

THE COLUMNS

PLEASANTS LODGE #63 AF & AM

622 W. Campbell Ave. SW

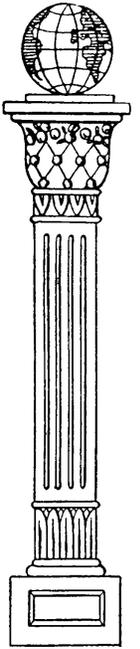
Roanoke, VA 24018

Stated Meeting, Third Monday of each Month

Phone: 540-632-2163 Email: contact@pleasants63.org

www.pleasants63.org

December 2010



Worshipful Master - Archer Davenport Livengood, Jr.

Senior Warden	Stuart Matthew Bain	Junior Warden	Sidney Warren Bush
Secretary	Duffy Jerome Ferguson (pro-tem)	Treasurer	Thomas Edward Purbes
Senior Deacon	Fred Marion Burns	Junior Deacon	David Eugene Campbell, III
Chaplain	Charles Henry Stowe	Tiler	Kenneth Ray Robinette
Senior Steward	Stephen Kendrick Sprague	Junior Steward	Dewey Rickie Taylor

"Shared Experiences:"

When I wrote my first article for "The Columns" it was titled "New Beginnings." For my last one I want to talk about "Shared Experiences." Brother Stuart Matthew Bain, our Senior Warden, is the exceptional young man who will be installed December 20th as the next Worshipful Master of Pleasants Lodge #63. He is a Marine. Myself? I was a soldier. Did you notice I said is and was? What is the difference? When a Soldier finishes his tour of duty he is done being a Soldier, but when a Marine finishes his tour of duty..."Once a Marine, always a Marine!" What is the difference? I submit it is "Shared Experiences." In the Army we had eight weeks of "Basic Training." It wasn't easy, but we were young and it was over before we even realized it. The Marine Experience is quite different. The training to become a Marine and the degree of difficulty in becoming a really good one is something else entirely. A bond of "shared experiences" is forged among each person that is long lasting. It does not end with the end of the tour of duty, but continues until death.

What is the difference between ordinary fraternal organizations and the "World's Oldest Fraternal Organization" Free Masonry? I submit that it also is "shared experiences." To join any number of fraternal organizations all it takes is a simple application and an application fee which is your first year's dues. They don't know anything about you or what type of person you are. To become a Free Mason you have to do some special things. First, you submit a "Petition for the Degrees in Freemasonry." This petition, signed by two Master Masons is read in open lodge one month and is voted on the next month. The vote must be unanimous and that vote is taken only after a favorable report on you is submitted by the "Investigating Committee" that is appointed by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. Even then, you are not a Master Mason until you have received the three degrees in Freemasonry, "Entered Apprentice," "Fellowcraft" and finally the two part "Master Mason's Degree." The three "Catechisms" of the lessons taught and the experiences in these degrees are usually presented by the Candidate in Open Lodge in front of his new brethren and after the brethren are satisfied on the Candidate's "Masonic Proficiency," a Certificate is awarded. Wow! Quite an experience as we all know.

Once we are raised to the Sublime Degree of Freemasonry, what happens then? That is the regrettable part. A small core cadre of Master Masons is in Lodge on a regular basis, some stop by from time to time, while the majority just "wear the ring." They joined because they thought it would be cool to say "I am a Master Mason." That's an awful lot of work to go thru just to be able to say that. It's not unlike a person joining a church and after the first few weeks, instead of "plugging in" to a Sunday School Class or becoming an Usher or a Deacon, or a Teacher, or some other helpful participation; he never comes back until his child's wedding or his own funeral. What a waste of all that effort. What a genuine loss of fellowship and "shared experiences."

Lodge Statistics as of November 30, 2010 (for the year)

Demits Processed: 3 Suspensions: 3 Deaths: 5 Affiliated: 1
Raised: 5 Restorations: 1

Honorary Members: 3 Life Members: 11 50 Yr. Members: 18
Remitted Members: Hardship 2, Illness 1 Officers: 3

Current Lodge Membership: 142 plus 2 candidates, 0 petitioners

Total Dues Paying Members: 103

Initiated as Entered Apprentice
Mark Anthony Gibson
Brian Lee Thomas

Some of you reading this months "From the East" are part of that "core cadre" of Master Masons who are in Lodge regularly and enjoy the fellowship and other benefits of membership in "The World's Oldest Fraternity." The others somehow got bored or just "lost the magic" of Freemasonry and now only pay their yearly dues and "Wear the Ring." Won't you come back to Lodge next year and become part of the "Living Lodge?"

Archer Livengood, Worshipful Master

Brethren,

As we come to the end of yet another year, and the cold weather starts blowing in, it always reminds me of when I first joined Pleasants Lodge. Each year around installation time, I enjoy the holidays with my family and reflect on years past from my childhood and the first Christmas celebrations with my daughter and son. I am very blessed to have the support of a loving spouse and family for my endeavors with the lodge and elsewhere. I am also very fortunate in that the holiday season brings back even more memories for me! During December, I am always reminded of those first steps I took to join our great fraternity. My first experience with the lodge, before I was even initiated as an Entered Apprentice, was to witness the open installation of Wor. Barry D. Light and his 2006 officers at the December stated in 2005. Although I had already petitioned the lodge for membership, the installation left a lasting impression on my mind that my decision to join was the right one. Reflecting back, I am proud to say I am very blessed and honored by the opportunity to assume the east at my own installation, just like my first experience at Pleasants five years ago.

During this holiday season, I do hope you will also take the time to reflect on your journey through the halls of masonry, and I invite you all to join us on Monday, December 20th at our stated communication for the installation of our 2011 officers. Help us kick off this new Masonic year and come see what we have in store for 2011. I intend to make it a rewarding year for our brethren who choose to participate and play a part in lodge activities. As has been the tradition at Pleasants, our installation of officers will be an open installation, so please bring your ladies and family with you. We have a dispensation to begin the stated communication at 6PM to allow time for elections, the open installation, etc. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres served, and I do hope to see you all there.

S&F,

-- Stuart Bain

Birthdays

Roger Eugene Thomas, Jr.	December 2	Christopher Scott St. Clair	January 3	Jay Michael Becker	February 3
David Lewis Swain	December 10	Roy Wilson Lynch	January 6	Harry Tuckworth Lucas, III	February 4
John Dickerson Nunn	December 11	James Richard Meredith	January 9	Jeffrey Gerard Nicola	February 5
David Andrew Cummings	December 11	Joseph Frank Huddleston, III	January 12	Julien Irwin Sacks	February 8
Paul Thomas Smith, Jr.	December 12	Charles Dunmore Fox, IV	January 12	Boreham Boyd Johnson	February 11
Francis John Nardi	December 14	Timothy Arnold Fitzgerald	January 17	Donald Richard Nevins	February 12
Carter Whitlow Radford	December 14	Mike Fries	January 17	Daniel Harvey Agee, Jr.	February 15
Jeffrey Roy Wendell	December 16	Clive Elvyn Rice	January 17	Michael George Lawson	February 16
Max Cameron Johnson	December 24	Jeffrey Lynn Butler	January 19	Orville Max Leach	February 17
Archer Davenport Livengood, Jr	December 25	Daniel Gilbert Oakey	January 21	Charles Carmine Perna	February 20
Edward Lee Jewell, Jr.	December 27	Harry Robert Deaton, Jr.	January 29	George Wilbur Carden, Jr.	February 22
Kerford Aldin Key	December 29			Howard Carroll Packett	February 23
				John William Slusher	February 27