

## FROM OUR IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER

**D**ear Brothers of Bethel Lodge #358, Looking back at my year in the east, I feel a lot of pride and gratitude. We aimed high, and even if not everything went as planned, we had some great wins. Our support for the shrine car show was superb, they had more people than ever, and we've started making our mark on Engineers Day. We still close the lodge for two months each year, and that makes sense for now, but I hope to help us find a way to keep us going all year round. We've also started reaching out to brothers we haven't seen in a while, and I hope we keep this up. Being Master of the lodge has been a huge honor. I've learned that like any team, we need everyone to give it their all. I think we did just that, and I'm happy with how far we've come.

Thanks for everything, brothers!  
 Jake Jacobus, Past Master, 2023



### FROM THE EDITOR

## WELCOME

**W**elcome to the inaugural issue of "The Bethel Bulletin." This publication has emerged from a deep desire to keep our brothers in the loop and, most importantly, to foster a sense of connection within our Masonic family. In these pages, you'll find news, insights, and updates that bring you closer to the heart of Bethel Lodge. Our mission is to ensure that every brother feels informed, engaged, and part of our community. We invite you to explore, connect, and share in the spirit of Masonry that binds us all. Welcome, dear brothers.



## 2024 MASTER AND OFFICERS INSTALLED

**O**n Saturday, December 16th at 11:00 am, Bethel Lodge warmly welcomed family, friends, and guests to the Installation of Officers, marking the beginning of this years masonic journey. The distinguished ceremony saw the installation of Jay Wilson as Worshipful Master, Byron Knepp III as Senior Warden, Frank Marovich as Junior Warden, Kelly Davis, PM as Treasurer, Jeff Marlatt, PM as Secretary, Rob Martens as Senior Deacon, Craig Miller as Junior Deacon, Rob Linn, PM as Chaplain, Roger Merchberger and Jeff Ritter as Stewards, Steve Gillis as Tiler, Kelly Davis, PM as Education Officer, and Allen Campbell as Organist. The open installation concluded with a communal lunch, strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and friendship. As these officers take their esteemed roles, the lodge looks forward to a year of growth and continued dedication to our guiding principles.

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***"DUES ARE OFFICIALLY OVERDUE"***

**--JEFF**

## FROM THE EAST: WITH OUR NEW WORSHIPFUL MASTER



Speaking to Jay Wilson, the newly elected Worshipful Master of Bethel lodge, there's a sense of deep respect and anticipation in the air that we often feel this time of year. Jay, a Navy Veteran and a now long time civilian industrial mechanic for the Great Lakes Coast Guard vessels, carries a legacy of service and commitment that is evident in his character. He begins by reflecting on his Masonic heritage, sharing, "my great-grandfather was the master of the Houghton Lake Lodge, and my grandfather led the Evert Lodge. They both spent their final years in the Masonic Home. Their dedication to Masonry is a legacy I'm proud to continue." In addition to his family legacy, he identifies another member of Bethel Lodge, "the most influential mason and the reason I joined would be brother Kelly Davis. The way he has always conducted himself is something everyone should strive to emulate". Jay's dedication extends beyond professional realms, as he says he has a soft spot for anything that supports kids. A fact evident in his enthusiastic chairmanship of Bethel's Bike's

for Books program and his former position on the school board, a position he left to give that time to his family. Jay is also well known on the area tractor pull circuit and in the EUP Antique Equipment Association. Much of his summer free time is spent, towing his tractors to and from events, pulling in the events (frequently winning trophies and bragging rights) and repairing tractors in preparation to do it all over again. He adds "I also love loud music and Stroh's beer!" When asked about his vision for the lodge, Jay speaks with a clear sense of purpose. "We still haven't fully recovered from the 2020 break. It's essential to revitalize our sense of community and engagement. I'm looking forward to the year ahead" he shares. He emphasizes the importance of fellowship and active participation to foster a vibrant and supportive Masonic environment. As the interviewer and a fellow Mason, my interactions with Jay Wilson have always left me impressed. His willingness to do the hard work, his no-nonsense world view and blend of humility will absolutely benefit Bethel's future. His commitment to his family, his respect for our Masonic heritage, and his desire to bring us closer as a community are qualities that make him an exemplary leader. Jay concludes with a message of gratitude, "I'm deeply thankful for the trust the brothers have placed in me." As we end our conversation, it's clear that under Jay Wilson's leadership, our lodge is set to embark on a fulfilling journey of renewed fellowship, stronger community ties, and a reinvigorated commitment to the values that define us. In Jay, we see not just a leader, but a brother committed to carrying forward the torch of Masonic tradition with a modern touch.

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## CALL FOR LOST LODGE ARTIFACTS

Dear Brothers of Bethel Lodge 358,

As we approach our 150th anniversary, our commitment to preserving the rich history of Bethel Lodge 358 has led us on a quest to reclaim lost artifacts, notably the missing minutes from our lodge and records from the historic Elmira Lodge. These documents are vital links to our past, and their absence is keenly felt.

Approximately two decades' worth of our minutes, bound in a volume about the size of a shoebox, have gone missing. It's possible they are languishing in storage or misplaced among a brother's estate items. Similarly, the documents from Elmira Lodge, our predecessor in Sault Sainte Marie, were once diligently preserved by Captain John Spaulding, the last secretary of Elmira, during its years of inactivity. These records, entrusted to Bethel upon its chartering in 1882, were last known to be seen some 30 to 40 years ago. Some believe they might have been sent to the Grand Lodge or a museum for safekeeping.

Our most tangible lead is a legal box marked "Elmira" from about 50 years ago, discovered to have been repurposed around 1982. This clue, albeit disheartening, reminds us of the importance of our mission. In preparation for our sesquicentennial, we are dedicated to intensifying our efforts to locate and digitize these historical treasures.

If you have any information, or if you are in possession of items related to the legacy of our lodge or Elmira, your assistance would be invaluable. Please contact the lodge secretary, or the wardens club with any leads or insights. Your help is not just about reclaiming pieces of history; it's about enriching our collective future.

Fraternal Regards,  
The Bethel Lodge Wardens Club

# STEVE "BIGFOOTE" GILLIS : MASON OF THE YEAR 2022

Profile by: Rob Linn, PM

Brother Steve "Bigfoote" Gillis, our 2022 Mason of the Year, shares his journey with a blend of humility and pride. Standing tall in both stature and spirit, Steve retired to Sugar Island with his wife Pam, affectionately known as "Godzilla." Embracing a snowbird lifestyle, the couple spends winters in Florida, yet Steve's heart remains deeply connected to his Masonic and Shrine responsibilities. Reflecting on his Masonic journey, Steve recalls his initiation in 1994, "That night, being raised to the sublime degree 3rd, it was more than just a ritual. It was a bond with my conductor, a friend who's since passed, that I'll cherish forever." His path was shaped by mentors like Gary Knowles, Keith Anderson, and particularly Bill Newhouse, who instilled in him the depth of Masonic values. Steve recounts a pivotal moment involving Bill, "We were leaving an antique motorcycle meet in Tampa when our RV broke down. Bill was there, without a second thought, helping us out. He just started



handing me \$100 bills to get us home. I tried to refuse, but he insisted." This act of generosity left a lasting impression on Steve, embodying the Masonic principle of brotherly love. A family man

at heart, Steve is a proud father and an active member of the Sugar Island community, contributing as a Lions club member and ambulance driver for the fire department on the island. His meeting with Pam is a story of chance and charm. "I saw her heading to her 1971 Grand Prix. 'Nice car,' I said, and we ended up talking for hours. Later, I found her house, knocked on the door, and her little brother Jimmy, seeing me with my long hair and beard, slams the door yelling for Dad!" Steve laughs. Their relationship blossomed from there, I knew she was the one when I arrived home one day to find that my motorcycle frame, in it's place of honor on the coffee table had been decorated as our Christmas tree. The rest was history. "Masonry has been about growing better, finding a family among brothers, and giving back," Steve notes, reflecting on his experiences. His story, filled with personal anecdotes and Masonic commitment, paints a vivid picture of a man dedicated to his fraternity, his family, and his community.

## THE FUTURE OF MASONRY : BY WB KELLY DAVIS, BGP

We asked Worshipful Brother Kelly Davis, BGP to speak on the greatest opportunities and threats facing Michigan masonry. There's a troubling trend of isolation in our society, with a stark increase in the number of men without close friends. This is where our fraternity can step in. Freemasonry provides a unique space for building deep, meaningful relationships. We have the chance to fill a significant gap in companionship and camaraderie by living out our Masonic principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Yet, this opportunity comes with its own set of challenges. It's crucial we remain discerning at the west gate, bringing in men who are ready for this journey. Our mission to make good men better involves valuing and mentoring every brother that joins us. The biggest threat we face is keeping these new members active and involved. The key is to ensure they're acknowledged and feel welcomed at all our gatherings. I believe many join Masonry seeking a sense of belonging. It's our job to reinforce that by personally inviting them to events and making them feel part of our Masonic family. Retention is crucial, and every brother has a role in this. While we have officers designated to welcome visitors, this responsibility should be shared by us all, especially in integrating new members. I urge all of us to meet these challenges head-on. Let's harness the strength of our brotherhood to counteract the rising tide of isolation. By committing to our principles and welcoming every member, new and old, with open arms, we will not only reinforce our fraternity's foundation but also offer a critical service to our society. Let's move forward with purpose, ensuring Freemasonry in Michigan remains a thriving and united force.

# THE MYSTERY OF ALLEGORIES & SYMBOLS

By The Right Worshipful Craig Lehrke, Grand Marshal

We have all heard that Masonry is veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols, which leads us to two very important questions:

1. What exactly does that mean?
2. Why are the lessons of the craft hidden making it difficult for anyone to interpret and understand them?

The answer to both questions is this: shrouding our secrets in allegorical passages and disguising them in symbols prevents the uninitiated from knowing them. Unfortunately, because of this, the fraternity is branded as a "secret society", even though our lodges hold prominent locations in our towns, are clearly marked, and often list the meeting days and times on the door. Furthermore, the internet is filled with postings and videos claiming to reveal the secrets of Freemasonry. However, the secrets of Freemasonry cannot be seen and read with the eye; they can only be found in the hearts of those who diligently search for them.

Through allegories and symbols the pearls of wisdom found in our ritual are not defined clearly, thus leaving it to each man to study, contemplate, and apply his interpretation to his life and his understanding of how that lesson can apply to his needs. This is one of the universal truths of Masonry, that each man must find his own way through the hidden mysteries. Although no two men may come to the same conclusion, neither is wrong. The only wrong conclusion is that of the allegories and symbols are nothing more than ancient lessons that are devoid of deeper meaning or practical application in our world today. As we have just pointed out, each has a purpose and more importantly, each is adaptable to address and guide the requirements of all men.

One cannot help but be in awe of the greatness of these timeless lessons taught within the masonic ritual and lectures; they are ageless and applicable to all men in all situations. One only needs to take the time to seek their meaning. We are challenged as men and as masons to bridge that gap between a symbol or allegorical statement and its practical application in our lives based upon our individual understanding.

In my office I have an old coffee mug containing pens and pencils; it also contains a small trowel. From handle to point it is only six inches long, yet it is a tool of great power and influence on my daily routine. Every time I sit at my desk, I see that trowel and I am reminded of what that simple tool represents to a Master Mason. It challenges me every day to live up to that expectation and to be respectful and understanding to all who grace the path of my life's journey.

I challenge each of my beloved brothers to search the ritual, ferret out the allegories and look deeper at the meaning behind each symbol and especially how they may apply to your life. Because the masonic journey is not measured in how many degrees you complete, or chairs you have held, but rather our progress is marked in how you apply the teachings of Masonry to your life and become a better man, the man God wants you to be.-CL



*Right Worshipful Brother Craig Lehrke is a distinguished fourth-generation Freemason who grew up in Grand Rapids. Initiated and raised at Verona Huron Lodge No. 365 in 1983, he later moved to St. Ignace in 2016, affiliating with his home lodge there. A retired Navy pilot and school principal, Brother Lehrke has served as Past Master of both Verona Huron Lodge No. 365 and his home lodge in St. Ignace. His extensive travels to lodges throughout the state are well-known, reflecting his deep commitment to Freemasonry. In retirement, Brother Lehrke enjoys the seasons, eagerly anticipating ice fishing in winter and serving as a captain for the original Soo Locks Boat Tours in the summer. He has been married for 39 years and is a proud father and grandfather. His family includes two adult daughters, two sons-in-law, three grandchildren, and his beloved pets: a Labrador, a cat, and eight chickens.*

# BROTHERHOOD ACROSS CONTINENTS: AFRICA

By: Brother Byron "Trey" Knepp, III

**In** the summer of June-July 2011, a mere month after being raised a Master Mason in Virginia, I found myself deployed to Takoradi, Ghana, in Western Africa. As part of the US Coast Guard International Training Division, I was there to teach a course on outboard motor maintenance and small boat operations for 5 weeks. It was a mission like any other, or so I thought, until halfway through when our mission changed course, leading us to Accra, Ghana's capital, for a four-day wait for new team members to arrive.

**With** some time on my hands and a burning curiosity, I found the Grand Lodge of Ghana offices on the internet. I convinced my team to take a little detour because I just had to see it. Standing outside the lodge, I remember knocking on the door, feeling a mix of excitement and apprehension. A man answered, and he seemed a bit stern and hesitant at first. It's not every day an American stranger shows up at your door in Accra. His name was Dennis, and he was the Right Worshipful Grand Junior Deacon of the Grand Lodge at the time. I quickly explained I was a Mason from the US and shared the grip and word privately. It was like a switch flipped; suddenly, we were old friends. Dennis's demeanor changed completely, and he eagerly showed me around their offices and the lodge room across the street.

**The** real twist in my adventure came when Dennis mentioned they had a regular meeting the next day and invited me to attend. Returning for the meeting, I met another brother, the oldest living and longest tenured Mason in Ghana, boasting 51 years of Masonic life. The name escapes me, but his warm welcome does not. It was as if I had always been part of their community. They treated me like family, excited to share their lodge and brotherhood.

**Despite** my casual attire compared to their formality, they didn't care. They were just thrilled to have a brother from the US there. My team, not familiar with Masonic traditions, was hesitant and even scared at the idea of me entering the lodge alone. In Ghana, we always moved in pairs for safety, but I assured them I would be safer among these brothers than anywhere else in the country. With some convincing, they let me go "alone" into the lodge, though I knew I was in the company of brothers.

Sitting through the meeting was an intriguing experience. The English they spoke was accented differently, and their rituals and lodge setup were foreign to me. Yet, I was completely drawn in, amazed at the brotherhood's embrace despite the differences. It was an incredible, life-changing experience. Their hall, home to 4 lodges since 1926, stands as a testament to the timeless and borderless brotherhood of Freemasonry.

**This** experience in Ghana left me in awe of the universal bond of Freemasonry. It doesn't matter where you are in the world; the brotherhood transcends borders, races, religious preferences, and ages. In a matter of moments, strangers became brothers, and a foreign land felt like home. It's a powerful reminder of how Masonry unites us in profound ways. --



A very young Brother Knepp with his new friend Dennis.

Ghana, located 5600 miles (9100 kilometers) from Sault Sainte Marie, embraced Freemasonry during British expansion, leading to the establishment of its first Grand Lodge in 1931. In 2008, the Irish and British constitutions merged to form the new Grand Lodge of Ghana. Freemasonry has seen a resurgence in the country, as a former Ghanaian President, also a past Grand Master was elected to the grand line of UGLE. Ghana also faces a challenge with numerous fraudulent "illuminati" lodges,

**Byron "Trey" Knepp**, known as Trey for being the third Byron Knepp in his lineage (think uno, dos, tres), is an active duty Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer soon to retire in Sault Sainte Marie. Originally hailing from Texas and raised a Master Mason in Virginia, Trey's Masonic journey and experiences like the one in Ghana shape his life and service, embodying the true spirit of Freemasonry's global brotherhood. Trey has been in line since arriving in the Soo and is currently serving as Senior Warden.

**Do you have an intriguing Masonic story to share?** Whether it's a personal experience in Freemasonry that holds significance for you or an extraordinary anecdote, we'd love to hear it. Please send your story via email, letter, message, or phone call to [BethelWardensClub@gmail.com](mailto:BethelWardensClub@gmail.com). Your tale, no matter how unique or personal, is welcome!

# FINDING BALANCE IN THE NEW YEAR: A CHALLENGE

**Dear Brethren,**

**As** we embark upon this new year, our reflection on the Masonic working tools – the 24-inch Gauge and the Common Gavel – invites us to a deeper understanding of our roles as Masons and individuals. These symbols not only guide us in balancing our daily lives but also remind us of a fundamental Masonic principle: while we are committed to serving others, the core of Freemasonry lies in self-improvement and self-service.

**The 24-inch Gauge**, partitioning the day into sections for devotion, labor, and refreshment, offers a blueprint for balanced living. It's a poignant reminder, especially for our more industrious brothers, that self-care is not a luxury, but an essential part of our well-being. In the pursuit of serving others, we must not neglect our own needs. Overextending ourselves can lead to burnout, diminishing our ability to serve effectively. Let's remember to allocate time for rest and rejuvenation, ensuring that we remain the best versions of ourselves for our families, workplaces, and the Lodge.

**For** our elder and retired brethren, this Gauge serves as a reminder that the cessation of professional work doesn't equate to a cessation of personal growth or community involvement. This phase of life offers a unique opportunity to engage in learning, mentoring, and volunteering, thereby staying mentally active and spiritually fulfilled. Our Lodge's collective wisdom grows richer with the experiences and knowledge shared by our elder members.

**The Common Gavel** symbolizes the ongoing work of chipping away at our imperfections. This task, lifelong and ever-evolving, highlights the Masonic focus on self-development. Being the best version of ourselves is the highest form of service we can offer to others. It's in our personal growth that we find the strength, wisdom, and empathy to positively impact our families, communities, and the fraternity.

**In Freemasonry**, we learn that service to others stems naturally from self-improvement. As we grow in virtue, skill, and understanding, our capacity to contribute meaningfully to those around us expands. Our teachings encourage us not to die on the altar of serving others but to cultivate a balanced life where self-care and community service coexist harmoniously.

**As Masons**, we are continually reminded that our first duty is to ourselves – to be honest, to be kind, and to be knowledgeable. It's through this self-service that we become better fathers, better professionals, and better Masons. Our work within the

Lodge, while it certainly extends to community service, is primarily aimed at personal development. It is by being our best selves that we best serve our fraternity and society.

**This year**, let us use the 24-inch Gauge and Common Gavel as daily reminders of this balance. Let us strive to allocate our time wisely, continue chipping away at our flaws, and embrace the journey of self-improvement. By doing so, we not only enrich our lives but also set a standard of excellence and service in all our endeavors.

**Brethren**, may we all strive to be pillars of strength, wisdom, and compassion in our homes, workplaces, and within the Lodge. Here's to a year of balanced living, self-growth, and meaningful contributions to the world around us.

Fraternally and sincerely,

Rob Linn, PM

Editor, Bethel Bulletin



save  
the  
date

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Bethel Reverse Raffle August 25th

Shrine Car Show; September 6-7-8

## EUP Masonic Family Meetings upcoming

Bethel is dark Feb and March (no stated mtg)

OES Queen of the North #82 (dark Feb/Mar)

Newberry McMillan #400: 1st Wed, 7:30pm\*

Cedarville, Les Cheneaux #590: 2nd Wed, 7pm\*

St Ignace #369: 3rd Wed, 7:30pm\*

York Rite St Ignace: 2nd Mon, 6:30pm

\*Dinner 1 hour before meeting time

# BETHEL MASONIC CENTER TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

"THE BETHEL MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOCIATION, AS CARETAKER OF OUR TEMPLE, IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND MAINTAINING THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS USING FUNDS FROM OUR TENANTS. WE'RE MORE THAN JUST A PHYSICAL SPACE FOR MASONIC GROUPS; WE ACTIVELY SUPPORT THEIR ACTIVITIES AND GROWTH. WE'RE COMMITTED TO CONSTANTLY IMPROVING AND ADJUSTING OUR APPROACH TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR MEMBERS AND TENANTS. OUR GOAL IS TO KEEP OUR TEMPLE AS A KEY PART OF FREEMASONRY, MAKING SURE IT'S A LIVELY, SUPPORTIVE PLACE FOR OUR FRATERNITY."

## MTA NOTES

**Reflecting on the past** couple of years, we're pleased to report significant advancements at the Bethel Masonic Temple. The upgrade to a smart HVAC system, a substantial but worthy investment of over \$30,000, has modernized our facilities, allowing for remote monitoring and reducing monthly expenses—even with the added cost of internet. Yes, we now have WiFi, enhancing our capability for streaming educational content and hosting live, remote meetings.

**In line** with other temples' successes and best practices, we plan to host at least one MTA meeting via Zoom this year, embracing the trend of virtual gatherings to provide flexibility and accessibility. As we continue to adapt and innovate, we ensure our temple's relevance and functionality for all members. Look forward to more details and please stay involved in our comprehensive "Temple 2040" plan.

### **For review, 2024 needed & desired facility repairs/upgrades**

Carpet Cleaning: 3000 sq ft approx: \$1000

- Need: Persistent mold odor due to poor ventilation before HVAC upgrade. more than 10 years since last cleaning.

Crawlspace Vent Replacement \$40 each x 8

- Most Vents rusted or plastic brittle, affecting functionality.

Front Porch Repair & Upgrade Proper repair \$500, Upgrade \$2k

- Porch nearing disrepair - loose boards, rusted screws, sinking piers creating a lip at entry, wheel chair accessibility issues.

Whole-House Filter Installation \$200

- Sediment from the well has cause some minor plumbing failures. Easy fix to prevent future damage.

Dishwasher Donation Installation \$0

- A dishwasher donation is set for spring install, allowing you to simply load glasses and go home.

**To contact a member of the MTA with support or information please message the secretary Kelly Davis or Chairman Rob Linn.**

## TEMPLE 2040 ANNOUNCED

**Exciting developments** are on the horizon for the Bethel Masonic Temple! The Masonic Temple Association (MTA) is thrilled to announce "Temple 2040" – a visionary 15-year plan dedicated to transforming our beloved temple. This isn't just a renovation project; it's a journey towards creating an ideal and functional space that caters to both our current needs and future aspirations.

**"Temple 2040"** is about deliberate, thoughtful, and comprehensive planning. It's not about frivolous spending, but about making strategic upgrades and maintenance decisions that will shape our temple into an ideal space for years to come. This includes exploring the potential of the 10 acres owned by the MTA, like adding a picnic pavilion for community engagement.

**But** here's where it gets even more exciting – we want your input! What do you envision for the future of our lodge? Whether it's practical suggestions, innovative ideas, or even your wildest dreams for what our space could become, we're all ears. Your opinions, desires, and dreams are crucial in shaping a temple that's not just a building, but a vibrant, flexible, and functional community hub.

**Stay tuned** for more updates and proposals, even 3D models, and get ready to be a part of creating a space that truly reflects the spirit and needs of our Masonic family. "Temple 2040" isn't just our plan; it's your plan too!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Before HVAC upgrades, MTA faced a yearly deficit of \$1500, previously covered by lodge funds. Now, with reduced expenses, we enjoy a \$800 surplus. We continue to welcome and value your sponsorships for ongoing and future improvements, ensuring the Temple remains a safe, functional, and welcoming space. Your generous support makes a significant difference.

# YOUR INVITATION TO SHARE:

Brethren,

Our Masonic journey is filled with unique and memorable experiences - from moments of profound insight to lighthearted camaraderie. These stories and jokes form the fabric of our shared history and enrich our fraternal bond. We invite you to share these cherished memories with our brotherhood by contributing to our newsletter. If you're hesitant about your writing skills, don't let that hold you back. I am more than happy to help articulate your experiences. We can arrange a time to talk in person or over the phone, and I will transcribe your story for the newsletter. Your narratives are a vital part of our collective Masonic heritage, and sharing them will not only preserve our legacy but also bring us closer as a community. We look forward to hearing your stories and including them in our upcoming editions.

## WRITING PROMPTS

- **Describe how your lodge experience has evolved since you first began.**
- **Reflect on what aspects of lodge experience or teachings you feel today's Masons might be missing out on.**
- **Reflect on a moment that deeply impacted your Masonic journey.**
- **Recall a moment of brotherhood exemplifying the fraternity spirit.**
- **Share a favorite humorous story from your time in the lodge.**
- **Discuss valuable life lessons learned from Masonic experiences.**
- **Describe a lodge tradition or event you look forward to.**
- **Explain how the lodge influenced your personal or professional growth.**
- **Share a story of pride in being part of the brotherhood.**

We eagerly await your stories and reflections.

Call, Text or Email Rob Linn to get started.

## MASONIC MIRTH

***A man is walking through his local park when he notices a huge fight going on in full fury on the ball field he is passing.***

***"What's going on?", he asks a policeman, watching from the side-lines.***

***The cop replies "It's a match between the Masons and the Knights of Columbus."***

***"What's the score?" asks the first man.***

***"I don't know. It's a secret."***

## A WORD ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

*Did you know,*

*Producing and mailing this 8-page newsletter incurs a cost of \$2.54 per issue, which quickly accumulates with 100 recipients. The Wardens Club's funds will cover only the initial months. To continue providing this valuable resource, we need your support.*

*Options include sponsoring the newsletter, subscribing for a small fee, switching to email for cost-effectiveness, or suggesting a portion of dues be allocated for this purpose. Your preferences and ideas are crucial, and we welcome any contributions, be it a check or a suggestion.*

*Your feedback also shapes our content. Let us know what resonates with you and what you'd like to see more. In the future, we aim to offer customized Bethel Masonic regalia to fund our newsletter, but for now, every bit of support counts.*

*Please reach out with your choice, feedback, or contribution to continue our shared journey of Masonic education and connection.*

## COMING NEXT MONTH...

**Lodge Updates:** information on activities and business.

**Masonic Education:** Insights from leaders and experts.

**Stories and Humor:** anecdotes and light-hearted jokes.

**Member Profiles:** brothers' unique journeys.

**Key Events:** Dates and details of upcoming events.

**MTA's 15-Year Plan:** Exploring future initiatives

**Worshipful Master's Vision for 2024**