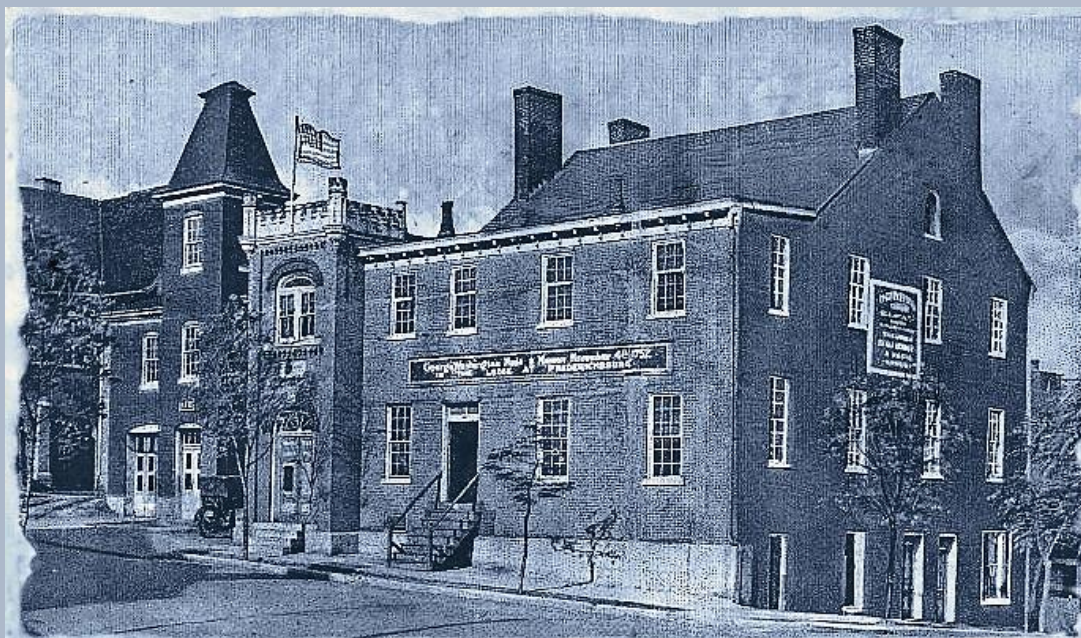


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



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)

FEBRUARY 2024

FEBRUARY 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Degree work/practice 7:00 pm	1	2	3 Breakfast 8-10am FMMA 9 am
4	5	6	7 Clean Lodge/practice 6:30 pm	8	9 Dinner 6:30pm Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	10
11	12	13 2 nd Tuesday Community Meal 4:00 pm	14 Degree work/practice 7:00 pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Degree work/practice 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Coldest Night of the Year 5k Walk 4 pm
25	26	27 District Ritual School 7:00 pm	28 Degree work/practice 7:00	29		

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for February

Bro. William Middleton	63 yrs.	Bro. Henry Frank	17
Bro. James Wilhour	57	Wor. Jeffrey Mitchell	16
Wor. Henry Baker	54	Bro. Christopher Wilsey	15
Bro. Walter Wigglesworth	54	Bro. James Hammons	13
Bro. Everett Jones	52	Bro. Walter Quattlebaum	12
Bro. Michael Riabouchinsky	43	Bro. William Griffin	11
Bro. Joseph Taylor	42	Bro. Jeffrey Mikulas	11
Bro. Clark Thomas	31	Bro. Howard Perry	10
Bro. Michael Hayden	28	Bro. Robert Pinkard	10
Bro. Kevin Lawrence	17	Bro. Berhard Tumanjong	4
Bro. Jason Williams	17		

MASTER's MOMENT

Where did January go so fast? It probably flew by because January was a busy month for us. Thank you to the Brothers who helped notch our second fraternal visit of the year at Kilwinning Crosse 2-237 for the occasion of the District Deputy Grand Master's Official Visit. I also want to thank Worshipfuls Chris Tripp and Jamie Snyder and Brothers Mike Dove, Ken Carey, Troy Blanchard, and Jeff Adams for joining me at the Division Leadership Conference in Richmond. In addition, Lodge No. 4 was well represented at January's District Ritual School. And speaking of ritual, I want to thank those who participated in our first Master Mason raising of the year (Brother Mahlon Johnson). Your degree work was outstanding. Finally, Worshipful Chris Tripp, Brothers Ken Carey and Mike Dove and I wrapped up January by attending the District's first Masters and Wardens Association meeting. I am so grateful for the support so many Brothers have given to these events. Now on to February!

Switching gears, building upon the Grand Master's theme *Freemasonry: Building Better Leaders*, this year's Division Leadership Conference offered a breakout session on leadership hosted by Right Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman, Deputy Grand Master, and Right Worshipful Michael Pelletier, Grand Junior Deacon. Right Worshipful Huffman shared a list of 10 qualities of good leaders. I want to share this list here. According to the list, based upon work by Southern New Hampshire University, good leaders:

- 1) *Possess Self-Awareness*: Leaders need to be constantly aware of how they are acting, what they are saying, and what message their nonverbal communication is sending.
- 2) *Garner Credibility* (Also known as the ability to be trusted): Leaders gain credibility by doing what they say they will do, holding themselves accountable for their words and actions; and putting the needs of others before their own.
- 3) *Focus on Relationship Building*: Every Mason already knows this one!
- 4) *Have a Bias for Action*: Leaders with a bias for action talk about what needs to happen and then do something about it.
- 5) *Exhibit Humility*: Humility is not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less and of others more.
- 6) *Empower the Team*: Give a set of guidelines and then leave that team alone to do the task.
- 7) *Stay Authentic*: Authenticity is acting in a way that represents who the leader truly is rather than trying to act like someone else.

- 8) *Present Themselves as Constant and Consistent*: The leader's words and actions are similar every time to the point that the leader almost becomes predictable, which over time others come to rely on and builds trust in the leader.
- 9) *Become a Role Model for Followers*: Masons already know this one too!
- 10) *Are Fully Present*: Being present for others means that the leader is fully focused on what others are saying, how they are saying it, and their actions.

To this list I would add another quality: *leaders are good communicators!* They communicate, communicate, and then communicate some more! But communication is more than messages. It also involves listening and seeking understanding. I think Masons know this too!

In closing, I leave you with a quote from President Abraham Lincoln. While not a Mason himself, this quote to me seems Masonic in nature: "*The strongest bond of human sympathy should be one uniting working people of all nations and tongues and kindreds.*"

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Pat McConnell, Worshipful Master

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

It's customary for Secretaries to rail on the need to pay one's dues, as well as to remind the Brethren to reach out if they're having trouble with that essential duty. This month though I'd like to ask that you do something else—to please make sure your contact information is up-to-date. We're sending out weekly reminders about upcoming events and monthly recaps of the stated meetings. We want you to be informed and make sure your dues cards and other correspondence is getting to the right place. If you have not yet signed up for Grand View, note that you can check your membership information, pay your dues, learn about upcoming events around the state, find meetings and Lodges, and many other useful things. We can assist you in getting started if you're unsure what to do.

Please also make sure we have your wife's and family's contact information, and let them know we are here for them when you inevitably pass on someday to the Celestial Lodge above. Too often we lose contact with our Masonic widows through the years. Let them know too your wishes in regard to having a Masonic funeral service. Hopefully you are in good health and will not need to worry about such things for many years, but it's always best to be prepared.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Christopher S. Tripp

Freemasonry Lives in the Village

By Brother Seth Rodrick, Senior Deacon

In 1967, the BBC aired a ground-breaking psycho drama written, directed and starring Patrick McGoohan. Although not a Freemason himself, McGoohan's 17-episode series can be best described as an allegorical hero's journey, similar to the story of Grand Master Hiram Abiff in many ways. The overarching theme of *The Prisoner*, written in the context of its time, was the outwardly conflict between the individual and the collective. Inwardly, the duality conflict of the man, between good and evil. The layers of allegory in this series would seem very familiar to the Freemason.

The main character known simply as Number 6 (played by McGoohan) abruptly resigns his job in Her Majesty's Secret Service, without stated reason. Number 6 is promptly kidnapped and wakes up in an Italianesque resort known simply as The Village. Although idyllic, The Village is a prison. The inhabitants are no longer individuals, but units of society, persistently surveilled, propagandized and administered by Number 2, who is both warden and prisoner himself. This dystopian story follows Number 6 as he tries to understand the reason for his captivity and identity of his captors and of the mysterious, unseen Number One. Both are secrets to him unlocked only after a series of trials of his own making.

In the final episode, after several trials and a long journey meeting several antagonists along the way, Number 6 finally wins his right to be an individual once again. No longer a number, he is placed on a throne and tempted with power to sit in judgement over two other prisoners who have been charged with revolt against established norms in The Village. Allegorically, the other two prisoners represent Youth and Establishment while Number 6 represents Wisdom and Experience. But our protagonist realizes the third prisoner he must sit in judgement over is himself, now the individual. It is at this point Number 6 descends several layers below The Village to finally face the hereunto secret identity of Number One [for you Austin Powers fan's "who does number two work for?"].

Ripping the mask off Number 1, Number 6 is confronted with the mirror image of himself. The writer and star McGoohan later remarked about this reveal in an interview, 'the greatest enemy we have, at its most powerful, is within ourselves, which we must constantly fight against. The biggest enemy is oneself.'

At this point Brothers you are probably wondering why the Senior Deacon chose the Trestlboard to present CliffsNotes on a modish mid-century miniseries from the BBC. This week I was honored to conduct a Fellowcraft in his journey to the sublime degree of Master Mason for the first time as Senior Deacon. It was far from perfect on my part and I could feel the sting of Past Masters in gentle rebuke and correction, particularly my esteemed coach, with every misstep or missed word. However, this was as profound an experience for me as I hope it was for our newest Brother Master Mason. It was in this experience, thinking back on the TV show I had binge watched the weekend prior, trying to unravel the several layers of allegory in the show, where I found myself, for the first time since I was raised, really trying to understand the mystery of the degree I was taking part in and what role I'm supposed play in it. Not only in the Lodge, but outside of the Lodge, in The Village. In my community.

As we exist in our own village, do we fully recognize ourselves as both an individual and part of the collective? Do we contemplate our own dual nature and our obligation to make perfect our own rough ashlar? Do we appreciate that each of us, as the individual and as part of the collective in our community, is seeking truth and light in a dystopian world, often of our own making? Shall we take the time to help our Brothers in their own journey seeking more light, chipping away at the rough edges of ignorance using the tools of knowledge and reason? Will we have no fear and allow our Brothers to help conduct us in our own same journey?

Like Number 6, we must constantly resist the temptation of being seated in a chair of high honor not yet granted and not yet earned. Resist also the temptation to sit in a seat of judgement on that high chair, without the aid of a conductor and the support of his Brothers. Always seeking more light in our Lodge and without the Lodge. In the words of Plato, 'From ignorance derive all evils and from knowledge, all goods.'

As we begin our Masonic year let us remember these things in our Lodge and in our Village.

Fraternally Yours, Bro.: Seth Roderick

The Craft in Community

As I mentioned in January, I want to recognize Brothers who volunteer in organizations outside of our Masonic family yet still demonstrate the tenets of our Fraternity. I am honored to announce that Brother Barry Surles is the first recipient of The Craft in

Community Award. Brother Barry can best describe how he puts his working tools to use in our community.

Worshipfuls & Brethren-

Shop With Cops (affectionally known as Shop with a Cop) is a heartwarming Christmas program that aims to bring joy & support to children in need. This annual charitable event also includes doing the same with Seniors who face a similar dilemma of need. This annual event pairs law enforcement officers (LEOs) with underprivileged children and Senior Citizens for a special holiday shopping experience. During the 2-day Shop With Cops (SWC) event, children & Seniors are given the opportunity to purchase gifts for themselves and their families while building positive relationships with local police officers. This program not only helps brighten the holiday season for these deserving kids & Seniors, but also fosters trust and understanding between law enforcement & the community. By participating in SWC, LEOs show their commitment to serving & protecting all members of their community, especially those who may be facing difficult circumstances during this time of year. Together, they create unforgettable memories filled with smiles, laughter, and goodwill.

But LEOs can't do it alone! Community support helps turn sadness into joy. Civic or Charity minded organizations can also lend a helping hand by providing additional funding and actual hands-on support to broaden the scope of this enormous community charity event. As result of the SWC program, local organizations' contributions have grown significantly. It's an opportunity for a Lodge or Organization to share in a wonderful charitable program.

I think our Lodge should consider being a yearly sponsor for this event in support of not only the community, but for the Law Enforcement Agencies that serve and protect. Unbeknownst to me, a Free-Lance Star (FLS) article recently mentioned me as a contributor. To that message, I wish to express that my years of participation in this program with other LEOs and other organizations, became for me, one of the most fulfilling periods of my law enforcement career and on into retirement. I was blessed in being able to give back in my nearly 4-decades of Federal and Local Law Enforcement Service. This is certainly another charity to consider! What a wonderful way to extend your "cable-tow". Please refer to the recent FLS article 12/27/2023 below https://fredericksburg.com/news/community/shop-with-a-cop-for-seniors-program-continues-to-grow/article_f24db944-9eab-11ee-aebc-a702b8ecb510.html

S & F,
Brother Barry Surles

Things to Remember

- February Stated Communication (2/9/2024)
 - District Deputy Grand Master's Official Visit to Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
 - Chili Cook-off!
 - Free of charge, but please bring clothing items (socks, matching sweatshirts and sweatpants, etc.) for Disabled American Veterans.
 - The winning chef will get bragging rights, a ticket to the Table Lodge in June, and the coveted Chili Winner Spoon!



Together with other people across America, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 is walking and fundraising to support and serve people and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in our community. Please, sign up to join our team or give generously by visiting our team page at:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1006624>



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

Blood Drive
Goshen Baptist Church

Fellowship Hall
9800 Gordon Rd
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: GBC to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

**Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20
Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/heart**

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

© The American National Red Cross | 181501

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Please reach out to Brother Jeff Adams (jadams@rosendin.com) if you have the time to help at this important community event!



Scan me!

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



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
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

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