

Masonic Temple Wednesday Evening 26 Mar, 2025

At a Stated Communication of St. John's Lodge #3, A.F. & A.M.

New Bern, North Carolina

HELD ON THE ABOVE DATE PRESENT:

Bro. Arthur B. Romans W.M.  
Bro. Dominick P Giorgianni S.W.  
Bro W. Terry Tripp J.W.  
Bro James A. Wiley, PM as Treas.  
Bro. William C. Zerby, PM Sec'y.  
Bro Robert W. Webster Chaplain



Bro. Francis L. Anson S.D.  
Bro. Joseph S. Kawalski J.D.  
Bro. Nicholas C. Coyle Steward  
Bro. Christopher A. White Steward  
Bro Kito B. Romans as Tyler  
Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ as Marshall

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Lodge opened on the third degree of Masonry in Due Form at 7:30 p.m.

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St. John's Lodge #3 was opened in due form by the WM. After the flag ceremony, the WM recognized all Veterans, Certified Lecturers, Past Masters, Coaches, First Responders, and prior/current District Officers.

SD introduced our guests.

Sick and Shut-ins Bro. David Blonn's Mother-in-Law, recovering from surgery.  
WB James Warren is still, undergoing treatment  
Bro Fred Whitty's wife Sue suffered a stroke and is currently in rehab.  
WB Riley was in the hospital with heart issues  
Bro Matthew Nolan is out sick  
Bro Bob Mull is recovering from knee surgery  
Those in the western part of the state  
Unspoken needs of our Brothers and Widows

Good News: - New Trestle Board has been mailed out and had had great response so far.  
- Bro Dominick Giorgianni's announced that his daughter-in-law is having a boy

The minutes of the last Stated Communication of Mar 12 were read for information.

Bills Allowed: \$234.09 to SGA Print & Design (Oxford) for the Trestle Board print and envelopes.  
\$35.70 to bro Terry Tripp for tonight's meal  
\$71.22 to bro Chris White for tonight's meal

Motion by bro Robert Webster 2<sup>nd</sup> by bro Tim Pugh to pay the bills, motion carried.

The petition for degrees for Mr. Roger G. Baysden III was read aloud to the lodge.

Old Business: - Reminder to Brethren, please pay your dues for 2025, we currently have 54 brothers owing dues for 2025, As a reminder, later this year, anyone owing dues for 1 year or more will be excluded for Non Payment of Dues in accordance with the Code.  
- WM commented on the Endowed Membership, cost is currently only \$1911.00 for one-time payment or can be broken up into 5 annual payments of 477.75

New Business: - Discuss Bro. Bradham Bear Dedication has had clear coat painted.  
- WM announced that the DDGM & DDGL Official Visit has been rescheduled for Apr 9.  
- 31st May the Scottish Rite is doing 1st Responders Breakfast at York Rite. St. John's is partnering with them for Lion and Pillar credit.

- Bro Francis Anson discussed starting a masonic book club to earn points towards Lion & Pillar.
- WM asked if there was interest in helping building a house with Habitat for Humanity. (also point towards Lion & Pillar)
- Bro Dominick Giorgianni reported on the trestle board expenses are under the budgeted amount.

Masonic Education: WB Joe Fuller gave a lesson on the meaning and importance of the scripture recited as candidates make their circumambulation.

Coaching Report: Bro William Hall is working on 1<sup>st</sup> degree catechism

Building Report: - WM announced that the fireplace has been assessed by the contractor, estimated repairs to interior and exterior damage on the south side of the building \$4077.90. A motion was made by bro Mark Bledsoe and 2<sup>nd</sup> by bro Dominick Giorgianni to have the fireplace repairs done. Motion carried

- Building: Happy to report both Lowthorp Kitchenette and 2nd Floor Kitchen both have hot water. Thanks went out to bro Francis Anson.

Membership Outreach: Bro Mark Bledsoe announced the next coffee & donuts event is scheduled for Apr 5<sup>th</sup> @ 9am.

The New Bern Masonic Theater, Historic Preservation Foundation:

- 2nd Floor stovetop is currently being recommissioned, commercial refrigerator repaired.
- Needing brothers to assist with projects around building. Painting 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Bathrooms/Cleaning. Also, 2nd Floor Kitchen and Painting.
- WM commented on the letters going out to local representatives.

Important Dates: - 28 March 2025, Masonic Rite for Brother Robert Peele @ Greenleaf Cemetery begins at 1300.

- Mar 29 Grotto International will be having degree work @ 1pm

- Mar 29 Cherry Pt lodge 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. Breakfast @ 8am, degree @ 9am

- Apr 2 Officer practice 6pm

- Apr 5 York Rite Festival, @7am

- Apr 5 Coffee & Donuts. 9am in Lowthorp hall

- Apr 12 St. John's #1 is having a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree on the battleship North Carolina. Dinner @ 6pm, Meeting @ 7pm

- 15 Apr, 1st Degree at Bayboro Lodge (Pass off Traveling Gavel)

- 30 Apr Tentative date for 2nd Degree

Good of Masonry: Congratulations went out to WB Jonny Pugh for his 50yr Shriners Service Award.

WM thanked bro Terry Trip and the Stewards for the meal.

The meal was served in Lowthorp hall before the meeting.

There being no further business to come before this Lodge, the minutes were read and approved, and this Lodge was closed in due form.

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William C. Zerby, PM  
Secretary

# **MASTER MASON DEGREE - Ecclesiastes – 12:1 (Explanation)**

**Submitted By William C. Bell  
PM. Youngstown Lodge No. 615 Youngstown, Ohio**

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**(1) Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,**

**Many young and middle aged people overlook there surroundings and God, but as old age comes to them they start to become concerned with how they have arrived at where they are and now try to play caught up.**

**(2) While the evil days come not,**

**When your body and mind don't work the way they did in youth.**

**(3) Nor the years draw nigh,**

**Your time and years are drawing to a close.**

**(4) When thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them,**

**When you can't do that which took no effort in youth to do, and now all you can do is sit and watch, or have someone else do it for you.**

**(5) While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened,**

**When death finally prevails and you are no longer part of the wonders of life and nature.**

**(6) Nor the clouds return, after the rain,**

Rains created new growth and life, a fresh start. And the sun or the stars once again appear.

(7) In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble,

The keepers of the house are the hands, the arms, and legs, the trembling comes with the feebleness of old age.

(8) And the strong men shall bow themselves,

When they become stooped over, or bow legged, no longer able to stand erect.

(9) And the grinders cease because they are few,

The grinders are the teeth, which were usually very few, (in old age), if you were fortunate enough to have any.

(10) And those that look out of the windows be darkened,

The windows are the eyes. Failing sight is a trait common to old age.

(11) And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low,

The doors are the lips, the streets are the mouth by which nourishment enters, and the sound of the grinding is the human voice. In old age when the teeth are lost, mumbling is a very common attribute.

(12) And he shall rise up at the voice of the birds,

The birds is the crowing cock. In old age mankind is more restless in his slumbers, and early rising is a habit with many.

(13) And all the daughters of music shall be brought low,

The daughters of music is the ears. The voice loses its strength and hearing becomes less acute in the aged.

(14) Also, when they shall be afraid of that which is high,

In the declining years, men fear to scale the heights which in their prime they ascended with ease.

(15) And fears shall be in the way,

Timidity is a common fault of older people. They are filled with apprehension at the first sign of danger.

**(16) And the almond tree shall flourish,**

**It refers to the white flower of that tree and the allegorical significance is to old age, when the hair of the head shall become white or gray.**

**(17) And the grasshopper shall be a burden,**

**To the weakness of old age, even the weight of so small a thing as a grasshopper, is a burden, or a pest.**

**(18) And desire shall fail,**

**The appetites and desires of youth cease in the declining years.**

**(19) Because man goeth to his long home,**

**Literally to his grave. Or to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.**

**(20) And the mourners go about the streets,**

**This refers to the original custom of having official mourners, who make public lamentations for the dead.**

**(21) Or ever the silver cord be loosed,**

**The silver cord is that spiritual cord which connects man to his God the same way an umbilical cord connects the baby to its mother.**

**(22) Or the golden bowl be broken,**

**The skull is called the golden bowl, from it's yellow color.**

**(23) Or the pitcher be broken at the fountain,**

**The pitcher is the great vein which carries the blood to the ventricle of the heart, here called the fountain.**

**(24) Or the wheel broken at the cistern,**

**The wheel represents the aorta or great artery which receives the blood from the ventricle of the heart or the cistern and distributes it through the body.**

**(25) Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.**

Upon decomposition the body will return to mother earth from where it first originated,  
and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.



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