



Lodge Officers who participated in the Danny Oates Memorial Road Race on Bedford Day. From left to right, the Officers in the photo are Gordon Huggins (Master), Robert Oates (Chaplain and father of Danny Oates), Joe Turner (Marshal), and Roy Kring (Tyler)

Bedford Masons to Host Square & Compasses Day

The Bedford Community is invited to Frank W. Thompson Lodge's Square & Compasses Day on Saturday, October 17th from 9am to 3 pm at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 25 The Great Road. Bedford Masons will be on hand to discuss the history and significance of Freemasonry and to answer any questions about joining the Fraternity. Started as the Bedford Trowel Club in 1955, Frank W. Thompson Lodge has been part of the Bedford community for over half a century. Today, in addition to collecting blood for the Red Cross, granting college scholarships, providing free eyeglasses, and sponsoring a local Boy Scout Troop; Frank W. Thompson Lodge organizes the annual child identification program (MyChip) at the fire station and the Danny Oates Road Race on Bedford Day.

Growing out of the stonemason guilds of the Middle Ages and influenced by the Age of Enlightenment of the 18th century, Freemasonry transformed the tools and techniques of the building trade into metaphors and symbols for self-improvement and community development. As a Fraternity dedicated to the principle of "making good men better," Freemasonry is open to any man over 18 regardless of nationality, religion, race, background, or opinion. Formally organized in England in 1717, Freemasonry took root in the New World in 1733 when the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was established in Boston.

Throughout history, Freemasons have contributed to society in a variety of ways, and the Fraternity has included a number of notable figures such as Benjamin Franklin, Mark Twain, WEB Du Bois, Harry S. Truman, Thurgood Marshall, and John Glenn. Starting with the Lodge's namesake, Frank W. Thompson, a chaplain at both the First Church of Christ and the Bedford VA Hospital, Bedford Masons have proudly embraced this legacy of community service and welcome any civic-minded men who would like to join them.

For more information about Frank W. Thompson Lodge, please visit our website at www.fwthompson.org; or, for general information about Freemasonry, check out the Grand Lodge of Masons of Massachusetts at www.massfreemasonry.org.