



# The Kentucky Keystone



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

Greetings fellow Companions;

Brenda and I want to wish each and every one a Happy New year. This is the time of the year that new resolutions are placed. So let's place our own by doing all we can to improve our Local Chapters all over the Commonwealth and to continue contributing to our philanthropy (RA RA) and to improving our Degree work.

With you and me behind the wheel so to speak we can steer this Grand Chapter in the direction of improvement and envy. God Bless every one and have a wonderful year.

Fraternally,

*Wendall L. Trent*

Grand High Priest, 2016-2017

## Grand High Priest Itinerary January 2017

*Weather permitting, my itinerary is:*

1. 01/07/2017 Grand Council Meeting  
Danville KY.
2. 01/09/2017 Pikeville #133
3. 01/10/2016 Cynthiana Chapter #17
4. 01/12/2017 Lexington #01
5. 01/13-14/ 2017 Paintsville #131
6. 01/17/2017 Morehead Chapter #168
7. 01/19/2017 Frankfort Chapter #03
8. 01/21/2017 Order of the temple Morehead  
Commandery #53
9. 01/24/2017 Morehead Lodge #654
10. 01/28/2017 Grand Lodge Educational  
/Morehead Lodge #654
11. 01/31/2017 East Central Past Masters  
Society/Reno's in Morehead, KY.

## 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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## **RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION**

**By  
Howard Coop**

Have you noted? How could you miss it?

Everything is changing. There's music, joyful music, in the air. Who has not heard "Jingle Bells?" Glitter is everywhere, and everything is beautifully decorated.

There was a time when decorations were special; they were truly symbolic of the season. We decorated for Christmas. Now, decorations are merely glitter, and much symbolism points to the changing season.

The winter solstice, that time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere when the sun is farthest south of the equator, is arriving, and we have come to celebrate that arrival. In a few days, fall will pass, and winter, with colder weather, will be here. At this time of the year, we used to greet each other with, "Merry Christmas," but that has become politically incorrect. Now, it is important to be politically correct and greet each other with, "Happy holidays!" The beloved "Silent night, holy night" has been replaced with "Rudolph, the red nosed reindeer." Somebody might be offended if we stressed the traditional meaning of season. Christmas, for many, has become passé.

To the dismay of some and to the joy of others, we are witnessing the secularization of the season and the emphasis is being shifted. For centuries, we who are part of western civilization have celebrated the season as the birth of Jesus in a cattle stall behind and an old inn in Bethlehem of Judea. Now, because it is politically correct to do so, we are moving away from that tradition to replace it with emphasis upon the changing of the season and to stress secular things that will not be offensive to some.

If news reports are correct, some schools have abandoned Christmas programs and replaced them with secular programs that celebrate the winter solstice.

Christmas is "a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world." This year I, for one, will forget political correctness and join that vast number and celebrate the season as it has been celebrated for centuries.

*Howard Coop, PM and Chaplain  
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