



Temple Lodge No. 9 A.F. & A.M.

Chartered January 16, 1815
2022-2023

208th Year of Fellowship

From the East – Christopher W. Fitzgerald, WM

As December opens it signals the close of our calendar year, which for me, is a time of contemplation and introspective awareness. As I take personal inventory, I recognize which of my working tools I need to lean heavier on and how to make use of them more effectively, throughout my everyday life.

December 7th, reminds us of the 2,390 Americans, both service members & civilians, who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. December is also home for, of course, Christmas, Hanukkah & St. John the Evangelist Day, which also marks mid-winter & the winter solstice. As Masons we display the attitude of reverence as we observe each of these very special events.

As we enjoy the holiday season and all that the Christmas spirit and family traditions that go along with it, your Masonic Lodge has some interesting goings on:

December 8th is our first Stated Communication of the month, featuring an Entered Apprentice Degree.

December 10th is our Christmas Party, which will be held on the second floor of the lodge building at 6:30. You are invited to bring a covered dish and JW Geise has assured me that Santa & Mrs. Claus will be in attendance.

December 22nd is our second Stated Communication featuring an ancient funeral ritual as work & instruction delivered by MWB Bill Wadkins, PGM and his degree team.

Brothers, Temple Lodge No. 9 has a lot going on and I could use your help. I am committed to the concept of having more quality work at our stated communications. What that means is more educational programs and well performed degree work designed to satisfy the membership's thirst for FREEMASONRY. One program is a Trivia Night and another is a "No-no Night", for these, I am asking you to give me a tid-bit of Masonic trivia and or your lodge pet peeve, i.e., crossing between the Altar and the East. Your submissions will be compiled and used by the committee for Work and Instruction at our stated communications in March and April. My number is 302.242.4916 and my email address is chrisfitz7244@gmail.com. Drop me a line and be involved in the firsthand betterment of your Masonic Lodge's education.

In closing Brothers, Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah and I'll meet you on the Level.

Stated Communications

Second and Fourth
Thursday of Each Month

7:30 PM

Fellowship with Dinner

6:30 PM

Meetings are not held in
July and August or on
Thanksgiving or Christmas
(when those holidays fall
on a Thursday)

Lodge Officers 2022-2023

Worshipful Master
Chris Fitzgerald
(302) 242-4916

Senior Warden
Stephen Walter, PM, PGSB
(302) 270-2697

Junior Warden
Keith Geise
(717) 994-6114

Secretary
Jeff Hague, PM, PGMAR.
(302) 422-0233

Deputy Secretary and
Webmaster
Chad Robinson, PM, PGMAR.
(302) 270-4391

Treasurer
Jim Bennett, PM, PJGS
(302) 228-1228

Curtis Perry – Senior Deacon
Rob Watts – Junior Deacon
Ronnie Joseph – Senior Steward
Jesse Weick – Junior Steward
Roland Cohee, Jr., PGC - Chaplain
Robert S. Young – Tiler
Pete "Ringo" Ringenary - Marshal
Tom McMurray – Lodge Instructor



Some Wise & Serious Truths – Masonic Education

Why is December 27 the feast of St. John the Evangelist?
SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Philip Kosloski - published on 12/27/19

The placement of St. John near Christmas Day was intentional and has much symbolism. The days following Christmas are full of symbolic meaning, as December 26 honors the first martyr, St. Stephen, who shed his blood for Jesus.

December 27, on the other hand, honors St. John the Evangelist, the disciple of Jesus who wrote the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation. Interestingly enough, he is the only gospel writer to omit a narrative of Jesus' birth. Based on this fact alone it seems strange to include him during the Octave of Christmas.

What is the Church's reason behind this choice?

The St. Andrew Daily Missal gives us a few clues.

It is God whom we adore at Bethlehem during Christmas time. Thus it was natural that St. John, the chief evangelist of the divinity of Christ, should be found beside the crib, to disclose the greatness of the Infant who reposes therein. The Infant God in the crib gathers around Him pure souls: Mary is the Blessed Virgin, Joseph the chaste spouse, St. Stephen the first martyr who washes his robe in the blood of the Lamb. Now behold St. John, the virgin apostle. Dom Prosper Gueranger in his Liturgical Year similarly points to St. John's pure chastity as a reason why he is honored near Christmas.

Nearest to Jesus' Crib, after Stephen, stands John, the Apostle and Evangelist ... next to the sacrifice of Blood, the noblest, the bravest, and which most wins the heart of Him who is the Spouse of souls, is the sacrifice of Virginité ... If the Protomartyr dazzles us with the robes he wears of the bright scarlet of his own blood – is not the virginal whiteness of John's vestment fairer than the untrod snow?

As a result, the Church seeks to highlight St. John's focus on the divinity of Christ as well as hold-up St. John as an prime example of virginité.

It should be noted that St. John's feast is celebrated on December 27 in the Western Church, while the Eastern Church generally honors him on September 26. The Catholic Encyclopedia notes, "The 'departure' or 'assumption' of the Apostle is noted in the Menology of Constantinople and the Calendar of Naples (26 September), which seems to have been regarded as the date of his death."



From the West – Stephen Walter, PGSB

Time and Time again I hear stories of brothers being asked to sit as line officers immediately after being raised. Since this was the case in my own personal instance, I feel confident in writing about that experience.

It has been said that, more often than not, the aforementioned experience is a detriment to a brother's Masonic Journey. I, however, would like to explore a different view:

The end of one season or state is always, conversely, the start of a new one. When you completed your time in High School, College or Trade School, life and learning didn't end there. Just because your training was "complete" did not mean that your learning of your skill or trade was over; in reality, it was just beginning.

I offer you the same view on your Masonic Journey. Sitting as Junior Steward the first meeting after being raised forced me to study our ritual. Personally, I learn best by repetition mixed with visual aids and comprehension of the material. In this manner, I was able to not just work on memorizing the ritual but understand it as well. Fast forwarding to the first time I sat as a Past Master of the Lodge, I attended Lodge often that year as the New Worshipful Master was a close friend even before our Masonic Journeys and I wanted to show him my support. For a couple of years after that, my attendance dropped off at my blue lodge due to serving on Grand Staff, much needed time with my family and Masonic Burnout.

More recently, my Masonic Journey was thrust back into forward motion due to a few different occurrences. The first was when I was present as a brother was being raised. During the Bible charge, Past Master Marty Hogan said "You will be the last to think we have taught you all that a Master Mason can Learn." WHAT!?!? That statement resonated with me more than it had in the past. Another close friend of mine found himself in the position of skipping the chair in the West on his way to the East. I told him that I would do whatever I could to support him. After conferring with a couple other Past Masters, I was nominated and elected Senior Warden. The last occurrence was showing up early for Officer practice and picking up a book from the collection of a brother who met an untimely death, I could write an entire essay about him. It was somewhere around this point in my Masonic Journey that I realized I had stopped learning what it was to be a Freemason. I had accomplished so many things, yet here I am still in the middle of my Journey. What was I doing? I remember joining this fraternity thinking that I was going to learn how to be a better man, AM I DONE? The answer was, NO.

My Masonic Journey is NOT Over. Though I have no aspirations to ascend the Grand Line or go through the officer chairs of an appendant body, I do wish to keep learning. Life as a Past master of a Blue Lodge is NOT THE END; it is merely the beginning.

As Past Masters, our Journey should not only be to aid and uplift our Lodge Officers, but also to the advancement of knowledge and virtue of ourselves. We can accomplish these things on our own, but it is much more enjoyable to do these things with our brothers. Bearing witness to good Masonic ritual can always inspire noble thoughts and nobler deeds. Simply being present

From the West (cont.)

Dates to Remember:

December 8, 2022

Stated Communication
EA Degree
Dinner 6:30 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

December 8, 2022

Lodge Christmas Party
Temple Lodge No. 9
6:30 PM

December 22, 2022

Stated Communication
Dinner 6:30 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

December 25, 2022

Merry Christmas!!

January 1, 2023

Happy New Year!!

January 10, 2023

Grand Visitation
Delaware Lodge No. 37
7:30 PM

January 12, 2023

Grand Visitation
Endeavor Lodge No. 17
7:30 PM

January 12, 2022

Stated Communication
Dinner 6:30 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

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Visit us at:

www.temple9.org

will encourage younger brothers to learn to measure themselves better by the Plumb, Square and Level. At the end of the Bible charge Marty also states "That light you seek can only be found in this book's OPEN pages." Well, I am here to tell you that, that light also shines from guys like Marty.

To my brothers who are not Past Masters yet, in plainly reading this article it would appear to be written for Past Masters, but I want you to read deeper. No matter where your Masonic Journey takes you, the principles of Freemasonry are meant to be learned, practiced and SHARED by ALL Master Masons, not just those you have sat as officers. I encourage all of you to continue your work on your personal rough ashlar, and if I can ever be of any assistance to any of you, that is what we are here to do; "improve ourselves and each other in Masonry".

From the officers of Temple Lodge No. 9

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"

Bob Hope

Living Past Masters of Temple Lodge No. 9

John L. Watkins – 1973
Franklin S. Wilkins – 1974
Louis S. O'Day – 1978
Frank H. Beebe – 1981
Ronald Jester - 1982
Gilbert H. Emory – 1983
Steven L. Rogers – 1984
J.D. Dennis, Jr. – 1988
Jeff Hague, PGMar. – 1989/2007
William A. Dudley, Jr. – 1990
William T. Wadkins, PGM – 1992
Bruce K. Ney – 1993
Marlin A. Gillespie, PSGD – 1994
David F. Coady – 1997
Clarence R. Jackson – 1998
Joshua J. Willey – 2000
George Andrae, PSGD – 2002
George G. Jester, Jr. – 2005
Michael B. Saba – 2008/2009
Martin F. Hogan, III, PJGD – 2010
Chad Robinson, PGMar. – 2011
A. Daniel Doran, PGMar. - 2012
Will Currey, PGSB – 2013
Roland Cohee, Sr. PGT – 2014
Stephen Walter, PGSB – 2015
Jim Bennett, PJGS – 2016
Brandon Smith – 2017
Steve Kerr – 2018
Matt Thompson, PSGD – 2019
John Cannon – 2020
Michael Nichols - 2021

Affiliated Past Masters

Thomas McMurray – 1977
James Cooke – 2008
John Marinucci, PGM – 2011
Matthew D. Hovatter – 2007/08
James G. Sutton – 1994
Jeffrey D. Haass, Sr., PGM – 2015
William C. Thompson, PJGD – 2018
Charles Randy Wood - 2000

TEMPLE LODGE NO. 9 A.F. & A.M

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Address Correction Requested



TO THE FAMILY OF THE BROTHER NAMED ON THIS DOCUMENT: Should he become ill or in need of assistance, please notify the Secretary or Worshipful Master. Their names and contact information are contained within.