

Birmingham Masonic News

PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

Subscriptions are renewed December 1<sup>st</sup>

PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

(I will continue these 5 for a few months since they were paid for thru 2019)

In Loving Memory of Clifford Fisher Voorhees  
— from Bob Voorhees

In Memory of Richard Pippin  
— from Joseph Wilson

In Memory of PM's Tom, George, and Tom Jr Paterson and Jim Grant— from Gerald Quinn, PM

In Memory of Allen Parrish  
— from Walter Ebling

Please send your check for \$30.00 payable to Birmingham #44 Lodge marked "Pillars of Patronage". This is an opportunity to make a contribution "In Honor Of" or "In Loving Memory of". Please let us know how you would like your name to appear.

These subscriptions help to offset the cost of mailing the monthly Trestle Board. If you wish to make a larger donation, Birmingham #44 Charity Fund would welcome your contribution

The Secretary's Pen

Brethren — We have had a wonderful and generous response to our Christmas Charity for Grace Centers of Hope this year, but we still have a ways to go to meet our goal. We also need volunteers to help serve food and help out at the dinner at Grace on the 22nd. Please open your hearts and your wallets, and help out this very worthy cause. All volunteers can contact me and/or Tom Baranowski, PM (tom.c.baranowski@gmail.com).

Tom is also having a Christmas wrapping party for the moms and kids at Grace at his house on Thursday, December 8, at 7pm. Please watch your email for his address. There will be a fellowship night at his house during the party.

Sorry if you have not received your dues cards if you have paid in the last couple weeks — I received a bunch of payments at once, and have been processing them. I plan on getting them out this week. If you cannot make our Regular to receive your Veteran or Life Membership pin this month, I will mail those out also in the next few weeks.

Also — Please RSVP for the January 14th Installation of Officers Celebration at the old Pontiac Masonic Temple. It will be a mass Installation with 6 Lodges, celebrating nearly 200 years of Masonry in Michigan. Watch your emails!

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.  
Steve Skrzycki, PM, Secretary  
secretary@birmingham44.com

BIRMINGHAM 44

BIRMINGHAM LODGE NO. 44 F&AM  
500 TEMPLE STREET  
DETROIT, MI 48201



Remember this (scary) portrait from our old lobby?  
MWGM Alanson Partridge  
WM 1854-66, 1868/69, 1872-80, 1883, GM of MI 1882



MONTHLY CALENDAR — All Lodge Events at 7:30 unless noted

- DEC 2022

DEC 1

DEC 8

DEC 15

DEC 22ND

DEC 29
- REGULAR (BUSINESS MEETING)

— WRAPPING PARTY AT TOM'S — 7PM

— FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

— CHRISTMAS DINNER AT GRACE CENTER OF HOPE

— WILL NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SERVE DINNER TO FAMILIES IN NEED — TIME TBD

— DARK
- JAN 2023

JAN 5

JAN 12

JAN 19

JAN 26
- REGULAR (BUSINESS MEETING)

— FC PRACTICE — FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP

— FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

— FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

2022/3 CALENDAR

Dec 22nd — Christmas Dinner at Grace Center of Hope — NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!  
Jan 14th, 2023 — 2023 Installation of Officers — Multi-Lodge Installation

See [www.birmingham44.net/calendar](http://www.birmingham44.net/calendar) for schedule

NOTE TO BRETHREN of #44:

This Lodge is yours — if you have an idea for an event, please recommend it to the WM or bring it up in open Lodge. We love volunteers!

All Lodge events start at 7:30, unless noted

[www.birmingham44.net](http://www.birmingham44.net)

BIRMINGHAM #44 LODGE  
TRESTLEBOARD

DECEMBER, 2022

PAGE 1



Brethren:

One hundred and seventy-one years is quite a longevity record for most any type of organization, especially one that caters to men who volunteer their time, allegiance, and personal philosophy; however, Masonry is like that. It is built upon the building blocks of prior generations going back in time to antiquity. Birmingham Lodge #44 F&AM is no different, and we are extremely proud of our heritage as a lodge, our members both past and present, and their accomplishments within Masonry. We are also proud of our role and accomplishments in our civic life in Birmingham, Oakland County, and the Great State of Michigan.

Birmingham #44 was founded in 1849, when William Brown and others petitioned the Grand Lodge of Michigan for a Charter. The provisional Charter was signed by several Masons, who then belonged to Pontiac Lodge No. 21, but lived in Birmingham. Dispensation for a provisional Charter was granted on April 25, 1850. William Brown was elected its first Worshipful Master and Birmingham #44 held its first Degree on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1850. The dispensation concerning Birmingham #44 and making it a regular Chartered Lodge was granted on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1851.

Since its founding, Birmingham #44 has been fortunate to have many outstanding Brethren who have been leaders of the community as well as within Masonry. While walking in Downtown Birmingham you will find many a street named after our founding members. Brown, Willits, and Hunter are to name but a few. Alanson Partridge, being one of Birmingham #44's most illustrious Worshipful Masters, was Worshipful Master from 1854-1866, 1868-1869, 1872-1880, and again in 1883. In 1882 he was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. Birmingham Lodge #44 owes much of its early success to his efforts. In his civic life, Partridge was a prominent figure in the City of Birmingham as well as in Oakland County, and his picture still hangs prominently on display in Birmingham's City Hall.

Over the years of Birmingham 44's existence, it has been recognized for its fine presentation of Masonic Ritual. Our Lodge has frequently been called upon to perform the entirety of Ritual work for other Lodges. An example of this was in 1927 under the direction of Worshipful Master Clyde H. Wood, when he and 80 Members of Birmingham #44, under special dispensation from the Grand Lodges of Ohio and Michigan, journeyed to Toledo, Ohio to confer the Master Mason Degree for Lotus Lodge #625 in the Commandry room of the Temple in Toledo.

I pay homage to Birmingham Lodge #44's past as I embark on my second stint as Worshipful Master of Birmingham Lodge #44. I do so with respect to our Lodge's past and with a focus on Birmingham Lodge #44's future success. I am honored and humbled by the trust placed in me by Birmingham #44's membership in electing me Worshipful Master for 2023. Myself, with the Officers Elect, look forward to continuing our Masonic Ritual work and to a successful year spreading Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Fraternally Yours,

Thomas C. Baranowski, PM  
2023 Worshipful Master







<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>RAISED</u>	<u>DECEASED</u>
CHARLES H. ESCHENBACH	NOVEMBER 28, 1967	JANUARY 22, 2022
DARWIN EUGENE SMITH	JUNE 19, 1981	AUGUST 20, 2022
EDGAR G. STRETEN	DECEMBER 15, 1952	JUNE 9, 2022

*"Soft and safe to you, my brother, be this earthly bed. Bright and glorious be your rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia's bloom, which here shall flourish. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties o'er your resting place, and here may the fragrance of the summer's latest rose linger longest. Though the cold blasts of autumn may lay them in the dust, and, for a time, destroy the loveliness of their existence, yet that destruction is not final and in the spring time, they shall surely bloom again. So, in the morning of the world's resurrection, your mortal frame, now laid low in the dust by the chilling blasts of death, shall spring again into newness of life and unfold in immortal beauties in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear brother, fare thee well - Fare thee well."*

**From the Charity Committee:**



Brothers,

As we head into December and the end of 2022, Birmingham #44's final charity push is here! We need you and your families help to make this a success. Charity is one of the cornerstones of Masonry and I ask that all our members contribute as liberally as possible to it without material injury to yourself. In December you have an opportunity to contribute financially or with the contribution of time to help make the Holidays brighter for those in need as a member of Birmingham #44.

Grace Centers of Hope helps both men and women and their children live better lives. To beat homelessness and drug addiction by giving them a place to live, to heal and learn how to make changes that will better their lives and that of their children. This Holiday Season Birmingham #44 is looking to help the Women and Children living in Grace Centers of Hope's one-year program. In supporting them, we have three opportunities for both you and your family to get involved in helping.

The first opportunity, Birmingham Lodge #44 has adopted and is fundraising to help purchase gifts for 15 women and children at Grace Centers of Hope. We are spending \$200 on each and are purchasing items of need such as winter boots, coats, and toys for the children. Please consider donating to Birmingham #44's Charity Account and help us raise the \$3,000.00 needed.

Our second opportunity, Birmingham Lodge #44 on Thursday evening, December 22<sup>nd</sup> will be providing a catered dinner for the Christmas Party for the women and children in the one-year program at Grace Centers of Hope's facility in Pontiac. This looks to be about 70-80 women and children. We will be serving dinner to the women and children who reside at Grace Centers of Hope's Women's Center in Pontiac and we will need about 10 - 15 volunteers to serve and clean up. We have opened this volunteer opportunity to our members and their families to get involved.

The third opportunity to get involved for the charity push this December is baking some Christmas Cookies! Instead of purchasing desert through the caterer for the women and children, I thought it would be a nice touch serving them homemade Christmas Cookies made by our members. This is a great way to show these women and children Brotherly Love from Birmingham Lodge #44's members and families. With 70-80 people to serve we are going to need about 30 dozen cookies! I will be collecting the cookies the week prior to the dinner on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Brothers, please look at the three opportunities we have to serve the less fortunate in our community this Holiday Season. Show love and support to those that often do not believe anyone cares about them. Contact the Secretary or myself and please volunteer for one, two or all three of the opportunities we have to give something to those that need help in our community.

Fraternally,

Thomas C. Baranowski PM  
tbaranowski@comcast.net



**INSTRUCTION AND PURPOSE**

"Step off with your left foot, bring the heel of the right to the hallow....." Seems awfully confusing but there must be a reason for these strange instructions. What possibly can we learn from such formal and confusing demonstrations? It doesn't seem to relate to a modicum to the way we currently live or communicate. It's almost like a foreign tongue, or language not at all familiar in our current types or means of communication. Is it relevant or is this an antiquated form of misspeak?

Sometimes our ritual is so foreign to us that we may question its relevance. Time has shown, however that even though certain words are not in our every day usage and means of demonstration appear quite archaic a point is reached that brings most everything into the realm of revelation. We start to see or understand these intended messages to building a better life or being a better disciple to our families and neighbors. Masonry is certainly an experience in improving life's pathways and understanding our own needs as well as the needs of others. But the most amazing thing happens when a Brother seriously contemplates the lessons taught and exemplified. Life doesn't radically change but understanding and attitude certainly are modified in a positive manor! A Mason starts to see his situation more clearly as well as the situation of his friend, neighbor and Brother. He sees the relationship of history with the reality of today. He sees the importance of Truth, Friendship and Brotherly Love! Morality is sometimes redefined as well as common decency to all mankind.

All of the above mentioned topics certainly create an individual advantage in improving our every day life experiences and help us improve our own outlook on the world The Grand Architect of the Universe has given us. So my advice or contribution to any new Brother or old, read the ritual, explore the STEPS of Masonry and attend every Degree for new members. Watch, Listen and Study and see what new and revelatory information you can garner. It's there, just look for it! And when you find it, share that joy and self-improvement with everyone you care about. That is one of the major benefits of Masonry. It's a gift that expands our relationships and offers more meaning to our lives and the lives of others.

And speaking of gifts, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Robert C. Hall, P.M.

**From the East:**

Happy Holidays, Brothers,

My year as Worshipful Master is quickly coming to an end, and I find it only fitting that that occurs during the Holiday season. I don't think there is any one true meaning of Christmas or the Holiday season—rather, there are as many meanings as there are people. Yes, the Holiday season has history and that history affects us all, but each family has their own Holiday traditions and meaning. Children find yet a different meaning, and theirs is one that changes as they grow and develop. As I've grown older I see it as good will toward all and faith for tomorrow. I have been blessed in life with a beautiful wife and 2 incredible children and now it fills me with joy to be able to help out the community. I am so proud that the Brothers of Birmingham #44 will be taking time out of their Holiday schedule to meet on the level and help families in need at the Grace Centers of Hope. We are adopting 15 families and throwing a holiday celebration with food and gifts for all the people in their care. Looking at it now, isn't that what Masonry is truly about: Faith, Hope, and Charity?

I have to take this last moment to talk about the Brothers in my Officer Line, as well as the Brothers who are stepping into line. It has been an honor watching the Officers grow as Masons and continue to improve as men. I have watched Brothers embrace the tenants of our institution and hold them close to their hearts as they work to improve the Craft and their communities. It fills me with hope and pride knowing that Birmingham #44 is being left in the hands of the best Brothers and friends I have ever known.

Thank you for putting your trust in me to guide Birmingham #44 through this past year. May your holidays be blessed and filled with family and love.

Jack Palmer , WM

