

Grand Commandery of New York

July News



S.K. Dennis S. Davis
Grand Commander

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FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

Christian Greetings Sir Knights;

With the close of June, we welcome the summer break from our regular meetings for most of our Masonic bodies. This is the calendar mid-year point, but so varied as to the year for our concordant bodies. Grand Lodge is just starting a new year while Grand Council is in it's final two months. One common thread is that the next two months are filled with local picnics, widows' luncheons and dinners, "brother bring a friend" events and many others that are casual, fun and a way to thank the ladies who have long continued to support our groups.

The summer break is a wonderful time to start learning that new piece of ritual you have been thinking about. We have all realized by now that our Ritual has suffered severely over the last two years. Pick one piece in each of the Orders that your Commandery needs filled—big or small. Learning the ritual will improve your Faith and generate a sense of accomplishment as well as the joy of sharing with a new Knight.

When you hear our Ritual it is beautiful, when you perform the Ritual it is enlightening. Don't just memorize it and regurgitate it. Learn it, study it, search it, understand it and most of all, embrace it. When the Ritual is delivered from the heart with a complete understanding of it's meaning, it is a powerful experience. Make sure the candidate gets what he deserves. The effort will pay dividends over and over.

A good friend and brother of mine has done the Masonic Funeral Service from memory without error or prompting for over 40 years and he brings tears to my eyes ever time I hear him do it. I overheard a question to him one day, "How do you know that so well?"

His answer was essentially that his dad would not let him do it until he could without error, and he still practices it that way every night.

Courteously with Brotherly Love,
SK Dennis S. Davis, R.E.G.C.

Upcoming Events

Chapter, Council, Commandery dedication of Lodge Temple, July 23, Fairport, NY
DeMolay Annual Session, August 18-21, Woodgate, NY
Grand Council Annual assembly, August 19-20, Albany, NY
Northeast Conference, September 9-10, Albany, NY
Grand Commandery NY, September 16-18, Utica, NY

Grand Prelate's Corner

Summer is once again upon us all. It is time to relax, enjoy and also to hear the voice of God calling and setting a new path for our lives. Dr. Charles Stanley of In Touch Ministries spoke of a time in the 70s, when he experienced a turning point in his walk with Christ. It started with [2 Samuel 7](#), which inspired him to follow in [King David's](#) footsteps. He spent time alone with God, offering praise and thanksgiving. He would also listen as the Lord revealed truth and offered insight about the future.

Because of what he learned, David was able to set goals and stay aligned with them. Desiring that kind of solitude, Dr. Stanley spent several days alone in a camper at Georgia's Stone Mountain. Most of the time, he was silent, listening intently for God's voice. He asked God to speak to him regarding his future, and God answered.

Using a journal, he states that he recorded the goals God inspired. The things God communicated so impacted his choices and so greatly blessed him that he continued the discipline every couple of months. Why not this summer try establishing aims in this manner.

First, come before the throne of Almighty God with a repentant heart, praise, and thanksgiving. Then, ask God for direction in areas such as spiritual life, career, and family. In silence, wait patiently and attentively—as you read and meditate upon God's Word, God will speak. Most often, God's guidance is experienced as a prodding or conviction in the heart. When that happens, be sure to write down what you're "hearing" so you can review it later.

In order to stay on the path God intends for our lives, we should plan times to stop, ask, and listen for guidance. The world throws confusing messages at us all day long, and we need to check our course frequently. These conversations with the Lord are vital for a thriving life of Godly impact.