

# THE SPRIG

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 18 Issue 7

JULY 2013

## 2011 OFFICERS

David P. Stuard Jr. WM  
Douglas Hall SW  
Jeffery Hall JW  
Art Ford Treasurer  
Jack Coker Secretary  
Jason Eric Crowe SD  
Art Nebiker JD  
Eddie Hill Steward  
Howard Wood Steward  
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain  
Thomas Baker Tyler  
Charles Marthers Organist



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Fellowcraft Degree 6/20

St. John the Baptist  
Fish-Fry 6/22

Regular Communication  
7/11

Fellowcraft Degree 7/18

Master Mason Degree  
7/25

## JUNE BRITHDAYS

2 Charles Brown  
5 Robert Milling  
5 Leroy Taylor  
7 Travis Whitfield  
14 Donald White  
15 James Gantt  
15 Thomas Park  
17 James Harrison  
20 Stephen D, Hall  
21 Frank Broome  
21 Lyth B. Clark, Jr.  
31 Vernon Davis, Sr.

Please note that, due to the July 4th holiday, our business meeting will take place on the following Thursday, July 11, at the usual time. All other scheduled events and degree work will remain unaffected.

## Report on the Findings of the Past Masters Meeting by David P Stuard, WM

As was reported in last month's issue of the Sprig, a request was issued to all of Acacia Lodge's Past Masters concerned, that a meeting be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, for the purpose of addressing the grave threat which faces our lodge, namely, the growing lack of interest, and therefore, of participation by our membership in lodge functions. Although technically I am not yet a Past Master, I, perhaps overzealously, chose to attend, and at the risk of stepping on a few toes, to report on the proceedings, in the hope that in sharing with you the concerns expressed around that table, that you will find yourselves desirous of returning to the fold, and that the light that is Acacia be not darkened, a fate that has already befallen too many of our brother lodges, even in our own 10<sup>th</sup> Masonic district.

The question before us was twofold. What were the causes of this diminishing attendance, and how best to counter it? With regards to the first part, the reasons we put forth were many:

- Lodge is not interesting
- The members did not seem happy to be there
- The business meeting was too long or boring
- Everyone was old
- Lack of communication
- Lack of interaction with other Lodges
- The same people in the same positions

and so on and so on. The chief consensus was that we suffer from a lack of after care. Upon having completed their degrees, there was but little to maintain the interest of the brothers in the routine work of the lodge, so much of it being of a "pay the bills, all in favor..." nature, as it were. But it is not possible to condense these many factors into one single catch-all category. If I may quote H. L. Mencken, "*For every complex problem there is a simple solution – that is usually wrong!*" There can be no "silver-bullet" answer here.

Therefore we turn our attention to part two, how to respond to each of these? Taken in turn, I propose several steps, some of which have already been implemented. Some of these go hand in hand, for instance, if the meetings are too long or boring, then they are likewise uninteresting, and the members therefore not happy to be there. My solutions here may seem at odds with each other but I do believe that both can be accomplished simultaneously. To shorten duration, I will work to improve my own procedural efficiency at our regular communications, (to this end, the wisdom of Worshipful Brother Jack Coker has been invaluable), but I also suggest that a few minutes be set aside at each business meeting for the purpose of Masonic Education. There was a time at Acacia when this was a fixture of our lodge, and I believe, one of the things that set us apart from the rest. I also propose that regular practices be held, not only for the enhancement of our degree work, (if you haven't been to lodge in recent months, know that we have been very active and therefore, through sheer repetition, are in fact, steadily improving) but also with instructionals for the benefit of those now sitting in office who seek advancement, and of those newly made brothers who may wish to follow in their footsteps. This may also serve

**SICK AND DISTRESSED**  
**WB Don Michie**  
**Bro Roger Doyon**  
**and**  
**Mrs. Jane Grigg, Mother**  
**of Brothers Doug and**  
**Right Worshipful Jeff Hall**



**Fais-do-do**

**There is still time to get your tickets for the St. John the Baptist Catfish Fry, to be held on Sat. June 22, from 11 AM to 2 PM. This event is co-sponsored by Acacia #94 and by the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star, Columbia chapter #59, and features the talents of our very own Cookin' Cajun, Right Worshipful Jeffrey L. Hall, who promises that "You gonna like it, I Gar-on-tee" Come on down to 1518 Hampton Street for All-you-can-eat catfish, hushpuppies, cole slaw, and French fries, learn the meaning of Lagniappe and pass a good time with your brothers and sisters, Cajun Style. Bring the whole family. Contact Jack or Carol Coker or Jeff Hall for tickets in advance, although if you was to just show up, we wouldn't turn you away.**

to address, after a fashion, two other points raised by the Past Masters, which may likewise be closely connected, i.e., that everyone is old and that the same people hold the same positions, year after year. We have, during my brief tenure, raised several new Master Masons and currently have two more in the pipeline. I ask your help and guidance in moving these brothers into position as the next generation of Acacia #94. It is said that those that can, do. I say that those that can, also teach.

Lastly, to address the points remaining, namely; lack of communication and of interaction with other lodges. This newsletter will remain an important part of that process, and I invite any brother with something to say to submit their articles to me at [akhenaton1701@gmail.com](mailto:akhenaton1701@gmail.com). We will also soon be unveiling our new and improved website, after several years of neglect. I do hope it meets with your approval. Regarding lodge interaction, Worshipful Brother Tom Baker and I have been visiting several other lodges frequently these past months, with other brothers joining us from time to time. This has been reciprocated by an increase in regular visitors from each of those lodges in turn, Sinclair, Dentsville. Pacific, and Lexington to name but a few, and so I invite you to come out and sit with some old friends from our neighboring lodges, and also to join us in our visitations, with my pledge to keep traveling as much as possible. I intend on retaking our kitchen flag from Dentsville, for the second time this year, and perhaps, on keeping it this time. Furthermore, since his advancement to District Deputy Grand Master, our own Right Worshipful Jeffrey L. Hall has also been traveling quite a bit, representing not only Most Worshipful David DeChant, but Acacia as well, with very good effect.

And so, my Brothers, I offer this report, not in the desperate tone of my past writings, but in the hope that you will recognize the efforts being made by your Past Masters to keep our lodge vital and alive, that changes are in the offing, and that, if you will but cast your lot with us once more, Acacia can yet again be the banner lodge it was, not so long ago. So Mote It Be.

**MASONIC EDUCATION By ART NEBIKER, 32nd Degree, Junior Deacon**

In this issue of the Sprig, we will continue our Masonic education series to Honor and to Memorialize our brethren who have brought so much Light to their fellow Masons in their lodges, about the country and around the world. It is important to note that, in the lives of men such as these, there were of course many conflicting interests; however this did not stop them from their Masonic callings. Think of George Washington, deeply involved in the strategies and combats of a Revolutionary War. He was a Mason, as was over half of his senior staff, and as busy as he was, he still found time to hold battlefield Masonic Lodge Meetings.

We today also have our various diversionary interests, perhaps not as huge and demanding as his, but demanding nonetheless, of family, work, sports and even the wonders of flat screen HDTV. While it is not intended to interfere with our regular vocation or other duties, we should remember that Masonry is not just the ring you wear on your finger. It is also in the doing of what that ring represents. Continue to cherish this rich legacy which you share with your fellow Masons about the world, and please, come meet "on the level" with your brothers here in Acacia Lodge # 94. Today we honor:

- |                         |  |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | Composer                               | Douglas Fairbanks | Actor           |
| Ransom Olds             | Oldsmobile Motor Company               | John Glenn        | Astronaut       |
| Benjamin Franklin       | Statesman / Inventor                   | Enrico Fermi      | Physicist       |
| Gerald R. Ford          | United States President                | Clark Gable       | Actor           |
| Walter Fleming          | Shriners founder                       | John Elway        | Football Player |
| Henry Ford              | Ford Motor Company                     | Glenn Ford        | Actor           |
| George Everest          | Surveyor (Mount Everest named for him) |                   |                 |

Lately, we are experiencing a growth in qualified candidates seeking the three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, and your presence and participation is needed now more than ever. Join us in lodge. Provide your wisdom and support for our new candidates and help us bring them to Masonic Light - - - No reservations required.