



The Ashlar



February 2016

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

Volume 63-2

After Prayer – Singing

At our first stated meeting in January, we re-introduced singing into our lodge. The first song was an old favorite, Irving Berlin's "God Bless America." As was our custom, the song followed the pledge of allegiance to the flag. However, two other songs were introduced and need some explanation. Masons are not strangers to music. Those of us who have participated in a Table Lodge know the important role that music plays in that event. Several of you have attended lodges under the auspices of the United Grand Lodge of England and have experienced singing in those lodges.

My wife and I travelled to London during the summer of 2015 and visited The United Grand Lodge of England. Following our tour of that most impressive building, we stopped in the gift shop and found [among other things] a book entitled Masonic Lodge and Chapter Music. Briefly glancing through the book, I realized my immediate need of purchasing this long sought after treasure. Among its many interesting selections are several Opening Odes and Closing Odes. An ode is a poem meant to be sung.

Opening Ode

*Hail Eternal! by whose aid
All created things were made:
Heav'n and earth Thy vast design;
Hear us, Architect Divine!*

*May our work; begun in Thee,
Ever blest with order be,
And may we, when labours cease,
Part in harmony and peace.*

*By Thy glorious Majesty,
By the trust we place in Thee,
By the badge and mystic sign,
Hear us, Architect Divine!*

Closing Ode

*Now the evening shadows closing,
Warn from toil to peaceful rest;
Mystic arts and rites reposing,
Sacred in each faithful breast.*

*Humbly now we bow before Thee,
Grateful for Thy aid Divine;
Everlasting power and glory,
Mighty Architect! be Thine.*

*God of Light! whose love unceasing
Doth to all Thy works extend;
Crown our Order with Thy blessing,
Build, sustain us to the end.*

Both odes have three stanzas. Our guest speaker in January mentioned the Masonic significance of the number three and how it was expressed in the music of Mozart. The Senior Deacon's Lecture in the Fellowcraft Degree teaches about the three steps and their allusions. The first stanza of the Opening Ode addresses the Great Creator of the Universe. The second stanza presents our petition, asking for blessings on our work and our lodge. The third stanza concludes with the reasons we are able to ask, and to request our petition be heard.

The Closing Ode begins by stating the time and our condition. The second stanza states our posture, appreciation for assistance, and recognition of the greatness of the Mighty Architect. The third and final stanza concludes much like the Master's Charge at the Altar, and presents our petition of continued blessing. Notice the verb in the last line, "Build." We are reminded that we are continually being "fitted as living stones for that house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

As we sing these odes throughout the year, may they become more meaningful to us, and give us more insights as to what it means for us to be Masons.

From The East



The new year is off to a great start! I want to thank the officers of the lodge for doing such a great job at our first stated meeting. You made the lodge look good. Many lodges have

“opening night” jitters with everyone in a new job, but you looked like pros right off the bat. Keep up the good work.

We are our usual busy selves. Notice the trestle board...we are booked through the end of the month with work. It is also time for visiting our sister lodges in the district for the Official Visits of the District Deputy Grand Master. We will welcome Right Worshipful Edward Lawrence Meise, Jr. to our lodge on the 9th. Join us for fellowship when you can.

Most of the lodge furniture has been sent out to be refinished. After trying to get several estimates for the cost of the work, we chose Craftsmanship by Weathersby for many reasons. We should see the results by the stated meeting! If any brother would like to assist with the cost of the work, we would be happy to break it down. We are having the five large chairs refinished and reupholstered [\$340 each], the two stands in the South and West reworked [\$185 each], the podium in the East refinished [\$325] and the Working Tools Plaque redone [\$115]. Your gift would be a lovely memorial or dedication to the lodge and greatly appreciated.

Brother Scott Foxwell, Worshipful Master

From The West



I hope the winter is treating everyone well. I have been lucky enough to be home for the most part of January. I did have a quick out and back on IKE in the later part of the month. It's

always good to get back out there and interact with the sailors.

We have some pretty neat Lodge stuff coming up with more degree work on the docket and of course the DDGM visit in February. Other neat stuff lying ahead is the beginning of the NASCAR season and the Daytona 500, the NCAA basketball tournament, and the start of the baseball season. These are all major issues for the Saturday Morning Coffee Club to ponder.

Please stop by the Lodge any Saturday and join the

discussion on these vital topics. Otherwise come on out for the stated or some degree work. In any case, I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Senior Warden

From The South



February is here and you know what that means? That's right - Valentine's Day! Every man's favorite holiday. By the way, it falls on the 14th this month! I'm sure you are busy making

plans to buy some candy or flowers or maybe make dinner reservations for your spouse or significant other. It is a great time to let them know we appreciate them. Brethren, I'd like to ask that this Valentine's Day you extend this kindness a little further and remember some very special ladies. We have 76 Lodge Sweethearts listed in the current lodge roster, complete with addresses and phone numbers. Take a few moments and mail a card, drop off some flowers or candy, and most importantly make a phone call to let these wonderful ladies know we care and are thinking about them. While you're at it invite them to our lodge breakfast on the 27th. Why? Because here at Kempsville Lodge No. 196 we make remembering our sweethearts a priority!

Brother Chris Anders, Junior Warden

Trestleboard

February 2	DDGM Official Visit Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 269, 7PM
February 3	DDGM Official Visit Princess Anne Lodge No. 25, 7PM
February 4	DDGM Official Visit Bayside Lodge No. 218, 7PM
February 6	DeMolay Honest Abe Spaghetti Dinner, 4PM
February 8	Ritual School, 7PM
February 9	Stated Communication DDGM Official Visit, 7PM
February 10	DDGM Official Visit Virginia Beach Lodge No. 274, 7PM
February 15	District Blood Drive, 2-7PM Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220
February 16	Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM
February 23	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
February 27	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
March 8	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

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

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in February:

Patricia Henningsgen	February 1 st
Catherine Hamilton	February 4 th
Nancy Moffat	February 4 th
Lorraine Johns	February 5 th
Ann Akers	February 17 th

If any of our ladies are in need of assistance from the Lodge, please don't hesitate to contact Right Worshipful Bill Knowles or the Secretary.

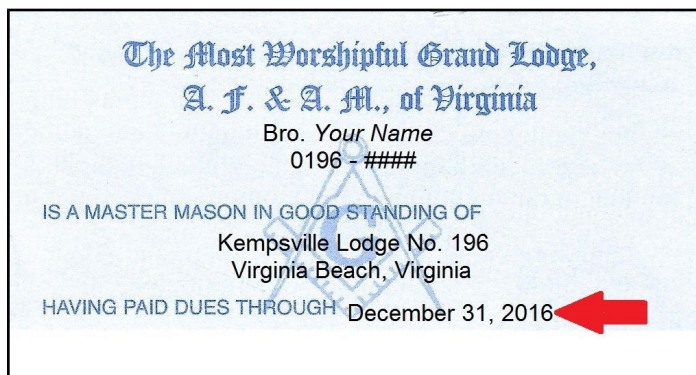
Masonic Birthdays for February

Alex Harvey Adkins '76	Kenneth W. Lancaster '05
David H. Armstrong, Jr. '77	Marvin Boyd Lancaster '05
Scott Edward Bateman '99	Brian Donnan Littlehale '10
Dennis Leonard Eaton '11	John Theodore Martin '11
Charles Frank Edwards '70	David Joseph Meers '10
Edward Joseph Foley '93	John Mark Nuzum '02
Lewis Jackson Forrest '85	Galen Keith Rogers '99
Glenn Douglas Fraser II '80	Joseph Max Snook '65
Glenn Lincoln Gilman '78	Osmay Torres '08
William Franklin Grice '70	William Charles Vahle '13
Robert Hunter Johns '05	Arthur F. Wadford, Jr. '08

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,372 years in Masonry!

From the Secretary

Brethren all, please check your dues card – it should be current (see below). If not, contact the Secretary promptly. Thanks!



Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Blood Program

Brethren, We are off to a great start this Masonic year for blood drives. At the current count, Kempsville Lodge is at 413 units donated after only two drives, which is 98% of the lodge membership of 420 already! One of our new very successful programs is external drive reporting, where a brother has donated outside of a district blood

drive on his own time like at a church, motorcycle club, or just on their own at one of the two Red Cross centers (Pembroke Mall or Brambleton Ave). If you made this type of donation, shoot me an email at pblankenship@cox.net or whisper in my ear at a lodge function the date and type of donation that you made. By personal experience, if you tell me when my head is in the oven or I am carrying a bin of hot food, I am unlikely to remember.

Our next District Blood Drive February 15th at Lynnhaven Lodge from 2-7PM. Don't believe that goofy brother (me) who kept telling everybody the next drive was on the 21st. As a special thought, after you show your sweetie how much you love them on Valentine's Day, Show some love for your fellow man, by donating the gift of life.

Patrick Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

Masonic Ethics

A man can never hurt or help natural forces. He can spread his sail, but that does not affect the wind. He can send his wireless messages through space, but that does not change the structure of the atmosphere. A man does not have much choice in his dealings with nature. If he steps from a roof he immediately falls to the earth, whatever be his opinions of gravity.

A man's relationship with his fellow men is very different. He can hurt or help them, bless or curse. What he says may change the course of another's fortunes: what he does may be a matter of life and death to a fellow. And all that he does to and with his fellows is largely under the control of his own will, for he can choose to act or not to act, to think or not to think, to speak or not to speak, and he can so choose when he knows that his words or deeds will influence them greatly one way or another. This is also true of a man's own self, and his relationship with himself: he can make his own person the object of his thoughts and acts for good or ill, and, as these thoughts and acts are of his own choosing, he is responsible, and they become a part of his conduct. All the ways in which a man affects himself, and in which men affect each other, for which men are responsible, comprise the materials of morality, of which ethics is the science.

Freemasonry has its own interpretation of the Principles of morality. For reasons of its own it emphasizes certain duties, and encourages certain ideals. In order to persuade men to act in a certain

way it brings to bear upon them certain influences and strives to neutralize other influences which may oppose its purposes. It knows what it wants a man to be, and human society in general to be, and it bends its efforts towards that end. Masonic Ethics is ethics studied from this particular point of view, in the light of Masonic principles and ideals, and in behalf of Masonic purposes. It is the study of ethics as it bears on Masonry and of Masonry as it bears on ethics. Such a study bulks large in literature of the Craft, in its philosophy, in its teachings, its ritual, and its traditions, because Masonry is above all other things a moralistic institution, which strives to realize on earth a definite ideal of conduct, both private and public.

H. L. Haywood, The Builder, 1922
submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

Meet Your New Junior Steward



Brother Todd was raised a Master Mason in April of 2011. He has often been found working in the kitchen since then and was a natural choice for Junior Steward. The lodge is thrilled to have him serve. When not helping in the lodge, he works with the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Department. Todd and his wife, Christen, are

the proud parents of a one year old son Christopher.

Youth Corner

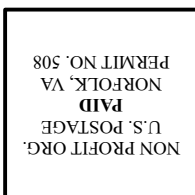
The weather outside may be frightful, but spending your afternoon with Kempsville's Masonic Youth is beyond delightful! Kempsville Lodge proudly sponsors two of the most active and thriving Job's Daughters bethels and DeMolay chapters in the state. All Master Masons are encouraged to join Kempsville DeMolay on the first Thursday of the month at 7PM and Bethel 42 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 2PM. We'll even brew you a fresh pot of coffee!

Brother Cliff Williams, Youth Advisor

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Senior Warden	Greg Muir	676-3761
Junior Warden	Chris Anders	635-7617
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Junior Deacon	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Senior Steward	Dennis Eaton	499-6720
Junior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Chaplain	Mike Denning	651-0712
Musician	John Settle, III	478-7149
Marshal	John Settle, IV	478-7149
Tiler	Ray Baez, Jr.	285-2611
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Steve Ridgeway	270-7338
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539

Articles for the next Ashlar should be submitted by the 18th of each month to
Right Worshipful Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or
Worshipful Bob Stanek (bob.stanek@gmail.com)



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