



The Ashlar



November 2013

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

Volume 60-11

From The East



Remembering how mom would plan for the thanksgiving day dinner, brings to mind the similarities that exist between that annual feast and our Lodge. Mom would begin her preparations usually about two or three weeks prior to the big event. She would scan the newspaper for the grocery ads hoping to find items that would grace our table on sale.

Many things were needed to satisfy the appetites and requests of the kids and cousins and all others who would first give thanks to God before digging in to some fine eating. It took over fifteen ingredients just to make the corn pudding and the sweet potato pie, not to mention all that was needed for the potato salad, the green beans, the mashed potatoes, the ham, the turkey, the cornbread, the gravy and, of course, the desserts.

Lots and lots of different things were needed, and although there were many different selections to choose from, the absence of one's particular favorite would surely be missed and the dinner, although prepared and choreographed with much precision and love would fall short of someone's expectation. An occasional omission notwithstanding, when all the fixing's were cooked and simmered and served together a great meal and a great time were enjoyed by all. When someone could not make it, we would miss them.

Our lodge is similar, every time we meet we have a feast. I don't mean a feast with food and the fixings, but a feast of fellowship and fun. This happens wherever we get together, be it upstairs, downstairs or under the pavilion. The ingredients we enjoy are our members, their personalities, their contributions and their gifts. Some get hot, some are spicy, some are flaky, like unstirred mashed potatoes. Some are great cooks and some cannot boil water without burning it. Some like to ham it up and some like to fly with the hammer down. All are gentlemen and know that wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness and all are great ambassadors of our fraternity. Some are great storytellers, some talk

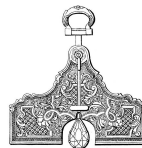
a lot, some talk a little; all know the right thing to say when the right thing to say is needed. When a Brother is unable to attend, we miss them.

Sometimes we forget a word, sometimes we say the wrong word, but we all are trying as hard as we can to improve ourselves in masonry and to be the one to extend a helping hand to others. All are doing their best, within the length of their cabletow to serve the lodge and their Brothers as well as they can and yes, one can even become a turkey on occasion. Best wishes for the happiest of Thanksgivings!

Our guest speaker this month will be Worshipful Michael Johnstone. He promises a most interesting program about our military veterans. I am looking very forward to it and very forward to seeing you there.

Brother Jerry Hallal, Worshipful Master

From The West



The man whispered, "God, speak to me", and a meadowlark sang. But, the man did not hear. So, the man yelled, "God, speak to me", and the thunder rolled across the sky. But, the man did not listen. The man looked around and said, "God, let me see you", and a star shined brightly. But, the man did not see. And the man shouted, "God, show me a miracle", and a life was born. But, the man did not notice. So the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know you are here". Whereupon God reached down and touched the man. But, the man brushed the butterfly away...and walked on.

Brethren, don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way you expect it to be. Nature speaks in many ways.

Worshipful Steve Ridgeway, Senior Warden

From The South



Brethren, as the calendar moves forward, we can look over our shoulders and learn much of our future from our past. A point of concern is the uncertainties we face looking at our future. We all try to minimize the risks we anticipate such as finance, health, employment, etc., but we all know that our lives can change drastically with little notice. Some of these changes we can have some influence over, other changes are completely out of our control. I couldn't help but notice the merchandise in a store I was recently in. Halloween garb was being overpowered by Christmas articles. The frantic, hectic holiday season is right before us. I had to ponder why Thanksgiving doesn't get as much hype. Maybe there's not enough money in it. Maybe some smart advertising firm can "super commercialize" the day. Maybe we're too shallow to appreciate the day. I think that as individuals, a Lodge, and as citizens, we have much to be thankful for. I know how easy it is to be burdened by hard times in life, but if we look a little closer, our blessings leap out at us. I think that if we truly appreciate and give thanks for our past blessing, we help ourselves with a roadmap for our future. Let's put more emphasis on a real event of Thanksgiving.

Brother John Preddy, Junior Warden

Masonic Veterans for 2013

November	Albert Lee Bonney, Jr.	50 Years
December	Ejnar Olaf Jorgenson	60 Years

To Our Masonic "Sweethearts"

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in November:

Ruth Simpkins	November 1 st
Irma Porter	November 2 nd
Ruth Litchfield	November 2 nd
Merelene Balance	November 3 rd
Margaret Bush	November 11 th
Mary Ann Monahan	November 20 th
Dorothy Hinkle	November 21 st
Mary Bullock	November 23 rd
Barbara McGregor	November 24 th
Iris Midgett	November 25 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.

Masonic Birthdays for November

Warren Louis Aleck '66	Donald Eugene Howard '87
Charles Edward Austin '93	Willie L. Hudson, Jr. '61
Patrick D. Blankenship '12	Ronald S. Jacobson '03
Albert Lee Bonney, Jr. '63	Philip Russell Jennings '94
Joe Emerson Brown '64	Michael D. Johnstone '05
Gordon Curtis Burton '71	Jerry Wayne Ledbetter '83
Dario Joseph Canclini '75	John Leonard Long '01
Herbert L. Carter '66	Andrew C. Mahrenholz '07
William Keith Cole '89	Donald Lee McBride '54
Roger Cort '65	Richard D. McCollum '95
Brian Linwood Cox '77	Meade Earl McCubbin '57
Harry Lee Cummings '71	Charles Clay Mills, Jr. '79
Lewis Alton Dodson '77	Dorman Keith Miner '79
David Michael Dutcher '86	River Douglas Morris '11
Michael Ceroy Elliott '65	Robert Jeffrey Oliver '08
Curtis Raeford Eure '59	Edward Franklin Parton '05
Clarence G. Felts '69	Paul W. Pennybacker '68
Michael P. Fitzgerald '92	James Stanley Perry '79
Rolfe Martin Fleming '72	William Harold Rawson '04
Douglas Roger Fortier '10	William Lewis Rice '83
Franklin M. Gamage '59	Steve Allen Ridgeway '77
Steven Morris Gilbert '83	Raymond R. Rowley '62
Timothy Dwayne Givan '93	Henry Sargent '69
Justin Lee Glasgow '78	Jerry Silla '99
Cecil Anthony Goodwin '71	Cecil Carroll Smithson '98
Justin Marshall Gray '06	Stephen Edward Spratt '09
Arthur J. Guarino, Jr. '92	William J. Swanner, III '74
Raymond Elnor Hall, Jr. '76	Charlie B. Taylor, Jr. '81
James Thomas Hare, Jr. '73	Robert Ray Teller '88
William Thomas Haste '61	Prentice G. Tuck Jr. '98
Donald Orr Hawkins, Jr. '97	Ralph Weldon Ward '76
Russell Lee Houston '85	Ronald Hugh Whitehead '67

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,955 years in Masonry!

Trestleboard

November 8-9 Grand Annual Communication, Richmond, VA
 November 12 Stated Communication Veterans' Day Program
 Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
 November 19 Master Mason Degree, 7PM
 November 26 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
 December 10 Annual Stated Communication
 Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
 December 14 Open Installation of Officers, 1PM
 December 16 District Blood Drive
 2PM-7PM, Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at www.kempsvillelodge.org.

Welcome to Kempsville!

Worshipful Philip K. Poffenbarger, Jr. affiliated at the October Stated Communication. Welcome Worshipful Phil!

Thoughts and Prayers

Worshipful Bill Nelligar is recovering well from successful heart by-pass surgery and Worshipful Bill Nolan is recovering from knee surgery. Please keep these these Brethren in your thoughts and prayers.

The Spirit of Kempsville Lodge



On October 20, 2013, Right Worshipful William Hollowell Pierce laid down his working tools and entered the Celestial Lodge above. No other Brother has had more influence on the spirit and culture of Kempsville Lodge than Right Worshipful Bill Pierce. Affectionately known as “The Handsome One”, Right Worshipful Bill Pierce was, without a doubt, the definition of a true Mason and a true gentleman.

After serving as the Worshipful Master of Great Bridge Lodge No. 257 in 1952, he, along with 29 other local Masons, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Virginia to form a Masonic Lodge in Kempsville. The dispensation was granted with Right Worshipful Bill Pierce serving as its Worshipful Master in 1954 (under dispensation) and again in 1955 at which time the Charter was granted. He was then elected as the Lodge's Secretary where he served for 50 consecutive years before moving into the Masonic Home of Virginia in 2006.

During his 67 years as a Master Mason, it's hard to imagine the number of lives he touched. His unassuming demeanor while sitting to the left of the Worshipful Master, his subtle wit, the countless number of Brethren that were coached in their

catechisms—all have helped define the culture which we know as today's Kempsville Lodge.

Although his working tools have been laid down, they are clearly well-worn and show the signs of daily use. We can only hope that when the time comes to lay down our own working tools, they are as tattered and worn as his.

The Charter may only be draped in his honor for a single month, but his memory will remain in our hearts and minds forever. His presence will surely be missed but his legacy will, without a doubt, live on. Right Worshipful Sir, you will never be forgotten.

Youth Corner

The Daughters thank you for support and contributions to the October Annual HIKE (Hearing Impaired Kid's Endowment) program. Virginia Jobs Daughters continue to be a large supporter with your help. In November the Daughters will have their semi-Annual Grand Bethel meeting following the Miss Job's Daughters Pageant on November 29th and 30th at the Crowne Plaza Williamsburg at Fort Magruder.

The DeMolay continue to grow their chapter and look forward to any young men that would be interested in being part of this wonderful group of young men. Please introduce them to the Master Counselor, Zach Doubikin, or any other chapter member for further advice.

With our busy holiday schedules approaching, please remember to support our youth groups at Kempsville. They are the future of Masonry.

Brother Ray Baez, Youth Advisor

2014 Lodge Dues

Brethren, Lodge Dues Notices for 2014 will be mailed soon. (Dues for 2014 remain \$100) Please remit your dues soon, as they are payable by January of each year. Thank you!

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Masonic Blood Program

As the 2013 blood donation seasons nears its end I would like to provide a few tips to prepare you for participation in our final event.

For a week or so before you donate, eat healthy, iron-rich meals. The iron in your blood helps transport oxygen and promotes healing throughout your body. Try to avoid fatty foods since they can

interfere with proper testing. On donation day wear a shirt that has sleeves that can be rolled up comfortably, eat a substantial breakfast and lunch, drink at least 16 ounces of water at least an hour before and after you donate, and follow the post-donation directions closely. These include abstaining from smoking, alcohol, heavy lifting and rigorous exercise.

Remember to bring your ID, a list of all the medications you are taking, and maybe a friend to make donating twice as fun. Reward yourself with an iron-rich meal afterwards. It takes your body approximately two weeks to replace all of the blood that you shared to save a life.

Thank you for participating in our final blood donation event for 2013, the event will take place on December 16th at Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220 from 2 to 7PM.

Brother Greg Muir, Lodge Blood Coordinator

Upon the Altar of Masonry...

...lies the open Bible which, despite the changes and advances of the ages remains the greatest Modern Book—the moral manual of civilization.

All through it's pages, through the smoke of Sinai, through the forest of the Psalms, through proverbs and parables, along the dreamy ways of prophecy, in gospels and epistles is heard the everlasting truth of one God who is love, and requires of men that they love one another, do justly, be merciful, keep themselves unspoiled by evil, and walk humbly before Him in whose great hand they stand. There we read of the Mam of Galilee who taught in the far distances of the divine

Fatherhood, all men were conceived in love, and so are akin-united in origin, duty, and destiny. Therefore we are to relieve the distressed,, put the wanderer into his way, and divide our bread with the hungry, which is by the way of doing good to ourselves; for we are all members of one great family, and the hurt of one means injury of all.

Joseph Fort Newton, From the Builders
Submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

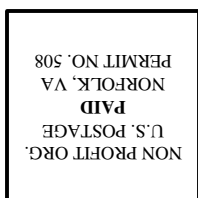
Around the Lodge

Congratulations to Right Worshipful Buddy Pate who just completed cycling around Lake Michigan. This is the third Great Lake he has cycled around. Only two more to go. Lots of luck in completing your quest, Right Worshipful.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Jerry Hallal	472-1200
Senior Warden	Steve A. Ridgeway	270-7338
Junior Warden	John R. Preddy	495-0771
Treasurer	Wor. Bill Nelligar	456-0034
Secretary	Wor. Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	R. Scott Foxwell	490-2797
Junior Deacon	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Senior Steward	Todd DeFord	362-4062
Chaplain	Chris Anders	635-7617
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Terry Bledsoe	589-8210
Instructor of Work	RW Tom McGowan	646-5878
Education Officer	Wor. Jimmie Wilder	467-1336
MAHOVA Ambassador	Wor. Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Youth Advisor	Ray Baez	

Articles for the next Ashlar should be submitted by the 20th of each month to
Right Worshipful Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or
Worshipful Bob Stanek (bob.stanek@gmail.com)



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