



# The Ashlar



February 2023

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

Volume 68-02

## **What Has Masonry Done For Me?**

Many a brother can speak of what Freemasonry has done for him in terms of the practical world of material help, a thousand have received the spiritual gifts of Freemasonry, and most of us, let us thank God, have not had to ask for, or receive, the beautiful charity of brotherhood. All of this being so ... let him who finds this untrue arise in his place and deny that Masonry has so benefited him. It is better that they answer the question "What have I done for Masonry?"

There will be some who reply, I have served as an officer. I have conferred degrees. I have borne the heat and burden of the day." They are the lucky ones, for they have received more than they have given. But the great majority of us cannot answer that way, since there are but a few officers in proportion to the number of Craftsmen.

So, ask again, my brother, you who have never served in an official capacity, "What have I done for the Freemasonry which has done so much for me?"

My brother, you need not be ashamed if the catalog of your services is short and small. For there must always be those who are but the background; who take without giving; who receive without effort the labors of their brethren who have learned the great lesson that to give is to receive; that to put forth is to have returned a hundred-fold.

Yet there will be many who hear the question and answer it to themselves, and are ashamed; and they will want to know: "What can I do for Freemasonry? I would pay my debt; I would also be in the ranks of those who give, as well as receive."

It is agreed between us that he who serves the Lodge also serves the spirit of Freemasonry; that the brother who labors about the lodge, who acts upon committees, who tiles, sweeps, and cooks serves truly and serves well. But when all the physical labor is done there is still much to do; and, when all who may have done the toil there is still a design upon the Trestle board. Therefore, my brother answer in terms of the heart, not of the muscles, the pocketbook, the voice or the time spent in attending lodge; "What have I done for Freemasonry?"

Ask yourself once more, my brother, and answer, though only you will hear it: "What do I do every day that is Masonic; how do I use my Freemasonry in my daily life?"

As Freemasons we are taught that we came here to subdue our passions and improve

ourselves in Masonry. "Passions," my brother, do not mean merely anger or lust. The passion of selfishness, the passion of self-interest, the passion of avarice, of deceit, of cruelty, of carelessness; these, as well as all the other enemies against which man's spirit struggles are to be subdued and conquered.

Freemasonry is the most glorious heritage; the most sublime of conceptions of the heart. They can take her to their souls; they can make Freemasonry a part of their lives, they can express Brotherly love in their every act, and make it a song in their hearts to God!

## From The East



Brethren, let's get going! One of my goals this year is to get Backsides back into the seats. We have entirely too many brethren that have not returned to lodge for some reason or the other since Covid. Call your brother! Encourage him to come back. Entirely too many brethren have fallen by the wayside for unknown reasons. Getting their feelings bruised, out of the habit of coming, didn't know I needed to learn stuff, or whatever their reasoning we want them back. They have forgotten the facts of brotherly love and affection are one of the concepts that attracted them to Masonry in the first place.

Pandemics and World events have always affected the ranks of masonry. You cannot destroy something that is good and truthful. Hitler threw Masons in concentration camps, even in America they developed an Anti-Masonic political party which did not last, still masonry survived. The Spanish Flu was a world pandemic that masonry survived. Call your brother, it won't take but a moment, invite him back, let him know he is missed in lodge.

I would like to offer a very special thanks to the Settle and Clyburn families for all their arbor work on the trees in front of the lodge. This was a major step in the beautification project planned for this year. Brick edging of the flower bed, painting the stairs, and installing Doric columns are just a few improvements planned for out there. Watch your lodge flourish.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Worshipful Master

## From The West



When are we at Work?

Upon entering our craft, each brother takes upon himself the obligation. That's when our journey really starts.

When first raised most newly made master masons focus on learning ritual work. He becomes excited the first time he gets to participate on a degree team or attend his first stated meeting! While these are certainly wonderful times in the Masonic life of any brother, let's not forget that our working tools are not just for use in lodge! As Master Masons we are always at work! Masonry is not just a building to go to once a week or once a month!

Masonry, and the working tools, should constantly be used. Either focusing on self-improvement I.e., striving for more light, or helping a distressed brother, his family or orphans. How you conduct yourself at your occupation should reflect the character you showed upon entering the craft and being raised. While we do not go around advertising our fraternity or our patronage, we should strive to be an example of the kind of man that is respected and admired. The kind of man that is a blessing to his community. The same traits shown in our lodge should reflect our character outside of the lodge and vice-versa. You were first prepared in your heart! That had nothing to do with ritual work or obligations. It had only to reflect the Grand Architect working within your soul and your desire to grow. Our craft provides so many opportunities to grow. Many enter the chairs, many join work committees focusing on a given area of interest and many utilize the fraternal opportunities presented to advance themselves toward further light in life! Remember my brethren, once obligated, you do not set down your working tools until you head to the celestial lodge! Make sure to take good care of your tools and use them always!

God Bless

Brother Doug Dunn, Senior Warden

## From The South



This month I want to continue highlighting some of the key features of the Junior Wardens duty, and the people that make Kempsville Lodge exceptional in this area. As I mentioned last month one of the key duties of the Junior Warden is refreshment. We have discussed our incomparable meals at the lodge, but I want to highlight another area now. As Johann Sebastian Bach said, "The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul". This reminds me of one of the other great benefits at Kempsville Lodge, our Lodge Musician, Worshipful Scott Foxwell.

In my travels, I have yet to discover another lodge blessed with live music and the levity that he provides the lodge. We are truly blessed with his musical talents.

In alignment with the Worshipful Master's goals to 'Bind Anew' members to the lodge through training and mentoring; I have tentatively scheduled extraordinary training.

- February 6<sup>th</sup>: Conductor Practice
- February 13<sup>th</sup>: Receiving the DDGM
- February 20<sup>th</sup>: Fellowcraft 2nd half practice
- February 27<sup>th</sup>: Ruffians and Fellowcrafts for the Master Mason Degree

Brother Mike Turner, Junior Warden

## Trestle Board

- January 28 ..... Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
- February 14 ..... Stated Communication  
DDGM Official Visit  
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
- February 20 ..... District Blood Drive  
Princess Anne Lodge No. 25, 2-7PM
- February 24 ..... Division Leadership Conference  
Norfolk Masonic Temple, 6:30PM
- February 25 ..... Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

## Masonic Birthdays for February

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chandler E. Anderson '18    | Robert H. Johns '05        |
| David H. Armstrong, Jr. '77 | Marvin B. Lancaster '05    |
| R. Gillium Clyburn, Jr. '17 | David J. Meers '10         |
| Charles F. Edwards '70      | John M. Nuzum '02          |
| Edward J. Foley '93         | Galen K. Rogers '99        |
| Lewis J. Forrest '85        | Kevin R. Saenz '06         |
| Glenn D. Fraser II '80      | Joseph M. Snook '65        |
| Glenn L. Gilman '78         | William C. Vahle '13       |
| William F. Grice '70        | Arthur F. Wadford, Jr. '08 |
| Frank Hill '16              |                            |

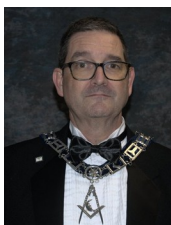
## To Our Masonic Widow

Happy Birthday to our special lady in February:

Ann Akers February 17<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 New Junior Deacon



Brother Howard Draper grew up in North Carolina, the son of a Methodist minister and a high school English teacher. He started out as a history museum educator, but now teaches Special Education at Hermitage Elementary School.

He is the grandson and son of two 50 year Masons, respectively. His Masonic journey, one might say, began on May 15, 1951 when his grandfather was raised as a Master Mason. The journey continued in 1968 when his father was raised a Master Mason, eventually becoming Master of the Lodge. He was privileged to be raised by my father (though not in his lodge), in 2005 at Eureka Lodge No. 317 in Elizabeth City, NC before moving to Virginia Beach in 2006. He eventually transferred his membership to Virginia Beach Lodge No. 274 in 2013. There, he had the honor of serving twice as Tiler and also served as Junior Deacon. He was partially through his year as Senior Deacon when the Lodge merged with Princess Anne in May 2019. He is looking forward to his year as Junior Deacon and beginning his journey through the line here at Kempsville Lodge No. 196.

## Tightening Our Belt

In order to reduce our expenses, we will be trying a new method of publishing The Ashlar. The Ashlar will be mailed out every two months beginning in March. This minor cutback will in itself save two thousand dollars per year.

The Ashlar will continue to be available electronically via email and, as always, on our website.

## Good and Faithful Servant

"God give us men with hearts ablaze, All truth to love, all wrong to hate; These are the patriots America needs, These are the bulwarks of the State." The Masonic Lodge can make a real contribution to the world by producing such men. If we really put into practice the great precepts we are taught in Lodge, we can become such men. What are some of the perils that threaten mankind?

One of the cruelest is prejudice. By its nature the Masonic Lodge is in a favorable position to make a real contribution toward the elimination of prejudice of every kind. Having in our membership persons of different creeds, of many races, languages and customs, men from all walks of life, men who put their trust in Almighty God, the Great Architect of the Universe, our Masonic Lodge can point the way by example as well as by precept to the Brotherhood of Man.

Another peril is nationalism. In a large measure selfish nationalism plunged the world into war twice in our lifetime. Nationalism threatens the

peace of the world today. International brotherhood cannot be established by suspicion, envy, jealousy, distrust of the motives of others. In our international relationships, as in our personal affairs, the spirit of love and trust and concern must play a prominent part. Masons can make a real contribution here. Another peril is the widespread carelessness and indifference respecting one's obligation to God and to one's fellowmen. If our country and world are to be brought to a proper recognition of the place of God in human life, we - who profess to know Him must let our faith shine through our works. Only when we give ourselves to responsible living with the self-abandon that Solomon gave to the building of the Temple, can we achieve the victory that came to him.

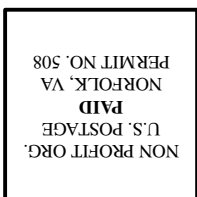
As Masons we are taught "never to commence any great or important undertaking, without first invoking the blessing of Deity"; we can make a real contribution here. A magnificent organ was installed in a great cathedral. No one but the organist himself was allowed to play that instrument. One day, while the musician was out for lunch, a visitor came and persuaded the sexton to allow him to play the organ. A few minutes later the organist returned to the cathedral. When he heard some intruder playing, he was furious. But he paused when he reached the choir-loft. He had never heard such music before. He wanted to hear more. By and by the music ceased. The two musicians introduced themselves. What was the astonishment of the organist when he discovered that the man whom he at first regarded as an intruder was no other than Felix Mendelssohn!

Only a master could get from that instrument the wonderful music it was designed to give forth.

Likewise, it is only when we yield the heartstrings of our lives to the Great Musician, the Great Architect of our lives, that we can produce the heavenly harmonies that they are designed to render. God grant that when the evening of life approaches for you and for me, it may be truly said of us that the house that God intended us to build has been completed. Then shall we hear the commendation and welcome: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the Temple and City of our God."

### Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Warden	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Junior Warden	Michael Turner	581-4239
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Junior Deacon	Howard Draper	515-3540
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Chaplain	James Boone	515-0131
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ricky Natoli	305-924-5945
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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 Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
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