

Third Masonic District

[Third Masonic District Website](#)



Is Father Christmas a Freemason?

By Brother David Downie



I have a very serious question to put to you all.

I would like to raise it with you and then do some detective work, examining the evidence that might lead us to answering it.

It is a most important question that I am sure you have often asked yourself, and relates our Craft to the wider society in which we live and concerns several major issues of this season. This very serious question is "Is Father Christmas a Freemason?"

Let us consider the facts of this case: Of

whom does this remind you?

A worthy gentleman, who is (we must admit) getting on a bit in years and is perhaps a little overweight, who wears a very distinctive costume as the badge of his activities, who provides the opportunity for friends and visitors to meet in fellowship, who is surrounded by secrecy and mystery, dispenses goodwill and the charity of gifts all over the world (avoiding ostentatious public display while doing so) and is there doing it year after year!

Well, fellow detectives, you must admit that this description could fit either Santa or a Freemason. But this is merely circumstantial evidence. We need some proof!

Let us start with his movements on the evening in question. All the reports have him coming from the North Pole. As the sun rises in the east to open and enliven the day, and with him needing to finish the world before dawn, then he would have to begin in the East and move towards the West. Therefore Father Christmas must begin his journey at the north-east corner of the world. This, of course, is exactly what we do with an Entered Apprentice.

Event Announcements

December 19, 2022
Business of the Lodge
Incoming Masters

Similarly, you would assume he would finish heading for home, which would place him in the north-west corner at the end of his work, to give his salute to the world and leave. Convincing proof, you must agree!

But, think too, he undertakes this great journey to provide the gifts but once a year, and I am sure that any Brother Treasurer will agree that this is exactly the frequency with which most Brethren provide the gift of their charity to the lodge! And the secrecy, the mystery? Those of you who are parents, remember. What was the worst crime that an older child could commit at this time of the year? To tell the younger ones the secret of Santa, to break the faith that they should have kept. And I am sure your punishment of them pointed out that they were void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into the dinner table but be sent to their room for destroying something that was so good, so worthwhile and so innocent.

Surely all this evidence shows us beyond doubt that Father Christmas is a Freemason! He practices Brotherly Love and Relief; we are happy to meet him and the Christmas season, and sorry to part.

All the details, his wearing of a uniform, the rituals that happen year in year out, the fact he is a male ... On a more serious note, Brethren, the way the whole Christmas season has developed and is practiced does have many things in common with Freemasonry, and we can learn much about each from the other.

For instance, where did the figure we call Father Christmas come from originally? What is his background? Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, or St Nicholas has elements of pre-Christian myths and legends, which developed through the Middle Ages by being built into the great Christian story of God's wonderful gift to the world.

By the eighteenth and nineteenth century these details were formalized into the character that we still have today: his stylized uniform, his way of working, his ritual activities and sayings. This all sounds very Masonic.

The pre-Christian legends of Solomon's Temple, the pyramids, Pythagoras, and so on were developed through the Middle Ages by the great Christian cathedral builders, then formalized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries into the uniform, the work, the rituals that we use today.

St Nicholas was actually a 4th century Turkish bishop who had originally been a rich nobleman. One of the stories about him was that he had helped a poor man who could not afford to pay for weddings for his 3 daughters.

St Nicholas climbed onto the roof and threw a handful of gold coins down the chimney and these coins fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung up by the fire to dry. The girls were then able to marry well and lived happily ever after.

He has been considered the patron saint of poor children ever since. The legend became very popular in Europe, especially the Netherlands where it was mixed with elements from the pagan Yule or mid-winter festivals. St Nick became Santa Claus, who would arrive on December 6th (St Nicholas' Day) mounted on a white horse and visit children to enquire about their behaviour the previous year.

Good children would be rewarded, and bad ones punished. The night before, children would leave a pair of the shoes or clogs out, filled with hay and carrots for the horse. In the morning these would be found, filled with sweets or small presents.

These traditions were taken to America by Dutch settlers, but it was the famous poem by Professor Clement Clark Moore which begins "'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house...." which settled most of the details into the Santa figure we know today.

Many of these details (such as the reindeer, and their names, the flying sledge, coming down the chimney) were first brought together in this poem, but Professor Moore took them from old traditions from as far afield as Finland and Siberia and they have stuck and become a single story. You can see how similar this is to the creation of our ritual and ceremonies.

While these also certainly include many elements that are ancient folklore, they were put together quite deliberately by identifiable people, with a specific aim: to create an impression in the minds of the Brethren taking part. Like the Santa legend, the details may be fictional, they may come from many different sources, and they may even be inconsistent with each other. That does not matter.

It is the impression that all of them create as an entirety that is important. Would you deny all the good that the Santa story achieves, all the happiness it creates, just because it is a story? Of course not. And this is the real linking of Father Christmas and Freemasonry.

Why do we have Christmas and why do we have Father Christmas? We celebrate religious beliefs about the birth of goodness, and hope for the future; we reaffirm the belief that people are basically good and can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting friends to each other.

We look to a New Year where things can be better. We do this at this season whether we are celebrating the Christian Nativity, or the Jewish Hannukah with its lights and gifts and story of peace, or the Hindu Diwali with its festival of lights and gifts of sweets and toys, or even if we hold no formal religion except the pleasure of seeing a child's face transfixed with wonder and delight. And why are we Freemasons? Because we believe that there are important things like goodness and hope for the future, and that men can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting Brethren to their families and each other.

We not only look to a future where things can be better, but we see it as our role, as Free and Accepted, or Symbolic, Masons, to help to build that future.

So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the whole year.

Peace on earth, good will towards men!



**Plan to join us for the
Grand Lodge of PA
In Person/Virtually
December Quarterly Communication
which will be live streamed on YouTube!**

**The December Quarterly Communication
of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, F. & A.M.
will be conducted on**

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM

at the Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA. We are streaming this meeting on YouTube and will start live stream at 6:30 PM Use the link or QR code below.

**As a Mason, may I attend
Our Communication in person?**

Master Masons are invited to attend our December 2022 Grand Lodge Communication in person. You will need to present your 2022 lodge dues card for admission.

**As a Mason, what can I expect to see
at a Grand Lodge Communication?**

Our Grand Lodge has meetings titled Annual Grand, Quarterly (business meeting), Extra and Special Communications. The Annual Grand is held every two years, for the purpose of installing a new Grand Master. Extra and Special Communications are set by order of the Grand Master and used for specific events like Building Corner Stone Laying and Lodge Room Dedications. Quarterly Communications are usually held in June and December for the purpose of conducting Grand Lodge business.

How can I view the YouTube Live Stream?

You may view from your home on any device having the capability to access YouTube videos: a computer, smart phone, tablet or smart/internet access TV.

Please note: Our December Quarterly Business meeting is a Closed meeting for in person attendance or viewing live stream by Master Masons only.

Go to this URL (Click on link or copy and paste in web browser) OR scan QR Code below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgbnO5VwKCU>

SUPPORT FOR WIDOWS



WIDOWS SONS Provide Support

When it comes to helping Masonic widows or orphans in their time of need, there's no such thing as "good" kids, provided by the Pennsylvania (PA) Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association, and his fellow riders won't do.

Whether it's cheering on a widow's horse presentation at a meet, making a funeral or setting the grave, they are there to help. The goal of the Widows Sons is to aid and assist Masonic widows and orphans in as many ways as possible in the world of masonry. The group also supports various individual charities in the community through research, events, and so forth.

"We want the community to know we offer a lot of services," Ray said. "One of my initiatives with the Grand Lodge (Jeffrey) is to bring new to grand request and are now involved with Masonic, outreach and the Masonic Widows Guild."

"If they [widows] are alone or have a need, and there's something we can do to help them, we will do it."

The PA Widows Sons was founded in 2018 in Philadelphia. Currently, there are 25 recruited riders throughout the state with 400 to 500 members. There are between 500 and 700 chapters around the world, but Pennsylvania was one of the first states to have a charter and is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as an approved Masonic club. All Pennsylvania Masonic Riders Association riders who are motorcycle riders are welcome to join a local chapter.

The Widows Sons host three major events in the state each year: one of which, the Grand Master's Cupride Ride, is a 100-mile ride through the state. Each year, the ride is held in the same place. In Grand Master's Cupride Ride, the Grand Master's Cupride Ride is held in the same place. In Grand Master's Cupride Ride, the Grand Master's Cupride Ride is held in the same place.

The Widows Sons also hold various other events, and all riders are open to the public. There are regular gatherings across the country. All the money raised from the rides goes to charity.

A typical ride is around 75 to 100 miles and can last up to three hours, Ray said.

"It's just a lot of masonry," he said. "The way we can do it is to make sure the riding and benefit people in need is the main reason we're in business."

"We have a love of motorcycles and masonry that we combine. It's a very good thing."

Ray hopes widows in the community will become aware of the resources available to them, too. It's simple.

A member of Blue Cross Lodge No. 209, Ray has been a Mason since 1979. He sees his work with the widows as something he "naturally does" without overthinking about it.

Continued on page 2

The Widows' Guild program recognizes and assists all widows of Pennsylvania Masons. Widows are given a Masonic Blue Slipper Pin, which is universally recognized among Masons as identifying the wearer as the widow of a Mason, and a personalized membership card to the Widows' Guild. On the back side of the membership card is the toll-free number for the Masonic Outreach Program. The program provides financial assistance, attorney/legal support, durable and medical equipment and a variety of educational information and referral services for widows and others in need.

THE BLUE SLIPPER PIN STORY

The pin's history comes from the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament. During the time of Boaz, the next of kin were to look after the widow and offspring. In Ruth's case, the next of kin refused to honor this requirement

for Ruth, so Boaz agreed to take up the task. When Boaz met with the next of kin to seal the deal, the next of kin drew off his shoe and handed it to Boaz as a token for the bargain to take care of Ruth. Boaz held the shoe up for all to see as witnesses of the deal. To this day, the blue slipper symbolizes our duty to care for our widows of the fraternity.

HOST AN EVENT FOR MASONIC WIDOWS

One of the obligations Masons vow to uphold is to serve and support the widows of their fraternal brothers. Many wives have been proud supporters of their husbands' Masonic traditions. They, too, have devoted their time and talents to enrich the bonds formed within the Fraternity. By honoring a Masonic widow with a Blue Slipper Pin, remembering her husband and making her feel special, you are easing the minds of all Brethren, as they too realize their loved ones will never be alone.

Events to honor Masonic widows with a pin presentation may include hosting a dinner, brunch, tea or simply a meet and greet at an already stated lodge meeting. For more information on how to host an event for Masonic widows, contact the Masonic Charities relations administrator at 717-367-1121, ext. 33497 or relationsadministrator@pawidowguild.org.

REFER A WIDOW

If you know a widow who would be interested in receiving a Masonic Blue Slipper Pin, becoming a member of the Widows' Guild and receiving the "Blue Slipper Stories" newsletter and invitations to special events that bring Masonic widows together, please complete the [form](#) at the bottom of the web page.

Here is the link to the digital version of the Blue Slipper:

https://issuu.com/pr263/docs/ogp_widowsnewsletter_fall2022_digital

From the Desk of Brother Jeffrey R. Miller
District Deputy Grand Master, Third Masonic District



Brother Jeffrey R. Miller
District Deputy Grand Master

Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

With December comes the new Worshipful Master's installations. This is an exciting time for the incoming Worshipful Masters. They have heard that the installation ceremony is very "interesting". They have no idea what lays ahead for them but cannot wait till that time comes to be installed as the Master of their Lodge. They have done their planning are now ready to step to the East and lead. They have earned the respect of the Lodge by demonstrating that they are willing to do the work that is required of them as the Past Masters have before them! I congratulate each of the incoming Worshipful Masters. May their year in the East be a rewarding time in their Masonic careers.

I congratulate each elected officer taking a place in the Lodge on Saint John's Day next. Now is the time to complete your ritual work and plan for your year in the East. The East is earned by your willingness to do the "work". If you do not have a mentor at this point, please pick a brother to guide you as you travel toward the East. Remember that the Past Masters in your Lodge are a wealth of knowledge. They have already made the mistakes that you will need to know about before you become Worshipful Master. I'm sure that if you ask a question or if you need a hand figuring something out, they will help you in any way they can. Enjoy your time as an elected officer of your Lodge. The East is just over the horizon and coming quickly.

All letters nominating a brother for District Three Mason of the Year must be submitted to me by December 15, 2022. Any Mason from the District is eligible to receive this recognition. Please send all letters to me at ddgm03@pagrandlodge.org.

I wish each brother a happy holiday season. Be safe as you travel to your different Lodge and personal activities.

Have a great day in Freemasonry!!

Jeffrey R. Miller DDGM03



From the Desk of Brother Kenneth W. Womack, PM Principal, Third Masonic District School of Instruction



*Brother Kenneth W. Womack
Principal District 3
School of Masonic Instruction*

Brethren all,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and time to spend with family and friends. It is a great time of year, especially since we seem to be able to gather more safely now from COVID than we have in the past couple of years. I hope yours was a good holiday.

For those of you unable to attend the November school, we spent some time going over the various parts of the election and installation of officers. The current Ritual Manual states that if there are no contested officers, the election of officers may be conducted by voice vote. It appears that all Lodges in District 3 plan to use a voice vote (it references the Worshipful Master Handbook for additional information). If you would like to have a principal attend your rehearsal for election and installation of officers, please let one of us know as soon as possible and we will be glad to attend.

At the December SOI, we will do the Business of the Lodge. The intent of this session is for new WMs and officers for the upcoming Masonic year to review BOL and to make sure you are ready for that first Lodge meeting in January. For those new WMs and incoming officers, please make a special effort to attend this meeting. It would be a good idea if incoming officers would review the ritual before SOI to make sure you don't have any questions that we could answer in this session. We will pay particular attention to receiving and voting on petitions and the reception of the DDGM. Again, our hope is that this session will get all new officers off to a great start for next year. For current and repeating WMs, if you can attend, you can share your experience and some of the things that helped you be successful in the East.

Please mark your calendar for the Sectional School of Instruction on Saturday, April 22nd at Manheim Lodge No. 587 in Manheim. District Three will exemplify the Fellow Craft Mason's Degree (mechanics only). Brother Paul A. Sutcliffe, Jr., Regional Instructor for Region Two, will visit the District Three SOI on Monday, March 27th to help our team prepare for the sectional school. If you are interested in being part of this team, let us know. It is a good experience and an opportunity to show the kind of work we do in District 3.

Lastly Brethren, I wish you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Sincerely & fraternally,

Brother Kenneth W. Womack
Principal, District 3 SOI

Academy of Masonic Knowledge

<https://pamasonicacademy.org/>

The Pennsylvania Academy of Masonic Knowledge strives to create an environment that encourages Masons to seek a greater understanding of the nature and purposes of Freemasonry in all its many aspects – past, present, and future – and to share that understanding with others. To this end, the Academy offers learning opportunities in which Masons may participate in dialogues with similarly inclined brethren, witness prominent Masonic scholars discussing various aspects of Freemasonry, and pursue home study at their own pace and in their own areas of interest, through publications on Masonic subjects recommended by the Academy.

The Academy is also a vehicle affording recognition to Masons who share their knowledge of Freemasonry with fellow Masons or the public by the written or spoken word. All Pennsylvania Masons are eligible to participate in the Academy's Certification Process, culminating with the designation as a Master Masonic Scholar. Click [here](#) to enroll.

The Committee of the Academy of Masonic Knowledge will attempt to provide to you the basic tools and principles for your study. How well you use these tools in your pursuit of Masonic knowledge will be analyzed and determined through your Evaluation Reports. It is important to your success that you not only know the subject, but that you demonstrate an ability to identify and apply the Masonic principles you have learned. The best ideas are those that work, and the best scholars are leaders who set the pace for putting their thoughts and knowledge into action.

Upcoming Academy Dates are Saturday, March 18, 2023, and Saturday, October 28, 2023. Details are TBA.

The Masonic Nugget

Sprig of Acacia

[Excerpt Short Talk Bulletin Vol IX No. 11, November 1932](#)



For at least two hundred years and probably much longer the sprig of acacia has held Freemasonry's premier teaching. The grave is not the end. Bodies die and decay, but something "which bears the nearest affinity to that which pervades all nature and which never, never, dies," rises from the grave to become one of that vast throng which has preceded us. Error can slay, as can evil and selfish greed, but not permanently. That which is true and fair and fine cannot be destroyed. Its body may be murdered, its disappearance may be affected, the rubbish of the Temple and a temporary grave may conceal it for a time, but where is interred that which is mortal, there grows an evergreen or ever living sprig of acacia – acacia none the less that it may be a spiritual sprig, a plant not of the earth, earthly.

Around the District

Be an active member!



Third Masonic District Schools of Instruction



The 3rd Masonic District School of Instruction (SOI) is scheduled to be held on the fourth Monday of each month (with exception to June and July) at 7:30 p.m. at Big Spring Lodge located at 131 Centerville Rd, Newville, PA, 17241.

Our next SOI will be on December 19, 2022. The work of the evening will be Business of the Lodge exemplified by the incoming Worshipful Masters. All Master Masons are welcome to attend and learn more about our ritual and the Masonic craft.



The [Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Program](#) promotes Masonic blood drives throughout Pennsylvania, heightens awareness and provides educational materials on sharing the gift of life through blood and organ donation.

All Pennsylvania Masons are eligible for membership in the Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Program. To become a member complete the [New Member Form](#).

We no longer require dues for membership in the Blood and Organ Donor Program; however, we still have operating expenses. Donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of this vital program.

George Washington Lodge No. 143

74 South Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother John C. Northcott

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://gw143.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/georgewashingtonlodge143>



Fraternal Greetings from George Washington Lodge No. 143,

It has been another busy month of travel and events and looking forward to seeing more District Brethren as we continue to plan new events for the upcoming month.

At our last stated meeting on November 11th, we honored our Veterans with a special program. We had a great meal beforehand which included Turkey, Stuffing, Green Beans, Potatoes, and Pie for dessert. A great night for all that were present. On November 17th we held an extra meeting, and an Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred on Gavin M. Shetler by Brother Nathan Neil. Brother Nathan did an excellent job, and it was a wonderful evening of Freemasonry. We also attended the District School of Instruction on November

21st.

Coming up this month at the Stated Meeting is the election and installation of officers. We will also have the final District School of Instruction on December 19th.

It has been a fine year and I am grateful to all the hard work by the officers. We accomplished many good things this year and I am looking forward to continuing with more great events next year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. We look forward to seeing all our brethren in the coming New Year.

Sincerely and fraternally,

John C. Northcott
Worshipful Master

From the Secretary's Desk:

To those who have paid their 2023 dues by cash, check, or online, Thank you. Please check your Dues Card and if it shows 2022, please pay by year end. It saves both time and money by eliminating the need for letters, calls, and e-mails as reminders. If you have any questions, contact your respective secretaries. Also, if you have changed any of your contact information, let us know as well.

December is also an important month for "Your Lodge". It is the Election and Installation of Officers for 2023. If you are able, plan to attend and support the Future Leaders. It is as important to them as it was to you if you were an Officer. Remember how it felt to see the Lodge Meeting well attended.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hope to see you at "OUR" next meeting.

Dennis R. McClanahan, PM
Secretary

Carlisle Lodge 260

1236 Holly Pike, Carlisle, PA, 17013

Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Marc R. Thorne

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://carlisle260.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/St.Johns.260>

Ladies Night Banquet October 15, 2022

Greetings from the East,

**Carlisle
Lodge
No. 260**



Happy December Brethren!

As we conclude another Masonic year, Carlisle Lodge 260 will keep the momentum up it has generated all year. Our lodge will ring the bell for the Salvation Army on December 3rd and 10th by the PA Liquor store on Walnut Bottom Rd in Carlisle. If you are interested in helping, please contact Bro. William R Bunt, PM at wrb@pa.net. We can always use a few more hands, and it's a great way to ring in the Christmas holiday.

Prior to our stated meeting on December 20th, we will have a cookie competition. If you would like to participate, please bring a dozen of your best cookies. This event is open to families, and we are hoping to get a few kids at the event to be the judges. We'll have ice cream and a hot cocoa bar for the kids, and those still young at heart. The competition starts at 6:30 pm.

Our stated meeting is the election of officers. Please come out and support the new officers of Carlisle Lodge 260 and welcome them into their new roles. Our meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

It's been a fantastic year as the Master of the Lodge, and I want to thank everyone that has helped me through this first year in the East. I look forward to an even better one next year. I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May it bring you peace and happiness.

God Bless!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Marc R. Thorne

Worshipful Master

Orrstown Lodge No. 262

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Matthew R. Hoch
Worshipful Master

Website: <https://orrstown262.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrrstownLodgeNo262>

Greetings from the East,



A Stated Meeting of Orrstown Lodge No. 262 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA, on Thursday December 8, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. A Christmas Dinner will be served prior to the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

An Extra Meeting of Orrstown Lodge No. 262 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA, on Thursday December 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m for the purpose of conferring degrees.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Matthew R. Hoch
Worshipful



Eureka West-Shore Lodge No. 302

910 South Market Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

First Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother William A. Northey

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://eureka302.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EurekaWestShoreLodge302>

Happy Holidays and Fraternal Greetings from Eureka West Shore Lodge!

At our November stated meeting, we recognized the veterans of our lodge. We appreciate their service to our great country. Our speaker for November was Brother Reverend Rodney Miller, a member of Perry Lodge No. 458, who gave an enlightening presentation about the Pennsylvania National Guard Family Action Center, which he started during the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Brother Miller spoke of the challenges in starting the centers across the state and pointed out that not only do the soldiers serve, but the families serve in their own way. Therefore, support of the families became essential as well.

As my time in the East is nearing a close, I most certainly thank the members, all the many committees and particularly my officer corps at Eureka-West Shore lodge for their support. I especially thank the Past Masters for their support and guidance. It has been said many times, and it is true, that they are the backbone of the lodge. It has been a good year. Our Lodge addition was completed, we have been seeing post pandemic Lodge attendance increasing, and things are pretty much back to normal. I look forward to seeing Denny Beaver go to the East, and the other great men in our officer line move up. I wish them all the best!

To the Worshipful Masters of District 3, whether you are continuing into 2023, or are finishing your time in the East, I wish you all well, and hope we can stay in touch in the future. Brother District Deputy Grand Master Jeffrey R. Miller, I appreciate your wise counsel. And to brother Kenneth W. Womack, PM, Principal, School of Instruction, and the Assistants, continue your great work and strive for excellence in the Ritual practiced in District 3.

Here are our upcoming events for December:

December 5 – Stated Meeting – Past Master Recognition, Election and Open Installation of Officers

December 7 – Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication

December 8 – Extra Meeting – Fellow Craft degree conferral on Caleb David Cawthern

December 21 – Lodge Zoom Toast (9:00 PM)

December 25 – Merry Christmas!

I wish all the brethren and their families well as we enter the Holiday Season!

Sincerely & fraternally,

William A. Northey

Worshipful Master

Cumberland Valley No. 315

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257

First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Jesse E. Weller

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://lodge315.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cumberland-Valley-Masonic-Lodge-No-315-1386129258366656>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1486480571653567>

Greetings from the East,

Our November stated meeting is now behind us and in the history books. Prior to the start of our November meeting, we enjoyed a fellowship dinner in memory of Brother Sheldon VanSyoc in the Alexander Stewart Social Hall. After dinner we adjourned to the lodge room where we conducted our normal lodge business, after which Brother R. Clem Malot, PM, presented a fantastic program about Veterans Day.



Worshipful Master Jesse E Weller, with the assistance of the Senior Warden, recognizing our veteran brethren for their military service.

Following Brother Malot's program, the Worshipful Master directed all the veterans in attendance to assemble around the altar of Freemasonry. The Worshipful Master then recognized each veteran for his military service. Upon returning to the East the Worshipful Master seated the veterans, thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and after closing remarks closed the lodge.

A Stated Meeting of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA. Thursday December 1, 2022, 7:30 p.m. A fellowship meal will be served prior to the Stated Meeting in the Alexander Stewart Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. The Program of the evening will be election and installation of officers.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jesse E. Weller
Worshipful Master

Big Spring Lodge No. 361

131 Centerville Road, Newville, PA 17241
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Brother Todd L. Johnson, PM
Worshipful Master

Website: <http://bigspringlodgeno361.org/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bigspring361>

Greetings from the East,



A stated meeting of Big Spring Lodge No. 361 Free & Accepted Masons will be held Thursday December 8, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. The program for the evening will be election and installation of officers.

Fraternal Greetings,

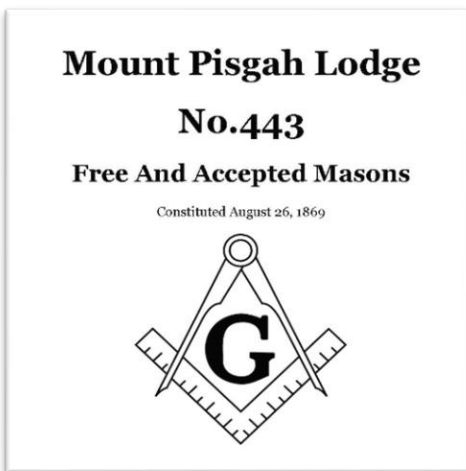
Todd L. Johnson, PM
Worshipful Master

Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443

Third Floor, Truist Bank, Greencastle, PA 17225
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Brother Toby A. Stoner
Worshipful Master

Website: <https://mtpisgah443.org/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Pisgah-Lodge-No-443-668433266645074>

Greetings from the East ,



A Stated Meeting of Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, Third Floor, Truist Bank, Greencastle, PA 17225 on Tuesday December 20, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. The program of the evening to be the election and installation of officers.

Thank you for everyone who has helped me with another successful year as Worshipful Master. Without you and your participation freemasonry would not be what it is. So thank you for your time dedication and devotion to the lodge and fraternity.

Have a great day in Freemasonry!

Toby A Stoner
Worshipful Master

Acacia Lodge No. 586

33 West Main St, Waynesboro, PA 17268

Third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Joshua P. Brown

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://acacia586.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/acacia586/>

Brethren of District 3,



Pictured: Brother Kevin Barrick and degree team following his being passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft Mason.

I bring you greetings from Acacia Lodge No. 586. Prior to our November stated meeting we braved the crowds attending the downtown tree lighting ceremony which have grown over the last few years, hunted down parking, and enjoyed a fellowship meal of fried chicken, baked beans, cookies, and cake prior to the November Stated meeting.

Our November stated meeting was well attended considering the activities downtown, and the Scottish Rite reunion being held in Harrisburg. Our program for the evening was an extension of our theme, “honoring our Veterans”, and a talk based on Masonic service while being in active Military service. Brother Chris Arbeene delivered a wonderful talk about his becoming a Mason while serving as a crew member on the Aircraft Carrier Ronald Reagan. Chris lives in Waynesboro but is a life member of

Norview Lodge #113 in Norfolk, VA where he was stationed at the time.

On Tuesday November 22nd we enjoyed another great night in Freemasonry as we raised Kevin Barrick to the degree of a Fellowcraft Mason.

At our December stated meeting we will elect and install our officers for 2023. It has been a trying year in many ways, but also satisfying in that at every turn we have found new ways to succeed, and we are better for it.

I wish you all Happy Holidays, for the Thanksgiving Day we are about to enjoy, and the Christmas that will be here before another newsletter is printed.

Fraternal Greetings,

Joshua P. Brown

Worshipful Master

Pennsylvania Lodge of Research

Semi-Annual Meetings at Various Locations

Brother James E. Green

Worshipful Master

<https://palodgeofresearch.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/92580616988>

Greetings from the East,



The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research is a unique occurrence in the history of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, as this is the first Lodge constituted within our Jurisdiction solely for the purpose of Masonic study. The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research holds only two Stated Meetings each year, with Special Meetings to be held at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. Meetings are held at various Masonic sites throughout the Commonwealth. No Craft Degrees are conferred. The elected Worshipful Master does not receive “the Word of the Chair,” nor does he become a voting member of the Grand Lodge.

Membership in the Lodge of Research is open to all Master Masons who are members of Lodges recognized by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. To become a member of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research please use this [link](#) to download a petition. The joining fee is \$75, and dues are \$25 per year. Both fee and dues (a total of \$100) must accompany the completed petition.

Completed petitions should be sent along with the membership fee to the Secretary, at:

Bro. Seth C. Anthony, Secretary
Attn: Lodge of Research
c/o The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, F. & A.M.
1 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Questions regarding membership can be emailed to: Lodge.of.Research@pagrandlodge.org .

The December 2022 Stated Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at Carlisle Masonic Center, 1236 Holly Pike, Carlisle, PA 17013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon will be held following the meeting, at approximately 12:00 PM. Cost is \$10 per person, payable to the Secretary the day of the meeting. Cash or check is acceptable. Checks should be made out to the “Pennsylvania Lodge of Research.” The Lodge Summons and meeting information can be downloaded [here](#).

Sincerely and fraternally,

Brother James E. Green
Worshipful Master