



MARCH- 2024

TRESTLEBOARD

Ashland Lodge No. 168

Message from East

WOR. CHRISTOPHER S. TOMLIN

Greetings, Brethren and Friends of Ashland Lodge,

A lot of great things are happening in Ashland! The bonds of the Brotherhood continue to grow day by day. In February, eight brothers from Ashland 168 visited Midlothian 211 to support Bro. Pat Fox has been visiting with us for a while now. On February 20, 10 brothers visited Mann Page Lodge in Providence Forge to support RW Lowell Harris. Our next stop is planned for Fredericksburg #4 on March 8. Please help us show everyone the camaraderie and friendship we share.

Your Lodge is supporting some very worthy causes. We are collecting paper goods (paper towels, napkins, paper plates, etc.) for the Fisher House, where veteran families can stay while their loved ones receive care at McGuire's V.A. Hospital. We are also collecting non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products for the student pantry at Patrick Henry High School, which gives students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to get these items free of charge. Please consider donating these items so our Lodge can continue these works of community service. Boxes are available downstairs at the Lodge.

Worshipful McIntire reports that we are 123% of our goal for blood donations, and we have another drive scheduled for March 18 from 1-6 pm at the Ashland YMCA. Again, Thank You to the brothers who have dedicated much of their time and efforts to this worthy cause. A few other reminders for March. Please bring a friend who is a Master Mason or someone who has not been to Lodge in a while to our Stated Meeting this month. We are trying to do some good work in Ashland. Let them see how proud they can be of their Lodge. If everyone could bring just one person, imagine what a fantastic evening of fellowship we could have. The Hanover Chapter of the Eastern Star has two events to put on has two events to put on your calendar. On March 16 at 11 am, there is an open event for the installation of officers. Valerie Layman will be installed as the Worthy Matron, and our own Garry Corker will be installed as Worthy Patron. RSVPs are requested. They will also be celebrating their 75th anniversary on July 21; it should be an event worth attending; more info to come.

Lastly, The OES has made their "world-famous" chocolate easter eggs; even though most have been sold, there are still over 1000 eggs available. Please help sell them or get some for yourselves and your family. The proceeds all go to excellent causes. I am looking forward to seeing you all on March 21!

Upcoming Lodge Events

Lodge Catechism/Practice
MARCH 7 @ 6:30 PM

Fredericksburg #4 Fraternal Visit
MARCH 8 @ 7:30 PM

Lodge Catechism/Practice
MARCH 14 @ 6:30 PM

Hotdogs at Lodge
MARCH 15 @ 11:30 AM

Blood Drive @ Ashland YMCA
MARCH 18 @ 1-6 PM

Stated Meeting
MARCH 21 @ 7PM
SOCIAL HOUR @ 5:30PM
MEAL @ 6PM

Master and Wardens
MARCH 23 @ 8:30 AM

Lodge Catechism/Practice
MARCH 28 @ 6:30 PM

Masonic Education Corner

BY BRO. ADAM LONG

As I sit here in the cafeteria of Hanover High School, supervising these young people, for whom I hold high regard and hope, the notion occurs to me that the veil of youth doesn't so much lift throughout life; rather, it wears thin from the trials and tribulations to which life unequivocally subjects each man. We collect moments and memories as we age; and unfortunately at times, it's the darker ones that inhabit us, leaving us with the conundrum of how to best move forward without succumbing to the burden of accumulated tragedy. This February, Brethren, has proven to be one of the more difficult months of my 51 years of age. I'll not bore you with the details and dirt which has made it so, but I do find myself looking for the most healing next steps in this journey, as well as helping loved ones do the same.

Thankfully, Masonry has been a blessing for me in these past few weeks. It has helped me navigate the emotional, factual, relation, and personal complexities that accompany this difficult time. Wisdom, strength, and beauty are three specific ideas that I carry and reflect on daily. Whether I am faced with a precocious adolescent in whose world I exist simply to be an annoying and oppressive presence — I'm a high school administrator, for those who don't know me — or whether I am faced with gut-wrenching truths about people whom I love, and the tragedy that ensues as a result of those truths, I have found myself turning to those three words: Wisdom, Strength, Beauty.

As I was faced with some life-altering circumstances, I remember asking a family member a few weeks back, in a moment of despair, "What do we do with all of this?" I didn't what to do with all the emotion, the complication, the heartbreak. I slept on it, I read some Scripture, I studied, and I reflected on the Craft; and this is what I can surmise. What we do in Lodge can illuminate a proper way to deal with these challenges. When faced with those thoughts, feelings, and complexities that we need to integrate into our new "normal", we have to guard the door of our mind, body and spirit — like the Tiler — with a sword, cutting down the cowans (who seek to gain favor by deceitful imitation) and eavesdroppers (who seek to gain unmerited advantage for self-serving purposes). These are the thoughts and feelings that undermine our potential for redemption, recovery, or fulfillment, stealing our value.

But that's just the beginning. Thoughts, emotions, and circumstances are complex and messy things; so, we have to vet them thoroughly before we accept them as part of our Self, our Temple. So, just as in Lodge, it's important that we keep the object of our Faith, that which sits on the altar, as the axis around which we travel through this vetting and integrative process. After we initially recognize of the apparent worth or face value of what it is we are trying to deal with, and find it worthy enough to deal with, our first order of business it to take a positive or constructive attitude when determining how to move forward. To do this, we can first look to the South, a place of beauty. It's here we first remind ourselves that despite the situation, there is beauty to be seen, even in the midst of so much ugliness.

Then, we can look to the West, the place of expansion and growth, historically, and strength, as we are taught in the EA and MM lectures. Keeping faith at the center of our journey, and taking an attitude of seeking the beautiful rather than conceding to the negative, we can be strengthened and emboldened to stand up under the pressure of difficulty and inevitable pain that comes with growing through all of it.

Finally, we arrive at the East, archetypally the place of spirituality, where we pause to look up at the light and consult that part of us that seeks to ascend beyond the place we currently are; symbolically, that part of us that connects to the divine. Here, we consult all the working tools about which we have been taught. Through the lens of the beauty, and with an assurance that we have the innate strength through faith, we can feel confident to decide how to integrate whatever the experience is, in order to make some good of it.

Truth, as we are told in the Entered Apprentice Lecture, is the first lesson we are taught as Masons, but it's tough. Life is full of experiences that uncover the truth of our circumstances, some of which we'd just rather ignore or avoid: we get a diagnosis, a loved one betrays us, we experience an unspeakable act. And the older we get, the more of these types of experiences accumulate and weigh upon us if we let them. They are the things which dim the light and the hopeful exuberance of youth. Despite all of that, though, this gift of existence that we've been given is sublime, if we can see the beauty, feel the strength, and hear the wisdom that God has provided for us. I am thankful that Masonry has provided me that framework to help me work through these things. I suppose each man has his journey, and our symbols and our inclinations factor into what we derive from the experiences we have with the Craft, but I do know it's a good thing, Masonry; a helpful thing, and there so much to be learned. So seek to act wisely, be strong, and see the world as beautiful, Brethren.

Masonic Birthdays

WOR. LLOYD THOMAS HALL, III
MARCH 26

BRO. JOHN CARROLL BECK
MARCH 26





Highlights from last month



Did we miss something?

SUBMIT YOUR PICTURES TO US @

E-MAIL: ASHLAND168@ASHLAND168.COM



Living Past Masters

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1964- C.M. Reece | 1994- S.F. Stone, Sr. | 2015- J.U. Harrison |
| 1976- D.M. Pearson, Jr. | 1998- D.F. Lyons | 2016(17)- R.R. Seitz |
| 1976- J.L. Harris | 2004- A.L. Christiansen, Jr. | 2018- R.L. McIntire III |
| 1981- W.B. Howard | 2007- J.M. Puryear, Jr. | 2019- G.C. Duvall |
| 1987- W.T. Cage | 2010- M.P. Coyle | 2020(21)- G.C. Corker |
| 1988- E.E. Fisher | 2011- M.S. Ball | 2022- J.M. Parrish |
| 1989(90)- A.S. Peyton | 2013- L.T. Hall, III | 2023- G.W. Six |
| 1992- W.T. Marshburn, Jr. | 2014- A.M. Boor | |

Past District Deputy Grand Masters

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1960- RW M.B. Young | 2001- RW E.E. Fisher |
| 1969- RW J.D. Nelson | 2005- RW L.J. Sloppy (1B) |
| 1975- RW D.M. Pearson, Jr. | 2007- RW J.L. Harris |
| 1976- RW R.L. Gibbs (15C) | 2013- RW L.S. Ball |
| 1982- MW A.W. Adkins | 2019- RW D.M. Boor |
| 1995- RW S.F. Stone, Sr. | |

Legacy Members in Perpetuity

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1996- C.H. Burnette | 2005- J.M. Puryear, Jr. |
| 1996- W.T. Cage | 2011- K.G. Sands |
| 1995- S.F. Stone, Sr. | 2012- J.M. Parrish |
| 1996- A.L. Traylor, Jr. | 2012- R.R. Seitz |
| 1997- E.F. Fisher | 2016- M.P. Coyle |
| 1998- D.F. Lyons | 2016- J.C. Perry |
| 2000- J.C. Beck | 2016- L.T. Hall, III |
| 2002- L. Nuckols, Sr. | 2017- D.A. Emerson |
| 2004- R.C. Nuckols | 2018- J.U. Harrison |
| | 2019- R.L. McIntire III |

Trustees

- R.W. Johnnie Lowel Harris
 Wor. Robert Leroy McIntire, III
 Bro. R. Allen Davidson

Contact Us

E-MAIL: ASHLAND168@ASHLAND168.COM

FIND AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK BY SEARCHING FOR ASHLAND LODGE NO. 168

ASHLAND LODGE NO. 168
212 ENGLAND STREET
ASHLAND, VA 23005

WWW.ASHLAND168.COM





[Upcoming District 8 Events](#)

March 23- District 8 Masters and Wardens (Master Masons Only)

March 26 - District 8 Ritual School Fredericksburg

[Upcoming Grand Lodge Events](#)

Virginia Freemasonry

FIND AND LIKE DISTRICT 8 ON FACEBOOK BY SEARCHING FOR VA MASONIC DISTRICT 8

FIND AND LIKE THE GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA ON FACEBOOK BY SEARCHING FOR GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA

