

Semper Fidelis

Trestleboard

May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Look to the East

To my Masonic Family,

March has been a month of reflection, celebration, and continued growth for our beloved Semper Fidelis Lodge. As we carry forward the momentum of our Masonic journey, I am thrilled to share with you the highlights and developments that have marked our progress.

Our recent Ladies Night Out at the Ribeye Steakhouse was a delightful experience, filled with camaraderie and festive spirit. I would like to extend special recognition to Worshipful Brother Howard Kahn, who has been the stalwart leader of this event for many years. His dedication and effort in orchestrating these gatherings have significantly contributed to fostering the strong community spirit we cherish in our Lodge.

In the spirit of Masonic advancement and enlightenment, we extend our warmest congratulations to Brothers Alexander Alcon and Craig Boucher, who have been passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Their journey towards gaining more light in Masonry is an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the continuous path of learning and growth that defines our Masonic pursuit.

Recent events have brought to light the importance of vigilance and security within our fraternity. The unfortunate incident of the break-in at the Charlotte York Rite and the distribution of a misleading 'manifesto' have reminded us of the need to protect our sacred spaces and the integrity of our teachings. As Freemasons, we are urged to remain alert, yet open-hearted, maintaining our bond with the community while safeguarding our lodges against such acts of disruption.

In light of these events, the Grand Master, Donald E. Kehler, has emphasized the importance of not allowing such actions to sow discord or fear among us. Instead, we are called to reinforce our unity, reach out to our brethren, and engage with our community, reflecting the noble principles of Freemasonry.

In these challenging times, let us remember the charge of an Entered Apprentice, to not let our zeal for the institution lead us into argument with those who, through ignorance, may ridicule it. Our strength lies in our unity, wisdom, and the benevolent principles that have guided Freemasons through the ages.

As we continue our journey, let us stand together as a fraternity that not only upholds the light of Masonry but also extends its warm and guiding glow to the wider community. Let's



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Officers of the Lodge 2024

	Master	Dustin Wood	
Senior Warden	Michael Bartlett	Junior Warden	J.P. Ledford
Treasurer	Earl Wilson	Secretary	WB Jason Caldwell
Senior Deacon	Antonio Saenz, Jr	Junior Deacon	Jimmy Johnson
Senior Steward		Junior Steward	
Tyler	WB Henry Drake	Chaplain	WB Denny Norris

Brethren, please do not forget to take a moment, as we always do in our Lodge; to remember the sick, ailing, and those away from their families defending our way of life...and add to it our families.

On the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

A couple of things of importance to note:

1. The Lodge has a cell phone number to use in emergency instances. This phone will only be turned on during Lodge events (such as meetings). Please give this number to your loved ones to get in touch with the Lodge in such cases. (472) 206-9840
2. As we attend our many functions and enjoy the manifold blessings the Fraternity provides, let us remember that HARMONY is the strength and support of this institution. No group of individuals have ever continually had the same thoughts and opinions when it came to the business of a Lodge. What separates us is that we can have our differences inside the Lodge and then proceed to leave on the level and live harmoniously together. 'Our hearts and tongues join in promoting each other's welfare, and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.' Let us strive to be that individual who lives according to the rules and designs laid down.

If you have any updates to your address, phone number, email address, please send to:

semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com.

Jason Caldwell
Secretary

"No Petitioner is so important, and no increase in numbers is so urgent, that we cannot take time to thoroughly investigate all those who knock upon our doors."

Upcoming Events

Brethren,

Upcoming events are in the works and if you have any ideas for our Lodge bring them up so we can all benefit from your ideas.

- 06 Apr—Davie Academy—Appointed Officers
- 10 Apr—Stated—Education on Grandview
- 11 Apr—Ladies Crafting Group—contact Donna Wilson
- 14 Apr—DeMolay—Initiatory Degree
- 20 Apr—Monthly Breakfast
- 24 Apr—Stated—Education by Br Matt Parker
- 25 Apr—Coaches Clinic
- 27 Apr—Ladies Night Out—Marina Café 1730
- 28 Apr—DeMolay—DeMolay Degree
- 30 Apr—Master Mason Degree
- 04 May—Onslow County Masonic Scholarship Selection at Semper Fidelis
- 11 May—Whitestone Family Day



All of these events are located on the calendar online with details. Remember that we have transitioned to GrandView. Please log onto GrandView at nc.grandview.systems.

If anyone wants to help with the upcoming events, please let the Officers know.

Look to the East cont:

remain rooted in our ancient wisdom while actively engaging in the world around us, proving that the timeless values we hold dear are as relevant and transformative today as they have ever been.

In our myriad of activities and commitments, it is essential to acknowledge those who touch our hearts and enrich our Masonic journey. On this note, I wish to recognize Ms. Annie Aquino, whose warmth and dedication have left a lasting imprint on us all. Her tireless service and the kindness she extends to everyone she meets embody the true spirit of the Masonic Family and charity.

We eagerly anticipate our upcoming visit to Whitestone, not just for the fellowship and activities we cherish but to see Ms. Annie, whose presence is a reminder of the gentle strength and compassion that underpins our Masonic values. Let us carry forward this anticipation and ensure our visit is a time of joy and shared appreciation for the wonderful community that Ms. Annie represents.

As we reflect on the events and achievements of our lodge, the broader Masonic community, and the individuals who enrich our journey, let us also contemplate the virtue of patience. Patience is more than a virtue; it is a foundational stone in the edifice of our Masonic teachings. In our Craft, the plumb line serves as a powerful symbol of this virtue, reminding us to strive for balance and integrity in our actions and thoughts. Just as the plumb line allows a builder to achieve true verticality, patience guides us to align our lives with the principles of Freemasonry, ensuring our deeds are just and our intentions pure.

As we navigate the complexities of our daily lives and the broader challenges facing our fraternity, let the steadfastness and equilibrium of the plumb line inspire us to embody patience in all our endeavors. In doing so, we uphold the noble traditions of our ancient Craft, fostering a legacy of wisdom, strength, and beauty for generations to come.

Fraternē
Dustin M. Wood
Master



Center: Brothers Jimmy Johnson and Parker Maxwell are our newest Scottish Rite Masons, Valley of New Bern. They are standing with our Master Dustin Wood, the Secretary of the Knights of St Andrew.

Below: DeMolay boys being presented awards for their accomplishments and service.

Below: DeMolay boys after their Installation of Officers.





Happy Birthday Brothers

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/04 DANIEL RAINS
04/07 DONALD BUTCHER
04/15 JOSEPH MURRAY
04/21 JEREMY ROBERTS
04/25 WILLIAM FITZPATRICK

04/04 MAT RAYMOND
04/11 HAMPTON HADLEY
04/16 LEONARD TROTTER
04/24 MICHAEL HODGES
04/28 QUINTON HARRIS

04/05 DUSTIN SHANLE
04/13 LUIS MARTINEZ
04/18 GILBERT MOCTEZUMA JR
04/24 JARED PEARCE

MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/02 EARL WILSON JR
05/13 JUSTIN HEIGOLD
05/24 ROBERT WOLD

05/03 CHARLES COOK
05/14 ROGER PENROD
05/25 R. LOREN JONES

05/05 ANTONIO SAENZ JR
05/16 SHON BRODIE
05/26 WARREN BAILEY

Those in **BOLD** are over the age of 70

Necrology Report

Brethren,

Thankfully, we have not had any of our Brothers from our Lodge lay down their working tools of life in the past month.

Ensure your families know your wishes upon passing. Notifying the Lodge and requesting Masonic Honors (if you so desire) is vital to ensure we get things accomplished according to your wishes.

Join us in Congratulating our newest
Fellowcrafts!!



Brothers Alexander Alcon and
Craig Boucher were
passed to the Degree of
Fellowcraft.

Thank you Doric 568 for the
courtesy work!!

Masonic Education:

Would an Artificial Intelligence Want to Petition a Lodge?

RW Brother Chad M. Lacgk Past Master of Dundee Lodge No. 190 Carpentersville, IL

I was recently made aware of an open Artificial Intelligence (AI) chat that became available late last year; called ChatGPT. This amazing resource has been used by many people to create things in seconds that would take a human hours to do.

Need some computer code to perform a complex data handling task? Just tell ChatGPT what result you want, and it will take care of the how. Clever (and lazy) students have been using it to write their term papers. It became so common, that administrators requested wrote it.

I wondered what this AI thought of our Fraternity. I asked it, "Can you compose a poem about the benefits of living a life informed by the values in Freemasonry?" This was its response:

ChatGPT AI:

A life informed by the values of Freemasonry
Is one filled with purpose, direction and charity,
A path of self-improvement integrity and fraternity
A journey of enlightenment; kindness and generosity.
In Freemasonry, we learn to be true to ourselves,
To strive for excellence in all that we do,

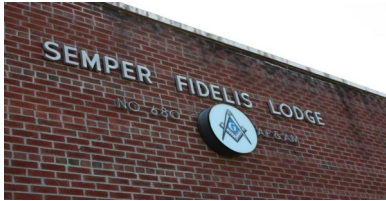
To be of service to others, to be kind and to help, To build a better world for me and for you.

Through the practice of its teachings and its symbolism,
We learn to be better men, to grow and to learn,
To be of service to our fellow man,
To build a world that is brighter and less stern.
Freemasonry offers a way to live a moral life
To be a light in the darkness, a beacon of hope;
To be of service to others to be kind and to help,
To build a better world for me and for you, as we cope.
So let us embrace the values of Freemasonry,
And live a life of purpose integrity and charity
A path of self-improvement, fraternity and generosity,
A journey of enlightenment, kindness, and humility.

Let's be honest This isn't great poetry by any standard But that's not the point. In the first place it's pretty neat that a computer wrote a poem,, What's much more significant are the words it selected to construct it.

Consider that this AI is using the sum total of the billions of bits of information available to it on the World Wide Web It's 'read' the conspiracy websites. It's seen the anti-Masonic blog posts. It knows about the Morgan Affair And yet, look again at what it wrote about our Fraternity

This isn't a biased opinion trying to advance some agenda. It's an impartial completely emotionless logic machine, looking at the available data and drawing a conclusion. Makes you feel good to be a



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Master

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Secretary

Jason Caldwell - (760) 670-7381

Masonic Education cont:

Freemason, doesn't it?

We are faced with a lot of noise from the 'Vocal Minority' in our society today. These are a small, dare I say insignificant, group of people that shout their opinions very loudly and very often. As a result, it can appear as though they represent a majority view, when in fact the civilized majority refrains from shouting. They don't need to.

This poem demonstrates that the totality of data about Freemasonry is overwhelmingly positive. I think we all knew that in our hearts, but it's nice to get confirmation. It does beg the question though, that when AI advances -to a level approaching consciousness, will your Lodge receive a petition from an artificial being? Good luck teaching it the due guards and signs.

The Wisdom of Yoda



“I ask of each Mason, of each member, of each brother, that he shall remember ever that there is upon him a peculiar obligation to show himself in every respect a good citizen; for after all, the way he can best do his duty by the ancient order to which he belongs is by reflecting credit upon that order by way in which he performs his duty as a citizen of the United States.” Brother Theodore Roosevelt.