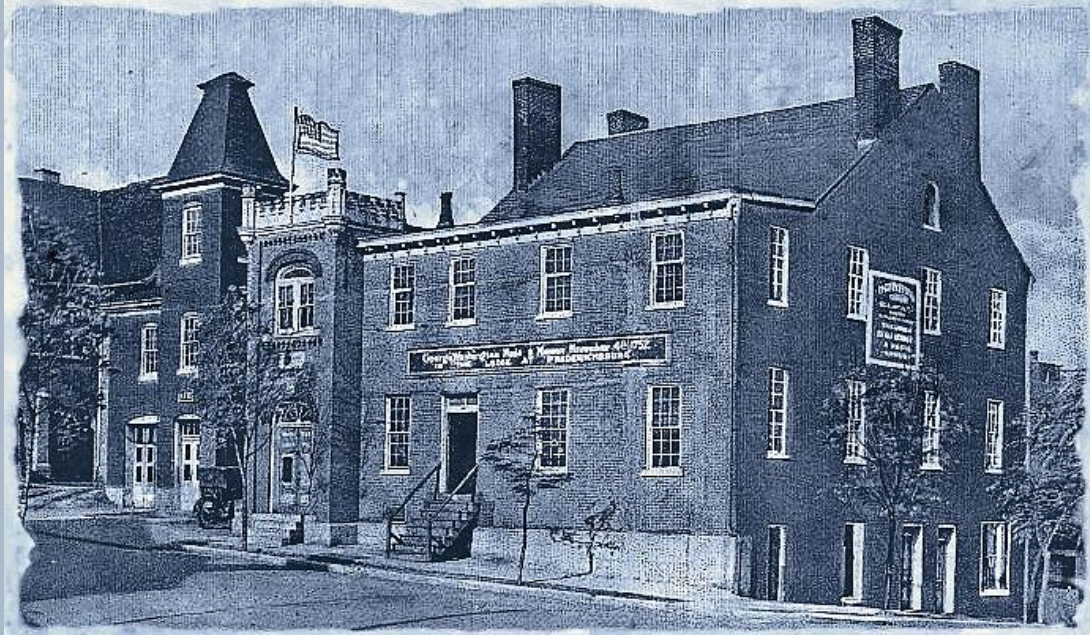


# FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



## TRESTLE BOARD

FIRST RECORDED MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1, 1752

SCOTTISH CHARTER - JULY 21, 1758

VIRGINIA CHARTER - JANUARY 30, 1787

## MOTHER LODGE OF ILL.: BRO.: GEORGE WASHINGTON

803 Princess Anne St.  
Fredericksburg,  
VA 22401

[Masoniclodge4.org](http://Masoniclodge4.org)

(540) 373-5885

INITIATED NOVEMBER 4, 1752

PASSED MARCH 3, 1753

RAISED AUGUST 4, 1753

**'A TEMPLE OF LIVING STONES'**

Stated Meeting  
Second Fridays  
(except Nov. 4)

Dinner 6:00 pm  
Meeting 7:30 pm

Degree Work  
Wednesdays 7pm  
(check calendar)

JANUARY 2021  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Officers' Mtg 7pm	5	6 Stated Practice Work Night	7	8 Zoom Call 6:30 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	9 Pancake Breakfast 8am
10 Religious Freedom Obs.	11	12	13 Ritual Practice (EA) 7pm	14	15	16 Masonic Education 8am
17	18	19	20 Ritual Practice (TBD) 7pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Ritual Practice (TBD) 7pm	28	29	30 Masonic Education 8am
31						

Consult calendar on website for details and updates.

## ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

## MASTER's CORNER

On behalf of all the officers, we're grateful for the opportunity to serve you in the coming year. Thank you for the trust you have placed in us. There are many dedicated men serving in various chairs, on committees, and behind the scenes, and with them it's my belief we will emerge from the current adversity stronger than ever before.

As a society and a Lodge, we've been through many changes this last year. As we continue to move forward after 269 years, we will continue to cherish and honor our history, bring back time-honored traditions, and try out new ideas. While we're blessed with that rich history and distinctive culture and traditions, we must also strive to be more like a small country Lodge, a warm, friendly, and welcoming Lodge. For the best way to honor the memory of our Illustrious Brother, George Washington, is to strive to emulate his many virtues, the most surpassing of which being his great humility. If such a man as Our Brother could, despite his greatness, humble himself so, how much more should be humble ourselves? Let us therefore dedicate ourselves to practice the Craft with *humility* and *tolerance*—for their lack is often the main cause of discord. Let's keep in mind that we are all imperfect ashlar, striving towards but never reaching perfection. Let us be forbearing towards one another's faults and ruthlessly intolerant towards our own. Let us be tolerant of brothers of every country, sect, and opinion, especially those whose view of Masonry differs from our own. For some view Masonry chiefly as a philosophical and spiritual, or charitable, or social pursuit, but the truth is all these aspects are essential and support each other. There is no such thing as a non-essential Mason. This vision of being builders, first of ourselves, then our Fraternity and our World, is a big part of what we mean by the theme for this year, *A Temple of Living Stones*.

After this challenging year, it's my hope that we could set aside differences and start with a clean slate. For only then can we put new designs on the Trestle Board. Let's challenge ourselves to make our Lodge a drama-free zone. To those who have stopped attending for one reason or another, we welcome you home with open arms. One good thing that may have come out of this is learning what opportunities technology can bring. We will, due to current restrictions, start holding more Zoom meetings—not official, tiled meetings, but a golden opportunity to reconnect with lost Brothers. If you have moved or stayed away from Lodge for a while, we welcome you to join us.

What will the new year look like? We can't know with certainty, but as we slowly return to normalcy, we will resume our Wednesday night work, focusing on Ritual, Masonic Education, discussion, and other such vitally important pursuits. We will resume the pancake breakfasts and stated meals, withing civil and Grand Lodge guidelines. We will hold regular Zoom meetings until meeting capacity again increases. We cannot host the homeless meals, but Micah Ministries and others remain active and engaged in the community and so will we. We will reach out to our older members and widows. We should strive to do everything with authenticity and excellence—from lighting the candles to delivering the Ritual to helping our Fellow Man—not because we're Fredericksburg No. 4, but because we're Masons. Time to get back to basics.

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Two items of business to discuss. You may have noticed a slight decrease on this year's dues notice. The reason for this is the discovery of a miscalculation in applying the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). This correction realigns the dues with the bylaws and Methodical Digest, as we're all obligated to follow. We still need to address the discrepancy from previous years going back to when this first occurred. I will appoint a committee to study the issue early in the year and come up with recommendations for resolving it in a way that's both fair and equitable and does not hurt the Lodge's overall financial health. As part of that, we plan to hold one or more town hall meetings, in person if practical, virtual if necessary, to ensure the brethren are fully informed and solicit their views.

Another issue, yet to be voted upon, is the Columbarium Project put forth by the FMMA at the October stated meeting. There was a vigorous and healthy discussion at the meeting but clearly numerous questions remain. We will be taking this up again shortly and will also hold town hall meetings to gather feedback from the brethren on this issue early next year. With meeting attendance significantly curtailed, it's crucial we think outside the box, including making use of modern technology, to keep the business of the Lodge moving forward with openness and integrity.

Fredericksburg Lodge has a bright future ahead. We cannot and will not allow the working tools to fall silent. Let peace and harmony prevail.

### **SECRETARY'S CORNER**

Happy New Year Brethren! What would a Secretaries section be without talking about Dues. As the Master Stated above, dues for this year have decreased a bit to **\$202**. The dues notices were sent out a bit late and for that I apologize! If you have not received a dues notice, please let me know @ [secretarylodge4va@gmail.com](mailto:secretarylodge4va@gmail.com) and I will get them out to you as soon as possible.

On a personal note: I am humbled and honored to have been elected and entrusted to be your Lodge Secretary. I look forward to serving the Lodge. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Chris

### **FROM THE ARCHIVES**



We honor our Past Masters for their knowledge, experience, and service to the Lodge. The Past Masters' portraits have been refurbished by the University of Mary Washington (UMW). Hearty thanks go out to Prof. Christina Turdean and the students of UMW's Center for Historic Preservation. We are in the process of rehangng the portraits in the Lodge's anteroom.

Shown at left is R.W. Mason H. Willis, who served as WM of the Lodge in 1921, exactly 100 years ago, and as DDGM of the 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District in 1922. That year the GLVA approved a circular asking Virginia Lodges to commemorate Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> as a Masonic holiday to honor the initiation of Bro. George Washington in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in 1752. The Lodge first held this commemoration November 4, 1920, when the stationed officers traveled with the Washington Bible to the Grand Lodge of New York. This is the last known time the Masonic Obligation Bible and Inaugural Bible were placed on the altar together. RW Willis would have also been the first recipient of the Master's ring handed down at each installation. –*A History of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M. (1752-2002)*, p. 208-209.

## 2021 LODGE OFFICERS

Christopher S. Tripp, PM	tripp4srramason@outlook.com	(540) 424-5767	Worshipful Master
Charles L. Dirienzo	chuckdirienzo@1976.usna.com	(571) 524-9585	Senior Warden
Joseph Gilkerson	gilkerson@hotmail.com	(540) 907-7404	Junior Warden
Charles Cooper, PM	ccooper627@cox.net	(540) 371-5652	Treasurer
Chris Decker, PM	<a href="mailto:secretarylodge4va@gmail.com">secretarylodge4va@gmail.com</a>	(540) 424-1028	Secretary
James Snyder, PM	jamie-snyder@usa.net		Asst. Treasurer
Michael Spellman	mspellman@sigmapest.com		Asst. Secretary
Kevin Valentine	vak242@yahoo.com		Senior Deacon
Michael Perry	mikeperry1965@hotmail.com		Junior Deacon
Michael Spellman	mspellman@sigmapest.com		Senior Steward
Michael Shaner	miwash6mm@gmail.com		Junior Steward
Shawn Bryar	asbryar@verizon.net		Chaplain
Patrick McConnell	patmccnll@gmail.com		Marshal
Shelby Chandler, PM	schandler@epaladin.us		Tiler

## TRUSTEES

Dennis Berry, PM – 2021  
Vacant – 2024

Chris Decker, PM – 2022

Dan Goodwin, PM – 2023  
Dennis David - 2025

## PROGRAM OFFICERS

**Lodge Blood Coordinator**  
Jeff Mikulas

**Lodge Instructor of Work**  
Charles L. Dirienzo

**Lodge Education Officer**  
Shelby Chandler, PM

**Masonic Home Ambassador**  
Ross Upchurch

**Lodge Catechism Chair**  
Huey Allen

**Lodge Almoner**  
Richard Klehm, PM

## LIVING PAST MASTERS

Wor.: Carter. G. Wells.....	1963	Wor.: Jene G. Parrotte.....	2004
Wor.: Rudolph E. Griffith.....	1974	R.:W.: Steven W. Sanford.....	2005
Wor.: Henry W. Baker.....	1975	Wor.: Richard D. Dey.....	2006
Wor.: Edward L. Donalson.....	1983	Wor.: Anthony L Rudder.....	2007
Wor.: Carlton D. Beach.....	1985	R.:W.: Jeffrey D. St. Onge.....	2009
Wor.: Dennis W. Berry.....	1986	Wor.: Shelton S. Mackey.....	2010
Wor.: Thomas C Shelton.....	1988	Wor.: Shelby L. Chandler.....	2011
Wor.: William J. White.....	1989	Wor.: Christopher J. Decker.....	2012
Wor.: James R. Adams.....	1992	Wor.: Christopher R. Wilson.....	2013
Wor.: Robert W. Benish.....	1993	Wor.: Jeffrey L. Mitchell.....	2014
Wor.: Michael J. McCray.....	1995	R.:w.: Jeffrey P. VanCuren.....	2015
Wor.: Steven M. Gallahan.....	1996	Wor.: James L. Ragsdale.....	2016
Wor.: Charles B. Pasto.....	1998	Wor.: Michael T. Moses.....	2017*
Wor.: J. Travis Walker.....	2000	Wor.: Daniel T. Goodwin.....	2018
Wor.: Daniel W. Thompson.....	2001	Wor.: James M. Snyder.....	2019
R.:W.: W. Robert Brammer.....	2002	Wor.: Stanley R. Kennedy.....	2020
Wor.: Sheridan G. Harrod.....	2003		

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