



STEPHENSON LODGE, No. 135 A.F. & A.M.

2011 LINE OFFICERS

(from left to right) William A. Bridges, Sr. Senior Warden • Duane A. Duncan, PM, Ritualist • Daniel Gonzalez, Senior Deacon • Thomas A. Boyle, PM, Treasurer • Clinton Adams, HPM, Senior Steward
 Carl W. Lee, Worshipful Master • Charles Dayton Miller, PM, Marshal • Vernon K. Stearn, PM, Musician • Mike Randow, PM, Grand Inspector • Frank W. Fowler, HPM, Tyler
 Richard Turkin, II, Junior Warden • Keith J. Thompson, Sr. PM, Junior Deacon • Joe Wilkowski, Junior Steward • Jerry R. Arnold, PM, Secretary • Oscar R. Baldwin, PM, Chaplain

A MESSAGE FROM

Our Worshipful Master

Thanks to everyone who attended our Installation of Officers at our first Communion in January. Our dinner this year was exceptional and those Brothers attending were able to catch up with our members as well as the many visiting Brothers who joined us for a solemn but truly wonderful evening.

If any Brother wants to attend Lodge but is having trouble arranging transportation, please call me and someone will be happy to pick you up and return you after Lodge. We also have a chair lift for going up the stairs to Lodge.

We anticipate a lot of degree work again this year so if any Bro. has the time to instruct we would be glad to hear from you. Practice is every Monday at 7:00 pm so please join us and see how gratifying it can be so share your Masonic knowledge and experience to those who are perhaps just beginning their Masonic journey.

Fraternally,

Carl Lee, PM, *Worshipful Master, 2011*



THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP

You should have your **2011 Dues Card**

Stephenson Lodges Annual Dues	\$48. ⁰⁰
Affiliated Member Annual Dues	\$25. ⁵⁰
Petition	\$210. ⁰⁰

A brand new year is here and the officers of Stephenson Lodge are excited about their new respective positions in the line and all the excitement about the *Ask a Freemason Program*. This month will bring our Entered Apprentices to a total of three. Worshipful Master Carl Lee, PM has appointed degree catechism teams with Clinton Adams, HPM & Jerry R. Arnold, PM teaching the first degree catechism, Dean Alban, PM & Daniel Gonzalez teaching the second degree catechism, and Duane Duncan, PM & Carl Lee the third degree catechism.



STEPHENSON LODGE'S

Line Officers for 2011

Worshipful Master Carl W. Lee, PM
 Senior Warden William A. Bridges, Sr.
 Junior Warden Richard Turkin, II
 Secretary Jerry R. Arnold, PM
 Treasurer Thomas J. Boyle, PM
 Senior Deacon Daniel Gonzalez
 Junior Deacon Keith J. Thompson, Sr., PM
 Senior Steward Clinton Adams, HPM
 Junior Steward Joe Wilkowski
 Tyler Frank W. Fowler, HPM
 Chaplain Oscar R. Baldwin, PM
 Musician Vernon K. Stearn, PM
 Marshal C. Dayton Miller, PM
 Ritualist Duane A. Duncan, PM
 Grand Inspector Mike Randow, PM, GI

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Carl W. Lee
 2103 Jacob's Well
 Bel Air, MD 21015
 410-734-9433

SECRETARY

Jerry R. Arnold, PM
 3110 Tucker Road
 Street, MD 21154
 433-528-7895

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Masonic Birthday

Emory D. Rasnake February 20, 1957 54 yrs
 Robert Farrington February 6, 1974 37 yrs
 Thomas J. Boyle, PM. February 18, 1981 31 yrs
 David H. Scarborough February 17, 1988 23 yrs
 Mark D. Schlottman February 17, 1988 23 yrs
 James B. Lunney February 20, 1991 20 yrs
 Donald G. Norris February 20, 1991 20 yrs
 Duane A. Duncan February 7, 2001 10 yrs
 James K. Johnson February 18, 2004 7 yrs

STEPHENSON LODGE DOES

BINGO!

On Friday, April 8th, 2011 we have Bingo duty at the Maryland Masonic Homes starting at 7:00 pm.

2011 OFFICERS INSTALLED

Installation Dinner

The members of Stephenson Lodge provided a very good covered dish installation dinner to all in attendance on January 5th. The dinner was held in the newly remodeled dining room and kitchen with the Lodge providing the ham. Members and guest brought a wide variety of delicious treats for all to enjoy. The dinner began around 6:15 and lasted to about 7:00 when everyone started to drift upstairs for the closed installation ceremony.



The covered dish dinner was enjoyed by members and guests of Stephenson Lodge on January 5th. There was a wide variety of good things to eat from Rich Turkin's Maryland crab soup to Dean Alban's meatballs. The Lodge was still decorated for the holidays with lights, wreaths, and our 9-foot Christmas tree lit upstairs.

Wondering if Lodge is Cancelled?

When the weather looks bad and you are wondering if there's going to be Lodge, tune your radio to station **WXCY, 103.7 in Havre de Grace** to listen for closing announcements.

ATTENTION ALL OFFICERS AND INTERESTED MASTER MASONS

Harford County School of Instruction

This month's School will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12th from 8:30 to 10:30 am. Mt. Ararat will be hosting this month's School. All officers should attend to learn their respective duties and floor-work from Bill Richard, PM, DGL.

TWICE BLESSED THRIFT SHOP

Thank You luncheon provided by the Stephenson Holding Co.

The members of Stephenson Holding Company provided The *Twice Blessed Thrift Shop* a luncheon on Saturday, January 15th. The *Twice Blessed Thrift Shop* rents the lower half of the Lodge building and they have an annual Thank You luncheon for all for the workers and volunteers. Previously they would meet at a local establishment to celebrate, but this year they found themselves without a place to go to.

When the members of the Stephenson Holding Company heard about their plight, they reassured them that they could have the planned luncheon in our building and we would provide the food.

Around a dozen members showed up in the morning and started preparing the meal for the volunteers. The tables were set with our red tablecloths and we used the leftover gold dishes and silverware from the Past Master's Association dinner.

The menu included fruit cup and Caesar's Salad, Fried Chicken (prepared on-site by Keith Thompson, PM) green beans, corn, real mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw, macaroni & cheese, rolls and butter and variety of cakes and pies for dessert.

Past Master Dean Alban did the Blessing before the meal for the volunteers. After the meal, the members of the holding company were called out and given a round of applause. They stated they were wondering what kind of meal a "bunch of men" would do, but said they were very pleasantly surprised how nice everything looked and how good the food was. Worshipful Master Carl Lee made a few comments on what a good deed The *Twice Blessed Thrift Shop* volunteers do for the community.



The tables were set with a early Spring motif with berries and cherries centerpieces and candles. The dishes & silverware were the gold items from the recent Past Master's Association dinner.

February Communications

FEBRUARY 2ND (WEDNESDAY)

There will be a short Holding Company meeting at 7:00 pm for all who are interested.

Lodge will open at 7:30 the in the Entered Apprentice Degree for the purpose of giving the first degree to Mr. James Vincent Gamble, age 52, of Havre de Grace, MD. Yes, he is Past Master Jim Gamble's son. So please come out and support the officers and show Mr. Gamble what Masonry is all about. This will be the first time for some of our new officers to perform a degree. We will have refreshments after the meeting.

FEBRUARY 5TH (MONDAY)

2011 Regional Meeting at 8:30 am
Grand Lodge of Maryland, Cockeysville

FEBRUARY 7TH (MONDAY)

Officer's Practice at 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY 14TH (MONDAY)

Officer's Practice at 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY 15TH (Tuesday)

Visitation to Mt. Ararat Lodge in Bel Air, 7:30 pm.
Please plan on arriving between 7:00-&:15 pm.

FEBRUARY 16TH (WEDNESDAY)

Regular communications beginning at 7:30 pm and will be conducted in the third degree. Something special will happen, but you'll need to come to see what it is.

FEBRUARY 21ST (MONDAY)

Officer's Practice at 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY 28TH (MONDAY)

Officer's Practice at 7:00pm

This is one of the Open House poster designs created by our Secretary, Jerry R. Arnold for Grand Lodge consideration. He also designed the Open House logo seen at far right.

34th Degree

The Thirty-four degree is coming back. The Most Worshipful John E. Bednash, Grand Master of Masons in Delaware is bringing back the 34th degree on April 20, 2011. The price for all of this activity is only \$15.

This will be put on by the former members of the Pitman Masonic Culb, Pitman, NJ and is the only 34° in the world. Located at the NUR Shine Center, 198 South DuPont Highway, in New Castle Delaware. Our contact for this event is David Ewing at 410-658-6714 or Gary Pierce at 410-275-1807 (riphpierce@yahoo.com)

IS THERE GREATNESS IN YOU?

Find out at Our April 2nd Open House.

As the world's oldest and largest fraternal organization, Freemasonry today is built on Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Through fellowship, charity, education and leadership, Freemasons are making their lives—and their communities—stronger by the day.

On April 2, 2011, we are opening our doors to the men of Maryland—all across the state. Come join us and discover what many great men have before you.

<http://www.mdmasons.org/askafreemason.aspx>

Blood Donations for 2010

Last year there five pints of blood donated in the name of Stephenson Lodge. These were given by Ron Stearn, PM donated four of them and the other was donated by Dave Kraus, PM. Chairman Bruce Flaughter expects a better result for 2011.



FROM THE GRAND MASTER, STEPHEN J. PNZILLO, III

Indefinite Suspension

The Grand Master has notified us of two Former Past Grand Masters of Rhode Island have been suspended for gross unmasonic conduct. They are Mr. Robert B. Yates and Mr. Stephen E. Mitchell. Take due notice thereof and govern yourself according.



A DAY WHEN EVERY LODGE IN MARYLAND IS OPEN

We have started to plan for the state-wide open house for April 2nd. The Lodge will be open to all who would like to come and see what we do. This would be a good day for all members who have not attended Lodge for a long time to visit and renew friendships. A committee has been appointed and they will be meeting over the next couple months to set everything up. There is currently a major media ad campaign featuring Ben Franklin asking if there's greatness in you. You can see the ads at:

<http://www.askafreemason.org/>

Committees

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Gene Burchette, PM
- Clinton Adams, HPM
- Dean Alban, PM

SICK COMMITTEE

- Dave Kraus, PM

LADIES NIGHT COMMITTEE

- Duane Duncan, PM
- Vernon Stearn, PM
- Rich Turkin, II

BLOOD COMMITTEE

- Bruce Flaughter, PM

MASONIC CHARITIES COMMITTEE

- Duane Duncan, PM

DARLINGTON

APPLE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

- Keith Thompson, PM
- Dave Kraus, PM
- Duane Duncan, PM

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- Jerry Arnold, PM
- Tom Boyle, PM
- Jim Chason

RETENTION & MEMBERSHIP

COMMITTEE

- Jerry Arnold, PM
- Tom Boyle, PM
- Daniel Gonzalez

JOHN COATS COMMITTEE

- Dean Alban, PM

OPEN HOUSE COMMITTEE

- Jerry Arnold, PM
- Keith Thompson, PM
- Dean Alban, PM

Stephenson Lodge plays Santa for local six-year old

Stephenson Lodge is located in a large, rather old building that was purchased from the Harford County School System over 60 year ago. For decades, the Lodge rented half of the first floor to a doctor. A few years ago, ownership transferred to the Stephenson Holding Company. Our renter now is the *Twice Blessed Thrift Shop*, which is affiliated with the Darlington United Methodist Church. This shop offers discounted clothing and household goods to less fortunate people in the area. Due to the economy, the number of local families in need has grown, and the thrift shop has become overwhelmed by requests.

This past Christmas, at a monthly Holding Company meeting, a motion was made to give the thrift shop a month of free rent. The motion was quickly seconded and approved. Then, the Lodge voted to donate \$100 to the shop. Afterwards, members personally donated another \$360, bringing the total to approximately \$1,000, factoring in the free rent.

A day before the checks were presented to the *Twice Blessed Thrift Shop*, a family approached them, requesting clothing and aid. The mother of the family lives in the area and had developed cancer. When her son and his family came for a visit, they realized how sick she was. They returned to Florida and within a few weeks, they had managed to sell everything and moved to our area to care for the mother. To do that, they had to let go of all of their possessions. Once relocated, they found themselves without winter clothes and supplies. Their six-year-old son wasn't able to bring his toys with him. The family needed help, and the *Twice Blessed Thrift Shop* was there to help.

The shop needed more income to assist the family, and as provident would have it, Stephenson Holding Company and Stephenson Lodge provided it the next day. Members of the Lodge met with the family and worked with them to ensure that their son would have a good Christmas, receiving toys to replace the ones left behind. Spider Man action figures were one of his favorite toys. The members were able to locate some Spider Man items, along with trucks and cowboy play sets for him, along with wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to complete the gifts. The items were dropped off to the *Twice Blessed Thrift Shop* a



Above, six-year old Jonathan is surprised to find Christmas presents under the tree and is glad that the Masons told Santa that he had moved from Florida to Maryland.

few days before Christmas. The shop sent a thank you card to the members of the Lodge and Holding Company, thanking them for the donations and for all that the Masonic organization has done for them over the years.

After Christmas, the Lodge received a handwritten note from the family, thanking them for the gifts for their son. They said that their son sleeps with his new toys, fearing

that someone might take them. Also enclosed in the note were a series of snapshots of their son opening the donated gifts. The son also wrote a short note thanking the Masons for telling Santa Claus that he had moved from Florida to Maryland so he could find him.

There are three tenets to being a Mason — Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The members of Stephenson

Lodge were able to experience these this Christmas season. Brotherly Love was shown not only by the Lodge, but also by the Holding Company. Relief was given to a family in need with the family crisis of their sick mother and the lost of their family possessions in the move north. And the true

To:
Mr and Ms Mason
Thank You
for telling Santa
that I moved
to, MARYLAND.
JONATHAN

Above, six-year old Jonathan's letter to (Mr. & Ms.) Mason thanking them for telling Santa that he had moved and where to find him. Our noble fraternity may have provided him a life-long happy memory at a time when his life is full of unpleasant events.

meaning of Christmas was experienced by the brothers of Stephenson Lodge with these deeds. The results were shared with the members of the Lodge through the joy in the little boy's face as he enjoyed Christmas as only a six-year-old can.

The family has a new appreciation of the Masonic Brotherhood, as do the helpers and workers of the *Twice Blessed Thrift Shop*. It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays, but this year, Stephenson Lodge was able to stop for a few minutes and make a difference.