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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251](http://www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251)

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:

W.: M.: Allan Jenkins - R.: H.: Adam Feldman - W.: Jerry M. Snell Jr. – W.: Marty Greif –  
 W.: Wade Angel – Br. Jack Jones – Br. Denis Monefeldt –  
 Br. Per-Henrik Nordstrom – Br. Carlos Perez – Br. Anthony DeLuna

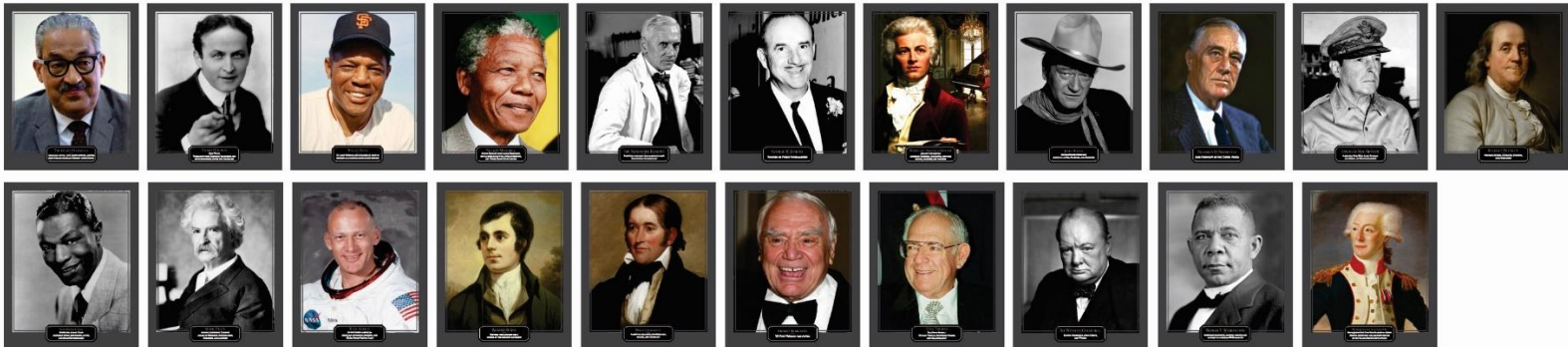


### **Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?**

The Lutz Fire Department, TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56  
 BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12 Lutz  
 Lutz Little League Baseball  
 Awards college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County  
 McKittrick Elementary School  
 “Helping Paws Program”  
 Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County)  
 De Molay (Hillsborough County)  
 Shriners’ Hospital  
 Lifepath Hospice  
 Jobs’ Daughters  
 Land O Lakes High School  
 Steinbrenner High School  
 Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg  
 Metropolitan Ministries  
 The Joshua House



If they could do the things they did then,



imagine the things that we can do now.

Thank you to **all** of our Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon

**[The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel, Palma Ceia and Community Lodge](#)**

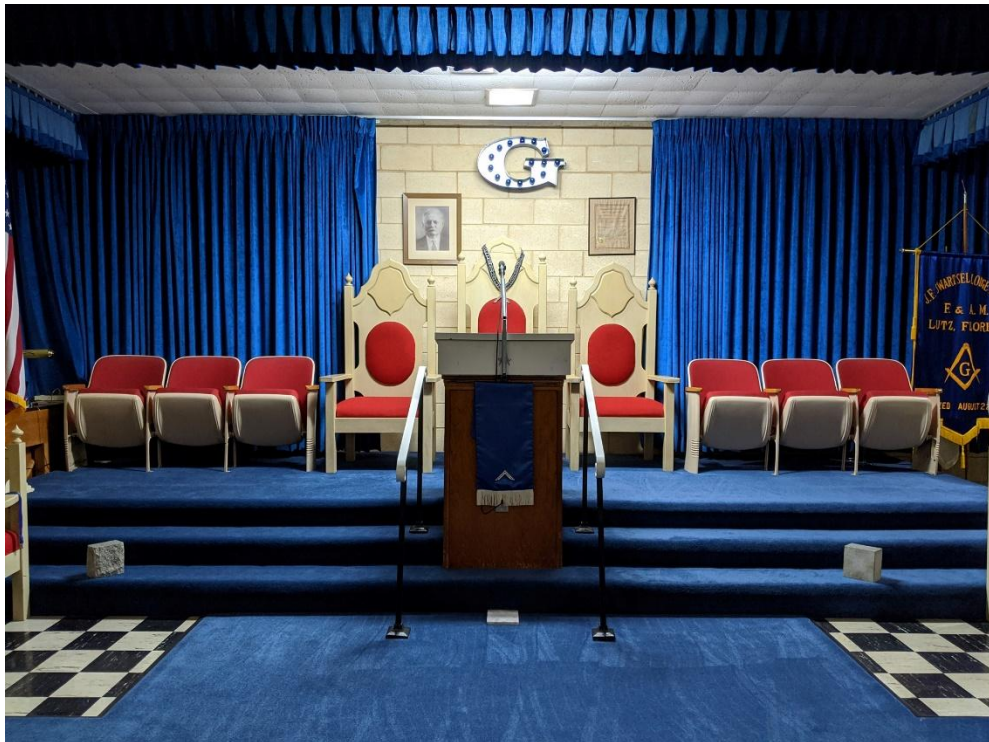
Please follow the link to our website for a complete list of past masters.

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**Your 2025 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:**

**Worshipful Master** Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins  
**Senior Warden** Brother Joe Circhirillo  
**Junior Warden** Brother Thomas Holland Overman  
**Treasurer** R .: H .: Jeffrey Thomas Sklet  
**Secretary** W .: David Bruce Lambert Sr.  
**Chaplain** Br. Jason Warren Schein  
**Marshall** W .: Brian Andrew Reach  
**Senior Deacon** Brother Jack Wilbur Jones  
**Junior Deacon** Brother Denis Graham Monefeldt  
**Senior Steward** Brother Kyle John Jesso  
**Junior Steward** Brother Jose Lao Labasbas Jr.  
**Tyler** Brother Jose Luis Valdes Jr.  
**Musician** Brother John S Nagy  
**Historian** W .: Samuel McPherson







**Please remember your Lodge boosters and thank them!**

**R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley - R.:W.: Donald R. Bell - Mark L. Lager - Daniel Allen - Brad Sollberger - Ernest P. Sidlow**



## **Chair Chatter**

### **From the Secretary: Worshipful David Lambert, Sr.**

Brethren,

**Please check your Dues Card to see if you have paid your 2025 Dues,** and If you have changed your address, please give me a call @ (813) 838-7705 or email me at [dlambert7907@gmail.com](mailto:dlambert7907@gmail.com) so I can update your records.

#### **Calendar of Important Lodge Dates:**

##### **December 2025.**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM), District 19 School of Instruction @ John Darling Masonic Center.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 6<sup>th</sup> 8:AM, J. F. Swartsel Annual Farmers Degree., (8:AM Coffee & Donuts) (9:AM Degree Starts).**
- 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction @ Universal John Darling Masonic Center.
- 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 12<sup>th</sup> 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ EGYPT Temple.
- 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM – Friendship Chapter No. 209 meeting.
- 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 19<sup>th</sup> Trestleboard Articles to W.: Allen Jenkins & W.: Jeff Sklet.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ EGYPT Shrine.**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 26<sup>th</sup> 7:PM, DeMolay.
- 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.

# From the Worshipful Master: Worshipful Allan Jenkins

## A December Message to the Craft

As we gather for the final month of the year, December offers each of us a moment of reflection—a time to look back on the path we’ve traveled together and to prepare ourselves for the work ahead. Just as the operative Mason evaluates the year’s labor before winter sets in, speculative Masons use this season to take stock of our progress in character, service, and brotherhood.

December has always held a special place in Masonic history. On December 27th, we celebrate the Feast of St. John the Evangelist—one of the traditional patron saints of Freemasonry. For centuries, lodges across the world have used this day to gather in harmony, reaffirm their devotion to the principles of light, and strengthen the bonds that hold our fraternity together. Many Grand Lodges historically held installations, cornerstone ceremonies, and moments of renewal during this time, marking December as a month of both reflection and recommitment.

The close of the year also reminds us of the countless Masonic milestones that took place in this month. On December 14, 1784, Bro. George Washington was unanimously re-elected Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 39. In the spirit of such leadership and trust, we too reaffirm our obligations to guide, support, and uplift one another. Additionally, numerous Grand Lodges were consecrated or held important communications in past Decembers, symbolizing that even as the world grows darker in winter, the Craft remains a beacon of light.

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, let us ask ourselves: *Have we labored faithfully? Have we improved ourselves, supported our lodge, and extended brotherly love wherever possible?* These questions are not meant to burden us, but to inspire continued growth.

December encourages all Masons to:

- **Reflect** on the lessons learned this year.
- **Recommit** to living the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.
- **Recognize** the efforts of our officers, committees, and brothers who carried the lodge forward.
- **Look ahead** with optimism, knowing that every new year brings fresh opportunities for light and fellowship.

Let us finish the year with gratitude, harmony, and renewed zeal. May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to bless our lodge, our families, and our work—this month and in the year to come.

Fraternally,

W.:M.: Allan A. Jenkins

## **From the Senior Warden: Brother Joe Circhirillo**

Brothers,

I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays. I know some of you are going away and some are staying here. If you're traveling please be safe. We want you to come back home.

Remember we have the Farmer's Degree on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup>. This is our last Degree for the year. I would like to see a lot of the Brothers in attendance.

I want to thank all the Brothers who helped out with the Fish Fry this past year. You are a big part of their success. We will be ready to go again in January.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fraternally,  
Brother Joe Circhirillo

## **From the Junior Warden: Brother Thomas Overman**

December 4th menu: Knors crusted parmesan chicken, baked shredded cheese potatoes, salad, cake, tea, lemonade.

December 6th degree: 8am -900 am: donuts, bagels, coffee. Lunch Publix sandwich trays, potato salad, cowboy beans, cookies.

December 18th (JWS FAREWELL DINNER): Red beans and rice with Italian sausage, broccoli, salad, carrot cake.

It's been a hoot serving you guys. The plus nobody got food poisoning.

Fraternally,  
Brother Thomas Overman

## From the Senior Deacon: Brother Jack Jones

### **The Brotherhood of Freemasonry & Why it is the \*'"Sine qua non"' of the Craft**

Our Brotherhood of Freemasonry is the oldest and most revered fraternal organization in human history; it's deeply rooted in principles of moral integrity, charity, and brotherly love. At its core, Freemasonry emphasizes personal growth, ethical conduct, and community service. Most Masonic scholars agree, that the deep and intangible sense of *real brotherhood*, bonds Freemasons with an unparalleled thirst to support one another and foster a sense of unity and trust... *\*The Essential Element of the Craft*. This is especially true at J.F. Swartsel. As Worshipful David Lambert and I many times end our discussions with, "it's ALL about the Brotherhood!"

At 'Swartsel' we work to strengthen and improve the Brotherhood, via the rigor, ritual and shared activities of our fraternity focusing on several key aspects. First, regular communication and meetings help Brothers stay connected and engaged. Second, mentorship programs are crucial for guiding newer members and sharing knowledge. Third, community outreach and charitable activities help strengthen bonds and make a positive impact. Finally, embracing diversity and inclusivity ensures that the Brotherhood remains vibrant and welcoming. We have, in 2025, packaged all of this work with the "Bow of Joy"... *let's face it we got a ton done and had fun doing it !*

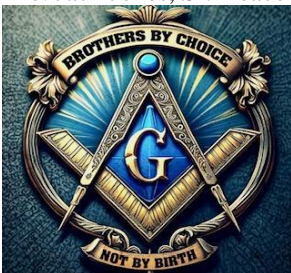
When a Lodge loses sight of the central elements of above all nourishing the Brotherhood including and encouraging Brothers to be a part of the organization. In my short time (5-years) as a Brother, I have observed and been informed of detrimental discord in other lodges and even our own beloved #251. Lack of harmony, respect and temperance creates damaging fragmentation of the brotherhood, where inuendo, gossip and disrespect ferment. This splitting into 'Cabals' of members of any Team, causes extreme negativity, thereby damaging the sense Brotherly Love and Joy. These self-serving divisions are sometimes created within the lodge by Brothers that ignore the quest for harmony and to best work and best agree. Different factions can have their own interpretations or priorities, and that can lead to conflicts or even significant contention among members. It can also make it harder to maintain a unified vision or mission, and that can weaken the overall Brotherhood. Moreover, it can sometimes cause a lack of trust, where members might feel less connected or less supported. Overall, it severely undermines that sense of unity and camaraderie that Freemasonry aims to build. *Let us work to AVOID and REJECT any type of these negative actions at Our Lodge!*

For a fraternity, team and above all a Masonic Lodge to operate as a content / well-run machine and to avoid dysfunction, a proven pattern of consistency is paramount. The progression of the line of officers in Freemasonry plays a pivotal role in fostering positive-energy and zeal for the lodge. It helps maintain continuity, ensures that officers gain experience over time, and it also promotes a sense of mentorship and stability within the Lodge. This progression definitely contributes to harmony and consistency, because it builds trust and ensures that everyone is on the same page in terms of ritual and governance. When there is a lack of leadership progression and continuity, it can lead to organizational issues. For example, new officers might not have the same level of experience or mentorship, which can cause inconsistencies in how rituals are performed or how the lodge is managed. It can also create confusion among members, lead to a lack of trust, and potentially cause discord within the lodge. Ultimately, it can undermine the lodge's stability and the overall member experience. Another key negative outcome is that intentional disruption of leadership progression can routinely lead to decreased member engagement, because if people feel like there's a lack of structure or consistency, they might not be as motivated to participate. At best, the disruption of the leadership progression is disabling and contentious. Logically, this can lead to injurious fragmentation, where different groups within the lodge might start to go in different directions...

*The Ripple Effect. ~There is no doubt that having a clear and stable line of officers in any Organization helps build trust and continuity.~*

Thank you, All My Brothers !!! Let's Stay "Swartsel Strong" and ensure that our Brotherhood is enhanced through Love and Respect, always putting the needs of our fraternity first via regular communication and open dialogue... above all, let us keep building that strong, supportive community, making sure every Brother feels connected and valued.

Fraternally,  
Bro. Jack Jones, Sr. Deacon





In honor of our 100-year anniversary, this is the original Lodge building from back in the day





## What have we been up to?

Another great stated communication! A lot of fun was had by all and we received some very informative education from W. Greif.



Some of the fun from the meeting spilled over into the post meeting celebration. I'm sure they had a toast to W. Greif to celebrate his birthday.



**HAPPY VETERANS DAY!**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SERVICE AND SACRIFICE!  
THANK YOU FOR FREEDOM!**



Annual Fishing Trip! A fantastic time had by everyone in attendance!







We had another great stated meeting! It was so good we forgot to take pictures 😞. What made it great? We balloted on two new Brothers and we had wonderful Masonic Education from R.: W.: Gil Wiseman. We then went out for more fun and fellowship after the meeting. We did take pictures 😊



H A P P Y  
*Thanksgiving*





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"Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our Brother; bright and glorious be his rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia spring which shall flourish there. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties over his resting place, and, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may his soul spring into newness of life and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear Brother, Farewell!"

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