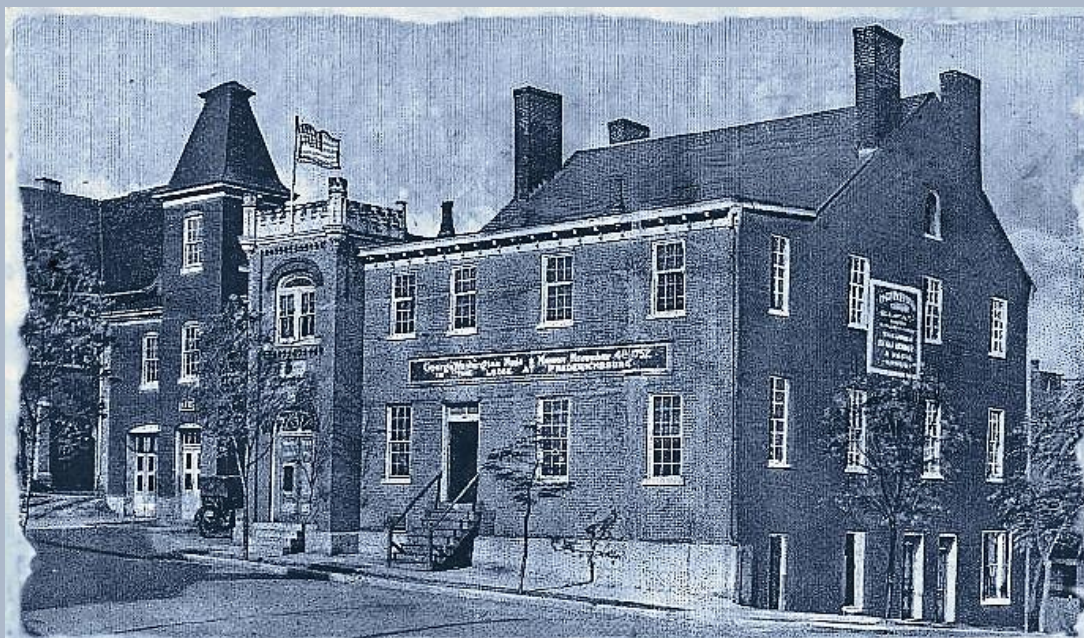


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



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

INITIATED NOVEMBER 4, 1752

PASSED MARCH 3, 1753

RAISED AUGUST 4, 1753

Stated Meeting
Second Fridays
(except Nov. 4)

Dinner 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm

'FREEMASONRY: THE BEST WORK OF LIFE'

Degree Work
Wednesdays 7pm
(check calendar)

APRIL 2024

APRIL 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Pancake Breakfast 8 am to 10 am
7	8	9 Second Tuesday Meal 4 pm to 7 pm	10	11	12 Stated Communication Dinner, 6:30 pm Meeting, 7:30 pm	13 UMW Multicultural Fair 10 am to 5 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 District Ritual School, 7 pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 5 th Tuesday Meal 4 pm to 7 pm				

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for April

Bro. Thomas Schuler	69 yrs.	Bro. George Brookman	16
M.W. George Chapin	55	Bro. William Morris, Jr.	14
Bro. Lester Wood	49	Bro. Scot Cooler	13
Bro. Joseph Ilk	46	Bro. Ross Upchurch	13
Bro. George Walker	41	Bro. Antonio Cox-Gutierrez	10
R.W. Richard Dey, Sr.	33	Bro. Robert Waslov	6
Wor. Steven Gallahan	33	Bro. William Clark, Jr.	2
Wor. Sheridan G. Harrod	27	Bro. Thomas Baker	1
Bro. Ralph Terry	26	Bro. William Bowser	1
Bro. Peyton Carter, III	23	Bro. Robert McGee	1
Bro. Marcus Simes, Jr.	22	Bro. Barry Surles	1
M.W. Ali Bongo-Ondimba	20	Bro. James Wachter	1

MASTER’S MOMENT

Grand Master Jack Kayle Lewis recently wrote that “each man in this Fraternity has a different story of what drew him to first seek membership.” We certainly do and I think it important that we share that story with Brothers and non-members alike. Sharing our story I think creates a deeper connection with others than anything else we do during our Masonic journeys. Yes, we learn together and serve together which also build connections. But I think sharing what led us to Masonry makes us vulnerable in ways that result in stronger bonds of trust. Do we have to share everything? Of course not. But the resulting common ground and brining someone from darkness to light is worth the risk in my opinion.

My story starts with my wife, Lisa. Micah Ecumenical Ministries put the word out that they needed a group to provide homeless meals every fourth Tuesday of the month. Ordinarily, a church group would pick up the slack. But my wife decided to act. She gathered volunteers from our neighborhood and a circle of close friends. This group banded together for over a year to provide meals in the Baker Room at our Lodge, which meant that a Brother had to be with us. Two Brothers usually opened the Lodge for us—Worshipful Mike Moses and Worshipful Chuck Cooper. Over the year, we talked and talked and talked some more about Masonry. Eventually, my “Masonic Dads” convinced me that Masonry was much more than a Fraternity but also a source of purpose. Our Grand Master also wrote that “throughout my adult life I have witnessed many acts of kindness, benevolence, and humanity performed by Freemasons with no expectation of a return. They did it because it was right and consistent with our teachings.” Oh, yes! A home and purpose had found me!

We have all heard stories that our Masonic forefathers kept their involvement with Masonry to themselves, to the point that even family members didn’t know until after a Brother’s death. But times have changed. It’s time to shine brightly!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Pat McConnell
(540) 809-1311
patmccnll@gmail.com

Secretary's Corner

My Brethren, this is a reminder to pay your dues if you haven't already, or to reach out to *your Lodge* for help. We must soon begin the work of reaching out to our Brethren who are seriously in arrears and beginning the long, sad process that may end in their suspension. Please don't let that happen to you.

Another way we may find our fellowship broken with our Brethren is through death. Sadly, we've seen four of our members translated to the Celestial Lodge above in the past two months. If it's within your cable-tow, I'd urge you to support Masonic services whenever possible. The comfort that a well-attended Masonic funeral service can bring to the family, both for its inspiring message of hope in immortality and for showing just how much their beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and son, meant to his Brethren. I am reminded of the famous quote from Ill. Albert Pike 33^o— '*What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.*' These Brethren have certainly left their an impression in the lives of those who follow.

Lastly, I'd like to encourage you to attend the Grand Master's official visit on Friday, April 26th, 2024. This will be at 6:30pm at the Bowling Green Community Center. Tickets are \$25 each. Time is running out to reserve your seat, so please reach out to us if you are able to attend. This is always an inspiring event and a great opportunity for fellowship and for meeting your Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Christopher S. Tripp

The Craft in Community

Freemasonry, Autism, and Parenting: What do they have in common?

By Brother Ray Nelson

I remember fondly the day I became a Master Mason. That event wrote itself into my memory deeply, and I can recall every detail of the ceremony. I also remember the day my son was diagnosed with autism. Different emotions wrote the memories, obviously, but both are deeply ingrained.



Kelly, Raymond, and Brother Ray

As an amateur armchair philosopher, I seek commonalities and trends. As the parent of an autistic child and a special education advocate, I seek the same things. Of course, as Freemasons we are encouraged to seek the light, grow, and develop ourselves. Watching my son grow gave me the opportunity to examine what Freemasonry, autism, and parenting have in common, and what lessons from each might apply to the others.

Masonry is a large subject, so my focus will be somewhat narrow. The core belief that our duty is to make the world a better place is where I will focus in this essay, as it was the piece of Masonry that served me best as I was learning about my son's disability and figuring out how to support him.

When Raymond was diagnosed at Georgetown University Hospital, Kelly, my wife, cried in the car intermittently all the way home. The team of specialists had told us a number of things in our 4-hour consultation, chief among them was that Raymond would not be able to live independently or do many tasks a typical adult would be capable of doing. When she asked me if it was true, my answer was "they can't tell the future any better than we can." What they had done, luckily, was given us a report with 10 pages of recommendations. Those recommendations were the road map we needed to wrap our heads around the future.

If you have no familiarity with autism, I will give you a quick synopsis. It does not present the same in two people, although there are some common traits that occur in much of the population. Sensory sensitivities or dysregulation are common, as are meltdowns, elopement, echolalia, communication disorders, social difficulties, and "stimming" or self-stimulating behaviors. These symptoms will vary from person to person and may or may not have other challenges like behavioral issues, learning disabilities, complete lack of speech, or other comorbidities like ADHD and Intellectual

Disability. At its heart it presents as a pervasive developmental disability, which is the best thing about it. Development can usually be addressed with proper therapeutic intervention.

We began working with everyone. Occupational therapists, speech therapists, physical therapists, behavior therapists, audiologists, special education teachers, and anyone else we could find that might help our son. As we met these people, we learned from them. As we learned, we began to ask for the right things, and as we asked for the right things Raymond began doing better and better. We were making his world a better place.

Naturally some of the other parents noticed that we were getting services and supports that they were not getting. They began asking me to attend meetings with them. This was the very beginning of my advocacy career. As I began working with other families, I saw other sides of parenting I had not witnessed. I knew our own struggles, the fights we had with our insurance company, the school, each other, and whomever else saw fit to discriminate against our son. But what I didn't know was how other people were living with these challenges, and after helping other families what I discovered was that nobody knew how to advocate for what their kids needed! It is like being hired for a job with no training and no supervision but multiple bosses who expect you to perform.

In 2016 we opened Nelson Advocacy, our special education advocacy firm. The reason we opened it was because there is a need in our community for people to help families navigate this system. There is nothing intuitive or supportive about the way disability supports are designed or implemented. While the business has grown and our model has changed, our goal has not: we make the lives of our clients better.

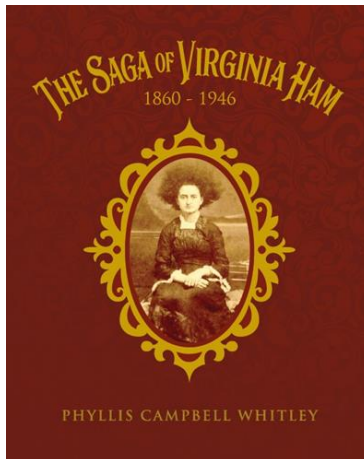
So how does Masonry apply here? It is simple. By becoming a Freemason, I dedicated myself to making the world a better place. My way of doing that is twofold: by parenting an autistic child and making his world a better place, and by supporting families with disabled children, thereby making their worlds better places. All parents do this, as those of you with children know. I see that playing out now, as my son is graduating from high school this year with an advanced diploma and will start at Germanna Community College next year. He will need some support, but he will be a part of and contribute to his community for the rest of his life. That is not an outcome we were told to expect.

The families I support are experiencing the same thing. Their children, instead of being forgotten by the schools, are getting advanced degrees and going to college. They will change the world, even though we may not live to see how they change it. That is the goal. We lift the stones we are given, and the next generation does their part to continue building that house not made with hands.

The Saga of Virginia Ham

Did you know that one of our Masonic Widows is a published author? Phyllis Campbell Whitley, widow of Brother Ayer C. Whitley, recently added to her list of published books. *The Saga of Virginia Ham* takes us back to Sister Whitley's West Virginia roots to tell the story of an enigmatic lady whose life was a mystery to all in the community.

Virginia "Jenny" Ham was born in 1860 in southern West Virginia and finished her journey on this earth on New Years Day, 1946. A few years ago, it was suggested to Mrs. Whitley that she should research the history of Jenny's life and perhaps write a book. So, Mrs. Whitley began her own journey only knowing two facts about Jenny: 1. She was old and lived alone in a little house near her grandparents; and 2. A cousin was sure Jenny was a witch.



Mrs. Whitley started interviewing people living in that area, researched the life of people there, throughout the state, and around the world seeking information that might have impacted Jenny's life. Ideas for a story began to form and an outline was developed. Over the next two years a historical novel unfolded.

In the saga, Jenny chronicles her life story beginning in 1860. Items from her old candy box greatly enhanced her memories. Finally, at the end of 2023, Jenny's story has been written, published, and ready for you. As a historical novel, it is the truth as Mrs. Whitley believes it to be and she hopes that those who enjoy the book will perhaps concur with her conclusion. The book is available for purchase at: <https://www.thesagaofvirginiaham.com>.

Strive to be happy. It is still a beautiful world.

Phyllis Campbell Whitley

Financial Quarterly Audit

An esteemed committee, convened at the behest of the Worshipful Master, composed of Brothers Ken Carey (Junior Warden), Seth Roderick (Senior Deacon), and Mike Dove (Senior Warden) recently gathered to conduct a first quarter audit (December 1st to February 29th) of the Lodge's finances.

Traditionally conducted annually or semi-yearly, the transition to a quarterly audit schedule has been deemed advantageous, affording us heightened clarity on the Lodge's financial affairs. This strategic shift facilitates prompt identification of any irregularities, enabling swift remedial action if warranted. In addition, quarterly assessments not only enhance our ability to discern trends and patterns but also empower us to make informed adjustments or enhancements to our fiscal strategies for the ongoing year. Finally, through diligent review of both historical and contemporaneous financial data, we gain valuable insights into Lodge 4's financial trajectory, thereby informing our strategic planning for forthcoming endeavors and projects.

The committee's diligent scrutiny during this audit revealed a commendable adherence to financial protocols, with all indicators pointing towards a sound and well-managed financial footing by our Worshipful Treasurer. Minor adjustments have been proposed, details of which have been elucidated by our Worshipful Treasurer during the monthly stated meetings, when we are conducting lodge business and fostering informed discourse amongst our Brethren.

Transparency is key and communication is our way of letting our brethren stay informed on the Lodge's financial state.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Michael Dove, Senior Warden

Supporting Our Veterans!



In partnership with Sister Carrie Combs (Order of the Eastern Star Fredericksburg #29), admission to our Annual Chili Cook-off back in February was a piece of clothing for local Disabled American Veterans. In addition to several pieces of clothing, attendees donated \$130 to the cause! Carrie presented the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4 check of \$130.00 to the General Washington Disabled American Veterans Chapter #7 Fredericksburg Virginia. The money will be used to help Disabled Veterans locally. In addition, the collected box of socks and underwear went to McGuire Veterans Hospital in Richmond.

The Boys of Summer

Opening Day for the Fredericksburg Nationals' baseball season is around the corner. So is our season! Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 will staff the Mess Hall concession stand for 12 FedNats Saturday night home games this summer. Our efforts resulted in a fantastic fundraiser for the Lodge last season. We look forward to the fellowship and another success this year. Our Saturday dates are: 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/25, 6/8, 6/22, 7/13, 7/27, 8/10, 8/17, and 9/7. We need eight people to adequately staff the stand for about 3 to 4 hours each night. Masons, family, and friends are welcome to join us. Contact Worshipful Jamie Snyder (jamie-snyder@usa.net) or visit <https://signup.com/go/FFUwFND>.

Save These Dates - Mark Your Calendars Now

April 6 – Pancake Breakfast – 8 am to 10 am

April 12 – Stated Communication

Dinner @ 6:30 pm

Menu

Southern Fried Chicken
White Cheddar Mac & Cheese
Country Style Green Beans
Fresh Caesar Salad
Cornbread
Banana Pudding

Meeting @ 7:30 pm

District Education Officer's planned visit

April 13 – UMW Multicultural Fair

The Lodge will be setting up a Freemasonry information table at the University of Mary Washington's Multicultural Fair from 10 to 5 pm. Those willing and able to help staff the event should reach out to the Worshipful Master.

April 17 – Master Mason Raising – 7 pm

Come support Brother David Smith!

April 26 – Grand Master's Official Visit to District 8

Bowling Green Town Hall/Community Center
117 Butler Street, Bowling Green, VA 22427
Advanced Tickets and at the Door: \$25.00

May 3 – Golf Tournament

Meadows Farms Golf Course

Registration – 8 am

Shotgun Start – 9 am

Entry Fees - \$300 per foursome - \$75 per player

Contact – Worshipful Jamie Snyder

jamie-snyder@usa.net

May 4 – Pancake Breakfast – 8 am to 10 am

May 4 - Leadership Roundtable – 11 am

After the pancake breakfast (8 am to 10 am), Right Worshipful Matthew Todd Szramoski, Grand Senior Warden, and Worshipful Bill Spencer, Monitor Lodge No. 197, will lead a Leadership Round Table. Any Brother is welcome to attend!

May 10 – Stated Communication

Dinner @ 6:30 pm

Menu

Lasagna

Ratatouille

Classic Caesar Salad

Garlic Bread

Lemon Mascarpone Cake

Meeting @ 7:30 pm

Speaker: Brother Bob Breitenbach – Masonry in Puerto Rico

May 27 – Memorial Day Ceremony – 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Masonic Cemetery

Speaker to be announced.

June 1 – Pancake Breakfast – 8 am to 10 am

June 14 – Stated Communication

Dinner @ 6:30 pm

Menu

Sliced Angus Beef Brisket

Roasted Potato Salad

Corn on the Cob

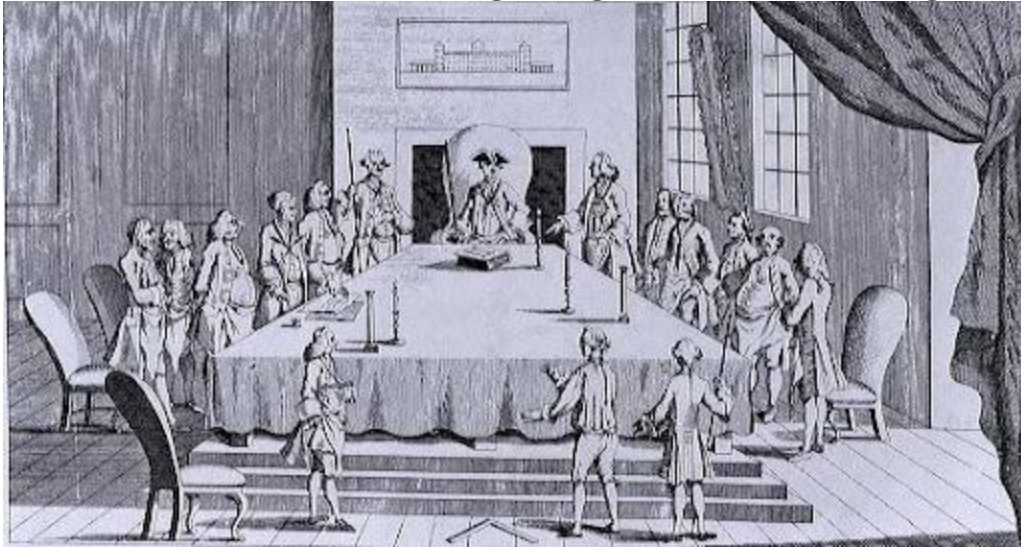
Fresh Garden Salad

Parker House Rolls

Oreo Surprise

Meeting @ 7:30

June 22 - Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Table Lodge



Saturday June 22, 2024, 5 p.m.

Guest Speakers: Right Worshipful Daniel Thompson & Worshipful William Searcy!

Advance Tickets or at the door - \$35.00

Tickets will be available at our Stated Communication Dinners

Menu

Herb Crusted Prime Rib
Garlic Whipped Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Fresh Garden Salad
Parker House Rolls
Chocolate Ganache Cake



Purchase a brick through [BricksRUs](https://bricksrus.com) to help
maintain our Historic Home!

[Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #4 Friends of Fredericksburg Donor Site \(bricksrus.com\)](https://bricksrus.com)



Jim Ridenhour

(757) 714-5806

Smithfield, VA

PinDads@Outlook.Com

Thank you to Jim Ridenhour for designing this challenge coin for Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of General Lafayette's visit to our Lodge in November of 1824. Be on the lookout as we will be selling them to raise money for Lodge improvements and community projects.



2024 LODGE OFFICERS

Patrick McConnell	patmccnll@gmail.com	(540) 809-1311	Worshipful Master
Michael Dove	Michaeldove79@gmail.com	(540) 388-1001	Senior Warden
Ken Carey	buddy79@comcast.net	(540) 226-7122	Junior Warden
James Snyder, PM	Jamie-snyder@usa.net	(540) 903-2937	Treasurer
Christopher Tripp, PM	secretarylodge4va@gmail.com	(540) 424-5767	Secretary
Joseph Gilkerson, PM	gilkerson@hotmail.com		Asst. Secretary
Seth Roderick	sethroderick@protonmail.com		Senior Deacon
Jeff Adams, Sr.	jadams@rosendin.com		Junior Deacon
Troy Blanchard	cajnboy24@gmail.com		Senior Steward
John Lapke	Lapke.j@gmail.com		Junior Steward
Justine Garrett	jaygarrett0214@gmail.com		Chaplain
Robert Breitenbach	robertjbreitenbach@icloud.com		Marshal
Kevin Valentine	vak242@yahoo.com		Tiler

TRUSTEES

Charles Cooper, PM – 2024	Dennis David – 2025	Dennis Berry, PDDGM – 2026
Chris Decker, PM – 2027	Dan Goodwin, PM - 2028	

PROGRAM OFFICERS

<p>Lodge Blood Coordinator Jeff Adams</p> <p>Masonic Home Ambassador Joseph Ilk</p>	<p>Lodge Instructor of Work Christopher Tripp, PM</p> <p>Lodge Catechism Chair Justin Garrett</p> <p>Lodge Scholarship Coordinator David Smith</p>	<p>Lodge Education Officer Bob Melvin</p> <p>Widows Program Coordinator Kyle Olesevich</p>
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LIVING PAST MASTERS

Wor.: Carter. G. Wells..... 1963	R.: W.: Steven W. Sanford..... 2005
Wor.: Rudolph E. Griffith..... 1974	Wor.: Richard D. Dey..... 2006
Wor.: Henry W. Baker..... 1975	Wor.: Anthony L Rudder..... 2007
Wor.: Edward L. Donalson..... 1983	R.: W.: Jeffrey D. St. Onge..... 2009
R.: W.: Dennis W. Berry..... 1986	Wor.: Shelton S. Mackey..... 2010
Wor.: Thomas C Shelton..... 1988	R.: W.: 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	M.: 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
R.: W.: 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	Wor.: Christopher S. Tripp..... 2021
Wor.: Jene G. Parrotte..... 2004	Wor.: Joseph K. Gilkerson..... 2023