This message was preached on 4 June 2017 from the historic pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel as “The Rest of the Story: St. Valentine” based on 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. This sermon was one of nine in a sermon series — “The Rest of the Story.” It, along with over 500 other titles, is available on CDs and DVDs.

There’s nothing very romantic about a man being beheaded because of his politically incorrect views. This February 14th marks the 1,751st anniversary when tradition tells us that St. Valentine was executed in the Roman Empire for practicing his Christianity.

This was during the persecution of Emperor Claudius II—who banned his soldiers from marrying because he thought that single men could serve as better warriors. He also forced the emperor-worship of a predecessor—Gallienus—upon the empire. This was something practicing Jews and Christians of the empire could not do ... as they worshipped the only One true Jehovah God and would not bend-a-knee to a false god.

Author Bill Federer notes the consequences of Claudius’ actions on an Italian bishop named Valentine. Federer writes: “When the emperor demanded the church violate its conscience and worship pagan idols, Bishop Valentine refused to comply.” Not only did Valentine not worship the emperor, he also surreptitiously married young couples. Federer notes, “St. Valentine was arrested, dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and then have his head cut off on February 14, 269 A.D.”

Before he was beheaded, tradition tells us he prayed for the warden’s ill child, and she got better. The Bishop wrote her a small note and said it was “from your Valentine.” As Paul Harvey used to say – “And now you know the rest of the story.” [I wonder how many children exchanging Valentine cards have any idea where this tradition comes from?]

Valentine’s Day is a great time to remember the importance of love in marriage ... something that seems to be often lacking these days. I want to make a few key points on the C’s of a happy marriage.

And the first ‘C’ of a happy marriage is ...

I. Christ

Christ must be the foundation of your marriage. He is the rock on which to build your marriage, not the shifting sands of society’s definition. When we make Christ #1 in our lives, everything else works out ... come whatever may.

Author Jerry Newcombe writes of a time when he was on the road around Valentine’s Day. He called a florist to request flowers to be sent to his wife and dictated the message to accompany the flowers. It went like this:

Roses are red,
violets are blue.
I love you the most, except for you know who.
The florist didn’t understand and was reluctant to even write it up that way. “Are you sure?” asked the florist. “Yes, I’m sure.” Jerry wrote, “My wife, Kirsti, picked up the message right away ... as to the ‘you know who.’”

Is Christ the foundation of your marriage?

The second ‘C’ of a happy marriage is ...

II. Commitment

If you are committed to each other, then you’ll work things out—even if hard to do so. This is not the same as romantic feelings. It’s rock-solid commitment. You see: Feelings come, and feelings go. Then feelings come back, and they go again. But commitment sticks on.

I remember reading of a man who got married, and shortly thereafter got divorced. He was asked what happened. He said they got into a fight. [That happens to virtually every couple—but does not necessarily result in divorce.] He

(Continued ... on page three)
President's Corner

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Our nation celebrates Presidents' Day on Monday, February 17th. George Washington, our first president, is lumped together with all presidents celebrated on that day. I would like to focus on our first president—George Washington—"The Father of our country."

Veterans are honored and always remembered in our Chapel. That certainly includes those hearty souls, led by General George Washington, who fought the Revolutionary War to gain our freedom... which includes, in no small part, our religious freedom. George Washington was a Christian man as seen during the war when he issued a General Order in 1776 which reads: "The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary, but especially so in times of distress and anger."

Baptized in the Anglican Church, Washington called on the Lord frequently while leading the Revolutionary War. He called on his officers and men to endeavor to live, and act, as becomes a Christian soldier. Washington was often found on his knees engaged in his morning's devotions.

Our Christian education classes have underscored Washington's faith. God certainly was with Washington in his war effort. Washington and his soldiers, against all odds, won that war and established our Constitutional Republic and all the freedoms we enjoy to this day.

When we celebrate our Presidents' past and present, let's not forget our first President who, with God's blessings and protection, won the Revolutionary War which led to the creation of our great nation, the most powerful and richest nation in the world.

Tony Stocker
Foundation President
(952) 831-6160
E-Mail: blstock@earthlink.net

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The Board welcomes input from members. If you have an idea or suggestion, please feel welcome to contact the appropriate Board person.

Scheduled Board Meetings in 2020:

Saturdays ... @ Foundation Office
4 April (9:00 a.m.)
20 June (9:00 a.m.)
12 September (9:00 a.m.)
14 November (9:00 a.m.)

Sundays ... @ the Chapel Sanctuary
9 February (1:00 p.m.)
20 December (1:00 p.m.)

A copy of the 2019 Annual Report will be yours at the 53rd Annual Mtg scheduled for Sunday 9 February 2020 (1:00 p.m.) in the Chapel sanctuary. If you would like a copy... after this date... please call the Foundation Office at (952) 888-1525 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report of last year's accomplishments.

Artist: Arnold Friberg (21 Dec 1913 - 1 Jul 2010) was an American illustrator and painter noted for his religious and patriotic works.

It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to importune His protection and favor. President George Washington
(Continued ... from page one) asked his wife, "Don't you love me anymore?" And she hesitated and said, "I'm not sure." He shouted, "That's it. It's over." And it was off to the divorce court.

Listen: Feelings of love are one thing, and commitment to each other in love is a different thing. Millions of couples today think that if they fall in love with the right person, then the feelings of love will continue. Not necessarily. Again, feelings come and go. But commitment remains the same.

The late Ruth Graham, wife of evangelist Billy Graham, was once asked if she ever considered divorce, to which she jokingly replied: "Divorce? No. Murder? Yes."

BTW: This is not what is meant by the wedding vow phrase – "Till death do us part."

Are you committed to your marriage?

The third 'C' of a happy marriage is ...

III. Communication

So often, couples communicate on different levels. After a fight, if the husband buys his wife flowers, she might think he's trying to buy her love. Talking things out is so helpful. Marriage enrichment weekends teach excellent tools for communicating with each other. In the Army, we as chaplains, were responsible for such weekends. And one of the tools we provided couples was a magnetic floor tile ... to adhere to the refrigerator. When couples had something to talk out, one of them would take this magnetic floor tile (to represent them having the floor), and the other could not speak until they accurately repeated what they heard their spouse say and be handed the floor tile ... upon which they could then speak. And this exercise would be repeated until the conflict was resolved. Needless to say, over time a couple could learn a new and effective way of communicating.

One great question for couples to ask each other is this: "What can I do to prove to you that I love you?" Listen to the answer, and then do it.

How is your communication in marriage?

The fourth 'C' of a happy marriage is ...

IV. Confession

I'm talking of confessing sin and granting forgiveness of the same. Perhaps the most important words between any married couple ... second only to that of "I love you," ... is "I'm sorry." [I won't ask of you the frequency in which those words are spoken in your home.]

The Bible says, "Don't let the sun go down on your anger." (Ephesians 4:26) In other words: Don't go to bed with a fight unresolved.

Throughout today's text (1 Corinthians 13), the Apostle Paul has been contrasting the difference between the gifts of the Spirit and God's kind of love (AGAPE – self-sacrificing love). He has shown these gifts are temporary—yet love is eternal. At the end of this passage, Paul adds faith and hope to the "remaining" nature of love. In other words: Like love they will also exist in heaven.

Some people have taken verse 13, and rejected faith and hope as being insignificant when compared to love. But nothing could be farther from the truth. Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

Faith is also connected to hope. Romans 5:1-2: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."

When Paul says, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (v. 13), Paul wasn't making a comparison to love to dismiss the importance of faith and hope. His sole purpose is to illustrate the value of love, not for us to minimize the importance of faith and hope, nor disregard the gifts of the Spirit.

Listen: A person who lacks faith will not be able to love in the present because of an inability to forgive the hurts and sins of the past. And if a person lacks hope, they will also have difficulty with love in the present. Why? Because of worries and concerns about the future. Therefore, the only person who can truly love in the present is the one who has:

1) put their past behind them through the power of the Cross (faith); and
2) looks forward to their future because of the promise of heaven (hope).

Power and promise equals faith and hope.

My friends: Is any part of that equation missing in your life? Are you having difficulty loving? If you are, take another look at our scripture passage, and identify what aspect of Paul's teaching you need to embrace.

At the outset of this new year, we remember St. Valentine—a 3rd century saint who prized his faith in the Lord and the importance of marriage above that of his own life. May we renew our commitments to love those whom God has placed in our lives ... including our spouse.

(Continued ... on page four)
The Immortal Four Chaplains

A convoy of three ships and three escorting Coast Guard cutters passed through 'torpedo alley' some 100-miles off the coast of Greenland at about 1 a.m. on February 3, 1943. The German submarine (U-223) fired three torpedoes, one of which hit the mid-section of the USAT Dorchester – a U.S. Army troopship with more than 900-men on board. Ammonia and oil were everywhere in the fast-sinking vessel and upon the freezing North Atlantic Sea.

The four Chaplains on board, two Protestant pastors, a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi, were among the first on deck, calming the men and handing out life jackets. When they ran out, they took off their own and placed them on waiting soldiers without regard to faith or race. Approximately 18-minutes from the explosion, the ship went down. They were the last to be seen by witnesses; they were standing arm-in-arm on the deck of the ship, each praying in his own way for the care of the men. Almost 700-men died, making it the third largest loss at sea of its kind for the U.S. during WW2. The Coast Guard Cutter Tampa was able to escort the other freighters to Greenland. Meanwhile the cutters Comanche and Escanaba, disobeying orders to continue the search for the German U-Boat, stopped to rescue 230-men from the frigid waters that night.

The four Chaplains were Father John Washington, Catholic; Reverend Clark Poling, Dutch Reformed; Rabbi Alexander Goode, Jewish; and Reverend George Fox, Methodist. These four Chaplains were later honored by the U.S. Congress and Presidents. They were recognized for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith. According to the First Sergeant on the ship, "They were always together, they carried their faith together." They demonstrated throughout the voyage ... and in their last moments ... interfaith compassion in their relationship with the men and with each other. In 1960 Congress created a special Congressional Medal of Valor, never to be repeated again, and gave it to the next-of-kin.

The historic Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel has a weekly reminder of the Four Chaplains in a stained glass window to their memory.

We hope you will join us Sunday, February 3.

— Submitted by Tony Stocker, Worship Committee Chair
Fundamentals of the Faith—Epiphany

The Church calendar is divided into a number of time periods or seasons:

Advent ♦ Christmas ♦ Epiphany ♦ Lent ♦ Holy Week ♦ Easter ♦ Pentecost.

This article will review the season of Epiphany, which begins 12-days after Christmas on January 6th, and continues until the last Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday on February 26th.

Epiphany which means "manifestation" celebrates the presentation of the baby Jesus to the Magi as narrated in the Gospel of Matthew. The Magi were religious men who had heard of "the one who has been born a king of the Jews" and were guided by a "star" to the little town of Bethlehem. When the star "came to rest over the place where the child was" they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy! They presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh— but most importantly were the first of many Gentiles to worship Jesus. The Gospel account informs us that Jesus is worthy of royal honor from all humanity and that Gentiles as well as Jews are included in God’s redemptive plan. During this season of Epiphany, let us bring to mind the joy of the Magi as they worshiped the baby Jesus!

― Submitted by Eva Zorn

A Word From the Classroom

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." (Philippians 4: 4-8)

Wasn't it wonderful (Sunday 17 November) to see so many kids at the Chapel service? A couple of people were even kind enough to set up more chairs in the children's classroom to facilitate everyone. Eight chairs for 13-kids just wouldn't do! And they were wonderfully behaved youngsters learning about the widow's mite. It's funny how they gave the same answer to the question "who gave the most?" as most adults today would give. NO. It was not the rich man! Mark 12:38-44 gives the truth ... look it up.

After Christmas, the kids will be learning about values. These aren't taught in public schools anymore, although, at one time, the Holy Bible was the main textbook. Also, most families have two or more jobs just to make ends meet, which allows very little time for teaching kids at home. We are going to start cut with respect and then move on to other values such as politeness and work ethics. Is there a value which you would like to see included? If so, just call me, Leslie, at 612-532-5280.

Thank you for your prayers for a growing Children's Ministry! The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (and woman) availleth much. (James 5:16) Of course, our teachers need prayers too, so please continue in prayer!

― Leslie Henschel,
Children's Church Coordinator
Book Review

The attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, endures as one of the most tragic events of World War II. The USS Arizona, was docked in battleship row alongside Ford Island, when the Japanese launched a surprise attack resulting in the loss of thousands of lives and the disabling of the battleship fleet. President Roosevelt referred to the attack of December 7th as "a day which will live in infamy" and declared war on Japan the very next day. When the Arizona was sunk, 1,177 sailors of the 1,400 on board lost their lives. However, not many persons realize that aboard the Arizona were 38-sets of brothers and a father/son duo who were serving together at the time of the attack.

In this book, historian Walter Borneman takes the reader on a journey regarding the 78-blood relatives serving on the battleship and chronicles the details of their lives prior to enlistment and subsequent military service leading up to that fateful day on December 7th, 1941. Borneman recounts the unique history of the brothers — some came from small towns while others came from bigger cities — some worked on farms while others had just graduated from high school — some were married and others were single. The story is gut-wrenching at times, as the reader is well aware of the eventual outcome— unlike the sailors living out their day-to-day lives aboard the Arizona. The author includes appendices, end notes, photos, several maps and most sobering — a list of all the brothers who perished on the ship including their name, rank and home states. This book is highly recommended to persons with an interest in World War II and the attack on Pearl Harbor in particular.

— Submitted by Eva Zorn
53rd Annual Mtg ...

will be held on Founder's Day Sunday (9 Feb 20 - 1:00 p.m.) in the Chapel sanctuary ... where we will receive a printed Annual Report and elect members to the Board of Directors. Only Chapel Foundation Members May Attend.

Foundations of Freedom Series
the newest series from WallBuilders!

America stands at the crossroads of human history. Once revered and respected throughout the world, the country's influence and freedoms are in jeopardy.

Join David Barton with special guests Glenn Beck, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, constitutional expert Rick Green, and law professor Dr. Carol M. Swain as they explore the America our Founding Fathers envisioned.

From the formation of American law and the judicial system to biblically-based economics, science, government, and more, discover how our Founding Fathers used the Bible as a blueprint for America's freedoms and build your faith in our nation's future with Foundations of Freedom.

If ever there was a need to rediscover the vision, passion, and wisdom of those who laid the foundations of our nation, it is now!

18 Episodes: About 26-minutes each in length.

Christian Education Classes (each Sunday - 10:00 a.m.)
Fellowship Hall
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel
Fall 2019 — Spring 2020
Bob Cizek, Facilitator

Coffee will be on!
Class notes will be available!
Help is needed at 9:30 a.m. to set-up chairs.

Offering Envelopes ... or Give On-Line

If you are blessed by this ministry 'beyond the walls' of the Chapel (i.e., Livestream, bi-monthly newsletter, CDs/DVDs, e-mails, and/or pastoral care), PLEASE consider calling our Foundation office at 952/888-1525 and request the pre-addressed envelopes to mail-in your plate offerings. Be sure to leave your name/mailing address so that we may send the envelopes to you.

OR— If you are home-bound, traveling, relocated or just appreciate this ministry, PLEASE consider making your contributions at our website at http://fortsnellingmcf.org/make_a_donation.php Thank you.

— Your Finance Committee

Social Media

If you are under the weather or out of town, you can still attend worship services at this site http://new.livestream.com/accounts/3709164. A link to this address can be found on the Chapel website www.fortsnellingmcf.org where you can download a pdf of the weekly worship bulletin and scripture insert. Just click on that link and you will be able to watch LIVE or revisit previous services from the archive. Remember: We love to have you in-person at our services, but in the event that is not possible please join us via Livestream.

You may also ‘Like’ the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation on Facebook to view news of upcoming events.

If you have an e-mail address and are not currently receiving the mid-week ‘Chapel Chatter’ ... providing you with what you need to know about the coming Sunday at the Chapel, please send an e-mail to the Chapel Foundation [info@fortsnellingmcf.org] and request to be added to this Constant Contact distro list.

— Your Publicity Committee
Great Hymns of the Faith —

"As with Gladness, Men of Old"

As with Gladness, Men of Old is a hymn sung during the season of Epiphany. The text for this hymn was composed by British hymn writer William C. Dix in 1859, with music adapted by William H. Monk from a chorale written by Conrad Kocher. Dix wrote the words for this hymn during a month-long convalescence which prevented him from attending worship services on Epiphany Sunday. As he recovered at home, Dix reflected on the Gospel account of the Magi visit to the baby Jesus and was inspired to write the words to this hymn. The text was later published in Hymns Ancient and Modern - whose editor (Monk) adapted the tune from an older chorale by omitting one phrase and changing several notes for a better musical fit. The tune became very popular and was used in another well-known hymn - For the Beauty of the Earth.

This hymn focuses on the journey of the Magi as they follow the "guiding star" with "joyful steps" to the "manger bed." The stanzas are a prayer that God would keep us faithful to the end of our journey when we no longer need a "star to guide" but rather see Jesus in all His glory!

— Submitted by Eva Zorn

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, Lord Jesus, may we too
Evermore be led to Thee.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

"Dix" words and music by Dix and Monk
Used by Permission. CCLI License # 2515762
Sermon Series on CDs

Our heritage of faith and freedom is largely forgotten today or so distorted as to be unrecognizable. Add to this, the recent defying of statuary to many of these Godly people. This sermon series closely examines their deeds and words; their character as was said of them during their lifetimes; and their personal love for Jesus Christ.

There are a few remaining sets of this series on a Biblical worldview of issues facing America.

The cost is $10./ set if you pick up your set or $13./ set if you would like it mailed to you or someone else.

Let us join in proclaiming the truth ... for all to hear ... before it is too late!

A Few Are Still Available

If you have not already secured your LIMITED EDITION 50th Anniversary Commemorative Print of the Chapel, do so without delay! For a tax-deductible donation of $100 or more to our Endowment Fund, we will ship this print suitable for your framing.

Simply mail your check (payable to "FSMCF Endowment Fund") to—Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation 9031 Penn Ave So Bloomington, MN 55431

What a wonderful opportunity to display the historic Chapel in your home or office.

— Tim Bray, Johnnie Johnson, Brad Nelson
Endowment Trustees

CDs of our Organist —

Wedding Music

Desiderius Klempay

Festive Organ Music

Desiderius Klempay
Organist Wooddale Church

BACH and Others

Desiderius Klempay
Organist Wooddale Church

Christmas Organ Classics

Desiderius Klempay
Organist Wooddale Church

Dr. Desi Klempay — performing on the Wooddale Church pipe organ — are available for purchase ($10 ea.) any Sunday in the Fellowship Hall of the Chapel.
Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, children in many countries will have a more enjoyable Christmas this year. This ministry, thru Samaritan’s Purse, seeks to reach children around the world for Christ by offering them a shoebox sized gift. Your generosity of a simple shoebox sized gift has the incredible potential of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these children.

This year we collected 193 boxes filling backend of Tony Stocker’s truck. On behalf of the Fellowship Committee I’d like to thank you all for your efforts on filling these boxes and making our part of this exciting ministry a success.

In addition, a benevolence check (funds equaling 10% of our offerings) of $1,800 was given to Samaritan’s Purse to cover the shipping costs of these shoeboxes.

We also want to gratefully acknowledge the leadership of our coordinators—Sharon Coyne and Barb Stocker.

— Submitted by Mel Henschel, Fellowship Committee Chair

Photos: Chaplain Ken leads the congregation in prayer over the shoeboxes and all ages assist in filling the truck on 17 Nov 2019. (taken by Heidi Reichow)
Spiritual Vitamins A-Z

Anxious? Take Vitamin A
“All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Blue? Take Vitamin B
“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.” (Psalm 103:1)

Crushed? Take Vitamin C
“Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” (I Peter 5:7)

Depressed? Take Vitamin D
“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)

Empty? Take Vitamin E
“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.” (Psalm 100:4)

Fearful? Take Vitamin F
“Fear not, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Greedy? Take Vitamin G
“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put unto your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38)

Hesitant? Take Vitamin H
“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” (Isaiah 52:7)

Insecure? Take Vitamin I
“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

Jittery? Take Vitamin J
“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Know nothing? Take Vitamin K
“Know this that the Lord is God, It is He that made us and not we ourselves.” (Psalm 100:3)

Lonely? Take Vitamin L
“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Mortgaged? Take Vitamin M
“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Nervous? Take Vitamin N
“Never, no never will I leave you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

Overwhelmed? Take Vitamin O
“Overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

Perplexed or puzzled? Take Vitamin P
“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Quitting? Take Vitamin Q
“Quit you like men, be strong.” (I Corinthians 16:13)

Restless? Take Vitamin R
“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.” (Psalm 37:7)

Scared? Take Vitamin S
“Stay with Me, and do not be afraid; for the one who seeks My life seeks your life; you will be safe with Me.” (I Samuel 22:23)

Tired? Take Vitamin T
“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

Uncertain? Take Vitamin U
“Understand that I am (the Lord). Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me.” (Isaiah 43:10)

Vain? Take Vitamin V
“Vexed with unclean spirits; and they were healed every one.” (Acts 5:16)

Wondering what to do? Take Vitamin W
“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humble with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Exhausted? Take Vitamin X
“Exercise thyself rather unto godliness.” (I Timothy 4:7)

Yearning for hope? Take Vitamin Y
“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You art with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

Zapped? Take Vitamin Z
“Zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:14)

Remember to take your vitamins every day!
Photos: Chapel Foundation members carry their branch of service flags & US Flag amidst 300+ worshipers … with veterans standing for their service song and all for the National Anthem. (taken by Heidi Reichow)

Photos: Nine WW2 veterans receive medallions from the MN State Commissioner of Veterans Affairs — Col-ret. Larry Herke. (taken by Heidi Reichow)
Spotlight on a Veteran — Don Minor

After the outbreak of World War II, Don Minor became eligible for the draft in 1942. He enlisted in the Navy on October 31, 1942 and was sent to the Great Lakes Naval Center, for boot camp and basic training. While at the center, Don took several tests and scored high in the area of "mechanical aptitude" which resulted in an offer to attend "diesel school" at Navy Pier, Chicago to learn how to operate diesel engines. Upon completion of school, Don was presented with three options:

- service on a destroyer,
- engineer on a destroyer escort, or
- more schooling.

He opted for service on a destroyer and was assigned to the USS Ammen — a Fletcher Class Destroyer (DD 527) named after Rear Admiral Daniel Ammen. Don traveled to San Francisco to await completion of the Ammen and became a proud "plank owner" — a crew member who is present when the ship is placed into active military service. The Ammen put out to sea on March 30, 1943 headed to San Diego for a "shakedown cruise," to ensure that the vessel was fully operational before heading to Alaskan waters as part of Task Force 51. This force was built around battleship USS Pennsylvania, and comprised of destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers whose mission was to provide antisubmarine and antiaircraft protection for the invasion of Attu Island, Alaska (the only battle fought on American soil during World War II). Following the invasion of the island, the Ammen was assigned to submarine patrol when one of the depth charges accidentally discharged causing significant damage to the destroyer and a prompt return to San Francisco for repairs.

For unknown reasons, Don developed problems with his eyesight in June of 1943, and was admitted to the Naval Hospital at Treasure Island, San Francisco for treatment. Unfortunately, the Ammen set sail prior to Don's discharge, so he was reassigned to Camp Pendleton for additional training and maneuvers with Landing Craft Unit 30 of the U.S. Navy. The unit whose purpose was to deploy marines and tanks from ship to shore, was in training for battle in the Pacific. During one of the nighttime maneuvers, a large vessel "out of nowhere" struck Don's smaller craft causing the boat to sink with all aboard. After some effort, Don managed to reach the surface of the water minus his lifejacket, eyeglasses and wrist watch. He heard the voices of the rescue boat so started to swim in that direction only to be told by an officer that there were two men floundering in the water that needed rescue. Despite being totally exhausted and dressed in heavy clothing, Don managed to rescue both soldiers — but had to "knock out the second guy" who could not swim and was flailing wildly in the water. All men aboard the bigger watercraft were safely rescued and returned to shore.

In his next assignment, Don was sent to Monterey, CA to assist with the transfer of older watercraft down to the base in Morrow Bay, CA. However, as the boats got underway, a storm began to brew out in the ocean. A personnel carrier developed engine trouble and Don was asked to help out since he had special training in the operation of various engines. But by the time the repairs were completed, the sea was too rough for Don to transfer back to his boat so he had to wait it out on the personnel carrier with the three crewmen who were all incapacitated due to seasickness. At the age of 19, Don found himself to be the oldest and most experienced member of the crew so took charge only to discover that the compass and tiller were not functional! He had no idea in which direction to head— but kept the boat afloat in anticipation of a rescue. The storm continued without abatement for six more days while the small vessel drifted without food and only limited water collected from the storm. Don felt repeated "nudges" from a "divine presence" that directed him in a specific direction and soon noticed a faint light in the distance that turned out to be the California coastline. As they sailed closer to shore, the crew saw what appeared to be "waterspouts" exploding on the surface of the ocean only to realize they had entered an army firing range! Overhead, a military airplane made several passes and Don communicated by gestures the direction in which the

(Continued ... on page fourteen)
boat was headed. The firing soon stopped and Don advised the
crew to abandon the boat and
swim to shore as the "breakers"
would capsize the small craft.
The boat capsized as predicted
but all four men were able to swim
to shore and were later picked up
by the Coast Guard.

After a ten-day leave, Don was
placed on a Merchant Marine ship
in January of 1944, headed to
Guadalcanal in preparation for the
Battle of Guam. At this time, the
Navy unleashed Task Force 58 -
a long-range strike force whose
overall mission was the defeat of
the Japanese and reoccupation
of Guam by the United States
military. This new campaign
utilized fighter and bomber
airplanes and other watercraft
(destroyers, cruisers and
battleships) to attack enemy
fortifications prior to landing.
Don was part of the amphibious
force that landed on the island
amidst heavy sniper fire and
narrowly missed stepping on a
"pancake mine" unlike a marine
nearby who was killed instantly
by a similar mine. The battle raged
for 21-days from July 20, 1944 to
August 10, 1944 at which point
the Japanese were defeated and
the island was reoccupied by the
United States military. Soon
thereafter, Don was walking down
a new road completed by the
Navy Seabees, when he noticed a
figure in the distance walking two
German Shepherds. As the man
came near, he motioned for Don
to come over to him. Upon closer
inspection, Don observed four
stars on the uniform indicating
that "this person" was none other
than Admiral Chester Nimitz!
Don recalled that "the Admiral
immediately put me at ease" and
"was just the nicest guy!"

After the battle was concluded,
Don opened up a shop in the little
town of Piti, repairing landing craft
transmissions, clutches and
engines. He spent a total of 22
months on Guam and left for the
United States on November 1,
1945 with discharge from the
Navy at Fort Snelling on
November 30, 1945 at the rank
of 1st Class Petty Officer.

Thank you Don for your military
service and participation at Fort
Snelling Chapel!

— Submitted by Eva Zorn

PHOTO: Don receives a Quilt of
Valor @ Chapel on Sun 14 Jun
2015.

Special
Patriotic/
Veterans
Events . . .

Sun, 2 Feb 20 — Four Chaplains
Remembrance — commemorating
the 77th anniversary of the sinking of the
USS Dorchester on which four chaplains gave their lives.

Sun, 24 May 20 — Memorial Day
Remembrance — honoring the
memory of those armed forces
service members who gave the
ultimate sacrifice.

Sun, 5 July 20 — Independence
Day — celebrating the 244th birth-
day of our nation ... culminating in
an ice cream social.

Sun, 6 Sept 20 — 9/11
Remembrance — remembering the
terrorist attack of 2001.

Sun, 13 Sept 20 — U.S.
Constitution Sunday — remem-
bering our founding document.

Sun, 20 Sept 20 — POW/MIA
Remembrance — remembering
those who are prisoners of war and
those missing in action.

Sun, 27 Sept 20 — Gold Star
Day — recognizing the families of
those service members who paid
the ultimate price on the altar of
liberty.

Sun, 8 Nov 20 — Veterans Day
Remembrance — recognizing U.S.
Veterans of all branches of the
armed forces.

Sun, 6 Dec 20 — Pearl Harbor
Remembrance — recognizing
survivors ... with the tolling of the
ship bell for those who have
passed away since last year.

Mark your calendar with these
dates ... and join us at 11:00 a.m.
Creation Corner

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”
(Romans 1:20)

I will never forget an incident that happened while on a motorcycle trip to the west coast from Hwy 1 in California, cruising to the northwest corner of the United States. While going north at about 70 mph on a memorable “roller coaster” highway through Oregon, a truck tire flung a nasty big rock my way, and it hit just above my windshield with a scary, loud smack! Well that made a big impression on me at the time, on my helmet, that is... where my forehead would have been had I been wearing only a cloth bandana. After recovering, a silent prayer went out, while the only thing on my mind was an image of the sling ‘n’ rock that David used on the giant warrior Goliath, and it took him out!! Well shortly after that, I’m going through the Oregon Dunes Recreation Area, and, well, that’s one sandy stretch that I’d rather not go through without a windshield. I won’t even go into what a motorcycle windshield looks like after passing back and forth through the long trails of the Monarch Butterfly migration in Hill Country, Texas!

Why am I reminiscing and rambling on about an old motorcycle trip from out of the past? Well, as ol’ Marlin Perkins used to say as he introduced his nature show: Just as the windshield and helmet in motorcycling protect the rider from danger, dust and sand... so do the additional protective, transparent eyelids give protection to birds — But birds are not the only animals that have this feature. Some reptiles, sharks, cats, camels, polar bears, seals and aardvarks also have nictitating membranes. This is sometimes referred to as a third eyelid. Here is an article that speaks about the protective layer of skin that covers the precious peepers of our “living airplanes” of the sky.

In addition to the upper and lower eyelids, birds have a third eyelid. This transparent eyelid (nictitating membrane) sits in the corner of the eye and sweeps backward. The purpose of this membrane is to clean and moisten the eye while still allowing the bird to see. Imagine a bird without this “windshield” flying on a dusty, windy day. Closed eyelids would cause momentary loss of vision—this would not be good when plummeting earthward for a rodent or darting in and out around branches. Imagine falcons diving at great speeds and not having evolved this third eyelid; their eyes would immediately dry out. This third eyelid allows protection and vision at the same time. As for ducks, they just put on their “goggles” in order to have clear, undistorted vision while swimming underwater. We have a Master Designer who has concerns even for a bird's eyes.

I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine.
(Psalm 50:11)

— Submitted by: John Kruse

1 INSPIRED EVIDENCE: Only One Reality
Julie Von Vett & Bruce Malone
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www.searchforthetruth.net
This is brought to you by
Gladys Binette in loving
memory of her husband
Richard J. Binette.

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation
This is a non-denominational Christian church founded in 1967. We invite
you to join us for worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at this historic Chapel.

The Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel is a unique Minnesota memorial
—a splendid monument to the patriotism, the moral earnestness and the
convictions of the people of this state—a shrine to commemorate those who
have died for their country. Weekly Sunday worship is sponsored by the
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel
Foundation and is not
subsidized by the state.

For Fort Snelling
Memorial Chapel
Foundation
information call the
Foundation Office at
(952) 888-1525,
or write to the
Fort Snelling Memorial
Chapel Foundation
9031 Penn Ave S
Bloomington, MN
55431

or e-mail to info@fortsnellingmcf.org
or check our web site at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

Chapel Foundation Staff:
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Rev. Philip A. Winn, Jr., Associate Chaplain
Dr. Desiderius Klemay, Organist
Bev Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Carol Nygaard, Accounting Specialist
Eva Zorn, Musical Guest Coordinator

The Snelling Spirit Staff:
The Snelling Spirit is a bimonthly publication
of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel
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letters and your suggestions.

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Bev Johnson
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<td>Sermon: “God Guides the Wise”</td>
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<td>Sermon: “The Sacredness of Life”</td>
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<td>Music: Chris Ward, harp/voice</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m. Christian Education</td>
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<td>Sermon: “We’ll Admit Anything &amp; Justify Everything”</td>
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<td>Music: Note’orious Male Quartet</td>
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# Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

## February 2020

Office: 9031 Penn Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431  
Website: www.fortsnellingmcf.org

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<td><strong>Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff</strong></td>
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| 2   | 4th Sunday after Epiphany  
**Four Chaplains Sunday**  
10:00 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"  
Music: Dick Hensold, bagpipes | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| 9   | 5th Sunday after Epiphany  
**Founder's Day Sunday**  
10:00 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Labor of Love"  
Music: Barbara Ongna Trio, jazz | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
|     |     |     | **Lincoln's B-day**  
53rd Anniversary of Est Chapel Foundation |     |     |     | 9:00 a.m. Crafty Ladies Mtg. |     |
| 16  | 6th Sunday after Epiphany  
10:00 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Got Jesus?"  
Music: Glory Bound Gospel Quartet | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
|     | **Presidents' Day**  
**Desi Klempay's B-day** |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 23  | **Last Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Installation of Officers**  
10:00 a.m. Christian Education  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
Sermon: "Resisting Reality"  
Music: North Star Boys Choir | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
|     |     |     | **Ash Wednesday**  
1 p.m. Holy Communion/Imposition of Ashes  
Sermon: "God's Flesh & Blood"  
Music: Dr. Klempay, organ |     |     |     |     |     |     |