God Still Moves Stones

This message was preached 5 April 2015 from the historic pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel as “A God Who Still Moves Stones”... based on St. John 20:1-18. This sermon, along with over 500+ other titles, is available on DVDs.

We are gathered here this morning to celebrate Easter – the Resurrection of Jesus Christ; to give praise to a God who moved the stone that day and a God who still moves the stones – the trials of our lives today.

Speaking of Easter, let me take each of the letters of the word and associate them with the event... in the hope that it will serve to move the stones of your trials.

I. E - Empty Tomb... that provides hope in a hopeless world.
A father and his teenage son were living in Mexico City. They had had an argument, and the son, Jose, shouted curses at his father and then stormed out of the house and didn’t return. Days turned into weeks; weeks turned into months. The father searched the city and finally in desperation he went down to the newspaper and took out an ad. It said, “Jose, if you read this, I want you to know that all is forgiven. I love you and I will be waiting for you this Sunday at the entrance to the city park. I hope you show up. Love, Dad.”

That Sunday morning, 200 Jose’s showed up at the park, all looking for forgiveness.

There are so many people searching in this world; searching for forgiveness, for hope, for meaning. And the good news of Easter is that the empty tomb provides that hope in a hopeless world.

Matthew 12:20-21 says, “A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out. In His name the nations will put their hope.”

A bruised reed, a smoldering wick. That describes many people today... within the sound of my voice. Perhaps you’ve been bruised by the trials of life; perhaps you were bruised by harsh words or by a friend’s anger or by a spouse’s betrayal or by your own failure or the failures of those around you.

Perhaps, you feel like a smoldering wick. At one time your passion for God and for ministry and for life was flaming high, but the winds of life have blown and now you feel one step away from the flame going out all together.

There are many bruised reeds and smoldering wicks in the Bible: a woman standing before an angry crowd wanting to stone her for her sin of adultery; a leper, an outcast, shunned from society; a blind man on the side of the road; a paralytic lying on a stretcher; a woman with a long term illness.

Bruised reeds and smoldering wicks... and the world is so good at breaking those reeds in two and snuffing out those smoldering wicks. But what did Jesus say? He said, “A bruised reed I will not break, and a smoldering wick I will not snuff out. In My name you will put your hope.”

And the great message of Easter is that if Jesus Christ was powerful enough to move the stone and overcome the grave, then He is powerful enough to move the stones that are blocking your life.

The resurrection gives us hope in the face of the unfairness of the world. It gives us strength and courage in every situation that we face. And we need that: you need it, and I need it.

I read a story some time back about an incident during the Civil War. It’s told that a Union soldier was shot in the arm during the battle of Shiloh. His captain saw he was wounded and barked out

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President’s Corner
As you all know we are in an election year. Yes, all the politicians are telling you what you want to hear and promising that they can fix everything if you would only vote for them. They spend billions of dollars through advertising, either on the television or in mailers, and even tweets on your cell phone, brain washing you into thinking only they can put all things right. As you may know, I spent many years as a salesman. I understand their tactics as they are used everyday in all forms of industry. I would be wrong to call it false advertising, but the truth is often stretched to the limit. I have seen advertisements where bald men can have a full head of hair if only they would buy the wonder product that restores hair in no time at all. Or people who are overweight can lose it all just by buying their formula, clinically tested, to make you look like a Hollywood film star. Then there are the elixirs and ointments that can reverse the aging process, making you look like a young person again. I could go on but I think you get the message; there are no quick fixes to life’s challenges. However one thing is for sure, life is full of challenges.

Each morning we wake up, there are challenges facing us. Some are real and some seem to vanish as we get our thoughts together over our first cup of tea or coffee. But there are still problems that need to be taken care of. Fortunately we all have a place to go for help. Each Sunday I attend the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel to get rejuvenated. There I can ask God for help in my own way.

You can, too. There are also intergenerational Christian education classes held each week where, you along with your peers, can learn more about Christian Ethics and doing the right thing. I think doing the right thing always makes a positive difference in our lives.

The Fort Snelling Chapel is a great place to worship, bring us back to true Christian values, and to spend time with true friends. I am blessed to be part of the Foundation.

Iain Hodge
Foundation President
(952) 941-8643
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Christian Education Classes
Every Sunday (9:45-10:30 a.m.) our congregation conducts an Intergenerational Christian Education Class in the Fellowship Hall. At this time we are engaged in the relevant subject of “Christian Ethics, Doing THE Right Thing.” We are following a DVD series by that name produced by the Charles Colson Institute for Christian World View. Each topic in the series is introduced by a panel which is lead by conservative news anchor, Brit Hume. The panel is composed of Chuck Colson, Dr. Robert George (Princeton University professor of jurisprudence) and other guest educators and professionals. Each topic is expanded by class discussion, solid Biblical understanding, and special presentations that are pertinent to the discussion. All are welcome.

— Chaplain Mike Wallman

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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.)

Sunday ... @ the Chapel Sanctuary
18 Dec (1:00 p.m.)

If you would like a copy of the 2015 Annual Report, please secure one in the Fellowship Hall or call the Foundation Office at (952) 889-1525 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report.
an order, "Gimme your gun, Private, and get to the rear!" The private handed over his rifle and ran toward the rear, seeking safety. But after only going about two or three hundred yards, he came upon another battle. So he ran to the left, and found himself in another part of the battle. Then he ran to the right, but encountered more fighting there. Finally, he ran back to the front lines shouting, "Gimme back my rifle, Cap'n. There ain't no rear to this battle no where!"

Well, when it comes to the troubles of the world and daily life "there ain't no rear to this battle nowhere!" And that's why the Easter story is such good news. The Resurrection ... which validates every promise Jesus ever made ... is the good news that gives hope and light and encouragement, when everything else looks bleak.

II. A - Angel ... who invited them to look inside the tomb. The Gospel writer, Matthew, records that when the women came to the tomb, the first thing the angel did was to invite them inside. He said, "Come and see the place where He lay." Take a look at the evidence.

My friends: God still invites us to do that. You can look for yourself. The evidence is there if you investigate: an empty tomb, undisturbed grave cloths, a 2000-pound stone that's rolled away. Over 515 eye witnesses.

Do you realize, that if we had each person that witnessed the resurrected Lord come up here (this morning) and talk for 15-minutes a piece ... giving testimony to what they saw ... we would be here all day, and all night, and Monday and Monday night, and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday and sometime early Friday morning they would just be wrapping up the testimony. Over 128 straight hours it would take just to hear, for 15-minutes a piece, the testimony of those that saw the Lord after He rose.

The evidence shows that He rose again; and the tomb was empty. The soldiers had no story ... and thousands were martyred for the faith because they could not deny this reality.

In 2 Timothy 1:12 the apostle Paul wrote, "I know WHOM I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him for that day." Note that Paul did NOT say, "I know WHAT I have believed." Rather, Paul said: "I know WHOM I have believed ..."

And I'm here (this morning) to tell you the same thing. I know whom I have believed, and I've searched, and I'm persuaded that He is risen from the dead, alive in the world and making a difference in my life. And millions of others down through the centuries have themselves met Jesus ... first hand ... and followed Him, and let Him transform their lives.

Come and see, my friend; investigate what the Angel said ... and you, too, will believe.

III. S - Surprise ... at an empty grave. According to the scriptures, everyone involved with the resurrection event of Easter morn was surprised at how it turned out. The Soldiers didn't have an answer; the Pharisees were caught trying to come up with a back up plan; the religious leaders who thought they buried the One who challenged their way of life, were shocked when Sunday morning rolled around and the stone rolled away and Jesus Christ rose victorious over sin and death. Even the disciples were surprised ... as evidenced in their hiding out in the upper room. Surely the resurrection of Christ Jesus from the dead is the greatest surprise this world has ever known.

IV. T - Tell ... the command they were given. After the angel invited the surprised women into the tomb, they were told to go and tell this good news to others. The command was given, and yet this is the one that so many choose to ignore. Those of us that have searched and received Christ Jesus as our Savior and Lord, are now commanded to go and tell others. And yet, we sit quietly ... as opportunity after opportunity passes us by.

Do you know "how" most people come to know Jesus Christ? Do you know what the most effective mode of evangelism is? It's the same as it has been for centuries. The most effective mode of evangelism is one person inviting another person to church. Now you probably thought I was going to say that most effective mode of evangelism is one person telling another person about Jesus Christ. And let me say that that is the ideal way. And that should be and could be the best way. But the reality is that 90-95% of all commitments to Christ come after a person has accepted an invitation to attend church. A person invites another person to come to church where they will hear the Gospel, and (in time) invite Jesus into their heart.

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Like the woman Jesus encountered at the well that went back to her town and said, “Come and see a man who knows all that I’ve done and yet still loves me.”

Now the responsibility for sharing Christ will still fall to each one of us, but people are much more open to receive it once they have come to church and opened up their lives to the influence of godly people. The heart is prepared and then someone shares the gospel with them and they come to know the Lord. But it starts with someone inviting a friend to church.

My friends, we are in the ministry together. We all play a part. What did the Apostle Paul say? “I plant, Apollos waters, but God gives the increase.” We do it together. People come to know Jesus because grandparents sow, Christians pray, friends invite, people talk, greeters greet, preachers preach ... we all do it together. And while were doing that, God is working in the midst of it. The Holy Spirit is convicting them, circumstances are softening their hearts, and (in time) they respond and receive salvation and the opportunity to spend eternity in heaven.

Go and Tell:

V. E - Excitement ... that the women felt that morning.

In an old Good Friday “FAMILY CIRCUS” cartoon, Little Billy and his brother are walking along through a store looking at all the Easter eggs and candy on the shelves. And Billy says, “This may be Good Friday, but Sunday’s gonna be even gooder!”

Well, that may not be correct English, but it’s sure profound. Early that first Easter morning, the disciples and the women who were the first to find the tomb empty didn’t realize just how much “gooder” Sunday was going to be. But it sure was, wasn’t it?

We don’t always see right away how things are going to turn out. That’s how it was for the disciples on Friday and Saturday. But what a difference a day makes.

In this current war against terrorism, most of you will remember the name of PFC Jessica Lynch. You’ll recall that on March 23, 2003 she was part of a group of soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Company that were ambushed by Iraqi forces. On Tuesday, April 1st, she was still missing. Can you imagine the hurt and the anguish and the confusion of her family as their child is missing and presumed dead. But on Wednesday, April 2nd, word comes back that in a daring rescue mission, PFC Lynch was recovered ... to ultimately return safely back home. Can you imagine the excitement in the Lynch home. Can you imagine the difference in emotion from Tuesday to Wednesday ... as the one they thought was dead was found to be alive? What a difference a day makes.

There are many of you that are living in day one ... it’s the day of the trial; and you are getting hit on all sides. It’s here, and it’s now. Life is caving in on you. If you are there ... if you are in the midst of day one, my encouragement to you is to maintain hope ... because what a difference a day makes.

There are probably even more of you living in day two ... like the disciples on the Saturday following Friday’s crucifixion. The heat of the trial may be over, but now is the time of confusion and frustration and discouragement. Perhaps your faith is weak. The future seems cloudy ... the outcome uncertain. If that’s where you are, my encouragement to you is to maintain faith ... because what a difference a day makes.

But whether you are in day one or day two, all of us are facing day three — a day of victory ... a day of good news; a day of renewed hope. If you aren’t there now, be assured that it’s coming, because Jesus Christ has won the victory. Day three means hope; day three means a change of fortune; day three means victory ... now or in heaven. What a difference a day makes.

So, the E is for excitement.

VI. R - Resurrected Lord who is living today.

Only in Christianity do we find a Resurrected Lord. Mohammed is still in the grave; Buddha is still in the grave; Confucius is still in the grave. No other religious leader defeated death ... so none other can make these claims.

A Sunday School teacher had just finished telling her third graders about how Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb with a great stone sealing the opening. Then, wanting to share the excitement of the resurrection, she asked: “And what do you think were Jesus’ first words when He came bursting out of that tomb alive?” A hand shot up into the air from the rear of the classroom. Attached to it was the arm of a little girl. Leaping out of her chair she shouted out excitedly “I know, I know!” “Good” said the teacher, “Tell us, what were Jesus’ first words.” And extending her arms high into the air she said, “TA-DA!”

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The resurrected Lord is the central event of our faith. It is the “TA-DA!” of Christianity. And because of Easter, we know that God in Christ Jesus is more powerful than anything in life, even death.

The resurrection is not just another thing we believe as Christians; it is the very center of our faith. Everything hinges on the resurrection. And you realize that when life smacks you in the face.

I once read the account of a man whose young daughter had died. It was devastating for the family. But in her death, Easter took on new importance. The father said this, “Until you stare death eye-to-eye, Easter is just a word, a nice day with bunny rabbits and eggs ... but when someone so precious to you dies, Easter becomes everything ... an anchor in a fierce storm ... a rock on which to stand ... a hope that raises you above despair and keeps you going.”

Everything hinges on the resurrection. In our deepest, darkest moments; when we don’t think it can ever get better; the resurrection gives us hope that it can. When we are in the midst of day one or day two, the resurrection gives us hope that there is a day three and victory is coming.

Maybe you’re here (this morning) and you are in the midst of day one or day two ... needing God's grace and forgiveness and hope. I guarantee you’ll find it in a resurrected Lord ... named Jesus Christ.

Or perhaps you are here (this morning) needing to make a decision to receive Jesus as your personal Savior; to be assured that when you die, you too will rise again and be with God forever. You say, “I want that ... How do I do that?”

The Bible says, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

Will you receive Jesus Christ right now? Here is how you can receive Him:
1. Admit your need. (I am a sinner.)
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus to come in and control your life through the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Receive Him as Lord and Savior.)

If this is the desire of your heart, then pray with me –

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, the Bible says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). If you sincerely prayed this prayer, then you can surely say as my sermon title suggests — I know a God who still moves stones!

If you are under the weather or out of town, you can still attend worship services at this website address 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. Offerings can be achieved by clicking on the more link at the top of the page bringing you to a link Donate to Chapel Foundation.

Remember: We love to have you in-person at our services, but in the event that is not possible please join us in our ever-changing and improving web presence.

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

— Matt Stokes
Publicity Committee Chair

General Plate Offering Envelopes

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.
Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food ..."  
(St. Matthew 25:35)

Please secure any of these items and deposit them on **Sun, 6 Mar 2016** at the front curb of the Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel:

- **Canned/Jar Food Items**: tuna, canned fish/meats, chili, beef stew, canned pasta products, Enfamil formula, fruits, juices, tomato sauces/paste, spaghetti sauces, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil

- **Boxed/Packaged Items**: cereals (hot & cold), powered milk, tuna/hamburger helper, macaroni, rice, pasta products, crackers, instant potatoes, pancake mix

- **Hygiene Items**: toilet tissue, tooth paste/brushes, bar soap, paper towels, feminine products, facial tissues, shampoo, deodorant, shavers, shaving cream

- **Baby Items**: disposable diapers (all sizes), formula (especially Enfamil with iron), baby wipes, baby powder, jar baby foods

Food shelves have access to discounted food that you don't. Cash donations feed more families. You can make your checks payable to "F.S.M.C.F." In turn, the Foundation will forward your contribution.

* Minnesota FoodShare is an interfaith collaboration, fighting hunger through community action. You can learn more about it at [www.gmcc.org/foodshare].

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**Holy Week at the Chapel**

**Place an Easter Plant in the Chancel**

A special tradition at the Chapel is to adorn the altar area with beautiful plants on Easter Sunday. This tradition is made even more precious by the dedications which are made for each of the plants. It's a beautiful way to honor or remember your loved ones at this sacred and holy time of year.

You can select lilies and tulips (pink, purple, and yellow) The cost is $13.00 each.

Plants making up the Easter Garden will be noted in the bulletin in memory of ... in honor of ... or to the glory of God. **Orders must be received by Sunday, 13 March**. Donors may take their plant after the worship service. The plants that remain will be delivered to the MN Veterans Home for their enjoyment.

Dorothea Johns will be taking orders beginning 28 February in the Fellowship Hall.

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**Palm Sunday—Distribution of Palms**

20 March is Palm/Passion Sunday. At 11:00 a.m. each worshiper will receive palms to commemorate Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Chaplain Ken will present a timely sermon entitled, "**Palm Sunday’s Passion**" ... based on St. Matthew 21:1-16. The special music will be vocalist Diane Westby.

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**Good Friday — Holy Communion**

On Friday 25 March, we will have our Good Friday worship service at 2:00 p.m. Chaplain Ken will bring a message entitled, "**What’s So Good About Good Friday?**" ... based on Hebrews 10:1-25. The special music will be vocal soloist Bonnie Hammel. At this worship service the invitation to commune at the Lord’s Table is open to all who believe in the Lord Jesus for their salvation.

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**Easter Brunch**

Plan to attend our **Easter Brunch** (9:30 –10:30 a.m.) in the Fellowship Hall prior to the Easter Sunday worship service on **27 March** (11:00 a.m.). Please sign up between 6-20 March in Fellowship Hall for this freewill donation brunch. Any questions, speak with Connie Payette during fellowship time.

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**Easter Service**

On Sunday 27 March, our worship service will be held at 11:00 a.m. The special music will be the Richfield Symphonic Brass. Chaplain Ken will bring a message entitled, "**The Power of the Resurrection**" ... based on St. John 20:19-29;21:15-19.
A Word From the Classroom

"to everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under heaven ... " (Eccl. 3:1)

With joy we have been teaching the children of the Chapel for 15-months now. This has been a new experience for each of us, the children and adults alike. We have learned both our likes and dislikes. For example, we like doing crafts and the messier the better. Well, that's how the children feel anyway. They were thrilled with potting flowers for moms on Mother's Day and coloring with markers is always fun. Sometimes singing has caused us all to dissolve into giggles. If you haven't heard "The Fruit of the Spirit" song performed by the Caithers ... you are missing out. What a joy these children are!

Each Sunday we have had approximately the same format in the classroom. We begin with prayer, then recite the memory verse, and follow this with the Bible story of the day complete with a coloring page or craft relevant to the story. All of this takes 15-20 minutes depending upon the complexity of the craft. It doesn't allow for time to sing Sunday School songs or time for finding out how the children's week went and visiting with them a little. These cherished little ones crave time to talk to us and we really want to listen to them. We want to let them know they are special, VERY special!

One of the things concerning the teachers and helpers is the limited number of adults who have volunteered to help. Since the Children's Church is done during the sermon, the teachers miss hearing a message designed for adult listeners. Originally the plan was for 8-adults to be involved which would equate to each adult missing the adult sermon only once a month. But it hasn't worked out that way. Some adults have found this was not a good fit with their gifts and they have bowed out. It's understandable, of course, but it has also left a void. Therefore, we have a smaller number of workers and they have to double up on the number of weeks they teach each month. We are also limited because vacations cause some very committed folks to be understandably absent. And everyone gets sick from time to time.

Spring is a time of change and Children's Church is going to change. Due to a limited number of volunteers, we will no longer have Children's Church the 5th Sunday of any month that has 5 Sundays. The children are being encouraged to work on their listening skills and they can use Busy Bags, too. Our format is changing beginning in March. Each Sunday of the month will have a different focus: songs, Scripture memorization, Biblical Story, or Service project.

Here is the opportunity you've been looking for. If you have a song you would like to teach the children, or a Bible story to share with them, or even a favorite Bible verse to teach, you can now sign up for one time in the classroom. This is not a big commitment. This is one Sunday. And you won't be alone with these little friends; a teacher will be there too. The children don't expect perfection. They don't even know what perfection is. They are the most lovable, understanding people there are. They're fun, too. Please pray about this and ask our Lord if you should volunteer. If the answer is yes, just contact Leslie Henschel and she will put you on the schedule for a week that works for you. God bless you and the children.

— Leslie Henschel
Children's Ministry Coordinator
Getting to Know You...

Earl and Lorene Lee came to the Fort Snelling Chapel over 10-years ago as the result of an invitation they received from Jim and Dorothea Johns. The two couples were friends outside of the Chapel and it was through this friendship that the Lees learned of Ft Snelling Chapel. So, one Sunday morning they journeyed to the historic Chapel to attend a worship service. Lorene noted that the people, "were so friendly" and Earl added, "I come from a military background so there was an attraction to that aspect of the community." They enjoyed their first visit and have been coming back to the Chapel every Sunday since that time.

Lorene was the oldest child born to Henry and Evelyn Groh and grew up in the small town of Waterville, MN. She was big sister to her younger brother Jerry and both children grew up in a small town atmosphere. Waterville is a farming community located in Le Seur County about 60-miles Southwest of the Twin Cities and sits on the Cannon River. The Groh family was of Swiss/Czech heritage and attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Waterville. Lorene was friends with two other girls that lived at her end of town and the three of them would chum around together on a regular basis. It turned out that one friend was Episcopal and the other friend was Lutheran so Lorene began attending the Episcopal youth group on Thursday evenings and the Lutheran Bible school on Saturday mornings in addition to Catholic catechism Saturday afternoons.

Lorene was very positive about this experience and stated that she not only enjoyed worshipping in different churches but learned that each church, though different, still kept it's focus on Christ and what He did for us on the Cross. One of her favorite memories growing up in a small town was "going roller skating with my friends" at the local roller rink. She added that "when you weren't roller skating you were dancing at the weddings" with her friends and neighbors.

Lorene attended Waterville High School and while in school worked at a local restaurant in town with her good friend Arlene. One day a young man delivered a load of pop to the restaurant. Lorene's friend took one look at him and said, "He's cute and I am going to get a date with him." Lorene laughed and said, "whatever." Her friend soon learned that the name of the driver was Ronnie. Arlene arranged for a date with this young man and then asked Lorene if she wanted to "double date" with Ronnie's best friend, Earl. Lorene looked at her friend with amazement and said, "Now how is that going to work out? We both work at the restaurant and if one is not working then the other person has to be at work." Well, serendipitously, a friend of the owner came in for lunch one day and said to Richard, "When are you going to give these girls a night off?" Without missing a beat, the owner turned to Lorene and Arlene and said, "Okay you two - get out of here." So, Lorene's friend arranged for a double date and Lorene met Earl on a blind date for the very first time. They began to see one another and she added with a big smile, "Things worked out as my friend married Ronnie and I married Earl."

Earl was the middle child born to Clarence and Daisy Lee in Skyberg, MN. Skyberg is a small farming community in Goodhue County not far from the larger city of Kenyon. Earl grew up on a dairy farm and recalls lots of "hard work" milking cows and tending to pigs and chickens. The farm was typical of the many small family farms in the Norwegian community where Earl was raised. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church and attended church weekly with his parents. His parents attended church faithfully but did not talk about their faith. Rather, Earl learned from the example his parents set by the way they conducted their lives on a daily basis. Earl graduated from Kenyon High School and then resumed a career in farming with his father.

Earl fully expected to be drafted following high school graduation as this was the tail end of the Korean War. However, when this did not happen he decided to enlist in the Air Force in 1954. Earl served 4-years on active duty and was stationed at Keesler A.F. Base in Biloxi, MS and at Lackland A.F. Base in San Antonio, TX. He served in the 741st Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron, working as an electronic technician inspecting and servicing early warning radar systems. Earl was discharged at the rank of Staff Sergeant/E 5 in 1958. After discharge, he joined the Air National Guard and served an additional 2-years returning to active duty for 9-months in 1959. Upon discharge a second time, Earl learned that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was hiring and he applied for a job. He was hired and continued to utilize the skills from military training in the area of Radar Communications working as an air traffic supervisor. Earl worked 37-years for the FAA where his job took him to many different places in the U.S. He retired in 1988.

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It is a misconception that pastors cannot address political issues from the pulpit. Any person or entity that attempts to silence a pastor for addressing these issues is violating that pastor's constitutional rights under the First Amendment.

America's Founding Fathers saw religion as a necessary component to a healthy, moral society—not a taboo topic to bar completely from the political realm; neither was political talk to be barred from churches. Sermons on politics, government, and controversial issues were common at our nation's founding, and popular among pastors and churches on varying sides of the political spectrum.

Pastors are supposed to equip the saints in works of service...and that includes representing their faith and morality in the voting booth. Contrary to popular belief, pastors are fully protected when it comes to issues like educating members of their church about the political process, handing out non-partisan voter guides and fliers so members can read about each candidate's platform, and even providing the opportunity for members to register to vote. Additionally, pastors can participate in politics in their individual capacity. Serving in ministry does not disqualify pastors or other religious leaders from their individual rights as U.S. citizens. Pastors can participate on political campaigns, hold office on political campaigns, and even endorse a candidate in their individual capacity.

With this understanding, beginning in April and continuing through July, Chaplain Beale will be preaching a sermon series—"Voting Your Values." Each week he'll examine a political issue and present the Biblical worldview of that issue. In the course of this series he will urge the listener to evaluate his/her candidate's position against the Scriptures. Follow the Chapel Foundation's newsletter calendars, weekly bulletins, website or Facebook page for details of issues being addressed.

(Continued ... from page eight)
but was called back to work after retirement. Earl worked another 4-years and then said, "this is enough" and retired for the final time in 1993.

Lorene and Earl made their home in Eagan, MN and raised two sons. Lorene worked outside of the home during school hours when her sons were young. Later she began working for the gas company followed by the City of Eagan retiring after over 20-years of service. The Lees continue to live in the same Eagan home that they purchased 61-years ago and enjoy spending the additional time at their lake cabin 1-hour from the Twin Cities. Lorene and Earl both volunteer at Ft Snelling Chapel in a variety of capacities including ushering and assisting with the coffee/treats in Fellowship Hall following the service. Their advice to visitors and new members is to "get involved" at the Chapel and "meet new people."

Earl mentioned that his favorite hymn is "Amazing Grace" and that this hymn was sung at his mother's funeral. It seems appropriate to close with several verses from this hymn which reminds each of us that forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of the sins committed if we place our trust in Jesus Christ.

Amazing Grace,
how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind, but now, I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares...
I have already come.
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far...
and grace will lead us home.

Thank you Earl for your service to our country and to Earl and Lorene for your faithful service to Fort Snelling Chapel!

Submitted by Eva Zorn
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 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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Connie Payette
Tony Stocker
Matt Stokes
Marlys Wallman
Rev. Michael Wallman
Eva Zorn

Layout/Design/Printing:
Bev Johnson
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<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. Worship Service</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Benevolence Comm Mtg.</td>
<td>2016 Good Friday Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Marriage Nails It&quot;</td>
<td>Music: St. Peter Claver, Cameroon Choir</td>
<td>2016 Good Friday Day</td>
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<td>Installation of Officers</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Spiritual Warfare&quot;</td>
<td>Music: Litchfield Area Male Chorus</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Mtg.</td>
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<td>Palm/Passion Sunday</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Palm Sunday's Passion&quot;</td>
<td>Music: Diane Westby, Soloist</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. Holy Communion</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. Board of Directors Mtg.</td>
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<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Easter Brunch</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<td><strong>Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff</strong></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></td>
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<td>Assoc Chaplain: Rev. Michael Wallman — Phone: 612/214-4500 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:michaelwallman@msn.com">michaelwallman@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>Minister of Music: Marlys Wallman — Phone: 651/702-1031 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:michaelwallman@msn.com">michaelwallman@msn.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>3</strong> 2nd Sunday of Easter</td>
<td><strong>4</strong> Chaplain</td>
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<td><strong>9</strong> Chaplain</td>
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<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Biblical Worldview: A Different Meaning to PC&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Faith First Men's Chorus</td>
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<td><strong>10</strong> 3rd Sunday of Easter</td>
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<td><strong>15</strong> Tax Day</td>
<td><strong>16</strong> 9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Mtg.</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Religious Liberty&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Hymn Sing</td>
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<td><strong>17</strong> 4th Sunday of Easter</td>
<td><strong>18</strong> Person</td>
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<td><strong>22</strong> Earth Day</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Sanctity of Life&quot;</td>
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<td>Music: Eagan Women of Note</td>
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<td><strong>24</strong> 5th Sunday of Easter</td>
<td><strong>25</strong> All Day</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;Marriage &amp; Family&quot;</td>
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