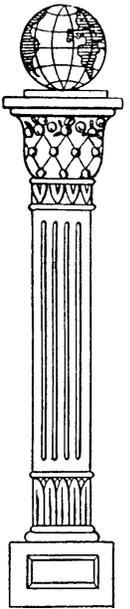


THE COLUMNS

PLEASANTS LODGE #63 AF & AM

622 W. Campbell Ave. SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

Stated Meeting, Third Monday of each Month, 7:30 PM
Phone: 540-632-2163 Email: contact@pleasants63.org
www.pleasants63.org



December 2011

Worshipful Master - Stuart Matthew Bain

Senior Warden	Sidney Warren Bush	Junior Warden	Fred Marion Burns
Secretary	Barry Dale Light	Treasurer	Thomas Edward Purbes
Senior Deacon	David Eugene Campbell, III	Junior Deacon	Taha Hasayn Bullock
Chaplain	Charles Henry Stowe	Tiler	Kenneth Ray Robinette
Senior Steward	Robert Tasker Carter, III	Junior Steward	Matthew Howard Gregory

Brethren,

This issue of *The Columns* wraps up yet another wonderful year at Pleasants Lodge. I hope you all enjoyed this year as much as I did. God saw fit to bless our lodge, my family, and myself in many ways this year; and I am thankful for everything He saw fit to bless us, including the opportunity you afforded me to serve as your Worshipful Master for 2011.

Looking back through the years since I first agreed to be the Junior Deacon at Pleasants, I am amazed at how quickly the sands of the hourglass truly flow. I started my journey to the East not knowing what was involved and not quite sure what was in store. It was a long road, but one well worth the effort. Along the way, I made many friendships and learned many valuable lessons. I look forward to making many more and continuing to learn in years to come.

I started this year with high hopes and aspirations for sparking an increase in interest, attendance, and member participation and involvement in the lodge and lodge events. I know this has been an ongoing struggle for each and every Master before me throughout the years. I hope the programs and incentives offered continue to serve as a reminder that your lodge needs you and needs your presence at stated communications and other events. I feel the addition of meals to many events this year, the several family nights out on the town, and the Master's Wages program served us well and contributed to our fellowship as a lodge. I look forward to what our future lodge officers have in store for us.

As with years past, this year was not without complications. Many found that despite our best efforts, the cable tow does indeed tighten for even the most dedicated of our brethren and officers. The old adage regarding "best laid plans..." serves as a reminder that we should expect the unexpected and be prepared to deal with it as needed. Perhaps it was a sudden career change that required extended travel or a shift from day crew to night crew. Regardless, we faced these problems head on to ensure our work as a lodge continued. Keeping the chairs filled at our meetings and degree work was often a challenge; but thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members (and gracious assistance from other lodges in the region), we were able to overcome the obstacles we encountered this year and continue our efforts to grow and improve our lodge. We all worked together to make it a better experience for the brethren and families who participated and dedicated their time, talents, and resources. I could not have weathered this year had it not been for the individuals on whom I was able to faithfully rely on to help me get the job done and get it done well. I will refrain from a list of names, but I am eternally grateful to those of you who contributed to making this year a success for us as a lodge and for me during my year in the East. Your work and good spirit did not go unnoticed and will not be forgotten.

Lodge Statistics as of November 28, 2011 (Year to Date)

Demits Processed: 1 Suspensions: 0 Deaths: 3 Affiliated: 2 Raised: 4 Restorations: 0
 Honorary Members: 3 Life Members: 12 50 Yr. Members: 17, Remitted Members: Hardship 5, Illness 1, Officers: 3
 Current Lodge Membership: 135 Total Dues Paying Members: 98 (6 in arrears for 2011 dues, 3 also in arrears for 2010 dues)
 Master Mason Working: Entered Apprentice working: Petitioners: 1
 Attendance at Stated Meetings: 10 (Average) Pleasants Lodge Members Present (7.4%)

I encourage our new slate of officers for 2012 and onward to carry on our endeavor to seek constant improvement for our lodge and for its individual members and families. The “numbers” and reports may point towards a downward trend in our craft over years and decades past, but do not let that dissuade you from giving it your all in the years and decades to come. The duties will be many, and the times will get tough. Expect it. Regardless, know that you and your successors will always have the attention, dedication, and willing participation of a grateful lodge to help, aid, and assist you through whatever problems you encounter.

God bless you and yours, and thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve you. I know you will afford our newly elected Master the same level of respect, cooperation, and enthusiasm you afforded me; and I look forward to seeing you all in lodge for many years to come.

Sincerely and Fraternaly Yours,

-- Stuart M. Bain
 Worshipful Master 2011
 Pleasants Lodge #63 AF&AM
 Roanoke, VA

December Stated Meeting, Election of Officers, Installation of Officers

December Stated Meetings are always a full night of activity with the current Master wrapping up his year and the subsequent election and installation of the next year’s officers. This year will be no different and the following activities will take place on December 19.

Open Lodge under dispensation at 6:00PM with Wor. Bain presiding. After the lodge is opened and the normal business affairs have taken place we will proceed with the Election of the 2012 Officers with Most Worshipful John Mason Chambliss, Jr. presiding. Immediately following will be the Lodge Memorial Service for those Brethren who have passed to the Celestial Lodge. Following that will be the close of Wor. Bain’s Lodge of Sorrow.

The Lodge will then be called from Labor to Refreshment and all guests and family invited into the Lodge for the installation of officers and presentations.

A social hour will then be held in the dining area of the Scottish Rite for all.

Wor. Bush, after a suitable time period, will call the new officers back to the Lodge to resume Labor, open his Lodge of Sorrow and close the Master Masons lodge.

Birthdays

David Andrew Cummings	December 11	Christopher Scott St. Clair	January 3	Jay Michael Becker	February 3
John Dickerson Nunn	December 11	James Luther Craft	January 7	Harry Tuckworth Lucas, III	February 4
Paul Thomas Smith, Jr.	December 12	James Richard Meredith	January 9	Jeffrey Gerard Nicola	February 5
Francis John Nardi	December 14	Joseph Frank Huddleston, III	January 12	Julien Irwin Sacks	February 8
Carter Whitlow Radford	December 14	Charles Dunmore Fox, IV	January 12	Boreham Boyd Johnson	February 11
Jeffrey Roy Wendell	December 16	Michael Lynn Johnson	January 13	Donald Richard Nevins	February 12
Max Cameron Johnson	December 24	Clive Elvyn Rice	January 17	Daniel Harvey Agee, Jr.	February 15
Edward Lee Jewell, Jr.	December 27	Michael Fries	January 17	Michael George Lawson	February 16
Kerford Aldin Key	December 29	Timothy Arnold Fitzgerald	January 17	Orville Max Leach	February 17
		Jeffrey Lynn Butler	January 19	George Wilbur Carden, Jr.	February 22
		Daniel Gilbert Oakey	January 21	Howard Carroll Packett	February 23
		Harry Robert Deaton, Jr.	January 29	John William Slusher	February 27

From the West Gate

First, congratulations to Worshipful Stuart Bain on a most successful year. We have raised four new Master Masons this year with the help from many of our brothers from other lodges. Wor. Stuart has done an excellent job throughout his progression through the chairs. It has been an honor to be in line with him.

Next year we will continue to make contact with our membership to encourage them to come to Lodge, to join us in friendship and brotherly love. Attendance at our Stated Meetings has been less than stellar (for many years) and we will continue to try to improve by having programs and events that will entice attendance. Remember this is our Lodge and it cannot exist without your participation. If you would like to help us improve attendance please let us know. Remember, the officers and I do not make a lodge, we all do.

For 2012 I am planning three (3) Ladies Nights and several "Night on the Towne" events as well as the July Picnic. Several of our Stated Communications will feature our Masonic youth, we will be giving Two (2) Community Builders awards as well as several other events currently being planned by our incoming Junior Warden, David Campbell. Come check us out and see what is going on. If you need a ride let us know and one of us will pick you up and take you home.

We have established a scholarship program for worthy High School Seniors. This scholarship is open to High School Seniors with ties to our Masonic youth in the youth organizations (DeMolays Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls) and family members of Masons. We need a committee for this and if any one In Pleasants has an educational background and wishes to serve on the committee please contact me or our Secretary William Seymour. We need your help to administer this program.

We will continue to have meals before Stated Communications whenever possible as well as for Degree nights. Of course, anytime we can meet and eat is always acceptable.

As your Region III Blood Committee Coordinator I have been pleased to see Pleasants and several other Lodges in the 22nd District hold Blood Drives where approximately 70 units of blood were collected. Pleasants members were responsible for 14 pints. Thank you to all. Remember when you give blood you give the GIFT OF LIFE.

REMEMBER MY BROTHER COME VISIT AND RENEW ACQUAINTENCES AND MAKE NEW ONES.

Sid Bush
Sr. Warden

At our Stated Communication we had the honor of witnessing a 60 yr presentation for Bro. Daniel Agee made even more special by having his grandson, Joshua Adam Wickline, who had been raised as a Master Mason the week prior, to place the pin on his grandfather's lapel.

Photos courtesy of Sid Bush and Stuart Bain



Joshua Adam Wickline, Daniel Harvey Agee, Jr., Wor. Bain



Joshua placing 60 yr pin on Grandfather Daniel Agee



Degree team for Joshua's Master Mason Degree

Breaking News

Brethren,

This issue of the columns will be the last issue sent out by bulk mail. This is brought about by many factors.

Uncertainty of continued presence of a bulk mail facility in Roanoke

If all bulk mail is routed to Greensboro it would likely result in undue delays in getting information to you.

Costs in general.

We as a lodge are committed to sharing our successes, thoughts, ideas, events and any other information of interest to the craft but we will be using a combination of first class mail and email to distribute this information. We are required by the Methodical Digest to advise the Brethren each month, by some means, of the time, date and location of the monthly Stated Communication and over the last few years we have chosen to do this via *The Columns*. This alone has saved the lodge approximately \$30 each month.

Now we are faced with additional costs and delays in getting the word out and we feel that eliminating the bulk mail and concentrating on the utilization of the internet we can further reduce costs without detriment to our original goal.

The Columns is and has been on line each month at the lodge website but we really have no idea of who and how many actually access and read each issue. Rarely do we get feedback unless, of course, an error is made. And now with trying to get the issue out via email we will be faced with the same concerns. We, therefore, will require you to REQUEST your issue to be sent via email and once done you will no longer receive a printed copy. You must REQUEST this action by accessing the lodge website at www.pleasants63.org and clicking on the big RED BUTTON. Fill out this form and click "submit". You will be asked if you are a Pleasants Lodge Member and if so to enter your member number (found on your dues card). Only Lodge members that do not respond favorably to an electronic copy will have their issue sent by first class mail. All non lodge members can request an email or they can simply read the issue on line at their leisure.

Your email copy will be sent in the form of a PDF file. You will need available on your computer the necessary software to open this file. IT IS FREE! Simply go to www.adobe.com and download the free PDF reader. You may not even need to do this as most newer computers already have this program pre-loaded. Just try to open the document attached to see if it works.

All issues of the columns delivered in this manner will emanate from the lodge website so you may be confident that it is safe to open/download each issue and print it if you so desire. Remember however, that it is always available at the website for reading.

If you do not have a computer and/or do not wish to have your issue delivered electronically and you are a Pleasants Lodge member it will continue to arrive in your mailbox via first class mail. All non Pleasants current recipients must visit the website and access the electronic copy. This will be the last mailed copy they will receive. Additionally, should you change your mind about having it arrive via email you may request it to again be sent by first class mail (Pleasants Lodge members only).

Also, Wor. Stuart our webmaster, will be making some changes to the website to provide more content. Please visit often and send your comments.

Bro. William Seymour