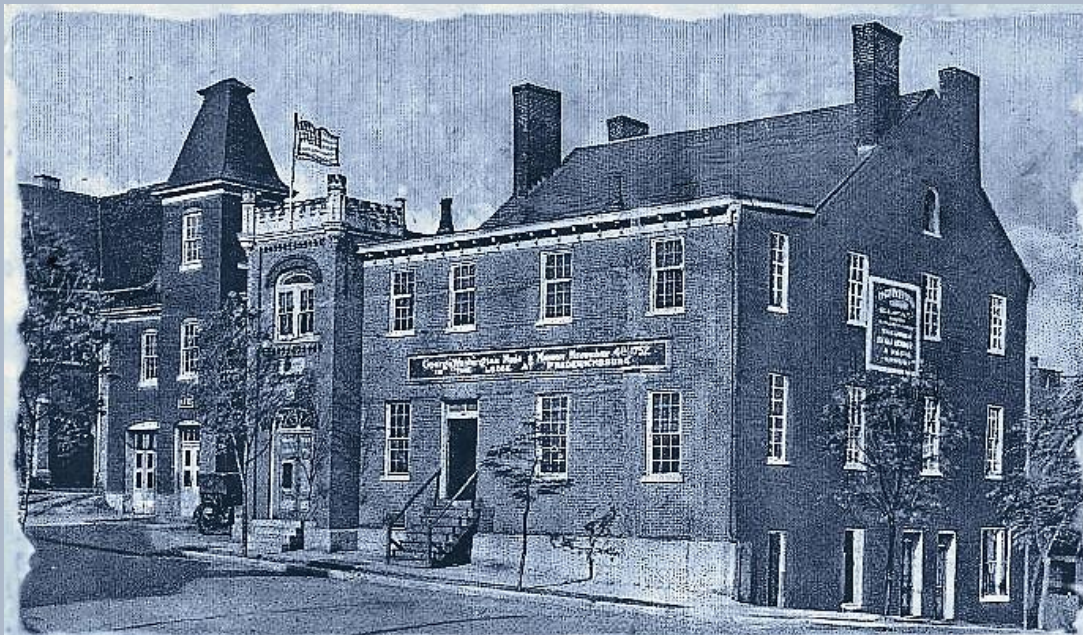


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



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)

JANUARY 2024

JANAURY 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Degree work/practice 7:00 pm	4	5	6 Pancake Breakfast 8-10 am
7	8	9 2 nd Tuesday Community Meal 4:00 pm	10 Clean Lodge/practice 6:30 pm	11	12 Dinner 6:30pm Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17 Degree work/practice 7:00 pm	18	19	20 Division Leadership Conference Richmond
21	22	23 District Ritual School 7:00 pm	24 Degree work/practice 7:00 pm	25	26	27
28	29	30 5 th Tuesday Community Meal 4:00 pm	31 Degree work/practice 7:00			

Consult calendar on website for details and updates.

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for January

Wor. Carter Wells	68 yrs.	Bro. Michael Guarracino	17
Bro. John Chichester	64	Bro. Matthew Kennedy	15
Bro. Thomas Metts	64	Bro. George D. Langford	12
Bro. Ralph Hicks, Jr.	58	Bro. Edward Kenney	12
M.W. Donald Robey	56	Bro. Charles Sutton	12
R.W. Dennis Berry	45	Bro. Christopher Pedersen	10
Bro. Robert Parker	38	Bro. Michael Dove	8
Wor. James Adams	37	Bro. Gary Carroll	7
Bro. Richard Decatur	33	Bro. Eric Crisp	6
Wor. Shelton Mackey	32	Bro. Joshua Clements	4
Bro. Richard Franklin, Jr.	26	Bro. Robert Breitenbach	2
Bro. Michael Tucci	25	Bro. Kenneth Carey	2
Bro. Paul Diaz	19		

MASTER'S MOMENT

Hello, Brethren! When I walk into the room with the pictures of those who have served our Lodge as Masters, I always wonder if I am worthy to be counted among them. So I am grateful, honored, and more than humbled by your confidence in me to be your Master for 2024. My theme for 2024 is *Freemasonry: The Best Work of Life*. And our work has already begun.

I want to thank Worshipful Chris Tripp; Brother Seth Roderick and his son, Quinn; Brother Ken Carey; Brother Troy Blanchard; Brother Kyle Olesevich; and Brother Jose Dus for helping deliver poinsettias to our Masonic Widows on December 10th. We also notched our first fraternal visit of the year as eight Fredericksburg Brothers attended the election and installation of new officers at Kilwinning-Crosse Lodge No. 2-237 on December 11th. In addition, Worshipful Chris Tripp, Right Worshipful Shelby Chandler, and I took the George Washington Obligation Bible to Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10 in Westfield, NJ for their annual installation of officers on December 15th. Finally, a most sincere thank you to Brothers Ken Carey, Troy Blanchard, John Lapke, and Michael Dove, as well as to the Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters, for a successful Family Christmas Movie Night on December 16th.

There are plenty more upcoming opportunities for fellowship and putting our working tools into action:

- Pancake Breakfasts (8 to 10 a.m.) are always on the first Saturday of the month. Invite a friend to the best \$5 all-you-can-eat meal around!
- The Wednesdays before Stated Communications will be reserved for Lodge clean-up and practice. No degree work on those Wednesdays.
- We are looking into options for holding a Lodge Ritual School. More to follow soon.
- Speaking of ritual school, the District Ritual School is held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Lodge at 7 p.m.
- Every 2nd and 5th Tuesday of the month the Lodge hosts or provides community meals in partnership with Micah Ecumenical Ministries. We need more Brothers to support these meals. Please reach out to Worshipful Jamie Snyder for ways to help.

- January Stated Communication (1/12/2024)
 - Election for nomination of 2025 District Deputy Grand Master
 - Briefing from Joseph Grist, Supreme Deputy in Virginia, on the state the Rainbow Girls in Fredericksburg

- 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. More details to follow in the February Trestle Board.
 - The winning chef will get bragging rights, a ticket to the Table Lodge in June, and maybe a little something extra special.

- March Stated Communication (3/8/2024)
 - Appendant Bodies Night! All Appendant bodies are invited to set up information tables around the Baker Room during our dinner.

- Lilies to our Masonic widows.
 - Easter is on March 31st. So, the plan is to deliver lilies on Saturday, March 23rd.

As always, please keep tabs on events via our Lodge calendar on Masoniclodge4.org. The Lodge calendar can be found by clicking on the Announcements tab.

Speaking of participating, I'm continuing the practice of giving trowels to Brothers who go above and beyond in their service to the Lodge and the Craft. In addition, as every human being has a claim on our kind offices, I want to recognize those Brothers who volunteer for organizations outside our Masonic family. I want to give the first *Craft in Community* award at the February Stated Communication. Those thus recognized will have the opportunity to submit an article about their endeavors to the Trestle Board. But I need your help. Please feel free to nominate yourself or a Brother for either award.

Finally Brethren, I leave you with this quote from our Illustrious Brother George Washington from 1798— "...So far as I am acquainted with the principles and doctrines of Freemasonry, I conceive it to be founded in benevolence and to be exercised only for the good of mankind." I think our Illustrious Brother would agree that Freemasonry is indeed the best work of life.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Pat McConnell, Worshipful Master

From the West

The Timeless Significance of Freemasonry in Today's World

Why is it important to be a Mason today and how do the principles of Freemasonry continue to work and resonate in our lives? Freemasonry for me is an ancient and venerable worldwide institution that continues to hold a unique place in our society despite the changing tides of time. Deeply rooted in rich traditions that go back centuries, Freemasonry remains relevant in our modern world, offering its members a framework for personal development, community service, and the pursuit of noble ideals.

Shared brotherhood and fellowship: One of the enduring strengths of Freemasonry lies in its emphasis on brotherhood and the bonds of friendship formed among its members. We have seen countless times how brotherly love serves our Brethren in need. While this world today can sometimes feel isolating, our lodges around the world provide a supportive community where Brethren can come together as equals.

The sense of unity and fellowship that is fostered within our brotherhood is a powerful “antidote” to the societal fragmentation that can occur in this highspeed age we are in. We are getting hit from the left and right with massive amounts of information, false or not, and some even design to separate us as human beings even more than we already are. We see this firsthand, particularly in our part of the world.

My lodge is my shield against such and when I enter a lodge I'm forced to focus and remember why I am a Mason, my promises to the outside world and how I got to be here. All which I must apply, supported by my columns, my Masonic wisdom and strength. Masonry does promote morale and free thinking and for some even today, that is an issue.

Since the Pilgrims traveled east, Masons have a long-standing tradition of charitable work and community service. Our lodges engage in philanthropic endeavors that benefit society at large, whether our youth groups, MAHOVA, or other initiatives. Whether we are supporting local charities to serve homeless meals, assist on blood-drives or by actively participating in local community service such as the “Coldest Night” walk and parades, etc., Masons contribute to the well-being of their neighborhoods and thereby

demonstrate the relevance of the Masonic commitment to the common good. That is why it's important to show up, so we can lead by example.

Centuries of tradition, allegories and symbolism: Freemasonry is draped in symbolism and rituals, which serve us as a link to its historical roots and for us to experience them along with being taught valuable lessons through our degrees. The importance of preserving these traditions imparts a sense of responsibility to the continuity and our connection of the past. In this rapidly changing world, the symbols and ceremonies remain timeless in Freemasonry and offer the Brethren a source of stability and a reminder of our enduring values.

Leadership-skill development: Our framework in Masonry provides us a platform for the cultivation and growth of leadership skills. Public speaking or writing to mention a few, but we as Masons are encouraged to take on responsibilities within the Lodge, where we hone qualities such as organization, teamwork, and effective communication. These leadership skills can extend into the profane world, beyond our Lodge-setting, empowering the brethren to become positive influencers in their workplaces, communities, home and beyond.

Promotion of tolerance and room for diversity: The Craft promotes tolerance and acceptance of all people regardless of their background, their beliefs, or social status in life. Think about it, in how many organizations does that really happen? We are living in a world that is often marked by prejudice and division, the lodges provide a space where we can forgo these things and brethren can come together in harmony, united by our shared principles and a commitment to mutual respect. Harmony being the strength and support, am I right?

Conclusion: Today more than ever Masonry is needed, and I bet it has been like this at many periods of life, that some Mason looked back and said, "It is lucky that we have Freemasonry to lean up against and to be a part of a universal brotherhood". If we enjoy being around Brethren that undergo personal development, participate in community service, care about traditions and dare to ask the good questions about morality and ethics, while seeking a deeper and meaningful path relevant for themselves, then I dare say, the Masonic principles of brotherhood, morality, and service remain by far the best steadfast guide for those who choose to walk the path with us. Brethren, it's truly an honor to walk amongst you all!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Michael Dove, Senior Warden

From the South

My name is Ken Carey and I am honored to serve as your Junior Warden for 2024. I am retired after almost 35 years with the United States Marine Corps and Federal Bureau of Prisons. I have been married to my wife Christine for 37 years. I have two grown children so I am an empty nester. I became a Master Mason late in my life as I always had the feeling I was missing something in my life. Since then I have found the camaraderie and brotherhood I have been missing. I look forward to this coming year and my willingness to serve the brethren of Fredericksburg Lodge #4.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Ken Carey, Junior Warden

Secretary's Corner

My Brethren, thank you (I think) for your confidence in electing me Secretary of our Lodge. I had told many people that was the one job in Lodge that I never wanted and, well, here we are. I'd ask your patience and forbearance as I learn the ropes, but I am gratified to be able to serve your needs in this capacity. I'd like to give my heartfelt thanks to my predecessor, Wor. Chris Decker. Not only did he greatly support me and the Lodge during my term as Worshipful Master in 2021, and continued to support and advise my successors, he provided a very thorough turnover this year that ensured what I hope will be a seamless transition. I have said privately and now say publicly that I owe a lot of credit to him for whatever successes we were able to achieve. We also recognize the well-deserved retirement of Wor. Chuck Cooper as Treasurer for his many years of service.

A couple housekeeping items...if you are having difficulty paying your dues, please, please reach out to us. We have the ability to remit your dues when circumstances warrant, if we know about them. We never want to lose the fellowship of a Brother over mere money. Also, starting in the February Trestle Board, we will also resume accepting advertising in the Trestle Board as a fundraiser for the Lodge. The ads are \$400 for full-page ads for twelve months, payable in advance. Please recognize that they are subject to editorial approval and may not use Masonic emblems except in limited circumstances (per MD Sect. 3.07). Please reach out to me at secretarylodge4va@gmail.com to place an ad. I look forward to serving you and hope you have healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Christopher S. Tripp

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 Coordinators Jeff Adams	Lodge Instructor of Work Christopher Tripp, PM	Lodge Education Officer Bob Melvin
Masonic Home Ambassador Joseph Ilk	Lodge Catechism Chair Justin Garrett	

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