



# The Ashlar



December 2017

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

Volume 64-12

## The Bible

A book of books. Thousands of years ago it was said "Of making many books, there is no end." If it was true then, how much more true is it in these days, when the printing press is pouring forth a ceaseless stream of books. Yet among all the books ever written, the Bible is by far the most precious.

The world is full of books of every kind and character, written by men of every land and profession, yet none of them can for one moment compare with this one book. It records history, the oldest in the world: reaching back to the creation of all things. Many recorded events, once discredited by Bible critics as not only improbable, but impossible, have been proven authentic by discovery, in recent years, of records and tablets buried for thousands of years in ruins of cities and palaces of kings, who lived at the same time as the events recorded in Bible history occurred.

Many of its prophecies uttered thousands of years before have had their fulfillment in a wonderful manner, and others point still to the future. No other book presents so lofty a conception of the relation of the Creator to the human family as does the Bible: God walking, talking with, and through His Son, dying for men. Nor can any other book compare with its influence on and uplift of mankind.

We speak of the Bible as one book. In reality, however, it is a small library, a set of sixty-six books, smaller and larger, that have been bound in one volume. They have various authors led by the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit, numbering about thirty-six in all. The oldest of these is Moses, the Hebrew Prophet and Lawgiver, who wrote about 1,500 years before Christ.

Many of these Spirit guided authors were unlearned men, yet there came from the strokes of their rude pens, characters immortal: everlasting characters, that stand like rocks among the waves of time; created in a few words, by a bare record of great things said and done. The latest author is John the Evangelist, who wrote the Revelation, about 100 years after Christ. So we see the Bible was about 1,600 years in preparation. No other single book has such a chronological record as this.

And what shall we say when we come to the matter of the religious teachings that are contained in this book? Search in all the religious writings of the heathen world for anything that can be compared with the Ten Commandments. In all the world they have become the foundation of good law and government. No other code of morals in the world sets so lofty a standard nor has any other code of laws ever been framed, whose observance so enhances the common good of mankind. Jesus said the sum of the Ten Commandment is, "To love the Lord with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself."

Yet still more lofty in its conception of Divine truth than the Ten Commandments is the Sermon on the Mount of our blessed Lord. Here we have the law laid down, as it applies not to the outward life only, but as it appeals to the human heart and conscience.

Merry Christmas from Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196.



## From The East



As many of you have heard and read over the past eight years of my Masonic journey, Masonry is deeply rooted in my family; the Cooling Family of Cecil County, Maryland near Philadelphia. It was in 1894 that Zachary T. Cooling, Sr. of Cecil Lodge 125 in Chesapeake City, Maryland first represented the Cooling Family as a Lodge Master. And it is in 2017 that Carl Wesley Lee of Stephenson Lodge 135 in Darlington, Maryland and Gregory Cooling Muir of Kempsville Lodge 196 in Virginia Beach, Virginia have been the 18th and 19th Coolings to sit in the East as Master of a Lodge. What an honor you have afforded me, an honor that I can neither thank you enough for nor will I ever forget!

Thank you so much for this opportunity to continue my family tradition and for your support during this Masonic year. It has been a pleasure to serve you as Master, and to enjoy your Friendship and Brotherly love.

My intent for 2018 is to assist Brother Chris Anders in every way possible as he moves to lead us and our Lodge to a significant place in the Kempsville Borough of Virginia Beach. My last request to you is to give Chris the same support that you have given me.

I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

## From The West



Another successful year at Kempsville Lodge No. 196 is coming to a close. 2017 has certainly been a banner year. I want to extend my thanks to Worshipful Greg Muir for his leadership and inspiration and congratulate him on an outstanding year. Secondly, I'd like to thank the officers and brethren for their tremendous support throughout the year. Now a days with so many things competing for our time it is great to see brethren attending the stated and called communications in large numbers. We even have high turnout for our Monday night lodge school and thus keeping alive our tradition of "Air-Tight" ritual. But the rubber really hits the road when the sidelines are full during degree work. This sends a very positive message to the candidate and lets him know his Masonic journey will be well supported by his brethren. Last but certainly not least, I want to thank the Past Masters for the

support they have given me and the other officers. Your insight and guidance are truly invaluable and continues to shape the future of our lodge in a very positive way.

We now look to the future. The officers and I have been working very hard in preparation of next year. We are excited for what is to come and hope we will live up to the high standards set by those we follow. We will continue with the long-term plan initiated by Worshipful Greg regarding building our Temple, our Lodge, and our Legacy. More specific information will come in January. As it stands we will begin 2018 in true Kempsville form. The calendar is filling up fast so please check the lodge website for specifics. The officers and I have very high expectations for next year and are fully committed do all we can to serve the brethren of Kempsville Lodge No.196.

Finally, I wish to extend my best wishes to each of you and your families and hope you have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. See you in lodge!

Brother Chris Anders, Senior Warden

## From The South



We have frequently heard the the question "What induced you to become a Master Mason" and the reply that includes "...work and receive Master's wages...". It took a bit of reflection for me to realize or maybe understand that Master's wages aren't earned in the lodge, they are earned outside of the lodge, in the world or more specifically "in foreign countries." The phrase foreign countries is allegory for unfamiliar places or abroad in the world. We know its easy to fall in line and follow Masonic protocol when in the lodge but when we quit the sacred retreat to mix again with the world we have to be reminded that we, as masons, have a special duty and responsibility to hold up our individual end of the bargain.

Our brothers who chose to come to lodge once a month or less and expect to receive a full share of Master's wages might find themselves a little disappointed. The lodge, or more specifically Masonry, provides a venue for dissimilar men to meet and hopefully make connections and form friendships. The expectation for masons is to take those connections and friendships outside of the lodge and show the world, every human being, that they can share in the same by joining the fraternity.

During this Holiday Season as we hurry from one holiday event to the next and from one shopping trip to the next we must take the time to remember that this season exists to celebrate a higher calling. Remember your brother, remember their widows and remember their orphans. Take a minute to contribute to their relief with your time and attention as liberally as you can without detriment to yourself or family.

Special Note: Brethren's assistance is needed the morning of Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, to make deliveries.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Brother Roger Taylor, Junior Warden

## Trestleboard

December 12 ..... Annual Stated Communication  
Lodge 6PM  
December 16 ... Open Installation of Officers, 1PM

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

## Masonry Universal – France (Part 2)

This month we will complete our discussion of the history and practice of Freemasonry in France. The political turmoil that gripped that country from the late 1700s through the second half of the 1800s is the backdrop for much of this.

Freemasons took part in both the Republican and monarchical (royal) camps during the French Revolution of 1789. Even though the Grand Orient (the French Masonic Grand Lodge) proclaimed its attachment to the democratic form of government, it was forced to cease its activities during the Revolution's Reign of Terror between 1793 and 1796. Of the nearly 1000 lodges that were active on the eve of the Revolution, only 75 were in a fit state to resume their activities in 1800.

When the First French Empire of Napoleon I was declared in 1804, Masons learned (after the fact) that his brother Joseph had been named Grand Master of Masons in France. Masonry would remain under strict control of the political authorities while expanding to over 1200 lodges. It would, as a result, fall to less than less than 300 lodges five years after Napoleon's defeat. The following decades would see more turmoil as France shifted back to two different monarchies, a Second Republic, and then back to a Second Empire under Napoleon's nephew. He, like his

uncle, offered his protection to French Freemasonry.

The Third French Republic, established in 1871, wished to open secular schools throughout its territory and so entered into an open conflict with the Catholic Church, which opposed these schools. It was in this context that the Grand Orient decided in 1877 to abolish its requirement that its members believe in the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. The decision to admit Atheists was not universally approved in France and led, in 1894, to a schism in French Freemasonry.

French Freemasonry would subsequently suffer additional splits, fractures, and turmoil in the following years. A thousand French Freemasons were deported or killed during the Second World War. It wasn't until twenty years after the end of the conflict that French Freemasonry regained its pre-war numbers. Today, there are 11 Grand Lodges in France; most of these do not officially recognize the others. These include a mix of men-only, mixed gender, and women-only lodges.

Next month: The history and practice of Freemasonry in Scotland.

David Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Deacon

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in December:

Carolyn Harrison	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Peggy McGuire	December 10 <sup>th</sup>
Loretta Cedola	December 21 <sup>st</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.

## Masonic Birthdays for December

Duke Duane Allen '63	Jessie Robert Ritchie '92
Timothy R. Berkhimer '02	Roger James Rowe, Jr. '92
Lincoln Figuereo '01	James Reginald Smith '94
Ejnar Olaf Jorgensen '53	David Howard Weast '87
Rubin Kravitz '60	Ricky Trevor West '83
Timothy Miles Maguire '01	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 359 years in Masonry!

## From the Secretary

Brethren, Lodge dues notices for 2018 have been mailed to all dues-paying members. (Any change of your mailing address should be communicated to the Secretary so current information of our membership is maintained.) Please remit your annual dues promptly. Check your dues card now – it should look as below – “2018”:



Worshipful Bob Stanek  
Secretary

## Life Membership in Perpetuity

To Brethren who have not purchased Life Membership in Perpetuity (LMIP), but may be interested to do so:

At the recent Grand Lodge session, the cost of LMIP was changed, effective January 1, 2018, and

will increase (see below). If you think you might want to purchase an LMIP before it increases, it must be paid in full and at the Grand Lodge office before December 31, 2017.

*Section 5.03 of the Virginia Methodical Digest be modified to increase, over a period of three years, the multiple for an LMIP purchase from sixteen (16) times dues to twenty-five (25) times dues in the following manner; January 1, 2018 change multiple to twenty-one (21) times annual dues, January 1, 2019 change multiple to twenty-three (23) times annual dues, and January 1, 2020 change multiple to twenty-five (25) times annual dues.*

## 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	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539



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