



FROM THE SOUTH

New Year's Outlook

What a great year we have before us in Masonry! We have sign-ups to cover dinners at our bi-monthly meetings that include some fairly new Masons. This is great as it increases our diversity in the kitchen and the types of food you will be served. Potluck dinners are scheduled for 2016 once again and we all like those nights!

Please note that our first Dinner Theater will take place in March and we are considering cooking that in-house. Stay tuned for our decision on that role. Please support this fundraiser!

There are many other events we should keep an eye out for so we might attend or support in some way. The Lodge of Instruction in January, The Lodge of Research (on the 5th Thursdays), the annual Shrine Circus, Scottish Rite events, and the Demolay and Rainbow fundraisers - just to name a few. Whenever you have time we ask that you support other local Masonic Lodges at their meetings and events. If Masonic education is what you seek, go to the Grand Lodge of Georgia website and take self study courses. This is available to you free of charge.

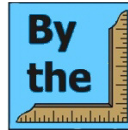
Thank you for your confidence and support to me as your Junior Warden for 2016. I am looking forward to another great year at Midland Lodge!

Tony McCool
Junior Warden



**Breakfast
Fundraiser
February 6
7am - 11am**

All you can eat for only \$5! Come join the fellowship and enjoy Midland's famous "Country Breakfast"! Eggs, grits, biscuits, sausage, sausage gravy (SOS), pancakes, orange juice, coffee.



FROM THE EAST

It is truly an honor and the highlight of my Masonic journey for Midland Lodge to elect me as your 2016 Worshipful Master. I pray that I will be able to meet and exceed your expectations as a leader. I will be drawing on the lessons learned while progressing thru the officer line and doing my best to apply the wise counsel given to me by those who have traveled to the East before me.

As geometry starts with a point and that point expands to a line and so forth, we need a point to focus on. That point is my motto for the coming year: **"Reviving our Past ... Ensuring our Future."** I remember as a child going to functions at my Grandfathers' lodge and to all other kinds of Masonic family functions. I am not quite sure when or why Freemasonry slipped into the shadows. WB Clyde Hill and myself worked hard last year to bring the family back to the lodge. It is great to see the wives and kids at our functions. It was truly inspiring to see our bonds, grow from a fraternal bond to a family bond. A Lodge is not held together with steel bands, but by the silken ties of brotherhood, woven of interest, friendliness, good times, wholesome fraternal intercourse.

We did well at implementing some new ideas last year. These we will continue this year, but we need to continue to learn from our short comings. The officers of Midland Lodge will be working hard to keep brethren informed and continue the growth of our fraternal and family bonds. In Matthew 14:22-33, we find the story of Jesus walking on the water. Then Peter asked Jesus to call him out of the boat. Peter got out of the boat and walked to Jesus, until he got scared and lost focus on our Lord.

I am asking you to get out of the boat with me and come on a journey of Masonic growth this year, but keeping our eyes focused on our Lord and Savior. Brother Phillips Brooks said, "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be strong men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."

Bill Miller
Worshipful Master

FROM THE WEST



Midland Brethren:

Welcome to a wonderful new year - 2016! We made Lodge of the Year again for 2015, that's three years in a row! I feel that our new slate of officers are ready to take on their new duties and responsibilities to make it four! Our new Worshipful Master has a lot of new and exciting things planned for our lodge. So as the sun rises in the East, we behold a new day for Midland 144 and we must band together and keep our search for more light moving forward. With your help I am confident that this may well be one of our best years ever at our lodge!

Thanks for believing in me and allowing me to serve as your Senior warden and as your Director of Work for 2016. Again, let's work together to make Midland 144 proud!

Keith Simmons PM
Senior Warden

ARE WE FREE?

It would appear that too many of the Brethren have misinterpreted "Freemason" to mean free from attending lodge, free from helping the Master, free from fulfilling obligations that were voluntarily assumed, and free from giving time and effort towards the welfare of the lodge.

Masonry is not free in that regard. Its lights, rights, and benefits can only be purchased with your time and effort. Let us make it a point not to wait until we have a free evening before we attend Lodge, but sacrifice just a few of our other pleasures to support our great fraternity in which we claim to have so much pride.

From the Secretary

Brethren:

There are many members who still have not paid their 2016 dues. I'm talking about the \$60 you know is "due" each January 1st. That's \$5 a month looking at it another way - it's not that expensive to be a member of our lodge. There are also some who have not paid their 2015 dues either. Can't remember if you paid? Look at your dues card. Can't find it, then call or text me. Brethren, if you are having financial problems, please contact me and just ask for relief before it's too late. Your situation will be handled with confidentiality.

One way that you can avoid the constant reminder of annual dues is to become a perpetual member. If you interested contact me for more information. Perpetual membership helps the lodge now and well into the future - sort of like an endowment plan.

2015 was a difficult year for maintaining accurate information on our membership. Many of us are transitioning to cell phones which are impossible to keep track of. The lodge would love to keep you latest number on file so we can text you important information about fundraisers and family events. PLEASE contact me if your address, email, or phone number changes. The lodge needs this information for us to keep you better informed.

We have several fund raiser projects in the works, and I know that you want to support and be a part of these important events. Remember these events raise money for our charities and lodge upkeep. There is always a place for you to help.

Finally, if you have trouble attending lodge meetings for physical or transportation reasons, please let one of the lodge officers know so we can help arrange transportation for you. We don't mind at all!

Danny L. Dawson PM
Secretary
(706) 681-0871

2016 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master.....William Joseph Miller
Senior Warden.....William Keith Simmons PM
Junior Warden..... Anthony Wayne McCool
Treasurer.....Robert Brunswick Lyon III PM
Secretary.....Danny Lloyd Dawson PM
Senior Deacon.....Russell Eugene Ward
Junior Deacon.....Van Hobert Segars
Senior Steward..... Jon-Michael Roberts
Junior StewrdCharles William Rayburn
Chaplain.....Michael Lloyd Phillips
Tiler..... George Hugar
Director of Work.....William Keith Simmons, PM

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 16.....Grand Master's Forum (Ft Benning)
Jan 21..... Regular Lodge Meeting 7pm
Jan 23.....School of Instruction 9am-12noon
Feb 4..... Regular Lodge Meeting 7pm
Feb 6.....Breakfast Fundraiser 7am -11am
Feb 18.....Regular Lodge Meeting 7pm
Mar 3.....Regular Lodge Meeting 7pm
Mar 4, 5.....Murder Mystery Dinner 7pm - 9pm
Mar 11,12....Murder Mystery Dinner 7pm - 9pm



**MURDER
ON THE
RIVERBOAT
QUEEN**
March 4,5,11,12

Our next murder mystery dinner theater tickets will go on sale February 1st. Dinner and a show for \$30 person. The Chattahoochee was known for riverboats during the 1800's and this dinner theater is based on that time period. Five audience roles for this one - want to show off your acting skills? Featuring our usual four course meal with your choice of drinks and a "who dunnit" contest at the end to test your deductive skills! Call (706) 505-6702 or purchase on Frestix.com.

TRESTLEBOARD



Chartered October 29, 1851

MIDLAND WINTER TRESTLEBOARD

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