



Chester 94 Masonic Lodge

DECEMBER 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



Annual dues are \$112.00. LMIP = \$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

From the East

It isn't easy to put into words what the last half-decade of service to this Lodge has meant to me. The sands of time have passed very quickly and I've gone through many life-changing events in 5 years. One thing has been constant; Chester Lodge. I feel very blessed to have had the privilege and honor of serving as an officer. I wish that Stan Freed could be here today to see the team he helped to build.


I hope to see everyone at the Stated meeting. I plan on speaking a little more from the heart when I address the Lodge for the last time as Master.


God Bless all of you and thank you.

Eric

From the West

In preparation for 2019, it is important for our brethren to know my basic philosophy of leadership for our lodge. It is my goal to have us work and communicate together to continue to improve our lodge. To achieve this, these are the main key points to ponder and practice together.

1. **Positivity:** Always think positive, talk positive, act positive and be positive. 
2. **Mutual Respect:** Always be authentic with no practice of politics what so ever.
3. **Enthusiasm:** "Things turn out the best for those who, make the best of the way things turn out".
4. **Support:** Help, aid and assist. "Watch each other's back". Be ready to uplift a brother when and where needed.
5. **Cooperation:** Work with each other for the benefit of all. Let's expand our individual strengths and complement our individual weakness.

6. **Learning:** Continue with your growth as a Mason. We are never too old or too experienced to learn. Polish your ashlar for that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
7. **Face challenges:** Fulfill your responsibilities /duties to the best of your ability with no excuses given.
8. **Communication:** This is a wonderful thing and an absolute must for our success. Be honest with each other. "Listen if you want to be heard".
9. **Work Ethic:** "There is no substitute for hard work". Help carry the weight and don't be dead weight.
10. **Inclusion:** We are all brothers, thus we are all on the same level. All brethren have important ideas and input which should be evaluated for the betterment of the lodge. 
11. **Collaboration:** Let's work together as a team.
12. **Teamwork:** There is no room in the lodge for *me, myself or I*. There is plenty of room for *we, our and us*. "In unity there is strength". We must support a "**WE, BEFORE ME**" attitude.

With all due respect to our fellow lodges, Chester #94 is one of the best lodges, if not the best, in the Central Virginia area. This is mainly due to the strong and consistent leadership we have had recently.

Worshipful Kenn Wittig and Worshipful Eric Wittig have done an outstanding job and we should be grateful for their efforts. How many other lodges in our area attained the Hillman Award in 2018? The last great gift that any Master can give to his successor is a lodge that is left in "good shape". This is exactly what Worshipful Kenn and Worshipful Eric have done for our lodge. Let's show these two brothers our appreciation the next time we see them.

I intend to continue and further build on the achievements of our lodge throughout 2019; it is my aim to conduct my term as your Master to the best of my abilities. In order for this to occur, it is necessary to have the assistance of our brethren. "Individual commitment to a group effort is what will make our lodge excell". Remember, Chester #94 Lodge is about "WE, BEFORE ME"! Fraternally,

Gene Bowen
Senior Warden

From the South

One Hundred years ago on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11 AM the armistice went into effect ending World War I. One year later President Woodrow Wilson recognized the first Armistice Day. On June 4th, 1926 President Calvin Coolidge issued an annual proclamation calling for the observance of November 11th with appropriate ceremonies. In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans. June 1st, 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill which replaced "Armistice" with "Veterans". I would like to thank the Men and Women of our Armed forces, past, present and future for all their efforts in protecting the freedoms and rights that we enjoy. It is through their sacrifice that our Representative Republic endures.

At the October Stated Communication Brother David Duncan challenged us to participate in No Shave November. He requested that we estimate the amount of money saved during the month and donate the savings to MAHOVA.

I would like to congratulate Worshipful Eric Wittig, the officers and brethren of Chester 94 on earning the James Noah Hillman Award. This is a very challenging award to earn and requires effort across the entire lodge to earn the requisite number of points in each of the five sections. This year about 30 lodges, out of 301, earned this distinction.

The Jobies will be preparing a special dinner for our December Stated Communication, the cost of the dinner is \$20. T.J. is requesting that we notify Worshipful [Norm Stevens](#) so he can coordinate the number of Steaks that the Jobies will need to prepare.

Finally, a reminder that our Fourth Friday dinner will be on Friday December 7th at Peking Restaurant in Chester, please arrive by 6:30 PM so we can place our orders at 7:00 PM. Contact Dennis Breckenmaker, twodebrec@yahoo.com, to reserve your spot not later than Monday December 3rd. By reserving your spot you help us coordinate with the restaurant to ensure there is enough seating for everyone.

Respectfully,

Rob Baird
Junior Warden

Chaplain's Corner

In November we recognize the contribution of our veterans to keeping our country. We also need to recognize the Veterans' family. In most cases the wife or significant other has to take care of paying the bills, taking care of the family, the car and many other details. The separation can be a year or a matter of months. Then there is a sudden reversal of rolls when the service member returns. Needless to say, that if the service member just returned from Combat, the stress on both is dramatic. The families that endure this process for a full 20+ years are much stronger for the experience. We all need to thank both the Service member and the Family for their service.

Ramp Update: the building permit application has been submitted to Chesterfield Building Inspection. They required several more changes to the structure of the ramp and we will have to purchase the pipe for the handrails, the estimated cost keeps increasing for the material, it is a lot more that we estimated. I will update the materials list with the current requirements. It will likely be December before we get the approved building permit. Once we start the ramp construction, we will have at least 3 inspections:

- The Foundation – 12-inch diameter holes for each post
- Framing Inspection
- Finished – The deck Handrails installed.

It will be spring before we can apply any paint to the structure.

Brother Bob Baird

Bethel #24, Hopewell Job's Daughters December Stated Dinner:

- ✿ Steak or Chicken Breast
- ✿ Oyster Stew
- ✿ Mashed Potatoes w/gravy
- ✿ Green Beans
- ✿ Salad w/Italian/Ranch/Blue Cheese Dressings
- ✿ Desert: Homemade Banana Pudding
- ✿ Coffee and or Tea



Cost of Dinner is \$20.00. Please RSVP [Norm Stevens](#) by Dec. 5th.



Chester Chapter OES would like to wish the members of Chester Lodge a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Paula Swansey, PGM, WM

Christmas Giving Give Life!

Let's give blood. The holidays are joyful, but difficult for some. Let's meet the need for blood and give of ourselves in the spirit of Christmas.

The Grand Lodge credits us for blood units as follows:

1. Donations by lodge members
2. Donations by families of lodge members
3. Donations by any donor recruited by lodge members, our families, and our friends.

Simply give blood and encourage others to do so, too. Finally: follow-up and let the lodge blood coordinator know so that credit can be recorded with the Grand Lodge's records.

Credits are reported directly to the Grand Lodge records by our blood coordinator; email David Duncan at

holdontotherope@yahoo.com. Give anywhere, anytime, and any place; however, our local December holiday blood drives include the following:

Hopewell Community Center
100 West City Point Road
Hopewell, VA 23860
12/17/2018 - 02:30 PM - 05:15 PM

American Legion Post #284
505 Springdale Ave
Colonial Heights, VA 23834
12/26/2018 - 01:00 PM - 05:00 PM



Freemasons give life through charity to all.

December 7th 1941, Pearl Harbor Day

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day or Pearl Harbor Day, is observed annually in the United States on **December 7** to remember and honor the 2,403 citizens of the United States who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on **December 7, 1941**.



December 7th 2018 is our combined November-December fourth Friday fellowship.

It will be held at the Peking Restaurant, 2730 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Chester, VA. Drink orders at 6:30pm, order off the menu at 7:00pm. Contact Dennis Breckenmaker at twodebrec@yahoo.com or 804-748-9021 by noon on Dec. 3rd to RSVP. The January Dinner is Friday 01-25-2019 at the River's Bend Grill.

Christmas Treasures

Remember that a gift should be treasured; not only the ones that are wrapped but ones that are bestowed upon you.

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together, they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate.



The widowed elder man looked on with satisfaction as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

One year, as winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days,

his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season that he and his son had looked forward to would visit his house no longer.

On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home. As he opened the door, he was greeted by a soldier with a large package in his hands.

He introduced himself to the old man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you."

As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had told everyone of his, not to mention his father's, love of fine art. "I am no artist," said the soldier, "but I want to give you this."

As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the man's son. Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail.



Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier, promising to hang the picture above the fireplace. A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task. True to his word, the painting went above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars worth of art. His task completed, the old man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given.

During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that, even though his son was no longer with him, the boy would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stifled his caring heart.

As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease his grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation that the collector's passing and his only son dead, those paintings would be sold at auction. According to the will of the old man, all art works would be auctioned on Christmas Day, the day he had received the greatest gift.

The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many would claim, "I have the greatest collection."



The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid, but the room was silent. "Who will open the bidding with \$100?" he asked. Minutes passed, and no one spoke. From the back of the room came a voice, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son." "Let's forget about it and move on to the good stuff," more voices echoed in agreement.

"No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?" Finally, a neighbor of the old man spoke. "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy; so I would like to have it."



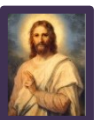
"I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?" asked the auctioneer. After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice, gone." The gavel fell.

Cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and we can bid on the real treasures!" The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced that the auction was over.

Stunned disbelief quieted the room. Someone spoke up and asked, "What do you mean, it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. What about all these paintings? There are millions of dollars worth of art here! I demand that you explain what is going on!"

The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son...gets it all."

Puts things into perspective, doesn't it? Just as those art collectors discovered on Christmas Day, the message is still the same: the love of a father, whose greatest joy came from his son who went away and gave his life while rescuing others; and because of that father's love, whoever takes the Son gets it all.



In life, many things will catch your eye, but only a few will catch your heart.



Chester #94 Leadership



Worshipful Master	Wor. Eric Wittig	(804) 731-4896	MaHoVa Ambassador	Wor. Joe Simon	(804) 721-6620
Senior Warden	Bro. Gene Bowen	(804) 240-5139	Widows-Sick	Bro Robert Baird II	(804) 920-8249
Junior Warden	Bro Robert Baird II	(804) 920-8249	Lodge Blood Officer	Bro. David Duncan	(804) 530-4319
Treasurer	Bro. Dabney Short	(804) 898-1882	Property Manager	Bro. Dabney Short	(804) 898-1882
Secretary	Wor. Herb Turner	(804) 920-6986	Web & Trestleboard	Wor. Norm Stevens	(804) 748-2977
Senior Deacon	Bro. J. Marc Just	(804) 350-6397	Building Maintenance	Bro. Robert Baird	(804) 748-4841
Junior Deacon	Bro. Bryan Amsel	(804) 928-4548	Lodge Grounds	Bro. Dereck Jenkins	(804) 661-8247
Chaplain	Bro. Robert Baird	(804) 748-4841	Lodge Librarian	Wor. Eric Wittig	(804) 731-4896
Senior Steward	Bro. Fletcher Pastore	(804) 381-9778	Lodge Trustees	Wor. John Andrews	(804) 590-1925
Junior Steward	Bro. Dereck Jenkins	(804) 661-8247		R.W. Henry Hassell	(804) 387-3877
Marshal	Wor. Kenn Wittig	(757) 869-0182		R.W. Gary Lilley	(804) 748-6576
Tiler	Wor. Joe Simon	(804) 721-6620	Child Prog. Coord.	Wor. Doug Slaughter	(804) 754-6157
Education Officer	Wor. Herb Turner	(804) 920-6986	Instructor of Work	R.W. Joe Crouch	(804) 739-7960



Lest We Forget The Reason For The Season

