**Hiram Lodge #50 F. & A.M.**

**January 2019 Trestle Board**

My Brothers:

As I mentioned at our stated meeting on December 17, 2018, the Trestle Boards for 2019 will be a little more philosophical & reflective rather than plugging lodge events. So here goes.

A few years ago, I put forth a message to the members of the Valley of Madison, AASR-NMJ based on the song “Man in the Mirror” popularized by singer Michael Jackson. I used it in the context and application with respect to growing membership within the Scottish Rite.

Since then, having listened to the song several hundred times, it is so much more. The song is about doing the right thing. The song starts out:

***I’m gonna make a change***

***For once in my life***

***It’s gonna feel real good***

***Gonna make a difference***

***Gonna make it right***

On its primal, literal level, the song is about a person who acknowledges that “***I’ve been a victim of a selfish kinda love***” (i.e. everything in their life) and “***It’s time that I realize*** (that)” there are those in the world less fortunate and that he needs to do something.

These and the rest of the lyrics to the song send a very powerful message to those that can comprehend. For me, it crystallizes and epitomizes what Masonry is about on so many levels. I highly encourage you to Google the lyrics and read them, understand them, embrace them, and implement them in your life.

As I write this, it is December 24, 2018 - Christmas Eve. For me, this time of year is always filled with very powerful & strong emotions. While I am fortunate to have an incredible family through my wife Anne, both of my parents as well as my brother passed away many years ago. Nevertheless, songwriters Ed Pota & George Wyle were spot on when they characterized this season as “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year”, made popular by signer Andy Williams.

A few acknowledgements going into 2019:

* I thank the Members of Hiram Lodge #50 Lodge for your confidence in me to serve you as your Worshipful Master for one more term;
* I thank the 2018 & 2019 Officers of Hiram Lodge #50 for your dedication to & support for Hiram Lodge #50 and the Masonic Fraternity; and
* I thank The Supreme Architect of the Universe for having blessed my life so much, especially for my beautiful wife Anne.

Above, I spoke of the Man in the Mirror. It is my fervent hope that every person reading this will, the next time they look in the Mirror and see the Man in it, remember these lyrics and the message penned by songwriters Glen Ballard & Siedah Garrett:

***I'm starting with the man in the mirror  
I'm asking him to change his ways  
And no message could have been any clearer  
If you wanna make the world a better place  
Take a look at yourself and then make that change***

***You gotta get it right, while you got the time***

***‘Cause when you close your heart***

***Then you close your mind…***

***…Make that Change!***

Fraternally,

Matt

Matthew M. Hughey

Worshipful Master

Hiram Lodge #50 F. & A.M.