



Holiday Greetings

Merry Christmas
Happy Kwanzaa
Happy New Year
2006

The Honorable Milton F. "Toby" Fitch, Jr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

&

The North Carolina Prince Hall Family

REFLECTIONS OF THE 135TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION



The Honorable Milton F. "Toby" Fitch, Jr.

Grand Master

*The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdiction, Inc.*

Your presence, participation, work, and, effort helped to take another step forward as "A JURISDICTION ON THE MOVE." I further commend you for the hospitality and brotherly love you showed our guests and delegations from Jurisdictions of West Virginia. The District of Columbia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and our Brothers from Lyon France. It only serves to prove, forgiving, caring about, and loving one another as Brother and Sisters results in more love to share with others. Only then, if you will allow me to paraphrase The Holy Writs, will men come to see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven.

Grand Master's Address - 135th Annual Grand Communication "Upholding the Tenets of Freemasonry"

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved. He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper. The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil. He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and for evermore. (Psalm 121)

We are blessed!

Grand Master Milton F. Fitch, Sr. my mother Sister Cora Whitted Fitch, Past Grand Masters Parker, Dawson, Johnson, Chambers; to my Deputy Grand Master, Robert M.L. Walker; Senior and Junior Grand Wardens Jackie Robinson and Franklin Brown; Special Advisors Lee Woods and Daniel Thompson; to the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, James A. Mitchell, Sr., and Alvin L. Elliott, Sr.; to Grand Tiler, James H. Petty; to the Grand Trustees, Howard Pearce, Bennett Taylor, and Charles R. Smith; my Grand Lecturer Ray Jones, my Grand Chaplin, James Harris, other Grand Lodge Officers, to the Heads of Masonic Houses of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge; to the Grand Worthy Matron, Valeria S. Collins and Grand Worthy Patron L. Waddell Alston; Brothers and Sisters; and to the Grand Lodge Staff, I greet you in the name of Him that looks high and low, near and far, wide and narrow, our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Before entering any great or important undertaking, one should always invoke the aid of Deity.

Deacons, escort Deputy Chaplain Samuel J. Cornelius to the Altar.

Necrology

Behold, I shew you a mystery, we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality. (1 Corinthians). During our last fiscal year 263 Brothers have gone on to that Celestial Blue Lodge in the sky to receive their rewards for their labor and a proper Lodge of Sorrow having been conducted, Deputy Cornelius lead us again in prayer.

As Grand Master, I thank all Worshipful Masters and their Crafts for handling the Masonic Rites for our departed Brothers.

State of the Nation

I told you last year that our nation was involved in a war that in my opinion we can't win. We are still there and losing. We didn't ask to go to Iraq but we are there so we need to support our troops and their families in every way we can. We must keep our troops and our members who are serving in our Armed Forces constantly in our prayers.

Those who control the Federal government seem to think more of the folk living outside this country than they do of people and problems within the borders of the United States of America. Charity, I was taught, begins at

home and then spreads abroad, not abroad then spreading home.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have hit our Brothers and Sisters and the Federal Government, FEMA, the Red Cross, and others didn't rush to us. It is time that we start to ready ourselves as a family to start turning to one another rather than on one another. We are our brother's keepers. One would hope that our Family Relief efforts, together, would not be less than \$10,000. Remember, our brothers helped us in 1999!!

State of the State

Last year I told you we were not represented at all levels of our state government. Well, nothing has changed. Look at our Supreme Court. No one there looks like us. We must be more active in our government by making sure all people we know are registered to vote and that they do vote in every election. Jobs are still leaving our state like water running downstream. We must go back to the old way of depending on each other and practicing economic development, first with ourselves and then spreading outward. This Prince Hall Family must lead our communities in civic, education, and financial self help.

Knights of Pythagoras

The future of Prince Hall Masonry is dependent on young men desiring to become Masons. We have the means to plant the seeds of Masonry in their minds. We can make a major difference in a young boy's life if we just take a few hours per

month. We are missing many serious opportunities. Your time and presence are important, however, you are limited in what you can achieve if you don't have the funds. To have a positive impact in a boy's life, we must get his attention. We must, therefore, have programs that address his social, educational, and emotional needs. We must be able to provide him with experiences he may never get elsewhere; experiences such as field trips, major league sporting events, college visits, and other cultural enrichment opportunities. We need you to volunteer to help a boy become a MAN!



State of the Craft

I want to thank each of you for the trust you have placed in me, and in the team that you have chosen. All still are working in harmony except the Grand Secretary. We still have a great

Web Page which is second to none. We had a great Founders Day at NCCU and a great Founders Day at Central Children's Home. We had a great Grand Session for the Order of the Eastern Star. We are in a jurisdiction on the move and every year gets better and better.

Last year we had fourteen (14) recommendations. Well, we have done ten (10) of them to completion. We still need to (1) revise the Code, (2) complete the Renovation Brigade, (3) have the train trip to Boston to visit the Mother Jurisdiction, and (4) develop competition on Ritual work by Districts with best to Regions, then to Grand Lodge.

How did you like the Joint Public Installation, Masonic Football and Golf Tournament, and what about the raffle in Oxford? I hope each Lodge has received their rebates. Let's do it again!!!

Our communities still need men who will help form values and shape character. These men must be Prince Hall Masons!! Shouldn't they be? Since we are the last institution Black folks have, we must continue to teach our children by taking them by the hand and educating them about our past so that they don't become enslaved by it. They are the leaders of tomorrow.

We all, by now, have heard of the vote at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel of our AF&AM Grand Lodge Brothers for recognition. Well, it didn't pass, but it was closer than before. It will pass the next time. If Christ wouldn't deny you the Cup of Life, then how can and will one brother deny another the Apron of Life?

Somewhere around the year 1712, a man was brought to this country from the West Indies who had a prescription to control the Negro for years and centuries to come. His name was Willie Lynch. Why do I now give you this history? Lynch realized there are differences in us so he pitted the old against the young, big against small, tall against short, dark against light, house against field, and men against women. Taught us, we should only trust and fear the Master, thus fully stripping us of togetherness. We can not allow the Blue House to be pitted against the Red House, or Purple House against Black House, or men against women. We are all a part of the Prince Hall Family and we must come together for the survival of the Order. We must, men, respect our women and hold them up, always, and women must always support our brothers.

This fiscal year our Grand Lodge paid off the note with Self Help for \$200,000 and we are now working on the second note with Self Help for \$300,000. Don't you want to give yourself an applause for such an accomplishment? This past year raffle the lodges and chapters, for their incentive received a total of \$42,600 and the Grand Lodge yielded a net profit of \$133,000. Give yourself another round of applause. We are on the move!

Having shared what has transpired during this past year as Grand Master, I now offer you my recommendations for continuous growth for the future of this Grand Lodge:

- 1) Complete those matters still left on the tressel board.
- 2) Establishment of a Grand Master's Ball.
- 3) Establishment of a 501C3 umbrella.
- 4) Return the youth assemblage back to colleges and establish a Past Grand Master James E Shepard Leadership Assemblage.
- 5) Find and buy land in the Raleigh Durham area for the purpose of building a new Grand Lodge Headquarters/Convention Center.
- 6) And build a building to occupy the land. So we can stop going to hotels for our meetings.

GRAND LODGE PAYS TRIBUTE TO A STALWART OF THE PAST WHO BUILDED FOR THE FUTURE



**Grand Master Fitch pays homage to
PGM Shephard. NCCU Chancellor
Ammons is
Pictured in the immediate foreground.**



*Grand Master Fitch and North
Carolina Masonic family members
at wreath-laying. To his immediate
left are DGM Walker, Grand
Treasurer Mitchell, RWGJW
Brown, RWSGW Robinson,
Grand Marshall*

On November fourth North Carolina Central University celebrated its Fifty-Eighth Annual Founder's Day Convocation commemorating the work of Dr. James E. Shephard who founded the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua in 1910. The Institution was built on a 25-acre tract of land as a center for religious training. Dr. Shephard encouraged its growth by recruiting the assistance of several philanthropists. In 1925 the school was renamed The North Carolina College for Negroes; the first state supported liberal arts college for Blacks in the United States. Since 1972 it has been a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina system.

Duke Auditorium was filled to overflow capacity with family, friends, educators, and members of the North Carolina Grand Lodge Masonic family sharing in the event which was highlighted by a keynote address from NCCU Law School alumnus Ralph Kennedy Fraser currently serving as the Director of the OCLC Online Computer, Inc.

The Honorable Most Worshipful Grand Master Milton F. (Toby) Fitch, Jr. provided reflections at a wreath-laying ceremony in front of the statue of Dr. Shephard who served as Most Worshipful Grand Master of The MWPHGL of North Carolina and Jurisdictions, Inc 1920-1928 and 1936-1947.

ANNUAL JOINT INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



Hundreds of Brothers and Sisters gathered at Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Durham on Saturday, November 4, 2005 for the Annual Joint installation of officers of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdiction, Inc. and The Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star An Affiliate of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Raymond Renfrow, DDGM #13 served as Master of Ceremony with Bro. Allen Turner, Assistant Grand Lecturer presenting The Occasion. Bro. Hampton Dillard, Jr., DDGM #24

extended greetings which were responded to by Sister Joyce O'Neal. Elected officers of the Grand Lodge were installed by Grand Master Fitch with Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Brother Robert Walker installing appointed Grand Lodge officers. Officers of The Grand Chapter were installed by Past Grand Worthy Patron Brother Frank Evans.

The spirited occasion was rendered more enjoyable with music provided by the Michael's Creek Mass Choir of Oxford under the direction of Grand Lodge Musician Brother Timothy Johnson.



Grand Master Milton F. Fitch and Grand Worthy Matron Valeria Collins stand in unity

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
JURISDICTION OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.



Milton F. Fitch, Jr.

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

516 South Lodge Street
Wilson, North Carolina 27893

(252) 243-5967

As your Most Worshipful Grand Master I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and hard work during the past year and to wish you and yours the very best as we enter into another. It is my hope we all more keenly “Remember the Reason for the Season;” knowing it not by our own power, strength, or might that we are allowed to continue and prevail from day to day, but the grace, mercy, and goodness of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Just as a star in the East many years ago heralded the birth of a Savior with renewed hope for mankind, I trust you will do all within your capabilities to spread a little joy, hope and warmth to others whose lives will be enhanced by your beaconing light.

HUG: Healing – United – Growing

May God bestow his richest blessings upon you. Best Wishes for 2006!

Fraternally yours,

Brother Milton F. “Toby” Fitch

Milton F. “Toby” Fitch, Jr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

SUBMIT AND ARTICLE TO THE NEWSLETTER

We are making a gallant effort to launch our quarterly newsletter electronically. We hope such an endeavor will allow us to have updated information of what is going on in The Jurisdiction while, at the same time, eliminating the high cost of printing hardcopy.

I thank Webmaster Brother Lindsay, Assistant Grand Lecturer Brother Paul Kinsey, Grand Juinor Stewart Brother Rayomnd Hayes, Brother Larry Farmer, and DDGM(25) William Sellars for their committed interest in helping this project work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PICTURES, AND ARTICLES MAY BE SUBMITTED TO ME, BROTHER DENNIS E. CHESTNUT, GRAND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AT: Newsletter@MWPHGLNC.Com . If you have questions and need to speak with me I may be reached at (252) 757 – 1531.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS: FEBRUARY 10TH 2006!