



# The Ashlar



December 2019

**Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.**  
**[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org)**

Volume 66-12

## Merry Christmas

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On one hand, many say it's too religious, and thus don't want Christmas trees in public buildings and nativity scenes within a shepherd's-crook length of government lawns. On the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial. They've been saying it for years—it's the central theme behind the charming animated cartoon *A Charlie Brown Christmas* which was made some 40 years ago.

Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th.

Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies. The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do until you." In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount.

Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator." Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.

Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of the virgin birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft—faith, hope and charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at Christmas-time.



## From The East



With the end of my year in the East approaching, I found myself doing a bit of reflection on the year. It has without question been a full agenda from the Installation right up through the Annual Stated. Of course we conducted a lot of business beginning with the nomination of the District Deputy Grand Master for 2021 through the election of officers for 2020. We have initiated several new Masons into the fraternity as well as raised a respectable number of brothers. We visited numerous lodges within the district as well as several outside the district. We continued to support our community through our numerous activities and added to our involvement with several others. We made improvements to the temple and are currently involved in some major repairs. Along the way we made new friends, renewed old friendships, and said goodbye to some of our brothers that finally finished their earthly labors.

I've mentioned before that Freemasonry is a "team sport" that requires the efforts of many acting in concert to achieve the desired goal. Kempsville Lodge should be extremely proud of our accomplishments not only for the act but also how we went about it, with warm fellowship and true brotherly love.

I would like to personally thank the Past Masters, officers and brethren of Kempsville Lodge. The Past Masters for their constant presence in the lodge whether for labor or fellowship. Your wisdom and guidance have been and will continue to be, invaluable. To the officers of the lodge for going the extra mile. Without their dedication and support we would not have been able to accomplish all that we have. To the brethren of Kempsville, your support, involvement and camaraderie continue to be paramount to our success.

A special thanks goes out to our Sisters in the Eastern Star and to our Jobies and DeMolay for their support. These bodies being an extension of the Blue Lodge helped provide opportunities for growth and involvement for our brethren and also helped to ensure every brother has an opportunity to participate in activities that he finds worthwhile.

I am honored and privileged to have served as Worshipful Master of what is arguably the healthiest Lodge in the Commonwealth. The trust, confidence and support given me by the brethren is humbling. Thank you!

I am certain Kempsville's traditions, legacy and reputation will be advanced by the brothers following me in the East.

Brother Roger Taylor, Worshipful Master

## From The West



My congratulations to Worshipful Roger Taylor on an outstanding Masonic year. Anyone who been in line and/or has sat in the East understands the total devotion and significant time required of a Worshipful Master as he leads his Lodge. Worshipful Roger has led Kempsville through a very busy and productive year, and we thank him for the outstanding job he has done. The Lodge is the better because of his leadership.

I would also like to thank all of our members for the generous donation of their time, skills, and, when needed, funding for Lodge operations, repairs, improvements, and the various charitable causes we support. We continue to excel in all areas, including our renowned ritual work, community service, delicious meals (we meet – we eat!) and support to our members. I am very excited about serving my Lodge again in 2020 and look forward to hitting the ground running in January.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

## From The South



"Like sand through an hourglass..." another Masonic year passes quickly. It is hard to believe that we are already in December and preparing to elect and install a new line of officers.

Thank you to all the Brethren for your assistance is making 2019 a successful year and maintaining Kempsville Lodge No. 196 as a top Blue Lodge in the state of Virginia.

A personal thank you to Worshipful Roger for allowing myself and the other line officer the opportunity to grow in our ritual proficiency and Lodge operations. To all the Brethren that have participated in degree work, thank you for your dedication. To the Monday night practices and degree conferrals almost every Tuesday, your professionalism is second to none. Not only was every seat filled but also Kempsville enjoys the ability to pull folks in last minute as needed. This appreciation extends to brothers in attendance. It

means a lot to the candidates and demonstrates Kempsville's strong comradery to see such a large member attendance outside of just the degree teams.

Our Stewards deserve a special call out. From dinners on Stated evenings, to monthly breakfasts, to substantial refreshments after degree conferrals, to special events (picnic, Past Master breakfast, etc); they have stepped up and amazed us with quality and variety. At the same time, they have been regular and active participants in all our degree work and Stated Meetings.

Thank you for a great year.

Brother Mike Denning, Junior Warden

## Trestleboard

December 10 ..... Annual Stated Communication  
Lodge 6PM, Dinner 7PM  
December 14 ... Open Installation of Officers, 1PM  
December 16 ..... District Blood Drive  
Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220, 2-7PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at  
[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org).

## Masonic Birthdays for December

Duke D. Allen '63	Jessie R. Ritchie '92
Timothy R. Berkhimer '02	James R. Smith '94
Lincoln Figueroa '01	David H. Weast '87
Rubin Kravitz '60	Ricky T. West '83
Timothy M. Maguire '01	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 288 years in Masonry!

## From the Secretary

Annual lodge dues notices for 2020 have been mailed. Annual dues remain at \$117. Be reminded, dues are payable in January of each year.

The Life Membership in Perpetuity (LMIP) plan is still available to anyone interested. Effective January 2020, the LMIP multiplier is 25-times the current dues. Contact the Secretary if interested in this program. (The lodge benefits from LMIP forever.)

Also, you may pay your Lodge dues by credit card on our web site:

<https://kempsvillelodge.org/payment/>

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in December:

Carolyn Harrison	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Peggy McGuire	December 10 <sup>th</sup>
Loretta Cedola	December 21 <sup>st</sup>

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.

## Kempsville Blood Program Award



At the Grand Annual Communication it was my honor and privilege to receive the Grand Lodge of Virginia Gift of Life Award. This award is presented to the lodge that reported the most units collected in the Masonic Blood Program year. I presented the award to Kempsville's Blood Coordinator, Mike Blankenship at our November Stated. Tremendous Job Bro. Blankenship!

## Community Service

**Christmas 2019 Angel Tree** (Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Brother Bob Hughes) – One of the new community outreach programs. It is a very practical way of helping those in need with clothing while proving something under the tree on Christmas morning. Kempsville committed to supporting 25 "Angels" this year and I am confident that every child we sponsored will be very happy and thankful for your contribution.

Those who took a tag, please make sure your new, unwrapped gift items are delivered to the lodge by December 10th. Please call if there is a concern that you will not be able to meet this deadline.

**2019 Thanksgiving Dinner** (Worshipful Chris Anders) - For the second year in a row Kempsville

Lodge provided Thanksgiving Dinners for needy families in the Kempsville borough. With the generous contribution from the members we were able to support 12 families from Kempsville and Providence Elementary Schools.

**Kempsville Area Food Bank** (Brother Bob Hughes) - Kempsville Masonic Lodge continues to collect food items for a local church food pantry and cash donations that go to eliminate Virginia Beach Schools Student Lunch Debt.

You may drop off donations at the Lodge anytime the building is open. Keep the contributions coming, it's making a difference.

**Stratford Chase Neighborhood Park Cleanup** (Brother Karl Wessler) – Kempsville Lodge continues to support our community by picking up trash at Stratford Chase Park. Help is needed to support this small but worthwhile service.

### Kempsville Youth

Our Bethel 42 Jobs Daughters are currently conducting a fundraiser in partnership with Yankee Candle. Please help support their efforts by going to [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) and enter Group Number 999992994 in the "Start Shopping Box". You can then purchase any of the Yankee Candle products and the Jobies get 40% of the profits. It's never too early to start buying gifts for Christmas, birthdays, or anniversaries!

### Kempsville Collard Time

Advance orders are being taken for Collards Annual Stated Dinner Collards. Order forms are located in the kitchen or can be picked up from the Stewards. Take a form, fill it out and return it

along with payment of \$5 per pound. Forms and payment may be returned to our Stewards, Worshipful Roger or our Senior Warden, Brother Dave T-rex.

### Masonic Blood Program

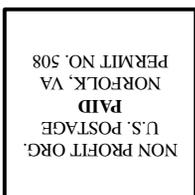
The American Red Cross is currently facing a Blood Emergency! This holiday season please give the gift that helps save lives. Medical conditions and emergencies are always painful for patients and loved ones but especially during this time of year.

Next Blood Drive is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> from 2-7PM at Lynnhaven Lodge. Please do everything possible to help recruit donors to our drives.

Brother Mike Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

### Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Warden	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Chaplain	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ben Jamal	553-2635
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	Eddie Foley	581-8144



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