



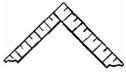
## ST. JAMES LODGE NO. 47 F. & A. M.

CHARTERED JUNE 25, 1844

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STATED COMMUNICATIONS: 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS AT 7:30 PM  
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### Monthly Newsletter- June 2016



From the EAST

Greetings from the East Brethren!

We have recently changed to using a free email distribution service that will more effectively help us manage our email contact lists, put together mailings on a variety of topics, allow greater involvement of the officers, and easier turn over from one Master to the next with no loss of communication.

In setting this service up I was astounded at how simple it was to create very nicely formatted emails, to import and export all kinds of data, and to see where we needed to improve on contact data. Just a few years ago this would have taken a decent knowledge of coding and many hours of work to do what now takes a few short clicks and no real coding knowledge.

This is just one of many examples of the rapid change our world is experiencing, a rate of change that has followed an almost exponential curve over the last decade.

This rapid rate of change has introduced new and different challenges for organizations in responding to changes. In previous generations challenges were mostly what change theorists refer to a "technical change", an issue would arise and given time and expertise organizations could be very successful in responded to those challenges.

As the rate of change has accelerated organizations have been pushed into a mode of thinking called "adaptive change". This type of change requires a massive shift in thinking because not just the solution requires new thinking and learning, but the problem itself requires new thinking and learning just to be understood.

Organizations facing adaptive change (as most social and religious organizations are today) requires leaders in those organizations to think not in terms of "solutions", which is the way to respond to technical change, but in terms of education and implementation of new modes of thinking and doing brought about by that education. This is a challenge facing us today: not just what needs to be learned, but who needs to learn it and how.

Another of the large challenges in any organization facing needing to make adaptive changes is "managing distress". Adaptive change is scary; it requires sacrifices by everyone undergoing it. It is in this step that Freemasonry has a unique advantage over most other institutions (and certainly over businesses!) in that we have a bedrock set of principles, our landmarks, to rest our foundation on, and we have our Brothers to walk through the changes with.

Change is a universal law of nature, and all organizations must adapt or fail. The days of slowly changing via solving technical issues are gone, our rapid world demands a new way of thinking and that, sometimes, we get out of our own way. By maintaining focus on those critical principles of Freemasonry that define who we are; faith in a Supreme Being, belief in free thought and free will, and a steady devotion to the tenets of our profession, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. I am confident that Masonry can face the changes in the world today, maintain our character and remain a relevant force in our communities.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor  
Worshipful Master  
St James Lodge No. 47  
225-485-7069  
jmaynor@alumni.lsu.edu

#### FUTURE EVENTS:

On Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> St. James Lodge will have a special communication for the conferral of Entered Apprentice Degrees beginning at 8AM. Please come out and help welcome these new Brothers to the Fraternity!

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> St. James Lodge will hold a table Lodge to celebrate St. John the Baptist Day, the 299<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Grand Lodge of England, and the 172<sup>nd</sup> birthday of St. James Lodge. Dinner will be served at 630PM. This is a tiled Lodge event, open to all regular Masons of any degree. Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Masons are encouraged to attend. Our Junior Warden is preparing a very special meal and so we require RSVPs to make sure we get the head count right. You can make a reservation at this link <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/st-james-lodge-no-47-f-and-am-10859377230>, by emailing the Master at [wm@stjameslodge47.org](mailto:wm@stjameslodge47.org) or by calling the Master at 225-485-7069.

On Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> our stated meeting program is a bit more flexible. We may be having a degree or two, or a historical program to celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup>, or perhaps something else!

#### Previous events:

At our stated communication on May 19<sup>th</sup> the Lodge held our annual rededication/reobligation ceremony, but this year with a bit of a twist. The evening became a Night of Masonic Renewal, with the Brethren present taking part in being reobligated in all three degrees and hearing a little bit from a cross section of members about how they have been impacted by the Working Tools of Masonry and how they apply them in their daily lives. The evening concluded with an impressive candle lighting ceremony to demonstrate the spreading of light from within our Lodge and on throughout the world. It truly was a night to be remembered.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Lodge was privileged to host members from Pelican Chapter of DeMolay and Diamond Assembly of Rainbow for Girls to an open meeting. There was a large turnout of families and guests to welcome these outstanding young people to the Lodge and hear a little bit about the work they are doing in their communities, and the excellent camaraderie being fostered by each of these worthy organizations. Diamond Assembly extended an invitation to attend their installation of officers, to be held on Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at Denham Springs Lodge. If you are available please come out and show your support.



**St. James Lodge No. 47**  
 Post Office Box 444      **June 2016**  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

**Newsletter**

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**NOTES**

Membership Rosters are available in the Tyler's room when you attend Lodge or can be emailed by making a request to Bro Richard Black at [rwblack@gmail.com](mailto:rwblack@gmail.com) Please inform him of changes in your mailing address, email address or phone numbers.  
 If you received a copy of this newsletter by US Postal Service, have computer access with an e-mail address and want to help the Lodge save money, please send your e-mail address to Bro Richard Black at [rwblack@gmail.com](mailto:rwblack@gmail.com) so that he can update the database.  
 You will then receive an e-mail each month with a link that you can follow to read the latest news letter on line.

Other Masonic Events

Acacia Shrine meets at 7:00 PM every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m.

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at St. James Lodge.

Lodge of the Nine Muses #9, F&AM, meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at St. James Lodge. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members for dress code and other details.

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:30 P.M on the first Friday of each month, with dinner at 6 P.M., at Pine Grove Lodge # 288 on Pine Street, in Ponchatoula, LA.

Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM, at the Consistory on Florida Boulevard. The Advisory Council meets at the Consistory at 6:00 P.M. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, prior to the normal stated meeting.

Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets at 7 P.M. with dinner at 6:30 P.M. on the third Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372.

Your article could have been here. Submit articles to Bob Zinn, [N5bz@cox.net](mailto:N5bz@cox.net)  
**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION: 3 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting of the month!**  
 If it isn't in my e-mail box by then it won't go in the newsletter for that month.

**Request To Membership:**

Please notify our Secretary, W: Bro Mark Paxton, and Bro Richard Black [rwblack@gmail.com](mailto:rwblack@gmail.com) of any change in your postal address, email address, or phone number!!!!



Of Orchards, Desert Pete, and the Future of Freemasonry  
L. Wade

By all reports, my grandfather was an imperfect man, but he did have his virtues. For one thing, Granddaddy Wade had very nice orchards - an apple orchard and a peach orchard. My favorites, I suppose, were his pecan trees.

Like all expert growers, my grandfather selected specific varieties of trees appropriate for the climate in which he planned to grow them.

My father's youngest sister once pointed out that even when he was too old to have any hope of harvesting fruit from them, Granddaddy Wade was still planting new fruit trees. There may be alternate explanations, but I choose to accept Aunt Ann's interpretation - that her dear father, even as he was looking the grim reaper in the eye, was providing for the wellbeing and the pleasure of his children and his grandchildren.

A related principle is embodied in the legend of Desert Pete, a story immortalized in song by The Kingston Trio. The chorus of the song says it all --

You've got to prime the pump, you must have faith and believe  
You've got to give of yourself 'fore you're worthy to receive  
Drink all the water you can hold, wash your face, and cool your feet  
But leave the bottle full for others, Thank you kindly, Desert Pete

The legend holds that a traveler crossing the desert had exhausted his water supply and was desperately dry and thirsty. Collapsing onto a rock formation, he saw what he thought was a mirage! It was a pump! Attached to the pump was a message. The gist of the message was something like this --

Welcome, traveler. I've installed a good leather sucker valve in this pump. The valve will be dry, so the pump won't work until you've primed it. I've buried a bottle of water under that rock over yonder, so's it won't evaporate. If you have faith, you can have all the water you want. First, pour a fourth of the water into the well and wait a few minutes for the valve to get wet and swell. Then pour the rest of the water into the well while you pump the handle hard. Don't forget to fill the bottle and bury it for the next traveler.

I believe that there's a lesson here for Freemasons. Like the pump and the well, Freemasonry is a resource, and we must make a choice.

The easiest, most risk-free thing for the cowboy to do would be to drink the water in Desert Pete's bottle, toss the bottle aside, and move on. True, he'd have only one bottleful of water, and the next traveler would have none! But if he pours the water into the pump and the pump fails, he has no water, at all! And he is very thirsty!

Of course our "pump" will not fail us, but we are free to take what Freemasonry has to offer us and put none of ourselves into it. We can take what is there for us, with no thought for future generations.

Surely, all of us can agree that we need to do better than that. We must have faith enough to give something to Freemasonry.

Returning to the "orchard" metaphor, we need to recognize that the climate has changed. In a different climate, my grandfather would have chosen different varieties of fruit trees and would have modified his orchard management techniques.

We must be just that wise in tending our "orchard" of Freemasonry. Today's Freemasonry does not exist in the climate of the 1960s. If we manage our "orchard" as if this were the 1960s, it may perish! Surely, we who love The Craft do not want to deny its fruits to future generations! We should nurture the Principles of Freemasonry so that they will prosper and bear fruit in today's changed climate. Our children and our grandchildren will otherwise inherit only the thorns and brambles of wilderness.