

St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

R. Shane Marchand, W.M.

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Stated Communications: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Newsletter- October 2015–November 2015



Brethren,

Elections were held at the first meeting in November and I would like to thank everyone that attended and made their voices heard. I would also like to congratulate all of the newly elected and appointed officers of St. James. I wish you the best for the upcoming year and hope that you enjoy your year as much as I have this past year.

At our second stated meeting we raised a brother to the sublime degree of Master Mason. I thought the degree went very well and was pleased to see some new and reemerging faces join the degree team. I appreciate all who attended the degree to make it a special night for our newly raised brother.

The next stated meeting on Dec 3rd will be a Fellow Craft degree with multiple candidates and our last degree for the year. Sunday Dec 6th will be the last 13th Masonic district meeting of the year and will be held at Trinity Union Lodge starting at 2:30. To finish out the year, the Installation dinner will be held on Dec 17th for the installation of the newly elected officers.

It has been an awesome year and I greatly appreciate each and every one of you for your part in making it enjoyable. I appreciate all the help from the officers in preparing meals, setting up, and cleaning up. I appreciate the guidance from the better informed brethren and the attendance from all of the brethren and their families. Not to say that this past year has not been without a few hiccups. However, my theme, "Back to Basics", was to remind everyone, including myself, on why we became Masons. It was not or should not have been for personal gain, such as monetarily, politically, or higher social status. On the other hand, we do hold ourselves to a higher moral and spiritual standard than most. Charity being a big part of this: "the foundation upon which the superstructure of Freemasonry was erected". Charity has many forms and can be monetary, voluntary or spiritually. However, if the Charity is being done for personal recognition, advancement, or publicity, it is not true Charity and is being done for the wrong reasons. Charity should always be selfless, not selfish. Our spiritual temple should also reflect this selflessness. Becoming an officer, being a certificate holder, or getting in the Grand Line are all by products of Freemasonry and should be thought of as such. Not that these are in no means, not important, but it is our tenants as an Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft, and a Master Mason that we should value as most important. These are the basis which guides us in our Masonic journeys. From the youngest Entered Apprentice to the most senior Master Mason, we should always remember that we are all equals and meet on the level.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your Friend and Brother,
R. Shane Marchand, W.M.

Past EVENTS

Theme "Back to Basics" - Why I became a Mason

Nov 5 - Election of 2016 Officers

Nov 19 - Master Mason Degree

Ritual Practice will be held on the first Monday of each month at 6:30PM in the Lodge hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 3 - Fellowcraft Degree

Dec 6 - 13th District Lodge Meeting

Dec 17 OPEN MEAL Installation of 2016 officers

Below you'll find a sample of the exciting events we have planned for 2016. I hope that we'll have something every member can plan to attend and enjoy! For more information about any event, or to see what is going on at any particular stated meeting you can check the events page on our website,

<http://www.stjameslodge47.org/events.htm> or by subscribing to our Google calendar!

January 21st -- review GL resolutions, pass budget
March 3rd -- Open Meeting, Guest Night #1
April 21st -- Open Meeting, Honesty & Integrity Awards
May 19th -- rededication/reobligation, Grand Master's visit
June 16th -- Table lodge celebrating St. John the Baptist Day and the 299th birthday of the Grand Lodge of England
July 7th -- Open Meeting, 4th of July, Historical celebration
Sept 1st -- Open Meeting, Guest Night #2
Oct 6th -- Open Meeting, Past Masters and Widows Night
Nov 17th -- Open Meeting, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor, DGL
Worshipful Master Elect

2016 St. James Lodge Officers

WM — Jeffrey D. Maynor, DGL
SW — Larry S. Bossier, PM
JW — H. Casey Guy
Secretary — Mark J. Paxton, PM
Treasurer — Bill D. Zollinger, PM
Chap — Larry D. Wade, PM
SD — Richard W. Black
JD — Cody N. Cifelli
MoC — R. Thomas Broadwell
SS — Brandon L. Lively
JS — Alfredo D. Prudente Jr.
Tyler — R. Shane Marchand, PM
Organist — J. Andrew Owen



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

Newsletter
October 2015—November 2015

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Other Masonic Events

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 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 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.

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

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet on the 1st 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 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd 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

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION: 3 days after the 2nd 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 of any change in your postal address, email address, or phone number!!!!

Brethren,

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of Worshipful Master Shane Marchand's father last night after a long battle with cancer.

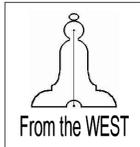
Please continue to remember the family in your prayers during this difficult time. If you are so inclined, W: Marchand has asked that memorial donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Details on the visitation and memorial service can be found in the obituary here: <http://obits.theadvocate.com/obituaries/theadvocate/obituary.aspx?n=ronnie-james-marchand&pid=176687734&fhid=3960>

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor
 Senior Warden 11/28/2015

Greetings from the West Brethren!



I am truly humbled beyond belief at the confidence you have shown in me by electing me to serve as Worshipful Master for the Masonic Year of 2016, and I will strive to the best of my abilities to do what is best for St. James Lodge in the coming year.

I also want to thank all of those who have agreed to serve in the other elected and appointed offices, especially our continuing Treasurer, W:Bro. Bill Zollinger, PM and Secretary, W:Bro. Mark Paxton, PM. The continuity and stability that St. James enjoys due to their dedication is something that we should never take for granted.

I've got a lot of "thank you"s to dole out this month, and I especially want to thank all those who participated in the Master Mason degree for Bro. Thomas Broadwell on November 17th. Your dedication to exemplary performance of the ritual made for a very memorable and moving evening, for not just the candidate, but also for every member who attended. As I looked around the chairs during the first section I realized that everyone sitting in a chair was under the age of 50, which is something that hasn't happened in a number of years, and likely doesn't happen in many lodges at all. This is a wonderful indicator of the health of St. James Lodge and depth of our ritual performers. So thank you again to all of the participants.

Finally I want to thank Worshipful Shane Marchand for the wonderful job he has done as Master of St James Lodge this year. He has endeavored, always, to foster an atmosphere of friendship and brotherly love and made the Lodge a welcoming place for all to visit. I want to thank him personally for his friendship over the past several years as we walked along this journey together, and I hope that I can continue building what he has put in motion.

Assuming any office in a Masonic Lodge carries with it certain responsibilities, and none are weightier than those that come with the hat and gavel of the Worshipful Master. Yet, as the installation service reminds us, from the ranks we have ascended and to the ranks we shall return. It is the long Masonic tradition that some must be chosen to lead and some to follow, but that none are permanently elevated above others. The wheel of time turns and others rise to lead, and then return again to the ranks of Master Masons, equal as always with their Brothers.

We, the officers, have been entrusted by our Brethren with the authority to rule and govern the Lodge for the upcoming year, with the assumption that we will use that granted authority in service to the Lodge and to Masonry. We must always remember that we hold these positions in the trust of our Brothers, and that we hold them to serve their interests. The officers are here to help make your Masonic experience all that it can be, we are here to serve the members of this Lodge, and especially to assist in seeing the Promises of Freemasonry Fulfilled as far as it is in our power to do so.

I encourage every member of St. James not to hesitate in calling upon us. If we can be of assistance to you; if we can aide you in your Masonic journey or your life's journey; just ask, and we will answer.

I look forward to a wonderful year filled with Fellowship, Enlightenment, and walking together down the next steps of each of our journey towards being a better version of ourselves.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor, DGL
Worshipful Master Elect

As I write this article it is a bitter-sweet occurrence for me. This is my last as your Chaplain, which tends to make one think I should strive to make it significant! Trouble is some of the articles I have written this year that I believed significant were not commented on while other, simpler articles received rave reviews. The written word is the second best form of communication, behind in-person discussions, because the written word's meaning can be easily distorted.

When writing anything, inspiration comes from many sources such as the news. I am writing this on November 20, so the Governor's election hasn't been decided, Thanksgiving is still a week away, and Star Wars is still a month away! What is important today is usually different tomorrow, and important to each of us for different reasons. In the news today there's politics, two states executed murders last night, a Mosque in Dallas was vandalized, four US Airman are talking about the immorality of Killing terrorist with drones, Jared Fogle was sentence to 15 years for inappropriate behavior with minors, terrorists are killing, an 87 year old man from Chicago is missing and a lot of celebrities are complaining about something. What is important in these stories and which is the most important? The attorneys for the two men executed complained about "the states rush to execute..." even though their clients were convicted decades ago. Drones are shunned today, but so were submarines a century ago; times and circumstances change.

It's good to list what we are thankful for, the important parts of our lives, just to be able to see our growth over time. Once a year, we have Thanksgiving to actually tell what we are thankful for, although I think many of us think about those things many more days than once a year. For myself, I find that I leave unsaid too often the words thank you, so...

Thank you Worshipful Marchand for allowing me to serve as Chaplain this year, it truly means a lot. Thank you Brother Newman for being the example of an honorable man and Mason; I will be voting for you again.

Thank you Brothers Black and Lively for showing me new, and invigorated friends and Mason's who want to make a difference, even when others may not readily embrace that difference.

Thank you Brothers Ak, Scanlan and Selby for showing me the way to be a supporting "Has-Been".

Thank you WB Maynor, DGL for all the Faith, Hope and Charity anyone could possibly handle.

And to us all, may we Struve to provide Peace and Harmony.

Nicholas Auck,
Chaplain (Retired)



What is the Meaning of "Worshipful?" John White

In Freemasonry, there are degrees of worshipfulness. An installed Master of the Lodge is referred to as Worshipful Master. An installed Grand Master is referred to as Most Worshipful Grand Master; his Deputy is Right Worshipful and his lesser Grand Lodge officers may be Very Worshipful. Why? What is the meaning of the term "worshipful?"

According to Albert G. Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, the term "to worship" originally meant to pay the honor and reverence which are due to one who is worthy. Later it came to mean "greatly respected." The verse in the King James Bible which says "Honor thy father and thy mother" (Matthew 19:19) was rendered in the earlier Wycliffe Bible as "Worship thy father and thy mother." The mayor of a city in England is still addressed as "Your Worship," purely as a title of honor or respect.

Shaping Your Worth

How does one become worthy? The answer can be found in the etymological roots of the word "worship." It comes from Old English and means "worth-shape" or "shaping your worth." To express that idea in Modern English, "to worship" means to shape or develop your own worth or worthiness and thus become a person who deserves respect, honor and reverence. Through personal effort, you shape yourself into someone whose mind is pure, whose character is free from flaw and whose life is stainless, just as a piece of stone (or ashlar) is shaped by an artisan (or master mason) to be flawless in its final form as a work of art.

Holding a high office does not in itself bestow a condition of worthiness on the office-holder. The honor and respect is inherent in the office, not the office-holder. Just think, for example, of some public officials in government whose activities have been marked by scandal, corruption and impeachment. They have been unworthy of the honor and respect accorded their office.

So how do you shape your worth? How do you create your worthiness? How do you become worthy of respect, honor and reverence? The traditional means are spiritual practices: prayer, meditation, emulation of saintly behavior, study of holy scripture and moral precepts, cultivation of the mind, performing charitable works, demonstrating civic virtue, and anything else which helps you to overcome the selfish tendencies and egotistic attitudes recognized by sacred traditions as sinful because they are harmful to yourself and others. Masonry adds: You shape your worth by living in accordance with the principles of our Fraternity—morality, charity and brotherly love.

A Worshipful Person Reflects God

Thus, in the deepest sense, a worshipful person is someone whose life has been an act of worship or worth-shaping. The only legitimate object of worship, of course, is God. Worshiping anything else (such as wealth, fame, power or social status) would be worshiping a false god. So a worshipful person has worth because his or her life reflects God, the source of all goodness, beauty, truth and justice. The worshipful person has so aligned his or her life with God that divine attributes shine through evermore strongly and clearly.

As the person draws ever closer to God, he or she is evermore God-filled and God-realized. The person demonstrates the truth of the saying, "It is better to preach a sermon with your life than with your lips." That is true holiness, true worthiness.

In the most worthy or holy people, that "shining-through of God"—that light or radiance of God's presence—is said to be literally visible as a brilliant energy field surrounding the body, especially the head. That is why, in works of art, saints and sages are depicted with halos. A halo is an artistic stylization of the bright golden light which surrounds holy people and is especially intense around their head. It is a clearly perceivable indication that the person is worthy of honor and reverence. It is the sign of extreme holiness (saints and sages), divinity (saviors) or an order of creation beyond the human level (angels).

In a related aspect, royalty is traditionally accorded reverence and even worship. Members of royalty wear crowns. Why? Like an artist's stylization, a crown represents a halo. The "divine right of kings" to rule meant, theoretically speaking, that monarchs were superior human beings with self-evident godliness which qualified them as worthy to lead their people. Addressing them as "Your majesty" was meant quite literally, as in "You reflect the majesty of God." There was no difference between a spiritual leader and a political leader. Those who led the people in either sphere of activity were one and the same. That position is still present in a theocracy, where the nation or organization is headed by someone who is regarded as divine or an agent of divinity, such as the Pope, the Dalai Lama, the Emperor of Japan, and the mullahs of Iran and Afghanistan.

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