



# The Trestle Board



The Voice of Franklin's Masonic Bodies

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2009

## Past Grand Master—John L. Palmer

Brethren, we live in exciting times for Hiram Lodge! In 1973 when I transferred to Hiram Lodge #7 just after graduating and taking my first job, it never occurred to me that this would ultimately place me in a position to be a part of the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of Freemasonry in Tennessee. The Grand Lodge will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 4 years, but because we predate the Grand Lodge and because we have been in continuous existence since we were chartered in 1809, we have the unique distinction of being the first lodge in Tennessee to last for a full 200 years. That's pretty awesome!

We plan to open our year-long celebration to the entire community by playing a significant role in the Franklin Main Street Festival this year with a booth and an open house. We plan to honor all our Past Masters and their wives by sponsoring a special dinner just for them, to show our appreciation for all that they have done to ensure that our lodge has survived and prospered. We are selling a limited edition commemorative pocket knife as a keepsake of the bicentennial, but the orders for these knives will close on March 1, 2009. We will also have commemorative crystal paperweights, ornaments, prints, and books about the first 200 years of Freemasonry in our community. You can order these at any time this year as long as they last.

On July 25<sup>th</sup> we will have a dinner honoring our Past Masters and their wives. This dinner will be held at the Elks Lodge in Franklin and we hope that every one of our Past Masters will attend.

The Grand Finale will be our Birthday weekend and Gala Dinner on the weekend of October 9 and 10 this year. On Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> we will welcome the Grand Master of North Carolina and his officers to Franklin to celebrate the granting of a charter to our lodge from that Grand Lodge. We will have a special Civil War degree somewhere on the Carnton property to commemorate our involvement in the Civil War.

The next day, on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, we will have a day-long open house and birthday celebration, open to the public, to express our appreciation to the community for all the help they have given us over the years in the preservation of our building. Bring the kids and grandkids for hot dogs, cake, and ice cream. That same evening, in order to commemorate the importance and the dignity of the establishment of Freemasonry in the state of Tennessee, we will have a formal, gala banquet with the Grand Masters and their officers from both North Carolina and Tennessee as our honored guests and speakers. The dress for the occasion will be formal and dinner tickets will include very nice commemoratives of the event. (Continued on back)

### Lodge Dates

- Mar 3**—6:00pm Dinner  
6:30pm 2 EA Degrees
- Mar 12**—6:00pm Dinner  
6:30pm Fellow Craft Degree
- Mar 16**—6:00pm Dinner  
7:00pm Stated Meeting
- Mar 30**—6:00pm Dinner  
6:30pm Official Visit

### York Rite Dates

- Feb. 26**—6:30pm—KTEF Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser
- Mar. 9**—6:00pm—Stated Meeting

### OES Dates

- Mar. 10**—6:30pm—Pot Luck  
7:30pm—Stated Meeting
- Mar 21**—10:00am—Installation

### Hiram Lodge Sponsor List

- James P. Arendall
- C. David Bethurum
- Paul D. Carter
- Larry Davis
- Brian E. Fazenbaker
- Richard D. Graham Jr.
- Allen Henry
- Robert W. Hulme
- Christian E. Jahn
- John "Rocky" Lawrence
- Dennis E. Miller
- John Palmer
- David and Mary Jane Price
- Phillip E. Phillips
- Monte Richards
- Vernon R. Ray

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## Bicentennial Celebration News (Continued)

It is also open to the public. We have only reserved 100 meals including our dignitaries. It will be held at the Marriott in Cool Springs. The cost per person, including everything will be around \$85.00 per person. It is not too early to order your tickets.

I hope that all of you will take this once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in as many of these activities as you can. See me or any of the lodge officers if you have questions, want to help with your time or a contribution, or want to order a commemorative. The Gala is only 9 months away so make your plans to attend now!

John L. Palmer, Past Grand Master, Past Master of Hiram Lodge #7



## York Rite News



As you may know, DePayens Commandery has established a reputation of contributing in excess of \$5.00 per member every year to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Last year was no exception, as we held a most successful Chili Cook-off as our fundraising supper. This year it will be held on Thursday, February 26 at 6:30 pm at Hiram Lodge in the Dining Room. All members of the Franklin Masonic bodies are encouraged to bring a pot of chili and enter the competition. Prizes will be awarded by votes cast by those in attendance. This is a great time to enjoy a sampling lots of different chili, as well as, having a good time and raising money for a good cause. Tickets are \$3.50 each.

## Eastern Star News



Franklin Chapter #449 OES enjoyed good turnout, good food and good fellowship at our annual Friendship Meeting on January 24th.

All officers and members are asked to attend the School of Instruction at Rock City Chapter at 7:00 pm on Friday, February 13. Let's me the chapter with the most members in attendance.

Election of 2009 Officers will take place at our March stated meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 7:30 pm. We will have a pot luck supper prior to our meeting at 6:30 pm.

Open Installation of the 2009 Officers will be held on Saturday, March 21st at 10:00 am. A light breakfast will be served before the installation.