



The Ashlar



January

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

Volume 1-2005



FROM THE EAST:



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Brethren for allowing me the honor of serving as your Worshipful Master during the 50th Anniversary year of Kempsville Lodge. I'd also like to thank the Installing Officers and Brothers Hank Foiles and Roger Cort for their outstanding efforts at our Lodge Installation of Officers. It was quite a humbling experience and one that I will always cherish. I'm excited about the possibilities in 2005 and will work hard to honor the trust you have placed in me.

Our 50th year will start off with a bang as we receive our District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Joseph Russo, Jr., in January and then celebrate the granting of our Charter with the official visit of Most Worshipful John Randall Quinley at our February Stated Communication. The Kempsville Order of the Eastern Star will also join in the celebration by hosting a special reception on Saturday, February 12th. In March we'll honor one of our own, Worshipful Ray Hall, on "Honor the Potentate" night. Let's show our support for Worshipful Ray at his January 15th installation as he takes over the helm of Khedive Shrine Center.

Our focus this year will be a mix of "looking back" and "looking forward". Our Lodge Education Officer, Worshipful Bill Nolan, will be giving us insights into the history and traditions of Kempsville Lodge during its early years with his "LEO Minute" at our Stated Communications. Kempsville has a rich history and we never want to lose sight of the traditions that have made Kempsville the lodge that we all know and love. We've also created a special coin commemorating Kempsville's Golden Anniversary that will be given to each Brother attending the Stated Communication during his Masonic Birthday. Those Brethren not able to attend can drop me a note and I'll be glad to mail one to you.

Although 2005 marks the end of Kempsville's first 50 years, it also marks the beginning of our journey toward the next 50 years. Your officers and I believe the best way to celebrate our Golden Anniversary and honor those that have come before us is to build a solid foundation for our future. To that end, your line officers have dedicated and committed themselves to providing the quality ritual and leadership for which Kempsville is known. I have the utmost confidence in our officers and I know, with your support, they'll make Kempsville proud

as they begin and continue their journey toward the East.

Fraternally,
Brother Emmett "Buddy" Pate, WM



FROM THE WEST:

My Brethren;

Being your Junior Warden has been a wonderful and sometimes challenging experience. When a Brother becomes a Line Officer, he sees the Lodge in a different light. It is even more so for me. I've been a Master Mason for only four years and a Line Officer for three and one half of them. The Lodge is a very special place for me and I would not change the time I have spent there for anything. As of right now, I'm your Senior Warden and next year, with the will and pleasure of all you Brethren, I will be the Worshipful Master.

On this journey to the East I have learned many things. I've learned a lecture, Receiving in the East, the Fellowcraft Charge, and have gotten my Warden's Certificate to go into the East. All of these things are very important, but not as important as realizing that the Lodge is not just heading for a crisis; the crisis is here and very real.

Although most of you show up at our Stated Communications, you look around and see a lot of fellow Brethren holding conversations, laughing and having a great time, and 12 months out of the year, this happens. It's great, the Line Officers love it when there are a lot of you there, but our work nights are suffering. Lack of attendance is hindering newly raised Master Masons to stay with us and participate. I could only imagine that they don't want to get stuck with the responsibility of the Lodge, without the help of the Brethren.

As far as the Chairs go, in recent years the Chairs have had to be re-filled with different Brethren each year (with the exception of a handful of people). Things happen, people drop out from lack of interest, career change, or they feel they don't have enough time. This is just the beginning; if it persists it won't be long until we will have to re-cycle some Past Masters. The Line Officers will eventually get burned out; this will lead to the feeling that the Lodge will have no reason for being. What would happen then is Kempsville would have to merge with another Lodge and Kempsville would be lost. Fifty years down the drain. Don't think for a minute that it won't happen because it has and will if all of you let it. It is happening in other Lodges as we speak.

In closing, there are no excuses in my eyes. I work, I have a family, and I am constantly doing something. Participate in and support your Lodge or lack of attention and affection will be the undoing of our beloved Kempsville # 196.

God Bless and have a Happy New Year,
Shawn Garfield



From the South:

Greetings,

I wish first of all to give my thanks for the opportunity to serve you in the South. Secondly I want to congratulate Wor. Buddy Pate for being elected to the East.

One of the duties I inherited is that of setting up degree teams. Your current Officers do not, in any way, wish to hog all the pleasure of putting on degree work so I respectfully request any and all to join in the fun. If you say "well, I don't know the ritual", then attend school on Monday nights or Saturday mornings if enough interest is there. The only way the Lodge can grow is for all the members to get involved. This is especially true for our newly raised Master Masons.

Roger Cort, J.W.

BLOOD
The gift from the heart

Blood Coordinator:



Brethren,

We will be conducting a Blood Drive on Monday, January 17, 2005. Time is from 3:00pm until 7:30pm. Location is Lynnhaven Lodge.

The need for whole blood and blood products has never been higher. Please come out and give the **Gift of Life**. If you cannot come out yourself, have a friend or neighbor come and give in your stead. Just think of it. If only half of the membership of Kempsville Lodge would give blood, that would amount to almost 240 units. Please come out and give.

Robert H. Foxwell Jr.

Past Master's Corner:



Strength for the day
Cash those checks

A man whom everyone believed to be poor died sometime ago and was found upon investigation by the proper authorities to be very rich. He had a safety deposit box in the bank. In it was not only stocks and bonds —the amazing thing was there dozens of dividend checks he had never cashed. He lived in poverty while all he had to do was cash his dividend checks and live in comfort or perhaps luxury. A parable? Yes, and a forceful one. For you and I have stashed away a lot of life's values which correspond to dividend checks and have failed to let them do for us what they might do.

The CREATOR of the universe, the GOD of all comfort and power, is constantly sending us values and opportunities which correspond to the dividend checks. Happy is the person who knows how to use them and does use them. Unhappy those who never cash them but go right on living in the poverty which their twisted minds have seen fit to assume.

Has GOD given you a nice family and have you made yourself and everyone else furious by the way you complain about this family and the expense they create? Are you a habitual absentee from your house of worship or your lodge from which you draw strength and sustenance? Does a person collecting contributions for a good cause grimace before he knocks on your door and mutter something about a tightwad ?

Cash your dividend checks, My Brothers, cash them and really live.

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