



# The Ashlar



September 2013

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.  
www.kempsvilleglodge.org

Volume 60-09

## From The East



Everywhere I look I see things. I see big things, small things; red ones, green ones; new ones, old ones; things that are loved and things that are unloved; and things that we want and things that we really, really want. I see twenty million dollar private jets that race through the skies. I see ninety-nine cent wood planes that quietly glide over an open space in a neighborhood park. I see people laced out in two hundred athletic shoes and I notice many who are treading on ten-dollar sneakers. I hear of people who plop down \$4M to thunder under a Lamborghini Veneno and I see many others who exchange \$20 to 30K for their daily ride.

Whether one prefers the top of the line offerings or the bargain basement specials, people love their things, they help identify us and our partialities in life, but keep in mind that, many times, the best things in life are not things at all. It could be a simple thing such as waking up in the morning and feeling the cool predawn breeze blowing through an open window and landing upon your face. Another great thing is hugging a child or your sweetheart before you begin the duties of your day and kissing them good night when you finish them.

One of the things that I look forward to the most is coming to lodge and extending my hand to a Brother and offering him a word of good cheer. I look forward to the friendly smiles and words of encouragement that we share with each other. I am joyful to see a Brother wink an eye to let me know that everything is going OK when, deep down, I know that it might not be. I am thankful of the helping hands I have received and the helping hand I have been able to give.

I am thankful for all the things Masonry has given me. It has helped me learn to subdue my passions and to become more tolerant and accepting of others. I have learned that every human being has

a claim upon my kind offerings and I am trying very hard to improve myself in Masonry.

I mention all these things partly because September in the anniversary month of the tragedies of 9/11. Nine-eleven reminds us of many things, but most importantly it should remind us that it could all end very quickly. Nobody is guaranteed tomorrow. Live you life better and better and love your loved ones more and more, and try very much harder to improve yourself in Masonry.

Our speaker at this month's stated will be Brother Tim Berkheimer. He has been called on site to every national disaster since and including 9/11 and will present us a most interesting program on how forensics were used to help identify those lost on September 11, 2001. Looking very forward to seeing you there.

Brother Jerry Hallal, Worshipful Master

## From The West



What's in a name? Born on December 18, 1866, at Murray, Kentucky, this Mason moved to Texas at an early age. In 1891 he was ordained a Methodist minister. In 1922 he was elected a Bishop of the church. He became a member of Granger Lodge No. 677 of Texas. When he received his third degree, a large number of Brethren attended, largely owing to his unusual name. He served as Grand Chaplain of Texas in 1953.

This brother had many interesting experiences connected with his name. He never tired of telling of the time he was traveling in the Holy Land and arrived at a Mosque in Hebron on the wrong day for visitors. When he told then his name, it seemed as if he had given a magic password. Others were not admitted that day, but they opened the gates for him.

While many Masons have credentials more impressive than this particular Brother, few were



## Welcome to Kempsville!

Welcome to Brother Earl F. "Buck" Bray who affiliated with us on August 13<sup>th</sup> and also our newest Entered Apprentices: Christopher Todd Sutton, Peder Kristian Wennberg III, and Blake Cameron Miller.

## Masonic Blood Program

The 56<sup>th</sup> Masonic District has 2 blood events remaining during calendar year 2013. The sites for donation are conveniently located very close to Kempsville: the next event will be on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Bayside Lodge No. 218, and the final event will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220.

Giving whole blood takes about 5-7 minutes. The entire donation appointment, including a mini-physical (blood pressure, temperature and pulse), medical history review, and post-donation refreshments takes about an hour.

Platelets are critically needed for cancer and leukemia patients and only have a shelf life of 5 days. A single double red cell donation saves twice the lives of any other donation procedure.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors who may find themselves in destitute form.

Brother Greg Muir, Lodge Blood Coordinator

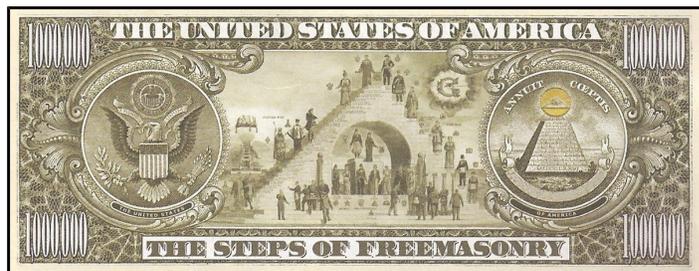
## Around the Lodge

Our Musician, Brother Bob Johns, told this story during a recent Stated Communication but it's worth sharing with the entire membership. Enjoy...

I was recently returning from Canada to Norfolk at the end of a business trip. I had missed a flight the previous day due to weather and a subsequent cancellation. The only return I could book was for 6AM. So I got to the Kanata International airport in Ottawa very early and proceeded through gate checks and then to Customs. The Customs Officer called me forth and took my passport. They scan the passport and your image page appears on their computer monitor screen. He was looking back and forth from the computer screen to my passport several times. I was thinking "oh no, what is the issue and will I ever get out of Canada!" The Customs Officer then took out a magnifying glass and started to scrutinize my passport photo. I

figured I was done for by this time. He then looked up at me and said "is that a square and compass on your shirt in this photo?" Well that was a surprise as I did not remember what shirt I had on when that photo was taken. I replied "yes it is!" He said "Are you a Mason?" I said "Yes, are you?" He replied "Yes. Try me..." and so forth! We shook hands and he welcomed me home and gave me my passport with a smile! Later when I had boarded the plane I was putting my passport back in my briefcase when I noticed that the customs officer had inserted a \$1,000,000 US bill inside my passport. It had all of the Masonic symbols displayed around both sides of the bill proudly proclaiming "The United States of America...Built on the Steps of Freemasonry".

It never ceases to amaze me how far spread our Masonic brethren are and what a real pleasure it is to meet them when you are far away from home. It is an instant bond that is felt and shared and it is always a wonderful experience to meet a brother.



## The Value of a Man

The value of man does not consist in the truth which he possesses, or means to possess, but in the sincere pain which he hath taken to find it out. For his powers do not augment by possessing truth, but by investigating it, wherein consists his only perfectibility. Possession lulls the energy of man, and makes him idle and proud. If God held enclosed in his right hand absolute truth and in His left only the inward lively impulse toward truth,

and if He said to me: Choose! even at the risk of exposing mankind to continual erring, I most humbly seize His left hand and say: Father, give! absolute truth belongs to Thee alone.

G. E..Lessing  
From "The Builders", by J. F. Newton  
Submitted By Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

## Life Membership in Perpetuity

Did you know that our annual Lodge dues in 1996 was \$49.? A member who joined the Life Membership in Perpetuity Plan (LMIP) in 1996 paid only \$784 (16 times the annual dues). That member has never again paid dues, nor has he paid a dues increase. Looking back, that was a good investment; looking forward, it only gets better.

Annual dues are now \$100, and will remain so for 2014 (\$62 for our Lodge, and \$38 for the Grand Lodge). In 2015 though, the Grand Lodge dues will increase \$7, causing our dues to increase to \$107 (this per our by-laws). With this in mind, you may like to consider the LMIP plan now.

If you join the LMIP, it will pay your dues to both Kempsville Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Virginia forever, even after your death. The benefit to you is that during your lifetime you never again pay dues, even if they increase. The benefit to your Lodge is that the Lodge will continue to derive income from the plan – forever (as long as the Lodge holds its Charter).

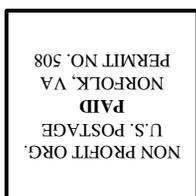
The LMIP cost is calculated at 16 times the Lodge dues, so to join LMIP costs \$1,600 now. In 2015, after the Grand Lodge dues increase, it will cost \$1,712, or a \$112 increase (7%).

The Grand Lodge offers lump sum, partial payments, and even various credit card options to pay for LMIP. If you are interested, please contact the Lodge Secretary. More information and an application are also available to you on the Grand Lodge of Virginia web site (look in the "Committees" section, and click on "Life Membership in Perpetuity").

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Jerry Hallal	472-1200
Senior Warden	Steve A. Ridgeway	270-7338
Junior Warden	John R. Preddy	495-0771
Treasurer	Wor. Bill Nelligar	456-0034
Secretary	Wor. Bob Stanek	619-7646
Secretary Emeritus	RW Bill Pierce	804-226-4181
Senior Deacon	R. Scott Foxwell	490-2797
Junior Deacon	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Senior Steward	Todd DeFord	362-4062
Chaplain	Chris Anders	635-7617
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Musician	Bob Johns	467-8804
Tiler	Terry Bledsoe	589-8210
Instructor of Work	RW Tom McGowan	646-5878
Education Officer	Wor. Jimmie Wilder	467-1336
MAHOVA Ambassador	Wor. Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Youth Advisor	Rob Worthington	464-2398

Articles for the next Ashlar should be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to Right Worshipful Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or Worshipful Bob Stanek (bob.stanek@gmail.com)



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