

Worshipful Master
Brother Willie A. Agee, III KYCH, 33°

Senior Warden
Brother Eric Ware KT, 32°

Treasurer
Brother John Manson



Junior Warden
Brother Lawrence Jeter KT, 32°

Secretary
Brother Dominick Holland, KT

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Stewardship Report 2026

To the 17th MWGM L. Lamont Banks, RW Deputy Grand Master Spencer E. Rollins, RW Senior Grand Warden Sam Anderson Jr., DDGM Chad Ivie, Senior Warden Eric Ware, Junior Warden Lawrence Jeter, Past Masters and Brothers of Kirjathjearim Lodge #104. I Willie Agee, III, beg leave to make my stewardship report for Masonic year 2025-26. Before I begin my address, I would ask our Chaplain Brother Sharif Fields to lead us in a devotion to Deity.

State of the World

The world continues to struggle with conflict, instability, and humanitarian crises across multiple regions. The ongoing war in Gaza has resulted in tremendous suffering among civilians, with continuing international concern regarding access to food, medical supplies, and humanitarian aid. Statements made by some political figures in the region have further inflamed tensions and highlighted the dangerous consequences of dehumanization and extremism. The loss of innocent life reminds us that man's inhumanity to man remains one of the greatest challenges facing modern society.

The conflict in the Middle East has further escalated with the ongoing war involving Iran, Israel, and the United States. Military strikes, missile attacks, and rising tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear program and control of the Strait of Hormuz have increased fears of a broader regional war with worldwide economic and humanitarian consequences. The conflict has disrupted global trade, increased instability throughout the region, and heightened concern over the possibility of wider international involvement. Even amid calls for ceasefires and diplomacy, violence continues to demonstrate how fragile peace and stability remain in our modern world.

On the African continent, conflict and unrest continue in Sudan, where accusations of chemical weapon use and atrocities against civilians have drawn international condemnation. Political and racial tensions in South Africa have also generated international attention, with public debate often fueled more by rhetoric and misinformation than verified fact. Around the globe, nations continue to wrestle with war, displacement, economic uncertainty, political polarization, and declining trust in institutions.

As Masons, we are reminded that the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are needed now more than ever. In a world increasingly divided by politics, race, religion, and ideology, we must continue to advocate for justice, humanity, compassion, and the dignity of all people.

State of the Nation

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Our nation continues to experience deep political division and growing distrust between citizens and their leaders. Public discourse has increasingly become dominated by anger, misinformation, and partisan conflict rather than reasoned debate and mutual respect. Many Americans continue to struggle with rising costs of living, economic uncertainty, concerns regarding public safety, and unequal access to healthcare and opportunity.

Healthcare policy remains a major national issue as Congress continues debate surrounding Medicaid, Medicare, and federal spending priorities. The reconciliation legislation, commonly referred to as the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” has generated significant controversy due to reductions in Medicaid funding and concerns that millions of vulnerable Americans could lose access to healthcare coverage according to multiple independent analyses and medical organizations.

At the same time, many citizens feel increasingly disconnected from the democratic process and concerned about the future direction of the country. Despite these challenges, I remain hopeful that compassion, empathy, and moral leadership can still guide this nation toward a better future. As Prince Hall Masons, we must continue to exemplify integrity, charity, and service within our communities while standing firmly for justice, equality, and the dignity of all mankind.

State of the Lodge

We currently have 43 Brothers on our roster, reflecting a decrease of six Brothers suspended for nonpayment of dues. Throughout much of this Masonic year, we averaged approximately 18% attendance among our financial Brothers during stated meetings. Due to the capabilities of Grandview I was able to determine most Brothers do not read official lodge communications. This was evident as for three weeks a full years worth of dues was offered just for reading one attachment and following the instructions. The prize of one year of dues and \$50 was claimed after eligibility criteria was expanded to include Past Masters. Participation and support for Lodge activities has not reached the levels seen in previous years, and at several events the number of visitors exceeded the number of members present.

Recognizing concerns that the previous year’s Trestle Board may have been overly ambitious, this year’s calendar was intentionally streamlined to focus our energies on fewer events with greater impact and participation. While attendance and engagement still presented challenges, these realities have provided us an opportunity for reflection regarding how we can better strengthen fellowship, communication, and active participation within our Lodge. Additionally, several committee reports were submitted later than requested despite reminders, highlighting the importance of continued accountability and shared responsibility in the work of the Craft.

Despite these challenges, Kirjathjearim Lodge No. 104 has continued to labor faithfully and accomplish meaningful work within both the Fraternity and the Nashville community. Ritualistically, most elected officers

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continue to open and close the Lodge in due form from memory, demonstrating continued dedication to Masonic excellence and proficiency.

This year, we donated over \$3,000 to Tennessee State University to continue funding our scholarship initiative. In partnership with several Lodges, Order of the Eastern Star Chapters, and community organizations throughout Nashville, we provided more than 104 turkey dinners to families in need during Thanksgiving. We also contributed to the NMD can drive and donated 1,500 pairs of socks to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church to assist individuals and families facing hardship. Additionally, we participated in the 4M Ministry at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, helping provide meals and support to approximately 60 unhoused individuals.

Although our numbers and participation may fluctuate, the spirit and mission of this Lodge remain strong. Kirjathjearim Lodge No. 104 continues to strive to make a positive impact through service, charity, fellowship, and the practice of true Prince Hall Masonry. The work before us remains great, but so too is our opportunity to grow stronger together as Brothers dedicated to improving ourselves, our communities, and the world around us.

Necrology

“The last offices paid to the dead are useful only as lectures to the living. By them we are warned to prepare for our approaching dissolution.” While we have not personally experienced loss in Kirjathjearim 104 this Masonic year, Several Brothers and Sister from the Jurisdiction have passed on to that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. May light perpetual shine upon them.

Conclusion

My second year as Worshipful Master has been challenging physically, mentally, and spiritually. From the hospitalization of my daughter Rachel to the loss of several family members I appreciate the support of the Brotherhood.. Throughout these challenges, however, my love and passion for Prince Hall Masonry has only deepened through the privilege of serving as Master of Kirjathjearim Lodge No. 104.

As I prepare to conclude this chapter of my Masonic journey, I find myself reflecting on how much I will miss wearing the hat. From the time I was initiated into this Craft, there was always great significance attached to who wore the hat and the honor of presiding from the Oriental Chair. As a young Mason, I remember watching the Past Masters at the close of Lodge as the Worshipful Master would pass the hat and gavel from one Brother to another so each could deliver his lecture for the evening. In those moments, the hat represented far more than authority or position — it represented trust, wisdom, sacrifice, leadership, and a commitment to preserving our ancient landmarks and traditions.

To wear the covering of the Lodge was something I worked toward for over a decade. It was never simply about occupying a chair, but about proving myself worthy of the confidence and respect of my Brothers. As this chapter comes to a close, I know I will grieve no longer wearing the hat in Lodge. There is a profound weight

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and responsibility that comes with sitting in the East, and it is difficult to fully describe the emotions that accompany preparing to lay that responsibility down. I can only hope that during my time in the Oriental Chair I brought honor to the hat, dignity to the office of Worshipful Master, and faithful service to Kirjathjearim Lodge No. 104.

At the same time, I remain concerned about the future of our Lodge as our membership continues to contract and we have only gained one Entered Apprentice over the last two years. I pray that Brothers will take time to reexamine the rituals and ceremonies of the various Rites and rediscover the same fervency and zeal for the Craft they possessed as Entered Apprentices. Within these challenges, however, lie opportunities to reinvigorate the Craft and make a true impact upon our community.

Whether the world realizes it or not, the world needs Prince Hall Masonry. The lessons of morality, justice, self-improvement, charity, and friendship have the power to propel society toward a better state — a state where we cease to treat our fellow man as less than because of race, creed, culture, or circumstance. A state where we regard the internal and not the external; or, in the words of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “A nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

I thank the Craft for allowing me to lead this Lodge over the past two years. I thank you for your trust, your patience, your support, and for allowing me the honor of leading such an amazing band of Friends and Brothers. Whatever successes were achieved during my tenure were only possible through the labor and dedication of the Brothers who stood beside me. I will forever remain grateful for the privilege of serving this Lodge and this great Fraternity.

Please see the attached list of selected events attended over the last Masonic Year. This does not include events which I was physically unable to attend but made donations.

Fraternally Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Willie Agee, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Willie Agee, III
Worshipful Master 2025-2026

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Date	Event
8-2	104 Jazz Brunch
8-16	DDGM A.O. Mallory Last Rites & Funeral
8-24	District Installation
9-6	TN York Rite Mid Term
9-18	DDGM Visitation to 104
9-20	Senior Deacon Carwash
9-20	J.A. Henry Gold Band Ball
9-27	Lodge Hike Radnor Lake State Park
10-20	104 Visitation to Electa #1
10-25	District Secretary and Treasurer Training (Presenter)
12-5	REGC Bethea Visitation to Middle T N
12-6	AKA Holiday Party
12-6	District Christmas Party
12-9	Charity Donation to St. Vincents Outreach
12-18	104 & Electa 1 Holiday Dinner
1-17-26	District Townhall
2-28	Visitation to Greentree 781
3-7	4M ministry feeding the unhoused St. Anselms Church
3-12	Harry J. Spencer Priory #4 Session
3-13	Charles F. Williams R&SM Grand Session (Elected MIGTIM)
3-14	Austin W. Williams Grand Commandery Session
3-15	Juiett Allison Grand Chapter RAM Session (Presented HPGHP)
3-26	B.L. Hooks COD
3-29	Palm Sunday Service
4-4	Excelsior Grand Chapter Run for the Roses
4-11	G Men Sneaker Ball
4-11	Middle TN Grand Visitation
4-18	Arkansas COD
5-1	General Grand Conference Royal and Select Masters USA and Bahamas

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