



TRESTLE BOARD

Table Rock Masonic Lodge #680, A.F. & A.M. Kimberling City, MO, U.S.A.

Volume 14, Issue 12

August 2010

As the Sun Rises in the East...

Greetings from the East. This is the last Trestle Board I will be writing and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has helped me the past year and for all the hard work everyone has been doing in working on the lodge building, learning new stations and bringing new brothers into the Lodge.

It is hard to believe that my year as Master is coming to an end but it is a year that I will never forget.

From the first time I set in the East, or the first time someone addressed me as Master to the first time I attended a function representing Table Rock Mason Lodge # 680, it was a honor that I can not find words to describe and I don't think can be understood by anyone except my predecessors. This has been a great honor and one that I hope each and everyone of you will have the opportunity to experience if you so desire.

As I look forward to the last meeting I will be opening in the East I want to make sure that we do not let up on our efforts to get our brothers moved forward in advancing on their degrees.

With that thought in mind I have scheduled to conduct a Second Degree on our meeting on August 10th. At time of this writing I do not know if we will be having one or two second degrees that night but we will be having degree work that evening and need everyone possible to be present.

The second meeting in August is our installation of our new officers for the 2010-2011 year. As you are aware this is an open meeting and you are encouraged to bring your wife, family and friends. This is a great opportunity to have interested individuals attend so they can get an idea about what we stand for and see some of the individuals involved with our lodge.

This is also the first time you as a member of the lodge can show your support for your newly elected officers. We will be having several members from other lodges attend as well as officers from the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

We want to be sure to have a good turn out and with the addition to our building we should have room for everyone to be in the dinning area together for the first time during an installation.

Inside this issue:

As the Sun Rises in the East	1
	2
Masonic Calender	2
The Holy Saints John Cont.	3
	4

Below are two pictures from our family night on July 20,2010 As you can see we were starting to overflow into the new area, but I am sure installation





will give us a good opportunity to see just how nice it is to have the extra room.

I know I was not able to get down and get pictures when everyone was working but I did get some that I wanted to share. As you can see



these brother are really lighting our way!



If any of you have pictures that you have taken during any of the construction of our building and are willing to share them, I would like to put together a folder containing all of them so we can keep them together to add to the history of other lodge. Ryan started a folder when he was Master of the Lodge last year that he passed down to me and I will be passing on to Ross, so the more we can put together the better. Many years from now when we are all dead and gone I am sure the brothers remaining will be wondering why we did not keep better records to pass on to them.



Masonic Calendar:

Making Good Men Better

Date:	Time:	Event:
August 10	1900hrs	Stated Communication with Second Degree — Meal at 1800hrs
August 16	0800hrs	Trash pickup—meeting at Mule Express— DD and Nwy 13
August 17	1800 hrs	Off night practice
August 24	1900 hrs	Installation of New Officers followed by a Meal



**The Holy Saints John
John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, Patron Saints of Masonry**

By: Charles W. Jacobson *continued from last month*

The soul protested at the hideous corruption everywhere prevalent. The intolerable conditions drove people of both sexes to monasticism and asceticism. It was a pagan remedy, but a natural one for earnest men to seek. Among the Jews, it was manifested in the society of the Essenes. Rome was mistress of the world. The canker of her decay and downfall was feeding on her vitals, but she knew it not. The great mass of the Jews outwardly conformed to the principles of their ancient faith, yet its cold abstractions and only partially understood rites and symbols no longer appealed to them. They neither understood nor appreciated the pure spiritual doctrine of the Baptist and were really less acquainted with God's law and truth than the pagans they affected to despise.

But John saw the coming dawn, the rising sun of the New Dispensation, even before its first rays had pierced the gloom and spiritual darkness of the world and revealed somewhat of the beauty and glory of the approaching day. He was the advance guard, the herald of God. He felt the truth flowing free and strong in his veins. He knew and recognized it when afar off and he bowed himself a willing vassal at its coming, ready to do whatsoever God willed.

It was the steadfast loyalty and devotion to truth of the Baptist, the sympathy, gentleness, love and charity of the Evangelist as well as their traditional membership that have caused our Craft to consecrate and hallow them.

The great truths and lessons of Masonry are taught and inculcated by means of symbols. The sun is not only an important symbol but it is an essential part of the Masonic system. To many ancient people it was an object of worship, and they could not fail to observe those seasons when it reached its greatest northern and southern declination at the winter and summer solstices, marked as they are by the length of the days and nights. The Druids celebrated the 21st day of June and the 21st day of December with festivities and rejoicings. Processions of young maidens, bearing garlands of flowers, were part of the ceremonies held to celebrate the summer solstice. Fire being the symbol of the sun, bonfires were lighted on the hilltops.

The Phoenicians and Egyptians looked upon the sun as a divinity and it was adored by the Persians, Assyrians and Chaldeans. No people, however, worshipped the sun as a material idol. It was the means of expressing life from death, represented by its nightly disappearance in the west and its daily reappearance in the east. It was also the regenerator of all things.

The early church endeavored to purify the pagan festivals by taking the birthdays of Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist, which occurred very near the solstitial periods, and making of them church festivals. Saint John the Baptist is the only saint of the Old Dispensation who has been placed in the Christian calendar, and the church, both east and west, united in fixing the 24th day of June as his birthday.

The past is the heritage of Masonry; it comes to us rich in the priceless legacy of heroic souls. Herod Antipas, receiving the head of John the Baptist on a charger, little realized that from its cold and pallid lips would flow a living torrent of eloquence more powerful and far-reaching in its influence for truth, morality and righteousness than ever before came from the heart of man. The Baptist and the Evangelist, the two Essenes, Masonry's Patron Saints, were never more alive than today; never has their influence been greater and more beneficial; the truths they taught are the truths Masonry teaches; the morality they practiced is the morality Masonry would inculcate; the principles they lived and died for are the principles Masonry seeks to maintain. Masons in word and deed were they, and our title to the matchless legacy they left us can not be disturbed or set aside if we are but true to Masonry and to Him they and we have vowed to serve.

"Ye shall know them by their fruits."

Nineteen centuries have passed away since the wise men from the East followed the Star that hung poised over the stable in Bethlehem; nineteen centuries of bloody wars and devastation, and fiendish cruelties. But the leaven planted by John on the banks of the Jordan, the teachings of faith and hope and charity inculcated by the Great Teacher, the preaching of John the Evangelist, have changed the world. And believe as you may, my brethren, before the beauty and purity of their lives, before the absolute truths they taught, before the grandeur of their deaths the powers of hatred, intolerance, bigotry and superstition have battled in vain, and today, from the ends of the earth the mists and gloom that have so long enveloped humanity are being rolled away, and the sunlight and warmth of heaven are here and there illuminating the hearts of men; and sympathy and kindness are in the ascendancy. And the dove of peace that hovered over the baptism in the Jordan, is still with us, symbolizing the putting into practice of the Great Teacher's commandment, always and earnestly preached by the Evangelist during a long life spent in His service: "Love one another."

*Table Rock Masonic Lodge #680,
A.F. & A.M. Kimberling City, MO*

Tom Martin
PO Box 161
Kimberling City, MO 65686



**Making Good Men Better
Educate to Motivate**



As I close out my last letter I want to remind you of three more events I hope all of you will get involved with.

1. The "Bug Run" This is our only fund raiser we have to support our Coats for Kids Program! This is a great project and makes it possible for kids that need coats for the cold weather to get one. Last year, thanks to Bro. Lyle, Bro Greg and W.Bro. Ryan all working together to put together the Bug Run, and collect and purchase coats over 500 hundred coats were given out. This year our Bug Run is set for Sept. 12, 2010. Get involved and help make a difference
2. MOChip- This is the third year for your lodge to take part in the MoChip Program. To date we have sponsored two Child I.D. programs in Kimberling City and have helped to co-sponsor and help the Branson Lodge with two additional programs they held in Branson. This is not the time to let up. This is a great program and has made a difference in children's lives across the State. Saving one child makes it all worth while- be sure to do your part on Dec. 4, 2010.
3. Our annual Christmas Party- this is our only adopted annual charity that we have in our by-laws. We need to all get behind it and support it everyway possible or make a change in what we are doing. This is not a program that only a few can make work. December will be here before you know it and the time to start is now.

