

Excelsior Masonic Lodge No. 261

Chartered 1867

3900 Litchfield Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

www.excelsiorlodge261.org

"The Friendly Lodge"



October 2016 Trestle Board

What came ye (we) here to do? What were you looking for when you joined Excelsior Masonic Lodge? Do you feel you are a better person? What can our lodge do to help each one of us build a better temple? I wonder what interest there might be in creating a Masonic Study Group or Book Club? Each of the three degrees encourage us to always seek more enlightenment. Our work is not done when we learn our catechisms. We will never learn what Masonry has to offer if we stop there. Should we devote a few minutes of each Stated to discussing a Masonic article or book that each of us has read prior to the meeting? Is there interest in having such a meeting on another night of the month? Should this group be disassociated with any individual lodge but open to all Masons in our area?

Our members voted at our September Stated to abandon further pursuit of a temple association with Temple lodge. The primary reason for this decision was a concern about the Grand Lodge Temple Association By-Laws. At least we now have closure on this emotional issue. We can now move forward on some furnishings and maintenance issues that have been on hold for several years.

Great news! A group of young men, members of Kappa Sigma fraternity and studying Culinary Arts at Johnson and Wales University, are interested in using our building in exchange for preparing some meals for us. The details are not worked out yet but I am optimistic we are going to have some great meals in the near future. Perhaps as soon as our Stated meeting in October.

We have a School of Instruction at Steel Creek Lodge on October 18th and at Phalanx Lodge on the 19th of October. Remember all officers are supposed to attend.

In keeping with one of our Masonic lecturers, we voted this month to place a mosaic pavement under the altar in our meeting room. With proper understanding, this ceramic tiled floor will be a striking reminder of one of the first lessons you are taught in Masonry. Our tile professional is a member of Temple Lodge and will soon let me know a delivery date.

We will have another work night on September 26th starting around 6:00 PM. Please come out and help us make it possible to feel pride in our building for our 150 Year Anniversary celebration next year.

Mark your calendars now. Excelsior and Temple lodges will jointly sponsor a blood drive at the lodge on November 12th. Brother Clay Pettit is coordinating this and some other events on that day. Please plan to donate blood to support our lodge and our community.

Thanks,
David Carriker, Master



Freemasonry is a Story of Life; with all its joys, its heartaches, its failures and its final triumph over all earthly things.

Anyone can read it, in countless books. Its teachings, its symbols, and its ambitions, are open for general observation. They are practiced in the light, and held up for all the world to see.

Freemasonry is not practiced in the dark, neither are its teachings the dogma of some forbidden cult. We, as Freemasons, are required to reflect the light; to practice its teachings and love by their direction. No greater thing can be said of Freemasonry than that it is an ideal way of life.

No other fraternity offers such profound lessons in its Ritual or Work as does Freemasonry. Each word and each act in the ceremonies of the Lodge carries a true lesson to each of us, if we will but open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and hearts to accept.

We can study Freemasonry for years, as we attend its meetings, and each time we stop to think on the things said and done, we get a new meaning and inspiration from them. There is a never-ending source of pleasure in the various shades of meaning that can be read into each line of our work. Each new meaning and interpretation that we put into some word or act will make that passage live for us, and we will begin to see Freemasonry for what it is intended. Great men have devoted many years of study and meditation to the cause of Freemasonry and when their work is finished they realize that they have only begun to see the light and that they have only started to uncover the true meanings of the work.

Freemasonry has been talked of and written about by countless men in every country of the world. Its members have been persecuted in all lands at one time or the other, but is still grows and flourishes as no other fraternity on earth today.

There must be something good and great in Freemasonry, for it to stand through the years as a beacon of light to its members and as a symbol of the true way of life for all to see and follow. Its greatness is not due to its secret teachings, its mysteries or fanfare of its deeds, but rather to the profound lessons taught to its members and to the comfort, inspiration and enlightenment brought to all who will but study.

Freemasonry frowns on advertising its good deeds, preferring to let those who benefit from them reflect its goodness, that others might have hope and desire the better things of life. Freemasonry offers comfort to those who sorrow, hope for those who despair, wise counsel for those who err, and the joys and contentment of life to all.

By Brother William A. Carpenter at <http://www.myfreemasonry.com/threads/freemasonry-is-many-things.27506/>

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October Trestle Board

2016 Officers

Master	David Carriker*	704-351-7653
SW	Phillip Brent	704-909-8160
JW	Jeff Peck*	704-900-9625
Treasurer	Tim Berly*	704-849-7886
Secretary	Scott Wilson	704-200-7430
SD	Dan Andrews	704-535-1511
JD	Glenn Tompkins	704-941-5301
SS	Josh Barnette	704-884-6913
JS	John Robinson	980-263-8114
Chaplain	Charles Blake	704-617-0080
Tyler	Harold Kossove*	980-253-9624

October Calendar

Monday, October 3rd

Stated Communication

Dinner at 6:00pm

Meeting at 7:00pm

Monday, October 10th

Lodge System of Masonic Education Night #2

Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, October 17th

Chris Naso Night

SOI Practice- 2nd and 3rd Degree

Meet at 7:00pm

Tuesday, October 18th

SOI Night #1- Phalanx

Dinner at 6:15pm, Meet at 7:00pm

Wednesday, October 19th

SOI Night #1- Steele Creek

Dinner at 6:15pm, Meet at 7:00pm

Monday, October 24th

Lodge Work Night

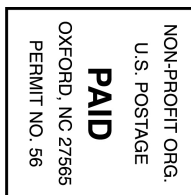
Meet at 6:30pm



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"THE FRIENDLY LODGE"



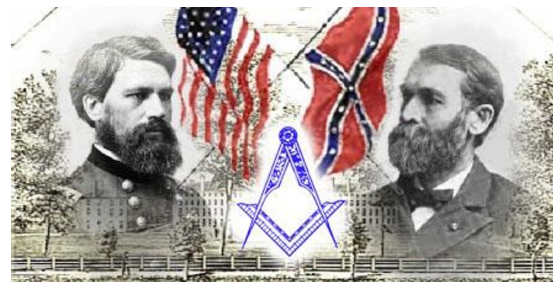
Be sure to join us at our October Stated Communication as we begin trying out new methods to make our lodge more traditional. We will be using candles at the various stations for the first time to add to the effect so come see the new look!

Excelsior members approved the use of a consent agenda at the September Stated Communication. We will try it out and see if the membership wants to continue use of it at future Stated Communications. A consent agenda allows for multiple items to be bundled together and voted on for approval all at once. Examples of items are minutes from previous meetings, financial reports, and committee reports. Typically the items are topics that are not controversial and are not anticipated to need to be discussed. Details of these items are distributed in advance so members have a chance to review them. If any member wishes to discuss an item, it is removed from the consent agenda and the topics that remain are voted on for approval.

We are under no obligation to follow what the United Grand Lodge of England puts out to its members but the following information is of interest:

The United Grand Lodge of England has issued new social media policies for their members who frequent Masonic social media sites or identify themselves as Freemasons online. They have published a document that provides guidance to Freemasons operating with 21st Century technology and communication methods.

The actual policy can be found at <http://www.somersetfreemasons.org/resources/Social-Media/Social-Media-Policy-and-Guide-Sept2016.pdf>



The AveraBoro Battleground Degree is scheduled for Oct 15th and tickets may be purchased through Oct 8th. Get yours today for this re-enactment of what a Degree might have looked like during the Civil War.

Tickets can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/20th-masonic-district-averasboro-battlefield-degree-tickets-25849394234>

William R. Davie Leadership Academy

Grand Lodge of North Carolina AF&AM

The William R. Davie Leadership Academy is a program designed to educate Freemasons in philosophy, history, and the inner workings of Craft Masonry, thereby providing the tools for the development of Masonic leadership.

Course: Track 1 - Introduction to Freemasonry
Date: October 1st

Location: Semper Fidelis Lodge #680

- Lunch Provided

- Instructional Materials Provided

- Cost: 45.00 w/ticket- \$60.00 at the door

Tickets can be found at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/davie-academy-tickets-27572324565?aff=es2>