



George Washington's Lodge
Fredericksburg
— Lodge No. 4 —

August 2026 Trestle Board

W::M:: Seth Roderick
Magnanimity - Fidelity - Honor

First Recorded Meeting - September 1, 1752

Scottish Charter - July 21, 1758

Virginia Charter - January 30, 1787

Ill. Bro. George Washington

Initiated November 4, 1752

Passed March 3, 1753

Raised August 4, 1753

803 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

August 2026 Events

Past Masters Night

R.W. Dennis Berry will preside at our August Stated Communication on Friday, August 14 for the 40th anniversary of his year in the East, with breakfast for dinner. Please note the dress code will be coat and tie.

FredNats Concession Stands

Help volunteer to raise funds for the historic preservation of our 1816 Lodge! [Sign up here.](#)

FAM What Remains Program

Back by popular demand! [Get tickets here](#) for Saturday, August 29 from 6 to 8 p.m.

2	3	4	5 Practice or Called Communication 7:00 PM	6 Blood Drive at FUMC 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	7	8 FredNats Concessions 4:00 - 9:00 PM
9	10	11 Blood Drive at CRRL 1:00 - 6:00 PM	12 Practice or Called Communication 7:00 PM	13 James Monroe Lecture by R.W. Bill Thomas 7:00 PM	14 Dinner 6:30 PM Stated Communication 7:30 PM	15
16	17	18	19 Practice or Called Communication 7:00 PM	20	21	22 FredNats Concessions 4:00 - 9:00 PM
23 30	24 31	25 District 8 Ritual School 7:00 PM	26 Practice or Called Communication 7:00 PM	27 George Washington Lecture by Bill Garner 7:00 PM	28	29 FAM What Remains Program 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Masonic Anniversaries

Bro. Carlos Melendez	51 yrs.	Bro. George W. Langford	18
M.W. Jeffery E. Hodges	41	Bro. George E. Nowacek	18
Wor. Kenneth M. Elliott, III	35	Wor. Alexander R. VanCuren	15
Bro. Christopher K. Aleo	26	Bro. Luiz F. Hernandez	15
Wor. Jeremy B. Utt	26	Bro. Brendan A. Klei	15
Bro. Kenneth A. Crampton	23	Bro. Andrew J. Sanger	15
Bro. Peter D. Klei	21	Bro. Thomas F. Callahan	11
Bro. Henry H. Knauf	21	Bro. Paul R. Dooley	11
Bro. Dennis E. Lindsay	21	Bro. James R. DuBois	11
Bro. Frederick L. Lentz	20	Bro. Kevin Holyfield	11
Bro. David J. Pompilio	20	Wor. Daniel L. Linnabary	10
Bro. Bob R. Melvin, Jr.	18	Bro. Michael J. Almassy	8
Bro. Timothy A. Bettendorf	18	Bro. Jeffrey A. Harvey	8
Bro. Richard L. Blumling	18	Bro. Ian A. Nunya-Smith	8
Bro. John H. Corderman	18	Bro. Donald L. Powell, Jr.	8
Bro. Timothy A. Gilbert	18	Bro. Karl A. Erickson, Jr.	8
Bro. William W. Gray, II	18	Bro. Paul D. Chewning	8
Wor. Richard A. Klehm	18	Bro. Bruce H. B. Gilkerson	5
Bro. George-Henry H. Knauf	18	Bro. Kyle A Bockwoldt	3

Master's Message

*State of the Lodge,
July 2026*

Seth Roderick, WM

Brethren and Friends,

We began the month with a Lodge work night on July 1. The Brethren painted over exterior graffiti, a persistent issue this summer. We cleaned the property, and completed preparatory work for the installation of new security systems and lighting around the Temple.

Although our customary Pancake Breakfast was canceled for the Independence Day holiday, the Lodge, along with our OES, Jobs and Rainbows Masonic family, made a highly visible presence in the community with an information and welcome table at the Ferry Farm Fourth of July event. This gave us an opportunity to celebrate our nation's independence, meet our neighbors, and share the history of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, engaging with over 200 unique visits to our table.

Ritual development remained an important focus throughout July. The Lodge held Called Communications and Entered Apprentice Degrees in the Old Lodge Room. Our members also participated in the District 8 Ritual Schools. We are doing Degree work multiple times a month, nearly every Wednesday. We have a bit of a big and wonderful problem this year; more good men are receiving the degrees than we have coaches to teach them. Please! We are in desperate need of catechism coaches. If you have been a coach in the past or have a knack for ritual and can help, please reach out to the Lodge Instructor of Work or Catechism Chair.

One of the month's notable events was our conferral of the Fellowcraft Degree in Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. This was both an honor and a testament to our Lodge's shared enthusiasm for fraternity. Sharing our ritual work with another historic Virginia lodge strengthened the fraternal bonds between our Lodges and helped preserve the careful transmission of our Masonic traditions. Thank you to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 for the hearty welcome and gracious hospitality, and we look forward to reciprocating. I want to also express gratitude for the generosity of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial for their tour and special preview of things to come in the museum. If you have not visited, or have not visited in a few years, please make a trip to Alexandria. Beyond the grandeur of the whole thing, the items in the museum and story they tell is a fascinating part of American history and civics.

At our July 10 Stated Communication, the Brethren gathered for dinner and fellowship before the District Deputy Grand Master presented the Grand Lodge Community Builders Award to Mrs. (and OES sister) Carrie Combs. The presentation allowed the Lodge to recognize the outstanding and tireless service of Mrs. Combs reflecting the principles of citizenship, civic responsibility, and devotion to the community.

July also brought two excellent VA250 themed programs in partnership with Historic Fredericksburg Foundation as part of the "Fredericksburg's Revolutionary War Heroes" lecture series. On July 9, Capt. David Durham, Co-Chair of the Fredericksburg Lafayette Bicentennial Committee, presented a program on the Marquis de Lafayette. On July 23, Worshipful Mike Dove, Past Master, presented a program on MW Maj. Benjamin Day. These lectures furthered our common commitment to preserving and sharing the stories of those who shaped Fredericksburg and the nation.

Members of the Lodge were also invited to share in a potluck and reading of the play A Few Good Men, with the Fredericksburg Theater Ensemble, which will be presented in September as part of their 2026 season of shows. FTE is renting space in the Baker Room for rehearsals and have quickly become a friendly and enthusiastic addition. They always welcome folks to come see their work and say hi. On a side note, take note. Without exception, FTE always leaves the Baker Room cleaner and more organized than they found it.

The new flooring on the lower level is almost complete, with only one set of stairs outstanding.

I extend my sincere thanks to every member of our Masonic family who contributed their time, talents, and energy during the month.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Seth Roderick, WM





Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

We hope everyone is doing well and is ready to reengage after summer vacations and travels. We are beginning my least favorite task as Secretary, that of citing Brethren in arrears for nonpayment of dues. By now, all those who are more than a year behind and in danger of suspension should have received a personal letter from the Grand Master. We will read the list of names and vote to cite them at our August stated, after which I will send out certified letters in one final attempt to resolve the outstanding debt. If you're one of those, rest assured we do not want to suspend anyone from the rights and privileges of the Fraternity. We never want to lose a Brother over his falling on hard times and being temporarily unable to pay. If you find yourself in that situation, please reach out to us, first so we know what's going on and can offer the hand of friendship and Brotherly Love, and secondly, so we can work out a plan to get you back on track and keep you from being suspended. The Worshipful Master also can remit some or all of a Brother's dues if circumstances permit. We want to work with you to avoid this sad eventuality, but action is required on your part. Dues are a debt we owe to our Brethren whether we're able to attend Lodge or participate regularly or not. They say you get out of Masonry what you put into it. I don't really like that expression because I believe that most of the time the scales are dramatically skewed to where we get far more out of it than we put into it. We hope you'd agree that your membership in the Fraternity is worth more to you than ~5/8 of a dollar, or \$225 / 360 days (we'll even throw in 5 extra days for free!). But if this is a hardship, please reach out to us before we get further down that sad road.

I want to end on a happier note, putting on my LIW hat. We've got a lot of Degree work coming up as our candidates advance diligently through the Degrees. There are plenty of opportunities to take part in our work, so please consider swinging by on a Wednesday night. Even if you don't feel comfortable taking or learning a part, nothing means more to our candidates than to see a lot of Brothers on the sidelines cheering them on during these Degrees. All the seats in the Lodge are important, not just those on the floor or on the dais. Let's show our new Brethren they're important to us as we welcome them into the life of the Lodge. Hope to see you in one of those seats soon!

S&F,

Christopher Tripp, PM
Secretary

Fredericksburg's Revolutionary War
Heroes Lecture Series

Lt. Col. James Monroe



R.:W.: Bill Thomas, President
James Monroe Memorial Foundation

7:00 PM Thursday, August 13
Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4 | FREE




Fredericksburg's Revolutionary War
Heroes Lecture Series

Gen. George Washington



Bill Garner, President
George Washington Foundation

7:00 PM Thursday, August 27
Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4 | FREE




[Learn More About the Series](#)

FREDERICKSBURG AREA MUSEUM

WHAT REMAINS

MASONIC LODGE NO. 4

AUGUST 29, 2026 · 6:00-8:00PM

Come join us as we explore Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 through the artifacts that remain and the stories of what has been lost along the way.

Guests will also receive a behind-the-scenes guided tour of the Lodge itself, offering a rare look inside one of Fredericksburg's most historic spaces!



Together, we will discover the artifacts, people, and legacy that helped shape the Lodge and its place in the Fredericksburg community.

Location:

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
803 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Cost:

\$12 for FAM Members
\$16 for Non-Members
Registration is required.

Scan the QR code to register or visit famva.org/events



FAM
FREDERICKSBURG
AREA MUSEUM

Traveling Man: We Climb

by George Dunlap, Junior Deacon

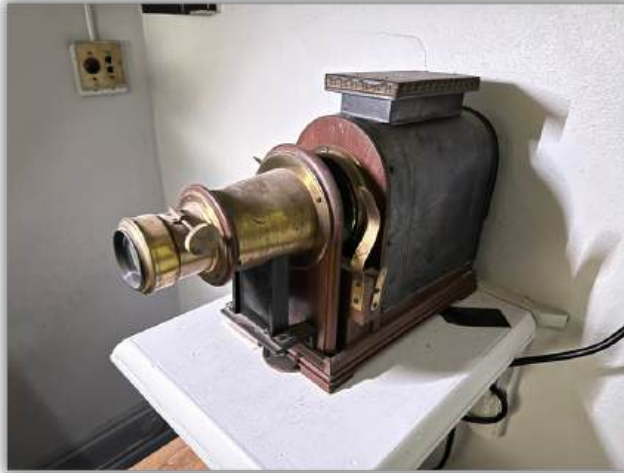
Over the period of June and July, I was able to spread the cement of Brotherly Love with our Brothers holden under the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. In June, I attended a stated meeting of Lazarus Lodge #303 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Then in July, I was able to attend a passing of two brothers at Audubon-Parkside Lodge #218 in Laurel Springs, NJ. We were also able to fellowship with our brothers at Alexandria-Washington #22, a fellow Virginia Lodge, by passing a Fellowcraft under dispensation in their lodge room located at the George Washington Masonic Museum in Alexandria, Virginia.



Lazarus Lodge #303 has an interesting history. They were a clandestine lodge utilizing Duncan ritual until 2013, when they were absorbed into the Grand Lodge of New Jersey and "healed" by the New Jersey Grand Master. The fact that the Grand Lodge of New Jersey opened their doors to Lazarus Lodge, even given the unorthodox way they came into existence, is a credit to both the quality of the brothers who were members of Lazarus Lodge and the humility and brotherly love exhibited by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. I had hoped to regale you all with the rich history of Lazarus Lodge, but unfortunately, I was not able to obtain that information from them in time—which is why I missed my column deadline last month.



Lazarus Lodge is currently merging with Rising Sun Lodge #15, which is where Lazarus meets. Rising Sun Lodge (www.rsl15.com) is a beautiful lodge located in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Of note within their building is a real winding staircase (pictured below) located at the back of the lodge room, complete with a raised room and two doors on an upper platform. They also had a modernized Magic Lantern. As a reminder, if you happen to know where Lodge 4's Magic Lantern is located (see picture), please let a lodge officer know.



In July, I was able to attend the Fellowcraft Passing at Audubon-Parkside Lodge #218. I noticed that in these Northern Lodges, there are a few more officers; the addition of the Senior and Junior Master of Ceremonies is the major change. These officers seem to manage all of the steward work in regard to preparing a candidate and conducting him into the lodge room. Of course, this means the progressive line is seven to nine people. I also noted that these northern lodges tend to be very dense, often having 400 to 500 members associated with one building—sometimes spread between multiple lodges meeting in the same space, and sometimes not. Beyond the difference in officers, the degree itself was both familiar and beautiful.

Both the observation of the physical and operable architecture in Rising Sun Lodge, the observation of the Fellowcraft Lecture in New Jersey, and our own passing of a brother at Alexandria-Washington #22 reminded me of the allegory of the winding staircase. As it is hard to improve upon perfection, I will share a few excerpts from the excellent Masonic book *Foreign Countries* by Carl H. Claudy:



"An outstanding symbol in the Fellowcraft Degree is the flight of Winding Stairs. In the Book of Kings we find, "they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber." We go up "with winding stairs" into "The Middle Chamber of King Solomon's Temple." Also we travel up a winding stairs of life, to arrive, if we climb steadfastly, at the middle chamber of existence, which is removed from birth, babyhood and youth by the steps of knowledge and experience, but which is not so high above the ground that we are not as yet of the earth, earthy; not so high that we can justifiably regard it as more than a Stepping-Off Place from which we may, perhaps, ascend to the Sanctum Sanctorum; that holy of holies, in which our troubled spirits find rest, and our eyes see God. There is a symbolism in the fact that the stairway winds. A straight stairway is not so easy to climb as a winding one, which, because of the fact that it does wind, ascends by easier stages than one which rises as a ladder. Yet, a straight stairway has the goal constantly in sight; while it may be more difficult in the effort and strength required, it is easier in that one can see where one is going. There is no faith needed in climbing a ladder; we can visualize the top and have its inspiration constantly before us as we rise rung after rung. But the winding stairway is one which tries a man's soul. He must believe, or he cannot reach the top. Nothing is clear before him but the next step. He must take it on faith that there is a top, that if he but climb long enough he will indeed reach a Middle chamber, a goal, a place of light. In such a way are the Winding Stairs and the Middle Chamber symbols of life and manhood. No man knows what he will become; as a boy he may have a goal, but may reach another Middle Chamber than that he visualized as he started the ascent. No man knows whether he will ever climb all the stairs; the Angel of Death may stand but around the turn on the next step. Yet in spite of a lack of knowledge of what is at the top of the stairs, in spite of the fact that a Flaming Sword may bar his ascent, man climbs. He climbs in faith that there is a goal and that he will reach it; and no good Freemason doubts but that for those who never see the glory of the Middle Chamber in his life, a lamp is set that they may see still farther in another, better life."

Thus, we climb.
In spite of pain, we climb
In spite of loss, we climb.

We climb despite the calls of others to abandon our ambitions because they are hard. We climb. We take the steps and reach the first landing. Whether it be vocation, ministration, cultivation, or salvation, we cannot yet see the great works our hands can complete, nor the charity we will provide, nor the children or grandchildren we will hold in our arms, nor the transcendence we all hope to achieve through strict observance to our devotions—but yet, they are up the steps somewhere.

So, we climb.

I think all generations have faced comparable challenges to what we do today with regards to this climb, but I think sometimes our staircase looks more like an M. C. Escher painting than a vertically ascending one. Sometimes, on the downward portions, we do not even get to step—we indeed fall.

Yet, we climb.

With special thanks to Brother Claudy, whose words are again hard to improve on, we close and return to his thoughts:

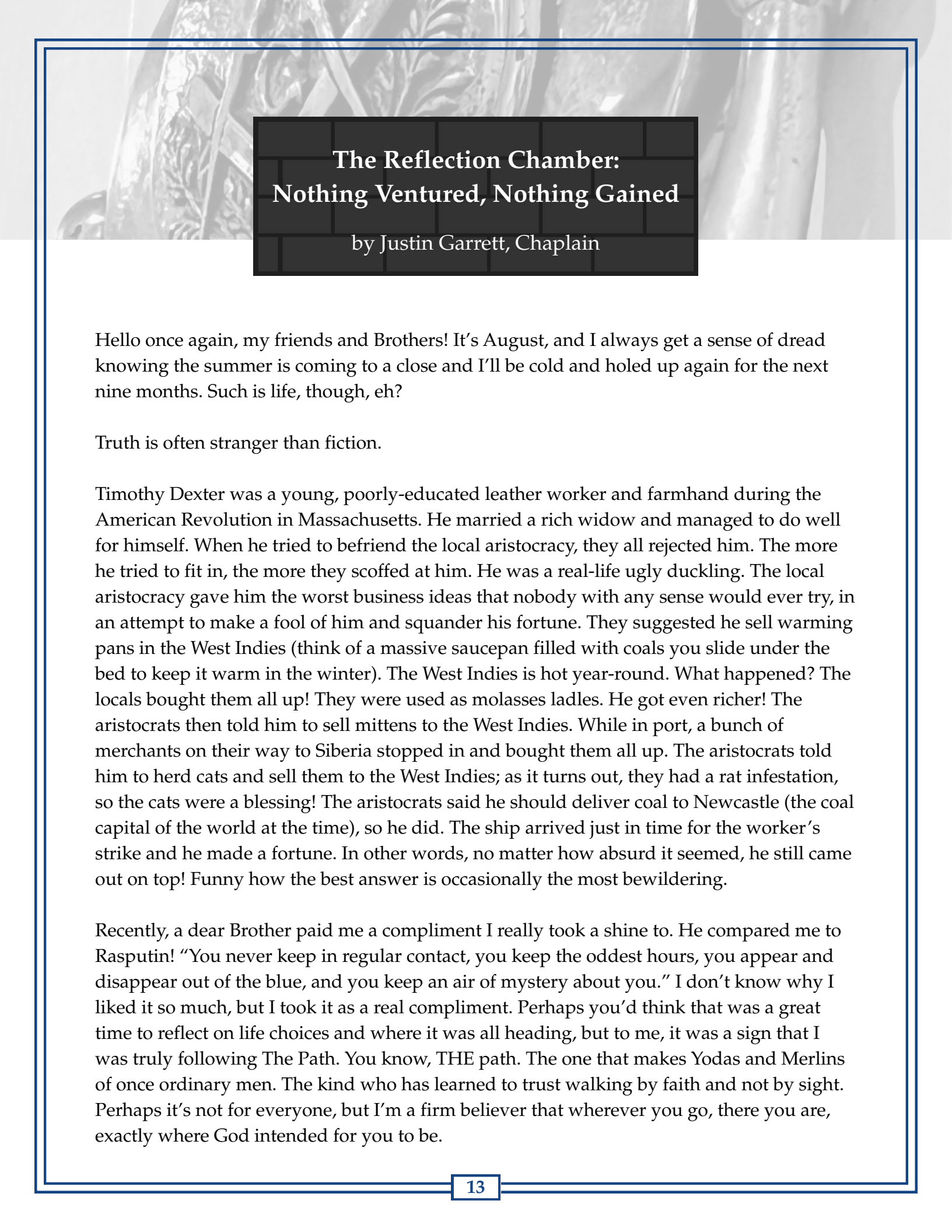
*“The Fellowcraft Degree is one of action. Recall where you wore your cable tow; but think not that it confines action; it urges it. **** What effort? To climb, to rise! How? By the use of **** the mind and heart. What knowledge? All knowledge! Conceived thus, the Fellowcraft Degree, from being a mere ceremony, a stepping stone from the Entered Apprentice Degree to that of the Master, becomes something (further); it is emblematic of the struggle of life, not materially, but spiritually, a symbol with high hope and encouragement constantly held forth. There is a Middle Chamber; the steps do lead somewhere; man can climb them if he will. Not for the drone, the laggard, the journeyer by the easy paths upon the level, but for the fighter, the adventurer, the man with courage and a stout heart, is this degree of Freemasonry. The Fellowcraft must be of high courage, for that which is not worth working for and fighting for is not worth having. It is no easy journey that we make through life, and it is no easy journey that we make through the mazes of this degree.”*

“For as long as man has lived upon this earth the lightning flashed and the thunder roared to no end but terror and beauty. In the last few hundred years man has read the first part of the mysterious story of electricity and taken for himself the power God put in nature. Had man been content merely with what he saw and heard he would still be as ignorant as the beasts of the field.”

*“The degree is but a great symbol, given in one evening, of all that a man may make of his life. It is a lamp to guide the feet, **** If we fail to use the light..., or see by its radiance a higher climb, and a Greater Stairway..., the fault is within us, and not in our opportunity.”*

“There are thousands who pass through this degree who see in it only a ceremony, ... thousands who see a lightning flash but as a portent of danger. But the thoughtful man sees in the Winding Stairs an invitation, an urge to climb, to learn, to know, to reach that Middle Chamber of life from which one can look back on an effort well made, a life well spent, a goal well won; ...”

Dare, We Climb.



The Reflection Chamber: Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained

by Justin Garrett, Chaplain

Hello once again, my friends and Brothers! It's August, and I always get a sense of dread knowing the summer is coming to a close and I'll be cold and holed up again for the next nine months. Such is life, though, eh?

Truth is often stranger than fiction.

Timothy Dexter was a young, poorly-educated leather worker and farmhand during the American Revolution in Massachusetts. He married a rich widow and managed to do well for himself. When he tried to befriend the local aristocracy, they all rejected him. The more he tried to fit in, the more they scoffed at him. He was a real-life ugly duckling. The local aristocracy gave him the worst business ideas that nobody with any sense would ever try, in an attempt to make a fool of him and squander his fortune. They suggested he sell warming pans in the West Indies (think of a massive saucepan filled with coals you slide under the bed to keep it warm in the winter). The West Indies is hot year-round. What happened? The locals bought them all up! They were used as molasses ladles. He got even richer! The aristocrats then told him to sell mittens to the West Indies. While in port, a bunch of merchants on their way to Siberia stopped in and bought them all up. The aristocrats told him to herd cats and sell them to the West Indies; as it turns out, they had a rat infestation, so the cats were a blessing! The aristocrats said he should deliver coal to Newcastle (the coal capital of the world at the time), so he did. The ship arrived just in time for the worker's strike and he made a fortune. In other words, no matter how absurd it seemed, he still came out on top! Funny how the best answer is occasionally the most bewildering.

Recently, a dear Brother paid me a compliment I really took a shine to. He compared me to Rasputin! "You never keep in regular contact, you keep the oddest hours, you appear and disappear out of the blue, and you keep an air of mystery about you." I don't know why I liked it so much, but I took it as a real compliment. Perhaps you'd think that was a great time to reflect on life choices and where it was all heading, but to me, it was a sign that I was truly following The Path. You know, THE path. The one that makes Yodas and Merlins of once ordinary men. The kind who has learned to trust walking by faith and not by sight. Perhaps it's not for everyone, but I'm a firm believer that wherever you go, there you are, exactly where God intended for you to be.

Thinking about her, I started to take stock of all the things in high school and how they were. I remember a popular athlete asking me why I was so content to hang out with the weirdos and I didn't have an answer. Looking back, I realize I did so because they had real conversations and said real things. They hugged each other, confided in one another, and never once thought it strange. The popular kids never seemed to speak on anything of substance. I wasn't the popular kid, but everybody knew me regardless of social strata. From the athletes to the band geeks, from the nerds to the birds, I just seemed to blend in. I could have become another nameless face or faceless name among the ranks of the popular kids, but it never would have meant anything to me, not being able to speak freely and openly.

I recently watched a movie called *Little Buddha*, which was recommended to me by a dear Brother whose company I always enjoy. There's something about the Buddhist tradition that always brings me to tears without fail. The freedom, the trust that it will all work out, the acceptance of the cycle and the search for truth and peace as opposed to glory. That winning the game was not as important as enjoying the moment, playing with the people. I then watched a Buddhist horror movie called *Incantation*, which was a really neat twist on the faith in a way that you'd rarely ever see. In it, there was one line that I remember specifically: "Misfortune and Blessings depend on each other..."

I look back on all the good and bad things that have happened in my life and I see that they helped to shape and prepare me for what was to come. To embrace the absurd and feel the wave you ride beneath your feet. All of it was necessary, otherwise, I would not have become the man I am. Like the RnB band Maze once said, "Joy and pain are like sunshine and rain."

Everywhere I've gone for work, people always asked, "Why are you here? You could be somebody more important, doing something bigger and better." They never seemed to discern the difference between status and happiness. Cincinnatus had a farm. He could have ruled all of Rome, and he did for a time, but he went back to his farm. Washington himself did just the same. Diogenes could have had anything Alexander had to offer. He asked the great conqueror of Persia to stop blocking the sun. The teachings of Buddhism speak of detachment from desires. You buy a fancy car and you've indentured yourself to it. You worry about the paint, about other cars denting it, about maintaining it. You buy a big house and now you've got to clean it. You get a fancy job and now you've got an image to uphold. It was said Louis XIV never had a hot meal because it was prepared in a palace so large, the trek from the kitchen to the dining hall was too long for it to remain warm. We contort ourselves into the box without ever thinking why we should, shaving off whatever uniqueness we might have to make an image for ourselves that someone might appreciate. We spend so much time keeping up with the Joneses, and yet, we all live in the same neighborhood!

When was the last time you asked yourself what you wanted? Do you really care about the money, the house, the cars, the image; or do you really want a sense of fulfillment and respect that you might think these things might bring? We live in a world full of illusions and red herrings. The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry teaches not to mistake the symbol for what it represents. Those material possessions are often symbols of what we really want. They very well could just be nice things. You like this car, you like the way this suit looks and feels, The backyard has a wonderful view. But if you strip away the material, what are you left with? Who are you at your core, beyond the identity you've clung to? So many men attach their identities to their professions. Who are you without your profession? What dreams do you have that you've never seen to fruition? If you woke up with amnesia, who would be the first person you'd look for? If you were alone, naked, in a cold, dark room for a few hours, what would be the first thing you'd want? If I asked you to list all the things you love, at what point would you name yourself?

The samurai once practiced a form of thinking called Koan, which asked questions much like these. What is the sound of one hand clapping? What was your face like before you had a face? If a tree falls in the woods and nobody is around to hear it, does it make a sound? These questions have become tropes now that people use to pretend to be profound, but the nature of those questions was to confront your nature and that of reality head-on. What questions could you ask yourself that might yield the answers you need on your own path?



Worshipful Seth's theme for this year involves the word, Magnanimity. That virtue of taking your own God-given unique talents and developing them for the benefit of all mankind. What latent gifts are laying dormant because you haven't watered them? Why haven't you watered them? Those same things which make you unique could be the very difference in your life and that of those around you. What have you been chasing instead? Are you more focused on being a normal dude with a normal life, or are you focused on becoming the best version of yourself, no matter how odd that version of yourself might be? That venturing into the open desert, of being vulnerable, of being willing to take the steps in front of you, though you know not where they lead, just might make all the difference in the world. Truth is often stranger than fiction, but Truth is the foundation of every virtue, magnanimity included. People tell you to be yourself, but how can you do that if you don't know who you truly are? Taking those steps in learning about yourself might seem absurd, and yet, you'll often notice each step to be solid. Like walking on a glass floor: It might be scary, but it'll be worth it. All those things that happened to you, the good and bad, the logical and illogical, the unification of seeming opposites, has prepared you for this exact moment. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Know thyself, and in so doing, you will bear the greatest fruits you have to offer.

From the Brightest Seat in the House,

Justin C. G. Garrett
Chaplain & Catechism Chair

The Dog Days of Summer

by Seth Roderick, WM

August comes to Virginia with a slow, heavy breath. The air is close, every exposed surface is warm to the touch, humidity finds every nook and cranny, and the shade welcomes you like a trickster. It looks like a place to get out of the heat, but the air doesn't move in August shade and provides no relief.

This is my favorite time of the year. The scent of the fig tree pops in the morning. The clocks strike slower hours. These are the days of linen and seersucker, and sugar cube melons. Yet, we call these "the dog days of summer" evoking the image of a lazy dog panting in the summer afternoon.

All apologies to the family dog. It never was about Fido. Ancient star observers associated this time of the year with Sirius. Sirius is otherwise known as the Dog Star, the brightest star in the night sky, right before sunrise, found in Canis Major. To the Egyptians it marked the annual flooding of the Nile. To the Greeks it marked the time for early harvest. To the Scandinavians, it was known as Loki's Torch. To us- the most stifling time of the year before Autumn, and in modern tradition, vacations and trips to the beach.

In early Virginia, August was not a time for vacation. It was the time when summer crops had to be managed, fruits and vegetables were preserved or canned, and the annual harvest was growing near. But it was also a time for social activity. It was a time for agricultural fairs, and horse trading in preparation for the Fall races. It was also a time for the summer court days. It was during this time the Fredericksburg Lodge, and many others, would meet, Degree work was performed, and Festive Boards were ample. In fact, it was on August 4th when our own Brother Washington was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

August should be appreciated for more than just the heat. This is a time to watch the sky for the short relief of a thunderstorm, watching garden crops for ripeness, and preserving fruit for the winter. Today we look for leaves to darken, walnuts and pecans to drop, and wait in anticipation for the earliest signs of Autumn. These things are all about patience.

The dog days of summer test our patience. It's in these days we're remind us that the most important work is accomplished when all the enthusiasm of early summer has long faded and conditions becomes less comfortable. Masonically, these are the days we review our bylaws and other administrative needs of the Lodge, teach our candidates, catch up on maintenance around the Temple; and practice prudence and the other virtues, outside of the walls from which we commend within them. This is also a good time to practice patience through reflection; from reflection is discovered the quiet wisdom and spiritual strength people have always found in the stillness of the shade.

In these Dog Days of Summer let us bring some quiet faithfulness to our Lodge and the community. Let us reflect on what is good, preserve that which is worthy, and in each of us according to our own talents, be the bright Dog Star to everyone we meet. Do good unto all.

Bethel #16 Job's Daughters International

Bethel #16 has been active these past couple of months. Our semi-annual open Installation of Officers was held on Sunday, June 23rd at the lodge. Kerry N was installed as Honored Queen to serve the Bethel for her 3rd time. The installation was special as she was installed by her sister, Kathryn N who completed her 3rd term as Honored Queen. Members installed were: Kathryn N, Guide; Ayden S, Marshal; Anna B, Chaplain; and Freya K, Librarian. The daughters appreciate those who were able to attend and support the daughters for the start of this new term.

Our term started with the Annual Grand Session which was held at the University of Lynchburg on Thursday, July 9th through Sunday, July 12th at the University of Lynchburg. The session began with the Formal Opening. Our own Kathryn wrote and led the presentation of the flags ceremony. I may be a little prejudice, but this presentation was one of the best I have seen. The business part of the session started on Friday morning. The daughters met for their Job's Daughter Congress meeting. This meeting allows the daughters to meet without the adults to discuss the proposed amendments that were received and would be presented in the adult business meeting for either approval or rejection. There were 10 daughters who attended the adult session to represent the state membership. These daughters presented a synopsis on what/how the daughters feel about the proposed concerning the proposed changes to our Constitution and Rules and Regulations. This allows the daughters to know that their concerns are seriously taken on all changes to the governing of our state Bethels.

The afternoon started with the Annual Grand Bethel meeting. This culminated the 2025 – 2026 Grand Bethel term in which Kathryn N, Freya K and Anna B had represented our Bethel as Grand Officers. During the meeting, the Grand Bethel Officers for the year 2026 – 2027 were selected at this meeting. Bethel #16 daughters who will serve as Grand Bethel Officers for this year are Ayden, Kathryn and Freya. We are looking forward to supporting in their travels throughout the coming year. Saturday evening was the adult Grand Guardian Installation of Officers for the 2026 – 2027 year. Ellen Garrabrant was installed as our Grand Guardian and Romi Capuno was installed as our Associate Grand Guardian. The Bethel is looking forward to working with them in their endeavors this year.

We no sooner returned home than our Annual Supreme Session was held in St. Louis, Missouri. This session welcomed daughters from all of our states and countries where Job's Daughters are located. This, like the state level session, is when the supreme officers are installed in their new positions for the year. The most intense event is the selection of the new Miss International Job's Daughters. There is much too even being eligible to compete for that title. The daughters must do an oral recitation, a written test, and an interview with adult leaders. From this process, the eligible daughters are narrowed down to 11 daughters. These daughters are then given a question to answer 'on the fly'. This is such an exciting time for our daughters. I am happy and very proud to inform you that the Miss International Job's Daughter is Natalia A. R. from Bethel #1, Arlington, who served as Virginia's Miss Job's Daughter this past year. We are so excited to be able to support her as she begins her international travels representing Job's Daughters at so many functions.

This is just a brief look into our Bethel and some of their recent activities. We always LOVE to have sideliners and hope that you can attend one of our meetings in the coming months. We meet at the Lodge on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (sometimes subject to change which will be published). Our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 23rd. We will start with an ice cream social for all who would love to join us – get to know the daughters (and who doesn't like ice cream?). Our meeting will follow and will include the installation of our Bethel Council members for this year. Please remember that our business part of the meeting is closed and only those with proper Masonic relationship may attend. The opening portion and closing portion is open to anyone and is a great way to introduce you and your family to a Job's Daughter Bethel. The daughters are looking forward to seeing you soon ---

Mary Frances St. John, PHQ, PBG, DRP
Guardian Secretary

Expanding the Reach of Our Lodge Store

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 is reinvigorating its online store and expanding its reach through Etsy. While our Lodge store has been available for some time, Etsy allows Masons, collectors, and history enthusiasts from around the country—and the world—to discover our products. In fact, our most recent Etsy sale was shipped to Romania.

The store offers a growing selection of Lodge and Masonic merchandise, including pins, challenge coins, historic collectibles, shirts, hats, mugs, ornaments, and handcrafted items. Some products tell the unique story of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, while others feature broader Masonic, George Washington, and American heritage themes.

This effort is about more than selling merchandise. Proceeds provide another source of income for the Lodge, helping us address building improvements, preservation needs, security, programs, and other projects that have been needed for many years. We also want your feedback. What products would you like to see added? What parts of our Lodge's history would make a meaningful pin, coin, shirt, ornament, or collectible? We want the store to offer items that reflect the dignity of the Craft and help tell our remarkable story.

Please visit the store, see what is available, and share your ideas with us:
www.masoniclodge4.org/store

Every purchase, visit, and suggestion helps us strengthen the Lodge and share its history with a broader audience.

Our Story is America's Legacy.

PRINCE HALL LODGE NO. 61

— LEGACY IN ACTION —

ANNUAL FAMILY & Friends DAY



**SUNDAY
AUGUST 23RD**

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

AT THE LODGE
3418 Shannon Park Dr
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

*GOOD FOOD!
GREAT COMPANY!
LASTING MEMORIES!*

BROTHERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS – ALL ARE WELCOME!
COME FELLOWSHIP, EAT, AND ENJOY A DAY
OF UNITY, LOVE & LAUGHTER!



fredericksburg
theatre
ensemble
is proud to present

AARON SORKIN'S A FEW GOOD MEN

Sep. 18th – 20th

Sep. 25th – 27th

USE CODE:
AFGMMil20

20% off

For veterans and active military
personnel. Must show valid military
I.D at box office check-in.

"A Few Good Men" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com
Allstate Community Theater | 810 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 | 4th Floor

Support the Preservation of Our Historic 1816 Lodge Building

Just one gift can contribute toward another 200 years of Freemasonry in Fredericksburg, and earn you a brick on the Baker Room wall!

Visit BricksRUs.com/DonorSite/FXBG4 to donate.



Visit Our Online Store

Commemorate 250 years of American independence with this limited edition coin—a meaningful symbol of patriotism, brotherhood, and the enduring principles shared by Freemasonry and the founding of our nation. Collect your serialized one of only 250 coins minted!

Visit the [Lodge 4 Store](http://Lodge4Store) to order now!



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Reach hundreds of our Trestle Board readers! We accept appropriate advertisements, payable in advance. We reserve the right to refuse any ads that do not meet our standards. Please contact us at Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org for details.

- Quarter-page ads \$150 (12 months)
- Half-page ads \$250 (12 months)
- Full-page ads \$400 (12 months)

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2026 Lodge Officers

To reach a lodge officer, please contact Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org
to request their contact information.

Worshipful Master	Seth Roderick
Senior Warden	John Lapke
Junior Warden	Michael Dove, PM
Treasurer	James Snyder, PM
Secretary	Christopher Tripp, PM
Senior Deacon	Joshua Miller
Junior Deacon	George Dunlap
Chaplain	Justin Garrett
Marshal	Kenneth Carey
Tiler	Shelby Chandler, PDDGM
Senior Steward	Michael Scullin
Junior Steward	Brian Hesler
Assistant Treasurer	Thomas Baker
Assistant Secretary	Ethan Burgess

Lodge Program Officers

Lodge Blood Drive 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

Committee Chairs

Funeral Committee	Justin Garrett
Website & Social Media	Ethan Burgess
Buildings & Grounds	Rand Sompayrac
Finance	Robert Brammer, PDDGM
Sick & Widows	Patrick McConnell, PM
Archives	Mike Dove, PM

Trustees

R.W. Dennis Berry, PDDGM - 2026
Wor. Chris Decker, PM - 2027
Wor. Dan Goodwin, PM - 2028
Wor. Chris Tripp, PM - 2029
Wor. Pat McConnell, PM - 2030

Living Past Masters

Wor. Carter. G. Wells	1963	Wor. Anthony L Rudder	2007
Wor. Rudolph E. Griffith	1974	R.W. Jeffrey D. St. Onge	2009
Wor. Henry W. Baker	1975	Wor. Shelton S. Mackey	2010
Wor. Edward L. Donalson	1983	R.W. Shelby L. Chandler	2011
R.W. Dennis W. Berry	1986	Wor. Christopher J. Decker	2012
Wor. Thomas C Shelton	1988	Wor. Christopher R. Wilson	2013
Wor. William J. White	1989	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
R.W. Steven W. Sanford	2005	Wor. Patrick F. McConnell	2024
Wor. Richard D. Dey	2006	Wor. Michael J. Dove	2025