

MASONIC TRESTLE BOARD

Stump Sound Lodge #733

Wor. Robert Olsson, Master

Wor. Robert McLaughlin, Secretary

From the East:

I want to thank the members of Stump Sound Lodge for the honor of serving as Master of the lodge for the coming Masonic Year. We have a fine group of officers and are looking forward to a successful year sharing the fraternal joys of Freemasonry.

It is my plan to use this Trestle Board to let you know what your lodge is up to in the Masonic District. Events that we are doing will be posted in this notice. We encourage your participation with any of our events. If you have a problem with driving at night but would like to attend a meeting or event, please contact the Master or the Secretary.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 pm. We enjoy fellowship and dinner at 6:00 pm before the meeting. All Masons are welcome to attend or visit. If you have a friend who is interested in Freemasonry, please invite him to dinner to see what Masonry is about.

Wor. Robert Olsson

From the Secretary:

Grand Lodge has established an Endowment Program which allows for monies to be placed in a Trust, the interest of which provides lodges with perpetual income from those earnings. Endowment money is placed in a trust fund and the interest is used to support the lodge and Grand Lodge. The income/interest comes back to the lodge, even after the member is deceased. Three types of endowments:

- (1) Active member – cost is 21 x dues; no annual dues after endowment is activated;
- (2) Memorial Endowment - \$500.00, given to a member recognizing another member for their contribution to Masonry;
- (3) Service Endowment – designed for members with 50 plus years as a Mason – the Member pays no dues or per capita in the future – this is a Veteran Service Endowment membership - \$750.00. The secretary has applications and they are also available on Grandview.

Keep current with the contents of the latest edition of “The Code.” The cost is \$20.00 and is available through the secretary.

The Lodge opens for a stated communications at 7:00 PM (change effective 1/1/2025). The dinner prior to the Lodge opening starts at 6:00 PM.

Dues are \$161.00 commencing January 1, 2025. Dues are payable by sending a check to the Lodge (PO Box 543) made payable to Stump Sound Lodge OR dues may be paid online via Grandview. (Be aware there is an additional charge (usage fee) to your credit card when paying dues online.)

The Code for NC Masons requires you to keep your profile up-to-date: i.e., telephone number, email address, mailing address. The correct contact information also allows you to know what is taking place in the Lodge. You can contact me by phone: 910 330 0745 or by email: mclaughlinr8412@gmail.com.

Wor. Robert McLaughlin

Events:

January 18 District 4&7 Meeting @ St. John's Lodge #3 @ 8am Breakfast 9am Meeting. Register through Grand View.
January 28 Lodge Meeting 7pm with Dinner at 6pm
February 11 Lodge Meeting 7pm with Dinner at 6pm
February 25 Lodge Meeting 7pm with Dinner at 6pm

Masonic Birthdays:**January**

Randy Simpson
Mike Tate

February

Kent Bizzel
Randy Hoffer
Johnathan Nichols

Masonic Lesson:**"THE CRACKED POT"**

I was listening to a radio on my way to work and I heard an interesting expression. It was "God uses cracked pots". I thought about this and, after laughing, realized the truth of this statement.

We all seek that perfect nature of our being. We know we are to do this because of the lessons taught us through church and masonry. We know the builder only uses those stones that are free of cracks, flaws and defects to build and support his structure. He tests them in the field before their use to see that they are suitable. As the stone mason squares the block, he looks for these flaws. Right up until the stone is used in the building, there are quality control checks as each workman handles the stone. So it is with our lives.

Unlike a stone, a man exists on two levels, the physical and the inner or spiritual level. We, as human beings, more resemble the clay pot. There is the outer part or physical shell and the inner or spiritual part. We hold our spiritual nature inside the pot. It is there, inside the pot, that the light of God and our Masonic teaching dwell.

During our time on earth, we are constantly being tried and tested. We move along our life's path being jarred, hustled and sometimes dropped. This is the testing of our fitness for that spiritual building. Since we are human, we are not perfect in our nature and we have cracks in the outer shell of our being. No matter how we try, we know that we are not perfect.

Knowing that we are not perfect, I can not help but reflect upon our trials in life. I see that it is not the number of trials or the type of trial we face that determines our character, rather it is the way we face these trials that defines us as Masons. The light of God and our Masonic teachings shines through the cracks of our nature. This light illuminates the world even through our faults and imperfections. And so it is that we offer hope and light to those around us.

Yes it is true. God uses cracked pots to spread his light across the world. If we keep the light of faith in God and our Masonic teachings burning brightly inside our pot, even though we may stumble, the way we handle it will illuminate a path for others to follow. At the time of our final trial, we will be able to say that we were true to our values and found fit for the builders use.

Wor. Robert Olsson