

October 1, 2004

Gordon Lee Ferguson, Grand Master  
Grand Lodge, FAAM, of the District of Columbia  
5428 MacArthur Blvd., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20016-2524

Most Worshipful Grand Master:

Songwriter and singer Dan Fogelberg once wrote in his song entitled "The Nexus." "Blessed the traveler who journeys the length of the light."

If this line be true, then the brethren of Temple-Noyes-Cathedral Lodge #32 should be truly blessed, for we have endeavored to discover the source of the light that was lit when our Lodge was formed almost 100 years ago and when we first sponsored and then merged with a Lodge with whom we shared that light. We also continued our search for light in the present time and worked towards enhancing what light we had for our upcoming second century.

At our February stated communication, we were fascinated to learn of the history of our Lodge as communicated to us by WB L. Blaine Charak. There was much light to be shared as we learned of our unique connection to the sinking of the Titanic and to Brother William Howard Taft. We also learned of our first Worshipful Master Thomas C. Noyes, son of one of the first owners of The Evening Star Newspaper. A newspaperman himself, he was well known in the Nation's Capital not only for his activity with the Star, but as president of the DC Board of Trade, president of an early form of the American Baseball League, and a supporter of investment in Cuba. Masonically, he was instrumental in the formation of our Lodge and sat on the Committee, along with several Temple Lodge members, that helped to determine the location of Almas Temple's original building at the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and K Streets, NW. The light that Thomas Noyes lit all those years ago still burns bright today.

Nothing unites a brotherhood like fun and fellowship. This is our light and we hold the beacon high so all who are in the dark may share it. We began 2004 as we begin every year with a proper "initiation" of myself as the new Worshipful Master via our ever-popular Master's Roast. Much fun and fellowship was shared and, as the evening passed into Lodge history, the brethren and guests experienced a Roast that will be talked about, I imagine, until I can exact my revenge on my successor. We shared brotherhood and fellowship at many events that included a coed Valentine's Day Social, held at Almas Temple, and our annual Oyster Roast, at Columbia Country Club. We were the guests at the home of Brother Norm Asher and his Lady Jeanne in May. June brought us to the home of Brother Andrew Plaxen and his Lady Joyce, and we closed the summer of 2004 with our annual end of summer picnic at the home of Brother Kevin Barry and his Lady Diane. Our September social allowed us to raise a glass to those Brethren who live on in our hearts, although they have now laid down their working tools and have gone to that all perfect lodge above. This light will continue to shine as, later this month, we will enjoy our annual Octoberfest after which the Brethren and their Ladies will travel to Western Maryland to ride the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad for a Murder Mystery Dinner Train. November will begin the

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holiday season as we enjoy a black tie coed repast at Avenel Country Club where the fun and fellowship that is the Light of Temple-Noyes-Cathedral Lodge will glow ever brighter.

But all that is Temple-Noyes-Cathedral Lodge #32 is not socials. Our social events serve a higher purpose in that they conciliate true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance and help us all to understand the true meaning of our brotherhood.

In keeping with your theme, Most Worshipful, of "Building a Better World," we narrowed the focus to look within ourselves and strove to "Build a Better Lodge." For it is my opinion, that if every Lodge is strong, the Grand Lodge is so much the stronger and a better world can be built by our actions therein.

During 2004, we spread Masonic Light as we initiated 5 men, none of whom were over the age of 30. Four of these were passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft and they all expect to be raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason later this month. We enhanced the light we had by updating our bylaws after a period of almost 70 years. We learned of the future of Freemasonry, as the Tenleytown-Chevy Chase Chapter Order of DeMolay, presented a portion of their Second Degree, known as the DeMolay Degree. This presentation was attended by no less than six Past Grand Masters and has spurred the DeMolay on to make similar presentations in other Lodges. Several brethren were heard to say afterwards that although they had seen the DeMolay public ceremonies in the past, seeing the DeMolay Degree helped them to understand more of this Masonic Youth Organization and how these young men may one day be the Brethren to whom we pass our Masonic Light.

And so in closing, Most Worshipful Sir, Temple-Noyes-Cathedral Lodge #32 has worked within to Build a Better World by building a better lodge. We learned of our history, spread light in the present and prepared to hand our Masonic light on as we move towards our second century. We have, as Dan Fogelberg wrote, "Journeyed the length of the light." May Temple-Noyes-Cathedral Lodge #32 be blessed for having made that journey.

Respectfully Submitted,

TEMPLE-NOYES-CATHEDRAL LODGE #32, F.A.A.M.

Alan L. Gordon  
Worshipful Master

cc: William M. Bartlett, Secretary