

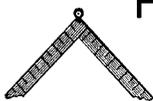


Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 A.F. & A.M.  
897 East Blanco Road • Boerne, Texas 78006



December 2016

## From the East



Greeting Brethren,

It seems like we went from Halloween to Thanksgiving overnight. Time flies when you are having fun.

Thanksgiving is not a patriotic holiday, but it is full of patriotic feeling as we give thanks for our blessing both personal and national. Ben Franklin called it a day “of public Felicity,” a time to express gratitude to God for the “full Enjoyment of Liberty, civil and religious.” We live in a less religious time than the Pilgrims. But it would be a mistake to claim, as some do, that Thanksgiving is not religious. It is that rarest of religious holidays, one that all religions can celebrate.

The Pilgrims came to Americas shores seeking freedom to worship as they pleased. On Thanksgiving, Americans of all faiths and those with none can give thanks they found it. Several Presidents are associated with it George Washington who proclaimed our first national Thanksgiving; Abraham Lincoln, who wanted to heal a war-torn nation; Franklin Roosevelt who, in 1939, moved Thanksgiving up a

week.

As we move from Thanksgiving to Christmas let us remember charity and brotherly love.

Christmas is a day when we can express thanks to our God that we have received his blessings. Blessings that we at times take for granted and neglect to acknowledge the source.

We all experience events in our life that are termed bumps in the road, yet later in life we realize as blessing. These blessings are the building block of our lives that teach us how to interact and accept others, as Christ has, regardless of what we perceive as short comings. We celebrate Christmas to bring joy to our family and friends, the Christmas attitude is a simple observance of the brotherhood of man the Fatherhood of God.

As we celebrate this Christmas season with our family and friends let remember those who serve: “Eternal Father strong to save.....”

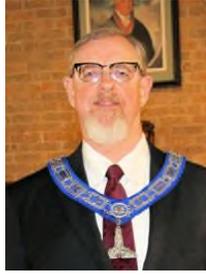
Let us remember December 12th at 7 PM we will be honoring members of our Lodge who have completed significant milestone in their Masonic journey. Light refreshments to follow.



## FROM THE WEST

### From the West

Dow Mathis, S.W.



### A Masonic Christmas Card



Twas the Night before Christmas,  
 And down at the lodge  
 Not a gavel was stirring,  
 And in the hodge podge  
 Of aprons and jewels  
 And chairs East and West  
 You could savour the silence,  
 Most gladly divest  
 All metal and mineral,  
 It mattered not,  
 Since Christmas was nigh  
 And the coals were still hot  
 In the hearth of your home place,  
 All Masons abed,  
 As visions of trestleboards  
 Danced in their head;

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter  
 Our Tyler jumped up to see what was the matter!  
 He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,  
 Three knocks shook the panels - he wondered  
 "What for?"  
 He answered the knocking with raps of his own,  
 And once the door opened he saw, with a moan  
 Of delight, it was Santa, all jolly and red  
 Except for one notable feature instead!  
 Upon his large finger he wore what we knew  
 Was compass and square on a background of blue!  
 "Why Santa!" he shouted and lowered his blade,  
 "I see you're a Mason!" the Tyler relayed.

He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair  
 And said, voice near trembling, "Most Worshipful  
 there

Is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!"  
 The Master replied, "Let's allow him - but wait!  
 You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see  
 His apron beneath that red suit. Can it be  
 Our visitor hasn't been properly raised?  
 Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?"

"I do beg your pardon," ol' Santa said quick  
 As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick  
 But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear  
 And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!  
 Adorned like the Master's, complete with a sign  
 Of "Lodge Number One, the North Pole" on one  
 line!

"Now let this man enter," the Master declared,  
 And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all  
 stared,

For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen  
 For many a century - there in between  
 The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar  
 Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone line a dol-  
 lar!

"It's Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess  
 Are actually images brought from the West  
 By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"  
 And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled  
 An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,  
 "My friend I have plenty. Tonight we will feast  
 On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"  
 A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,  
 As presents and promises flew from his sack!  
 This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack  
 For making this Christmas the best you could glean,  
 And soon even Deacons were laughing. They'd  
 seen

On this very night only happiness reigned!  
 This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained  
 That only a Mason could be so inclined  
 To make all kids happy, make all people find  
 A Christmas so special. Yes, Santa was right!  
 Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Author: Clayton L. Wright



## From the South



I hope this month's trestle board finds you in good health and spirits as we prepare to jump into the holiday season. As promised, we will be taking a journey across the various religions, and some cultures, for the purpose of investigating morals, and we will begin with the Christian religion. Specifically, what we will be looking at within all the religions and cultures we investigate, are the virtues within each that create a moral system. Within the Christian religion there are 7 virtues that help guide the behavior, and subsequently the actions, of the true believer. The virtues of Christianity are appropriately grouped, the first four are known as the cardinal virtues, while the last three are termed the theological virtues.

Early on, as Christianity was developing, the early Church fathers such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Ambrose, Jerome, and Augustine of Hippo, all began developing morals from a strictly Christian perspective. The skeleton of Christian morals (ethics) designed by these early Church fathers was built on philosophical and ethical principles of early Greek philosophers, namely Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, with a touch of Hellenistic Judaism. A few of the early Church fathers, Augustine and Martyr, argued that Christianity was the oldest of all the religions pre-dating Christ's Incarnation. From St. Augustine: "The very thing which is now called the Christian religion existed among the ancients also, nor was it wanting from the inception of the human race until the coming of Christ in the flesh, at which point the true religion which was already in existence began to be called Christian". Why is this important to morals, especially Christian morals? Its foundational. Augustine claimed that the early Greek philosophers were unknowing Christians, responsible for planting the seeds of Christianity through "manifestations of the Logos acting in history". Therefore, when the ancient Greek philosophers laid out a system of virtues, later called the four cardinal virtues by St. Ambrose, they were planting the seeds of Christianity. The four cardinal virtues presented by the ancient Greeks and adopted into Christianity were temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, which seem very familiar. These are the foundation of Christian virtues, thus cardinal, and are upon which the other Christian virtues called the theological virtues are built.

The theological virtues are what give the Christian faith special character, defining it and giving it purpose. This set of virtues are pulled from many books within the New Testament, but can specifically be found in 1 Corinthians 13:13, "and now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love".

Now, there are variations in finding these virtues as they can be written as faith, hope and charity, but the premise is that charity and love are one and the same, and indeed they are. According to many Christian scholars, specifically within the Catholic denomination, the cardinal virtues can be practiced by anyone, whereas the theological virtues are virtues that "ultimately stem from God, requiring a uniquely personal relationship with the Creator". The thought is that the theological virtues require accountability to a Higher power, whereas the cardinal virtues can be called to play by any universal system created by man requiring him to be courageous in his actions (fortitude), make wise decisions by consulting wise council (prudence), utilize proper restraint (temperance) and finally "avenge dishonor" (justice). The cardinal virtues are still required as a foundation upon which the Christian can come to build discipline in life and put into practice the theological virtues. As I have written about the cardinal virtues familiar to any Mason in previous articles I will forgo that task in this article and summarize the theological virtues. The following definitions of the theological virtues come from the Vatican's website on such.

"Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith "man freely commits his entire self to God."<sup>78</sup> For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will. "The righteous shall live by faith." Living faith "work[s] through charity."

"Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."<sup>84</sup> "The Holy Spirit . . . he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life."

"Charity (love) is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God".

I would encourage you brethren as we look at the various religions and cultures to consult an older dictionary or book, and do some reading of the virtues or ways stated every month. Do this in hope of understanding and for the purpose of receiving more light.

The meal for the December stated meeting will be a sea food surprise prepared by our Stewards.

Fraternally, Matthew Archilla



<i>December Birthdays</i>	
Brother	Date
Charles M. Straayer	12/1
Thomas B. Fuller	12/2
Jimmy I. Miller	12/3
Don M. Edmondson	12/3
Gerald C. Shows	12/10
Tyler G. Smith	12/10
Terrance J. Degrood	12/11
William R. Martin Jr.	12/13
David B. Vaughan	12/15
Garrett M. Ethridge	12/15
Michael K. Sewell	12/17
Thomas F. Sawyer	12/18
James T. Stewart	12/19
Earl L. Noah	12/19
William L. Webb	12/20
William R. Lemmons Sr.	12/23
Jack E. Cameron	12/23
Albert M. Racer	12/26
Matthew P. Archilla	12/29
Robert B. Beseth	12/30
Douglas H. Zinsitz	12/30

<i>December Service Anniversary</i>	
Brother	Years MM
Dean C. Reynolds	67
Robert E. Messerli	62
Bryan W. Dedeker	59
Richard L. Wackerman	54
James W. Gooden	54
Ottie L. Konkright	48
Roland L. Peckne	48
Robin L. Scheel	44
David B. Vaughan	42
Clifford R. Rick	30
Paul S. Lemon	30
Robert L. Carpenter II	28
Richard L. Fulk	28
Samuel E. Offer	25
Douglas H. Zinsitz	12

<i>Building Preservation November Donations</i>	
<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Billy Lemmons Jr.	Bro. Billy Lemmons Sr.
Robert Easterling	Easterling Thanksgiving
Lucy Saxon Circle	1st United Methodist
Abner L. Kestler Jr.	Bro. Dan Mason

### Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 Deaths



**John William Edgar,  
Richard Leeder Jr.  
and  
Jack L. Greenfield**

Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend the sou I of our beloved Brothers.



# SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brethren... from an abundant meal and family around on **Thanksgiving November 24<sup>th</sup>**, to presents under the tree and family around on **Christmas December 25<sup>th</sup>**, to closing out 2016 a week later on **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017** and family around watching football games and visiting. I hope your holidays and family bless you and you them during this holiday season. Be thankful and give thanks to the Supreme Architect for your blessings!

Also Brethren, as you probably know by now, 2017 dues notices and cards are now out and in your hands. If you received a notice just put a check in it, fold the flap with the address over, seal it, put it in the mail. If you have questions either send me an email or give me a call.

I want to recognize those Brethren who in the 2016-2017 Masonic Year have reached those milestones recognized by the Grand Lodge and Kendall Lodge as significant in their Masonic journey. They are as follows:

- Garth Gombert – 65 Years**
- Lewis F. Gimbel Jr – 50 Years**
- James E. Davies – 50 Years**
  
- Jack D. Elliff – 40 Years**
- Ralph H. Wiesepepe – 40 Years**
- James R. Schmitz - 40 Years**
- Gary L. Lawson - 40 Years**
- Gaylin E. Kinsey - 40 Years**
- Lon J. Jett Jr. – 25 Years**
- Samuel E. Offer - 25 Years**

Congratulations for their achieving these notable years of Masonic Service.

Here are a few things to put on your calendar for December:



On **Monday Night, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** we will honor those men listed above at **Kendall Lodge by presenting their Service Awards**. Right Worshipful Jimmy T. Avery Jr., District Deputy Grand Master of the 51<sup>st</sup> Masonic District who represents the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Texas Masons will be present to present the Grand Lodge Service Awards.

For the Brethren listed above, bring your family and friends to share this time with you. To the other Brethren of Kendall Lodge, bring your family to share with these Brethren the honor of years of Masonic Service.



On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Christmas Packing Party at 7:00 PM as we prepare Christmas baskets to be delivered to the recipients starting at 10:00 AM on the following Saturday morning, December 17<sup>th</sup>. **Kendall Lodge, Boerne Eastern Star, and Texas Hill Country DeMolay members are invited** to bring some snacks and finger foods, come fellowship, and give us a hand. We'll load Saturday morning from the Lodge Room.



On **Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will have our **December Stated Meeting** with Dinner starting at 6:30 PM, Food and Fellowship lasting until 7:20 PM or so, and our Stated Meeting starting at 7:30 PM. Some of our wives stay in the Banquet Room during the meeting so bring your wife and/or other family members and come to the dinner and meeting.

Coming Events:

Also don't forget that **we are taking donations for raffle tickets for our Fall Raffle**. The prize this Fall going to be a **His & Hers Handgun Set** with a semi-automatic **Glock for him** and a **Taurus Ladies Revolver for her along with a case and CHL class for each**. This is a win – win situation. You win because you're in the raffle with chances to have your ticket drawn and high school seniors in Boerne and Comfort win as some of them will be given scholarships to earn a higher education. If you're in Boerne or the surrounding area, come by and one of us will be glad to sell you raffle tickets. If you're out of town, mail us a check and we'll mail you the tickets and put your stubs in the **drawings to be held at 7:00 P.M. on February 14<sup>th</sup>**. So help us support scholarship and therefore education in Kendall County!

**Brownwood Commandery No. 22 is holding a "World Famous" Gumbo dinner on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Kendall Lodge Banquet Room**. It will be from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 a person. So come and enjoy some great gumbo.

**To all of our members: The Worshipful Master and Officers of Kendall Lodge wish you and your family a glorious Christmas, warm hearts, and close fellowship during the holidays.** Remember to be thankful for what you have been given, loving to those whom you share this life with, and grateful for Brethren here to support you. *Have a safe holiday and see you next year!*

Sincerely and Fraternally,

*Gary L. Bausell*

Secretary