

JANUARY 2026

VOLUME 1

THE TRESTLE-BOARD

UNITY LODGE NO. 462 A.F. & A.M. OF N.C.



“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors,
and let every new year find you a better man.”

- W.B. Benjamin Franklin



FROM THE EAST

W.B. WILLIAM WEBER

A THREAD FOR RESOLUTION AND RENEWAL

Brethren,

The New Year is not merely a change of date; it is a symbolic moment of renewal. As we stand upon the threshold of a new year, I am reminded of the timeless counsel of M.W. Benjamin Franklin. His words remain as relevant today as they were centuries ago. They call us to introspection, to harmony with those around us, and to the steady pursuit of self-improvement.

**“WELL DONE
IS BETTER THAN
WELL SAID.”**

In masonry, we are taught that the work of the Craft is never complete. Each stone must be shaped, each lesson applied, and each virtue cultivated. Franklin’s admonition reminds us that resolutions are not fulfilled in words alone, but in deeds. Let this be our guiding principle as we set our intentions for the year ahead.

Unity Lodge, newly consolidated and strengthened by the bonds of brotherhood, now embarks upon its own journey. Just as Franklin urged us to hide not our talents, so too must we bring forth the gifts each brother possesses. Let us encourage one another to step forward, labor diligently, and to share freely of our abilities.

**“WHAT’S A
SUN-DIAL IN
THE SHADE!”**

In the year to come, may our lodge be a place where peace prevails among brothers, where charity flows to those in need, and where each of us finds opportunity to grow in virtue. Let us measure our success not by the words we speak, but by the actions we take. In so doing, we honor the Craft, strengthen our bonds, and fulfill Franklin’s charge to become better men with each passing year.

May this New Year be one of unity, growth, and light. May our trestle-board be filled with worthy designs, and may our labors bring honor to the fraternity.





FROM THE WEST

B. TIMOTHY WATERS

Brothers All,

We enter a new era—not just a new chapter in our Masonic journey, but a new book written together in Unity. As PGM Robert Rideout affirmed in 2025, “Together We Rise.” Simple, profound, and a testament to unity, loyalty, and strength.

On the trestle-board of life, we learn that a tree which ceases to grow will wither and die. So must we grow—together—our roots deep and strong. For “there is hope for a tree: if it is cut down, it will sprout again... at the scent of water it will bud and put forth shoots like a plant” bearing fruit anew. The richest soil often lies beneath charred earth; what seems destroyed can, with water, become a life-spring more productive and beautiful than before.

Consider the bees, whose entire goal is to make more bees—nature’s reminder of the spirit of man. They work together in all things, seeking not personal gain but the survival of the hive. The hive teaches us industry, teamwork, and unity toward one common goal, helping plants bear fruit just as Masons should in our lodges and communities.

As we close this month, let Unity Lodge signify new growth, a new foundation, and a new life—a beautiful spring rising where the trials of fire have been. Together by the trowel, in Unity.



FROM THE SOUTH

B. CHARLES BURBAGE

Happy New Year Brethren,

As we begin this new year and the life of our newly formed lodge, let us remember that Unity is not only our name, but one of our guiding principles. When we unite in purpose, support one another, and actively engage in the community, we create an environment where fellowship flourishes, labor becomes light, and good work is accomplished. Let us reject division, indifference, and complacency. Instead, let us embrace harmony, brotherly love, and friendship. With willing hearts, let us labor together in the quarry of improvement, united as one.

The success of our lodge will not be measured by titles, membership numbers, or ceremonies alone, but by the collective dedication of all who call it home. Let this year mark the beginning of a legacy defined by our strength, stability, and shared purpose. Together, we will shine the Light of Freemasonry into our community with dignity, integrity, and steadfast devotion. May the New Year shine brightly upon you, your families, and Unity Lodge, and may each of us contribute to a future defined by harmony, brotherly love, and collective achievement.



THE LODGE AT WORK

BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **January 3rd**, the Grand Lodge will present Unity with its Charter and install the 2026 officers. The ceremony begins at 12:00PM, with light refreshments available before and after.

Officer meetings will be held on the **first Monday** of each month at 6:30PM. Stated Communications will be held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at 7:30PM, with fellowship at 6:30PM. The **third Tuesday** of each month is reserved for degree work; when no degree is scheduled, open practice will be held for any ritual work Brothers wish to improve.

On **January 17th**, Unity Lodge will confer a Master Mason Degree at 8:00AM, with fellowship at 7:00AM. Please join us as we raise Brothers Brandon Mullis, Jim Steele, David Steele, and Austin Ray to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

W.B. TERRY CONNER



Brethren, as we take our place on January 3rd, 2026, as the largest lodge in the state of North Carolina, I find myself reflecting on the timeless reminders woven throughout our ritual. We are taught that no contention should ever arise among brothers, save that noble contention of who can best work and best agree. We are also reminded that harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, and most especially of ours.

The months ahead will bring important decisions and opportunities that will shape not only our lodge, but the legacy we leave for those who follow us. As we navigate that work together, may these familiar words guide our steps. Let us strive not only to be the largest lodge in North Carolina, but the most united, the most steady in purpose, and the most harmonious in spirit.



TREASURER'S CORNER

W.B. JOE WALLER

As we open the books for 2026, the Lodge's finances begin their annual cycle of stewardship and accountability. Dues payments are now being processed, and I thank the many Brothers who have already met their obligations. If any Brother is facing difficulty, please reach out privately so we may assist with discretion and care.

This month also begins our review of recurring expenses and the refinement of the Lodge budget for the year ahead, ensuring a clear plan for the work before us.

Statement of Accounts as of December 31st, 2025:

NC Masonic Foundation: \$ 118,154.78*

Truist Building Account: \$ 506,480.74*

Truist Operating Account: \$ 12,338.37*

*These amounts reflect pre-consolidation balances

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING THE LIVES AND JOURNEYS OF OUR BRETHREN

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bryson Family
Crenshaw Family
Kasper Family
Young Family

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

George Ball
Robert Biggerstaff
George Church III
William Davis
Howard Franklin
Jimmie Heavener
Wayne Lynch
Jerry Mantooth
James Meek Sr.
Richard Moten
Charles Nelson
Jonathan Pullen
James Seagle II

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Gerald Alexander
Bobby Alt
Jacob Atkinson
Michael Berry
Robert Biggerstaff
Timothy Bradshaw
Nick Brafford
Harry Bryant Jr.
Alfred Castle
Clyde Cox III
Earl Curry III
Wayne DeLong
Lewis Denton
Trevor Dunlap
Darrell Garrison
Arthur Hartung
Chad Hawkins
Gary Henry
Jeffrey Hill
Dustan Hoffman
Kemie Holland
Harold Horn
Jason Howell
Joseph Jackson
Jeffrey Kale
Justin Lecroy
Thomas Loudermilk

PROMETHEUS LODGE NO. 775 A.F. & A.M.

W.B. MATTHEW JONES

You are cordially invited to the January Stated Communication at 7:30PM on January 16th, to be held at Catawba Lodge No. 248 in Newton; during which the elected and appointed officers will be installed.

I am pleased to announce that three Unity brothers will continue to serve as officers for 2026:

Master	W.B. Matt Jones
Junior Warden	B. Tim Waters
Marshall	B. Charles Burbage

M.W. Mack Sigmon will be the Installing Master, M.W. Douglas Caudle the Installing Marshall, and W.B. James Howell the Installing Secretary. If your schedule and cable tow allow, please join us to show your support for our brethren!

Chartered in 2019, Prometheus is North Carolina's youngest Traditional Observance Lodge which strives to present a unique Masonic experience and atmosphere. As with other observant lodges, Prometheus focuses on creating a sacred space, excellence in ritual, and meaningful Masonic education.

For more information about Traditional Observance lodges, please visit the Masonic Restoration Foundation:

<https://www.masonicrestorationfoundation.org/>



Gregory Lowrance
Jerry Mantooth
Ronald Marr
Rawle Mohip
Brian Nelson
Donald Newton
Arthur Pullen
Robert Rankin
Jordan Ray
Charles Richards
Devin Russell
Jesse Saucier
Faset Seay III

Matthew Shaffer
Michael Singleton
Blake Skarpalezos
Gordon Smith
Bradford Spelbring
Regenald Taylor
Samuel Throckmorton
Algie Warren
Timothy Waters
Marshall Welch
Ray Willard
Eric Wise

STONES OF WISDOM

LESSONS FROM THE QUARRY



THE TRESTLE-BOARD: A BLUEPRINT FOR UNITY

Among the three moveable jewels, the trestle-board represents order, design, and purpose.

Operative and Speculative Masonry

In operative masonry, the trestle-board is the master's tool for laying out plans. Without it, craftsmen would build according to their own imaginations, resulting in chaos. With it, each worker understands their part and how their contribution (no matter how small) supports the whole.

In speculative masonry, it symbolizes the Supreme Architect's plan—the moral and spiritual laws by which we erect our inner sanctum sanctorum.

Lessons of the Trestle-Board

The trestle-board reminds us that no great work is accomplished without foresight. Just as no architect builds without a plan, so too must we chart our course with wisdom, unity, and purpose.

The trestle-board, our long-term plan, offers three practical values:

- 1. Order:** Every lasting work begins with a plan.
- 2. Continuity:** Each stone laid today will support arches yet to rise.
- 3. Unity:** Shared vision fosters participation, ownership, and harmony.

A New Lodge, A New Design

As Unity Lodge embarks upon its first year, the trestle-board assumes renewed importance. We are not simply continuing the past; we must weave together our histories and traditions into a new tapestry. This year we must begin to establish our identity through customs, we must strengthen our fellowship through communication, we must deepen our ritual through education, and we must increase our visibility through community involvement. In so doing, we will build a strong foundation, nurture growth, and shape our legacy.

A Renewed Commitment to the Craft

**BY FAILING TO
PREPARE, YOU
ARE PREPARING
TO FAIL**

The words of M.W. Benjamin Franklin remind us that preparation is the very foundation of success. Just as Solomon's temple required detailed planning before the first stone was laid, so too does a newly consolidated lodge. Thus, the trestle-board is not merely a symbol—it is a commitment to design our future with wisdom, unity, and purpose.

This year, let us treat the trestle-board not as a relic of symbolism, but as a living plan. I encourage every brother to reflect upon their role in the lodge and to set one goal that strengthens our fellowship, deepens our ritual, or services our community. In so doing, every brother will add his thread to our design. Together, we will weave a rich tapestry of history and tradition for Unity Lodge that is only completed once all have contributed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3 Installation of Officers
4	5 Officers Meeting	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Stated Communication	14	15	16	17 Master Mason Degree
18	19 MLK Day	20 Open Practice	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2026

- 3rd: Installation of Officers
Fellowship at 11:00AM
Grand Lodge at 12:00PM
Installation at 1:00PM
- 5th: Officers Meeting at 6:30PM
- 13th: Stated Communication
Fellowship at 6:30PM
Meeting at 7:30PM
- 17th: Master Mason Degree
Fellowship at 7:00AM
Degree at 8:00AM
- 20th: Open Practice at 6:30PM



2026 OFFICERS

Treasurer Joe Waller
Senior Deacon Blake McLean

Master William Weber

Secretary Terry Conner
Chaplain Brad Milton



Senior Warden Timothy Waters

Senior Steward Lewis Hunt
Junior Warden Charles Burbage
Junior Steward Ben Mitchem

Junior Deacon Tracy Church
Tyler Jimmy Thompson