

Coming Up at Kempsville Lodge!



The Proud Father

2nd Annual
Father/Son Night

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Dinner at 6 P.M., Lodge at 7 P.M.

*Featuring Illustrious Brother Jim Boone and a
Special Presentation by the Kempsville Chapter of
the DeMolay*

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The Ashlar
Kempsville Lodge #196 AF&AM
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The Ashlar



March 2010

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

Volume 55-03

From The East



Those of you who have been reading the Ashlar for the past few years may have noticed I usually do not write about past or future events in the Lodge, but instead like to try and express my thoughts and feelings to you. This month will be different.

First of all I would like to thank each and every one who braved the inclement weather to attend the District Deputy Grand Master's Official Visit, and the first Ladies Night of 2010. The turn-out was fantastic, and it sure was a good feeling to see the fellowship hall bustling with Gentleman and their Ladies. The dinner was fabulous and a vote of congratulations are due to Bro. Bud, Bro. Jack and the crew. Well done to all. The meeting was a success and Right Worshipful Edwards talk was not only timely but also well received by all in attendance.

Secondly my "Thanks" go out to all the Ladies who attended dinner with us, and a special appreciation to those who participated in the after dinner fun. I've heard from a number of ladies that they enjoyed the program, and have already made plans to attend the next Ladies Night in May 2010. In fact, they have all decided to have a "Board Game Night." So ladies, be sure to be there for the fun.

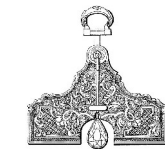
Brethren, we are blessed to have a flurry of candidates in our Lodge. I guess a great position to be in, but it also creates a log jam in the degrees. I'm sure Bro. Bill Peterson will be contacting many of you soon to help by participating in the degree teams. Right Worshipful Tom McGowan holds ritual school every Monday night to shake off the dust, so if your available we need your help. Speaking of which, recently we had a schedule mix-up that resulted in raising a Master Mason at Bayside Lodge. The degree team consisted of brethren from Kempsville, Bayside, and Willis V. Fentress. An all-star degree team indeed. This, my Brethren

is Masonry in action. Come on in, join the team and enjoy your Lodge.

Don't forget...Father and Son Night coming in March.

Hope to see you in Lodge soon,
Brother Bill Rawson, Worshipful Master

From The West



I have spent the past week working on ideas for this article and two things come to my mind. I will do my best to express those thoughts here.

The first story goes like this. One day recently I was walking through the grocery store looking for some snacks, of course they were not for me. But I could not find the little snack cakes, so I decided to seek out some help from an employee. I asked the gentleman about the item I required and he replied "right this way." He lead to the spot where these cakes had been, but were no longer. He said "we must be out sorry." I simply replied "no worries; by-the-way nice ring." This man was wearing a Masonic ring. As we walked back to the place he had been working we talked about our membership at Kempsville Lodge. From being an officer for the past several years I have met many people, and know many Kempsville brothers, but I surely did not recall this gentleman. He asked if I knew his biological brother and the person he was raised with. I was quite surprised to hear the names and had to ask about his absence from the lodge. I understand his reasoning and hope he will join us as he can. I thanked for his help and exited the store. Later that night I could not help thinking about some what ifs. What if I had not asked for assistance, what if I had not asked about his ring, what if ... How often do we casually talk with someone or ask for help and then move on to something else? It brings to mind the fact we should be present to words and our actions as they may impact others around us (positively or negatively). I know this experience gave me time to pause and reflect on my actions.

The second thought that crossed my mind this week is about the weather and our work schedule. The weather has been quite cold and nasty. The

freezing temperature, driving snow, rain, and some ice have made it difficult for some to attend lodge. However, our work continues and we have even shared our candidates to obtain help from other who want some work. Thanks to everyone who has participated on the degrees, the coaches, and mentors. I hope to see more people at lodge as the weather returns to its norm.

See you at lodge soon,
Brother Michael Johnstone, Senior Warden

From The South

Brethren, on February 11, 2010, we Raised Brother David Joseph Meers at Bayside Lodge. We had originally planned to Pass Brother David Wayne Fulcher and Examine Bother Meers in his Fellowcraft catechism, but due to a communication error, Brother Fulcher was not present. Therefore, we examined Brother Meers and with the assistance of Bayside and Willis V. Fentress, we raised him. It was a truly memorable night for Brother Meers and those present. Friendship and Brotherly love was evident that evening among all the Brethren of the lodges present. It was great seeing three lodges come together that evening.

I know it's a couple months away, but I'm looking for active duty Brethren to put together an EA Degree team for the 27 April 2010 Armed Forces Night. I am also looking for memorabilia, bunting, flags, etc. If you are interested in being on the degree team or someone who wants to participate on the degree team, providing memorabilia, or have flags/bunting, please contact me.

Brother Bill Peterson, Junior Warden

Youth Corner

Brethren, the DeMolay chapter thanks Kempsville lodge for their fantastic support of both the Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser and the Installation of Officers. Both were a resounding success. Congratulations to the newly installed officers, Jeran Gray - Master Councilor, Brian Foley - Senior Councilor and DaKoTa Burns - Junior Councilor. All are invited to attend the signing of a Virginia Beach City proclamation by Mayor Will Sesson proclaiming March DeMolay month in the City on March 16th at city hall. Additionally, the Chapter will be donating books by Dad Land (the founder of DeMolay) to the VB public library on the 3rd of March.

Bethel 42 will be participating in the annual HIKE weekend on the 17th of March where they will be marching in the Norfolk St. Patrick's Day parade. Please support these young ladies if they request a dollar or two as a donation to this wonderful charity. The HIKE fund provides hearing aids to

children who could not otherwise afford them. And as always, the Daughters thank Kempsville Lodge for the unparalleled support of their work.

Brother Justin Gray, Youth Advisor

Got Blood?

My brethren, I would like to share two things with you this month. First, I want to tell you of the enormous pride and esteem I have for our Lodge and to thank you for making Kempsville the number one giver of blood at the district's recent blood drive. We had several of our adult children and wives donate and I want to extend my thanks to them also. Altogether, 18 units of blood were given by the Kempsville Masonic family.

In addition, I want to tell you of something that I did not know until very recently. Only 38% of the American population is eligible to give blood and of these only 8% do. That means that only 3 out of every 100 people provide the necessary 16 million units that are needed by over five million people every year.

Thank you, Kempsville for helping meet this need.

Plan now for our next blood drive, March 22nd at Kempsville.

Jerry Hallal, Lodge Blood Coordinator

Trestleboard

| | | |
|----------|-------|---|
| March 2 | ..... | Dark, Attending DDGM's Official Visit Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 296 |
| March 4 | ..... | DDGM's Official Visit Bayside Lodge No. 218 |
| March 8 | ..... | Ritual School, 7PM |
| March 9 | ..... | Stated Communication Father/Son Night Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM |
| March 10 | ..... | DDGM's Official Visit Virginia Beach Lodge No. 274 |
| March 12 | ..... | Order of the Eastern Star Installation of Officers, 7:30PM |
| March 13 | ..... | Area Leadership Conference Granby Street Temple |
| March 15 | ..... | Ritual School, 7PM |
| March 16 | ..... | Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM |
| March 22 | ..... | District Blood Drive Kempsville Lodge, 3-7:30PM |
| March 22 | ..... | Ritual School, 7PM |
| March 23 | ..... | Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM |
| March 27 | ..... | Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM |
| March 29 | ..... | Ritual School, 7PM |
| March 30 | ..... | Past Masters' Night, Dinner 6PM |
| April 12 | ..... | Ritual School, 7PM |
| April 13 | ..... | Stated Communication, Dinner 6PM |

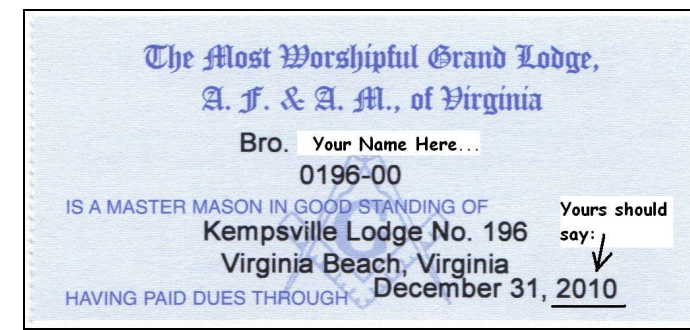
For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at
www.kempsvillelodge.org.

Masonic Birthdays for March

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kenneth Robert Barber '95 | Thomas E. Lindner '83 |
| Robert Craig Belda '00 | Winston E. Marchman '63 |
| Jackson Rollins Bell, Jr. '09 | George W. Messinger '94 |
| Orlando C. Bitanga '98 | Robert Carl Metz '92 |
| Donald Ray Blair '77 | Sidney Thomas Moore '69 |
| William Edwain Combs '80 | Gary Burke Nye '06 |
| Patrick Walne Dunn '05 | Charlie L. Pallett, III '87 |
| John Angus Farrer '68 | William H. Pierce '46 |
| Alberto C. Gatmaitan '96 | Michael S. Polychroni '85 |
| George M. Harrell Jr. '70 | Charles Joseph Ridgely '09 |
| William Harry Holland '57 | Donald K. Robinson '93 |
| Christopher J. Jaeger '58 | Frederick W. Rudiger '03 |
| Michael Johnson '93 | Raiford Scott '65 |
| John Duane Johnstone '64 | Michael Ryan Sheehan '96 |
| Thomas William Lang '05 | Fredrick A. Steinmiller '01 |
| Robert Lee Lankford '72 | Linwood Ray West '91 |
| Lester Randall Lefler '89 | James Arthur Widener '83 |
| Robert Dale Leonard Jr. '05 | |

The Brethren shown above have a total of 828 years in Masonry!

A Reminder From the Secretary...



Masonic Veterans for 2010

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| March | Michael S. Polychroni | 25 Years |
| April | Warren C. Massey | 60 Years |
| | Alton L. McKeithan | 60 Years |
| May | Russell P. Tjepkema | 25 Years |
| June | William S. Ereksen | 60 Years |
| October | Daniel E. Connor | 25 Years |
| November | Russell L. Houston | 25 Years |
| December | Rubin Kravitz | 50 Years |

From the District Deputy...

Brethren, Ladies, Widows and Friends: Please accept my heartfelt thanks for making the Grand Master's Official Visit to our District on January 16, 2010 a HUGE SUCCESS. Our goal was to give Most Worshipful Rorer, his lady Judith and the Grand Masters Party a visit they could remember and talk about the rest of the year. Your attendance and participation in the visit permitted that to be a reality. For those of you who missed the evening, you missed an outstanding meal, some superb entertainment and what I have been told was an overall enjoyable evening for all. The

highlight of the evening of course was hearing our Grand Masters address. I tip my hat to all in our great district for your support of your lodge and lodge officers already this year and can only ask that you continue to give that same support in any way possible. From your attendance at the Official Visit (244 meals served) it was quite evident to our Grand Master that freemasonry is alive and doing quite well in the 56th Masonic District. Again thank you so much for your contribution to the success of our reception of the 165th Grand Master of Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Most Worshipful William Earle Rorer, Jr

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Dennis E. Edwards

Welcome to Kempsville!

Welcome to our newest members: Brother David Joseph Meers - raised February 11th and Brother Brian Donnan Littlehale - raised February 23rd.

Brethren, please consider making a donation to the Lodge Building Fund. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. (Submit donations to the Secretary.) Thank you!

Lodge Officers

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Worshipful Master | William H. Rawson | 467-5913 |
| Senior Warden | Michael D. Johnstone | 334-3013 |
| Junior Warden | William T. Peterson | 237-5249 |
| Treasurer | Wor. Bill Nelligar | 456-0034 |
| Secretary | Wor. Bob Stanek | 495-7645 |
| Secretary Emeritus | RW Bill Pierce | 804-226-4181 |
| Senior Deacon | Wor. Steve A. Ridgeway | 270-7338 |
| Junior Deacon | Gerald T. Hallal | 472-1200 |
| Senior Steward | Jack Bell, Jr. | 831-0318 |
| Chaplain | John R. Preddy, III | 495-0771 |
| Marshal | David Bortrager | 404-7236 |
| Musician | Robert H. Johns | 467-8804 |
| Tiler | Bob Lankford | 499-0115 |
| Instructor of Work | RW Tom McGowan | 497-3881 |
| Education Officer | Wor. Bill Nelligar | 456-0034 |
| Blood Coordinator | Gerald T. Hallal | 472-1200 |
| Youth Advisor | Justin Gray | 338-7218 |

Articles for the next next Ashlar should be submitted by 2/20/10 to RW Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or Worshipful Bob Stanek (rstanek1@cox.net)