



The Ashlar



September 2018

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

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The Influence of Biblical Verse in Freemasonry – Part 1

The topic of Freemasonry offers a wide array of subjects for study to the Masonic scholar interested in unlocking its mysteries. In pursuit of our quest for Masonic learning we should stop to examine the three Degrees of the Ancient Craft and ask ourselves “What lessons should I be learning from each Degree?” The key to the subject matter is hidden within a little understood yet vitally important part of the ritual of the first section of each Degree.

We tell ourselves and the new initiates that the manner of candidate preparation is intended to create a condition where the “mind might conceive before the eyes beheld the beauties of Freemasonry.” As the candidate of each Degree undergoes the ritual of circumambulation he is then presented with the theme of the Degree contained in the Scriptural reading. The theme is often lost however, or misunderstood, because of the mystic nature of the readings.

An examination of each of the Scriptural readings reveals the unique manner in which each theme is presented. The first in this three part series is the **Entered Apprentice Degree**.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.” - Psalms 133

Imagine yourself as the candidate once again, hearing these words for the first time. The first sentence might tend to calm your apprehensions and uncertainties about your forthcoming experience by pronouncing in simple terms what a pleasure it is to “dwell together in unity” or to be in the presence of a body of men united together in mind and spirit of purpose. This peaceful unity is of utmost importance to Masons as it is the mortar or cement that binds us together as a fraternity.

“It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard even Aaron’s beard that went down to the skirts of his garments.” Aaron, the elder brother of Moses, and his sons were appointed by God to be the High Priest and ministers of God for the children of Israel. God directed that an oil of holy ointment be made consisting of measured amounts of myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, cassia, and olive oil. This holy anointing oil was to be poured upon Aaron and his sons as a blessing or consecration prior to their entry as priests into the tabernacle, containing all the holy vessels and the Ark of the Covenant, to minister and pray unto the Lord.

This reference therefore alludes to the sacredness of such unity. Mount Sion or Mount Hermon was known to have copious amounts of humidity, even in the driest weather, which formed on the tents so profusely that it appeared as though it had rained the whole night. This precious dew provided continuous life giving growth to the plants and animals of the otherwise arid region; hence the allusion “life forevermore.”

The theme of the Entered Apprentice Degree then, as foretold to the candidate through this reference to the Scripture passage, is that he is about to enter into a fraternal union with men of good character. This unity of good brethren is so precious that it is comparable to the holy anointing of the High Priest of the ancient Israelites. Further, his association with this fraternal unity promises to enrich his future life just as the dew of Mount Hermon and the mountains of Zion.

From The East



Fall is just around the corner and hands down it is my favorite time of year. Temps are falling and the leaves will soon start changing colors. It certainly is a great time of year and we all have so much to be thankful for.

Brethren, your lodge does a fair bit of community service. Some of which many of you may not be aware of so I thought I'd take a moment to shed some light on some of the things we are doing to try to make a difference. We clean Stratford Park every month. It's our Lodge's official Adopt-A-Spot. We provide transportation for Brother Al Roach every weekend so he can visit his great granddaughter. We collect school supplies for underprivileged school kids. We collect food to support Kempsville Elementary School's Beach Bag's program to send bags of food home with kids who might otherwise not eat over the weekend. We run the concession stand at Kempsville High football games. We participate in their Homecoming parade. We take left-over food and canned goods to the Judeo-Christian outreach center. We support Pin Ministry's program to help fight homelessness in Virginia Beach with needed items such as socks and toiletries. We provide Thanksgiving meals to local needy families. We participate in the Child ID program and Masonic Blood drives. These are just some of the things we do to support our community. These efforts are supported by many Kempsville Masons and though their efforts may go unnoticed they are certainly not unappreciated. My hat goes off to all the brothers who have given their time, talent, and treasure in support of our Lodge's community service efforts. Thank You All!

Our family picnic is on the 8th and will be a fun day of food, family, and fellowship. Please bring your family and join us. Our Stated Communication will be Senior Warden Night. Be sure and come out and support Brother Roger. I am sure he will do a great job running the meeting. Please try to support these events. It's been said before but worth repeating – you get out of Masonry what you put into Masonry. I hope to sit with you soon in lodge as there is no better place to be on a Tuesday night than in Kempsville Lodge!

Brother Chris Anders, Worshipful Master

From The West



Recently I had the opportunity to spend the weekend with a great group of people, masons and their families, for a sightseeing trip to DC. The trip was event filled and provided an wide spectrum of events to satisfy a range of interest. We visited the Marine Barracks for an evening parade. We observed Brothers laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. We held a Master Mason's lodge in Andrew Jackson lodge room at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. We went to a Washington National's game and the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum. All of that including transportation to, from, and around DC, provided via motor coach, was arranged by Worshipful Brian Cox, Worshipful Master of Virginia Beach Lodge. If you are interested in seeing a photo and video record of the trip please visit our Facebook page. Thank you Brian for a thoughtful, well planned and enlightening trip.

As summer comes to an end we enter the last quarter of the Masonic year and it is busy. Aside from routine events such as the stated meetings, the Grand Annual Communication, Kempsville's Annual Communication, degree work and lodge breakfasts we are continuing other non routine programs. We are still supporting the Stratford Park cleanup project, assisting the Kempsville High School Band sponsors at the snack bar and meeting for the Annual Family Picnic. I am certain I overlooked at least one event but I am sure I know where to go to find out exactly what is on the calendar, the Facebook page or the Kempsville Lodge website. I hope to see all of you at some or all of these events and those I overlooked.

Brother Roger Taylor, Senior Warden

From The South



I had the opportunity this month to visit my first Lodge outside of Virginia when 20 other Kempsville brothers and I recently visited Hall Lodge No. 53 in Shawboro, North Carolina to attend their monthly Stated meeting. They treated us to a wonderful country dinner, which included some delicious fried chicken, country ham, and of course (it being the South) some incredible banana pudding with vanilla wafers for dessert. It was also very interesting to watch the North Carolina ritual during the opening

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in September:

Stella Paxton	September 8 th
Linda Ferris	September 14 th
Judith Moyers	September 20 th
Sheryl Stanworth	September 23 rd
Lila Driscoll	September 28 th
Linda Moore	September 29 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 Blood Program

Thank You for supporting Willis V. Fentress Blood Drive at Kempsville Lodge on August. 20th. The next one will be Virginia Beach Lodge Blood Drive at Bayside Lodge on October 15th from 2-7PM.



Brother Mike Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

From the Secretary

Brethren all – FYI: DUES INCREASE! Be informed in advance of the dues increase for 2019. The delegates to the 2017 Grand Annual Communication voted and approved a \$10. increase for the “Grand Lodge portion” of dues of all Subordinate Lodges, effective January 1, 2019. Accordingly, our Lodge dues must increase \$10. So, our Lodge annual dues for 2019 will be \$117. The next dues notice you receive, mailed to you in November, will indicate this amount. Dues are normally payable in January, annually. (Electronic credit-card payments are available as a convenience in the “Payment Center” on the Lodge web site.)

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Chris Anders	635-7617
Senior Warden	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Junior Warden	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Mike Denning	651-0712
Junior Deacon	John Settle, III	675-9695
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Chaplain	Justin Gray	338-7218
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Tiler	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
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



Virginia Beach, VA 23462
4869 Princess Anne Road
Kempsville Lodge #196 AF&AM
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