

METROPOLITAN LODGE NO. 11, A.F.&A.M.

Henry C. Payne, Secretary
4013 Old Creek Rd
Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387

Address Service Requested

JANUARY 2023 BULLETIN

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!



**Metropolitan
Lodge No. 11
A. F. & A. M.
Chartered December 11, 1860**



Meets in the Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia 23231
on the Third Thursday of each month

ANNUAL DUES: 2022 – \$165.00

MAIL REMITTANCES TO SECRETARY

Brother Henry C. Payne, 4013 Old Creek Rd, Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387

Any case of Illness or Distress of any member that may come to your attention should be promptly reported to the Junior Warden, Secretary or other Officer of the Lodge.

Number Eleven Class – Meets with Varina Lodge No. 272 class on each Monday at 7:00 PM
at the Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia 23231

R. Lewis Gibbs Masonic Class – **(Dark in December)** Saturday Mornings – Tuckahoe Masonic Temple
5500 Bethlehem Road, Richmond, Virginia 23230

FROM THE EAST

December 29, 2022

Brethren,

Thanks to all who attended our December Stated Meeting, which included the election and installation of officers for 2023. I know we were all moved at the sight of Right Worshipful Charlie Sarbaugh once again conducting the election in his inimitable style. Installation itself was flawless, with Worshipful Jimmy Creech running the show, with assistance from Right Worshipful DR Carter and Right Worshipful John “Twiggy” Shepherd.

Thanks again to Worshipful Robert Cook, Right Worshipful DR Carter, Right Worshipful Steve Sanford, Brother Richard Wadkins, and Brother Michael Bryant for preparing and serving our turkey dinner with fixings, the food was excellent as always. Additional thanks to Worshipful Alan Edmonston who assisted in the kitchen, and any others I am inadvertently forgetting to mention.

For our January Stated Meeting, Right Worshipful Barry Faison will be making his official visit. Please come out and enjoy some food and fellowship with your brethren, and hear about Right Worshipful Barry’s plans for 2023.

I look forward to building on the exceptional work done by Linwood Bennett, George Cooke, and Robert Cook as they shepherded Metropolitan 11 through some of the most trying years in our existence. For 2023, let us look forward to reviving some of our reputation for traveling to other lodges and being engaged in the community.

Until our stated meeting, may the Great Architect bless you and your families.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Ashley Thomas
Worshipful Master

STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, January 19, 2023– 7:00 P.M.

“Official Visit by our District Deputy Grand Master”

OFFICERS DRESS: Tuxedos with Black Accessories

MEMBERS & GUESTS: Business Attire (Coat and Tie)

ASSEMBLE: Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia at 5:45 PM

DINNER: 6:00 PM

OPEN LODGE – 7:00 PM

Regular Business

PROGRAM: Official Visit of Right Worshipful Barry C. Faison, District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District 15-A

Conclude Business

CLOSE LODGE

CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:

None Scheduled at this time

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Thursday, January 19, 2023 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication

Saturday, January 21, 2023 – Masters and Wardens Association

Tuckahoe Masonic Temple, 5500 Bethlehem Road

Breakfast at 08:00 AM Meeting at 08:45 AM

PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – DECEMBER 2022 STATED

Charles S. Sarbaugh, Heath W. Mayes, Keith G. LaFemina, Donnie R. Carter, Robert E. Pagani
Wayne E. Fitchett, John Q. Sheppard, J. Thomas Wadkins III, Christopher E. Loftus
W. Martin Myers, Robert E. Cook, Linwood G. Bennett, Jr., George H. Cooke III
Lambros G. Deligan, Albert A. Dranoff, Steven W. Sanford

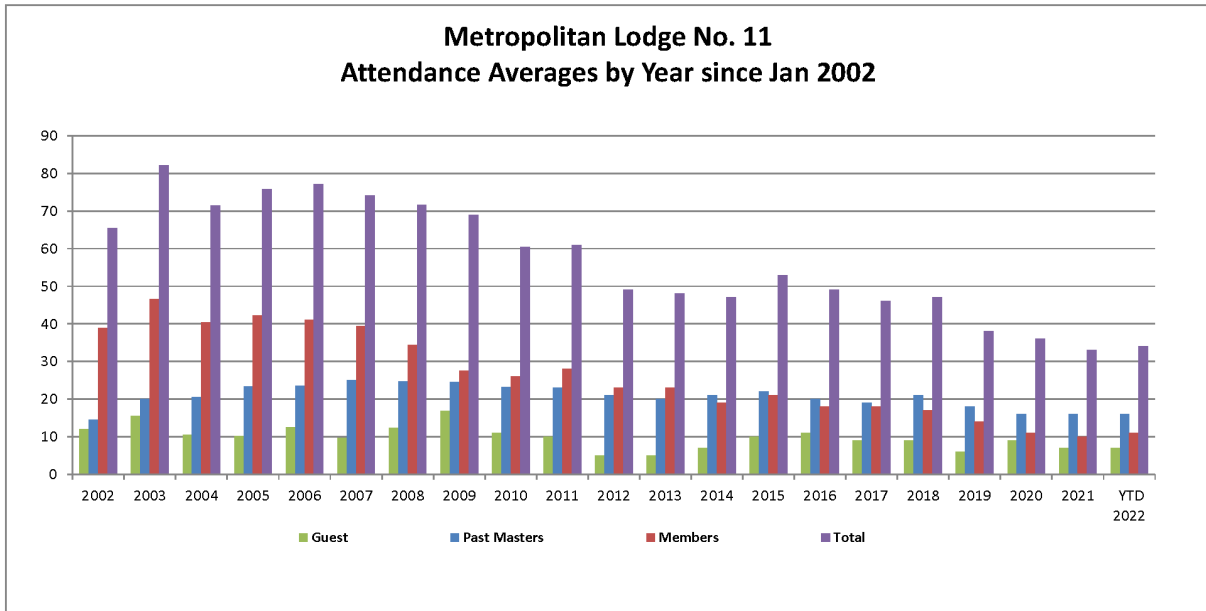
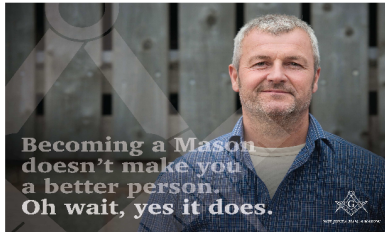
ATTENDANCE – DECEMBER 2022 STATED

Past Masters – 16 Members – 9 Visitors – 7 Total – 32

Yearly Averages:

2005 – 76, 2006 – 77, 2007 – 74, 2008 – 72, 2009 – 69, 2010 – 60, 2011 – 61, 2012 – 49
2013 – 48, 2014 – 47, 2015 – 53, 2016 – 49, 2017 – 46, 2018 – 47, 2019 – 38, 2020 – 37
2021 – 33, 2022 – 34

Attendance Chart



“Underground Freemasonry” (probably not what you’re thinking)

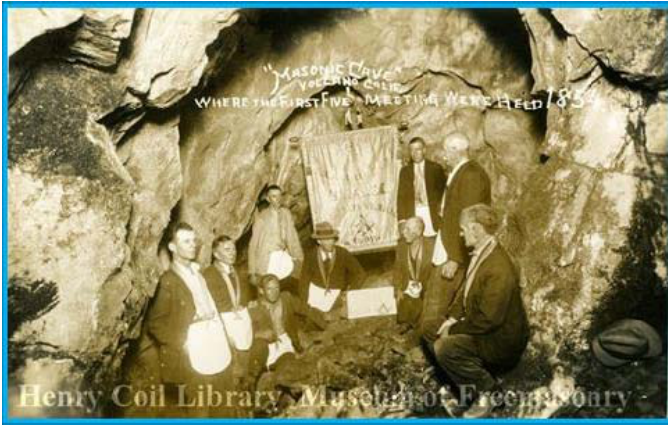
The lights are dim and there’s a distinct echo as shoes crunch over the dirt floor of this Masonic Hall. Of course, it’s no ordinary lodge: This is Zedekiah’s Cave, the ancient quarry 30 feet beneath the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem, believed by some to be the site from which the stones of King Solomon’s temple were sourced. Several times per year, the limestone cave plays host to Masonic celebrations, including a recent Mark Master degree organized by the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.

Whether in caves or quarries Freemasons have historically met in some unusual places. In 1897 the Grand Lodge of Arizona, F&AM met inside the *Copper Queen* mining cave at Bisbee, AZ. I strongly suspect the mine provided for a much cooler meeting place for this Grand Lodge to meet.

Caves even appear in certain degrees found in Richard Carlile’s 1825 Manual of Freemasonry, such as the Degree of Scotch Master, which according to the manual mentions a cave near Aberdeen in Scotland. The Degree of Nine Elected Knights also involves a cave, where an assassin of Hiram Abif takes refuge—reminiscent of the Elu of Nine Degree in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

In 1967, more than 1,800 Masons in Salem, Indiana gathered to celebrate for the state's 150th Masonic anniversary inside one of the largest limestone quarries in the state. Similar meetings have taken place at a quarry in Marietta, Ohio, where tilers posted on horseback shouted down from the rim of the quarry to report.

It isn't just man-made caves, in Kentucky, Masons have met inside Mammoth Cave, while Oregon's Malheur Cave is the site of a yearly meeting of the Robert Burns Lodge No. 97, and in New Mexico, the historic Carlsbad Caverns have also played host to Masonic ritual.



Chartered in 1854, during the Gold Rush, the founding members of Volcano Lodge No. 56 first met inside a small cave near Sutter Creek, in Volcano, CA. (The lodge later moved into a building above the cave.)

Today, the site still belongs to Volcano Lodge No. 56, although given the 1,300-foot drop at the back of the cave and some perilously situated limestone boulders, it's been closed down at least temporarily.

In Georgia there is the Rock Quarry Masonic Degree (somewhat) that takes place once a year in North Georgia near Blue Ridge. A country BBQ social

precedes the festivities along with conversations with members of the Grand Line of Georgia. If you have never been to a degree outside, it is awesome.

In Luray Caverns in Virginia, the DeMolay annually conducts their ritual inside of the caverns in that memorable venue.

This article was compiled edited and written, by Wor. Br. Martin Myers, drawing upon numerous source materials, a list of source is available upon request.

OFFICERS FOR 2023

C. Ashley Thomas	(C) 380-0621	(E) ashthomasjr@gmail.com	Worshipful Master
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W. S. Jared Richardson	(C) 840-9523	(E) wsjr1@hotmail.com	Senior Warden
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		8540 Meadowsweet Dr, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-2828	
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		2444 Gold Leaf Cir, Henrico, VA 23233	
Henry C. Payne	(C) 229-1967	(E) hcp.93@verizon.net	Secretary
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Charles S. Sarbaugh, PDDGM (H)	276-9677	(E) cssarbaugh@cs.com	Secretary Emeritus
		1330 Traway Dr, North Chesterfield, VA 23835-5559	
Randal L. Clouse	(C) 370-6527	(E) RClouse1216@gmail.com	Senior Deacon
		2758 Maple Grove Ln, East Powhatan. VA 23139-5043	
John J. Reid, II	(C) (703) 472-9794	(E) JohnReidOnline@gmail.com	Junior Deacon
		2742 Spinnaker Ct, Henrico, VA 23233-349	
Robert E. Pagani, PM	(C) 512-2808	(E) 1fisherbob@gmail.com	Chaplain
Dieter T. Henss	(C) 502-1918	(E) dhenss@email.com	Marshal
Richard C. Wadkins	(C) 540-335-1142	(E) rhwadkins@gmail.com	Senior Steward
Michael L. Bryant	(C) 370-7910	(E) campbryant@hotmail.com	Junior Steward
James F. Hardee, PM	(C) 640-8953	(E) varinajim53@gmail.com	Tiler

LIVING PAST MASTERS

Brown, Platon A.	1968	Carter, Donnie R., PDDGM	1996	Jason D. Clemmer	2019
Hines, Elbert Richard	1968	Bass, Jr., Claude A. PDDGM	1999	Linwood G. Bennett, Jr.	2020-2021
Olphin, Jr., Walter L.	1970	Pagani, Robert E.	2000		
Kontopanos, John A., Jr.	1971	Fitchett, Wayne E.	2002		
Plotkin, Leonard	1972	Sheppard, John Q. PDDGM	2003		
McLaughlin, Billy B. PDDGM	1975	Absher, Barrye L. PDDGM	2005	Bernhard, Lothar Arthur	(#19)
Hiner, Henry L.	1978	Jones, Douglas V., PGM	2007	Carter, Daulton L.	(#317)
Whitlock, K. Wayne	1981	Sykes, C. Thomas, PDDGM	2008	Dranoff, Albert Abe PDDGM	(#53)
Olphin, III, Walter L.	1984	Cook, V. Stuart, PGM	2009	Hart, John H. PDDGM	(#302)
Sarbaugh, Charles S. PDDGM	1985	Wadkins, III, J. Thomas, PDDGM	2010-2011	Holmes, Ray W.	(#317)
Dixon, Johnnie L. PDDGM	1986 & 1996	Loftus, Christopher E.	2012	Kidd, Richard C., PDDGM	(#9)
Mayes, Heath W.	1986	W. Martin Myers	2013	LaRochelle, Omer E. Jr., PDDGM	(#244)
Bennett, Jr., George L.	1991	John W. Edelin, III	2014	Martin, Frederick Garrison III, PGM	(#344)
Childrey, William E.	1992	Wade V. Evans, III	2015-2016	Rose, Daniel Lee PDDGM	(#161)
Deligan, Lambros G. PDDGM	1992	Robert E. Cook	2017 & 2022	Sanford, Steven Weldon PDDGM	(#4)
Cooke, III, George H.	1993 & 2021	Rick C. Kidd, PDDGM	2018	Taylor, Robert Wright	(#317)
LaFemina, Keith G.	1995				

AFFILIATE PAST MASTERS