



# Gems of Purpose

The E-Trestle Board for

Bethpage Lodge #521, Free and Accepted Masons

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## Pancake Breakfast

The Annual Bethpage Lodge Pancake Breakfast will be **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets will be sold prior to the event and at the door. The cost per ticket is \$4.00. Spread the word, come out, and bring all your friends to enjoy a great breakfast and help the lodge out. The wife can enjoy a great breakfast without having to cook! Funds will help support the giving of two scholarships this year!



## Scottish Rite Degrees

The Spring Reunion of the Valley of Nashville's Scottish Rite Bodies will be held on March 31, April 1, 7, & 8, 2006. The AASR degrees will be conferred at the Grand Lodge Building in Nashville. These degrees are theatrically dramatic and extremely enlightening. They are designed to both compliment the Blue Degrees and introduce the candidate to other philosophical, historical, and intellectual ideas. If you are interested in petitioning, you may contact the lodge secretary for a petition.

## THE GRAND LODGE BUILDING

Masons in Tennessee are at a very pivotal point in our history. As many of you already know, the future of the Grand Lodge Building will be decided at the Grand Communications over the next few years. The Grand Lodge Building has been a part of Tennessee Masonry for over 80 years. Construction was begun on the building January 31, 1923 by the Scottish Rite. It was completed in early 1925. During the 1930s, Scottish Rite Masonry faced the same problems as the hundreds of other fraternal groups within the United States, their members could not pay dues due to the raging depression. The membership in the body was very low, and due to financial strain, the Scottish Rite sold the building to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee for \$150,000 on May 20, 1937. It has been home to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee ever since. It also houses several offices for concordant and appendent bodies.

The Grand Lodge Building is prestigiously situated on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Broadway in Nashville. Its location provides the Order with a prominent landmark that is seen by all who visit our historic capital. It is a wonderful example of Greek Revival architecture, and it is truly a shining gem in the establishment of Tennessee Masonry. Without the support of the Masons of Tennessee, this historic testament to the influence of Masons in Tennessee will be lost forever! Donations to help support the preservation and endowment of the Grand Lodge Building may be sent to: The Grand Lodge Building Enhancement Fund, PO Box 24216, Nashville, TN 37202.

## Important Dates!

### Mark your Calendars

March 22 & 23 – Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee

*The Grand Lodge of Tennessee is the governing body of all regular Masons within the state. It is what makes our Blue Lodges legitimate and not clandestine. The voting membership of the Grand Lodge is made up of the Past Masters, Worshipful Masters, Senior Wardens, and Junior Wardens of the lodges in Tennessee. These officers serve as the representatives of the local lodges. The Grand Lodge is governed by the Grand Master of Masons, who is elected annually.*

## Masonic TidBits

The Holy Book must be opened upon the altar before a Masonic Lodge may be opened. Freemasonry is not concerned with doctrine or dogma or sect or denomination, but only with "that natural religion in which all men agree." Therefore, the Holy Book is called the V.S.L., or Volume of Sacred Law or the Book of the Law. If the members of a Lodge are Christian, Moslem, Jewish or Buddhist, the V.S.L. of their particular belief is opened upon their altar. The V.S.L. is, therefore, a symbol of the revealed will and teachings of the Great Architect of the Universe - a name under which any Freemason can worship that Deity in Whom he puts his faith and trust.

("One Hundred and One Questions about  
Freemasonry")

Masonic Service Association, 1955)

### Sick or Distressed Brother?

The lodge secretary is pleased to send cards to members of the lodge who are sick, have lost loved ones, or who have wives who have given birth. There is one catch, the secretary has to be aware of the event. If you know of a brother who falls into one of the afore noted categories or needs a word of encouragement sent to him, please contact Brother Stafford so that he might be able to forward a card. It is often a relief to know that the brethren of the lodge are thinking about and praying for you during your time of distress or joy. Bro. Stafford may be reached by any of the ways listed on the title heading of this newsletter.



*If you want to know where the future of  
Freemasonry will grow and prosper it's  
simply in the heart, in your heart, in my*

*heart, and in the hearts of those who follow  
us.*



## SCRIPTURES FOR THE STUDYING MASON

### ISAIAH 28:16 & 17 KJV

**Isa 28:16** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

**Isa 28:17** Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

## Stated Meetings

Bethpage Lodge's Stated Meetings are held on the Third Thursday of each month at 7 pm. It is not mandatory for Master Masons to attend Stated Meetings; however, it is a very important part of the work of the Craft. We encourage all of you to take an active part and attend the lodge. You will not be pressured into taking any more of an active role than you wish to take. Come by and enjoy the friendship only available to Master Masons. Attend the lodge!

## The Electronic Mason

There are many sites on the web that have a lot to offer reading Masons; unfortunately, there are thousands more that are anti-Masonic and offer poor and inaccurate information. The following two sites are of great interest, and I think you will find them interesting. Hope you enjoy them.

<http://www.masonicworld.com/education/>

<http://www.pagrandlodge.org/> - You can take a virtual tour of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It is most impressive.