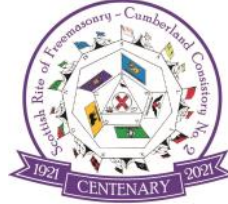


# The Perfect Elu

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, S. J.  
Valley of Cumberland Orient of Maryland



**Newsletter  
Volume 43  
Number 2**

**June 2024**

## Members Recognized for Service to the Rite



Personal Representative Jamey Hill (at left) and Assistant Personal Representative Sam Lane (at right) presented service awards during the Spring 2024 Convocation. Honorees in attendance were (left to right) Donald Middleton (40 years), Joseph Neder (55 years), Douglas Cook (60 years), and Curtis Haines (55 years).

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Want to receive the Perfect Elu and other updates in your inbox?? Sign up at [www.cumberlandscottishrite.org](http://www.cumberlandscottishrite.org)

Cumberland Scottish Rite meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm. It's YOUR Scottish Rite and we would like to see you there and fellowship with YOUR Brothers, ....they would like to see you

## New Members Receive Scottish Rite Rings and Prayer Caps



Members of the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Scottish Rite Classes were presented their Scottish Rite Rings and Prayer Caps at the Spring Convocation in April. In addition to receiving these important acknowledgments of their membership in the Rite, the new members, their families, and guests joined the Valley in honoring longtime members for their service and participated in the Ceremony of Lights to commemorate those members of the Valley who passed to the Celestial Lodge above since the Feast of Tishri in November.

Fall 2023 Class Member Bro. Ryan Derby and Hon. Gary Shriver, 32° KCCH received Membership Prisms recognizing that they were each top line signers on five or more petitions for the Spring 2024 Class.

## Valley of Cumberland Upcoming Events

### JUNE 2024

|                  |                                                           |          |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Saturday, June 8 | 76th Annual Battie Mixon Fishing Rodeo – Oldtown, MD      | 8:00 am  |
| Monday, June 17  | KSA Burns Committee Kickoff                               | 6:00 pm  |
| Sunday, June 23  | St. John the Baptist Day – Christ Lutheran Church, Lavale | 10:00 am |
| Friday, June 28  | Scottish Rite Ladies Night at Stonecroft Manor            | 6:00 pm  |

### JULY 2024

|                   |                                      |                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Saturday, July 20 | Family Corn Roast – Summerfield Lane | 1:00 – 6:00 pm |
| Saturday, July 27 | Grandmaster's Ball – Cockeysville    | 6:00 pm        |

### AUGUST 2024

|                   |                                           |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, August 19 | KSA Burns Committee                       | 7:30 pm           |
| Sunday, August 25 | Degree Rehearsal – 14, 30 & 32 (with KSA) | 1:00/2:00/3:00 pm |

## Northern Garrett High School Cadet Presented Scottish Rite JROTC Award

Venerable Master Mike Kerns and members of the Cumberland Scottish Rite presented the Scottish Rite JROTC Medal to Cadet Lt. Col. Kevin Shipway of the Southern Garrett High School Rams Squadron during the Squadron's 2024 Annual Awards program. Cadet Shipway reported to Army Basic Training to begin his military service after graduating in May.

To be eligible to receive the Scottish Rite JROTC Award, the Cadet must have: contributed the most among cadets on campus to encourage and demonstrate Americanism by deeds or conduct during participation in extracurricular activities or community projects; demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of his/her academic class; and demonstrated outstanding leadership by exhibiting qualities of dependability, good character, self-discipline, good citizenship, and patriotism.

The Cumberland Scottish Rite is proud to participate in the Scottish Rite JROTC Program for High Schools in partnership with the JROTC program leadership at



Pictured L to R: James Summerfield, Jerome Robinette, JROTC Instructor Samuel Sapp, Jamey Hill, Michael Kerns, Cadet Shipway, Richard Haines, Mark Lathrop, Robin Summerfield, and JROTC Instructor Donald R. Wilson Jr., MSG (R)

Northern Garrett High School and Southern Garrett High School. Other high school JROTC programs within the Valley of Cumberland are encouraged to contact Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield at (301) 729-2491.

## Blue Lodges: The Foundation of Freemasonry

BY: ILL. JAMEY S. HILL, 33, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SGIG OF MARYLAND



As we complete our final Masonic activities and prepare for Summer vacations before going dark in June as Freemasons traditionally do, I would like to applaud our local Blue Lodges for their laser focus on the important task of making Masons in recent months. The Scottish Rite and other Masonic bodies have certainly been beneficiaries of their hard work; the Cumberland Scottish Rite initiated thirteen members in the Spring 2024 class, several of whom had recently been raised as Master Masons!

In addition to introducing new members to the Scottish Rite and other appendant organizations, the Blue Lodges have been encouraging new Master Masons to take part in various educational opportunities, such as the excellent programs offered by the Maryland Masonic Academy. I'm particularly excited by Queen City Lodge No. 131's plan to invite blue lodges to form teams of their newest Master Masons to face off with those of other lodges in a fun and challenging Masonic Quiz Bowl competition. Thanks Fellas! It's efforts like these that provide a positive experience for our current members and attract new ones.

In a previous column, I wrote of our need as Freemasons to focus on returning to our respective Lodges and Churches after the Covid experience. The truth is that our members really liked the time off, so much so they've decided to stay home and lay aside their previous commitments – perhaps permanently? As social institutions struggle to regain the active participation of mutual members, they are inevitably inclined to compete for their attention and, in some cases, to revisit past misunderstandings and grievances. Alas, Anti-Masonic sentiment seems to be once again taking root in some quarters.

When our past Sovereign Grand Commander Henry C. Clausen faced this same issue in the last half of the last century, he did not hide from the fact that there are Anti-Masonic movements within the very churches we as members attend. Those negative movements come and go with the decades as church membership ebbs and flows. Clausen understood that, while our zeal for Freemasonry should not lead us into argument with those who, through ignorance, may ridicule it, we should neither neglect to inform and reassure our brethren when fear is being used to defame the craft. I encourage every member to read what our Masonic brother and Reverend Gary Trail has to say about his faith being uplifted by being a Freemason on page 4 of this publication. I believe his words are as relevant and valuable to Masons in the 21st Century as they were when they first appeared in the Scottish Rite Journal thirty years ago.

I hope all of our members and families enjoy a pleasant break from your Masonic labors over the coming months!

Stay strong in the Faith,

Jamey S. Hill, Personal Representative

## Brent Lewis Recognized as Scottish Rite Freemason of the Year



Hon. Brent A. Lewis, 32° KCCH was named 2023 Freemason of the Year by the Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite. Brother Lewis has distinguished himself and brought honor to the fraternity through his service and commitment to the tenets of Freemasonry. He has been committed to excellence in ritual as a member of the 18<sup>th</sup> Degree cast and has provided important service to his brethren and their families as Chaplain of Oakland Lodge No. 192. He is an active member of the Ali Ghan Shriners Harige Unit and serves regularly in his church.

Brent's commitment to RiteCare is undeniable. As the founder and co-chair of the Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Tournament, he led a small committee of volunteers in quickly establishing the event as the second largest annual fundraiser for RiteCare in the Valley of Cumberland, netting \$22,000 for RiteCare in its second year. Brent's contributions have added greatly to the Valley of Cumberland's efforts to promote awareness of the Scottish Rite and the

Oakland RiteCare program among individuals and families, organizations, and businesses in Garrett County.

## Why I Am A Mason And A Minister

By The Reverend Dr. Gary W. Trail, 32°

*This article originally appeared in The Scottish Rite Journal, September 1994*

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Two men I greatly admire, respect, and love as fraternal Brothers have greatly impacted my life and career as a United Methodist Minister of the Gospel. One of them, the Reverend Ritchie F. Ball, was my pastor. He guided and encouraged me as I felt the inward call to Christian ministry. He introduced me to the inner workings of our denomination, spent many hours in counsel with me, and indicated ways that it would be possible for me, a poor mountain lad, to complete seven years of higher education and thus be licensed and ordained by our denomination.

He also united my wife and me in marriage. At the time, he was pastor of six Methodist churches in south-central Pennsylvania. I soon discovered he was a Mason and proud of it. He explained he had learned more Scripture by working in the Fraternity. His dedication to his faith and calling was unquestioned. He had left a business position to take charge of six churches at one-fifth the salary. If he could be a Christian and Masonry made him a better minister, I wanted to be a Mason and a minister, too.

The second man, the Reverend Francis P. Yarlett, befriended me and worked alongside me as a young pastor of four churches. He had five churches at the time, and we spent many hours conducting services together, traveling to meetings together, and visiting in one another's homes. I discovered that he, too, was a Mason, and if Masonry enhanced his Christian character and ministry, as it had for Reverend Ball, then I wanted to be a Mason, too.

The time came for me to enter Choptank Lodge No. 138, East New Market, Maryland, on November 22, 1977. I was raised April 11, 1978. I found many Brothers there who were also members of my church in Hurlock, Maryland, and I was privileged to serve as Chaplain of the Lodge while I was there.

On May 2, 1983 I received my patent as a 32° Mason at the Lodge of Perfection in Cumberland, Maryland. Prior to that I had read a book against Masonry, and its spurious arguments had convinced me to seek further light in the Scottish Rite. My class honored me by electing me as its orator for the event. A short time later I was privileged to become a Shriner at Ali Ghan Temple in Cumberland, Maryland. For two years I was privileged to serve the Temple as Chaplain.

I am very happy to be part of the world's oldest fraternity, and to join in fellowship with Brothers who believe in God and desire to be better men. The lessons in morality and Masonry are valuable today in a society laced with immorality. I believe those who began Masonry were very wise. They knew that to have a true fraternity, you needed morality; and to have morality, men needed to believe in God. I am unashamedly a Christian, and as a Christian I am commanded to love all people. If I don't respect other men who have differing faiths, do I truly care for them? Do I truly love as a Christian if I do not have appreciation for others of differing faiths? I have been blessed in Lodge meetings to share the friendship of my Jewish Brothers and others of differing faiths.

During the last few years I have been appointed by our Bishop as a General Evangelist approved by the United Methodist Church, Baltimore-Washington Conference. This meant leaving the security of a loving church and a regular paycheck to make my living by evangelistic meetings. Financially, it has been very tough going. Learning of this, my Blue Lodge Brothers, Scottish Rite Brothers, and Shrine Brothers, paid my dues so that I might remain a Mason in good standing. I am very grateful to them, as they put their faith into action for me.

With God's help, I have been, am, and will continue to be a Mason. We live in a time of anti-Masonry, which seems to ebb and flow in each century, yet the character of my Lodge Brothers and friends speaks louder than all the anti-Masonry clamor.

**Gary W. Trail** is a member of East Gate Lodge No. 216 and the Scottish Rite Bodies of Cumberland, Maryland. Brother Trail holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Wesley Theological Seminary, has served as a pastor for fifty years, and has been honored by the American Bible Institute with a Doctor of Sacred Theology Degree and by the Wessex Theological College, Sherborne, England, with an Honorary Fellowship.

## Cumberland KSA Chapter Shines a Light on the Rite

Brothers Christopher Dillard and Tim Friend joined the ranks of the Cumberland Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew this Spring. The Knights of the Chapter are pictured here following their April Communication and Initiation Ceremony.



Pictured L to R: Robin Summerfield, Senior Warden Brett Bean, Mark Weatherholt, Jamey Hill, Sam Lane, Dwight Metcalf, Christopher Dillard, Venerable Master Mark Lathrop, Tim Friend, Ed Kave, Chapter Secretary Michael Kerns, Richard Haines, Gary Trail, Jerome Robinette, and Christopher Ackerman.

The Cumberland Chapter of Knights of St. Andrew serves the Valley in a number of ways including aiding the Tyler, acting as greeters, escorting dignitaries and other special guests, serving as guides, providing arches of steel, assisting with Scottish Rite degree work, and presenting the colors.

Knights of St. Andrew also assist with membership retention activities, participate in parades or civic activities, promote fundraising events, and aid in special events. Their flexibility and enthusiasm make the Knights of St. Andrew one of the Valley's most active and desirable organizations. It is an excellent way to nurture and develop future leaders

as they learn their organizational and leadership skills, explore the inner structures of their Scottish Rite Centers, and thus gain a deeper admiration for our Order and Brethren who work in Freemasonry as a whole. Membership in the Knights of St. Andrew is open to all 32° Masons in the Valley. To find out more or request a petition for membership, contact Chapter Secretary Michael Kerns at 240-727-4884.



In May, The Cumberland Chapter and Cumberland's Emmanuel Episcopal Parish co-hosted the annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans at the city's historic church with parishioners joining the Knights in receiving a blessing of their family or organizational tartans as part of the morning religious services. "Kirk" is the Scottish word for "church." Tartans, with their distinctive plaid, represent specific Scottish clans, regions, or regiments. The "Kirkin' O' The Tartans" is the presentation of a Scottish family's symbol, its tartan, at church for blessing.

The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew were recognized as the Honored Clan at the 36th Annual Garrett County Celtic Festival held in June. The Festival draws hundreds of visitors to celebrate Celtic traditions along the banks of the Youghiogheny River in beautiful Friendsville, Maryland.

Sixteen clans and a variety of performers, competitors, presenters, and vendors participated in this year's event. During the festival, Past Venerable Master Sam Lane gave a presentation on the history and purposes of the Scottish Rite Knights of St. Andrew and the Chapter served as the Color Guard to present the colors during the "Gathering on the Green."





3rd Annual  
**Debbie Friend**  
Memorial Golf Scramble

*Sponsored by The Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation*

**Oakland Golf Club**  
**Saturday, September 21, 2024**  
*Rain Date Saturday, October 5, 2024*

**18 Hole Scramble**

**\$400 per Team (Foursome) or \$100 per Player • Lunch Included**  
**9:00 am Registration • 10:30 am Tee Time**

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

- ♦ Hole Sponsor—\$100
- ♦ Friend of RiteCare—\$250
- ♦ SILVER Sponsor—\$1000 (Includes Team Registration)
- ♦ GOLD Sponsor—\$3000 (Includes Team Registration)
- ♦ PLATINUM Sponsor—\$5000 (Includes Team Registration)

**Purchase a Sponsorship or Register a Team Online at**  
**[cumberlandsctishrite.org](http://cumberlandsctishrite.org)**

For more info contact  
Jason Finch at 301-616-6500 or Brent Lewis at 301-501-3130

**Proceeds Support**



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## Summer is a Time for Fellowship!

Our Cumberland Masonic Strawberry Night in June was a wonderful time of fellowship for members, family, and friends with members of Blue Lodges across the Valley of Cumberland in attendance! Thanks to Strawberry Night Chairman Michael Kamauff and the many volunteers who prepared and served at the event. Events like Strawberry Night and the Scottish Rite Family Picnic and Corn Roast are great traditions that offer a chance to spend time together in a casual setting while we take a break from the usual business of our lodges during the “dark” days of summer.

Both of these events have grown in popularity and we have been pleased to see more of our members – new and not-so-new – participating!

This year’s Scottish Rite Family Picnic and Corn Roast will be held at the home of Jamie and Linda Summerfield on Summerfield Lane in Rawlings, MD on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00 pm. This is always a wonderful afternoon of food, friends, and fellowship! You may want to get in a bit of practice on your cornhole skills if you hope to compete with our resident champion, Jerry Robinette. He takes no prisoners! We will provide burgers, fried chicken, and other meats. Bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert to share.



**Cumberland Scottish Rite**  
**2024 Family Picnic & Corn Roast**  


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**Saturday, July 27th @ 1:00 pm**  
**15413 Summerfield Lane, Rawlings, MD**  
 Grilled meats, roast corn, and beverages will be provided.  
 Please bring a covered dish and enjoy yourself.  
 All Scottish Rite Masons, family, and friends are welcome!

### 9th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt to Support Rite Care

Saturday, November 2, 2024

On Point Outfitters, Addison, PA



**Limited Space Available!**

\$185 per Shooter (\$75 Deposit)

- ⇒ A Guide and Dog for Each Group of 5
- ⇒ 4 Pheasants and 2 Quails per Shooter
- ⇒ Exciting prizes!

Carpool from Little Sandy’s at Keyser’s Ridge at 8:00 am

Breakfast on your own

Contact Rob Elliott for Details at 724-984-1484



**RSVP at [cumberlandsctishrite.org](http://cumberlandsctishrite.org)**

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## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Burns Night Raises \$35,000 for RiteCare



This year's Burns Night presented by the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew set records for both attendance and fundraising in their work to support the four regional RiteCare Clinics sponsored by the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation. A ceremonial check in the amount of \$35,000 was presented to the Valley's RiteCare Clinical Partner, The Children's League, during the event.

Pictured L to R: Valley of Cumberland Personal Representative and Children's League Director Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33°; Bro. Larry Hartz, 32°; SGIG Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°; Children's League Director Ill. Jerome F. Robinette, 33°; KSA Venerable Master

Hon. Michael W. Kerns, 32° KCCH; Children's League Executive Director Cathy Growden; KSA Advisor Dwight C. Metcalf, 32°; KSA Advisor Hon. Michael L. Kamauff, 32° KCCH; Venerable Master Mark E. Lathrop, 32°; and Valley Secretary Ill. Robin L. Summerfield, 33°.