

Semper Fidelis Trestleboard

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

Look to the East

Dear Brethren,

As we move forward with our journey, " Soaring into the Mystical Future" it's with a profound sense of pride that I reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments and events that have recently unfolded within our esteemed Semper Fidelis Lodge and the broader Masonic community, to which there are many in a short period.

Semper Fidelis Scholarship Meeting Triumph

Our annual scholarship meeting was a remarkable demonstration of brotherhood and generosity, as the Brothers of Onslow County rallied to raise over \$1,200 for the Onslow County Masonic Scholarship fund. This significant contribution will support well-deserving high school seniors as they embark on their educational journeys. The spirit of giving and commitment to our community's future leaders exemplifies the very essence of our Masonic values.

Grand Master's Historic Ritual Restoration Symposium

A landmark event in our lodge's storied history occurred with the Grand Master conducting his first Ritual Restoration Symposium right here at Semper Fidelis Lodge. This gathering, which filled our Lodge to capacity, was a testament to the unity and thirst for Masonic knowledge among Brothers near and far. The unprecedented opening of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina within our walls was an honor that underscored the significance of this symposium. Brothers had the opportunity to delve into the Degree work, sharing insights and reviving traditions that are the backbone of our fraternity.

Room of Reflection Completion

The completion of our Room of Reflection marks a milestone in our Lodge's journey. This sacred space, designed for introspection and meditation, embodies our theme's essence by linking our ancient wisdom with the pathways to our mystical future. It serves as a testament to our dedication to personal and collective growth, offering a sanctuary for Brothers to contemplate our craft's profound mysteries and their personal Masonic journey.

Ladies Night Out at Shogun Japanese Steakhouse

The recent Ladies' Night Out at Shogun Japanese Steakhouse was an evening filled with joy, laughter, and fellowship. It reminded us all that our Ladies are indeed the backbone of our Masonic endeavors, providing unwavering support that enables us to achieve great Masonic work. This event was a celebration of their indispensable role in our lives and in the fabric of our Lodge.



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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,

As we have been going through the roles of Semper Fidelis, we are finding some Brothers who have passed through those Pearly Gates and the Lodge has not been notified. Please ensure that we are notified, not only of the unfortunate concerns in your life but the blessings as well. We as a Lodge would love for our 'hearts and tongues to join together in promoting each others welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.'

We are also working incredibly diligently in ensuring our GrandView page is up to date. GrandView is quickly becoming the place to not only see what events are happening at Semper Fidelis but also those hosted by Grand Lodge. You are able to pay your dues online, sign up for different classes and events, and even find our Lodge By-Laws and a Bahnsen Manual. There are many benefits of GrandView. Check it out at the following site: nc.grandview.systems, and if you need assistance, let us know.

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.

- 09 Mar - Davie Academy Elected Officers
- 10 Mar - DeMolay Roadside Cleanup
- 13 Mar - Stated Meeting - Education presented by MENAC
- 14 Mar - Ladies Crafting Group
- 15-16 Mar - Valley of New Bern Scottish Rite Spring Reunion
- 16 Mar - Breakfast
- 21 Mar - Coaches Clinic
- 23 Mar - Ladies Night Out - Ribeye Steakhouse in Cape Carteret
- 24 Mar - DeMolay Installation of Officers
- 27 Mar - Stated Meeting - Education presented by Special Olympics
- 28 Mar - Onslow County Masonic Scholarship at New River Lodge



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:

Welcoming New Entered Apprentices

We are thrilled to welcome our newest Entered Apprentices, Brothers Alexander and David, to the Semper Fidelis family. Under the skillful leadership of Brother J.P. Ledford and the entire degree team, their initiation was a testament to the vibrancy and dedication that characterizes our Lodge. We look forward to their contributions and to witnessing their Masonic journey unfold.

Zion Lodge No. 81's Bicentennial Celebration

Our congratulations extend to Zion Lodge No. 81 on its momentous 200th anniversary. Attending their celebratory dinner was not only an honor but also a profound reminder of the enduring legacy and foundational principles of Freemasonry. Their storied history, predating even the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, enriches us all.

District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Lecturer Official Visit

The official visit from the District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Lecturer was both enlightening and encouraging. The reintroduction of the Traveling Gavel tradition within the 4th Masonic District signifies a renewed spirit of fellowship and friendly competition that strengthens our bonds across lodges.

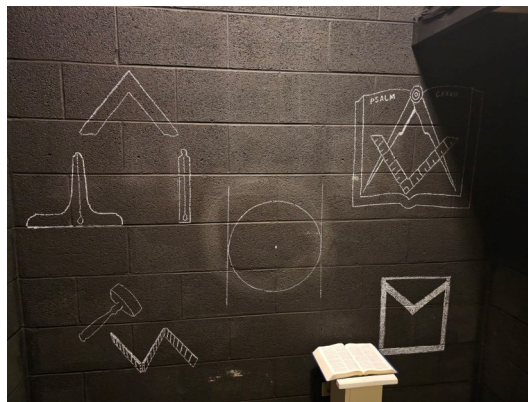
Congratulations to the Jacksonville DeMolay Chapter

In addition to our Lodge's remarkable achievements, it brings me immense pleasure to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Jacksonville DeMolay Chapter on their recent election of officers. A special acknowledgment is due to Worshipful Brother Tony's sons, who have exemplified the virtues and leadership qualities we hold dear in Freemasonry. His youngest, Chris, has been elected as the Master Councilor for the ensuing year, a role we are confident he will fulfill with distinction. Meanwhile, his oldest, Antonio—affectionately known among us as Brother Giggles—has received his Past Master Councilor Jewel, marking the conclusion of a remarkably successful term.

Their dedication and service to the Lodge and our community have been truly inspiring, and we look forward to witnessing their continued growth and contributions. The Installation of Officers, set for the 24th of March at 3 pm at Semper Fidelis Lodge, promises to be a significant event. I encourage all Brothers to attend and show their support for these young men, whose efforts and achievements significantly enrich our Lodge and the wider community. Let us come together to celebrate their accomplishments and offer our encouragement as they embark on this new chapter of their Masonic journey.

Brethren, as we reflect on these milestones, let us carry forward the energy, unity, and commitment they represent. Together, we will continue to honor our ancient traditions while embracing the future with an open heart and mind, ensuring that Freemasonry's light shines ever brighter in our lives and communities.

Fraternē
Dustin M. Wood
Master



Room of Reflection,
Entered Apprentice wall.



WBs Joe Reyes and Jason Caldwell with our WhiteStone adoptee, Ms. Annie Aquino.

Grand Master Don Kehler and Master Dustin Wood presenting WB Tony Saenz his gift and Past Master Certificate at the Grand Master Ritual Restoration Conference at Semper Fidelis.



Happy Birthday Brothers

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/02 BILLY FUSON JR
 03/06 JONATHAN PADGETT
 03/12 TIMOTHY BLACK
 03/13 WILLIAM HARRELL
03/23 ERNEST HALL
 03/25 ADAM HOGUE
03/30 ARTHUR THORNE

03/04 GEORGE GREENE
 03/07 NOAH RUNDELL
 03/13 JOHN GAINEY
 03/14 FRITZ LOWE
 03/24 SHAWN PYLE
 03/27 TYLER EASTGATE
03/31 MARTIN WALLACE

03/06 JOSEPH HOULE
03/10 CARLTON POULSEN
 03/13 MICHAEL GREENLEAF
 03/20 WINSTON MCMILLAN
 03/24 JOSEPH SHIRLEY
 03/28 CHRISTIAN KISSEL

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

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. We are finding a few Brothers who have passed and the Lodge was not notified. Please let your families know.

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

Entered Apprentices!!

Br. Alexander Alcon and Br. David Valentin standing with the Degree team and our guests from Prince Hall!!!



Masonic Education:

Courtesy of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

In 1879, the United States made Washington's February 22nd Birthday a federal holiday. Today, the third Monday in February is frequently referred to as "Presidents' Day." So, which is it? We get to the bottom of what's official and what's not.

George Washington was a humble man who did not enjoy flashy celebrations. During his lifetime, Washington paid little attention to his own birthday, and often celebrated it by responding to letters or attending to matters at Mount Vernon.

However, national celebration of his birthday began while he was alive and continued after his death. While his birthday is still recognized to this day, the parameters around it changed in the late 20th century, when it unofficially became known as "Presidents' Day."

The road to what the majority of the public in the United States now recognizes as Presidents' Day is a long and confusing one. After Washington died in 1799, his birthday was informally celebrated across the country. It wasn't until January 31, 1879, that Washington's birthday became a federally recognized holiday.

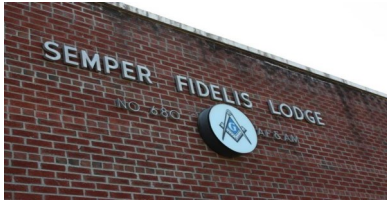
Washington's birthday is also recognized in another unique fashion. Starting in 1896, it has become a tradition to read Washington's Farewell Address on February 22 (the actual day of his birth) in the US Senate by a current member. This tradition reminds us of a man whose patriotic spirit still inspires us to this day, particularly federal workers who uphold what he helped create. Until 1968, Washington's Birthday had always been celebrated on February 22. It was tradition and a powerful reminder of the man who helped create what we have today in the United States. On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the "Uniform Monday Holiday Act." This law was to provide uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays; the act was also created to provide federal employees with more three-day weekends. Under this new law, Washington's birthday would be celebrated on the third Monday of February, partially losing the value and identity of the importance of his birthday. Washington's birthday has not been celebrated on the actual day of his birth since the law took effect in 1971.

Today the nation typically combines Washington's Birthday with Presidents' Day, celebrating both days on the third Monday in February. However, Presidents Day is not the official name of the holiday.

While the name "Presidents' Day" was proposed for this Monday holiday in 1951, the U.S. government never officially changed the name. In the 1980s, thanks to advertising campaigns for holiday sales, the term became popularized and largely accepted.

The idea behind the name was to create a holiday that did not recognize a specific president, but rather celebrated the office of the presidency. This joint recognition would also celebrate President Lincoln's February 12 birthday within the same period, but arguably, George Washington, the father of our country, deserves his own day.

While it may seem like the entire nation observes "Presidents' Day," Virginia, Illinois, Iowa, and New York specifically recognize the third Monday in February as 'Washington's Birthday' or 'George Washington Day.' Some states, such as Virginia, celebrate Washington's birthday the entire month of February. In the city of Laredo, Texas, an annual Washington Birthday Celebration that began in 1898 and lasts a whole month.



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Secretary

Jason Caldwell - (760) 670-7381

<https://nc.grandview.systems/>



Zion Lodge #81 held their 200th anniversary celebration on the 24th of February at the Jones County Civic Center.

Grand Master Don Kehler, WB Johnny Surles and WB Bobby Meadows gave wonderful presentations to those assembled.

Zion Lodge #81, previously King Solomon Lodge #18, displayed a wealth of historical traveling silver pieces. These Officer jewels were the original jewels and during the Civil War, while their Lodge was meeting at the courthouse, three ruffians took these jewels. A Yankee lieutenant bought them and 150 years later, a delegation returned them to their rightful home.



The Wisdom of Yoda

"Many of the truths that we cling to depend on our point of view.

You will know (the good from the bad) when you are calm, at peace."