



Union Masonic Lodge #618, A.F.&A.M.

Volume 2, Issue 6

June 11, 2013

SECRETARY: IMPORTANT REQUEST—
The Grand Lodge is undertaking a program recognizing our military veterans. The success of this program requires the Lodge Secretaries to obtain information regarding veterans in their respective Lodges, and that he get this information entered into the Lodge's computerized member files very soon. If you are a military veteran member of Union Lodge #618, please provide the following information to the Secretary (Phone: 704-455-1632; Email: rdarrell@earthlink.net): (1)

Start of Military Service (Year), (2) Discharge Date (Year), (3) Branch of Service, (4) Military Conflict That Occurred During Your Service. Each qualified military veteran will be recognized and presented his certificate during a stated meeting by a Grand Lodge officer or our district deputy grand master. If the Secretary does not receive this requested information, it obviously will not be possible for the veteran to receive this due recognition.

Happenings at the June stated

30 of us fellowshipped at this stated.
Brothers Dustin Grooms and Jason Rushing were satisfactorily examined on their proficiencies in the catechism of the FC Degree, and will join Brother Daniel Johnson on June 24th to receive their MM Degrees.
Brother Ron Harkey was elected to Life Membership.

The brethren approved for the summer months, the establishment of the 1st & 3rd Saturdays as Lodge property work days.
Brother Tommy Nash presented a very interesting Masonic Education item, enlightening the brethren regarding the Biblical reference in the degree work to Ecclesiastes 12.

Upcoming events of interest

June 20th and 23rd—Officers practice for MM Degree. Sun 5:00p, Thu 7:30p. All MMs are invited to participate.

June 15th and July 6th—Lodge property work days—assemble at 8:00am with tools.

June 24th—MM Degree. 6:30 supper, 7:30 degree work. Please plan to be there.

July 8th—Stated Communication. Supper at

6:30, meeting at 7:30.

September 27th—Golf Tournament, 8:30am, Green Oaks Golf Course. Sign-up information will be published.

September 28th—Ladies Night Banquet with entertainment by the Rowan Big Band All-Stars. More details to follow. Mark your calendars.

June Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT
(sorted by age on birth date)
Age Birth Date Name

81 06/17/1932 WILLIAM T.
JOHNSON

68 06/06/1945 CLAUDE H.
HELMS

65 06/23/1948 RICHARD F.
THORNBURG

52 06/03/1961 ROBERT A.
BURGESS JR

48 06/14/1965 JAMES W. BEN-
NETT JR

47 06/24/1966 THOMAS B.
HILL

27 06/30/1986 EDWARD C.
DAVIS IV

July Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT
(sorted by age on birth date)
Age Birth Date Name

76 07/29/1937 ROBERT F.
SHINN

71 07/19/1942 STEPHEN A.
WHITE

68 07/07/1945 BERNIE L.
PENCE

63 07/19/1950 DONALD T. HILL

52 07/05/1961 JEFFREY M.
BRADLEY

51 07/17/1962 STANLEY W.
DRYE

50 07/22/1963 CHARLES K.
FURR

49 07/06/1964 KENNETH J.
KIKER

48 07/26/1965 DANIEL B. JOHN-
SON

46 07/08/1967 BRIAN K. KNOX

45 07/08/1968 ANTHONY W.
WILLIAMS

Masonic Education. Praying in Lodge. Part 2 of 2.

PRAYING IN LODGE

By: Gary Leazer

This STB was originally published in a brochure by the Center for Interfaith Studies, Inc., and was reprinted in the September 1999 Scottish Rite Journal. It has been published as a Short Talk Bulletin with permission.

Bro. Leazer also wrote the 10-94 STB Fundamentalism and Freemasonry. Rev. and Bro. Leazer is a member of Clarkston Lodge #492, Clarkston, GA.

[Continued from the May newsletter)

Praying to The Great Architect of the Universe

Masonic critics have long and loudly argued that Masons do not pray to Yahweh when they pray in Masonic Lodges. Masonic critic William Schnoebelen refers to the "generic" god of Masonry, "God-to-the-lowest-denominator" and "Mr. Potato-Head God" when speaking of the Great Architect of the Universe (*Masonry: Beyond the Light*, pp. 44-46).

Another critic, John Ankerberg, quotes from *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia* to argue that Masons believe
(Continued on p3)

(Continued from p3)

Yahweh (or Jehovah) is inferior to "the universal god of Masonry" (*The Secret Teachings of the Masonic Lodge*, pp. 113-14). Ankerberg's quote is not in the 1995 edition of *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, the most recent edition, except for a single sentence, "The Masonic test is [belief in] a Supreme Being, and any qualification added is an innovation and distortion." This sentence is simply a requirement that men who desire to become Masons must believe in one God (monotheism). Monotheism is affirmed in biblical statements such as Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel! **The LORD** is our God, the **LORD** is one!" No statement in *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia* suggests that Masons believe Yahweh is an inferior God.

The phrase Great Architect of the Universe came into Freemasonry as early as 1723, according to Coil's *Masonic Encyclopedia*, when it appeared in James Anderson's *Book of Constitutions*. Anderson, a Scottish Presbyterian minister in London, did not invent the phrase. It was repeatedly used by Reformed theologian John Calvin (1509-1564). In his Commentary on Psalm 19, Calvin states the heavens "were wonderfully founded by the Great Architect." Again, according to the same paragraph, Calvin writes "when once we recognize God as the Architect of the Universe, we are bound to marvel at his Wisdom, Strength, and Goodness." In fact, Calvin repeatedly calls God "the Architect of the Universe" and refers to his works in nature as "Architecture of the Universe" 10 times in the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* alone" (*Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, p. 516). If we accept the logic of Masonic critics, then Calvin must have believed the God revealed in the Psalms and elsewhere in the Bible is a false god. This, of course, is absurd, as are all of the Masonic critics' arguments.

Federal Reserve Notes (\$1 bills) proclaim "In God We Trust." The U.S. Mint has not defined "God." It is used as a generic name for the Supreme Being. Individuals may define God as they wish. In our religiously diverse nation, individuals of different faiths will define who they believe God is. I do not hear people calling for the removal of "In God We Trust" from Federal Reserve Notes because not everyone defines God as they do.

Praying with Persons of Other Faiths

On February 9, 1999, *Baptist Press* posted a story about several Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary administrators and faculty members visiting mosques while on a trip to North Africa and the Middle East. *Baptist Press* states the administrators and faculty "were awed by the mosques which provided an atmosphere for prayer. Though the local worshipers gathered to pray to Allah [the Arabic word for God], Midwestern's group removed their shoes [as is the custom in mosques] and spent time praying to the God of their Christian faith."

Mark Coppenger, president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, was one of the Baptist visitors to the mosques. Coppenger said, "As we sat, and knelt, and stood [Muslims perform specific rituals which includes standing, kneeling and bowing while praying to Allah] in these moments of praise, confession, petition and intercession, it occurred to us that Christians would do well to have a similar location, atmosphere and posture for prayer." "It is a pity that non-Christians and sacramentalists [Roman Catholics] have appropriated the notion of houses of prayer, when ours is the heritage of orthodox prayer," Coppenger continued, referring to mosques and Roman Catholic cathedrals and retreat centers. "We have let them lead in an emphasis on prayer by default."

When the group returned to Kansas City, Coppenger decided to provide a place for prayer similar to that in
(Continued on p4)

(Continued from p3)

mosques for seminary students. He removed hundreds of portable chairs from the chapel and laid down rolls of carpet. Students were asked to remove their shoes when they entered the "house of prayer," and a kneeling position was recommended.

Coppenger, his administrators, and faculty joined Muslims at prayer in a mosque. They reported they were able to pray to Yahweh even while Muslims were praying to God whom they call Allah. Coppenger and his team even followed the Muslim practice of bowing, kneeling, and prostrating themselves during the prayer ritual and still found they could pray to Yahweh. I have never felt I could not pray as my chosen faith leads me while standing next to someone in a Lodge meeting who does not share my faith.

Freemasons Do Not Worship in Lodge Meetings

In conclusion, Masons do not worship in Lodge meetings. Each Mason freely prays as his faith dictates, regardless of who is leading the group prayer, because prayer is ultimately a personal encounter and conversation between a man and his Creator.

**UNION MASONIC LODGE #618,
A.F.&A.M.**

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 497
MIDLAND, NC 28107

MASONIC TEMPLE ADDRESS:
9650 HIGHWAY 601

Phone: NO PHONE SERVICE AT THE FACILITY
Fax: NO FAX SERVICE AT THE FACILITY
LODGE WEB SITE: unionlodge618.com



MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.

**Newsletter Editor: R. Darrell Long,
PM**

Secretary of Union Lodge #618

**Send any constructive criticisms or
comments to
rdarrell@earthlink.net**

Don't forget to pass the word around that our Fellowship Hall is available to rent. Provide any interested party the mobile phone number for WB Darrell Cline, who manages all of the reservations. (704) 791-9470

