

TRESTLE BOARD

June 2017

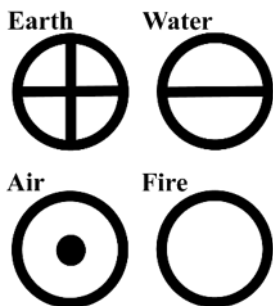
Midland Lodge 144
1st and 3rd Thursday
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www.fam144.com

This edition produced and edited
by Russell Ward



From The East:

Masonry is all about relationships, and the Square and Compass denote this as much as they denote any other explanation given in the degrees. The compass has from time immemorial represented God and heaven, as the square has represented man and earth. In the days when the fundamental building blocks of matter were represented by the four elements of earth, air, fire, and water, early Christians had a set of symbols representing these.



If you look closely at the symbol for air, also representing God and heaven you may recognize this as the point within a circle we all should be familiar with. When you use a compass to draw a circle, the dot in the center marks the sharp point used to center the circle. If you look closely at the symbol for earth, also representing man you may recall that a square is an angle of 90 degrees or the fourth part of a circle. Normally when you think of the four corners of the earth it brings to mind something flat. It is easy to see that our brethren of the past in an era when we are told most be-

lieved the earth was flat clearly viewed the earth as round. Verses from the greatest light bear this out. "He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in." – Isaiah 40:22. And the earth is not resting on any solid surface. "He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing." - Job 26:7.

But let's get back to the relationship. As we all remember, the configuration or relationship between the square and compass changes through the degrees. One starts out dominant and ends up subservient. It is a representation of a biblical process most refer to as dying to self. We are taught to subdue our passions. There are too many verses from the greatest light to list here, but the following verse says it as clearly as any other. "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." - Colossians 3:5-10

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

The first question is, what is the pattern of this world? No one teaches us to be selfish, rebellious, arrogant, prideful, greedy, or envious. It's already there. Our natural tendencies produce these conditions. No one writes how-to books so we can be more dysfunctional and depressed. We already have that nailed right out of the box. If we turn on the news or glance at the tabloids while waiting in line at the grocery store, we find we are in good company. "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,..." 2 Timothy 3:2.

As Masons, we engage in activities and exist in an environment which is contrary to the pattern of this world. We are taught and practice Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. The first degree lecture alone covers all the marching orders needed to resist the pattern of this world. The ritual, memorization and fellowship, hard-wire us to continue to resist, and renew our minds. The repetitive nature of ritual penetrates our subconscious and creates new patterns of behavior.

Memorization has been scientifically proven to literally re-wire the brain and renew our minds by expanding our ability to focus, learn, retain information, and grasp new concepts. It also boosts creativity and prevents cognitive decline in our later years, in short, it keeps us sharp and mentally agile. Fellowship and human interaction are critical to our health and happiness, we are designed to be relational. It makes us live longer, respond better to stress, have a more positive outlook on life, and enjoy it more. Most importantly, it reinforces the positive changes we experience and keeps us growing. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law". Galatians 5:22-23

We have the physical, mental, and emotional training to resist conforming to the pattern of this world and it renews our minds. Hey, there's that number three again...and just in case we are ready to pat ourselves on the back and take credit for all this, we are reminded of Deity. None of this was inspired or happens on its own, or in our own power. It's not so much about what we do, as it is what is done to us if we are willing. "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God. "Mark 10:27. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5. Only then can we test and approve.

I encourage each of you to continue your journey into enlightenment. There is so much more to Masonry than you learn in the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason Degree. It is up to you to seek more light, more knowledge.

Fraternally,
Bill Miller, PM
Worshipful Master



From The West

This has been a trying year for our lodge. We have been stricken with medical concerns and the loss of some mighty masons. The overflow of brotherly love has been evident in each and every instance. We are a growing lodge with some very strong ties that bind us together. There is always something to learn from every trial and tribulation.

We have still completed many projects this year and none can be successful without your continued support. Your time in assisting in the planning, purchasing the product, and showing up to volunteer are the true marks of a Mason and great Brother.

I like to see Midland members visiting other lodges. Our lodge has been growing for many years. We need to spread this to other lodges and Masonic organizations. The idea exchange goes both ways with other groups. We can learn things to bring back to our lodge and they can learn from us.

One more thing, I want to encourage you to save and get out of debt (if you are not already). I have been using the "Dave Ramsey Baby Steps Plan" for some time now (look up on Youtube). The first step is to save \$1000 as fast as you can. Sell something big, have a yard sale, this is your emergency fund. When a tree fell on our house, the emergency fund was there to pay the deductibles. I would love to share the rest of the plan with you also, let's talk.

Fraternally,
Tony McCool
Senior Warden



From The South

This has been a busy year so far. We have conducted most of our fundraisers for the year with two of the major ones left. I appreciate the support we have had from so many. It seems there are new faces that turn up to support us at each of these events and I am very grateful for that. These are the activities that keep us going financially and at the same time help us to come together as brethren to form the bonds that hold us together.

We have had many new brothers join our Lodge this year and to all of you I say welcome. I hope you will find a place to plug into the lodge where you can put your skills to good use or learn some new ones. Whether it is working at one of the fund raisers, helping to clean the lodge, or working at the Children's home there are many things for us to do. One thing we all can do is be there for each other.

We have a few brethren or their family members become sick this year so please if you can find the time go visit them. We have had a few members pass this year to be with the Great Architect of the Universe. Bob Whitmore, and Ken Wakefield who will be remembered by us as the great masons that they were. It is hard to have a meeting now and not miss the beautiful organ music provided by Brother Bob Whitmore. Whenever I go to a country breakfast I for one will

always think of Worshipful Brother Ken Wakefield since he was almost always there with a big smile on his face.

These things help me to remember that life is short and you do not always have as much time as you think. I try to stop and think about all the people around me and ask myself, how do I want to be remembered, and use that as motivation to be kind, forgiving, and charitable. God has blessed me in more ways than I can count and many of those blessings are each of you. I believe knowing each of you have made me a better person just by the times we have had together and the knowledge that you have shared.

I hope the support will continue for the Lodge and those of us charged with leading it. I know that Worshipful Master Bill Miller has set a high bar first as the Junior Warden and next as the Worshipful Master. I will work hard and endeavor to meet that standard to the best of my ability.

Fraternally
Russell Ward
Junior Warden

Important Dates to remember:

**Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
September 22nd, 23rd, 29th, and 30th**

Country Breakfast Fundraiser June 17th

**Everyone please come out and join us
for breakfast. As always, we are
grateful to have your support.**

Damascus Way Visit

On May 27th, Midland Lodge #144 made another trip to Damascus Way to love on the kids and ladies in our community. Damascus Way is a part of Valley Rescue Mission. It is a home for homeless women and children along with a recovery program for women that are battling addictions. We have been there several times in the past two years and are developing relationships with the faculty, ladies, and children of this ministry. We went down there and had a good old cook-out with them and enjoyed the day encouraging them and exemplifying the principles that we are taught in our Charity Lecture during the Entered Apprentice Degree. I hope that you will join us on our next trip. I guarantee you a good time and that you will be back again every trip.



UP COMING EVENTS

Murder in MUSIC CITY

Sept 22nd, 23rd, 29th & 30th

MYSTERY DINNER THEATER

**RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**

Make your reservations now



Doors open at 6:30 pm
Show will start at 7 pm

You can get tickets call
(706) 662-5812
(please leave a message)
or by emailing

midlandmurdermystery@gmail.com

You can also buy tickets at

www.fam144.com/mmdt

or

www.freshtix.com

Tickets are \$30 payable by
cash, check, or credit card



Dinner will be served at
8701 Garrett Road
Midland, Georgia

**BACK
STAGE
GRILL**

Will start you off with a
great appetizer

Then they will be cooking up an
**Award Winning
Brunswick Stew,
Open Pit BBQ Platter**
with Corn on the Cob
and Salad.

Finish off the dinner with
Banana Pudding

Knights of Solomon MC Harris County, GA

4th Annual Rolling the Dice for the
Georgia Masonic Children's Home

June 24th, 2017 Everyone is Welcome

Registration is at the Club House from 1100 - 1400

\$20.00 registration; additional hands are \$5.00

The Club house is located at: 303 Hudson Mill Rd,
Hamilton, GA 31811

2017 Officers

First Row left to right Organist Bob Whitmore, Chaplain Tommy Wade, Senior Deacon Van Segars, Senior Warden Tony McCool, Worshipful Master William Miller PM, Junior Warden Russell Ward, Junior Steward Michael Phillips, Tyler John Senn: Second Row left to right Secretary Dan Dawson PM, Treasurer Bob Lyon PM, Senior Steward George Hugar, Junior Deacon Chuck Rayborn



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