



# The Ashlar



April 2021

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

Volume 68-04

## **Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty**

Triads appear in nature, politics, and religion. The cosmos consists of the sun, the moon, and the stars and the natural elements earth, wind, and fire. We live in a three-dimensional world. In politics, the US Constitution established three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. Let us endeavor to understand some of the power in triads both historically and for us as Masons.

As men, we become more complex. Dualistic thinking is insufficient for more advanced analysis. Higher learning tends to use triads. Among the seven liberal arts and sciences are grammar and rhetoric. Grammar uses subject, verb, and object – three things. Adjectives are inflected into good, better, and best – also triads. Grammatical tenses are conjugated into run, ran, and have run.

Rhetoric is similarly infused with triads. In numerology, triads are seen as the combination of odd (1) and even (2) that sums to three. Three becomes a symbol of perfection in many ancient cultures and mystic philosophies. Threes also appear very early in geography and in geometry. We can find any location on a plane by reference to three points.

Triads are also prominently employed in Lodges and Masonic writings.

Threes appear prominently in the lecture of the winding stairs as we are shown the first three steps. They remind Fellowcrafts of the three degrees of Masonry and the three principal officers of the Worshipful Master, Senior, and Junior Wardens. We learn that a Lodge is not singular. A Lodge is not dual. It is plural with a minimum of three.

Similarly, displaying of the three Greater Lights and the three lesser lights are central rituals for the opening and closing of the Lodge. As the furniture of the Lodge, they separately are symbols with meanings and lessons, but the fact that they are grouped into threes is not accidental.

The three lesser lights are named wisdom, strength, and beauty. They are said to help make Masons better men.

The three Greater Lights parallel the three lesser lights. First displayed on the altar is the Holy Bible. The Holy Bible is a collection of writings, histories, and moral teachings that provide guidance in our actions. King Solomon is recalled as a wise king whose wisdom was demonstrated by the story of two women claimants for a baby. The Worshipful Master for wisdom.

The square is the second Great Light. A right angle is key to forming a strong wall or a proper column--a wall that will withstand the vicissitudes of weather and seasons. Being on the square is commended to all Master Masons. We see the square as a symbol of right living in our own lives as well as order in society. The Senior Warden for strength.

The third symbol placed on the altar is the compasses. We use a compass to draw an arc or a perfect circle. There is beauty and perfection in structures built with arches. We are further taught a message hidden in the compasses to keep our actions within due bounds. Beauty is orderly, balanced, and under control. The Junior Warden for beauty.

We repeat patterns of wisdom, strength, and beauty in the three officers as well as the Greater and Lesser Lights. The rhetoric of listing wisdom, strength, and beauty in this order places importance on beauty. Beauty is seen as the resolution of a life that is brimming with wisdom and strength. Men who exhibit wisdom and strength create harmony. Harmony is itself a characteristic of beauty. Perhaps we can visualize that a Lodge filled with wise and strong men will produce better men in a manly sense of symmetry, strength, and beauty.

## From The East



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Brothers of Kempsville Lodge for your continued support.

It has been over a year now complete with turmoil and confusion regarding COVID and associated restrictions. We have seen everything from complete shutdowns to varying degrees of constraint. We have met those challenges head on and made adjustments to keep the craft alive and functioning.

Our comradery, support, and communications are vital to our success. Along these lines, we attempt to keep all members engaged. Opportunities exist both in person (although limited) and virtual. Things happening in your Lodge; small numbers for coffee and fellowship, officers for ritual training, Monday virtual meetings, Zoom education, Sunday virtual meeting with our British Brethern, blood drives, food bank donations, catechism examinations, and once again back to Stated Communication. The Officers are engaged in health and welfare checks with membership.

Our affiliated organizations have started to meet on a limited basis as well. Order of the Eastern Star, Demolay, and Jobs Daughters have started meeting.

When the opportunity allows, we have items in queue to execute such as voting for affiliation, voting for membership, Past Master night, and getting back to meals as soon as possible for breakfast and dinners. We still have fellowship plans for the annual Bull Roast and family picnic as well. Stay tuned.

As they say, "Necessity is the mother of invention." This is true for our Fraternity and I would contend the single greatest thing to come from the past year has been the use of technology. Technology has been introduced and adjustments have been made to monthly meeting that have allowed many of our distant Brothers to rejoin and connect.

Brother Mike Denning  
Worshipful Master

## From The West



At the center of our Fraternity are the tenets of relief, truth, and Brotherly love. These tenets culminate into a moral and ethical dogma within each member of the Craft, which reinforces the sanctity that attracts so many men to our Fraternity.

Since the beginning of time, our Masonic teachings have sought to encourage Masons to provide relief through the offering of assistance to all distressed worthy Brethren, their widows and orphans. The specifics of this encouragement are clear indicators of the necessity of providing unwavering support, if within the lengths of our cable tows. By making our time, talents, and treasures available for those in need, a ripple effect of positive impacts will be sustained throughout our communities and beyond.

Freemasons strive for truth and honesty in all aspects of life. The numerous lessons, stories, symbols, and other doctrinarian infrastructure of the Craft engrave the importance of truth into our hearts and minds in the form of allegories personified by Light, the plumb bob, and our solemn obligations. The consequences of these teachings are such that the value of the word of our Lodge Brothers is unquestionable, and serve to foster peace of mind in our day-to-day Masonic undertakings.

Brotherly love is arguably the most crucial tenet, and it is coincidentally the most cumbersome to explain. From an outward perspective, one might assume that this is the same sort of affection commonly found between biological brothers. However, we as Free and Accepted Masons know that, although there are similarities between this kind of love and the Brotherly love to which we are accustomed, it transcends the tenderness that family affords- it is instead the essential compassion shared between men who have known, understood, and unconditionally dedicated themselves to one another for mutual benefaction. It is indefatigably more potent than the golden rule of treating others like you would prefer to be treated- it inculcates treating a Brother as if no other interest existed aside from theirs.

Brother John Settle, Senior Warden

## From The South



I miss the comradery of my brothers! As Virginia and the Nation continue to improve in the number of infections and deaths, thanks to the vaccine, Grand Lodge of Virginia is on the edge of allowing Kempsville to resume

marginal normal stated meetings and work nights. We have learned through Zoom discussions that Masonry survived disagreements with Catholicism, The Anti-Masonic Political Party, and Nazi Germany. But, remember also the Spanish Flu, H1N1, Swine Flu, Bird Flu and Even Mad Cow Disease. We will surely survive Covid-19!

Masonry is strong in Kempsville lodge. Worshipful Masters. Past and present, have taken great measures to keep members safe, informed and your officers trained. We will not sit on our laurels and hope for the best! We also continuously are improving the physical aspects of the lodge. Keep your eye on the Masonic light at the end of the tunnel. I pray we will be back with each other in April.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Junior Warden

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in April:

Cheryl Farrwer	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Patricia Quinton	April 4 <sup>th</sup>
Therese Boogades	April 5 <sup>th</sup>
Judith Naprsteh	April 7 <sup>th</sup>
Denise Bement	April 20 <sup>th</sup>
Paige Mason	April 29 <sup>th</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.

## Meet Your Junior Steward

Brother Pat Cooney grew up in Middletown MD, graduated from Middletown High School in 1978, and attended Salem College in West Virginia in 1978 and 1979. He joined the US Air Force in 1980 and served until 1984 as an aircraft armament systems specialist stationed at Cannon AFB New Mexico and Ramstein Air Base Germany. Upon returning home he started a career in heating and A/C as well as electrical work. Now in his 37<sup>th</sup> year, he is a Technical Representative for multiple brands of HVAC systems with a local distributor.

Brother Cooney is married to his beautiful wife Patricia and they share 4 wonderful children, 11 grand children (with one on the way), and 2 great grandchildren. For the past 10 years, he has resided in Chesapeake, VA. He enjoys riding his motorcycle, playing golf, hunting and fishing and most of all family!

Brother Cooney is a third generation Master Mason following both his Grandfather and his Father into the craft.

## Masonic Birthdays for April

Eugene M. Ambrose '90	Terrence P. McNally '78
Charles R. Bateman, Jr. '14	Todd C. Moissett '11
David E. Boyd '88	Michael R. Moseler '72
Allen K. Chandler '87	Thomas A. Niedermeier '80
S. Ray Connard '91	Brian E. Parton '01
Louis P. Dunn '77	Emmett R. Reynolds '11
Aaron J. Dyer '12	G. Frank Roberts, Jr. '64
Thomas C. England '11	Alaric J. Roche, Jr. '64
Justin C. Faucette '16	Cristian C. Rodriguez '04
Christopher M. Favata '10	John R. Settle, III '12
Justin A. Flowers '12	Charlie B. Taylor, Sr. '59
L. David Foxwell '75	Robert J. Tidwell '77
John A. Gabor '92	David M. Trzeciakiewicz '15
George L. Gunter '69	Thomas G. Webber, Sr. '63
James K. Ingraham '19	Sean R. Wills '16
Warren C. Massey '50	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 911 years in Masonry!

## Updating Your Contact Information

The Lodge maintains the name, address, phone number and e-mail address for all our members and Widows. If any of this information has changed for you in the past year, please contact the Lodge Secretary ([secretary@kempsvillelodge.org](mailto:secretary@kempsvillelodge.org)) so we can update our database. If you are planning on moving anytime in the upcoming year (often the case with our active duty military members) please contact us as soon as you have your new contact information so we can stay in touch with you and ensure you get your copy of the Ashlar each month.

## Lodge Activity

Brethren during these challenging times, be assured your Lodge continues to be as active as possible under the guidelines established by the Grand Lodge.



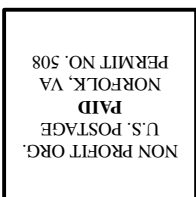
We congratulate Brother Larry Daniels upon standing his Master Mason catechism. Worshipful Brother Stanek presented him a copy of the Presentation Manual.



The Demolay installed their new line and new Master Counselor in March. It was an excellent event broadcast via Zoom and choreographed with precision to meet all prescribed safety requirements.

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Mike Denning	651-0712
Senior Warden	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Warden	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Junior Deacon	Michael Turner	581-4239
Senior Steward	Thomas Melling, Sr.	403-8881
Junior Steward	Michael Cooney	375-3238
Chaplain	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Roger Taylor	478-5498
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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