



The Ashlar



December 2015

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

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From The East



I want to thank all the Brethren and Officers who supported the Lodge this year! Because of your support, the Lodge received the Noah Hillman Award and qualify to receive both the

Morlock Award for your contributions to the Masonic Home of Virginia and Seymour Jonas Levy Award for Blood donations. Many thanks to my Officers and Brethren who attended the Stated Communications, participated and supported the Candidates/Officers/Brethren during our Degree work, those who prepared and served our monthly breakfast/Stated Communication Dinners; as well as attended Lodge visitations with me. I also want to thank those Brethren who assisted in our Community Service Adopt-A-Spot Program. Your efforts resulted in the Lodge being recognized at the City of Virginia Beach Annual Recognition Program where Kempsville Lodge received a Letter of Appreciation. You obviously have a choice to either support the Lodge or occupy your time elsewhere.

Those delicious and wonderful dinners during the Stated Communications were not possible without the unwavering support of Brothers, Bud Marchman, Jack Bell, Dennis Eaton, Chuck Bateman, Pat Blankenship, and Dave Trzeciakiewicz as well as the other Brethren who assisted in serving those fine meals. A special thanks goes to Dennis Eaton who purchased the food and kept track of the petty cash fund. I never was concerned with the cash accounting or that the food was available for each meal.

All the credit for the renovated hallway and storage areas goes to Right Worshipful Bill Knowles and Brother John Preddy. What a beautiful and welcoming entrance to our Lodge Room.

Many thanks goes to Brother Roger Taylor for managing Brother Al Roach's transportation needs. A special thank you goes out to all the Brethren who provided transportation to Brother Al Roach. Your actions truly reflect the core values of a Mason.

The Grand Annual Communication was indeed grand. Right Worshipful Frank Wright, Jr. was

named one of the best District Deputies and four of six Lodges in our District received the Noah Hillman Award (Kempsville, Willis V. Fentress, Bayside and Lynnhaven). Kempsville Lodge was also recognized as the supporting Body of the Year for its support of our DeMolay Chapter.

There are so many Brethren to thank this year but there is not enough space to list you all. I hope I did not offend any of you for leaving your name off this article. Thank you all!

Finally, I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, etc. Again, remember those who are in need during this holiday season. Keep in your hearts and prayers, those who are serving our country, those who are living alone, our Masonic Sweethearts and those we may have lost contact with. Again, thank you all for supporting your Lodge and Brethren this year!

Worshipful Bill Peterson, Worshipful Master

From The West



This should be my last article writing from the West. The two years has ended and it is time to move on. Both of the Wardens and the Deacons have been in their Stations and places for the past two years and it will be nice for the Lodge to finally see us in our new positions.

There are times in life where we remain in place. We get comfortable. We may even wish that life would always be thus. Yet, things happen. Life changes. We have to adapt and often get pushed out of our comfort zone.

It is hoped that the Lodge will not be too uncomfortable with the changes coming. Change will happen. How we adjust and adapt to those changes influences our quality of life. Should you not be happy with life in general, or with the Lodge in particular, you can always look forward to another change.

Brother Scott Foxwell, Senior Warden

From The South



This being my final Junior Warden's Ashlar input I would like to thank everyone who supported our degree teams over the past 2 years. By the numbers, our degree teams completed 56 degrees raising 21 Master Masons in 2 years time. Putting these numbers into a 2-year percentage makes it clear what your Lodge has completed. In the 2 years that contained 104 weeks in which we are traditionally dark for 8 weeks over a 2 year period (4 weeks per year), the Lodge conducted 24 Stated Communications and as mentioned 56 degrees. Thus your Lodge Officers were in the chairs during 80 of the available 96 weeks, or 83% of the available time.

These efforts have helped maintain the number of Brothers on our roles and have subsequently kept Kempsville Lodge as the largest Masonic Lodge in Virginia. Additionally, during the same time Worshipful Steve Ridgeway and Worshipful Bill Peterson have been very diligent in reaching out to Brothers who were in arrears to the Lodge, their efforts were also a salient contributing factor in our census remaining steady.

Further thanks go to the Past Masters and other Brothers who supported the degrees, without their support we would have not conducted a single event. Additional thanks go to the coaches who prepared the candidates, again without them nothing would have happened. A final thanks goes to Right Worshipful Tom McGowan who served as Lodge Instructor of Work. Tom conducted school every Monday night and was in Lodge every Tuesday night, and he gave fantastic instruction and was very patient with the learners.

This accomplishment was a true team effort that I am very proud and thankful to have been a part of it. I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Junior Warden

Trestleboard

December 8 Annual Stated Communication
Lodge 6PM, Dinner 7PM
December 12 Open Installation of Officers
11AM, Lunch to follow

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

To Our Masonic "Sweethearts"

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in December:

Carolyn Harrison	December 1 st
Peggy McGuire	December 10 th
Louise Slagle	December 15 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.

Masonic Birthdays for December

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

The Brethren shown above have a total of 374 years in Masonry!

Welcome to Kempsville

Please welcome Brother Matthew G. Millott, raised on November 3rd, and Brother Logan R. Spruill (grandson of Worshipful Bobby Spruill and Worshipful Ray Connard) raised on November 17th. Welcome to Kempsville, Brethren!

Eagle Scout Award



Kempsville Lodge presents Terry Michael Riley, Jr. with a Grand Lodge of Virginia certificate in recognition of recent Eagle Scout project. Also attending are Terry's mother, father, and two sisters.

Christmas Poinsettias

Our annual tradition of delivering poinsettias this year continues. Those who have sponsored a Masonic Sweetheart, please get with Right Worshipful Tom McGowan. Even if you haven't sponsored a Sweetheart, please make an effort to deliver a few yourself. Thank you.

Blood Program

Kempsville Lodge and 56th Masonic District is off to a great start for 2015-2016 blood drive donations. Our next drive will be at Lynnhaven Lodge 220 on December 21st. My first thought, was "wow that is so close to Christmas that it will be hard to get people to come out and donate blood." Actually, what a wonderful opportunity to teach our family about donating to save the lives of others. That toy may be played with a few times and then the luster and joy fades. Helping to save a life is forever, and always feels good. I personally enjoy giving to loved ones, the needy through charity and work, and what a nice gift to give myself (and a person in trouble) the joy of giving the gift of life. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, my Brethren

Patrick Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

From the Secretary

Brethren all, our Lodge has a very large membership, with over 420 members. As such, we are one of the largest and active Masonic Lodges in Virginia. Our members even live throughout the USA. That's a lot of people to communicate with regularly, but we do the best we can. We communicate with all of our members monthly via our newsletter, "The Ashlar". "The Ashlar" is also available for anyone to read on our Internet web site.

Obviously, not all members attend Lodge for many reasons, but we do know you're out there. Regrettably, it was learned recently of a longtime member who commented that because he doesn't hear from anyone at the lodge, he might discontinue his membership. How sad this is! He does receive "The Ashlar" each month, so he is getting current information from his Lodge, at least monthly.

Brethren, know that your Lodge is always there to assist you, if and when you may need assistance. Respectfully, it's kind of like a two-way street; if we don't know, we can't help. "The Ashlar" provides everyone with contact information for the

Worshipful Master and the Lodge officers. Be reminded, if you may need the Lodge for any reason, contact an officer (or any member you may know); they will surely pass the word to the Master. And, please attend the Lodge if and when you can; you will enjoy some good "Kempsville fellowship".

If you move, or plan to, please provide your current contact information to the Secretary (address & phone). Also remember, the 2016 Lodge dues are now payable, and thanks to all who have already sent in their 2016 dues.

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Youth Corner

Congratulations to the young ladies who have been elected to serve Bethel 42 for the ensuing term: Bridget Roley, Honored Queen Elect; Kat Williams; Senior Princess Elect; Mary Robinson, Junior Princess Elect; Rebecca Foley, Guide Elect; and Briana Snow, Marshal Elect. Bethel 42 cordially invites all of the members of its Masonic family to join them for their installation of officers Sunday, December 6th and 2PM at the lodge.

The young men of Kempsville DeMolay were joined by a few of their sisters from Hampton's Rainbow Assembly and Bethel 42 for their Go to Church event at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, followed by fellowship and Mexican food at Ensenada and finishing the day with a little fun at Lynnhaven Mall. They even managed to sneak in a visit and photo with Santa in the process. Now the real question is: Did Kempsville's Masonic Youth make Santa's "Naughty" or "Nice" list this year?



Brother Cliff Williams, Youth Advisor

Newest 50 Year Veteran



Most Worshipful Wayne Sawyer Flora presents Right Worshipful Roger Cort his 50 Year Veteran's Award

A Little Bird Told Me

Take a minute from your busy schedule and meditate with me over a great spiritual truth.

Some time ago, I was talking with a gentleman who revealed to me something about another man that was obviously a very private manner. I said to him, "Where did you hear that?" He replied, "A little bird told me!"

That man did not realize it, but he was quoting Scripture and revealing a spiritual truth.

King Solomon wrote in the Book of Ecclesiastes 10:20, "Curse not the King, no not thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber; for a bird of

the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."

Alan Redpath once gave this simple formula he would follow before speaking of any person or subject that might be controversial:

- T—Is it true?
- H—Is it helpful?
- I—Is it inspiring?
- N—Is it necessary?
- K—Is it kind?

Friend, *be careful what you say.* Others might find out and, of course, the Lord already knows.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Bill Peterson	237-5249
Senior Warden	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Junior Warden	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Chris Anders	635-7617
Junior Deacon	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Steward	Charles Bateman, Jr.	309-2399
Junior Steward	Jackson Bell	831-0818
Chaplain	Jim Boone	496-9595
Musician	Bob Johns	478-0751
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Dennis Eaton	499-6720
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Bill Rawson	724-4867
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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