

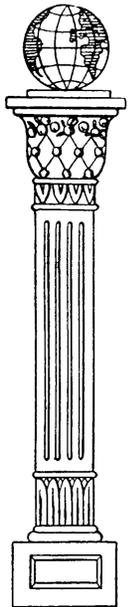
THE COLUMNS

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

April 2012



Worshipful Master - Sidney Warren Bush, Sr.

Senior Warden	Fred Marion Burns	Junior Warden	David Eugene Campbell
Secretary	William Arthur Seymour, Jr.	Treasurer	Thomas Edward Purbes
Senior Deacon	Stuart Matthew Bain	Junior Deacon	Michael Lynn Johnson
Chaplain	Hiram Scotty Campbell	Tiler	Kenneth Ray Robinette
Senior Steward	Timothy Morris Shepherd	Junior Steward	Glen Wayne Hall
Marshall	Mark Anthony Gibson		

Brethren,

These past two months we have lost two brothers to the Celestial Lodge.

Brother Carter Whitlow Radford died March 6, 1982. He was raised in our lodge in 1982. His family had requested Masonic Rites and MW James Milton Scearce, Jr. presided with myself, RW Melvin Crowder and Bro. Michael Johnson also attending.

Brother Robert Ira Price, Jr. died February 3, 2012. He was a 59 year Mason. The family notified us of his passing after the funeral.

I was disappointed in the lack of attendance of brethren at the Masonic Rites despite our brethren being notified to the passing. RW Crowder also made mention of this at the Master Masons Breakfast March 10.

We should all, if within the length of our cable tow, endeavor to participate in this most solemn ceremony whether we know the brother or not. He IS a brother and deserves the respect of all brethren in his final travels. I would hope that each and every one of the

brothers would make a concerted attempt to attend these ceremonies in the future.

Attendance at our Stated and Called communications continues to be less than stellar with only about 10% of the membership attending. We are doing everything possible to entice members to come to meetings, especially this year with dinners before the meetings at a price you couldn't find at any restaurant. We are including our ladies at these events as well. Please come and enjoy the fellowship of your brothers and the social time with them and their family. MAKE the cook work harder! We only ask that you TELL us you will be there so we can make certain there is enough food available.

On March 26 we passed to the degree of Fellowcraft John Leslie Ford. We look forward to raising him as a Master Mason in the near future.

Our March 19 Stated was preceded by a great meal by our resident chef and we had 38 in attendance. This included several young ladies from Job's Daughters. We presented them with a gift to help with their programs.

Our April Stated will feature a program by Wor. Robbie Robinson.

Our May program will be on Pleasants Lodge History.

June will be our annual St. John's Day program and will be presented by Wor. Duffy Ferguson.

July will be our annual picnic and our current plan is a combined meeting with Catawba Lodge #342 at the picnic shed behind Kazim Shrine. More information will be coming in the next newsletter. Please look for that in the May issue. You will be reminded each month.

Brethren, may I remind you that YOUR lodge cannot function without YOUR assistance and attendance. If YOU can offer any assistance at any time please call me and let me know. If YOU have any ideas that might help us to make our lodge grow, please call me.

Only YOU can make a difference!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Sid Bush
Worshipful Master

Lodge Statistics as of March 19, 2012 (Year to Date)

Demits Processed: 0	Suspensions: 6	Deaths: 2	Affiliated: 0	Raised: 0	Restorations: 0
Honorary Members: 3	Life Members (Living): 12	(Living) 18 Total	50 Yr. Members: 15,	Remitted Members: Hardship 6,	Illness 0, Officers: 3
Current Lodge Membership: 126	Total Dues Paying Members: 87				
Master Mason Working: 0	Fellowcraft Working: 0	Entered Apprentice working: 1	Petitioners: 0		
Attendance at January Stated Meeting: - 18	Pleasants Lodge Members Present at February Meeting - 13				

Musings from the office...

While cleaning up and re-organizing the office area and discarding much of the detritus that has accumulated over the years we do occasionally come across some pieces of data that while having been written many years ago continue to be germane. One such item was a letter sent to the Brethren by Wor. H. P. Grasty in 1948 in an attempt to get more participation at called/special communications. D. W. Rooker was the secretary at the time. An excerpt from that letter follows:

Although the attendance so far this year has shown improvement over recent years, it is noted that most of the brethren attending regularly are the ones that have been recently raided {sic}. There are many Past Masters and older members of the Lodge that I have not had the pleasure of meeting.

Your Lodge is very busy, having raised ten (10) so far this year. You have an excellent line of officers with several good ritualists, and, as a whole, your lodge is making good progress. However, your officers would certainly appreciate your support at this special communication, and I would certainly enjoy greeting you personally.

We, the officers and trustees of the lodge, have been very proactive in trying to entice members to come to lodge for our Stated Communications and Degrees by calling members, sending emails and “bribing” with meals before the meeting. This year we are having our ladies attend the dinners along with us for many of the Stated Meetings. But sadly our attendance is still lacking with only about 10% of the entire membership attending and we refer to those committed members as “The Choir”. Will YOU become a member of the Choir??

In addition to our own cleaning and re-organizing the Scottish Rite is also spending much time and effort to updating the facility. Pleasants members have cleaned the kitchen area and repaired many of the cabinets and drawers. The Scottish Rite is in the process of stripping off all the old wallpaper in the dining area and will be painting soon. Additionally the floor in the dining area will be completely removed the end of March and a new floor will be laid. Since the old tile is asbestos the entire downstairs area will be closed for several weeks while this takes place.

The office area will be painted as soon as a color can be approved.

Come on down and visit us but you might want to call first so that one of us can be in the office. It is NOT staffed every day. Contact information is on the newsletter letterhead.

Brethren, don't forget that your dues were supposed to have been submitted by January 1, 2012 according to the Methodical Digest. If you are one of those members that has not paid your dues please do so as soon as possible. At the time of this newsletter 25 brothers still owe their dues for 2012.

Everybody who has given us an email address has also been getting their issue of The Columns by email as well as postal mail. This will continue for another few months and effective with the June issue all members with email addresses will only receive news of the lodge by email. SO YOU MUST BE CERTAIN THAT YOU HAVE PLEASANTS63.ORG IN YOUR EMAIL SAFE SENDERS LIST so that your mail is not reported as SPAM. If you specifically inform us that you would prefer your newsletter by postal mail we will abide by your request.

As you may have realized by now we no longer send mail by bulk mail. There are several reasons for discontinuing this method. Our membership roster is insufficient to qualify for the minimum number of mail pieces and we have been augmenting that list with members from other lodges for several years. The USPS is discontinuing the bulk mail facility here in Roanoke and we would be paying a higher bulk mail fee and suffer additional delays as the mail would be sent to Greensboro for sorting and distribution. We therefore are using a combination of first class mail to those that do not have email access and email distribution to those who have that capability. This will continue until the June newsletter when we will drop first class mail delivery to those with email access except as noted above.

Please visit our website often. Wor. Bain has done a great job of keeping it up to date and he would love to hear from you letting him know of any improvements or additions to consider. If you have any technical questions about the website please email the lodge (or call).

Many Thanks, Bill Seymour, Secretary

From the West Gate

Beginning in April I will be working with the Marine Corp obtaining the Toys for Tots donation boxes and asking to place them around town. There will be one for every lodge to have as well. Last year with only three weeks we did a great job in getting enough toys to fill up the Marine Corp Ford Expedition. We also collected \$240 which was given to the Marines to use as they saw fit. This year by starting early we would love to fill a large truck and still donate money. It is a very worthy cause that the Marine Corp has been spearheading for years and they can always use additional help.

We will again have a family night sometime in April. I am still looking for the right venue and a night when there doesn't appear to be many conflicts.

Our Child ID coordinator (for 22A) and for the lodge, Duffy Ferguson, is setting up Child ID events. The first one will be at Vinton Masonic Lodge in conjunction with a craft show on March 31. We will have a major setup at the Dogwood Festival in Vinton on April 28. Please contact Duffy Ferguson to volunteer to help. He will need everyone he can get.

There will also be a child ID event in conjunction with a Salem Red Sox Baseball game on June 2. There will be more information on that event in the next newsletter.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have already passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft Brother John Ford. His Master Masons degree will be scheduled in the near future. Please let us know if you can assist in that degree.

And finally a short poem written by Wor. Jack Sutton of Corner Stone Lodge in Duxbury, Mass.

Fred Burns, Senior Warden

GRANDPA'S WOODEN CHEST

I hated to hear the lawyer say
The things my grandpa gave away.
Like his old truck to Dad and Mom
And world war medals to Uncle John.

A large fancy cloth
With two long strings
A small wooden hammer
Among other things

And now it's your turn
To start your journey for knowledge, love and
faith
So live your life by the Square and Compasses
And tools of your trade

My name was called
And something was said
About an old wooden box
Underneath his bed.

He wrote a man's job
Is to be a good husband father and a friend
I built my life as best I could
By the tools laid here within.

Many years have passed by since I first
opened
Grandpa's wooden chest
The tools he gave me, the words he wrote
The challenge to be my best.

Just a worn out chest
With a rusty hinge
But I knew Grandpa kept
Something special within.

He said the compasses remind me that life has
boundaries
So live your life within
The square proves true and so should you
When dealing with all your friends.

Today I'll visit Grandpa
At the place where he was laid
To let him know he can be proud
I'm a Master of my trade.

When I opened the lid
All I could see
Were some unused tools
And a letter to me.

Be an honorable man and walk uprightly
According to the plumb.
The level teaches us treat all men equal
Instead of only some.

Birthdays

Robert Glen Bishop	April 2	Fred Marion Burns	May 1	Donald Dean Gates	June 14
James Hardie Lawrence	April 11	Calvin Peter Keister	May 2	Barry Dale Light	June 14
Curtis Neil Dickerson	April 24	Paul Garry Black	May 4	Major Nicholas Reed	June 17
William Arthur Seymour, Jr.	April 26	Sidney Fulton Baker	May 12	Kenneth Henry Taylor	June 24
Jerry Wayne McMillan	April 29	David Bruce Baumgardner, Jr.	May 14	John Robert Gibson	June 26
		J. Edward Conner	May 19		
		Anthony Todd Holland	May 20		
		Roger Sedgewick Pendrey	May 20		
		Lloyd Marion Holfield	May 23		
		Charles Henry Stowe	May 24		
		Harry Kenneth Shelton	May 27		