

Florence Lodge #281 A.F. & A.M.

Trestleboard

December, 2009

W.. Randall A. McFarland
Worshipful Master, 2009

5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Upcoming Calendar for Florence Lodge #281

- Monday, December 21—informal gathering at 7:00
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, December 28—informal gathering at 7:00 to
discuss 2010 year
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, January 4—Regular Business Meeting at 7:30
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Saturday, January 9—Installation of Officers at 9:00 a.m.
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, January 11—degree practice at 7:00 a.m.
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, January 18—degree practice at 7:00
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, January 25—degree or degree practice at 7:00
@ Florence Lodge #281

Why I Joined Freemasonry (by Micah I. Evans)

Growing up, all I knew about Masonry was that my grandfather had been an active Shriner in Dallas for many years. Petitioning was actually a friend's idea. His sister had received thousands of dollars in free health care from the Shrine Hospitals as a child, and joining Masonry was his way of saying thanks and getting involved in the community. Having moved back to Omaha after living in Boston for the prior 12 years, I also wanted to get involved in my town, and Masonry seemed to be a great avenue to meet good people, have some fun, and make a difference in a meaningful way.

I was raised in 2002 here at Florence #281 (in our old building on North 30th Street). It was the best thing I've done. In the 7 years since, I have had the honor to serve as Master in 2008, President of the Masters & Wardens Club, Venerable Master of the Knights of St. Andrew at the Scottish Rite, and I'm entering my sixth year as a line officer for Rose Croix at the Scottish Rite. I've been blessed to have served alongside of many great men. I've seen our philanthropic giving at its best, and I've seen the good our dollars do. I've also seen the noble hearts our members have, selflessly giving time and time again, whether it be their time, their talent, or their treasure.

FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTMAS

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On one hand, many say it's too religious, and thus don't want Christmas trees in public buildings and nativity scenes within a shepherd's-crook length of government lawns. On the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial. They've been saying it for years—it's the central theme behind the charming animated cartoon *A Charlie Brown Christmas* which was made some 40 years ago.

Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th.

Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies. The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do unto you." In other words, the Golden Rule from the Sermon on the Mount.

Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator." Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.

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 5903 Maple Street
 Omaha, NE 68104
 (402) 455-0106
<http://www.florence lodge.com>

FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTMAS
 —Continued—

Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of the virgin birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft—faith, hope and charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at Christmastime.

From: <http://justamason.blogspot.com/2007/12/freemasonry-and-christmas.html> (November 24, 2009)

2009 Officers

- W.. Randall A. McFarland.....Worshipful Master/ rmcfar@cox.net
- David L. Rose.....Senior Warden/ dlrose@cox.net
- W.. James E. Westcott.....Junior Warden/ jewestcott@cox.net
- W.. Paul L. Welsch.....Treasurer/ plwelsch@up.com
- W.. Dale E. WagnerSecretary/ dewagner@cox.net
- W.. Micah I. Evans.....Chaplain /mevans0424@cox.net
- Carl H. Moum.....Senior Deacon/ carlmoum2@hotmail.com
- Brian W. Saathoff.....Junior Deacon
- Sean T. Kesterson.....Senior Steward
- W.. Jeffrey A. Merriman.....Jr. Steward/ frostymerriman@cox.net
- W.. F. Edward LaBreck.....Tyler/ alabreck@cox.net
- W.. Doyle E. Berg.....Marshal

Save the Date
Installation of 2010 Officers

When: Saturday, January 9, 2010
 Time: 10:00 a.m.
 Where: Florence Lodge #281, 5903 Maple Street

- David L. Rose ----- Worshipful Master
- W..Micah I. Evans----- Senior Warden
- W..Paul E. Nerz----- Junior Warden
- W..Paul L. Welsch----- Treasurer
- W..Dale E. Wagner----- Secretary
- W..Jeffrey A. Merriman----- Chaplain
- W..David A. Kipp----- Senior Deacon
- W..Randall A. McFarland----- Junior Deacon
- Bruce Theye ----- Senior Steward
- Carl H. Moum----- Junior Steward
- W..Doyle E. Berg ----- Marshal
- W..F. Edward LaBreck ----- Tyler




Have a safe and joyous
 Holiday Season
 and a wonderful
 New Year's!