



Blythewood Masonic Lodge No. 395

Greetings Brothers and Families!

IMPORTANT! **Our July business meeting will be moved to July 11!** This moves the meeting off of July 4th. Please adjust your schedule as we will not have any activities at the Lodge that day.

It is once again time for the Blythewood Lodge annual chicken BBQ fundraiser. The BBQ falls on July 29th this year. Your assistance is absolutely vital this year. We need volunteers for all positions at the BBQ, and we need your help in selling tickets. You may not be aware, but the cost to operate the Lodge exceeds the income from dues by approximately \$2500. This gap is traditionally covered by the annual BBQ. We are counting on your help to bridge this gap, and to raise additional capital for charitable work through the year. As an organization that rests upon a foundation of Faith, Hope and Charity; we must be prepared to assist others in our community. Thus the necessity of a fundraiser BBQ. Brother, I know that the BBQ is a lot of work. I know that it is during the hottest part of the year. I know that it takes time that you could spend in recreation. However your Lodge needs your help. Brothers working together have set a legacy of cooperation and success with our BBQ and we need your help to carry that tradition forward.

This year the Building Committee has completed the kitchen updates and has converted two BBQ pits to gas burners. Soon we will be continuing the tile in the dining hall through the front hallway and the lounge and changing rooms. We have also received through donation a high definition projector and screen to display presentations and movies. Additionally, we also have a commercial popcorn machine that was also donated to the Lodge. My daughter particularly loves this new addition! If you have not seen the Lodge building in the past 9 months, you will see a big change!

Our monthly friends and family breakfast has been a big success. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 9:00 for a good breakfast. This month we will have the breakfast on June 20. Next month will be July 18. We currently have approximately 15 people every month, and we would like to see this event grow. Hopefully we will soon have this breakfast twice per month. We hope to see all of our brothers, their wives, friends, and families if they are able to attend.

On July 13 at 6:30 we will have a family game night and potluck dinner. This is an open event for everyone to have a night of fellowship. Please bring a covered dish and your favorite game. Kids and non-Masons are welcome! This is a new event for us, and it will be held monthly if it is successful. In the coming months we will have family movie nights, bean bag toss tournaments, and other fun activities for the families and friends of the Brothers. We hope to see you there.

Bro. Barney Mims has been hard at work and has finished the new lodge website. The address is

www.blythewoodmasoniclodge.com Please take a look at the new site. It has a calendar function which we think will be very helpful.

The Grand Lodge has added an online record keeping tool for all Lodges to use. Using this tool, the Lodge can maintain our membership records in real time, so the secretary will no longer be required to submit a paper report at the end of the year. We can also utilize this tool to send communications to our brothers by e-mail. We can also send communications to the other Lodges in the area by e-mail using this system. This would reduce mailing costs greatly. If you have an e-mail address, please let us know so we can add you to the mailing list. We will still continue to mail paper copies to the brothers that do not have an e-mail address, or choose not to supply us with an address. Please let me know your address so we can add you to our file. My e-mail address and phone number are at the bottom of this newsletter. At this time less than 25% of the members have given the Lodge an e-mail address. With this information we can better communicate with you.

The Lodge has also opened a free communication application through Slack. This is a free app that can be used on any computer, smart phone or tablet that allows instant communication to large groups, or to individuals or smaller teams of people. You can download the Slack app from Google Play store or from the iTunes store. It is free to the Lodge and free to the members. Our channel is blythewoodlodge.slack.com. Please install it and connect to the group. We have been using it for about 2 months, and it has been very helpful for instant communication.

Finally, to the wives of our brother Masons; you are welcome in our Lodge! We encourage you to come to dinner with us before our meetings. Our Junior Warden Jim Kersey has been preparing wonderful meals for us at every meeting. We would be honored if you would join us for dinner. We hope to see you there!

Fraternally submitted,

Brian L. Cooper, P.M.
Worshipful Master

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