

**THE PHILOSOPHICAL CORNER, BY BROTHER J.J.**

A fact has come to my knowledge that the symbol we use for the idea of money the \$ with the two lines through it (\$) comes from a Spanish coin that was minted in South America and was about the size of one of our modern day half dollars. The thing is that Spain had mints to strike coins on this side of the Atlantic but the English did not. So the only thing around that was easy to carry and exchange for goods were these pieces of eight. They were called pieces of eight because no one had any way of making change for them so they would split them or cut them; being made out of gold or silver the precious metal kept its value. The smallest value accepted would be if you carved it up into eight equal pieces. This is also where the "shave and a haircut for two bits" comes from. Anyhow, on one side of these coins was a picture of two pillars that are found on the Spanish Royal Crest. On the bottom of these pillars were swirls and once it was cut down as far as it could go there would be two pieces left that had the columns with a "s" running through them.

The first instance of two columns in the Great Light occurs when Enoch has two pillars with all the knowledge of art and science then known, made into two pillars, one of wood and one of stone, and set at the entrance of Zion. He knew that the world would be wiped clean but he did not know if it be by fire or water. The wood and the stone would protect against ether eventually. The second great pillars were the pillar of fire and the pillar of smoke that led Moses and his followers through the desert. Then of course there are the two pillars found at the entrance of the Temple. I wish to focus on the two most basic pillars found in masonry. The two parallel lines that are found on the sides of the point within a circle.

These two lines, we are told represent the two Saints John and are part of the teachings of the E.A. degree. What would a Masonic symbol with only one interpretation be? The first instance that I can find of this symbol dates back to way before the Saints even lived and it was supposed to represent God creating the universe and using power and justice as the defining characteristics for all of reality. Another thing that I find interesting about the point within a circle is that if you pinch the two parallel lines together at the top you would force the circle to become an oval, then drawing a line below the entire structure you would get the symbol for the all seeing eye. Mmm??

Come to think of it, if you take the two lines on each side of the circle and extend them to, oh I don't know lets say five times their length and then take the point where the two lines originally ended and draw perpendicular lines of about twice the original length then you would get a cross with the line over the top of the circle for say I don't know a couple of words. Humm interesting, now am I just manipulating the shape to fit into that type of a pattern or do I believe that the evolutionary process can be applied to the dissemination of symbols over time? I don't know. As so many shapes can be extrapolated from a circle it might just be a coincidence that many of the sacred symbols that have found their way into our culture can be seen as springing from one simple shape, or focal point. What do you dear reader think? I would love to hear your thoughts on this or any other subject.

Let's make think a verb.



**Fun under a Fez!**

James Hope, Senior Deacon

Brethren! Let me tell you about my passion for Masonry. My love of the Craft has many reasons. Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love are what initially drew me to the Craft. However, the charity that we as Masons extend to children is what cemented my love for our Craft. Whitestone, the Oxford Home, and the Masonic Foundation are wonderful opportunities for us to help others in our state. I take pride in hearing when our Lodge is able to send money to Oxford, or a card to a resident of Whitestone.

But there is more that you can do as a Mason to help children worldwide. Let me tell you about my experience in the Shrine! As I am sure you well know the Shrines operate twenty-two hospitals in North America offering free care to burned and crippled child. That's right, FREE. No cost to the child or the family. If the Shrine Hospital can help a kid they will.

Of course my brothers you all know about the wonderful work that the Shrine does for kids. What you might not now is what a blessing the Shrine can be for you. I did not realize that when I placed the Red Fez upon my brow how my life would change.

Every year in May. Oasis Shrine conducts their annual paper drive. My first year I worked the drive I was stationed at Wal-Mart. The day was hot. My wife and I both were sun burned. As the day grew longer we were able to collect a little money here and there for the kids. And yes some of the people we asked were rude. Some even were combative in tone accusing us of misusing funds or being Satanist. By the end of the day I was a little frustrated.

Then I felt a little tug on my shirt. I turned around and there stood a little girl of no more than eight years old. She held up a dollar and smiled. I took the dollar and placed it in my apron and told her thank you. Then she said the most remarkable thing. She look at me with a little tear in her eye and said, "Thank you for helping me walk." She had been a Shrine kid! She turned and ran into the store before I could ask her name or talk to her parents. I never got her name. I had to turn away from my wife and fellow Nobles to keep the tears back. I could not believe what had just happened. This little angel had just thanked me for her legs. I didn't think I had done anything. I wasn't her doctor or nurse. I wasn't a Tripster who took her to the hospital. I had never met her before in my life. At most I had collected a few dollars that would go to the hospital. But in her eyes because I had the Fez on my head I was someone who had helped her in her time of need.

Suddenly the day didn't seem so hot. The people seemed nicer, and even my sunburn wasn't stinging as bad. That little girl who thanked me did more for my spirits than anything else that day.

The fun in the Shrine is not in our parties. It is not in our parades or our in our ceremonies. It is in seeing a small little girl running on legs made whole by the efforts of our hospital and the blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe!!!!!!!

**OFFICERS 2010**

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Senior Warden	Lee Spach	446-1924
Junior Warden	David Brandon	638-1691
Treasurer	Terry Moore	312-1006
Secretary	Kevin Johnson	465-5619
Senior Deacon	James Hope	428-3752
Junior Deacon	Paul Aulbach	514-6994
Sr. Steward	Doug Moore	312-1012
Jr. Steward	Allen Lineberger	704-798-3691
Steward	Daniel Guthrie	310-3560
Steward	Adam Beagles	302-0616
Steward	J.J. Kuba	304-0680
Chaplain	Chris Jarrell	308-7762
Tyler	Robert Bickel	294-6619

**LIVING PAST MASTERS**

J.N. Cagle	1973	J.W. Davidson	2001
J.L. Johnson	1974	M.D. Hale	2002
E.W. Beckom	1978	W.J. Hunley	2003
J.F. Taylor	1979	J.P. Kuykendall	2004
J.H. Elmore	1981	D.L. Brandon	2006
T.L. Hartman	1984	W.G. Byerly	2007
E.C. Cline	1986	J.D. Abernethy	2008
J.H. Elmore	1987	R.L. Rozzelle	2009
J.E. Vaught	1988		
E.W. Masche	1991		
J.D. Crawley	1993		
J.P. Hilton	1994		
D.L. Reep	1995		
P.C. Wray	1996		
L.D. Huffman	1997		
W.G. Byerly	1998		
D.J. Wallace	1999		
H.W. Wallker	2000		



Caring Report: Donald Abernethy, Creed Short, Howard Lindsey Simpson, David Foster, Ed Zammarelli's father, Daniel Guthrie, Daniel Guthrie's father and sister, Brent Sigmon's mother, Larry Hale, Wendell Powell DDGM, Rick Jarrell, Calvin Pittman, Henry Holland, John Cansler, Al Swofford, Everette Beckom, Click Truitt, Don Hudson, Dean Brittain, Buz Hunley, Thad Johnson, Betty Burch, Nolan Yount and wife, Greg Conley, Herbert Chilton Jr., Richard Rozzelle's Son, The Richard Borneman Family, A.W. Morris, Rufus Smith, Todd Cline, Joe Teague, Joe Vaught, and Clyde Price all need our prayers and attention.

**Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction Valley of Charlotte**

Hello my Brothers of Hickory Lodge #343. Every Spring and Fall the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Valley of Charlotte has a Reunion to induct new members into our magnanimous order. This honor is granted to those who wish to advance themselves in the knowledge and history of Freemasonry.

The symbol for the Scottish Rite is the Double-headed eagle which teaches us to look both ways at once.

We must look both into the past and to the future. The past includes not only Masonry's past, long, rich, and beautiful as it is, but humanity's past. The past teaches us about values, the family, ethics and patriotism. It also gives us important warnings. It shows us what can happen when tyrants arise in civil, religious, cultural, political or intellectual life.

The future beckons to us as its stewards and protectors. We learn to build for the future. The Scottish Rite teaches that only through toleration, the willingness to let each man and woman be truly free, can we build a future in which freedom exists for everyone.

It is my honor to invite you to become a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Freemason. We will be holding our Fall Reunion on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 and I would feel privileged to accept your application and announce your intention to join our noble order.

Information packets and applications are available in the Hickory Masonic Center or you can call me and I will gladly deliver one to you. Remember my brothers, only through your desire to increase knowledge can Masonry move forward into the future with its heads held high.

Paul Aulbach 32\* KSA, Valley of Charlotte

# CHICKEN PIE AND DINNER SALE FOR CHARITY

## SATURDAY—NOVEMBER 6, 2010

In 2009 the Hickory Masonic Center raised over \$3,000 from the Chicken Pie sale that was donated to the First Step Domestic Violence Services of Catawba County (Battered Women's Shelter). This was a fantastic achievement for the first time we undertook this activity.

For 2010, once again, the members of the lodge have collectively agreed that there is more that we can do to raise even more money from this fundraising event, especially during this extended time of uncertainty and economic strife in our local community. We are all VERY BLESSED no matter what our current burdens may be, when compared to many others in our area. All we have to do is look around and speak with those around us and it quickly becomes apparent that many are hurting in greater ways than any of us.....

Therefore, **we have joined forces** this year with another local group to make this an even bigger fundraiser for local charity! We have teamed with the **Catawba Valley Aquatic Club (CVAC)** which is a local non-profit swim school and competitive youth swim team program hosted at LR University, under the leadership of Paul Schiffel, Director of men's and women's swim teams at LR. Paul has been teaching swimming for almost 30 years in our local community. Perhaps he coached you, your children, or even your grandchildren. CVAC consists of approximately 80 local families. From those families there are about 95 youth between 6 and 18 years old swimming on the competitive team. *These parents and team members have VOLUNTEERED to HELP sell tickets and work to make this a great success to raise money for local charity.* Let's lead by example and guide them!

**It is our goal to sell 2,500 chicken pies and 1,000 meals.** To achieve this, **WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!** This is a perfect opportunity for us, Masons, to show a lot of people who we are and what we do! It is a chance for us to let others know that we are NOT some secret group of men hiding in a windowless building on the south side of town. It is a time for us to potentially dispel myths and misunderstandings about us and it is an ideal time to work with other men who may ask that all important question that will continue to insure that Hickory Lodge #343 grows and thrives in the future! ***This is a plea for "aid and assistance", not to an individual worthy brother, but to the lodge as a whole.*** Collectively we can work to achieve greatness!

Currently we are asking ALL MASONS TO PRE-SELL tickets for pies and the dinner. **Pies** will be 9" round, with flaky crust on top and bottom, 12—14 oz chopped chicken per pie, 80/20 white/dark meat mix, gravy, fresh baked and in a 2" deep pie box ready for eating or freezing! Pies are \$9.00 each. **Dinner** plates will consist of 1/4 size piece of chicken pie, 2 sides, roll, and choice of drink. \$8.00 per plate. **Chicken pies will be available for pick-up at the lodge starting at 2pm—7:30pm. Dinner will be served 4:30pm—7:30pm.**

What an awesome way for us to further show 95 youth what it means to "give back"? What a wonderful way to teach them, through action, the invaluable feelings we get when we help our fellow man. To date we have NOT determined what charity or charities to donate the proceeds from this event. Many ideas have been tossed around regarding donating the money to help youth within the school system. We are investigating this and will report to the lodge with details as they become available. Stay tuned.

**Call Lee Spach at 828-446-1924 or email me at leespach@charter.net for more information or if you have any questions or concerns. Please call me to get some tickets to sell.**

Tentatively we plan to prepare and bake pies on Friday Nov 5th and Saturday Nov 6th to meet to demand of ticket sales that we hope to generate. So that this effort is not a huge burden on any individual or group of people we will be setting up various work schedules for these days. **PLEASE CONTACT ME TO LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU WANT TO WORK!** Again, we need all the help we can get!

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\* Return Service Requested \*

*October 2010*

\*Return Service Requested\*

## IN GOD WE TRUST

### Hickory Masonic Center Events Calendar

Stated Communication	Monday	October 4th	Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30pm
PAST MASTERS NIGHT	Monday	October 11th	Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30 pm
Hickory York Rite	Wednesday	October 13th	Dinner 6:30pm Meeting 7:30pm
Stated Communication	Monday	October 18th	Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30pm

### Mark your Calendars NOW!

Chicken Pie Sale for Charity!	Saturday	November 6th	2:00pm—7:30pm
Hickory Lodge Awards Night	Thursday	November 18th	6:30pm
Officer Elections	Monday	December 6th	Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30pm
Officer Installations for 2011	Monday	December 13th	6:30pm