



Jerusalem Times

A Publication of Jerusalem Lodge #99, F & AM - Est. 1850

Issue 12 February 2007

Worshipful Master, Wardens, & Brethren...

By Robert L. Blackburn, J.W.

Brethren, it is certainly an honor to be addressing you once again, especially now that I am serving as your Junior Warden. There are a few events that I cannot help but sharing with you.

The first thing that I want to cover is Lodge of Inspection. This year, as with years past, we were teamed up with Parke Lodge #8. This year, we were to perform work on the Entered Apprentice degree; primarily performing the second half. I would like to commend the Officers of this Lodge for their extremely hard work and dedication. There were numerous nights we (WM Gary, SW Barry, SD Chas, SS Kris, along with myself, as well as JS Gary when his work allowed) spent hours going over the lectures, the floor work, and those touches that show the Assistant Grand Lecturer that we have prepared and are proficient to perform the degrees. I had every confidence in our Officers, and was fully assured that this years Inspection would go off without a hitch.

Unfortunately, it turned out that Parke #8 only had 6 members show up, and according to Grand Lodge Regulation 22.050, there must be 7 Master Masons from the Lodge to open for business. Due to this lack of members, we were unable to open Lodge, thus unable to properly conduct Lodge of Inspection. Thankfully, we were not penalized due to the fact that it was not our fault that Parke #8 was unable to open. In total, Jerusalem #99 had 15 members travel to Rockville for Inspection, but unfortunately, we were unable to perform.

Brethren, this really says something to me. There were 15 Brethren who, on a night where there were several inches of snow on the ground and temperature were dipping into the low single digits, they traveled 15+ miles to attend and support our Lodge. I want to commend all of the Brethren that came out to help us that night. It was truly a disappointing feeling when we were informed that not enough showed up; I was disappointed for the other officers who had worked so hard, I was disappointed at the fact that I had learned the South lecture in 24 hours and was not able to give it, I was disappointed for the members of Parke #8 that were let down.

Secondly, I want to say a word about installation. In every man's life, there are moments and events that you will never forget. One of those for me was seeing my father installed as Worshipful Master. While I am not a member of the first father-son team in our Lodge, I would like to say what an honor it is. Not only to have 2 generations currently in the Lodge, but to both be officers. That day, I presented my father with a gift; a gavel. There are no words that I can say here that express how I felt giving that gavel to my father. The emotions were overwhelming while both of us were reminded of those that took the office of Worshipful Master before him, especially my Grandfather Wayne Blackburn who presided over Jerusalem #99 in 1967. Thirty years later, while looking down from the Celestial Lodge Above, his son took over; and one day if the Grand Architect of the Universe sees fit, his Grandson will once again follow in his footsteps. As W.M. Tim Long from Bridgeton wrote in a letter to the Lodge, "The installation of officers this year was the most solemn, dignified, and moving that I have ever seen." I can't say it any better than that.

Again Brethren, it is an honor to address you as Junior Warden as we look forward to what we hope will be another great year here at Jerusalem #99!

Inside this issue:

From The East	2
Masonic License Plates	2
Thing To Watch Out For...	2
New Chair Lift	3
The Secretary	3
2007 Officers	4
Scholarships	4

Visit our web site and join us for local Masonic events!

Remember our sick Brethren & Widows in your prayers!

Jerusalem Lodge #99, F & AM
C/O Rob Blackburn
315 1/2 South Main St.
Clinton, IN 47842

From the East...

Years ago while attending a degree to watch and admire our officers and Past Masters perform their work, a chair sat empty. Ron Smith asked if I would set there for the evening, assured me (due to the fear he saw in my face) that I did not have to do anything other than follow behind the Senior Stewart. Well, I could have just sat there and did nothing, but a small spark ignited that night and a lasting fire started that burns today to bring light to new brothers.

We have lost many of our great supporting columns through the past years, but our foundation is solid and new columns have been erected. Education, both in print and media is now being used to educate and inform both the public and potential new candidates. If you know of anyone interested in Masonry, contact us and we will get them an information packet along with a petition. Remember, initiation fee is currently at \$85.00 (which covers the cost of all initiation materials - apron, bible, monitor, literature, etc.).

Stated meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM, and a meal is served at 6:15 PM before every meeting. Informal fellowship meetings are held every Tuesday to educate, organize events, practice degree work, or work with Brethren. Please feel free to join us any Tuesday night at 7:00 PM.

It is my great honor and pleasure to be your Worshipful Master for 2007. I pledge to continue working hard to maintain our heritage, to improve Freemasonry's image, and to grow our Lodge!

One last comment, I would like to thank our attending Past Masters for their attendance and support; you are the cornerstone in which we begin our Masonic building and are true role models for our upcoming officers and members.

Sincerely,

Gary Blackburn, W.M.

Masonic License Plates



As it becomes time once again to venture to the license branch to renew your plates for 2007, we would like you to consider having an Indiana Freemasons plate on your vehicle! The plate, which only costs you \$10, benefits your Lodge - because \$6 of that fee is returned back to the individual Lodge for use at the local level. Show your pride to be a Freemason to the public, and at the same time benefit your Lodge! Forms can be obtained by going to www.indianafreemasons.com and clicking on the 'News' link, or by obtaining one from the Lodge or Secretary!

Things To Watch Out For:

Worshipful Master Gary Blackburn would like to remind the Brethren of the following items to watch out for in the coming months:

- Labor Day planning will begin shortly - stop by one of our 1st Tuesday night meetings - your input and help is greatly needed!
- Watch for our second annual Golf Outing held at Matthew's Park in Clinton - a date for the event should be set shortly!
- W.M. Gary and J.W. Rob are very excited to be working toward the Grand Master's Award this year! We are working hard to bring this award back to Jerusalem #99!
- One more basement clean-up day needs to be planned to do a final cleaning of our very, very large basement (and tighten up some loose ends)!
- Dues for 2007 were due as of January 1st - if you have not yet paid them, please contact Ron Smith at 466-6001 or Gary at 832-6452 IMMEDIATELY!
- Due to the city installing a front (Main St.) entrance to our parking lot, a work day will be planned in the spring to turn the parking blocks to allow for angle parking in the lot! We will need the help of several brethren to accomplish this task!
- We were pleased to elect an honorary member at the January Stated Meeting - look for a picture in the next edition!

Questions, Comments, Input? Please Contact the Editor:

Rob Blackburn, J.W.

238 S. Jackson St.

Clinton, IN 47842

JerusalemLodge99@aol.com

(765)832-6452

Fellowship Meetings

1st Tuesday of Each Month - 7:00 PM

Everyone Is Encouraged To Attend!

New Stairway Lift Chair Installed

After a long time of planning and fundraising, it was finally decided by the Trustees that it was time for the lift chair to be replaced. Due to the condition of the old chair, it was agreed that investing further money in it would be unreasonable. After obtaining several quotes, we purchased the chair and it was delivered in mid January, and was installed just a few days later!

The new lift, which is commercially rated at 400 pounds, is battery powered so that in case of a power failure, it can still safely allow people to get up/down the stairs.

A great deal of the financing for the chair was taken from a fund earmarked specifically for the replacement of the lift. We would like to thank all of the people that supported and donated toward the lift. The remaining funds that were necessary to purchase the chair were taken from funds in the building fund, as this was a major improvement toward the usefulness of our building. Again, we wish to thank all of you that continue to support Jerusalem #99. This chair is used by many people in the Lodge, and they all thank you for your generosity!

The lift was installed by W.M. Gary Blackburn and J.W. Rob Blackburn. Here are some pictures of the new lift:



Left: The new lift is extremely compact and uses wireless call buttons. It has charging bases at the top and bottom to ensure a constant power supply to the lift.



Right: The old lift, which had served the Lodge for many years, was in need of major repairs - repairs that would have still left us with an outdated chair with worn/dangerous parts.



2007 50 Year Award Recipients

During 2007, the following Brethren will receive their Grand Lodge Award of Gold:

Donald O. Helms	4/2/07
Morris E. Jenkins	5/7/07
Robert D. Ferguson	9/20/07
Arthur S. Nowling, P.M. - 1965	11/26/07

It is truly an honor to acknowledge these Brethren for their nearly 50 years of service toward the Fraternity!

Don't Forget to check out our web site at:

www.mastermason.com/jerusalem99

for current updates, pictures, events, and much, much more! Look for a new site soon at www.jerusalem99.com!

The Secretary

If he writes a letter it's too long
 If he sends a postal it's too short
 If he doesn't send a notice, he's lazy
 If he attends a committee meeting he's butting in
 If he stays away he's a shirker
 If he duns a member for dues he's insulting
 If he fails to collect dues, he's slipping
 If he asks for advice he's incompetent
 If he does not he's bull-headed
 If he writes his reports complete, they're too long
 If he condenses them they're incomplete
 If he talks on a subject he's trying to run things
 If he remains quiet he has lost interest in the meetings
 Ashes to ashes,
 Dust to dust,
 If others won't do it
 The secretary must.

Author Unknown

This is a tribute to our Secretary, PGM Ron Smith.
 His is a job that is at times thankless and unseen, but we truly appreciate everything he has done for the betterment of Jerusalem #99!

YOUR 2007 Officers

On Saturday, December 16, 2006, Jerusalem Lodge #99 installed its 2007 Officers. Here is a picture from the event:



Pictured to the left:

Front row:

Art Nowling, P.M.
Gary Blackburn, W.M., Trustee

Second Row:

Kevin Williams, P.M., Trustee
Barry Lilley, S.W.
Kris Cloyd, S.S.
Robert Bartlett, Chaplain

Top Row:

Robert Blackburn, J.W.
Tim Morgan, Treasurer
George Williams, P.M.
Ronald K. Smith, P.M., P.G.M, Secretary
Jim Helms, P.M.
Ronald Lockwood, P.M., Trustee

Not Pictured:

Ed Magee, P.M., Tyler
Gary MaGaha, J.S.
Charles Johnson, S.D.

Primary Officer Contact Information

Worshipful Master / Trustee	Gary Blackburn	765-832-6452
Senior Warden	Barry Lilley	765-828-0216
Junior Warden	Robert Blackburn	765-832-6452
Secretary	Ronald K. Smith, PM, PGM	812-466-6001
Treasurer	Tim Morgan	765-832-9412
Trustee	Kevin Williams, PM	765-832-2764
Trustee / Custodian	Ron Lockwood, PM	812-466-5619

Scholarship Forms Still Available

Each year, over \$500,000 is provided by the Masonic Fraternity to Indiana students who need assistance to continue their education in Indiana. Grants now total over \$35,000 to which Jerusalem Lodge #99 has been able to provide toward Clinton area youth education. For the 2006-2007 school year, 3 local students received Masonic scholarships; Heidi Hoke, Jordan Guinn, and Jacob Toppas.

It is not too late to receive a Scholarship Application. The deadline to for applications to be turned into the Lodge is March 1, 2007. For a copy of the application, please call the Lodge Secretary, Ron Smith at 812-466-6001.

For more information about the Indiana Grand Lodge Scholarships, please visit www.iglsb.org.