



BRENHAM MASON

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20 A.F. & A.M.

In This Issue

THE MASTER'S CORNER:
WM MIKE THORPE

LODGE NEWS: ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIPS AND MUCH
MORE...

INTERVIEW WITH A
BROTHER:
J.W. BURCHFIELD

THE MASTER'S CORNER

BY MIKE THORPE WM

Brethren, exciting times are happening at Graham Lodge. We are 176 years of age and we are getting stronger. Many will say we are having difficulties and challenges. Although we are having challenges we are facing them, and addressing them.

Our lodge has initiated two new Entered Apprentices last month and I believe 3 this year, we have raised 1 Master Mason who is working hard to assist our lodge with visibility.

We have been very active in our community, and will continue to SHINE our Masonic Light.

The lodge members who have been able to attend have voted to invest in two Blinn Endowed scholarships. Wow what excitement. Our Lodge has always put education as a priority.

We have been able to bring back MEALS and fellowship before lodge. While on the subject of meals, we have been blessed with Brother Allan Wells' wife cooking some GREAT Cajun dishes for us. Her talents have been very appreciated by those who have partaken. Thank You Sister Gayle.

Saturday the 24th of April we RAISE another Master mason at 10 am with a meal following

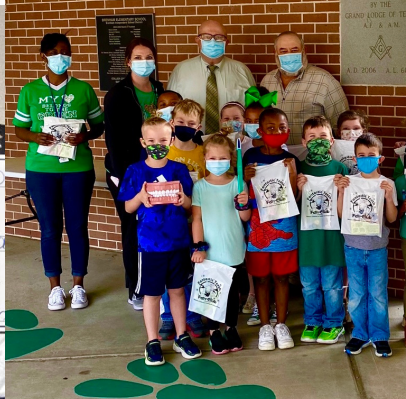
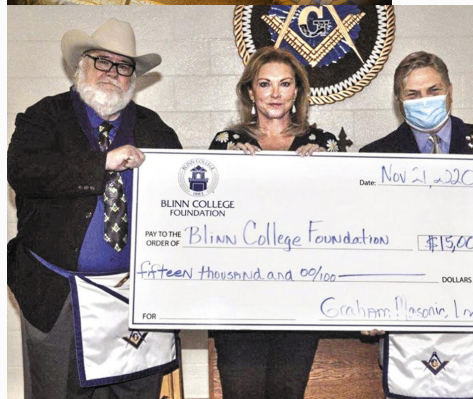
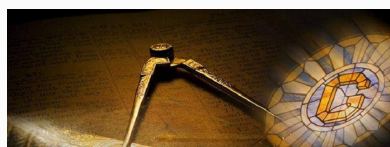


Come help raise this Brother and welcome him to our fraternity. Our Brothers From Cypress Lodge will be assisting as well as brothers from Lee Scott.

I am excited and blessed to be a part of this Historic Lodge, and wish to say I am Humbled to be your Worshipful Master.

Thank you and I hope to see each of you soon.

- Michael Thorpe



Supporting Local Education Since 1845, Brenham Masons.
www.grahamlodge20.com



LODGE NEWS

FROM THE MINUTES

Cemetery Work 4/10/2021

Bro. Wells, Bro. Simmons, and Bro. Jezisek hauled four trailer loads of brush out of the Cemetery. The place is looking great thanks to the many brothers who have contributed over the years.

Fundraiser TBA/July

We are in the final negotiations with the City of Brenham regarding a lodge sponsored concessions booth at Hot Nights Cool Tunes. Spanning 4 weekends in July, H.N.C.T. is a concert venue hosted by Downtown Brenham, that brings as many as 5,000 people a night.

Besides the concert, there is local food, art, and even a car show.

We believe that not only is this a prime fundraising opportunity, but also a great chance to be out in the public and showing our support for local Education.

If you are interested in helping with the food booth, we need meat smokers, potato cookers, someone to run the cash transactions, and as always brothers to shake hands, meet and greet. Contact Eddy Jezisek for details.
ej1095@gmail.com (979) 218-5716

Blinn Student from England 4/14/2021

We were contacted by a Brother from England who has a son coming to Blinn on Athletic Scholarship and is looking for a rental property for the summer. If you have a place for rent, please contact the lodge.

EA's

We have 2 EA's working towards their next Degree.

FC's

We Have 2 FC's working toward their next degree.

Our next degree will take place Saturday, April 24, at 10:00 AM

Fourth Endowed Scholarship Approved by the Lodge 4/1/2021

We will soon be choosing our scholarships recipients. we also voted to add another Blinn Endowed scholarship, with an emphasis on Workforce training.



*As COVID winds down,
the downtown concerts
may have an attendance
of 5000+ each night*

Fantastic Teeth Program

We are busy with the Fantastic teeth program sponsored by the Masonic Home and School. "It was my Pleasure to Represent the lodge last week at Krause Elementary and see the kids excitement. They even showed me their Fantastic teeth." - Bro. Mike Thorpe WM





INTERVIEW WITH A BROTHER: J.W. BURCHFIELD

WITH EDDY JEZISEK



When you walk into Graham, one of the first guys to meet you is J.W. Burchfield. He is a great Mason, and everyone you run into feels the same way about him. Humble, gracious, and always has a good and thoughtful perspective on things.

I thought to start off this series, it would be wise to begin with a brother who has had a tremendous impact on the lodge over the years.

J.W. Burchfield

- Raised at Deport Lodge #381, Deport, Texas
- 22 Years old

How many years a Mason?

- 60+

Appendant degrees, Positions held?

- Scottish Rite in Houston & Shrine in Houston
- District Deputy Grand Master
- Past Master. Graham Lodge #20, 1998-1999

What made you want to join the lodge?

Curiosity I think. A lot of the people I associated with used to go to a little old two story building. It seems they were there a lot of the time. So finally I asked them, "What are you all doing in there? We're Masons. Well what do you have to do to join? You just did it."

Important Masonic influences?

Joe Moore taught me my degree work, Charles Foster, Buddy Malone, Paris Lodge, For awhile California Lodge, More Formal in a lot of ways. Brenham 31+ years, Louis Huebel, Aaron Collier... Too many to list.

What made you want to stay a member? What kept bringing you back.

Loyalty, The brothers have been really great. We have had a lot of close knit groups. That being said, sometimes people have aggravated and agitated me, but that doesn't determine how I act. We have had a lot of great camaraderie wherever I have been.

What are some of the most important lessons you feel you have learned over the course of your Masonic career?

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, kind and caring to everyone you meet, be better to other people, be a better and caring person.

“

There are those that just have a need to stir something up and be disruptive...Not something I will ever be a part of.

— J.W. BURCHFIELD



Some people say that they have had difficult or stressful experiences but they have learned important lessons from them. Can you give examples of what you learned?

We have had a few of those over the years and what I have learned is there are two kinds of people, those with something to say, and those that just have to say something.

There are those that just need to stir something up and be disruptive. They usually do it at the end of lodge meetings just to make a noise. Not something I will ever be a part of.

“

God is the big secret, pray a lot. Spend time with family.

As you look back over your life, do you see any “turning points”; that is, a key event or experience that changed over the course of your life or set you on a different track?

Getting married, picking a good wife, having children. That has probably had the greatest impact.

We have always gone to church and you know we moved around a lot for work and such. The first thing we would always do is go find a church.

I even made the suitor asking for my daughter's hand in marriage promise that they would take them to church, otherwise the answer would have been no. God has been a big difference in my life.

What's the secret to a happy marriage?

God is the big secret, pray a lot. Spend time with family. I didn't play golf, fish, Weekends were time for family, Family has always come first. Still does. That is a Masonic principle.

“

I am constantly reminded that God is good.

What would you say you know now about living a happy and successful life that you didn't know when you were twenty?

Life is short, I'm 82, Now I realize, life is minimal at best but it's okay. Now we just take the good with the bad and go on and I am constantly reminded that God is good.

Thank you brother.

2021 Lod



Master: Michael Thorpe



Sr. Warden: Aaron Curlee



Jr. Warden: Joe Jordan



Treasurer: Dan Blalock



Secretary: Kirby Simmons



Chaplain: J.W. Burchfield



Sr. Deacon: Alan Menchaca



Jr. Deacon: Brad Kuecker

Marshal: Dr. Robert S. Stark



Tyler: Keith Killgore

Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel



**GRAHAM
LODGE
= NO. 20 =
EST. 1845
BRENHAM, TEXAS**

www.grahamlodge20.com