

# Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

Chartered January 18, A.D. 1888, A.L. 5888

904-826-4086



December 2018

## STATED COMMUNICATIONS

Masonic Temple

105 King Street

St. Augustine, FL

1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> Thursdays

Meal – 6:30 p.m.

Stated Communication — 7:30 p.m.

## DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

## CHARITY OF THE QUARTER

Llandilo School of Special Education

### My Brethren All,

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go out to all of you for making this year memorable. I started my journey through the officer's line shortly after I was raised 10 years ago. As I reflect on the last decade, several thoughts come to mind.

First and foremost, I am thankful for God's sense of time and place. I am fortunate enough to have made a trip and a half through the chairs. My first time through, it became clear during my year as Senior Deacon that continued service at that time was not prudent for my family. It pained me, I should say my ego, to tell W:. Keith Burney that I was stepping down. The incredible lesson I learned that following year was one of humility. I got to witness how the Lodge survived and thrived without me, cementing the notion that Freemasonry, while dependent on good,

strong, upright, knowledgeable, and active members is not handcuffed by an individual, and the Craft as a whole has an overarching strength of its own. Truth of the matter was that I was a boy, and was not ready for advancement, so God plucked me up, and put me back in the pot to keep simmering toward maturity.

I am thankful also for the counsel I have received for Brothers, some of whom have passed on. The topics of the advice offered was naturally very diverse from W:. Adair and DeBerry cautioning careful inspection for Adam's apples when talking to girls while I was in college at Flagler to issues of a more serious nature. W:. Kenny Ganson told me as a kid growing up, that when his feet hit the floor in the morning a man has two choices: to try to be good or not. That message stuck with me. Thank you, Kenny, I love and miss you.

I am thankful for 10 years of Masonic education and involvement with the ritual. You can't commit the word and precepts of Masonic ritual to memory and maintain its accuracy (most of the time anyway), without some of it soaking into your psyche and changing the way you attempt to live your life. Masonry, as a whole, is something to be cherished by those endeavoring to ameliorate some measure of their moral rectitude and, for me, it's noble constructs have made Kenny's "morning choice" a simpler one.

Last, I am again thankful for time and place. I eventually came out of the cook pot in a much better frame of mind and stability to

# December 2018

Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

						1
2	<b>3 OES</b>	4	<b>5 RAIN- BOW DI MEL- ROSE 6:30 PM</b>	<b>6 STATED COMMU- NICATION 6:30 PM</b>	7	<b>8 Open Book Pineland 86 9- noon</b>
9	19	<b>11 Shrine Club 7:00 pm</b>	<b>12 Open Book Pine- land 6-9 PM</b>	13	14	<b>15 MASONIC ED WORK- SHOP PINE- LAND 9 AM</b>
16	<b>17 OES</b>	<b>18 YORK RITE CHAP- TER/ COUNCIL 6:30 PM</b>	<b>19 RAIN- BOW District As- sociation Hastings 6:30 pm</b>	<b>20 DARK INSTALLA- TION PRACTICE 6:30 PM</b>	21	22
23/30	<b>24/31 CHRIST- MAS EVE</b>	<b>25 CHRIST- MAS DAY</b>	26	<b>27 CLOSED INSTAL- LATION 6:30 PM</b>	<b>28 Fried Chicken at Shrine Club 5 -7 pm</b>	29

begin again in the chairs. Last year, when I stood in the West and said I said I would accept the position of Worshipful Master for 2018 was perhaps one of the best moments of my short life. I was ready. I knew it and I'm thankful that God's plan gave me such a wonderful year to enjoy.

In closing, this might end up being my last communication as Master of Ashlar. If Mrs. Stephanie has this baby soon I will be lucky to make December meetings. Therefore, I'm going to give my final thoughts. It is the duty of every Brother in the Craft to be the point within a circle. It is each and every one of us keeping the ideas of peace, harmony, restraint, right action, justice, and steadfastness that gives the Craft overarching strength I talked about before. It is the Worshipful Master's duty to make the best choices he can that allow the craft to exist in harmony. Of course, there are other responsibilities the Master has, but in my opinion the most important is actively making the best decisions he can. Trust your gut Matt, you'll do great. (And trust the Secretary, always trust the Secretary he has your back).

I have spent a year making the best decisions I know how and I'm not sorry for any of them. Time will tell if my judgement suited the Craft's needs.

To my Officers, I will sit on the sideline anxiously viewing your journey through the line and I can't wait to witness the great things you all will accomplish.

**To the Craft, I LOVE YOU.**

**Fraternally,  
Bo**

## January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>	2 <b>RAIN-BOW</b>	3 <b>STATED COMMUNICATION 6:30 PM</b>	4	5
6	7 <b>OES</b>	8 <b>Shrine Club 7:00 pm</b>	9 <b>DIST. INST. ASHLAR NO. 98 6:30 PM</b>	10	11	12 <b>Open Book Pine-land 86 9-noon</b>
13	14	15 <b>York Rite Chapter/Council 6:30 pm</b>	16 <b>RAIN-BOW</b>	17 <b>STATED COMMUNICATION 6:30 PM</b>	18	19
20	21 <b>OES</b>	22 <b>York Rite Commandery 6:30 pm</b>	23 <b>District Association Bunnell 6:30 PM</b>	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	28	29

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We close the pages of our work at the end of December and renew our efforts in January. May we continue to lead and serve in the new year as we have in all previous years. May we meet with gladness and in fellowship in the days ahead, and glory in the memories of past gatherings.

We give thanks for the gifts and blessings we have received during the past year and for the support of friends and Brothers in times of trials and tribulations. May we never fail to show our love for our Great Creator and for our fellow man. May all our future labors reflect the loving kindness and brotherly love so diligently taught in our Great Fraternity.

We have tried many things in the year past, may the new year give us the strength to carry to fruition our plans. We are thankful for the progress we have made and seek God's guidance that we may continue to be successful, both in the Lodge and in the world.

We are often filled with doubts and worldly cares and need guidance to enthusiastically promote fellowship and goodwill among all men. Give us strength and wisdom to do so.

***A Masonic Christmas Story***  
***By Wor. Bro. C.S.L. (Laurie) Lund & V.W.Bro. R.G. (Ron)***  
***Dixon***  
***(With Apologies to Clement C. Moore)***

***This poem first appeared in The Bluelight Bulletin in 1994***  
***- Civil Service Lodge #148 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada***

'Twas nigh afore Christmas at the Freemason's Hall  
(Civil Services' regular), the order was tall;  
Reams from Grand Lodge, a notice of motion,  
A ballot or two and a pause for devotion  
To brethren departed of the year '94,  
Plus a candidate who would soon walk the floor.

Our own Junior Warden, when faced with the crunch  
Said, "Let's all call off and go upstairs for lunch."  
The Master replied, as Masters all do,  
Intoned in a voice reserved for the few,  
"Before we partake of the fellowship there  
Is the summons to read and a ballot to clear.  
Not to mention the candidate, he's quaking with dread  
At the stories of whether the goat has been fed."

The Master, exhorting the brethren to work,  
A firm grip on the gavel, he turned with a jerk  
To the Secretary, putting a shine to each lens,  
Polished both to a lustre and reached for his pens.

"It's half past the hour," the Master then winced  
At the stuff left to do and remained unconvinced  
That the evening would go as smooth as he'd hoped  
Since he'd gone to the trouble of feeding the goat.  
"Though the ballot's behind us, the notice is gone,  
Grand Lodge is finished, the work still goes on."

The Inner Guard knew as the Tyler did too  
That knock, knock and knock was the right thing to do.  
Sidebenchers slept soundly and were only stirred  
When the crack of the candidate's knuckles was heard  
The slight groan that penetrated lips that were pursed  
Appeared to the Deacon as just a light curse.

Onward they travel, the guide and the man  
Seeking truth and enlightenment wherever they can  
The secrets were given, the grip and the token,  
Obligation was offered, the words then were spoken.  
Though never, not once, was one heard to gloat  
As the Entered Apprentice never did meet the goat.

The evening now ended, the candidate clear  
Junior Warden entreats from the South us to hear  
The oath we look forward to right from the start,  
"Happy to meet and sorry to part."

Christmas had come to Civil Service that night  
As men came together under the light  
Giving freely of time as a labour of love  
As we bent to the task of the Most High above.

To Stewards, to Deacons, the Tyler, the 'Guard  
The Wardens, the Master, who all work so hard,  
To Past Masters steady, Sidebenchers too  
To Treasurer, Chaplain, the D. of C. who  
Help carry the Lodge, year in and year out  
To your family extended, a warm Christmas time.  
Thank the G.A.O.T.U. we've run out of rhyme!

