



THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF
THE ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024

AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME

By Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr. 33° SGIG

One of my favorite songs is by Kenny Loggins. "Meet me Halfway." It was a theme song for the movie "Over the Top" starring Sylvester Stallone. Of course, there's a story, but that story is not relevant to this article.

There's a line in that song that says,

In a lifetime, there is only love, reaching for the lonely one.
We are stronger when we are giving love.
When we put emotions on the line, we know that we are the timeless ones.

As I reflect on these words, I think about our brothers who may be lonely. In many cases, it's not their fault their wife died, or there was an illness that took them out of active participation in Freemasonry.

What they need—and truth told, what we need—is the wisdom, strength, and beauty of giving brotherly love.

In recent years, many emotions have been on the line that have produced division instead of unity, apathy instead of empathy, and rejection instead of acceptance. We don't have to agree on everything. Still, we don't have to create loneliness, isolation, and moments of separation when, as our Sovereign Grand

Commander has shown us repeatedly, an outstretched hand can make all the difference in the world.

I wrote this article a few days after an assassination attempt on former President Trump while members of President Biden's own party were calling on him to step down. Election day is looming. Who knows, at this moment in time, what will be happening when you read this article?



Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General

I would like to believe that we, as a nation, will find a path toward a more perfect union. I want to think that our fraternity will make reaching for the lonely ones a higher priority than getting the rolls corrected so we pay less per capita. I want to believe that the simple act of holding out a hand to a brother still makes a difference.

It's up to us brethren. Can we make it happen at this moment in time?

NC SCOTTISH RITE STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Ill. Kirby Matthews, 33°, Golf Committee Chair

The annual Scottish Rite Golf Tournament will be held in New Bern this year on October 5th at the Emerald Golf Club. This will be a 4 man Captains Choice Tournament. The cost will be \$100 per golfer.

Sponsorships are available to Individuals, Valleys, Lodges or Businesses. Individuals and Lodges can sponsor a hole for \$100. Businesses and Valleys can sponsor for \$200. Any Business or Valley wishing to enter a team can do so and get a sponsorships for \$500 total.

Friday afternoon October 4th, there will

be a tour of the ECU RiteCare Clinic starting at 2:30. Everyone is welcome.

Friday night there will be a wine and cheese social at the New Bern York Rite Temple at 6:30 PM. Friends and spouses are invited.

Saturday lunch will be at the York Rite Temple at 11:00 AM. There will be a nominal charge for non-golfers. The tournament will tee off at 12:30 at The Emerald.

All monies raised goes to our Rite Care Clinics, so please reach out to businesses

Come out to support RiteCare and have an amazing time on the course



in your area to see if they will help by sponsoring a hole.

Contact Kirby Matthews at kirbymatthews33@gmail.com for any additional information.

The RiteNews of North Carolina

Valley News & Upcoming Events

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

By Bobby Meadows, 33°

In the Scottish Rite 4th degree, the Ark of the Covenant sits in the East, behind the Master. It is mentioned and shown in the 15th degree, Knight of the East. As the Master of the Palace is showing Zerubbabel around the Treasure Room, he shows Zerubbabel the Ark. Zerubbabel falls down prostrate in front of the Ark but is not tempted enough to reveal the secrets of Masonry. King Cyrus gives the treasures back to Zerubbabel, along with what it takes to go back and rebuild the Temple.

King Solomon along with Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff, built the original Temple around 967 BC. After completion, the Ark is seated within the Kodesh Hakodashim or Holy of Holies.

A detailed description is given of what the Ark looked like. Most notably to Freemasons, the Ark in several descriptions is made with acacia wood, covered with gold and a lid was fashioned with two Cherubim on the lid. It is 45" long, 27" high, and 27" wide.

The First Temple was destroyed in 586 BC by Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonian Empire. All of the treasures were taken but

there is no mention that the Ark of the Covenant was among the spoils. King Cyrus of Persia conquered the Babylonians in 558 BC and allowed the Jews to return home. He also helped fund the rebuilding of the Temple and returned their treasures.

Some say that it was removed from the Temple prior to being conquered by the Babylonians. Many believe it was smuggled out of the city to a safe location before it could be taken. To this day, its whereabouts remain a mystery.

One persistent rumor about the Ark's current whereabouts stems from another legend that suggests an Ethiopian prince took the sacred container back to his homeland for safe keeping in the 6th century BCE. Each year, the festival of St Mary of Zion takes place in the city of Aksum, otherwise known as the City of the Covenant.

To this day, it is said to be stored under Our Lady Mary of Zion's Church. It is guarded by priests. No one is allowed in to see it.

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

VALLEY OF NEW BERN RING CEREMONY

By Russ Bauer, 32° KCCH

On Saturday, June 15th, the Valley of New Bern held a communication that included two events: the 14th Degree Ring Ceremony for the Spring Reunion Class and the Reflection of the Consistory Feast. Presiding over the Ring Ceremony was Venerable Master Arthur Romans, 32° and Ill. Russell Rainier, 33° stood in as Master of the 14th Degree. The Reflection of Consistory was led by Bro Michael Sutton, 32° KCCH, with prescribed toasting. Ten of the brethren inducted in the Spring Class were able to participate in both events with their families and Valley membership. The evening of fraternal communication and fellowship was enjoyed by all.



June 2024 Ring Ceremony
Spring Reunion Class Ring Ceremony (Left to right) Bros Frank Fazzino, Timothy Osborn, Lee Isley, Parker Maxwell, Matthew Wesley, Dwight Sheppard, James Johnson, Jason Brand, Henry Gibbs, Peter Hedges
Ill Brother Jay Collins

New Bern Fall Reunion

4°-32°

Oct 18 -19

VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE

By Thomas Pope Jr., 33°

The steady growth of the Orient's newest Valley continues. On September 21st, we will host our fourth reunion – this one in memory of Ill. Louis O. Dean, 33° – since receiving our Letters Temporary in May 2023 and our Charter three months later.

We're delighted to have a degree team from Sampson County and the Valley of Wilmington coming to perform the 7th Degree for our class of petitioners. That will be preceded by a Fayetteville team exemplifying the 6th Degree for the first time in addition to the mandatory 4th and 14th degrees we've previously done.

The Valley's members will be helping with two other reunions; the first in an ongoing role, and the latter for the first time. The players on Fayetteville's 6th degree team will reprise that work in New Bern on the opening day of its October 18-19th reunion, and our group from Cumberland and Bladen counties will continue a decades-long tradition of putting on the 20th Degree (Master of the Symbolic Lodge) there.

The September collaboration with the Valley of Wilmington isn't

a one-way street. The Valley of Fayetteville's 20th degree team will be onstage in Wilmington on October 26th to restart that degree as part of its program

Fayetteville Fall Reunion

4° - 14°

September 21st

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

NEW MASTER CRAFTSMAN PROGRAM – THE IVORY KEY

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

The Scottish Rite Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction has released a new Master Craftsman program entitled The Ivory Key. This is an introductory course in the basics of Scottish Rite history, structure, and philosophy designed to help the Scottish Rite Candidate or newly-made Scottish Rite Mason get the most out of their reunion experience. Named for one of the significant early symbols in the Scottish Rite degree canon, The Ivory Key course contains several short videos, audio presentations and reading assignments that will allow candidates to have a more complete understanding of the nature and structure of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

To learn more, visit

<https://mastercraftsmancollege.org/course-details/x9>



The RiteNews of North Carolina

Valley News & Upcoming Events

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

SEPTEMBER MEETING IN BOONE

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley will be holding their September Stated Communication in Boone on Thursday, September 12, 2024. This will be a joint meeting with the Asheville Scottish Rite Valley. Before the meeting, there will be tours at the Scottish Rite Communications Clinics at Appalachian State University, at the following times:

4:00 - 5:00 pm Clinic tour, presentations, and updates at ASU at the University Hall Clinics

5:00 - 5:30 pm Depart and travel to Snow Masonic Lodge # 363.

6:00 pm Dinner at Snow Masonic Lodge # 363.

7:00 pm

Stated Communication at Snow Masonic Lodge # 363. Presentation on Appalachian State Growing Well Program by Dr. Gail Donaldson and Gavin Colquitt.

The address for the ASU clinic: 330 University Hall Drive, Boone, NC 28607

The address for Snow Masonic Lodge # 363: 240 Temple Dr. Boone, NC 28607

Ill. Brother Bill Carter and his wife will again be preparing a large, delicious country feast for all to enjoy. Come join us for a great evening of fellowship in Boone.

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley will be holding their
Fall Reunion on October 25 and 26, 2024.

Come join us for a great two days of fellowship and learning.

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

VALLEY APPOINTMENTS

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

Congratulations to the following Brothers on their new roles in our Valley:



Brother David Uhl on being appointed as our Valley's JROTC / ROTC coordinator



Brother Homer Dearmin for being appointed as our Valley's new Americanism chairman. Also, to Brother Derek Frosh on being appointed as Assistant Chairman on this committee.



Brother Mick Gunter on being appointed as our Valley's VMAP (Valley Membership Achievement Project) coordinator.

VALLEY OF GREENSBORO

FALL REUNION HONOREE NAMED

By Gary Handy, 33°

2024 Fall Reunion

Wednesday, October 9th

Candidate Registration		
	5:00PM – 6:00PM	SR Office
Dinner		
	6:00PM – 7:00PM	Dining Room
Opening Ceremony		
	7:00PM – 7:15PM	SR Room
4th Degree		
	7:15PM – 8:10PM	SR Room
Communicate 5th – 12th Degrees		
	8:10PM – 9:45PM	Either Location
13th Degree		
	9:45PM – 10:15PM	SR Room
Q&A		
	10:15PM – 10:45PM	Either Location

Saturday, October 19th

Breakfast/Candidate Check-in		
	7:00AM – 8:30AM	Dining Room
14th Degree		
	8:30AM – 9:45AM	SR Room
Communicate 15th – 17th Degrees		
	9:45AM – 10:30AM	Either Location
18th Degree		
	10:30AM – 11:45AM	SR Room
Lunch		
	11:45AM – 12:45PM	Dining Room
Communicate 19th-22nd Degree		
	12:45PM – 1:40PM	Either Location
23rd Degree		
	1:40PM – 2:20PM	Lodge Room
24th Degree		
	2:20PM – 3:05PM	SR Room
25th Degree		
	3:05PM – 3:45PM	Lodge Room
26th Degree		
	3:45PM – 4:10PM	SR Room
Communicate 27th – 29th Degree		
	4:10PM – 4:55PM	Either Location
30th Degree		
	4:55PM – 6:10PM	SR Room
Communicate 31st		
	6:10PM – 6:20PM	Either Location
Q&A		
	6:20PM – 6:50PM	Either Location

Wednesday, November 13th

Candidate Check-in		
	5:30PM – 6:30PM	Dining Room
Dinner		
	6:30PM – 7:30PM	Dining Room
32nd Degree		
	7:30PM – 9:00PM	SR Room
Closing Ceremony		
	9:00PM – 9:30PM	SR Room
Q&A		
	9:30PM – 10:00PM	SR Room

The Valley of Greensboro is pleased to announce that the honoree for our upcoming Fall Reunion will be WB Douglas G. Wright, 32° KCCH. Brother Doug entered into that house not made with hands on September 8, 2022 and was a fixture within our Valley and Greensboro Masonry as a whole for many years, until health issues prevented his attendance and participation.

The Reunion will begin on October 9th and resume on October 19th and will conclude on November 13th with the conferral of the 32nd degree. We are very delighted to be able to honor Brother Wright's memory and dedication to this Valley by naming the Fall Class of 2024 in his memory.



Doug Wright
Obituary photo

3-Day Fall Reunion
Oct 9, 19 and Nov 13

VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE

REUNION

By J. David Cashion, 33° - Venerable Master

Reunion

1. [countable] a social occasion or party attended by a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time

- a family reunion (Scottish Rite)
- the school's annual reunion
- a reunion of the class of '85

Oxford Learner's Dictionary

It's that time of year for our Reunions. Planning, practicing and recruitment. All are an essential part of our Reunions.

The Valley of Franklin will have their Reunion September 7th with the 4th through 14th Degrees.

The Valley of Asheville will have their Reunion September 14th with the 4th through 32nd Degrees.

Please support your Valleys and attend your Reunion for fun, fellowship and degrees.



Venerable Master Dave Cashion, 33° and Personal Representative Berry Rigdon, 33°, PGM presented Patents to Brothers Charles Treadway, 32°, Olin Stiles, 32°, and William Murphy, 32°.

VALLEY OF FRANKLIN & ASHEVILLE

AFTER TWO YEARS, I'M BACK!

By Stan Bevers, 32° KCCH

Upon joining the Craft, we were all told that Masonic matters should never interfere with our responsibilities or commitments to our family or career. For those of us who embraced Masonry full-tilt, juggling our time and energies between Freemasonry and our “real-life” endeavors can sometimes be a problem. However, when I joined Masonry in 2011, my three kids were already grown enough so that I could immerse myself into the Craft with more gusto than most younger fathers. Even so, once I became a Masonic “junkie”, I still had to occasionally remind myself to put career and family before Freemasonry.

However, my life took a major detour two years ago when my new teaching job required me to pursue a master's degree (in college, not Masonry). Suddenly, as a full-time college student for the first time in forty years, my Masonic commitments were now much less manageable than before. As such, I made the reasonable decision to put Masonry on hold until completing graduate school. Happily, after two years of grad school, I completed my Master of Arts in Teaching degree this past

May. So, with my educational duties now behind me, I can finally reengage with Freemasonry with the same vigor as before returning to college. Suffice to say, it's good to be back!

I cannot express how much I missed Freemasonry while I was taking my two-year educational hiatus. Not being able to regularly attend Masonic meetings was like having a part of my soul ripped out. Even though I knew my time away from Masonry was going to be a short two years, I couldn't shake a pervasive sense of guilt for abandoning my brothers, my Masonic offices, and especially our Masonic charities. However, I could console my feelings of Masonic loss by realizing that my Special Education degree was going to give me greater insight into Speech & Language Pathology, which has obvious benefits for my ability to serve the Rite Care Center at Western Carolina University. So, while my two-year absence from Masonry was quite painful, I return to the Craft better able to serve by being more qualified to help with Rite Care Heck, after discovering that I still have the mental acuity to handle grad school

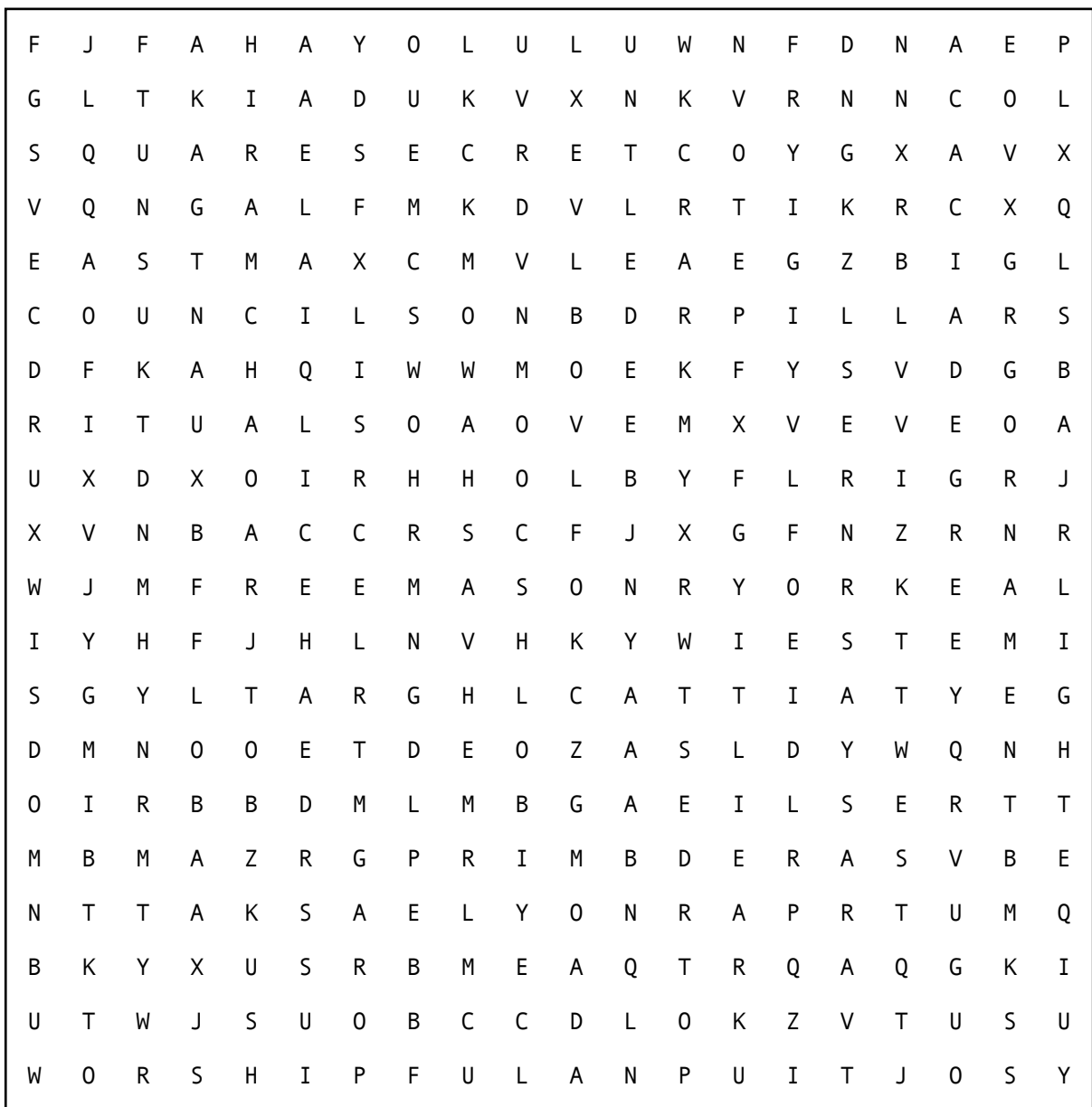


classes, I'm even considering taking additional Speech & Language courses to make myself even more useful to the Rite Care Center once I retire from teaching in a few years.

So, my brothers, if there is a point to this story, I would encourage each member of the Craft to take care of themselves first, which will only make you a stronger and more qualified Mason. Listen well to the Masonic tenets of taking care of yourself and family first. Whatever you need to do to make yourself a stronger or more complete person, your renewed strength will only make you a more useful and valuable vessel for the Supreme Architect in your journey through life. But, if by chance some nagging voice in your head tries to make you feel guilty for taking time for yourself or family, just tell it to shut up.

Masonic Word Search

by Ill. Bro Don Butto, 33°



1. Acacia
2. Altar
3. Apron
4. Brotherhood
5. Candidate
6. Chamber
7. Compass
8. Council
9. Crown
10. Degree
11. East

12. Freemasonry
13. Gavel
14. Hiram
15. Light
16. Lodge
17. Master
18. Obelisk
19. Obligation
20. Ornament
21. Pillars
22. Ritual

23. Secret
24. Sovereign
25. Square
26. Symbolism
27. Tabernacle
28. Temple
29. Tyler
30. Vow
31. West
32. Wisdom
33. ?



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SCOTTISH RITE Meetings & Reunions

Asheville, 2nd Thursday of each month
Advisory Council 5:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: Sep 14

Charlotte, 1st Wednesday of each month
Advisory Council 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm and Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 25-26

Fayetteville, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Sep 21

Franklin, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Dinner 6:00pm & Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: Sep 7

Greensboro, 2nd Wednesday of each month
Dinner 6:30pm & Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 9, 19 and Nov 13

New Bern, 2nd Monday of each month
Dinner 6:00pm & Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: Oct 18-19

Raleigh, 2nd Thursday of each month
Dinner 6:30pm, Advisory Council 7:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 26

Wilmington, 2nd Thursday of each month
Advisory Council 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 25-26

Winston-Salem, 2nd Thursday of each month
Dinner 6pm, Advisory Conference 6:30pm, Stated 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 25-26

Come Visit the

SCOTTISH RITE

Booth at Annual Communication in the Vendor Room

September 26-28

Winston-Salem



For more information, call the General Secretary in your Valley

Tony Rathbone (Asheville)	828-550-6097
D. C. Heilman (Charlotte)	704-918-3797
James Pugsley (Fayetteville)	910-574-1005
Andrew Norton (Franklin)	828-215-6181
Gary Handy (Greensboro)	336-275-3579
Johnny Surles (New Bern)	252-638-4130
Don Butto (Raleigh)	919-834-8873
Matt Moore (Wilmington)	919-422-2058
Michael Fischer (Winston-Salem)	336-337-6892

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Your Blue Lodge

Become a Scottish Rite Mason *Fall Reunion*

