

# Chaplain's Corner

By The Rev. Dr. William S. Downing  
Grand Chaplain

## "Kids Christmas"

Again this holiday season past, Kid's Christmas was a great success. Thanks to the generosity of the brothers as well as some outside help, we were able to make Christmas a little brighter for some children and their families.

It makes my heart feel good to see the faces of these children who might not have had a Christmas if it were not for people like you. The smiles on the faces of these children make it all worthwhile.

The Santas who helped to deliver the gifts reported back with many a heart warming tale. From the tear stained face of a grandmother raising her grandchild to the many hugs and "thank yous" from the young parents trying to do their best to raise a large family, each with a story to tell and each grateful for the help in giving their family a Christmas this year.

This year we had a little special help from someone who donated two used Dodge Caravans. Their request was to use the vans as we thought would best help someone else. We found two families who really needed a vehicle at the time they were donated. One was a family with several

children. Their vehicle quit and they did not know what they were going to do for transportation. They could not afford to have their vehicle worked on and they needed a vehicle to transport their children to school and the normal places their children needed to go. The second family was a family with just one child. Their vehicle quit and the father did not know how he was going to go back and forth to his job. The donation of a Dodge Caravan lifted a burden from the minds of these parents trying to do the best for their families and made two families very thankful to complete strangers who were willing to lend a helping hand in their time of need.

These strangers were mostly Masons of Delaware. In a time when many people are facing uncertainties about family, life and work, the Delaware Freemasons have reached out a helping hand and with the strength of that grip, lifted the burdens of a few and so "let our light shine". Masonry - I am proud to be a member and you should be too!

*So mote it be*

## New Yahoo Group makes Communication Easier than Ever!

By Bro. Gary Morgan

In the century of e-mail, fax machines, broadband, and Mp3s, the ability to communicate is easier than ever. We are a small state and even though traveling to different area lodges can bring the faces of our brethren together, mass communication is needed as never before. Slumps in membership and decline in lodge attendance plague our order. One ingredient of the cure is to increase communication between Lodges to promote programs, charitable causes, and Masonic issues and between Brethren, to strengthen bonds, share ideas, and enhance leadership.

The newest tool at our disposal is the new Delaware Mason Yahoo group started by Bro. Troy Nuss of Washington Lodge #1 in Wilmington. The Yahoo group is a "members only" e-mail message board, designed just for Delaware brethren to be able to keep in touch and share ideas. The message board works like this: you go to Yahoo groups on the yahoo.com website. It is free to join and the website prompts you with the correct directions on how to join. To keep the site "Duly Tyled," Troy and I must approve membership, as well as any posts to the site. Once a member, you have access to all current and past postings, a photo album area for the posting of pictures of Lodge events, members, and their family, a file cabinet for Masonic articles, e-books, etc, fun and informative polls and, of course, the ability to post a comment or question which can reach your Delaware Brethren in the blink of an eye.

Recent posts have touched on program announcements like Washington #1's Trivia Bowl, essays of the origination of the snake

on our apron belts, reprints of Carl Claudy's essays from Past Master Stories, notices of poor health among brothers, and the sharing of thoughts and feelings on how to raise membership and recharge the interest in the inactive.

The uses for this new Masonic tool are endless. We as Masonic Brethren need to be able to communicate beyond the borders of County and Lodge Districts. An illness has befallen our order in the falling membership numbers and the decline of active current membership. To be able to begin to heal, communication and idea sharing must take place. Our Most Worshipful Grand Lodge has started the healing process with regular leadership training conferences leading up to their weekend-long Leadership Retreat at Dewey Beach in April. This helps to nurture new upcoming leaders in our Fraternity who have entered the officer line within their respective lodges and brings a valuable think-tank type atmosphere to the conferences by creating communication between Past Masters who have gained the experience first-hand and the new officers inspired by their service.

Communication is the key my brothers, and now as never before the ability to communicate is literally at our fingertips. I encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity to "Let our Light so Shine" by posting on the Yahoo Group. For more information please contact Brother Troy Nuss at [Washington1afam@aol.com](mailto:Washington1afam@aol.com) or Bro. Gary Morgan at [Dharmabum327@cs.com](mailto:Dharmabum327@cs.com). We will be glad to walk you through the membership process and get you posting in no time.

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