



The Ashlar



April 2006

Kempsville Lodge #196, AF&AM

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From The East



We are having fun at your lodge and the fellowship is at its best. Come and visit your lodge and join in on the fun. Speaking of fun we are having a lot of fun and fellowship at the monthly

breakfast and while speaking of the monthly breakfast May 27th for the monthly breakfast we will be donating all proceeds to the Project Lifesavers Program, and with your help, we can make it a big success.

My Brethren the Bull Roast is almost upon us, June 10th is the magical day. I hope to see you there as usual as I will be taking the day off to in on the festivities.

June 27th, we will be having our 3rd Annual Navy Night and the regular officers will be abandoning ship to turn over the helm to a group of active duty sailors, which will be raising a Master Mason in full uniform. All active military are encouraged to attend in uniform as it promises to be a special night.

Just to let you know that I've changed jobs and I'm working a lot more hours than I used to managing a local shop. I will still uphold my duties as Worshipful Master presiding in the East. If you need anything do not hesitate to call me 589-5660 my cell is always on and if you get my voice mail leave a message, I will call you back, my phone is always on.

Thank you brethren for your time, hope to see you at the next meeting.

Brother Shawn Garfield, WM

From The West



What is this Masonry all about? A question often asked by my bride around the dinner table, and answered maybe not to her satisfaction.

The other day, while in the hospital for a little O&R work, I witnessed Brotherly Love and Affection at its finest. Soon after we were in the pre-op area, this sweet little older lady, wearing the pink jacket of a volunteer, stuck her head in and asked if I wanted some company. I asked who it was and she replied that it was my brother. I told her to admit him. This fine brother spent the rest of the day and into the evening keeping me and my wife company and making sure I was OK. When they released me to go home, he followed along and helped her get me into the house and made sure I had everything that I needed.

After this Brother departed, my wife was talking about the day. She didn't quite understand why this friend would spend the day keeping her company. I replied that she had often asked what Masonry was all about and that this was a shining example of what Masonry is. She answered she understood now and that she had also learned a lot about baseball today.

Thank you, my brother.

Brother Roger Cort, SW

From The South



As the year progresses, I constantly reflect on things in my life and at our lodge. One of the things that keeps happening is friends and acquaintances asking me why I

became a Mason. I think about the people that influenced me. My maternal grandfather was a Mason and Shriner, but we never discussed it. He did influence my life in a lot of ways, but Freemasonry was never discussed. My first civilian friend in Virginia joined Kempsville Lodge a few years ago. We talked about it, but he never said anything to influence my decision one way or another. I did, however, have him sign my petition when the time came and he was the Master when I was raised. I found out after I started my Masonic journey that a Great Uncle of mine was a Mason and his ring provided my mother with some sense of relief and comfort when she was first introduced to my father's family. But I didn't know Uncle Eddie when I was an adult, so he had nothing to do with my choice.

The one man who had the most influence on my decision never spoke to me about Masonry. He took great personal pride in being a Mason, but he never said one way or another about my becoming one. He lived it daily. He gave of himself constantly. Even while on his deathbed, he maintained a level of decorum that you rarely see. I know now it was because of his Masonic journey. I loved this man dearly until the day he passed to the Celestial Lodge above. I love him still to this day and I know that he is sitting next to the Great Architect of the Universe (probably teaching him how to make the best darned hard cider in heaven and on earth), watching my every move. Sometimes reminding me, in his own way, of my errors and pointing me in the right direction. I am sure that every time I take a seat in the Lodge, be it in the South, East or on the sidelines, he is there with me. And I thank him every night for that. I only hope I can make him proud and honor his memory. I love you, Skip Kiffer. Thank you for being my friend, mentor, father, and now, my brother.

THE BULL ROAST IS COMING! THE BULL ROAST IS COMING! Come out and enjoy June 10th. I look forward to seeing you and your families there.

Grand Lodge is coming up in November as well. I am handling the planning for Kempsville this year. The dates are 8-11 November. Please let me know if you plan on attending. I know it seems early, but I would like to have everything ready to send to the hotel as soon as possible. If you are thinking about going, but not sure, let me know and I will have you on the list anyway.

Brother Adam Green, JW

Masonic Recognition Day

Don't forget, Brethren, Masonic Recognition Day is the first day of each month. Wear your Masonic paraphernalia proudly!

