

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons

St. Augustine, FL

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

904 826-4086



January 2017



STATED COMMUNICATIONS

Masonic Temple
105 King Street
St. Augustine, FL
1ST & 3RD Thursdays
Meal – 6:30 p.m.

DEGREE WORK AND PRACTICE

2nd & 4th Thursdays

CHARITY OF THE QUARTER MASONIC HOME

FROM THE EAST

FROM THE EAST

Brethren, I am deeply humbled and greatly honored to have been elected by the Craft to serve as Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 98 for 2017. I look forward to an outstanding year with much fellowship and brotherly love. We have an exemplary Officer Line, the best of any Lodge in Florida if not the nation. They and I will endeavor to do our best to serve you and our Lodge.

The motto for the year is FOLLOW US. The principle theme for the year is EXCELLENCE IN FREEMASONRY. To accomplish this, we will focus on Masonic Education, Ritual Word, Masonic Leadership, Masonic Fellowship, Masonic Charity, and Community Support. To implement these themes, we will:

- Devote 15 to 20 minutes of each

Stated Communication to Masonic Education;

- Strengthen our Mentorship program;
- Improve our ritual work;
- Warmly welcome all Brothers and visitors to the Lodge;
- Enhance Membership Development;
- Conduct one or more Family Nights;
- Honor Masonic Youth, First Responders, Teachers, Scouts, and our Military;
- Engage in Masonic Charity.

We will begin the 2017 Masonic Year with Open Installation on Tuesday, December 27, 2016. Family and friends are most welcome. The formal meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. with our Rainbow Girls and DeMolay boys assisting. Installation will follow at 7:00 p.m. The Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Florida will be the Installing Officer assisted by M.W. Robert Harry as Installing Marshall.

Our goal for the year is to continue to improve ourselves in Masonry as we strengthen Fraternal Relations among ourselves and with other Freemasons. We will endeavor to show respect for the Brethren and the Craft by demonstrating proper Masonic decorum inside the Lodge and by practicing Freemasonry in our daily lives.

We have friends who make us laugh; whose company we enjoy; who are useful to us; who lend us things; who do things for us that we cannot do for ourselves. We have “friends for good” who help us strive for something beyond our own lives. These true

friends give us the highest form of friendship. Aristotle wrote this over 2,300 years ago, but it applies to Freemasonry today. Our true deeds are our secrets. Fraternally,

Oscar Patterson III W.:M.:

FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

I am humbled to have been elected as your Senior Warden for the 2017 year. Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the guidance, support, and love that you have shown me through my journey through the chairs thus far. We, no doubt, will have a busy year ahead of us and i'm excited about the prospect of another prosperous year for our Lodge.

We are blessed to have a very active Lodge with a very young enthusiastic officers line. This is not to say that we can rest on our laurels, pat ourselves on the back, and let the "young folk" (age or Masonic tenure) take the reins. We can, each one of us, think of a few Brothers whom we haven't seen for awhile and would love to sit with them again on our meeting nights. Brotherly Love is one of the principal tenants of our profession and the assemblage of our beloved brothers needs to continue to be encouraged. With this in mind, i'm asking for your help. When you think of that brother whom you have missed in Lodge, PLEASE try to reach out to him. We can never know what is going on if we don't touch base, he might need a helping hand, an attentive ear, or merely to hear that he is missed and encouragement to come back to Lodge. I am optimistic that 2017 can and will provide good times on Thursday nights at Ashlar!!!

It might seem early but please keep in mind the Fred H. Bozard III Outdoor Degree will be held on the 25th of February so help spread the word to the traveling men in your life that might be from other lodges.

Again I am honored to serve.

Fraternally,

Bo

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 District Instruction Cabul Rainbow	5 Stated Comm	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Lodge Practice FC	13	14
15	16	17 York Rite chap- ter/council	18 Rainbow	19 Stated Comm	20	21
22	23	24 York Rite Com- mandery	25 District Association Pinelands	26 FC Degree	27	28
29	30	31				

Ashlar Lodge No. 98 F. & A.M. Lodge Officers 2017

Worshipful Master	Oscar Patterson III	904-955-9175
Senior Warden	Fred "Bo" Bozard IV	904-501-4370
Junior Warden	Matthew Sweeney	904-806-0571
Treasurer	Robert Gagnon, P.M.	904-501-7446
Secretary	David Pierucci	904-460-9477
Senior Deacon	Kenneth Schaffner	386-864-9162
Junior Deacon	James Carrick	904-501-4348
Senior Steward	Robert Wilson	386-763-8727
Junior Steward	Brian Iannucci	904-708-9765
Chaplain	James Davis, P.M.	904-392-4565
Marshall	Tom Toretta	630-834-1031
Tyler	Ron DeRoco	904-599-1584
Musician	Stephen Hohman	904-468-9445
B. Adair Mentor Program	James Davis, P.M.	
Lodge Instructor	Oscar Patterson, W.M.	

February 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 District Instruction Hastings Rainbow	2 Stated Comm	3	4
5	6 OES	7	8 Open Books 6pm Pinelands	9 Lodge Practice MM	10	11
12	13	14	15 Rainbow	16 Stated Comm	17	18
19	20	21 York Rite chapter/ council	22 District Association Melrose	23	24	25 Outdoor MM Degree 4pm
26	27	28 York Rite Com- mandery				

“To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

“[Letter to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, January 1793]”

George Washington

LODGE COMMITTEES FOR 2017

Finance

Bo Bozard
Matthew Sweeney
Robert Gagnon, P.M.
Troy Usina, P.D.D.G.M.
David Pierucci

Masonic Education

Matthew Sweeney
David Pierucci
James Davis, P.M.
Kenneth Schaffner

Charity

Matthew Sweeney
Bo Bozard
Robert Gagnon, P.M.
James R. Bailey, P.M.
Tom Torretta

Scholarship

Matthew Sweeney
Brian Iannucci
David Pierucci
Sam Turner

Vigilance

Matthew Sweeney
David Braddock, P.M.
Chris Cannan, P.M.
James Carrick

Petitions

Bo Bozard
Matthew Sweeney
David Pierucci
Ken Schaffner
James Carrick

Lodge Property

Bo Bozard
Troy Usina, P. D.D.G.M.
James R. Bailey, P.M.
Francis Stokkel, P.M.
Chris Cannan, P.M.

Rainbow Board

Robert Gagnon, P.M.
Matthew Sweeney
Garret Wolfe, P.M.

Council of Past Masters

Robert Harry, P.G.M.
Troy Usina, P.D.D.G.M.
David Braddock, P.M.

Visitation

James Davis, P.M.
Dominick Perez, P.M.
Tom Toretta

Membership Development

David Pierucci
Brian Iannucci
James Carrick
James Davis, P.M.
Francis Stokkel, P.M.

Community Service

Bo Bozard
Brian Iannucci
Sam Turner
Josh Underwood

Board of Relief

Bo Bozard
Matthew Sweeney
Morris McEvoy
James Davis, P.M.

Military Veterans of Ashlar Lodge No. 98, F. & A. M.

We have begun a project to recognize all **VETERANS** who are now or who have been Members of our Lodge and who are not listed on the World War II memorial hanging on our West Wall. An appropriate plaque is being constructed to display the names, military affiliation, and service of all Brothers who are Veterans.

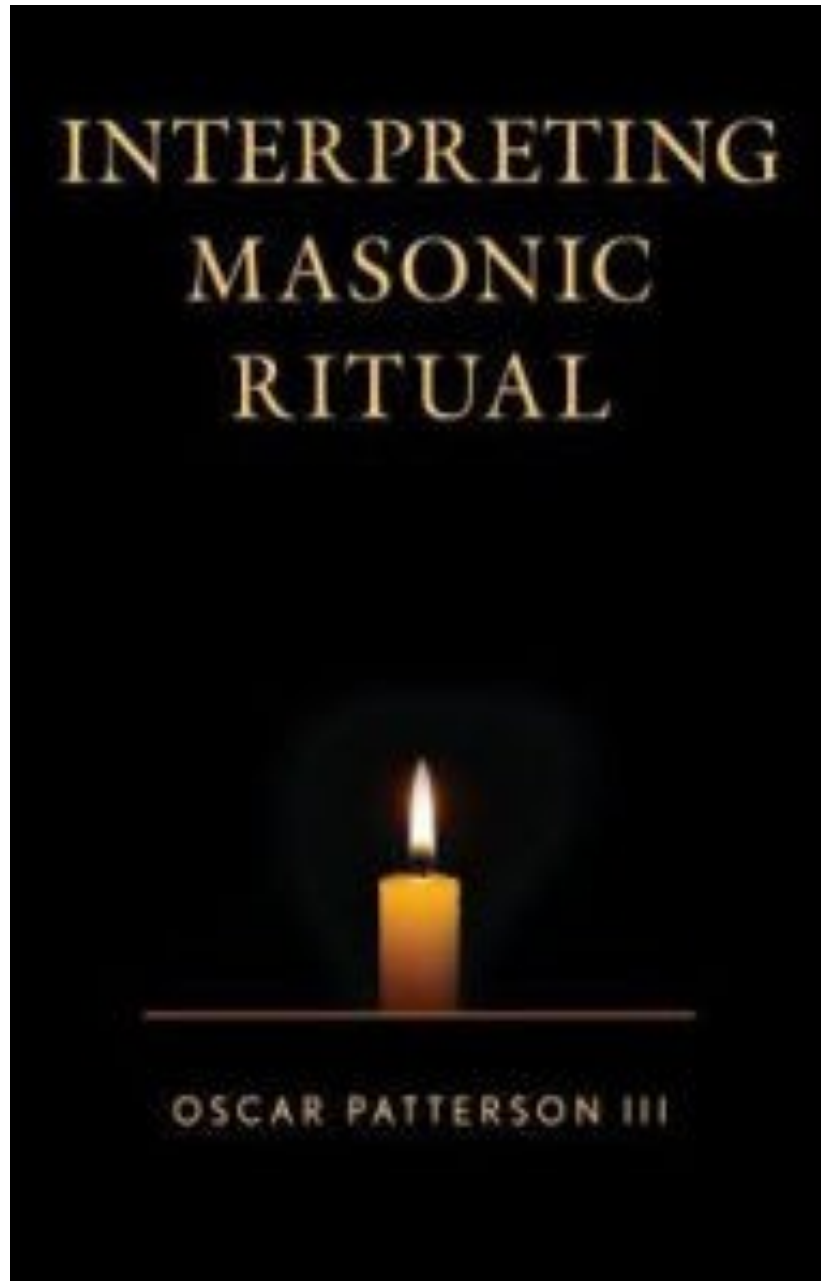
If you are a Veteran, please complete the form below and return it to Bro. Oscar Patterson, our Senior Warden. If you know of a Brother who is deceased or who does not attend regularly and you can attest to his military service, complete a form for him, as well.

FULL NAME: _____ Membership No.: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ PERIOD: _____

Examples: Alfred W. Adams, U.S. Coast Guard, Korea
James J. Smith, U.S. Army, Vietnam
John Q. Public, U.S. Navy, Gulf War
Samuel A. Everyman, U.S. Air Force, War on Terrorism
Jones, U.S. Army, 1955-1958





Interpreting Masonic Ritual by Oscar Patterson III
Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 98

Brothers who would like to receive a signed copy are invited to write a check in the amount of \$30.00 made to The Masonic Home of Florida and bring it to the
Lodge or mail it to
Oscar Patterson III
248 Patrick Mill Circle
Ponte Vedra, Beach, FL 32082



Botticelli, 1484. *Virgin and Child Enthroned between Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist.* Tempera on panel. Gemaldegalerie, Berlin

The night of December 27th is set aside in our Masonic calendar to honor St. John the Evangelist.

Prepared by W:B: C. B. Griggs

Reproduced from the Grand lodge of the State of Louisiana, with their permission and our gratitude.

Early in our Masonic travels we were told that we were seeking admission to a lodge, erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Sts. John.

St. John the Evangelist

Let us examine his true nature and accomplishments to understand why our ancestors accepted him as one of our patron Saints of Masonry.

We first find John in the gospel of Mark 1:16-20. We find that John responded to the call of "Follow me" without hesitation. He did so without excuses, without asking what were the benefits, without asking if he were "good enough", or without any alibi to shirk the call. As we consider this act, let us ask ourselves, how many times we were called before we responded. (I am assuming all have answered the call.)

We further find that John the Apostle came to be among the top three of the twelve in their close relationship with Jesus. We also note that he was known as "the beloved" and "the one whom Jesus loved." John was chosen to participate in many important events in the ministry of Jesus, one of them being at the crucifixion of Jesus. At this point in The Gospel (19:26) of John we find that Jesus saw both his mother and John nearby, and placed his mother in the care of John. To get a true picture, imagine that you, as a reader or listener, are leaving on an extended absence. You wish to place your mother in a situation in which you could be assured of her safety and well being.

What kind of person would you entrust with this responsibility? Do you know of one at first thought? This describes the true nature of John the Apostle.

In Acts of the Apostles, 1:13 and 8:14 we find this John acting in carrying out the Great Commission, that of establishing the Church. He must have displayed the fortitude necessary to continue steadfast in this mission, as he was banished to the Island of Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian for his continued work in the early Church. Here again, he probably could have avoided exile had he violated his principles.

In his writings, and epistles, we find that John deals with the central theme of the Christian faith; that is, the eternal and steadfast love of God the Creator to his creation. This love is not conditional, nor is it terminal. Time and space does not permit us to properly describe this St. John as he relates to Masonry. However, to me, any description would not be complete without a short look at one of the most important aspects of his apostleship. That is, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, as revealed to John while in exile on the island of Patmos. As we are taught, God created order in six days and consecrated the seventh as a day of rest and worship. We find that John is given the revelation as he was "in the spirit on the Lord's day" (Rev. 1:10), meaning that he was in close communion with God on the Sabbath day. What was revealed to John? A brief summary would be to say that God allowed him a sneak peek at "the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." This allowed John to tell his readers some of the joys awaiting us at the end of our journey.

This brief description of John the Apostle makes me proud that our founding fathers chose this St. John to share equal claim to the Patron Saints of Masonry. Masonry is stronger by our affiliation with him and will continue to be strong as long as we identify our fraternity with him.

