vision, supported by a devoted volunteer team, were instrumental in the event's success. Together with the Lodge, they exemplified the power of partnership and collective care.

Additional community volunteers also contributed, highlighting Huntsville's enduring spirit of service and solidarity. This effort is one of many in which Goodway Lodge No. 222 actively participates as part of its mission to uplift and empower.

With continued involvement in mentorship, outreach, and civic engagement, the Lodge remains a steadfast force for positive change in Huntsville and beyond.

Contributor – WM Brian Johnson (No. 222)

Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interest 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 (hjeromeglover@yahoo.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 or not use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. **Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 5 October 2025.** These articles should include events from **July 2025 - September 2025.** Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph written in third person 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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Brother Marion Avery Dortch, Jr.
Hamilton Lodge No. 365

Brother Dominguez C. Hurry
Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511

Brother Eric Reese
Woods Joy Lodge No. 752

PM Joseph A. Kimbrough
Sweet Home Lodge No. 179

WM Tim Turk
St. John Lodge No. 2

WM Michael Meadows
Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 12

WM Daryl Lockhart
Red Cross Lodge No. 35

WM Taurean F. Dawkins
Morning Star Lodge No. 50

WM Johnathan Scott
Athelstine Lodge No. 71

WM Rudy Trammell
Ascension Lodge No. 72

WM Carl Cooney
Temple Lodge No. 98

WM Rev. Craig Hawkins
Hopewell Lodge No. 198

WM Brian Johnson
Goodway Lodge No. 222

AGDD Benjamin B. Long, Jr.
Evening Star Lodge No. 6

WM Ferry Nye, Jr.
Abraham Lodge No. 267

WM Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr.
Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319

WM Patrick A. Sparks
Stillman Lodge No. 490

RW Herman "Jerome" Glover
Publication Editor

PM Roderick Caswell
Front Cover Designer

RW Gregory Clark
*Convention Coordinator/Corporate
Liaison and Financial Planner*

RW Carlton Jones
*Committee on Military
and Veteran Affairs*

Brother Miguel L. Ferguson
Health and Awareness Contributor

RW L. Ken Collins
Grand Historian



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Most Worshipful Grand Master

RW Anthony J. Johnson
Grand Secretary

Post Office Box 10504
Birmingham, Alabama 35202