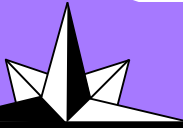


Excelsior Echo

The Official Publication of the Excelsior Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, TN Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliate

Excelsior Echo
Spring/Summer Edition
2013



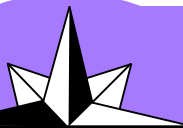
**Grand Worthy
Matron**

**Sis. Rubye B. Meeks
Editor-in-Chief**

*

**Honored Grand
Publicist**

**Sis. Kathleen Evans
Executive Editor**



Spread the News!

**Send your chapter
news & photos to the
Grand Publicist for the
next edition.**

**Sis. Kathleen Evans
1027 Roeder Dr
Clarksville, TN 37042
New Email
evansksa@gmail.com**



The Precious Gift of Time...



As yet another Masonic year draws to a close; continue to be encouraged and also encouraging others, doing to others as you would have them do unto you. Continue to shine brightly, to be the light in the midst of oftentimes darkness, that we should give careful consideration to our speech and actions. WWJD has been so often misused that we have almost become insensitive to the magnitude of its intended meaning in our lives. And, as we strive to grow more like Him in all ways, let us remember to "... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) And, contrary to popular belief, "we are our Sister's keeper."

And, as we again greet each other during this convening of Excelsior Grand Chapter, think on the blessings that allow us to be together, the precious gift of time and

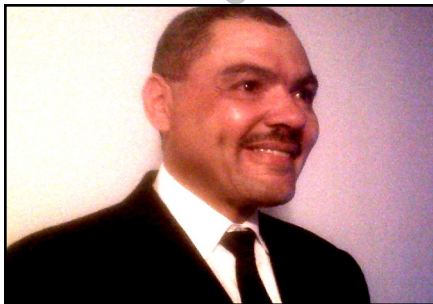
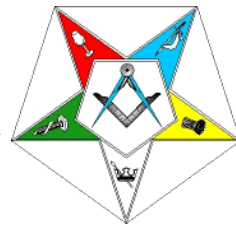


another opportunity to fellowship one with another and remaining prayerful for those unable to be in our midst. That we should savor our moments together as though they are last if we believe God's word that "*all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away.*" (1 Peter 1:24) And, in our interactions with each other that we remember those lessons learned as we first walked the labyrinth together--lessons of fidelity, loyalty & friendship, courage & wisdom, love & sacrifice, that they endure with sustained unity in our Chapters. During this Grand Communication let us be bound together with a single-mind, thinking always for the good of the Order and betterment of our communities with peace, joy and most of all Christian love. I pray that you grow in knowledge and spirit during our Grand Communication and that you return to your Chapters with renewed vigor, prepared to collectively move forward with the work of sustaining and increasing Excelsior Grand Chapter.

Rubye B. Meeks

Grand Worthy Matron

A Message from Our Grand Worthy Patron



I praise the Lord for allowing me to again offer expressions on behalf of Excelsior Grand Chapter. The year 2012 was glorious and productive for Masonry in Tennessee, and 2013 promises to surpass it for us as a body in Tennessee. This certainly includes the Order of the Eastern Star, specifically Excelsior Grand Chapter. I want to acknowledge and thank my Grand Master, the Most Worshipful Arvin W. Glass, for his support and trust in allowing me to serve for him with this precious facet of Masonry. Your friendship will always be

cherished! I also must pay homage to my friend and counterpart in this endeavor, MY Grand Worthy Matron, Ruby B. Meeks. Your knowledge of our Order and integrity are great assets to Excelsior! The drive I feel internally and externally is flowing with the Love of the Lord. Though it seems some have the misconception that the Order of the Eastern Star is a mirror image of the Masonic body for women, nothing could be further from the truth. The Order of the Eastern Star is an adoptive rite of the Lodge. The Eastern Star is Jesus, and the first who "Saw has Star in the East and came to worship Him" were wise "men". Thus, Sisters are not Eastern Stars any more than Brothers; we are all members of the Order of the Eastern Star. This is why membership for Christian Masons and their families offers so much reward. The organization is styled as a family, where as the Lodge or Father is responsible for any shortcomings and takes pride in successes. We must guide our Chapters and loved ones with support that comes from genuine esteem. To wish them better than ourselves and give of ourselves to insure it! With that being said, I am proud to be a staunch cheerleader for the Order of the Eastern Star in Tennessee, and look forward to a rewarding, productive and successful session in Chattanooga.

"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." **2 Chronicles 16:9**

With Love and Respect,

Cedric J. Bailey Sr.

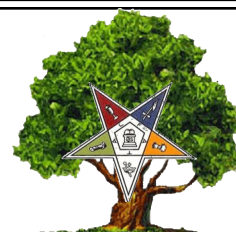
Cedric J. Bailey Sr., 33°, Grand Worthy Patron



Atlanta host members Christian Deans (standing left) and Kirstein Mosley (standing right) meet with Tennessee Jurisdiction members Past Grand Worthy Matron June Jones and Honorary Past Grand Worthy Matron Irene Robinson to break bread and fellowship.



Tennessee members at Phyllis Chapter of Phylaxis Society in Atlanta.



Love and Benevolence...

Love and Benevolence...

and Leading by Example



As we continue to grow and learn in our beloved Order, we sometimes misunderstand the “how and why” things are done as they are. While we should always strive to advance in operating our Chapters, it is important that we also give a special measure of care, consideration and respect to our senior members who are oftentimes a wealth of wisdom and historical information. We should not shrink from their admonition when they advise us of our beauty in modesty, being mindful of our appearance, attitude and behavior, being ever-mindful of being Christ-like at all times. Further, that we should continue to engage them to the best of their physical ability so that they continue to share in an active role in our Chapters. In our Chapters we should have the wisdom to understand that as we see our senior members reach their golden years, that we too must travel that path and in doing so that we want younger Sisters to show appreciation for the many years of contributions because it is because of their persistence to maintain our Chapters that we now have the opportunity to continue the precious legacy of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Grand Worthy Matron Rubye B. Meeks pictured with Honorary Past Worthy Matron Sis. Annie Moore, long-time senior member of St. Mary's Chapter #5, now under residential care at Clarksville Rehabilitation and Nursing Home. Grand Worthy Matron takes a moment from her busy Visitation schedule to visit, encourage and uplift.

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Romans 15:1-2 (ESV)

¹¹...that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong,... ¹²For man also knoweth not his time...

Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 (KJV)

Memphis on the Move... and Providing Service with a Smile.

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45 (NKJV)



Memphis Community Health Fair Assists Many

Sis. Hazel Moore (Eureka # 241) was a coordinator of the Annual Back to School Health Fair held on Saturday July 13, 2013 at Hillcrest High School.

Free health services were provided including immunizations, free pre-school physicals, hearing screenings, diabetes screenings, vision screenings, dental screenings and more. In addition, free school supplies were given out to those who attended. The event was sponsored by the Academy for Youth Empowerment, City Councilman, Harold Collins and a number of corporate sponsors. Several Memphis O.E.S. Chapters supported this effort by manning booths and donating food and other items. This much needed effort truly benefits the community.



Sis. Janell Torrey (Etta M. Selmon #291) left and Sis. Hazel Moore (Eureka #241) right



Bro. Dedrick Torrey, Associate Patron (Etta M. Selmon #291) assisting with drinks.

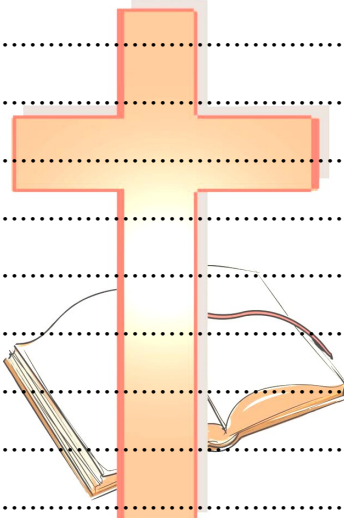
God's Telephone Directory

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct.

No operator assistance is necessary.

All lines are open to Heaven 24 hours a day!



<i>When in sorrow,</i>	<i>Call John 14</i>
<i>When we fail you.....</i>	<i>Call Psalms 27</i>
<i>If you want to be fruitful,</i>	<i>Call John 15</i>
<i>When you have sinned,.....</i>	<i>Call Psalms 51</i>
<i>When you worry,</i>	<i>Call Matthew 6:19-34</i>
<i>When you are in danger,</i>	<i>Call Psalms 91</i>
<i>When God seems far away,.....</i>	<i>Call Psalms 139</i>
<i>When your faith needs stirring.....</i>	<i>Call Hebrews 11</i>
<i>When you get bitter and critical,</i>	<i>Call 1 Corinthians 13</i>
<i>For Paul's secret to happiness,.....</i>	<i>Call Colossians 3:12-17</i>
<i>When you feel down and out,</i>	<i>Call Romans 8:31-39</i>
<i>When you want peace and rest,.....</i>	<i>Call Matthews 11:25-30</i>
<i>When the world seems bigger than God,.....</i>	<i>Call Psalms 90</i>
<i>When you want Christian assurance,</i>	<i>Call Romans 8:1-30</i>
<i>When you leave home for labor and travel,.....</i>	<i>Call Psalms 121</i>
<i>When your prayers grow narrow and selfish,.....</i>	<i>Call Psalms 67</i>
<i>When you want courage for a task,</i>	<i>Call Isaiah 55</i>
<i>How to get along with your fellowman,.....</i>	<i>Call Romans 12</i>
<i>When you think of investment/returns.....</i>	<i>Call Mark 12</i>
<i>When you are depressed,.....</i>	<i>Call Psalms 27</i>
<i>If your pocketbook or wallet is empty,</i>	<i>Call Psalms 37</i>
<i>If you are losing confidence in people,</i>	<i>Call 1 Corinthians 13</i>
<i>If people seem unkind,</i>	<i>Call John 15</i>
<i>If discouraged about your work,.....</i>	<i>Call Psalms 126</i>
<i>If you find the world growing small and yourself great</i>	<i>Call Psalms 19</i>

FEED YOUR FAITH AND DOUBT WILL STARVE TO DEATH!



A Grand Visitation in Memphis

"...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

1 John 1:7

Pictured are HGDD Sis. Sharon Franklin; Grand Worthy Matron Ruby B. Meeks (center); HGAD Sis. Maranda Lester and HGAD Sis. Montee Hunt.

Ways & Means

"...God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



*Making a Difference
and changing lives...
One Donation at a Time.*



ETTA M. SELMON/JAMES E. STEWART Endowment Fund—Every year Excelsior Grand Chapter contributes to four Historically Black Colleges in Tennessee. This year a \$2000 check was presented to LeMoyne-Owen College's President Johnnie Watson by PWM Maude Washington, WM Erica Davis, HPGWM Charlie Mae Reed and PWM Maggie White. Sisters Washington and Reed are LOC graduates. Those of you who attend these Colleges (LOC, Lane, Fisk and Knoxville) or know of someone, should request consideration for this award.

Memphis O.E.S. and Sunbeams Shine Brightly

the Annual Holy St. John's Day

What better way to bring brightness into St. John's Day than to be graced with the presence of Sunbeams. Mt. Pleasant Sunbeam Chapter, UD well represented as they performed a wonderful dance of praise to the melodious tune "I Love the Lord" by Whitney Houston. In addition, they articulately accepted the welcome that afternoon that was extended by the Memphis Knights of Pythagoras.



Grand Worthy Matron, Rubye B. Meeks pictured with Worthy Matron, Stacy Bougard of Mt. Pleasant Chapter #54 and members of the Memphis Sunbeams Chapter.



The unique presentation depicting St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist presented by the Memphis District of Prince Hall Masons also engaged the Memphis O.E.S. Choir. Honored Grand District Deputy Sharon Franklin graciously assisted in coordinating the music. The choir sang with much feeling and spirituality indicating that they believed in what they sang, as well as, in God's goodness. In the words of Memphis District Choir Coordinator, Sis. Chandra McKinner, "I know how good God Is."



NAMES OF JESUS

T A R M R E S U N A L N T E L B S U R L L S S H R
 O T L R H C U R C N S R T N M L R U I U I G O R H
 N R R P R R R L G L I E S O I A D M U G L R U R J
 B L I I T A B I E D R R H G I H R H A S L E S O L
 N E R G C H C R R I G T E S E E R M B U I U R O D
 I E S R N E E R E E O R E R S J O H L I S R E R A
 U E H E E A A E D A R U I I G I M A O T L R H A H
 H C I L E O G I D U D O R E E O D R O A E A R C H
 A A L N E A R E O N M E O O B R D B M U L M R R R
 U E E R E B R I B H E I M M R C F B O I T N T O R
 N H L R T L V G R M R I U E R D N H A E A D G L E
 J R R A H A N R J H A I R O O D C N B L G D C S G
 R H I D S G V O E O T S M F R N N H U R M R C R U
 G D O E S S S H I U L E A R A H T R A T I E M E I
 R A R G D R G T D T R S R R D H A L S I H G C D R
 R I C O E T A M E I C P B O R T E A E I S D S E R
 E B I O R S H E I C C E O C S E G C O U S S D N H
 D O A C U L I R R L S T R A H A A O E S N E E T L
 I N I F N N S D A N S E O R M T E I R B E A R M E
 R R O T R S S R O D R N V A U R G E M M I B M U T
 L R T O E D O E H M G R R O L S V R E V R R P M D
 E R O D R T M O L A E R M B C R E R R L A H E A E
 N R G N E A C S L O I G I R R M U R D S O H E E R
 B T B H E M B R R N R H A D R A H M T U N L R C O

ALPHA

BRANCH

BREAD

BRIDEGROOM

CHRIST

COUNSELOR

DOOR

EMMANUEL

FRIEND

GOD

JESUS

LAMB

LIGHT

MESSIAH

OMEGA

REDEEMER

RESURRECTION

SAVIOUR

STAR

TRUTH