



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

# September 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

## September 2026 Events

### Stated Dinner Menu

For our meal on Friday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 PM we will have bruschetta chicken, cacio e pepe, roasted vegetables, garden salad, garlic bread, and tiramisu. (\$20)

|           |           |                                                     |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                      |                                                     |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|           |           | <b>1</b>                                            | <b>2</b><br>Practice or Called<br>Communication<br>7:00 PM  | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>4</b>                                                             | <b>5</b><br>Pancake<br>Breakfast<br>8:00 - 10:00 AM |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>                                            | <b>9</b><br>SLOT Officer<br>Training<br>7:00 PM             | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>11</b><br>Dinner<br>6:30 PM<br>Stated<br>Communication<br>7:30 PM | <b>12</b>                                           |
| <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>                                           | <b>16</b><br>Practice or Called<br>Communication<br>7:00 PM | <b>17</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>18</b>                                                            | <b>19</b>                                           |
| <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>District 8<br>Ritual School<br>7:00 PM | <b>23</b><br>Practice or Called<br>Communication<br>7:00 PM | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>25</b>                                                            | <b>26</b><br>Kenmore<br>Block Party<br>10 AM - 2 PM |
| <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>                                           | <b>30</b><br>Practice or Called<br>Communication<br>7:00 PM | <b>Kenmore Community Block Party</b><br>Come see the Lodge and members of our<br>Masonic Family from 10 AM to 2 PM on<br>Saturday, September 26. \$5 for adults ages 18+<br>and free for children. 1201 Washington Ave,<br>Fredericksburg, VA 22401 |                                                                      |                                                     |

## Masonic Anniversaries

|                             |         |                              |    |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------------|----|
| Bro. John W. Thomas, Jr.    | 67 yrs. | Bro. Benjamin B. Bursae      | 17 |
| Bro. Charles L. Trigger     | 60      | Bro. Lyndell D. Griffin, Jr. | 16 |
| Bro. Douglas C. Holbrook    | 53      | Bro. Mark W. Gilday          | 16 |
| Bro. Joseph J. Bansky       | 52      | Bro. Dennis L. David         | 16 |
| Wor. Michael J. McCray      | 43      | Bro. John A. Gaby, Jr.       | 15 |
| Bro. Henry H. McCaslin, Jr. | 39      | Bro. Frederic N. Howe, III   | 15 |
| R.W. William R. Brammer     | 35      | Bro. Tom R. VanBlaricome     | 15 |
| Bro. Alan F. Embrey         | 33      | Bro. Kenneth H. McSpadden    | 14 |
| Bro. Richard C. Knick, II   | 24      | Bro. Shawn R. Butterfield    | 13 |
| Bro. Joseph S. Diggs        | 21      | Bro. Walt D. Callies         | 12 |
| Bro. Ronald A. Peacock      | 21      | Wor. James M. Snyder         | 12 |
| Bro. Michael C. Meisberger  | 20      | Bro. Roger A. Smith, II      | 11 |
| Bro. Michael E. Dillard     | 17      | Bro. Ethan G. Burgess        | 3  |
| Bro. Stephen L. Marshall    | 17      | Bro. William T. Blanchard    | 3  |
| Bro. Jeffrey C. McClain     | 17      | Bro. Joshua W. Miller        | 2  |

## Master's Message

*State of the Lodge,  
August 2026*

Seth Roderick, WM

Brethren and Friends,

August was again awash in Degree work and work around the Lodge. Thanks to the "Tuesday Crew" led by Wor. Snyder and Bro. Carey for completing the new flooring on the mezzanine level stairs. A beautiful and much needed upgrade from the old, ragged carpet. This was intense labor for sure.

Our community service continued with Red Cross blood drives on Thursday, August 6, at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, and Tuesday, August 11, at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library. Our Blood Drive program is strong under the leadership of Bro. Jeff Adams, who also serves as the District Blood Coordinator.

R.W. Bill Thomas will presented a lecture on Brother Lt. Col. James Monroe, while Mr. Bill Garner presented a lecture on Brother President George Washington, wrapping up our VA250 Fredericksburg Revolutionary War history program for 2026, in partnership with the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation. These public service historical programs, began in April, served to open the doors to Fredericksburg No. 4, strengthen our community partnerships and demystify Freemasonry to the public at large. The programs averaged 40-50 attendees per program and were free to the public. Tours of our historic Temple were provided at the conclusion of each program.



*before & after*



Past Masters' Night was held on August 14 with R.W. Dennis Berry will presiding in the East as we recognized the 40th anniversary of his service as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1986. Thank you to R.W. Berry and all the Past Masters of this Lodge who have served as our chief steward and continue to carry the lamp of truth and light as exemplary Brothers.

The month concluded with a Fredericksburg Area Museum partner program, *What Remains*. The second such sold out program this year provided the public with an up-close viewing and presentation on many of our treasured archives, including the Obligation Bible, which Brother Washington and many of his contemporaries took their Masonic oath upon, the Stuart painting of Washington, a sash worn by Wor. Daniel Campbell, the 1700s Minute Book, historic aprons, and many other items. Thanks to Wor. Mike Dove and Ms. Kylie Thomson of FAM for providing this program.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Seth Roderick, WM



***Top, left to right:*** James Snyder (2019), Daniel Goodwin (2018), Robert Brammer (2002), Christopher Tripp (2021), and Shelby Chandler (2011).

***Bottom, left to right:*** Michael Dove (2025), James Ragsdale (2016), Daniel Thompson (2001), Thomas Shelton (1988), Dennis Berry (1986), Steven Gallahan (1996), Charles Cooper (2003, Occoquan No. 310), Patrick McConnell (2024), and Sanford Mackey (2010).



## Secretary's Corner

My Brethren,

With the coming of fall, we're entering a busy time of year Masonically. As we resume our normal routines of work, school, and other activities after summer vacations, travel, and the like, we hope you will include time for your Brethren and Lodge in your busy plans. All Master Masons are invited to attend the Area School in Kinsale on September 19th, where we be participating with the rest of the District in exemplifying the Master Mason's Degree. This is not only an opportunity to brush up on the Ritual but is also a good time of fellowship. Right around the corner is the Grand Master's Official Visit to our Lodge on November 2nd, followed by the Grand Annual Communication on November 6th and 7th. All Master Masons should make it a point to attend Grand Lodge at least once, as this is a great opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of Masonry in Virginia and meet good Brethren from around the Commonwealth. How do you find out about these and the numerous other events at our and other Lodges around the state? Besides our Trestle Board, there are our weekly announcements and a detailed calendar of events on Grand View. If you're not getting the weekly announcements or need help signing up for Grand View, please reach out and we can assist you.

Speaking of Grand View, I'd urge you again to make sure we have your up-to-date contact information, including your mailing address, email, and phone number. Lastly, I'd encourage you to let your next of kin know how to contact the Lodge in the event of emergency or your eventual demise. This last week, we laid to rest a good Brother, Bro. Ralph A. Hicks, Jr., and the Lodge was blessed to be able to honor our Brother and console the family by attending his funeral and offering Masonic graveside services. Bro. Hicks was the son of Rt. Wor. Ralph Hicks, Sr., Past Master and PDDGM, long-time Secretary, and mentor to many who passed the West Gate over many years. I only knew him briefly as he passed away while I was going through my Degrees. But sadly, we often don't have the opportunity to perform this solemn duty because we may not hear of a Brother's passing till long after he's been laid to rest, and the indissoluble chain of Brotherly Love and affection survives the grave and continues on after death to his widow and family. So we encourage you to let your family know your wishes in regard to Masonic services, and to let them know who to contact when you're no longer here so we can add your wife to our Widow's Program and ensure we're aware of any needs they might have.

S&F,

Christopher Tripp, PM  
Secretary



## Secretary's Corner (cont.)

Brethren,

We have a new text message group chat for active brothers who want to get the most timely updates on our degree work and Masonic activities going on in the area. It includes our Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and even Master Masons from a few other local Lodges. Weekly event and degree work emails will continue to be sent, but if you wish to join this group chat as an additional way to stay in touch with our community, please contact us at [secretary@masoniclodge4.org](mailto:secretary@masoniclodge4.org) with your cell number and we will add you. If you need to leave the group you can be re-added anytime without hassle or worry. Sometimes we get busy and need to prioritize other commitments in our life. Please note you will need to have the RCS (Rich Communication Services) group message setting enabled on your phone to make the most of this opportunity, as this chat includes phones of all different kinds and RCS allows for optimal interfacing between message types. Please let me know if you have any questions.

S&F,

Ethan Burgess  
Assistant Secretary



fredericksburg  
theatre  
ensemble  
is proud to present

# AARON SORKIN'S A FEW GOOD MEN

Sep. 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

USE CODE:  
AFGMMil20

## 20% off

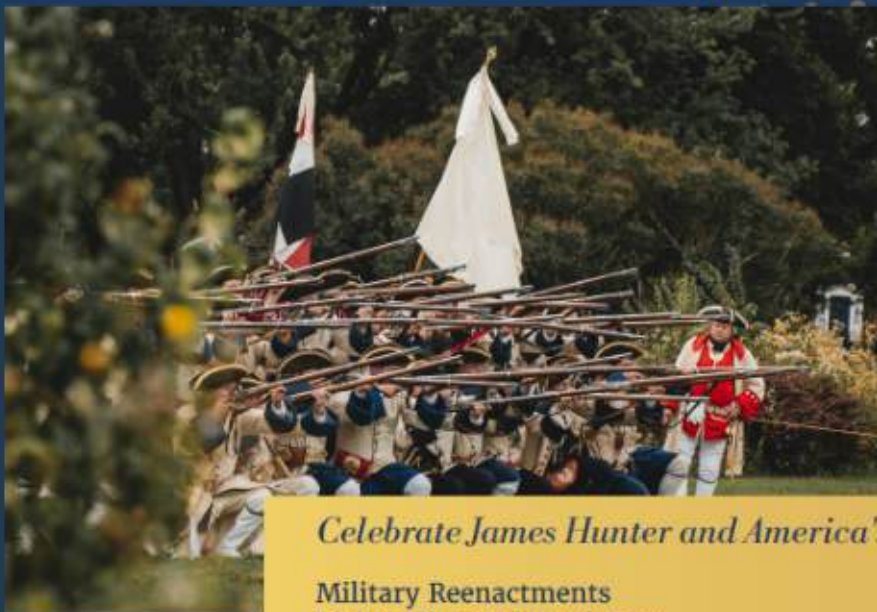
For veterans and active military  
personnel. Must show valid military  
I.D at box office check-in.

"A Few Good Men" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)  
Allstate Community Theater | 810 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 | 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Freedom Forge Foundation presents

# REVOLUTION ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK

STAFFORD COUNTY  
**VIRGINIA**<sub>250</sub>  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION



*Celebrate James Hunter and America's Independence!*

Military Reenactments  
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## October 10-11, 2026

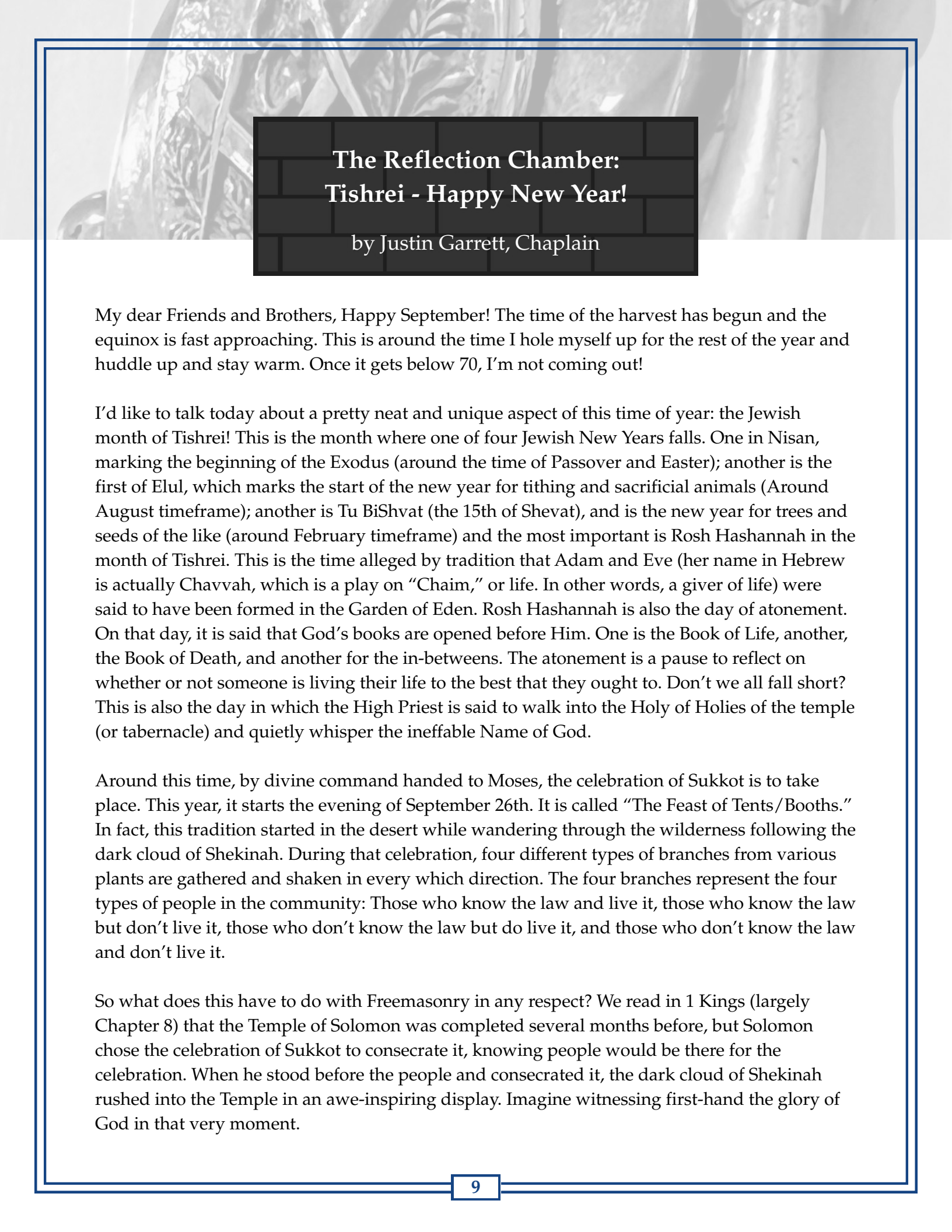
Falmouth, Virginia

Details



★  
**Freedom Forge**  
FOUNDATION

[FreedomForgeFoundation.org](https://FreedomForgeFoundation.org)



## The Reflection Chamber: Tishrei - Happy New Year!

by Justin Garrett, Chaplain

My dear Friends and Brothers, Happy September! The time of the harvest has begun and the equinox is fast approaching. This is around the time I hole myself up for the rest of the year and huddle up and stay warm. Once it gets below 70, I'm not coming out!

I'd like to talk today about a pretty neat and unique aspect of this time of year: the Jewish month of Tishrei! This is the month where one of four Jewish New Years falls. One in Nisan, marking the beginning of the Exodus (around the time of Passover and Easter); another is the first of Elul, which marks the start of the new year for tithing and sacrificial animals (Around August timeframe); another is Tu BiShvat (the 15th of Shevat), and is the new year for trees and seeds of the like (around February timeframe) and the most important is Rosh Hashannah in the month of Tishrei. This is the time alleged by tradition that Adam and Eve (her name in Hebrew is actually Chavvah, which is a play on "Chaim," or life. In other words, a giver of life) were said to have been formed in the Garden of Eden. Rosh Hashannah is also the day of atonement. On that day, it is said that God's books are opened before Him. One is the Book of Life, another, the Book of Death, and another for the in-betweens. The atonement is a pause to reflect on whether or not someone is living their life to the best that they ought to. Don't we all fall short? This is also the day in which the High Priest is said to walk into the Holy of Holies of the temple (or tabernacle) and quietly whisper the ineffable Name of God.

Around this time, by divine command handed to Moses, the celebration of Sukkot is to take place. This year, it starts the evening of September 26th. It is called "The Feast of Tents/Booths." In fact, this tradition started in the desert while wandering through the wilderness following the dark cloud of Shekinah. During that celebration, four different types of branches from various plants are gathered and shaken in every which direction. The four branches represent the four types of people in the community: Those who know the law and live it, those who know the law but don't live it, those who don't know the law but do live it, and those who don't know the law and don't live it.

So what does this have to do with Freemasonry in any respect? We read in 1 Kings (largely Chapter 8) that the Temple of Solomon was completed several months before, but Solomon chose the celebration of Sukkot to consecrate it, knowing people would be there for the celebration. When he stood before the people and consecrated it, the dark cloud of Shekinah rushed into the Temple in an awe-inspiring display. Imagine witnessing first-hand the glory of God in that very moment.

The various plants shaken about should remind us of our fellow Brethren as well. How many don't know the way? How many do? How many are scholars of the craft or endeavor to live it whether they know the deepest recesses of the fraternal lore or not? Even those Brothers with whom we've had our differences can still teach us something, even if it's just how not to be, or perhaps an insight to the mind of someone who might be struggling with something deeper that bubbles to the surface under a different premise. Either way, our community and fraternity are an insight to how life could be, how society could be, how our struggles and successes might manifest in daily life. I'll quote one of my favorite bands, Chiodos, and their song To Trixie and Reptile, Thanks for Everything: "Nothing is perfect, but it has to be someday." Perhaps that someday might not happen in our lifetimes, but it's worth it to try.

In truth, The Temple, as we symbolically build it, is never complete. There are still yet candidates to initiate, wardens to sign certificates for, and dinners to plan. Moreso still, we have our own living stones to polish, and that endeavor is never complete. Gregory of Nyssa was an early father in the Orthodox church in modern Turkiye who believed that, if God is truly infinite, and the object of theosis is to approach God, then we too will never truly get there. So too must we endeavor to build The Temple each and every day with every thought, word, and deed which comes from us. This month is a great opportunity to take stock and see where we fall short, where we could be better, what could be improved that we can control. Perhaps there is a rough corner we have overlooked, perhaps there is a possibility to bring someone into the fold who has been absent for a time, perhaps it is a time of rest after working our proverbial fields.

So may your names, too, be written in God's Great Book of Life, my dear Friends and Brothers! Forget not the good you have done all this time, take stock of that! Acknowledge just the same where you might improve. May the Supreme Architect of the Universe and the Great and Beneficent Author of Our Existences bless us, each and every one, during this wonderful time of harvest and reflection. Enjoy the equinox, how time speeds and slows, how the sands of our hourglasses pass almost imperceptibly, how the ebbs and flows of life pull and release the tides of our lives. Mankind did not weave the web of life, he is merely a part of it. Enjoy the fall weather and forget not that winter fast approaches. Take the time to remember our dearly departed (of which there are just too many to count), and pick up the torches which they carried and laid down for us to pick up. Blessings and love to you all!

From the Brightest Seat in the House,

Justin C. G. Garrett  
Chaplain and Catechism Chair



## Compass of Virtue

by Seth Roderick, WM

In this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 I am reminded of many things from that day and, more importantly, the years since. Notably, the long march of time and the important reminder, though that march be long and full of obstacles, it is more necessary now, after 25 years, to maintain a course, guided by lamp and compass, toward truth.

In those years since 9/11 our country has experienced unity and disunity, war interrupted by periods of peace, economic windfall and downfall, monuments raised and monuments razed, we have remembered our sufferings and we have forgotten our blessings. But the long march of time goes on.

Most of us reading this remember that horrid day looking back. Some reading this are young and looking forward, entering the workforce and starting families, but can only remember what became of us in 9/11's aftermath. So, it is for them I write this, so hopefully they can remind us who bear the burden of remembering that day, of what we should be. Not what we have become.

The compass of virtue does not point North, South, East, or West; for this is the compass of virtue after all, not the compass of the virtuous. On this compass of virtue are four cardinal points: temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice. These are the cardinal points which guide us in times of trial, tribulation, and jubilation.

As we think back on the trials, tribulations, and jubilations in the years since 9/11, let us remind ourselves of what these virtues mean in context. Temperance is what makes personal sacrifice and the ability to govern ourselves possible. Fortitude is the strength which perpetuates freedom of conscience, a freedom that not granted to us but is ours inherently to acknowledge the conscience of others. Prudence forms ideas into good daily habits and improves the institutions we build from them. Justice lets us recognize and uphold the rights of man with both firmness and mercy.

By using the compass of virtue for Temperance we are enabled to make ordinary choices right, by Fortitude our conscience is not confined by revenge and anger, by Prudence we are able to look beyond urgency and self-interest, and by Justice our minds are free to appeal to toleration and recognize charity.

Guided by the compass of virtue we must remember 9/11 and its effect on us all, but we must not dwell on it. The compass is designed to guide us forward, not backward.

In the long march of time may we always move forward to put distance from darkness toward the light of truth.

*If we are to be strong, let us be good.*

## *Bethel #16 Job's Daughters International*

Bringing you news of what is happening with Bethel #16. The Bethel has started their Fall Term under the leadership of Kerry N, Honored Queen. We started the term off on Sunday, August 23, 2026 with our Back to School Ice Cream Social. We had a very good time with our guests and enjoyed the goodies and games.

Our regular meeting followed. We had the privilege to have our Deputy Grand Guardian, Mom Gabriella D, attend and assist with installing our new council members. Mom Mary St John was installed as our Bethel Guardian; and Jamie Snyder, Associate Bethel Guardian; Mom Amie Nester, Guardian Secretary; Dad Brad Nester, Guardian Treasurer and Mom Erin Slagle, Guardian Director of Epochs. The council is excited to lead the Bethel this year and are working promote the activities of the daughters.

Job's Daughters International mission is to create strong young leaders (women) respecting tradition and shaping the future. The shy daughters who join grow into confident young women alongside the many friendships they form throughout their participation. The daughters of each Bethel lead themselves by planning their own activities, learning teamwork and problem solving that prepare them for their future.

We ask that you consider attending our meetings and get acquainted with 'your' Bethel. We also ask and hope that if you know of a young girl who would be interested in becoming "One of the Fairest in all the Land" that you forward our information to them and their parents. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month at 5:00 pm. There will be times when we need to change our meetings and ask that you check with us to insure we are meeting. Our daughters love to meet the men who 'gave them their inheritance'. We hope to see you soon –

Mary St. John, Bethel Guardian

Contact Information:

[Bethel16@jdiva.org](mailto:Bethel16@jdiva.org)

540-287-0233

## 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](http://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!



## Advertise With Lodge No. 4

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](mailto:Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org) for details.

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

*Your  
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# 2026 Lodge Officers

To reach a lodge officer, please contact [Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org](mailto:Secretary@MasonicLodge4.org)  
to request their contact information.

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

## Lodge Program Officers

|                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Lodge Blood Drive Coordinator</b> | Jeff Adams            |
| <b>Lodge Instructor of Work</b>      | Christopher Tripp, PM |
| <b>Lodge Education Officer</b>       | Bob Melvin            |
| <b>Masonic Home Ambassador</b>       | Joseph Ilk            |
| <b>Lodge Catechism Chair</b>         | Justin Garrett        |

## Committee Chairs

|                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Funeral Committee</b>          | Justin Garrett        |
| <b>Website &amp; Social Media</b> | Ethan Burgess         |
| <b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>    | Rand Sompayrac        |
| <b>Finance</b>                    | Robert Brammer, PDDGM |
| <b>Sick &amp; Widows</b>          | Patrick McConnell, PM |
| <b>Archives</b>                   | 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 |