

JOHN BLAIR LODGE, NO. 187, AF&AM  
 DANIEL E. FROGGETT, WORSHIPFUL MASTER  
 1430 WEST BRADDOCK ROAD  
 ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302  
 WWW.JBL187.ORG  
 Stated Communication:  
 Third Monday 7:30 p.m.



MARCH 2017

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Lodge Breakfast  
 LaCasa Restaurant  
**March 11, 8:30 a.m.**  
 4551 Duke Street  
 Alexandria, VA 22304

**Masonic Bowling**  
*See Page 7!*

Stated Communication  
**March 20, 7:30 p.m.**  
 Presentation by  
 Junior Warden  
 Bro. Erik Schultz



**District Deputy Grand Master Visit**

John Blair Lodge was honored to receive Right Worshipful Mark Wayne Underwood, District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District 1A, on the occasion of his official visit at the February Stated Communication. More than 20 brethren were in attendance for the meeting and additional guests joined the lodge for the fellowship dinner that preceded the meeting.

Rt. Wor. Underwood brought greetings on behalf of Most Worshipful Vernon Stuart Cook, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. He presented the charities that the GM will be focusing on, including the Masonic Home of Virginia, Widows Programs, and Masonic support of Education. In addition, the DDGM conducted an audit of the lodge to assess our record keeping, finances, and overall health. While we have some work to do on record keeping and we need a Widow's Committee, we scored decently.

## Message from Wor. Daniel E. Froggett



At the February Stated Communication I announced that I would chair a committee to draft a joint resolution on lodge consolidation with a similar committee chaired by Wor. Brian King at Henry Knox Field Lodge. The John Blair committee includes Bro. Erik Schultz, Junior Warden, and Wor. Ken Reynolds, Secretary. The committee will report its progress at the March Stated Communications of each lodge and will either complete its work by the April Stated communications or suspend discussions.

With the diminishing numbers of Masons across the globe and locally, the density of lodges in the City of Alexandria is more damning than beneficial (4 within two miles, meeting in only 2 buildings). In addition, once we raise worthy men, we have to consider the resources we have available to engage them – to keep them coming to the lodge.

How do we reconcile too many Masonic outlets within the area and diminished participation in those outlets? As a frequent student of business, the answer is consolidation. The future of Masonry in Virginia is consolidation. If the 2018 district consolidation is a harbinger of the future for our lodges, we have to pragmatically consider the facts.

The questions that I am heavily considering, and ask your personal study and counsel on, are:

- Do the brethren of John Blair have the ability to increase drastically our membership in the next two to three years?
- Do the brethren of John Blair have the time and talent to learn the ritual required to confer the three degrees of Masonry?
- Do the brethren of John Blair have the willingness to share the responsibility of providing enriching, engaging, and educational programs that will ensure regular attendance from our membership?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, we admit our susceptibility to closure. If the answer to any of these questions is no, we have to reasonably consider that consolidation provides a launching pad for building a lodge that can answer yes.

I am concerned about the future of the Craft as a whole. I am very strongly asserting is that we have to put the Craft above our personal convictions and consider our roles in strengthening it. We have the opportunity to determine our own future as a lodge and to potentially set an example for lodges across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

wish to state that the child will receive no part of your estate. In most jurisdictions, if you don't name all of your heirs, they or their legal guardian(s) will have the right to contest your will.

In order to make sure that your will is up-to-date, you should review your will after the following events:

- ◇ Marriage or Divorce (marital status change may void your will);
- ◇ The amount of money/property you own changes significantly;
- ◇ You move to another jurisdiction (some states do not recognize out-of-state wills as valid);
- ◇ Your executor or a significant beneficiary in your will dies;
- ◇ There is a birth or adoption of a child in your family;
- ◇ You change your mind about the provisions in your will.

**No Excuse!** While the legal fees associated with hiring a lawyer to draft a will are a deterrent for many Americans, the number of inexpensive, do-it-yourself options that are available eliminates this obstacle. It is now quick and easy for anyone to write their own Last Will and Testament. As uncomfortable as it may be to think about it, we are all going to die. By drafting a Last Will and Testament, you ensure that your family is taken care of, and that your estate is handled according to your wishes not the will of the government.

### MARCH 2017 EVENTS

- 2/27 District Ritual School (AJ 120) – SLOTT Training
- 3/11 Lodge Breakfast (LaCasa Restaurant, Duke Street, Alexandria)
- 3/20 Stated Communication (Program by JW Bro. Erik Schultz)
- 3/25 Lodge Outreach Event (see below)
- 3/27 District Ritual School (JB 187) – SLOTT Training
- 4/1 Division Leadership Conference (ASRT) [all officers should attend]

*All brethren are encouraged to regularly attend ritual schools. Lodge Instructor of Work, Wor. Ken Reynolds, will provide more information on ritual schools throughout the area on a regular basis.*

### MASONIC BOWLING NIGHT

Saturday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.

Bowl America Shirley  
5460 Edsall Road  
Alexandria, VA 22312

**\$25**

**2 hours unlimited bowling w/shoes,  
pizza, wings, snacks, and sodas.**

RSVP by March 15 to  
danielefroggett@gmail.com





**THE IMPORTANCE OF A LAST WILL & TESTAMENT**  
 from [www.lawdepot.com](http://www.lawdepot.com)

**“If you hate the people in your life, die without a will, because you're going to tie them up for years.” – Dave Ramsey**

*Our obligations as Masons suggest that we should do all we can to support our families, even when we pass away. Every Mason should have a will and if it includes a generous bequest to the lodge, all the better.*

Despite recognizing the importance of having a Last Will and Testament, as many as two-thirds of adult Americans don't have one. The reasons for this range from simple laziness to discomfort at the thought of one's own death. For many, thinking about their own death makes the concept real. As long as they can avoid thinking about it, they can ignore the inevitable. Unfortunately, failing to plan for one's death won't prevent it from happening. Because of that, it is important to write a Last Will and Testament.

**Every Adult Needs a Will.** While people often think that only the elderly need to have a will, it is advisable for adults of all ages to have one. It is especially important for parents of minor children, even if they don't have significant assets. Without a will, the government decides who will become your children's guardian.

Even adults without families can benefit from having a Last Will and Testament. You have worked hard to earn what you have – your home, your car, your bank account – shouldn't you have a say in how it will be distributed in the event of your death? Without a will, your wishes will be irrelevant, and the state will decide how to distribute your estate. In order to make sure that your estate is handled according to your wishes, and that your money is given to a friend, charity, or other organization of your choice, you must draft a will.

**Keep Your Will Up-to-Date.** Once you've drafted the will, it's also important to keep it up-to-date. If you have a new child after you draft your will, you must update the will to include that child, even if you



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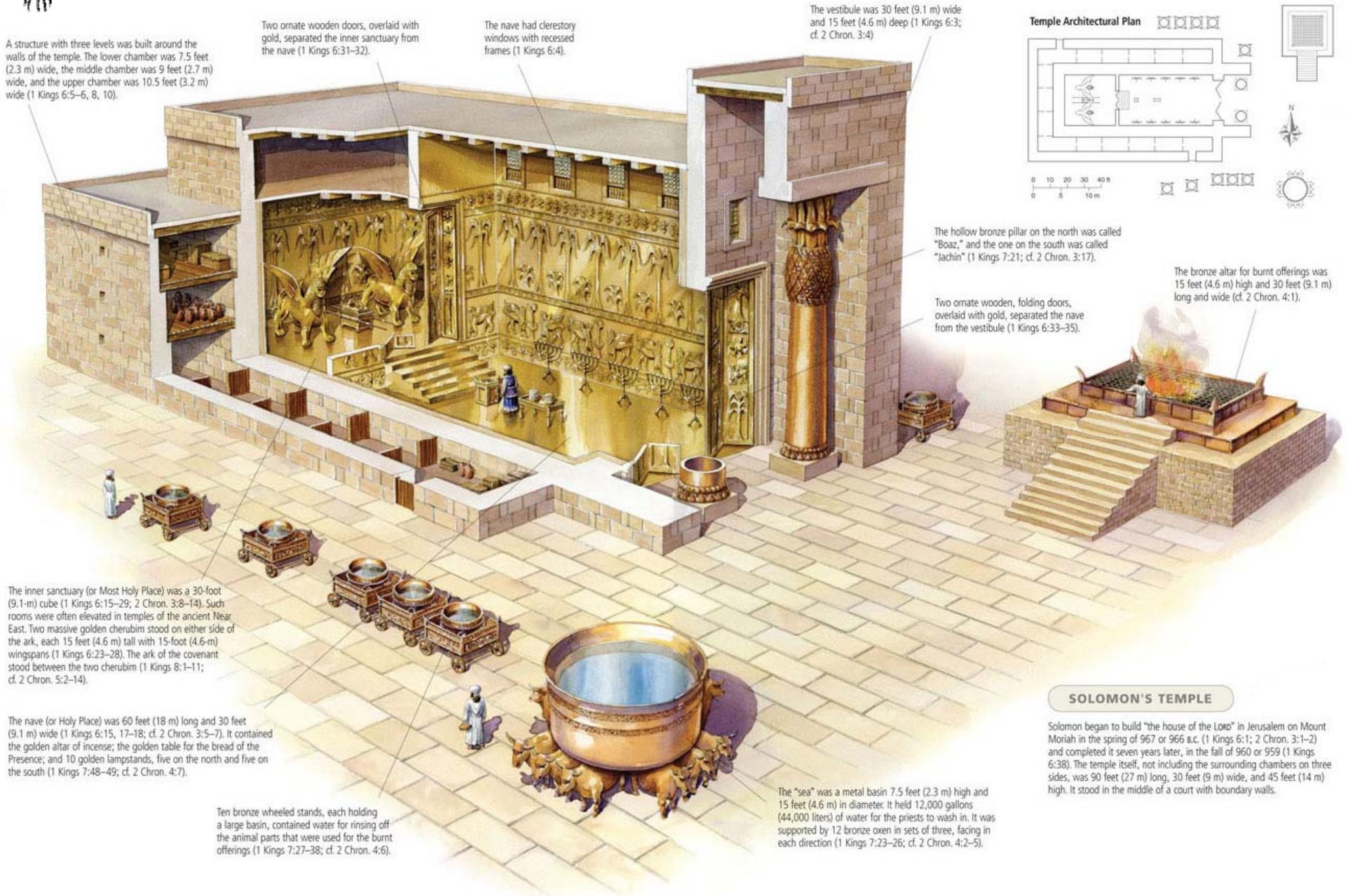
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# MARCH ENLIGHTENMENT

## *A visit to King Solomon's Temple*

“The Society adopted the Temple of Solomon for its symbol, because it was the most stable and the most magnificent structure that ever existed, whether we consider its foundation or superstructure; so that of all the societies men have invented, no one was ever more firmly united, or better planned, than the Masons...The Temple of Solomon denotes reason and intelligence.” — Rev. Dr. George Oliver, DD

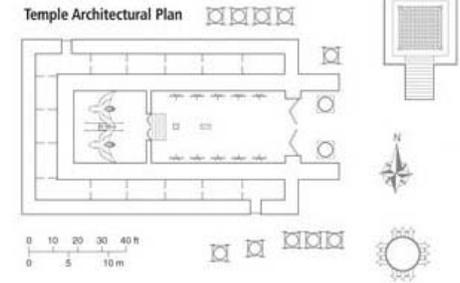


A structure with three levels was built around the walls of the temple. The lower chamber was 7.5 feet (2.3 m) wide, the middle chamber was 9 feet (2.7 m) wide, and the upper chamber was 10.5 feet (3.2 m) wide (1 Kings 6:5–6, 8, 10).

Two ornate wooden doors, overlaid with gold, separated the inner sanctuary from the nave (1 Kings 6:31–32).

The nave had clerestory windows with recessed frames (1 Kings 6:4).

The vestibule was 30 feet (9.1 m) wide and 15 feet (4.6 m) deep (1 Kings 6:3; cf. 2 Chron. 3:4)



The hollow bronze pillar on the north was called "Boaz," and the one on the south was called "Jachin" (1 Kings 7:21; cf. 2 Chron. 3:17).

Two ornate wooden, folding doors, overlaid with gold, separated the nave from the vestibule (1 Kings 6:33–35).

The bronze altar for burnt offerings was 15 feet (4.6 m) high and 30 feet (9.1 m) long and wide (cf. 2 Chron. 4:1).

The inner sanctuary (or Most Holy Place) was a 30-foot (9.1-m) cube (1 Kings 6:15–29; 2 Chron. 3:8–14). Such rooms were often elevated in temples of the ancient Near East. Two massive golden cherubim stood on either side of the ark, each 15 feet (4.6 m) tall with 15-foot (4.6-m) wingspans (1 Kings 6:23–28). The ark of the covenant stood between the two cherubim (1 Kings 8:1–11; cf. 2 Chron. 5:2–14).

The nave (or Holy Place) was 60 feet (18 m) long and 30 feet (9.1 m) wide (1 Kings 6:15, 17–18; cf. 2 Chron. 3:5–7). It contained the golden altar of incense; the golden table for the bread of the Presence; and 10 golden lampstands, five on the north and five on the south (1 Kings 7:48–49; cf. 2 Chron. 4:7).

Ten bronze wheeled stands, each holding a large basin, contained water for rinsing off the animal parts that were used for the burnt offerings (1 Kings 7:27–38; cf. 2 Chron. 4:6).

The "sea" was a metal basin 7.5 feet (2.3 m) high and 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter. It held 12,000 gallons (44,000 liters) of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by 12 bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 Kings 7:23–26; cf. 2 Chron. 4:2–5).

### SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build "the house of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the spring of 967 or 966 a.c. (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Chron. 3:1–2) and completed it seven years later, in the fall of 960 or 959 (1 Kings 6:38). The temple itself, not including the surrounding chambers on three sides, was 90 feet (27 m) long, 30 feet (9 m) wide, and 45 feet (14 m) high. It stood in the middle of a court with boundary walls.