

## This Month's Feature Stories

- Freemasonry and Christmas
- Who Are We?? Masons!
- Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?

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Volume 5 Issue 12

December 1, 2016

## Freemasonry and Christmas

Since it is the Christmas season, we are re-running this article from last year as it serves as a reminder and truly reflects Freemasonry's relationship with Christmas

### FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTMAS

By Bro. Blake Bowden

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On one hand, many say it's too religious, and thus don't want Christmas trees in public buildings and nativity scenes within a shepherd's-crook length of government lawns. On the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial. They've been

saying it for years; it's the central theme behind the charming animated cartoon A Charlie Brown Christmas which was made some 40 years ago.

Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual



Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th.



Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's

## Programs & Announcements



Come out and join us for our annual Christmas dinner; you and your entire family are welcome and we would enjoy have YOU and YOURS with us.

Lubbock Commandery #60 asks that you consider a cash donation or an unwrapped toy

for their annual Templars With Toys for Girls and Boys, benefiting children at University Medical Center during Christmas.

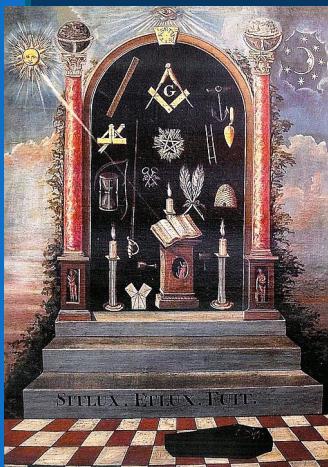
From Brother Chris Felton: This a reminder that the launch party for the Fantastic Teeth program is slated for January 31, 2017 at the Scottish Rite Building in Lubbock with a 6:30 start and meal. We are going to need all the help we can get this

year as we have over 6,500 dental kits to assemble in record time. Thank you again, for making this event the biggest and best in Texas.

**SHARE THE NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND HAVE THEM REGISTER FOR THEIR OWN NEWSLETTER IN THE BOTTOM RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THE WEBSITE.**

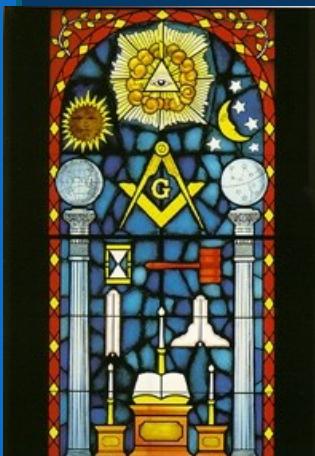
[lubbockmasoniclodge.org](http://lubbockmasoniclodge.org)

*And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3*



*"The grand object of  
Masonry is to  
promote the  
happiness of the  
human race"*

*Giffashington*



## From the East Worshipful Master John Rosser

What does it mean to be a Mason?

Masonry gives a man a positive picture of what it means to be a man. No group or organization gives recognition to the worth of a man's life as does Freemasonry. The Masonic message is simple: "You're important." As Masons, we make one thing clear. "As a man, you have tremendous potential and we're going to show you how to become the best." Masonry never looks down on a man.

Masonry denies that a man is basically "bad." Masonry sees the possibilities in a man and gives him a way to reach for the stars. Masonry separates a man from the crowd. The most incredible fact about being a Mason is that you can never, never forget that you are one. As a Mason, I can never forget that I have a responsibility to live and conduct my business according to the tenets of Freemasonry. I can never be lost in the crowd. For a man to say, "I'm

a Mason" sets him apart from other men.

My wish for my fellow Masons is that you have a Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday.



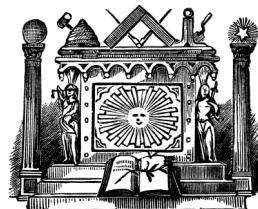
## From the West

*Senior Warden Jerry Hendrick*

Editor's Note: Jerry is out for a while after knee replacement surgery but he was able to send this brief note.

As I sit here trying to decide what I need to talk about, I wanted to begin with giving thanks to all our men and women of the armed forces, for all the sacrifices that they make each and every day so that we can enjoy the Holidays. We need to remember

to say thanks to all of our veterans past and present. NOT only during the Holidays, BUT each and every day. God Bless and have a Mary Christmas.



## From the South

*Junior Warden Coke Etgen*

FREEMASONRY is first and foremost a fraternity. It is also "A Way of Life." The brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God is primary - this means that its activities should always be designed to promote friendship, morality and brotherly love.

As Christmas navigates through all the tinsel and commercialism that can detract from the real meaning of the season, let us remember

that it is the spirit of love and generosity toward all.

Be mindful of our gift of family and friends, as well as those that are alone. Give thanks for our freedom and faith, as many live in persecution and distress. Be thankful for the wealth of sustenance that surrounds us, as there are those that go without.

The Christmas Season is truly a time to remember and to be grateful for the blessings we

all share. May we hold and maintain this spirit at all times, in all our undertakings.

To all of our Brethren and their families, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.





## From the Secretary Harrold Loveless

### Taking Care of Business

Greetings Brethren,  
Dues notices went out this last Saturday (November 26th) to all brothers whether a dues paying member, exempt, or endowed. I did this so I could make sure the database has an accurate address for future mailings and to make sure you receive your membership card. Dues are \$75.00 and must

be paid by December 31st. I would ask that all members either mail back the dues envelope with your current address or you may bring it by the lodge at any Tuesday floor practice. If you know your address has changed since last year dues notices, please contact me by way of this website ([secretary@lubbockmason.com](mailto:secretary@lubbockmason.com))

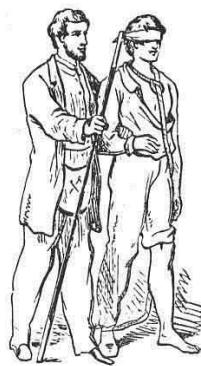
iclodge.org) or my personal email address ([harrold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harrold@sbcglobal.net)) so I may make the correction and re-mail you your notice when returned. Nothing is more disheartening than to suspend a brother for non-payment of due because of not having a correct address.



## Visiting Brothers & Prospects

Brethren,  
We would like to thank the brothers and visitors that attended our Thanksgiving dinner and stated meeting. At our stated meeting we had the following visitors: Bob Clemmons, 33°, PM; Glenn Ashcraft; and Rolan Pirtle, from Yellowhouse Lodge #841; and Jason Jones from Alvin Lodge #762. We hope to see you at our

next stated meeting on Friday, December 9th at 7:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm) and encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree team to attend floor practice every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.



*Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.*

*Mark Twain*



## From the Senior Steward Luis Ramos

### Food, Flowers & Frolic

Well it's hard to believe that a year has come and gone, Lubbock lodge has gone through several changes and we are still changing and growing. The holidays are among us and December it's tempting time we celebrate our faith. Brothers cherish every moment you have with close friends and more especially with family.

December is the month to celebrate Christmas but more importantly the birth of Christ. Please be sure not only to celebrate the holidays with family & friends but also offer a "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" to one in need. Many of our fellow men, women and more especially the children who have nothing.

As the old saying goes, it's better to give rather than to receive.

I hope that all of our brethren's and their families have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.



### Upcoming Menu for December:

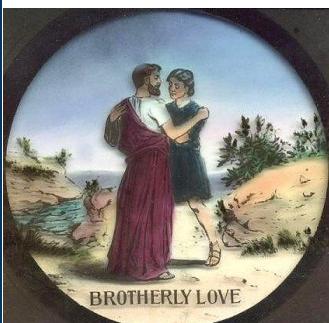
**Menu:**  
**Grilled ham**  
**Sweet Potato**  
**Grilled green beans**  
**Dinner rolls**  
**Tea**

## Freemasonry and Christmas

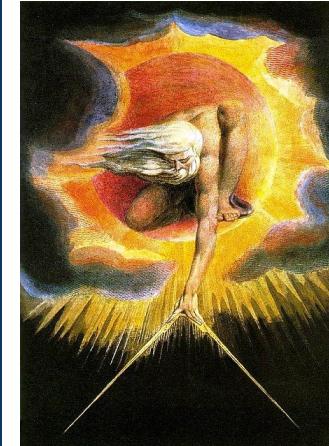
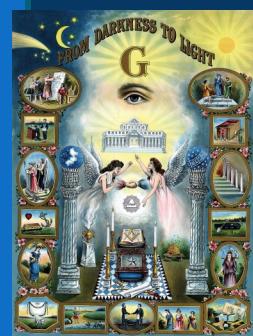
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birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies.



The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do unto you." In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount.



Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator". Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.



Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of the virgin birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know.

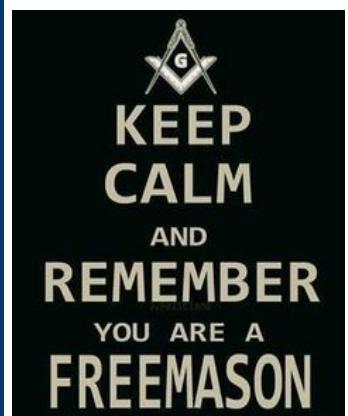
So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft: faith, hope and charity. Doing so should bring

satisfaction to you at Christmas-time.

Used with permission from [myfreemasonry.com](http://myfreemasonry.com)

### WHO ARE WE??? MASON'S!

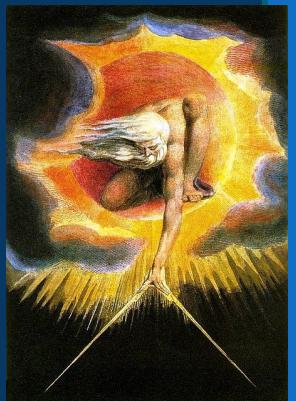
Look into your heart and see if you truthfully can answer this question: "Am I a Mason who follows my Obligation?" or, "Am I a Parrot Mason who say's what I will and can do, but doesn't follow what I say?"



If you can "Talk the Talk, then, Walk the Walk!"



*Season's Greetings*



## Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?

Since it is the Christmas season, we are re-running this article from last year as reminder to take care of our ladies and to provide a gift idea.

By Clyde H. Magee, 32°

Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper? It is a small lapel pin in the shape of a blue slipper. Over the years it has been my habit to ask my wife and my daughters to wear one of these slippers on a coat or dress when traveling alone away from home. What is the meaning of this blue slipper and why should female relatives of Masons wear one?

Some 50 or 60 years ago, while I was still living at home, a widowed lady who was a cousin of my Dad's came to visit our home. She vacationed with us for several weeks every summer. She always wore this type of pin -The Blue Slipper. Her doctor husband was a Mason. The pin that she wore made a lasting impression on me. Through my curiosity and questioning, she told me it was a Masonic pin and served to identify her as a Masonic widow. She declared that Masonic men gave her extra attention while traveling, espe-

cially on the railroad (conductors, etc.).

To find out the meaning of this pin, let us go back in history to Boaz' time-the Book of Ruth. It will be remembered that Elimelech, his wife, Naomi, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilon, fled to the land of Moab to escape the famine in their homeland of Bethlehem-judah. Things went well for a while. Then life fell apart for them. Elimelech died. The two sons married Moabite girls-Orpha and Ruth. Again



The Masonic Blue Slipper

tragedy struck. Mahlon and Chilon died. This left Naomi a widow in a foreign land with two widowed daughters-in-law from the land of Moab.

In time of trouble, people think of home and more importantly of God. Naomi found out that the famine back home had subsided, and there was grain and food again. So she confided with Orpha and Ruth that

she would journey back home and be among her kinsmen.

Certain laws, rules, or customs governed her thinking at this time. Of first consideration was the fact that Naomi was too old to bear a son for her daughters-in-law to marry. Even if she could, the daughters-in-law would not wait for the son to grow up. So the girls should remain among their own people. The girls resisted and started to go with Naomi. Orpha was finally convinced she should



stay in Moab. But Ruth remained steadfast and went with Naomi to her homeland.

Naomi and Ruth arrived back in Bethlehem-judah at harvest time. The Scripture passage on which this is based is well-known. "And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy

people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." This passage of Scripture is unsurpassed as a declaration of love and devotion of one person for another. It has been said that it would make a good marriage vow. But, to me it is a different type of devotion.

Naomi also had to take into consideration another law. When Elimelech died, his next of kin was duty bound to redeem his possessions and take care of his widow and her family. Since Naomi was getting old, Ruth tried to earn a livelihood. While gleaning in the fields, she was seen by Boaz. And when he found out about her (that she was Naomi's daughter-in-law, etc.), he arranged special treatment for her. She could work with his girls in the field, and the young men were warned not to bother her. Since Boaz was not married and was kin to Naomi, Naomi decided that she should somehow make Boaz understand his duty to Elimelech's family. So Naomi advised Ruth to bathe and anoint herself and go to the threshing floor after dark

## Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?

and lay at the feet of Boaz. Boaz awoke at midnight and discovered her there. So as not to create a scandal, he gave her some barley and asked her to leave before dawn so that watching eyes would not recognize her.



A variation on the slipper

Business among the tribe of Bethlehem-Judah took place at the gate of the city. So Boaz sat down at the gate the next day because he knew there was a kinsman more closely related to Elimelech than he. So when the kinsman came by, Boaz called him aside and asked 10 men of the elders of the city to sit with them. Boaz bargained with his kinsman. The kinsman said he would redeem Elimelech's property. But, when he found out that he would have to take care of Naomi and Ruth, he reneged and told Boaz he would not redeem or pro-

tect Elimelech's interest. He would leave it to Boaz. The passage from Scripture for these events is the following: "And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it, Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor: and this was a testimony in Israel."

So the kinsman drew off his shoe and gave it to Boaz. Boaz held it up for all in the gate to see. He asked them to be witnesses that he became Naomi's protector, Ruth's husband, and a redeemer of Elimelech's property. Thus, today we have the little blue slipper as an emblem of the protective influence of Masons for their wives, widows, and daughters.  
(This article first appeared in the July 1986 issue of the Scottish Rite Journal.)

The Masonic Blue Slipper pin, item 542DCSPIN; sticker available for your wife's car item 542DCSD and a pendant, item 542DCSC are all available from the Grand Lodge of Texas Merchandise Store.

Call 254-753-7395

Vintage versions of the Blue Slipper Pin can be found on eBay as well.

There are also pins of recognition available for Masonic Widows,



The broken column memorializes the end of our earthly life. Surrounding the broken column are acacia leaves, symbolic of our eternal life. In Freemasonry, the broken column is, as Master Freemasons well know, the emblem of the fall of one of the chief supporters of the Craft.

The use of the column or pillars as a monument erected over a tomb was a very ancient custom, and was a very significant symbol of the character and spirit of the person interred.

The Masonic Widow's Pin was created with the hope that it would be worn by the widow of a Master Mason on all appropriate occasions, especially when traveling, so that she may be

recognized, greeted, and assisted when necessary, by Masonic friends throughout the world. It is an emblem of honor and should be worn separately, and not in conjunction with other jewelry.

It is hoped that whoever wears this emblem finds that she is not alone. We are there and we care.



The version above is available through the Grand Lodge of Texas Merchandise Store. Call 254-753-7395



## December 2016 Calendar



Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392  
Masonic Calendar

Get list of members in arrears

# December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
				1	2 Yellowhouse Lodge	3																																																																																		
4	5	6 FLOOR PRACTICE Wolfforth Lodge	7	8 Abernathy Lodge Chapter	9 LUBBOCK STATED MEETING	10																																																																																		
11	12 Emma Lodge Commandery	13 FLOOR PRACTICE Lubbock OES	14 Scottish Rite	15 Slaton Lodge Freedom OES	16	17 Daylight Lodge																																																																																		
18	19 Crosbyton Lodge	20 FLOOR PRACTICE Mackenzie Lodge	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve																																																																																		
25 Christmas Day	26 Hilltop Meeting Lubbock Lodge - 6:30	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve																																																																																		
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"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it."

Winston Churchill

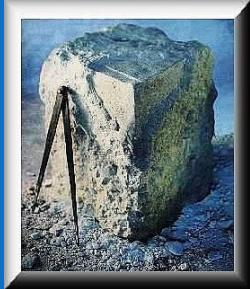
LUBBCK  
MASONIC LODGE  
#1392  
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr  
Lubbock, TX  
79410-1721

**Meetings:**  
**Second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Meal: 6:30pm**

**Floor School:**  
**Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.**

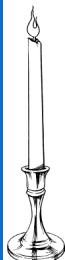
[lubbockmasoniclodge.org](http://lubbockmasoniclodge.org)



**Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth**

**This Month's Sickness & Distress**

Jerry Hendrick



Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.

**This Month's Brothers & Birthdays**

**Alvie Ivey 12/6**  
**Alton Utsey 12/18**  
**Clyde Hildebrand 12/20**  
**Christopher Yeoman 12/20**  
**Randy Henson 12/26**  
**Norris Rumsey 12/31**



**The Quarry:  
Our Esoteric Work**  
**By Bro. Coke Etgen**

**REMINDER: FLOOR PRACTICE  
EVERY TUESDAY STARTING  
PROMPTLY AT 7:00PM**

**Why so secret?**

Many have asked this question. Not only the ones who are thinking about Freemasonry but also family members, friends and complete strangers ask this question. The second paragraph would be an excellent answer for them without giving up any of the Freemason's secrets. Freemasonry does have se-

crets, but our secrecy is one of the most misunderstood aspects of the fraternity. Freemasonry teaches philosophy through symbolism, and secrecy is actually a symbol of honor.

Originally the medieval stonemason guild kept the practices and knowledge of their skilled trade closely guarded secrets, to protect their livelihood, and to ensure only qualified men were employed. Likewise, passwords and secret signs were developed so members could recognize each other, even if they never met.

These traditions have been kept by the modern Freemasons. If a person can't be trusted to keep a secret like a password or a handshake, his word isn't likely trustworthy or an honorable person.

There are other secrets, besides recognition. Some have to do with the specifics of our rituals and ceremonies.. Others are more personal and different for each Freemason. Like all initiatic experiences in the world, the real secrets of Freemasonry are the effects its teachings have on the individual, and how he applies them to his life.

*The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it."*

E-Mail: [lubbock-lodge1392@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lubbock-lodge1392@sbcglobal.net)