

Thomas M. Holt Lodge # 492 A.F. & A.M.

Regular Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:30pm

Address: 512 Johnson Avenue, Graham, NC, 27253

Websites: www.thomasmholt492.org or 492-nc.ourlodgepage.com



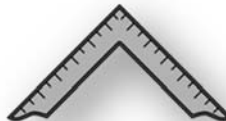
The Holler Log – Autumn 2017 Edition

Messages from the East:

Brethren,

Greetings from the East!

Fall is here and I have more great news to share with you regarding activities in your Lodge. The year is almost over, and while we have successfully completed several projects, we still have a couple more to go to wrap up the year.



At the end of the summer, we held the Third Annual Thomas M. Holt Masonic Charity Golf Tournament. We were fortunate to have a beautiful day for this event. After expenses, the net amount raised by the tournament was \$3877.55. The Masonic Home for Children, Whitestone, and the Masonic Foundation each received one-third of the funds raised.

On the calendar for fall, we have two more charity projects, the Pink Pancake Breakfast and a toy drive for Toys for Tots. On Saturday, October 7th we are having the 3rd Annual Pink Pancake Breakfast. This year instead of a set price, we are accepting donations at the door. Funds raised for this event will benefit the Alamance Regional Charitable Foundation's Pink Ribbon Fund, which assists women in gaining access to diagnostics and therapy for breast cancer that they otherwise may not be able to afford. Finally, over the course of the fall months leading into the Christmas Season, we will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots. The Order of the Eastern Star is joining us in the toy drive, and you may have noticed that they have been collecting toys for a little while now. Starting in October, please consider bringing a new toy to donate to for great cause. Additional boxes for toy donations will be in the dining hall.

I am excited to inform you that our Lodge has been recognized as a “**Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence**” by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. We answered Grand Master Gene Cobb's call to “go to work”, and having done so; this award recognizes our Lodge as exemplifying the ideals of Erudition, Patriotism, Philanthropy, Fraternity, and Benevolence. Congratulations on this achievement, brothers!

Finally, brothers, join me in welcoming two new brothers to the lodge, Brother Joey Frye and Brother David Putman, both raised in August. Degree work is still keeping us busy with both a first and second degree on the horizon this fall.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as Master this year. We have accomplished a lot. This year may be winding down, but we must maintain our momentum! Let us continue to “go to work” as we roar into the New Year!

Fraternally Yours,

Chip McFalls

Worshipful Master

Chip.Mcfalls@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

October 5

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM
First Degree Ceremony

October 7

FUNDRAISER: Pink Pancake Breakfast for Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Breakfast @ 7:00 AM – 11:30 AM

October 19

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM
Second Degree Ceremony

November 2

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

November 16

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

December 1

Thomas M. Holt # 492 - Ladies Night
Burlington Shrine Club @ 6:30 PM

December 7

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM
Officer Elections for the 2018 Year.

December 21

Dinner @ 6:30 PM
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

Mark Your Calendar !!!

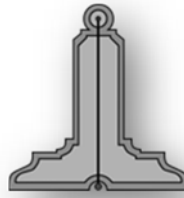
Thomas M. Holt Ladies Night
Friday, December 1, 2017 - 6:30PM
At the Burlington Shrine Club

From the Secretaries Desk:
2018 Membership Dues Cards will be arriving soon and should be available Mid - November. Please make plans to pay your dues and pickup your new card for 2018.

Messages from the West :

Brothers and Fellows,

This year has been an awesome one! It has been an honor to serve all of you, and our lodge as Senior Warden in 2017. I am very happy that we've had the pleasure of bringing several good men from darkness to light this year. Congratulations and many thanks to all the officers this year for amazing degree work, and to everyone for our successful fundraisers! Everyone has continued to pull together and chip in, and that exemplifies the epitome of our fraternity. As our year begins to wind down soon, I can't help but to already be thinking about and looking forward to 2018. May it be another great year with a great group of friends and brothers. May we continue to see our membership grow, and may we continue to be successful in all of our undertakings!



Fraternally Yours,
Jason Simons
Senior Warden

Messages from the South:

Brethren,

Now that the Autumn Season is upon us, the leaves will soon be changing colors, and the Lodge year will be drawing to a close. I would like to take a few moments and reflect back on our year together and my time in the South. It truly has been an honor and a privilege to serve this lodge, and represent it, and you as your Junior Warden in 2017. Together we have seen great success this year in all of our projects and fundraisers. The hard work has paid off as being one the Lodges selected to receive the “**Lion and Pillar**” award. The requirements for this award were extensive and could not be achieved by just one person alone, it took careful planning and execution of that plan to pull it off. I can tell you it was a proud moment for our Lodge when we accepted this award from Grand Master Gene Cobb last weekend at the annual communication. Grand Master Cobb's message all year has been “Let's Go To Work!!” and that is what we did brothers, whether it was selling Shotgun Raffle tickets, Planning and Working at the Spring Pancake Breakfast, or at the Annual Golf Tournament. With our upcoming Pink Pancake Breakfast, I am sure it will continue to be one of our best fundraisers. On other work fronts the Brethren put in their time polishing and practicing for our degree work, we have had quite a few degrees this year. When we were asked to exemplify the First Degree at the School of Instruction, it was flawless.



While it is with sadness that some of our members forever dropped the working tools of life in 2017, in which we will miss their wisdom and knowledge, it is positive and encouraging to see that our Lodge has also gained some new members seeking “Light in Masonry” this year, and we are happy they are here with us. A lodge is not a lodge without it members, and Thomas M. Holt Lodge has some of the best.

Finally, I also would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to **Mrs. Pegge Payne**, who has helped me tremendously throughout this past year planning, cooking, and crafting the delicious meals and desserts that we have partaken of on Meeting Nights, I would not have been able to do this alone without her help, and for that I am truly grateful. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the South, the work was hard, but in the end, it was a very rewarding experience.

Fraternally Yours,
Jeff Lightcap
Junior Warden

Upcoming Birthdays

October 2017

01 – Joey Frye
02 – Royce Williams
06 – John Fricks, Jr.
09 – David Thompson
10 – Leo Creech
13 – Byron Neal
14 – Frank Stone
18 – James Paige
28 – Dewey Brown, III
31 – Harry Smith
31 – Tony Ivan Wood

November 2017

02 – Jack Collins
03 – Seth Norris
05 – Tim Taylor
09 – Marcus Orr
14 – David Snyder
23 – Mark Bare
25 – Max Way
29 – Roy Duffer

December 2017

05 – Jack Lawrence III
12 – Jimmy Eller
13 – Lewis Franklin
24 – Richard Murray
24 – William Vanderburg



The Brothers of Thomas M. Holt Lodge would like to wish you all a Very Happy Birthday !!!

The Grand Lodge Officers for 2018:

ELECTED OFFICERS

SPEED HALLMAN – GRAND MASTER
DWIGHT M. "MACK" SIGMON – DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
P. SHAUN BRADSHAW – SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
R. DAVID WICKER – JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
LEWIS R. LEDFORD – GRAND TREASURER
T. WALTON CLAPP III – GRAND SECRETARY
LARRY B. THOMPSON JR. – SENIOR GRAND DEACON
KEVAN D. FRAZIER – JUNIOR GRAND DEACON
DONALD E. KEHLER – GRAND MARSHAL
ROBERT W. RIDEOUT – GRAND STEWARD
STEVE M. NORRIS – GRAND STEWARD

APPOINTED OFFICERS

JAMES G. JONES – GRAND CHAPLAIN
JOHN W. SPEED II – GRAND TYLER
DONALD M. HELTON – GRAND LECTURER
MICHAEL W. BRANTLEY – GRAND HISTORIAN
TO BE ANNOUNCED – GRAND ORATOR
JAMES R. STEVENS – JUDGE ADVOCATE

On the Lighter Side:

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named "Mind Your Own Business" & the other was named "Trouble". One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. "Trouble" hid while "Mind Your Own Business" counted to one hundred. "Mind Your Own Business" began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, "Son, What are you doing?", "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer questioned. "Mind Your Own Business." the boy replied. Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!" The boy replied, "Why Yes, As A Matter of Fact I am !!! "

Source: <http://www.laughfactory.com/jokes/clean-jokes>

Lodge News:

- ❖ Estimates for the Roof Replacement have been being collected, and the Lodge's Insurance Company has sent us a check for repairs of the roof due to hail damage. The roof over the meeting hall will be repaired and replaced in the near future, and the roof over the dining hall still has another 10 – 15 years of life left in the shingles.
- ❖ Special Thanks to The Ladies of the Eastern Star who have added blue curtains to the windows of the Lodge and the pass-through window to the kitchen.



Masonic Trivia:

- ❖ Dr. Edward Jenner, in 1789 discovered the vaccination process against smallpox. He was Worshipful Master of Faith and Friendship Lodge #270 in Berkeley, England at the time.
- ❖ Know a non-Mason that sports a square and compass? In the court case of Hammer vs. the state of Indiana, in 1909, the Supreme Court ruled that it is a criminal offense to wear a symbol or emblem of an organization that you are not a member of. The reasoning behind it was that organizations with selective membership go through the process of determining whether or not the person is a good fit for the organization or society, and that wearing an emblem that of a group you are not a member of is deceitful and gives a false pretense.
- ❖ There is a Masonic flag at both the North and South pole, as well as a fez at the North. These were planted by Brothers Richard Byrd and Bernt Balchen. They were dropped from their airplane when they flew overhead. When they returned to the North pole, Bro. Blachen dropped his fez from the airplane.
- ❖ Montana's first livestock brand was a square and compasses and is still in use. It was registered by Pointdexter Orr of Beaverhead County, MT in 1872.

Masonic Education: On The Level

The Level is a tool used in construction. Just about every mason hears the phrase 'On the Level' when they attend their lodge meeting. It is one of most basic ideas put forth in Freemasonry.

At it's core on the level indicates that an object is the same distance from a common surface no matter where you measure from. This is critical in construction to make sure that a house or structure will stand. That the floors do not slope and things will not roll or slide across the floor. Generally, in construction when something is level, it has more to do with the ground on which it stands and gravity as a whole.

In Freemasonry a level not only refers to things that are of equal distance from a common surface, it refers to many other things.

The first thing it refers to is what the phrase most commonly translates to outside of the fraternity. When someone is 'on the level' they are honest, they deal with someone fairly. This also can have another allusion most commonly held with one of the Cardinal Virtues of Freemasonry, Justice. The balance scale, which is a common symbol to indicate Justice, has a level as it's core element. With both sides being equal, a balance scale will be level across indicating that both sides are equal.

The second thing, is that it is a reminder that we are all equal in the eyes of death, often referred to in masonry as the "Great Leveler." It means that death comes for us all no matter what station we have attained in life, no matter what we attained as status in the fraternity, we will all look upon the face of death. It is a reminder for all of us that we are no different from the person walking beside us on the street or standing next to us in our lodge room.

Third and most importantly, it is a reminder to Freemasons that no matter what we do inside the fraternity, no matter what position we hold or have held, we have a responsibility to our brothers and to the world to treat each other as equals. No one person is more important than another in the fraternity, even when someone briefly achieves the position of Most Worshipful Grand Master, the highest position and leader in any Grand Jurisdiction. All must be held to the same standards and all must be treated as equals.

It is for all these reasons that most lodges will end their meeting with everyone standing on the same surface. It symbolizes that we are all standing together equally and no one, no matter their position is exempted from standing shoulder to shoulder with their brothers. One of the best examples of on the level comes from an installation ceremony. In it is stated, "From the ranks you have risen and to the ranks you shall return." It is a reminder that some of us may be called to lead from time to time, we must always remember that we are still 'on the level' with our brothers. - *Unknown*

Please help the Lodge reduce costs: If you'd like to receive future editions of the Holler Log via email instead of paper copy, please email Chip McFalls at: chip.mcfalls@gmail.com

Please refer to the Lodge Websites for updated Lodge Information and Schedules in between issues of the Holler Log @ www.thomasmholt492.org or 492-nc.ourlodgepage.com

Lastly, Brothers, we hope you are continuing to enjoy this new format of the Holler Log and once again found it informative. If you have any comments, or have any items that you would like to see, or share in future Editions of the Holler Log please send an email to: hollerlog@thomasmholt492.org



Masonic Anniversaries (The number indicates years of service)

October

05 – Al Layton
31 – Mike Rogers
44 – William Tyler

November

04 – Kevin Dean
08 – Mark Bare
08 – Daniel Barnes
11 – Max Way
21 – Kenneth Dixon
22 – Melvin Russell
22 – Brice Turner, II
31 – James Hendrix
52 – Jerry Shields
53 – Ralph Pike
60 – Hollan Thomas Pickard

December

12 – Allen Wade Bean
13 – Dewey Brown, III
33 – Jerry Lane
32 – Henry Park, III
44 – Daniel Qualls

The Brothers of Thomas M. Holt Lodge would like to Thank You for your years of service and support of our Lodge !!!

