

Trestleboard

Volume 114

September 2003

Lodge Officers

- Worshipful Master Mike Heidenreich 972 390-1925
- Senior Warden Gene Blackmore 972 222-7879
- Junior Warden Joe Moses 469 450-2964
- Treasurer Warner Richeson 972 422-4268
- Secretary Harry F. Powell II 972 424-7153

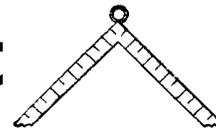
Inside this issue:

<i>The Master's Column</i>	1
<i>The Moral Law</i>	2
<i>Junior Warden's Column</i>	2
<i>Senior Warden's Column</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3

Please remember our website location
<http://planomasoniclodge.org>



From the East



We have several things coming to Plano that you are not going to want to miss. A couple of them won't take place until October, but I want to start getting the word out so you can make plans to attend.

On September 18th, Bro. Charles McKay is going to give his presentation on Masonry in Scotland. If you have not seen this, here is your chance to do so. Bro. Charles gives a wonderful presentation and it will be well worth your time to attend. This will be a tiled meeting.

In October, on the 22nd, Bro. Charles is going to give a similar presentation in an open meeting. This will be on a Wednesday night and will be done as a family night affair, so bring your families, guests (both Mason and non-Mason). In the family night tradition, there will be a covered dish meal, so bring something with you. Please help pass the word about this fun and interesting night.

Also in October, on the 26th, Plano will be holding a blood drive at the lodge from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm. Please help in getting donors to the lodge so we can continue to help the kids through our Masonic hos-

pitals. We need to have a really good turnout. Either come donate, or if you are unable, bring someone who can. This is a great chance to show our non-Masonic friends what Masons do.

September will be another full month for us. We will have degrees, Bro. Charles' presentation and the ritual examination on September 8th. If you haven't been to lodge for awhile, think about coming out and visiting with the Brethren. You don't know what you are missing. Hope to see you soon.

As you may have noticed, we are including birthdays and Masonic anniversaries in both the trestleboard and on our website. If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or doesn't appear when it should, please let the secretary know so he can get his records updated. Thanks for your help and understanding.

Fraternally,
 Your Worshipful Master,

The Moral Law

The first of the Ancient Charges of a Freemason is entitled Concerning God and Religion and states in part "A Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law, and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious Libertine." From this charge, it becomes the duty and obligation of every Mason to live his life by a strict moral code.

Morality is a prerequisite for admission into the Masonic fraternity and is an outward manifestation of Masonic philosophy. The moral law is the gateway through which one enters on the path to spiritual awakening and growth, which is the ultimate objective of the rites of initiation. No one who reads the Ancient Charges of a Freemason can fail to see that Freemasonry is strictly a moral institution, and the principles it advocates tend to make a brother who obeys its teachings a more honorable and virtuous man.

Morality is a very comprehensive term. It has been defined to be the doctrine of right and wrong in human conduct; conduct or practice which accords with moral principle or virtuous conduct; of or pertaining to the practices, conduct, and spirit of men toward God, their fellow men and themselves, with reference to right and wrong, and obligation to duty. Morality then covers the entire spectrum of human conduct pertaining to the distinction between right and wrong.

Moral laws are not man-made edicts or decrees; they spring from the eternal justice and wisdom of God. They are as absolute and immutable as the physical laws God has created for the government of nature and the universe around us. A violation of the moral laws brings about evil consequences similar to the consequences of trying to defy the laws of nature.

The distinguishing difference between man and all the animal life

and intelligence below him is that man is morally accountable and individually responsible while the animal is not. Man is bound by a higher law of life than is the animal. He is bound by the moral law while the animal is not. Man is a creature of the Moral Order as is he vested with the attributes of a soul, which alone enables him to understand and respond to the moral law and discharge the obligation of personal responsibility.

Man is a moral being in the sense that he is charged with moral accountability and personal responsibility. Man is capable of becoming immoral because he alone can find it possible to knowingly and intentionally violate the moral law of his own being. Morality is therefore attributable to our immortal soul and is not the product of our physical senses. In fact, it is the desires and passions generated by our material senses that serve as obstacles to the development of lofty moral characteristics. Consequently, the Freemason is taught to circumscribe his desires and to keep



From The South

A while back, some of the members of Plano all got together and decided to study the ritualistic work for an Entered Apprentice Degree, and become the first, I believe, ever at Plano to receive a certificated degree. Well, as you well remember, we passed with a score of, if I'm not mistaken, 980 out of 1000 points. To pass this graded degree we needed to score at least a 901. Well, I would like to report that Plano Masonic

Lodge #768 has yet again reached another milestone. On Thursday, August 28, 2003 we performed a graded Fellow Craft degree and passed with a score of 970 out of a possible 1000 points. Our degree team did an excellent job. And, I would like to thank all of the degree team members for their excellent efforts.

After talking to the Worshipful Master, we will probably start up again in October or November to work on getting a team together for the Master's Degree. If you are interested in participating please

let me know. You will be more than welcome.

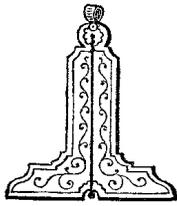
Again, I would like to congratulate the degree team members on an excellent degree.

As always, I invite all who have not attended lodge for some time to come back and see what you have been missing. All you need is your dues card. The fellowship is still there, now all we need is you.

Your Junior Warden,

Joe Moses

From the West



We have just finished our graded Fellow-crafts degree and received 970 points.

This means we were exactly as should be 97% of the degree, which is a very acceptable score.

We will be having certificate exams at the lodge on Monday, the eighth of September. Anyone who wants to get certified for A, B, or C certificates needs to be at the lodge at 6:30.

The months ahead are shaping up to be fairly busy and I would encourage everyone to come out

and help confer degrees.

Brother Charles McKay will be sharing his experiences in Scotland with us in the near future. Charles will give a presentation to a tiled meeting open to all Masons from Entered Apprentices to Master Masons that is sure to be informative. He will also give a talk at a covered dish, family night where all are invited. So brings the kids, your wife and friends for a fun and informative evening. Watch for the dates of these events and be sure not to miss them

Calendar of Events for June

Plano Lodge Events

- September 4 Stated Meeting
- September 8 Ritual Examination
- September 11 EA Degree
- September 18 Presentation by Charles McKay on Masonry in Scotland
- September 25 FC Degree
- October 8 October Stated Meeting

Special Events

- Scottish Rite—Valley of Dallas stated meeting September 8th
- Hella Shrine stated meeting September 18th
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, September 9th & 23th
- Plano Chapter #702 Order Of Eastern Star September 15th

"Banquet Night"

Rudyard Kipling

"ONCE in so often," King Solomon said,
Watching his quarrymen drill the stone,
"We will club our garlic and wine and bread
And banquet together beneath my Throne,
And all the Brethren shall come to that mess
As Fellow-Craftsmen - no more and no less."

"Send a swift shallop to Hiram of Tyre,
Felling and floating our beautiful trees,
Say that the Brethren and I desire
Talk with our Brethren who use the seas.
And we shall be happy to meet them at mess
As Fellow-Craftsmen - no more and no less."

"Carry this message to Hiram Abif -
Excellent master of forge and mine :-
I and the Brethren would like it if
He and the Brethren will come to dine
(Garments from Bozrah or morning-dress)
As Fellow-Craftsmen - no more and no less."

"God gave the Hyssop and Cedar their place -
Also the Bramble, the Fig and the Thorn -
But that is no reason to black a man's face
Because he is not what he hasn't been born.
And, as touching the Temple, I hold and profess
We are Fellow-Craftsmen - no more and no less."

So it was ordered and so it was done,
And the hewers of wood and the Masons of Mark,
With foc'sle hands of Sidon run
And Navy Lords from the Royal Ark,
Came and sat down and were merry at mess
As Fellow-Craftsmen - no more and no less.

*The Quarries are hotter than Hiram's forge,
No one is safe from the dog-whip's reach.
It's mostly snowing up Lebanon gorge,
And it's always blowing off Joppa beach;
But once in so often, the messenger brings
Solomon's mandate : "Forget these things!
Brother to Beggars and Fellow to Kings,
Companion of Princes - forget these things!
Fellow-Craftsmen, forget these things!"*

Plano Masonic Lodge #768
P. O. Box 860282
Plano, TX 75086

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 420
PLANO, TEXAS



*"The Moral Law" continued from
page 2*

his passions in check as an essential element to his personal growth and moral development.

Morality is the law which establishes harmony between the soul and the principles of its being. Morality is the avenue that creates a harmonic relationship between the soul and God, the Grand Architect of the Universe. Morality is also the means by which relationships are established between man and his fellow men and the world about him. The moral law is the outward expression of the spiritual attributes of the immortal soul.

A good moral character is a prerequisite for admission into Freemasonry and a strict observance of the moral law is essential for advancement and the retention of good standing within the Fraternity. The

importance of the moral law as a fundamental principle of Freemasonry is exemplified by the fact that any act by one of its members involving moral turpitude is a Masonic offense subjecting the offender to discipline or expulsion.

Masonry is often described as a "system of morality veiled in allegories and illustrated by symbols." As such, the new Mason enters upon a path to moral, intellectual, and spiritual development, which can only be accomplished by obedience to the moral law. His practice of living must be in strict conformance to the principles and rules of conduct of the moral law whereby he enhances the growth and development of his soul. It is only by awakening the highest forces of his soul that he is able to reach the goal of true Mastership over his being and attaining a personal relationship

with God.

Once this Mastership has been achieved, the circle of life's trials is narrowed and the sensual passions assail his heart in vain. Want no longer successfully tempts him to act wrongly, nor curiosity to do rashly. Ambition spreading before him fails to swerve his greatest allegiance. He refuses to be enriched at another's loss or expense, and feels that the whole human race are his brethren. Sorrow, pain, and anguish, are soothed by a perfect faith, and an entire trust in the infinite goodness of God. The world around him and the heavens above him become new, and all the ample glories and splendors of the universe speak to his soul the presence and beneficent care of a loving Father.

3rd Degree October Anniversaries

		Robert L. Eckman	Oct. 19, 1978
Mike A. Baulch	Oct. 5, 1976	Lionel Sutton	Oct. 22, 1963
Carl E. Jones	Oct. 6, 1981	Larry V. Nelson	Oct. 22, 1998
Cullen Herrin	Oct. 9, 1952	Gene Blackmore	Oct. 22, 1970
John T. Bailey	Oct. 10, 1951	Frank Smith	Oct. 22, 1998
Guy H. Wilson	Oct. 11, 1975	Charles J. Schero, III	Oct. 22, 1992
Roy L. Brannon	Oct. 12, 1948	Richard James Grubb	Oct. 23, 1997
William L. Gipson	Oct. 12, 1967	G.A. Davidson	Oct. 23, 1967
Alden B. Sparman	Oct. 12, 1954	George S. Simons	Oct. 24, 2002
Ira D. Allen	Oct. 14, 1980	Ben S. Augustine	Oct. 26, 1994
John T. Land	Oct. 14, 1971	John E. Luttrell, Jr.	Oct. 26, 1996
David A. Fogle	Oct. 15, 1959	Clifton Orr	Oct. 26, 1996
David J. Sam	Oct. 15, 1998	Harry Powell	Oct. 26, 1967
Benny Don Ferguson	Oct. 16, 1997	Clarence A. Samford	Oct. 27, 1994
Ross E. Jones	Oct. 17, 1996	Lewis J. Robinson	Oct. 27, 1955
David B. Matthews	Oct. 17, 2002	David A. Starr	Oct. 29, 1992
Scott M. Shaeffer	Oct. 18, 2001	James H. Key, II	Oct. 30, 1997

October Birthdays

John Browning	October 2	James H. McCown	October 21	David J. Sam	October 26
Gordon L. Trosper	October 5			Raymond Ballard	October 28
Bobby Johnston	October 8	Joe D. DeWeese	October 21	David A. Delaney	October 30
Jeffrey Forrester	October 12	H. P. McGriff	October 23	Charles Schero,	October 30
Ken D. Reeves	October 12	Forrest Eubanks	October 24	Greg B. Valera	October 31
Leo R. St. John	October 13	Ronald Nicholas	October 25		
Gordon Garst	October 14	Raymond Snow	October 25		
Authur Kirkwood	October 18	Gerald Crawford	October 26		
James G. Latham	October 20				

3rd Degree September Anniversaries

Joe D. DeWeese	September 2, 1969	John M. Barker Jr.	September 23, 1999
Perry O. Carter	September 10, 1964	Joe M. Mencer	September 23, 1993
James S. Wilson	September 12, 1946	Harvey Purdom	September 24, 1970
Tom A. Masters	September 14, 1995	Steven J. Jones	September 24, 1992
Don Reddick	September 14, 1972	Frank A. Klingler	September 25, 1980
Tommy Ray Broome	September 14, 1967	Todd Allen	September 26, 1992
Aaron H. Riffe	September 15, 1990	Bud Kinamon	September 27, 1998
Tom M. McKamy	September 17, 1981	Chris P. Rhodes	September 28, 2000
Bill Boyd	September 17, 1970	Ken Gurney	September 28, 1972
Charles A. Merritt	September 17, 1959	William N. Chapoton	September 29, 1973
Paul L. Coppage	September 19, 1975	William R. Capp	September 30, 1999
David N. Lotz	September 21, 2000	Charles E. Corway	September 30, 1999
Ralph S. Johnson	September 22, 1953		
Martin Sandberg	September 22, 1954		

September Birthdays

Bobby Martin	September 4	Donald E. Shinn	September 17	Bill Marsden	September 25
Ronald E. Lawrence	September 4	Ken Baylor	September 20	Jerrell Herron	September 26
J.J. Miller	September 5	Loyd A. McGough	September 20	Paul D. Wade	September 26
David H. Pace	September 5	Jim Breedlove	September 21	Eric Young	September 27
Mitch Peck	September 6	Billy Vandervort	September 22	Benjamin Elkins	September 28
Louis W. Wallace	September 8	Mark K. Sauce	September 22	Bill J. Horton	September 28
Chuck Netherlain	September 8	James R. Logue	September 23	John W. Rupe	September 29
Lewis A. Fetzer Jr.	September 10	Gary R. Brown	September 23	Robert Bearden	September 30
Glenn Stephenson	September 11	Frank A. Klingler	September 23	George A. Pipes	September 30
Cloyse E. Woolley	September 12	Lionel Sutton	September 23	Todd Allen	September 30
James Roberts	September 13	Tom Keenze	September 24	Larry S. Lane	September 30
Warren S. Hartley	September 14	Clifton Orr	September 25		
Michael L. Clark	September 14	Bruce Weaver	September 25		