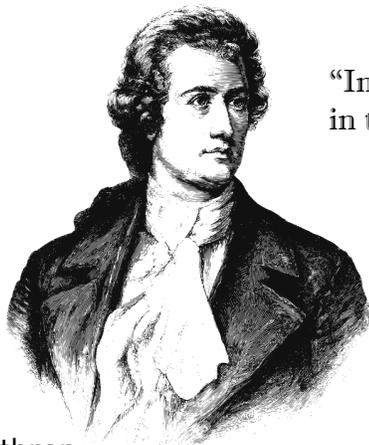


# THE TRESTLE-BOARD

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



“In the realm of ideas everything depends on enthusiasm ...  
in the real world all rests on perseverance.”

- B. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



## FROM THE EAST

W.B. WILLIAM WEBER

### A THREAD FOR STEADY GROWTH

Brethren,

January brought clarity; February brought action. Now March calls for continuity—steady, faithful progress that strengthens our Lodge through small, consistent efforts. It also brings a moment of balance, when light and darkness stand in equal measure before the days begin their steady ascent. Nature reminds us that renewal does not arrive all at once; it begins quietly, then grows. And so it is with Unity Lodge.

**“WE MUST ALWAYS  
CHANGE, RENEW,  
REJUVENATE  
OURSELVES;  
OTHERWISE WE  
HARDEN.”**

Attendance is rising. Brothers long absent are returning. Candidates are knocking at our door, and three have been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. These are the first fruits of our labor—early signs that our Lodge is just alive, but active and growing.

This growth is supported by steady, necessary, and often simple work. Over the past two months, we have brought order to the materials of four former lodges—keeping what strengthens us, passing along what benefits others, and clearing away what not longer serves our purposes. We have installed security cameras, spoken with over 320 Brothers, hosted an appreciation dinner for choral teachers, and prepared for our first annual BBQ fundraiser. Each of these efforts are small victories that shape the character of our Lodge.

So this month, let us honor and celebrate the small things: the Brother who returns, the officer who practices a little more, the committee that takes one more step. These are the moments that build momentum. These are the moments that strengthen our Lodge.

Brethren, the balance is shifting. The light is lengthening. The pattern of our year is beginning to appear. Let us continue our work with steady hands, steady hearts, and the shared joy of laboring together as one Lodge.





## FROM THE WEST

S.W. TIMOTHY WATERS

Brethren,

March Madness is upon us—what a way to end the first quarter of the year! So far this year, we have successfully formed a new lodge, sold three properties, and moved 84% of our membership to Lowell, making for a tight but energetic fit. Personalities are meshing, familiar Brothers are reuniting, and new Brothers are forming bonds. We've also been cleaning, organizing, setting aside what we need, and donating to lodges that will benefit from our abundance of Masonic supplies.

March is about continuance—consistency in building, organization, and coordination. Yet, we are all different. Different physically, mentally, and spiritually. The first quarter reminds me of the first degree and its tools, more specifically the common gavel which is used to fit and form the stones of old. All different stones. The fitment through the operative mason's skill, as he crafted the "fine hewed marble and stone", created greater strength as the winds blew and the rains came. The pressure of the stones above, made moving the stones within impossible due to the intentional fitment, pressure, and strength.

Today we use that symbol to fit our hearts and minds as Freemasons. Let us fit ourselves accordingly as we learn from each other, together in such a manner that NOTHING shall move the least of us as brothers bound by a stronger tie. Brothers of the oldest, largest, and finest fraternity in the world—stand tall in the northeast corner as we build Unity.



## FROM THE SOUTH

J.W. CHARLES BURBAGE

Brethren,

As spring arrives, we are beginning to see the fruits of our labor. An E.A. degree has officially been set for March 17th, and our upcoming BBQ fundraiser is well underway. Many brothers have already stepped forward to make it a success. Let me know if you need tickets.

These are signs of a healthy and active lodge, but they are also reminders that the strength of our lodge depends upon the labor of its members. Each of us has been given talents and abilities that can contribute to the success of the lodge and our communities. Whether it is helping with events, mentoring a brother, serving on a committee, or simply showing up, every effort matters. Freemasonry has always been a fraternity of workers and builders. Just as operative masons worked together to raise great structures, we are also called to labor together for the good of the group.

I encourage every brother to find a way to be involved this month. Your participation strengthens your lodge, supports your brothers, and helps ensure that the work we are doing today will benefit the future. Let us continue to work together in Unity.



# THE LODGE AT WORK

## BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **March 10th**, Unity Lodge will have its third 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 baked spaghetti.

On **March 17th**, Unity Lodge will put on its first Entered Apprentice degree with fellowship beginning at 6:30PM and the degree starting at 7:30PM. The meal, provided by W.B. Alex Bryson and W.B. Scott Carrigan, will be shepherd's pie. Please come out to support our candidates as they begin their Masonic Journey.

On **April 25th**, Unity Lodge will host its first annual BBQ Fundraiser in support of the MHC0. Tickets are \$40 and include a whole Boston Butt and W.B. Mike Harvey's famous Cheerwine BBQ sauce. Please see Brother Charles Burbage for tickets.

## SECRETARY'S CORNER

W.B. TERRY CONNER



Brethren, as we enter this month - *beware the Ides of March!* - many of us are also looking forward to the Vernal Equinox, the first day of Spring. This season is universally recognized as a renewal of life: flowers and trees blossoming, birds singing, and the hours of day and night standing in near-perfect balance. Let us, with equal regularity, take this moment of renewal as a reminder to renew our Masonic obligations, our introspection, and our desire to be better men!

A brief word on dues: All first notices have been mailed. The second notice will be mailed the first week of April. After remitting \$7,228.70 to the Grand Lodge for per capita tax, **\$42,134 remains unpaid by Brothers**. Unpaid dues drain our resources and place an unnecessary burden on Brothers who faithfully support their Lodge. I encourage each of you to reach out to any Brother you know who may be behind. A friendly reminder from a fellow Brother often makes all the difference.



## TREASURER'S CORNER

W.B. JOE WALLER

Brethren, as we continue our work in 2026, I offer the following financial report for the Lodge. The balances as of February 27th are:

- **NC Masonic Foundation:** \$ 225,311.55
- **Money Market Account:** \$ 1,433,152.03
- **Operating Account:** \$ 8,455.49

Please note that these amounts do not yet reflect the consolidation of Gastonia 369. Updated figures will be provided once all accounts and assets have been fully integrated.

The proposed 2026 budget will be submitted for lodge discussion and approval at our upcoming Stated Communication. Your engagement in that process ensures that our financial planning reflects the needs and priorities of the Craft.

# STONES OF WISDOM

## LESSONS FROM THE QUARRY



### THE VALUE OF A DAY WELL MEASURED

March is the month when the year's early energy settles into a steady rhythm. The excitement of new beginnings now gives way to something quieter but more enduring: the discipline of steady progress. It is fitting, then, that we turn our attention to the Twenty-Four-Inch Gauge, the working tool that teaches us how meaningful growth is built—not in leaps, but in the measured, intentional use of time.

**“NOTHING IS  
WORTH MORE  
THAN THIS DAY.”**

The gauge divides the day into equal parts, reminding us that time is both a gift and a responsibility. Its lesson is not about filling every hour with activity, but about shaping our days with intention rather than drifting through them. It calls us to consider how we direct our efforts, how we honor our commitments, and how we cultivate the quiet habits that strengthen both our lives and our Lodge.

This is why the early signs of growth we see in March matter so much. A renewed commitment to attendance. A moment of ritual study by an officer. A small task taken up by a committee. A quiet act of charity by a Brother. These moments may seem modest, but they are unmistakable indicators that the work is taking root. They are the beginnings from which larger accomplishments grow. As Goethe reminds us, every small beginning matters.

The Twenty-Four-Inch Gauge reinforces this truth. Our Lodge—like our lives—is shaped by how we use the minutes and hours we are given. Transformation rarely arrives in dramatic bursts; it comes from the rhythm of showing up regularly and honoring the dignity of steady labor.

**“WHAT IS NOT  
STARTED TODAY IS  
NEVER FINISHED.”**

**“ONE ALWAYS HAS  
TIME ENOUGH,  
IF ONE WILL  
APPLY IT WELL.”**

The gauge also teaches us that progress is personal. Each Brother's capacity and season of life is different. What matters is not how much one can give, but that one gives faithfully—a few moments of your time, acts of random kindness, and dedication to our fraternity. These small and quiet contributions, offered consistently and in good faith, are the threads that strengthen the Lodge as a whole.

March invites us to embrace this measured approach. To value the small wins. To trust the rhythm. To remember that the health of a Lodge is built not by extraordinary efforts, but by many ordinary ones, repeated with intention and shared in fellowship.



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING THE LIVES AND JOURNEYS OF OUR BRETHREN

## MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Charles Absher  
Lewis Blanton  
Richard Burgess  
James Byers  
Leonard Cherry  
Richard Clanton  
Wyatt Cole  
Clyde Cox III  
Lewis Denton  
William Elledge Jr  
Gary Henry  
Jeffrey Hill  
Dustan Hoffman  
Kemie Holland  
Thomas Hord  
Jerome Kale  
Gerhardt Land  
David Marrow II  
Thomas McCarthy Jr  
Daniel McCurry  
Cameron McLean  
Malcum Meek  
Rawle Mohip  
Dennis Moore  
John Smith  
Wilfred Sutton  
Calvin Thomas  
Christopher Tolbert  
John Waldrop Jr  
Joseph Williams  
John Wilson  
Eric Wise  
Samuel Young III

## UNITY LODGE ONLINE STORE IS NOW OPEN!

W.B. SCOTT YOUNG

Brethren, we have worked closely with The Sports Center, and they have been exceptional partners throughout this entire process. And now, the moment has finally arrived—the Unity Lodge Shop is officially open!

[thesportscenter.chipply.com/LODGE462/?action=viewall](https://thesportscenter.chipply.com/LODGE462/?action=viewall)

This store features a wide selection of apparel and accessories, many of which include multiple design options. Further, there is no shipping cost for any order. Simply select your items, pay online, and once **the store closes on March 31st at 9PM**, The Sports Center will begin fulfilling all orders. When the items are ready, W.B. Scott Young will deliver all orders to the Lodge for distribution.

**This is NOT a fundraiser.** Unity Lodge will not profit on any purchase. Our goal is to provide every Brother the opportunity to obtain quality Lodge apparel so that they can represent Unity Lodge proudly and affordably.

If you have any questions regarding the store, please contact W.B. Scott Young at (704)-747-7572.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Clinton Family      Hunt Family      Huss Family      Owens Family

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Stephen Adams	Kevin Freeman	James Moore	John Stanley
Stephen Beasley	David George Jr	Richard Moore	Lindell Stoker
Richard Benoy	Tyler Graham	Jerry Morgan	David Stultz
Johnny Bingham	Michael Hastings	Dennis Ouzts	Dwayne Summitt
Randy Blanton	Dennis Hayes Jr	Chiman Patel	Paul Teem Jr
Robert Braswell	James Holland	John Patterson	Calvin Thomas
Earl Calhoun	Jeffrey Hurley	Paul Paysuer	Anthony Trull
Barry Camp	Rodney Huss Jr	Philip Pilkington	Franklin Walls
Billie Carpenter	David Lawing	Rodger Rankin	Michael Wiggins
George Church III	Robert Lawrence	Charles Sexton Jr	
William Crenshaw III	James Litvak	Richard Shepherd	
John Fagan	Robert Mason	Harold Smith Jr	
Tommy Fortenberry	Robert McCarter Jr	John Smith	

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Officers Meeting	6	7
8	9	10 Stated Communication	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Emergent Communication	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## FEBRUARY 2026

5th: Officers Meeting at 6:30PM

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

17th: Emergent Communication  
Fellowship at 6:30PM  
EA Degree at 7:30PM



## 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