The Priorities of Life

This message was preached 8 March 2015 from the historic pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel as "The Priorities of Life" ... based on Joshua 24:14-15. This sermon, along with over 500+ other titles, is available on DVD.

Some time ago, I read a story about a time-management expert, who was speaking to a group of business students one day. As the expert stood before this class of high-powered over-achievers, he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." He brought out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed Mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more of the big rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is the jar full?"

Everyone in the class said, "Yes."

The speaker replied, in a sly manner, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar, causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. Then he smiled and asked the group once more, "Is the jar full now?"

By this time, the class was getting the picture, and one of the students answered, "Probably not."

"Good!" he replied. He then reached under the table, and this time he brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand into the jar, and it went into all the spaces left between the big rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the class, "What do you think? Is the jar full now?"

"No!" the class shouted.

Once again he said, "Good!" and then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then, he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this demonstration?"

One eager student raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always work some more things into it." "No," the expert said, "That's not the point. What we have here is a life lesson we dare not forget, namely this: If you don't put the big rocks in first you'll never get them in at all!"

Wasn't that a great lesson to give to those students - "If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all." This serves as a reminder to us to focus on the real priorities — the "big rocks," the key things — first, because in the hectic pace of this life, if you don't work them in early, they will likely get left out altogether.

But of course, the question is - What are the big rocks of life for you? What are the real priorities for you? What do you give your time and effort and energy to first? What are the most urgent, crucial commitments for you?

This is precisely what the message in Joshua 24 is all about. Remember how forcefully Joshua said it: "Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (24:15). This is one of the greatest statements in the entire Bible. It has resounded like a trumpet fanfare across the ages. If you wanted to memorize some key verses of Scripture, this would be a pretty good place to start. "Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." But what was the context of this? What prompted Joshua to make this great statement? If you listen closely, you can hear a strong commitment in his words, but also a tone of exasperation.

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

Fifty years ago, I was working in Coventry England at a company called Alfred Herbert — Once the largest machine tool builder in the world. Today Alfred Herbert is no longer around, but the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation is ... and is celebrating its 50th Anniversary as a Christian non-denominational congregation.

The Chapel was built between 1927-28 and was dedicated on June 10, 1928 as part of the military post at Fort Snelling. In 1946 the post was deactivated. Over the ensuing years of little to no usage and vandalism, the Chapel was scheduled to be demolished so as to make room for the new highways scheduled to be built in and around the Chapel. If the Chapel building could talk, it would probably say something like: "This is not a good way to end this great building's existence ... just to make space for highways."

Due to the efforts of the Rev. Dr. Clifford Ansgar Nelson, a 501(c) (3) foundation was formed that saved the Chapel from the wrecking ball. Dr. Nelson was officially called to serve as Chaplain of the newly formed foundation. The Chapel Foundation filed for incorporation on December 7th, 1966 and the Minnesota Secretary of State signed the legal corporation under the laws on December 13, 1966. The Chapel had a new lease on life starting with the first service of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation held on February 14, 1967.

Now, almost 50 years later our beloved Chapel Foundation has two chaplains, a minister of music, two office administrative personnel — all accountable to a volunteer Board of Directors ... for whom we can all be proud of. Under the capable leadership of Chaplain Ken Beale, the many volunteers make sure that the congregation returns each week to participate in the inspiring services that remain true to the Bible and to gather in fellowship after worship.

When my wife Karen and I joined the Chapel we were immediately made to feel welcome. We enjoyed the weekly services and the comradery of the many WWII veterans that came to the Chapel each week. Many of those veterans have passed on, but we have seen a lot of new faces with the same values. They are Christian families that have been looking for a church where they can hear the Word of God faithfully proclaimed without compromise.

The 50th Anniversary of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation is a major event for all of us that are members and friends. In the course of this new year, there will be a series of events that will take us through the 50 years of the Chapel Foundation’s history to the present day.

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Foundation President  
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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 2016:  
Saturdays ... @ Foundation Office  
26 March (9:00 a.m.)  
11 June (9:00 a.m.)  
10 September (9:00 a.m.)  
12 Nov (9:00 a.m.)

Sundays ... @ the Chapel Sanctuary  
14 Feb (1:00 p.m.)  
18 Dec (1:00 p.m.)

A copy of the 2016 Annual Report will be yours at the 49th Annual Mtg scheduled for Sun 14 Feb 2016 (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.
You see, after all those years of wandering in the wilderness, the Hebrews had now come into the Promised Land. They had dreamed of this. They had longed for this. They had prayed for this. But now that they were in the land, they had a big problem: other people lived in this land too, and these other people had their own set of gods that they worshiped. They had a god of war, and a god of wine, and a god of fertility, and a god of this, and a god of that, and a god of the other. And some of these false gods apparently were attractive to the Hebrews. In fact, some of these false gods were so enticing to the Hebrews that they actually began worshiping them instead of worshiping the Lord; and this, of course, was a blatant violation of the first commandment. Joshua saw what the Hebrew people were doing, and bravely, boldly, dramatically, he said, "Choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua’s strong words here remind me of the man who boarded an airplane one evening. The flight attendant asked him if he would like dinner.

The man asked, "What are my choices?"

The attendant answered, “yes or no!"

You see, when it comes to God, those are our choices — yes or no. We can’t sit on the fence; can’t skirt the issue. We have to decide — yes or no. Do we accept God into our lives or not? Do we commit our lives to God or not? Do we put God first or not?

This story in Joshua 24 is about choices, decisions, commitments, and priorities. Let me bring this closer to home and encourage you to think through what your priorities are right now. What are the “big rocks” in your life? If you don't put those in first, you will never get them in at all. Let me suggest three priorities that we would all do well to embrace.

I. There Is Commitment to Christ

Talk about a big rock: Jesus Christ is the “Rock of Ages!”

Some time ago, I ran across a series of humorous stories from pastors across the country:

- Jim Cobb of First Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Virginia, tells about a young woman who married just after she completed college. Apparently, she was still in the “multiple-choice” testing mode, because when asked “Do you take this man for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health?” she replied, “I’ll pick better, richer, and health!”

- Dan Johnson of Kalaska Church of Christ in Kalaska, Michigan, asked: “Did you hear about the neurotic owl that said ‘Why? Why?’

- Berkley Helms, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Sarasota, Florida, tells of a man who bumped into a buddy of his at the golf course. He noticed that both of his buddy’s ears were bandaged. “Cecil, what happened?” the man asked. Cecil replied, “Well, I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang. Accidentally I put the iron up to my ear instead of the phone.” Curious, his friend asked, “So what happened to the other ear?” Cecil replied, “He called back!”

- And Leonard Pye, minister of the Highland Community Church in Highland, Illinois, said this: “Regarding original sin, Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, [and] the serpent didn’t have a leg to stand on.”

Now, the good news for us as Christians is that we have something better than a leg to stand on. We have a rock! Remember how the hymn writer put it: “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand” (Edward Mote, “My Hope Is Built”).

Dr. William B. McClain, a professor of preaching and worship at Wesley Theological Seminary, once told about meeting a South Korean tailor in Seoul, Korea. Amazingly, this tailor introduced himself as “Smitty Lee.” Dr. McClain was fascinated to discover a Korean named Smitty, and he asked whether the name Smitty was a Korean name. The Korean tailor said “no,” and then he told the story of how his life had been saved some years before, during the Korean War, by a courageous American soldier from Virginia, who was called Smitty Ransom. The tailor went on to explain a rather familiar custom in that Asian culture, summing it up in two simple sentences: “He saved my life. I took his name.”

This is precisely what happens when Jesus Christ comes into our hearts. He saves our lives. And we take His name. We take on the name Christian, one who is “of Christ,” one who follows Christ, one who belongs to Christ, one who serves Christ. But sometimes we get busy and distracted, and we lose our focus and forget our name. We get so involved with the gravel and the sand and the small, petty rocks of (Continued … on page four)
(Continued ... from page three)
life, and sadly, we drift away from the Rock of Ages. If we don't put the big rocks in first, we'll never get them in at all.

How is it with you right now? Are you wearing the name of Christ well? Do you bring honor to His name by the way you live? Is your life a grateful tribute to Him? Or are you chasing after the latest fads, the newest false gods? How about it: Are you putting Christ first in your life? Are you? "Choose this day whom you will serve but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" by making commitment to Christ your top priority.

II. There Is Commitment to Family

Joshua said, "As for me and my household ..., " Family was obviously a priority for him.

A young man was at the airport in Portland, Oregon, waiting for a friend to deplane. Right beside him, also waiting for someone to deplane, was a young woman with a little baby in her arms and two small boys at her side. They were waiting for her husband, the children's father. And when he came out of the jet-way and spotted them, his face lit up. He ran to them, put down his bag, picked up one of his sons, and gave him a big hug. "It's so good to see you, Son! I've really missed you," the man said. And the little boy said, "And I've really missed you, too, Dad." Then the man picked up his older son and gave him a big hug, and said, "My goodness, you are getting so big! I can't believe how fast you are growing. What a wonderful young man you are. I'm so proud of you!" Next, he reached for his baby daughter. "Hi, Angel!" he said softly. "How is Daddy's favorite girl in all the world?" The baby girl smiled and put her head down on her daddy's strong shoulder. Then, the man said, "Now, for the best of all!" He reached out and embraced his wife. He hugged her tightly and said, "I love you so much. I am the luckiest guy in the world to have you!" Adoringly, they looked into each other's eyes, beaming with big smiles of delight and affection and joy. The young man who was waiting for his friend watched this family reunion with envy. "Wow!" he said out loud. "How long have you two been married?" The man answered: "Fourteen years, and we are so happy together." Then the young man asked, "How long have you been away?" thinking it must have been weeks or maybe even months. Given their warm expressions of affection, he was surprised when the man answered "Two days." The young man couldn't believe it. Two days; just two days, and they all greeted one another like this. Then the young man said, "You have so much love and joy in your family. I hope someday I can have a family like that." The man looked him straight in the eye and said, "Don't just hope, my friend, decide!"

My friends, whatever shape or size our family may be, we can decide to work at it. We can decide to give our best to it. We can decide to make our family a priority. In my forty years in the ministry, I have stood beside a lot of deathbeds; and I want to tell you, over all this time, I have never once heard someone on his or her deathbed say, "I sure wish I had spent more time at the office." That's not what they say. They say, "I wish I had spent more time with my children," or, "I wish I had given more time to my spouse," or, "I wish I had visited Mother or called Dad more." That's what they say — not "I wish I had spent more time at the office."

"Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" by making commitment to Christ and commitment to family top priorities in life.

III. There Is Commitment to the Church

This too is what Joshua was talking about. He was saying to his people, "Well, what are you going to do? Are you going to be God's church or not? Are you going to be God's people or not? Are you going to make the church a priority in your life or not?"

A minister wrote a letter to a family in his church. The family had been very active at one time, but he hadn't seen them lately and was concerned, so he wrote to them to say that he was missing them and hoped that they were not unhappy with him or with the church. A few days later, he received a haunting letter that went like this:

Dear Pastor,
Thank you for your kind letter. And, yes, we haven't been in church for several months now, so maybe we should explain. In the summer, we go to the lake every weekend. Our kids are young now, and it's so important that they learn how to water-ski and become expert skiers. And we like to get away too, Jack and me, because there's so much going on in our lives and we just need a break. But then when summer's over, soccer begins and our kids all play in the most competitive leagues. They have games every weekend, and sometimes the games are out of town, and when they are in town,
we go to the soccer games either on Saturday or Sunday, and there is just no way we can make it to church. We will be back to church. Don’t give up on us. There’s a brief period of time when soccer is over, and basketball hasn’t yet begun, and it’s too cold to go to the lake, and that’s a great time for us to go to church. But, then again, it’s Christmas, and you know how hectic that is. And after Christmas we just have to go to Colorado to ski, so that time’s got a problem too. But one of these days, don’t be surprised when you look up and see us out there in the congregation, because we just love you, and we just love our church.

When I read of that letter, I couldn’t help thinking of Joshua and his strong words: “Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Why? Because there are a whole lot of “false gods” in our culture today that are not that different from the false gods the Hebrews faced in the Promised Land. Their names are soccer, and football, and basketball. Their names are golf, and fishing, and sleeping in, and shopping, and getting a head start on the yard work. Their names are money, and social status.

Please don’t misunderstand me. There’s nothing wrong with any of these things in and of themselves ... as long as they don’t take the place of God and God’s sovereignty in our lives.

So, what’s the point of this message? The point is this: Whether we like it or not we have to make a decision. Will we be loyal to God or not? Will we put God first or not? Will we serve God or something else?

My friends: “Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” by making commitment to Christ, commitment to family, and commitment to the church your top priorities.

If we don’t put the “big rocks” in first, we will never get them in at all.

Let us pray.
O Lord our God, who gave life to us with a purpose to fulfill: Help us to choose this day (and always) to live our lives in ways that best fulfill Your purposes. Give us the grace necessary to embrace it (unashamedly) with loving devotion for Your holy will. For we pray this in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior who said – “Not My will, but Thine be done.” Amen.

Serving God and Country,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.
Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
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Christian Education Classes

Every Sunday now through May, our congregation conducts an Intergenerational Christian Education Class from 9:45 to 10:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. This year we are tackling the issues of values and ethics in a presentation entitled “Christian Ethics, Doing THE Right Thing.”

We have an exceptional DVD series produced by the Charles Colson Institute for Christian World View. We are also adding the insights of Francis Schaffer, Carl F.H. Henry, Brannon Howse, and many others, and are having great discussions each Sunday.

This is a great series for young and old, and there is room for all who seek to grow in Christ and understand the times.

— Chaplain Mike Wallman
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 WWII. 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 Sunday preceding February 3, 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 Sunday, January 31.

— Submitted by Tony Stocker, Worship Committee Chair
The Season of Lent

Lent is the 40-day period before Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday (10 Feb 2016). 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 26 Mar 2016, the day before Easter. We should use the tie of Lent for personal soul-searching, prayer and repentance. On 20 Mar 2016 (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, 25 Mar 2016 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 27 Mar 2016. 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

A Word From the Classroom
“...for this Man doeth many miracles.”
(John 11:47b)

How many miracles did Jesus perform? We have no way of knowing, although many miracles are recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Well then, what IS a miracle? We should probably define a miracle before we try to find out how many Jesus performed. There are probably as many definitions as there are scholars. And certainly the kids have their own definitions.

Even though the kids in the Children’s Service are in grades Kindergarten through Grade 5, they have a hunger to know Jesus, what He did on earth, and was He a man or was He God? He was all man AND all God and that in itself is a miracle and also why Jesus could perform miracles!

To quote some lyrics by Bill and Gloria Gaither, “What drives the stars without making a sound? Why don’t they crash when they’re spinning around? What holds me up when the world’s upside down? I know it’s a miracle.” Each of us is a miracle, too.

Throughout January, February and March in Children’s Service, we will be teaching the kids about miracles! Miracles are all around us, you know; we just have to have the eyes to see them and the faith to believe in them. And oh, life looks so much better when we realize that these miracles come from our gracious heavenly Father because He loves each of us so very much!

— Leslie Henschel
Children’s Ministry Coordinator

Results of Operation Christmas Child

The Chapel Foundation had another successful year of filling shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child. This year we collected a record high 260 shoeboxes and $1,575 for the shipping of the shoeboxes to boys and girls worldwide. We would like to thank all of you who filled shoeboxes with toys, toiletries, clothing, etc. for these children in need. We would also like to thank Sharon Coyne and Barb Stocker for coordinating this year’s effort along with all of the members of their committee.

— Connie Payette
Fellowship Committee Chair

Photos: On 16 Nov, Tony Stocker of our congregation, dropped-off our 260 plastic shoeboxes at the collection center at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church in Bloomington. Pictured are these shoeboxes being stacked and prayed over. Praise the Lord for the generosity of this community of faith ... who exceeded their goal (260).
Getting to Know You...

Mary and Warren Fall found their way to Fort Snelling Chapel six years ago in 2009. They were both friends of Ruth Fardig - a former organist at the Chapel so knew about the Chapel's location. The couple had recently moved to a Senior Townhome in Inver Grove Heights and they were looking for a new place to worship so decided to attend the Chapel for an Easter service. Warren noted that “we enjoyed the traditional style of worship and wonderful hymns” and Mary added, “We also enjoyed the Bible-based preaching of Chaplains Beale and Wallman.” The Falls continued to worship at the Chapel, became members and have been attending faithfully since that time.

Mary was one of four daughters born to Clinton and Hester Hatch in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. She grew up in this town and assisted her father with his dairy business. As many men were away fighting in the war, Mary learned to drive the delivery truck and assisted her father with the delivery of dairy products around town. Mary reported that she became "popular" with fellow classmates as she was able to pick them up and drive them around town in the delivery truck as their dairy business received extra allotments for gasoline during the war period. The Hatch family was active in the local Baptist church and attended worship at least three times per week. Mary mentioned that her mother “had a heart for missions” and hosted missionaries while on furlough and supported missionaries overseas. Several family members became missionaries including a sister who served for 37 years in Japan. Mary graduated from Eau Claire High School and left home to attend Bob Jones University for two years followed by Northwestern College graduating with a degree in music. She went on to complete a Master’s Degree in Voice at McPhail School for Music and began her career as a soprano soloist and voice teacher at Bethel College.

Warren was one of three children born to Albin and Alice Fall and grew up in North Minneapolis graduating from Patrick Henry High School. He grew up in a Christian home and attended First Covenant Church in downtown Minneapolis with his family. His parents were active in the church and participated in worship on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Warren could “sense his parents’ strong faith” though they may not have spoken openly about it. Upon graduation, Warren enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific Theater as part of a navy gun crew on a Merchant Marine ship. He was a Yeoman Third Class and served in this capacity for two years from 1944 through 1946. When asked about a memory from this time period, Warren stated, “My first experience sailing was leaving San Pedro, California for New Guinea on a ship that went no faster than 8 knots - and this went on for 30 days straight” and added with a smile, “you might call it the slow boat to China!” Warren was discharged from the U.S. Navy on June 8, 1946 at Wold Chamberlain Airport and returned to civilian life in Minneapolis.

Warren enrolled in the Dunwoody Industrial Institute where he studied Drafting and Estimating. He graduated from Dunwoody and started a career with the Steenberg Construction Company as a Project Manager and Estimator. Warren went on to work 32 years for this company - which was responsible for many of the beautiful buildings here in the Twin Cities including several hospitals, churches and other large projects at the University of Minnesota including Northrup Auditorium. After retiring from this

(Continued ... on page nine)
job, Warren worked six more years at Northwestern College in charge of building maintenance, retiring in 1988.

Warren resumed his membership at First Covenant Church in downtown Minneapolis after his service in the Navy. Mary also attended First Covenant and performed as a soloist for worship while also participating in the youth league. The youth league sponsored a hayride and it was at such an event that Warren and Mary met one another and made a connection. They dated for six months, became engaged and were married on August 15, 1953 at First Baptist Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Mary and Warren made their home in Falcon Heights, Minnesota and were blessed with three children: Stuart, Elizabeth and Emily. They are the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

I asked Mary and Warren about their favorite Bible verses. Without hesitation, Mary stated, Philippians 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” This verse has been an anchor for Mary who has learned to find her peace and contentment in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Warren added, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6.) For Warren, it is critical to seek God’s guidance and wisdom in the decisions of life trusting that God will direct our walk of faith and straighten our path when necessary.

Finally, I asked Mary and Warren if they had any advice for new believers at which point they both responded, “Join a good Bible Study!” It should be pointed out that the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation offers a Christian Education Class each Sunday (9:45 a.m.).

It seems fitting to end this article with words from the last verse of Mary’s favorite hymn “Praise to the Lord” —

“Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him!”

Thank you Mary and Warren Fall for your faithful participation and service to Fort Snelling Chapel!

Submitted by Eva Zorn

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**From the Flag-Line**

When we started having a guest in the flag line, we never realized what a blessing it would be to meet all the people we have asked and learn more about them. 2015 is over and we can look back at the year and remember the people who stood with us and the story behind each of them. As we approach 2016, we will continue to find heroes to stand with us and give us the chance to honor them for what they did in the service or in our community.

We hope all those people were a blessing to those at the Chapel. Some of the highlights were, of course, having Tim Chambers, the Saluting Marine with us in our service. It was great having Tim in the Twin Cities with us for a few days as the Chapel honored our Vietnam veterans in August. We look forward to seeing him again at Rolling Thunder in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day Sunday. “Word” has it, that he might just be getting married at the corner of 23rd and Constitution Ave. to his girlfriend, Lorraine, just before he begins his 4-hour salute. That corner is the best corner of the U.S. to be on that weekend.

The flag line was impressed with the Minnesota Warrior Hockey Team made up of wounded warriors form the Vietnam war, the Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan. The Hennepin County Sheriff, Rick Stanek and his deputy were asked to be there to thank them for their support and for stepping up patrols at the Chapel. In 2016, we will be asking some of our local police officers and fire fighters to make sure they know we appreciate them putting their lives on the line every day. We had the chance to have the Blue Star mother, Angie Hildebrand, in our flag line and support her flag rally after her homeowners association made her remove her U.S. Flag. Then there was Reggie Rauschnot, the Army-Marine veteran who stood at the SA on
Post Road for weeks after they made him leave because his U.S. Flag and uniform were "offensive" to some of the nearby population. He continues to come to the Chapel and joins us on most Sundays.

One of our most poignant guests were Tom and Beverly Burnett, Sr., the parents of Thomas Burnett Jr., one of the heroes from Flight 93 on September 11, 2001. What a strong, courageous woman that had such strong words for us at the Chapel. I was honored to meet her last year at the Ft Snelling National Cemetery right after Wreaths Across America. She was at her son’s grave when I stopped to pay my respects. It was 9/11 that changed everyone’s lives forever. Islam was just beginning to be our enemy to this generation, and now it has become our number one threat. Every day somewhere in the world and now in the US, the enemy rears its ugly head. We have no idea what 2016 will bring regarding this aggressive enemy. Who would have ever dreamed the changes in our country since 9/11.

All of the events the Chapel is involved in and asking people to stand with us at the Chapel has really helped get the word out that our church is truly a place where our military and our veterans are remembered EVERY Sunday. Many at the Chapel helped to remember the 32nd anniversary of the Beirut Lebanon barracks bombing with a ceremony at the Fort Snelling Cemetery to honor the five Marines that Minnesota lost on October 23, 1983. The Marines lost 241 in the bombing that day. Three of the Marines are buried where the ceremony took place and this photo shows one of the Patriot Guard carefully draping a Marine jacket on John Thomas Downing’s grave, one of the three. John didn’t die in the bombing, but took his life six days later. He was so grief stricken after losing all of his friends and men he had trained. Once again, this year the short ceremony was poignant and very meaningful to their families because they know their sons are not forgotten in that first Islamic terrorist attack on our troops — an attack which set the stage for more in the future.

We will continue to honor the service and sacrifice of those serving our country and serving in our cities to keep us safe. The flag line is just a small part of that, but it’s been just a great experience and an honor to meet these people. We have some ideas for the flag line guests for 2016 we will be working on. Thanks to Chaplains Ken and Mike, and all those at the Chapel for making all of our guests feel very welcome.

― Don and Patricia Peerson

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**General Plate Offering Envelops**

If you are among those who are blessed by this ministry ‘beyond the walls’ of the Chapel (i.e., Livestream, bi-monthly newsletter, CDs/DVDs), and would like some pre-addressed envelopes to mail-in your plate offerings, please call our Foundation office at 952/888-1525 and leave your name mailing address that we may send them to you. Thanks.
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!
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

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>11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sermon: &quot;One-Half Nation Under God&quot; Music: Kaia Wallman, Vocalist</td>
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<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sermon: &quot;The Golden Rule&quot; Music: Alec Sweazy, Accordion</td>
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<td>Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612/747-1059 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:KenBeale56A@msn.com">KenBeale56A@msn.com</a> Assoc Chaplain: Rev. Michael Wallman — Phone: 612/214-4600 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:michaelwallman@msn.com">michaelwallman@msn.com</a> Minister of Music: Marlys Wallman — Phone: 651/702-1031 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:michaelwallman@msn.com">michaelwallman@msn.com</a> Administrative Assist: Bev Johnson — Phone: 952/888-1525 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@fortsnellingmcf.org">info@fortsnellingmcf.org</a> Accounting Specialist: Carol Nyaard — Phone: 952/888-1525 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@fortsnellingmcf.org">info@fortsnellingmcf.org</a></td>
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