

FEBRUARY 2026

VOLUME 2

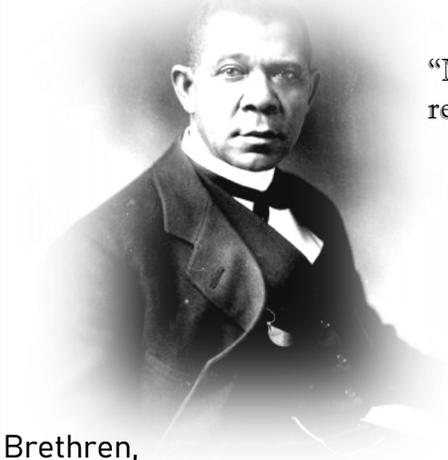
THE TRESTLE-BOARD

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



“Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.”

- B. Booker T. Washington



FROM THE EAST

W.B. WILLIAM WEBER

A THREAD FOR INDUSTRY

Brethren,

January is a month of optimism. We speak boldly about our goals and place our resolutions upon the trestle-board with confidence. But February is different. It asks more of us. This is the month when enthusiasm must become discipline, when intentions must be shaped into action.

The Craft teaches us that industry is not found in grand gestures, but in the steady, deliberate work that turns intention into accomplishment. Every great structure—physical or moral—is built one stone at a time. These stones do not set themselves. The Lodge does not strengthen itself. It is the hearts, hands, and habits of its members that give it life. And so, as we enter this second month of the year, I encourage each of you to choose one commitment and begin the work of honoring it.

This does not require perfection—only presence. Show up. Participate. Offer your skills. Support a Brother. The smallest act, done consistently, outweighs the grandest intention left untouched.

Unity Lodge is in a year of renewal—not just in structure, but in spirit. Committees are forming, operations are being refined, and our culture is growing stronger. These efforts depend upon the steady labor of many hands, each Brother contributing what he can with what he has. No single Brother can carry this Lodge; the Lodge must be carried by all of us together.

**“IF YOU WANT TO
LIFT YOURSELF
UP, LIFT UP
SOMEONE ELSE.”**

As we move through February, let us remember that industry is a virtue not because it is loud, but because it is faithful. The world may not notice the quiet work we do, but the Craft does—and future generations of Unity Lodge will benefit from the diligence we practice today.

Let us embrace this month as an opportunity to build momentum, deepen our commitments, and strengthen the bonds that make our Lodge a place of unity, purpose, and light.





FROM THE WEST

S.W. TIMOTHY WATERS

Brethren,

It is now February, brothers—a time of renewal, regrowth, and love. A season when the northern mills return to motion and factories in Detroit and beyond rise again to full production. Building, growing.

We build our lodges with men freeborn, of good report and well recommended. Differences will always exist, but do not dwell on strife. Focus on knowledge and virtue—on who can best work and best agree. Straighten your cable tow, and within due bounds serve others within and beyond our doors. Spread brotherly love one small step or stone at a time, for that is how all things are built.

In July 1863 a man was born—industrious, visionary, strong, intelligent, and to many, a friend. Initiated in Palestine Lodge No. 357, raised in 1894, later receiving the 33°, he called Masonry “the best balance wheel the United States has.” He created the modern assembly line that drives industry to this day. That man was Henry Ford. He built not only cars, but men. One man can do much; together, we can change the world.

Brothers, I leave you with this: stay loyal to your fellow man and to your lodge. Support one another within your cable tow. Renew your spirit, rekindle your passion for the Craft, and BUILD this brotherhood and community—one stone, one step, one part, and one man at a time.



FROM THE SOUTH

J.W. CHARLES BURBAGE

Brethren,

February, the shortest month of the year, reminds us that time is short that it moves quickly. In Masonry, this calls us to industry. That steady, meaningful work we all perform and Masonry warns us against laziness. Like the bees in a hive, we are not given endless seasons of time. Each day is a gift and a chance to contribute to betterment of those around us.

We are builders that are taught to use our tools on ourselves first. The gavel chips away at the habits that hold us back, the square should guide our actions, and the plumb reminds us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man. These lessons only matter when we live them out in our daily lives. Just having knowledge of these principles without work will build nothing that is useful. Industry is more than staying busy, it means showing up, being prepared, and doing our part. In a hive, every bee serves for the good of the whole. So, it is with us, every effort whether big or small truly matters to those around us.

Time is short, and our work in Masonry is important. Let February be a reminder us to stay engaged, encourage and care for one another, and keep building that wonderful future for all within the length of our cable tow.



THE LODGE AT WORK

BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **February 3rd**, members of Unity Lodge are encourage to attend Whetstone's Stated Communication at 6:30PM so that we may bring home the Traveling Gavel. Fellowship will be held after the meeting at Whiskey Mill.

On **February 10th**, Unity will have its second Stated Communication with Fellowship beginning at 6:30PM and the meeting starting at 7:30PM. The meal, provided by W.B. Alex Bryson and W.B. Scott Carrigan, will be Salisbury steak with mushroom gravy, rice, vegetable medley, and rolls.

On **February 23rd**, Unity will host its first fundraiser of the year at 6:30PM, featuring a meal of salad, pasta, and dessert to support the choral departments of the Gaston County School System.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

W.B. TERRY CONNER



Brethren, as we enter the second month of our journey together, a bit of business deserves our attention. Annual Dues of \$160.00 are now payable to your respective Secretary. If you have not submitted them, please do so now.

February brings with it a small but meaningful gift: starting February 1st, we gain two additional minutes of sunlight each day. Consider that increase through a Masonic lens. If each of us allowed our Masonic Light shine just two minutes more each day, then among nearly 450 members, we would add over 37 hours of Light to the world daily. Imagine the difference that collective radiance could make in a time that often feels overshadowed by darkness. Let us, then, go forth with purpose. Let your Masonic Light—and through it, the Light of our Heavenly Creator—shine clearly and confidently for all to see.



TREASURER'S CORNER

W.B. JOE WALLER

This month, the Finance and Budget Committee will complete the annual audit, review our recurring expenses, and refine the Lodge budget for the year ahead, strengthening the clarity and direction of the work before us.

Statement of Accounts as of January 30st, 2026:

NC Masonic Foundation:	\$ 119,589.17 ^A
Truist Money Market Account:	\$ 1,429,484.89 ^B
Truist Operating Account:	\$ 8,455.49 ^B

^A Balance reflects only South Fork 462's holdings

^B Balances reflects the consolidation of South Fork 462 , Lowell 590, and Belmont 627

STONES OF WISDOM

LESSONS FROM THE QUARRY

THE ROUGH ASHLAR: WHERE OUR LABOR BEGINS

In the earliest days of the Craft, the rough ashlar represented the stone as it came from the quarry—full of potential, but still unshaped. It was the workman's task to apply his tools with patience and skill, removing what was unnecessary so that the stone might take its rightful place in the structure being raised. Operative Masons understood that no great building rose from perfect stones; it rose from imperfect stones made perfect through steady, faithful labor.

Speculative Masonry preserves this lesson. The rough ashlar is each of us at the beginning of our work: full of intention, promise, and raw material. But intention alone does not build anything. It is only through deliberate effort that the ashlar is shaped into something worthy of the Temple.

This is the work before Unity Lodge in 2026.

We begin this year with many intentions: to strengthen our committees, refine our operations, and renew the culture of our Lodge. But intentions must be shaped into action. Every great work is built one stone at a time, and the shaping of those stones requires Brothers who are willing to step forward, take up a tool, and contribute to the design.



FEW THINGS CAN HELP AN INDIVIDUAL MORE THAN TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON HIM, AND TO LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU TRUST HIM.

When a Brother volunteers for a committee, offers his skills, or simply shows up with consistency, he is applying the common gavel to his own rough ashlar. He is removing the superfluous - hesitation, uncertainty, or the assumption that "someone else will do it" - and replacing it with the steady labor

that transforms potential into accomplishment. As more Brothers join in this work, the Lodge itself begins to take shape, moving from the roughness of intention toward the symmetry and strength of a perfect ashlar.

Forming our committees, clarifying our operations, and renewing our culture are not administrative tasks; they are acts of craftsmanship that will become the cornerstone of our Lodge. No single Brother can carry this labor, and the outcome of this year's work will be determined by the many hands that touch it, not the few.

"EXCELLENCE IS TO DO A COMMON THING IN AN UNCOMMON WAY."

Every Brother has a place in the quarry and a tool that is his to apply. Each contribution—large or small, visible or quiet—helps shape Unity into the Lodge that we will hand to those who follow. As we continue this new year, let us take up the work with purpose. Let us shape our intentions into action, our raw material into strength, and Unity Lodge into a perfect ashlar worthy of the Craft.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING THE LIVES AND JOURNEYS OF OUR BRETHREN

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bryson Family
Carrigan Family
Conner Family
Crenshaw Family
Harvey Family
Kasper Family
Rix Family
Rhyne Family

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Steven Abernathy
James Beddingfield
Charles Bowyer
Joshua Brafford
Wesley Brookover
Thomas Brooks
Zachary Bryson
Justin Chapman
Kenneth Christenbury
John Clark Sr.
John Davis
James Hallman
Larry Hullett
Lewis Hunt
Douglas Johnston
Malcolm Laurence
Allen Long III
Norman Lowrance
Clayborn McLean
James Morgan III
Charles Reneau
Christopher Shaw
Robert Shook
Russell Stephens
Robert Stutts
John Tesnear
Jerry Warren

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

Marvin Ballard III
Jackie Barbee
Randy Blanton
Maxie Bowlin
Jack Bradshaw
Robert Braswell
Ashton Brown
Roy Campbell
Johnny Carpenter
Justin Chapman

Robert Craft
James Crawford
David Crow
Bill Deal
Wayne DeLong
Tommy Fortenberry
Edward Fortner
Billy Frye
James Gibson
Thomas Green
Matthew Greenway

Ricky Gregory
James Holland
James Holmes
Jason Howell
Michael Huskins
Steven Mercer
Fabius Mitchell Jr.
William Stevenson
George Tolley
Jesse Wooten
James Yelton Jr.

LUX LIBERTAS LODGE NO. 772 A.F. & A.M.

W.B. JEREMY HICKLIN

Lux Libertas invites you to our Stated Communication on Saturday, February 7th at 9:00AM at Gaston Lodge No. 263 in Dallas, NC.

Founded in 2017 by several Past Grand Masters connected with UNC-Chapel Hill, Lux Libertas serves as North Carolina's peripatetic lodge. Though homed at Eagle Lodge No. 19 in Hillsborough, we hold four Stated Communications each year as guests across the state, strengthening fraternal ties throughout the Old North State.

Our membership includes UNC alumni, supporters, and descendants of MW William R. Davie, united by a shared devotion to North Carolina, charity, and Masonry.

Service remains central to our mission. We host children from the Masonic Home for Children at UNC athletic events, make regular visits to the residents of WhiteStone, and administer the Hinton James Masonic Scholarship for first-year UNC students.

This month's education will be presented by Dr. Bill Link, noted historian and biographer of William Friday and Frank Porter Graham. Dr. Link will speak on the life and work of William Friday and offer a preview of his newest book on Frank Porter Graham, with copies available.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 Whetstone (Traveling Gavel)	4	5 Officers Meeting	6	7
8	9	10 Unity 462 Stated Comm.	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Choral Dinner Fundraiser	24	25	26	27	28

FEBRUARY 2026

3rd: Traveling Gavel at Whetstone No. 515
 Meeting at 6:30PM
 Fellowship afterwards at Whiskey Mill

5th Officers Meeting at 6:30PM

10th: Unity Stated Communication
 Fellowship at 6:30PM
 Meeting at 7:30PM

23rd: Choral Dinner Fundraiser
 Fellowship at 6:30PM



2026 OFFICERS

Treasurer W.B. Joe Waller
 Senior Deacon Blake McLean

Master William Weber

Secretary W.B. Terry Conner
 Chaplain W.B. Brad Milton



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

Senior Warden Timothy Waters

Junior Deacon Tracy Church
 Tyler Jimmy Thompson