

September 2023



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

## 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*

Chartered January 16, 1815  
2023-2024

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

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

We extend a warm welcome to all the brethren as we gather once again after the summer break to commence this Masonic year with the theme of "Family and Fraternity First." May this year be filled with unity, brotherly love, and a renewed commitment to our Masonic principles.

### **First Regular Stated Communication**

Our First Regular Stated Communication will be held on Thursday evening, September 14th. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:30, followed by the opening of the lodge at 7:30. The program for the evening will be the Order of the Rusty Nail, an enlightening and meaningful experience. We express our gratitude to Committee Chair WB Stephen Walter and his Exemplar, Brother Jacob Mills, for their dedication and preparation. The Dress Code for the evening is Masonic (coat and tie).

### **Second Regular Stated Communication**

Our Second Stated Communication will take place on Thursday evening, September 28th. Once again, dinner will be served at 6:30, followed by the opening of the lodge at 7:30. The highlight of the evening will be the Master Mason Degree Conferral upon FC David Dingus. This is a significant milestone in Brother Dingus' Masonic journey, and we encourage all brethren to attend and support him on this auspicious occasion. The Dress Code for the evening is as follows: Officers - tuxedo, Brothers and visiting Brothers - Masonic (coat and tie).

We look forward to the camaraderie and fellowship that these events and communications will bring, as we strengthen the bonds of brotherhood within our lodge. Let us remember the importance of family and fraternity in all our Masonic endeavors and strive to uphold these values throughout the year.





# Family and Fraternity First: The Compasses as a Working Tool

Brethren, in our pursuit of Masonic knowledge and personal growth, we constantly strive to embody the values of Family and Fraternity First. These principles remind us of the importance of nurturing our relationships with loved ones and fellow Masons alike. Today, we shall explore the symbolism of one of our most significant working tools: the compasses. By understanding its symbolism, we can deepen our appreciation for its teachings and apply them to our daily lives.

## The Compasses: Symbolism and Application:

The compasses, one of the Masonic working tools, holds profound symbolism within our Craft. Traditionally, it is depicted as a pair of compasses joined by a single point. This representation carries multiple layers of meaning for us to explore.

### 1. Moral Circumscription:

The compasses remind us to circumscribe our actions and passions within the bounds of morality. Just as the compasses create a circle with a fixed radius, we must establish firm boundaries to guide our behavior. By adhering to moral principles, we ensure that our actions align with our obligations to our families, our fraternity, and society at large. The compasses urge us to act with integrity, honesty, and compassion, placing Family and Fraternity First in all our endeavors.

### 2. Balance and Harmony:

The compasses also symbolize the importance of balance and harmony in our lives. When we use the compasses, we adjust the legs to create perfect circles. In our daily lives, this represents our pursuit of equilibrium between our Masonic obligations, familial responsibilities, personal pursuits, and professional endeavors. By striking a balance, we can lead fulfilling lives while nurturing our relationships with our loved ones and our Masonic brethren.

### 3. Unity and Brotherhood:

The compasses teach us about unity and brotherhood within the Masonic fraternity. Just as the two legs of the compasses are joined at a single point, we are united as brethren, bound by our shared values, rituals, and experiences. Through our commitment to Family and Fraternity First, we foster a sense of unity, mutual support, and respect among our fellow Masons. The compasses remind us that by embracing the principles of love, friendship, and brotherhood, we can build a strong Masonic family and make a positive impact in the wider community.

## Conclusion:

Brethren, as we reflect upon the symbolism of the compasses, let us remember that our Masonic journey is intertwined with our commitment to Family and Fraternity First. The compasses serve as a constant reminder to circumscribe our actions within the bounds of morality, seek balance and harmony in our lives, and foster unity and brotherhood within our Masonic fraternity. By applying these teachings, we can create a meaningful Masonic experience that extends beyond the lodge, enriching our relationships with our loved ones and making a positive difference in the world around us. Let us always keep Family and Fraternity First in our hearts and actions, guided by the wisdom of the compasses.

## Dates to Remember:

### September 14, 2023

Stated Communication  
Rusty Nail Degree  
Dinner 6:30 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

### September 28, 2023

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

### September 30, 2023

Masonic Brotherhood Day  
Delaware State University  
Contact: WB Gary Laing  
hiram1863@gmail.com

### October 9, 2023

Grand Lodge  
Atlantic Sands, Rehoboth  
9:00 AM

### October 10, 2023

Grand Lodge Installation  
Atlantic Sands, Rehoboth  
7:00 PM

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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

## Brothers All By: Silas H. Shepherd

In the Lodge we meet the fellows,  
Who, in other walks of life,  
We would seldom ever contact,  
And then perhaps in strife.  
They are men of every leaning  
Whom we good and honest call,  
And the splendid thing about it  
Is, that we are Brothers All.

They are men of every station  
Some are rich and some are poor  
But they all are full of friendship  
And of service have a store.  
We may differ in our methods,  
But our objects we recall  
And it binds us in a labor  
And it makes us Brothers All.

They are men of truth and honor  
Trusting always in the right  
Seeking always further light.  
What a power for perfect justice!  
How can failure e'er befall  
Such a firmly founded body  
For the Lodge makes Brothers All?



### 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.