America's Dependence —
Christians of Fortitude ... not Faintheartedness

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln said at Gettysburg that this is a nation "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." He went on to say that they were engaged in a great Civil War testing whether this or any nation "so conceived and so dedicated can long endure." Today, we are engaged in another war — another struggle even more fundamental in character than that one. The question before us today is not whether men are created equal, but whether they are created at all — whether they are creatures made by God with certain inalienable rights, or whether they are merely an accident of time and chance. Whether, indeed, this is a nation under God which can have a new birth of freedom, or a nation whose tradition of character and destiny has come to an abrupt end. Today, this nation is facing some of the most fundamental challenges in the history of humanity.

Now, if you decide that the best solution to the challenges before us today is to cover your eyes and assume that someone else will take care of it, then be assured that everything you treasure will be lost. But if each one of us decides, by the grace of God, to stand on the principles of faith and do everything in our power to reclaim our homes, our communities, and our nation for Christ, then we will see the most thrilling reawakening imaginable.

Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD." That is a marvelous statement that should give us hope — to secure God's blessing upon this land once again. But in Psalm 11:3 we read, "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" There is no doubt that this is indeed a nation that was built upon a foundation of faith and the belief that the Lord is indeed the God of this nation. The great charters and founding documents proclaim that America was conceived upon the principles of God's Word, upon the teachings of Christianity, and for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ. But all of that is under attack today, as it has been for at least four decades.

The attack on our heritage has been so effective, that the historical revisionists of our day have all but removed every trace of our Christian heritage from the textbooks in our schools. Even the monuments of freedom in the nation's capital that bear the words of faith that inspired the patriots, and many of the inscriptions that point to the Christian origins of this country on our great public buildings, are being changed or removed.

Will we stand by while the foundations of this nation are being destroyed? Will we allow the revisionists to dismantle our heritage? Such people will not be satisfied until they have removed Christianity not only from our monuments, but from our minds.

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

As always there is a lot of progress being made on numerous projects around the Chapel. Be certain to read in other articles about the Chapel’s upcoming “face lift” and the installation of air conditioning. I want to share information about the flags. Four Chaplains Remembrance and the evolution of the VA Medical Center...please read on.

Here is a little bit of history about the flags that hang in the historic Fort Snelling Chapel. For many years the Ft. Snelling and Camp Ripley Chapels have proudly displayed the flags of military units from Minnesota. These flags are truly historic. Most are of a kind and thus irreplaceable. Some of the flags are nearly one hundred years old; all are made of fragile material. The fact is that hanging in the Chapel is slowly destroying them. All of these flags are property of the Army or the Minnesota Adjutant General. The Minnesota Military Museum is responsible for their care.

Chaplain Beale and Doug Bekke, Curator of the MN Military Museum at Camp Ripley, have discussed these flags for several years and how to best protect them while still finding a way to honor the units and veterans who have served Minnesota and the Nation. The following plan has been reached: a major renovation project scheduled to start at the Ft. Snelling Chapel in February will require the removal of these flags from the Chapel. The flags will not be returned to the Chapel, nor will other original historic flags be hung in the Chapel when the renovation is completed. Quality reproductions of Minnesota's historic flags will be purchased. To ensure the highest standards of quality, historical accuracy and uniformity all flags would be acquired through the Minnesota Military Museum from a well-known and established flag manufacturer. The Ft. Snelling Chapel requires 8 flags and the Camp Ripley Chapel requires 11 flags at an estimated cost of $8,000. Doug Bekke has graciously offered to be in charge of the fund raising for this flag project. There will be no expense to the Foundation.

If you are interested in financially supporting this flag project, your tax-deductible donations should be sent to: Minnesota Military Museum; Camp Ripley; 15000 Hwy. 115, Little Falls, MN 56345-4173. Donations must clearly indicate “Chapel Flag Fund.”

Four Chaplains Remembrance will be Sunday, 4 February; commemorating the 64th anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester on which the four Chaplains gave their lives. An interesting service is planned for that day.

Most veterans have at one time or another used the Veterans Administration Hospital. I am compiling some history of the VA Hospital, Minneapolis, MN from 1920 - present. I plan to have a couple of articles about the hospital, as it is an interesting piece of veteran history that is Minnesota based.

(Continued ... on page four)

Board of Directors

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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 Meeting:
Sunday, 11 February 2007 (1:30 p.m.) ... in the Chapel

A copy of the 2006 Annual Report will be yours at the 40th Annual Meeting scheduled for Sun., 11 Feb. 2007 (1:00 p.m.) in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. If you would like a copy ... after this date ... please call the Foundation Office at (612) 970-7866 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report of last year’s accomplishments.
Our task is to see that they fail in their mission to destroy the principles and foundations we cherish; for when the foundations are destroyed, the righteous will have no place to stand. The only way to keep everything we believe in from being destroyed is to get involved. The first rule of warfare is to engage the enemy wherever you find him, and that is the challenge of every Christian today. Somehow, somewhere, we must all be involved. Our job is to reclaim America for Christ, whatever the cost.

At a time when the nation was torn by bitter controversies and divisions, Abraham Lincoln said, "I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side." And that really is the proper balance. The challenge before us today is not just to recognize that we are in trouble; it is not just to smile and say, one way or the other, "the will of God will be done." There is no doubt that, in the end, God's will and purpose will be done; but our assignment is to be on the Lord's side and to be a part of the Lord's victory celebration. It is up to each man, woman, and child to lay out the strategies, to conduct the battle, and to claim the victory through faith and determination. God forbid that we who were born into the blessings of a Christian America should let our patrimony slip like sand through our fingers and leave to our children the bleached bones of a godless secular society. But whatever the outcome, one thing is certain: God has called us to engage the enemy in this culture war. That is our challenge today.

There are many forces in the world that dissipate our efforts; there are many enemies who do not want to see God's plans succeed; there are self-righteous people who have their own notions about how things should be done; and there are secular humanists who think that man is all the god we need. All these forces operating in unison can be destructive to our hopes and dreams.

The cultural mandate demands that we think and act Christianly. It requires that we become engaged in the ongoing cultural debate. It challenges each man, woman, and child to stand by our heritage of Christian values and deny any further victories to the enemy. It also tells us that we must require honor, integrity, and moral responsibility in our national leaders.

In 1816, John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, wrote, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers. It is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest, of a Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers." In a similar vein, Noah Webster, the great scholar and university president who gave us the monumental Webster's dictionary, said, "Let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God ... if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted ... if a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine commands and elect bad men to make and administer the laws."

As these great patriots of this nation attest, when the people of a nation neglect the divine commands and allow men of poor character to rule the land, then corruption and dishonor are sure to follow.

The question is: How long can this nation turn its back on God? And how much longer will God restrain His wrath? I can offer no more important message than this – America, the God who loves you wants you to come home. Please, my friends, come home to God's love. God's blessings await your return (read Luke 15:11-20).

Serving God and Country,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
E-mail: kenneth.beale@us.army.mil
(Continued ... from page two)

Following WW2, disabled veterans received hospitalization and treatment from the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) by contract with other hospitals such as St. Barnabas and Fairview. In 1920 PHS leased Asbury Methodist Hospital, 910 Elliot Avenue in Minneapolis and the Aberdeen Hotel in the Cathedral area of St. Paul. Its intended purpose was to care for patients with tuberculosis and general medical/surgical problems.

In 1925, 165 acres, by Executive Order, were ceded from Fort Snelling Military Reservation to the U.S. Veterans Bureau. Construction was soon started on a 554 bed hospital on this site. The original 7 buildings (Numbers 1-7) were built in a horseshoe arrangement at a construction cost of just under 1.3 million. During this period, the U.S. Veterans Bureau was established and took over the veteran’s health care duties of the PHS.

In March 1927 the new hospital, considered the finest in the Veterans Bureau system began to receive patients. Dedication of Veterans Bureau Hospital No. 106 was held on April 9, 1927.

On July 3, 1930 President Hoover signed “Public Law 536” legislation from the 71st Congress, which authorized the President "to consolidate and coordinate government activities affecting war veterans.” President Hoover issued "Executive Order 5398" on July 21 that provided for the establishment of the "Veterans Administration."

The Veterans Administration (VA) replaced Veterans Bureau, Bureau of Pensions, and National Homes for Volunteer Soldiers.

To be continued ...

I am happy to report that the Foundation has had an increase in membership this past year. I extend a warm welcome and I look forward to meeting each one of you.

In "APPRECIATION" for all that our staff does to keep our Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel a wonderful place to worship, please do not hesitate to say "thank you for all you do" to Chaplain Ken Beale; Leila Campbell, Administrative Assistant and Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music.

THANK YOU - THANK YOU. God Bless You.

A Prayer For The New Year

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the wonderful land in which we live. Thank You for the many blessings we enjoy, not only the material advantages we have but also the freedom we enjoy, especially freedom to worship You without interference. Forgive us for allowing corruption in our government, crime all over the land, frequent wars, wasteful use of resources, and general disregard for You and Your laws. Give us not the kind of leaders we deserve, but the kind we need -- men who fear You and will guide wisely and justly. Reform and renew our country beginning right here in our own family. Amen.

— Patricia Swanson
Foundation President
(952) 885-0623
E-mail: 155swanson@msn.com
Chapel Gets a Face Lift

The State Park, DNR will complete a “face lift” of the interior of the Chapel's sanctuary. This project will include plaster repairs and painting. The Foundation has agreed to move weekly worship services to the Fellowship Hall for the duration of the project, approximately six weeks. This way, the contractors will be able to leave scaffolds in place over each weekend, expediting the completion of the work.

Both Worship and Fellowship Committees have addressed this temporary move and developed a comprehensive plan as follows:

- **Effective Sunday, 18 February** there will be two worship services at 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. held in the Fellowship Hall.
- Each service will be informal and planned to be no longer than 45 minutes in duration with a brief time of fellowship held between the services.
- Special music each week will be soloists or small groups that will fit on the stage.

Completion of the “face lift” is expected to be in time for the Foundation to return to the sanctuary for Palm Sunday.

The Foundation will need to move its belongings to the lower storage area following the Annual Meeting on 11 February 2007. The Foundation has been asked by the DNR to assist in covering and sealing items that will remain in the work area such as pew cushions, upholstered sofas, etc. Anyone willing and able to assist with this move is asked to call the Foundation Office (612) 970-7866 by 28 January to make your availability known. Thank you.

— Leila Campbell, Administrative Assistant

Air Conditioning to be a Reality!

As the Board of Directors appointed me representative for the air conditioning project, I am pleased to let you know that cooler days are ahead at the historic Chapel. A group was formed many months ago to develop a plan for the purchase and installation of air conditioning. The group includes representatives from the DNR; MN Historical Society; Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation; and an architect/design firm. The plan had to resolve numerous obstacles such as:

- meeting the historical preservation guidelines;
- physical plant impediments; and mechanical challenges such as ensuring adequate electrical supply to the building.

After a number of meetings over the past nine months the design will soon be "let for bids" and in early 2007 the contractor selected. The work is anticipated to begin mid-March 2007 with completion projected to take 8 weeks. The goal is to have the air conditioning operational before the summer heat returns again in 2007.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors has been updated with each development along the way in the planning stage. The Board took a bold step at its November meeting by approving the establishment of a trust fund of up to $80,000 to the DNR for the sole purpose of purchase and installation of air conditioning in the Chapel. This one-time gift is fully refundable if for any reason the project should not be completed. In return for this gift, the DNR has agreed (in writing) to freeze the Foundation’s rent for a period of 10 years. This will begin upon completion of the project. The returns on this investment will be more than pay for it over the next 10 years. The Foundation currently pays $11,200 annually for use of the Chapel every Sunday. The projected rate increase for 2007 was $16,200; an increase of $5,000 annually. The DNR rescinded this increase due to the Foundation’s past financial commitments and more recently the restoration of the Kimball pipe organ. It could be expected that without the 10-year freeze a $5,000 increase might be one of a number of incremental rent increases which historically have occurred every two years. Also, the Board took into consideration the increase in attendance, which will occur during the hot summer months. An example in 2006, on July 30 worship attendance hit an annual low of 102 due to unbearable heat. It has also been agreed that the DNR will bear the operational costs and maintenance once the system is in place.

Although the Board decided to not conduct a fund raising project to replenish these funds, some Foundation members and friends have inquired as to how they might make a contribution toward the project. Anyone wishing to do so, can send their tax-deductible gift to “Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation” and designate the funds as “air conditioning” funds. All monies received will be directly deposited to the general investments of the Foundation.

As I have reported to the Board, all the members of the planning group have been dedicated to the improvement of the Chapel and a very professional group. In particular, Bob Piotrowski, DNR Parks Manager is especially a great supporter of the Foundation and has shown immense dedication to this project.

I look forward to worshiping at the Chapel in comfort on any hot, humid Sunday this coming summer!

— Ted Nemzek
Remember Carl Peterson?

The first official service of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation was held on Sunday, 12 February 1967 with Dr. Clifford Ansgar Nelson as chaplain. At this service was Mr. Carl Peterson (now age 94, and living in Roseville, MN). We are now celebrating the 40th anniversary of that event. The following is his story as told to and written by his daughter, Joan Peterson (also a charter member).

Remember Carl Peterson? He was the usher with the great tenor voice and warm smile who greeted and led people to their seats for thirty-three years. He is also one of the surviving charter members of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota of Swedish immigrants in 1914, he was the youngest son of nine children. His father, Frank, was a contractor and builder in St. Paul, with homes built on Summit Avenue, the River Drive and his own home on Dayton Avenue. His mother, Cecelia, was a homemaker and a partner who was active in community projects with her husband.

As a youngster, Carl recalls seeing the local lamplighter proceed down Dayton Avenue lighting the gas street lamps. Also that their milk was delivered by a man who kept his cows in a barn behind his farmhouse on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. Carl lived at a time in history when the entire neighborhood was your "home." He raised rabbits, sold eggs and did yard work as a youth; but his favorite memory was helping his dad put up the Christmas tree at their church every year.

Carl met his wife, Virginia, through their church activities, such as singing in the choir. Since Virginia lived only a few blocks from him they spent their courtship "walking" as they planned their future together. Carl attended the University of Minnesota Extension and the Dunwoody Institute and his first job was at Anchor Casualty Insurance Company (today Great American Insurance Company) on University Avenue in the Midway District of St. Paul in 1936.

In 1940 Virginia and Carl were married at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul by Dr. Clifford Ansgar Nelson, who would become the chaplain that would re-open the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel in 1967. The couple began their married life together in the Highland Park district of St. Paul. However, this was interrupted by World War II. Carl served in the U.S. Army Railroad Division and spent three years in Tehran, Iran and promoted to Technical Sergeant. His one great memory was a three-week trip from Tehran to Palestine and the Holy Land. After the war he rejoined Anchor Casualty as a claims adjuster. His family grew by two siblings.

Over the years the couple supported the Chapel Foundation and its mission. On 30 August 1990 they received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Foundation that reads: "In grateful appreciation to Virginia and Carl Peterson for 25 years of leadership and service to the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation and honoring your 50th wedding anniversary, August 30, 1940-1990." Carl stated, she (Virginia) was not only my wife and partner, but also my best friend. She passed away in 2003 ... to be with our Lord.

Carl Peterson recalls that the Rev. Dr. Nelson was the chaplain at the Minnesota State Capitol for many years as well as pastor at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul. When the Minnesota Legislature in 1965 appropriated funds to restore the Ft. Snelling Memorial Chapel building, Dr. Nelson was selected to head the committee on the use and restoration of the building. He tried to have services on national holidays, but suggested that a program be started to have regular services. Carl relates that the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation was organized with an initial group of about 50 people. The meetings were held initially in homes and from these gatherings the group grew. Carl and his family became charter members.

(Continued ... on page seven)
The Chapel was important to Carl and Virginia because it is where Carl left to go overseas to serve in the Army. In addition, they felt the philosophy of the Chapel — that is, “to honor the servicemen and women, as well as others, and to reach out to the community looking for a non-denominational setting in which to worship” — was important.

In December 1966, when a Thanksgiving service was held, Carl and his family were in attendance. The December meeting had Chaplain Dr. Nelson presiding with the Rev. Richard Keene Smith (who was chairman of the Chapel Committee). The organ and violin music, combined choirs of the Northbrook Church, the reading of the President’s and Governor’s Proclamations and the sermon: “Give Thanks and Share It!” were excellent.

The first service in the continuous program of worship was held on 12 February 1967. The church was filled to capacity. There was fine music: organ, trumpets, and the choir from Roosevelt High School. The flowers were courtesy of Holm and Olson Florists of St. Paul, and the sermon was titled, “Lincoln Still Speaks.” A few bats joined the service and flew overhead during the hour ... probably wondering who had invaded their former “quiet home.”

That first year there were 48 services serving over 12,000 people. There were three memorial services where the names of all the Minnesota men who had fallen in battle in Vietnam were honored. Over 2,000 young people shared their music that first year with the congregation. The “coffee and punch hour” after the service for socializing and welcoming new people to the Chapel was started. These are all fond memories to Carl Peterson today as he recalls an earlier time.

Much more history could be added, but that would require a chapter and not an article. Carl served on the Foundation Board and was chairman of the Usher Corps for many years. Virginia was a Kitchen Angel since the first pot of coffee was brewed. They celebrated their Golden Anniversary by restating their vows during a Sunday service on 30 August 1990. The pastor was the same one that had married them 50 years earlier — the Rev. Dr. Clifford Ansgar Nelson.

Carl relates that many people have come and gone, but he hopes throughout the years that people have been touched, spiritually and positively, by this holy mission. Memories include dignified worship with refreshing variety, yearly honorable traditions, beautiful music and fine fellowship. To paraphrase the 1967 charter of the Foundation — “as a spiritual center of religious, historical and patriotic activities” — all never to be forgotten.

— Newell L. Chester

Benevolent Giving ...

As the Benevolence Committee Chair, I was given a file for an organization, called the Hospitality Center for Chinese (HCC). Milo Gronseth, a former chaplain and a Foundation member made the first benevolence request for this organization over five years ago and the Foundation has provided support ever since.

I decided to make a visit to see first hand what HCC was all about. I made contact with Luanne Wyssmann, Executive Director and set up an appointment for a site visit. Foundation member, Jim Kirihara and his wife, Shigeko, decided to join me on the tour.

The Hospitality Center for Chinese (HCC) is located next to the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. Its mission is — "To provide hospitality to Chinese scholars, students and their families through which they can experience Christian Friendship, be introduced to various forms of American life and culture, and find opportunities to hear the Christian message." We were introduced to Amy Lindquist/Program Director who aided in our tour. One fifth of the world's population is Chinese and Minnesota has the largest Chinese student population in the United States. HCC provides a welcome center to new students, to teach English and the Bible; to provide transportation to the center's events; to provide parenting classes; and assist with housing. Chinese cultural events and recreation include participation in a Christian friendship meal. Every third Saturday, they hold a Christian friendship meal and it is open to all that would like to learn more about the center and to visit with the Chinese students and their families. Approximately 150 people participate every month.

For most Chinese students, this is their first introduction into Christianity, which they can take the experience back to China when they return. Luanne stated, "We have a great need for volunteers and Chinese translators."

I was very impressed how this organization is reaching out to the Chinese students and introducing them to Christianity. I would like to thank Luanne Wyssmann and Amy Lindquist for a wonderful tour and also to Jim and Shigeko Kirihara for joining me.

If you are interested in volunteering, call Amy Lindquist, 651-659-9740, e-mail: chinesehc@usfamily.net, or write Hospitality Center for Chinese, 1407 Cleveland Ave N., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Sincerely,
Pat Hoy
Chair Benevolence Committee

In the event of 3" or more of snowfall on a Sunday morning, the DNR has requested that we not enter the Chapel parking lot until after 9:30 a.m. This will enable the state to clear our much needed parking spaces. Also, try to park in a manner that provides the greatest amount of space available to others. Thank you for honoring this request.

— Daryl Kreutz, Chapel DNR Representative
Getting to Know You ...

World War II had a huge impact on Godfrey Orbeck's life. Godfrey shipped into the United States Navy on a 4-year cruise in April 1938. In 1939 Godfrey was stationed at U.S.* Naval Hospital Great Lakes, (IL.). While there he attended a 4 month course on medical topics ... all off watch personnel under Pharmacist's Mate Second Class attended. Accordingly he continued his training on submarines. While there Godfrey made, Pharmacist's Mate First Class and became eligible for duty independent of a medical officer.

Upon completion of this assignment Godfrey was transferred to Receiving Ship U.S.S. Seattle at Brooklyn, New York, then on to Guantamano Bay, Cuba to establish a Mobile Hospital (tents). From there he was sent to Riddles Bay, Bermuda in the British West Indies and was assigned to Mobile Hospital #1. His mission there was to rescue and care for survivors that were lost due to actions from German submarines in the Atlantic. Godfrey says the German Navy was very successful in sinking cargo and troop ships. That's when Godfrey decided if the German submarines could do such a good job sinking our ship's that America could do a better job of sinking the enemies ship's, so he decided to request submarine duty in the United States Navy.

Godfrey was then sent to Groton, Connecticut to attend sub school, there he attended Sound School and had instruction on operating radar. From here he was assigned to the submarine U.S.S. Paddle, which he rode until the end of the war. The Paddle was based out of Pearl Harbor; it made 8 war patrols (listed below), all successful. Each patrol lasted between 30 to 90 days. Paddle was on her 9th war patrol when the war ended.

Godfrey was a watch stander like everyone else on board, except the captain, navigator and food handlers. His job as pharmacist mate was the care of all personnel aboard the Paddle, which included 8 officers and 81 enlisted men. Two incidents involving personnel were big during that time: the first being an acute appendicitis and the other a finger amputation ... of which Godfrey handled both. On her 3rd war patrol a young man boarded, named RT2 Jack Withrow. Shortly after the Paddle entered its patrol area of Malacca, Banda and Ceram Seas, Jack developed what was called a hot appendicitis, where Godfrey took care of him for 31 days. The appendices abscessed and ruptured, all the while in Godfrey's care. Paddle eventually entered Perth, Australia, where Mr. Withrow entered sick bay and had surgery, and recovered nicely. The other incident with the finger amputation Godfrey also handled with success.

For his part in the acute appendicitis Godfrey received a commendation for excellent performance of duty, and was authorized to wear the Commendation Ribbon. Vice Admiral Lockwood made the presentation.

**War Patrol #1**

Paddle departed Submarine Base Pearl Harbor Territory of Hawaii for her first war patrol west of Nanpo Shoto and east of Hansei Shoto. Her assignment was to seek out enemy shipping and sink the same.

**War Patrol #2**

From October 17, 1943 through December 9, 1943 Paddle was in the area of the Marshall and Gilbert Islands in support of the landing on Tarawa. This was the first invasion of the Japanese held islands during World War II.

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War Patrol #3
From March 1944 through May 12, 1944 Paddle was in independent operations in the Mulukha Sea, Banda and Ceram Sea’s. This was to keep enemy ships from bringing in reinforcements. Paddle then changed home ports from Pearl Harbor to Perth, Australia. On this assignment is when the appendicitis took place.

War Patrol #4
This assignment was conducted in the eastern approach to Davao Gulf and southern Celebes Sea. Paddle was credited with sinking one medium tanker of 5,000 tons, one destroyer of 1,200 tons, and damaging a freighter of 7,500 tons.

War Patrol #5
Independent searching and hunting for enemy shipping Paddle was credited with sinking one tanker of 5,000 tons and damaging a freighter of 4,000 tons. They then returned to Perth for R&R staying at the King George Hotel.

War Patrol #6
This patrol was spent in Macassar Strait on Life Guard Duty. Our mission was to pick up pilots that had been shot down by enemy fire. We were also credited with sinking 3 targets of 1,100 tons.

War Patrol #7
Paddle was assigned to independent hunting for Japanese targets while in transit from Fremantle, Australia to Pearl Harbor and return to San Francisco for a complete overhaul.

War Patrol #8
On this patrol one of the seamen accidently caught his fingers in a firing mechanism, and Godfrey had to perform an amputation. This man also recovered nicely.

War Patrol #9
World War II finally ended.

HELL SHIP INCIDENT
On 7 September 1944 U.S.S. Paddle was patrolling off the coast of Sindangan Point, Mindanao, P.I. in the Sulu Sea. About mid-afternoon the periscope watch sighted smoke along the coast to the southward. This developed into a five ship convoy and four merchantmen. The convoy was being guarded by a screen of several anti-submarine vessels. The ships were traveling in rough line formation following the coastline closely and proceeding toward the Paddle. The tracking party was manned; the course and speed of the targets were ascertained; and the commanding officer, Lt. Cdr. B.H. Nowell, ordered “Battle Stations, Torpedos.” The lead ship, a medium size tanker and the second ship in line, a medium size freighter, with no hull distinguishing marks, were selected as targets.

At 4:50 p.m. four torpedoes were fired at the tanker, followed closely by two more at the freighter. The sea was flat calm. The tanker took two torpedo hits, one observed through the periscope, and the other one timed. There were two timed hits on the freighter. Loud breaking noises began shortly after the torpedoes hit the targets. Depth charges from the escorts began falling on Paddle soon after the last torpedo left its tube. Two aircraft had been sighted during the approach, a total of

(Continued ... on page eleven)
forty-five depth charges or bombs were dropped.

The Captain had ordered deep submergence, but *Paddle*, being light of weight in the forecast after releasing six torpedoes, was slow to respond. All personnel who were not engaged in vital ships work, were ordered to the forward torpedo room to serve as additional ballast. The extra weight gave the diving officer the extra weight to take *Paddle* deep.

The second target, the medium sized freighter was *Shingo Maru*. As cargo, she was carrying 750 United States Army personnel. These men were POWs of the Japanese. The POWs had been contained at Davao Penal Colony on Mindanao. They had all been part of the U.S. Forces in the Philippines at the start of World War II. Some had served on Bataan, some had served on Corregidor, and some had made the Death March after the forced surrender of these areas.

The Japanese were notoriously inhumane, brutal and callous in their treatment of POWs. All of the POWs were suffering from malnutrition and from a lack of adequate treatment for different tropical diseases, such as malaria, beri-beri, dysentery and pellagra. They were crammed into the holds of *Shingo Maru* under the worst sanitary and hygiene conditions... with utter disregard for humane treatment, health or well being. They were being taken to Japan to be utilized as slave labor.

*Shingo Maru* began settling in the water and sinking shortly after the torpedo hit. A mass exodus began. The lucky ones were able to escape from the holds into the sea and began swimming. The distance to the beach was about a mile. The Japanese occupied all the lifeboats and survival equipment from which they fired at the POWs in the water. POWs who survived did so by keeping out of sight behind pieces of wreckage or swimming underwater. Eighty three Americans were successful in eluding the Japanese and reaching shore. Many were in need of medical attention, all were in need of food, water, shelter, clothing and protection. Most had a G-string for clothing. One man died after reaching the beach.

Friendly Filipinos found the scattered Americans in the jungle and gave aid. They were taken to Brigadier General John Hugh McGee, U.S. Army, the leader of a Filipino guerilla group. This group helped the survivors to become reorganized and helped them to obtain the necessities for life and survival. Some weeks later the U.S.S. *Narwhal* picked up the survivors; some were taken to an Army hospital and some were taken to Australia.

Godfrey had a reunion with the survivors in the spring of 1998... at which both he and Agnes attended.

In 1943, Godfrey and Agnes were married... now married for 63 years. They have 2 sons and 3 grandsons. Both sons went into the military and both served in Vietnam. After 20 years in the Navy, Godfrey retired and enrolled at the University of Minnesota in their education program. Upon graduation Godfrey worked for the City of Minneapolis teaching in the inner city schools for 20 years. After 20 years of teaching Godfrey retired again and has enjoyed his retirement.

— submitted by Karen Hodge

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**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

All former Chapel Singers are invited to be a part of the reunion choir at the Founder's Day service on Sunday, 11 February 2007.

The Foundation will be celebrating its 40th anniversary of conducting weekly worship services at this historic Chapel. If you are able to participate, music can be sent to you by calling the Foundation Office at (612) 970-7866. Please leave your name, complete mailing address and telephone number. Rehearsals for all singers will be held following the fellowship hour on Jan. 21, 28, and Feb. 4... and at 9:15 a.m. on Feb. 11, 2007.

— Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music
Celebrating 40 Years
(1967 - 2007)

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 (612) 970-7866, or write to the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation 1 Federal Drive Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4027 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., Chaplain
Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music
Leila Campbell, Administrative Assistant

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.

Publisher Emeritus: Osmund Nygaard
Feature Contributors:
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Beale, Jr.
Newell Chester
Ruth Fardig
Karen Hodge
Pat Hoy
Kay Schoen
Patricia Swanson
Marlene Willock
Photographer: Leland Granberg
Layout/Design/Printing: Leila Campbell
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**January 2007**

Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel

1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minneapolis, 55111-4027

**Music**

- **Summers:** Treasured by Day
- **Summers:** Sunday Service
- **Summers:** Wednesday Service
- **Summers:** Sunday Service
- **Summers:** Sunday Service
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- **Summers:** Sunday Service

**Worship**

- **Summers:** Sunday Service
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**Services**

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**Other Events**

- **Summers:** Sunday after Eucharist