



The Ashlar



August 2021

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

Volume 68-08

A Freemason



A Freemason should be like a good watch – An open face, busy hands, pure gold, well regulated & filled with good works.

A Mason is a man who is clean inside and out, who neither looks up to the rich nor down on the poor, who can give without complaining, who can prosper without bragging, and who is considerate of women, children and old people.

He is a man who is too brave to lie, too noble to cheat, too sensible to loaf, and who takes his share of the world's goods, and lets other people take theirs.

All Freemasons are Brothers who meet on the same level, regardless of their social or economic status outside the lodge. Princes, Presidents, and Leaders of business are no better or more important than bus drivers, plumbers and paper boys when they sit in the lodge together.

Freemasonry does not detract from a man's accomplishments, nor does it exalt him above his Brethren because of his position outside the lodge.

Freemasonry is personal, private and beyond description. We have rituals that we perform, like a play, that remind us of certain moral lessons, and hint at the antiquity of our craft. These are the material manifestations of what we do. They are no longer secrets, yet they remain private in most cases as every group or person has the right to personal privacy. They are the process of what we do. Just as what I do (for a living or otherwise) does not define me as a person, so the manner of what we do, does not define us as Freemasons. My obligations (oaths) make me a Freemason, and the manner in which I live and build my house of character show that I really understand and earn the title of Ancient Free and Accepted Mason.

The real secrets of Freemasonry are what happens in you!

No man can see into your mind or heart. No man can tell you how to apply the allegorical lessons of Freemasonry to your life, actions and character. These are the real secrets...it's all about how your mind and conscious uses the information that you are presented.

So, being a good Mason means being a good neighbor...not for the sake of reward and not only to other Masons, but because it's the right thing to do. Remember the first important lesson taught you in Masonry? Of course, it reminds us that we should offer help to a Brother in need, but it begins by admonishing us to offer relief to "anyone" in need. All are your neighbors, and all are deserving of your aid and assistance.

Our fraternity has been around for centuries. Throughout those years, including today, we have taught: unity, brotherhood, compassion, charity, character building, acceptance, time management, and peace. Not yesterday, not last year, and not way back when.

We have united men of different walks of life, creeds, and languages for centuries. We believe making one person better will make one community better, will also make one nation better and, finally, one world better. While outside people kill over beliefs, we inside the lodge accept on those very same beliefs.

So, the next time someone asks you how can you be a Freemason. Say with pride: How could I not be?

From The East



The year is moving at break neck speed. We have been most fortunate to continue gaining new members through petitions for the degrees and applications for affiliation. We have executed several initiations and passed a candidate to Fellowcraft. We will initiate another good man into Freemasonry in July and a petition for second reading and vote in August. Our candidates in work are progressing well. Keep an eye on the calendar and our Facebook page for work nights. If you enjoy our ritual, please consider joining us any Monday and/or Tuesday evening for practice. Our Junior Warden would be happy to add you to our list of degree work participants.

It is with a heavy heart that I report vandalism to our Lodge building. For those who have not heard, the act occurred early July on a Friday evening. The damage was discovered Saturday morning as Brothers were gathering for coffee. Outside suffered the theft of our American Flag, defacing of the Square and Compasses on our stone sign at the road, defacing of the Square and Compasses stones at the foot of our entry door, breaking the small windows on our doors at the back of the building, and breaking of the lights over our doors. Entry into the building was gained by reaching through the broken window and pushing the panic bar on the inside of the door. Inside suffered the loss of the DeMolay sword won during International competition. Upstairs the Tiler's sword was taken along with multiple Officer jewels. Jachin and Boaz were toppled causing damage to the bases of the pillars and breaking the two globes. Although disappointing, the damage could have been a lot worse.

We have been blessed by the generosity of fellow Lodges in the area. Bayside provided a new flag, Victory Daylight provided a new Tiler's sword, and Atlantic Lodge from Norfolk has provided a full set of jewels and financial donations to us and the youth groups. A demonstration of "contributing as liberally as you can..."

We are in the process of making repairs and replacements. We have already installed deadbolt locks on the door to prevent easy entry and secured the broken glass.

One final comment about the season. During the heat of summer, remember to check on one another.

Brother Mike Denning
Worshipful Master

From The West



As we reflect upon our Brethren, past and present, it is difficult to avoid the recollection of a Brother similar to the one described in the forthcoming elaboration.

Imagine a Mason who found the ritual difficult to master, and who was never of much help when conferring the degrees. As a result, he had no inclination to serve in any of the chairs, and often looked upon himself as immaterial to the ritualistic functions of his Lodge.

Although financially sound, he rarely found himself in positions where donations were overtly feasible to him, and as such, he was not a usual participant in his Lodge's charitable endeavors.

Owing to the nature of his chosen career, as well as the inherent structures of his social and familial lives, he never enjoyed the distinction of serving as a signer on any petition or application for the Masonic degrees and/or membership.

In spite of these traits, which should not be misconceived as deficiencies, this Mason attended every Lodge meeting and function that he could. He always arrived early to assist with setting up, and stayed late to ensure that his Lodge was secure. He routinely visited with ill Brethren and, in many cases, with their eventual widows, and even reached out to the Brethren who had allowed their attendance in Lodge to lapse. To many in his Lodge, he was the indefatigable greeter, treating all Brethren as if they were his kin.

Eventually, this Brother passed on to the Celestial Lodge above. His obituary was as soft-spoken as he was, and was void of any over-embellishment. In spite of this, the funeral of this Brother was attended by a volume of mourners so vast that the church could barely contain the attendees. The number of speakers, which included a lengthy list of Brethren, was such that the estimated length of the funeral was tripled.

All of this is to say that Masonic participation comes in many forms. It can take the appearance of ritualistic skill, financial generosity, a dedication to expanding membership, or, in the case outlined above, fostering fellowship. It does not necessarily matter how we as Masons choose to contribute to our Lodges, but it is best when the contributions that we make come the most naturally to us. Doing so only incentivizes the fortunate realization of the

timeless moniker that we are all immensely familiar with, which is that you will get as much from Masonry as you are willing to devote to it.

Brother John Settle, Senior Warden

From The South



What a year 2021 has turned out to be so far! Kempsville has not failed to step forward and act in an exemplary manner for which the brethren are famous. Stepping up to care for each other in times of needs, lodge needs, and not least of all Masonic needs. I could not be more proud of my brothers! As your officers make the difficult decisions and leadership of your lodge, with your guidance and assistance of Past Masters we promise to keep up the strong traditions of Kempsville Lodge! Please endeavor to keep yourself "bound anew" to your fraternity. It is no surprise to any Past Master that there is a great amount of work as Worshipful Master of Kempsville. Many up-and-coming officers and Past Masters dedicate themselves to preserving the reputation of Kempsville. Are you an ACTIVE member or are you one who says 'I had my year'?

Brother Pat Blankenship, Junior Warden

Masonic Birthdays for August

Allen V. Alewine '08	William T. Kemp, Sr. '66
Joshua A. Arkin '08	Jonathan R. King '00
Ramon L. Baez, Jr. '08	Walter A. Liffick '94
Ray L. Benton '88	David W. McGowan '05
R. Dean Blazier '93	Newbury E. Meader, Jr. '99
Curtis E. Brannon '65	Donald E. Meyer '77
Raymond Clyburn, Sr. '64	Michael N. Miller '05
Homer J. Cullifer '65	Edward F. Myers, III '08
Bruce A. Cunningham '08	Christopher B. Ovide '11
Dennis A. DiMaggio '10	Wesley E. Powers '99
Howard L. Draper '05	Gregory M. Remy '08
John N. Farr '98	Jeffrey S. Rohrer '08
R. Scott Foxwell '02	Larry B. Scott '10
Moss S. Friedman '91	David T. Silvey '04
Noel L. Garo '10	Benjamin D. Stair '16
Stanley Grushkin '55	Wesley C. Thompson '06
Raymond E. Hall, III '05	Anthony K. Turner '08
Brian K. Headley '00	Claude W. Watkins, Jr. '91
Walter L. Humphries '71	Thomas G. Webber, Jr. '08

The Brethren shown above have a total of 921 years in Masonry!

Trestle Board

August 10.....Stated Communication, 7PM
 August 16.....Blood Drive 2-7PM
 August 28.....Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

September 11 The Bull Roast, 11AM-7PM
 September 14 Stated Communication, 6PM
 September 25 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in August:

Dorothy Hudson	August 7 th
Judy Nelligar	August 10 th
Joyce Stukey	August 11 th
Betty Seymour	August 11 th
Sarah Faye Ward	August 13 th
Samia Saleeby	August 26 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.

The 37th Annual Bull Roast

Kempsville Lodge No. 196
A.F.&A.M.

4869 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

37th Annual

Bull Roast

September 11th
11AM to 7PM

\$15 All You Can Eat
 \$10 Take Out
 \$6 Children Under 10 Years



Tender Roast Beef
 Home Made Baked Beans
 Potato Salad, Cole Slaw
 Cakes and Pies
 Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade

Proceeds to Support the Masonic Home of Virginia
 &
 Kempsville Lodge Scholarship Fund

You will find tickets enclosed in this Ashlar for purchase or sale. Remember, this is our only focused and dedicated fund raising event of the year. Last year's COVID shutdowns prevented the opportunity to gather so we are especially excited for this year's event. Please come out and join us for our annual event and enjoy the fine dining and fellowship.

Lodge Activity



A great night at Botetourt Lodge No. 7 with our good friend and Brother Worshipful Douglas Williams! Worshipful Brother Dave Trzeciakiewics was the guest speaker providing an insightful message about our founding fathers, masonry, and our Nation's Independence. We had a very enjoyable evening of fellowship as seven Lodges from around the Commonwealth were represented that evening.



Congratulations to Right Worshipful Bill Knowles on receiving his 50-year Masonic Veteran's pin. Right Worshipful Tom McGowan made the presentation during our July Stated meeting. Right Worshipful Bill had his wife and other family members present for the honor and recognition as a cornerstone of our Lodge.



Congratulations to our (twice) Past Master Worshipful Bill Peterson on being selected to receive the 33rd Degree in Scottish Rite Masonry! This is one of the most significant honors that a Mason can receive and requires years of dedicated service to the Scottish Rite.

We took the opportunity during July Stated to congratulate Worshipful Bill and award him with a ceremonial Kempsville "white hat" to commemorate the occasion.



Worshipful Bill has a very lengthy Masonic resume, not only in Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite, but also in York Rite Masonry as a Knights Templar and as the current High Priest of Princess Anne Royal Arch Chapter No. 1607. He is a true Mason's Mason.

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	Dennis DiMaggio	582-3320
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