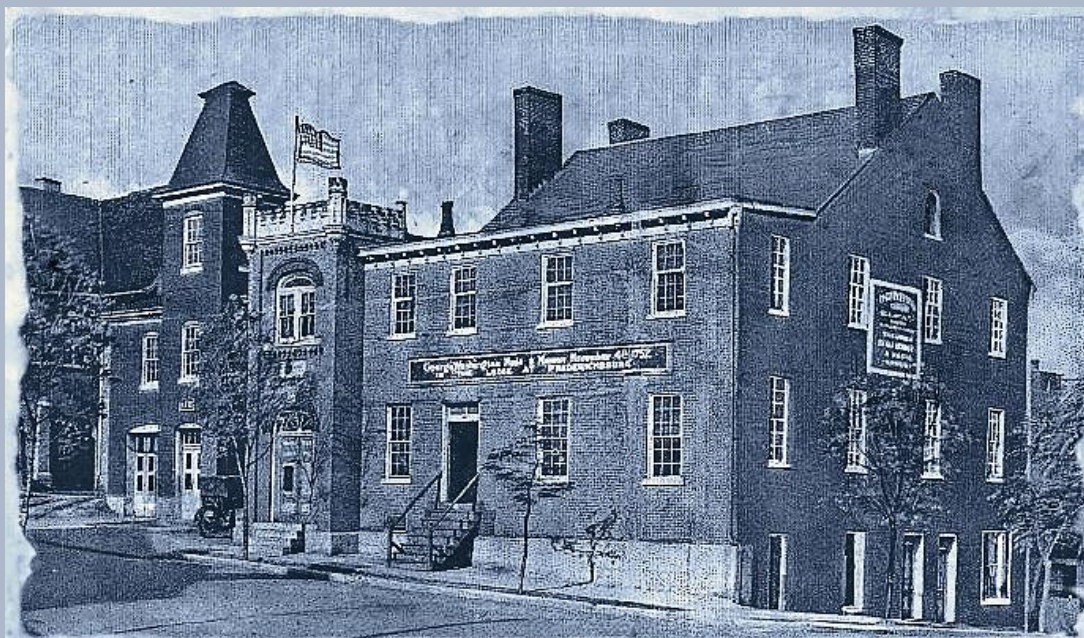


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



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)

DECEMBER 2024

DECEMBER 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Nothing planned	5	6	7 Pancake Breakfast, 8 am Christmas Parade, 3:30 pm
8	9	10 Second Tuesday Community Meal 4 pm	11 Lodge Clean Up & Ritual Practice	12	13 Stated Communication Dinner, 6:30 pm Meeting, 7:30 pm	14
15	16	17	18 Ritual Practice	19	20	21 2025 Officer Installation, 12 pm
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve Fifth Community Meal, 4 pm				

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for December

Bro. Theodore R. Wallace, Sr.	53 yrs.	Bro. Christopher J. Kabana	19
Bro. Brian L. Smith	27	Wor. Edwin H. Josey	18
Bro. Gary T. Shank	21	Bro. Thomas E. Kivlehan, Jr.	15
Bro. Jeffrey A. Goodman	20	Bro. Allen J. Hicks	11
Bro. Krikor E. Kolandjian	20		

Master's Moment

December is here. We are now in the Holiday Season. Speaking of Holidays, I hope the Brethren, families, and friends had a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

Over November 23-24, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 celebrated the 200th anniversary of General Lafayette's visit to the City of Fredericksburg and our Lodge. The events, particularly the reenactment of the Lodge's reception of the General, were well attended by the public and Brothers from far and wide. The success of the weekend was due in no small part to Brother Ethan Burgess! He did a marvelous job planning the event and recruiting Brothers to help. Speaking of helping Brothers, I wish to thank Right Worshipful Shelby Chander, Worshipful Chris Tripp, Worshipful Jamie Snyder, Brother Joseph Ilk, Brother Troy Blanchard, Brother Kyle Olesevich, Brother Josh Withrow, Brother Mike Dove, Brother John Lapke, and Brother Jeff Adams for their dedication throughout the weekend. The event exposed the Lodge to many who had never visited and offered a chance for us to show what Masonry is all about.

We also had a very special guest from France, not just General Lafayette. Very Worshipful Brother Jean-Bernard Blondy, a member of the Grand Lodge Nationale France and a Past Provincial Grand Master Bordeaux, visited the Lodge and gave a brief presentation on the reconstruction of the frigate *Hermione*, aboard which General Lafayette journeyed from France back to Boston in 1780.



1



2



3

Picture 1: General Lafayette (Mark Schneider) & Master Pat McConnell

Picture 2: From Left: Former Fredericksburg Mayor, Mary Katherine Greenlaw; Current Fredericksburg Mayor Kerry P. Devine; General Lafayette; and Lisa Durham, co-chair of the Fredericksburg Lafayette Bicentennial Commemoration Committee.

Picture 3: General Lafayette with General Lafayette



From left: Pat McConnell, VWB Blondy, His Lady Makama, Brother Mike Dove, and Right Worshipful Shelby Chandler

Being December, my time as your Worshipful Master is coming to an end. It has been a year of many ups and very few downs. I have a strong team of officers to thank for that and many other Brothers who were not afraid to pitch in. From last December's Family Christmas Movie Night to the Lafayette Commemoration, we accomplished a lot together. Of course, there are things that I wish I had had the time (or the money) to accomplish, scholarships for local graduating high school seniors for example. Nevertheless, for me it was a rewarding experience. I hope you all will support the incoming Master as much as you supported me. The Lodge will be in good hands so I encourage the Brethren to come out to December's Stated Communication for Elections to show your support for our future.

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

Secretary's Corner

Brethren, a couple things to bring to your attention this month. First, dues invoices have been sent out for the first time via Grand View, which now has the capability to collect and track dues payments. This will help to ensure that we have an accurate membership database and that we're billing dues-paying members, and only dues-paying members, for dues. If you're not currently registered for Grand View, I'd strongly urge you to sign up. In addition to paying your dues, you can see all the information Grand Lodge has on you and access many other resources, such as finding Masonic Lodge meetings and events. Please take a moment to ensure we have your most up-to-date address, phone

number, and email (used for sending dues invoices). If you're not signed up and need assistance, please reach out and I will be glad to assist you.

Dues have increased to \$225 this year. Letting part of the automatic Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) kick in was not an easy decision by the Lodge leadership, but was necessary to keep up with increased costs of operating and maintaining the Lodge. I'd like to remind you that if paying your dues is a financial hardship, the Master has the discretion to remit your dues. Don't let yourself get into a situation where you are in danger of being suspended.

Note that at the moment, you're only being invoiced for your current dues. As we move further in using Grand View, any past dues balances will be added.

Payment of dues through Grand View is for your convenience, but you can also still pay by PayPal on the website, by check, or by cash. I ask that you not hand me cash other than when we're at a stated or called communication, so it can be appropriately logged. Please do not mail cash. If you mail a check, please use P.O. Box 702, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-0702 rather than our street address. Please note that dues cards have not been received due to printing issues and will be somewhat delayed this year. As soon as we have received them and your dues are paid, your card will be mailed to you.

Lastly, thank you for entrusting me with serving as your Secretary. This year has been a steep learning curve and I haven't handled everything as quickly as I wanted. Next year, should you continue to have me in that role, I plan to serve and handle your business in a more efficient manner. Please do not hesitate to reach out, as that's why we're here—to serve you and facilitate your needs throughout your Masonic journey.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Christopher S. Tripp

Looking ahead...

If the Brethren agree, Brother Michael Dove will be Worshipful Master for 2025. Accordingly, he has been invited to tell us a little about himself and what's in store moving forward.

Dear Brethren:

If I should be elected by the Brethren to serve as Worshipful Master for the coming year, I would approach this sacred trust with humility and a deep sense of gratitude. It would be my honor to lead and serve our cherished brotherhood, upholding the principles, traditions, and history that have long united us. This role represents not just a milestone in my own Masonic journey, but a solemn duty to preserve and promote the values that guide our Lodge.

My Masonic Journey

My path in Freemasonry began with the Swedish Rite system, where I was initiated and raised to the degree of Entered Apprentice in 2012 and Master Mason in January 2015. These early experiences instilled in me a deep respect for the Craft's traditions and values. When I joined Lodge 4 some years before the COVID-19 pandemic, I found a new Masonic home that further enriched my perspective and commitment.

Although a trip took me abroad, I returned to Lodge 4 at the start of the pandemic, where I have since devoted myself to its growth and flourishing. My Masonic journey is grounded in a reverence for our shared history, and I strive to bridge the diverse practices of Freemasonry with an unwavering love and respect for the brotherhood.

A Professional Perspective Shaped by Service

My professional life has always been centered on empowering others, a mission that aligns seamlessly with the values of Freemasonry. As a Gestalt Psychotherapist and certified life coach, I have spent over a decade helping individuals and organizations unlock their potential and thrive. This work has taught me the importance of holistic thinking, empathy, and creating supportive environments-- qualities I bring to my leadership role at Lodge 4.

Some key aspects of my work include:

Psychotherapeutic Insight: Applying a deep understanding of human dynamics to foster healthy, productive environments;

Acupuncture and Holistic Healing: Providing therapy for individuals and couples, incorporating techniques such as NADA acupuncture to address challenges like trauma and mental health;

Global Impact: Offering pro bono counseling across several countries, which has given me a broader perspective on service and adaptability;

Advocacy and Empowerment: Supporting clients as they navigate personal and systemic challenges, helping them affirm their strengths and achieve growth; and

Analyzed business' structures and work environments: From a psychotherapeutic lens & applied ways to create a positive work environment and sparring for problem solving.

Vision for Lodge 4

As Worshipful Master, if elected, I aim to bring renewed energy and inclusivity to Lodge 4, building on our current Worshipful Master's ideals.

My focus is on fostering an environment where every Brother feels valued and empowered. Drawing from my experiences in counseling, mentorship, and strategic planning, I hope to inspire collaboration and create opportunities for growth within the lodge and the wider community.

As every year is a new chapter for Lodge 4, this would be one I envision as being defined by shared success and deeper connections. The principles of Freemasonry have always guided me, and I am committed to ensuring they remain at the heart of our Lodge's endeavors.

Looking Ahead

This moment would be both humbling and inspiring, and I would be excited to serve Lodge 4 and our brothers. Together, we would honor the traditions of the craft while embracing the opportunities ahead. I would be looking forward to making a positive impact and strengthening the bonds that unite us, together with my officers and committees.

To my Brethren, thank you for your trust and support so far. It would be my privilege to lead if you have me, fully aware this is a stewardship and I would be committed to serving with dedication, compassion, and an unwavering love for Freemasonry.

Finally, I'll leave you with my mantra for 2025:
"Guardians of the Craft, Builders of Tomorrow."

This mantra emphasizes our lodge's dedication to preserving traditions and history, mastering the craft, and fostering education for future generations.

So mote it be.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Michael Dove
Senior Warden

The Rest of the Year - Mark Your Calendars Now

December

Pancake Breakfast, *December 7*, 8 am

Fredericksburg Christmas Parade, *December 7*,

Meet at the Lodge at 3:30 pm.

Brothers will wear regalia/aprons

Families are invited to watch the parade on the Lodge Porch.

Pizza and drinks will be provided.

2nd Tuesday Community Meal, *December 10*, 4 pm

Stated Communication/*ELECTIONS FOR 2025 Officers, December 13*

Dinner Menu, 6:30 pm

Meatloaf

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Country Style Green Beans

Caesar Salad

Parker House Rolls

Apple Pie

Meeting, 7:30

ELECTIONS FOR 2025 OFFICERS

2025 Officer Installation, *December 12 pm*

The Public is welcome to attend.

5th Tuesday Community Meal, *December 31*, 4 pm



Purchase a brick through BricksRUs to help
maintain our Historic Home!

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



Jim Ridenhour

(757) 714-5806

Smithfield, VA

PinDads@Outlook.Com

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
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
Justin 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

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

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