

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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

904-826-4086



July, 2022



STATED COMMUNICATIONS

Masonic Temple

4 Martin Luther King Blvd.

St. Augustine, FL

1ST & 3RD Thursdays

Meal – 6:30 p.m.

Stated Communication — 7:30 p.m.

DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE

2nd & 4th Thursdays

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Port in the Storm

27th may represent the end of an arduous task, but also the beginning of a new part of the journey.

What I have found among the Brethren in this Fraternity cannot be replaced or substituted with anything else. I will spend the time that I have left reflecting on the road behind me and pondering how I may be of service to the Lodge in the future.

Take care,
W. Jim

From the East

It is hard to believe, my Brothers, That after an eight year apprenticeship and six months in the East I am nearing the end of my time as an officer of Ashlar Lodge. I find myself thinking about those Worshipful Masters that have gone before me and how very few have remained active in the Lodge. I wonder why ?

Some, I believe just burn out and want to go on to something else, others to reclaim time lost with family. Whatever the reason, December

DUE NOTICE

Ashlar Lodge has been granted a Dispensation to hold an election for a Lodge Secretary by M.W. Jeffery Foster, Grand Master.

Nominations in writing may be submitted to the Secretary Pro Tempore. Consult with him to obtain the proper form.

The election will be held at the Stated Communication on Thursday July 7, 2022.

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 OES 4th of July	5	6 RAIN-BOW 7:00 PM	7 STAT-ED COMM 6:30 PM	8	9
10	11	12 Shrine Club 7:00 pm	13 District Instruction Lake No. 72 6:30 pm	14	15	16
17	18 OES	19 York Rite Chapter/Council 6:30 pm	20 RAIN-BOW 7:00 PM Open Books, Pineland No. 86- 6-9 pm	21 STAT-ED COMM 6:30 PM	22 Fried Chicken, Shrine Club	23
24/31	25	26 York Rite Commandery 6:30 pm	27 Dist. Assn. Middleburg No. 107 6:30 pm	28 Lodge Instruction TBA	29	30

FROM THE WEST

Hello My Brothers,

I have been a Master Mason since January 23, 2016. I was one of the “frozen chosen” who was raised at W. Bo’s outdoor lodge. What a night that was!! Ask anyone who was there. In terms of Masonic years of service, that isn’t very long, so my experience will be different from some longer standing brothers. I know I have a lot to learn and will probably be “drinking from a fire hose” over the next 18 months or so.

Something I miss from my “early days” and plan on doing again is visiting our Brothers in Lodges throughout the Elite 11th District and also attending District Association meetings when I can. When I was a newly raised Brother, several of the Ashlar Lodge Brothers would travel around the district in groups of 5 or more and visit Lodges together. W. Jim had us go dark on June 16th, so we could visit Pineland Lodge. It is nice to get out, visit with our Brothers and see the different Lodges as a team.

Brother Terrell and I plan on carpooling to the different meetings. We hope to visit at least one Lodge a month, so if you are interested in traveling with us to represent Ashlar Lodge, please let me know.

Depending on when you read this, the next District Association meeting is on Wednesday June 22nd at Ashlar Lodge or July 27th at Middleburg Lodge located at 2108 Palmetto St, Middleburg, FL 32068. It would be great if you could join us!

We are blessed to have a strong, vibrant lodge. Let’s show up and represent our lodge throughout the district together as Brother Masons.

Fraternally,

Brother Tom Torretta, Senior Warden

August 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 OES	2	3 RAIN-BOW 7 pm	4 STATED COMM 6:30 PM	5	6
7	8	9 SHRINE CLUB 7:00 pm	10 District Instruction Pineland No. 86 6:30 pm	11	12	13
14	15 OES	16 YORK RITE CHAPTER/COUNCIL 6:30 PM	17 RAIN-BOW 7 pm	18 STAT-ED COMM 6:30 PM	19	20
21	22	23 YORK RITE COMMANDERY 6:30 pm	24 District Assn. Cabul No. 116 6:30 pm	25 Lodge Instruction TBA	26 Fried Chicken Shrine Club	27
28	29	30	31 Open Books Pineland No. 86 6-9 pm			

FROM THE SOUTH

As June ends, and we are halfway through 2022, July is almost here. We will celebrate our Independence Day on July 4th, when our country was founded and began as a newly made nation.

It's interesting to know that in this process there were many Masons involved. The Declaration of Independence had 13 signatures that belonged to Brothers. Also our constitution was written with many of the same principles of what we practice and teach, still today.

We should strive to the best of our abilities to follow those principles, until we are called to that House Not Made with Hands, Eternal in the Heavens, and remembering that our very first president was a Brother: President George Washington. Also remembering the many men and women who gave some, while some gave all to enable us to enjoy the many freedoms that we have and enjoy today.

Fraternally yours, Terrell W Jones Sr

James Ussher and Masonic Tradition

Every Masonic document from the Certificate of Membership to the minutes of Lodge proceedings contains two distinct dates, one prefaced A.L., the other prefaced A.D. The use of A.L. as 4000 years plus the current year is the direct result of the work of James Ussher (1581- 1656), Anglican Archbishop of Armagh, Church of Ireland, in the 17th century. The Anglican Archbishop of Armagh is the ecclesiastical head of the Church of Ireland whose Catholic counterpart is the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Traditionally, when chronologies assign or write dates, the letters A.D., B.C., B.C.E., A.L. and so forth are used. A.D. is accepted to mean "After Death" (referring to the death of Christ) with B.C. meaning "Before Christ." Note that the correct expressions would be "after the death" and "before the Christ," but the inclusion of the "t" would create "A.T.D." and "B.T.C." which appear now as rather awkward expressions.

The designation "A.D ." is also accepted to represent the Latin phrase *anno Domini* or "year of our Lord. " If this accepted usage is continued, the expression for the period before the year of our Lord would be expressed in Latin as *ante partum* or "before birth" or A.P. or, even, B.B. These expressions, however, while true to the original Latin phrasing and meaning, were never used.

And while modern chronologies tend to use C.E. (current or common era) in dating, the use of the A.D. designation is more traditional and common. Generally, B.C.E. has replaced the previously used B.C. for dates prior to the current era. B.C.E. is accepted to have several Masonic meanings: "Before the current era", "before the Common Era" and "before the Christian era." These terms are used interchangeably and are usually indicative of the discipline to which the chronologies belongs-science or theology .

What is of interest, though, is that Ussher's chronology, which establishes the date of creation as Sunday, October 23, 4004 B.C. by the Julian calendar, was not the only world chronology created by learned individuals utilizing the same source material- *The Holy Bible*. This chronology, however, has survived the test of time (one of the criteria for a work of literature to be considered "a classic") and is still in common use. At least five other chronologies were commonly known in the 17th century, however, and were all created by more notable and, for their time, more learned individuals than the rather obscure James Ussher.

These chronologies of creation are those of Rabbi Jose ben Halafta, Bede (also known as The Venerable Bede), Joseph Justus Scaliger (a contemporary of Ussher), Johanne Kepler and Isaac Newton. Rabbi Jose ben Halafta or Yose ben Halafta (2nd century A.D. /C.E.) was from a Jewish family that could trace its origins to the Babylonian captivity. Based upon his reading of the Hebrew texts, ben Halafta established the year of the creation of the world as 3761 B.C. It must be remembered that ben Halafta utilized the Jewish calendar in which the year 2022 is 5782. The orthodox Jewish concept of creation, however, does not require six 24-hour days but makes that wording symbolical and the time-frame indeterminate thus rendering this chronology less specific than others.

Bede (672-735) was an English monk at the monastery of Saint Peter at Monkwearmouth Monastery in Northumbria. His study led him to establish the year of creation as 3952 B.C. Bede's best-know work is *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* or *An Ecclesiastical History of the English People* completed in 731. His world chronology appears in *De temporibus* or *On Time* completed in 703.

Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540- 1609) was a contemporary of Ussher. His main focus was on historical criticism. He was the first scholar to publish clear rules for the critical approach to textual analysis thus moving textual criticism from guessing to a rational procedure. In his *De Emendatione Temporum* or *The Manners and Laws of All People* (1598), Scaliger set the year of creation as 3939 B.C.

Johanne Kepler (1571- 1630.), a German mathematician, astronomer and astrologer best known for his work on the laws of planetary motion, was a professor at the seminary school in Graz, Austria, when he established 3992 B.C. for the Year of Light.

Finally, Isaac Newton (1643-1727), an English mathematician and scientist who also explored the \-World of the occult and dabbled in alchemy as well as an interpretation of the Apocalypse, set the date of creation as 4000 B.C.

Other dates given in Ussher' chronology are 2349-2348 B.C for Noah's Flood; 1921 B.C. for God's call to Abraham; 1491 B.C. for the Exodus from Egypt; 1012 B.C for the founding of the temple in Jerusalem; 588 B.C for the destruction of Jerusalem and the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity; and, 4 B.C for the birth of Jesus.

The question remains, however, how did Ussher's dating come into common usage while the others, created by more well-known scholars, dropped into obscurity?

Ussher, to some extent, relied upon the accepted numerology of the Bible in which there are said to be 2000 years between Adam and Abraham, 2000 years between Abraham and Jesus, and 2000 years between Jesus and the current era-a well-known set of numbers at that time that is easily remembered. In addition, when the 4004 was rounded down to 4000, as in Masonic dating, it is easily remembered, as well. What cannot be explained, however, is why Newton's date for creation-4000 B.C. did not come into common usage considering Newton's prestige and fame in his own as well as subsequent generations.

Ussher 's chronology came under concerted attack at the end of the 19th century, an attack that has continued into the 20th and 21th centuries as scholars asserted that the Bible does not provide sufficient data for an accurate chronological dating of creation nor does it give sufficient information to set a precise date for the Flood or other biblical events. Ussher's chronology is generally defended as "an honorable effort and representative of the best scholarship of his time."

LODGE OFFICERS 2022

Worshipful Master	James Carrick	904-501-4348
Senior Warden	Thomas Torretta	602-881-3206
Junior Warden	Terrell Jones	904-669-5249
Secretary Pro Tempore	Troy Usina	904-451-5283
Treasurer	Oscar Patterson III	904-955-9175
Senior Deacon	George Maulsby	703-956-0228
Junior Deacon	Mark Williams	904-669-9694
Chaplain	Robert Harry, Jr.	904-806-1255

FRATERNAL NOTICES AND DATES

O.E.S. Chapter #12.....1st & 3rd
Mondays
Rainbow Assembly #42.....1st & 3rd
Wednesdays
York Rite Bodies.....3rd & 4th
Tuesdays

**OTHER 11th MASONIC
DISTRICT LODGES**

Palatka No. 34
Palatka—2nd & 4th Mondays

Lake No. 72
Crescent City—1st & 3rd Mondays

Pineland No. 86
Peniel—1st & 3rd Thursdays

Melrose No 89
Keystone Heights—2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Middleburg No. 107
Middleburg—1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Cabul No. 116
Green Cove Springs—2nd & 4th Thursdays

Hastings No. 183
Hastings—2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Bunnell No. 200
Bunnell—1st and 3rd Tuesdays