

# Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge

## F. & A. M. of Mississippi

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**Tonie L. Crisler 33<sup>o</sup>, Grand Master**

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IVAN SMITH  
Right Worshipful Grand Trustee  
214 Stewart Drive  
Raymond, MS 39154

# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 1

## January 2, 2026

**TO:** Elected Officers of M. W. Stringer Grand Lodge/John L. Webb Grand High Court Officers, Regional Grand Lecturers, District Grand Lecturers, Male & Females, Grand Trustee, District Mother's Mary, and Elected Officers of Maurice Lucas Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Stars, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Mississippi

*"Every exit is an entry somewhere else."*

### GREETINGS,

**Happy New Year.** I pray that God has blessed each of you with good health and a renewed spirit as we embark upon the New Year, 2026.

After twenty-one years of faithful and distinguished leadership, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Most Worshipful Grand Master Maurice F. Lucas** for his unwavering service to this Jurisdiction. We thank him for his dedication, sacrifice, and steadfast guidance, and we pray that God will richly bless him as he enjoys a well-earned retirement.

I am eternally grateful and deeply humbled by the confidence you placed in me by electing me to serve as Most Worshipful Grand Master. This honor is both profound and sacred, and I offer my sincere thanks for entrusting me to represent you and the great State of Mississippi in the esteemed role of Conservator of Masonry, Grand Master of this Jurisdiction. I thank God for using each of you as instruments in making this moment possible. To Him be all honor, all praise, and all glory for granting me this opportunity to serve and to lead this Jurisdiction on what I believe will be a meaningful and transformative journey.

My journey in Masonry began in 1987 at Sanderson Lodge No. 22. It was there that I was afforded the opportunity to learn, to practice, to grow, and to mature—developing the leadership qualities necessary to one day lead this

great organization. Looking back, it is truly remarkable to witness God's providence so clearly at work throughout the years.

In 1999, I traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, where I was elevated to the Thirty-Third Degree of Masonry. During that Grand Assembly, Sovereign Grand Commander Edgar Bridges did something that has remained indelibly etched in my heart. He asked all the brethren from Mississippi to stand and introduced us to the Grand Body. As we were seated, he paused and instructed me alone to stand again. He then declared before that great assembly that one day I would lead the State of Mississippi as Grand Master. Today, those prophetic words have been fulfilled. I stand in awe of God's visible power in a world that too often overlooks the miracles that unfold before us each day.

Once again, I thank you for your trust and confidence. In the days ahead, we will communicate frequently as we set the Trestle board in order and begin the important work before us—work for our communities, for our families, and for the glory of the Lord. I look forward to serving you faithfully, and I am confident that with God's guidance, we will achieve great success together.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless each of you.

**Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed this 2nd day of January, A.L. 6026.**

Tonie L. Crisler  
Most Worshipful Grand Master  
M. W. Stringer Grand Lodge  
Free & Accepted Mason of Mississippi