



SCOTTISH RITE

VALLEY OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Business Meeting January 19, 2012—6:00 PM—Stewart's Brewing Company
4th, 7th & 14th Degree Reunion – February 4, 2012 - 9:30 AM—NUR



**THE OFFICERS
OF THE
VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
AND THE
VALLEY OF LOWER DELAWARE
WISH ALL OUR BRETHREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
THE VERY BEST
HOLIDAY SEASON AND
NEWYEAR**

ILL.∴ JAMES T. ELLIOTT, JR., , 33° DEPUTY FOR DELAWARE
ILL.∴ WILLIAM R. STEVENS, JR, 33° ACTIVE FOR DELAWARE
ILL.∴ WILLIAM T. WADKINS, JR., 33° DEPUTY'S REPRESENTATIVE
ILL.∴ HERBERT J. ATKINSON, 33° SECRETARY, VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
S. CURTIS COLE, 32°, TREASURER, VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
ILL.∴ ROBERT A. BENSON, 33° SECRETARY, VALLEY OF LOWER DELAWARE
ARTHUR H. SUTTON,III, 32°, MSA, TREASURER, VALLEY OF LOWER DELAWARE

PEACE

OFFICE CLOSED

The Valley of Wilmington Office will be closed through the Holidays from Wednesday, December 21, 2011 until Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Inside this Issue you will find :

- **The Holiday Message from our Deputy (pg 2)**
 - **Message of the Burning Bush—14th Degree by our Thrice Potent Master (pg 2)**
 - *The Hero Among Us: A story of bravery and tenacity and long-deserved reward (pg 3)*
 - **Prayer list (pg 3)**
 - **Updates on the locations of upcoming Reunions (pg 4)**



Happy Holidays, Happy New Year and Best Wishes for a Memorable and Rewarding Holiday Season

There has been so much said about this season that it is best expressed in the greetings and wishes that are extended to each of us from those that we hold most dear! It does not

matter to what tradition an individual subscribes or how fervent or indifferent their attachment to that practice, it is literally impossible, in the Western World and difficult in any location, to pass from the last month of the calendar to the first without a strong realization that something is taking place. It is impossible to dispute that this is the season of commercialism that has no rival. If we believe the advertisements, every tree will be hung with smart phones, its base paved with electronic pads and the area in which it sits piled with every conceivable gift. Driveways will display high end luxury vehicles festooned with huge bows and presenting that showroom look even in the worst weather. It is a very pretty picture.

The dilemma is that any man that operates with the powers of reason, contemplation and faith is well aware that this is not the universal reality. Loneliness, isolation and need are the daily challenges for many of our fellow creatures. We, as Freemasons, have freely taken upon ourselves the obligation to care for those in need. Financial assistance can be difficult to deliver but brotherly love should be easy. Always remember your brothers who may be in need. One hundred years from now it will not matter what you possess now; but if you help another traveler, you will have made a difference. Enjoy and cherish this special time and *make it your business to do good for others.*

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year!

Jim Elliott,
Deputy

(Continued from Page 2 Column 2)

Say: It's one thing to "feel" compassion, but it's even better to ACT - to do something to help them! And that's just what God intended to do. God was going to help the Hebrew people. He was going to set them free!

The 14th Degree provides an interpretation of that covenant. Then we will make our own covenant by eating and drinking together and learning the true name of God. The Covenant we make, is to our God, ourselves and to each other.

Please join us in this very powerful and moving degree and renew your covenant!

Bruce A. Beck,
Thrice Potent Master



14th Degree—The Burning Bush

In accordance with the story as told in the Bible, Moses returned to Egypt and led his people out of bondage toward the promised land. They wandered in the Sinai Peninsula for 40 years. During this period, Moses found himself at the foot of a mountain. Scholars dispute where this mountain was. However, since the fourth century AD when Coptic Christians founded a small church there, Christians (and later Muslims) have revered what is now called Mount Sinai.

According to scripture, Moses spoke directly to God through a burning bush that was not consumed by the fire. On God's instructions Moses went up on the mountain and there received, directly from the hand of God, the Ten Commandments. Moses listened to God call his name from the burning bush, and he listened as God told him that he was going to Egypt. Then Moses asked a very reasonable question, "Who am I?" In other words, Moses was saying to God, "Forty years ago I tried to rescue my people, but look what happened. My people didn't want my help. Pharaoh tried to kill me, and I fled to the desert. I've been taking care of sheep for the past 40 years. Who am I? I've already tried this, and it didn't work." God answered Moses' "Who am I?" question with an "I AM" answer! Moses asked a reasonable question, but it was the wrong question. It wasn't WHO Moses was, but who GOD was that mattered! God's answer firmly settled the matter. One of God's names is I AM. I AM may seem like an unusual name to us, but it is the most powerful name of all! I AM means that God is the only true God. There were many false gods in Egypt. I AM is the God who has always been and always will be (Revelation 1:8). There is no other god besides I AM. When God revealed Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He was revealing Himself as a covenant-making God. A covenant is an unbreakable promise between God and people. When God made a covenant with Abraham, what did He say?

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country and your people. Leave your father's family. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you. I will put a curse on anyone who calls down a curse on you. All nations on earth will be blessed because of you." - Genesis 12:1-4

The covenant-making God was talking to Moses! When God makes a covenant, he keeps his word. God ALWAYS keeps His promises! And Moses is about to hear some WONDERFUL NEWS!

The Lord said, "I have seen my people suffer in Egypt. I have heard them cry out because of their slave drivers. I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to save them from the Egyptians. I will bring them up out of that land. I will bring them into a good land. It has a lot of room. It is a land that has plenty of milk and honey." - Exodus 3: 7-8

This land that God promised to Abraham long ago was now going to become the new home for all the Hebrew people who were suffering as slaves in Egypt. God is not only a Covenant making God, but He is also compassionate. The Bible says that God heard the Israelites cry out and that He was concerned about their suffering. That's what compassion is: to be concerned about someone else.

Ask: Do you feel compassion for people who "cry out"? What are some ways that your friends "cry out"? How do you help them? Listen for answers. *(Continued at the bottom of Column 1)*

The Hero Among Us

November 5, 2011 New Castle, DE. Brother and Retired Lt. Colonel Tenney H. Wheatley, Jr. was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on this date in an impressive ceremony at the Delaware Air National Guard 166th Airlift Wing headquarters New Castle Airport. It was just short of 41 years since he took the action that earned him that award and he thought that if he ever received the award, it would be posthumously. Fortunately, it finally happened.



Brother & Lt. Colonel Tenney H. Wheatley, Jr.

What is it? The Distinguished Flying Cross is one of the highest awards an aviator can receive. This medal is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the Armed Forces of the United States who shall have distinguished her/himself in actual combat in support of operations by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight, subsequent to November 11, 1918.



This is what the medal looks like (although the color picture on the website is better looking).

(continued in the next column on this page)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS IN YOUR MASONIC PRAYERS

- Brother Eugene R. Hazzard
- Brother Joseph F. Robinson
- Brother R. Nelson Biggs
- Brother John D. Walters
- Brother Harold G. Snyder
- Brother Ira G. White
- Brother Lionel D. Hunter
- Brother John A. Loeb
- Brother Bennie L. Bell
- Illustrious Brother William F. Huxtable
- Illustrious Brother Eugene R. Small



If you know of anyone who is in need of prayers, please contact the Secretary as indicated.

(continued from previous column)

Why did he earn it? As a member of the Guard, he and nine other crew members of a C-97 were on a flight over the North Atlantic when the transport began a nosedive. The actual problem can only be described in technical terms, but the problem did not have an easy solution. Brother Wheatley's quick thinking brought the plane nearly level and slowed the descent so that they were able to make an emergency landing in Canada. Thus, he saved the crew of ten plus two passengers that were picked up at Dover Air Force Base.



Here is what the ill-fated plane looked like, although it is hard to tell where the problem lies. An amateur photographer captured a picture of the plane in Canada and recalled that the cowl flaps were in the wrong position and the crew was working on them.

Why did it take so long? Three members of the crew were awarded DFC medals about a year after the event. It looks like a clerical error mistakenly identified Brother Wheatley. So, it came down to another crew member who decided to correct the wrong. Fortunately, he fought through the "red tape" and as a result, Brother Wheatley finally received his due reward.

Masonic affiliation. Brother Wheatley is a 32° member of Delaware Consistory and Treasurer of the Delaware Council of Deliberation. He is a member of Granite-Corinthian Lodge No. 34, A.F. & A.M. and holds membership in several other Masonic bodies.

PLEASE congratulate Brother Wheatley on his well-deserved, tremendous achievement.

- Editor

Sources:

- Articles from Delaware Online, November 4 & 6, 2011 by Robin Brown
- Media Advisory Release Number 021111
- Wikipedia picture of the DFC

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR

- Calendar of events, office hours, event information, etc.
- Interesting articles
- Links to other websites
- Officer information, contacts, etc.
- Pictures of people, places and things connected to our Scottish Rite
- Advanced copy of Newsletters (it is in color on the website)
- Areas of Special interests and more

DEATHS REPORTED SINCE LAST BULLETIN

Date Born	Brothers Name	Date Died
11/30/1929	William S. West	11/02/2011
04/12/1923	Charles C. Darby	11/11/2011
06/10/1921	Herman A. Lehman	11/12/2011
02/26/1929	Burton S. Moore, Sr.	11/13/2011
08/14/1932	Donald P. Zebley	11/24/2011
03/04/1942	Edward F. Jackson, Sr.	12/11/2011

January—February 2012 Events:

The following events are called to your attention and locations for each of the Reunions are finalized:

January 10, 2012—Mixer @ Stewart’s Brewing Company

January 19, 2012—Business Meeting @ Stewart’s Brewing Co.

February 4, 2012—4th, 7th & 14th Degrees Reunion @ NUR

March 17, 2012—16th & 18th Degrees Reunion @ NUR

April 21, 2012—21st, 31st & 32nd Degrees Reunion @ “The Baby Grand”

Information to the family: Should the Scottish Rite Mason whose name appears on the mailing label be admitted into the Hospital, Nursing Home, or is incapacitated in any way, **Please notify the Secretary of the Scottish Rite.**

(302) 998-6475

or

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FROM THE SECRETARY

Brethren,

Just a few words about our Mixer and Business Meeting.

The Mixer is at Stewart’s Brewing Company and starts at 6:00 PM. It includes appetizers. If you wish to attend, the cost is \$10.00 per person UNLESS you bring and sign a candidate. In that case, you and your candidate are free! Ladies also welcomed, so bring your candidate’s lady as well. Business casual attire is appropriate.

The Business Meeting, also at Stewart’s Brewing Company, will also be open to the Ladies, but you need to have reservations and the COUNT WILL BE LIMITED so this event is on a first come, first served basis. The CUT-OFF date for reservations is January 10, 2012. Includes a buffet dinner and cash bar. The Business Meeting begins at 6:00 PM and business casual attire is appropriate for this event.

Also, all of the Reunions begin at **9:30 AM** with the candidates reporting at least 45 minutes beforehand. First line signers, make sure your candidate(s) know.

Finally, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all. The Office will be closed during the Holidays from December 21, 2011 until January 3, 2012. Enjoy your families!

Fraternally,
Herb

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