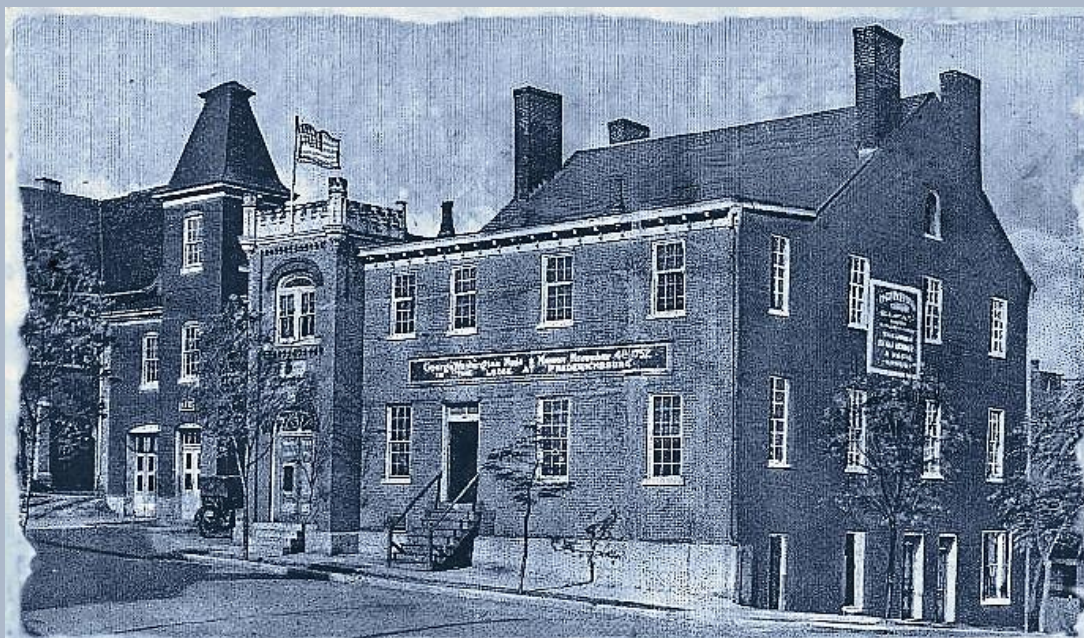


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



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)

MAY 2024

MAY 2024 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Breakfast 8 am to 10 am Leadership Roundtable, 10:30 am
5	6	7	8	9	10 Stated Communication Dinner, 6:30 pm Meeting, 7:30 pm	11
12	13	14 Second Tuesday Meal 4 pm to 7 pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cemetery, 9:30 am	28 District Ritual School, 7 pm	29	30	31	

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for May

Bro. Richard Miller	61 yrs.	Bro. Brian Supples	16
Bro. George Edwards	58	Bro. Brian Hesler	14
Wor. Rudolph Griffith	56	Bro. Gregory Baxter-Hey	14
Bro. Henry Rees	40	Bro. William McGrath	14
Bro. Denny Kelly Sr.	27	M.W. Jeffery VanCuren	14
Wor. Charles Cooper	26	Bro. Steven Cahill	13
Bro. Gregory Balzer	24	Bro. Mikeal Stojic	12
Bro. Nasseem Sleem	20	Bro. Scott Walker Sr.	10
Wor. Steven Draper Sr.	20	Bro. Ronald Reuschling	10
Bro. Michael Hunnel	19	Bro. Trevor Taylor	9
Wor. Christopher Decker	18	Bro. John Lapke Jr.	9
Bro. Charles Horton Jr.	18	Bro. Michael Hansberry	8

Bro. David Black	18	Wor. Joseph Gilkerson	7
Bro. Todd Kee	18	Bro. Nicholas Gilchrist	6
Bro. Roger Baughan	17	Bro. Thomas Morgan	2
Bro. Gary Smith	16	Bro. Gavin Petersen	1

MASTER’S MOMENT

All are welcome to come and partake of an absolute treat on Saturday May 4 just after the monthly pancake breakfast. Right Worshipful Matthew Todd Szramoski, Grand Senior Warden, and Worshipful William Spencer, Monitor Lodge No. 197, will be facilitating a Leadership Roundtable in the Baker Room starting around 10:30 a.m. The relaxed, informal approach is the perfect setting in which Brothers can explore together leadership development topics such as:

- Recognizing activities and actions that impact leadership effectiveness •
- Explaining the role of developing administrative skills for being an effective leader •
- Describing the connection between strong interpersonal skills and good leadership •
- Identifying leadership styles and analyzing leadership traits and skills in a movie •
 - Evaluating one's own personal leadership characteristics •
 - Practicing decision-making processes using a leadership scenario •
 - Applying leadership concepts to a current event or issue in the news •

The fellowship over the morning’s journey is sure to be priceless! Again, all Masons are welcome. Also, I came across an article on leadership from Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777 and have included it in this month’s Trestle Board to stir the leadership appetite!

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

Secretary’s Corner

My Brethren,
 With this month’s focus on Masonic leadership, I’d also like to invite you to a Leadership Seminar at Kena Temple in Manassas on Saturday, May 18th, from 8am to 12pm. There will be several sessions on different aspects of Masonic Leadership. Several of us from this Lodge are involved, including Rt. Wor. Shelby Chandler as DDGM for the Research District and Wor. Joe Gilkerson, DEO for the Research District. If you are able, please

join us for what we hope will be an interesting and informative workshop. We are also still working on dates for this year's two SLOT (Subordinate Lodge Officer Training) sessions, which may be coordinated with meetings of the new Master's and Warden's Association on the 4th Saturday of the month at Kilwinning-Crosse Lodge No. 2-237. Details to follow.

Since there's such a heavy emphasis on leadership, let me draw your attention to the quote from Bro. Theodore Roosevelt accompanying transmittal of the Trestle Board—

Freemasonry teaches not merely temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, brotherly love, relief, and truth, but liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it denounces ignorance, superstition, bigotry, lust, tyranny and despotism.

Bro. Roosevelt was an enthusiastic member and booster of the Fraternity, which was then, along with many other derivative groups, undergoing a boom known as the Golden Age of Fraternalism. He was the youngest man to ascend to the Presidency upon the death of Bro. William McKinley (who received his Degrees at what was then Hiram Lodge No. 21 in Winchester, Virginia), and his youth, vigorous enthusiasm, and boundless energy proved great assets to a nation just getting back on its feet to become a world power. It is for this reason—that he was able to make such a difference at such a young age when surrounded by so many senior statesmen—as well as for two other reasons—(2) his devotion as a sickly and reserved youth to remaking himself through ruthless self-improvement, and (3) his lack of pretense and warmth towards those in all walks of life (spoken of at length in Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends & Influence People*)—that he offers a model of Masonic leadership well-worthy of emulation. As for the quote itself, it shows the importance of keeping the fundamentals—our cardinal virtues, tenets, and morality—firmly in view. Without them, we become just another social club.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the recent death of our District Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Richard Joseph Fisher. He was raised in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in 2017 and went on to become Worshipful Master of Kilwinning-Crosse Lodge No. 2-237 in 2022. Rather than dwell on his many Masonic accolades—serving as High Priest of Fredericksburg Royal Arch Chapter No. 23, Eminent Commander of Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1, and Sovereign Master of Allied Masonic Degrees Council No. 364—let me just say he was a good Brother and a good friend. Despite chronic health issues he pushed himself to be more active than most in each Masonic role he tackled, and had a deep love for the Craft, its Ritual, history, and philosophy. More importantly, he was a great man and a generous spirit who will be solely missed by all of us. I'd also like to extend condolences to Bro. Justin Garrett on the recent death of his brother.

Lastly, let me draw your attention to a proposed bylaws change. At the last Grand Annual Communication, the fee upon raising each new Master Mason was increased from \$50 to \$100. In addition, the cost of materials provided upon raising (e.g., the apron, Presentation Volume, booklets, bijou) has increased along with other operating costs such as food and utilities. This makes it necessary to increase the fees for the Degrees as follows. *Note that there is no proposed change to the dues.*

The current wording of Article III of the Lodge Bylaws reads:

Article III

The fees for the Degrees in this Lodge shall be Three Hundred – Fifty (\$350.00) dollars, payable as follows: One Hundred (\$150.00) dollars for the Degree of Entered Apprentice, of which amount Fifty (\$50.00) dollars shall accompany the petition; One Hundred (\$100.00) dollars for the Degree of Fellowcraft; and One Hundred (\$100.00) dollars for the Degree of Master Mason. Each out-of-state affiliation shall be accompanied by Twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars.

The proposed text would correct an error in the fee for Entered Apprentice and increase the fees for Fellowcraft and Master Mason by \$25 each to reflect the Grand Lodge's increase, to read as follows (changes in bold):

Article III

The fees for the Degrees in this Lodge shall be **Four Hundred (\$400.00)** dollars, payable as follows: **One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00)** dollars for the Degree of Entered Apprentice, of which amount Fifty (\$50.00) dollars shall accompany the petition; **One Hundred Twenty-five (\$125.00)** dollars for the Degree of Fellowcraft; and **One Hundred Twenty-five (\$125.00)** dollars for the Degree of Master Mason. Each out-of-state affiliation shall be accompanied by Twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars.

This was read at the April stated meeting and will be discussed and voted upon at the May stated communication on May 10, 2024.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Christopher S. Tripp

Advice to a Leader

By Allen E. Roberts
Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777
December 10, 1983

Many of us presided over a Masonic Lodge or some Masonic Body. Some have led several organizations more than once. And a few will serve as leaders again. Others soon will be serving the Craft in varying leadership capacities.

It may appear that those who have been leaders many times over need no advice. However, the Grand Master of Masons in India, who was also Chief Justice, didn't think this was necessarily so. When this learned man and dedicated Freemason installed a friend the Grand Master gave him plenty of advice.

The friend was being installed as Grand Master of the Western Region of India in 1982. This is a position comparable to that of a District Deputy Grand Master in Virginia, but a great deal more powerful. The friend was also a lawyer. Because of their close friendship the Grand Master said he could "be more blunt" than he could be with others.

This is part of what he told him, and the hundreds who were present to witness the installation:

Freemasonry is of course a Brotherhood, a great Brotherhood; but just as in any family, all brothers are not equal, some brothers being elder brothers and some younger brothers, and one of the brothers being the eldest brother whom other brothers should look up to and obey, so also it is in Freemasonry. The Masonic organization is a hierarchy. At each Installation meeting we are told in the address to Brethren that "such is the nature of our Constitution that some must of necessity rule and teach so others must, of course submit and obey . . ."

Our rituals have been written some centuries ago and in a lighter vein the modern translating of what we have been told in the Brethren's Charge and which I have just quoted can be reproduced in these words of George Orwell from his famous political satire "Animal Farm," where he said "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

Of course, in order to rule and to administer wisely and well you must eschew all thoughts of popularity with everyone, because in the course of your administration, you will be called upon to make certain hard decisions. Always whenever a question arises, first try persuasion, and appeal to reason, but whenever you fail in this, do not hesitate to act firmly and to act swiftly and with determination. This certainly will make you unpopular. Many people may talk against you, but people will talk against you anyway, for that is the fate of anyone who is at the head of an organization, whether

he be the head of a Masonic organization or of a government. People will keep on talking and some people will talk behind other people's back. You should pay no heed to them. It is also futile to contradict such talk, because people, as a rule, love sensation. Sensational falsehoods and sensational rumors have far greater attraction than bare unvarnished truth.

Also, do not try to convince everyone about the correctness of your viewpoint or your case. Abraham Lincoln said that he attributed half his success in life to never wasting his time in convincing those who would not be convinced. Such a man you should pass by after applying to his these lines of John Dryden:

*The midwife laid her hand on his Thick Skull,
With this prophetic blessing - Be thou Dull.*

For those who talk behind your back, remember again these lines of Dryden:

*But far more numerous was the herd of such
Who think too little, and talk too much.*

It is evident there was concerted opposition to the choice for the head of the Western Region. Note the interesting way the Grand Master answered those opponents:

It has been said that you are a very busy man, that you have many other interests in life, that you have no time to devote to your duties as Regional Grand Master. In my opinion, and from my personal experience, the very fact that you have no time is your greatest asset and qualification. Having no time, you have no time to waste. You must, therefore, make up your mind quickly and dispose of all matters expeditiously.

The Grand Master told his friend to depend on his secretary and not go near the Regional Grand Lodge office. He added:

Not only do you waste your own time in traveling to and from, but also the time of the staff who will not be able to work with you around. I can think of far more enjoyable places to loiter in than the office of a Regional Grand Lodge . . .

Now, the sad truth must be confessed. I believe I have traveled Masonically in India and abroad far more than anyone present here. I rank among my

closest personal friends some of the Grand Masters in various parts of the world. The sad truth is that all over the world I found that quite a large number of Brethren are in Freemasonry purely for ranks and offices and since you have the power to recommend for Grand Ranks, people will flatter you, people will laud you, praise you, will beg of you and entreat you for ranks. Succumb to no such thing. Remember in either recommending for Grand Ranks or in conferring Regional Grand ranks, you should have only two criteria, viz.: honor seniority unless wholly undeserving, and recognize merit wherever you find it and however Junior the Brethren may be . . .

You must remember that when ranks are conferred like leaves falling in autumn, they lose all value. If you want to be told this very pleasantly, you should read Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers.' Like most of the Savoy Operas, the plot of the Gondoliers' is quite complicated. Suffice it to say that in the kingdom of Barataria, everyone is conferred a very high rank. Not only is there a Lord High Chancellor, a Lord Archbishop, but also a Lord High Footman, a Lord High Cook, a Lord High Drummer Boy, and also a Lord High Vagabond, and in it all departments rank equally and everyone is the head of his department. When Don Alhambra Del Belero, the Grand Inquisitor, visits his kingdom he is horrified to find this state of affairs. Not knowing what to do, he tells in song a story about a king who lived in the "wonder working days of old." This king -

*He wished all men as rich as he
(And he was rich as rich could be),
So to the top of every tree
Promoted everybody.*

The king was very popular and everybody sang his praises:

*"Now, that's the kind of king for me -
He wished all men as rich as he,
So to the top of every tree
Promoted everybody."*

The result was that -

*Lord Chancellors were cheap as sprats,
And Bishops in their shovel hats
Were plentiful as tabby cats -*

In point of fact, too many.

The moral of this story was soon told:

*In short, whoever you may be,
To this conclusion you'll agree,
When everyone is somebodee,
Then no one's anybody.*

With this Grand Master D. P. Madon concluded the installation ceremony of his friend.

And here I'll conclude passing along the dozens of lessons excerpted from the hour-long masterpiece of this world and Masonic-wise Chief Justice. I liked what he had to say. He said it much better than most of us could or would.

The Boys of Summer

The Fredericksburg Nationals' baseball season is in full swing! 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: 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

May 4 – Pancake Breakfast – 8 am to 10 am

May 4 - Leadership Roundtable – 10:30 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

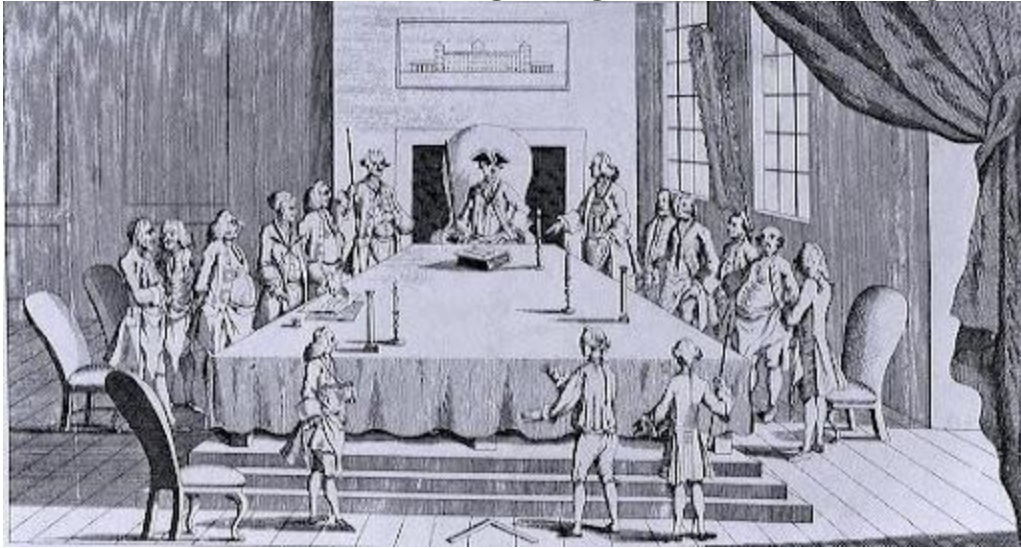
Parker House Rolls

Oreo Surprise

Meeting @ 7:30

Masonic Youth Night!

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

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