

October 2023



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

Chartered January 16, 1815  
2023-2024

209<sup>th</sup> Year of Fellowship

## From the East – Christopher W. Fitzgerald, WM

Welcome to autumn, Brothers. As we embrace the changing season and the beauty it brings. Let us remember our Theme for this year, "Family and Fraternity First," and keep it at the heart of all our endeavors. As part of our Masonic Charity efforts, we continue to support our charity, The Shriners Hospital for Children.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to WB Chad Robinson and his committee members Brother Pete Russo and WB Will Currey for their outstanding work in organizing and hosting the Labor Day Crab Feast and Bar-be-que at JP's Wharf in Bowers Beach. Your efforts have brought great success.

I would also like to thank WB Stephen Walter and his team for presenting us with the insightful Order of the Rusty Nail Degree. Your dedication to Masonic education is commendable.

Congratulations to Brother Dave Dingus on attaining the sublime degree of Master Mason. We are delighted to have you as a full member of Temple No. 9.

Mark your calendars, Brothers:

10/9/23: The Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware. I encourage all Grand Lodge Members to attend. Dress code for the event is coat and tie.

10/12/23: Regular Stated Communication. Join us on the second floor for dinner at 6:30, followed by a presentation from Most Reverend Roland Cohee Jr. as he enlightens us on the origin of the Forget-me-not. Dress code for the evening is coat and tie.

10/18/23: Milford Community Parade. If you are interested in being a participating member of the Float Committee, contact Brother Junior Warden Curtis Perry, Committee Chairman.

10/26/23: Regular Stated Communication. Dinner will be served on the second floor at 6:30, followed by a presentation by WB Stephen Walter titled "A Tour of the Lodge", an opportunity to welcome our newest Master Masons to their Mother Lodge and provide further instruction. Dress Code for the evening is coat and tie.

May you all be in good health and spirits, my Brothers. Let us continue to support one another, our Lodge, and the principles of Freemasonry.

### 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 2023-2024

Worshipful Master  
Chris Fitzgerald  
(302) 242-4916

Senior Warden  
Keith Geise  
(717) 994-6114

Junior Warden  
Curtis Perry  
(302) 293-8982

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

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

Treasurer  
Jim Bennett, PM  
(302) 228-1228

Pete "Ringo" Ringenary –  
Senior Deacon  
Rob Watts – Junior Deacon  
Sean Barnes – Senior Steward  
Tom Postles – Junior Steward  
Roland Cohee, Jr., PGC - Chaplain  
Mark Bertone – Tiler  
Ronnie Joseph - Marshal  
Roland Cohee, Jr., PGC –  
Lodge Instructor



## **A Talk on Self Awareness in Freemasonry**

I would like to share a topic that, in my opinion, holds great significance within our esteemed fraternity: the importance of self-awareness in connection with the principles of Freemasonry. As Brother Freemasons, we have embarked on a journey of self-improvement, enlightenment, and the pursuit of moral virtue. I invite you to delve into the profound role that self-awareness plays in our Masonic path and how it can elevate our individual and collective experiences.

Brothers, self-awareness is a transformative tool that allows us to observe and understand ourselves objectively. It encompasses a deep understanding of our thoughts, emotions, motivations, strengths, weaknesses, and our impact on others. By cultivating self-awareness, we gain insights into our biases, limitations, and areas for improvement. It is through this introspection that we pave the way for personal growth and the refinement of our character.

Within the framework of Freemasonry, self-awareness assumes a central role, serving as the cornerstone upon which we build our Masonic journey. Let us explore three key reasons why self-awareness is of utmost importance in connection with the principles we hold dear:

First and foremost, self-mastery is a core principle of our fraternity. We strive to master our passions and vices, and self-awareness enables us to identify and acknowledge these within ourselves. By understanding our weaknesses, we can work diligently to transform them into strengths, ultimately becoming better versions of ourselves. Through self-awareness, we continually refine our character and embrace the path of self-mastery.

Secondly, moral development lies at the heart of Freemasonry. Our principles are founded upon ethics, morality, and virtue. Self-awareness empowers us to examine our own moral compass and ensure our actions align with our values. It prompts us to reflect upon our behavior and assess whether it upholds the virtues of honesty, compassion, integrity, and justice. By cultivating self-awareness, we hold ourselves accountable and strive to consistently manifest the principles we profess.

Lastly, our fraternity thrives on harmonious relationships and the sense of brotherhood we share. Self-awareness plays a pivotal role in nurturing these relationships within our Masonic community. By understanding our own emotions, triggers, and patterns of behavior, we become more empathetic and attuned to the needs and perspectives of our brethren. Self-awareness equips us with effective communication skills, the ability to resolve conflicts amicably, and the promotion of an environment rooted in respect and understanding.

Brethren, as we embark on this Masonic journey, let us embrace self-awareness as an essential guiding principle. Through self-awareness, we become architects of our own character, embodying the virtues we hold dear. By fostering self-awareness within ourselves and supporting one another in this pursuit, we contribute to a Masonic community that reflects the values of enlightenment, morality, and unity.

May the principles of Freemasonry inspire us to continually cultivate self-awareness, leading us towards personal growth, moral excellence, and the fulfillment of our Masonic mission. Thank you, my Brother Freemasons.

## Dates to Remember:

**October 9, 2023**

Grand Lodge Communication  
Atlantic Sands, Rehoboth  
9:00 AM

**October 10, 2023**

Grand Lodge Installation  
Atlantic Sands, Rehoboth  
7:00 PM

**October 12, 2023**

Stated Communication  
Forget-Me-Not Presentation  
Dinner 6:30 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

**October 14, 2023**

Union 7 Outdoor Degree  
Al Johnson's Farm  
8:00 AM

**October 18, 2023**

Milford Community Parade  
JW Perry for More Information

**October 24, 2023**

Grand Visitation  
Franklin Lodge No. 12

**October 26, 2023**

Stated Communication  
A Tour of the Lodge  
Dinner 6:30 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.temple9.org](http://www.temple9.org)

## From the Senior Deacon - Pete "Ringo" Ringenary

### Notice of Upcoming Workshop

The first workshop for Ritual & Education will be held November 4th, 2023 at Union Lodge No 7. Breakfast will be at 8 AM with the workshop commencing at 9 AM.

The topics are:

- Examining a visiting Brother
- The Landmarks of Freemasonry
- Additional Ritual provided in your Cypher Books
- A Point within A Circle
- Printed Instructional Materials from the Grand Lodge of Delaware

We hope to see you all there.



### 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 Andraee, 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, JGD – 2018  
Charles Randy Wood - 2000

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

127 Causey Avenue  
Unit 301  
Milford, DE 19963

**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.