

THE COLUMNS

PLEASANTS LODGE #63 AF & AM

622 W. Campbell Ave. SW

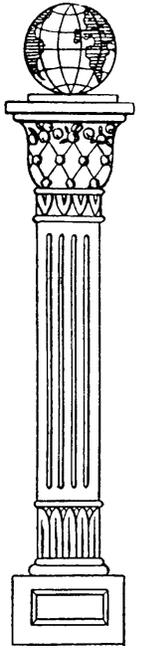
Roanoke, VA 24018

Stated Meeting, Third Monday of each Month

Phone: 540-725-1134 Email: Pleasants63@cox.net

www.home.earthlink.net/~pleasantslodge/

March 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, III
Chaplain	Charles Henry Stowe	Tiler	Kenneth Ray Robinette
Senior Steward	Stephen Kendrick Sprague	Junior Steward	Dewey Rickie Taylor

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" - Martin Luther King Jr.

To paraphrase Rick Warren of the Saddleback Church, "Masonic Lodges without clear, strong convictions will never attract the level of commitment that their Ancient Heritage deserves. We must burn with the conviction that we can be of service and be a vital part of our communities. We do that by getting off the couch and attending our lodges. It is there that we learn "to forget not the duties..." and how to be of service to our fellow human beings. It can be thru our Worthy Student Bicycle Giveaway Program, or our Masonic Child ID Program, or in a simple way such as is told in the story below.

I love stories. As a Preacher's Son I was raised hearing them. Stories teach us lessons that we can remember. Here is my favorite story of 2009: It is about a man who on that one day was a little simple, a little kind, a little loving, on this very ordinary day that turned out to be quite extraordinary.

"The Taxi Driver."

"I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I walked to the door and knocked.. 'Just a minute', answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie.

By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets.

There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

'Would you carry my bag out to the car?' she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman.

She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb.

She kept thanking me for my kindness. 'It's nothing', I told her.. 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated'.

'Oh, you're such a good boy', she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, 'Could you drive through downtown?'

'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly..

'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice'.

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. 'I don't have any family left,' she continued in a soft voice.. 'The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

Lodge Statistics as February 15, 2010 (for the year)

Demits Processed: 3 Suspensions: 3 Deaths: 1 Affiliated: 1
Raised: 0 Restorations: 1

Honorary Members: 5 Life Members: 11 50 Yr. Members: 19
Remitted Members: Hardship 2, Illness 1 Officers: 3

Current Lodge Membership: 139 plus 4 candidates, 1 petitioner

Total Dues Paying Members: 97

Petitions outstanding

One
Awaiting Initiation
Mark Anthony Gibson

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

'What route would you like me to take?' I asked..

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now'.

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico.

Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

'How much do I owe you?' she asked, reaching into her purse.

'Nothing,' I said

'You have to make a living,' she answered.

'There are other passengers,' I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly.

'You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,' she said. 'Thank you.'

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light.. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments.

But great moments often catch us unaware, beautifully wrapped in small ones."

Who have we helped today? It's not too late! Thanks for belonging to Pleasants Lodge #63. May each Master Mason in our little world, endeavor to be more like the man portrayed in this story. Archer Livengood, WM

**DON'T FORGET THE CHILD ID EVENT AT
TANGLEWOOD MALL
MARCH 27, 2010 9:30 AM
VOLUNTEER TO HELP NOW**

Birthdays

James Dean Cole	March 3	Robert Glen Bishop	April 2
Bruce Neal Stewart	March 3	James Hardie Lawrence	April 11
James Larry Foster	March 8	Michael Kevin Riley	April 20
James Milton Scearce, Jr.	March 10	Curtis Neil Dickerson	April 24
David Alyn Goode	March 16	William Arthur Seymour, Jr.	April 26
Curtis Elery Downey	March 18	Jerry Wayne McMillan	April 29
Courtney Elwood Jarvis	March 21		
Clarence Mortimer Hawkins, Jr.	March 22		
Robert Raymond Robertson	March 23		
John Draper Walrond	March 26		
Thomas Michael Wilbourn	March 27		
Harold Oliver Nofsinger	March 30		
William Kenneth Ramsey, Sr.	March 30		
John Charles Renick	March 30		