

APRIL 2020

VOLUME 31

NUMBER 7



A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY, ROYAL ARCH MASONS

### Message from the Grand High Priest



**G**reetings Companions.

This month's letter is going to be different since I have nothing to report for March. It feels very strange being the first MEGHP to shut down chapter meetings across the state, but it is for the best.

I hope this month's "Keystone" finds everyone safe and practicing social distancing. I have not seen the latest figures concerning the amount of outbreaks per county but the last report I have seen was 4 confirmed cases in my county.

The latest timeline I have heard is keeping social distancing is April 30. If this stays, there will not be any York Rite meetings until May if we are lucky. We will have to decide what to do about inspections. Elections are in June leaving very little time for the inspections. The heads of the 3 bodies will have to get together and come up with a plan.

Since we are social distancing, we should have plenty of time to practice our ritual opening and closings so that when we are able to meet again, we should be letter perfect. In the meantime, stay safe and check on each other's well-being.

Fraternally thine,

Rick Sears  
MEGHP

*If you Love Masonry you will want to come  
If you Love Masonry you will need to come  
If you Love Masonry you will come*



*Why do you  
look for the*

*living among*

*the dead? He is not*

*here; he*

*has risen!*



## From the Grand Secretary's Desk



Companions and  
Sir Knights,

Greetings to all; it is my hope that you are all healthy and have not been affected by the Corona Virus. We here at the office are hopeful that things will soon be back to normal and the work of

Kentucky Masons will resume.

Secretaries and Recorders please make sure your membership data bases are up to date. It will soon be time to print dues cards, and we will print cards for the members that are in the data base.

Our prayers are that each and every one of you will be safe and protected by God in these uncertain times.

Fraternally,

James King Jr.  
Grand Secretary/Recorder

*You can reach the Grand York Rite office at 859-209-4120.*



**Continue the York Rite Journey**

## From the Editor

Greetings, Companions!

I hope this finds everyone well as we work our way through this crisis. In many ways we've never experienced anything like this before; in some ways we have. Look at your lodge minute books from the 1930's and see if they match Williamsburg's. From 1923 to 1942, membership dropped by almost 300, and during the worst of the depression years, months frequently went by with no meetings recorded. I'm not saying this to be depressing; I'm saying this to remind us that we have survived such periods before and come back strong. Hang in there, take care of yourselves, keep in touch with those you love; check on your family – blood, church, lodge, and man.

Our school system here is running the busses to take food to the kids who are home, and I was behind one the other day when he stopped in the middle of the road where there were no homes. I finally figured out he wasn't throwing trash out the window, but he was holding out a bag full of meals to a homeless man walking down the side of the road. We're in this together, and we'll get through it together.

For those missing **Sunrise Service** this year, **join the Grand Commandery** on Easter Morning, eight o'clock Eastern time **for a live stream Sunrise Service**. This will be streamed on Facebook from the Buffalo Baptist Church, where Sir Knight Vernon Jones is pastor. Vernon and PGIM Carl Jones are brothers and Vernon has served both the Grand Council and Grand Commandery as Grand Chaplain/Prelate. He has graciously allowed us to use their facility and equipment. Past Grand Commander Larry Carte will bring the Easter message. This is a another first for us; prayers are solicited, and feedback. This will also count as participating in an Easter service for Inspection. The link for their Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/buffalomissionarybaptistchurch/>

Thanks to all those who responded to our email request for masonic activities during this period. We hope to have more next month.

Fraternally,

Randall Partin, Editor



# The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky



## Easter Sunrise Service

April 12, 2020

8:00 AM Eastern – 7:00 AM Central

Streaming Live from the Buffalo Baptist Church

Speaker

Rev. Larry Carte  
Past Grand Commander



<https://www.facebook.com/buffalomissionarybaptistchurch/>

Participants will receive credit on Inspection for attending an Easter Service

Video will be posted on the above site for those who miss the live stream.

Leave a comment with your Commandery Number for Inspection credit

\* This is a live stream event only! Only those persons necessary for the production will be present.



**Easter Message from the Grand  
Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of  
Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky**



**HE IS ALIVE!**

My Companions, as April 2020 arrives, we find ourselves in a world of uncertainty. The coronavirus (Covid-19) is on everyone's mind. The virus has affected people around the globe, including our own nation. Our entire world is in the grip of panic and fear. Every aspect of our lives has changed as we cope with this virus on a daily basis.

April also brings beauty and hope. It is a time of renewal of spirit. "Spring is Here"! God gives us a time to refresh our minds. He floods our world with beauty. As I look out my window, I see Spring Flowers in bloom and the Bradford Pear trees snow white with blossoms. It's as though everything in nature is awakening from a long winter's sleep. What a glorious time to be alive and witness God's creation and beauty.

This month we celebrate Easter. The Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunts excite the children as well as the adults. As Christian believers we celebrate the greatest hope and faith ever given to mankind. As believers we are excited because we celebrate the Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. By His death and resurrection, he defeated death and the grave. He established a plan of Salvation for all mankind.

John 3:16 states; "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jesus gave the promise and hope of eternal life. That's why we celebrate Easter!

So, in this time of uncertainty, fear, and panic, we have that Blessed hope of one day being with Jesus. Celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, our Blessed Redeemer, Jesus

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Christ. Shout it from the highest pinnacle of the rooftops:

**HE'S ALIVE! HE'S ALIVE! HALLELUJAH!**

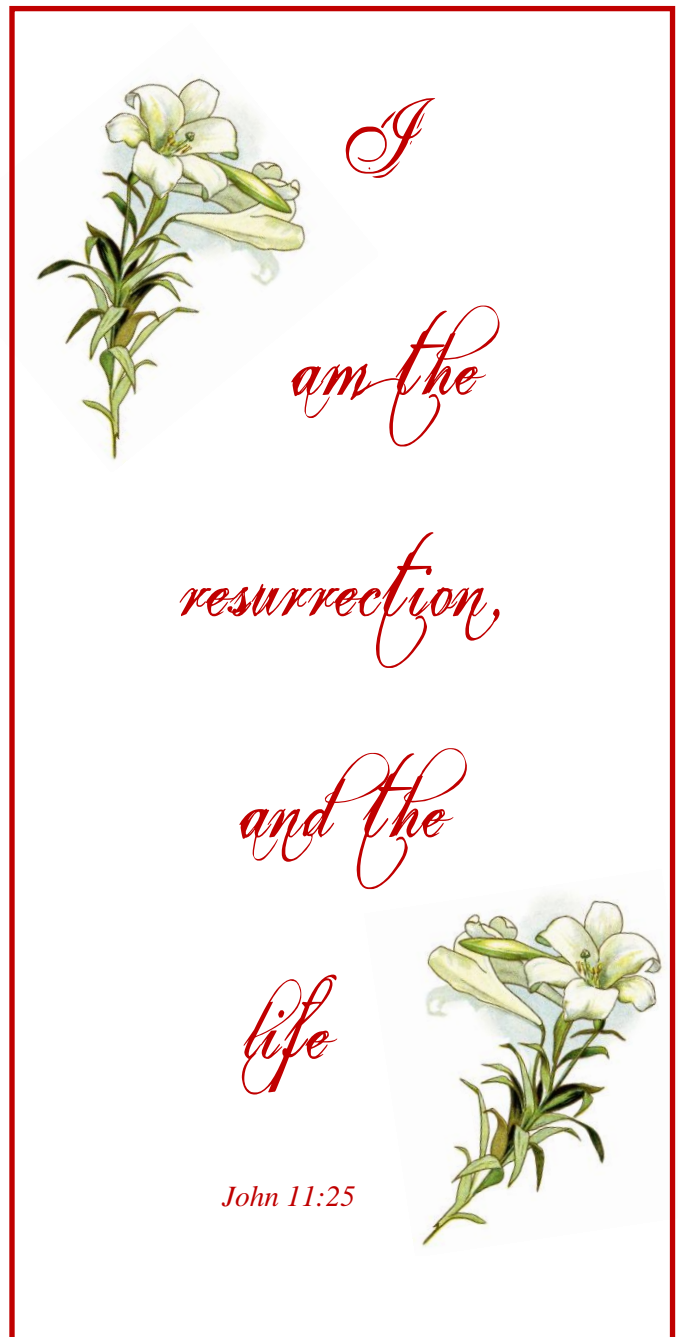
**HE'S ALIVE!**

HAPPY EASTER,

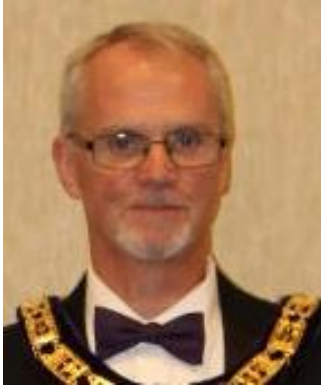
*Don Powell, PGHP*

Grand Chaplain

Grand Chapter of Kentucky, RAM



## Easter Message from the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kentucky



### *He Lives*

*Luke 24:1-8*

*<sup>1</sup>Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.*

*<sup>2</sup>And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.*

*<sup>3</sup>And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.*

*<sup>4</sup>And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:*

*<sup>5</sup>And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?*

*<sup>6</sup>He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,*

*<sup>7</sup>Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.*

*<sup>8</sup>And they remembered his words,*

Luke tells us Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and some other women were on their way to the tomb where Jesus had been laid. The women were going to anoint the dead body of Jesus as was a custom in the day. Concerned how they would roll away the large stone that blocked the entrance to the tomb only to find it had been rolled away and the body of Jesus was gone.

Expecting to go to the tomb and find a dead body but to find two men in shining garments (angels). Luke says, “they were afraid, and bowed their faces to the earth”. I can’t imagine the fear these women experienced only to hear, “Why seek ye the living among the dead?” It is refreshing each day to know our Savior lives today and for evermore. Then those angels said, “He is not here, but risen”, and because he lives this gives us the promise of  
*(continued next column)*

life with him. Jesus was delivered into the hands of sinful men, crucified for not only the people of that day but our sins (my sins). Then those faithful women remembered he had told them (Luke 9:22) “and the third day rise again”.

While we celebrate with family and friends this Easter, let us never lose sight that we serve a risen Savior here for a little while but in eternity forever.

Happy Easter!

### *He Lives*

*I serve a risen Savior  
He's in the world today.  
I know that He is living,  
Whatever men may say.  
I see His hand of mercy;  
I hear His voice of cheer;  
And just the time I need Him  
He's always near.  
He lives, He lives,  
Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives,  
salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.*

*Carl Jones, PMIGM,  
Grand Chaplain,  
Grand Council of Kentucky, R&SM*



**Easter Message from the Grand Prelate  
of the Grand Commandery of Knights  
Templar of Kentucky**



Sir Knights I myself reflect on this time of turmoil concerning the Coronovirus during these times when we all are normally busy with meetings of all kinds and I know that some of you if not all are depressed with not being able to attend

your Commandery as well as other York Rite meetings and those of Grand Lodge. We are under the edict, for our own health, not to meet but to stay at home and not gather in large crowds. We as Knight Templar have been taught to help when needed as those who have gone before us when our order first started.

Today we look to the future as we remember the past. The past has taught us through scripture that our Lord and Saviour and the Captain of our Salvation was hung on the cross and gave His life that we as sinners may have the ability to be forgiven; yes He died on the Cross that we may live, through mercy from His father God Almighty.

At this time of Easter, we recall how He rose from the dead and then was called away in a cloud but gave us His words of hope. Throughout the bible we learn how the Captain of our Salvation time and time again loved all of us. During those times when our Lord had to carry His cross through the streets this reminds me of just how He bore our sins and carried them all the way to Golgotha and paid the ultimate sacrifice for you and for me. No greater gift could our Lord have given us than His life. Then on the third day he arose from the tomb and yet today He walks beside us in our hearts.

Then why should we doubt or fear knowing that our Lord has arisen and is with us throughout our lives. In this Eastertide we celebrate our risen saviour and fear nothing but have hope and confidence that our Lord will bring us through these times.

*(continued next column)*

May God Bless and keep you as we travel through life and give to Him the Praise He deserves.

Courteously,  
Sir Knight Archie R Smallwood,  
Grand Prelate  
Grand Commandery  
Knight Templar of Kentucky



*And the angel answered  
and said unto the women,*

*Fear not ye:*

*for I know that ye seek  
Jesus, which was  
crucified.*

*He is not here:*

*for he is risen,  
as he said.*

# The GRAND LODGE

Geary F. Laird  
Grand Master



April 2, 2020

Greetings Brothers,

I'm sure each of you are aware of the escalation of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases here in Kentucky as well as other states and countries. According to the World Health Organization, the CDC and other health professionals, we still have not reached the peak of this pandemic.

It is crucial that we do our part to prevent the further spread of this highly contagious virus which has impacted so many lives. **Therefore, I am extending the suspension of all masonic activities including district meetings, regular lodge meetings, outdoor degrees and masonic funerals until May 15, 2020.** There will be further updates as we get closer to this date.

Brothers, it is my hope that by the middle of May, the Governor of Kentucky will lift the restrictions and we can get back to business as usual. The health and safety of you and your family will always be my primary concern. May God continue to bless our fraternity and the United States of America.

Fraternally,

*Geary F. Laird*  
Geary F. Laird, Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F.&A.M.



## THE MORE YOU KNOW

*We decided to go with something a little more motivational this month. The following is extracted from Most Worshipful Grand Master Hebbert Henderson's address to the Grand Lodge in 1935. - Editor*

From somewhere in the misty depths of a mysterious civilization, Freemasonry has come down to us, scattering along her pathway fragrant flowers of Brotherly Love, Charity, Tolerance, and Truth. She has ever stood for the home, country, the brotherhood of man, and the dissemination of knowledge, constantly bringing mankind into closer communion with the Great Architect of the Universe.

The pathway of Masonry all down through the ages may readily be traced by the magnificent monuments of her glorious achievements in the uplift of humanity. Her brilliant gems of truth glitter and sparkle in every clime where her banner has been unfurled. The cry of distress from the masses brought Masonry into the world to help and assist mankind by the silent influence of her moral teachings. She came without pomp or display, like the dew that fell upon Mount Hermon, a gift of the Grand Architect to aid humanity to throw off the shackles of mental, physical, and spiritual bondage.

The crowning glory of the teachings of our order is to make good workmen of us all. Not only men, but workmen, men who labor for the good of humanity. We must always hold this distinct motive in view, otherwise the symbolism and mysteries of our order would be useless, and our organization would have no right to exist.

In regarding each other as brethren, we recognize the fact of a common brotherhood, and by dealing justly with one another, we exemplify in practical life the force and beauty of the injunction, "As ye would that others should do to you, do ye even so to them."

Someone has well said: "The present generation of Masons is in no wise responsible for the past; they may be largely responsible for the future, but the entire responsibility of the present rests with them."

There must be an exact correspondence between our profession and our actions, otherwise we shall be found teaching that which is not supported by our deeds. It is not so much what a Mason professes as what he does that furnishes the standard of measurement applied by the world at large, and the living question which confronts us today is: What are the fruits of Freemasonry in the lives and conduct of those who profess it?

The lives of men and Masons of other days have passed into, history. We of the present day are making history which shall be read by those who come after us, and it should be our great concern to give such a character to that history as will bring credit to ourselves and reflect honor on the Order.

The cornerstone of Freemasonry is truth. This is not a human but a divine attribute, and being such it can never change. Truth has many phases and can be viewed from a variety of standpoints, yet it is the same truth in all its aspects, no matter from what source we derive our knowledge of it. Resting, therefore, as Freemasonry does, on the bed rock of truth, its principles are as unchangeable as the foundation on which it is built. Truth and the principles of Freemasonry go hand in hand, and we can no more touch the one without disturbing the other than we can remove the foundation of a building and yet expect the superstructure to stand.

King Solomon built on Mount Moriah the most beautiful structure ever erected by human hands. When the bright sun rose over the summit of Mount Olivet to open and rule the day, his glory paled beside the magnificence of the golden roof and onyx pillars of Solomon's temple. When he shed his departing rays before sinking to rest behind Mount Zion, they were reflected back in a thousand dazzling beams from the gold and precious stones which sparkled in the sacred building.

Three thousand years and the ruthless hand of the invader have extinguished all its glory, and today not one stone remains upon another.

But the organization of the workmen has been perpetuated. The Freemasons who built the temple still labor. And at this epochal hour of the ages, the craft is hopefully looking forward to a career of peaceful conquest which shall be limited only by the utmost bounds of the earth.

Venerable as is our Order, it still glows with the fires of un-wasted youth. It stretches its hands across the seas, reaches over the walls of prejudice, of language, and of race; penetrates religious creeds and political forms and speaks in all the languages of the earth. It seeks no longer to rear a temple of marble, or onyx, or cedar, or cyprus, but a temple of brotherly love, whose altar is the human heart.



*(next column)*



## *Upcoming Degree Work and Events (as we have it)*

- 4/12/2020 – Easter Sunrise Service live stream by the Grand Commandery
- 5/30/2020 – KTEF Golf Scramble
- 6/27/2020- Knight Masons/HRAKTP/KYCH
- 7/11/2020- West Kentucky Festival – Paducah
- 7/18/2020 – RARA Dinner – Danville

*Inspections will be rescheduled as determined by the heads of the individual bodies when the current crisis is resolved.*

*Elections of Officers at the June meetings/conclaves. For many of us, that will be the next stated meeting. Please input your officers in KYRIS and submit your Annual Returns through KYRIS for Chapter and Council.*

*July 10 is the deadline for updating KYRIS for assessment purposes.*

*If you paid for the Easter Pilgrimage to DC and have not received a refund, contact the Grand Recorder's office.*



## **!!! KYRIS NOTICE !!!**

All Secretaries/Recorders

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE**

Don't wait until the end of June to update KYRIS. We had to make updates to the server software which runs our database, and this has caused a number of issues. I believe that most of them have been corrected, but we won't know for sure until all of YOU begin to do your updates.

Go ahead and make any changes that you need to do now. If you run into any issues, notify me as soon as possible so that I can track down and correct those problems before we begin doing Annual Returns.

*Why did I do this to us?* The software had reached its end-of-support date and was no longer being updated. This tends to create security issues, and ultimately leads to other issues as software which is maintained by the server owner will begin to conflict with the outdated software which we were using.

*Why did this create a problem?* This particular update made a major change to the way many of our queries interacted with the database; instead of getting data back for every row of data that met the criteria, the new software dropped every row that did not have data in every field. That meant that every record that didn't have a date – formerly showed 0000-00-00 – would no longer display on your reports and would no longer show up on you list of members.

*What do I need to do if I find an issue?* Send an email to me as soon as possible with as many details as possible about the problem. Give me a contact phone number so I can call for clarification if need be. Most of you have my phone number and email address. If not, reply to the newsletter email.

*For your reading enjoyment.*

## **The Mother Lodge**

*by Rudyard Kipling*

THERE was Rundle, Station Master,  
An' Beazeley of the Rail,  
An' 'Ackman, Commissariat,  
An' Donkin' o' the Jail;  
  
An' Blake, Conductor-Sergeant,  
Our Master twice was 'e,  
With im that kept the Europe-shop,  
Old Framjee Eduljee.

*Outside - " Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!*

*Inside - 'Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.*

*We met upon the Level an' we parted on the  
Square,*

*An' I was junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out  
there!*

We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,  
An' Saul the Aden Jew,  
An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman  
Of the Survey Office too;

There was Babu Chuckerbutty,  
An' Amir Singh the Sikh,  
An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,  
The Roman Catholick!

We 'adn't good regalia,  
An' our Lodge was old an' bare,  
But we knew the Ancient Landmarks,  
An' we kep' 'em to a hair;

An' lookin' on it backwards  
It often strikes me thus,  
There ain't such things as infidels,  
Excep', per'aps, it's us.

For monthly, after Labour,  
We'd all sit down and smoke  
(We dursn't give no banquets,  
Lest a Brother's caste were broke),

An' man on man got talkin'  
Religion an' the rest,  
An' every man comparin'  
Of the God 'e knew the best.

So man on man got talkin',  
An' not a Brother stirred  
Till mornin' waked the parrots  
An' that dam' brain-fever-bird.

We'd say 'twas 'ighly curious,  
An' we'd all ride 'ome to bed,  
With Mo'ammed, God, an' Shiva  
Changin' pickets in our 'ead.

Full oft on Guv'ment service  
This rovin' foot 'ath pressed,  
An' bore fraternal greetin's  
To the Lodges east an' west,

Accordin' as commanded  
From Kohat to Singapore,  
But I wish that I might see them  
In my Mother-Lodge once more!

I wish that I might see them,  
My Brethren black an' brown,  
With the trichies smellin' pleasant  
An' the hog-darn passin' down;

An' the old khansamah snorin'  
On the bottle-khana floor,  
Like a Master in good standing  
With my Mother-Lodge once more.

*Outside - Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!'*

*Inside- Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.*

*We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,  
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out  
there!*



Kipling's home lodge was Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782 in Lahore, Punjab, India, (now Pakistan) where he became a member around 1885. He wrote: "I was Secretary for some years of the Lodge . . . , which included Brethren of at least four creeds. I was entered by a member from Brahma Somaj, a Hindu, passed by a Mohammedan, and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew." He also received the degrees of Mark Master and Royal Ark Mariner.

## Continuing the York Rite Journey



Congratulations to Companions John Bean and Rick Brazelton of Mayfield Council # 39 on completing their Royal and Select Master degrees on March 9, 2020. West KY York Rite College #157 conferred the degrees.





## The York Rite at Work

I recently sent out an email and placed a post on our various Facebook pages asking for brief comments about what you and your local masonic bodies are doing during this time. I did not receive as many responses as I had hoped, but I am grateful to those of you who did. A couple have been edited for brevity. Read below some of the good things that are going on across the state as our brothers 'let the world observe how Masons love one another.' Send me yours and I'll post them next month. – Ed.

*My fiancée and I have been working tirelessly to make homemade face masks for our frontline healthcare providers in the Paducah, Kentucky area and high-risk individuals. We have been calling it #50facemaskchallenge. Yet in Quilt City USA we are getting little help and orders are piling up. I am hoping that you can help me get the word out to get people helping to make these masks both here and across the state. Theresa Thurston and I have made over 200 since this past Sunday and distributed them free of charge. All the supplies have been purchased by us or donated to us. But we desperately need help. I already have a means of getting supplies to those who wish to help. Thank you for your time and God bless,  
- Lloyd Kelsey III York Rite in Paducah*

*Paducah Commandery No. 11 held their annual Chili Supper on March 6th right before all the Virus problems broke out and we raised \$300. 00 for KT Eye Foundation. Since then all meetings in our Building have been cancelled but we have started calling all our Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights to see if anyone needs anything. We are also selling smoked hams for Easter. One Brother started making face masks and issued a 50 mask challenge. It has been very successful and at last count he and his fiancée have made and distributed 200 + masks and the beat goes on. Everybody take care. - Joe Ed Tracy reporting from Paducah, KT.*


*I recently had a water heater quit on me. Because of a heart condition I am limited in what I can do. I called every plumber I know, and no one was working. I had no idea how I was going to get the old heater out of a crawl space and get the new one back in. There is a very steep set of steps to get access. That means the heaters will have to be manhandled. In frustration I posted a note on facebook about having to take cold showers. It was just a passing comment, not even addressed to anyone. I received a call from Brother Phillip Russell. He said he would install the heater. I went to Lowe's and bought the new heater and Phillip showed up with Kevil Chinn. They, with much effort, took the old heater out and installed the new one. They got mad when I offered to pay them. They said, "we are brothers." Thank God for Masonry! – George Ralph Arnold*

*Myself as well as others in our Blue Lodge have used phone calls and texts to check on each other. It has been a great opportunity to just chat and check on each other's welfare. I have also used the downtime for reading. Reading helps remind us of our Masonic experience and to further our knowledge of our craft.  
– Malcolm Lane*

*Over these last few days and weeks, we have had a difficult time not meeting and not socializing with our Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights. This has not stopped, nor will it stop all of us from communicating by email, phone, and letter so that we may stay united and stand together as Brothers of this great fraternity. I have been communicating with our Brothers to see if they need anything for themselves or their families while under the stay-at-home edict. I have been and will continue to Pray for our Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights that God will protect them and their families for as long as this virus is among us. We will pray for good health for all those in need. My obligation and duty is to pray that I will be able to help, aid, and assist all those in need. May God Almighty be with us and give us grace and mercy as we stand together to give to Him the Praise He so rightly deserves. - Archie R Smallwood, Grand Prelate; Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Kentucky*

*And from Companion and Sir Knight Larry Noe, among other items, a reminder for us when we've spent too much time listening to the talking heads and doomsayers.*

**Going outdoors  
is not cancelled, listening  
to music is not cancelled,  
quality time with our  
families is not cancelled,  
reading a book is not  
cancelled, sharing with  
friends is not cancelled,  
singing out loud is not  
cancelled, laughing has  
not been cancelled,  
sharing **HOPE** with others  
has not been cancelled.  
Let's **EMBRACE** what  
we have.**



Kelly's  
Treehouse



*The following article was submitted by Companion Carroll Curtis, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. We greatly appreciate his willingness to share with us. - Editor*

## **THE FORMATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER**

This article will not trace the beginnings and development of Capitular Masonry in Kentucky, but will briefly show the steps that culminated in the formation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Kentucky.

At a Grand Lodge communication on November 24, 1814, the following petition was presented:

**The humble petition of the undersigned sheweth, that they are members of the craft, in that degree denominated Royal Arch Masons; and having the good of the fraternity, and the advancement of the principles of Masonry at heart, are desirous of establishing a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Lexington.**

**Recognizing the authority of this M. W. Grand Lodge over all congregations of Masons, assembled within the state, we pray the sanction of this most worshipful Grand Lodge to our proceedings—and that a warrant may issue to us, authorizing us to open, and hold a Royal Arch Chapter, under warrant No. 1, and that under the authority of that warrant we may be enabled, in addition to the ordinary workings under warrants granted by this most worshipful Grand Lodge, to confer the degrees of a Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, and to do all other matters and things appertaining to a Royal Arch Chapter.**

This petition was signed by James Moore, Dan. Bradford, Ant. Butler, John Tilford, A. Dumesnil, Willis A. Lee, R. Brenham, J. Brown, Cary L. Clarke, J. A. Mitchell, and Mich. Ryan. Of the first three, Anthony Butler had served two terms as Grand Master and later was Grand Master of Texas; James Moore was the present Grand Master; and Daniel Bradford was Grand Master the following year. Cary Clarke, a lawyer from Georgetown, was the first Junior Grand Warden, as it was then called, of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. James Moore and Cary Clarke were also the compilers of the first published Book of Constitutions (1808) authorized by the Grand Lodge, which included the monitorial Kentucky ritualistic work. The Grand Lodge granted the prayer of the petitioners.

On August 28, 1816, the Grand Lodge passed the following resolutions: Resolved, That a Royal Arch Chapter be established at Frankfort, with authority to work under warrant No. 4.

Resolved, That a Royal Arch Chapter be established at Shelbyville, with authority to work under warrant No. 5.

Then on August 30, 1816, the Grand Lodge, ON MOTION---- RESOLVED, That the Chapters working under warrants No. 1, No.4, and No. 5, be, and are hereby permitted, to establish a Grand Royal Arch Chapter; and that hereafter no Chapter be opened under any warrant without the permission of this Grand Lodge, and then only upon the recommendation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

After the formation of the Grand Chapter, the Chapters worked under its authority, instead of warrants of the Grand Lodge.

On October 14, 1816, a convention of Royal Arch Masons was held in Lexington, and it was deemed expedient to procure authority from a Grand Royal Arch Chapter to establish chapters. As M. E. Thomas Smith Webb, Deputy General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States was then in Lexington, the companions presented petitions to him for warrants to establish chapters at Lexington, Frankfort, and Shelbyville. On October 15, Webb issued the charters accordingly and, on the following day, installed the officers into their respective offices.

On December 4, 1817, representatives of the chapters at Lexington, Frankfort, and Shelbyville assembled at Frankfort and formed the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Kentucky. John Willett of Shelbyville Chapter was Chairman and David G. Cowan of Lexington Chapter was Secretary of the Convention. The first officers of the Grand Chapter were: Dr. James Moore, Grand High Priest; John Willett, Deputy Grand High Priest; George M. Bibb, Grand King; William G. Hunt, Grand Scribe; Charles S. Todd, Grand Secretary; Wingfield Bullock, Grand Treasurer; Caleb W. Cloud, Grand Chaplain; and Samuel H. Woodson, Grand Marshal.

*(Continued next page)*



James Moore, the first Grand High Priest, was a doctor from Shelbyville, son of Joseph and Margaret (Coalter) Moore evidently of Augusta County, Virginia. He married Jane Bradshaw and their union was blessed with several children. He passed away on March 7, 1825, and was buried with Masonic rites. From the minutes of Solomon's Lodge, No. 5, at Shelbyville, we read, in part:

**The Record of the Deceased is as follows: Departed this life on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> March A. D. 1825 A. L. 5825 P. G. M. Jas. Moore, in the 49<sup>th</sup> year of his age.** Much could be written about many of founding companions of the Grand Chapter, but the scope of this article precludes doing so.

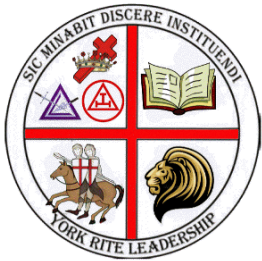
Carroll M. Curtis, PGM



## THE YORK RITE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

### Leadership Notes - Purpose

*by S. Lane Pierce*



Organizations that know who they are, and have a defined mission and vision, perform better than those that don't. It is not enough to just do 'stuff'. What is done must be done for a purpose with each person understanding how they contribute.

By now you have seen the announcement from SK Jeff Nelson, our Grand Master, that the Grand Encampment has published a Mission and Vision. Your elected officers spent weeks preparing for a very intensive two-day workshop to define and hone the mission and vision of the Grand Encampment. More importantly, you need to know that the mission of the Grand Encampment is their covenant to you and to the world. It defines the lighthouse which guides the decisions and activities the Grand Encampment undertakes now, and perhaps for the next 100+ years.

The Grand Encampment's Mission is, "Providing every Christian Freemason the opportunity to extend his Masonic journey through the chivalric experience."

While it may seem an obvious statement of what the Grand Encampment should do, this mission is well-crafted to provide guidance for generations on what the Grand Encampment must do.

*Thinking about your Commandery now... Does your Commandery know who they are? Do they know their purpose? Is there a vision of achievement that your leaders are pursuing? If you cannot answer in the affirmative for each of these questions, now is the time to gather the officers and come to a consensus. Your Commandery needs to know who they are and where they are going. This creates purpose, and from that you will create activities that fulfill the purpose.*

To get started on defining the mission-purpose of your Commandery, let's presuppose we all start from the same root... a social identity if you will. We are all Freemasons and, as Knights Templar, I think we have something special we can start with. Borrowing from John Palmer's original Leadership 101 class... to be a Knight Templar is to be a Gentleman. You, Sir Knight, are expected to uphold yourself as a gentleman and to act gentlemanly in all your deeds. Civil discourse, fairness, and critical thinking are all hallmarks of a Knight Templar. This will be the first steppingstone in creating your Commandery's purpose.

*Sir Knight Pierce is the Program Coordinator for the York Rite Leadership Program. We will include more of his remarks next month. – Editor*

*The preceding article is reprinted with permission of the Knights Templar Magazine.*

**Published monthly by:**

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Continue the York Rite Journey

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