

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By M.R. W. Leroy Jones  
Grand Chaplain

As I write this, there is still snow on the ground and they are predicting that the largest snowfall of the year is approaching (It arrived before I finished this). As people were scurrying to collect supplies for the snowy weekend, they were being interviewed on television. Many were saying, "I'm tired of winter", "We've had enough snow", "I'm tired of the cold weather", and "Hopefully, spring will soon be here".

I can identify with their feelings. Perhaps because our last few winters have not been as severe, we have grown accustomed to more moderate weather. This year seems extremely long and cold. So I found myself longing for warmer weather. During some of those cold winters I spent in Western Pennsylvania, I used to say, "I am sure a church in Florida needs a preacher".

Just about the time I was feeling the lowest on a cold wintery day, there arrived, with all the other catalogues, a seed catalog.

I was reminded of a friend's description of seeing a seed catalog. "The cover and inside pages glistened with colorful guarantees. Bright, shining eggplant (without bluish or discoloration), full ripened tomatoes (with morning dew droplets hanging on each firm succulent sphere), and perfectly shaped bush beans (hanging straight and unsoiled from uniformly healthy plants). There was not a weed, an aphid, a broccoli worm, or a squash bug in sight".

With these pictures etched in my mind, I made a visit to the hospital and in the flower beds just outside the entrance were some dandelions breaking the cold ground.

These two things reminded me of God's covenant with humanity. Spring will come. The warmed, well-mulched soil will produce its fruits. The earth will be green and lush once again.

God wants us to hear the same promise in the midst of each "winter" of our lives. To do anything less is to betray that which God has planted within us. More than any other religious tradition, people of faith in God are people of indomitable hope. Hope is not, as some believe, a disinclination to take life seriously. It is not living in a Pollyanna world that shuts its eyes to everything ugly. It is not viewing life through rose-colored glasses. Hope in the Biblical sense is not cheerful optimism, but confidence in an ultimate divine destiny. It is a true belief in a God who is sovereign in control of the universe, invincible, and unconquerable. It is the assurance that God and God alone will have the final say about the universe. It is confidence in an ultimate destiny, which cannot be frustrated or aborted.

You may have seen the dramatic painting of Goethe's Faust, in which the devil and Faust are seated at a table with a chessboard between them. The devil is pointing with a leer, and Faust sits dejected. We can almost hear the devil crying, "checkmate!"

An internationally known chess player was admiring this magnificent painting when suddenly he lunged forward and exclaimed, "Just a minute! Faust has one more move!"

When faith gives way to despair, when winter seems as if it will never end; just a minute! You have one more move! It is the move of hope.

Even when our lives seem bleak and hold no spark of joy or assurance, God extends the guarantee to uphold us. The strong right hand of God will not fail us. God will see us through into the season of growth once again, and we will experience the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

## Harry Bergstrom Receives Masonic Scout Award

The coveted Daniel Carter Beard Scout Award was presented to Harry G. Bergstrom by Grand Master P. Donald Carey at a recent Grand Visitation. This award was in recognition of 62 years of membership in and service to the Boy Scouts of America.

Brother Harry commenced his scouting career with Troop #14 at Peninsula United Methodist Church in 1941. As an adult he served Troop #57 (St. Mark's Lutheran Church) as Assistant Scoutmaster during the 1950's. From 1961 through the 1980's Brother Harry was Committee Chairman for Troop #252 of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. During that period 24 young men attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the decades of 1960, 1970 and 1980 Brother Bergstrom served his District on the Advancement and Training Committee. He has served as a Unit Commissioner since 1988 and currently works with the District and Council Activities Committees. Harry is also a member of the Eagle Scout Board of Review.

In addition to the Daniel Carter Beard Award, Brother Bergstrom has earned the Arrowhead of Honor, the Scouter's Training Award, the Distinguished Commissioner Award, the Lutheran Church of America Volunteer Training Award, the District Award of Merit, Del-Mar-Va Council Silver Beaver Award and is a Brotherhood Member of Nentego #20 Lodge Order of the Arrow.

Brother Bergstrom has dual membership in Temple Lodge No. 11 and Ionic Lodge No. 31.

## Masonic Fair to feature CHIP

The Freemasons of Delaware will sponsor a Masonic Fair to be held on May 4, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the NUR Shrine Center. The various Masonic bodies within the state will man information booths offering information about their organizations.

The Child Identification Program (CHIP) will be featured at the Masonic Fair. This means of helping to identify our loved ones has the support of the police, fire and dental communities of Delaware who have given their time and in some cases money to make this program very successful.

Those unable to attend the fair, but wishing to support CHIP, are urged to send donations to the Grand Secretary, 818 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19810-3077 for the "Unity Committee".

## The Lodge Where I Belong By Arthur R. Herman

Though my Lodge may lack the splendor,  
Of a temple or a shrine,  
Or possess the gaudy fixtures,  
That are classed as superfine,  
Yet the fellowship it offers,  
Is in price beyond compare.  
And I wouldn't trade it ever,  
For life's treasures - rich or rare.

The hand-clasp firm, the work of cheer,  
Oh, such meanings they impart.  
The mystic ties of brotherhood,  
That link us heart to heart.  
You'd really have to travel far,  
For friendships quite so strong.  
As those one always finds right here,  
In the Lodge where I belong.

When all my earthly travels end,  
And at last I'm borne to rest.  
Where mortal hands no longer toil,  
And I cease life's endless quest.  
Why there is nothing I'd like better,  
Should I join the heavenly throng.  
Than to meet with all the brothers,  
Of the Lodge where I belong.

## The Clergy and The Craft

By Donald D. Thomas

In these days when our fraternal order is subject to a vast amount of criticism from many sources, including some organized religions, it is perhaps of merit to reflect upon the relationship that the Craft has with the Clergy. Our Operative Brethren, who constructed the mighty cathedrals and churches throughout all of Europe, had the closest of ties with the Clergy. They worked together to construct the greatest edifices they could build in honor of their God.

The early formation of the Grand Lodge in 1717 was greatly influenced by the Reverend James Anderson, a Presbyterian Minister from Scotland who drafted the First Constitution in 1723. Article I, therein, took the Craft from a Christian organization to a non-sectarian body, requiring only the belief in a Supreme Being. Aiding in this direction was the French Protestant Minister Joseph T. Desaguliers.

Since its early formative years, the Craft has attracted many distinguished men of the cloth - the famous Masonic author and Clergyman Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, Dr. Daniel L. Poling, at one time Chaplain of the Four Chaplains Chapel in

Philadelphia (whose son incidentally was one of the Four Chaplains of the USS Dorchester), U. S. Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall (of the book 'A Man Called Peter') and protestant Minister and author ('The Power of Positive Thinking') Norman Vincent Peale. Within our fond state one can recall the Reverends Leighton Coleman, Park Huntington, Irvin R. Pusey and all of the magnificent Grand Chaplains from William Pryce to William L. Jones.

Without doubt, the Clergy and the Craft are uniquely bound together. Tens of thousands of Ministers are, and have been, proud members of this fraternal order. Criticism reigns only from those without who are ignorant of our good work.

The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, wishing to further these close bonds will, upon application, pay the initiation fee of any member of the Clergy who petitions and is accepted into a Craft Lodge within its jurisdiction. Further particulars on this program can be obtained from Franklin R. Townsend, Secretary of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Wilmington at 302-998-6475.

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