

Semper Fidelis

Trestleboard

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

Look to the East

Dear Brethren,

It is with great pride and joy that I share the news of the completion of our Lodge renovation. Under the careful guidance of the Pillars for Progress Committee, we have restored our Lodge to its original glory, while thoughtfully incorporating modern touches that reflect our ongoing journey as Masons. The transformation is truly remarkable, and our Lodge now stands as a beautiful testament to the dedication, craftsmanship, and brotherhood that define Semper Fidelis.

This project was a collective effort, with many Brothers offering their time, labor, expertise, and financial support to bring this vision to life. However, two Brothers deserve special recognition for their extraordinary contributions. Brothers Jimmy Johnson and Len Tippet spent countless hours—often working from dawn until dusk—to ensure that the vision for Semper Fidelis Lodge became a reality. Their tireless dedication and meticulous attention to detail have created a Lodge room that not only fits with such nicety but also showcases the true craftsmanship of our Brothers. We are deeply grateful to them for their unwavering commitment to this project.

I would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Lafayette Lodge for graciously allowing us to use their facilities while our Lodge was being remodeled. Their hospitality and support were invaluable during this period, and we are fortunate to have such generous neighbors.

As I reflect on the work completed and the bonds strengthened through this renovation, I am filled with immense gratitude for every Brother of the Semper Fidelis family. Your faith in our collective vision has made this accomplishment possible, and it is a reminder of what we can achieve when we come together in unity and purpose.

For those who may not yet know, I have received orders to the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa. As a result, our Senior Warden, Brother Mike Bartlett, will take on the mantle and serve as the Acting Master for the remainder of the year. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your 78th Master, and I want to express my deepest thanks to all of you for your trust



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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,

It comes that time of the year again that we need to start looking at a couple of things that pertain to our Lodge.

The first is the Grand Lodge proposed amendments to the Code that are to be voted upon at the upcoming Grand Lodge Annual Communication. If you have not looked them, I urge you to do so. There are some amendments that will have an impact on Masonry in our area. While our Lodge delegates vote according to their belief of what is best at the time of the vote, it is important to let them know your opinions and beliefs concerning these amendments.

The second thing is we are coming up on the last quarter of the year, and at the time of this publication, there are still 23 Brothers who have yet to pay their 2024 dues. If you know of a Brother who has financial concerns, or if you are that Brother, please let us know. The Lodge depends on the money that we receive from dues to be able to pay our obligations as well as to the charities we support on a yearly basis.

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

semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com.

Jason Caldwell
Secretary

*“And then
I realized
that I can
choose to
be excited
over my future
rather than
torn up
over my past”*

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.

- 05 Sep—OES District Prep—2-8 pm
- 08 Sep—DeMolay—3pm
- 10 Sep—OES meeting
- 11 Sep—Stated—education is GL amendments
- 14 Sep—Onslow County Masonic Blood Drive at Lafayette Lodge
- 21 Sep—Monthly Breakfast
- 21 Sep—DeMolay yard sale (after breakfast)
- 22 Sep—DeMolay—3pm
- 23 Sep—Onslow County Masonic Scholarship at Seaside Lodge
- 24 Sep—Eastern Seals training—12-3pm
- 25 Sep—Stated—education is on MM ritual
- 26-28 Sep—GL Annual Communication in Winston-Salem
- 28 Sep—Ladies Night Out



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:

and support during my time in the East. I am confident that Brother Mike will lead with the same dedication and love for the Craft that we all share, and I know that he has the full support of every Brother in the Lodge.

While this is a farewell, it is not goodbye forever. I plan to return in three years, and until that time, I want you all to know that I am just a phone call away. Thank you again for the honor of serving this Lodge, and for the fellowship that has enriched my life beyond measure.

I leave you with words from the original Macoy 1867 Masonic Manual, words that I hope will resonate with you as they do with me: “Let us ever remember that the great objects of our association are, the restraint of improper desire and passions, the cultivation of an active benevolence, and the promotion of a correct knowledge of the duties we owe the Supreme Architect of the Universe, our neighbor, and ourselves. Let us be united, and practice with assiduity the sacred tenets of our Order. Let all private animosities, if any unhappily exist, give place to affection and Brotherly love. It is a useless parade to talk of the subjection of irregular passions within the walls of the Lodge if we permit them to triumph in our intercourse with each other...”

Finally, Brethren, be ye all of one mind—live in peace, and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.’

Fraternē,

Dustin M. Wood
78th Master

The Brothers of Semper Fidelis in attendance at the Grand Masters at Labor event, when we raised Br. George Fitzpatrick.



**JOIN ME IN GIVING CONGRATULATIONS
TO:
OUR NEWEST ENTERED APPRENTICE
BR. NATHAN BAILEY
AND
OUR NEWEST MASTER MASON
BR. GEORGE FITZPATRICK.**

A Word from the Acting Master:

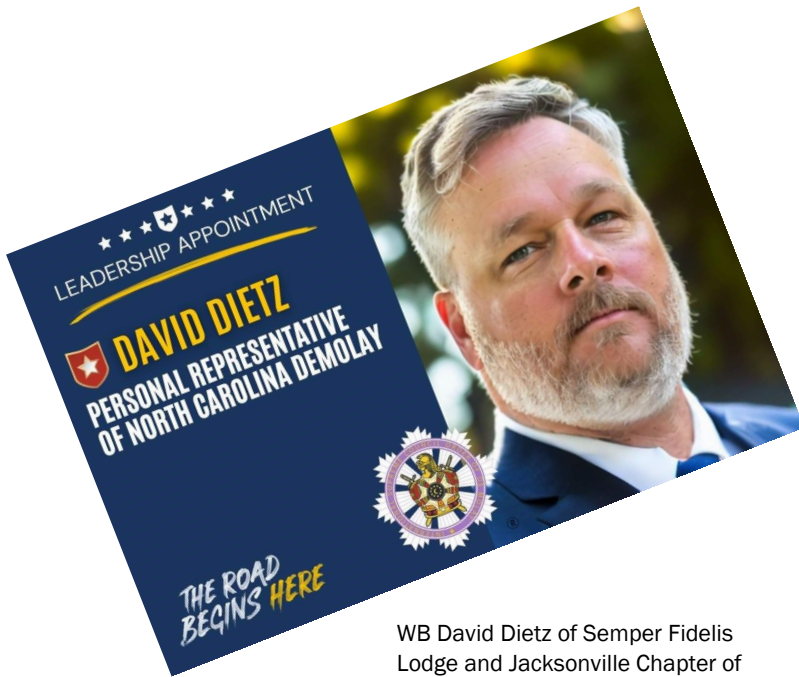
Greetings,

As you are all aware, Worshipful Brother Dustin Wood unfortunately received orders out of country and I have stepped in to fill in as the Acting Master for the remainder of the year.

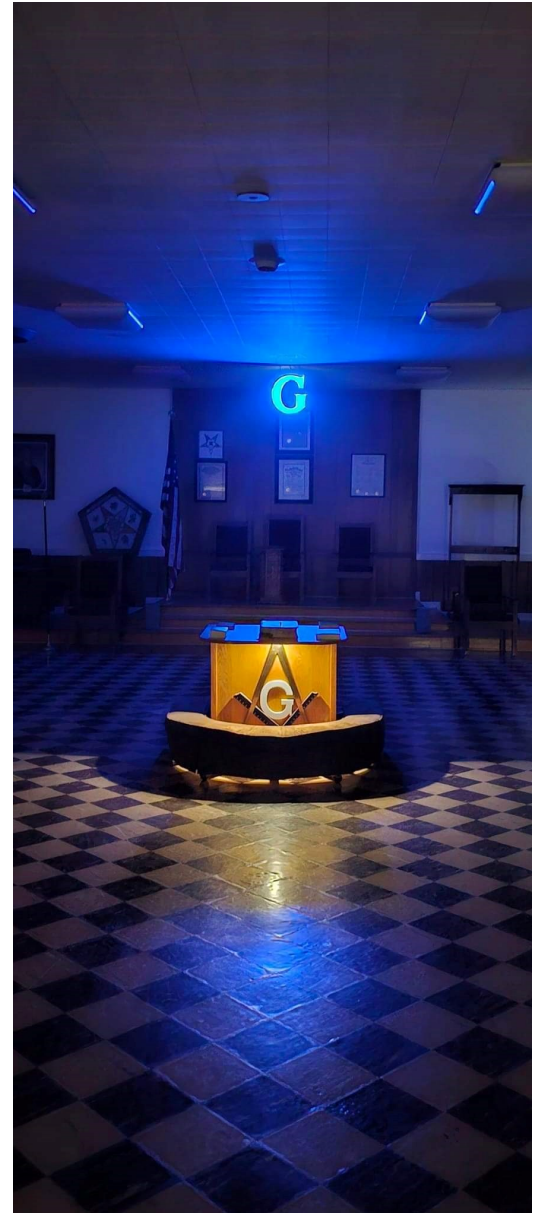
I had something different for my introduction for the TrestleBoard but unfortunately life has other things planned. Recently my wife was taken to the ER on a Stated Communication Night. Needless to say, I missed the meeting, but my Brothers carried on and assisted and filled in the Stations. My Brothers have been asking everyday since for the progress of my wife and if we need anything. My Brothers are my family. Thank you to everyone of you for the concern and prayers. This is why I am a Mason.

Mike Bartlett

Acting Master



WB David Dietz of Semper Fidelis Lodge and Jacksonville Chapter of DeMolay appointed in a place of leadership in the state association.



Happy Birthday Brothers



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/01 DAVID DIETZ
 08/03 PATRICK KELLEY
 08/06 LEIGHTON FOREMAN
 08/10 AARON PRESCOTT
 08/14 **LARRY SCOTT**
 08/19 DUSTIN SCHUITT SR
 08/27 **JOSEPH JONES**
 08/31 JEREMY BAYON

08/02 JOSEPH REYES
 08/05 CRAIG BOUCHER
 08/06 JOSEPH THOMAS
 08/11 **DAVID MCLAURIN**
 08/18 ZACHARY JOHNSON
 08/21 **WILLIAM GAINY**
 08/27 FRANCESCO VALLE
 08/31 ROBERT MILLS

08/03 **WILLIAM GIBBONS**
 08/05 CHARLES SANTORO
 08/08 DANIEL GRACE
 08/12 **GORDON CROSSMAN**
 08/19 TRAVIS CHRISTENSEN
 08/22 **RONALD CHOATE**
 08/31 HERIBERTO ACEVEDO JR

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/02 **GERALD FILIPIAK**
 09/07 JAMES FITZGIBBONS
 09/12 **LOUIS ANDERSON III**
 09/18 BILL GROSS II
 09/28 IAN TROTT

09/04 **WILLIAM WALL**
 09/10 **CLARENCE BOYD**
 09/14 ERIC MEDEROS
 09/24 ROBERT RIDEOUT
 09/29 CODY JELLISON

09/05 AGE E OSBORNE
 09/10 **JOHN WARLICK**
 09/16 FELIX VILLEGAS
 09/28 LUKE SCHOLL
 09/29 **LYNN THOMAS**

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/07 CRAIG COMEAUX
 10/17 **KEITH FOUNTAIN**
 10/26 KEITH BURGESS
 10/28 DENVER JONES

10/08 JAMES ASKINS
 10/20 WILLIAM DAVIS
 10/26 ANTHONY KRAEMER
 10/28 JASON THOMAS

10/15 GREGORY POWER
 10/23 WADE HAYNES
 10/26 WESLEY SALES
 10/31 LEONARD TIPPETT II

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

Necrology Report

Brethren,

As of this publication, we have had not been notified of any of our Brothers passing upward and inward through the Pearly Gates.

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.

Masonic Education:

A Lodge At Work

Walter M. Macdougall

Bro. Walter M. Macdougall is a member of Piscataquis Lodge # 44, Milo, ME and a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine. Bro. Macdougall is a faculty member at the College of Education, University of Maine where he teaches philosophy. Bro. Macdougall also authored the 6-95 STB, Surprised By Joy.
-Editor

A Lodge is a certain number of Masons duly assembled, with the Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses, with a charter or warrant empowering them to work.

Ask a brother how his lodge is doing, and his answer is very apt to be either that things are going well because there has been a lot of work to do or that the life of the lodge is at a low ebb because there hasn't been much work lately. Ten to one, he is talking about degree work. There is no doubt that performing degrees is a vital part of the work of a lodge, but it is a common short circuit in our Masonic thinking to conclude that exemplifying our degrees constitutes the work of our lodge. Degree work is a means not an end.

Another possible and closely related short circuit lurks in the word jurisdiction. In our everyday Masonic usage, this term signifies the geographic area from which a lodge draws its candidates. Just as the work of a living lodge embraces much more than doing degrees so there is more to the concept of a lodge's jurisdiction than the place a lodge draws its candidates. The working of a lodge of Freemasons is a many faceted business which takes place, not just within a lodge hall or just among its members, but within the lodge's jurisdiction of compassion and service.

Suppose we find ourselves standing outside "Builders Lodge" in a place called "Needsville, " Here, according to our ritual, gathers a certain number of masons duly assembled, inspired by the Sacred Book and guided by the compasses and the square. They are, by a charter, empowered to work-that is they have the honor of laboring as Freemasons. On reflection, we realize that Builders' Lodge, like all Masonic lodges, exists even when there are no masons meeting in the building. It exists in the shared belief system of the brethren and in their united endeavor to give concrete evidence of their beliefs through their service to others.

Every Mason who has received his training in Builder's Lodge should know that the dimensions of his lodge spread symbolically to the ends of the earth and that nothing short of universal compassion is the aim of the Fraternity. In more immediate terms, the dimensions of Builder's Lodge spread across Needsville to the borders of the lodge's jurisdiction. Jurisdiction defines a certain community of lodge members and wayfaring brethren alike. It is a community within the community at large, a community of the Craft, alive and operative.

As in the case of the Masonic terms work and jurisdiction, the word "lodge" with its varied meanings may cause confusion. Your wife asks you if you will be at home this evening. "No" you answer, "I am going to lodge. " In this response "lodge" means a place and an event. You are signifying a communication of the officers and brethren at the lodge hall. Such usage indicates a partial manifestation of the lodge, but, in this last instance, "lodge" identifies an entity neither limited to a particular place or to a special event. Put simply, lodge meetings represent a vital and special function of the larger lodge which is the local community of Masons. The lodge hall houses the operating and training center for this larger lodge. It houses the nerve center, if you will. From this place of focus, the leadership of the Master, assisted by his officers and his committees, radiates outward and assumes the responsibility for "putting the Craft to labor" within the lodge's jurisdiction of compassion and caring. [These officers are the future

Masonic Education cont:

masters in training. It is in leadership training, instruction on how to build an administrative team, and in schooling Masonic educators that our Grand Lodges play their most essential role.]

Consider the extensive dimensions of the lodge's mission! This labor falls into three categories all of which are interrelated and partake of the vision of the Craft.

- (a) Care for the Masonic family
- (b) Serving the needy and building a better community
- (c) Training the builders

"Take care of the widows and the orphans' " this is the great charitable charge we have received from our operative predecessors. This noble charge still stands, but it has been expanded to the entire Masonic Family. Our obligations have enlarged with our growing conception of what we as Freemasons came here to do and as new needs have demanded. We feel it our wider calling to support the aging members, the young Masons laboring to bring up their family amidst an enlarging circle of dangers, and our youth who may find their first introduction to the great beliefs of humanity within our youth organizations.

Who are we as Masons if we do not look after our own? But there is more. What do we understand about our work if we curtail our mission within our own Masonic house? We come to work upon a fairer city of humanity this is what we intend to do. It is our vision to bring a new era of hope and joy within our lodge's jurisdiction of compassion and service. It is the result of our calling as builders within our given jurisdictions of compassion and service which constitutes the work of our lodges.

We all like to see a large number of brothers out to our meetings, for, after all, fraternal companionship is one of the great joys of Freemasonry. However, it is not the primary business, or even the business at all, of the master or his officers to entertain the brethren in an attempt to populate the "sidelines. " Lodges at one time may have served as places of entertainment, they may properly do so now, from time to time, for happiness is part of our business, but lodges are not primarily about "sidelines." They are about mainlines of action and vision. Masons, even those who seldom attend lodge meetings, are duty bound to practice and to live Masonry within their own Needsville.

Recently I had the opportunity to present a fifty year veterans medal. As so often is the case, the receiving brother began to apologize for not having come to lodge more often. When he was done, a young mason rose and said, "Don't you apologize. I watched you all the years I was growing up in this community, and I wanted to be like you. You and your life are why I am here."

It is the master and his officers' duty to see that the living of Freemasonry throughout the jurisdiction is not haphazard. Every member according to his time and his capabilities should be given some part to play in the work of the lodge, as it promotes the human conversation, as it conciliates true friendships, as it stands for justice and equality, and as it "restores peace to troubled minds." It is from the "nerve center" of the living lodge that such direction and leadership of the Craft must come. All this is implied in the phrase "a lodge duly assembled"-assembled, coordinated for the accomplishment of its work.

All successful lodges are operative lodges. Find such a lodge and you will discover leaders (or a leader) who knows how to bind the brethren in a significant expression of the Masonic enterprise, and who has the skill to set them to accomplishing this purpose for themselves. Perhaps we have not given enough thought to how much skill, how much informed art such leadership demands. [And this too must be primary in the concern and the services of a Grand Lodge to its lodges.]

Masonic Education cont:

Perhaps we have not sufficiently considered how much sophisticated skill is demanded if we are to help create within the community that communication, networking, and coordination which is now required in the building of a better world. Certainly we all tend to forget that below all that we do, welling up and giving strength to all building endeavors, are those moral principles which illuminate and stimulate the Masonic vision.

So now we return to where we began this exploration of a lodge and its work. We find ourselves realizing why our degree work is a vital means and not an end in itself. At the "nerve center," the officers and those members who possess the special gift of being ritualistic teachers assemble to set another man upon the degree journey-that greatest gift which the lodge has to give a brother. One man at a time, heart to heart, mind to mind, the Craft builds its working force. The meaning which gives significance and purpose to the builder's life and to his labors must be discovered it must be journeyed after. This is the purpose of the degree journey, and this is the work of the degree givers, to share the old guideposts, to go in companionship as far as a brother can go, and to celebrate the new understanding and dedication found.

The brethren of Builders' Lodge have a vision to give to Needsville. In giving that vision, the brethren, themselves, will come to understand its immense value. Through the work of the lodge which is going on within its jurisdiction of compassion and service, the brethren will be drawn back to that "nerve center." In that "sacred retreat of friendship and virtue," they will find the quiet joy of renewal. When the Sacred Book is spread and the working tools displayed, there will be created a special place apart from the press of time and the urgency of life's demands. It is a place we name "our lodge." It is a place from whence we go out renewed and shoulder to shoulder to work again.

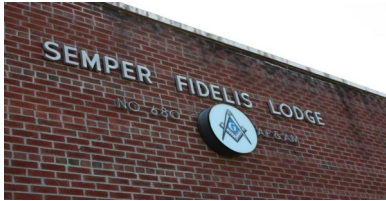


WB Denny Norris at St. Johns candlelight degree as exemplified by the National Sojourners.

DeMolay Advisors with shaved heads and faces after the boys raised over \$1700 before Conclave.

DeMolay Conclave attendance at Semper Fidelis Lodge.





Semper Fidelis Lodge #680

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Acting Master

Mike Bartlett - (910) 545-6468

Secretary

Jason Caldwell - (760) 670-7381

Over the past few weeks/days, I have been approached by some of the best men that I know. Each expressing concerns, personal thoughts, and seeking/giving guidance.

They believe that their concerns, thoughts, and voices have been ignored when they make suggestions. As I listen and hear them, I find myself feeling the same way.

Although, I no longer feel as involved or sought out for, I have noticed that people still seek and ask guidance from me. What these men have taught me is a valuable lesson that I needed. A leader does not need to rely on a "special" group to make things happen. They learn to rely on everyone to make ALL things happen.

The last thing that I will leave this message with is, if the SAME people are whispering in your ear about what is going on OR offering guidance AND no one else is, are your leading fairly for ALL and are just in YOUR actions? OR are you being lead down a path that no one wants to follow and that is why no one will offer the same?

I was once asked, what is more dangerous, a ship without a crew or a crew without a ship? For a long time I have not been able to answer that question. I always said, maybe it's both. Today, I will say, the ship without a crew. The "ship" has no one to care for it. The crew can always find another ship!

Next time you try to set sail, ask yourself, is it the same crew that always shows up and are they decreasing in number? Or is the same crew showing up and are they growing in knowledge and size?

WB Tony Saenz



The Wisdom of Yoda

A Man Who is the Master of Patience

Is Master of Everything Else.