



# The Ashlar



December, 2003

Kempsville Lodge # 196 A.F.&A.M.

Volume 4



## From the East:

### FREEMASONRY IS ALIVE AND WELL AT KEMPSVILLE

#### JOIN IN THE EXCITEMENT

This will be the last *Ashlar* published during my year as Master of Kempsville Lodge. The Supreme Architect of the Universe has blessed us with another great year. Thanks to all of you who have offered support, encouragement and suggestions. Your spirit has truly lifted mine. A special thanks to the Officers and Past Masters for giving their time, talent and efforts in order that we might experience an exceptional year in Masonry.

One of the highlights of this year was the October Stated Communication. Most Worshipful Frederick Garrison Martin, III was our guest speaker, as we celebrated founder's day and the 225<sup>th</sup> year of Masonry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The food was delicious and the fellowship could not have been better. We were also very fortunate to have in attendance a Grand Lodge Officer, Rt. Wor. Darius Moore Locks, Jr., and three Past Grand Masters; to-wit: Most Wor. Spencer M. Rogers, Most Wor. William Lee Holliday, III and Most Wor. Arthur Richmond Cole, Jr.

Recently we were pleased to honor Brother Richard L. Naujoks with a 50-year veteran's pin. This good brother was honored by the many friends and brothers in attendance. Congratulations Brother Richard for your dedication to the craft. Keep up the good work, and may you be blessed with many more happy and productive years in Masonry.

Once again, we at Kempsville have been busy "working in the quarries". We have labored hard, sometimes working two candidates in one evening. It has been a good year. Many thanks to the dedicated officers, past masters and members who have taken part in the degree work. Also, many thanks to those in support of our lodge, many of whom labor in silence, without recognition, contented to know that they have contributed toward Kempsville being one of the finest Lodges in the Commonwealth. We have raised 11 Master Masons, and have several others who are within reach of becoming a Master Mason. Additionally, we were happy to welcome several good Brothers who made application for affiliation and one reinstatement. I am pleased to report that we initiated 22 candidates this year. Remember my Brethren; a Lodge is only as good as members make it. Knowing our members, past masters and officers, I am confident in saying the Lodge is in good hands. Our Officers are competent and proficient in the work. Our Past Masters are very supportive of the craft. Our members are excited about all of the wonderful fellowship and good times had by all who attend our meetings. Therefore, as a member of Kempsville Lodge, you can be proud to be a Mason, and especially proud to be a member of a lodge with such a great tradition. I am confident that the upcoming year will be just as good, if not better, than those years we have enjoyed in the past. Way to go guys! I'm proud of you and our lodge.

#### FELLOWSHIP

Every Saturday morning we have coffee, donuts, fellowship, and an opportunity for candidates to converse with well-informed brethren, who will always be ready to give instruction. Many life-long friendships have been formed through this weekend fellowship. Some brethren just like to meet with their fellow Masons and chat about current events; such as sporting events, or talk about their adventures when ships were made of wood and men were made of steel. Rest assured that the conversation, sooner or later, turns to Freemasonry. Come on out and join the fun. If you would like to coach, this is an ideal opportunity for you to help with the Masonic education of our new Masons.

#### ANNUAL STATED

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the December Stated. We will be opening at 6:00 p.m. When we go from labor to refreshment, the Stewards will have a delicious meal for your dining pleasure. That's right, Wor. Don Meyer promises to have collards on the menu for all you country boys. The Eastern Star, Jobies and Demolay will assist in making this a pleasurable and memorable evening. Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship.

#### KEMPSVILLE TRIVIA

For several years prior to Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown, Norfolk and Princess Anne County was home to many who were loyal to the British Crown. George Logan, a dry goods merchant in Kempes Landing, was a loyalist sympathizer. Logan returned to Scotland, and in his absence he was tried and convicted of treason. His dry goods storehouse was confiscated in 1778.

In 1783 Kempsville was incorporated as a town. George Logan's dry goods store was used temporarily as a courthouse, and his wet goods store was converted into a jail. Shortly thereafter, a brick courthouse was built and a frame building was constructed as a jail. In 1780 the jail burned down and was replaced with a brick building, located behind the building we know today as Pleasant Hall. The County seat remained in Kempsville until 1824. In 1824, the county seat was moved to the old Princess Anne County Courthouse, located in the present day Virginia Beach Municipal Center. The old courthouse in Kempsville was converted into a Baptist Church and the jail became a private school, Kempsville Academy. The Kempsville courthouse was demolished in 1971, and the old jail was demolished in 1974.

#### IN CONCLUSION

As in past years, we have had a few Brothers pass to the Celestial Lodge above.

Please remember to keep these Brothers and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

The experiences of this year have been extremely rewarding. There are not enough words in the dictionary to describe the emotions I now feel as I write this, my last Article as Master of Kempsville Lodge. To begin with, I thank the Almighty. His loving hand was there to guide and protect us all the way. Thanks to my Wife, Judy for her support, patience, love and encouragement. Thanks to the Past Masters and brethren for the support, brotherly love, suggestions, and, yes, even the criticism given through the year. For all of this, we are better men, and I trust that I have been able to lift you up, so that Kempsville Masonic Lodge can go on to even greater heights. Some of you have told me that I have had a great year. Whatever has been accomplished was because of **YOU** and your efforts. I have been richly blessed, far beyond what I believed possible, or deserve. It has been my pleasure to serve the Lodge as Worshipful Master, and I will cherish my memories forever. Continue to make Kempsville Lodge one of the finest in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and may God Bless each of you and keep you in the palm of His hand, especially in this holiday season, and throughout the coming years.

Fraternally,  
Wor. G. Wilson "Bill" Nelligar

#### From the West:



My Brethren,

As your outgoing Sr. Warden, I would like to leave you with this poem that I think we could all benefit from. I'm no sure who the author is, but I'll bet he's a Mason.

"Around the corner I have a friend,  
In this great city that has no end,  
Yet the days go by and weeks rush on,  
And before I know it, a year is gone.  
And I never see my old friends face,  
For life is a swift and terrible race,  
He knows I like him just as well,  
As in the days when I rang his bell,  
And he rang mine but we were younger then,  
And now we are busy, tired men.  
Tired of playing a foolish game,  
Tired of trying to make a name,  
"Tomorrow" I say! "I will call on Jim  
Just to show that I'm thinking of him,"  
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,  
And distance between us grows and grows.  
Around the corner, yet miles away,  
"Here's a telegram sir," "Jim died today."  
And that's what we get and deserve in the end.  
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Remember to always say what you mean. If you love someone, tell them. Don't be afraid to express yourself. Reach out and tell someone what they mean to you. Because when you decide that it is the right time it might be too late. Seize the day. Never have regrets. And most importantly, stay close to your Brethren, friends and family, for they have helped make you the person that you are today.

As this year draws to a close, let us be reminded of how quickly the sands in the hourglass are passing and in the short space of an hour, they are gone.

Call a brother that you haven't seen in the lodge or heard from in a while just to let him know that he is missed and that you are thinking of him. Don't wait until you think the time is right, or it might be too late.

Have a safe and blessed Holiday Season.

Prentice G. Tuck  
Senior Warden

PS. Don't forget the AREA WIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE will be Jan 10th @ Granby Street Lodge. Coffee & Donuts will be served starting at 7:30 am



#### From the South:

As our Worshipful Master indicated, it's been a busy year. I've thoroughly enjoyed my tenure in the South and hope that our incoming Junior Warden has as much fun as I did. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the brethren who participated in our degree work – especially our dedicated cadre of lecturers. I could always count on you to come through (even if I didn't give you quite as much time to prepare as you would have liked). I'd also like to thank the brethren that helped make the family picnic a success – especially Brother Hank Foiles. Your Italian sausage and bratwursts just may have started a new Kempsville tradition!

January's calendar is already starting to fill up so it looks like we're going to "hit the ground running" next year. I hope everybody has a wonderful holiday season and comes back re-energized for the new year as we continue Kempsville's tradition of "airtight" Masonic ritual and "down home" fellowship.

Fraternally,  
Brother Emmett "Buddy" Pate  
Junior Warden

#### Past Master's Corner:

##### THE REAL ISSUE



The monument with the Ten Commandments inscribed in a government building in Alabama has been the subject of recent controversy. Critics want it removed while supporters want it left in place. Both sides argue that their freedom of speech and First Amendment rights are being violated. While the controversy in Alabama has been the recent target, the real issue is much greater and far more reaching than this one incident.

The Ten Commandments were given by God for the good of man. To try and rid ourselves of them only causes hurt to ourselves. Approximately forty years ago prayer and Bible reading were disallowed in the public schools. Today we are reaping the results of that action because the very foundation of moral conduct was undermined. The founding fathers of America wrote the Constitution based on scriptural principles. The U. S. currency proclaims "In God we trust."

America has stood on that foundation for over 200 years. To remove the Ten Commandments monument is one thing but to try and remove God and His laws from our heart is quite another. It takes away the foundational basis for all of right and wrong. Who says it is wrong to steal? Who says I can lie? Who says I can kill? Who says I need to obey my parents? I am my own god. Under that principle, parents, teachers, law enforcement and government have no authority.

Little by little society in general has been removing God's laws from their life-style. They have accepted the theory of evolution and denied Creation. That is a violation of the first commandment. "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before me." They have opened the doors of business on the Sabbath. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do thy work. God blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." For some the Sabbath is just another day of business or a day to get things done around the house. God set it apart for man to rest and receive physical refreshment and to honor Him. God said marriage between one man and one woman as long as life shall last. Society instead has accepted divorce as normal and an easy resolution to marital difficulties. Marriage has been reduced to a contract agreement between parties until one defaults. As a result, one out of every two marriages today ends in divorce and everyone suffers. Husband and wife lack trust. Children find it difficult to honor and obey a father or mother who is playing the role of parent but really aren't the true parents. It undermines discipline in the home and the school. Domestic disputes are another result of this violation of a God instituted principle.

Can you see what happens in a world where these principles and morals are undermined? It is utter chaos. Law and order have no place. Laws need only be followed if one desires. There is no right or wrong. Everything is left up to the discretion of each individual. Human life loses its value as well and is removed at will through abortion, euthanasia, or outright murder. Pause for a moment and consider the risks of traveling down the highway if everyone ignored the traffic laws and did their own thing. No speed limit. No stop signs. Cars going East and cars going West in the same lanes. That is the same kind of chaos you see when God's principles for mankind are ignored. When God's principles are followed it is for our good. When they are ignored it is our destruction.

The removal of the Ten Commandments, prayer and bible reading, etc. is simply the resolve of people to eliminate God from the equation. They don't want to answer to God for their actions. Regardless of man's efforts, God can't be eliminated. He has every right to institute laws and require a response from man because He created him and gives him every breath he takes. Man can refuse to obey God but God has outlined consequences for that refusal. The physical removal of the Ten Commandments from a government building in Alabama is simply carrying out in reality what has already taken place in principle.

A building without good foundation will crumble. America has a good foundation but it needs some major repair. She can continue to ignore God's principles or choose to follow them. God honors those who honor Him and disciplines those who don't. America's future will be a declaration of the people she represents. May we work to restore the foundation by upholding the principles that God has instituted for our good, for the good of our children and for the good of the nation.

Rt. Wor. Tom McGowan

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