



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

December 2015



FROM THE EAST

Greetings Brethren,

The officers of Kendall Lodge hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday.

November was another very busy and productive month for the Lodge, beginning with November 9th when we held our first of several Quarterly Social Dinners and Philosophical Round Tables. Brother Matt Archilla did a great job conducting this first event at Brother Billy Lieck's HillBillyz of Texas Restaurant. Sixteen of our brethren shared a great meal and all participated in the Masonic Round Table discussion. On February 9th, our next Philosophical Round Table will be held at HillBillyz of Texas Restaurant. More details will come in our next issue.



On Friday, November 20th, we held our monthly social at the Boerne Community Theatre. Ten couples met at the Lodge for refreshments and then attended Neil Simon's comedy, *The Odd Couple*. We all had a great time and hope to attend another production in the future. Thank you to all our ladies who provided the delicious refreshments.

Brethren, in the last Trestleboard under "Current Events," we gave you the date of Monday, November 16th as the date to honor our 25-year through 60-year Masons at the stated meeting. However, because none of the recipients could be present that evening and requested that they be mailed their awards, we honored our brothers' requests and Secretary Bausell posted the awards. We wish to thank these brethren again for their many years of dedicated service to Masonry and to Kendall Lodge.

Now, moving on to some of the upcoming December activities:

December 3rd through 5th the senior officers will be in Waco, attending Grand Lodge. We encourage

anyone else who can join us in Waco on those days, to do a walk-in registration to learn about and to observe how Masonry functions at the state level. Please try to come if you can.

Friday evening December 18th, we will have our joint Christmas party with the Eastern Star and DeMolay to pack Christmas food boxes for our selected families. Brothers Abb Kestler and Charlie Lloyd are already working on the shopping list and the Eastern Star ladies will again be providing homemade cookies for the families. Please join us for the packing, then for the social immediately afterward, where good food will be plentiful and fellowship will be enjoyed by all.

On Monday evening, December 21st at our stated meeting, we are drawing for the two handguns being raffled by the Lodge. Since proceeds are given as scholarships to three Kendall County high schools, we encourage all brothers to continue purchasing and selling as many tickets as possible. Tickets can easily be obtained through the secretary's office by calling to have them mailed to you or by going by in person.

Blue Lodge will be Dark on December 25th to celebrate Christmas. Lastly, and most importantly, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season with your families and friends.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Bill Carder
Worshipful Master



Before King Solomon?



FROM THE WEST

“When Is A Man A Mason?”
(Reverend Joseph Fort Newton)

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage—which is the root Of every virtue.



When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellowman.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins—knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid with out response.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.

When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellowman, and with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song—glad to live, but not afraid to die!

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Clarence Smith
Senior Warden



PM David Bruton’s Turn At November’s Masonic Roundtable



FROM THE SOUTH

Greetings from the South:

Christmas and Freemasonry The Holy Saints John

(Bro. Greg Stewart)



At its surface, the Christmas holiday has no intrinsic connection to the fraternity of Freemasonry. What I mean by that is no where in the degrees does it link itself to any particular holiday in its practice, in particular the Christmas holiday season.

There are, however, certain celebrations that have become a part of the fraternity which are linked to one of the interesting symbols that resides at the heart of the practice. Without any specific reference, Masons are said to come from a Lodge of the Holy Saints John, the specific why and how of this connection is lost in the sands of metaphorical time, but some connection infers a balance to the celestial equinox (from summer to winter and back again).

Through this link, winter is said to be represented by the Saint John the Evangelist, whose feast day falls on December 27th. This Holy Saint John has an interesting symbolic significance, in that, as John the Baptist (who represents the other Holy Saint John) was the precursor to the coming Christ, John the Evangelist is said to be the first disciple at the Lake of Gennesaret who recognized the Christ and believe that he had risen. Of the Saint it is also said that he was the only disciple of Christ to not to forsake him in the hour of His Passion at the foot of the cross. John the Evangelist solstices also called the Apostle of Charity, which may be in part, his connection to Freemasonry in addition to his unwavering resolve and purity of his love of the divine.

In creating the original construct of the two Johns, the conclusion that I came to was that they struck a balance between zeal and knowledge, the Baptist who was the precursor of the Christ living in his zeal for the coming son of God and the Evangelist as the representation of knowing that the Christ was the son of God. Only in piecing the component of knowing did it become clear to me that it was not about the degree of knowledge gained, but the degree to which the Evangelist trusted his intuition, to know what was before him. An interesting parallel comes in the book of Matthew where this very lesson is communicated to Peter from the Christ who says in Matthew 16:15-17.

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”

This is somewhat out of original context, but illustrative of revealed knowledge based on experience, on learning. John the Evangelist came to that knowledge by his experience with the Christ. Another way of looking at this experience is coming from darkness to light, an awakening, and if you take it further, the dawning of awareness. This awareness sits squarely with the idea of Sol Invictus, or the conquering sun which overcomes its captivity of night from the summer solstice and again begins to vanquish the night in its ever increasing minutes of daylight.

Looking at some of the other symbolic connections, the Evangelist is said to relate to the alchemical symbol of the up pointed triangle which represents fire, where again we can see a link to light and knowledge. When we combine the alchemical sign of the Baptist with that of the Evangelist, we create the star of Solomon, and the duality of fire and water, further, the duality of light and dark and summer and winter.

Further work attributed to John the Evangelist are the Epistles of John, and the book of Revelation, though his connection to them in later centuries has been contentious, as much of his life from 2000 years ago is lost to time.

Within the church his feast day is first mentioned in the Sacramentary of Pope Adrian I near 772 A.D.

The message of the church, and something each of us can take away from John the Evangelist is to “Apply thyself, therefore, to purity of heart, and thou shalt be like Saint John, a beloved disciple of Jesus, and shalt be filled with heavenly wisdom.”

The feast of the Evangelist is little remembered today, except within Masonry where it is celebrated by a few lodges that still practice the Table Lodge ritual where brothers gather together to celebrate it with toasts to those brothers present and absent. In the past, it was considered a feast day of high importance for Freemasonry because of its proximity to the holidays and the presence of lodge members being close to home. Because of this, it gave those brothers a festival to meet under to punctuate the closing of the year. Meeting like this though is something less convenient in this modern day as most with families travel abroad to celebrate the holiday.

Because it is celebrated less does not diminish the importance of the day, nor the symbol itself, as in the modern ritual we are reminded that we come from the Holy Saint John’s in Jerusalem, and as such we should pause and reflect on just what that means. John the Evangelist gives us an important lesson to pursue knowledge and wake from the darkness and renew our commitment to the awakening light of the Victorious Sun. Even taken out the Christian metaphor, we can salute with Sol Invictus, as knowledge is re-awakened from its cold wintry defeat.

Through the lens of symbolism, John the Evangelist gives us a means to find resonance with the holiday of giving and compassion to the fraternity of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Dow Mathis
Junior Warden



December Birthdays

Brother	Birthday
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



Senior Deacon Matt Archilla Leads Roundtable Discussion

December Service Anniversaries

Brother	Years MM
Dean C. Reynolds	66
Robert E. Messerli	61
Bryan W. Dedeker	58
Richard L. Wackerman	53
James W. Gooden	53
Ottie L. Konkright	47
Roland L. Peckne	47
Robin L. Scheel	43
David B. Vaughan	41
Paul S. Lemon	29
Clifford R. Rick	29
Robert L. Carpenter II	27
Richard L. Fulk	27
Samuel E. Offer	24
Douglas H. Zinsitz	11

Kendall #897 Calendar

	Every Monday w/out Stated or Called Meeting 7:00—9:00 pm	Kendall #897 Floor Practice
	Every Wednesday 9:00—11:30 am	Kendall #897 Floor Practice
	Every Saturday 9:00—10:00 am 10:00—11:00 am	Kendall #897 Esoteric Round Table Floor Practice
Dec 1	1st Tuesday 7:30—9:30 pm	Boerne OES #200 Stated Meeting
Dec 2	1st Wednesday 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Brownwood Commandery #22 Dinner Stated Conclave
Dec 9	2nd Wednesday 6:30—9:00 pm	THC DeMolay Dinner & Stated Meetings
Dec 18	7:00 pm	Boerne OES #200 Kendall #897 Christmas Party/Food Baskets
Dec 19	10:00 am	Food Basket Deliveries
Dec 20	3rd Sunday 3:00—4:30 pm	THC DeMolay Advisory Council
Dec 21	3rd Monday 6:15 pm 7:30 pm	Kendall #897 Dinner Stated Meeting
Dec 16	3rd Wednesday 6:30—8:30 pm	Brownwood Commandery #22 Floor Practice
Dec 23	4th Wednesday 7:30—9:00	THC DeMolay Stated Meeting



FROM THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

Brethren... this is the season for stopping, taking a look at everything and everyone we have around us, as well as being thankful and giving thanks to the Supreme Architect for our blessings! I know that I am. **May all of you have a blessed and glorious Thanksgiving with your friends and families!**



I do want to recognize those Brethren who in the 2005-2016 Masonic Year have reached those milestones recognized by the Grand Lodge and Kendall Lodge as significant in their Masonic journey. They are as follows:

- Grover C. Carroll Jr. – 60 Years**
- Carl E. Praesel Jr. – 50 Years**
- James H. Alston – 50 Years**
- Kenneth O. Booth – 40 Years**
- Cecil L. Noah – 40 Years**

Congratulations for their achieving these notable years of Masonic Service.

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

- On Friday, December 18th, 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 19th. **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.
- On **Monday, December 21st**, we will have our **December Stated Meeting** with Dinner starting at 6:15 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:

- We have a new candidate who was elected to receive the degrees in Masonry in our November Stated Meeting, so we **will be conducting an Entered Apprentice Degree** in the next few weeks. We also have one of our Entered Apprentices who has finished his proficiency and another who will do so very shortly. So we **will be scheduling two Fellowcraft Degrees** in the near future as well. Come to practice and give us a hand.
- 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 **Beretta for him** and a **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 December 21st**. So help us support Education in Kendall County!

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 Fraternaly,

Gary L. Bausell

Gary L. Bausell, PM

Building Preservation Fund October 2015 Donations	
<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Bob Easterling	Christmas
Abb Kestler Jr.	Bro. Claude Hollen.
Billy Lemmons Jr.	Bro. Billy Lemmons Sr.
Roger Hall	