



The Ashlar



December 2016

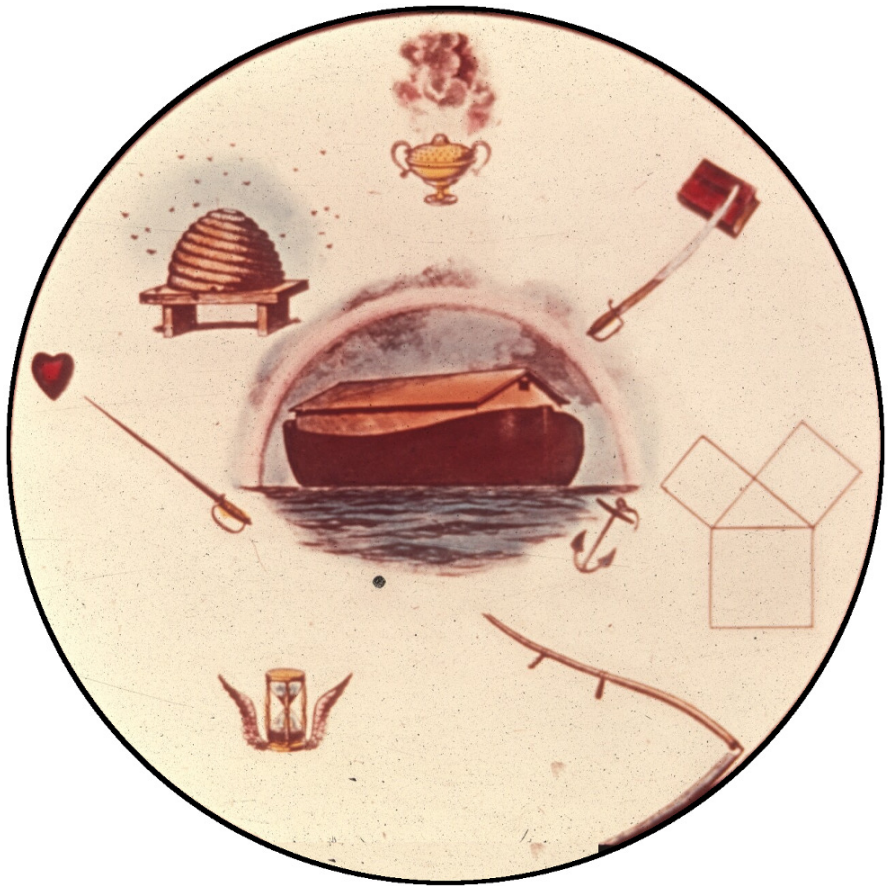
Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
www.kempsvilleglodge.org

Volume 63-12

Last Things

In our January issue, we began with an article on Prayer. For our last issue of the year, we look to the end. Both of our prayers at the beginning and conclusion of our meetings mention “the end.” The opening prayer asks for more light and knowledge, and concludes with “that when the trials of our probationary state are over, we may be admitted into the Temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” The chaplain prays at the end of our meetings “that we may finally obtain thy promises, and find an entrance through the gates into the Temple and City of our God.” We need to always keep our destination in mind.

At the end of each of our three degrees are the lectures and charges. The Master Mason’s Lecture concludes with three emblems and lessons: The Hour-Glass; The Scythe; and the Setting Mall, Spade, Coffin, and Sprig of Acacia. Few of us sit around and contemplate our deaths. Yet, all of us should live as if each day could be our last. Like the sands in the hour-glass, all too soon, time has passed. From the lecture on the Scythe, “We must soon be cut down by the all-devouring Scythe of Time and be gathered unto the land where our fathers have gone before us.” It always gives me a pleasant feeling to hear the lecturer say, “This brings us to the tenth and final class of emblems.” However, most of these can be gloomy and depressing. Solemn thoughts of Death, indeed. “But the Master Mason is suddenly revived by the ever green and ever living Sprig of Faith in the merits of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, which strengthens us with confidence and composure to look forward to a glorious immortality beyond the grave.”



Meanwhile, as we go through life, let us focus on two other emblems from the Master Mason’s Lecture: The Anchor and Ark. “These are emblems of a well-grounded hope and a well-spent life. They are emblematic of that Divine Ark which safely wafts us over this tempestuous sea of troubles, and that Anchor which shall safely moor us in a peaceful harbor, where the wicked cease from troubling and where the weary shall find rest.” There have been bumps and waves during the past year. There will always be those difficult times which define us in how we deal with them. As another year comes to an end, we continue to pray. We are thankful for all that has been accomplished and shall strive to do that which has been left undone. Our minds are kept focused on being fitted for that spiritual building – that house not made with hands – eternal in the heavens. Hopefully, these articles and our activities this past year have helped in that continual task.

From The East



As Carol Burnett sang at the end of her show, "I'm so glad we had this time together, just to have a laugh and sing a song. Seems we just get started, and before you know it, comes the time we have to say 'so long.'" We've had a great year. Thanks to everyone who helped make it thus! There are two more chances to help: On Saturday morning, December 10th, we are meeting at the lodge for Brunch and Delivery of the Poinsettias to the Widows; on Monday and Tuesday the 12th and 13th, we are preparing dinner for the Annual Stated.

I was so proud to be asked to stand twice as your Worshipful Master at The Grand Annual Communication: once as one of the 44 lodges in the state to receive the James Noah Hillman award; and once for being one of the few lodges to have all elected officers attend the District Leadership Conference! Our Wardens and Deacons were in attendance at Grand Lodge, too as our lodge was honored. They have been great officers and supports. It was also a joy to reconnect with many brethren from across the state that I have met during my journey to the East and through many visits this year. We have more chances for fellowship in our district with the Annual Stated Meetings as noted in the Trestleboard. Be here on the 13th for our final meeting of the year.

Brother Scott Foxwell, Worshipful Master

From The West



November was a wonderful Masonic Month for me. I accompanied Worshipful Scott and other officers to Richmond for the Grand Annual Communication. This was my first time going to Grand Lodge but it won't be my last. Additionally, I attended a Master Mason degree in Union Lodge 48, my family Lodge in Elkton, MD; too bad that I didn't have the time to go up to Pat's Steaks in Philly for a steak sandwich, maybe next time. Make no mistake, 9th and Wharton in Philadelphia is where The Lord created the steak sandwich!

Now it's December, which brings collards, the Annual Stated, the Installation, and our celebration of the birth of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What a wonderful month of fellowship for us Masons, and for family celebration in our homes. These occasions should definitely drive home the

truth that time is way more valuable than money.

I encourage each of you to take full advantage of these opportunities to sit back and soak in the treasures which each of you have been given. I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Senior Warden

From The South



It's hard to believe that December is here and the year is coming to a close. For me it has certainly been an enjoyable year in our Lodge. One area of note, no pun intended, was the increased music in the Lodge.

Worshipful Scott Foxwell did not disappoint in keeping with his theme, Music and Education. Bravo, Worshipful!!

Keeping with Kempsville Lodge tradition, we were very busy in 2016. There were forty-eight Tuesday nights from January through November. We initiated eleven new Masons, passed ten to the Degree of Fellowcraft, and raised eight to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. We exemplified a Musical Master Mason's degree, which by the way was very nicely done. Add to that eleven Stated Communications and we were in Lodge on forty-one of the forty-eight Tuesday nights. That means we were dark only seven Tuesday nights. I'd say that was a very busy and exciting year.

I know I did so in the November Ashlar but I want to again thank every brother who participated in degree work this year. It was truly exciting to put degree teams together. It was an easy task having so many eager and qualified ritualists. It is so wonderful to be a member of a lodge that cares deeply about Masonic Ritual. This is evidenced by the commitment, dedication, and effort shown by every brother who played a role in degree work. A special thanks goes to Right Worshipful Tom McGowan for his leadership and instruction and to all the Past Masters for their guidance and support. I would be remiss if I didn't mention and thank the brothers who coached our candidates through their various degrees. You guys are the unsung heroes of the Lodge. It takes great commitment and dedication to not only coach a new Mason but be his connection to the Lodge during the very crucial early days as a Mason. Thank you again and I am looking forward to 2017!

Brother Chris Anders, Junior Warden

Trestleboard

December 1	Bayside Lodge No. 218 Annual Stated, 6:30PM
December 6	Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 296 Annual Stated, 6:30PM
December 7	Princess Anne Lodge No. 25 Annual Stated, 6PM
December 8	Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220 Annual Stated, 6PM
December 13	Kempsville Lodge No. 196 Annual Stated Communication Lodge 6PM, Dinner 7PM
December 14	Virginia Beach Lodge No. 274 Annual Stated, 6:30PM
December 17 ..	Open Installation of Officers, 11AM
December 19	District Blood Drive Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220, 3-7PM
January 10	Stated Communication District Deputy Grand Master Official Visit

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

The Secretary's Desk

It's December, and your "2016" dues card will expire on December 31st. Thanks to all who have already sent their 2017 annual dues. If you haven't paid your 2017 dues yet, please do so soon. Your "2017" dues card will be returned as soon as your dues are received. Thank you for prompt attention to this important matter.

Also, in an effort to save postage/ mailing fees, if you are able to read the monthly issue of "The Ashlar" on the lodge website, please let the Secretary know to delete you from the "snail-mail" mailing list. Go here to read current and past issues of "The Ashlar":

kempsvillegorge.org/museum/newsletters/

Any money saved is a savings to the lodge operating budget. Thank you for consideration.

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Masonic Birthdays for December

Duke Duane Allen '63	Jessie Robert Ritchie '92
Timothy R. Berkhimer '02	Roger James Rowe, Jr. '92
Lincoln Figuereo '01	Robert M. Shelburne '61
Ejnar Olaf Jorgensen '53	James Reginald Smith '94
Rubin Kravitz '60	David Howard Weast '87
Timothy Miles Maguire '01	Ricky Trevor West '83

The Brethren shown above have a total of 403 years in Masonry!

Masonic Blood Program

Kempsville Lodge is off to a grand start toward our 2017 Blood drive goals. Worshipful Michael Johnstone and I donate blood platelets on a regular schedule of once or twice per month that has put Kempsville way ahead of our expected goals so far. There is a blood drive at Lynnhaven Lodge on December 19th from 3-7PM. It is starting an hour later because of scheduling conflicts. Please take time in your busy holiday shopping schedule to give the gift of life!

Patrick Blankenship, Lodge Blood Coordinator

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in December:

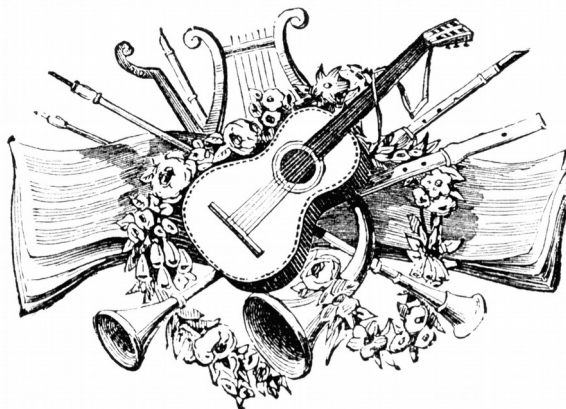
Carolyn Harrison
Peggy McGuire

December 1st
December 10th

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.

Meet the New District Deputy Grand Master

Our own Worshipful Steve Alan Ridgeway was Bayside's nomination [having served as their Worshipful Master in 2011] for the position of District Deputy Grand Master in 2017 and was installed at The Grand Annual Communication on Saturday, November 12th. He will make his official visit at our Stated Meeting in January. We wish Right Worshipful Steve all the best as he represents the Grand Master in the 56th Masonic District.



Something to Think About

I want you to close your eyes and picture in your mind the soldier at Valley Forge. He holds his musket in his bloody hands. He stands barefoot in the snow, starved from lack of food, wounded from months of battle and emotionally scarred from the eternity away from his family surrounded by nothing but death and carnage of war. He stands though, with fire in his eyes and victory on his breath. He looks at us now in anger and disgust and tells us this ---

I gave you a birthright of freedom born in the constitution and now your children graduate too illiterate to read it. I fought in the snow barefoot to give you the freedom to vote and you stay at home because it rains. I left my family destitute to give you the freedom of speech and you remain silent on critical issues, because it might be bad for business. I orphaned my children to give you a government to serve you and it has stolen democracy from the people. It's the soldier, not the poet who gives you the freedom of speech. It's the soldier, not the campus organizer who allows you to demonstrate. It's the soldier who salutes the flag, serves the flag, and whose coffin is draped with the flag that allows the protester to burn the flag! Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

From a sermon by Rev. John Hagee
Submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

Final Thanks

To Worshipful Bill Peterson and Worshipful Bob Stanek for cleaning the park in November.

To Clif Smith and Communique Printing for the gift of color, which made our newsletter look more appealing.

To Buddy Pate for his expertise in putting together the newsletter each month.

To Bethel 42, International Order of Job's Daughters for their \$300 contribution to the Lodge Building Fund.

To all the Brethren for their generous responses to the Building Fund Appeal.

Brother Scott Foxwell, Worshipful Master

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	675-9695
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

