



# The Ashlar



August 2017

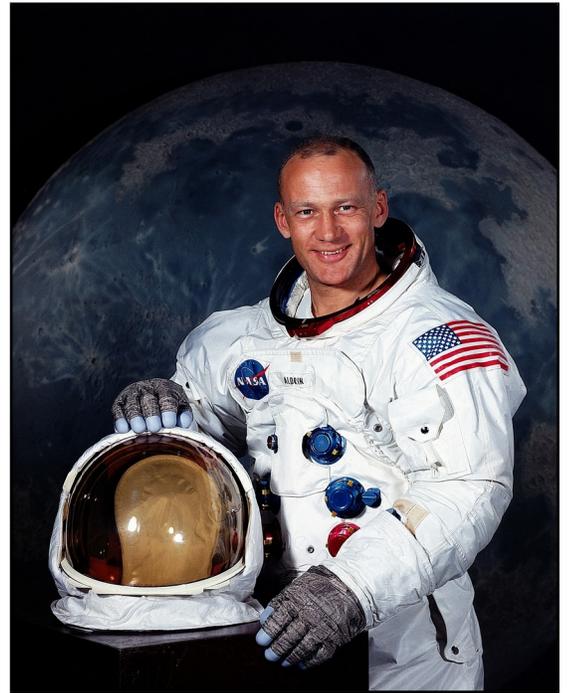
**Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.**  
**[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org)**

Volume 64-08

## Communion on the Moon

There have been many firsts for man, for this great country, and for Freemasons. Two of those for man, for the United States, and for Freemasons are walking on the moon, and having Holy Communion on the moon. In 1969, two Brother Masons, Brother Buzz Aldrin and Brother Neil Armstrong, changed history by walking on the moon. But what happened before Brother Aldrin and Brother Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. The fact is Brother Aldrin took Holy Communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in Guideposts magazine.

The background to the story is that Brother Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period in his life, and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt he should mark the occasion somehow, and he asked his minister to help him. The minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine, and Brother Aldrin took them with him out of Earth's orbit and on to the surface of the moon. He and Brother Armstrong had only been on the surface for a few minutes when Brother Aldrin made the following statement.



"This is the LM pilot. I'd like to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and give thanks in his or her own way."

He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he then read a verse from the Gospel of John, and he took communion.

Here is his account of what happened. "In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing."

I had intended to read my communion passage back to Earth, but at the last minute they had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly. I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, where the communion elements. And of course, it's interesting to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the Earth and the moon—and who, in the poetic words of Dante, an Italian poet and philosopher, is Himself the "Love that moves the Sun and other stars."

Submitted by Right Worshipful Thomas McGowan

## From The East



For those of you who could not make it out for the Junior Warden's Night at our July Stated Communication. We had a wonderful time, we wore Hawaiian shirts, ate some real good

Filipino cooking, and conducted some business... mostly monkey business but you all know how we can be. The bottom line is that Brother Roger Taylor did a wonderful job in the East and his ritual was much better than what you have been seeing from me.

Seriously, we discussed a bit on our upcoming community service effort of supporting the Kempsville High School Football Team and Band in the Fall. My intention is to put the games that we will support on the Lodge website for your information and possible coordination of volunteers. We will also include the dates in the Trestle Board contained in the Ashlar. So if you are available and want to have some fun and do some good work for our neighbors, just let me know and I'll get you on the watchbill. LET'S GO CHIEFS!!!

Secondly, regarding our Temple Building project. I intend to begin our fund raising drive at the August Stated Communication with a personal donation of \$1000 toward an effort of raising \$100,000. I will discuss more about that during the August Stated, but the nucleus of the effort will be a request for 100 Masons to make individual donations of \$1000. Please check your mailboxes after the meeting as I intend to send a letter to all Brothers formally requesting support. Additionally, if any of you desire to donate and cannot donate \$1000 don't worry, any support you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Please understand that we are doing this to support Brothers and Ladies who have trouble traveling to the second deck...we have to take care of our own and this is a viable way to do that and to express friendship and brotherly love.

Lastly, Brother Chris Anders presented the semi-annual budget report. Currently we are on sound financial footing to continue day-to-day Lodge operations, so there is no requirement for a dues increase at this time. This is not to say that we may come to that requirement some time, but for the foreseeable future there is no need to alter revenue in support of our operating budget.

On a personal note, I would like to say that my experience thus far in the East has been very fulfilling. I really appreciate your friendship and support. We have an outstanding group of guys

who are a heck of a lot of fun to be around. Please continue what you are doing and keep spreading that mortar!!! I hope to see you in Lodge soon.

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

## From The West



Brethren, the July Stated Communication was Junior Warden's Night and I have to commend Brother Roger Taylor for presiding over a great meeting. The meeting was very well run, the flow seemed effortless, it was light and entertaining when it needed to be, and serious and respectful when business was conducted. It truly was an enjoyable night and seeing Brother Roger in the East gives me great confidence for the future of our lodge. There is no doubt that we have the good fortune of having a solid line of officers. This isn't by accident. We are standing on the shoulders of a lot of great masons. Here's a perfect example; Brother Roger and I were recently approached by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan who told us that as we continue our journey to the East he will be there to help us in any way possible. This kind of unselfish support is what makes Kempsville Lodge great. It also gives us confidence in knowing we are not alone on this journey. For that I am tremendously grateful to Right Worshipful Tom and to the many Past Masters who have been steady in their support of all the officers. Brethren, our future is always just around the corner. The line moves at a surprisingly fast pace. It seems like just yesterday I was the Steward toiling in the kitchen. I want to challenge those who are not officers and have thought of doing so to get involved. Don't wait. This is an organization that succeeds only when brothers step up and make it known that they want to help lead us in the future. Don't procrastinate, you can begin that journey now. It starts by getting involved in degree work. We are always looking for brothers who want to learn ritual. Come to our ritual school on Monday nights. Start learning parts. Your Masonic experience will be greatly enriched when you participate on a degree team and help initiate, pass, or raise a brother. Remember, you are our future!

Brother Chris Anders, Senior Warden

## From The South



Thanks to everyone that came out for the 750<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication. The delicious teriyaki chicken was provided by Mike and Pat Blankenship. The pancit and lumpia was from Glory's Bakery on Aragona

Blvd. The wide variety of colorful and eclectic Hawaiian shirts was dizzying yet Wor. Jimmy Wilder's iridescent orange selection was hands down the "best." Thanks again for making Junior Warden's Night a memorable night.

Brother Roger Taylor, Junior Warden

## Trestleboard

July 29 .....	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
August 1 .....	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
August 8 .....	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
August 21 .....	District Blood Drive Willis V. Fentress, 2-7PM
August 25 .....	Kempsville High School Football
August 26 .....	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
September 8 .....	Kempsville High School Football
September 9 .....	Annual Family Picnic, 1PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at [www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org).

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in August:

Dorothy Hudson	August 7 <sup>th</sup>
Joyce Stukeyu	August 11 <sup>th</sup>
Sarah Faye Ward	August 13 <sup>th</sup>
Samia Salesby	August 26 <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.

## Blood Program

It's strange but back in the early movie days we would hear Bela Lugosi as Count Dracula state 'I want your blood', and we all knew that vampires could not live without fresh blood because we saw it in the movies. Let us go fast forward to modern day , and now instead of Bela Lugosi, it is a little girl losing her hair from too many rounds of

chemotherapy and her frail little voice utters the same line 'I want your blood'. It touches my heart to be able to help a distressed brother, friend, stranger, and yes maybe a child. Please give blood!

Our next drive is at Kempsville Lodge on August 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-7PM, Hosted by Willis V. Fentress Lodge.

Brother Pat Blankenship  
Lodge Blood Coordinator

## Masonic Birthdays for August

Allen Victor Alewine '08	Harry Wilbert Lamer, Jr. '08
Joshua Allen Arkin '08	Walter A. Liffick '94
Ramon Luis Baez, Jr. '08	David William McGowan '05
Ray Leon Benton '88	Newbury E. Meader, Jr. '99
Robert Dean Blazier '93	Donald Edward Meyer '77
Curtis Edward Brannon '65	Michael Neal Miller '05
Raymond Clyburn, Sr. '64	Edward F. Myers, III '08
Homer J. Cullifer '65	Christopher Brian Ovide '11
Bruce A. Cunningham '08	Bennell Willard Powers '93
Dennis A. DiMaggio '10	Gregory Michael Remy '08
John Newton Farr '98	Jeffrey Scott Rohrer '08
Robert Scott Foxwell '02	Larry Brett Scott '10
Moss Samuel Friedman '91	David Tyrone Silvey '04
Noel Lee Garo '10	Benjamin Daniel Stair '16
Raymond Elnor Hall, III '05	Wesley Clay Thompson '06
Brian Keith Headley '00	Anthony K. Turner '08
Walter Lee Humphries '71	Claude W. Watkins, Jr. '91
William T. Kemp, Sr. '66	Thomas G. Webber, Jr. '08
Jonathan Robert King '00	William Roy Wood '77

The Brethren shown above have a total of 750 years in Masonry!

## Masonry Universal

Brethren, this month we will look at the history and practice of Masonry in Germany. Operative stonemason unions were formed in Germany as early as 1149. The first operative grand lodge of Masons was formed in the city of Cologne in 1250 as part of the building of that city's great cathedral.

The first speculative German Masonic lodge was established in December 1737, in one of the hundreds of patchwork states that would later become the German Empire. Before this, some Germans became Freemasons in English lodges. Provincial and Grand Lodges in Germany were formed several years later, in 1741. Various Masonic associations and federations would

subsequently be established, but they were never successful in unifying Masonry in Germany.

Freemasonry, along with other groups, was scapegoated in Germany for the loss of WW I. Masonry ceased to exist when the Nazi Interior Ministry ordered all ten independent Grand Lodges to be disbanded in May 1935. It wasn't until the end of World War II that German Masonic lodges were able to rebuild themselves in Berlin and Western Germany. Meanwhile, British, American and Canadian servicemen were holding Masonic meetings, and by the end of the 1940's they obtained warrants from their state Grand Lodges to establish their own lodges in Germany.

In June 1949, 174 of the reconstituted German lodges unified to form the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Germany. In April 1958, with the assistance of several foreign Grand Lodges (including the United Grand Lodge of England), the United Grand Lodges of Germany was formed. Each of the five member Grand Lodges, including the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Germany and the American Canadian Grand Lodge, maintained their sovereignty but would be represented to all foreign organizations and the public by the United Grand Lodge.

The organization of these five Grand Lodges varies. The structure of and Anglo-American ritual practiced by lodges under the American Canadian Grand Lodge would be familiar to American Masons. However, the Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of Germany follows a form of the Swedish Rite, which does not have appendant bodies but rather ten integrated degrees. These

ten degrees are divided into three branches: the St. John's Lodge (equivalent to the Blue Lodge, or Craft Lodge) which works the first three Masonic degrees; the St. Andrew's Lodge, which works the IV<sup>th</sup> to VI<sup>th</sup> degrees; and the Chapters, which work the VII<sup>th</sup> to X<sup>th</sup> degrees.

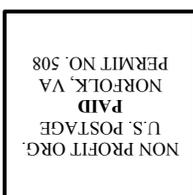
There also exists a Women's Grand Lodge of Germany. It was founded in Berlin in 1949 and consists of 22 women-only Lodges. While this Women's Grand Lodge and the United Grand Lodges of Germany recognize each other, they have no official ties.

More information on the United Grand Lodges of Germany (in English) can be found at:  
<http://freimaurer.org/en/>

David Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Deacon

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Greg Muir	676-3761
Senior Warden	Chris Anders	635-7617
Junior Warden	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Deacon	Mike Denning	651-0712
Senior Steward	Dennis Eaton	499-6720
Junior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Chaplain	John Settle, III	675-9695
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ray Baez, Jr.	285-2611
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Justin Gray	338-7218
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539



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