Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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

September, 2026

STATED COMMUNICATIONS
(Until Further Notice)
Masonic Temple
423 S. Darcy Ave.
Hastings , 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
Betty Griffin Center

From The East
Mark Williams
Worshipful Master

Welcome to September my Brothers. We survived the heat of summer and now we can do the outside activities we love. We had a good month, with good attendance and the raising of three new brothers. Brothers Castro, Orellana, and Defiel have worked very hard on their degrees as well as in the kitchen assisting the stewards. Their fidelity is shown through their great attitude, willingness to assist in any way they can and eagerness to learn the rituals. I am very proud of these three brothers because they show us how we should be even though we have been masons for a long time. We have a class of entered apprentices ready for the fellowcraft degree very soon, and fellows are waiting to get started. It is great that we have the pleasure to introduce good men to our fraternity and keep our lodge moving forward.

I would like to recognize the members of the renovation committee on their steadfastness and focus on the details of the reconstruction of Ashlar Lodge. It looks nice and it is in the finish carpentry stage, so it won't be much longer until we are back and enjoying the clean and new upgraded facilities. I know it seems like a long time, but this is a monumental endeavor that has been undertaken and is progressing well. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon in St. Augustine.

September, 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 RAINBOW 7:30 PM	3 STATED COMM at Hastings	4	5
6	7 OES LABOR DAY	8	9 District Instruction Cabul 116 6:20 PM	10 LODGE INSTRUC-TION TBD DeMolay Palatka	11	12
13	14	15 Shrine Club 7:00	16 OPEN BOOKS, PINE-LAND 6: 00 PM RAINBOW 7:00 PM	17 STATED COMM at Hastings 6:30 pm	18	19
20	21 OES	22	23 District Assn. Lake No. 72 6:30 PM	24 LODGE INSTRUC-TION TBD DeMolay Palatka	25 Shrine Club Fried Chicken	26
27	28	29	230			

FROM THE WEST

Greetings, Brethren. As we enter the month of September, Ashlar continues to remain busy preparing for and conducting degrees for brothers on their Masonic journey.

September carries a solemn note. On the 11th of this month, we pause to remember the lives lost and the courage shown on September 11, 2001. In that dark hour, countless first responders, military, and ordinary men and women answered the call of duty, sacrifice, and brotherly love. September also reminds us of Labor Day and the value of honest work - both operative and speculative. As we labor together this fall, may we do so with purpose, patience, and brotherly love worthy of the long history we inherit.

A consistent theme among lodges this time of year is the duty of mentorship. With new candidates entering our ranks, it is our responsibility as Master Masons to guide, encourage, and support them. I encourage every brother to take an active role this fall. Attend catechism examinations, offer to sit with a new member, answer questions, and simply be present. A personal conversation or a word of encouragement can make a lasting difference. Likewise, let us reach out to those brothers we have not seen in a while. A phone call or invitation to dinner before Lodge can rekindle the light of fellowship.

I look forward to seeing you in Lodge and have a great September.

Darrell Lindsey – Senior Warden

October, 2026

MM Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 STATED COMM at Hastings 6:30 PM	**2**	**3**
4	**5 OES**	**6**	**5 RAIN-BOW 7:00 pm**	**8 LODGE INSTRUC-TION TBD DEMOLAY AT PALATKA**	**9 Grand Masters Official Visit Putnam County Shrine Club 5:30 pm**	**10**
11	**12**	**13 Shrine Club 7:00 pm**	**14 District Instruction Hastings No. 183 6:30 PM**	**15 STAT-ED COMM at Hastings 6:30 pm PM**	**16**	**17 FT Clinch Degree 3:00 pm**
18	**19 OES**	**20**	**21 OPEN Book Pine-land No. 86 6:00 PM RAINBOW 7:00 pm**	**22 LODGE INSTRUC-TION TBD DeMolay Palatka**	**23**	**24**
25	**26**	**25**	**26 District Association Pineland No. 86 6:30**	**27 LODGE INSTRUC-TION TBD**	**28 FRIED CHICKEN SHRINE CLUB**	20

FROM THE SOUTH

Hello Brethren,

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the summer. Time really does fly when you are having fun.

We had a great Master Mason Degree with three brothers being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. I look forward to what their future holds.

This is the busiest summer of my short Freemasonry “career”. We have been doing a lot of degree work and working to get newly raised brothers into the fold. I am excited about the second half of the year, as I will be leading some of the upcoming degree work. I enjoy working closely with the degree team members to “make good men better” and show them the light. It offers everyone involved good fellowship and a chance to work as a team. I know the newly raised brothers appreciate all the support they receive from their brothers through the whole process.

I hope to see you as we progress through the year and work out the kinks in our degree work. We can always use some help at the practices and at the actual degrees to ensure the new brothers have the best experience possible. Hope to see you all soon!

Fraternally,

Bro. Kevin Stees. JW

THE MOTHER LODGE, by Bro. Rudyard Kipling

There was Rundle, Station Master,
An' Beazeley of the Rail,
An' 'Ackman, Commissariat,
An' Donkin' o' the Jail;
An' Blake, Conductor-Sergeant,
Our Master twice was 'e,
With im that kept the Europe-shop,
Old Framjee Eduljee.
Outside–" Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!
Inside–'Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!

2

We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,
An' Saul the Aden Jew,
An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman
Of the Survey Office too;
There was Babu Chuckerbutty,
An' Amir Singh the Sikh,
An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,
The Roman Catholick!

3

We 'adn't good regalia,
An' our Lodge was old an' bare,
But we knew the Ancient Landmarks,
An' we kep' 'em to a hair;
An' lookin' on it backwards
It often strikes me thus,
There ain't such things as infidels,
Excep', per'aps, it's us.

4

For monthly, after Labour,
We'd all sit down and smoke
(We dursn't give no banquets,
Lest a Brother's caste were broke),
An' man on man got talkin'
Religion an' the rest,
An' every man comparin'
Of the God 'e knew the best.

,

So man on man got talkin',
An' not a Brother stirred
Till mornin' waked the parrots
An' that dam' brain-fever-bird.
We'd say 'twas 'ighly curious,
An' we'd all ride 'ome to bed,
With Mo'ammed, God, an' Shiva
Changin' pickets in our 'ead.

6

Full oft on Guv'ment service
This rovin' foot 'ath pressed,
An' bore fraternal greetin's
To the Lodges east an' west,
Accordin' as commanded.
From Kohat to Singapore,
But I wish that I might see them
In my Mother-Lodge once more!

7

I wish that I might see them,
My Brethren black an' brown,
With the trichies smellin' pleasant
An' the hog-darn passin' down;
An' the old khansamah snorin'
On the bottle-khana floor,
Like a Master in good standing
With my Mother-Lodge once more.
Outside–Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!'
Inside–Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!

Rudyard Kipling, Freemason

According to the English magazine *Masonic Illustrated*, Kipling became a Freemason in about 1885, before the usual minimum age of 21, being initiated into Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782 in Lahore. He later wrote to *The Times*, "I was Secretary for some years of the Lodge... which included Brethren of at least four creeds. I was entered [as an Apprentice] by a member from Brahmo Somaj, a Hindu, passed [to the degree of Fellow Craft] by a Mohammedan, and raised [to the degree of Master Mason] by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew." Kipling received not only the three degrees of Craft Masonry but also the side degrees of Mark Master Mason and Royal Ark Mariner.

Kipling so loved his Masonic experience that he memorialized its ideals in his poem "The Mother Lodge",[83] and used the fraternity and its symbols as vital plot devices in his novella.

In 1907 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, having been nominated in that year by Charles Oman, professor at the University of Oxford.[70] The prize citation said it was "in consideration of the power of observation, originality of imagination, virility of ideas and remarkable talent for narration which characterize the creations of this world-famous author." Nobel prizes had been established in 1901 and Kipling was the first English-language recipient. At the award ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December 1907, the Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy, Carl David af Wirsén, praised both Kipling and three centuries of English literature:

> The Swedish Academy, in awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature this year to Rudyard Kipling, desires to pay a tribute of homage to the literature of England, so rich in manifold glories, and to the greatest genius in the realm of narrative that that country has produced in our times.[71]

To "book-end" this achievement came the publication of two connected poetry and story collections: *Puck of Pook's Hill* (1906), and *Rewards and Fairies* (1910). The latter contained the poem "If—". In a 1995 BBC opinion poll it was voted the UK's favourite poem.[72] This exhortation to self-control and stoicism is arguably Kipling's most famous poem.[72]*The Man Who Would Be King*.

LODGE OFFICERS 2026

Worshipful Master		
	Mark Williams	**904-669-9694**
Senior Warden		
	Darrell Lindsey	904-814-7158
Junior Warden		
	Kevin Stees	803-406-0005
Senior Deacon		
	Chris Lucero	904-226-5007
Junior Deacon		
	Tom Street	301-300-3031
Secretary		
	William Parks	904-501-0823
Treasurer		
	Oscar Patterson III	904-955-9175
Senior Steward		
	Kenneth Chapman	904-584-5417
Junior Steward		
	Thomas Stees	803-847-9414
Chaplain		
	Robert Harry, Jr.	904-806-1255
Marshall		
	Justine Buxton	904-793-1192
Tyler		
	Scott Souder	904-315-0518

FRATERNAL NOTICES AND DATES

O.E.S. Chapter #12...……...1st & 3rd Mondays

Rainbow Assembly #42…...1st & 3rd Wednesdays

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