



The Ashlar



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Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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The Holy Bible – From Creation to the Temple.

God's Word reveals His great purpose concerning the human family. He created Adam in His own image, perfect, free, sinless, with the power to choose between good and evil. Adam sinned, fell and spoiled God's plan concerning him. Then God began His great plan for redemption.

For at least 1,500 years men multiplied in the Earth and so did sin, until "God saw that wickedness of man was great in the Earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (GEN 6:5); so God made another beginning.



Commanding righteous Noah to build the Ark, He saved him and his family while He destroyed everyone and everything outside the Ark with a great flood.

Four hundred years later God again singles out a man of faith; calls Abraham out from his kindred and his people to make him a great nation, through whom His Word and His Son should be given to the world.

How is that nation made? One of Abraham's great grandsons is sold into Egypt. God sends a seven-year famine and Joseph's brethren go down to Egypt to buy corn. They find Joseph lord of all Egypt. Jacob and his eleven sons move to Egypt, where they increase mightily and later become enslaved.

There for two hundred years they are welded together in the fires of affliction until God raises up Moses, their deliverer, and they go forth out of Egypt to receive their code of laws, their organized church and priesthood, and forty years of discipline in the wilderness. Then they enter upon the conquest of Canaan and the possession of the promised land.

For more than three hundred years, during the time of Judges, their history is one of oppression when they forget God and deliverance from their enemies when they repented and turned again to Him.

These troublous times were followed by the kingdom under Saul, David and Solomon, when Israel's power and influence spread from Egypt to the Euphrates; their magnificent temple was built and Jerusalem became the religious center of the world.

King David, Solomon's father and predecessor on the throne of Israel, was forbidden by the Lord to build a temple because he was a man of war and had shed blood. He was assured, however, that his son would build the temple, and he was permitted to gather large sums of money and to make other preparations for its construction. Soon after his succession to the throne, Solomon planned to build the temple within a period of seven years. Hiram Abif, a skilled workman in metal, stone, and wood, was the principal architect and engineer.

From The East



Lots to report on, discuss, and look forward to for Kempsville Lodge. First I'd like to report on our Temple Building efforts. I have received information on our construction project and have met with one contractor who is a Master Mason in our Lodge. Our meeting went well and he is now in the process of getting an updated survey and bids from sub-contractors. Once his requirements have been satisfied he plans to give us a bid, which we can use to establish a fundraising campaign. I intend to include a few different components in the fundraising campaign but its centerpiece will most likely be in the form of pledge cards. More on that situation as it progresses.

Second, an edict from the Grand Master of Virginia was read in open Lodge at the May Stated Communication. The edict concerns the constitutional right of Americans (contained in the US Constitution Bill of Rights – 2nd Amendment) and more particularly Virginians (contained in the Constitution of Virginia – Section 13) to possess firearms on Masonic property. I intentionally did not open the topic for discussion in order to let all Master Masons whether present or not present to have time to consider the edict, and to express their feelings and opinions to the Lodge Officers. Please let me assure you that Kempsville Lodge will comply with all Grand Lodge edicts; however, I will comply with your wishes if there is a desire for me to convey any concern or support with our reply directed by edict.

I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

From The West



At the May Stated I celebrated my Masonic birthday. The occasion got me thinking and I found myself reflecting on the night I was initiated into the Mysteries of Freemasonry. I remember entering the lodge that night and seeing only one familiar face, that of Worshipful Frank Creasy. I was certainly glad to see him. The others, although friendly and welcoming, were complete strangers to me and I remember wondering, "What am I getting myself in to?" I had absolutely no idea what was to take place and truth be told, my recollection of that night remains somewhat blurry. That being said, and in retrospect, petitioning the lodge was one of the best decisions I had ever made. My

journey had begun and as intimidating as it seemed, I was intrigued and eager to get going. As the night progressed, I realized that no man can possibly have a mind big enough, quick enough, or open enough, to absorb and understand in a single evening what Freemasonry is all about. That this degree, no matter how impressively delivered, could begin to impart all the mysteries of Freemasonry. The Entered Apprentice degree does however, point the candidate in the right direction and offers guidance for his travels. After the night ended I realized the real work was about to begin. I also discovered that it is not possible for Freemasonry to find a home in a man's heart if he is not willing to sacrifice some time, give some effort, do some study, ask some questions, and digest some philosophy, to make it truly his own. Each of which I was ready and willing to consent to. After all, an Entered Apprentice must learn and learn well if he is to continue to advance on his journey. To those who have been initiated into this very old and very ancient craft, what you do now and in the future, and how well you learn the lessons taught you as an Entered Apprentice, will be the foundation on which your Masonic character and craftsmanship is built. Lastly brethren, remember, you are never alone. We have in our Lodge faithful brethren ready and willing to help newly initiated Entered Apprentices on their Masonic journey.

Brother Chris Anders, Senior Warden

From The South



From what I have been able to determine there are only a handful of countries that formally ban freemasonry: Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Egypt, Pakistan, Iran, United Arab Emirates, the Vatican and North Korea. The list previously included countries under communist control such as Poland, U.S.S.R. and China. Since the fall of the Soviet Union these countries, and other communist countries, permitted freemasonry. In the United States there are thousands of lodges located in every state and territory to accommodate Masonry's over 1.1 million American members. To visit any of these lodges is very easy and only requires a few steps and some planning. If you are interested in visiting another lodge start with asking a brother that has experience visiting other lodges. I am certain he will tell you that the rewards and wages received are well worth any amount of trouble. You owe it to yourself to visit other lodges and experience the

Visiting Union Lodge No. 48



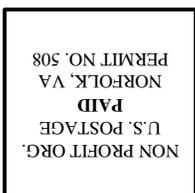
Five Brothers made the trip to Union Lodge No. 48 in Elkton, Maryland for the 8th Kempsville Lodge fraternal visit of 2017. Union Lodge No. 48 is the family Lodge of Worshipful Greg Muir, of which he is an 8th generation member. The night included the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland, Most Worshipful Kostas "Gus" Vourvoulas assisted by Right Worshipful Carl Lee (Greg's cousin) presenting a 60 year Masonic pin to Greg's uncle Frank "Tots" Sheldon. Worshipful Greg presented Kempsville coins to Most Worshipful Vourvoulas and the officers of Union Lodge No. 48 and invited all present to come down to Virginia Beach and see us. The officers are forming plans for our next fraternal visit to Fredericksburg Lodge, which is planned for the fall. Fredericksburg Lodge meets on Fridays so we will be asking Brothers attending to bring their wives or significant others to enjoy the trip with us. The Fredericksburg Lodge, the Mother Lodge of Brother George Washington is

located in Colonial Downtown Fredericksburg which includes extremely nice lodging and should make for an enjoyable evening for us and our ladies. More details to follow as the date nears.

Bull Roast – June 3rd

Brethren, the Bull Roast is right around the corner and that means it is crunch time! The prep work has been done and we are putting the final touches on things as we get ready for a big day at Kempsville Lodge. I hope everyone has made plans to come out and enjoy an awesome meal, great fellowship, and more importantly support the Masonic Home of Virginia and our Lodge Scholarship Fund. A big "Thank You" goes out to everyone who volunteered to help and to those who have sent in their ticket money! A few last minute reminders: If you haven't yet done so, please remit ticket money to either myself or Worshipful Bob Stanek as soon as possible. If you are baking cakes, please drop them off at the Lodge on Friday June 2nd by noon or early Saturday morning. If you have lined up deliveries please give me the details. If you have not yet volunteered to help, please let me know as we can sure use your assistance. What remains now is simply to step up the effort to get the word out and invite as many people as we can to the biggest fund raiser of the year. We really need a huge turnout to make this a success. I am looking forward to seeing everyone on June 3rd.

Brother Chris Anders, Bull Roast Chairman



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