2026 ISSUE #3

ASHLAR

14TH DISTRICT
✦
March 2026



Try an event!

As inspection season continues, lodges around the district are looking past meeting their administrative deadlines and planning some of their annual events.

Beginning with this month, you'll start to see more advertisements for these events: dinners, fundraisers, outings and more.

If you've never been to a lodge event, be it inside your lodge or through another, try it out! It's a fantastic way to meet new brothers, to try new things, and to make new memories.

If you'd like to see pictures from an event in the pages of the Ashlar, email them to ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org and we'll take care of the rest!

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THE VALUE OF GETTING OUT OF YOUR BUBBLE
RWB Chris Greise

Far too often, we become comfortable within our own bubble—both in life and in Freemasonry. We focus on what we have always done or choose the safe path because we fear failure. Comfort can quietly turn into complacency.

I understand this well. When I look back on my life before Freemasonry, that is exactly where I found myself. I recently heard someone say, “We don’t learn anything from our successes, but rather from our failures.” Coming out of high school, everything seemed to work in my favor. Success came easily, and I didn’t have to push myself. In hindsight, that did me no favors. It wasn’t until college—while juggling school and two jobs—that I realized progress would require real effort. I began to experience setbacks: not always earning the grade I wanted or missing out on opportunities I thought were certain. Those moments of failure kept me from settling into mediocrity and forced me to grow, adapt, and strive for something better.

Through hard work, goal-setting, and trimming the unnecessary from my life, I was able to move forward. Just as important was being grateful for the people God placed in my path—mentors who offered guidance, encouragement, and accountability. I could not have done it alone, but none of it would have happened had I not been willing to try.

So how do we get out of our bubble in Freemasonry? One simple step is traveling to other lodges within our district, something our district leadership has encouraged. The value is immense. It allows us to meet new brothers or reconnect with those we may not have seen in years. We are part of the world’s largest fraternity, and our Masonic circle should extend beyond the fifteen or twenty brothers who regularly attend our lodge meetings.



THE VALUE OF GETTING OUT OF YOUR BUBBLE, cont'd
RWB Chris Greise

For junior officers, traveling offers another important benefit—the chance to observe ritual work from the sidelines. This isn't about judging or criticizing, but about learning. Watching others perform the same work you are studying can help refine your delivery, correct misunderstandings, and deepen your understanding.

Traveling also creates opportunities to share ideas. Conversations with officers from other lodges often reveal programs, practices, or events that are working well. Sometimes, those discussions even lead to joint efforts that create more meaningful and memorable experiences for everyone involved.

Brothers, we are at a point in our fraternity where doing the bare minimum is no longer enough. If we truly love our brothers and our Craft, we must raise the bar. That doesn't mean every path must look the same, nor does it mean filling every spare moment with Freemasonry. Our working tools teach us to labor wisely and with purpose—laying a strong foundation before building upon it.

When we lose ourselves in service to others, we will receive our wages. Focus on our candidates. Give them an experience that is meaningful and life-changing. Inspire them to take part in the work of the lodge. When we step outside our comfort zones, we strengthen not only ourselves, but the future of Freemasonry as well.

LABOR TO KEEP ALIVE IN YOUR BREAST THAT LITTLE SPARK OF CELESTIAL FIRE CALLED CONSCIENCE.

GEORGE WASHINGTON



A GOOD MASON: LIVING THE EXAMPLE
WB Andrew Penrod | Sparrow #400

Being a great Freemason means striving every day to live by the principles that define the Craft, both inside the lodge and out in the world. At its core, Freemasonry calls a man to be truthful—to speak honestly, act with integrity, and let his word carry real weight. Truth is not just about avoiding lies; it's about being sincere in intention, transparent in action, and willing to hold oneself accountable even when no one is watching.

Trustworthiness naturally follows truth. A great Freemason is someone his brothers and his community can rely on. He keeps confidences, honors his obligations, and stands firm in his commitments. When he gives his word, it is as binding as any written agreement. This reliability builds the quiet strength of the fraternity, because trust is the mortar that holds the brotherhood together.

Respect for one's brothers is another cornerstone of Masonic character. A great Freemason understands that unity does not require uniformity. He listens with patience and treats every brother with dignity, even when opinions differ or disagreements arise. Respect means allowing others the space to speak, to think, and to believe differently without ridicule or resentment. In doing so, he proves that brotherly love is more than a phrase—it is a practiced discipline.

Ultimately, being a great Freemason is about constant self-improvement. It is the ongoing effort to smooth one's rough edges, to act justly, to speak truthfully, and to treat all people—especially one's brothers—with fairness and respect. By living these values consistently, a Freemason honors the Craft and sets an example worthy of the apron he wears.



BUILD YOUR CATHEDRAL
WB Michael Emery

As speculative Masons, we are given many examples of architectural tools and concepts to apply to our lives. I have found it fitting, therefore, that I have spent a great deal of time thinking about cathedrals over the past few years.

As some of the most iconic and memorable works of human architecture, these incredible monuments to the Deity have inspired awe for centuries. But what fascinates me most about them is the scale of the work involved.

Do you know how long it took to build some of the most famous of these houses of worship? Fifty years, you might say. A hundred.

Brethren, Cologne Cathedral took 632 years to build. Notre Dame 182. St. Peter's Basilica a mere 120.

Think on that, brothers. These men labored for their entire lifetimes, finishing only a portion of a work of staggering scope. Maybe not even finishing the work they dedicated their lives to. Bleeding, sweating, sometimes even dying in its shadow. Giving every bit of themselves because they felt, they *knew* that it would build a better future. That it would make a brighter dawn whose sunrise they would never see.

I find that to be beautiful. It can be difficult to apply ourselves to work that can feel fruitless. It can be hard to press on. But we must have faith, we must *know* that our work can bring a more beautiful world, that the parapets of our cathedrals can grace the skies of a future we ourselves will never see. We must work today, because we owe it to those who come tomorrow.

2nd ANNUAL GOODALE LODGE GREAT CHILI CHALLENGE

Join Goodale Lodge #372 for an afternoon of fun, games, and the Chili Challenge on **Sunday, March 23rd** starting at **2pm at the Luther B. Turner Temple/Magnolia Lodge located at 2933 Valleyview Dr., Columbus 43204.** Everyone, whether you are a Mason or not, is invited and welcome to join in the festivities. The Lodge will provide non-chili food, cornbread, and beverages as well as plates, utensils and chili bowls so that you can sample the chili entries and vote for your favorite edition.

If you are interested in entering your awesome, famous, or nearly-famous chili, the **entry fee is $10.00.** This fee will cover the cost of the event and also be used as prizes for the Challenge winners. We ask that you make enough chili to allow at least 20 people to sample your entry. The Lodge will have sour cream, shredded cheese, crackers, and hot sauce available for the tasters. If you are not a chili maker, but are interested in the fellowship, fun, and chili tasting, come join us; there is no fee to attend. You are welcome to bring a dessert or snack, but that is not required.

RSVPs are definitely requested. Please RSVP by Thursday, March 20th to Trip Eagleson, Worshipful Master (614-565-2609), Trip's lady, Michelle (614-565-3899 or email: brownsbacker64@gmail.com), or Tim Donahue (Secretary) at (614-448-7072). Let us know if you are entering the challenge (the entry fee can be paid in advance or at the door), or if you are coming for the fun, tasting, fellowship. Please provide the number in your party to any of the RSVP numbers.

You can email Trip's lady, Michelle, with any questions or call any one of the RSVP numbers.

We look forward to seeing you, your family, friends and neighbors at our Chili Challenge!

14th Masonic District
Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

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WB Michael Emery

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RWB Adam Michael

WANT TO BE FEATURED?

We'd love to hear your thoughts or help you advertise your event in the Ashlar. It just takes two easy steps:

1. Gather your information
   a. What's happening?
   b. Who is invited?
   c. Where is it?
   d. When is it?
   e. How much does it cost?
2. Send to ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org

Submissions must be sent before the 15th of the month before publication (i.e. January 15th for the February Ashlar).

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 2
COMMUNITY LODGE
EA Inspection
7 PM

MAR 3
SUNRISE LODGE
MM Inspection
7 PM 2nd section

MAR 7
SYSK SESSION 3
Sparrow Lodge
8 AM

MAR 11
CANAL WINCHESTER
FC Inspection
7 PM

MAR 14
DISTRICT RECEPTION
Bridgewater Country Club
5:30 PM

MAR 14
BLENDON LODGE
EA Inspection
7 PM

MAR 21
SPARROW LODGE
MM Inspection
8 AM Breakfast

MAR 23
WESTGATE LODGE
EA Inspection
7 PM

MAR 26
TRIANGLE LODGE
MM Inspection
7 PM 2nd section

MAR 28
YORK LODGE
EA Inspection
11 AM

MAR 28
CAPITAL CITY LODGE
FC Inspection
9 AM

MAR 28
UNIVERSITY LODGE
MM Inspection
1:45 PM

Blendon Lodge #339 F.&A.M.

ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH FRY

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

8th Annual

4:00pm - 7:30pm

$14.00



All proceeds benefit Westerville Special Olympics

HAND BREADED ALASKAN POLLOCK | APPLE SAUCE |
COLE SLAW | FRESH CUT FRIES | MAC AND CHEESE

Carryout orders available!

BLENDON MASONIC TEMPLE

130 S State St. Westerville, OH

blendon339.com/fishfry

AROUND THE DISTRICT





LODGE BREAKFASTS

GROVE CITY
1st Saturdays, 8-10A

GROVEPORT
3rd Saturdays, 7:30-10A

HIRAM
1st Saturdays, 8-10A
(Except July and August)

REYNOLDSBURG
Last Saturdays, 8-10A

WEST GATE
2nd Saturdays, 9A-12P