



# The Ashlar



April 2018

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

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## Relief

The tenets of Freemasonry are brotherly love, relief, and truth. These are the doctrines of the Fraternity, the speculative truths which are taught to initiates. A tenet is something held firmly; a doctrine is a working principle. The tenets of Freemasonry, therefore, are the working principles which every Brother should hold and practice with fervency and zeal.

The focus of this article is the second tenet of Freemasonry, relief. One of the first and most dramatic lessons taught to every initiate is the importance of helping others. In the Entered Apprentice degree, the initiate's moment of symbolic destitution is not meant to merely teach him how it feels to be poor. The important lesson is to make relief a working principle. To relieve the distress of the victims of misfortune is particularly incumbent on Masons because of the unbreakable chain of sincere affection which binds them together.



Destitution may be a matter of the spirit as well as of the pocket. Everyone is challenged much more frequently to give comfort, encouragement, hope, kindness, patience, praise, sympathy, and understanding than to contribute money to alleviate distress. No man who has trained himself to exemplify brotherly love should shy from his obligation to soothe the unhappy, compassionate their miseries, and restore peace to their troubled minds.

No other kind of relief is more needed in a troubled world. The poor in spirit suffer greater deprivation than the economically destitute. This is why the lecture about relief stresses the spiritual activities enumerated in the preceding paragraph. It makes no mention of money. It emphasizes the fact that relief is primarily a matter of sharing one's feelings of brotherly love, whereby we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, created by one Almighty Parent, who inhabit of the same planet designed to aid, support, and protect each other.

To sympathize with their misfortunes is the second example of relief enumerated in the lectures. Sympathy, if it would really provide relief, must be more than feeling with another person. It must be more than pity; it must be deep compassion, the ability to suffer with the victim of misfortune. Only by such a deep involvement can one feel the need to act and the urgent necessity to do something to help. Only then relief becomes a working principle.

To visit a sick brother or a Masonic widow is one of the oldest traditions of Masonic relief. It needs re-emphasizing in the life of every "well-governed lodge". Every Mason should be willing to serve on the sick committee; every Mason should share in the joy of being a part of the lodge program of relief. That's when relief becomes an active working principle.

The lecture concludes its description of this subject with a statement that makes relief more than a moral obligation incumbent upon Masons; it lifts the idea to the level of a universal spiritual principle: "To restore peace to troubled minds is the great aim we have in view." That requires more than a piece of silver in the collection box and more than a check for a charitable institution. That requires an individual commitment to a way of thinking and feeling which will affect a man's personal relationships with every other human being, because every man has some need which requires love and understanding.

## From The East



The last of The Three R's of Masonry, my theme for this year, is Relief. We have 392 members in our Lodge. If a brother asked any of the other 391 for help he would surely receive it. If a need was mentioned, a brother hearing of it would hasten to his relief. If word got out about a brother or widow in distress, their needs would be met. I believe that with all my heart. It's the very nature of who we are as Masons. But, are we really doing all we can do? You just read that if asked, if mentioned and heard, and if word got out, we would no doubt take care of our members and widows. That's great but, it's reactive and addresses only the known needs. Many unknown needs exist and therefore go unattended. We must also be proactive in providing relief to those in need.

This became all too evident recently. A brother passed away in February and as Master I called his widow to offer my condolences. She was grateful for my call. She told me how much he loved being a Mason and that it was an important part of his life. She said he felt terrible for not attending lodge regularly, and that it was due to health issues. She requested Masonic Rites and added that he wanted to be buried in his Apron. I was truly touched by her story. But then I realized, I did not know this brother. I wondered how many others didn't know him either or how many knew him and perhaps forgot about him. I wondered, how did we allow this to happen? His name was in the roster, his phone number was current, he paid his dues, and he lived locally. This should not have happened to a brother. The next question, how many others like him are out there? This is completely unacceptable and demands immediate corrective action.

To address this, the officers and I have been working on an outreach program. We are creating a process to proactively reach out and connect with all of our members on a systematic, regular basis. We are going to do whatever it takes to make sure no one slips thru the cracks. If you hear or know of a brother needing relief please let me or one of the officers know.

Brethren, the following letter was included in an article submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan in the June 2011 Ashlar. I found it to be both timely and worth the read.

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*\*\*\*\*\* died on May 20, 2010. Please do NOT send any more items from the Scottish Rite or anything else from the Masons. At this time I have bitter feelings for anything Masonic. I notified the Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite both that he was ill and in the V.A. nursing home.*

*NO ONE EVER CAME TO SEE HIM while he was alive. Also, I was not contacted even after they knew he died. DO NOT TELL ME YOU ARE ABOUT BROTHERHOOD. As far as I'm concerned, if you are not in a clique, you are nothing.*

*\*\*\*\*\* happened to be a gentle man who helped many people but did not brag about it. All I and he heard at the meetings was the big shots bragging about what they had done. Yes, I'm very bitter and I want nothing Masonic coming to my home again.*

This example may seem extreme, but it did happen. Right Worshipful Tom's article should make everyone stop and think. Remember, this was published in the Ashlar in June 2011. This begs the question, have we improved? Here is a recent example closer to home. Our Secretary has been working very hard tracking down members delinquent on their dues. In doing so he discovered that two brothers had died in 2016 and we did not know it. In one instance the widow gave our Secretary an ear full. She was very upset that the lodge was unaware of his death. So I ask again, have we improved? That's a rhetorical question. Brethren, we can not go back, but we can learn from the past and move forward. Our outreach program will hopefully help in this matter.

Brother Chris Anders, Worshipful Master

## From The West



What has Masonry Done for the World? Democracy.

Historians now realize that Masonic Lodges in Europe served as the first models of democracy, models which later spread to governments. Members in Lodges made their own by-laws and elected their own leaders. No place else in society was that true. The very idea of elections, unsupervised by religious or civic authority, was unheard of-except in the Lodge. It is not too much to say that the model of democracy which later was finalized in the United States and now exists in many nations of the world was an invention of the Masonic Lodge.

Masonry came to North America in the early 1700's. Many of the political debates about America's future took place in Masonic Lodges, involving such Masons as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, and Joseph Warren. Those men were not only involved as individuals in the founding of America, but their Lodges were deeply involved in creating the new nation, ratifying the Bill of Rights and establishing democracy as we know it today.

This is an excerpt from the pamphlet "What Has Masonry Done for The World" published by the Masonic Information Center and available online at [www.msana.com](http://www.msana.com).

Brother Roger Taylor, Senior Warden

## From The South



It has been another very active month here at Kempsville Masonic Lodge, between very well attended breakfasts, Stated meetings, ritual schools, coaches school, and degree work. As we have worked our way

through the backlog of degree candidates (a great problem for a Lodge to have!) we have had the opportunity to visit regularly with other Lodges during their Stated Communications. I would strongly recommend that those of you who have the time join us on our visits to other Lodges. You will find the same great fellowship there that you get to experience at Kempsville. I guarantee that the more you participate, the more you will get out of Masonry.

My deepest and continuing appreciation to the Stewards and the other members of our kitchen crew. They regularly take a lot of their own time to ensure we have been well fed with a variety of delicious meals at both the breakfasts and Stated meetings. It's no coincidence that our breakfasts this year have been setting attendance records!

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Junior Warden

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Roast – June 9<sup>th</sup>

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Roast is fast approaching. Consider this your official Save the Date notice. As you know, this event supports the Masonic Home of Virginia and the Kempsville Lodge Scholarship program. This year we are making a special effort to also raise funds for the Lodge Elevator Project. All are great causes and your financial support is

very much appreciated. Brethren, your time and talent is also needed. It takes on average about 60 hard-working Masons to pull off this event. I have begun the task of filling out the Bull Roast roster. If you are interested in helping please let me know in person, by phone at 635-7617, or e-mail at [chrisanders1@gmail.com](mailto:chrisanders1@gmail.com). Whether you've helped in the past or you'll be a first timer we will put you to work! Let's make our biggest fundraiser a success!

Worshipful Chris Anders  
Bull Roast Chairman

## Masonic Birthdays for April

Charles R. Bateman, Jr. '14	Todd C. Moissett '11
David E. Boyd '88	Michael R. Moseler '72
Allen K. Chandler '87	Richard E. Neisinger '74
S. Ray Connard '91	Thomas A. Niedermeier '80
Dennis L. Driscoll '02	Brian E. Parton '01
Louis P. Dunn '77	Emmett R. Reynolds '11
A. J. Dyer '12	G. Frank Roberts, Jr. '64
Thomas C. England '11	Alaric J. Roche, Jr. '64
Justin C. Faucette '16	Cristian C. Rodriguez '04
Christopher M. Favata '10	John R. Settle, III '12
Justin A. Flowers '12	W. Earle Spruill, Sr. '67
L. David Foxwell '75	Charlie B. Taylor, Sr. '59
George L. Gunter '69	Robert J. Tidwell '77
Warren C. Massey '50	David M. Trzeciakiewicz '15
J. Henry McCoy, Jr. '62	Thomas G. Webber, Sr. '63
Terrence P. McNally '78	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 930 years in Masonry!

## Trestleboard

March 31 .....	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
April 9 .....	James Henry Parkerson Ritual School Kempsville Lodge, 6-9PM
April 10 .....	Stated Communication Junior Warden's Night Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
April 14 .....	C. Frank Hicks Ritual School Lake Drummond Lodge, 8AM-12PM
April 16 .....	District Blood Drive, 2-7PM
April 24 .....	Spring Past Masters Night Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
April 28 .....	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
May 8 .....	Stated Communications Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at [www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org).

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in April:

Cheryl Farrer	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Patricia Quinton	April 4 <sup>th</sup>
Judy Maprstek	April 7 <sup>th</sup>
Sherry Vancampen	April 7 <sup>th</sup>
Rita Kelberg	April 14 <sup>th</sup>
Virginia Joiner	April 17 <sup>th</sup>
Denise Bemert	April 20 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Lou Cochran	April 20 <sup>th</sup>
Paige Mason	April 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.

## The Finer Points

The Constitutions of Masonry require us to observe the moral law. Masons do not follow in the irreligious paths of an atheist or agnostic. We firmly believe in God and worship Him as the great Architect of the Universe.

Masons are to be good men and true - men of honor, integrity, and honesty; we vigorously reject all forms of bigotry. It is our duty to follow that golden rule, of "Doing to all men as we would have all men do unto us and those we love."

Mike Denning, Senior Deacon

## Masonic Blood Program

Received a letter from our Red Cross Account Manager, Kelsey Rosencrans, dated February 23, 2018.

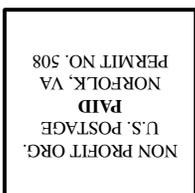
"Thank you for coordinating a blood drive on Monday, February 19, 2018. The blood we collected at your drive could be used to help premature infants, people with cancer, patients undergoing bone marrow transplants and emergency surgeries as well as hundreds of others in our community who need blood.

Every day, we need to collect 600-700 units of blood to keep up with the needs of local patients and hospitals. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. The Virginia Beach Masons 56<sup>th</sup> District recent blood drive collected 36 pints on a goal of 29. Thank you for your help with our lifesaving mission."

Please keep up the excellent work at our next drive at Kempsville lodge on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-7PM.

Brother Mike Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

We now accept electronic payments for annual dues and donations. Accessible on the Lodge Web Site.



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