

# The Blue Lodge Beacon



Lyons Jr. Lodge # 290's Quarterly Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2008

## Welcome Back To Our Newsletter!

Brethren:

We the staff members of our new and improved "BLUE LODGE BEACON" of Lyons, Jr. Lodge #290 will attempt to send you information about our lodge, the community, and Prince Hall Masonry on a quarterly basis. With your support we will be successful. The next BEACON will be for January, February, and March 2009. The staff of the Blue Lodge Beacon wish you and your family a

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Alfred Dozier.....Managing Editor

Arthur Sauls .....Assistant Editor

David Featherston ....Assistant Editor/Composing

Jerrett Robinson .....Senior Visual Listing

Riley Stevenson, III .....Senior Photographer

## Criteria for Article Submission

This is your newsletter, therefore your input is highly solicited. We will accept any articles that pertain to the following areas:

1. Special announcements for members or family (ex. Birthdays, promotions, deaths, births, etc)
2. Individual brothers progress through other degrees (ex. Royal arch, Shrine, Consistory, etc.)
3. Articles of "Awareness", meaning things that give brothers additional insight (ex. Clarification of new city laws, tax laws, Bills that require voting, etc.)
4. Notifications of Opportunities (ex. Job openings, Additional career training, Volunteers needed, etc.)

Please submit articles to:

David Featherston

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Austin, TX 78717

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## Words From The EAST (Wisdom)

*Worshipful Master, Alfred Dozier*

### *From the Master's Desk*

Brethren,

We are here trying to recreate something that our lodge has done in the past, and that is to have a Lyons Jr. newsletter again. First I want to give honor to our Heavenly Father that he will continue to shower his many blessings upon you and your families. To God Be the Glory.

Now let me get down to the meat of what I want to pass on to you as a Master Mason in Lyons Jr. Lodge #290. I want to bring this matter to your attention as a man, a Mason, and a son of God; let's start making our word mean something. When we all first became Master Masons, we swore that we would help, aid, and assist all poor and distressed Master Masons and their widows and orphans. Therefore, I am requesting that we visit our sick and distressed members and try and comfort them when needed. We must promise to get more involved in our churches, our community and our city. I have now completed six months of being your Worshipful Master and with your support I plan to accomplish these goals.

I have noticed sometimes in our lodge meetings, those who disdain small tasks and wonder why they have never been put in line for larger tasks, which they feel qualified to perform, or why their brethren do not think of them as important in the affairs of lodge. Everyone is not eager to set up furniture, coach candidates, attend funerals, serve on sick committees, or volunteer to sit in a seat without being asked by the Worshipful Master. I hope to contact each brother of our lodge, but you must also take it upon yourself to do these things whether or not I ask you.

We say we are Freemasons. If Freemasonry as an institution is seen as a great tree, then our lodge is a small tree. The Master of the Lodge would be the trunk of the tree, the large branches would be the officers, and the smaller branches would be the members. The Master, symbolizing the trunk

## Words From the West (Strength)

*By Bro. Joe Warren, Senior Warden*

Greeting Brothers. May The Great Architect of the Universe continue to bless you and yours, and guide your hand in your every endeavor that you may receive the many blessings He has for you. Brothers, we fast approach the end of another year. It would be very nice to say that I have accomplished all that I set out to complete for this year. Truth is, I didn't for a whole host of reasons. When I look back, I know I could have done a lot better in a number of areas. The only rosy spot is that I can truly say I did a lot better this year than the year before. Perhaps, some of you can empathize with me. With that said, Brothers, join me in asking for Devine Guidance to improve ourselves in our families, communities, and in our lodge to the benefit of all. To God be the Glory. So mote it be.

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### *Everyone Can't Be in Your Front Row*

**Life is a theater - invite your audience carefully. Not everyone is spiritually healthy and mature enough to have a front row seat in our lives. There are some people in your life that need to be loved from a distance.**

**It's amazing what you can accomplish when you LET GO, or at least minimize your time with draining, negative, incompatible, not-going-anywhere relationships/friendships/fellowships! Observe the relationships around you. Pay attention to:**

- **Which ones lift and which ones lean?**
- **Which ones encourage and which ones discourage?**
- **Which ones are on a path of growth uphill and which ones are going downhill?**
- **When you leave certain people, do you feel better or feel worse?**
- **Which ones always have DRAMA or don't really understand, know and appreciate you and the gift that lies within you?**

**When you seek growth, peace of mind, love and truth, the easier it will become for you to decide who gets to sit in the FRONT ROW and who should be moved to the balcony of your life.**

**You cannot change the people around you...but you can change the people you are around! Ask God for godly wisdom and discernment and choose wisely the people who sit in the front row of your life.**

**'Just because no one has shown up who can love you on your level, doesn't mean you sink to theirs!'**

**Submitted by Bro. Jerry Eason**

## From the Master's Desk (continued from page 1)

of the tree, is expected to furnish to the large branches (the officers) with the strength and wisdom for the tasks of the lodge. A tree is also known by its fruit. The Masonic tree is known by its fruit also. Each one of us should live, act, talk, so that the world may say of that we are worthy as men, Masons, and sons of our Heavenly Father.

In closing from the Master's desk, I leave this thought with you, "Brother we must double our prosperity because he who does not cultivate his fields will die of hunger." That means we must get down to business and grab the bull by the horns to achieve our goals for the rest of this Masonic Year. Take due notice and govern yourself accordingly.

Fraternally,  
Alfred Dozier, Worshipful Master  
Lyons Jr. Lodge # 290



### *Something to Think About...*

In the third degree legend we experience the three two attempted assassinations and ultimately the death of Grand Master Hiram Abiff. We must remember that this experience teaches us that we as Men and Masons should always be aware that the unseen things in life could ultimately be the death of us if we are not focused and well grounded. Envy, hatred, false hope, deception, and other shortcomings of mankind are all "stations" we must overcome. At the South Gate we are challenged to disclose the password of a Master Mason, when we refused we are struck in an attempt to kill us...we over come because we are focused... At the West Gate we are again challenged and overcome because we are grounded. However, when we are met at the East Gate we ultimately meet DEATH, but we are prepared because we are taught to remember that we are traveling upon a level of time to that undiscovered country who's borne no traveler returns.... hmmmmmm... Think about it.

*From the Blue Lodge Beacon Newsletter Archive*

## History of Lyons Jr. Lodge # 290

By Bro. Michael Simms and PM Art Sauls

Lyons Jr. Lodge #290 Free & Accepted Masons (F&AM) originated in 1908 in the State of Texas and under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, F&AM and its jurisdiction. On July 13, 1908, Lyons Jr. Lodge # 290 became a duly constituted lodge of Prince Hall Free Masons by receiving its charter from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas after meeting all of the requirements necessary to become a lodge in this jurisdiction.

The lodge was named after the man they referred to as Colonel Lyons. He served as a Master Mason for over 40 years, Worshipful Master of Mount Bonnell #2, and the Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden. Colonel Lyons would often say, "Give me a good Mason and I will show you a fine family man with character, esteem, and caring."

## PM Smith Appointed By Grand Lodge

Past Master Campynella Smith of Lyons Jr. Lodge #290 was appointed as a Deputy Grand Recorder for this Masonic year by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

## Bro. Lewis Hutchison Accepts Post

Brother Lewis Hutchison Jr. was recently appointed Legal Council for Alphas of North Carolina. Bro. Hutchison will be the chief legal advisor for all chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha in North Carolina. Bro. Lewis is currently Assistant Dean of Admissions at Campbell University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Bro. Lewis joined Lyons Jr. in February of 2001.



## Lyons Jr. Makes Large Donation

Lyons Jr. #290 under the leadership of WM AJ Dozier, at the Grand Communication Session in Fort Worth Texas, gave a donation of \$10,000 to the Grand Lodge of Texas under the command of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis.

## Lyons Jr. Celebrates 100 Years Service in Austin on July 26, 2008

By Bro. David Featherston

Lyons Junior Lodge # 290 celebrated its 100 years serving the Austin community on July 26, 2008 at the Monarch Event Center. Approximately 100 Lyons Jr. brothers and guests were in attendance, including The Most Worshipful Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, and Nelson Linder, NAACP Austin President. Dr. Beulah Agnes Jones provided the music and Rev. Joseph Parker, Senior Pastor of the David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was the keynote speaker.

PM Ronnie Hackett presented several awards to Lyons Jr. members, including: Bro. Jerrett Robinson, Spotlight Award; Bro. David Featherston, Spotlight Award; Bro. Keith Wormley, Rookie of the Year; Bro. Joe Warren, Runner-Up Master Mason of the Year; WM Alfred Dozier, Master Mason of the Year; James Dickey, Master Mason of the Decade; and PM Art Sauls, Past Master of the Century.

Lyons Jr. also donated \$500 to the NAACP and \$500 to the Diabetes Association.



## Words From The South (Beauty)

By Bro. Riley Stephenson, Junior Warden

### AM I A MASTER MASON?

Do I speak of a standard of morality for others which I do not make an effort to attain for myself?

Do I look for little, unimportant things to criticize, and enlarge upon these, overlooking my own greater faults?

Is it greater love or greater envy? Is it unselfish service or personal gain?

How can I become more deserving of the title- "Master Mason?"

## New KOP Leader Sought

The KOP State Director of Texas has recently moved to Houston and is seeking someone to be the chairperson to assist Brother Riley Stevenson with the KOP of Austin.

*Lyons Jr. Lodge #290  
Celebrating 100 Years of Masonry  
1908 - 2008*



Front Row: PM Eural Smothers, Worshipful Master Alfred Dozier, Most Worshipful Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, District Deputy Grand Master Art Sauls, PM Gerald Henderson. Back Row: Bro. Lawrence Hall, PM Campynella Smith, Bro. Olden Jordan, Bro. Joe Warren, PM Ervin Butler, PM Jerry Eason, Bro. Riley Stephenson, Bro. Melvin Tealer, PM Ronnie Hackett, Bro. Keith Wormley, Bro. Jerrett Robinson, PM Levi Murray III, Bro. Barry Franklin, Bro. David Featherston, Bro. Bro. Harold Wells.

## Historic Presidential Election Predicted by Bobby Kennedy



**A POWERFUL AND PROPHETIC THOUGHT RENDERED BY ROBERT KENNEDY 40 YEARS AGO:** He gave a speech to the "Voice of America" all around the world and despite what was going on in the country, particularly in Alabama, Bobby Kennedy said this in 1968:  
***"Things are moving so fast in race relations a Negro could be president in 40 years. There's no question about it, in the next 40 years a Negro can achieve the same position that my brother has. Prejudice exists and probably will continue to, but we have tried to make progress and we are making progress. We are not going to accept the status quo."***

THE SECRETARY'S CORNER:



**Are You A Master Mason?** We are seven months into this Masonic year and we have members that have not paid their Dues. Please pay your dues. Listed below are the current cost of general membership in Lyons Jr. Lodge for 2008-2009, reinstatements and initiations. This includes payment options for the mandatory \$60 Grand Lodge (GL) Roof assessment.

**General Membership**

\$135.00 - 2008-2009 lodge dues

\$60.00 – GL Roof assessment or \$20 now; (\$40 paid over the next 2 years at \$20 a year)

\$5.00 - GL late fee

\$200.00 Total or a minimum (\$160.00)

**Reinstatements**

\$135.00 - 2008-2009 lodge dues

\$25.00 - GL reinstatement Fee

\$60.00 - GL Roof assessment (\$20 now; and \$40 paid over the next 2 years at \$20 a year)

\$220.00 Total or a minimum (\$180.00)

**Initiations**

\$200.00 - Lyons Jr. initiation fee 2008 - 2009

\$60.00 - GL Roof assessment

\$260.00 Total

**Members may pay their Dues at a regular meeting or by mail. Make check payable to Lyons Jr. Lodge #290, mailing address is PO Box 1863, Austin, Texas 78767.**

**LYONS JR LODGE # 290 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

The month of December is a one of the busiest months of the year for Lyons Jr. Lodge. So please mark your calendar and come out and support your lodge. We need every member!

December 4—Thursday KNDS 7:30 pm meeting (committee chairs up-date on upcoming events)

December 4- Canned goods donations due

December 6—Saturday 7:00 pm NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Banquet- Omni Hotel, 4140 Governors Row Austin, Texas (Lyons Jr. is providing 5 ushers in support of this event)

December 18 – Regular Business Meeting

December 19- Game Night at the Lodge

December 20- Pack and distribute Christmas Baskets

December 28 - After Christmas Affair – 7:00 pm at the Metropolitan AME Church

January 1- New Years Day (no meetings)

January 15- Regular Business Meeting

# Lyons Jr. Lodge # 290 100 Year Anniversary Party Highlights

