

## **The Trestleboard**

**AUSTIN Lodge #12**

June, AD 2011, AL 6011

Worshipful Master

**Steven Charles Sterzing**



### **~Rising From the East ~**

I wish to start my last article of this Masonic year, 2010-2011, by saying thank you to all of the members of Austin Lodge 12 A.F. & A.M for making my year in the East a lovely and heart felt experience. This year has been filled with many incredible and memorable snapshots that flood my mind as I write this communication. I would love to go over a few of these images, but just writing about a few memories would not do justice to the thousands of others that I could mention. Thus, I will tell you that my year as your Worshipful Master has been very exciting, revealing and rewarding.

Shifting gears just a bit, I would like to focus on the future of our Craft Masonry. It has always intrigued me when discussing Masonry with the older brethren of the Craft as to why they became Masons in the first place. In these

discussions I have found a critical, unique and vital ingredient that should be at the heart of any new potential candidate of Masonry, that is the fundamental belief in God. I cringe at how many eyes may role at my stating this so obvious and emphatic necessity for future Mason's. Suffice it to say; I do see a beautiful future ahead for Masonry and those subscribing to a sincere belief in deity. I have noticed recently that our interests and involvements have sharply increased over the past several months and I am sure that this trend shall continue for future generations to come.

Again, thank you for journeying with me through my year in the East. For those of you reading this document that are Masons, I would like to especially, thank you for your support and prayers. For those reading this document that are not Mason's I would ask you to look into your heart and discover for yourself if you think you have what it takes to even become a Mason. I believe that proper introspection causes one to lean towards effective future actions. God Speed!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
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### **MIND OF GOD**

by Brother Rob Morris

And can we know the mind of God,  
A window to the will supreme?  
And is His purpose all exposed  
to human eye, so faint and dim?  
Look! Open upward broadly lies  
The Word of God -- the unerring Law,  
Threatening and promising by turns,  
As Masons yield to fear or love,

Oh, be it ours to walk therein,  
And at the end have sure reward!

### ~As The Sun Is In The West~

#### IDEALS

Our experiments and investigations into virtue have become complex; there are multiple, partially overlapping systems, each with their own advantages. This complexity might be enough for us to give up any expectation of every gaining a true understanding of virtue. We need to organize our thoughts regarding the various systems and how they relate. One way to do that is to not focus on the particular virtues, but to seek that which unites or captures the essence of most of them.

There is much to be said about Plato's Allegory of the Cave, and much of it has been said and so I will not repeat that here. Briefly it relates a situation where the prisoners in the cave can, from birth, only see the SHADOWS on the wall generated by the unseen LIGHT passing the MOVING FIGURES at the entrance to the cave. To the prisoner only the shadows are real since they are all that can be observed. For our analogy, the various virtues are the shadows.

The cardinal virtues (temperance, prudence, fortitude, and justice) are intended to guide every individual in developing the character that is necessary to be a perfect stone for use in the building of that social building which is a lodge, and also society in general. Consider that they may be the projection from the "MOVING FIGURES" of those great ideals sometimes called Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. Wisdom in our personal character might very much look like prudence. Strength

might look like temperance and fortitude. And justice might be the Beauty by which we judge our own individual character.

In Christianity the theological virtues are intended to guide us in developing a more saintly or godly character. The theological virtues are those dear Faith, Hope and Charity. Again, faith is very like godly wisdom, hope the strength, and charity the beauty.

The cardinal and theological virtues are related by adhering to those three ideals, where the ideals are the MOVING FIGURES in our analogy. But the LIGHT for each is the purpose we are working to attain, and the two systems differ in that manner. Perhaps we can tell the purpose of most virtue systems if we can trace back through the three ideals?

In masonry we speak of the tenets of Brotherly love, relief, and truth. If peace and harmony in work is to be achieved, perhaps truth would do for wisdom, brotherly love for strength, and relief for beauty.

Russell Zears, Senior Warden  
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#### The Work

*by Brother Montford C. Holley*

The gavel sounds and all is still:  
The Master speaks, proclaims his will:  
Each one obeys, takes up his tools.  
Inspects the plan, consults the rules:  
With trowel and level, plumb and square,  
Each stone is set exactly where  
The plan provides, the drawing shows  
And day by day the Temple grows:  
The porch is finished, pillars placed;  
The strands of net-work interlaced;  
The chambers furnished, pavement laid,  
The sacred vessels all displayed:  
The walls are standing straight and true;

The roof is on, the labor through:  
The Master speaks, The work is done:  
The gavel sounds, God calls us home.

### ~From the South~

Recently, one of my dear friends asked: “What power phrase or notable quotable comes to mind that has been the most positive influence on the way you conduce your life?” Without hesitation, my response was, “People don’t CARE how much you know, until they know how much you CARE.”

The next question was: “Who inspired you most as a motivational speaker?” Again, my answer came promptly: “Robert Schuller in his masterpiece—“Tough Times Never Last, But Tough People Do.”

Then my friend looked me straight in the eyes and asked: “Do you believe in God?” My answer was rather curt—“Yes, but I believed in myself long before I believed in God.”

Then, just like a three year old child, my friend asked, “Why?” My response was followed by slightly bowing my head—then raising it slowly and saying, “Why not?”

“Keep on asking who, what, when, where, and why.” My beloved and dedicated seventh grade teacher said these words to the class when I was just twelve years old. Those words have inspired me to keep on “questioning.” After all, isn’t that what Freemasonry is about?

The following words were written for the “Degree of Perfection” in Scottish Rite. While I have not yet to commit the words to memory, I have committed them to heart!!

“Our Order grows and will continue to grow in the Southern Jurisdiction. Those of us who now labor for its advancement will pass away, but you will take our places

and carry on the work. The cardinal principles of Masonry have remained unchanged. Let us hope, by Brother, that they may so continue until time shall be no more!”

“Freemasonry is far removed from all that is trivial, selfish and un-Godly. Its grand purposes are to diffuse light, to banish ignorance; to promote peace and happiness among mankind; to relieve distress; to protect the widows and orphans or our Brethren; to inculcate a wider knowledge concerning the existence of the Great Architect of the Universe, and of the arts and sciences connected with His divine laws. In fine, the design is to make its members wiser, freer, better and consequently happier men.” Those words were read to us in preparation of the candidate for the Entered Apprentice Mason’s Degree. You can find the words in the Monitor of the Lodge.

Let us pray that God will continue to bring good men together to experience Freemasonry so we can continue to grow individually and collectively.

If you are not getting what you want or expected from Masonry, “Ask not what Masonry can do for you, ask what you can do for Masonry.”

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### **Tearing Down Or Building Up?**

By Roe Parham Fulkerson

I watched them tearing a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town;  
With a heave-ho and a lusty yell  
They swung a beam, and the building fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,  
And the men you'd hire if you had to build?"  
He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed,  
Just common labor is all I need;  
I can easily wreck in a day or two  
What builders have taken a year to do."

And I thought to myself as I went my way,  
Which of these roles have I tried to play?  
Am I a builder who works with care,  
Measuring life by the rule and square?

Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,  
Patiently doing the best I can?  
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,  
Content with the labor of tearing down?

### **~From the Secretary's Desk~**

From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren:

Another Masonic year is coming to a close and it is time for me to bring my term as your Secretary to an end.

I want to thank each of you for allowing me the privilege of serving this historic Lodge and for the support of the officers and members for the last seven plus years. It has truly been a time in my Masonic life that I will cherish forever.

The election of officers is this month. Please come and show your support of Austin Lodge 12 and meet some to the great young Masons who are destined to become our leaders in the future.

Hope to see you at Lodge,  
-Victor-

Austin Lodge #12, A. F. & A. M.  
Website is: [austinlodge12.com](http://austinlodge12.com)

*Also, please keep our sick, infirm and*

*otherwise distressed Brethren and their families in your thoughts and prayers.*

To those of you who are expecting a birthday card, the order for them has been in for a while and we have not yet received them, so your cards will be a little late this month. So, happy birthday to all of y'all who are a year older this month!

### **SUMMONS NOTE:**

The Worshipful Master wishes you all to know that each Trestleboard is to be viewed as an official summons to the Stated Meeting just the same as the summons you receive every other month. Please notify one of the above officers of your disposition.

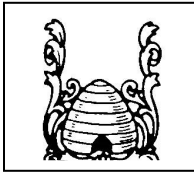
**Our wonderful Stewards, Brothers Jesse Obed, SS, and Todd Smith, JS, will provide a wonderful meal at the Stated Meeting. They invite y'all to come and give feedback as to their proficiency in the kitchen.**

### *Are You a Traveling Man?*

One of the many phrases used when two Masons meet and are unsure of each other's membership status, this question refers to a line in the Master Mason degree, "Whence come you and whither are you traveling?" Other greetings can be, "I see you've traveled some," "Hello, Hiram," or "Are you a Widow's Son?" More obscure is "How old is your Mother?", a question that refers to the number of your home lodge. These exchanges between strangers on a sidewalk often result in baffled looks from your spouse or non-Masonic friends.

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## **THE TRESTLEBOARD**

A Publication of Austin Lodge #12, A.F.& A.M.

### **~UPCOMING SCHEDULE~**

#### **AUSTIN LODGE #12 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

##### **June**

Thur. June 2 : Esoteric Work  
Mon. June 6 : CALLED MEETING  
Thur. June 9 : Esoteric Work  
Mon. June 13 : **STATED MEETING  
ELECTIONS**  
Thur. June 16 : Esoteric Work  
Mon. June 20 : CALLED MEETING  
Thur. June 23 : Esoteric Work  
Mon. June 27 : CALLED MEETING  
Thur. June 30 : Esoteric Work

Visit your website at  
<http://austinlodge12.com/schedule.php> for the latest  
schedule.

##### **August**

Mon. Aug 1 : CALLED MEETING  
Thur. Aug 4 : Esoteric Work  
Mon. Aug 8 : **STATED MEETING**  
Thur. Aug 11 : Esoteric Work  
Mon. Aug 15 : CALLED MEETING  
Thur. Aug 18 : Esoteric Work  
Mon. Aug 22 : CALLED MEETING  
Thur. Aug 25 : Esoteric Work  
Mon. Aug 29 : CALLED MEETING

**NOTE:** At almost all of the called meetings we are  
doing degree work. Come out and be a part of the  
dynamic work that is going on at your Austin Lodge  
#12. We have some great young men joining our  
Lodge and the work is excellent. Y'all will be  
proud!