



## Blythewood Masonic Lodge No. 395

Greetings Brothers and Families!

2016 was a big year for the Blythewood Lodge hall. We completed many updates and repairs to our facility. The office was updated and converted to a lounge. The outside has been painted and re-roofed. Many electrical and plumbing repairs have been completed. But the most significant change is the renovation of the dining hall. If you have not seen the Lodge since this work was completed, you really do need to see it. Your Building Committee has put in countless hours to ensure our facility has a long future. Any attempt to thank them individually would surely leave out someone, so thank you to all of the brothers who have devoted time and energy to the project.

This year the Building Committee is working on updating our kitchen and continuing the tile through the entry hall. By the end of this year we will have a Lodge hall like no other in the district.

On March 21, we will have a Friends and Family Breakfast. This free event will begin around 9:00 and is open to all Masons, their families, non-Masons, and any other friend that you care to bring. This will be a time of fellowship that we hope will grow into a regular event. This event is similar to a breakfast that Dentsville Lodge has every week, and we hope to emulate their success. We hope to see all of our brothers, their wives, friends, and families if they are able to attend.

Last year our Lodge began an Easter Egg Hunt. It was a big success for the kids that came and the adults had fun as well. This year we will hold the Easter Egg hunt on Saturday April 1 starting at 9:00. We will have breakfast, then turn the kids loose to find eggs. We will also set up the horseshoes and the bean bag toss for some friendly competition. If you plan to attend with your kids, please bring a bag of pre-filled eggs for us to hide.

Your Fund Raising Committee is evaluating our efforts to find the best use of our time and talents for the fund raising events this year. We have struggled over the past few years as participation has declined and the work load has not on the traditional events we have held. We are looking at all of our projects to find the right balance to maximize the monetary return for our efforts.

I would like to welcome our two newest Master Masons! Bro. Cliff Howard and Bro. Mike Webber were raised to the Master Mason degree in February. There were 45 brothers and guests there for this big night! Part of the degree was put on by the Jamil Shrine Past Masters Unit in costume. It was a night to remember.

Bro. Barney Mims has been hard at work building a website for the Lodge. He has the preliminary

work complete, and is nearly ready to submit it to the Grand Lodge for approval. When it goes live on the web, I hope you will take time to look at it. We will have a calendar function on the site so that you can see at a glance what activities are going on.

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.

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

803-743-2600  
briancooper57@gmail.com

Coda:

The following is a quote from Bro. Benjamin Franklin;

“To expect people to be good, to be just, to be temperate, etc., without showing them how they should become so, seems like the ineffectual charity mentioned by the apostle, which consisted in saying to the hungry, the cold and the naked, be ye fed, be ye warmed, be ye clothed, without showing them how they should get food, fire or clothing.”