

THE COLUMNS

PLEASANTS LODGE #63 AF & AM

622 W. Campbell Ave. SW

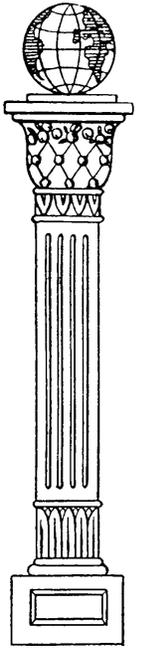
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January 2010



Worshipful Master - Archer Davenport Livengood, Jr.

Senior Warden	Stuart Matthew Bain	Junior Warden	Sidney Warren Bush
Secretary	William Arthur Seymour, Jr.	Treasurer	Thomas Edward Purves
Senior Deacon	Fred Marion Burns	Junior Deacon	David Eugene Campbell
Chaplain	Charles Henry Stowe	Tiler	Kenneth Ray Robinette
Senior Steward	Stephen Kendrick Sprague	Junior Steward	Dewey Rickie Taylor

Worshipful Master's Remarks at Installation." (For those that could not attend.)

Awhile back a friend said I was going to enjoy this night because it would finally be "my night." I said, "Not by a long shot. This night will be Duffy's night." I haven't done anything but finally get to the Master's Chair. If I have a night at all, it will be "our night" a year from now, when we can again gather together and celebrate that, as a lodge, we have continued to do all that we can do and be all that we can be.

Tonight is a night for me to personally recognize and appreciate W. Duffy's work this year in starting The Grand Lodge of Virginia's Child ID Program here in our lodge and motivating us to a point that our lodge is the state leader right now in Child ID Kits produced. Counting programs we have conducted this year and including the ones we helped out in, there were a total of over 900 children processed. We were recognized at Grand Lodge this past November for the work that we did under Duffy's leadership. We are a fairly small lodge, but we do not do things in a small way. We have slightly more than 150 members, but our core 10 percent, the ones that do the work, are the equal to any group of people that I've come across in my 68 years.

I pledge to you this evening that The Grand Lodge of Virginia Child ID Program will be continued and that Pleasants Lodge in 2010, will again be the Virginia leader in Family's helped and children protected thru this program. Brother Duffy, I will "follow your footprints in the sand."

In closing out our evening together, I would like to mention a few things that I have learned while going thru the chairs here in our lodge, to finally reach the "Master's Chair" tonight. The first is that according to Masonic Law, the Worshipful Master Rules and Governs His Lodge. He does not do that by giving orders, but by example and by motivation. The success of each of the things we do every single day of our lives is greatly determined by our "Motivation." If we are not motivated, we usually do not succeed.

There is an old story that has been told and retold over the years. Those of you that have heard it before, please listen again. The story may be familiar, but the lesson it teaches needs to be re-examined from time to time.

An old gentleman had to attend lodge meeting just a short way from his home. The evening was so lovely when he left his home a few short blocks from lodge that he decided to leave his pickup truck at home and just walk. He figured the moonlight would light his way home after dark. A terrible rain storm started just after he got inside the lodge.

Lodge Statistics as of the end of 2009

Demits Processed: 3	Suspensions: 3	Deaths: 0	Affiliated: 1
Honorary Members: 5	Life Members: 11	50 Yr. Members: 19	
Remitted Members: Hardship 2, Illness 1		Officers: 3	
Total Lodge Membership:	139	plus 5 candidates/petitioners	
Total Dues Paying Members:	98		

Petitions outstanding
Two petitioners
Initiated as Entered Apprentices
Matthew Howard Gregory
Tyron Heath Cassell
Passed to Degree of Fellowcraft
Timothy Daniel Robertson

After the meeting and refreshments were over, the rain had increased in intensity, and with the wind blowing mightily, it was bitter cold. He was too proud to ask for a ride, and to get home sooner he took a familiar short-cut thru the cemetery that was located between his home and his lodge.

It was raining harder and harder and there was no moonlight to guide his path so when he was half way across the grounds of the cemetery he fell into a freshly dug grave. Luckily he was not hurt as the ground was wet and muddy and all that was hurt was his pride.

He tried to climb the rain soaked sides of the grave, but it was impossible to get out. He tried until his hands and feet, his face and his whole body was covered with mud. Everything was covered but his eyes.

He hollered for help until he was hoarse, but the sound of his voice was lost in the wind and the rain. He finally gave up, slid into a dark corner of the very dark hole, pulled his coat collar up over his neck, pulled his hat down tight and was about to fall asleep, waiting for morning, when he heard footsteps and “Lo and Behold,” another person fell face down in the grave, just in front of his eyes.

The other poor soul crawled up the opposite wall and was beginning to try and claw his way out of the grave. The old gentleman got up and quietly stepped over to the other fellow, put both hands on his shoulders and in a strong voice, so that he could be heard over the wind and the rain, said “You can’t escape from this grave!” ... But you know, he was wrong....Before he could say anything else, that guy was up and gone! They were both in the same hole, but the new guy was motivated. J~

There are three types of Master Masons: The Ring Wearing Master Mason, the Knife and Fork Master Mason, and the Motivated Master Mason.

The Ring Wearing Mason just wants to wear the ring. It’s great looking and the people who see it know that the wearer is a man of good character and someone to be respected. Just to be privileged to wear this beautiful and historic ring is worth the dues that we pay once a year.

The Knife and Fork Mason expands on that and adds a few suppers and social events on his calendar, but does not regularly attend lodge stated meetings or support activities in his lodge. A lot of these fellows joined Free Masonry just to be enabled to join The Shrine, be in the fun units and parades, and we never saw them again.

The Motivated Mason is the man who goes far beyond the first two Mason’s and gives of his time to his lodge. He is a true friend and brother and he can be counted on to answer the call when he is needed. He regularly attends lodge and looks forward to the fellowship of the brethren, not only once a month, but in between.

The first two Master Masons are the ones that I want to cultivate this year. They were raised as Master Masons, but they were not cultivated by the brethren and they did not flourish and grow in Masonry. They wear the ring, but miss out on the fellowship with the brethren. It’s very similar to someone who joins the church, but then never, ever, returns. He is just on the rolls. My brothers, that is just wrong!

What I want to do in this coming year is get some of these brothers back in lodge. In our promise that we make to each other when we become Master Masons, we promise to nourish and cherish our brothers, counsel them when they go astray and aid them in their journey to more Light In Free Masonry. This is how Free Masonry makes “Good men better.” We can’t do that if they are not here in lodge. This year we need to make a concerted effort to get them back into active fellowship.

Before I finish, there is just one more important thing: Ladies, I thank you all for the times you have let your husband slip out the door and head for lodge. I hope that Free Masonry has achieved its stated goal of “Making Good Men Better,” and that you have received an improved man when he came back home a few hours later. We hope that his being here has improved him and that he has helped us also improve ourselves, thru his counsel and by his influence. If we have improved ourselves, we have succeeded. If we have not improved ourselves, we have failed. I truly hope that we have done our jobs as Brother Masons and that we will succeed.

Archer