I Can’t Help It!

One of the great celebrative anthems that come to us out of African American culture is the powerful spiritual “Ain’t Got Time to Die.” It was written by Hall Johnson, and it contains these joyfully dramatic words: “Been so busy serving my Master I Ain’t got time to die.”

In this inspiring and wonderful spiritual, the composer is underscoring and celebrating the joy and excitement of being a Christian, the joy and excitement of serving our Lord in gratitude for what God has done for us.

The point that this spiritual is trying to drive home to us with great enthusiasm is that when we really become Christians, when we really commit our lives to Christ, then we can’t sit still. We become so excited, so thrilled, so grateful for our new life in Christ that we can’t help but love Him, praise Him, serve Him, and share Him with others.

This is precisely what happened to Andrew in St. John 1:35-42. He found the Messiah, he encountered Jesus, and he was so excited that he couldn’t sit still. Immediately, gratefully, excitedly, he ran to share the good news with his brother Simon. It reads like this: “[Andrew] first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’” (John 1:41). Then Andrew brought Simon Peter to Jesus. This was the greatness of Andrew. He was the man who was always introducing others to Jesus.

Three different times in the Bible, Andrew comes to center stage, and each time he is bringing someone to meet Jesus. In his commentary on John, William Barclay reminds us that here in John 1, Andrew brings his brother Simon Peter. In John 6, Andrew brings to Jesus the boy with the five loaves and two fish. And in John 12, we find Andrew bringing to Jesus the inquiring Greeks who wanted to meet Jesus and visit with Him.

Andrew’s greatest joy was sharing the good news of Christ and bringing others into the presence of Christ. Having found Jesus, he could not sit still, he could not help it; he had to share Christ with others.

You know, as I think about this, and as I think about my own personal life and spiritual pilgrimage, I can tell you that I too, like Andrew, have a strong case of the “can’t help it.” It goes with being a Christian. Let me show you what I mean with three thoughts. Try these on for size. I’m sure that you will think of others out of your own personal and spiritual life, but for now, let me share these three with you.

I. Because We Are Christians, We Can’t Help But Be Grateful.

Andrew, along with the people of his time, was longing for a Messiah to come, hoping for a Messiah, praying for a Messiah. When he found the Messiah in Jesus, he was incredibly grateful. You know, there is no such thing as an ungrateful Christian. Christianity by definition is our grateful response to God for His love of the world and His gift to the world of Jesus Christ. Responsive gratitude ... that’s what Christianity is all about.

A group of young students were asked by their schoolteacher to make a list of what they thought were the present-day seven wonders of the world. Although there were some disagreements, the following seven things received the most votes:

1. the Great Pyramids of Egypt
2. the Taj Mahal
3. the Grand Canyon
4. the Panama Canal
5. the Empire State Building
6. St. Peter’s Basilica
7. China’s Great Wall

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

The Chapel has a newly surfaced parking lot. Not only that, the frontage road to the bridge is also resurfaced. It’s great not having to dodge pot holes to/from the Chapel or trip on uneven sidewalks.

We are continually looking to attract new members to our Chapel congregation.

We know, finding a new church is like buying a house; the approach to the Chapel needs to be appealing to the eye. Likewise when visitors make their first visit to the Chapel, they need to feel comfortable. After all, first impressions are very important.

Once inside the Chapel, all non-members and members alike are greeted by our staff of ushers, in a friendly and welcoming manor. Newcomers are probably feeling like they stand out. It’s the feeling you get when you walk into a building, where you don’t know anyone.

These newcomers or potential members are checking us out. It could be they are looking for a new church. The building is impressive. The people are friendly. What else will they be looking for to help them decide, this is their church home?

They could be looking for a place where they can hear the true Word of God. We are fortunate at our Chapel to have Chaplains that give us that message. This could have a major impact on them in making a decision on whether they should return. The Christians we know, members of our Chapel, are mostly drawn in because of the true Word of God and the friendliness of the congregation.

After the service, we go to the Fellowship Hall. This is the place where we mingle with one another, drink coffee, eat cookies, and greet newcomers. This is a very important time in the decision-making process of potential new members. It’s the feeling of being welcome to a church that has the same beliefs as they do. This can help them decide to join us.

Well, we have shown our visitors the friendship and the beliefs that they can become part of, if they decide to become a member of our beloved Chapel. To us, it is an easy choice, but they need to decide whether they should return.

You see, it truly is a selling process. We at the Chapel, with your help, have shown the people who have made an effort to visit us, that there is still a home where the veteran is remembered and the true Word of God is spoken.

Back to the newly paved parking lot, sidewalks and drive way. Is this upgrade important to gaining new members? I definitely believe it gives people a good first impression.

What will be their impression upon meeting your extended hand of Christian fellowship?

Iain Hodge  
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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 2015:
Saturdays ... @ Ft Snelling Officers Club  
21 Mar (9:00 a.m.)  
20 Jun (9:00 a.m.)  
19 Sep (9:00 a.m.)  
21 Nov (9:00 a.m.)  
Sundays ... @ the Chapel Sanctuary  
8 Feb (1:30 p.m.)  
20 Dec (1:00 p.m.)

A copy of the 2014 Annual Report will be yours at the 48th Annual Mtg scheduled for Sun 8 Feb 2015 (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.
While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student had not turned in her paper yet. So the teacher asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have. Read your list, and maybe we can help." Hesitantly, the girl stood up and then read her paper out loud to the class. She said, "I think the seven wonders of the world are:
1. to be able to see
2. to be able to hear
3. to be able to touch
4. to be able to feel
5. to be able to taste
6. to be able to laugh
7. to be able to love."

The room was so quiet when she finished that you could have heard a pin drop. Isn't it amazing how we overlook and take for granted the gifts that God has given us? We become so captivated by man-made things that we sometimes forget the astounding generosity of God.

The psalmist did not make that mistake. Read the psalms. They resound on page-after-page with praise and gratitude to God. The One Hundredth Psalm is a classic example:

_Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth._

_Worship the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with singing._

_Know that the LORD is God._

_It is He that made us and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture._

_Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise._

_Give thanks to Him, bless His name._

For the LORD is good;
_His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations._

This is just a sample of how the psalms reverberate with gratitude. That same theme of praise and gratitude is still very much in evidence in our present-day hymnals. Hymns such as "How Great Thou Art," "Now Thank We All Our God," "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above," "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee," and hundreds more like these great hymns of gratitude fill our hymnals and our hearts. Why? Because the great theme of our Christian faith, hope, and love is the spirit of gratitude — gratitude for God's presence with us, for God's watchful care over us, for God's forgiveness of us, for God's salvation for us.

Let me ask you something. Do you feel gratitude to God? Do you have a strong case of the "can't help its" when it comes to gratitude? When you are a Christian, gratitude is the spirit of your lifestyle. When you are a Christian, you can't help but be grateful!

II. Because We Are Christians, We Can't Help but Be Confident.

This is why Andrew kept bringing people to Christ — because of his confidence in the Lord. Things were not always perfect, times and situations were sometimes hard, but Andrew never lost his confidence in Christ. He just did his best and then trusted God to bring it out right.

Bob Perk tells a wonderful story about a father and daughter who were in their last moments together at the airport. The airline had announced her departure, and standing there near the security gate, they hugged, and the father said, "I love you, and I wish you enough." She replied, "Dad, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I love you so much, and I wish you enough, too, Dad." They hugged and held each other tightly, and then she turned and left. The father walked over toward the window to watch his daughter's plane take off. Tears rolled down his cheeks. Another man had been watching them. The father turned to the man and said, "Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing that you would not see each other again in this lifetime?" "Yes, I have," the man said. "Please forgive me for asking, but why is this a final good-bye?" The father answered, "I am old now, not in good health, and the real truth is that her next trip back will be for my funeral." "I'm sorry," said the stranger. "It's okay. I have had a wonderful life and it will soon be over for me. But it's been a great ride. God has blessed me and He has always been with me, and He will be with me in the life to come. I have no regrets. I trust God for whatever is ahead." The other man said, "May I ask you about something? When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, 'I wish you enough.' What does that mean?" The father smiled and said, "That's a wish that has been handed down for many generations in my family. My parents used to say it to everyone. When we say, 'I wish you enough,' we are wanting the other person to have enough good things to sustain them, enough good things to keep them happy and faithful and appreciative and (Continued ... on page four)
fulfilled and strong and confident. The father looked at the other man and said, "I wish you enough," and then he turned and walked away.

Because we are Christians, we can be confident because in Christ, God gives us enough — enough strength to keep us going, enough courage to make us a new creation, enough courage to enable us to stand tall when times are tough, enough assurance to convince us that ultimately God wins — and he wants to share his victory with us.

This is the good news. Nothing can separate us from God's love and grace. Nothing — not trouble or pain or heartache or disappointment, not even death — can cut us off from God and His love. God is always with us. That is God's promise. So, because we are Christians, we can be grateful and we can be confident.

III. Because We Are Christians, We Can't Help but Be Loving.
Again, Andrew is a great example of love. He was bighearted, high-minded, and generous. He was a loving, caring person who was eager to share and anxious to help others. If only we could learn that lesson from Andrew, life would be better for all of us.

Her name is Donna. She is a mentor. Every week she goes to a nearby elementary school to be a friend, encourager and mentor to a little boy named John. John is about six or seven years old, and Donna and John have bonded in a beautiful way. Though there is quite a difference in their ages, Miss Donna, as John calls her, has become John's best friend. Once each week, she visits him at school and helps him with his school work, and then "going the second mile" every Saturday, Donna takes John to do exciting things that without Donna, John would likely never get to do; things such as visiting the zoo and going to the museum.

Some time ago, Donna's husband died in his sleep. Little John came to the funeral to support his friend Miss Donna in her grief. At the reception after the memorial service, John stood beside Donna and held her hand. She had been there for him, and now he was there for her. He would not leave her side. It was a beautiful moment, and people in the room had tears in their eyes, so touched by John's intense commitment to lovingly stand by Miss Donna, his friend and mentor.

Some saw John eyeing the goodies on the reception table — punch and chocolate chip cookies in abundance — and someone said to him, "John, would you like to walk over here and have some refreshments?"
But no, he would not leave Donna's side. "I want to stay here with Miss Donna," he would say. The love between the two of them was so radiant and powerful in that room.

Also in the room that day was a man from Chicago. He had flown all the way from Chicago to Houston to be with Donna. Do you know why? Because 38 years ago, when he was in the first grade, Donna had been his mentor at an elementary school in the Chicago area. This man flies from Chicago to Houston every summer to see Donna and to thank her for what she did for him all those years ago, and he had made this special trip to be with Donna when her husband suddenly had died. That man from Chicago says to Donna every time he comes, "I am what I am today because of the love and support you gave me all those years ago." He says, "Miss Donna, you were the first person in my life who believed in me." And today little John says to her in words and actions, "Miss Donna, I love you. I know you love me. You are my best friend."

Now, where did Donna learn to love like that, to reach out to people in need like that, to make a difference in people's lives like that? You know, don't you? The same place the disciple Andrew learned it: from Jesus.

You see my friends, when you are a Christian, you get a strong case of the "can't help its." You can't help but be grateful, you can't help but be confident, and you can't help but be loving.

Serving God and Country,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.
Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
E-mail: KenBeale56A@msn.com

In the Event of Inclement Weather

If on a Sunday morning it is significantly snowing ... or tremendously cold ... or the winds are resulting in drifting conditions, please call our Foundation office at 952/888-1525 for an announcement of worship cancellation. In this way we will attempt to inform you of Chapel closings.
Special Patriotic/Veterans Events . . .

Sun, 1 Feb 15 — Four Chaplains Remembrance — commemorating the 72nd anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester on which four chaplains gave their lives.

Sun, 24 May 15 — Memorial Day Remembrance — honoring the memory of those armed forces service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Sun, 14 Jun 15 — Flag Day — honoring ‘Old Glory’ with the wearing of red, white and blue.

Sun, 5 July 15 — Independence Day — celebrating the 239th birthday of our nation ... culminating in an ice cream social.


Sun, 13 Sept 15 — POW/MIA Remembrance — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun, 27 Sept 15 — Gold Star Family Day — honoring those parents who have offered up their sons and daughters on the altar of liberty.

Sun, 8 Nov 15 — Veterans Day Remembrance — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 6 Dec 15 — 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.

The Story of 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 of the “Four Chaplains”.

At the dedication of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains on February 3, 1952 at the Baptist Temple in Philadelphia, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed, “This interfaith shrine ... will stand through long generations to teach Americans that as men can die heroically as brothers, so should they live together in mutual faith and goodwill.”

Each year on the first Sunday of February, the Chapel Foundation remembers the Four Chaplains at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The historic Chapel also has a weekly reminder in a stained glass window to their memory.

We hope you will join us.

— Submitted by Tony Stocker, Worship Committee Chair
Getting to Know You...

The Chapel Foundation sponsor’s worship at the beautiful Fort Snelling Chapel “Where the Veteran is Remembered.” It is no surprise then that veterans, and those concerned for veterans, are drawn every Sunday to worship and share together in an intimate experience of walking with God. This issue of The Snelling Spirit highlights Daniel Ojeda (pronounced “Oheyda”). Dan is an activist regarding veterans. He has spent a lifetime working with many agencies and organizations to ensure that the sacrifice of veterans and the memory of the fallen is remembered with integrity.

If you asked Dan what career he worked in life you would receive a genuinely humble reply: “I have simply followed the Lord down the many paths I have walked for I believe that He has led the way.” And there certainly have been many paths in Dan’s life. Dan was born and raised in Minneapolis, in a large Mexican-American family. He was the oldest of 7-children, with 4-sisters and 2-brothers. He is well connected with the history of the U.S. through his maternal grandfather who rode with General “Blackjack” Pershing against Pancho Villa. Dan says that his grandfather had immigrated to Texas and was offered citizenship if he joined the Army.

Dan graduated from high school in 1960, and attended trade school and the University of Minnesota hoping to have a career in art and photography. But in early 1964 Dan’s student deferment was changed and he was given his draft notice. Dan beat the draft by enlisting in the Army for the paratroopers. He took Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Infantry training at Fort Polk, Louisiana; and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. A troop ship took him to his first assignment on Okinawa, Japan. Then, in May of 1965, Dan was sent to Vietnam. He spent 22-months with the 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 173rd Infantry Brigade.

Following his service in Vietnam, Dan became an instructor of infantry tactics at the West Point Military Academy. Dan returned to civilian life after 3-years of active federal service, but never forgot his fellow soldiers. He served in the Army Reserve and the Minnesota National Guard for 30-years, during which time he was schooled in computers and security and worked on government defense contracts with a variety of corporations. But no matter what Dan did to put bread on the table, his heart was with his fellow veterans. Dan has served as a commander in both the VFW and the American Legion. He has been a designated liaison with both state and federal governments on veteran’s issues, and he has worked with Pentagon officials to

(Continued ... on page seven)
keep the memory of veteran’s service alive. Some of his favorite memories during this time was to provide security for Russia’s President Gorbachov when he visited Washington D.C., and for President Reagan when he visited Minnesota.

Back in Minnesota, Dan worked to raise funds for veteran’s memorials and ensure the VFW publication of a book about Minnesota recipients of the Medal of Honor. And this is where we find the Lord leading Dan to the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. Dan became acquainted with the Chapel through Command Sergeant Major Warner of the 88th Army Reserve Command and their chaplain, Chaplain Ken Beale. Upon visiting the Chapel, Dan was deeply moved by the sincerity and the acceptance of World War II veterans that attended the Chapel and the Chapel Foundation’s motto, “Where the Veteran is Remembered.” Such a purpose filled a great need in Dan’s life and he has been active in the Chapel ever since. One summer picnic found Dan conversing with a former Air Force sergeant. They had been in Vietnam at the same time and the Airman was assigned to provide support for parachute jumps. It was like finding a long lost friend. Dan is quick to acknowledge that it is the Lord’s presence in the congregation that makes for such a rewarding experience.

Dan’s mother was a committed Christian who also loved the Chapel fellowship. She enjoyed being “loved on” by the congregation. She taught all her children to care for each other in response to Jesus’ Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Matthew 7:12)

Dan took this to heart, and later became the sole caregiver for his father and his mother before the Lord took them home. Dan shares how grateful he was for the support of the congregation and the help of Chaplain Beale during his mom’s funeral. Dan made his own personal peace with God shortly after arriving in Vietnam in 1965. Throughout his life Dan has sought to acknowledge God and live by His ways. And so Dan is right at home at the Fort Snelling Chapel. He loves the Lord, especially His peace in his life, and he loves veterans and still seeks to serve. As Dan reflects on his life he is mindful of a quote that was on the wall of his training unit for jump school: “We have given all that was asked ... thank God our time has passed.” But we at the Ft Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation are glad that the Lord has passed Dan on to us for we are all richer for his presence in our midst.

— Mike Wallman

The Season of Lent

Lent is the 40-day period before Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday (18 Feb 2015). Ash Wednesday, in the ‘Church Year,’ represents the day Jesus entered into the wilderness. When we count the 40-days of Lent, we skip Sundays, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection.

Lent ends on 04 Apr 2014, the day before Easter. We should use the tie of Lent for personal soul-searching, prayer and repentance. On 29 March 2015 (Palm Sunday) we observe the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem with the distribution of palm branches.

Good Friday, we reflect on the arrest, trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus. Services will be held on Friday, 03 Apr 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Holy Communion will be served and is open to all who believe.

Rejoice and worship with us as the family of God celebrates Easter – the bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior – on Sunday 05 Apr 2015. A service will be held at 11:00 a.m.

We live because He lives; and what a joy to know that along with our departed loved ones, they (and we) are all safe in the arms of Jesus and we will meet again.

— Tony Stocker
Worship Committee Chair
Benevolent Giving ...

This is the season of celebrating the birth of our Savior and His gift of redemption for all people. We follow His loving example by caring for and helping others in our community. This season, four organizations which spiritually support and physically assist with meals and clothing are funded with your gifts through our Chapel benevolence. They are Loaves and Fishes, the Union Gospel Mission, the Salvation Army and the Franciscan Brothers of Peace. While these ministries are present year around, the Christmas Season is a particularly busy time, and extra effort is made to remember and include many individuals and families.

Another group of men and women work daily in prayer and giving by telling the story of Jesus. Would you stand at a college campus corner and with a smile, greeting and offering people passing by a gift of a pocket Scripture ... on a September morning in a light misty rain for several hours? Would you visit hospitals and doctors' offices and supply these with Bibles for their patients? Would you help military chaplains with Scriptures to provide for their soldiers, sailors and airmen? Would you visit prisons, and share the promise of Jesus with inmates? Would you, along with hundreds of others, flood the Twin Cities with Bibles and Scriptures on 4 October 2015 in a blitz of prayerful dedication for two days? If you would, you might possibly be a Gideon. Our Chapel Family supports the Gideons as an extension of our devotion to Jesus and His desire to tell the Gospel throughout the world.

In mid-November, Tony & Barb Stocker, Judy Dolin and I attended an informational breakfast at the invitation of MetroHope. They have been a part of the Minneapolis scene for decades, beginning as the Gateway Gospel Mission in 1926. MetroHope's Healing House and New Hope Center are women's and men's Christian recovery programs. Healing House is the only such program in Minnesota which guides women, while keeping their children with them, through positive, Christ-centered choices to a better and productive life. In 2008 Terri and her daughter, Hallie, successfully graduated from Healing House. Today Hallie is a 7th grader, while Terri is part of a rescue and job-training program for women called "Breaking Free," who are returning to productivity following their experience with recovery opportunities.

We met Michael, a graduate of New Hope and our table-guide for our FSMCF table. Michael is now employed as a chef at New Hope Center. He related that he graduated from New Hope after 14-months and was offered employment as their chef. He is also taking college courses to further his success. Michael noted that most needed were job opportunities and housing for New Hope graduates.

These are some of the activities and programs for which we now pray and provide financial support through your generosity.

— Submitted by Richard Geis, Benevolence Committee Chair

Intergenerational Christian Ed Class

Beginning January 4, our Christian Education Class (9:45-10:30 a.m.) will focus on the pastoral letters of the Apostle Peter. The Apostle Peter writes to the Christian Church that had dispersed into many lands in the wake of persecutions in Judah. His letters are full of encouragement, Old Testament realities, and understanding of God's good works during troubling times. Second Peter is an exceptional reminder of how God holds the future in His hands and is "not slack concerning His promises." Considering the times in which we live the Apostle Peter leads us to such truths of God's ways as to train the willing heart to stand firm in the Lord Jesus Christ.

This study will be led by Chaplain Mike and Chaplain Ken and will meet in the Fellowship Hall of the Chapel every Sunday. Our classes are intergenerational in nature, as all ages are welcome. Coffee is served by our Kitchen Angels, and the discussion among those attending is always vital and uplifting. Please consider joining us throughout our study of First and Second Peter. As a bonus for attending, each participant will have weekly class notes and information concisely formatted so that at the conclusion of the study all will possess a complete commentary of these two wonderful epistles. See you there.

— Chaplain Mike
From the Flag-Line

It is with great Thanksgiving to God that Sgt. Andrew Tahmoressi, the U.S. Marine imprisoned in a Mexican jail for 214-days, was released on Fri, 31 Oct. He was joyfully reunited with his friends and family. So many people from the Chapel helped keep the story alive by showing up every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. to peacefully take a stand at the Mexican Consulate in St. Paul for one of OUR Marines. I would personally like to thank my husband, Donald Peerson, and Mel and Leslie Henschel for being there every week, securing the permit and being in-charge. Everyone who joined us every week were respectful and truly honored the Chapel “where the veteran is remembered.”

Thanks to Jim Brunsgaard from the Chapel, we know that this rally/protest was noticed nationally on the Glenn Beck show. It was also noticed by the Mexican government as were all of the rallies across the country. It sent the message to them that this Marine was not forgotten and would not be forgotten as long as he was imprisoned. Thanks also to Chaplains Mike and Ken for being there with us on many Thursdays.

The rally also brought together many other people across the metro area who have become ‘friends’ and want to help with other issues concerning our military and veterans. We will be meeting with some of those people after the new Congress is sworn in. Some of the issues we feel that must be visited are the renaming of the Fort Hood incident from “workplace violence” to the “terrorist attack” that it was so that the victims can be compensated the way they deserve to be. The present Rules of Engagement (ROE) that are ‘enemy-friendly’ must be brought to the table to help defend our defenders. So much going on in the military is under the radar and when it is brought to light by the citizens, the powers that be know we are on to them.

We should also remember the ‘Leavenworth 10’ — Soldiers imprisoned for disobeying the ROE to protect their men. Clint Lorence is one of those men. He is a true hero who should be released from his 200-year sentence. Many great people are working for his freedom. If you would like to send him a card, his address is:

Clint Lorence #93197
1300 Warehouse Road
 Ft Leavenworth, KS 66027-2304

We can’t visit him in prison … like the Bible tells us we should do … but we can send him a card and let him know he is not going to be forgotten. His mother was seen on Sean Hannity recently. Remember, this Administration has freed terrorists to go back to kill more of our troops; so these men, who fought for our country, should be released as each case is brought to light by public pressure.

We continue to ask patriots to be guests on the flag line, to honor them and hear their stories. In November we were honored to have Shoua Her, widow of Kham Xiong, who was killed at Fort Hood, TX. Her children and Kham’s parents also joined us. Patrick Zeigler and his family could not come because of illness. Patrick was critically wounded at Fort Hood. He survived after being shot four times by an Army Major who was an Islamic terrorist. Patrick and his family will join us on a future Sunday.

In December we were privileged to have the U.S. Marine JROTC Color Guard from Como Park High School and their instructor, Sgt Major (ret) James Kirkland present at the Chapel. We saw them perform at the Marine Ball at the Richfield American Legion in November and were so impressed with how they presented the Colors. Great future Marines in the making.

By the time you read this, Wreaths Across America will have already taken place on 13 Dec. We refer to it as the ‘Memorial Day of the Winter.’ A wonderful tribute to our fallen and veterans buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Once again, many people from the Chapel work on this event every year. Richard Geis has much to do with the planning of the event through the Civil Air Patrol. Our Chaplain Ken offered the prayers.

Thanks again to those individuals who stand at the flag line. The weather and illness is a big issue in the winter. Sometimes guests that we ask might not be able to show up and cancel at the last minute, but we will always keep them in mind for a future Sunday.

— Don & Patricia (Boyd) Peerson
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) 868-1525, 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

Ft. Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff

Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., Sr. Chaplain
Rev. Michael Wallman, Associate Chaplain
Marlys Wallman, Minister of Music
Bev Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Carol Nygaard, Accounting Specialist
Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music Emeritus

The Snelling Spirit Staff:

The Snelling Spirit is a bimonthly publication of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. We welcome your input, your letters and your suggestions.

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<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Good News for All Time&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Singleton Street Band</td>
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<td>Gospel Bluegrass Music</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;The Gospel Changes Everything&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: The 4-Given Quartet</td>
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<td>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</td>
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<td>Sanctity of Life Sunday</td>
<td>ML King Jr Day</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;A Matter of Life and Death&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Chris Ward, Harpist</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Communion is Pro-Action&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Diane Westby</td>
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| **Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff** | **Chaplain:** Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612/747-1059 — E-mail: KenBeale56A@msn.com  
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**Accounting Specialist:** Carol Nygaard — Phone: 952/888-1525 — E-mail: info@fortsnellingmcf.org | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** |
| **4th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Four Chaplains Remembrance**  
9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "An Act of Valor"  
Music: Andy Wallman | **Chaplain** | **Chaplain** | **Chaplain** | **Chaplain** | **Chaplain** | **Chaplain** | **Chaplain** |
| **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** |
| **5th Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Founder's Day Sunday**  
9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "Seize Your Divine Moment"  
Music: Chapel Choir  
1:00 p.m. Annual Mtg @ Chapel | **8th Sunday after Epiphany**  
9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "Washington's Motto: Deeds, not Words"  
Music: Chapel Trio | **President's Day**  
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Comm Mtg. @ Officers Club | **Ash Wednesday**  
6:30 p.m. Worship Comm Mtg. @ Officers Club | **Valentine's Day** | **9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Mtg. @ Officers Club** | **9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Mtg. @ Officers Club** | **9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Mtg. @ Officers Club** |
| **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** |
| **6th Sunday after Epiphany**  
9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sermon: "Washington's Motto: Deeds, not Words"  
Music: Chapel Trio | **President's Day**  
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Comm Mtg. @ Officers Club | **President's Day**  
6:30 p.m. Executive Comm Mtg. @ Officers Club | | | | |
| **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** |
| **1st Sunday in Lent**  
**Dispensation of Ashes**  
9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class  
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
Sermon: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"  
Music: Alec Sweazey, Accordion | **President's Day**  
6:30 p.m. Executive Comm Mtg. @ Officers Club | | | | | |