

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

THE ASHLAR



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Kempsville Lodge # 196
A. F. & A. M.
4869 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, Va. 23462

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Friendship
Morality
Brotherly Love





from The East:

Only upon my installation as Worshipful Master did I realize the overwhelming responsibility entrusted to me by the brethren of Kempsville Masonic Lodge, and a humbling feeling it is. As a Master Mason since 1977, and especially working through the chairs at Kempsville Lodge for the past several years, I assure you, the membership, I did not take on my new responsibilities either hastily or lightly. Over the past several years I have tried to learn what Masonry is from my brethren and my predecessors who have occupied the Master's chair. I will strive to continue the grand Masonic traditions of "friendship, morality and brotherly love," the reputation for which Kempsville #196 is known.

I intend to publish "The Ashlar" quarterly in 1996. Announcements for all planned activities will be printed in "The Ashlar". As you know, our monthly stated meetings fall on the second Tuesday of each month except in November, when we meet on the first Tuesday due to the Grand Lodge meeting the second week. I will keep an updated calendar of events posted on the Lodge bulletin board for your current information. Also, please refer to the "Virginian-Pilot" newspaper on Tuesday mornings for announcements of degree work or other called communications.

For your information, the Lodge will begin the new year very busy. We have 2 FC's passed in 1995 who are working. One EA is ready to be passed to FC upon his return from sea with the U.S. Navy, and 9 more EA's are working who joined the Lodge in 1995. We will also ballot on 6 second readings at our January stated meeting. You can see we are into double figures already for our working candidates. If you are interested in helping in performing our ritual work, I encourage you to do so. Our Junior Warden, Bro. Claude Watkins, is responsible for the degree team assignments;

I am sure he will work you in the trestle board on work nights.

My brethren, I ask you to please notify any Lodge officer or me if there is anything your Lodge can do for you, or any other member you know of who is in need. Many times I have heard, sometimes long after the fact, that a Lodge brother or family member has been ill, had surgery or is in need of some assistance from the Lodge, but no one at the Lodge is aware of it. For your convenience, I will list the Lodge officer's names and telephone numbers should you need to contact us for any reason. Please keep them should you need to call on us.

- Worshipful Master: Robert Wesley Stanek
(Bob)
Telephone: Home 420-6425
- Senior Warden: Ovey Eugene LeJeune
(Gene)
Telephone: Home 495-8152
- Junior Warden: Claude William Watkins, Jr.
(Claude)
Telephone: Home 420-9253
- Treasurer: Rt. Wor. George Joseph Wallace
(George)
Telephone: 420-2507
- Secretary: Rt. Wor. William Hollowell Pierce
(Bill)
Telephone: 497-5160
- Senior Deacon: Morris Donovan White
(Morris)
Telephone: 424-2432
- Junior Deacon: Stanley Zalman Shipowitz
(Stanley)
Telephone: Home 460-6015
- Senior Steward: Terry Lee Whitehurst
(Terry)
Telephone: Home 460-4552
- Junior Steward: Thomas Andrews Collins
(Tommy)
Telephone: Home 467-3287
- Chaplain: Henley Albert Morgan, Jr.
(Henley)
Telephone: Home 499-6871
- Tiler: Charles Stanley Feinstein
(Chuck)
Telephone: Home 467-1935
- Marshal: Philip Russell Jennings
(Phil)
Telephone: Home 495-0016

Our planned activities for the first quarter (January/February/March 1996) are:

Every Saturday morning:

Voluntary Lodge School of Instruction, approx. 8:30 a.m. (We usually meet earlier for coffee & fellowship.)

Every Monday evening:

Scheduled Lodge Ritual School @ 7:30 p.m.

Second Tuesday of the month:

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

All Other Tuesday evenings:

Reserved for Degree Work, usually 7:30 p.m. (Watch the newspaper!)

Special Dates to remember:

Jan. 9, 1996 January Stated Meeting

Jan. 13, 1996 Area Leadership Conf., Norfolk @ 8:30 a.m.

Jan. 15, 1996 Masonic Blood Drive @ Lynnhaven #220, 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 13, 1996 February Stated Meeting

Mar. 12, 1996 March Stated Meeting & DDGM's Visit (Eat Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.)

Mar. 26, 1996 Past Master's Night (Eat Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.)

I have pledged my support to our Masonic youth organizations, which are our DeMolay and Job's Daughters. I ask you to please join me in supporting these fine organizations, their members and advisors. My theme for this year is: "Support our youth -- Invest in our future" -- I invite you to join me in attending their meetings when you can. They work very hard on their respective work. They meet in our Temple and I will post their meeting dates and times on the calendar.

I look forward to a great year in 1996 for the Lodge!

Wor. Robert W. (Bob) Stanek



From The West:

Brethren,

This is a time when I pause to reflect on the past year and plan for the next. We ended

1995 with some losses, but with the promise of yet another fruitful and challenging twelve months. If the number of petitions, Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts already working is any indication of what 1996 will bring, Kempsville Lodge will have an extremely busy year.

I am looking forward to supporting our Master during 1996 and invite each of you to help us by participating in the degree work. Attend our Monday evening (and Saturday morning) school when your schedule will permit it and participate in the degree work when possible.

My petition and your acceptance of me into this greatest of fraternities occurred later in life than it should have. It is a gift that I treasure. Thank you for allowing me to serve our Lodge as your Senior Warden for 1996.

Fraternally,

Gene Lejeune



From the South:

Brethren,

Thank you one and all for electing me to the Junior Warden's Station. We have a busy year ahead with many Candidates working and more elected to receive their degrees.

Because we have so few members doing the Lectures and Degree Work, I hope that each of you will search your hearts and learn a lecture or some of the parts of the degree work.

We have Lodge School for learning every Saturday morning rain or shine. If you cannot come for school on Saturday mornings, call me at 420-9253 and I'll get someone to teach you at a convenient time.

Fraternally,

Claude William Watkins Jr.



Senior Deacon

Brethren,

Hope you had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. I also hope 1996 will be safe and prosperous for you.

Our first Blood Drive, in the new year, will be at Lynnhaven Lodge, 2959 Lynnhaven Road, from 3 PM till 8 PM, on Monday January 15, 1996. By giving blood, you can receive a FREE cholesterol test kit.

All of us know the importance of giving blood. All of us know that we and our loved ones are going to need blood sometime in our life.

We need your help in giving blood. Please come join us.

Fraternally,

Morris White
Senior Deacon



Junior Deacon

Brethren,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to you for electing me to be your Junior Deacon for the year 1996. I will do all that I can to justify the confidence you have demonstrated with your ballot.

Our Worshipful Master has stated his pledge to support our youth organizations. I extend the challenge to each of you to get behind him in this endeavor. Our youth are the future of our Masonic family and deserve all the support we can provide.

Don't forget our Blood Drives Brethren. The first one will be January 15 at Lynnhaven Lodge, from 3 to 8 PM. Come and give the gift of life.

Again, I thank you my Brethren for allowing me to serve as Junior Deacon. I look forward to seeing each of you in Lodge.

Fraternally,

Stanley Z. Shipowitz



Past Master's Corner

My Brethren,

Some years ago in my Masonic travels, I came upon a sign that read; "The Lodge that neglects that essential ingredient of Freemasonry known as Fellowship is beginning to wither on the vine". I had this sign reproduced and it now hangs on the Bulletin Board as you come into Kempsville Lodge. I hope it catches your eye and I hope that you think about it once in a while. We in Kempsville have a good reputation for fellowship and I hope we keep it that way.

In the Master Mason's Lecture there is a section under the BeeHive which is closely related to the point I'm trying to make. I quote, "It might have pleased the Great Creator of Heaven and Earth to have made man independent of his fellow man and all other beings but as dependence is one of the strongest bonds of society, mankind were made dependent on each other for protection and security as they thereby enjoy the better opportunities of fulfilling the duties of reciprocal love and friendship. Thus was man formed for social and active life, the Noblest part of the Work of God. These are powerful words.

It is important to note that reciprocal love and friendship (i.e. - social and active life) is not a choice but a duty.

Now God has done many wonderful things for us but, according to the writer of the BeeHive, the noblest of all was the creation of man for an active and social life. Therefore these two are interactive because we cannot have social and active life without reciprocal love and friendship. One doesn't exist without the other. A few years ago I ran across an article that is very appropriate to the point I'm trying to make which is entitled:

"IT WAS A GOOD BARN"

*An old friendship had grown cold.
Where once had been closeness, there was
only strain. Now pride kept me from
picking up the phone.*

Then one day I dropped in on another old friend, who's had a long career as a minister and counselor. We were seated in his study -- surrounded by maybe a thousand books -- and fell into deep conversation about everything from small computers to the tormented life of Beethoven.

The subject finally turned to friendship and how perishable it seems to be these days. I mentioned my own experience as an example. "Relationships are mysteries," my friend said. "Some endure. Others fall apart."

Gazing out his window to the wooded Vermont hills, he pointed toward a neighboring farm. "Used to be a large barn over there." Next to a red-frame house were the footings of what had been a sizable structure.

"It was solidly built, probably in the 1870s. But like so many of the places around here, it went down because people left for richer lands in the Midwest. No one took care of the barn. Its roof needed patching; rainwater got under the eaves and dripped down inside the posts and beams."

"One day a high wind came along, and the whole barn began to tremble. You could hear this creaking, first, like old sailing ship timbers, and then a sharp series of cracks and a tremendous roaring sound. Suddenly it was a heap of scrap lumber."

"After the storm blew over, I went down and saw these beautiful, old oak timbers, solid as could be. I asked the fellow who owns the place what had happened. He said he figured the rainwater had settled in the pinholes, where wooden dowels held the joints together. Once those pins were

rotted, there was nothing to link the giant beams together."

We both gazed down the hill. Now all that was left of the barn was its cellar hole and its border of lilac shrubs.

My friend said he had turned the incident over and over in his mind, and finally came to recognize some parallels between building a barn and building a friendship: no matter how strong you are, how notable your attainments, you have enduring significance only in your relationship to others.

"To make your life a sound structure that will serve others and fulfill your own potential," he said, "you have to remember that strength, however massive, can't endure unless it has the interlocking support of others. Go it alone and you'll inevitably tumble."

"Relationships have to be cared for," he added, "like the roof of a barn. Letters unwritten, thanks unsaid, confidences violated, quarrels unsettled -- all these act like rainwater seeping into the pegs, weakening the link between the beams."

My friend shook his head. "It was a good barn. And it would have taken very little to keep it in good repair. Now it will probably never be rebuilt."

Later that afternoon I got ready to leave. "You wouldn't like to borrow my phone to make a call, I don't suppose?" he asked.

"Yes," I said, "I think I would. Very much."

My Brethren, right here in this Lodge a few years ago there were two brethren who were at odds for some ridiculous reason. They were friends for over twenty five years in the work they were engaged in. Their lives depended upon each other before the rift. I myself, being aware of the situation, tried to get them back together but to no avail. I even went home more than once and prayed about it. Finally after some time elapsed I walked into an establishment one evening and encountered one of them who immediately walked up and took me aside and said -- "Guess what, Brother so-and-so called me today and we talked for an hour and a half, and we are having lunch tomorrow.

Well, let me tell you, that was one of my happiest moments in Freemasonry. To see these two Brothers once again united was and is still a great thrill.

My Brethren, if you know of anyone who needs a call or a kind word, or if you know of anyone who needs some fences mended from an old disagreement, give him or them a call. It is your Masonic duty to promote reciprocal love and friendship. It is not only your Masonic duty but also your duty to the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

Wor. Tom McGowan



More Past Master Stuff

Brethren,

Our Worshipful Master has asked me to serve another year as Lodge Education Officer. I am absolutely delighted to be so honored. I have prepared a short talk for our next Stated Communication and, although Worshipful Tom McGowan has used some of its thunder is his ASHLAR article (Isn't it amazing how we all sometimes think alike?) I still intend to deliver it as written. That is, of course, if time permits.

There are many interesting things discussed in this edition of the ASHLAR and

I don't intend to repeat them here. I simply want to say that it appears that Kempsville Lodge is in outstanding hands for this year, and for several years to come. I wish all of you the most happy and prosperous New Year and hope to have the opportunity to take each of your hands in friendship and love - soon.

Fraternally,

Wor. Bill Nolan