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# THE BEACON

The monthly Trestleboard of Union Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M

March 2017

## Table of Contents

[Tidings From the East](#)

[Tidings From the West](#)

[Tidings From the South](#)

[From the Secretary](#)

[Masonic History](#)

[March Calendar](#)



### Tidings From the East

Hello, Brothers. Did you know that 1 out of every 8 people in Yamhill County lives in poverty?

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by such statistics but when we work together, we have the power to make a difference – and that's one of the many reasons that it's great to be a part of the Masonic community.

During this past year, our School Outreach program helped provide relief to children in the Dayton area who were unable to afford things such as school supplies, backpacks, and even shoes. In preparing the 2017 budget, we made sure that there are funds available to continue this effort for another year at Dayton Grade School. It would be wonderful if we could increase the funds available to this effort so that we can help more children at other schools in the years to come. Our Lodge budget is limited, though and I'm counting on each of you to contribute in your own way toward this effort. These contributions don't have to be financial, there is plenty to do and help with.

One of the main goals for this year is to help get the Lodge re-engaged with the community. By doing so, I hope that we will be better able to act as a source of relief to the less fortunate among us and serve as an example of good men making a difference in the community. I also hope that these activities will raise awareness of our Lodge and the Masonic fraternity.

**Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** – This will be the date of the Pancake Fundraiser for our School Outreach program. The fundraiser will take place in the morning from 8 AM to 12 PM and the event will be open to

the public, so feel free to bring your family and friends!

I will take the lead on preparing food for the event, will create a flyer for advertising it, and will help promote the event by placing the flyers in public places. WB Frank has generously been helping with the budget, purchasing the food, and other logistics.

That being said, there is plenty to do in order to make this fundraiser a success. I will need help from all of you with the following jobs:

1. Cooking and serving food.
2. Letting your friends and family know about the event.
3. I would like for each of you to find at least one location to put up a flyer advertising the event.

Fraternally,  
WB Matt



### Tidings From the West

Freemasonry Through One Brothers Eyes - Part II

The symbolism of the P W T C and its applied use to the daily life of a newly instructed Brother is a singular lesson that if added to the daily life of all Brothers there would never be a Brother who strayed from their intended path laid out by the G A O T U.

The lesson of the P W T C is only one lesson of many.

What I am trying to make clear is that if a Brother only follows just this single lesson of the P W T C they would never stray from the Moral Path which is provided within the lessons of the 3 Degrees of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry is an ancient Fraternity of men gathered together within the four walls of the Ancient Craft, surrounded by endless lessons of Freemasonry.

I discard the belief that Freemasonry is just a Fraternity of Men. It is so much more than that.

The Freemasonry that I am a member of is a philosophy.

Many Masonic scholars define the Craft as a Moral Philosophy. I can agree with that definition; however I believe it to be so much more than just one small aspect of philosophy.

My belief is that Freemasonry is a way of life. Philosophical lessons taught to lead a man down a path of honor as a Man, Husband and Father until he rests for his last day.

Our Masonic Scholars of old had individual beliefs when asked to define the philosophy of Freemasonry.

To Brother Preston (<http://www.masonicinfo.com/pikesphilosophy.htm>), Masonry is a traditional system of knowledge and its end is to impart knowledge. Hence he thinks of the relation of Masonry to Law and Government. To Brother Oliver, it is a mode of approach to God and its end is to bring us to the Absolute by means of pure tradition. Hence he thinks of the relation of Masonry to religion. To Brother Pike, he gives us instead a metaphysics of Masonry. To Brother Pike masonry is a mode of studying first principles and its end is to reveal and to give us possession of the Universal Principle by which we may master the universe. Hence he thinks of the relation of Masonry to the fundamental problems of existence.

To be a Freemason is to study and apply the lessons learned concerning the Craft on a philosophical level as it deals with ourselves and the people we interact with on a daily basis. This academic pathway is a form of enlightenment for the individual and if studied and applied over a long and honor-

able life we as Freemasons will inevitably change humanity into a more civil and moral society of peace and love.

If a Brother of the Ancient Craft of Freemasonry only looks upon Freemasonry as a Fraternity of men and nothing else I would suggest that this specific Brother in question reach out and adopt a mentor that can put this Brother on the right path of Further Light.

I can guarantee that this journey of Further Light will improve yourself as a Man, Husband, Father and Freemason.

SMIB

Johnny J. Edwards  
Senior Warden  
Union #3



### From the Secretary's Desk

*"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." - John Lubbock (British Statesman, 1834-1913)*

We're in that season - the time that passes between late September, maybe early October, and April. That season when no matter how diligently we want to do things - any things, we are often stymied. Sometimes it's scheduling because of the holidays; people jam-packed with holiday cheer, but not so many minutes to share with one another. Sometimes it's slowness on one side of the year-change or another. Sometimes it's just a product of the dreariness of winter - long dark days, drab gray clouds, and the falling rain splashed across our daily lives. Winter.

Around the Lodge, it's felt most keenly at the cemeteries. The rain keeps a lot of work from being done. It's too wet to do this or that. We're largely waiting until the rain lets up a bit and the ground dries out a bit. Then we'll mow, and plant, and weed. In the meantime, we'll do a few things - maybe some cleaning, maybe some replacing, maybe some preparatory work on equipment so that the downtime doesn't interfere with more pressing needs - getting things ready for Memorial Day - when we need it most.

I was out at the cemetery a couple of times last week to mark a grave for a service. The first two

trips weren't as easy or definitive as I'd hoped. I eventually found what I was looking for, but not until I'd traipsed – yes, I think that's the technical term: traipsed – across most of the second and third additions. Squish. Squish. Squish. Flashlight in hand and the spongy soil yielding up offerings with each step: a little water to lubricate the journey and a little mud as a souvenir.

You may not have noticed, but it's been raining a lot this winter. There will be hell to pay for it in the Spring. Saturated ground and overmuch water sent streams down the hill in rivulets, a scale model of the Columbia Gorge in some places, taking bits of road – rock and soil - with it leaving ruts and gapes and crevices the likes of which small cars may shy from attempting. Lucretius said that "the rain doesn't cause a hole in the stone by violence, but by oft falling." Also, by stampede.

In any event, we have work to do when it dries up a bit. We need to fill in crevices in the road. We need to get bark dust set up around the main sign. We have mowing and trimming to do. There's some cleanup of items left by families that impair our ability to do maintenance. There's maintenance on equipment and the usual fare of the place. For now, rest.

Maybe the lesson of this season isn't the frustration of not being able to do things but the reminder that we're taught to apportion our time so as to leave time for rest and relaxation – to recharge our batteries so that we can pace ourselves. Life is a marathon, not a sprint. Spend time on other things – the life of the Lodge, the inner life, mind the batteries. There will be time enough for work. (Actually, that's not true. When we need it, we'll need a lot of it and time will be the one thing in short supply. But it makes a neat platitude and sounds good coming off the page. Run with it for now.)

In the meantime, the Lodge has a lot going on. Corned Beef and Cabbage is coming up at the Stated in March in a couple of weeks (March 7<sup>th</sup>). This event is also an Official Visitation by the Grand Master. Don't forget that dinner starts at 6:00pm in anticipation of needing extra time to prepare for the opening of Lodge. WB Gerbrandt has programs laid out for much of the rest of the year to keep us stimulated. We need to continue to work to get pictures up. There's always cleaning and organizing. Maybe it's not the heavy work of the obligations to our deceased Brethren and our community. But

it's work, nonetheless. And hopefully, it recharges the batteries.

As a friendly Secretarial reminder – please don't forget to pay your dues.

Also, if you don't have a nametag (or one of the new style – i.e. if you haven't received one in the last couple years) let me know. I either have it, or I'll add it to the order and get that sorted out.

Fraternally,  
Frank Blair  
Secretary



## Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

### The Silent Summons

A member of a certain Lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few months, the Worshipful Master decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and the Worshipful Master found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for the Worshipful Master's visit, the brother welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The Worshipful Master made himself comfortable, but said nothing.

In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes, the Worshipful Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

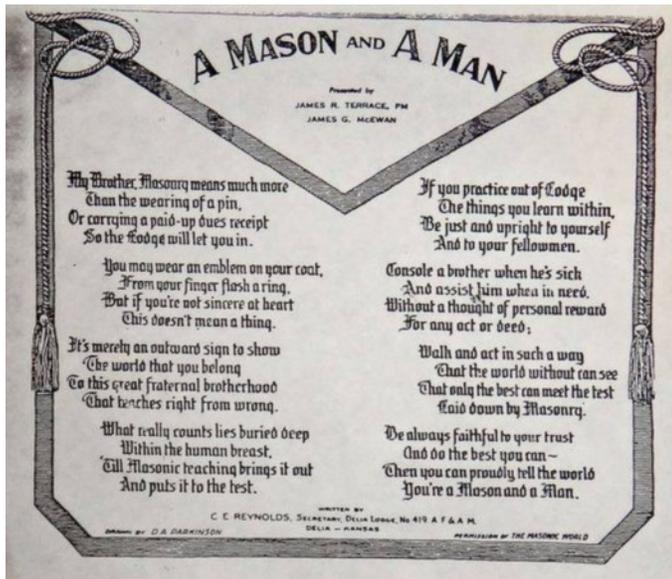
His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one, lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon, it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Worshipful Master glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Worshipful Master reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our Lodge next meeting."

– Author Unknown

**Past Master.**  
**P**erhaps you think your work is done,  
**A** task completed, honours won;  
**S**till there is much more work to do,  
**T**he Lodge you ruled has need of you.  
**M**ake no mistake, you're needed now;  
**A**ssist some Brother, show him how.  
**S**age counsel give and good advice,  
**T**he cable-tow, extend it thrice;  
**E**ach act with kindness and open hand  
**R**eal "Brotherhood" then will expand.



Your friendly, neighborhood Beacon editor remembered this poem which was given to him many years ago.

### The Lambskin

A Poem by Edgar A. Guest

It is not ornamental, the cost is not great,  
There are other things far more useful, yet truly I state,

Tho of all my possessions, there's none can compare,  
With that white leather apron, which all Masons wear.

As a young lad I wondered just what it all meant,  
When Dad hustled around, and so much time was spent  
On shaving and dressing and looking just right,  
Until Mother would say: "It's the Masons tonight."

And some winter nights she said: "What makes you go,  
Way up there tonight thru the sleet and the snow,  
You see the same things every month of the year."  
Then Dad would reply: "Yes, I know it, my dear."

Forty years I have seen the same things, it is true.  
And though they are old, they always seem new,  
For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet,  
Seem a little bit closer each time that we meet."

Years later I stood at that very same door,  
With good men and true who had entered before,  
I knelt at the alter, and there I was taught  
That virtue and honor can never be bought.

That the spotless white lambskin all Masons revere,  
If worthily worn grows more precious each year,  
That service to others brings blessings untold,  
That man may be poor tho surrounded by gold.

I learned that true brotherhood flourishes there,  
That enmities fade 'neath the compass and square,  
That wealth and position are all thrust aside,  
As there on the level men meet and abide.

So, honor the lambskin, may it always remain  
Forever unblemished, and free from all stain,  
And when we are called to the Great Father's love,  
May we all take our place in that Lodge up above.



### Union Lodge Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Mark your calendars for this annual event at Union Lodge # 3, Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Note the starting time for dinner. This will allow sufficient time to eat and get checked in for the opening of Lodge for the Grand Master's Official Visit at 7:30.

(Continued on the next page)

WB Frank Blair will prepare an outstanding menu of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, and much, much more.

All Brothers are urged to attend this festive event and enjoy the official visit of our Grand Master and his Masonic Family.

There will be a ladies program following the dinner, while the Brothers are in their meeting. Follow Union Lodge #3 on Facebook for last minutes details.

#### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MINUTES OF LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

To speed up our Stated and Special Communications, and to provide all brothers with the opportunity to review the minutes of the previous month's meeting(s) before the next meeting, WB Blair has made them available on the Union Lodge website. To have access to these documents you will need to obtain a password from WB Frank. Email him at [unionlodge@onlinew.com](mailto:unionlodge@onlinew.com) and he will contact you with the password.

After you receive the password, please do the following:

1. On the menu bar on any page of the Lodge website, click on "Meeting Minutes."
2. Click on the red & white button labeled "Meeting Minutes."
3. In the Login box on the left side of the page, click on "Sign up."
4. You will be asked for your email address, a screen name (your name for example), the password provided by WB Frank, your location and your date of birth. NOTE: The date must be entered in dd/mm/yyyy format, or simple select the month, year and date from the calendar display.
5. Click the "Agree" box and then click "Submit."

You will receive an email from "server@serifwebresources.com" that contains a link to click to activate your account.

From then on you can view the minutes by simply logging in with you email address or screen name along with the magic password.

The Brothers of Union Lodge are encouraged to submit articles for the The Beacon. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents. Please

#### February/March 2017 Calendar

- Feb 28** - Officers Meeting 7:30 pm
- Mar 1** - Rickreall # 110 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Mar 2** - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Mar 4** - **Work Day at Union Lodge to hang pictures of our Past Masters - 8:30 am - 12:00 pm - Coffee and donuts will be provided.**
- Mar 4** - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- Mar 6** - **Practice for all Union Lodge Officers in preparation for the Grand Master's visit - 7:00 pm**
- Mar 7** - **Union # 3 - Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner at 6:00 pm - Stated meeting and Grand Master's Official Visit at 7:30 pm**
- Mar 7** - Holbrook # 30 - Stated 7:30 pm
- Mar 8** - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm
- Mar 28** - Union # 3 Officers meeting 7:30 pm

email your articles to Tom Gardner at [gardner\\_t@onlinew.com](mailto:gardner_t@onlinew.com) by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition of The Beacon.

Be sure to keep up with Lodge activities between editions of the Beacon by checking our website <http://www.unionlodge3.com>

or



Visit Union Lodge # 3 on Facebook and be sure to Like us.