

Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, A. F. & A. M.

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[ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED](#)

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*The Master's Trestleboard
November 2021*

Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, A.F. & A.M.

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“UNITED WE STAND”

Chartered Dec. 16, 1874
147th Year
www.lakedrummond178.org

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Associate Marshal
EDWARD J. CORONA

Associate Tiler
C. ROYCE. McCOY

Tiler Emeritus
H.M. “MARTY” HATFIELD, PM

LIVING PAST MASTERS OF LAKE DRUMMOND LODGE NO. 178

S.D. Archer – 1981	W. R. Manier – 1995	R.G. McEvoy – 2006	J.W. Conroy, Jr. – 2016
R.B. Holmes – 1982	G.R. Tester – 1996*	R.D. Reed – 2008	D.L. Bagley – 2017
H.M. Hatfield – 1984	P.W. Morley, Jr. – 1998	K.W. Strickland - 2009	J.W. Snow – 2018
R.S. Best – 1985	T.W. Magas – 1999*	K.E. Stephens, Jr. – 2010	H.P. Strickland – 2019
+J.V. Matthews, Jr. – 1986	+H. C. Slaughter, Sr. – 2000	K.L. Hobbs, Jr. – 2011	R.S. Anderson – 2020
L.P. Fields – 1987	R.L. McDaniel – 2001	R.T. Smith – 2012	
M.B. Joyner – 1989	+M.F. Mansfield – 2003*	C.A. Allsbrook – 2013	
G.E. Brown – 1990	+F.T. Whittington, Sr. – 2004	H.P. Strickland – 2014	
K.P. Strickland – 1991	W.R. Manier – 2005	W.M. Mutter – 2015	

+ - denotes PDDGM, * - denotes demitted.

LIVING MEMBERS WHO ARE PAST MASTERS OF OTHER MASONIC LODGES

J.V. Matthews, Jr., PDDGM-NC	Garland #664, NC	1997-2001
A.W. Densley	Princess Anne #25	2012
G.L. Hanson	Edmond #37, OK	2018

LIVING AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS

F.N. Boalt	Ancon Lodge – Balboa, Rep. of Panama	1981
B. R. Faulkner, PDDGM-NC	Solomon's #1, SC	1976, 1999, 2008
	Old Fort #420, SC	1981, 1982, 2016
	Egeria #71, SC	2014
T.S. Ferrell	Great Bridge #257	2009
W.E. Irving, PDDGM	Great Bridge #257	1984
F.E. Small	Elizabeth #34	1995
R.G. Underdown	Campbell #316	1981
B.H. Wilson, PDDGM	South Norfolk #339	1990, 2013

Master's Message

Right Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Sirs, and Brethren all,

November is an exciting and an eventful month. Grand Lodge was held in Richmond, Virginia from November 3rd through November 6th and we welcome our newly installed Grand Master, Most Worshipful James Winfield Golladay Jr. to its distinguished ranks. If you were unable to attend Grand Lodge you will have the opportunity to meet Most Worshipful Golladay at Lake Drummond on November 11th at our stated communication. It is indeed an honor for him to visit our Lodge.

Please join me in thanking all the men and women that have served our "Great Nation" and wish them a "Happy Veteran's Day," we appreciate your sacrifice and dedication.

I remember as a child looking forward to the holidays that November ushers in. Thanksgiving was a prelude to Christmas, and of course, school vacations. Even as an adult I still get excited during this time of year. Thanksgiving has a much more enriched and thoughtful meaning to me now than when I was young. Reflecting on my many blessings; I am thankful for the time I shared with my parents, having a close family, meeting a wonderful young woman and being able to share my life with her, the memories of my children growing up, friends that have become like family, and even the experience of helping to serve Lake Drummond this year.

While we plan our holiday events, remember the less fortunate, this time of year is especially hard on our local food banks, please donate if you are able. Lake Drummond will host a Thanksgiving meal at the Lodge Thursday, November 25, 2021, from 11:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. No one should be alone, or away from family and friends on a holiday. If you or someone that you know doesn't have plans for Thanksgiving, please join us at the lodge. Wishing you all a safe and very Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Paul A. Wotring
Worshipful Master

From the South

Greetings from the South,

The Lake Drummond Fall Fest was a success and I hope that it was the first of many. The kids had a blast and I think all the Masons involved enjoyed themselves as well. I believe this is something that will become greater every year. The Lodge is doing great things in spite of all the adversity that it has experienced through the pandemic and Worshipful Wotring is responsible for this success! We have the unprecedented privilege of having two different Grand Masters visit our Lodge in the same calendar year. I hope to see a massive turnout at our November stated communication.

Until next time brethren,

Bro. Adam Drake, Junior Warden

A Message from the Senior Deacon

Greetings from the Senior Deacon,

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, meaning tasty holiday cooking and quality time with family and friends are around the corner. When it comes to turkey day, it's easy to get caught up in grocery shopping and prepping for guests and to forget about the true meaning of the holiday. Thanksgiving offers a chance to slow down and practice gratitude for the things we cherish most. What better way to get into the spirit than to be with family and friends? Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Bro. Marshall Worth "Bubba" Tatem

Trustees of Lake Drummond No.178

Lake Drummond would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of its Trustees past and present. Without all of their tireless work our beloved Lodge would not be nearing the monumental 150th year in existence.

Please tell these treasured Brethren "Thank You" for a job well done when you see them next!

Bro. J.J. Ramsey, Wor. D.L. Bagley, Wor. K.P. Strickland, Wor. H.M. Hatfield, Wor. H.P. Strickland

Quote of the Month

"If you want to know where the future of Freemasonry will grow and prosper it's simple: In your heart, and in the hearts of those who follow it."

~ Most Worshipful Conrad Hahn

Moment of Light from Wor. Chris Allsbrook

"Parable of The Good Samaritan"

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:25-37 NIV



Announcements

Lake Drummond will hold its
1st Annual Thanksgiving Community Feast
on Thanksgiving Day from 11:30 AM until 5:00 PM.
We will be serving a traditional Turkey meal with all the fixings. All are welcome and we hope that we can bring the community a little closer, and someone's day a little brighter.

Anyone willing to help with either event, please contact any of our Lodge Officers.

Please remember to donate to the local Food Bank. All donations are appreciated.

Thanksgiving

T Q F F G D F M G B C H A R I T Y
M R D R I R A K Y R G C W Z B N Z
Y I A N I R A L X O I U R Y H A L
Q E N V S E I N R T E X T C P R O
W E K H E M N O D H H I I I Y E D
R Y A R A L C D P E N T H O F T G
I L L F U Q S T S R Y S I E T E E
P D W D L T I V E H W A A A B V P
U G Y C A M D T E O I S D O F V O
C K Y A E W A S L O T P C I J V H
H P B H V R I L S D G Y P U L Z W
S A A B F U E N R B B V B N N O U
M R G E C F F D U B W E M I T B H
J A P R E M E M B R A N C E D M D
K D F F E S P M O P R Y T I N U Y
Y E J L Q N Z E G G D V J C O Z Z
Y W T H A N K S G I V I N G B T L

Bond	Fraternity	Parade
Brotherhood	Friendship	Pomp
Charity	Grand	Remembrance
Dinner	Holiday	Thanksgiving
Faith	Hope	Travels
Family	Lodge	Turkey
Feast	Macy	Unity
Fellowship	Marshal	Veteran

Joke of the Month

Why did the cranberries turn red?
 They saw the turkey dressing!



A time-honored tradition is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade which began in 1924. The founder of Macy Department Store was Rowland Macy Sr., Bro. Macy joined Merrimac Lodge in Massachusetts on November 9th, 1852. Without whom, there would be no Macy's Parade.

Masonic Trivia

Test your Masonic knowledge with a few random trivia questions.

Questions:

Q1: What is the earliest known reference to Freemasonry?

Q2: What did the four Presidents of the Republic of Texas all have in common?

Q3: Who was the longest serving Grand Master in the United States?

Q4: How Long did it take for Warren G. Harding to become a Master Mason?

Q5: Who holds the record for being the smallest Master Mason ever raised?

Answers:

A1: In 1390 The Regius Poem, or Halliwell Manuscript mentions Freemasons.

A2: Burnett, Houston, Lamar, and Jones were all Masons.

A3: Grand Master Thomas Jacob Shryock from Maryland served 32 years as Grand Master and died after being elected to his 33rd term.

A4: He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice in 1901, and it 19 years to complete the other 2.

A5: Bro. Charles Stratton, a.k.a. Tom Thumb was 24 inches tall and weighed 16 pounds when he was raised in 1862.



Schedule of Events Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178 for 2021



← October 2021		November 2021					December 2021 →
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 MWD 6pm Dist. School 6:45pm Portsmouth Scottish Rite Bodies	2 South Norfolk 339	3 Grand Lodge	4 Grand Lodge	5 Grand Lodge	6 Grand Lodge of VA GAC	
7 Lake Drummond Ritual School	8 Victory 16, OES	9	10 Lake Drummond Officers Meeting	11 Veteran's Day Lake Drummond 178 Stated Grand Master Golladay Visit	12	13	
14	15 Portsmouth Commandery 5	16 Indian River 232	17 Mt. Horeb RAC 11	18 Berkley/ Donc Stated	19	20 Grand Chapter RAM in VA GAC	
21 Lake Drummond Ritual School	22 Victory 16, OES	23 Cradock RAC 72	24 Great Bridge 257	25 Lake Drummond Thanksgiving Day Dinner	26	27	
28	29	30	Notes: Grand Lodge in Richmond 11-03-2021 – 11-06-2021, Grand Master Golladay Visit at Stated on 11-11-21, Lake Drummond Thanksgiving Dinner 11-25-21				

Brethren, during this time of uncertainty please verify meeting dates and know that things are subject to change.

In Memoriam

Please remember all of our Brethren that have laid down their worldly working tools and passed on to the Celestial Lodge above.

Sunshine Committee Report

Please keep our sick and distressed raised up in your thoughts and prayers. The best thing that you can do for someone is to pray for them. If you know of a Brother, widow, or family member that is sick, injured, or distressed, please inform either the Sunshine Committee, or one of your Lodge officers. We want to ensure we are praying for every need any of our Lodge members may face. In this unprecedented time, we need to readily reach out to one another and share each other's burdens. All reported needs will only be shared based on the privacy and discretion requested by each member.

Get Well Cards

Rt. Wor. Fred Boalt
 Bro. Simon Edwards
 Bro. Luke McCoy
 Terrie Hepler

Thinking of You

Bro. Monty Mitchell
 Bro. Jim Collins
 Anna Kent
 Geraldine Budd
 Wor. Randy Reed
 Rt. Wor. F. T. "Buddy" Whittington Sr

Master Craftsmen Pledge Drive

Brethren Thank you so much for your generous contributions to the Master Craftsmen Pledge Drive! Every donation helps support the Lodge. We will continue this Pledge drive through the end of the year.

We have raised over \$15,000.00 reaching 30% to our goal of \$50,000.00.

We have also had a contribution rate of over 25% of our membership!!

There is still time to make you pledge or donation. Every amount is appreciated and treasured.

Thank you for investing on your Lodge.

We hope you can join us at Lodge to reap the rewards for years to come.

Donations to the Master Craftsman Pledge Drive go towards building back our Treasury and will be invested by the Lodge Trustees for future use by the Lodge, Thankfully we were able to hold our Spring Barbecue and Fall Fish Fry Fundraisers to help us meet our financial obligations this year. Thank you to all of our Brethren for everything you do for your Lodge. We are investing our Masonic wages for the betterment of not only ourselves but all Mankind.

Levels of Donations

Any amount is greatly appreciated.

\$1 - \$199 – Temple Builder

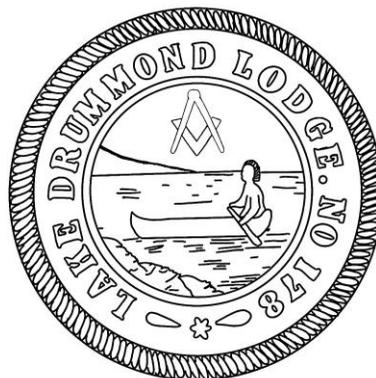
\$200 - \$239 – Craftsman

\$240-\$359 – Master Craftsman

\$360 - \$499 – Master Overseer

\$500 - \$999 – Master Architect

\$1,000 & Up – Grand Master



November Masonic Birthdays

Join us in wishing these Brethren a Happy Masonic Birthday!

Bro. Harley Paul Affeldt - Nov. 25, 1949 - 72 yrs.
Bro. William Warren Yaun Jr. - Nov. 28, 1958 - 63 yrs.
Bro. Charles Enrico Ciccotti - Nov. 16, 1967 - 54 yrs.
Bro. George D. Pritchard - Nov. 30, 1967 - 54 yrs.
Bro. Francis Woodrow Seader - Nov. 7, 1968 - 53 yrs.
Bro. Clarence William McCoy - Nov. 5, 1969 - 52 yrs.
Bro. Harold Willard Dodge - Nov. 21, 1970 - 51 yrs.
Bro. William Earl Phelps - Nov. 20, 1971 - 50 yrs.
Bro. James Greer King - Nov. 18, 1972 - 49 yrs.
Bro. James Howard Hale Jr. - Nov. 21, 1974 - 47 yrs.
Bro. David Shaw McCoy Jr. - Nov. 8, 1975 - 46 yrs.
Bro. Charles Royce McCoy - Nov. 8, 1975 - 46 yrs.
Bro. George Daniel McCoy Jr. - Nov. 8, 1975 - 46 yrs.
Bro. James Judson Ramsey - Nov. 20, 1976 - 45 yrs.
Wor. Richard Blaine Holmes - Nov. 20, 1976 - 45 yrs.
Bro. William G. Burgess Jr. - Nov. 29, 1976 - 45 yrs.
Bro. Rodger Dale Jones - Nov. 29, 1977 - 44 yrs.
Bro. Raymond D. Cartwright - Nov. 30, 1978 - 43 yrs.
Wor. Larry Phillip Fields - Nov. 1, 1979 - 42 yrs.
Bro. Robert Alan Smoyer Sr. - Nov. 3, 1979 - 42 yrs.

Bro. Michael Idus Stockton - Nov. 15, 1979 - 42 yrs.
Wor. Glenn Ervin Brown - Nov. 26, 1983 - 38 yrs.
Bro. Craig Harold Matthews - Nov. 26, 1983 - 38 yrs.
Bro. Ronald Lee Hepler - Nov. 26, 1983 - 38 yrs.
Bro. Rodney Davis Breher - Nov. 29, 1990 - 31 yrs.
Bro. George Wade Lowery - Nov. 23, 1991 - 30 yrs.
Bro. Christopher Brian Patton - Nov. 2, 1995 - 26 yrs.
Bro. Mark Richard Myers - Nov. 30, 1995 - 26 yrs.
Bro. Marlin Clugsten Patrick - Nov. 7, 1996 - 25 yrs.
Bro. Charles F. Higginbotham IV - Nov. 4, 1999 - 22 yrs.
Bro. Danny Reed Rideout - Nov. 30, 2000 - 21 yrs.
Wor. Gary Leroy Hanson - Nov. 20, 2002 - 19 yrs.
Wor. Theodore Samuel Ferrell - Nov. 2, 2005 - 16 yrs.
Bro. Paul Leon Wolfe III - Nov. 29, 2007 - 14 yrs.
Bro. Blake Thomas Roberson - Nov. 27, 2010 - 11 yrs.
Bro. Kyle Lee Billips - Nov. 27, 2010 - 11 yrs.
Wor. Raymond Scott Anderson - Nov. 18, 2015 - 6 yrs.
Bro. Gilbert Earl Sawyer Jr. - Nov. 3, 2016 - 5 yrs.
Bro. Joshua Stuart Hill - Nov. 9, 2016 - 5 yrs.
Bro. Leonard E. Gregory III - Nov. 30, 2016 - 5 yrs.

1,418 Total Years in Freemasonry

This Month in Masonic History

NOVEMBER

November 1: On this date in 1922, the cornerstone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, in Alexandria, Virginia, was laid in a Masonic ceremony.

November 4: On this date in 1752, George Washington received his Entered Apprentice degree in Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia

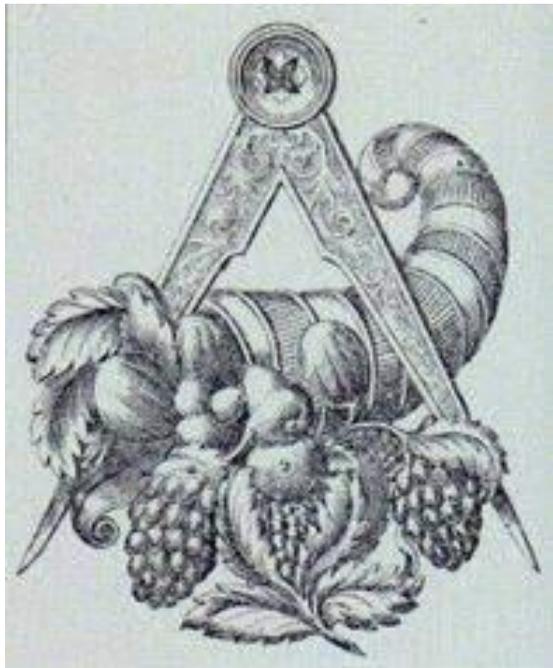
November 21: On this date in 1838, the Grand Lodge of Arkansas was formed

November 22: On this date in 1991, Jerry Marsengill was killed in an automobile accident. He was a very active Freemason, editor of the Philalethes magazine, the Royal Arch Mason magazine, and Past President of the Philalethes Society.

November 25: On this date in 1813, the Articles of Union of the United Grand Lodge of England were signed

November 26: On this date in 1737, a letter to the editor appeared in the New York Gazette newspaper, criticizing the secrecy of Freemasons and the words of the obligations' penalties (as disclosed in a previous exposé of Freemasonry). This appears to have been the first anti-masonic effort in the colonies that became the United States.

November 28: On this date in 1884, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, in London, England, the first research lodge in the world, received its warrant. On this date in 1911, Franklin D. Roosevelt (U.S. President 1933-1945) received his 3rd degree.



36th Masonic District
Deputy Grand Master 2022

Brethren,
We as masons are generous and companionate as part of our journey in the Craft. Selfless acts without praise are part of who we are and what we do as a matter of course. Worshipful Wotring and Lake Drummond lodge have once again exemplified this by making sure that on Thanksgiving anyone who needs a full dinner will have it putting their own personal needs on hold to do the greater good as Thanksgiving is a holiday that is not best served alone. Once again showing Lake Drummond Lodge as Mason forward.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Right Worshipful Todd Eastlick

TEAM ANGELA BARBECUE FUNDRAISER

**\$10 Donation
Per Plate**

**Dinners includes:
Pork Barbecue, Baked Beans
Cole slaw, & Hush puppies**



Angela is 29 years old and was diagnosed with ALL leukemia in '17. Angela relapsed in October of 2020 and received a bone marrow transplant at Duke University Hospital in February of 2021. All proceeds will go to her continued care and medical bills.

**Saturday, November 13, 2021
11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Lake Drummond Masonic Lodge
509 George Washington Hwy., N.
Chesapeake, VA 23323**

Take-out only
**Curbside
Pick-up
Available**



Need Tickets?
Contact: Kyle Strickland
757-754-1671
178strickland@gmail.com

What Makes A Man A Mason?

by Bro. George M. Free

What makes a man a Mason, O brother of mine?
It isn't the due guard, nor is it the sign,
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed

It isn't the step, nor the token, nor the grip,
Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip,
Nor yet the possession of that mystic word
On five points of fellowship duly conferred.

Though these are essential, desirable, fine,
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.
That you to your sworn obligation are true
'Tis that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.

Secure in your heart you must safeguard and trust,
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,
Be chaste in your thought, in your word and your deed.

Support he who falters, with hope banish fear,
And whisper advice in an erring one's ear.
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly
shine,
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,
The gavel of vices with courage apply;
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,
On the level, to bourn whence no travelers come,

The Book of your faith be the rule and the guide,
The compass your passions shut safely inside;
The stone which the Architect placed in your care
Must pass the strict test of His unerring square.

And then you will meet
with approval divine,
And you'll be a Mason,
O brother of mine.

Dues Reminder

Brethren,

Thank you to those who have paid your dues. There are currently 26 Members who have not paid their 2020 and 2021 Dues. Dues are currently \$170.00 and are due by December 31. If you are two years in arrears you are subject to Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues (SNPD). Dues arrearage reminders have been mailed out and those Brethren have been reported to the Grand Master. Citations for Suspension of Non-Payment of Dues were issued at our September Stated Communication if you owe two years of Dues.

If you are having financial difficulties, please reach out to the Secretary or Worshipful Master and we will make arrangements to assist!

Dues invoices for 2022 will be mailed approximately October 25, 2021. Dues for 2022 will be \$175.00

You can pay your dues online via PAY PAL or credit card at
<http://lakedrummond178.org/PaymentCenter/Default.aspx>

Remember LMIP and 50 Year Masonic Veterans are not liable for Dues

Purchase you LMIP and never pay dues again, 25 times your current year dues or \$4,250.00

LMIP can be purchased all at once or paid in installments or by credit card/PayPal. Inquire with the Secretary if you are interested.

A Masonic Journey

*Each month we will spotlight a different Mason. We will tell his Masonic story, what brought him to Freemasonry, his most remembered masonic moment, his thoughts, his accomplishments, his dreams. We will learn about members of our Lodge by spotlighting different Masons each month. This month I would like to spotlight a mason that has inspired me, **Brother Norman Craig Strickland.***

Norman Craig Strickland was born and raised in Hampton Roads and is a native of Chesapeake, growing up in the Butts Station Road / Elbow Road area of what was then a part of Great Bridge. He came from a large family and had five (5) brothers with him being the youngest of the six (6). In 1984, he graduated from Great Bridge High School and was part of the first graduating class from its current location on Hanbury Road. One of the few times that he rode his bicycle in his neighborhood, he met a special young lady named Rose. They were married in 1987 and have been happily together for 34 years. Norman started working for Aerodyne at the airport in 1984 and stayed there until 1992. He then started working for a regional waste removal and disposal company where he still remains 30 years later as their “Heavy Equipment Fleet Manager.” An outdoorsman at heart, he loves to fish and travel the local waterways on his boat. He also enjoys cooking and being part of Lake Drummond Lodge. Some of his fondest memories revolve around the cookouts and fellowship that he has enjoyed, beginning in his early childhood and continuing still today.

Norman’s Grandfather, Bro. Wilber Waltower Strickland from South Carolina, passed away when his father Bro. Willie Leonard Strickland was just ten (10) years old. His affiliation with Freemasonry made an impression on young Willie, and his brother Joseph that started a family tradition of Masons. Bro. Willie Strickland became a member of South Norfolk No. 339, then joined Great Bridge No. 257, and eventually became a member of Lake Drummond No. 178. His brother, Bro. Joseph Strickland was a Mason across the border in North Carolina. Norman’s mother, Mrs. Jean Strickland was a member of the Eastern Star in Great Bridge, and still remains a loyal member of Victory Chapter No. 16 at Lake Drummond. This foundation gave Norman and his brothers the privilege of growing up, both literally and figuratively, in a Masonic family. Of the six (6) boys in the family, four (4) became Masons, all of which are members at Lake Drummond; Wor. Kenneth “Butter Bean” Strickland, Bro. Timothy D. “Heavy” Strickland, Bro. Leonard Strickland, and Bro. Norman Craig Strickland, and Wor. Kenneth Strickland’s sons, Wor. Kyle Strickland and Wor. Henry Strickland, both of which are members of Lake Drummond. It is hard to imagine a Lake Drummond Lodge without the impact that these fine men have made on the community in general, and Masonry in particular.

When asked why he wanted to become a Mason, Norman replied, “I have been around Masonry since I was a young boy, so small that I had to sit on my knees to eat from the table at Great Bridge Lodge. Masonry was a family lifestyle that I grew up in. I revered the men that I was surrounded by, they knew how to do everything; carpentry, plumbing, mechanics, autobody, and they were Police Officers and Firemen. They had these big fancy rings and could do everything. I wanted to be just like them.” In 1991 Wor. Kenneth Strickland presided in the East. Brother Norman said that he felt that he had settled down enough to join the Masonic Brotherhood, and petitioned Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178. His Brother, Wor. Kenneth Strickland and his father Bro. Willie Strickland signed for him. He was initiated on May 5, and was passed to Fellowcraft on June 6, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 27.

Of the many wonderful memories, that he has in Masonry, two (2) stick out the most in his mind. The first was shortly after being raised a Master Mason, he was sitting in Lodge when his brother (Wor. Kenneth Strickland) had his father (Bro. Willie Strickland) and his uncle (Bro. Joseph Strickland) presented in the East where they each were asked to take a chair on either side of Wor. Kenneth Strickland while he was presiding in the East. It was a special and proud family moment for Bro. Norman, and it made an impact on him that he never forgot. The second was having the privilege of watching his two (2) nephews, Wor. Kyle Strickland and Wor. Henry Strickland become Brothers in Masonry, and grow into active Brethren in the lodge, Worshipful Masters, and good citizens in the community.

A Masonic Journey cont.

When asked which Tenant of Freemasonry he felt held the strongest significance, Bro. Norman stated, “All of the Tenants are important, but two stand out, because these two Tenants work together. They are Charity and Brotherly Love, together they define what Masonry is.” He further stated that “Masonry is much like a family, you don’t always agree and get along, but when someone needs something, differences are set aside, and everyone comes together, all working to aid and help until they reach the common goal of assisting in any way they can.” His advice for newly raised Masons is to ask questions. “Never be afraid to ask questions, ask several people about things that you don’t know to get different perspectives. Get involved and learn about Masonry, practice its Tenants, and stay involved. In order to be successful and gain something from it, it must be something that you want and work for.” For those wishing to advance and get into line, he says, “Be patient, know what your limitations are and what is expected.” As an example, he used himself, “I was in line years ago and was Jr. Deacon. I received a promotion at work and my time became limited. I decided to step out of line so I could devote what was needed to where it was needed and not neglect my commitments.” There is nothing wrong with stepping aside to do what is best for yourself, your family or your Lodge. “While you are in line, you must be dedicated to learning and committed to your obligations. There is no rush to get into the East. You must do it on your time, when it is right for you, and when you are ready.”

During the past thirty (30) years many things have changed. Bro. Norman said that throughout his journey, “not much has really changed in Masonry, at least not where it counts. The faces have changed, the names may have changed, but not the character of the men or the core of their Masonic beliefs, there have always been good people in Lodge. Some things change because of the changing times that we live in. While trends come and go, Masonry must adapt and change to survive. I am a traditionalist when it comes to Masonry. Tradition is important, but as long as the core values remain, we must adapt when needed to survive and accept positive changes and differences as they come. I would like to see a return to some of the old times, when plans were made and there were enough active members to carry the plans out.” When asked if Masonry changed him as person he quickly stated, “Absolutely! I would not be the person that I am if not for Masonry. From a young age I was surrounded by good men from all walks of life, from various backgrounds, and as different as they were, they were all good men with similar values. Many of them have given me advice, whispered good council in my ear, and when needed, they reminded me of my errors. From the time I was a young child until this very day, my happiest times have been out back of the Lodge, cooking, eating, fellowshiping, and learning to improve myself and helping others to do the same.”

Be A Little Kind

Of all good things in Masonry,
The one great virtue, you'll agree,
From First degree to Thirty-three,
Is this, *just being kind.*

The lib’ral Arts teach us each day,
The Sciences our minds do sway,
We learn from them the perfect way,
The Art of *being kind.*

The Working Tools we nightly use,
This virtue in us all infuse,
And thus we others do enthuse
To be *a little kind.*

It isn't asking you too much,
To give this little friendly touch,
But oh, the joy it gives to such
Of whom *you're being kind.*

The Five Great Points of Fellowship,
Alone, or in relationship,
Bound together by one strong Grip,
Teach us *to be kind.*

God this intended in His Plan,
When first He made His image, man,
Your fellow men then gently scan
And be *a little kind.*

~Bro. Charles Fotheringham