



The Ashlar



August 2023

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

Volume 68-07

Equal Order and Regularity

Equal Order and Regularity are impressed upon our minds in the explanation of the Great Light in Masonry shortly after being obligated in the Entered Apprentice Degree. The Worshipful Master explains to us the meaning of the three lesser lights as follows; " The three lesser lights are the Sun, Moon and Master of the Lodge and as the Sun rules the day and the Moon governs the night so should the Worshipful Master with equal regularity rule and Govern the Lodge".

Since Freemasonry is best explained as a beautiful system of morality expressed by symbols and veiled in allegory we must search for ourselves the lesson that can be best gained from the term equal regularity. In the Old Testament of the King James Bible we find in Genesis chapter 1 verses 16 through 18 the following, " And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth. And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from darkness: and God saw that it was good". Symbolically we can look at the Sun and the Moon as the active and passive forces in nature, which must be in balance in order for nature to exist. We can also observe them as emblems of the Spiritual and the Physical worlds. The Square and Compasses can also be interpreted in this manner, as well as the Seal of Solomon with its intertwined white and black triangles showing the connection between God and Man or the Spiritual World and that of Matter. Even the lambskin apron can be interpreted as an emblem of the relationship between the spiritual and the physical world. The triangular flap representing the Spiritual world is separated from the square apron representing the material world because the flap is turned up "to prevent daubing with un-tempered mortar" which we can interpret as to prevent your spiritual being from being soiled by the sins of the material world. As you progress through the three degrees which, represent the three components of man, the physical, mental and the spiritual, as well as youth, manhood and old age. We find that as man matures and finds his balance with the components that make up his being the triangular flap becomes one with the square apron exemplifying the lesson of co-existence on two planes on being.

Then how do we then adapt the instruction " As the Sun rules the day and the Moon governs the night so should the Worshipful Master with equal regularity rule and govern the Lodge". If we take the lesson and reduce it from the term lodge [plural] to ourselves [singular] be not each of us the Worshipful Masters of our bodies, which can be considered our Temple. That Temple that houses that eternal spirit of which will survive the grave and which never dies.

With this in mind we must consider that as Masters of our own bodies we must rule with equal regularity over our involvement within the Material as well as the Spiritual worlds in which we move. How do we as Men rule and govern over our physical presence as well as our spiritual being? This question is rather difficult to answer and I believe, as no two humans are alike so the answer to this question will not be for any two persons the same. Therefore the term equal regularity can be viewed as a personal quest to find the balance in your life that will promote equal regularity and therefore harmony within yourselves. What more beautiful goal can any human have than to be at peace with himself, his family and his fellow man?

From The East



What an eventful couple of months Kempsville Lodge has recently experienced. With the support of the Brethren, we were able to move on and mostly recover to a somewhat normal operation. Your officers have all stepped up into new positions to fill the vacancy created by losing our Senior Warden. We all have a lot to get ourselves up to speed and trained without having a lodge instructor of work. Right Worshipful Stanek has been graciously filling in to assist the lodge to continue the tradition of excellence while continuing his Secretary duties in his last year. Speaking of voids in the line, Brother Jim Boone and his wife will be returning to Tennessee in August. Brother Karl Wessler has agreed to jump in and complete the year for me.

As a sort of a mid-year review, we have been able to complete some of the projects around the lodge like completely redoing the women's bathroom, new secretary and treasurer chairs, partially clean out of the stairwell closet. Vines off of the building. Parking area repainted, and grass off parking area, Chairlift installed, and Dues amendment passed (Yes, Grand Lodge approved amendment). Potentate Fez cabinet improved. I still have some external projects planned, but for some reason, this seem like the hottest summer of the decade!!

I would like to thank everyone for the outstanding attendance of the service for Brother Dunn. I am sure he was looking down and smiling at all the brethren in attendance. The Lodge officers presented his daughter, Courtney, the Masonic flag that we had flown over the Grand Lodge of Virginia to Honor Brother Louis Page Dunn (Doug's father) and present him as a present when he assumed the East. She was very touched by the gesture and her father's plaque in the dining hall.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Worshipful Master

From The West



Recently I was reading a list of things one can do to harm a lodge. It was the usual suspects, don't show up, do not help out, and talk about how things should not change. One thing caught my eye though as being a new idea. It was blaming the whole lodge and refusing to participate with the lodge because one brother has done something that has caused offense.

I have heard this story many times. "I no longer come because a brother once said something I did not like". It is a common theme. I am always struck by this ideal because we have also sworn that we will whisper to a brother and aid a reformation. If a brother has caused offense the proper way to handle the issue is to pull them aside and tell them what they have done to offend. They probably do not know. They might have something going on that caused them to react without thinking. You owe them a chance to explain themselves.

Just leaving, and walking away, is not the proper way to handle friction. Harmony is a goal. Leaving the lodge without the chance of a correction is acting out in the worst way. Sulking in the corner is no way to act as brothers working together. No matter how quietly you left your absence is noted and you are missed.

The worst part is what if it was all a mistake? Maybe they thought you were in on the joke. Maybe they had a senior moment and made a reference you did not get. Asking them to clarify is the best way forward in any case. Communication is key in everything. We have to talk to each other. We might be an organization with secrets, but keeping things from each other is not one of them. Understanding is the key to harmony, so help to get the conversation started, don't just walk away.

Brother Mike Turner, Senior Warden

From The South



As I begin to write my first Ashlar article, I reflect on the time I have been a part of Freemasonry, which in the grand scheme of things has not been that long, I think of the times spent with brothers in the kitchen, serving meals, cleaning the Lodge building, attending masonic events, and participating in degrees. I am thankful for the time spent in comradery and fellowship, especially with the numerous Brothers that are no longer with us.

I was raised a Master Mason in 2019 and would not say endured, but experienced the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in regular Zoom meetings which provided an opportunity for a different type of fellowship we may not have otherwise had. It led to the weekly "Brit/Yank" Sunday zoom meeting where we toast the absent brethren and get to learn about Masonry across the pond.

I cherish the times spent in the lodge room with the brethren learning masonic history and ritual. I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this Fraternity. I am thankful for the people I have met along the way.

As we first enter Masonry, we are introduced to the verse that is now so familiar to us all, Psalm 133, where we are reminded how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. I encourage each of you to attend lodge functions as often as you can and build relationships with your brothers.

As our own Right Worshipful Tom McGowan will remind us, the true secret of Freemasonry is fellowship.

Brother Keith Ingraham, Junior Warden

Trestle Board

August 8 Stated Communication
Hawaiian Shirt Night
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
August 21 District Blood Drive, 2-7PM
August 22 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
August 26 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

Food Pantry

From January 1 through July 31, Courthouse Community United Methodist Church has provided 1440 families with much needed food. The food pantry distributes food once a week on Wednesday. If we break the numbers down, approximately 205 families per month and 41 families per week. The volume of need fluctuates not only weekly but monthly.

We here at Kempsville Lodge have a core group of givers both food and or cash. If you have not considered donating, please do so. No amount of food or cash is too small. Over the past 5 years we at Kempsville have had a huge impact, helping the food challenged in our community.

Items always in need at the food pantry are: SPAM (yes, it is in demand), canned chili, beef stew, canned fruit, chunky soups, Mac & Cheese and canned pasta (ravioli and beef-a-roni as well).

My Brothers, as always I thank you in advance for your generosity. We at Kempsville can be proud of our support of this worthy cause.

Brother Bob Hughes
Food Pantry Coordinator

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
Curtis E. Brannon '65	Newbury E. Meader, Jr. '99
Raymond Clyburn, Sr. '64	Michael N. Miller '05
Bruce A. Cunningham '08	Edward F. Myers, III '08
Dennis A. DiMaggio '10	Danny M. Payne '15
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	Benjamin D. Stair '16
Noel L. Garo '10	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

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in August:

Judy Nelliger	August 10 th
Joyce Stukey	August 11 th
Betty Seymore	August 11 th
Sarah Faye Ward	August 13 th
Janet Cort	August 16 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.

Life Membership in Perpetuity

At the June Stated Communication of the Lodge, Article II of the by-laws was amended to increase the annual dues to \$95, plus Grand Lodge assessments, effective January 1, 2024. Total dues will increase to \$150. (Lodge dues plus Grand Lodge assessments)

If you have ever considered investing in the Life Membership in Perpetuity program (LMIP), now might be the time to do so. Until December 31, 2023, the cost to purchase the LMIP is 25-times the annual dues (having your current year's dues paid). On January 1, 2024, the LMIP cost will increase from 25-times \$117., to 25-times \$150. Payments may be in full, incremental, or by credit card.

If you might be interested in the LMIP program, contact the lodge Secretary. An investment in LMIP benefits you by never paying dues again, even if there is an increase. It also benefits the lodge beyond your lifetime.

Right Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Friend to Friend



In the small town of Gettysburg, PA, one of the greatest battles in American history was fought on July 1-3, 1863. Here, the Union army repulsed the attack of the Confederate army. On July 3, the battle culminated with the infamous "Pickett's Charge." The battle, like so many others during the war, pitted brother against brother. Here, we find one of the most poignant events of the war, as well as the history of freemasonry.

As happened so often during the war, many friends chose to fight on opposite sides. Such was the case with Union General Winfield Hancock and Confederate General Lewis Armistead.

Armistead was lying wounded on the battlefield during Pickett's Charge. During a lull in the fighting after the assault, Captain Henry Bingham was riding among the wounded. It is said that Armistead, a Freemason, gave the masonic sign for assistance. Bingham, also a Freemason, inquired of the general. As they were conversing, Armistead, realizing Bingham was a mason and that he worked for his good friend Hancock, gave Bingham many of his personal possessions, including a chain with a masonic emblem. Armistead asked that these possessions be returned to his family. Armistead succumbed to his wounds two days later on July 5, 1863.

On July 5, 1865, two years later, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania dedicated the cornerstone of the



Soldiers National Monument in the National Cemetery there at Gettysburg. The Freemasons continued their involvement at the Gettysburg battlefield 130 years later on August 16, 1993 when they dedicated the Friend-to-Friend Monument, depicting that moment during the battle when one Freemason was attending to another Freemason on the opposite side. The monument was dedicated as a memorial to all Freemasons who fought during the Civil War, both Union and Confederate. The monument depicts General Armistead being attended to by Capt. Bingham after Armistead was wounded during the Confederate assault. A plaque on the monument states "Their unique bonds of friendship enabled them to remain a brotherhood undivided, even as they fought in a divided nation, faithfully supporting the respective governments under which they lived."

Today, the monument can be seen at the center point of the Gettysburg National Cemetery Annex.

Past Masters Night

On July 25th, fourteen Past Masters of Kempsville Lodge gathered for the annual Past Master's Night. The theme of the evening was remembering times past of our Past Masters, from our oldest to the youngest. Our Junior Steward prepared a wonderful meal for all, concluding with the cutting of the cake by our youngest and oldest Past Masters, Worshipful John Settle III, and Worshipful Monte Howell, respectively. Presiding over the lodge was Worshipful Chris Anders (2018). The line officers for that particular year sat in their respective chairs including Worshipful Roger Taylor as Senior Warden; Worshipful Michael Denning as Senior Deacon; Worshipful John Settle III as Junior Deacon, and Right Worshipful Bob Stanek as Secretary. Also, Right Worshipful William Knowles served as our Junior Warden and Worshipful Greg Muir served as Treasurer. The remembrance of our past masters continued with a program by Right Worshipful Bob Stanek and a few words by Right Worshipful Jerry Anderson, our District Deputy Grand Master. Those attending also remembered those Past Masters who have passed to the celestial lodge above during the last year. In addition, a bit of business was conducted as Brother Jose Comacho stood his Entered Apprentice catechism before being passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. It was a wonderful evening filled with good food and fellowship.