

# Food & Fellowship at Kempsville Lodge!

## Final Lodge Breakfast of 2009

October 31<sup>th</sup> – 8 to 10AM

## Annual Stated Communication

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Lodge 6PM, Dinner 7PM

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# The Ashlar



November 2009

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, AF&AM  
www.kempsvillegorge.org

Volume 12-11

### From The East



"Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all." I had the opportunity to speak these words earlier this evening during the closing prayer for our Master Mason's lodge. It seems that those who founded Freemasonry were smart enough and compassionate enough to make sure that they emphasized this sentiment in our ritual. I can think of several occasions just over the past two nights at lodge where I was asked to help look after a brother, their family members, or friends. You just never know when that person in need might be you. Immediately before coming to lodge tonight, I was introduced to a gentleman in his 70s who was filling out paperwork to come see me as a patient in my office. He was referred to me by his PCP, who also happens to be a friend of mine. For confidentiality reasons I cannot say much about this man. What I can say is that he is a Living Legend. When I was a kid growing up in this area, he was already a legend by then. Now I found myself in the strange position of being the person asked to help save the soul of someone who many of my childhood friends viewed as heroic. After speaking with him briefly, I could quickly tell that he was a kind and humble man and truly in need of encouragement. He told me that he did not feel like it was an accident that we met and that perhaps someone higher than ourselves had something to do with us crossing paths. It made me think that, for all of us, you never know when you might end up being someone else's hero. So my brethren, take a chance on looking past what you see at first glance. Be impeccable with your word. Don't take things personally. Don't make assumptions. Always do your best.

Brother Ron Jacobson, Worshipful Master

### From The West



Well the leaves are turning brilliant red's and gold's, there is a chill in the air and this month our thoughts tend to turn to Thanksgiving, and the many blessing we can be thankful for in our lives. This holiday of appreciation, presently celebrated on the fourth Thursday in

November, is an annual tradition begun in the United States in 1863. It became a federal holiday in 1941. Thanksgiving was historically a religious holiday to give "Thanks" to God, but is now considered a secular holiday, for all to enjoy.

Though the holiday's origins can be traced to harvest festivals which have been celebrated by many cultures since ancient times, most American's celebrate by gathering with family and friends for a holiday feast. Thanksgiving is usually tied to the deliverance of the Pilgrims by the Native Americans after the harsh winter at Plymouth Massachusetts in 1621. But earlier, on December 4, 1619, thirty-eight English settlers arrived at Berkeley Hundred. A tract of land about eight thousand acres on the north bank of the James River, in an area known then as Charles Cittie, about twenty miles upstream from Jamestown.

The groups charter required that the day of arrival be observed as a "Day of Thanks" to God for safe passage. On that day, Captain John Woodleaf held the service of Thanksgiving.

During the Indian Massacre of 1622, many Berkeley residents and about one-third of the entire population of the Virginia Colony were killed. The survivors of Berkeley and many other outlying settlements moved to the safety of Jamestown. After several years, Berkeley Plantation became part of the first eight Shires of Virginia as Charles City County, one of the oldest in the United States.

Berkeley Plantation continues to be the site of an annual Thanksgiving event to this day. President George W. Bush gave his official Thanksgiving address in 2007 at Berkeley Plantation.

As I look around, and count the manifold blessing and comforts which surround me and mine, I am thankful for many, many things. One of which is the opportunity to serve the Lodge as Senior Warden this year. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and take the time to reflect on the things that you too are grateful for.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Brother Bill Rawson, Senior Warden

