



The Kentucky Keystone



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*ME Companion Wendall L. Trent
Grand High Priest Message*

Greetings fellow Companions;

I hope all is well and we are heading in the right direction for a prosperous year. That the chapters are improving their openings and degree work , without the Aid of book in hand. I Hope we are getting out into our Blue Lodges with presentations and examples of what it is to be a York rite Mason
This Past January, the Paintsville York right had a great Festival with nine new Companions exalted. I'm Looking forward to Glasgow on the 02/04/2017 and seeing the Degree work and the Companions there.

Fraternally,

Wendall L. Trent

Grand High Priest, 2016-2017

Grand High Priest Itinerary February 2017

Weather permitting, my itinerary is:

- 02/04/2017 Glasgow #45 York rite Festival
- 02/09/2017 Prestonsburg Chapter #182
- 02/10/2017 Oleika Shrine soup bean dinner
- 02/11/2017 Highland Knight Masons #104 Degree Work
- 02/15/2017 King Solomon Chapter #5
- 02/16/2017 Fort Thomas Chapter #177
- 02/18/2017 Highland York rite college #134 practice
- 02/21/2017 Morehead Council #45
- 02/25/2017 Master Mason Degree Morehead Lodge #654
- 02/28/2017 Morehead Lodge #654

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Grand Chapter History

As many of you may know, we are currently compiling the Grand Chapter of Kentucky History for publication during the General Grand Convocation this year.

Any chapter or companion that wishes to contribute any information or highlights of your chapter, please have the information to me by the end of January 2017.

We will make every effort to include as much history as possible from Kentucky and individual chapters that will highlight Kentucky on a national and international level. **Editor.**



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BEYOND ADVERSITY

**By
Howard Coop**

As the fourteenth year of my life began, things in our world looked terribly bleak. Pearl Harbor was only months in the past, World War II was raging in Europe, and each month young men I knew, in response to the draft, left home to enter the military.

That fall I enrolled as a freshman in high school, and in a class of literature, I was introduced to AS YOU LIKE IT, a play by William Shakespeare. One of the first lines in that play that caught my attention, and one I have remembered across the years, was from scene 1 in act 2. In that memorable passage, Shakespeare wrote, “Sweet are the uses of adversity,” and then he ended that passage with “and good in everything.”

At the end of each day that fall, we gathered around the radio to listen to Lowell Thomas report the devastating news from Europe as the Allied forces contended with the Axis forces. With all that was happening, I wondered, “How can there be anything sweet in adversity and how can there be good in everything?” To be honest, as an adult, I have struggled with that same question, for, with all the hardships and trouble in life, it is hard to see sweet in adversity and good in everything.

And I remembered Thanksgiving Day in 1996. Four days earlier, I had had a serious heart attack, and the next morning I was scheduled to have quintuple bypass surgery. That day, alone in the hospital room while those who had been with me were gone to have thanksgiving dinner, I saw nothing sweet in adversity. But through the skill of the surgeon, the care of the cardiologist, and the attention of a good nursing staff, things went well.

Life has been good for a little over twenty years, and I think of the words of Rosamunde Pilcher, “Beyond the pain, life continues to be sweet.” Shakespeare was right. Beyond adversity there is something sweet, and if we look for it, there is good in everything.

*Howard Coop, PM and Chaplain
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