Part I: Christianity’s Legacy —
Dignity of Fallible Human Beings

Christianity is the very root and foundation of Western civilization. Much to the dismay of today’s secularists, Christianity is responsible for many of the values and institutions secular people cherish most. Consequently, the desire to repudiate the Christian roots of Western culture is not only an act of historical denial, but it also imperils the secular person’s moral priorities.

The West was built on two pillars: the classical civilization (of Greece and pre-Christian Rome) and the Judeo-Christian influence (of Judaism and Christianity). Of these two, the Judeo-Christian is more important. The Athens we know and love is not Athens as it really was, but rather Athens as seen through the eyes of Christianity.

In The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire Edward Gibbon accuses Christianity of replacing classical civilization with religious barbarism. But classical civilization was itself infused with barbarous practices like pederasty and slavery. Moreover, the Christians didn’t destroy Roman civilization; the Huns, Goths, Vandals, and Visigoths did. These barbarians, who came from the pagan regions of northern Europe, smashed a Rome that had long been weak and decadent. Fortunately, they eventually converted to Christianity. Over time it was Christianity that civilized these rude people. Christianity didn’t overrun and lay waste to a learned civilization. Christianity found a continent that had already been laid waste. The “Dark Ages” were the consequence of Roman decadence and barbarian pillage.

Slowly and surely Christianity took this backward continent and gave it learning and order; stability and dignity. The monks copied and studied the manuscripts that preserved the learning of late antiquity. Christopher Dawson shows in Religion and the Rise of Western Culture how the monasteries became the locus of productivity and learning throughout Europe. Where there was once wasteland they produced hamlets, then towns, and eventually commonwealths and cities. Through the years, the savage barbarian warrior became a chivalric Christian knight, and new ideals of civility and manners and romance were formed that shape our society to this day. If Christianity had not been born out of Judaism, Rodney Stark writes, we might still be living in the Dark Ages.

Christianity is responsible for the way our society is organized and for the way we currently live. So extensive is the Christian contribution to our laws, our economics, our politics, our arts, our calendar, our holidays, and our moral and cultural priorities that historian J. M. Roberts writes in The Triumph of the West, “We could none of us today be what we are if a handful of Jews nearly two thousand years ago had not believed that they had known a great teacher, seen him crucified, dead, and buried, and then rise again.”

Consider the case of Western art. Have you been to the Sistine Chapel? Seen Michelangelo’s Pietà? Leonardo da Vinci’s Last Supper? Perhaps you are familiar with Rembrandt’s Christ at Emmaus or his Simeon in the Temple. In Venice you can see (Continued … on page three)
President’s Corner

I cannot believe how fast 2007 has slipped by ... as we begin another year of moving “Always Forward – Never Backwards” here at our beloved Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. I do wish each member and friends of the Foundation a healthy, happy and prosperous Happy New Year - 2008. Please remember to keep a positive attitude to enable us to always move forward for the good of our Chapel.

Twenty members attended the AED/CPR classes held at Fire Station #1 at the Minneapolis International Airport. The training was conducted by the MAC Fire Department. It was very informative. I know we all learned a lot, especially from the hands-on practice. I am so happy that we have so many members certified to use the AED and provide CPR. Thank you to the volunteers who dedicated three hours to attend the training class.

Please circle the date on your calendars for the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation’s Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, 10 February 2008. An election will be held to elect new Board members to replace those whose terms are expiring. A new Board President will be elected by your 2008 Board members because — guess what — my term expires at this meeting. It has been a great eight years serving on this Board of Directors, especially the past three years as President. Serving on the Board is an awesome learning experience, particularly being able to serve with members who have a vision to move forward; meet the many challenges head-on; and be successful. It makes for a unique experience. All Foundation Board meetings are open to all members: plan to attend and have a voice in decisions being made.

The Foundation's committee chairpersons have been excellent leaders, providing dedicated leadership to their committees this year. Please thank them for their year of dedication. Make sure to read each committee’s report of accomplishments in the Annual Report which will be distributed at the February meeting. Each committee chairperson’s name is listed to the right of this column. Thank you for your year of leadership.

Janet Brautigam has done a marvelous job of leading the Caring Hearts volunteers. During the past year, twenty-five cherished homebound individuals were contacted by a Foundation volunteer on a regular basis. A record number of contacts of over 573 were made by these volunteers. The contacts are made through cards, letters, e-mails, phone calls, visits, and packages. This count does not reflect the number of hours put in by all of the volunteers. There were thirteen Christmas bags of goodies delivered to our cherished homebound members; it was great to visit with these members. On a sad note, Janet reports that eleven of our cherished homebound have passed away during 2007. There are seventeen active volunteers in the Caring Hearts group. Janet states that other volunteers who have

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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 (1:30 p.m.) ... 10 February 2008 ... in the Chapel

A copy of the 2007 Annual Report will be yours at the 41st Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, 10 February 2008 (1:00 p.m.) in the Chapel sanctuary. 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.
the spectacular murals of Veronese, Titian, and Tintoretto. What would Western music be without Handel’s Messiah, Mozart’s Requiem, and the soaring compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach? If you haven’t, set foot in one of the great Gothic cathedrals and see what those anonymous builders did with stone and glass. Is Western literature even conceivable without Dante, Milton, and Shakespeare? My point is not only that all these great artists were Christian; rather, it is that their great works would not have been produced without Christianity. Would they have produced other great works? We don’t know; but, what we do know is that their Christianity gives their genius its distinctive expression. Nowhere has human aspiration reached so high or more deeply touched the heart and spirit than in the works of Christian art, architecture, literature, and music.

If this is true, then our cultural prejudice against acknowledging and teaching the role of Christianity is wrong. Believer and nonbeliever alike should respect Christianity as the movement that created our civilization. We should cherish our Christian inheritance not as an heirloom, but as a living presence in our society; and we should worry about what will happen to our civilization if Christianity disappears from the West and establishes itself in non-Western cultures.

In future issues, I will discuss how Christianity is responsible for important ideas and institutions that remain central to our lives. This article will now focus on the Western culture’s high emphasis on the relief of suffering deriving from this basic Christian understanding of the dignity of fallible human beings. It is the simple idea that ordinary people are fallible, and yet these fallible people matter.

In Romans 7:19, the Apostle Paul writes, “For the good that I would, I do not, but the evil which I would not, that I do.” Here Paul in a single phrase repudiates an entire tradition of classical philosophy founded in Plato. For Plato, the problem of evil is a problem of knowledge. People do wrong because they do not know what is right. If they knew what was right, obviously, they would do it. But Paul denies that this is so. His claim is that even though he knows something is wrong, he still does it. Why? Because the human will is corrupt. The problem of evil is not a problem of knowledge, but a problem of will.

Christianity exalts the low man, the common man, and the underdog. These groups were not favorites in the world of ancient Greece and Rome. Homer ignored them in his epics, concentrating entirely on life among the ruling class. Lesser men appeared, if at all, as servants. Aristotle, too, had a job for low men: slavery. Aristotle argued that with low men in servitude, superior men would have leisure to think and participate in the governance of the community.

But Jesus was not such an aristocrat. Jesus was born in a stable and lived most of His life as a carpenter’s apprentice. He usually traveled by foot and occasionally by donkey. His first disciples were fishermen and artisans. He moved in the everyday milieu of the humble folk. He talked with publicans and fallen women, the poor and the sick and children! It may be added that Christ came to a bad end on the cross, hanged like a common criminal and flanked by two actual criminals.

Christ’s undistinguished origins, simple life, and lowly death — everything He did was imbued with the highest and deepest dignity. The fishermen, the Greeks would have treated as figures of low comedy, were in the Christian narrative embroiled in events of the greatest importance for human salvation. The sublimity of Christ and His disciples completely reversed the whole classical ideal. Suddenly aristocratic pride came to be seen as something preening and ridiculous. Christ produced the transformation of values in which the last became first; and values once scorned came to represent the loftiest human ideals.

I end this article ... and continue with my succeeding articles ... in emphasizing the values of the West are based on Christianity. Some of these values seem to have taken a life of their own; and this gives us the illusion that we can get rid of Christianity and keep the values. However, if we remove the Christian foundation, the values must go too. While it may be true that values like equal dignity and equal rights will persist for a period out of sheer unthinking habit, evidently their influence will erode.

In short, the death of Christianity must also mean the gradual extinction of values such as human dignity, the rights of equal treatment asserted by women, minorities, and the poor. Do we want to give these up also? If

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Special Patriotic/ Veterans Events...

Sun, 3 Feb 08 — Four Chaplains Remembrance — commemorating the 65th anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester on which four chaplains gave their lives.

Sun, 25 May 08 — Memorial Day Remembrance — honoring the memory of those armed forces service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Sun, 6 July 08 — Independence Day — celebrating the 232nd birthday of our nation ... culminating in an ice cream social.

Sun, 21 Sept 08 — POW/MIA Remembrance — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun, 9 Nov 08 — Veterans Day Remembrance — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 7 Dec 08 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance — recognizing survivors ... with a candle lighting tribute to those who have passed away since last year.

The Four Chaplains

Many of you are familiar with the story of the immortal four chaplains assigned to the USS Dorchester when it was torpedoed on February 3, 1943. The Dorchester was a transport ship on the way to Greenland. There were 900 troops aboard.

As the ship sank, the four chaplains, one a Catholic Priest, along with a Jewish Rabbi, a Methodist Pastor and a Dutch Reform Minister stood on the deck calming the troops and directing them to life rafts. It is recorded that the Dorchester sank in 18 minutes. It is hard to imagine the panic that took place with 900 troops fearing for their lives.

When the supply of life vests ran out, each of the four chaplains removed their live vests and gave them to the next troop in line. What an awesome example of their love for others, but most important — their faith in God. These four chaplains stood arm in arm reciting the prayers of their faith as the ship sank out of sight.

The Immortal Chaplains Foundation was incorporated in October 1997 as a MN non-profit corporation. The original concept for the Foundation was from David Fox, nephew of Chaplain George Fox, and Rosalie Goode Fried, the daughter of Chaplain Alexander Goode.

The Foundation's goal is to remind us of the capacity for compassion as we all have within us, no matter the differences of race, religion or creed.

I remember well the service at our Chapel when Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke. He said "I am proud to be associated with the Foundation established to recognize their sacrifice and that seeks to promote a culture of tolerance and understanding ... In acknowledging our common humanity, we can build a better world.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is an International Patron to the Immortal Chaplains Foundation.

How many of you know that our own Chaplain Beale is Chaplain Emeritus to The Immortal Chaplains Foundation, as well as serving on the Chaplains Advisory Council for the Foundation?

We are honored each year at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel to pay tribute to the remarkable Four Chaplains as an example of their selfless gift ... in the name of our Lord.

— Kay Schoen

In the Event of Inclement Weather...

If on a Sunday morning it is significantly snowing ... or tremendously cold ... or the winds are resulting in drifting conditions, please call our Foundation office at 612/970-7866 for any announcement of corporate worship cancellation.
we cherish the distinctive ideals of Western civilization and believe as I do that they have enormously benefited our civilization and the world; then whatever our religious convictions, and even if we have none, we will not rashly try to hack at the religious roots from which they spring. On the contrary, we will not hesitate to acknowledge, not only privately but also publicly, the central role that Christianity has played and still plays in the things that matter most to us.

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


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special tasks related to the mission of the Caring Hearts group include: Becky Van Meter who delivers communion to our homebound; Kay Schoen is in charge of the prayer chain group; and Quentin De Nio who sends cards to our visitors. If you know of someone from our membership who is homebound, ill or has just experienced the loss of a loved one — please call Janet at (952) 758-2364; and if someone needs prayers, please call Kay Schoen at (651) 481-1416. What a spiritual gift this group is to our Chapel. "Thank You - Thank You so much" Caring Hearts for all that you do.

One ongoing benefit and blessing that emerged from the challenges which the Foundation experienced as a result of the renovation of the sanctuary and then immediately to follow the installation of the air conditioning was the start of Bible study. It continues today from 10-10:30 a.m. every Sunday, led by Chaplain Ken. Attendance has been excellent, in fact surprising, with an average of 40-50 persons attending each week. What a marvelous teacher Chaplain Ken is as we have learned so much about the Bible from him — and how we love the "freebees" he shares with us. Thank you so much Chaplain Ken for adding this much needed Bible study to your very busy schedule.

During this past year we have been busy with projects. One of these projects was packing and mailing packages to our troops. Money raised from the bake sales helped to pay for the postage needed to mail these packages to U.S. Army Chaplains in Iraq and Afghanistan. These Chaplains distribute the goodies to the troops. This could not have happened without your generous donations. I see our cart is nearly overrun and soon it will be time again for the volunteers to pack and mail these goodies for the troops to enjoy. We are blessed by member, Bob Bemloheer's employer, Lockheed Martin, who has pledged to assist the Foundation financially with future troop shipments.

What a great and joyful time was had by everyone who attended the Foundation's Christmas luncheon at the Embassy Suites. We had a record attendance of 169 that enjoyed the great meal which was so yummy; Sally and Ted Satmos provided gorgeous table decorations which were given as door prizes; and of course, the beautiful music by the *Moonlight Serenaders Big Band*. What an absolutely perfect afternoon it was; I extend a heartfelt "THANKS" to all of the committee members who made this such a special event. If you missed our luncheon — you missed a fabulous day.

Don't forget *Four Chaplains Remembrance* on Sunday, 3 February 2008. We will commemorate the 65th anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester on which the Immortal Four Chaplains gave their lives. Chaplain Ken has planned an interesting service for that day.

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Chapel Foundation
40th Anniversary Poem

A Special Year To Celebrate!
By Bob Beskar, Vietnam War Veteran

This year is extra special ...
For this place where veterans come ...
To worship as a family ...
And pray to God as one.

The weeks, the months, and years ...
Have quickly come and gone ...
And now this Chapel celebrates ...
Eighty years of prayer and song.

But there's still a lot to add ...
To make this all complete ...
Because for many years ...
Not a soul sat in a seat!

Until a group took over ...
Now forty years ago ...
God's house saw little use ...
Or faces to console!

But the "Foundation" changed all that ...
And restored it all again ...
And started weekly services ...
Which filled the seats within.

The task was surely difficult ...
But when it all was done ...
Those who had a part in it ...
Could see why veterans come!

This poem was written for,
and dedicated to,
all the people who belong to,
or have supported the
Fort Snelling Memorial Foundation.

A Prayer for the New Year

As the old year comes to an end, let us ponder on what it has held for us. Let us be thankful for the rich experiences it gave us, for every sympathetic smile, for every tear, for moments which brought laughter's melody, for nature's loveliness and for friendship's beauty. Let us also ask forgiveness for thoughts and deeds unwise. As we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us be thankful for the opportunity to stand and peer intently, eagerly beyond the door to so many challenges that lie ahead. May we have the courage, truth and faith to meet them without flinching or thought of self. Keep us ever mindful of the sacrifice made for us by our men and women of the Armed Forces. Grant us a New Year of Peace and Love for all Mankind. Give us the courage and strength to do a good deed each day and thank You for the many blessings we receive each day. Amen.

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

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Once again, I am happy to report that the Foundation has had an increase in membership this past year. We also had an increase in offerings and we thank you for your generosity. Please know that the Foundation continues to donate ten percent of the weekly offerings to many veteran and faith-based community projects. Pat Hoy, Benevolence Committee Chair, does an excellent job. He always makes certain there is one article in each Snelling Spirit about one of the benefactors of the Foundation’s gifts. The gifts distributed in 2007 totaled $16,000.

There is so much more happening here at our beloved Chapel that I could reflect about — but — I had better close for now. 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 to Chaplain Ken Beale; Leila Campbell, Administrative Assistant; and Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music. "THANK YOU, THANK YOU" from the bottom of my heart. May God bless each one of you richly as you are our greatest assets to the Chapel.

A Prayer for the New Year

As the old year comes to an end, let us ponder on what it has held for us. Let us be thankful for the rich experiences it gave us, for every sympathetic smile, for every tear, for moments which brought laughter's melody, for nature's loveliness and for friendship's beauty. Let us also ask forgiveness for thoughts and deeds unwise. As we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us be thankful for the opportunity to stand and peer intently, eagerly beyond the door to so many challenges that lie ahead. May we have the courage, truth and faith to meet them without flinching or thought of self. Keep us ever mindful of the sacrifice made for us by our men and women of the Armed Forces. Grant us a New Year of Peace and Love for all Mankind. Give us the courage and strength to do a good deed each day and thank You for the many blessings we receive each day. Amen.

— Patricia Swanson
Foundation President
(952) 885-0623
E-mail: 155swanson@msn.com
1946 ... The End of An Era — The Start of a Struggle

From the time of its dedication on 28 June 1928 the Fort Snelling Chapel was in use as part of the military post. Both military and civilians supported the Chapel with funding and programs. It was peacetime and Fort Snelling was the headquarters of the Third Infantry Regiment. The post was also known as the “Country Club of the Army.” Duty at the post was desirable by officers and enlisted men. Life was good.

It was a time after World War I when the United States was becoming more active in world affairs. Because we were oceans away from international turmoil, especially in Europe, service at Fort Snelling as elsewhere was relaxed. The Army operated on a peace time basis. The comings and goings at Fort Snelling were relaxed, usually with a polo match on Sundays in the summer. Services were held weekly at the Chapel, as well as educational programs during the week. The building was also used by local groups for meetings.

Then Pearl Harbor was attacked on 7 December 1941 and everything changed overnight. Fort Snelling became an induction center for the Midwest and all of a sudden the Chapel was more active than ever, especially with marriages ... because bridegrooms were leaving to go overseas to Europe or to the Pacific Theaters. During World War II the Chapel became important to both the military and civilians. Things went along well for the Chapel after the war as soldiers came home from service and delayed marriages now kept the Chapel busy.

However, by January 1947 with World War II over there was no need for a recruitment center as the Army was actually cutting back on personnel to get down to a peace time military. So in June 1947 Fort Snelling was deactivated as a military post, and with the transfer of the U.S. Army Chaplain the Chapel was closed.

As luck would have it, the new Veteran’s Hospital was just beginning to be built near-by and so the Chapel was kept open for services as chaplains came over from the hospital to conduct weekly services. Hence, the Chapel was kept open till sometime in 1952.

In 1952 the Chapel began to fall into disuse. Tall grass, bushes and trees started to grow around the building. In spite of this the Chapel was still used the next two years for weddings and funerals, according to Bob and Clarys Peterson, current Foundation members.

People would wade through the tall grass and bushes to get to the church. Although there was no parking lot cars would pull off to the side of the road on Highway 55 and park while services were being held. Mr. Peterson, who recalls this era was serving in the Army at the post during this time and was actually at the deactivation ceremony on 14 October 1946 when Fort Snelling was turned over to the State of Minnesota. He remembers that in spite of the condition of the facility and grounds that people still had a continued interest in the Chapel.

Of course, the roads in the area were different than today. At that time Highway 55 ran across the Mendota Bridge past the Chapel and intersected with Bloomington Road (Highway 5) which went northwest past the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Highway 55 then continued toward Minneapolis somewhat parallel to the

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Above: The Garrison Flag comes down on 14 October 1946. Chapel Foundation member, Bob Peterson, is third from the right (facing camera). The keys to the Headquarters (background building) were presented to a Minnesota State official (second from the left-front row), in civilian business attire, by the Garrison Commander.
street car line (Twin City Rapid Transit Company), west of the Mississippi River.

But after 1954 the Chapel was boarded up and no longer in use. The primary reason was that the coal fired boiler had finally given out and it was not possible to heat the building any longer. Also, the post was now closed.

Meanwhile, the trees, grass and shrubs continued to grow and the building attracted young boys as a good place to play. Since the large doors to the building were not accessible, the youths would come into the building through the small door hidden by bushes and small trees, the same entrance that had been used as the entrance for the military prisoners to gain the access to the church loft. Now apparently the boys were doing the same thing. According to Foundation member and DNR employee, Daryl Kreutz someone apparently kept an eye on the facility. When the local youths headed for the building a call would be made to the Minneapolis Police Department dispatcher and then to a local police officer who happened to live in the area with orders to “kick those kids out of the building.”

The amazing thing is that in looking over the building today the windows that were placed in the building in 1928, 1940 and 1943 were never damaged during the time that the Chapel was vacant. The youth in those days apparently just wanted to play in the building and were not interested in vandalism. There also was no damage to the interior of the building nor the original wooden benches nor the flooring.

After ten years, in 1964 two projects brought the Chapel back into prominence. First, there was the proposal of the Minnesota Highway Department, drawn up in 1955, to build a new bridge with a freeway and cloverleaf interchange right on the site of the old historic fort and extend the freeway on the east side past the National Cemetery. This freeway would mean the elimination of the Chapel building as well.

However, Russell W. Fridley, the executive director of the Minnesota Historical Society got involved in 1956 when he realized that the old Fort Snelling property would be taken by the new road construction and the historic property would be a road bed. With the support of concerned groups interested in historic preservation, brought together by Fridley, the project was put on hold. The 320 acres of Fort Snelling was turned over the State of Minnesota from the federal government on 21 October 1961. This was followed by several private land purchases by the newly organized Fort Snelling State Park Association to consolidate the new park land over time.

It was also now being planned by the State’s Commissioner of Conservation and the director of the state parks system to include the state owned Fort Snelling as part of a new park. This did not sit well with the Minnesota Historical Society and the public when it was realized the importance of the Fort Snelling historic property. A political logjam occurred involving the Minnesota Historical Society, the state park system and the Minnesota Highway Department.

Finally, Governor Orville L. Freeman asked the Highway Department if it could not build a tunnel under the area between the Round Tower of the Old Fort and the Chapel so as to leave the old fort intact and accessible. This was done at an additional cost of more then $500,000. so the Chapel was not destroyed, the Minnesota Historical Society was able to rebuild “Historic Fort Snelling” as we have it today, Fort Snelling State Park came into being and everyone went home happy.

One interesting land purchase in 1965 by the State of Minnesota and the Park Association was from a Robert Wilkus for $175,000. He was the owner of Pike Island at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. It had originally been sold by the Dakotá Indians in the Treaty of 1805 to the U.S. Government. The treaty had been drawn up by Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike of the Army at a time when Lewis and Clark were headed to the Pacific Ocean on the Missouri River across what would one day be the state of Montana. Wilkus was now the owner of the island and had been growing asparagus, bulbs, and pigs on the property. The land was subject to flooding every so often (1965 and 1993), which brought in rich new top soil. However, he was smart enough to build a small house on a high artificial mound so he would not be flooded out. This building would later be remodeled by Park Superintendent Harold Raak and become the first interpretive center for the park.

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Once construction got going on the highway and park it was necessary to have office space, and looking around the basement of the Chapel looked like the ideal place. At first, the Chapel served as an office and living quarters for Clinton Johnson, the park’s first manager. Later it is possible it was also used as an office by the State Highway Department due to the fact that it had a large open basement area. The basement was used only, and not the sanctuary. Astonishing, when the Chapel was reopened the pews were still in good shape and are the original ones in use today.

Since this was the same time that the airport was expanding into Fort Snelling and several barracks were being torn down the coal fired furnace was replaced with a gas fired furnace from one of the old barracks. Today, down in the boiler room you can still see the old coal bin that had been used from 1928 with the old coal heating boiler. It is also rumored that when the Chapel was reopened the crew that came out to clean up the building and repaint the interior walls were men from the old state prison in Stillwater.

According to the Ramsey County History magazine, Volume 28, Number 2, Summer, 1993 the large lower room of the Chapel served as the meeting place for personnel of the Fort Snelling State Park, and for the Fort Snelling State Park Association meetings at least up until the summer of 1993. According to this source shortly after the Chapel was put in proper shape for us, following its transfer to the state, the Reverend Clifford Ansgar Nelson, formerly pastor of Highland Park’s Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, took on the position of Fort Snelling pastor. He would lead the Chapel in its next chapter back to its original use.

So we now have come from the establishment of the Chapel in 1928 to deactivation in 1947 after World War II to its near demise and destruction over the development of freeway and park property. A new day would occur on 15 November 1964 when a rededication of the Chapel took place. The end of an era of disuse would be replaced by the rebirth of a new congregation dedicated to the men and women who gave military service to this nation.

— Newell Chester

### CPR/AED Trained Volunteers

Two training sessions for CPR/AED were held in November (5th and 14th) at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Fire Department. Each session, three hours in duration, included hands-on practice and printed materials.

The participants for the two sessions were: Bob Bernloeher, Tom & Marlys Bayse, Travis Beard, Leila Campbell, Len Ericson, Dick Goplin, Iain Hodge, Pat Hoy, Bob Peterson, Kay Schoen, Barbara Sommerville, Ted Stamos, Donn & Barbara Steffenson, Robert & Carolyn Stromvall, Patricia Swanson and Lyle & Marlene Willock.

A special thank you to Linda Russo and Capt. Chris Nelson for their time and talents to train this large group of Foundation volunteers.
Getting to Know You …

Karen Johnson was born on a farm in 1942 that her great grandparents immigrated to in the early 1850's. Her mother cooked on a wood stove; they had an outdoor two-holer; and they always had three generations living in their home. She grew up in what is now Oakdale (Washington County, MN) ... about 20 miles from where her husband, Ralph, and she have lived in Mendota Heights for 40 years. So, she has lived 65 years in the Saint Paul area; graduating from North Saint Paul High School in 1958 and the University of Minnesota in 1962. The most memorable accomplishment at the U was earning her private pilot's license.

Although Karen has lived and worked in the Saint Paul area all of our life, she has been blessed with a 35 year travel career that has given her the opportunity to explore 7 continents. In 1988, she founded Preferred Adventures Ltd ... with a specialty in Costa Rica and now span all international destinations. She admits that the MIA Hunters trip to Papua New Guinea last June (2007) was the most strenuous adventure she had undertaken. Trekking across the Darien to bring the issue of illegal logging to Panama's President, Mountain Gorilla tracking in the forests of Uganda, crewing Cloud Nine a 57 foot ketch in the Indian Ocean, flying in a DC-4 across the Atlantic to South Africa were great adventures, but none so meaningful as searching for our World War II Missing in Action heroes. She knew of Bryan Moon’s fine reputation within the travel industry, but only last year was aware of the MIA Hunters search missions that he has been devoted to the past 17 years.

The fact that she is a member of Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation and has the opportunity to attend worship services with men and women who are serving and have served our country was instrumental in her decision to journey to Papua New Guinea. Karen says, “These are my heroes I can sing and pray with every Sunday! Thank you and God Bless America!”

Bryan Moon

Bryan Moon was born in Southampton, England 13 January 1928. He was educated at St. Mary’s College and Southampton College of Art — graduating with a National Diploma in Design. Originally trained as an artist/illustrator, he became Advertising Director of British Aircraft Corporation and in 1966 emigrated with his wife (Cicely) and two sons to Honolulu. After two years as Vice President of Aloha Airlines, he became a Corporate Vice President of Northwest Airlines in Minneapolis ... until he took early retirement in 1987.

At the age of 7, his parents sent him ... along with many children ... into the inland communities to be away from the bombing of their cities by the Germans. While near an airbase, he was watching the planes come and go when an American aviator visited with him ... and gave him ice cream. Those memories stayed with Bryan throughout his life and created the desire to give back to the Americans. So, he and his older son (Christopher) founded MIA Hunters [www.miahunters.com]. It is the only non-profit civilian search and recovery MIA organization in the USA. After 22 missions all over the world, MIA Hunters have discovered 103 MIAs to date. Members of the search teams, after recording information on the crash site: read a prayer for the MIA; place an American flag at the site; and then provide the information to the US military for retrieval.
Benevolent Giving ...

On a beautiful, sunny and warm November afternoon, I was driving my car to my destination at 1900 11th Avenue South in Minneapolis. Upon arrival at my destination, I was absolutely stunned by what I observed. I observed a crowd of people including 7-10 Muslim women, wearing their barkas, holding some children, without their husbands and standing in line to enter a Christian church. As I sat in my car, I was wondering if these women were in a Muslim country, would they have been beaten, jailed or even possibly-executed. At that point I knew I was witnessing the Power of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace in action. As I got out of my car I walked by the crowd as they were waiting to enter the church. I made my way into the basement of the church, for an appointment with Pastor Don Rudrud, who is the Director of Church Relations for an organization called Community Emergency Services (CES).

CES is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) Christian outreach center which provides a food shelf, meals on wheels, job counseling, women's shelter, and a Bible study. The church had been sold by Augustan Lutheran Church and converted into the CES in 1971. Pastor Don states that CES was started by several area churches that needed a central location to help the needy citizens of South Minneapolis. The surrounding area has a mixture of low income housing; immigrants; and home bound senior citizens.

CES has a 3-Fold Focus Statement. 1. The central part of our mission at CES is to use our donated resources in accordance with God’s Word, to meet the material needs of those coming to us for assistance. 2. Recognizing every person’s need to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we see every contact as an opportunity to lead our clients into a deeper relationship with him. 3. Whenever possible, we work in cooperation and partnership with other organizations and agencies.

Pastor Don gave me a tour of the church. Upstairs in the main area of the church the pews and up to the altar was filled with boxes of donated and purchased food, waiting to be organized by the many volunteers for meals on wheels and the food shelf. In the basement there was a line of volunteers handing out food for those who had waited outside in line. CES is even sensitive to the Muslim population by preparing and bagging food appropriate to their religion. Most food is donated by area grocery stores, bakeries, and USDA; whatever is not donated is purchased at a reduced rate from the normal price.

CES also has job counselors who seek possible employers and try to match individuals who are looking for employment. In the evening, CES provides protection and a shelter for approximately 20 women who are homeless and/or abused. Many of these women are referred by other shelters in the area. Other programs of CES are: Affordable Housing Assistance; Transportation Assistance; Utility Assistance; Resume help; Work with Dignity; Kids Care program; Housing Search Services; Bible Fellowship; and Recovery Resource Center Bible Study.

As I walked through the large crowd who were standing in line, some of the crowd thought I worked there and even if some could not speak English, they were thanking me for everything that I was doing for them. You could see in their faces how sincere they were. As I looked at volunteers who were helping to hand out food, you could see the joy in their faces for helping those in need. Pastor Don quoted a passage from Mathew 25:40, "When we provide food and other help to our client friends, it is as though we were ministering to the Lord himself." This passage was so appropriate for what I had just experienced. Once again I have witnessed another outstanding organization that is trying to make a difference people lives.

When I took over as the Chairman of the Benevolence Committee some three years ago, the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation had already been supporting CES for a couple of years. This support has continued with the Chapel Foundation's Board of Directors approving a $500 gift for CES as recently as September. CES is in great need of volunteers. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please call (612) 870-1125 or pay them a visit.

— Pat Hoy, Chair
Benevolence Committee

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 2008. Simply call the Foundation Office at 612/970-7966 ... and provide a name and mailing address.
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) 870-7866, 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.

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**Fort Shelling Memorial Chapel Foundation**

1 Federal Drive, Fort Shelling, Minnesota 55111-4027

Website: www.fortshelling.org — Fax: 612-970-7863, ext. #2

**Staff**

Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612-747-1959 — Email: kenneth.beale@us.army.mil

Administrative: Ruth Erdig — Phone: 612-296-8260 — Email: ruth.erdig@us.army.mil

Music: Am Legion Brass Ensemble

**February 2008**

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