



The Ashlar



November 2021

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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SELF-LESS-NESS



The teachings of our institution tells us that charity is the brightest gem that can adorn our Masonic profession. Happy is the man who has sowed in his breast the seeds of benevolence; the produce there of is love and peace. On the other hand, Selfishness is evil and immoral in that it prevents the person afflicted with this dread disease from reaching spiritual perfection. He does not set worthwhile goals, and strives to keep others from reaching theirs. As Masons we must remember that selfishness is in direct violation of the teachings of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. It is cancer that robs us of emotional and spiritual security, leaving us empty human beings. It is natural to look for security by taking from life through some useful goal, where you do no harm to yourself, your family, or others. The Supreme Architect of the Universe gave us the Great Book of Nature and Revelation as a spiritual, moral, and Masonic Trestleboard. It teaches us to give to others who are in desperate need of good will and compassion. To Relieve the Distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but

particularly the Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. Selfishness is a destructive trait that takes us away from this higher calling, and prevents us from obtaining perfection in the eyes of God. The selfish Mason, prefer to be self-centered, petty and small. He forgets that it is by the square that we learn morality, by the level equality and by the plum rectitude of life and conduct. He lets wrath, loss of reason and fair play govern his actions. He thinks in destructive terms and seethe with resentment at others good fortune, hurting himself in the process. He forgets that to soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with them in their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace onto their troubled minds is the great aim of every worthy Mason.

My brothers, we must forever guard ourselves against selfishness through the practice of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the principal tenets of our profession. The person with only self-interest is doomed, since self-interest makes him less than what he really can be and leads to atrophy of the mind, spirit, and body. We must search our hearts, to ensure this disease is eradicated. We must forever be mindful that the use of self-for-self alone can never gain us access to the Grand Lodge on High. However, the use of selflessness to understand our needs and the needs of others allows us to obtain that goodness of heart, that fair fame, that purity of intention and love of virtue of which, is the possession of every good Mason. Which shall it be for you? Will it be selfishness or selflessness? Will you be able to hail with joy the summons of the Grand Warden on high to repair from your labor here on earth to eternal refreshment in the paradise of God? Will you be worthy of being seated at the right hand of the Grand Architect of the Universe?

Remember brothers, we should forever use our trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, use the compasses to circumscribe our words and actions. It is through the proper use of our Masonic implements, that we shall protect ourselves from those selfish thoughts and actions which will block our path to the kingdom of God.

by Brother Bradford J. Stallworth

From The East



Cooler temperatures, shorter days, and changing colors; reminds us all that Fall is upon us and thus the season of faith, hope and charity. Take some time this holiday season to count our blessings and assist those less fortunate as “every human being has a claim on your kind offices”.

You may already have a favorite organization or activity to share your talents and good fortune. Being true to our word as Masons, Kempsville Lodge has many events during the holiday season to assist those in our community.

Once again, we will coordinate with our local schools to provide full Thanksgiving meals to families and children that would not otherwise enjoy such a luxury. Worshipful Brother Chris Anders leads this worthwhile effort by coordinating with the Kempsville school counselors, the Lodge, and Harris Teeter. In years past, Kempsville Masons have provided over 50 full meals to the community valued at approximately \$50 per meal. This effort is accomplished solely through your generous donations. If you would like to participate, please contact our Secretary with donations of any size.

We will continue supporting our Masonic widows during the holiday season and let them know they are not forgotten. On December 4th Brothers will gather at the Lodge for morning coffee and fellowship. We will then depart about 9 or 10 AM with our annual poinsettia deliveries to all our local widows. Your Lodge provides the flowers and volunteer Brothers provide the delivery service. Please consider joining us, your time is all that is needed.

For Christmas we will once again participate in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program. Worshipful Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz leads the coordination for this local charity. This charity provides for local youth. An age, size and gender are provided. The volunteer shops for clothing and a small toy, places them in a bag and they are taken to the Salvation Army to be distributed to a local child in need. We are teaming this year with the Eastern Star, DeMolay, and Jobes as well.

Let us not forget our ongoing Food Bank donations. Please remember to bring a nonperishable food product with you to Lodge and deposit it in the

basket provided inside the door. Cash is accepted as well and we will do the shopping for you.

Thank you for all you do for the Lodge and our community at large.

Brother Mike Denning
Worshipful Master

From The West



In our ritual, we are lectured on the history of our ancient Brethren and their veneration of the Roman deity Fides, who represented trust and good faith. As Fides was often symbolized by two right hands joined together, the right hand became synonymous with the term “Seat of Fidelity,” and further cemented the social importance of the handshake, which had been an established element of proper etiquette for several centuries by the time of Fides’ enshrinement in the Romans’ belief systems.

In modern times, the gesture of a handshake bears a striking resemblance to its ancient predecessor. An extended, open right hand has been in such heavy, sustained use for so long that, when presented, it produces an instant psychological and social cue signifying to the recipient that the presenter means well and is devoid of ill intentions.

In a special way, our Fraternity can argue that we have adopted the handshake- and, much like our working tools, been taught to make use of it for more noble and glorious purposes. In our case, it serves as a means of identification and rank discernment.

The Romans’ iconization of Fides and the “Seat of Fidelity” was so prolific that, in the present day, people of countless classes, countries, and cultures cherish the use of the right hand in displays transcending the handshake itself. In many contexts, signatures (when witnessed) must be given with the signatories’ right hands for them to be legitimate. Additionally, pledges and promises are often given with the promisor’s right hand covering their heart.

As Freemasons, we recognize the symbolic ancestry of the “Seat of Fidelity” at most of our meetings, in which we witness the advancing members of our Craft place their right hands upon the Holy Bible, and/or raise their right hands when swearing an oath. Amazingly, the same

phenomenon can be witnessed outside of the Lodge in our legal system every day!

The use of the right hand in our rituals, as well as in society, is a well-established tradition that is rooted in the importance and appreciation of visible honesty and good wishes. Its continued use in Lodge and abroad serves to preserve an ancient custom and continue the value of transparent sincerity.

Brother John Settle, Senior Warden

From The South



As we seem to be racing toward the end of this strange year, your Kempsville Lodge officers have not missed a step! We continue to excel in advancing new Masons while Worshipful Dave continues his

struggles to beat degree work in to our heads (mine especially or as Dave would say no, especially mine). Planning is underway for an active year under J3. Please reach out to our fellow brethren and let us get Kempsville numbers back up to where once we're before the Covid years. Remember the premises of Freemasonry and how the fellowship helped form you in to a better man. Your brother may be waiting for you to return with him. Come one, come all, you are welcome and missed! We need your participation in seeing young Masons are mentored into the Craft.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Junior Warden

From the Secretary

Many members no longer use a "land-line" home phone number; most now use cellular phones for routine contact. We try to provide the best information in the roster, and will update the annual roster in the 2022 yearbook soon. So that your best information is in the yearbook, please send your current address and telephone contact to the Lodge Secretary. You may also include your current email address for lodge records as well.

Send to: secretary@kempsvillelodge.org

Bob Stanek, Secretary

Trestle Board

October 30 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
November 5-6 Grand Annual Communication
Richmond Virginia
November 9 Stated Communication, 7PM

Masonic Birthdays for November

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Warren L. Aleck '66 | Michael D. Johnstone '05 |
| Patrick D. Blankenship '12 | Jerry W. Ledbetter '83 |
| Albert L. Bonney, Jr. '63 | John L. Long '01 |
| Joe E. Brown '64 | Andrew C. Mahrenholz '07 |
| Harold A. Campbell, Jr. '10 | Richard D. McCollum '95 |
| William K. Cole '89 | Thomas H. Melling, Sr. '16 |
| Roger Cort '65 | Matthew G. Millott '15 |
| Brian L. Cox '77 | Charles C. Mills, Jr. '79 |
| Lewis A. Dodson '77 | River D. Morris '11 |
| Michael C. Elliott '65 | Robert J. Oliver '08 |
| Matthew D. Esper '14 | Edward F. Parton '05 |
| C. Raeford Eure '59 | Paul W. Pennybacker '68 |
| Clarence G. Felts '69 | James S. Perry '79 |
| Michael P. Fitzgerald '92 | Philip Poffenbarger, Jr. '80 |
| Rolfe M. Fleming '72 | William H. Rawson '04 |
| Franklin M. Gamage '59 | William L. Rice '83 |
| Timothy D. Givan '93 | Steve A. Ridgeway '77 |
| Justin L. Glasgow '78 | Charles G. Ryan '07 |
| Joshua M. Gooch '13 | Henry Sargent '68 |
| Cecil A. Goodwin '71 | Jerry Silla '99 |
| Justin M. Gray '06 | Cecil C. Smithson '98 |
| Arthur J. Guarino, Jr. '92 | Logan R. Spruill '15 |
| Raymond E. Hall, Jr. '76 | William J. Swanner, III '74 |
| James T. Hare, Jr. '73 | Charlie B. Taylor, Jr. '81 |
| W. Thomas Haste '61 | Robert R. Teller '88 |
| Donald O. Hawkins, Jr. '97 | Prentice G. Tuck Jr. '98 |
| Michael C. Jacob '14 | Peder K. Wennberg, III '13 |
| Ronald S. Jacobson '03 | Ronald H. Whitehead '67 |
| Philip R. Jennings '94 | Scott H. Wade '19 |

These Brethren have a total of 1,851 years in Masonry!

Lodge Events



Congratulations to Brother Leandro Herculano, our first Master Mason this year! We are really proud to have him join us as a full member of the Lodge.

Great job also by the degree team after a 19-month hiatus in raising Master Masons due to COVID shutdowns. Tonight's performance was very meaningful to all present. This degree is the pinnacle of the Masonic experience.



Congratulations to Brother Nico Louise Barbosa, our newest Master Mason, whom we raised mid-October. Brother Nico is a long-time DeMolay, and that

made this evening even more special to both him and us.

Kempsville football is back. Worshipful Master, Mike Denning, and Brothers John Settle and Leandro Herculano manned the grill cooking the dogs and burgers for the Kempsville High School Band concession stand on Friday night! One of our local community volunteer events. Consider joining us for the fellowship.



Kempsville defeated Ocean Lakes, 36-21. No doubt due to our Masonic presence

Many thanks to Kate Ingraham, wife of our Chaplain Keith. Every year for the past three years she has decorated pumpkins for us with a Masonic theme that we proudly display in the East through Thanksgiving. Well done Kate!

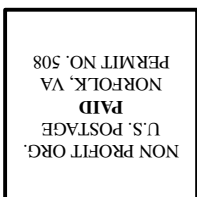


To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in November:

Ruth Simpkins	November 1 st
Irma Porter	November 2 nd
Merlene Balance	November 3 rd
Mary Ann Monahan	November 20 th
Barbara McGregor	November 24 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.



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