

THE SCRIBE



Christmas Edition Scribe: AMD Quarterly Education & Information.

December 2016 , Issue No. 005

A Christmas Carol

“In the stillness of the midnight,

In the silence of the Star, in the slumber of the white lambs.

On the Hillsides, near and far, came the Christ Child

to His mother:

To the humble oxen’s stall;

He, the Babe of Paradise, sweet;

Lord of Christmas, King of all.

Hush, let not a word be spoken of His sacrifice for men,

Stooping from his word of glory, To be woman-born: a pen

Of sweet straw to be His cradle,

He is ours, just ours, today.

Mark that mortal smile, that shining of the halo in the hay!

While the palm trees rustle softly, while His lullaby the breeze

Croons amid the angles’ anthem, which the star-lit heaven cleaves,
we will claim Him ours, our treasure, Christmas Babe, and Babe
divine.

Hail, thrice hail, O mystic stranger,

Nestling in Thy straw-filled shrine!”

—Helen Chase.

Chapman, Charles C., “Masonic-Knights at Rest” (1916). Charles C. Chapman Masonic Speeches. Paper 19. Santa Ana Commandery No. 36, K.T. December 25, 1916



Life is a journey! It has a beginning, a middle and an end. We have no control over the beginning or the end. Wherever you are in that middle part, set your course on making a difference- the higher the aspiration, the higher the achievement!

Templar rule IX.

“At dinner and at supper, let there be always some sacred reading. If we love the Lord, we ought anxiously to long for, and we ought to hear with most earnest attention, his wholesome words and precepts.”

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Signet of Zerubbabel Council No. 36 and the Fayetteville York Rite Masonic Bodies.

Sir Knights 2016

The Rules of the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Jesus Christ and of the Temple of Solomon were written by St. Bernard of Clairvaux divided into 72 heads or chapters and is preceded by a short prologue, addressed “to all who distain to follow after their own wills, and desire with purity of mind to fight for the most high and true king”.

The rule enjoins severe devotional exercises, self-mortification, fasting, prayer and the constant attendance at matins, vespers and all the services of the church. “That being refreshed and satisfied with heavenly food, instructed and established with heavenly precepts, after the consummation of the devine mysteries.” none might be afraid of the fight, but be prepared for the crown.

Templar rule XIV

“After dinner and supper, we peremptorily command thanks to be given to Christ, the great provider of all things, with a humble heart, as it becomes you, in the chru^{ch}, if it be near at hand, and if it be not, in the place where food has been eaten. The fragments (the whole loaves being preserved) should be given with brotherly charity to the domestics, or to poor people. And so we order it.”

Templar rule XXV

“If any brother wisheth as a matter of right, or from motives of pride, to have the fairest or best habit, for such presumption without doubt he merits the very worst.”

Templar rule XXXIII

“It is to be holden, that when anything shall have been en-joined by the Master, or by him to whom the Master hath given authority, there must be no hesitation, but the thing must be done without delay, as thought it had been en-joined from heaven.”

The Commander’s Corner



Eminent Commander
2016 James B. Steele

The ceremony at Castle McCullough was a huge success. Thirty members were knighted. Thanks to members of Winston, Highpoint, Greensboro and all our visitors. Special thanks to REPGC Gene Lewellyn for being honored Commander!



A Message From Thomas Rogers, 2017 Commander Palestine No. 20

Sir Knights of Palestine No. 20: Being elected as your commander for 2017 is both an honor and a humbling experience. It is an honor to be gifted with the opportunity to command the finest assembly of Sir Knights of any Commandery. It is humbling to be reminded that each and every one of us need to look deep within our hearts and remember our vows to protect and defend our Christian faith under the banner of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In 2017 let us move forward, continuing the work of our previous Illustrious Commanders in making Palestine No. 20 stand even taller and prouder in the eyes of our state and beyond. With your presence, commitment to our order and belief in our cause we shall live up to our motto: **“In hoc signo vinces” – In this sign we will conquer.**

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas Observance on December 8, 2017 and at our next assembly on January 5, 2017.

*Respectfully yours,
Thomas F.D. Rogers*

Fayetteville York Rite reaching out to the Blue Lodges

Signet of Zerubbabel Council No. 36 AMD was honored to spearhead a Masonic education event at St. Albans Lodge 114 in Lumberton, North Carolina. On October 4, 2016, members from the Fayetteville York Rite Bodies traveled to Lumberton and presented Worshipful Master David Wade with research about the lodge, including membership rolls for the years 1851 through 1875. Each presenter was dressed accordingly, representing the Chapter, Council, Commandery, AMD and Knight Masons. Color brochures and other information promoting the York Rite was given to all members present. We hope, through joint efforts like this, we can further promote the York Rite in Blue Lodges providing further light to members who otherwise might not be familiar with the York Rite





Templar rule LXXI

Contentions, envyings, spite, murmurings, backbiting, slander, we command you, with godly admonition, to avoid, and do ye flee therefrom as from the plague. Let every one of you, therefore, dear Brothers, study with a watchful mind that he do not secretly slander his brother, nor accuse him, but let him studiously ponder upon the saying of the apostle, *Be not thou an accuser or a whisperer among the people*. But when he knoweth clearly that his brother hath offended, let him gently and with brotherly kindness reprove him in private, according to the commandment of the Lord; and if he shall take no heed of both, let him be publicly reprov'd in the assembly before all. For they have indeed much blindness who take little pains to guard against spite, and thence become swallowed up in the ancient wickedness of the subtle adversary.

Templar rule LXVIII

“But, above all things, care must be taken that no brother, powerful or weak, strong or feeble, desirous of exalthing himself, becoming proud by degrees, or defending his own fault, remain unchastened. If he showeth a disposition to amend, let a stricter system of correction be added: but if by godly admonition and earnest reasoning he will not be amended, but will go on more and more lifting himself up with pride, then let him be cast out of the holy flock in obedience to the apostle, **Take away evil from among you**. It is necessary that from the society of the Faithful Brothers the dying sheep be removed. But let the Master, who ought to hold the staff and the rod in his hand, that is to say, the staff that he may support the infirmities of the weak, and the rod that he may study, with the counsel of the patriarch and with spiritual circumspection, to act so that, as blessed Maxim saith, The sinner be not encouraged by easy lenity, nor the sinner hardened in his iniquity by immoderate severity.”



Do you know someone who is a Living Legend? Contact Us!

Check out : Bill Washo & Michael Klack at www.signetofzerubbabel.com

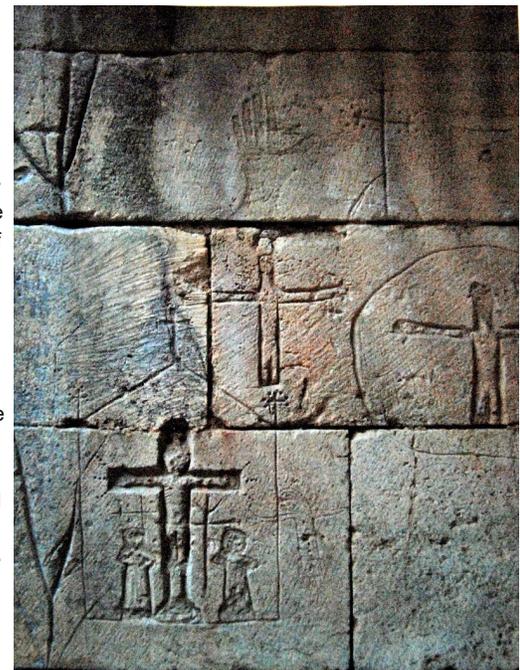
The Living Legends Project

In this segment, Signet of Zerubbabel Council No. 36 A.M.D., would like to emphasize the importance of preserving our Masonic history. We sincerely hope our efforts will help preserve this "light", which are paramount to the success of our future generations. Today, we have the ability to preserve our most valued historical asset. Our "Living Legends" are those Brothers whose strength, wisdom and character have endured the tortures of time and weathered the countless storms of life. With their plight in mind, Signet of Zerubbabel is honored to present "[The Living Legends Project](#)". Within this portion of our Web Site we will use video to record and preserve interviews with our esteemed members. Our hopes and aspirations are simply that their "light", wisdom and character will forever be remembered in their own voices and in their own words.

[See existing interviews at www.signetofzerubbabel.com](http://www.signetofzerubbabel.com)

Place of the Skull

The Chateau at Domme Dordogne, a commune in southwestern France, was one site where the Knights Templars were imprisoned in 1307. The site was originally founded by Phillip The Bold in 1281 and was used as a military stronghold. The walls at Domme were covered in hundreds of Templar carvings, with most still in existence today. The carvings were used by the Templars as a means of communication. The symbols used provided instructions, while also recording the history of the Templars. The code of geometric figures are deciphered as the following: The octagon represents "The Grail". The square represents the Temple. The circle represents imprisonment and the triangle surmounted by a cross represents "Golgotha", the site of the crucifixion of Jesus. Golgotha, also known as Calvary, is the place of the skull and said to be the place immediately outside of Jerusalem's walls where Jesus was crucified. **Mark 15:22, Matthew 27:33, Luke 23:33 & John 19:17.**





Templar rule LI

“Under Divine Providence, as we do believe, this new kind of religion was introduced by you in the holy places, that is to say, the union of warfare with religion, so that religion, being armed, maketh her way by the sword, and smiteth the enemy without sin. Therefore we do rightly adjudge, since ye are called Knights of the Temple.”

Templar rule LII

“ Above all things, a most watchful care is to be bestowed upon sick brothers, and let their wants be attended to as though Christ himself was the sufferer, bering in mind the blessed words of the Gospel, *I was sick, and ye visited me.* These are indeed carefully and patiently to be forstered, for by such is acquired a heavenly reward.”

Templar rule LXIII

“It behoves you to support, with pious consideration, all old men, according to their feebleness and weakness, and dutifully to honour them, and let them in nowise be restricted from the enjoyment of such things as may be necessary for the body; the aurhourity of the rule, however, being preserved.”

Fire Safety Tips for the Holidays

By Sir Knight Chuck Hodges

With the holidays rapidly approaching, we look forward to spending time with family and friends and being thankful for our many blessings. Unfortunately, the holidays are also the cause of



avoidable mistakes that cause illness, injuries and death. Cooking, candles, Christmas lights and fireplaces are some of the leading factors that cause billions of dollars each year in damage and medical costs. One of the last things on people’s minds during the holiday season is safety- the hustle and bustle of shopping, preparing the perfect meal or planning a great party puts safety on the back burner. During my 29-year career, I can’t count how many holiday-related fires and injuries I have responded to. “I never thought this would happen to me” is the usual statement, but holiday safety is a very basic reality that tends to be overlooked. Occasions when we are relaxing and hav-

ing a good time tend to promote complacency and thoughtlessness. Preparedness is key! These safety tips are not all inclusive, but by following these suggestions hopefully you will have a joyous holiday season and not become a statistic.

Smoke alarms save lives. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. During a fire smoke spreads very fast and you need smoke alarms to allow you and your loved ones time to get out.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms and a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) should be installed in homes.
- Smoke rises. Install smoke alarms following manufacturer’s instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer’s instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm “chirps”, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a “hush” button. A “hush” button will reduce the alarm’s sensitivity for a short period of time.
- An ionization alarm with a hush button or a photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.

A Christmas message from Sovereign Master



James E. Britt, Sovereign Master (2015, 16 & 17) Signet of Zerubbabel Council No. 36. Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many contributors and readers of the Scribe. The Signet of “Z” thanks you for all that you do and for your support!

It has been my honor to serve as the Sovereign Master of Signet of Zerubbabel #36. It is my sincerest hope that in 2017 we will continue our mission to develop and promote quality education for the York Rite and Freemasonry!

2017 will bring many new challenges. In our hectic world we must continually remind ourselves of the importance of the York Rite and the work we do. We must strive to present ourselves in a technologically modern light, reaching across the generational gap and extending our hand of friendship to the millennials and those Brothers who are lost in today’s technological quagmire.

We must remember to lead by example and not by reaction. Our actions must clearly reflect how honor and self sacrifice are the cornerstones of our Craft. We must continually prove to all the importance of a Brother’s word. We must foster successful fraternal friendships. We must embrace our role as mentors to younger Brothers and, by example, teach them to be leaders. Let us remember the future is in our hands.

God Bless and Merry Christmas

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Palestine # 20, Fayetteville, NC

2016 Commander Michael Gould

November 10, 2016 Palestine Commandery, along with the National Sojourners, honored our Veterans and those who are serving our Nation with our annual flag retirement ceremony. This year we were honored to have the public join us in our ceremony.



"On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we may live free." Dan Lipinski



BUT THE KNIGHTS OF CHRIST may safely fight the battles of their Lord, fearing neither sin if they smite the enemy, nor danger at their own death; since to inflict death or to die for Christ is no sin, but rather, an abundant claim to glory. In the first case one gains for Christ, and in the second one gains Christ himself. The Lord freely accepts the death of the foe who has offended him, and yet more freely gives himself for the consolation of his fallen knight. Bernard of Clairvaux " In Praise of the New Knighthood".



"When the battle is at hand, they arm themselves interiorly with faith and exteriorly with steel rather than decorate themselves with gold, since their business is to strike fear in the enemy rather than to incite his cupidity. They seek out horses which are strong and swift, rather than those which are brilliant and well-plumed, they set their minds on fighting to win rather than on parading for show. They think not of glory and seek to be formidable rather than flamboyant. At the same time, they are not quarrelsome, rash, or unduly hasty, but soberly, prudently and providently drawn up into orderly ranks, as we read of the fathers. Indeed, the true Israelite is a man of peace, even when he goes forth to battle." Bernard of Clairvaux " In Praise of the New Knighthood"

“Ignorance is brutal, arrogance is devilish. Pride only, the chief of all iniquities, can make us treat gifts as if they were rightful attributes of our nature, and, while receiving benefits, rob our Benefactor of His due glory.”

– [Bernard of Clairvaux, On Loving God](#)

Winter Event Schedule: York Rite Bodies

Palestine #20 Christmas Observance. December 8, 2016 @ 7:00pm. This is a family event... bring your family, friends and kids. We will have music and a Special visit from Santa...kids get a free digital picture with Santa. Polar Express will be shown and hot cocoa with marshmallows and treats will be served.

The NC Grand Commandery will lay a wreath at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at 1:15 pm 15th of April 2017. This is the Day before the Easter Observance at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Fayetteville York Rite Spring Festival will be starting: March 2017

Chapter March 4, 2017

Council March 18, 2017

Commandery April 1, 2017

Please plan on attending. Your support is greatly needed.

N.C. Association of Allied Masonic Degrees

January 14, 2017

Raleigh Masonic Temple- 1520 Caswell St., Raleigh, NC

Contact James Britt or Don Wooster for more details.

We still have **Phoenix Chapter 200th Anniversary Coins** available. Contact James Britt.



Note from the Editor:

The Christmas season is often met with more pressure than joy. It has become too easy to get consumed by the “hurry up and spend a lot” mentality of our day. It is important to remind ourselves that, while gifts are certainly lovely, thoughtful and important to the health of our economy, the time we spend with our brothers and family is invaluable and the greatest gift we can give to our loved ones; an investment that will bring you blessings and memories which never fade. As my grandma always said, “Slow down and smell the coffee”. This Christmas, I challenge you to change the way you look at the world and how we navigate the commerciality of our society. You are not at the mercy of the Christmas Grinch (Walmart) and you do not need to bow to the will of the “great and powerful” Amazon. Being the best “you” you can be is the best gift you will ever give to your family and brothers. Make Christmas a time of cleansing. Take a deep breath (or several) and attempt to free yourself of the stress and pessimism ingrained in our hearts throughout the year. Slow down and listen, spend time with and enjoy your family. Let us all take this opportunity to shake a brothers hand or give him a hug. Invest your time and good will. You will be truly blessed. Merry Christmas and God bless.



Fayetteville York Rite Bodies

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A Templar Abroad

Our AMD education segment in this edition of the Scribe will feature...A Templar Abroad, which is none other than our own Greg Conner. Greg recently made a trip across the pond. He is now a true Highlander!



Read about Greg's adventures and see more pictures of Stonehenge, Freemasons Hall, The Grand Lodge of England Museum, Master Masons exhibit. Read about Greg's newest adventures and much more at: <http://www.signetofzerubbabel.com/the-scribe-newsletter.html> Greg Conner



Those wishing to receive this news letter via email, please email me and I will add you to the list. james@signetofzerubbabel.com