

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America

Orient of Georgia, Valley of Augusta

2553 Washington Road, Augusta, Georgia 30904-3103

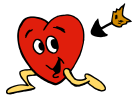
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**LOP MEETING, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2016, TRESTLEBOARD (#117) FAMILIES
AND FRIENDS INVITED-----ELECTIONS AND GUEST SPEAKER**

**THE MARCH 3, 2016, LOP MEETING IS CANCELLED DUE TO
USAGE OF THE BUILDING FOR THE "MASTERS".**



1. FEBRUARY LOP ELECTION AND PROGRAM: Election of

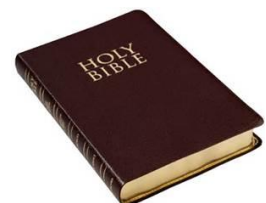
Officers will be held at the Scottish Rite Center for all Bodies at the regular meeting in February. (**Thursday, February 4th**) If you have any interest in serving the fraternity please let your intentions be known to the Secretary. If you do not have any interest in going through the chairs of one of the Bodies your talents are still needed. Following the elections, the ladies and guests will be invited into the auditorium for an open installation of all the officers. Following the installation our guest speaker for the evening will be the Director of our Rite Care Clinic, **Dr. Jennifer Jones**. Please come and enjoy a night of fellowship, education, election and a great meal to boot. Looking forward to greeting you all in the chow line.



- 2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:** When: Thursday, February 25, 2016. Where: Scottish Rite Center Board Room. Time: 630 PM. Please give the Secretary a call if you cannot attend. Elections will change the attendance this month. If you are elected to head of one of the 4 Scottish Rite Bodies (Lodge of Perfection, Chapter Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh or the Consistory or if you replace one of the at large positions you are obligated to attend the Executive Committee Meeting each month on the last Thursday. We will hold a short meeting after the elections and the program are completed this month on February 4th, 2016 to elect a Chairman of the committee. Please do not forget to attend following our LOP meeting.

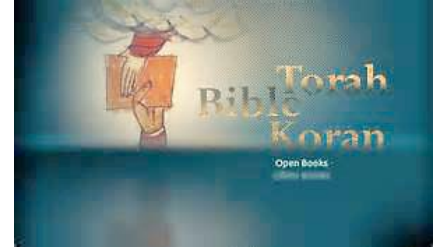


- 3. THE HOLY BIBLE: (Brother Stoney)** Upon the altar of almost every Masonic lodge in the United States will be found the Holy Bible. Exceptions would be lodges that consist of brothers not of the Christian faith. The Holy Bible is the Volume of Sacred Law for Christians and without it no lodge can be opened and certainly no degrees conferred. It contains the Will of God and is to rule the lodge



in its labors, as the sun rules the day. The history of the Bible in Masonry and its symbolism is too extensive to cover in this brief article. Nor can we really discuss when the Bible came into use in teaching Masonry and the imagery used in our degrees. Like most things Masonic, our past is shrouded in mystery and much has been lost in the fog of time. There is of course speculation, but nothing that can be defined as absolute concerning when Masonry began use of the Scriptures. Given the close connection with the Church in building the religious edifices located throughout Europe and England, one can easily conjecture how the Bible came to color Masonry even before it was widely distributed following the invention of the printing press. Once again, such is just speculation. It may well be as more facts are uncovered greater light will be shed on the subject. In early Masonry, long before 1717, it was on the Bible that obligations were taken. Interestingly however, it was not referred to as a great light, which can be seen from the *Harleian Manuscript* of 1600 wherein the obligation closes with the words "So help me God, and the holy contents of this Book."

As a result of William Preston and his fellow workmen's influence, the Bible came to its place of honor in lodges. Around 1760 the Bible is described for the first time as one of the three great lights. Did you know that almost every name contained in our ceremonies can be found in the Bible? Did you also know there are about 75 references to Biblical passages in our rituals? Beyond these direct references, the spirit of the Bible, its faith, and its attitude toward life, all pervade Masonry like a sweet smelling fragrance in a field of flowers. Every step in a new member's journey through the degrees is marked by biblical passages, obligations are



taken upon its open pages and from the depths of its wisdom come our philosophies and symbols. Given our faith in God is the cornerstone of the Craft; it only follows that the Bible, which tells the truth of God would be our rule and guide. Its quarry rich in truths that make us better men, husbands, fathers and citizens of the country in which we live. What makes the relationship between Masonry and the Bible so unique and universal at the same time? It is the Mystic Tie that binds us to love one another to the point of not being judgmental and allowing all to approach our altars and the Bible without any dogmatic beliefs attached. The Great Light lies on our altars for all to see and read, but for each man, according to his beliefs, to interpret for himself. It unites us by the simple creed of faith in God, the Great Architect of the Universe, for Whom and with Whom man must work. One of the more subtle aspects of our honoring of the Bible is that it teaches us to revere every Book of Faith in which men find help for today and hope for the future. For that reason, in a lodge consisting entirely of Jews, the Torah would be on the altar, whereas in a lodge of Muslims the Koran would be used. No matter if Volume of Sacred Law is the Bible, Torah, Koran, Vedas, etc., they symbolize the same idea – the Will of God as revealed to man. Every Mason should honor the Volume of Sacred Law found on his particular altar; he should read it, live it, love it, and use it to learn what it means to be a man. The Bible is the great story of God and man's soul and the romance between the two. It is the most divine of books telling us how God made us for Himself, and that our hearts will be ever restless and lonely until we learn to rest in Him whose Will is our peace. So mote it be.



4. GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: The 10th District Officers are planning a program to celebrate the Birthday of George Washington. The event will be held at the Masonic Temple, 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, GA 30909 on February 20th, 2016. The Play "Rose on the Altar" will be presented with a lunch to follow. Coffee and donuts at 10:00 am with the play beginning at 12:00 pm and lunch will be served following the Play, approximately 1:45 pm. All masons, their spouses and friends are invited.

5. **LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE FOR YOU AND ME: Things you hear children say in or about church:**

1. 3 year old Reese states: Our father, who does art in heaven, Harold is his name, Amen. 2. A little boy was overheard praying; Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I am having a real good time like I am. 3. After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, That the preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys. 4. One particular four year old prayed, and forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets. 5. A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, And why is it necessary to be quiet in church? One bright little girl replied, because people are sleeping!!



6. **TO A KEEPER:** One day a mother died. And on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of her bedroom, the daughter was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. No more hugs, no more lucky moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more just one minute. Sometimes, what we care about the most goes away, never to return before we can say good-bye, Say "I Love You." So while we have it, it is best we love it, and care for it and fix it when it's broken and take good care of it when it's sick. This is true for marriage and friendships, and children with bad report cards; and dogs with bad hips, and aging parents and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we cherish them! Some things we keep, like a best friend who moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make us happy, no matter what. Life is important, and so are the people we know. And so, we keep them close. Let the important people in your life know that they are a keeper.



7. **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** The Scottish Rite Valley of Augusta has been very fortunate over the last 10 years in that we have been able to raise monies from our major fundraiser each year, "**Master's Hospitality and Parking**" to subsidize such things as establishment of our Rite Care Clinic, renovations which were needed to our 40 plus year old building, being able to donate to a variety of local charities, establishment of cleaning services, landscape services and providing a great meal with no reservations and mandatory costs (donations only) to name a few. Last year we lost our Hospitality group which was about 70% of the total revenue made during the week of the Masters. Until we are able to replace this company we are looking at ways to tighten our belt without a decrease in our Rite Care Clinic and charitable donations. Our KSA (Knights of Saint Andrew, an in-house service organization) are looking at ways to fund our cleaning and outside landscape services whether it be by a fundraiser or actually doing the work ourselves. An even larger expense per month is the LOP dinner which has been provided by the Valley over the years with no reservations (so you end up preparing more food than you really need which results in waste) and no mandatory cost for each individual (asking only for a donation which in the past has never covered the cost of the meal).



There is discussion by the Executive Committee to look into ways to help cut these costs which can be from \$500-\$750 per month. (The history of donations recovered each month do not even cover half of the required amount of each meal.) One way would be to ask each lodge in the district, or have two lodges work together (who could afford to prepare and provide members for food preparation, serving and cleanup) to take one month and provide the meal. No cost to the valley. Or we can ask the membership to call in their reservations each month so that we know exactly how many to prepare for and then as you come through the line you would pay for you and your spouse, friends, etc the cost of the meal that month. (One month it may be \$5-6 dollars and another month it may be \$10-12 dollars as an example) depending on the menu. Most of the other valleys your check for your meal is your reservation. The third way would be to increase the dues substantially. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions please feel free to drop me an email or give me a call. So Mote It Be.

EDITOR AND SECRETARY
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