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

**March 2019 Trestle Board**

My Brothers:

As I write this, my wife Anne & I are at our place in Hazelhurst, WI (about 200 miles due north of Madison, WI). Here, we have over four feet of snow on the ground. We received 5 more inches of the white stuff last night. Given the weather forecast, we will have sub-freezing weather for at least the next two weeks. I suspect that the snow will last well into April 2019, and then there is the approximately 1.5 feet of ice on the lake. We will be lucky to have the ice gone for opening day of fishing in May 2019. I also suspect that the rodent who predicted an early spring will not be receiving a good performance evaluation this year.

But the weather will eventually change. The official first day of spring is about three weeks away. We simply need to hold on. The same goes for our lives. We get ourselves in personal or professional situations where we simply accept or tolerate an unacceptable or intolerable situation. We forget that we control our lives. We forget that we have the power to make a change. Carnie Wilson, Chynna Phillips and Glenn Ballard knew this and memorialized it in the song “Hold On”;

***I know this pain…Why do you lock yourself up in these chains?***

***No one can change your life except for you…Don’t ever let anyone step all over you…Just open your heart and your mind…***

***You could sustain…Or are you comfortable with the pain?***

***You’ve got no one to blame for your unhappiness…You got yourself into your own mess…Don’t you think it’s worth your time to change your mind?***

***Don’t you know? Don’t you know things can change Things’ll go your way***

***If you hold on for one more day. If you hold on.***

Freemasonry can provide the moral, ethical and inspirational material to fuel that change. With each degree, we receive further instruction, further information, further guidance - further light – for us to apply to our lives. This light adds to us, complements us, gives us additional knowledge to incorporate/integrate/engrain into our daily existence.

There is a lot of stuff in and aspects of our lives that are beyond our control. But there is also a lot of stuff in aspects of our lives that are within our control. For this portion of our lives, we have our respective spiritual guidance augmented with the guidance provided by Freemasony to give us the power, the will, the determination, the courage to ***“…hold on for one more day and you Break free from the chains…”.***

My Brothers, please also remember the lyrics of ***The Man in the Mirror*** and embrace another message of Glen Ballard, this time with Siedah Garrett:

***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