



Chester 94 Masonic Lodge

MARCH 2018 TRESTLEBOARD

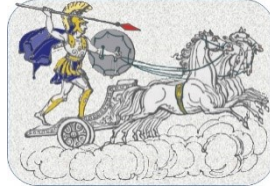
4111 Dodomeade Street, Chester, Va. P.O. Box 2905, Chester, VA, 23831-8477
Dinner: 6:30 PM, Stated Meeting: 7:30 PM - Meets Second Thursday - Lodge Phone: (804) 796-5773



Annual dues are \$112.00. LMP = \$2352. - PLEASE USE OUR NUMBER WHEN [DONATING BLOOD](#): #6222. - PLEASE CONTACT THE [BLOOD OFFICER](#). AND LET HIM KNOW YOU GAVE.

1st Wednesday - [Midlothian #211](#) Stated ✦ 2nd Wednesday - [Black Heath #1982](#) Stated ✦ 2nd Thursday - [Chester #94](#) Stated ✦ 3rd Wednesday - [Clover Hill #253](#) Stated
3rd Thursday - [DeWitt-Clinton #141](#) Stated ✦ 4th Tuesday - [Powhatan #295](#) Stated ✦ 2nd Monday - [OES #121](#) ▲ 1st & 3rd Tuesday - [Job's Daughters Bethel 24](#)
✦ MAHOVA

The name of March comes from Martius, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, who was also regarded as a guardian of agriculture. His month Martius was the beginning of the season for both farming and warfare. It marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.



From The East

Greetings Brethren,



A big thanks to everyone who has come back to Chester Lodge this year. It's been great to see so many familiar faces coming back to Lodge. PGM Jeff Hodges always does a great program. I am especially thankful that he made the trip from Charlottesville to present a program to the Lodge in February.

After our monthly pancake breakfast we were able to take care of several maintenance items and cleaning in the Palmer room. We will continue cleaning and prep for our events this Summer. Part of the breakfast proceeds will be donated to the Shriners Children's Hospital. Please be sure to check out the Lodge [Facebook](#) page for upcoming events and information. One event we have begun is our 4th Friday Dinners open to all. The dinners have been a great way to bring the family and get to know the Brothers from Lodge. I've learned a great deal about members' families that I otherwise would not have known, were it not for their attendance. My wife, Dani, and I would love to see you there.

If you haven't been back to the Lodge, this next month will be a great opportunity to come. Chester will be receiving the District Deputy Grand Master on 8 March. This is a great opportunity to see a different part of the Masonic ritual and fellowship. Please keep April 12th on your calendars as well. Brother Marquis de Lafayette will be visiting to present an educational program at Chester Lodge.

As always please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you out.

Fraternally,
Eric Wittig
Master

From The West



Sowing = Our brethrens participation and assistance in lodge activities

Reaping = The over-all success of our lodge

We will reap what we will sow: (Tidbits to keep in mind)

- ✦ The success at our lodge is directly related and based on the seeds we sow at the lodge's activities, functions and events.
- ✦ Some of our brethren want to sow as little as possible and then expect our lodge reap a lot??
- ✦ Bottom Line: If we do not sow, our lodge does not reap
- ✦ It is so easy to "make up excuses" of why not to sow.
- ✦ Successful lodges know that if they focus on sowing the abundance of reaping will eventually come, sooner or later.
- ✦ If the brethren sow continually and abundantly, we can be sure that in due time we will have a harvest of reaping for our lodge.
- ✦ If you don't like the way our lodge is reaping, then you better make a change the way you are sowing.
- ✦ What we work hard for, is what we will get.
- ✦ Don't expect the lodge gain success if you don't do what needs to be done.
- ✦ What we do today is directly proportional to the success of our lodge tomorrow.
- ✦ Positive attitudes in our brethren begets positive results for our lodge
- ✦ Negative attitudes in our brethren begets negative results for our lodge

A great quote inspired by the present Olympic Games:

Gold Medals are not really made of gold. They are made of hard work, sweat, determination and guts. The exact same quote can be applied to our lodge!

*Fraternally,
Gene Bowen
Senior Warden*



through our efforts that we can forestall the DVD from replacing a Gentleman standing before the candidate. I ask you which one will leave a lasting impression on a future brother?

*Respectfully,
Rob Baird
Junior Warden*



Greetings from the South



If you missed this past month's stated meeting you missed a lively discussion about amending our by-laws and an excellent presentation on the Greek 7 Stages of life and how it relates to the three degrees of Masonry by Most Worshipful Jeffery Eugene Hodges.

This stated meeting also gave me a chance to look around the lodge at the brethren on the level in relation to fielding a degree team. Many of our brothers who are more learned about the rituals are rapidly approaching the winter of their life. I have a concern about our lodge having the ability to field a degree team in the future. It would be disappointing if the participation fell to the point where a video of a lecture replaces a gentleman standing before the candidate and presenting the lecture. When I was initiated I was in awe not so much about the ceremony, it did indeed leave an impression on me, but it was the lecture afterwards that most impressed me. As I sat listening to one of our learned brothers give the Entered Apprentice's Lecture, I was amazed that the gentleman spoke for more than twenty minutes without prompting or using notes. Now that I have embarked upon learning the Fellowcraft's lecture I am even more impressed by the amount of effort involved with learning the lecture. Once I have completed learning this lecture I will need to focus on learning the material to earn my Warden's Certificate. I ask some of you younger brethren to consider learning a charge, lecture or one of the roles in the Master Mason's degree. It is only



If it be within the length of your cable tow!

The length of the cable tow is symbolic of the brother's abilities. It is defined also as a cable's length, which symbolically means the scope of a man's reasonable ability. With its 2 ends, it binds a Mason to the Fraternity as well as bonds the Fraternity to the Mason.



What Can I do?

You oft see requests to increase our attendance in stated meetings. One reason brethren do not come is due to boredom or a feeling of not being important. I say every brother Is important. All they need to do is get involved again. You might ask what can I do to improve the lodge and maybe even myself. Here are some possible ideas:

- ✦ Visit with a senior citizen Brother. See if he needs a password or maybe a ride to the lodge. Make a planned evening with him to the next stated.
- ✦ Visit with a widow. Every one of them I have talked with just love to visit.
- ✦ Visit a sick or physically challenged brother.
- ✦ Join one of the committees performing activities for the lodge.
- ✦ Help to spread the word about our lodge. Many do not even know we exist. Bring a friend or neighbor to a first Saturday breakfast.
- ✦ Invite a friend or neighbor to the diner before a stated meeting. Visitors meals are free.
- ✦ Submit a short paper to the trestleboard.
- ✦ Learn a lecture or degree ceremony part.
- ✦ Help to start a fundraiser. Wor. K. Wittig is planning a BBQ chicken sale. Does he need your assistance?
- ✦ And the list goes on!

What Came Ye Here To Do?

By Norm Stevens

To learn, to subdue my passions, and improve myself in Masonry.

Many of us bypass the opportunity to attend a lodge meeting for a television program or sporting event. As a retired couch potato let me tell you everything on the one-eyed monster in your living room will be rerun or broadcasted at least twice more. I've watched a couple hockey games two or three times! They are still entertaining.

But, what I have been remiss about, is attending lodge. And this has been my loss. There are several new brethren I have not been there to meet and become friends with. There have been new activities I have missed. What I have missed most is the fellowship and brotherly love.

These things are "*what's in it for me*" things, and that is not why I knocked on the door! I gave three knocks to *improve myself in masonry*. I did not learn, I did not subdue my passions or improve myself. I did not contribute to the lodge, my community or to my needy neighbor while sitting at home.

It was time for my return. Oh, I now have my challenges with health and other things. I need to take the chairlift, sit where I can escape to the men's room, I don't wear a tie because it constricts my breathing, and so on. But I have been told my attendance is more important than any of my substandard practices.

So whence came you? And what came ye here to do? Did you forget? Oh yes, I initiated, passed and raised several brethren in my journeys. I traveled and fraternized with many a good man. I had an inner feeling of satisfaction in doing these things. But then I quit attending and lost that inner satisfaction.

What have you lost? Is it worth sitting at home watching reruns? You could be eating

dinner with me and sharing those darn masonic green beans. Our recently launched fourth Friday fellowship meetings have been a real enlightening experience. Meeting with brethren and their wives/girlfriends outside the regiment of the lodge. If you haven't been there, you are really missing a great evening.

So, get off the couch or easy chair, and [reinvest in the wealth](#) you have before you by coming to the lodge.

I was once told belonging to a group such as the lodge has an equivalent effect as stopping smoking a pack a day of cigarettes.

Remember, Freemasonry IS:

- ✠ The world's largest charitable organization.
- ✠ The world's oldest fraternity.
- ✠ The world's largest fraternity.
- ✠ A brotherhood that *treats all men as equal, regardless of social status, race, religion, political views or financial status.*
- ✠ Patriotic.
- ✠ An organization supporting "Life, Liberty and The Pursuit of Happiness" for all people of the world.
- ✠ An organization with *complete religious freedom, spiritual growth and every man's individual quest for a greater understanding and relationship with "God".*
- ✠ An organization with high moral standards.
- ✠ *An organization that encourages every man to be the best he can be in every aspect of his life.*
- ✠ Does not try to make "Evil" men "Good", but to *make "Good" men "Great".*
- ✠ *An organization that values and supports charity, compassion, extending a hand to the fallen, mending the broken, healing the sick, defending the defenseless, and lifting the weak.*
- ✠ A fraternity that encourages every Lodge to be involved in and help their local communities for the benefit of everyone.
- ✠ A support group.
- ✠ A social outlet.
- ✠ Freemasonry IS a venue for *truth seeking, a vehicle for self-improvement and philosophical development; the discovery of one's inner potential.*

See you in the next stated meeting!



2018

Chester #94 Officers



Worshipful Master	Wor. Eric Wittig	(804) 731-4896	MaHoVa	Wor. Joe Simon	(804) 721-6620
Senior Warden	Bro. Eugene Bowen	(804) 240-5139	Ambassadors		
Junior Warden	Bro Robert Baird II	(804) 920-8249	Widows-Sick	Bro Robert Baird II	(804) 920-8249
Treasurer	Bro. Dabney Short	(804) 898-1882	Lodge Blood Officer	Bro. David Duncan	(804) 530-4319
Secretary	Wor. Herb Turner	(804) 920-6986	Property Manager	Bro. Dabney Short	(804) 898-1882
Senior Deacon	Bro. J. Marc Just	(804) 350-6397	Web & Trestleboard	Wor. Norm Stevens	(804) 748-2977
Junior Deacon	Bro. Bryan Amsel	(804) 928-4548	Building Maintenance	Bro. Robert Baird	(804) 748-4841
Chaplain	Bro. Robert Baird	(804) 748-4841	Lodge Grounds	R.W. Randy Kendall	(804) 743-1293
Senior Steward	Bro. Fletcher Pastore	(804) 381-9778	Lodge Librarian	Wor. Eric Wittig	(804) 731-4896
Junior Steward	Bro. Dereck Jenkins	(804) 768-4743		R.W. John Andrews	(804) 590-1925
Marshal	Wor. Kenn Wittig	(757) 869-0182	Lodge Trustees	R.W. Henry Hassell	(804) 561-3060
Tyler	Wor. Joe Simon	(804) 721-6620		R.W. Gary Lilley	(804) 748-6576
Education Officer	Wor. Herb Turner	(804) 920-6986	Child ID Prog. Coord.	Wor. Doug Slaughter	(804) 754-6157
Instructor of Work	R.W. Joe Crouch	(804) 739-7960			

Worshipful Wittig started it!

If you have not been to a Fourth Friday Fellowship meeting, you are missing out on a great evening of fun and socializing with lodge Brethren and their significant others. March will see our event on the 23rd. Whether if you are a lodge brother, a widow, an OES member, or a person wanting to know more about masonry or our lodge, come visit with us. We have not set the location for this event at this time but you can check our [calendar](#) or [Facebook page](#) for updates as we set the location.

February's meeting is on the 23rd @ Rosa's Italian on Old Stage Rd @ 6:30 pm



Mr. Good > BetterMan

The street where you live

Your Town, VA, 2B1ASK1

WHY BECOME A MASON?

There are many personal benefits to becoming a Mason, and the rewards can be different for each person. But all Masons share a common goal: making good men better men. Only individuals believed to be of the finest character are favorably considered for membership. For all of history, men have come together to build. Fathers taught the secrets of their trade to their sons. Families learned to work together and these builders began to erect evermore beautiful edifices. Freemasonry teaches, exactly, those time-tested principles which bring men together amid who can best work and best agree. Those principles apply to building anything, from friendships, to better communities, private aid to charities, or simple fun. Just as time has not changed male human nature, Freemasonry has not changed what works.

