



The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

November 2015



From the East

By David Thomas
Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East!

My time serving in the East is rapidly coming to its end. It was my hope to meet members of our lodge that I have not had the opportunity thus far, to meet. Please come out to Lodge and renew your Masonic Friendships, and afford me the opportunity to meet you before my time has come to the end.

No Cost Parking Near Lodge

The City of Dearborn removed the pay for parking meters across the street from the Lodge. There is "FREE" parking near our Lodge, another reason to put attending Lodge back on your Friday night schedule. The weather is still

decent; parking is free, so PLEASE attend your Lodge as soon as possible.

Move-Up Months Observations

The Month of October we witnessed our Junior Warden, Brother Wade Tabor presiding in the East. Everyone was impressed with Brother Tabor's Ritual and the gentle manner with which he conducted his month as acting Worshipful Master. The time will soon be here when it will be your year as Master.

Acting Senior Warden this Month was Brother Tyrone O'Neal, who assimilated these duties with ease. Brother Chris Morgan PM, was our acting Junior Warden for the Regular communication as Brother Geary Mayer was out of town, Brother John Paepke (Junior Steward), was our acting Junior Deacon, and impressed everyone in attendance with his skills.

Our Senior Warden Marv Anderson took over the Senior Deacons role and did a fine job too. I look forward to assisting all the officers during these practice months as they work perfecting their ritual work to uphold the standard of excellence that Olive Branch Lodge is known for.

The Duties YOU Owe to your Lodge...

As a reminder, we will be holding our annual elections for the Officer Line, as well as some of the open seats for our Masonic Temple Association, on Friday November

Trestle Board

November 2015

Nov. 5th @ 7:00pm
Temple Board Meeting

Nov. 6th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Nov. 13th @ 6:30pm
Master Mason Degree

Nov. 20th @ 6:00pm
Social Event – Dinner Out
RSVP by Nov. 16th

Nov. 27th - DARK

December 2015

Dec. 3rd @ 7:00pm
Temple Board Meeting

Dec. 4th @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Dec. 5th @ 4:00pm
Annual Installation of Officers
TICKET REQUIRED FOR DINNER PORTION

Dec. 19th – DARK
No Meeting

Dec. 26th – DARK
No Meeting

Retirees Luncheon
Second and Fourth Monday
11:00am

6th, 2015. Lodge will open at 7:30pm.

The Officer Line allows Brothers a unique opportunity to develop and cultivate leadership and communication skills. It also helps to improve ritual proficiency.

The Masonic Temple Association or MTA is the group that oversees the operations pertaining to the building, including Hall Rentals and building maintenance projects. The Association meets once per month on the 1st Thursday of the month preceding the Regular Communication. The MTA typically meets year-round including the summer months when the Lodge is dark in their continuing efforts to maintain our building.

Save the Date – Annual Installation of Officers

Please mark your calendars as Saturday December 5th, 2015 is selected as the date for the Annual Installation of Officers. This is a public installation ceremony. Each brother is highly encouraged to invite their friends and family to celebrate this occasion. There is no cost to attend the ceremony. It is suggested that the public should arrive by 3:30 PM. The newly

elected Officers should arrive on-site at 1:45 PM for photographs (scheduled for 2:00 PM sharp).

Following the ceremony, join the newly installed officers for a nice dinner. There is a cost of \$20.00 per person for the dinner portion of the evening. Reservations are due by Monday November 30th.

Throw Open the Doors!

The Grand Lodge of Michigan issued a decree to all Michigan Lodges to conduct a Public Open House of all Masonic Temples. This invitation allowed members of the public the opportunity to visit with their local Masonic Temple and learn about Freemasonry.



Olive Branch Lodge co-hosted their Public Open House on Saturday **October 17th, 2015** with members of Dearborn Lodge #172. In addition to prospective candidates for Masonry, we were joined by the Regional Grand Lecturer, Brother Leonard Davis, PM (Region 7).



Olive Branch Lodge Donor Club

This program is aimed at generating revenue from our membership, and reciprocally rewarding you for your contribution. The tiered structure encourages each Brother to

Donor Club Donor Levels

Donation Amount	Donor Level	Acknowledgement
\$50 - \$99	WB Jack Elliot Level	Letter of gratitude from the Worshipful Master
\$100 - \$249	Bronze Plumb Donor	Same as WB Jack Elliot Level -Plus- Acknowledgement on the website and social media (Facebook, Twitter)
\$250 - \$499	Silver Level Donor	Same as Bronze Plumb Donor -Plus- Acknowledgement in an addition of The Olive Brancher
\$500 - \$999	Gold Square Donor	Same as Silver Level Donor -Plus- Acknowledgement in the Annual Installation Program AND an Installation Program signed by all of the officers
\$1,000 +	Platinum Trowel Donor	Same as Gold Square Donor -Plus- Plaque on the Donor Wall

consider making a small donation to help Olive Branch offset costs associated with Lodge operations (including our scholarship program and building). Over time, these donations will hopefully increase and allow the Lodge more freedom to pursue enhancements to membership programming, Masonic education, and renovations to building facilities.

All donations are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for a tax deduction.

Donations are tallied on a cumulative basis. This means that each year you donate earns you credit towards a higher sponsor tier level!

Recognitions will only be given once per sponsor level.

In addition to your dues, it is my sincere hope that you consider donating to such a program if you are able and willing to do so.

Reminder – 2016 Dues Notices

Just a friendly reminder to be on the look-out that your 2016 dues notices will be sent out this fall. Now is a perfect time to review your address on file. Please contact the Secretary and let him know if you have moved in the last year to ensure you receive your notice.

Prompt attention to your dues is always appreciated and have a direct impact on Lodge operations. At the May Regular Communication it was necessary to make a motion to remove a substantial amount of money from the bank account to pay the bills for the month of May, which would not have had to occur if the total

membership had submitted their dues payments.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.

I would also like to mention how unenviable it is to the officers of the delinquent dues committee to be thrust into the role of bill collector and just how much of their uncompensated time they have to expend attempting to contact by letter, telephone, or by driving their personal vehicles to each delinquent Brothers home in an attempt to collect lodge dues payments.

If you are having difficulty paying dues because of a legitimate hardship, communicate this to the Junior Warden or the Senior Deacon by the telephone numbers listed in this publication. Remember it is **your obligation** to remit your dues payment; you should contact them or the Lodge, not the other way around.

Pay the Craft Their Wages

**By Marv Anderson
Senior Warden**

Happy Thanksgiving, Brothers and Olive Branch Family!

As you gather with friends and family to give thanks this year, I hope you will remember to include Masonry and Olive Branch particularly. We may not see each other every week, due to work schedules, family responsibilities, and other commitments, but it is comforting to know that our Brothers are still there for us. That is something for which we should be very grateful.

We try to recognize Bothers specifically for their service to Olive Branch each month and there is never a shortage of thanks to give in each newsletter. We have some of the most dedicated Brothers you are likely to find. I would like to take this opportunity, though, to thank all Brothers of Olive Branch for your continued support of and dedication to the OBL.

As my term as Senior Warden comes to an end, I would like to thank the officers who have served this year for all of their blood, sweat, tears, urgent phone calls, frantic emails, and everything you have done for our Lodge. I would like to thank the Worshipful Master, Dave “Not the Burger Guy” Thomas, particularly for his leadership and benevolence. I am sure we can all agree that there is a difference between a boss and a leader. A boss gives a task to a team, but a leader does the task with the team. If Worshipful Brother Dave does not fit that description of a leader, I don’t know who does. Every single time there was a job to be done this year, WB Dave was there toiling with the workman. And let’s not forget he often traveled more than fifty miles each way to get here. As dedicated as we are, we could all learn something about dedication from WB Dave. Thank you, Worshipful Master, for everything you do.

Once again, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! And I hope to see you at our Installation of Officers on December 5th.

From Labor to Refreshment

By Wade Tabor
Junior Warden

Greetings Brethren from the South and welcome to November! Personally this is my favorite time of the year with the cooler temperatures, colorful leaves (which need to be raked), and the upcoming Holidays. Thanksgiving will be here before we know it and then on to Christmas.

Looking back, the last two months have been a whirlwind for me. Last month I had the honor of sitting in the East (or the "hot seat" as it's sometimes called). I really enjoyed sitting the chair and getting a look at how the meetings are run as acting Worshipful Master.

We had a lot of great events this fall including the Open House and

Oktoberfest raffle. I hope you made it out to some of those activities and enjoyed yourself. Check out the upcoming events we have scheduled for November & December. It's not too late for you to stop in, enjoy a bowl of the best soup in Metro Detroit, and some warm fellowship.

Have a great November brethren and a Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Nov 5 @ 7:00pm
Temple Board

Discussion focused on Temple maintenance and upkeep.

- ♦ -

Friday, Nov 6 @ 7:30pm
Regular Communication

Join us for a bowl of soup before the start of the meeting at 7:30pm. Afterwards there will be coffee and donuts for all Brothers.

- ♦ -

Friday, Nov 13 @ 6:30pm
Master Mason Degree

Join the Officers and Brothers as they assist in exemplifying the Master Mason Degree. Lodge opens at 6:00pm. Food and refreshments are planned following the degree work.

- ♦ -

Friday, Nov 20 @ 6:00pm

Social Event – Dinner Out

The officers are planning a fun dinner out at Roman Village Cucina Italiana on this date. Join us at 9924 Dix Ave., Dearborn, MI at 6:30pm. Reservations are required by Monday November 16th to Brother Wade Tabor, Junior Warden. Cost is \$10.00 and includes your meal and (3) tickets to be used for refreshment. Brothers and their ladies are welcome to attend. Attire is business casual. Come join in the fellowship & fun. Looking forward to seeing you there!

- ♦ -

Saturday, Dec 5 @ 4:00pm

Annual Installation of Officers

Save the date for our annual installation of officers. This event is open to the public. Following the installation ceremony, join us for a meal to celebrate the evening. Tickets are required for the dinner portion and will cost \$20.00 per person.



We Want to Hear From You!

How can Olive Branch help you get the most out of being a Mason?

Do you have a question that you need answered?

Would you like to make a suggestion for an event, activity, or anything else to improve ourselves in Masonry?

Please send your questions, thoughts, and suggestions to:

Worshipful Master
Olive Branch Lodge #542
1170 Mason St.
Dearborn, MI 48124

You can also email them to the Secretary for discussion at our next Officer Meeting:

olivebranch542@sbcglobal.net

The Pillars of Our Life

By Chris Morgan

Marshal, Past Master

Sincere greetings to each of you, my Brothers. I hope that each of you are well and in good health as we approach the holiday season.

It is with great sadness that I share with you that on Wednesday September 23rd, 2015, Brother William "Bill" Boudreau was called by the Supreme Architect of the Universe to the celestial city above.



During a beautiful memorial service which included military honors, bagpipes, and a masonic memorial Service, we were given the opportunity to peer into a window as we learned about Brother Bills' life.

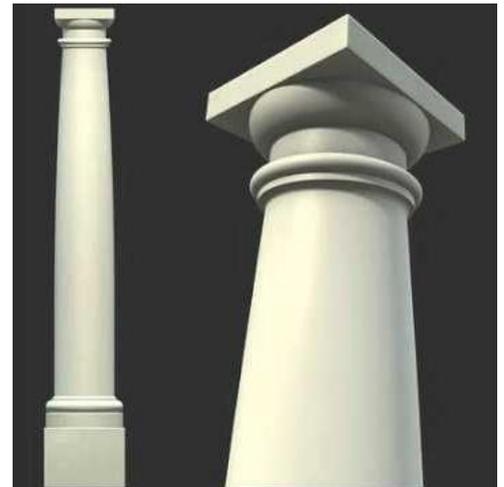
Brother Bill was a very active man both within and without the Craft. He was active as a head usher at his place of worship, Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church. He actively engaged his fellow Vietnam Veterans, and was a student of military history. He participated in many reenactments (particular from the Civil War) & taught history to today's youth. He was a loving family man and was a proud auto-worker.

Masonically I will continue to hold memories close from our time in the second section of the Fellowcraft Degree team together. Brother Bill instructed our new Fellowcraft on the Tuscan pillar. I can always remember how at ease Brother Bill was, and how effortlessly he communicated his portion of the teachings. It seems like yesterday, having been recently raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, which I found myself preparing to participate as a new member of the Fellowcraft Degree team. This was to be my first speaking part in Masonry, and I would be remiss if I said I was not a bit nervous. Could I remember my lines – however brief they actually were? Did I know the proper pronunciation of the words I was communicating? Would I be able to present them to our candidate in a clear and confident manner? So many thoughts running through my mind as I donned the robe and prepared to make my debut.

Brother Bills' light-hearted humor and friendly demeanor in the robing room would always calm my nerves. Looking back at how the evening ended, I don't recall whether I delivered my part completely error free that evening. But what I do recall is the way I felt and how brothers like Bill would always encourage us to deliver our best for the candidate.

Brother Bill was a literal and figurative pillar of our Fellowcraft Degree team. In his life, he served as a pillar in many other capacities, some of which I listed earlier. A pillar is often used in conjunction with many other pillars, arches, and architectural features to support the structure of a building. In the sense of organizations, a pillar is one whom helps to elevate those around us from which we can build ever higher, realizing our noble ambitions, and strengthen the Fraternity.

Masonic Memorial services, or memorial services in general, are a time where you can often learn much about what the person valued and some of their key accomplishments during their lifetime. It is a keyhole into aspects you may not have known. In a brief instance in time, the various pillars in our departed Brothers life are brother together and connected in a way to support their life. You can also take this time to reflect on your own life, and determine who you are the pillar for. Who do you help to support and lift up? Which organizations have you dedicated your time and existence to improving and achieving their goals?



I know that for me, a pillar of our Fellowcraft Degree team is no longer with us. But I am in hopes that someone will step in to perform the work that Brother Bill did so well, and I hope to be there to calm their nerves, crack a joke, and assist them as they begin to support the teachings of our Fraternity. It's what a beloved pillar once did for me.

In the next issue, Worshipful Brother Paul Johnson will recap the Oktoberfest banquet, and we'll learn about the outcome of the November elections.

Annual Installation of Officers

The Brothers and Officers of Olive Branch Lodge #542

Free and Accepted Masons invite you to the

Annual Installation of Officers

held **Saturday December 5th, 2015**

at the **Olive Branch Masonic Temple**

located at **1170 Mason Street, Dearborn, MI**

Installation starts at 4 PM.

Appetizers at 5:30 PM.

Dinner at 6 PM.

The Installation Ceremony is **FREE** to attend.

Cost of dinner segment is \$20.00 per person.

RSVP is due by Monday November 30th, 2015



You're Invited!

Join us for dinner on **Friday
November 20th at Roman Village**

conveniently located at
**9924 Dix Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48120**

At 6:30 PM.

Reservations are due by Monday November 16th to
Brother Wade Tabor.



Open to all Brothers of Olive Branch Lodge
#542 and their ladies.

Cost is \$10.00 per person and includes your
meal and (3) refreshments.

Attire is business casual

The Olive Brancher is a monthly news
magazine for the members, families, and
friends of Olive Branch Lodge #542 Free
and Accepted Masons

2015 Olive Branch Officers

Worshipful Master
David Thomas

Senior Warden
Marvin Anderson

Junior Warden
Wade Tabor

Treasurer
Douglas Simpson

Secretary
Gilbert Strachan, PM
Office: (313) 565-2538

Assistant Secretary
Paul Johnson, PM

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OLIVE BRANCH TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

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