

Masonic Temple, Wednesday Evening, 10 June 2026

At a Stated Communication of St. John's Lodge No. 3, A.F. & A.M. New Bern, North Carolina

HELD ON THE ABOVE DATE PRESENT:

W. Bro. Dominick P. Giorgianni	Master
Bro W. Terry Tripp	S.W.
Bro. Francis L. Anson	J.W.
Bro. Kito B. Romans	Treas.
W. Bro. Arthur B. Romans, PM	Sec'y.
Bro. Mark E. Bledsoe	"AS" Chaplain



Bro. Joseph S. Kawalski	S.D.
Bro. Nicholas C. Coyle	J.D.
Bro. Robert W. Webster	Steward
Bro. C. Brian Fuller	Steward
WBro. Jason A. Maxey	Tyler

St. John's Lodge No. 3 was opened on the Third Degree of Masonry in Due Form at 7:30 p.m.

After the Flag Ceremony,

The Master recognized all Veterans, Past/Present First Responders, Past Masters, Certified Lectures, Coaches, Past/Present Grand Lodge and District Officers.

The Master thanked Bro. Rob Webster and Bro. Brian Fuller our Stewards for the delightful meal (Shredded Beef & Gravy, Salad, Lemon Blueberry Focaccia.)

-There was (22) St. John's No. 3 Members in Attendance

The Senior Deacon Introduced our (3) Guests that were in attendance:

- WB. Casey Shaw PM / Granite Lodge No. 322
- WB. Michael Saviak PM / Mt. Olive No. 208 Lodge
- Bro. Steven Ledford / St. John's No. 4

Sick and Distressed Report:

- WB Rubert Fuller is recovering from Triple Bypass on 6/8, please keep in our thoughts and prayers.
- It was reported that WBro. David Arthur from Grantham Lodge passed away yesterday.
- Bro. Ron Packard has been moved to Bayview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.
- Please keep Bro. Nick Coyle's mother in prayer as she injured her hand.
- WBro James Wiley gave update on Mrs. Joy Wiley reported Mrs. Joy underwent treatment for melanoma of the eye last week at Duke University. She is at home recovering at home and doing well.

A card was passed around for signatures from the brethren for WB Fuller.

A prayer was given by the Chaplain

Glad Tidings Report:

- Thanks to the officer line who conferred our most recent Entered Apprentice Degree which was held on 3 June 2026.
- Thanks to the brethren who supported Doric Lodge and their Blood Drive on June 5th. They received a record turnout.
- WBro James celebrated 53rd Wedding Anniversary and his youngest son was recently promoted to Lt.Col.
- Bro Mark Bledsoe Grand Nephew was picked up by the MLB Bluejays

Masonic Minute Given by Master: *Symbols of Solidarity: The Hidden Influences of Masonic Traditions*

Examinations: NONE

The Secretary read the minutes of the Stated Communication of 27 May 2026 and Emergent Communication of 3 June 2026.

The Treasurer made his report:

- Lodge Checking: \$30,021.35
- Scholarship: \$
- Foundation: \$
- Lodge Management: \$ 510.10

The Secretary Cleared His Desk –

- Reminder we currently have 9 Brothers remaining that owe dues for 2026.
- Jim Thames (Tims) (Ballot on Restoration/ Master Approve Demit Request). Restoration Approved
- Ballot on Petition for Degrees, (Mr. Croy and Mr. Scheltte) (SET DEGREE DATE 1 JULY 2026 TENTATIVELY)
- Mr. Croy was elected to receive the degrees of Masonry.
- Mr. Schlette elected to receive the degrees of masonry.

Collected: \$134.00 from Meal Basket

The following bills were presented

- Rob Webster EA Meal: 6/3/2026 \$133.54
- Dominick G. Parade Registration Fee - \$29.25
- SGA Print & Design Center: Trestleboard May/June: \$232.99
- Brian Fuller: 6/10 Stated Communication \$155.73
- R. Webster: 6/10 Stated Communication \$12.18
- Valley of New Bern Scottish Rite Mailing - \$155.40 (210 Letters at .74)
- Deans Masonic Supply: \$873.21 Aprons and Bibles (BUDGETED ITEM)
- Amazon.com (INK) \$134.28 (BUDGETED ITEM)

A motion was made by WBro Joe Whichester., Seconded by Bro. Nick Coyle to pay the bills. *(Motion Carried)*.

Old Business:

- 4th of July Float reminder that we will be needing assistance with decorating.
- District Table Lodge hosted by St. John's No. 3. (Planning)
- Proposed Bylaws Modifications have been mailed to brethren. Will Vote on adjustment at next Stated Communication.

New Business:

- Flag Poles for Front of Building (Roughly \$30.00 a piece to make) Bro Joe Fuller volunteered to donate to pay for have the flags donated for the front of the building for display.
- Grantham Lodge Family Day on 13 June. St. John has been invited to attend. (Starts at noon!)
- Bro Chris White asked any brethren interested in helping at the Riposo House in Riverbend please meet there at 8AM Friday 12 June 2026. We will be doing light work and small projects throughout the house.
- Adopt a City Street (Hancock St.) / Master proposed to the lodge that due to ongoing construction of our Adopt a Highway area we stop doing HWY 17 Clean Up and apply to switch over to the City of New Bern Adopt a Street Program. Motion made by Rob Webster / 2nded by WB. Joe Winchester. Motion carried.
- Bro. Francis Anson called an EA Degree for July 1st 2026 at 6:30 Meal / 7:30 Degree.

Education: WB. Arthur Romans covered three of the six proposed amendments to the code for 2026.

Committee Reports:

- Coaching: Report on EA (Ed Brinson / Cody Laurine / Nathan Davis / Brian Sprecher)
- Building: Lowthorp Progress / Slow moving but moving forward. (Paint Color Scheme)
- Fundraising: Report by Bro. Mark Bledsoe / Grill Raffle (Bro Bob Mull donated to pay for prizes.
- Membership Outreach: Result of Coffee and donuts had a turnout of 18 visitors.
- The New Bern Masonic Theater, Historic Preservation Foundation:
- Lion and Pillar:

Important Dates and Announcements:

- June 11th- NC Symphony at Tryon Palace beginning at 7PM, Patriotic Pops.
- June 13th - Grantham Lodge Family Day (Invitation Extended to St. John's Lodge No. 3)
- June 13th - Flag Day Ceremony by Elks Lodge @ 11AM Union Point Park. MajGen Scott Benedict will be guest speaker.
- June 13th - Valley of New Bern Ring Ceremony at NBYK Temple begins at 6:30PM.
- June 17th - Nubia Grotto visiting Elizabeth City (Elior Grotto).
- June 24th - Stated Communication
- July 1 - Entered Apprentice Degree 6:30PM Meal / 7:30 Degree (2) Candidates

Good of Masonry:

- Reminder to the Brethren, since it is after Memorial Day we are now authorized by the Master to wear Lodge Polo's and Slacks for Stated Communications. (As a reminder, all degree work will still be conducted in Coat & Tie.)

The Lodge was closed in Due Form at 9:05PM

At the conclusion of the meeting the brethren departed and were invited to The Old Pinnix for Fellowship.



Arthur B. Romans, PM
Secretary

Attached:

- Attendance Roster 6/10/26
- Masonic Minute 6/10/26

ST. JOHN'S NO. 3 A.F. & A.M.

Attendance Roster

Date: 6/10/2026

	NAME	LODGE	NO.	CITY	STATE
1	Doug Sotter, PM	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
2	James Whaley PM	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
3	Bob Martell	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
4	Joe Fuller PM	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
5	Chris White	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
6	Joe Owens	St. John's	3	New Bern	
7	Joe Winchester PM	St. John's	3/26	New Bern/Fallston	NC/MD
8	Ken Hill, PM	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
9	Casey Shaw, PM	Granite	322	Pike Bl. Mt. Airy	NC
10	CPA 16 Zimmerman	St. John's	1	New Bern	
11	FRED WHITTY	St. John's	3	NB NC	
12	Roy Faron, P.M.	St. John's	3	New Bern	NC
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Symbols of Solidarity: The Hidden Influence of Masonic Traditions

One unusual fact about how Masonry contributed to the American Revolution is the role of Masonic rituals and symbols in fostering a sense of unity and purpose among the revolutionaries.

During the time leading up to and throughout the revolution, Masonic lodges often utilized their rituals and symbols as a means of creating a shared identity among members. For example, the use of specific Masonic symbols, such as the square and compasses, and the practice of secret handshakes and signs, served as recognizable emblems of fraternity and brotherhood. These symbols created a sense of belonging among members, reinforcing their shared commitment to Masonic ideals and the revolutionary cause and helped to establish a sense of brotherhood and solidarity among the members who were involved in the revolutionary efforts.

This shared Masonic identity not only reinforced loyalty among members but also facilitated cooperation across different colonies. Using handshakes and signs Masons could recognize one another even in public settings, allowing for discreet discussions about revolutionary strategies and actions without arousing suspicion from British authorities. This network of trust and recognition proved invaluable in organizing resistance against British authorities, often in situations where open dissent was risky.

The principles of Freemasonry emphasized moral and ethical behavior, civic duty, and the importance of standing against tyranny. These teachings provided a philosophical framework that aligned with the revolutionary ideals of independence and self-governance.

Additionally, the ideals of liberty and equality embedded in Masonic teachings resonated deeply with the revolutionary cause, providing a philosophical foundation that inspired many of the Founding Fathers as they crafted the principles of the new nation. This intertwining of Masonic identity and revolutionary zeal was an unusual yet significant aspect of Masonry's contribution to the American Revolution.

Through these rituals and symbols, Freemasonry created a cohesive network of support among revolutionaries, fostering a sense of unity that was crucial for organizing and mobilizing efforts against British rule. This blend of shared identity, trust, and mutual support helped to galvanize the revolutionary movement, demonstrating the powerful role those Masonic traditions played in shaping the course of American history.