

TRESTLE BOARD

December 2016

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

This edition produced and edited
by Russell Ward



From The East

Midland Lodge Family,

As 2016 comes to a close and we look forward to an even better year for Midland Lodge #144. I wanted to share with you some of our Lodge of the Year submission that was sent to the Grand Lodge of Georgia. It has truly been an honor to serve Midland Lodge #144 this year and I look forward to seeing it continue down the path we have just started. Thank you all for your support and participation this year.

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” Acts 4:46-47.

Midland Lodge #144 has used the model of the early church that Luke tells us about in the book of Acts. Worshipful Master Bill Miller has spoken many times about “how can we call each other brother if all we know about each other is that we meet a few times a month, eat and vote to pay the bills.” If we are “brothers” should we not know our sisters, nieces and nephews?

Not just know their names but truly have a relationship with them. If a wife or child had an emergency and could not get in touch with you, who do they have a relationship with that they could call.

Many wives or children, might have a name and a phone number on who to contact in an emergency, but would they feel comfortable calling them if they don't have a personal relationship with them. Midland Lodge #144 has created that total family unit within the lodge. Not the distant uncle that you just hear about, but that favorite uncle you know and love.

Masonry talks of the trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection. This must be done all the time, both in and out of the lodge. It takes time, work, and commitment. John Lennon once said “We've got this gift of love, but love is like a precious plant. You can't just accept it and leave it in the cupboard or just think it's going to get on by itself. You've got to keep watering it. You've got to really look after it and nurture it.” Midland Lodge #144 has done this by spending time together, in and out of the lodge room. We have begun “doing life together.”

Clyde Hill Jr., PM 2015 created a banner that hangs above the serving station in our fellowship hall. The mission statement ‘Making good men better through service to God, Country, Family, and the Communities we live in.’ We have taken this mission statement and applied it to every aspect of our lives. The surrounding communities support and interaction with Midland Lodge #144 is a testament to our commitment to the communities we live in which has led to another very successful year.

We realize that the point process was developed to help determine who would receive the lodge of the year award. It has been a fun process and one that Midland Lodge #144 has enjoyed participating and winning for our district on five different occasions in the last six years but, in our humble opinion, Lodge of the Year should mean more than just how many points you have.

Most Worshipful F. Andrew Lane, Grand Master of Masons in the State of Georgia had the motto this year "Living the Learning." Midland Lodge #144 has done exactly that with the lessons taught in our Masonic lectures and in the classes given at the Georgia Masonic Leadership Conference. We've used the tools handed down at the Masonic Leadership Conference to grow and engage our membership this year. Everything we've done, we've tried to glorify the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:13-14

We have learned that men join our fraternity thirsty for something but, too often they are met with stagnant and unpalatable water. Sadly, many men believe our fraternity has become stagnant and stagnant water is a breeding ground for disease. If instead we give these thirsty young men some moving water, some living water, and then it is palatable to them and they will continue to come back to the spring for more. Otherwise they will abandon the pool to find another spring that is moving.

If you're not changing, you're not growing, and if you're not growing then you are dying.

This is a fact of life. Midland Lodge has adopted this philosophy and is definitely growing. We have been able to find the line between maintaining the traditions of the fraternity and innovation to attract new and younger members. We have added life back into our lodge. When someone comes to our meetings you will see families eating together, children playing, lifelong bonds being made within our Midland Lodge Family. While the men retire to the lodge room to conduct business, the wives and children hang out in the fellowship hall and continue this interaction. Everything we do at Midland Lodge #144 is based

on a biblical principle. Building with God, the true Master of our Craft, building under His guidance and with His light, is the purpose of Masonry.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47

We're not a big, fancy lodge. Our 100+ year old building is not an extravagant lodge but, we love that old lodge room. We see ourselves as a small, quiet, country lodge that has a great deal of passion for this fraternity and the charities it supports. We do the things we do and put the effort in because we enjoy helping others. Midland Lodge #144 is doing life together.

Fraternally,
Bill Miller
Worshipful Master 2016

UP COMING EVENTS



Thanksgiving Potluck

NOVEMBER 17 th

Dinner at 6pm
Meeting at 7pm



Tree Trimming Party

Come help decorate
Midland Lodge #144

Enjoy some Christmas cheer with us.
November 20th @ 2 pm

**BRING A SWEET TREAT
TO SHARE WITH US ALL.
EVERYONE IS INVITED
TO JOIN IN THE
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP**

UP COMING EVENTS

Midland Lodge #144
Officer Installation / Christmas Party
December 3RD
Installation at 11 AM
Lunch at 12 PM
Awards 1 PM
Christmas Party 1:30 PM



GIFT EXCHANGE

Santa might just show up!

ONLY \$5

PANCAKES
With
Santa Clause

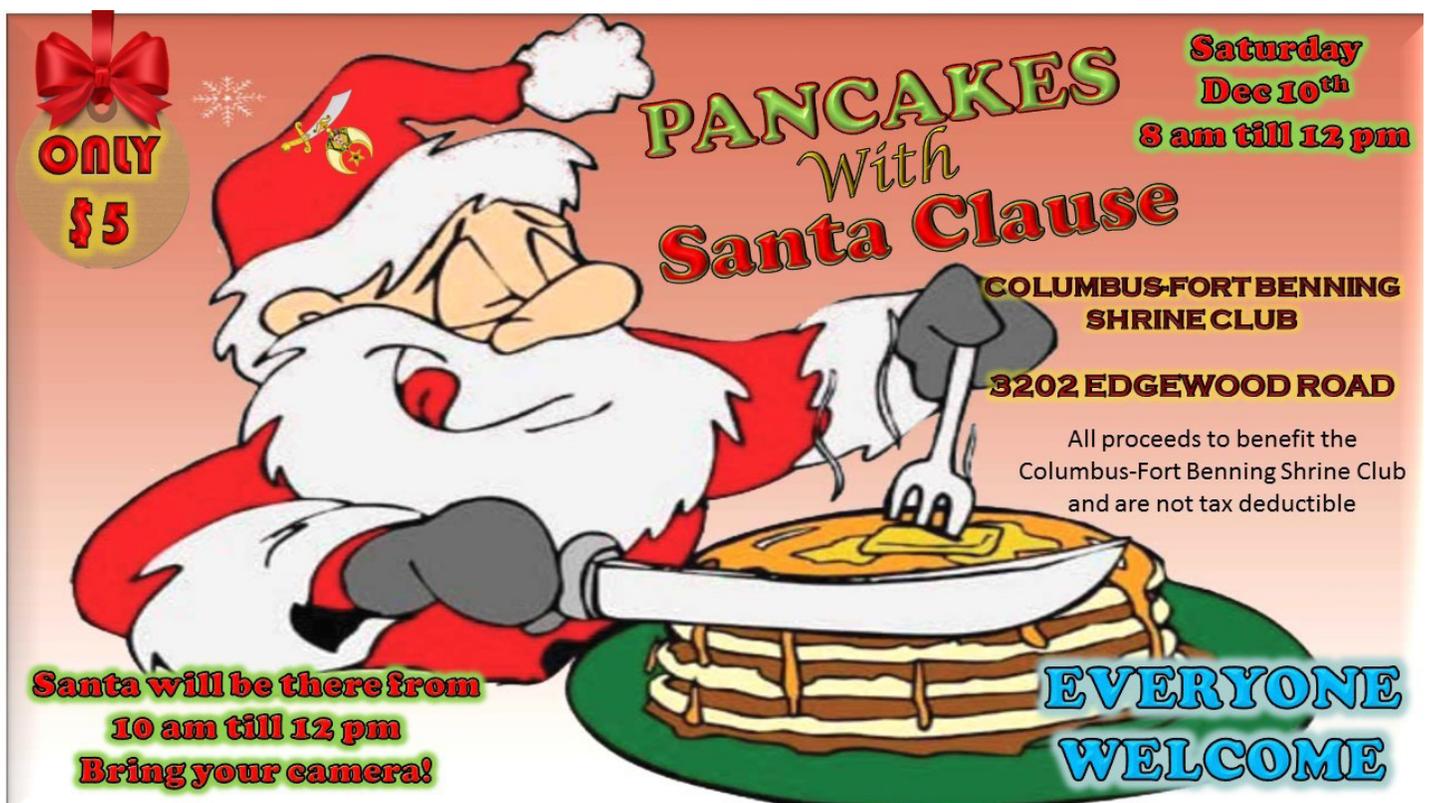
Saturday
Dec 10th
8 am till 12 pm

COLUMBUS-FORT BENNING
SHRINE CLUB
3202 EDGEWOOD ROAD

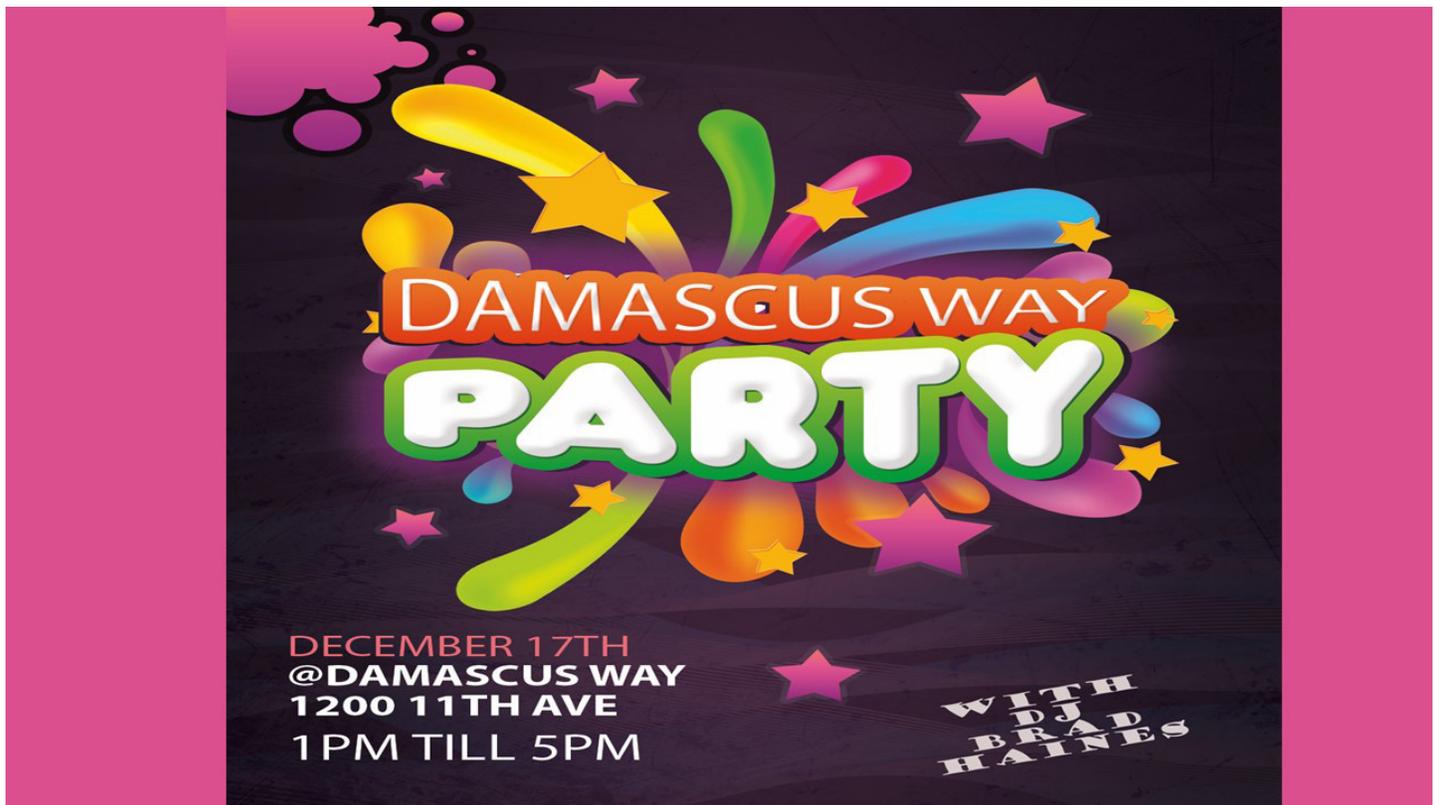
All proceeds to benefit the
Columbus-Fort Benning Shrine Club
and are not tax deductible

Santa will be there from
10 am till 12 pm
Bring your camera!

EVERYONE
WELCOME



UP COMING EVENTS



From The South

What a great year 2016 has been. So many brothers have stepped up to support our lodge and the many activities. It seems like all we had to do as officers was ask and the brothers made it happen.

We are so fortunate to be in a growing lodge that we are spoiled with degree work. There are many lodges in Georgia that go all year without a first reading or a visitor. In our lodge, it is rare to not have a first or second reading with a few visitors at Midland.

The Holidays are upon us and it is time to spend time with your family. Midland lodge is full of brothers that are part of your masonic family. Forever brothers but many lifelong friends are made in masonry.

2017 is quickly approaching. I hope we can continue to grow and revive old members to participate again. Bring your project ideas to lodge and let's see if we can do something new for the new year.

Tony McCool
Junior Warden

Important Dates to remember:

November 20, 2016 Tree Trimming and Fellowship.

December 1, 2016 Last Regular Communication of 2016.

December 3, 2016 Installation and Christmas Party.

December 17, 2016 Damascus Way Party.

Please see the flyers in this publication for times and more details.

January 7, 2017 First Breakfast Fundraiser

Everyone please come on out and join us on January 7th, 2017 Breakfast fundraiser. As always we are grateful to have your support.

Midland Lodge brothers and sisters,

I want you to know how much we appreciate each of you. We could not be who we are without you and the talents that you bring to the lodge. It is amazing to see the unique blend of talents in the lodge and how much we accomplish when we are all working together. I know that the upcoming year will be as rewarding as the past years have been as we continue our path forward.

I personally thank all of you for your support and encouragement. I would also ask that if there are things you would like to see added to the trestle board or things that could be done better please let me know. We are working to make this a quarterly publication and in doing so hope to keep all of you better informed on all of the events happening at the lodge in the coming years.

Finally, if you're one of those who have been busy at work, spending more time with your family, ill, or whatever is preventing you from attending lodge, just know that we miss you. Midland Lodge is now a family-friendly and activity-driven fraternity. We hope you can attend one of our events with your loved ones and share our fellowship. Come see us, brethren!

Fraternally,
Russell Ward
Senior Deacon

MIDLAND LODGE 144 TRESTLE BOARD 2016



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