

**T.F.S.**  
**Three, five, and seven**  
**3 5 7**

By Ed Halpaus, Grand Lodge Education Officer.  
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### *The Chaplain's Corner*

Respectfully submitted by  
Alan Greene, Grand Chaplain  
Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of MN

#### **New Years Celebration**

Wow, here it is the New Year already. It has been one celebration after another. First there was Thanksgiving where we celebrated the harvest and the bounty of our Lord's blessing on us. Next it was time for Christmas, where we celebrated the love of our Lord, expressed through the gifts of His only Son and His tears, to help wash away our stains.



Now it is the New Year - emphasis on the word New. It is a new beginning where we can reflect on our actions during the past year, and resolve to do better. Our Creator knows well of all our failings and propensity for failure. For this, He created the means for many new beginnings. We have the beginning of each year, each of the 12 months, the 52 weeks, and all 365 days - all with a new beginning. It is our hope (and that of our Creator) that we can use these new beginnings to learn from past mistakes, leave them in the past, and move forward - for "these things too shall also pass away".

As we begin yet another year, let us resolve to rededicate ourselves to our Masonic principles of Brotherly love and let us translate into deeds the great moral virtues taught within our Fraternity. Let us:

- Provide a deeper and broader expression of brotherly love to each other. In our book of Sacred Law, there are many more than just ten commandments. Our Creator has commanded us, through His son, to love one another as He has loved us.
- Make an effort to demonstrate the virtues of love, honor, and trust to the hearts and minds of our fellowmen. And thereby earn their respect, affection and esteem.

- Volunteer more. The greatest gift one human being can offer another is the gift of their time. Perhaps our gift of time can't change the world, but in the eyes of the one or two that we can change for the better, that is the world to them.
- Make it a constant rule of our lives to think well, speak well and act well, wherever we may be. Remember, Brethren, our conduct and character outside the Lodge may be the only factual Masonic knowledge available to the outside world.
- Enter the New Year with a firmer resolve to work at the completion of our spiritual temple, that House not built by human hands, eternal in the Heavens.

And let us not forget to put this season in its true light. Our Book of Sacred Law states that the Creator gives us new mercies at the start of every new day. Of these mercies, maybe the best is the glory and beauty of the new day. Once again, and not a minute too soon, the old has passed away and a new beginning is waiting for us.

### **Prayers for our Brothers and their Families**

We name the welfare of our brethren in our petitions because we love them; and knowing our own need of their prayers, we realize their need of ours.

Please remember: if you would like to participate in the latest Masonic Monday Question, please go to <http://www.lodgebuilder.org> and click on the Lodge Education forum. When you have an answer send it to [masonicmonday@gmail.com](mailto:masonicmonday@gmail.com) the Masonic Monday Question for the week of 01/03/11 is: **What are the Masonic colors, and what do they represent?**

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**Words to Live By:** “Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.” M.W. Brother Benjamin Franklin

The latest Education Video by our education committee is now on You Tube, it's titled “Unspotted by the World.” It can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/glmned>

Articles written by Ed in T.F.S., Masonic Matters, and More Light, can also be read on Ed's Face Book page; <http://www.facebook.com/ed.halpaus> - <http://halpaus.blogspot.com> - <http://www.mn-masons.org> - <http://sites.google.com/site/edsmasonicmatters/>

With “Brotherly Love”,  
Ed Halpaus  
Grand Lodge Education Officer

**Seek to mentor a Brother Mason:  
It's good for him, it's good for you, and it's good for Freemasonry!**