

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

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

Address Service Requested

**OCTOBER 2022 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**

September 20, 2022

Brethren,

We had a great turnout for September's Stated and Brother Jared did an awesome job presiding in the East for Junior Warden's Night. Everyone enjoyed the meal provided by C&C Catering and it looks like we will continue to use them for dinner at our Stated meetings. We also had a thought-provoking talk on the paranormal by Brother Gene Wells.

October is fast approaching and I suspect you are all looking forward to cooler weather as much as I am. Next month will be Past Masters Night and Right Worshipful Brother Buddy Bass will be presiding in the East. I am hoping all of our columns and pilasters will be in attendance, continuing to support Metropolitan's masonic canopy. I ask all Past Masters to gather in the Lodge room at 5pm that evening to meet with our Senior Warden, Brother Ashley Thomas, to hear about his plans for the 2023 Masonic year.

Until then brethren, our Heavenly Father continues to shower us and our Lodge with His blessing and for that we should all rejoice and be glad! I look forward to another great turnout on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Robert E. Cook  
Worshipful Master

## **FROM THE WEST**

Past Masters.

Please plan on joining me at 5:00 PM in the Lodge Room when I will present my plans for the coming year if it is the pleasure of the Lodge to Elect me as your new Worshipful Master.

Fraternaly,  
Brother Ashley Thomas  
Senior Warden

**STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, October 20, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.**

**“PAST MASTERS’ NIGHT”**

***OFFICERS DRESS, MEMBERS & GUESTS:*** Please wear Coat and Tie

**Past Masters: Please wear the Apron from Your Year.**

And Plan to Assemble in the Lodge Room at 5:00 PM  
to hear Brother Ashley Thomas’ Plans for 2023

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: Past Masters’ Night**

Conclude Business

**CLOSE LODGE**

**CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:**

None Scheduled at this time

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Saturday, October 1, 2022 – Family Day at the Masonic Home of Virginia

Saturday, October 15, 2022 – Masters and Wardens Association meeting at the  
Tuckahoe Masonic Temple, located at 5500 Bethlehem Road  
Henrico, VA 23226, Breakfast at 8:00 AM Meeting at 8:45 AM  
(Senior Wardens class will exemplify the 2nd Half of the MM Degree)

Thursday, October 20, 2022 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Stated Communication

**PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – SEPTEMBER 2022 STATED**

Heath W. Mayes, Donnie R. Carter, Claude A. “Buddy” Bass, Jr., Robert E. Pagani, Wayne E. Fitchett  
John Q. Sheppard, V. Stuart Cook (PGM), J. Thomas Wadkins III, Christopher E. Loftus  
Wade V. Evans III, Robert E. Cook, Linwood G. Bennett, Jr., George H. Cooke III, Lambros G. Deligan  
Albert A. Dranoff, Daulton L. Carter, Lothar A. Bernhard, Steven W. Sanford

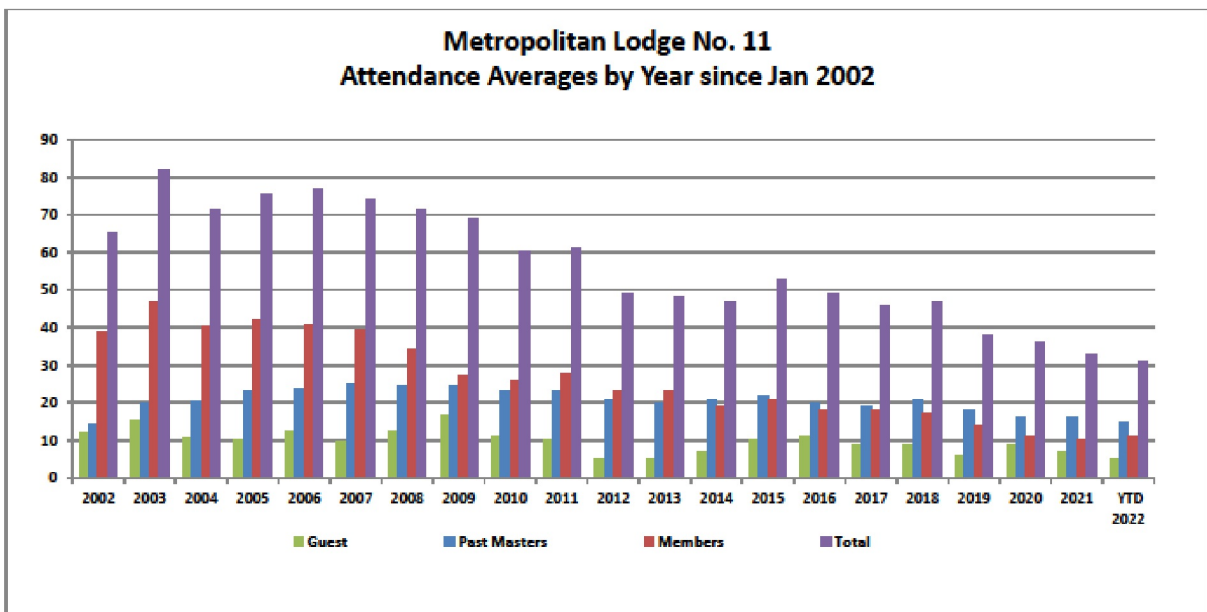
**ATTENDANCE – SEPTEMBER 2022 STATED**

Past Masters – 18 Members – 11 Visitors – 6 Total – 35

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 – 31

### Attendance Chart



## “German Poet, Playwright, Scientist and Statesman”

At thirty-one years of age, he was initiated in Lodge Amalia, at Weimar (where he lived most of his life and where he died) on the eve of the Feast of St. John the Baptist, in 1780. He was born in Saxe-Weimar, now a part of Saxony Germany, in 1749.

Br. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's form of Freemasonry practiced then by his Lodge was then under the "Rite of Strict Observance," that curious compound of politics, religion and Knights Templarism. Of this Rite, Mackey says:

"The Rite of Strict Observance" was a modification of Freemasonry, based on the Order of Knights Templar, and introduced into Germany in 1754 by its founder, the Baron von Hund. It was divided into the following seven degrees: 1. Apprentice; 2. Fellow Craft; 3. Master; 4. Scottish Master; 5. Novice; 6. Templar, and 7. Professed Knight. According to the system of the founder of this Rite, upon the death of Jacques de Molay, the Grand Master of the Templars, Pierre d' Aumont, the Provincial Grand Master of Auvergne, with two Commanders and five Knights retired for purposes of safety into Scotland, which place they reached disguised as Operative Masons, and there finding the Grand Commander, George Harris, and several Knights, they determined to continue the Order. Aumont was nominated Grand Master at a Chapter held on St. John's Day 1313. To avoid persecution the Knights became Freemasons. In 1361, the Grand Master of the Temple removed his seat to Old Aberdeen, and from that time the Order under the veil of Freemasonry, spread rapidly through France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and elsewhere. These events constituted the principal subject of many of the Degrees of the Rite of Strict Observance. The others were connected with alchemy, magic, and other superstitious practices. The great doctrine contended for by the followers of this Rite was, that every true Mason is a Knight Templar."



Throughout the works of this greatest of German poets - a genius so stupendous that he is not infrequently bracketed with Shakespeare - are countless Masonic thoughts, ideas, references and allusions. To English speaking Masons Goethe's best known Masonic work is the short poem "Masonic Lodge."

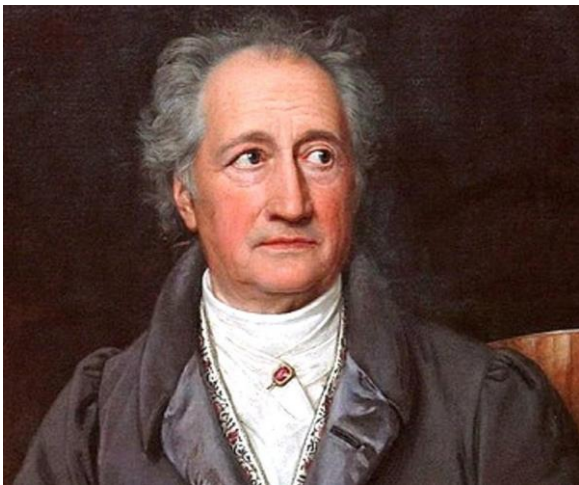
It is impossible to compress the mighty allegorical drama of Faust into a paragraph as to do the same for Hamlet. Goethe did not invent the character of Faust, nor did the legend of his "selling himself to the devil." Faust was an actual historical character, a "scoundrelly magician and astrologer" about whom many legends clustered. In 1587, Faust appears as the hero of a popular book in the pride of his strength and knowledge. He sells his soul to the devil in return for a life of pleasure, luxury and gratification of desire on earth. Goethe added to the old legend a tender and tragic love story and wove into it a philosophic content entirely foreign to the material which began as an old wives tale, expanded into a plot for puppet shows, and finally became a popular book. He makes of Faust a student and a thinker, but also a man, with all of man's desires. Throughout the

tragedy the struggle for ascendancy between good and evil is made manifest, just as in the Masonic drama. It is here that the keen student of Freemasonry and the lover of Goethe finds so many contacts between mind of the poet and teachings of Freemasonry.

As in the Legend of Hiram Abif, Faust at last finds that evil may not forever strive successfully with good; his final and greatest satisfaction is not in selfish pleasure, which means death for the soul, but in work for humanity. Difference of language, of Rite, and of age; make Masonic parallels in Goethe's works and the story and ritual we know, anything but literal.

We know Goethe to have been an interested, thoughtful and zealous Freemason; Lodge Amalia celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his initiation with the aged but still vigorous poet taking part in the celebration. Of this important event in Goethe's life, Brother Otto Caspari has beautifully written:

"On to old age he remained the intellectual center of Amalia Lodge. It was a sacred and hollowed day when Goethe celebrated his fiftieth anniversary in the Temple Weimar. There he stood, the



great and venerable poet, who had lived to see so much - the symbol of true and pure human love, no hypocrite, openly confessing his human weaknesses, but relying on his noble, good and imperishable heart, or which it has been said Goethe's heart, which but few people knew, was as great as his intellect, which everybody knows. "It must have been an impressive moment, when the grand old Mason, after receiving numerous ovations, responded by citing that Masonic poem which shows us clearly how he, an aged man, had retained eternal youth and love in his heart. He praised Freemasonry as the sublime and everlasting union of humanity." The greatest of men have to die; Goethe was called to the Celestial Lodge above on March 22, 1832.

Beautifully, his last words were Masonic - Masonic in the language of the Craft of all Freemasons of all lands and all Rites know. With his last breath, Goethe cried the immortal phrase "More Light!"

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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 2022

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		15107 Martin Glen Terr, Midlothian, VA 23112-6372	
C. Ashley Thomas	(C) 380-0621	(E) ashtomasjr@gmail.com . . . . .	Senior Warden
		5958 Dugout Ter, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-4570	
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		4013 Old Creek Rd, Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387	
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Robert Max McCulloch	(C) 514-8877	(E) rmm158@verizon.net . . . . .	Senior Deacon
		14746 Boyce's Cove Dr, Midlothian, VA 23112-2255	
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		2758 Maple Grove Ln, East Powhatan. VA 23139-5043	
Robert E. Pagani, PM	(C) 512-2808	(E) 1fisherbob@gmail.com . . . . .	Chaplain
George H. Cooke, III, PM	(H) 829-5426	(E) ghcooke3@aol.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	<b>AFFILIATE PAST MASTERS</b>	
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	Malbone, Theodore Irving	(#317)
Childrey, William E.	1992	Wade V. Evans, III	2015-2016	Martin, Frederick Garrison III, PGM	(#344)
Deligan, Lambros G. PDDGM	1992	Robert E. Cook	2017	Rose, Daniel Lee PDDGM	(#161)
Cooke, III, George H.	1993 & 2021	Rick C. Kidd, PDDGM	2018	Sanford, Steven Weldon PDDGM	(#4)
LaFemina, Keith G.	1995			Taylor, Robert Wright	(#317)