



The Ashlar



March 2021

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

Volume 68-03

Masonic Youth

A small percentage of youth (young adults) today know about Masons and the teachings and philosophy of the fraternity. How could they know when we have, by our own election, kept ourselves out of the limelight in our society because we do little to nothing for which to be recognized? The younger generation thinks of Masonry as something to which their grandfathers belonged, something out of the past, that must remain in the past because they see or know of nothing which gives them cause to think otherwise. The younger generation is not interested in how much we know, not until they find out how much we care. They are not as interested in hearing us as they are in seeing us. They have a burning desire to find something on which to hang.

"What is Masonry"? Youth today want to know true facts with the supporting evidence which they are entitled to receive. Masonry is not a secret organization although we have a few secrets to set us up as a fraternity. When a Mason is asked about Masonry by a non-Mason; regardless of age or sex, he should be willing and eager to tell that person anything he wants to know-so long as secrets are not revealed. The majority of Masons, when asked about Masonry, will not say much because they are afraid to talk or have a difficult time verbalizing the Craft. The truest role of Freemasonry is to be of service to God, country and mankind. This is our role yesterday, today, and in the future, for Freemasonry does not change.



There are many organizations, shows, games, entertainments, etc. knocking at the doors of our youth, therefore they must make a choice. I hope we have taught them to spend their leisure time wisely and to affiliate with organizations that are run smoothly and efficiently by competent people with leadership ability. They are in their formative years and their minds are our most fertile soil. There is no such thing as uninfluenced youth. Brother J. Edgar Hoover said the number one target of the Communist is our youth. One of the greatest potential forces in the world, for our nation and for our fraternity, is the minds of our young people.

All the younger generation really wants is a life of respectability built upon a sound foundation that can cope with the problems man has always faced. Everything that Masonry and mankind can hope to achieve will depend upon the willingness of men and Masons to work actively on the "grass roots" level, with individual boys and girls. To Masons this should mean working with chapters of DeMolays, Bethels of Job's Daughters, and assemblies of Rainbow Girls. There are many bridges between the appendant youth chapters and the bodies of Masonry. As the bridges become stronger, each group will increase in strength and our civilization will come closer to fulfilling the vision and hope of a great kingdom of God on earth.

More than half of the DeMolays join the Masonic Lodge when they become of age. Many of them have become Grand Masters of Masonry-many have become famous in civilian life. Brethren, if we can sell the Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters on Masonry, they will bring us many new members by canvassing their fathers, brothers and future husbands.

The great, real need, my brethren, is not for one hundred dollars of your money-it is for one hundred hours of your time. If we become, by daily association, a part of their lives then we have every reasonable expectation that when they reach the years of maturity they will want to become a part of our heritage.

Continued on page 4

From The East



It is with great pleasure, I am announcing we will return to our monthly Stated Communication in the month of March. This does come with some restrictions. As of the writing of this Ashlar, we are still restricted to 10 people for our meetings. The kitchen will remain closed as well.

As we slowly return to a more normal schedule, we will follow all prescribed safety precautions to include distancing, mask wearing, and cleaning. Being restricted to 10 Brothers in Lodge, we will begin our Stated with an open Zoom format to cover all non ritual items and then close Zoom to formally open our meeting.

In alignment with the cover article, it is time to think about what reopening our Lodge will look like. We will not be “back to normal” in one fell swoop and will take incremental steps back to normal. As soon as we are allowed to meet with more than 10 brothers, please consider attending in person as you feel comfortable doing so.

We do have a couple of items in queue for first readings. This means we may be voting as early as April. We have one candidate that was unable to attend the one day conferral and is ready to be passed. Another potential intiate pending favorable ballot. This means we will soon be moving back to degree work on Tuesdays as soon as Grand Lodge permits. Again, we look forward to Brothers being present. We all know how this impresses a candidate.

At the very first opportunity, you can be assured we will exercise all opportunities for in person fellowship. We continue to meet for Saturday morning coffee. I look forward to the opportunity to have monthly breakfasts and Stated dinners. In fact, it has been exactly one year as of February 29 that we last had a monthly breakfast or any food served in the Lodge.

Active and visual Masonry is on its way back at Kempsville. It will take some work; but without a doubt, Kempsville will be returning to its active self with many things to appeal to many men in the very near future.

Brother Mike Denning
Worshipful Master

From The West



As Freemasons, we strive to subdue our passions and improve our hearts and minds through the cultivation of integrity, kindness, honesty, and equality. Our rituals are structured in such a manner that charity is paramount not only to the well being of our Brothers and their families, but to the communities in which we live and work.

Charity takes many forms, and is sustained by many positive qualities, most notably the steady devotion of time. It is not uncommon that the most charitable people lack an abundance of time, and compensate for this deficiency, literally, through financial generosity. This is a welcomed practice, but should ideally serve as a stopgap or ancillary feature of a Brother’s philanthropy- this is in large part due to the fact that physical, in-person time offered charitably fosters personal interaction and enriches the giver as well as the receiver.

Modern-day society views Freemasonry through a lens of misconception. In many obscure corners of popular culture, sources and pundits claim to have the means to expose the secrets of our Craft. The visibility of Masons actively and openly dedicating their time without compensation to the betterment of charitable causes serves as an indefatigable testament to the authenticity of our ancient Fraternity.

As the warmer months approach, seek local opportunities to dedicate your time and talents. Local parks, shelters, the food bank, and other selfless initiatives will always be in need of assistance. The devotion of your time and labor affords not only needed relief, but bolsters the positive image of our Brotherhood. It demonstrates that when good men are made better, the world is synonymously improved.

Brother John Settle, Senior Warden

From The South



I Think I can, I Think I can, Yes, we are OPEN! We are still going slowly uphill toward normal meetings with camaraderie and a fine meal and fellowship that Kempsville Lodge is famous for having. Or the fellowship with our families for a Saturday Morning Breakfast with fresh pastry! Your lodge officers are working hard with Worshipful Mike to ensure the safety of Kempsville Brethren. From providing safety PPE,

wiping down the lodge, and limiting attendance at meetings within Grand Lodge guidelines. We are also activating a wellness check for our elder brethren to not only visit but to make sure all is well. Remember to keep Brotherly Love and Affection In mind. Who can best support or understand you than a brother? Draw your strength from the fraternity in this time of crisis.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Junior Warden

Meet Your Senior Steward



Brother Thomas Melling Sr is from Norfolk and graduated from Granby High School in 1964. He attended the University of Palm Beach, West Palm Beach Florida and graduated in 1969. He married his wife of 49 1/2 years a few weeks after

graduation and went to work as a police officer in Riviera Beach Florida ultimately moving back to Virginia. Working various jobs, he joined the Army a 1975 where he started off as a cook then ended up as a corrections officer. He retired from the Army in 1995 with multiple awards and commendations. Upon retiring from the Army, he worked for the Norfolk sheriff's department as a corrections officer and retired a second time on January 1st, 2009.

We are excited to have Tom as our Senior Steward. He brings credentials as the senior food service advisor to the provisional round out training at Fort Jackson South Carolina from 1984 to 1989. Also, as the food service instructor at Fort Dix, NJ and the senior food service instructor at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in February:

Cheryl Farrwer	April 2 nd
Patric8a Quinton	April 4 th
Tete4sa Boogades	April 5 th
Judith Naprsteh	April 7 th
Sherry Vancampen	April 7 th
Denise Bement	April 20 th
Paige Mason	April 29 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.

2021 Monthly Food Bank Collection



We are continuing the important effort of food collections this year with a monthly goal of 400 lbs. of food and other supplies that will be donated to the Church of the Ascension Food Bank. January donations resulted in 480 pounds of donations.

We will continue these focused donation efforts as long as we are restricted from cooking and serving meals in the Lodge. Donations will be collected on the last Saturday of the month at the Lodge from 9 AM to 1 PM. Specific items that are needed include breakfast bars, cereal, oatmeal, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and sauce, rice, and mac and cheese. Personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, and dish soap are also greatly appreciated. Thank you all in advance for your support in helping feed Kempsville during this difficult time!

Masonic Birthdays for March

Franklin W. Beard, Jr. '73	George W. Messinger '94
R. Craig Belda '00	Robert C. Metz '92
Jackson R. Bell, Jr. '09	Sidney T. Moore '69
Orlando C. Bitanga '98	Leonard T. Newbern '67
Donald R. Blair '77	Gary B. Nye '06
James D. Boone '76	Charlie L. Pallett, III '87
William E. Combs '80	Michael S. Polychroni '85
Michael L. Denning '15	Donald K. Robinson '93
James F. Dombey '11	Frederick W. Rudiger '03
Wayne S. Flora '67	Connor J. Schweitzer '17
Ivan Godinez '16	Michael D. Scott '83
Christopher J. Jaeger '58	Adam W. Tarr '17
William M. Johnson '93	Roger W. Taylor '11
J. Duane Johnstone '64	Russell J. Tjepkema '10
Thomas W. Lang '05	Richard L. Tsikuris '18
Robert L. Lankford '72	Linwood R. West '91
R. Dale Leonard, Jr. '05	Clifford J. Williams '13
Thomas E. Lindner '83	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 977 years in Masonry!

Lodge Improvements



We would like to thank Brother Sean Wills for the work he has contributed to the Lodge over the past month. He built and installed a wall mount for our candidate receiving tool. No more

remembering to pick it up off a seat.

He also built and donated a Worshipful Master coin display which is placed in one of our display cases in the dining hall.



If that wasn't enough, he took home the Junior and Senior Warden setting mauls, sanded them down, refinished them, and presented them back to the Lodge. They look like new and are beautiful. Thank you Brother Wills for all you do to keep the Lodge maintained in top condition.

Masonic Youth (cont'd from page 1)

We must remember that our hopes for the perpetuation of Freemasonry, our ideals and philosophy, rest only in those who come to us voluntarily. They are prompted to come to us by having been favorably influenced by the good deeds and prestige of the fraternity and by their contacts with Masons.

We must prove to our youth that we want to be part of them. In the years that follow they will want to be a part of us—they will want a portion of the heritage which Masonic ideals express.

Freemasonry will meet the challenge of the future. The greatest asset in Freemasonry is the spirit of friendship that exists between Freemasons in their relationships with one another and their attitude of thoughtfulness for the welfare of others.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Mike Denning	651-0712
Senior Warden	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Warden	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Junior Deacon	Michael Turner	581-4239
Senior Steward	Thomas Melling, Sr.	403-8881
Junior Steward	Michael Cooney	375-3238
Chaplain	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Roger Taylor	478-5498
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