



The Ashlar



September 2016

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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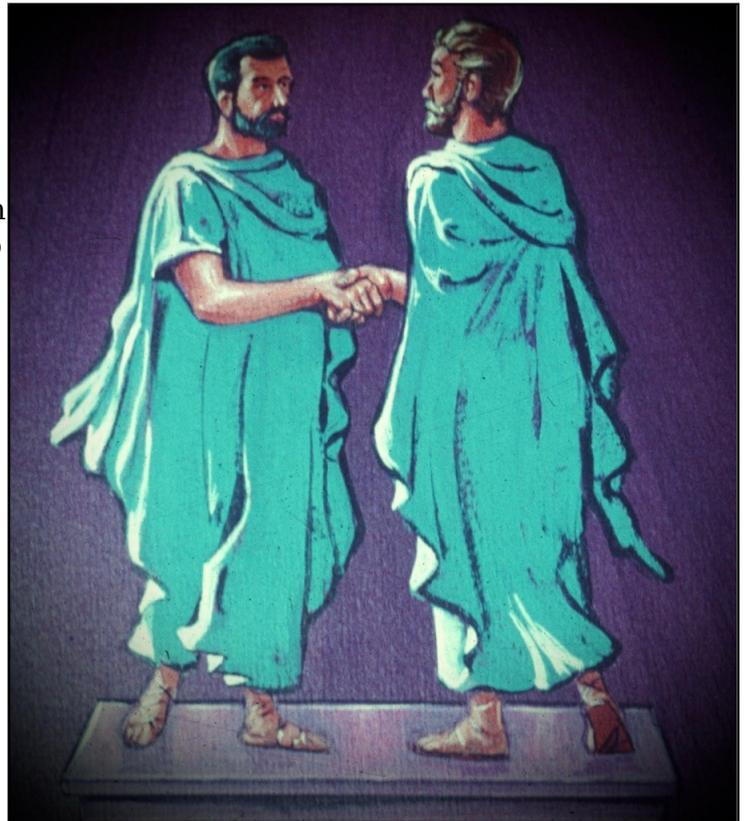
The Gift of Presence

Many of us have been invited to parties or occasions with “No gifts please” on the invitation. This indicates the desire of one’s presence without having to bring a present. We often evaluate an experience based on how many people were there. Church congregations think a choir anthem is better if the choir loft is full. Parties are deemed a success if there is a good crowd. Standing room only, or a sold out house are quite desirable for the theatre.

Such is the case with Masonry: When a larger number of the brethren are present, we tend to think it was a good meeting. We have been very fortunate this year to have been blessed with great attendance. Candidates are more impressed following degree work when they see brethren on the sidelines. There have been times this year when we have had to squeeze in our two "perfect" parallel lines! However, do not say, "Well, if they are doing so well then I don't need to be there." Being a part of the group and showing your support for activities is an important part of your membership in a Masonic lodge.

Think about how you have been gifted with presence. Before you knocked on the door of Freemasonry, you were visited by an Investigation Committee. They took the time to meet with you and your family, got to know you better, and offered a report to the lodge on their meeting. The lodge then took the time to discuss and vote on your petition. Following your initiation, you were gifted with time by your coach. Most of us remember fondly that time spent and cherish those memories of learning together about masonry.

Being present in an individual or personal situation is also important. Taking the time to visit someone who is sick, bereaved, lonely or needs help is a valuable gift. In such times, what is said is not as important as the fact you were there. Words are too soon forgotten, but the memory of time spent together lasts. Cards may be lovely. Phone calls are very much appreciated. But the physical presence of one who expresses caring is invaluable.



As Masons, we are tasked to “go on foot, and out of our way” to relieve those who need our assistance. We have promised to “stretch forth our hands” to sustain our falling brethren. “Whispering good counsel” can only be done in person. These and so many other functions of being a good Mason require being there. When was the last time you gave the gift of your presence? It only costs you your time. It is usually time well spent. Be there!

From The East



I have always loved the month of September. Now that I don't have to go "back to school," I love it even more. There is so much to like about the month; college football and cooler temperatures, [not to mention my birthday]. But it is also "the beginning of the end." Before you know it, it is Christmas and the New Year is upon us. But let's enjoy it while it lasts.

We expect to vote on three candidates at the stated meeting, which is Junior Warden's Night. We will be back to our usual busy selves with degree work. The 11th is our lodge picnic. Our Senior Deacon has planned to have a brisket cook-off between perhaps three competitors! Come out and enjoy the fellowship and help choose a "winner." We also hope to have Island Chicken in addition to the usual fare, and a substantial supply of Nutty Buddies.

On a personal note, I can't tell you how much it meant to me to have the lodge's support at the death of our lodge brother, my dad. The kind words spoken and written, and most of all the presence at the visitation and Masonic Rites, were a solace during a trying time. Special comfort came from our Secretary, who also lost his father while being Master. During difficult times, membership in our Masonic organizations pays. Thank you.

Brother Scott Foxwell, Worshipful Master

From The West



We are nearing my favorite time of year, "time for some Steelers football!" The Fall is really nice for sports fans like me: baseball playoffs and World Series, college football and THE NFL, hockey season starts, and the NASCAR Chase is run and my boy Kyle Busch will be defending his championship in the 18. I may never go outside, and the best thing about that, if I don't go outside then I won't have to rake leaves and clean gutters.

I am doing prep work for 2017 and request that Brothers desiring to purchase Lodge polo shirts notify me and provide their desired size. The cost of the shirts will be approximately \$30 each. My intent is to place the order after the September Stated which means I should have them in my possession sometime during the month of October.

However, I do not intend to distribute the shirts until I am installed as Master and I ask that you hold your payment until I deliver your shirt.

Looking forward into the month of September, we have our annual picnic scheduled for the 11th. Hopefully everyone will be able to make it out for some of the excellent food that Brother Roger Taylor has planned to cook up. From personal experience running the picnic, I can honestly say that Roger will need as much help as he can get, so if you have the time to lend a hand please do.

Brother Greg Muir, Senior Warden

From The South



Have you ever felt that some of the words and phrases spoken in our Masonic ritual seem a bit antiquated and difficult to understand? Well, that's because in many instances they are. Since we rarely use many of them in everyday speech we oftentimes find ourselves unsure of their exact meaning and their Masonic significance escapes us. That being said, gaining an understanding of their meanings is vital for us to feel Freemasonry's power, its beauty, and its truths. Seeking that understanding rests squarely on the shoulders of each and every one of us. Fortunately, we have many experienced brothers and active Past Masters in our lodge willing to assist. Seek their wisdom and you'll discover that our ritual has a far deeper significance than what appears on the surface. Our Masonic ritual is greatly enriched when we understand the meaning of the Masonic words and phrases. This month's stated communication is Junior Warden's night and I am honored to be sitting in the East. I have asked a brother to speak on this very subject. His talk, entitled "Ritual: Beyond Memorization to Meaning" offers a deeper understanding of some of the words and phrases spoken in a part of the Master Mason's degree I personally find to be one of the most beautiful and significant.

Brother Chris Anders, Junior Warden



Trestleboard

August 30 Community Builder's Award Night
 Dinner 6PM, Presentation 7PM
 September 6 Master Mason Degree, 7PM
 September 11 Annual Family Picnic, 1-4PM
 September 13 Stated Communication, 7PM
 September 20 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
 September 22 Grand Master's Visit
 Bayside Lodge No. 218, Dinner 6PM
 September 27 Past Masters' Night
 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
 October 4 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM

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

Masonic Birthdays for September

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Christopher K. Adkins '99 | Larry Mansir Maples '82 |
| Christopher M. Bardin '07 | William D. Masters '15 |
| Patrick Francis Barnes '95 | Shepherd W. McClenny '92 |
| James M. Beighley '00 | Blake Cameron Miller '14 |
| David Borntreger '87 | Jesse Luther Monroe '89 |
| Earl Franklin Bray '83 | Raymond Scott Nester '11 |
| Fred Allen Brewer '68 | Archie Richard Nobles '64 |
| Gregory Roger Cort '11 | Larry Donald Rummel '95 |
| Richard A. Davis, III '75 | Christopher Shackelford '06 |
| Cacey Earle DeFord '11 | John Paul Tewalt, III '92 |
| Todd Cameron DeFord '11 | John Michael Thomas '10 |
| David James Dutton '13 | Fritz Edward Trojahn '14 |
| Robert Dale Eberle '11 | Richard W. Walker, II '93 |
| Robert John Eisenberg '88 | Mark Robert Wegesin '05 |
| Charles M. Forbes '86 | Christopher C. Widen '96 |
| Claude Quay Fulcher '82 | Glenn R. Wintemberg '76 |
| Larry Register Hale '03 | Matthew H. Zardeskas '09 |

The Brethren shown above have a total of 651
 years in Masonry!

Petition, Application and Degree Fees

Brethren, if you don't find a blank petition at the Lodge (in the entrance foyer), know that Masonic petitions are also available on the Virginia Grand Lodge web site (look in the "Joining" drop-down menu). This on-line petition may be printed and submitted to the lodge for membership. Be reminded that our by-laws require a \$75 fee to accompany the petition. The Grand Lodge also requires an additional \$20 for the mandatory background check. Therefore, total fees for petitioning Kempsville Lodge are \$95. Our by-laws also require degree fees of \$25 for each degree (times 3 equals \$75) bringing the "total fees" to \$170 to petition for membership and complete the degrees.

A Master Mason of another Virginia lodge may

apply for affiliation with Kempsville Lodge with no fee required. However, if he is an out-of-state Mason, there is a \$5 fee required by Grand Lodge rules to verify his good-standing within his home jurisdiction.

For further information, please contact the Secretary.

Worshipful Bob Stanek
 Secretary

The Letter "G"



There have been quite a few changes at Kempsville Lodge in recent years. One thing that has remained constant, and will hopefully remain for many years to come, is the letter "G" suspended over the Worshipful Master in the East. From the Charter Night in 1955, to our most recent meeting, it has adorned our Lodge and reminded us that our every action is done within sight of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Youth Corner

Kempsville's DeMolay had the distinct honor of joining their brethren from across the region not once, but multiple times to support the growth and rebirth of DeMolay chapters in other parts of the state. They travelled to Petersburg Lodge and, for the first time in 50 years and with the help of members from other chapters, Kempsville helped initiate five new young men into Petersburg DeMolay Chapter. Later they convened in the state's Central Region to welcome 13 Master Masons who pledged their continued support for DeMolay and Masonic Youth by becoming honorary members. Finally, the young men travelled to Portsmouth to attend that chapter's installation of officers and witness Portsmouth Chapter receiving its official charter. Please join Kempsville DeMolay

for their public installation of officers at 7PM, Saturday, September 17th at the lodge.

H.I.K.E., the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund, is the ongoing philanthropic project of Job's Daughters International. Since its inception in 1985 and through the efforts of Job's Daughters here and abroad, more than \$5 million has been raised to provide more than 2,500 children the gift of hearing. The young ladies of Bethel 42 regularly participate in fund raising activities to support H.I.K.E., but recently they were able to see the results of their hard work. On July 24th, at a special ceremony put on by the Jobies in conjunction with their regular meeting, Bethel 42 had the honor of presenting a local young lady with a check from H.I.K.E. to provide hearing devices. It was a very special day for all who attended.



Kempsville DeMolay members and Jobies pause for a picture at Bethel 42's "Clean the Beach" joint service project on Saturday, August 20th.

Cliff Williams, Youth Advisor

Parting Shots

Continued thanks to Worshipful Brothers Peterson and Stanek for their clean-up work at the Stratford Chase Park on a very hot Saturday morning, August 13th and Right Worshipful Bill Knowles for all his work around the lodge and for being there to take care of building needs that continue to arise. Check out the new fans in the kitchen to assist in keeping those working there a bit more comfortable.

Also, welcome to our newly raised Master Mason, Brother Benjamin Daniel Stair, who is not really ours, yet, but was done as courtesy work for our brethren at Joppa Lodge No. 40.

Congratulations to our newest Life Member in Perpetuity, Brother Bill Kemp, Jr. on the occasion of his father's 50 Year Veteran's presentation.

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 | 675-9695 |
| 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 |

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