

January 2012

Dear Brethren of Balfour Lodge,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I am writing to you today to give you an update on recent events concerning Balfour Lodge #188, and to ask for your assistance.

A couple years ago, due to the fact that falling interest rates led to the devaluation of our CD's, the brethren of Balfour Lodge voted to cash out some of the lodge's CD's in order to pay off the remaining amount due on our heating and air conditioning system. I am glad to report that many of the brethren contributed almost \$3,000 from their own pockets to help ease the burden of this large expense, and the system is functioning perfectly. We have completed many renovations to the Balfour Masonic Temple over the last few years including adding chair lifts, security system, restoration of our columns, our Lodge room, our roof, new heat and A/C units, new brickwork on our windows, kitchen appliances, and more. While nearly all the labor was donated by members of the Lodge, the cost to the Lodge has been substantial. Some of you may not be aware, but last year we lost our tenant of 18 years. The income lost from them was a major factor in keeping our dues low. While we are actively searching for a new tenant, we, as members of Balfour Lodge, need to take steps to secure the financial future of the Lodge and ensure that we are able to maintain our Temple as well as meet our charitable obligations.

Thus, I would like to issue a challenge to all of our members. For those of you who use online banking and bill payment, you can set up automatic payments to the Lodge to be drafted at any interval you choose. I set up my account to pay \$20.00 a month, and I challenge every member to give what they can. I won't miss \$20 a month, but if every one of our members did the same, that would be an extra \$16,000.00 for **your** lodge. **My goal is for 100% of our brethren to make a contribution this year.** No matter the size, every gift is appreciated. Also, please come out to the lodge! We would love to have you present at our next stated communication. As always, we meet on first and third Tuesdays with a meal at 6:30 pm. To set up online payments to the Lodge through your bank, Make the payee BALFOUR LODGE #188, 632 Sunset Ave. Asheboro, NC 27203. your account number is your member ID number found on your current dues card (ex. M010179 is mine) Make sure you put "donation to the Lodge" in the memo line.

If you haven't visited the lodge lately for a stated or emergent communication, I highly encourage you to do so. Please don't let the price of gas or your distance from our lodge keep you from attending, for we will gladly make arrangements to pick you up and bring you to lodge should you need transportation. Simply contact me and I will take care of the rest. Attendance at lodge gatherings is vital to maintaining our current momentum, and to ensuring that our young brethren receive the mentorship that they both need and very much desire. Also, please check our website regularly at www.balfourlodge.com for news and upcoming events.

Thank you in advance for supporting our lodge and for attending our communications and functions. Together, we can all help to make Balfour Lodge successful.

Fraternally,



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