



The Ashlar



April 2016

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
www.kempsvill lodge.org

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Spring...Raised to New Life

Spring has sprung. We have passed the Vernal Equinox on March 19th. Our world is about to get very green and our days lengthen. Tradition says that the Earth awakens from her winter slumber. Cold, gray days turn into warmer, colorful days. As the earth changes, so do we. We become more active, anxious to get out and do things. We plan gardens, fix-it projects, vacations. Life changes.

So it is for us in Masonry. Our teachings are ripe with allegory about changes: "the Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations in life." Our three degrees allude to Youth, Manhood, and Old Age. The scripture that is used in one of our degrees states, "for there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease." We even have that slogan, "Masonry takes good men and makes them better." Change is a given.

We strive to improve ourselves in Masonry. That is the reason we attend Stated Meetings, to hear an inspired address. That is the reason we attend degree work, to hear the lessons again, and gain new insights through those time-tested words. We hope to rise to new heights. Often, we are cut down. This could be in body, or in mind or in spirit. Yet, Spring does come. We are rejuvenated. We sprout again.

As bulbs push through the ground and green leaves sprout from what appears to be dead wood, we are reminded of our being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Recall that strong grip that got you started. Remember those five points of fellowship and the duties to which they alluded: feet, knees, breasts, arms, and mouths. Perhaps earlier in your Masonic career your feet and arms were of more use to the lodge. Now, your "kind words" and "devotion to Deity" may be what you are best at giving.



For those brethren professing Christianity, it is the Easter season. New life. As the Great Light in Masonry teaches, "He is risen, as he said." The gospel hymn says "He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way." And as Masonry teaches, he has gone to prepare for us "that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Change, and live like that is your destination.

From The East



It is hard to believe that we are a quarter of the way through the Masonic year. We were installed just before the Winter solstice and now it is Spring. Talking with other Masters, it is good to have three meetings under our belts, and to feel our lodges are moving in the right directions.

I was proud to represent our lodge at the Eastern Star and DeMolay Installations last month. In fact, it is a pleasure to go anywhere and represent

Kempsville Lodge. The officers and brethren have given us a fine reputation and it is a special honor to be your Master.

I regret that the trip to Pennsylvania was postponed. Poor planning on my part. I was only thinking about the week after Easter and not realizing that it was the fifth week of the month, and very few lodges work on such a week. We hope to reschedule when we can see Pennsylvania ritual work. Meanwhile, join me in travelling to other lodges in the area to see what is going on in Masonry.

Please come out on Saturday, April 9th at Lake Drummond Lodge and Monday, April 11th at our own lodge building to support our lodge and district at the ritual schools. Seeing the ritual done well is always a joy and the fellowship is an added bonus. After two excellent programs on music in January and March, we turn to Education and welcome the Grand Provost, Worshipful Paul Miller to our Stated Meeting on the 12th.

Brother Scott Foxwell, Worshipful Master

From The West



Another Ashlar article and another month at sea for yours truly. I don't think I will ever get tired of coming out here and interacting with the young sailors, they are truly the Pride of America and the work that they do is extremely vital to the freedom that we each enjoy.

Did you know that there have been 7 Army or Air Force Generals who held the rank of 5 stars and 6 of the 7 were Freemasons. Additionally there have been 4 Navy Admirals who held the rank of 5 stars and 1 of these (Fleet Admiral Earnest J King) was a Freemason.

Fleet Admiral King received his Masonic degrees in 1935 in George C. Whiting Lodge #22 (now Potomac Lodge No. 5) in Washington, DC. He received his Royal Arch degrees in 1938 in San Diego, California. Additionally, he was a member of the Knight Templar Commandery and the Al Koran Shrine in Cleveland, Ohio.

I hope this note finds you all well and in high spirits. If you have the time feel free to drop me a note at gregory.muir@cvn69.navy.mil. I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Senior Warden

From The South



Degree work at Kempsville Lodge continues to keep us busy on Tuesday nights. It is wonderful to see everyone in action at their stations and places. I know I am biased, but I must say the degree work has been very tight. This doesn't happen by accident. It takes practice and dedication and a great lodge instructor of work. To that end, I want to thank Right Worshipful Tom McGowan for not only imparting his wisdom and instruction but for making our Monday night schools fun and entertaining. They say you get out

of Masonry what you put into it and I can't think of a better way to draw satisfaction than participating in degree work. It is both rewarding and satisfying. If you are interested in being on a degree team just let me know. If you have hesitated in the past because you feel you lack proficiency please don't worry. We will coach you up and not put you in the line-up until you are ready. Lastly, as we strive to have perfect, air-tight degree work we must always remember that the most important person of the evening is the candidate.

Brother Chris Anders, Junior Warden

Wanted...

Pinestraw. Whether it is yours or a neighbors, please let us know if we can have it. We need it to make the flower beds around the lodge look better. We have youth who have said they can come rake it. We need to know where that is.

Brethren interested in assisting with the Child ID program of the Grand Lodge. Our district plans events and asks for volunteers from our lodge to assist. If this program interests you, please let us know. It is an excellent community outreach program.

Trestleboard

March 29	Spring Past Masters Night, 7PM
April 5	Master Mason Degree, 7PM
April 9	C. Frank Hicks Area Ritual School Districts 36/56 at Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, 9AM
April 11	James H. Parkerson Area Ritual School Districts 36/56, 6PM
April 12	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
April 18	District Blood Drive, 2-7PM
April 19	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
April 22	Grand Master's Official District Visiting Bayside Lodge No. 218, 6PM
April 30	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
May 10	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at www.kempsvillelodge.org.

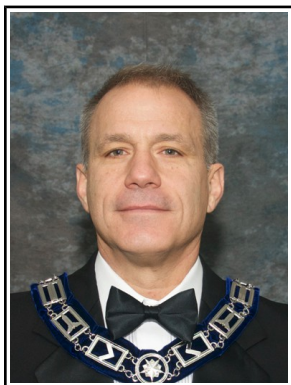
33rd Annual Bull Roast - June 4th

I am excited to report that The 33rd Annual Bull Roast is fast approaching. Consider this your official Save the Date notice. In addition to all the fun and fellowship we enjoy, this event supports the Masonic Home of Virginia, the Kempsville Lodge Scholarship program, and our building fund.

These are all great causes and your financial support is much appreciated. Brethren your time and talent is once again needed. It takes on average about 90 hard-working masons to pull off this event. To that end I have begun the task of filling out the Bull Roast roster. We need to staff the BBQ Pit, Kitchen, Dining Hall, Takeout, Delivery, Dessert, and Clean-up crews. If you are interested in helping please let me know either in person, by e-mail at chrisanders1@gmail.com or by phone at 635-7617. Whether you've helped in the past or you'll be a first timer we will put you to work! We really need your support to make our biggest fundraiser a success!

Brother Chris Anders
Bull Roast Chairman

Meet Your New Musician



Brother John Robert Settle III is another member of the Masonic Class of 2015, joining fellow officers T-Rex and Mike Denning. J3's son is also an officer [who we will meet next month] and his father recently passed to the Celestial Lodge. While J3 is not musical, nor does he play a musical instrument, he agreed to fill

this important position for me this year by being the "Lodge DJ." He is tech savvy enough to find music on the internet, download it, and have it ready to go for our meetings. We appreciate his creativity and look forward to his musical offerings.

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in April:

Cheryl Farrer	April 2 nd
Patricia Quinton	April 4 th
Judith Naprstek	April 7 th
Sherry Vancampen	April 7 th
Rita Kelberg	April 14 th
Virginia Joiner	April 17 th
Mary Lou Cochran	April 20 th
Paige Mason	April 29 th

If any of our ladies are in need of assistance from the Lodge, please don't hesitate to contact Right Worshipful Bill Knowles or the Secretary.

It is a Good Thing to Give Thanks

...Thanks to Worshipful Bill Peterson for continuing to head up the Stratford Park clean-up. Assisting him in this community service project were Worshipful Bob Stanek, Brother Mike Denning, and Brother Dennis DiMaggio.

...Thanks to Brothers Bud Marchman and Jack Bell for the excellent meals they plan and prepare [with the assistance of our Senior Steward, Dennis Eaton]. Our Junior Steward, Todd Moissett was also a huge help with preparation and clean-up along with the ever-reliable Dave T-rex.

...Thanks to the Past Masters who came out for Past Masters night and for our Junior Deacon who did such a fine job preparing the evening. Let's do it again in the Fall!

Masonic Birthdays for April

Charles R. Bateman, Jr. '14	Todd C. Moissett '11
Stephen Darrell Bement '81	Michael Roy Moseler '72
David Edward Boyd '88	Richard Earl Neisinger '74
Jaime Cabeza '04	Thomas A. Niedermeier '80
Constantine G. Carras '03	Brian Edward Parton '01
Allen Kenneth Chandler '87	Emmett R. Reynolds '11
S. Ray Connard '91	George F. Roberts, Jr. '64
Dennis Lee Driscoll '02	Alaric James Roche, Jr. '64
Louis Page Dunn '77	Cristian C. Rodriguez '04
Aaron Jacob Dyer '12	Michael Allan Sachs '88
Thomas C. England '11	John Robert Settle, III '12
Christopher M. Favata '10	Michael Lee Smith, Sr. '82
Jason Fletchall-Silva '14	William E. Spruill, Sr. '67
Justin Allen Flowers '12	John Peyton Stublen, Jr. '76
Lemuel David Foxwell '75	Charlie B. Taylor, Sr. '59
George Louis Gunter '69	Robert James Tidwell '77
Warren Cord Massey '50	David M. Trzeciakiewicz '15
Joseph Henry McCoy, Jr. '62	Christopher Allan Urick '12
Alton Larkin McKeithan '50	Thomas G. Webber, Sr. '63
Terrence P. McNally '78	Samuel Grant Welty '05

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,113 years in Masonry!

Blood Program

Effective May 2016, the Food and Drug Administration is increasing the minimum acceptable hemoglobin level for male blood and platelet donors from 12.5 g/dL to 13.0 g/dL. This new criteria will be implemented by all blood centers. This week, some donors will begin receiving communication from the American Red Cross in regards to this upcoming change.

The Red Cross tests all donors' hemoglobin levels prior to a donation to ensure they have a high enough level to be able to give blood safely.

Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that contains iron and gives blood its red color. It is responsible for carrying oxygen from your lungs to nourish the tissues throughout the body.

Our next drive is at Kempsville Lodge on April 18th and sponsored by our lodge. I could use some help at noon to set up the tables for the drive and then some kitchen and service help during the drive. One or two brothers to assist to reset the dining area after the drive is complete at 7PM.

Patrick Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

The Elements of Masonic Strength

Some lodges are small, and some are large; some are poor, and some are rich; some are weak, and some are strong; some are declining, and some are increasing; some are Masonically dead, and some are full of Masonic life. The facts are the same in all jurisdictions, and have been the same through all periods of time. There were feeble Masonic associations in the days of the origin of Masonry, and there were those that were flourishing.

Many of the causes of feebleness are wholly external to the lodge, and the lodge is not responsible for them—such as a sparse population, and a community bitterly opposed to the fraternity. The Grand Lodge must take things as it finds them, and do the best that circumstances will allow. Such lodges should receive aid and sympathy, and not censure.

But the causes of feebleness are generally internal. They are found quite often in the character of the

individuals composing the lodge. The truth is—to be strongly asserted and deeply felt—that feeble, selfish, inconsistent Masons, make feeble lodges. Energetic Masons, full of good works and devotion to Masonic principles, whether rich or poor, few or many in number, constitute the strong lodges. It is not money, nor talent, nor position, that gives strength, but ready hands, warm hearts, and willing minds. It is not the want of money which produces weakness, but the want of disposition to use it.

T. S. Parvin, The Evergreen, December 1872
submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Senior Warden	Greg Muir	676-3761
Junior Warden	Chris Anders	635-7617
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Junior Deacon	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Senior Steward	Dennis Eaton	499-6720
Junior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Chaplain	Mike Denning	651-0712
Musician	John Settle, III	478-7149
Marshal	John Settle, IV	478-7149
Tiler	Ray Baez, Jr.	285-2611
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Steve Ridgeway	270-7338
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539

Articles for the next Ashlar should be submitted by the 18th of each month to
Right Worshipful Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or
Worshipful Bob Stanek (bob.stanek@gmail.com)



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