When the Bottom Drops Out

This message was preached 11 September 2011 from the historic pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel as "What to Do When the Bottom Drops Out"... based on Psalm 27:1-14. This sermon, along with over 450+ other titles, is available on DVDs.

On September 11th at 8:45 a.m. there was no safer place to be than the 110th floor of the World Trade Center's north tower. The massive structure of steel and glass elevated you stories above crime in the streets below. Your physical security was only matched by your financial safety, employed at the place from which the lifeblood of the world's economy flowed. You sat in the highest building of the premier city of the leading nation in the world.

Within five minutes everything changed. At approximately 8:50 a.m. American Airlines Flight #11, a Boeing 767 with 81-passengers, 9-flight attendants and 2-pilots aboard, headed from Boston to Los Angeles crashes several stories below you. The fuel-laden jet explodes on impact effectively sealing off your escape route. You smell the first odor of smoke and hope with all your heart the fire department can reach you before it's too late.

Ten minutes later you're jolted by another explosion though this one seems less severe than the first. Gazing out the window you clearly see a huge fiery chasm in the south tower. You tremble inside as the thought makes its full impact -- this was no accident. Someone is trying to kill you.

The smoke thickens, but you maintain calm, open a window and gasp for breath. You're reassured by the sound of the sirens below. You check your watch and realize you've been in this mess for over an hour now. "When will the rescuers get here?" you think and half mumble out loud. Before you can finish the question you hear the horrible rumble of buckling metal. Terror grips your heart as you witness the unthinkable. The south tower shudders and then collapses before your very eyes. It's at that moment you realize the same fate awaits you. Twenty minutes later your fear becomes reality.

In less than two hours the bottom dropped out of your position of perceived security.

The thing that made this event so horrible, aside from the massive loss of life, was the fact that innocent people who were in seemingly safe places had that security ripped out from under them. To make matters worse, almost all of them saw it coming. The employees in the World Trade Center towers, the passengers in the planes and the bystanders and rescue personnel on the ground either literally or figuratively had the bottom drop out from under them. I keep putting myself in their shoes and wonder what I'd do if the bottom dropped out.

Maybe you've come to understand through the event of 9/11 that one day it will happen to you too. It may not be as dramatic as what we witnessed on TV or heard about through eyewitness accounts, but it will happen. The bottom will drop out of your life when you go into work and your boss calls you into her office with some "bad news" about your job. The bottom will drop out of your life when your spouse says, "It's over." The bottom will drop out of your life when the doctor comes back in the waiting room, unable to look you in the eye and the only word you hear is "terminal."

It may be today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year, next decade; but there will come a time when all that's made you feel secure will be blown away in an instant. What will you do when

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President's Corner

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer born in 1451. In 1492 he set sail in search for Asia to claim the riches of the east. The King and Queen of Spain, Ferdinand II and Isabella, financed this voyage thinking they could gain great wealth from their investment. Instead of reaching Asia, Columbus landed in the West Indies. Columbus made four (4) voyages from Spain to the Americas from 1492 to 1503. This being the beginning of the colonization of the Americas. In 1620, one hundred puritans sailed in the Mayflower bound for the new world from England. These Christians viewed Europe as an ungodly place to live; therefore, they sailed to the New World, founded by Columbus, to continue the Christian way of life.

History shows that nothing changes for Christians. Are we in a time that mirror's old Europe?

Well, we as a Christian community need not travel far for our Christian way of life. We can visit the Chapel each Sunday to hear the Word of God.

Let's thank Columbus for finding us the New World. [The first Columbus Day celebration in the USA took place in New York in 1792, celebrating the 300th anniversary of his historic voyage.]

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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.

Christian Education Classes

Every Sunday morning from September 13, 2015 to May 22, 2016, we will sponsor another academic year of Intergenerational Christian Education Classes. We will meet in the Chapel fellowship hall each Sunday from 9:45AM to 10:30AM. Refreshments are served during this time.

Our focus this year is on the issues of our day and why Christians make the decisions they do regarding these issues. Decision, in the area of moral choices, is the subject of ethics, and our class is entitled — "Christian Ethics, Doing the Right Thing." We are indebted to the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty (whom we support with our benevolent giving) for equipping us with a special DVD presentation which explores ethical behavior in the light of today's problems. The DVD is in 6-parts and features a panel discussion with Chuck Colson and Robert George and others who are challenging the relativism of today's ethics in the marketplace, in business and in law practices. The panel is moderated by Brit Hume.
The 6-parts of the series are:
1."How Did We Get into This Mess?"
2."Is There Truth, a Moral Law We All Can Know?"
3."If We Know What Is Right, Can We Do It?"
4."What Does It Mean to Be Human?"

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the bottom drops out? My encouragement to you this morning will be quite simple. I don't have an elaborate plan or a 12-step formula. But this I do know: No matter where you are, no matter when or how it happens, when the bottom drops out ... look up.

Psalm 27, a portion of which was read for us just moments ago, was written by a man named David who understood how it feels to have your security dashed to pieces. Although he was called a "man after God's own heart" David experienced the bottom dropping out of his life many times. For years, he was pursued by an envious king whose only purpose in life was to erase David from the face of the earth. David eventually became King of Israel only to later flee Jerusalem when his own son led a rebellion against him and usurped the throne. He endured wars and plagues. Yet, each time the bottom dropped out ... he looked up.

On one of these occasions he wrote Psalm 27. A point that David makes right up front is ... that when the bottom drops out ... we have a choice to make (vs. 1-3). We must choose between faith and fear.

Whether a band of hostile men were pursuing him or he found himself in the heat of full scale war, David deliberately looked up. He refused to cave in to fear because he remembered and trusted that God was on his side. He reflected on the multitude of times God had rescued him during his hour of need and it comforted him each new time he faced danger.

The point is to look up ... rather than look around. If we base our security on the present circumstances we will be crippled by fear and uncertainty. By force of will sometimes we must look to God and trust the Lord to be our light in dark places and our rescuer in this life and the next.

No matter what the circumstances in your life, you have a God who is unQuestionably for you, not against you. Whatever situation you find yourself in ... whether it's a war or personal crisis ... you must choose faith over fear.

To His followers and best friends Jesus said: "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) He informed them, that the bottom was about to drop out of their lives because He was going to die. They'd be scared and scattered, but He told them not to fear ... because He was stronger than the circumstances. His resurrection from the dead three days later backed up His claim of power.

When the bottom drops out of your world, don't look around ... Look up!

Do you remember what happened immediately after 9/11? Government agencies, airports, amusement parks, sporting events, Hollywood ceremonies and TV shows ... all closed up. But the doors of churches were open. People cramming into sanctuaries and engaged in prayer vigils. Why? It's because we innately understood what David pointed out in the next portion of the Psalm (vs. 4-6).

God's presence is our only place of permanent peace.

When the bottom dropped out of his life, David's first instinct was to find the face of God. For him and the people of his day, they went to a tabernacle - a tent where the presence of the LORD resided. David knew that just a word from God, just a touch from the tip of His smallest finger was the source of unending peace. He rightly perceived that peace in the world is a fleeting thing. But the peace of God is permanent.

Let me ask you: Where do you go to find God? His dwelling place, of course, the Church. That's good and I applaud it. We do experience God in a unique way when we gather with His people. But what we often forget is that we can have Him with us personally even when the bottom is dropping out.

To those who trust in Jesus Christ - that He died in our place for our sins and that we have forgiveness and eternal life through Him - the Lord Himself makes this astounding claim: "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth ... He lives with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17) The Holy Spirit takes up residence in those who believe in the name of Jesus Christ. God's Spirit is our source of permanent peace unlike anything the greatest police force or army can offer.

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

When the bottom drops out ... look up. We have a promise from God ... that no matter what the circumstances: Jesus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

When the bottom falls out we often lose our sense of direction.

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I could empathize with the dust covered people I watched stagger out of the debris on 9/11. Business as usual, like a rug, was pulled out from under all of us. Throughout that day ... and the immediate days that followed ... we could hardly focus or figure out what to do next. But the Psalmist tells us (vs. 7-12).

Stability comes when we sincerely seek the Living God.

David looked up in his time of crisis for direction. He wanted to make sure that his own sin was not part of the problem. He sought God openly and honestly, letting the chips fall where they may. Seeking brings stability. Look what Proverbs says: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Let me say that if you’re seeking some kind of stability in life and you don’t have Jesus Christ, you don’t have a leg to stand on. Your life will be one shaky experience after another until your life ends, and you spend eternity in perpetual turbulence. If you’ve been coming here week-after-week waiting for something to happen, let me encourage you to take the decisive step and take a chance on Jesus. At the very least, begin seriously investigating His claims for yourself. Taste and you’ll see that the Lord is good. Don’t wait for the bottom to drop out and then face eternity without God.

David concludes his Psalm with a powerful word of hope. Hold on to this for your present situation or whenever the bottom drops out of your life. (vs. 13-14)

When we concede God

confirms.

David is saying, “Yeah, the situation is crummy. It stinks. It’s down right rotten, but you just wait. Just wait and see what God’s going to do! It’s only a matter of time and I’ll see with my eyes the goodness of God! He’s going to create such a work of beauty out of the rubble of my life that everyone will be astounded when they gaze upon it!”

It’s true, my friend: No matter how bad it gets, our God is in the business of resurrection. Our God brings beauty from ashes and life from death. Listen to this confirming truth from the Bible: “But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.” (Romans 5:20)

When the bottom drops out it may seem like life will never be good again, but you just wait. The devastation of evil may seem insurmountable, but it’s a drop in the bucket compared to the grace of God. The verse literally says that where sin is abundant, grace is super colossal stupendously exceedingly abundant. It’s like comparing a key ring flashlight to the rays of the sun. That cheap light is strong in the dark, but it’s completely overtaken with the dawn of a new day.

If the bottom has dropped out on you, look up, surrender to God and wait to see what the Lord is going to do next. God has a master plan that includes you and me and the disasters we face.

This statement is absolute truth: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers ...What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:28-29, 31)

No matter how bad it is when the bottom drops out, look up.

My friend: I suspect the bottom’s going to drop out of our lives many more times between now and then. Just keep looking up; know that God’s presence is your only place of peace; find your stability in the Living God; and concede to God’s confirmation that all things work together for good ... if we love God!

Serving God and Country.
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5."Ethics in the Market Place"
6."Ethics in Public Life"

Chaplains Ken & Mike will be presenting these classes and leading in the discussion for each session. There is a host of material published in keeping with the focus of these classes which will be referred to during each class. Our CE hour is designed to be intergenerational (open to all ages). However, because certain issues are of such a nature we ask that parents carefully evaluate whether their children should participate.

We hope to see many of you take advantage of these classes, of which the purpose is to equip believers to “But prove yourselves doers of the Word and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” (James 1:22)

— Chaplain Mike Wallman
A Word From the Classroom

The Fruit of The Spirit's not a coconut;
The Fruit of The Spirit's not a banana;
The Fruit of The Spirit's not a watermelon.
Let's just praise The Lord!

Do YOU know what The Fruit of The Spirit is? Soon the children who go to Children's Service will know. Those kids who come on a regular basis will learn the most, of course.

The children who attended regularly in July and August learned about heroes including: missionaries; firefighters; police officers; members of the Armed Forces; and Biblical heroes like David, Daniel, and Deborah. And they learned that they, too, can be heroes and put on the whole armor of God. These are: the Helmet of Salvation; the Sword of the Spirit; the Shield of Faith; the Breastplate of Righteousness; the Belt of Truth; and feet shod with Peace.

Some people think these little ones are too small to absorb these teachings, but you would be surprised what sinks in to these little sponges. Without a doubt, these kids already know that God loves them, that Jesus is always with them, and that our Chapel is God's house! They can name some heroes and hopefully what makes a hero.

For the sake of continuity, these kids need to come regularly. I recently had one student say, "Teacher, I would come every Sunday, but they won't let me drive yet." Soon, we will have a fruit cocktail of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control! This is what the kids will be taught during September and October.

Thank you for trusting us with these precious souls.

— Leslie Henschel
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Got Christian Literature?

On 4 October (Worldwide Communion Sunday) we will have our annual collection of non-denominational Christian literature to be delivered to the International Christian Literature Distributors, Inc. (ICLD) in Mpls ... who will (in turn) read, sort, package and ship these Bible-based materials to primarily Third World countries. People around the world are hungry for Christian literature, but in many nations it is either not available or too costly for people to purchase. ICLD meets this need by shipping over 1,600-pounds of material per week to over 50-countries. Acceptable materials are: Bibles, Decision magazines, Daily Bread, Upper Room, Bible study books, non-denominational hymnals and tapes of Sunday services. U.S. Postal regulations require materials to be free of advertising. A collection point will be at the front of the entrance to the Chapel.

— Connie Payette
Fellowship Committee Chair

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.
Special Patriotic/Veterans Events...


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 families who have offered up their loved ones 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.

Worldwide Communion

Sun — 4 Oct

For Christians everywhere communion is what keeps our Christian faith linked together even though we may be different denominations. Christ paid the ultimate price for our sins. Through communion we are reminded that our sins are forgiven and as a result we must forgive and extend our Christian love to everyone around us. Plan to partake in communion ... which is open to all who believe.

— Tony Stocker
Worship Committee Chair

Gold Star Day — 27 Sep

The Gold Star pins associated with the Gold Star Mothers are awarded by the Department of Defense. You need not be the mother of the deceased, but an immediate next-of-kin to receive the pin. The Gold Star lapel pin was established by Congress in 1947.

Did you know there are two different pins? The pin you are awarded depends on the circumstances of your loved one’s death. The following relatives are entitled to one or the other pins: widow, widower, mother, father, step-mother/father, mother/father through adoption, foster mother/father, son, daughter, stepson/daughter, son/daughter by adoption, brother, sister or a half brother or sister.

The Gold Star lapel pin is awarded only if the deceased was killed during conflicts. If not in conflict, but killed while training, you would receive the Next of Kin lapel pin. On the back of a DD Form 3 it will list the conflicts eligible.

Please plan to join us Sunday 27 September at 11:00 a.m. to honor all of the Gold Star recipients and their service member’s gift of service to our great country.

— Tony Stocker
Worship Committee Chair

POW/MIA Remembrance — 13 Sep

The U.S. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the 3rd Friday of September each year. Many Americans take the time to remember those who were prisoners-of-war (POW) and those who are missing-in-action (MIA), as well, as their families.

The Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation will never forget those who are POW/MIA. Each Sunday at the Chapel they are lifted up to the Lord in prayer...as we light a candle in an unoccupied pew designated for POW/MIA and have posted the POW/MIA flag beside the altar.

We light a candle as the light of hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home to the open arms of a grateful nation. May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families.

Join us in prayer and recognition of those who are POW/MIA at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, 13 September.

— Tony Stocker
Worship Committee Chair
Benevolent Giving ...

Taking the Light Into the World

The Northwest Ordinance of 13 July 1787 predates our U.S. Constitution and declared in Article 3 that "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary for good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be ever encouraged."

Liberty has been defined as freedom and morality or freedom with morality. This is the meaning recognized by the men and women who lived through the period of our country's formation. Over the decades, visitors to our country have marveled at our system, and even today come here seeking happiness.

Yet today's liberty is not similar to that of what once was. The means of education has not produced in our people today that original understanding and belief. Look around. We the people now take the lives of innocents, take the fruit of other's labor, take our responsible civic duties and cast them away. The result is sure as stumbling to the ground. The law of reaping has an unalterable affect; you only get what you sow ... every time.

A new means of education is required; actually a continuing from ancient times. As Christians we faithfully believe Our Lord. Jesus said, "Go, Teach, Preach, Repent, Witness, Baptize, Feed, Tend, Follow." Each Christian is to do this. We do this by living our lives showing Jesus' Example — Love.

I am a Gideon. Gideons pray for God's blessing upon us and upon those who have yet to learn the story of Jesus and find faith and redemption through His grace. By placing His written Word in hotels and many other places and by personally giving Scriptures to people, it is a means of education and return to a morality that is Truth. The guarantee is a no-brainer: A crop of necessary understanding/educated people in America and throughout the world.

Would you pray for this? Could you hold out your hand and gift a Scripture to another person? You don't even have to say anything, just hold out your hand and people will take God's gift ... God's Promise. I say to people, "A gift for you," smile and hold out my hand.

Now I know there are Gideon men and Gideon women here that are members of the Chapel Foundation, our Chapel Family. You just haven't signed up yet. Now is the time. You can do this. We can do this. We just gave $1,000 in benevolence support.

Gideons have given to people more than 2-billion Bibles and Scriptures. This is a means of encouragement and promise that shall ever be fruitful — Taking the Light into the World.

— Submitted by Richard Geis, Benevolence Committee Chair

This congregation tithes (10%) from its plate offerings. If you know of an organization/ ministry ... that is in keeping with our purpose ... please feel free to secure an application to submit for financial support in 2015. Simply contact the Foundation Office at 651/286-7296 ... and provide a name and mailing address.

From the Flag-Line

What a busy and meaningful past couple of months.

We've had some wonderful guests in our flag line. The MN Warrior Hockey Team was well represented on Sunday, May 31st. It's the only hockey team in MN where the players must be veterans and disabled. Some on the team were from the Vietnam War, but most from this Global War on Terrorism. It was great to see them in their hockey jerseys and standing in the flag line.

$500 from our Benevolence Funds were gifted to them.

The flag line had Angie Hildebrand, the double Blue Star mother from Edina who refused to remove her flag from her condo, on Sunday, July 12th. Many of the Chapel members rallied at her house to support her courage.

On Sunday, July 26th, we had Hennepin County Sheriff, Rich Stanek and Deputy Adam Hermke in our flag line. We wanted to thank them for their extra patrols every Sunday.

For many months we were preparing for ...

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and working to have a commemoration the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War with special guest, Tim Chambers, the 'Saluting Marine,' to be a part of the worship service. Don and I had the honor and privilege to go to Washington, D.C. every Memorial Day weekend to attend 'Rolling Thunder' and watch as the over 500,000 motorcycles turn in front of the Lincoln Memorial as they approach Tim, standing in salute, and pass him by. It never gets old seeing the excitement and patriotism of the bikers riding from all over the world to honor our military, veterans, and our POWs and MIAs. When we found out the Chapel was going to host the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, we started to think about Tim coming to help honor that weekend. Tim had never been to the Twin Cities before, but I knew that he loves to honor our military, veterans and help to remember our POWs and MIAs. AmVets Post #1 in Mendota provided the finances to sponsor Tim coming here for the weekend of July 31st - August 2nd. It was truly a memorable event and he did such a great job wherever he went. Tim was supposed to stand and salute at the Mpls VA Medical Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31st in the atrium under the huge US Flag; but the VA did such a great job promoting his appearance, a long line already awaited him when he arrived. He spent many hours signing his posters, and greeting wounded warriors and veterans. Then he was taken to the Spinal Injury Ward of the hospital to speak with those wounded warriors. Chaplain Ken told me how much he was impressed by Tim's bedside manner with these patients. Ken said Tim put many chaplains to shame with the respectful bedside manner in which he conducted himself. The Sunday service honoring our Vietnam veterans was truly inspirational and Tim loved being a part of it. After dinner at Axel's on Sunday afternoon, we brought Tim to our home and shared root beer floats and just talked until it was time for us to take him to the airport. On the way to the terminal, we took Tim to see Thomas Burnett's grave at Fort Snelling.

On Sunday, September 6th (when we will remember the 14th anniversary of the 9/11), the mother of Thomas Burnett Jr. will have attended our service, hopefully with her husband, Tom, if his health allows. After many years of speaking with Bev Burnett on the phone, arranging for Tom, Jr. to be honored in my very 1st MN Fallen Heroes calendar, I finally had the honor of meeting her at the Ft. Snelling Cemetery last December right after Wreaths Across America. This was just one of those wonderful meetings you know God arranged. Bev, John Lane, one of the Patriot Guard Riders, and I, were weeping when we told Bev what an inspiration her son was. His epitaph, reads, "Citizen Soldier, Flight 93, September 11, 2001." His courage in the face of evil inspired me to do the calendar, changing my direction in life, and to John, the reason he joined the PGR.

So the Flag Line isn't just the flag line. There are so many stories about heroes yet to be told. Don and I are so grateful to be a part of a community where the "VETERAN IS REMEMBERED" every week and not just two days a year.

Until Next Time,

— Don & Patricia (Boyd) Peerson
Many Thanks

The Key Spouses and Supporters of the 934th Airlift Wing would like to sincerely thank the congregation members of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation for their incredibly generous contributions to our gift basket raffle. Your donations of finished baskets and monetary donations to purchase others led to 9-beautiful baskets being on display! Themes ranged from picnics and movie nights to Twins Tickets, yummy sweets, All American home decor, and even a basket to nurture our “spiritual senses.” Every basket received a large number of raffle tickets and the “competition” lead to some thrilled winners. The Key Spouses and Supporters raised over $900 during the family day weekend and your support made that possible. This money will be used to aid the airmen and their families right here in the Twin Cities. Thank you again for your support and continued prayers.

— Ashley Ruter

9/11 Remembrance

ON ANY GIVEN DAY IN 2001, nearly 25,000 people departed on flights in the United States. On the early morning of Sept 11th, 19-men associated with the Islamic extremist group (al Qaeda) under the direction of Osama bin Laden boarded four flights intending to hijack the planes and use them as weapons to destroy major American landmarks.

American Airlines Flight #11 carried 76-passengers, 9-flight attendants, 2-pilots, and five of the hijackers. About 15-minutes after take-off, the plane was overtaken by the terrorists, who stabbed two flight attendants and a passenger.

Two other flight attendants made calls from the coach cabin to report the hijacking to American Airlines officials on the ground. One, Betty Ann Ong, stayed on the phone for approximately 25-minutes, calmly reporting from the plane to an American Airlines reservation office in North Carolina. The other, Madeline Amy Sweeney, reached the flight services office in Boston and provided information to help identify the hijackers. As the flight crew worked to keep passengers calm, the plane turned south, descending rapidly. After 45-minutes in the air, Flight #11 approached Manhattan, flying south along the Hudson River. At 8:46, the plane crashed into 1 World Trade Center (the north tower) instantly killing everyone on board and hundreds in the building.

First responders mobilized immediately. News helicopters in

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A House Resolution recognizing Sunday, August 2, 2015, as Vietnam Veterans Day at Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel

WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of military involvement in the Republic of South Vietnam, thus beginning the longest war in our country's history up to that time; and

WHEREAS, the United States involvement in the Vietnam War spanned multiple decades and presidencies; the ground offensive officially began in March of 1965 with the deployment of 2,500 U.S. Marines that grew to nearly 200,000 American troops by the end of that same year; and

WHEREAS, the United States armed forces deployed 3,403,100 men and women from 1965 to 1975 to Southeast Asia, 68,600 of which were Minnesota's sons and daughters answering the call to duty with courage and valor, in combat on the ground, in the air, on the rivers, and at sea; and

WHEREAS, five Minnesotans were awarded the Medal of Honor: Army Specialist Kenneth Olson, Army Staff Sergeant Lucio Rabel, and Army Specialist Dale Wasylyshyn each fell on grenades to save their comrades; Army Staff Sergeant Robert Pudmen sacrificed himself to ensure helicopters were able to evacuate his team; and Air Force Major Leo Thoennies risked his life to assist in the rescue of three downed aviators; and

WHEREAS, by the official end of the Vietnam War in April 1975, the toll of war for United States service members included 58,235 paying the ultimate sacrifice, of which 1,077 were Minnesotans; another 153,363 were mortally wounded; and countless thousands bearing visible and invisible scars; and

WHEREAS, 658 United States prisoners of war returned home alive from Southeast Asia; these remain 1,428 United States service members still missing in action, 43 of which are from Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, since their return, the Vietnam War veterans have contributed tremendously to their communities, their states, and the nation, having fought with honor and distinction in the name of freedom and democracy for all; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota welcomed a significantly large number of Southeast Asian immigrants who served as essential allies alongside our veterans or were displaced due to the war; we acknowledge them as fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War at the historic Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel - "where the veteran is remembered" - with a worship service on Sunday, August 2, 2015, to recognize Vietnam War veterans and seek reconciliation for past ills; and

WHEREAS, throughout this commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all men and women who have served our country the fullest respect and support of a grateful state and nation; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration of the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota that it recognizes Sunday, August 2, 2015, as Vietnam Veterans Day at Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel, and urges that the flags of the United States and the State of Minnesota be flown at half-staff from sunrise until sunset on that day at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel in honor of Vietnam veterans.

Dated: July 21, 2015

Kurt Daudt, Speaker
Minnesota House of Representatives

Jayce Peplin, Chair
Roles and Legislative Administration

Cindy Pugh
State Representative
the area began reporting the crash, generally presuming an accident had been caused by a small aircraft. Nearby onlookers recalled tearing up in disbelief and horror, and seeing the sky fill with white paper blowing out from the tower’s gash.

United Airlines Flight #175 departed Logan International Airport en route to Los Angeles with 11-crewmembers and 54-patients, including five hijackers. At roughly the same time that Flight #11 struck the north tower, Flight #175 was hijacked. Two passengers and a flight attendant made phone calls to people on the ground, reporting the hijacking. Passenger Brian David Sweeney reached his mother, Louise, and told her that the passengers were considering rushing the cockpit to regain control of the plane. Shortly after 9:00 a.m., the plane crashed into the 2 World Trade Center (south tower), killing everyone on board and hundreds inside the building.

American Airlines Flight #77 crashes into the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m. 184 lives were lost from both Flight #77 and personnel at the Pentagon. This attack also serves as the symbolic commencement of our nation’s military into 12-years of combative engagement. United Airlines Flight #93 falls into a field in Shanksville, PA at 10:03 a.m. Forty (40) innocent civilians were killed in this attack; the resistance of some of the brave passengers likely saved the lives of many others. Retelling the story of 9/11 helps us seek forgiveness and be humbled by our own mortality. We can understand how adversity can enrich the meaning and purpose of life.

— Tony Stocker
Worship Committee Chair

Tami Heart with a photo of B-24 bomber crew member Wiljo Matalamaiki and his purple heart Thursday, August 6, 2015. The White Bear resident inherited the stranger’s Purple Heart medal, which her mother found in a dump near a cabin the family had purchased on the Iron Range. She learned that the medal was awarded to a man who grew up in her cabin and was killed in action during World War II. She will be returning the heart this Sunday to his family at an 11 a.m. ceremony at Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. (Pioneer Press: Jean Pieri)

POSTED: 08/07/2015 07:51:32 AM CDT
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) 886-1525, 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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Bev Johnson
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beadle, Jr. — Phone: 612.277.1050</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Associate Chaplain: Rev. Michael Weilman — Phone: 612.274.0134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant: Rev. Johnson — Phone: 952.888.1526</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>16th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9/11 Remembrance Service</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Publicity Committeeミグ</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Patriot Day</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>POW/MIA Remembrance Service</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>9:45 a.m. Christian Education Class</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Gold Star Day</td>
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<td>Sermon: &quot;The Loss of Someone You Love&quot;</td>
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Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — E-mail: KenBeale55A@msn.com  
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Website: www.fortsnellingmcf.org

Daylight Saving Time ends