

**Dates to Remember**

- February 14 - Wilson (MW Prince Hall Lodge)

*Dr. Richard Smith presenting the program*

- April 11- Oxford (Orphans Lodge No. 761 )

*Chris Richardson presenting the program*

- June 13 - Elizabethtown (Bladen Lodge No. 646)

*Mac Sigmon presenting the program*



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# The Traveler



Volume 3, Issue 1

January - February 2009

## A Message from the Grand Master

By: MWB Dan Rice, GM



**MWB Dan Rice, Grand Master**

Masonry and charity are interwoven intricately. As you attend Wilkerson College and see first hand the Masonic Charity that is being done in NC you should be amazed. Masons in NC around the world have been helping those less fortunate for a very long time. The Bible specifically instructs us to take care of the widows and the orphans. The Bible also tells us that to whom much is given is much expected. Masons have expanded this even further to include the crippled children, burned children, children with learning disorders, etc. Growing up at Oxford Orphanage gave me a unique insight into the Masonic organization and into the hearts of the Masons. When I was a student at the orphanage we received a very small weekly allowance. We were for all intents and purposes totally broke all the time and our ability to buy stuff was very limited by our individual destitution. In those days the Masons and their families would visit the orphanage by bus loads on Sunday afternoons. Some of us children were allowed to serve as tour guides for the Masons. We usually earned four or five dollars in tips from the Masons and their families for being a tour guide. When your allowance was \$.20 a week, a dollar was really big and five bucks was a windfall. We quickly learned that not only did the Masons provide for our food, shelter, education, etc. but they were our personal financial resource that kept a jingle in the orphans' pockets and a smile on our faces. I very quickly developed a special place in my heart for the Masons. As part of your classes in Wilkerson College you will be required to visit both the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford and WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Community. The reason that you visit these two great institutions is so that as leaders of the Masonic Lodges you will be able to convey to others what is being done there.

When you visit Oxford please remember that almost 10,000 children have lived there during the last 136 years. These children came to Oxford destitute, frightened, educationally disadvantaged and carrying tons of emotional garbage heaped on them by family and circumstances. Most children left Oxford able to care for themselves. They left educationally advantaged and with a strong emotional make up. Most of these children have gone on and done very positive things in the world. They could not have done this without Masonic support and the Masonic Home for Children. Today, the Masonic Home for Children is much smaller and tends to serve children with much greater needs than it did when I was a student there in the 1960s. The cost per child is high but what is the life of a child worth? All of God's children are worth helping. I am sure glad that in 1959 the Masons of NC provided me a home where I could be safe and have a chance at a decent life and a good education.

## The Chaplain's Page

By: WB Richard Smith, PDDGM



### "What Does the Lord require?"

As we consider New Years Resolutions, perhaps we should first ask ourselves, "What does the Lord require?"

We were pleased to wear PGM David Cash's pin last year, with the scripture reference of Micah 6:8: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (KJV)

#### To Do Justly

For man to do justly, he must render unto everyone that which is due to them.

From the Charge at Initiating Into the Degree of Entered Apprentice: "There are three great duties, which, as a Mason, you are charged in inculcate –to God, your neighbor, and yourself."

Give God His due, for He is deserving of our heart, body, soul, and spirit; our wisdom, understanding, judgment. Because He created us in His own image, God rightly and justly deserves all of our worship and adoration. This is the first commandment.

Give your neighbor his due. Can we sin against someone we truly love? True love desires to bless and not to injure.

Give to yourself what you are due and being tempered by "avoiding all irregularity and intemperance."

#### To Love Mercy

Mercy comes from characteristics that include kindness, benevolence, and charity. Part of what mercy requires is to be willing to forgive the sins of others as God is willing to forgive our sins.

#### To Walk Humbly

But how are we to do this? We must first acknowledge our sins and then be willing to submit to God's mercy. The humble attitude required by the Lord will make itself manifest in a life of prayer, contrition, and service. Blessed be the Lord that he is ever ready to give his grace to the humble, waiting penitent.

Our chaplain Dr. Rick Smith presenting MWB David Cash, PGM an antique bank note, complete with Brother Joseph Montford's signature. This piece of history will be displayed in the Grand Lodge building.



## The Master's Word

By: WB Mark Conner, PM

Just a couple of lines to say that I am honored to be elected Master of Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760. I am sure with your help and attendance we will have a great year. We have some great programs for you this year, so mark your calendars for the second Saturday every other month starting in February. Please come and join us, you never know who you might meet at one of our stated communications. We will have some good laughs to be enjoyed by all and also some good educational programs. "Foot stomping and hand clapping" are you interested? If so, I will see you at our stated communications.



WB Mark Conner, PM  
Master 2009



## Wilkerson College Sessions & Info 2009

Last day to apply for Spring 2009 Session.....Friday, February 20

### First Session Begins

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford .....Friday, March 6  
 First Session Continues .....Saturday, March 7



### Second Session Begins

Grand Lodge Office Building, Raleigh, NC .....Friday, April 3  
 Second Session Continues.....Saturday, April 4

### Third Session Begins

WhiteStone (MESH), Greensboro, NC...Friday, May 1  
 Third Session Continues.....Saturday, May 2  
 Graduation Dinner.....Saturday Evening, May 2

The entire "Wilkerson Experience" is designed to bring the student from a level of merely "filling an officer's chair" to a point that he holds a new respect and honor for his fraternity and the part he is, and will be, playing as an officer and Masonic leader.

Tuition to Wilkerson College is \$590.00 for the full term payable in a \$200.00 deposit accompanying the application and the balance in full before Friday, February 20, 2009. The fee covers all materials, room and board for the student for the full three sessions, including room & board for the spouse for the final session in Greensboro.

Financial aid is available and requests must be made prior to February 1, 2009. Requests should be made by letter to the Scholarship Committee describing why you would like to attend the college and what you hope to learn from the "Wilkerson College Experience."

Scholarship Committee  
 Wilkerson College  
 205 Piney Woods Lane  
 Apex, NC 27502

## Happy Birthday to the Following Members

### January

Allen Hincher - 21  
 Bill Mathis - 4  
 Carl"Pappy"Scheer - 25  
 Edd Little - 6  
 George Jones - 13  
 Leonard Safrit, Jr. - 3  
 Morty Jayson - 17  
 Brian Langhoff - 30

### February

Randy Ogburn - 18  
 Rick Smith - 17  
 Scott Barta - 25  
 Shaun Bradshaw - 26  
 Tom Wilkerson - 11  
 Tommy Rash - 7



## Officers for 2009



A stated meeting of Wilkerson College Lodge No. 760 was held on Saturday, December 12, 2008 at the Greensboro Masonic Temple, the following officers were elected & appointed. Mark Conner (Master) Russ Jones (Senior Warden) Sid Carter (Junior Warden) Doug Wright (Treasurer) Ray Hall (Secretary) Steve Viers (Senior Deacon) Joseph Adegboyega (Junior Deacon) Gary Handy (Senior Steward) Jesse Bowman (Junior Steward) Rick Smith (Chaplain) and Parker Stevens (Tyler). WB Ron Sortino served as installing Master. WB Larry Thompson served as Marshall and MWB Tom Gregory Served as installing Secretary. Best wishes to all of these officers in the upcoming year.



## History & Precedents

By: WB Larry Thompson, DDGM

Wilkerson College Lodge is known for setting precedents. Since our formation in 2002 we have always been a little “different”. Besides being a traveling Masonic lodge that does not conduct degree work, over the years, we have enjoyed the company of our Prince Hall Brothers at several of our open educational programs. These gatherings were bittersweet to say the least. We certainly had a great time but it was hard to ignore the elephant in the room.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> Wilkerson College Lodge will be making history once again when our first meeting of the new year is hosted by Mt. Hebron Lodge No. 47 in Wilson, North Carolina. What, you may ask, makes this meeting an historic one? Well, Mt. Hebron Lodge operates under the jurisdiction of the M: W.: Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina (MWPGLNC) and it is also the home lodge of M:W.: Brother Toby Fitch, Grand Master of the MWPGLNC.



WB Larry Thompson, PM

If you still need to be convinced that this is going to be a historic occasion, add in the fact that our Prince Hall Brethren will be joining us during our regular business meeting for the very first time! Yes, our elephant has left the building!

Our February 14<sup>th</sup> educational program will be provided by Dr. Rick Smith and will be entitled “The Landmarks of Masonry”. After I contacted Dr. Rick and asked him for his topic, I think he assumed that my article “On History and Precedents” was intended to be a spotlight on him and his pending talk. Now that I have disappointed Dr. Rick, I am sure that he is going to pull a trick or two from his sleeve in an attempt to steal back the spotlight. Regardless of what may or may not happen during Dr. Rick’s program, you can rest assured that history is going to be made in Wilson!

## Community Bulletin Board

**Greensboro Scottish Rite Meeting - January 14, 2009**

**Greensboro KSA Chapter Meeting - January 28, 2009**

**Winston-Salem AMD Meeting - January 12, 2009**

**Winston-Salem York Rite Meeting - January 19, 2009**

**Wilkerson College, Opening Session - March 6, 2009**

**Piedmont-Celtic No. 99 Knight Masons - February 9, 2009**

**Greensboro York Rite Festival - March 4 & 7, 2009**

**Winston-Salem York Rite Festival - March 6 & 7, 2009**

**Oasis Shrine Ceremonial - March 21, 2009**

**Grand York Rite - March 15-17, 2009**



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**Coming in the  
March/April Issue.  
An Article by  
Brother Tom  
Wilkerson. You  
don't want to miss  
this this one!**



### Our Lodge's Mission Statement

*The mission of Wilkerson College Lodge is to foster a flame of brotherly love and friendship that will surpass all differences, envelope all similarities and consistently travel that level of time in search of how to make good men better. As speculative Masons, education will be our greatest tool, so as to instill in our future Masters qualities of leadership, responsibility and compassion.*

### Grand Master, continued from front page

At WhiteStone, A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, you will see people in the fall and winter of their lives. This great home has been caring for our elderly brothers and sisters for almost a hundred years. WhiteStone is a blessing for all those that need it. It is one of the best retirement facilities in the state. It has a 100 bed Care Center which includes a 12 bed Special Care Unit for residents with severe dementia. It also has room for approximately 175 other independent living residents. WhiteStone is currently providing charity of about \$1.2M for its residents. In the past WhiteStone provided more charity than it could afford and it depleted its financial reserves to the point where new charitable admissions had to be stopped until the budget could be balanced. Balancing the budget was very hard to do because we had already admitted people and had made a life time commitment to them. By stopping charitable admissions we simply did not increase our deficit sending which had approached \$2M a year. Then we had to figure out how to decrease expenses and increase revenues. We did this by certifying many of our Care Center beds for Medicare and Medicaid which we had never accepted until a few years ago. By tapping into the government entitlements programs that our residents were eligible for and by controlling expenses and raising revenues we are finally beginning to see progress toward a balanced budget in 2008. Once, we get the WhiteStone budget balanced and get our financial reserves where they need to be, we fully intend to start doing more charitable work. We are looking at a plan to do this in the future that will be modeled after how other Masonic Homes do it in other states. It may mean that we simply assist some elderly brothers and sisters in their own homes and not require that they move to WhiteStone. The brother or sister may be happier living in their hometowns and may only need financial assistance with the purchase of medicine or foods. That way we could help more people and control our costs.

Both of these wonderful homes are doing God's work. Please use your leadership role in the lodge to make sure that the lodges know what is going on at these homes. Help ensure that your lodge does a fundraiser for both homes at least annually. Thank you and may God bless.