



# The Ashlar



October 2018

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.  
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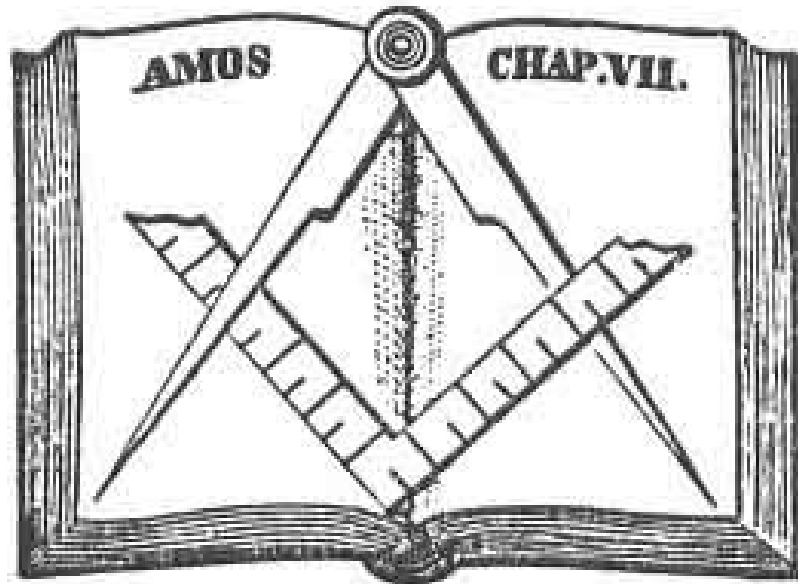
## The Influence of Biblical Verse in Freemasonry – Part 2

### Fellowcraft Degree

This is perhaps the least understood and most misinterpreted passage of Scripture as it relates to the theme of the Fellowcraft Degree. Amos was one of the lesser prophets of the Old Testament. He was a herdsman and tender of fig trees who lived in the territory of Tekoa south of Bethlehem and was sent by God to call the people of Israel to repentance. He foretold the judgments of God which were to fall on the Syrians, Philistines, Tyrians, Edomites, Moabites, and Ammonites.

In this Chapter of Scripture Amos describes a vision shown to him by God. In this vision God represents to Amos the judgements he is about to bring upon Israel for their many iniquities. Verses 7 and 8 describe God's illustration to Amos of His attitude regarding the sins and transgressions of the people of Israel. The Lord standing upon a wall made by a plumb line signifies the laws and commandments He has communicated to the people of Israel to build them into a just and upright nation. The plumb line in His hand symbolizes the strict justice He will visit upon them according to their iniquities. The phrase "I will not again pass by them anymore." is an indication that God will no longer show them any mercy in His administration of justice.

The underlying theme of this Scripture as it applies to the Fellowcraft Degree is to admonish the candidate that he is now crossing the threshold from youth to manhood. As a man and a loyal member of the Masonic fraternity he will be more strongly bound to the fraternity by strict moral guidelines. Likewise, as an adult member of society, he will be expected to exemplify the highest standards of behavior and uphold the civil laws. As an Entered Apprentice, the candidate was introduced to the most basic moral principles, loyalty, trust and charity, which serve as the foundation upon which to build strong relationships. His development as a Fellowcraft will expose him to greater responsibilities that require a stronger discipline.



*"Thus he shewed me; and behold the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, a plumb line. Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel. I will not again pass by them anymore." - Amos 7:7-8*

## From The East



As we enter the final quarter I'd like to reflect on my theme for the year; The Three R's of Masonry; Ritual, Retention, and Relief. A critical step in any initiative is to periodically review the processes and assess progress. This month I'll take a look at the first "R" - Ritual.

It is my opinion that as a lodge we perform Ritual very well. That does not happen by chance. It takes hard work and a commitment to constant improvement. Doing so demonstrates the respect we have for our Ritual. More importantly, it affirms our commitment to every candidate conducted through the West Gate.

We are only as good as our leaders and under the tutelage of Right Worshipful Tom McGowan our Ritual is "Air-Tight". This has been augmented by the hard work and dedication of Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz. At the beginning of the year I asked Brother Dave to facilitate a new training initiative. The plan was to meet at 6:30 on school nights and cover a single, specific topic for 30 minutes. Targeted topics to cover the finer points of Ritual. This has been a huge success. Thank you Worshipful Bob Stanek for moderating the classes each week. The history and experience Worshipful Bob brings is both insightful and invaluable. We held Coach-the-Coaches training to improve our coaching skills and encouraged new coaches. We held Funeral Training which gave us a deeper understanding and respect for Masonic Rites. Thank you Worshipful Bill Rawson for teaching this class.

These initiatives were designed to improve our performance, encourage more involvement, and gain a deeper knowledge of the meaning of the Ritual. Above all to give candidates the experience they deserve. I want to thank everyone involved in Ritual this year. If you participated in degree work, attended Ritual school, coached a candidate, taught a class, or sat on the sidelines to support your brothers and the candidate, you did a great service to your lodge. Without you none of it would be possible. For that I am grateful and thank you immensely.

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



September was another event filled month for Kempsville Lodge. We started with the Annual Family Picnic and quickly followed that up with the September Stated Communication that also served as Senior Warden's Night; both were a huge success. I would like to personally thank every brother that lended a hand to make those events go off in typical Kempsville style. We will finish the month with the next to last breakfast of the Masonic year.

After recent discussions with some of our more "seasoned" brethren I come to a realization.

Petition for membership in Masonry does not ask a petitioner's race nor are ethnic statistics kept by any Grand Lodge. Collecting such information is considered as inappropriate as collecting information about a Brother's financial standing. A lodge is not permitted to accept or exclude a candidate on the basis of his race or national origin. To petition for membership, the petitioner must be "a man of legal age, good reputation, and possess a belief in God." While election to membership in the fraternity is a matter for the local lodge to decide, the qualifications for membership are standard, and all Masons are required to observe them. Recalling that Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion...

Brother Roger Taylor, Senior Warden

## From The South



I hope everyone who was able to attend our annual Lodge picnic in September had a good time and enjoyed all the delicious food, especially the brisket prepared by our Senior Warden. As promised in last month's Ashlar, I showed up in my inflatable T-Rex costume for the entertainment of the children. They all had a great time with the dinosaur-themed games we played with them, but I think I lost about 10 pounds while I was in the suit on what was a very warm day! It was well worth it though, and we are already planning the children's activities for next year's picnic. The kids have fun, and the parents get a chance to eat undisturbed - everybody wins!

We will be holding a Lodge yard sale on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 8AM until 3PM. We are asking



candidates as we welcome them into the new world of Freemasonry, will be evident in the years to come. If we sow well, we are bound to reap well.

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in October:

Dorothy Foxwell	October 4 <sup>th</sup>
Millie Maddox	October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Sandy Howard	October 17 <sup>th</sup>
Joyce Dunn	October 21 <sup>st</sup>
Fran Caldwell-Krause	October 29 <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.

## Family Picnic



The Brethren and family enjoying fellowship and great food at the Family Picnic.

## What is Masonry?

It's not a sign or handshake, a hall where tilers sit,  
 It's not a guarded building, where passwords will admit,  
 It's not a place of symbols, which Wardens oft display,  
 It's not a lodge of members, who meet in white array.  
 It is the home of justice, of liberty and truth,  
 Of loyalty to country, of sympathy for youth,  
 Of relief for a brother, of gentleness and cheer,  
 Of tolerance for neighbors, whose life is often drear.

Brother Walter H. Bonn  
 Victor, Iowa

## 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

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**The Ashlar**

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