



# The Ashlar



May 2023

**Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.**  
**[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org)**

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## The Three Lesser Lights

When an initiate is first brought to light, the radiance comes from the Three Lesser Lights, which form a triangle about or near the altar.

Lesser Lights are lit when the lodge is opened and the altar arranged, and extinguished when the lodge is closed and the Great Lights displaced. Something – not very much – is said of them in the ritual. They form one of those symbols in Freemasonry – of which there are so many! – which the individual brother is supposed to examine and translate for himself, getting from it what he can and enjoying what he gets in direct proportion to the amount of labor and thought he is willing to devote to the process of extracting the meaning from the outer covering. In some jurisdictions, the Lesser Lights are closely about the altar; in others one is placed at each of the stations of the three Principal Officers. In some lodges the Three Lesser Lights form a right, in others an equilateral, in others an isosceles triangle. What is uniform throughout the Masonic world is the triangular formation; what is different is the shape and size of the triangle.



The triangle, like the circle, is without beginning or ending. One line, or two lines, have ends. They start and finish. Like the square or the five or more sided figure, the triangle has no loose ends. And the triangle is the first of these which can be made; as God was always considered as first, and also as without either beginning or ending, the triangle itself soon became a symbol of Deity. In the lodges of today the three lesser lights represent the Sun, Moon, and Worshipful Master. The Worshipful Master rules and governs his lodge as truly as the Sun and Moon rule and govern day and night. There can be no lodge without a Worshipful Master; he is, in a very real sense, the lodge itself.

There are some things he cannot do that the brethren under him can do. But without him the brethren can do nothing, while without the Brethren's consent or even their assistance, he can do much. As one of the principal functions of the Worshipful Master is to give 'good and wholesome instruction' to his lodge, the inclusion of one light as his symbol is but a logical carrying out of that Masonic doctrine which makes the East the source of Masonic light to the brethren. By the light of the Lesser Lights the Entered Apprentice is led to see those objects which mean so much to a Mason, the Great Lights; the inestimable gift of God to man as the rule and guide for his faith and practice, the tools dedicated to the Craft and to the Master, the Alpha and Omega of Freemasonry.

Light alone is not enough; light must be used! Here, too, is symbolism which it is well to muse upon.

As the lodge as a whole is a symbol of the world, so should a Mason's heart be to him always a symbol of the lodge. In it he should carry ever what he may remember of the Great Light and with spiritual compasses lay out his work; with spiritual square, square both work and actions toward all mankind, 'more especially a brother Mason'. Therefore, must he carry also in his heart three tiny Lesser Lights, by the light of which he uses his spiritual lodge furnishings. If he lights these from the torch of love and burns one for friendliness, one for helpfulness and one for godliness, he will be truly an initiate in the real sense of that term, and about the altar of Freemasonry find a new satisfaction in the new meanings which the Three Lesser Lights will, with silent light and soft, imprint upon his heart.

## From The East



What an active month Kempsville has had in April. We have conferred degrees both by the traditional method and by the One-Day conferral. Your officers proudly represented

Kempsville in the Parkinson/Hicks schools as well as participating in floor work and mentoring new master masons from the One-Day Conferral. For the first time we are conducting a class type of instruction in a modified alternate method to assist in welcoming our new brothers as active members of Kempsville.

We will be conducting classes on masonry in general over the next couple of months. Please feel free to come and participate after Saturday morning fellowship.

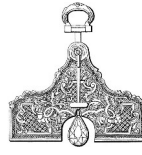
Remember, Brethren, that a ballot will be called for the dues increase modification to the bylaws. Discussion was called for in open lodge during the May stated, laid over for 30 days and then voted on by voice vote during the June stated. If carried by the lodge, a modification to the bylaws will be forwarded to the DDGM to send to the GL and take effect 1 January 2024. This was pushed by one month to accommodate the visit of our English Brethren.

We have many fun lodge events planned yet to come. The Bull Roast, Lodge Picnic, and Table Lodge just to mention a few. In supporting our youth, they are putting on a "Mock Masonic Lodge" the award winning "Jacques DeMolay Play" at our stated meetings and putting on a play about the Wizard of Oz.

With the help of Brother Hughes and Brother Jamal we have awarded a Community Builder's Award, Two youth scholarships for \$500, and have other special awards in the works. Brother Dunn is helping me keep on track for the Noah Hillman Award and Brother Draper the Morlock Award and Brother Mike Blankenship is diligently striving for the Samuel J Levi Award as he has every year.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Worshipful Master

## From The West



My Own Confession

I am here to confess my own former bias. You know, there are so many times in life we have biases and don't even recognize them. These are called unconscious bias. I wanted to share a realization of mine that has just recently hit me like a truck. In masonry there are really three ways a candidate can advance through the degrees, traditional method (man to man, word for word memorization, the Alternative method which allows for candidates who just can not do the memory work but are by far a great candidate for our fraternity and of course the ever controversial one day conferral. I will admit that I have not been a fan of the ODC feeling that it was a way to get through the degrees without putting in any of the work! The nerve! That was truly a narrow minded thought on my part! First of all the one day conferral method allows for example a sailor who may be getting deployed, to advance to Master Mason without the potentially months long separation due to his duty to our country. In fact, our current Grand Master is a product of a One Day Conferral. The statistics show that the percentage of brothers who demit or just leave the craft is no greater from brethren who have taken the one day conferral to any one particular method over the others. We must all remember where we were first prepared to be a mason! With the One Day Conferral fast approaching, we have several candidates whom will be participating. Additionally each will have a mentor present with him the entire day as well as Worshipful Pat and myself, Br Howard Draper, Br Bob Hughes and others participating in the ritual work that day. So I ask you to please forgive my former bias against the alternative methods! A brother is a brother no matter which approved method he traveled!

Brother Doug Dunn, Senior Warden

## From The South



The journey in Freemasonry is one of discovery and enjoyment and our purpose is to make good men better. At the start of the Initiation Ceremony, the candidate is assured that he can safely follow his conductor, no danger will befall upon him, and so begins a symbolical journey from darkness to light, from ignorance to Masonic Knowledge.

The work of the Mentor is to be the new mason's guide, leader and coach once the ceremony has finished – to explain not only the workings, traditions and organization of our Institution, but also to lift the veil of allegory and reveal the meaning behind the symbols so that the new mason can enjoy and understand the organization that he has joined.

As a coach the Mentor ensures that the candidate arrives on time, properly dressed and mentally prepared. He teaches the candidate his examination and obligations. Please keep in mind that each candidate is an Individual and as such each will require more or less time as circumstances present themselves. This candidate will become your brother.

Each of us in masonry is a living stone, created and placed by the hands of the previous mason who shaped and crafted us. The mentor who handed us our working tools and helped us chip off those first rough corners. This creates that one common mass or whole, that building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. "A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." — Greek Proverb, and by Mentoring we plant those trees for the lodge and the future.

Our lodge needs mentors, we need to help shape men and make men better. I ask you to take up your working tools once again and step back to the works that need to be done. If you wish to mentor, please let me know, we have a slate of candidate yearning for light, and you can be that shining beacon of hope.

Brother Mike Turner, Junior Warden

## Trestle Board

May 9 .....	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
May 20 .....	39 <sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Roast, 11AM-5PM
May 23 .....	Fellowcraft Degree, 6:30PM
May 27 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
June 13 .....	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
June 17 .....	Table Lodge, 7PM
June 24 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

## Masonic Birthdays for May

Christopher Anders, Jr. '11	Joseph W. Miechle '09
Brandon R. Angel '07	Leslie H. Miller '72
George R. Bunch, Sr. '82	Steve T. Miller '71
Kevin T. Cotter '11	Larry Montgomery, Jr. '97
Wayne C. DeFord '93	Stanley D. Moss '96
Frank Filippone '15	Daniel F. Oliver '14
James O. Freeman '74	John H. Phillips '18
J. Timothy Freihofer '15	Gregory K. Pruitt '02
Billy F. Gordon, Jr. '03	Christopher Robertson '13
Herbert T. Gordon '86	Jimmy B. Shehan '97
Adam Hernandez '07	Larry L. Strait, Jr. '12
Monte P. Howell '70	Russell P. Tjepkema '85
Ross O. McLeod '06	William O. Wyndham, Jr. '83

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in May:

Willie Salih	May 5 <sup>th</sup>
Bonnie Fitzgerald	May 9 <sup>th</sup>
Lorrisa Ambrose	May 19 <sup>th</sup>
Deborah Smith	May 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Barbara Marchman	May 24 <sup>th</sup>
Barbara Waller	May 28 <sup>th</sup>
Grace Jones	May 29 <sup>th</sup>

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.

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Roast

Our annual bull roast is fast approaching! This year it will be May 20th. You received your tickets with last months Ashlar and some receipts are rolling into the lodge! Please remember that this is our main fund raiser each year! Your lodge needs your support. Also volunteer to work in either the kitchen, clean up or dining hall crews.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of your lodge.

## Food Pantry

To the brothers, sisters, young men and ladies who support our Feed Kempsville Food Pantry, thank You all for your support and donations, We are making a difference feeding the food challenged.

For the month of April we collected \$60. With the food purchased and donated, we sent Courthouse Community United Methodist Church 80 lbs of food. The church gives out food once a week to those in need, helping on average 75-100 families per week.

As schools close for the summer the need for food increases. Please keep this in mind as you grocery shop and or see me at lodge. I am always as happy to receive your cash as I am to donate myself.

As always the Church and it's volunteer pantry works send their thanks and appreciation to Kempsville Lodge for your generosity.

Bob Hughes, Lodge Food Coordinator

## Community Builder's Award



Worshipful Pat Blankenship and Brother Bob Hughes present the Community Builder's Award to Jenn Ann Kubica

## Music For Our National Anthem

John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), a member of Royakl Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4, London, wrote the music which became our national anthem. Its original use is not known, but at an early date it was use by an Irish Masonic orphans' Home as its song. when Francis Scott Key utilized this music for the Stat Spangled Banner, it was a popular drinking song known as To Anacreon in heaven.

## Why President Mckinley Became A Mason

When General Horatio King asked William McKinley how he happen to become a Mason he explained: "After the Battle of Opequam, I went with our surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where there were about 5,000 Confederate prisoners under guard. Almost as soon as we passed the guard, I noticed the doctor shook the hands with a number of Confederate prisoners. He also took from his pocket a roll of bills and distributed all he had among them. Boy-like, I looked on in wonderment; I didn't know what it all meant. On the way back from camp I asked him:

"Did you know these men or ever see them before?"

"No," replied the doctor, "I never saw them before."

"But," I persisted, "You gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?"

"Well" said the doctor, "If they are able to pay me back, they will. But it makes no difference to me; they are brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty."

"I said to myself, If that is Freemasonry I will take some of it for myself."

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Warden	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Junior Warden	Michael Turner	581-4239
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Junior Deacon	Howard Draper	515-3540
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Chaplain	James Boone	515-0131
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler		
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	Eddie Foley	581-8144